

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Only the dead have seen the end of war." — George Santayana, Spanish-American philosopher - 1922



Is the US Response to Ukraine a warning for Taiwan?

By Anil Madan 📧 See Page 3-5

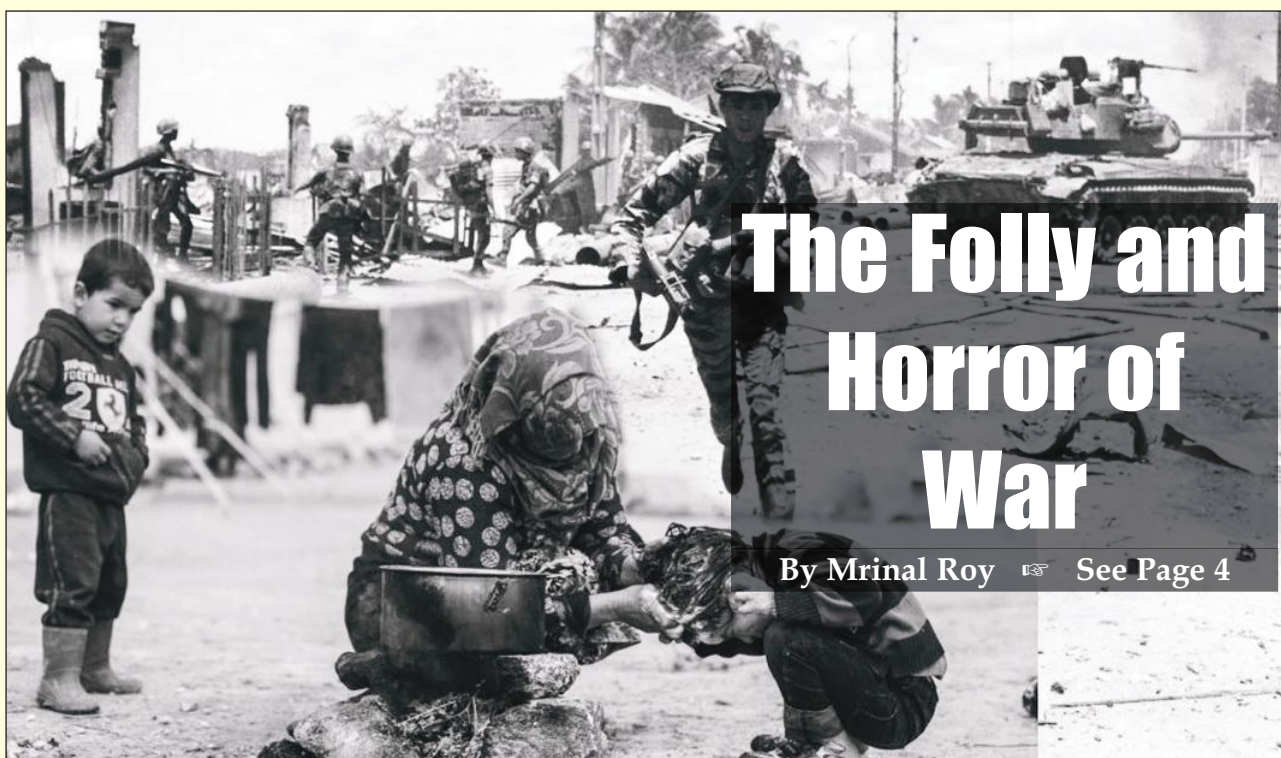
China warns of risk of military conflict with US over Taiwan. Pic - Financial Times

Interview: Sheila Bunwaree



📧 See Page 12-13-14

'It has become more urgent than ever before to ask ourselves what kind of society do we wish to live in, how do we get there'



The Folly and Horror of War

By Mrinal Roy 📧 See Page 4



Petroleum prices: TINA, really?

Jan Arden 📧 See Page 8



Who benefit from wars?

By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee 📧 See Page 7

Where's The Roadmap?

Two years have gone by since the last general elections. It was assumed that once a new government led by a younger PM was installed, on the basis of its electoral campaign pledges it would address various anomalies in the governance of the country. That was after all the major, though not the only reason it got elected in the first place. Every government no doubt tends to spin and manage perceptions to its advantage, but with the daily sycophancy of the state broadcaster and those of a couple of glossies, the management of public perceptions has been taken to new levels. However, there is clearly a big difference between the perception that is sought to be projected and the hard reality.

The hard reality comes in the shape of continuing pressures on the population in its lookout for a clear and sustainable future. Economic analysts beyond the government spheres and, more quietly in the conglomerate private sector, are not confident in the official figures and optimistic forecasts being put out to allay disquiet that most sectors are in tight straits. While the continued slide of the Rupee may have brought short-term windfall gains in exporting and forex-dependent sectors, it is the population that has incurred the brunt of the costs. Ballooning public debt, contrived by some artifices to remain decent, is not only a heavy legacy but has been of little use to expand or promote new pillars of growth. There is only so much that a high dependence on financial, IT and real estate sectors can bring.

The need of the moment is to remain focused on the hard reality facing the economy and avoid getting trapped into trivial considerations of all sorts. But the state of the economy is not the only area where the population may feel the country stewardship has to reach for new horizons, a new roadmap. We need to address real issues that have consequences for a better future on the broader horizon - notably in education, health, communications, skills formation, in-ternational networking and an appointments philosophy that reflects a modicum of needed competencies across the board. We need to know that transparency, robustness and reliability are in-built features of our democratic electoral and parliamentary functions, that our judiciary and policing functions can have their independence fortified, that our fabled investigative agencies are not paper dragons to hunt opponents, or those perceived as such, that our press, social platforms and media, with better regulation, are not operating under threatening Damo-clean swords. And we could add some more.

However, it is not enough to set the stage. It is important to go into the details to derive the components of a new and viable deal for the population. Everybody needs to know the destination we want to reach. This will establish a collective vision about the goal. We don't have it. At least, as of now, people do not know what we are precisely heading for. If we know the overall goal targeted, we may or may not agree with it. But we can at least thrash it out and reach some sort of a consensus on how to deal with the various economic inefficiencies that need to be overcome. Decisions will be required in that context which have nothing to do with the sort of nominations we have been seeing. Those decisions are an altogether different kettle of fish. They involve, among others, the identification of the required competencies on which true nominations will have to be made, based on the individuals' ability to deliver on the solutions that have been identified.

Failure to target now the overall framework fairly quickly will make us lose our way, paying more attention to certain details than they deserve. People will start focusing on irrelevancies when more pressing matters are calling for our attention, especially if the idea is to set a more open and equitable stage for broad economic development involving a larger number of economic agents than the conventional ones and hope to deliver on the expectations of the population for their day-to-day requirements.

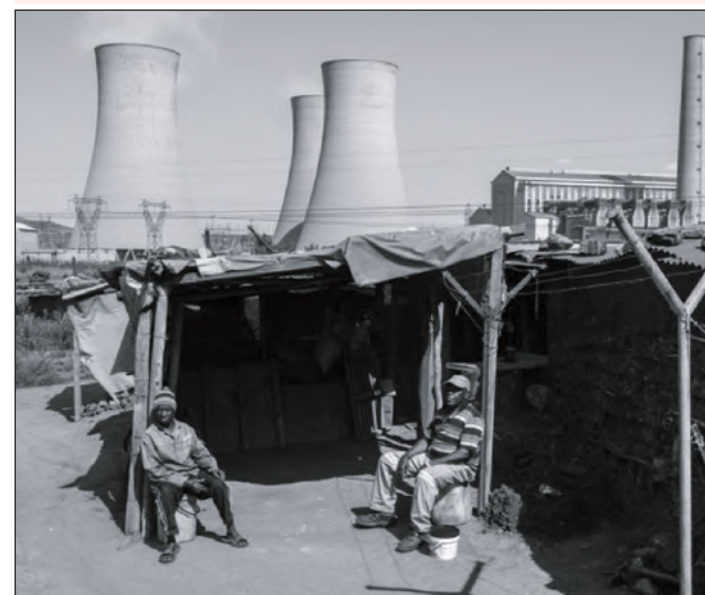
The global economy is not currently in a mood to distribute gifts freely. It is beckoning nations to come and play a tough competitive game in which there will be gainers and losers. Gainers will be those who have a very clear idea of where they want to be and how they intend to achieve their objective. They need to have a macro-view of how to position themselves on this difficult stage. It is the ability of the individual producers/exporters to vie against international competition that can make the difference. This has no-thing to do with selection by caste, creed, religion or gender.

At the global level, no one is interested in the trivialities, character assassination campaigns, personal attacks and other differences that are paraded here to be able to secure votes. This approach can only be self-defeating in the end. What is worse, it will not only fail the political leaders, it will fail the nation as a whole. We should take bets on a more open society based on merits and intrinsic abilities capable to stand up in the international race.

The Conversation

Tackling inequality will break the gridlock on what to do about climate change

The reduction of inequality is crucial from an ethical point of view as well as the fact that will open new possibilities on how to tackle climate change



Aaron Ntosi and Armand Thusi, residents of the Big House settlement near Komati Power Station - Komati, Mpumalanga.
Pic - landportal.org

There have been a lot of discussions on the urgency of climate change. But it's universally accepted that the steps that have been agreed to stop global warming are too little too late.

Why is this?

We argue that inequality is part of the answer as to why there is little action.

On the one hand, inequality polarises societies and makes them less prone to act. On the other hand, inequality results in elites capturing the power of action and being less inclined to give up their privileges.

The reduction of inequality is crucial not only from an ethical point of view, but also because it will allow us to tackle climate change.

However, if we want to reduce inequalities, we need to recognise that a different kind of growth is needed. And that it has to be intertwined with the actions to curb climate change and adapt to its impacts.

The challenge is that what we know about such sustainable development is framed within the contexts of high-income countries. But how does this translate in African countries?

Inequality and climate are intertwined

We are growing increasingly aware that the patterns of growth and development in the world are not sustainable, either from the climate, or the social perspective (and this was true even before the Covid-19 pandemic).

Murray Leibbrandt, University of Cape Town; Anda David, Agence française de développement (AFD)

Mauritius Times

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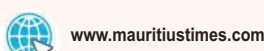
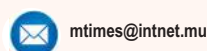
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Anil Madan

Is the US Response to Ukraine a warning for Taiwan?

The question after Ukraine's experience is whether the US is more interested in an economics-based approach to foreign policy or a principles-based approach

As I write today, we are in perilous times. Vladimir Putin's forces are destroying Ukraine's infrastructure, people's homes, water supplies, electricity, and crimping food supplies. The Ukrainian people, faced with a desperate situation, have touched the hearts of all who condemn these atrocities and are willing to speak up. It is not clear if the Ukrainians can hold on and for how long. Whereas we admire and respect the courage of the Ukrainians, they face formidable ground forces and air power arrayed against them.

The war of Ukraine has not been lost. It is too early to give up hope that the brave Ukrainians will prevail even as we fear the worst. It is not, however, too early for an autopsy of President Biden's failed effort to prevent a Russian invasion of Ukraine.

In recent months, there has been much talk in the United States and Western countries that we are seeing a rise in authoritarianism around the world and that we are witnessing a war between Democracy and Authoritarianism. Although the United States has proudly proclaimed itself as the world's leading Democracy, the lament about authoritarianism versus Democracy, represents a subtle shift. For decades since the beginning of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, and the development of policies of containing the spread of Communism, the contests between the United States and both the Soviet Union which devolved to Russia, and China, have been cast as the struggle between Capitalism and Communism. To be sure, from time to time, the struggle has been pitched as being between free and democratic societies versus dictatorships or tyrannies, but the main thrust has been to emphasize the free market and capitalist foundations of the US and the West as the superior infrastructure of their economic systems over the Communist or centrally planned models.

The tools of Capitalism to deal with conflict

If we look back at the response of the US to real or imagined transgressions by China, Russia, or other countries, against whom it cannot use force, the resort has been to imposing sanctions by using financial tools and coercive exclusion from financial and commodity markets. These are the tactics a Capitalist with monopoly power might use. Of course, when the US has dealt with or "disciplined" less powerful countries, it has resorted to the use of military force. So, it was no surprise that when President Biden warned President Putin that if he invaded Ukraine, he spoke in economic terms and promised that the US would impose wide-ranging severe economic sanctions. This approach reflects the historical nature of US policy that looks to the tools of Capitalism to deal with conflict.

At the same time, President Biden immediately backpedalled and made it clear that his threat of sanctions did not mean that US forces would engage Russian forces on behalf of Ukraine. In fact, he made it clear that US forces would not be deployed against Russian forces. President Biden's snapback may or may not

have left open the question just how much would it take to engage the US. So, shortly after that initial warning and backpedal, President Biden announced that the US would defend "every inch of NATO territory." This, of course, was an indirect invocation of Article 5 of the NATO Treaty that commits every member country to defending any other member that is attacked. However, he made it unmistakably clear that Putin was free to invade Ukraine without facing US or NATO military power.

The contrast between the approach to Ukraine and to NATO countries was palpable. Undoubtedly, one can justify the difference in approach to Ukraine and the NATO countries by the simple fact that Ukraine is not a NATO country. There is, however, a certain poignancy to announcing that Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia are worthy of defending whereas Ukraine must fend for itself albeit with as much aid as the US and the world can provide. In short, Ukraine, albeit a Democracy, demands only the economic response whereas NATO membership commits the US to a political response.

Using distinctions such as Capitalism and Communism to describe the difference between the US and its Western allies on the one hand, and China and Russia on the other hand, was historically consistent with economic reality since Russia and China, were communist nations whereas the US and its western allies were capitalist. And, in turn, "Communist" came to be synonymous with "authoritarian" or "oppressive." In fact, in an exercise of elision between economic and political concepts, Capitalist and Democratic countries, particularly the US, declared themselves synonymous with the "free world."

Capitalism in China and Russia

In contrast to his use of economic threats in warning Putin, when it came to condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine, President Biden and spokespersons for his administration have focused on Putin's attack in political terms, one directed to the Democracy that Ukraine represents rather than in economic terms. There is a mixed message here. The political message from the US



Protesters march in solidarity with the Ukrainian people in front of the Representative Office of the Moscow-Taipei Coordination Commission in Taipei, Taiwan, on Feb. 25. Pic - Chiangying-AP

"The question after Ukraine's experience is whether the US is more interested in an economics-based approach to foreign policy or a principles-based approach. The US may already have ceded enough leadership when it comes to capitalism. When it comes to balancing however many semiconductor chips we need from Taiwan against the \$60 billion of monthly trade with China, which side will the US choose? It is not clear whether political principles will trump capitalist economics..."

and the West is that Democracies are free but whatever China and Russia represent, they are neither Democracies nor Capitalists, and certainly not free societies. The last is, of course, true — neither China nor Russia is a free society.

But the rest of the syllogism may not hold. China argues, as noted below, that it is a democracy. More importantly, the US and the Western world have missed that both China and Russia have evolved fairly refined and successful economies that are just as capitalist as the Western economies. Of China, this is virtually self-evident but as soon as one understands that Russia is a major player in the world's oil and gas supply, there should be no question on that score either. Let us not be distracted by the notion that only a very select elite few benefits from capitalism in China and Russia.

There is a new reality in play. Neither the US nor any of the NATO countries has a monopoly on Capitalism. Indeed, an argument can be made that China may have surpassed them all in becoming the world's most successful Capitalist economy — leave aside that the benefits of such capitalism are limited to an elite few. Indeed, between China being the manufactory of the world and Russia being a major supplier of energy to the world, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin may represent the height of capitalism.

The Folly and Horror of War



Mrinal Roy

Is it not time for the major non-aligned countries of the world to take up the challenge of establishing the mutually acceptable common ground to defuse the underlying causes of war? Where are the voices of reason which helped stop the war in Vietnam?

Most of us have not experienced war. Some remember the Vietnam war and the rising protests against the war in the 1960s and 1970s in the United States and around the world opposing the United States' increasing involvement in that war. The protests, which started with peace activists, left intellectuals and students on campuses, gained momentum when the US started as from 1965 to send more and more combat forces into battle and began heavily bombing North Vietnam.

The indiscriminate destruction and suffering caused by the war was epitomized by the game-changing 1972 images of a terrified 9-year-old Vietnamese girl running naked down a road, screaming in pain after she was severely burned by a napalm attack by an airplane on her village. These images shocked the world. Above all it focused attention on the absurdity and horror of wars driven by Cold War rivalries, deep seated mistrust and enmity in so many countries across the world. The last US combat troops left South Vietnam in 1973. The war ended with the fall of Saigon in 1975 when North and South Vietnam were reunited as one country.

No war can be justified. This is particularly true today at a time when the armies have an arsenal of the latest high-tech weaponry, missiles and firepower to cause maximum destruction and casualties. War should therefore not even be considered as a solution of last resort. The only sensible and rational way to resolve any conflict is to talk and make every effort to thrash out a mutually satisfactory agreement. The caucus of nations and all protagonists should help this process instead of blindly taking sides or stoking the conflict.

Intransigence

In the case of Ukraine, no such action was taken to prevent war. The hard line taken did not help. The key question remains: Why did Ukraine not agree to the main Russian demand of remaining a neutral country instead of being bent on joining NATO (an intergovernmental mili-



“Ukraine is the poorest and the second largest country in Europe, after Russia. Apart from poverty, corruption is the biggest problem in Ukraine. It is a shame that such colossal amounts of funds are being mobilized by the US, the EU and their allies to buy armaments to support Ukraine in the war when such a scale of economic help has not been made available to develop, modernize and innovate the Ukrainian industries and economy...”

tary alliance between 28 European countries and 2 North American countries) whose ‘fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies’ freedom and security by political and military means’? Why has the mission of NATO not ended with the end of the Cold War in 1989? A commitment of neutrality by Ukraine would have largely defused the conflict.

The upshot of this intransigence is that Ukraine is left high and dry to fight an unequal battle on its own. War and the severe sanctions imposed on Russia have already hiked oil and gas prices, brought new uncertainty to stock markets and will certainly increase transport and energy costs and the price of imports and food. This adds to the socio-economic woes faced by the world as it continues to battle against the Covid-19 pandemic.

On the ground, after more than a week of missile attacks and bombings, targeted areas have been reduced to rubble. People have been forced to leave their homes and war zones to seek refuge in bunkers or in neighbouring countries. More than 650,000 people have gone to neighbouring European Union (EU) countries.

In contrast, students from African and other countries have been manhandled and stopped from catching buses and trains leaving for the border. This discriminatory policy has drawn condemnation from Nigeria and South Africa's government whose President had supported

put their lives in peril with the risk of becoming a casualty of war and causing immense pain and distress to their families? It is equally harrowing to see two Slavic ‘cousins’ having so much in common and sharing the same religion, similar culture and large periods of common history engaged in a full-blown war.

Communication war

There is in parallel a daily communication blitzkrieg by the main news channels which repeat the same narratives on the war. There is no objective analysis of events to provide an honest assessment of the situation or constructive proposals to end the war. The few independent channels which try to provide an objective view on the narratives moulding public opinion are too few to win this communication war. More than ever before people must be wary of fake news or old footage of past wars and exercise sound judgement and analysis of the storyline on the war to sort the wheat from the chaff.

In order to make an objective assessment of the underlying causes of the conflict, it is worth listening to the speech of the Sergey Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister at the UN Council this week which depicts the ground realities and history of events in Donbass in Ukraine. It is only through an independent review and an unbiased assessment of the contents of the speech that we can have an informed and objective take instead of a Manichean view on the dynamics of the war.

A blatant example of a spin-doctored narrative is last week's official announcement that Ukraine's President has posthumously honoured 13 soldiers who were killed defending the tiny Black Sea Island of Zmiyni after reportedly swearing at a Russian ship that ordered them to surrender. This false Ukrainian claim was debunked by Russia's defence ministry video released this week showing that the captured soldiers were not only alive but scathingly chastising the Ukrainian government.

Unprecedented decisions

The war in Ukraine has led to unprecedented decisions by the US, the EU and other countries in support of Ukraine. The United States and its NATO partners have sent thousands of troops and advanced weaponry to beef up defences while providing billions of dollars worth of military hardware to Kyiv. A whopping Euros 450 million have been pledged by the EU to buy arms. In a major shift from its long-standing policy of banning weapon exports to conflict zones, Germany has pledged to supply 1000 anti-tank weapons and 500 Stinger missiles to Ukraine. Similarly, in a major departure from its policy of neutrality and commitment not to send arms to countries in active conflict, Sweden also announced that it would send military equipment, including anti-tank launchers, to Ukraine.

● Cont. on page 5

Ukraine in the war with Russia. Is this how Ukraine is upholding EU values?

Welcome to EU

Nations in the EU are opening their doors to refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine whom, according to the *Washington Post*, some leaders are hailing as culturally and ethnically European, in contrast to the continent's resistance to asylum seekers from Afghanistan and Africa.

Husbands, fathers and brothers have been separated from their families following Ukraine's government decision to ban all male citizens aged 18 to 60 from leaving the country and provide them with arms to defend the country. Is it responsible to arm untrained citizens to fight seasoned Russian soldiers and so wantonly

Is the US Response to Ukraine a warning for Taiwan?

● Cont. from page 3

Nor, it should be noted, does China cede the title of "Democracy" to America. When US Secretary of State Blinken met in Vancouver shortly after President Biden was inaugurated as President, Yang Jiechi, Director of the Office of the Central Commission for Foreign Affairs, during his well-chronicled 17-minute diatribe stated: "The Chinese people are wholly rallying around the Communist Party of China. Our values are the same as the common values of humanity. Those are: peace, development, fairness, justice, freedom and *democracy*." (italics supplied). Indeed, he went further and proclaimed China a Democracy: "The United States has its United States-style democracy and China has Chinese-style *democracy*." (italics supplied).

Now although President Biden has imposed wide-ranging sanctions on Russia, he has left its energy exports of oil and gas untouched. Germany and other European countries depend on Russian natural gas. The US imports Russian oil to ensure that its coastal refineries operate at peak efficiency. A White House spokesperson explaining the lack of sanctions in this area, stated: "We don't have a strategic interest in reducing the global supply of energy." There you go again, once more, the capitalist reality trumps principled political positions.



Shock waves from Ukraine reach Taiwan. Pic - The Guardian

Treaty obligations & strategic interest

Getting back to President Biden's statement about protecting every inch of NATO territory, we should not lose sight of the fact that Article 5 of the NATO treaty does indeed contemplate the use of force against Russia if it attacks a member country. Whether the threat of such force remains viable given Biden's virtual assurance to Putin that he had nothing to fear in the way of a direct NATO response if he should invade Ukraine, remains to be seen. If Russia does attack Poland, Latvia or Estonia, what is going to happen?

And if we consider the implications for Taiwan, we have to start with the fact that there is no similar treaty obligating the US to come to Taiwan's defense if China should attack. There is no longer a treaty

obligating the US to defend Taiwan but the Taiwan Relations Act that obligates the US to provide Taiwan with defensive capabilities.

How comfortable should Taiwan be about this? Just as the US does not have a strategic interest in reducing the global supply of energy, it surely has no strategic interest in disrupting the vast trade with China. The US and China trade \$60 billion worth of goods and services every month. The US trade deficit with China is approximately \$40 billion per month or just under \$500 billion per year.

A capitalist's response would surely not involve shutting off his source of supply.

On the other hand, Taiwan is a major supplier of semiconductor chips to the US and is pretty much indispensable in that

respect.

A capitalist's response would surely not involve shutting off his source of supply.

Overlaid on these purely capitalist considerations is the fact that Taiwan is a DEMOCRACY.

"If we look back at the response of the US to real or imagined transgressions by China, Russia, or other countries, against whom it cannot use force, the resort has been to imposing sanctions by using financial tools and coercive exclusion from financial and commodity markets. These are the tactics a Capitalist with monopoly power might use. Of course, when the US has dealt with or 'disciplined' less powerful countries, it has resorted to the use of military force..."

The question after Ukraine's experience is whether the US is more interested in an economics-based approach to foreign policy or a principles-based approach. The US may already have ceded enough leadership when it comes to capitalism.

When it comes to balancing however many semiconductor chips we need against the \$60 billion of monthly trade, which side will the US choose?

It is not clear whether political principles will trump capitalist economics.

Cheer...
Bwana

The Folly and Horror of War

● Cont. from page 4

The arms manufacturers and suppliers of these lethal weapons are patently having a field day.

Ukraine is the poorest and the second largest country in Europe, after Russia. Apart from poverty, corruption is the biggest problem in Ukraine. It is a shame that such colossal amounts of funds are being mobilized by

"Why did Ukraine not agree to the main Russian demand of remaining a neutral country instead of being bent on joining NATO whose 'fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security by political and military means'? Why has the mission of NATO not ended with the end of the Cold War in 1989? A commitment of neutrality by Ukraine would have largely defused the conflict. The upshot of this intransigence is that Ukraine is left high and dry to fight an unequal battle on its own..."

the US, the EU and their allies to buy armaments to support Ukraine in the war when such a scale of economic help has not been made available to develop, modernize and innovate the Ukrainian industries and economy.

Callous gamble

Despite the astronomical costs, human distress and harrowing suffering, there is no intent to find a common ground to end the war. The callous gamble seems to be to prolong Ukrainian resistance amidst spreading destruction in a patently unequal war to the point where sanctions cause Russian resolve to pursue the war falter. Is Ukraine simply a collateral victim of the geopolitical and power tug of war at play?

Too many countries have kowtowed and blindly endorsed this warped logic. Is it not time for the caucus of nations and the United Nations which has patently failed in its role as a fair arbiter of a rule-based international order to wake up and find a common ground to champion the cause of a lasting peace distanced from parochial geopolitical interests?



Pic - yahoo.com

Is it not time for the major non-aligned countries of the world to take up the challenge of establishing the mutually acceptable common ground to defuse the underlying causes of war? Where are the voices of reason which helped stop the war in Vietnam?

More than ever before Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) must dictate the way forward, not only to urgently end the war in Ukraine but also to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mrinal Roy



Sada Reddi

Reinventing Communities

Creating living and resilient communities helps to promote active citizenship and create that day-to-day spirit of nationhood which has been one of our blessings living in this island

Hardly a week goes by without grim news about some crime having been committed, about another person reported missing, or a corpse found lying by the roadside or abandoned in the bushes. Not to mention other crimes and criminal acts perpetrated by our fellow countrymen. These happenings must have shocked many and left them wondering about what's going wrong in our society and made our lives even more stressful.

Those who have probed these social problems may come up with different answers, but in our view, it also has something to do with the hard times we are living in - resulting from the impact of Covid-19, the relentless decline in the standard of living, the precarious situation of low-income groups, growing unemployment, the decline of the middle class and other classes in terms of livelihood and personal security. No wonder relative poverty has morphed into absolute poverty. The State has its own assessment of these problems and how they could be resolved, but it is important that our citizens begin to think in terms of reinventing or regenerating our neighborhood communities and building resilience to tackle such problems.

Even if we have not had a long tradition of community organisations or even charitable institutions, some form of solidarity has always been present during the worst conflicts which fortunately were never long-lasting. Religious organisations have always helped their members during times of hardship, for charity is a core value in all religions. Schools, orphanages, clinics, mutual societies, homes for the aged have all been set up as part of the charitable work undertaken by different groups. With the creation of village councils in the 1950s, there emerged informal grassroots organisations that worked towards safeguarding the interests of the people living in their localities.

American anthropologist Burton Benedict, in a survey of Mauritian society during that period found that 'in village councils, many disputes arise over the location of new buildings, the improvements of roads or water supplies or the provision of services. Over such issues territorial alignments often take precedence over questions of ethnic or religious alignments.'

He further added that youth clubs 'are important vil-

“Over the years we have unknowingly destroyed grassroots organisations and left everything to central and local authorities, and in so doing deprived ourselves of the resourcefulness of our citizens in many areas of public life. It is time we give some thought to how we want our citizens to live and especially the young and the upcoming generations, what kind of physical and social environment they are going to live in. There may be different approaches to resolving these issues, but creating living and resilient communities is just one of them...”

lage associations. Formed usually to play football, they command wide village support... the Ministry of Education has a youth organization section whose officers organize clubs and associations throughout the island... There were 765 clubs and organisations in 1963. Membership in a youth club often cuts across village alignments. Members may be drawn from all neighbourhoods and from all ethnic, religious or linguistic categories.'

Today the needs of the people, especially of the youth may be different but we all live in and need society's support. At present these needs remain unfulfilled and may contribute to exacerbate many social ills which continue to plague our society. Not only have neighbourhood associations disappeared, but where they still exist, they have ceased to function or continue to operate with their very limited objectives. There are neighbourhood watch groups in many localities or syndics in many blocks of flats or in housing estates. There are also some residents associations in many of the new settlements, but these are inadequate to meet the present needs of society. Ask anybody who has been a member of a syndic in a housing estate, s/he will tell you that the organization must be overhauled and reframed to suit present-day needs.

Some of the blame for the malfunctioning of these associations must be laid down at the door of property developers, housing and local authorities and their top-down approach to planning. If a few property developers have provided the minimum amenities in terms of sports grounds, children playgrounds or jogging tracks, there are many high-rise apartment buildings without even these basic outdoor amenities. There is not even a hall for residents and neighbours to meet - though I am told that a few housing units which had been built by the State have been endowed with a small meeting place for residents.

Though the running of these associations must be the responsibility of the residents themselves, nothing should prevent the authorities from initially encouraging the setting up of these associations especially in localities with low-income groups. More importantly, the authorities must ensure that housing estates and residential apartments of above a given size must be provided with both indoor as well as outdoor amenities such as parks, gardens and playgrounds, a multipurpose social hall as well as a proper framework to manage such amenities. A multipurpose hall can serve many functions: a meeting place for all, even a small library and in some places a room for homework. More resources will be needed to achieve these objectives.

Government, private sector firms as well as NGOs should assist in the setting up of these associations



Pic - Star Community Care

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which will serve to build and reinvent communities. In so doing we'll want to ensure not only to give a voice to citizens but also to tap on the initiatives, resources and solidarity of local communities. We must not forget that even in deprived areas there are numerous people with skills and resources who can significantly contribute to the welfare of citizens if they are called upon to do so.

It could be that setting up such associations might not be welcomed by the central and local authorities given the false perception that their political interests would be threatened by neighbourhood activists. On the other hand, there is ample room to build a broad coalition of interests between village and municipal councillors and citizens, and to develop common objectives. It shouldn't be too difficult for citizens and the concerned authorities to build a neighbourhood action plan which covers a broad range of subjects and a list of priority projects to be implemented both in the short- and the long-term.

Over the years we have unknowingly destroyed grassroots organisations and left everything to central and local authorities, and in so doing deprived ourselves of the resourcefulness of our citizens in many areas of public life. It is time we give some thought to how we want our citizens to live and especially the young and the upcoming generations, what kind of physical and social environment they are going to live in. There may be different approaches to resolving these issues, but creating living and resilient communities is just one of them. They help to promote active citizenship and create that day-to-day spirit of nationhood which has been one of our blessings living in this island.



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Who benefit from wars?

The current war taking place in Europe on Ukrainian soil has, without surprise, been catapulted 24/7 into drawing rooms globally courtesy television and live streaming on social media. There is a surcharged overload of content. For the layman far removed from the 'theatre'

of war, like us in tiny Mauritius, it is well-nigh impossible to separate the wheat from the chaff. As an aside, perhaps there's some truth in the term 'theatre of war' which is often used. It may actually reflect a factual reality, namely that the actors who are on the stage, that is the soldiers fighting each other, are unwittingly playing a game which is scripted by others, the warmongers.

As the saying goes, when elephants fight, it is the grass that gets crushed. Another way of putting this across is a post I read today bearing the name Erich Hartmann: 'War is a place where young people who don't know each other and don't hate each other, kill each other by the decision of old people who know each other and hate each other, but don't kill each other.'

We are not in a position here to evaluate, least of all to judge, who is right and who is wrong in the current conflict, for each side has its own arguments to counter those of the other, always a mixture of ideology and propaganda. As is evident from the semantics about it: military operation, liberation, invasion...? We can only share what information comes our way, remembering that there are nuances to the positions taken by the protagonists and supporters involved, but there are always at least two versions, one from each opponent or sworn enemy. A truism to remember in situations like these is one that is frequently heard, to wit that no country has permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests.

I found it more helpful to turn to one of the saner voices that has been heard, that of American Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, a Democrat who was dropped out of the presidential race in favour of Kamala Harris. The latter benefited from the wave of sympathy in the wake of the BLM movement, which was swelled up by the narrative of her Indian ancestry deftly exploited, as was to be expected of a politician, and that has since been quickly relegated to the background. Notwithstanding, during a visit to the US after the elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had the politeness to meet her and the decency to invite her to visit India.

Tulsi Gabbard gave her support to Joe Biden, but has been consistently anti-war. This was evident from interviews that she gave on American TV in the run-up to the elections, as do other presidential candidates, where she described her painful experience during army service in the Iraq war. Every morning she was tasked to do body counts and organise transfer of body bags and the war wounded.

This is what she says in the post that is doing the rounds on social media: 'Here is something that you will not hear on the mainstream media. What you do here is that warmongers are arguing that we must protect Ukraine because it is a - "quote unquote" - democracy. But they're lying because Ukraine isn't actually a democracy. For example, to hold on to power Ukraine's president shut down the three TV stations that were criti-

cizing him and his policies, imprisoned the head of the opposition political party that had come in second place in their elections and went and arrested and jailed that party's leaders. This is exactly what Putin has been accused of doing but Ukraine did this all with the support of the United States.'

Continuing, she adds that: 'First of all President Biden could end this crisis and prevent a war with Russia by doing something very simple: guaranteeing that Ukraine will not be a member of NATO. Because that would put US and NATO troops directly on the doorstep of Russia, which as Putin has laid out, would undermine their national security interests. The reality is highly unlikely that Ukraine will ever be a member of NATO. So why doesn't President Biden and NATO leaders actually just say that and guarantee it?'

She queries why this solution which is 'clear as day' is not being applied, and she can only come to the conclusion that 'they actually want Russia to invade Ukraine. Because it gives the Biden administration a clear excuse to levy draconian sanctions which are a modern-day siege against Russia and the Russian people, and cements this Cold War in place. The military-industrial complex is the one that benefits from this. They clearly control the Biden administration. Warmongers on both sides in Washington have been drumming up tensions. The military-industrial complex starts to make a ton of money. Who pays the price? - the American people, the Russian people, the Ukrainian people. This undermines our own national security...'

The military-industrial complex runs to the bank, and she has seen this from both sides of the House as a lawmaker and as a member of the armed forces. She is skeptical about the pretext that they are defending democracy, 'their kind of democracy.' An allusion to the allegedly staged overthrow of the democratically elected pro-Russia predecessor of the present incumbent who was replaced by a puppet pro-European one? So, underline some analysts.

Wars are foisted upon innocent populations by rulers of countries who are at odds with those of other countries. I say rulers and not leaders because the latter are usually wiser and have a larger vision of the well-being of their people and for the world at large. What we have mostly today are rulers, such as are found in dictatorships and autocracies, who run countries by diktats meant to frighten people into submission. In so-called democratic countries, which have been called elected dictatorships, people trustfully transfer their power to an elected representative as 'leader'. S/he is at liberty to



"Warmongers on both sides in Washington have been drumming up tensions. The military-industrial complex starts to make a ton of money. Who pays the price? - the American people, the Russian people, the Ukrainian people"
-- Tulsi Gabbard.
Pic - Getty Images

“At least during the Greek period, every city could worship in their own way and there was no need to convert anyone to a particular belief set. Then came along others who said convert, either because we have the word or we have the word and the sword. Greek civilisation came to an end. Since then, the world has been in constant turmoil and the drums of war have never been entirely silent. Is that why the saying came up that ‘Sīvispācem, parā bellum’ - ‘If you want peace, prepare for war?’”

abuse of it during the mandate that the country provides for, effectively then acting as a 'ruler' by means of quasi-diktats. This is likely to be particularly the case when oppositions start to unearth irregularities in the elections, which a protracted judicial process tries to unravel. There is never any guarantee of a definitive outcome before the next election is due.

In other scenarios rulers make their respective countries acquire notoriety as belligerent nations, seeking to conquer territory in violation of international rules and conventions they have signed. The reasons for such behaviour include the securing of resources such as minerals which have great economic value, or belief in superior religious or political ideology. A friend of mine made the following comment: At least during the Greek period, every city could worship in their own way and there was no need to convert anyone to a particular belief set. Then came along others who said convert, either because we have the word or we have the word and the sword. Greek civilisation came to an end.

Since then, the world has been in constant turmoil and the drums of war have never been entirely silent. Is that why the saying came up that ‘Sīvispācem, parā bellum’ - ‘If you want peace, prepare for war’?

When the Second World War was over, several wars have been fought because of two fiercely competing and antagonistic ideologies which are quasi-religious: capitalism and communism.

Sadly, the Ukrainian people are the ones who having to bear the brunt of this 'either me or you' model, which has conflict hardwired into it. Let us pray for them as well as for the fallen victims on the other side.

Petroleum prices: TINA, really?

Jan Arden

Up to a couple of weeks ago, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan was hard at work justifying a variety of cost increases, including those of fuel, electricity, food and other consumables hard hitting his countrymen. In the name of curbing down public debt, rising costs of supplies during the pandemic, or against the slide of his Rupee, he basically clung to the "There is no alternative" (TINA) philosophy, while naturally blaming previous regimes.

Against a unified Opposition which termed such inflationary pressures during a period of joblessness and lacklustre growth, a "murder of the common man", an assault on small entrepreneurs and a pauperisation of lower- and middle-classes, the Pakistani PM soldiered on defiantly. Until, that is, a promised unified march of protesters under



Opposition banners started on 27th February moving from Karachi to the capital, Islamabad, gathering increasing momentum at each stop. Immediately, the PM, fabled for his U-turns, reversed the stance he had championed for months and, using the Russian-Ukraine conflict as sop, announced on Monday last a radical cut in petroleum and electricity prices. Sympathy for the common man's plight had suddenly found a berth...

While such ad-hocism, even under stern IMF gaze, may be par for that country's leadership and gain some short-term mileage, it does demonstrate vividly that leaders of political parties or countries can turn to cynical populism when the electorate is sufficiently aggrieved and galvanized to threaten their hold on power. In the normal course of a regime's tenure, ruling parties or alliances with such a rather cynical or populist philosophy may indeed ignore public lamentations, however real the sufferings, so as to build up sufficient resilience and financial space or war-chests, for freebies to be distributed during the final year of their tenure.

PM Khan's about-turn may signal the heat he is facing mid-term. Here, the authorities may have ingrained that, for various reasons, notably a still disunited Opposition, a more quiescent population and the lack of threat from consumerists or extra-parliamentary forces, we are far from a situation that would make the successive increases in fuel costs unbearable to the electorate, despite their known cascading effects.

Unless there are material changes to these factors, the storyline of unavoidable international prices will try to swamp the narrative of those that say the price structure of fuel is packed with excessive government taxes and revenues. Near 50% or perhaps more of retail petroleum prices effectively enters government funds in one form or another, keeping its appetite for projects afloat while shoring up its resilience for fortuitous decreases later in its mandate. With the ruling regime keeping its eyes glued on 2024, that, we suspect, will keep their sympathy for the common man or, say some economists, for the dire straits of the economy or the prudential management of public funds on the back burner.

The Ukraine Crisis

We might have titled this the Russian invasion and that would not be wrong but the larger geo-political, geo-economic, strategic and national security aspects, the historical and cultural issues between Balkans, Russians and Ukrainians, might be left out if we simply took up the uncritical Western and liberal narrative. The latter tend to roll out the dramatic stories of casualties, refugees, bombings and ground troop movements daily if not hourly. Such images and videos flew liberally from every previous US or Western conflict zone from Vietnam, Saddam Hussein's Iraq, Gaddafi's Libya, Afghanistan, Africa or South Americas.

Although in this conflict many Western media and several anchors have gone overboard with a heavily racist undertone: "This is happening in Europe, a civilized place at our doorstep, not some uncivilized abode...", or much worse "its about blue-eyed blonds who are being assaulted" and whatever the complexities of geo-politics being played out, international relations and diplomacy cannot condone or justify the naked military aggression by Russia as a means to achieve political ends and ensure its national security.

War casualties, terrorism and jihad dramas are not any more or less shocking in Europe than elsewhere in the world. Undoubtedly, Putin has lost the media and communication war as countries around the world will have been fed daily briefs and horror-stories from major liberal media and the cyberspace. Cyber presence and storytelling have unavoidably to be factored in any modern-age conflict, particularly one of such import as Ukraine, caught up in the confrontation that has been long simmering between nuclear NATO, as it kept encroaching further East, and Russia feeling increasingly garrotted by the remnants of the Soviet empire which had embraced NATO membership.

We have not seen much of Western media treat or analyze in an open and honest debate the whys and wherefores of those continuous NATO encroachments



“Was it that Putin, with his undoubted autocratic rule, his billionaire chums, his fiercely nationalistic philosophy was too convenient a punching ball to deserve attention? Or were NATO and Europe, publicly blackballed and kicked unceremoniously by the former US President Trump, determined to get their own back? Were geo-economic factors at play over vast Russian gas reserves or was it in the US/Western agenda to render Putin's Russia irrelevant before tackling the only superpower capable of challenging US hegemony, China?”

and the growing threat they would obviously pose to a regional power like Russia and Putin. Neither why the constant Putin/Russian alternative objective of a collective pan European security arrangement have been disregarded and dismissed by the hawkish stance of US analysts and generals. Nor why Ukraine as a EU and nuclearised NATO member was so vital for the West.

Was it that Putin, with his undoubted autocratic rule, his billionaire chums, his fiercely nationalistic philosophy was too convenient a punching ball to deserve attention? Or were NATO and Europe, publicly blackballed and kicked unceremoniously by the former US President Trump, determined to get their own back? Were geo-economic factors at play over vast Russian gas reserves or was it in the US/Western agenda to render Putin's Russia irrelevant before tackling the only superpower capable of challenging US hegemony, China?

Those questions remain under the carpet as the West

turns the Ukrainian President in some sort of European hero fighting for survival against a marauding Russian dictator, not quite the African or South Asian breed but, somehow it seems, not quite up to European or Western values, standards and morals.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt that Western naval or military interventions and presence provide a stabilising or pacifying force in many parts of the world, particularly in our region as challenges in the Indian Ocean high seas, including our maritime Economic Zone, look set to intensify. The UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly, called into a rare Emergency Special Session, have debated the Ukraine crisis without, it seems, any fruitful outcome except making public the positions of ambassadors from various countries.

We do not recall how Ukraine voted at our UK-British Indian Ocean Territory dispute in the 2019 UN General Assembly, but like India, which never received any

Ukrainian sympathy in international fora, in these dire times for the Ukraine population, its casualties and refugees caught in a geo-political confrontation, our diplomacy should not hesitate to condemn invasion or naked military aggression as a means for political ends, however desirable and necessary the latter. Accompanied by a call for earliest cessation of hostilities and for resumption of high-level negotiations between the West and sovereign Russia that would prevent matters degenerating into such drama and horror.

Even if we have reservations about some of the positions and storylines of the West, our national interests, while harbouring no enmities, will continue to benefit from the combined naval and military presence of France, Europe, the USA, India and Australia to ensure a safe, secure and stable environment in the Indian Ocean. TINA, in this domain, has substance.

"Public Interest Litigations hold public bodies to account by ensuring that they make appropriate decisions, act fairly and transparently"

It has often been decried by media, some law practitioners and certainly the general public that laws enacted by parliamentary majorities or regulations made by public bodies, cannot be taken up by our high court through the latter's restricted view of *locus standi*. Judicial reviews concern a private interest but public interest litigation with proper safeguards has been pioneered by the Indian Supreme Court, opening the doors of judicial redress to those who feel genuinely aggrieved by unwise use of the government's numerical might. Lex shares his legal views on those questions.

LEX



tive approach our Supreme Court has taken in matters of *locus standi*.

* At the end of the day, if it's true that an unbridled PIL could also pose the risk of the Court overstepping its boundaries and crossing the limit by exercising powers permitted only to Parliament, shouldn't there be a mechanism available for parties that feel aggrieved by certain decisions which are blatantly against the public interest to contest the legality of such decisions?

Yes, some thought on introducing that concept may be given in Mauritius as this will constitute the only way of circum-

* Is it possible in the Mauritian context for an aggrieved citizen/taxpayer to contest an administrative decision of a government agency or of the Cabinet itself which in his view would go against the public interest or his own individual interest?

In the judgment of Akil Bissessur against Sir Anerood Jugnauth in 2018, former Chief Justice Matadeen ruled that being a citizen of Mauritius and a taxpayer does not constitute sufficient interest for the purposes of an application for judicial review.

* In simple terms, public interest could imply that government decisions are supposed to act in the best interest of the public, but it seems that it is not so easy to obtain agreement as to what exactly represents public interest as applied to public administration. Why is that so?

Public interest is a vague and wide expression. What amounts to public interest depends on a series of facts and circumstances. Fundamental rights, for example, are protected but are not absolute. There may be derogations from them in the public interest, that is for the general welfare of people.

* Since it's the legal responsibility of government to redistribute wealth equitably with the objective of ensuring social justice through the instrument of fair taxes, isn't that sufficient justification for a legal challenge by an aggrieved taxpayer?

No. Being a taxpayer by itself does not mean that a person has a sufficient interest to challenge an administrative decision unless the person invokes a particular breach of the Constitution. Even then it will not be easy to establish or win a case.

* Besides custom duty and VAT, there are several contributions (Covid-19 Solidarity Fund, etc.) that are factored in the retail prices of petrol and diesel, which have recently been raised. Consumer groups and concerned citizens have suggested that the taxes and contributions could have been either reduced or withheld to cushion the impact of higher fuel prices. That sounds reasonable, but can it be forced on the Government through a legal challenge if it were to decide otherwise?

Unless the challenger has a personal interest, he will not be able to challenge the decision. Like him there are many persons who are aggrieved.

* It appears that there is broader scope for aggrieved citizens/groups in the Indian context to contest the government's decisions and advance human rights and equality, or raise issues of broad public concern through the mechanism of Public Interest Litigation (PIL). PIL is also growing at a significant pace in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda since it's seen to offer a "serious and sustainable antidote to the three countries' experiences of authoritarian rule, judicial lethargy, and community marginalization". What is PIL about and are there limits to its application?

According to one definition, Public

'Being a taxpayer by itself does not mean that a person has a sufficient interest to challenge an administrative decision unless the person invokes a particular breach of the Constitution'

Interest Litigation is a petition that an individual or a non-government organisation or citizen groups, can file in court with a view of seeking justice on an issue that has a larger public interest. It aims at giving common people an access to the judiciary to obtain legal redress for a greater cause.

PIL is not defined in any legislation. It is the result of judicial activism initiated by the Supreme Court of India, and refers to litigation undertaken to secure public interest and demonstrates the availability of justice to socially-disadvantaged parties. Introduced by Justice P. N. Bhagwati, it's a relaxation on the traditional rule of *locus standi*.

* There is however the view that PIL may open the floodgate of all manner of litigations even vexatious and irrelevant ones, and hamper the proper functioning of the government. What's your take on that?

There is that risk and it is for judges to control any floodgate. Since PIL is the use of the law to advance human rights and equality, or raise issues of broad public concern, it will be open to a judge to determine whether these criteria are met without however adopting the ultra-conservative

venting the conservative approach of the Supreme Court that has always rejected applications for judicial review on the ground that the applicant has no interest in the matter.

In India any Indian citizen can file a PIL, the only condition being that it should not be filed with a **private interest**, but in a **larger public interest**. A judicial review is filed by individuals or institutions for their own benefit and not for public interest, whereas PILs are filed in issue that have a larger public interest. PILs hold public bodies to account by ensuring that they make appropriate decisions, act fairly and transparently and within the remit of their powers.

On PIL it has been observed in India that the "judiciary, being the sentinel of constitutional statutory rights of citizens has a special role to play in the constitutional scheme. It can review legislation and administrative actions or decisions on the anvil of constitutional law. For the enforcement of fundamental rights, one has to move the Supreme Court or the High Courts directly by invoking the Writ Jurisdiction of these courts. But the high cost and complicated procedure involved in litigation, however, makes equal access to jurisdiction a mere slogan in respect of millions of destitute and underprivileged masses stricken by poverty, illiteracy and ignorance. The Supreme Court of India, pioneered the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) thereby throwing open the portals of courts to the common man."

"It is for judges to control any floodgate. Since Public Interest Litigation is the use of the law to advance human rights and equality, or raise issues of broad public concern, it will be open to a judge to determine whether these criteria are met without however adopting the ultra-conservative approach our Supreme Court has taken in matters of *locus standi*..."

1 million have fled Ukraine as Russian forces capture port city Kherson



People gather in the Kyiv subway, using it as a bomb shelter in Kyiv on March 2, 2022. Pic - AP

Russia's launch of a full-scale war in Ukraine completed a week on Thursday. According to the United Nations, 752 civilian casualties have been recorded in Ukraine till now but the real figures could be much higher. The Russian side has also suffered casualties with the defense ministry saying that nearly 500 soldiers have died and over 1,500 have been wounded, according to a report by the Wall Street Journal. Amid the escalating war situation in Ukraine, Moscow and Kyiv are likely to meet for a second round of ceasefire talks in Belarus, reports Hindustan Times.

Here are the top updates on the Ukraine war

- * The United Nations' refugee agency said on Thursday that one million have fled Ukraine since Russia launched its attack on February 24. The agency predicts four million could eventually leave the war-ravaged country.
- * Russian forces have now captured Kherson, which is situated in Ukraine's southern region. With a population of 250,000, Kherson is the first significant

city to fall into Russia's hands. Till Wednesday, the Ukrainian military was continuing to defend the city, according to President Volodymyr Zelensky.

- * Ukraine's Kharkiv continues to be hit by Russian shelling with police and university buildings among the latest struck, according to news agency AFP on Thursday.
- * On Wednesday, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution that demanded Russia to immediately withdraw from Ukraine. The resolution which also deplores Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in the strongest terms and condemns Vladimir Putin's decision to put nuclear forces on alert was backed by 141 out of 193 UN member states.
- * A total of 17,000 Indian nationals have left Ukraine since advisories were issued and the Modi government has increased flights under Operation Ganga. On Thursday morning an Air India evacuation flight from Romania reached Mumbai.

'Persuading India to vote against Russia's aggression but...': US diplomat

The United States has been working towards persuading India to vote with other countries in the United Nations General Assembly against Russia's aggression on Ukraine but those attempts have failed so far as "we have seen a number of abstentions", top US diplomat Donald Lu said speaking to the members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee after India abstained from a vote on the United Nations General Assembly resolution on Wednesday, the third time in a week.

Senior state department officials are conducting high-level dialogue with Indian counterparts over Ukraine, assistant state secretary Lu said.

India on Wednesday abstained on a UNGA resolution that deplored Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The 193-member General Assembly Wednesday voted to reaffirm its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and terri-

torial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and "deplores in the strongest terms" Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The resolution was adopted with 141 votes in favour, five Member States voting against and 35 abstentions. The General Assembly broke into an applause as the resolution was adopted. The resolution required a 2/3 majority to be adopted in the General Assembly, reports Hindustan Times.

Indian Ambassador to the UN TS Tirumurti said that India has been deeply concerned over the rapidly deteriorating situation in Ukraine and the ensuing humanitarian crisis. "We remain firm in our conviction that differences can only be solved through dialogue and diplomacy," he said, adding that India supported the international community's call for an immediate ceasefire.

"It is clear World War 3 can only be nuclear": Russian foreign minister

Four days after Vladimir Putin placed his country's nuclear deterrent forces on 'special' alert, Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov told Russian and foreign media: "It is clear that World War three can only be nuclear."

"I would like to point out that it is in the heads of Western politicians that the idea of a nuclear war is spinning constantly, and not in the heads of Russians," Lavrov declared. "I assure you that we will not allow any provocations to throw us off balance," he added.

Moscow has the world's largest arsenal of nuclear weapons and a huge cache of ballistic missiles which form the backbone of the country's deterrence forces, reports Hindustan Times.

Russia could also not tolerate what he said was a military threat from Ukraine, adding that he was convinced that Russia was right over Ukraine.

The Ukrainian government has accused Russian forces of targeting



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Pic - toshub.com

civilians in the war that has now entered the eighth day. The Russian foreign minister has said that the troops have been given strict orders to use high-precision weapons to decimate military infrastructure.

Molnupiravir can be used for high-risk Covid patients: WHO



The WHO has given conditional recommendation to the drug. Pic - static.india.com

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Tuesday updated its therapeutic guidelines for Covid-19 to include the antiviral drug molnupiravir for patients with non-severe Covid-19 who are at highest risk of hospital admission.

The drug is conditionally recommended, said the WHO Guideline Development Group of international experts.

Patients who are at highest risk of hospitalisation typically include those who are unvaccinated, are of old age and have a weak immune system or suffer from certain chronic diseases.

The expert panel, however, warned against giving the drug to young and healthy patients, including children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women due to potential harms, reports Hindustan Times.

Molnupiravir stops the Sars-CoV-2 from thriving in the body in the early

stages of infection by introducing errors in its replication process. Like most antivirals, it has shown promise when used early after infection, potentially stopping a case from becoming severe. The latest WHO recommendations is based on new data from six randomised controlled trials involving 4,796 patients, the largest dataset on this drug so far.

But there have been concerns.

Moderate certainty evidence from these trials suggests that molnupiravir reduces the risk of hospital admission (43 fewer admissions per 1,000 patients at highest risk) and time to symptom resolution (average 3.4 fewer days), while low certainty evidence suggests a small effect on mortality (6 fewer deaths per 1,000 patients), said a BMJ press statement on the guidelines.

*Contd on page 11



Donald Trump said China would be attacking Taiwan next. Pic - AP

Russia-Ukraine: Trump says 'Taiwan is next' as 'Xi is watching with glee'

Putin would have never done this to Trump, the former US President said stepping up his attack against US President Joe Biden

Former US President Donald Trump has said Taiwan will be invaded by China next as 'President Xi is watching with glee' the developments of the Russia-Ukraine front. Speaking exclusively to Fox Business, Donald Trump said China is watching how stupid the United States is and "of course, they (China) are going to do it (invade Taiwan)".

"President Xi happens to be a man with a high intelligence level, and he looks at what happened in Afghanistan... He saw the way that we left Afghanistan... left American citizens there – is still trying to get out – he sees that, and this is his opportunity to do what he wants to do," Trump said.

Ukraine has put up a very good fight against Russia, far better than most people thought possible, Trump said reiterating that Putin would have never done this to him (Trump).

Earlier, Trump had drawn the ire of a section of Republicans after he had praised Putin. Now, he has shifted the gear and is avoiding any direct praise or criticism of Putin, reports Hindustan Times.

World Bank preparing \$3 billion support package for war-hit Ukraine

The World Bank is preparing \$3 billion in funding for Ukraine as it works with the International Monetary Fund work to support the country following its invasion by Russia.

The World Bank's board will consider a fast-disbursing budget support operation for at least \$350 million that will be submitted this week, followed by \$200 million in support for health and education, the two institutions said in a joint statement on Tuesday.

The IMF board could consider as early as next week Ukraine's request for emergency money through the Rapid Financing Instrument, the Washington-based institutions said. That would come mostly without the conditions on the borrower country normally required by the fund, reports Bloomberg.

The IMF also said that it continues to work on a review of Ukraine's 2020 loan, \$2.2 billion of which remains to pay out. Board members last week questioned whether they have leeway under fund rules to approve more disbursements based on the political and economic uncertainty caused by the war, according to people familiar with the matter.

"Coordinated international action will be crucial to mitigate risks and navigate the treacherous period ahead," the institutions said. "This crisis affects the lives and livelihoods of people around the world, and we offer them our full support."

Hong Kong braces for lockdown as daily cases to breach 50,000

Hong Kong is set to report a new record of over 50,000 daily new infections this week, local media reported, as the city's spiraling outbreak sees thousands of residents flee while those remaining strip shelves of food and medicine.

The continued spike in cases comes amid growing chaos and confusion around the city's plan to test the whole population of 7.4 million three times in March, with dueling local media reports about the length and strictness of the lockdown to occur while testing is conducted.

On Wednesday afternoon, after over a week out of the public eye, Chief Executive Carrie Lam sought to reassure residents during a television interview from a railroad yard, after the first trainload of goods from China to the city arrived as part of a new program to stabilize import flows, reports Bloomberg.

China will ensure Hong Kong has enough food and other supplies during the Covid outbreak, said Lam, urging residents to stop their panicked purchasing. There will also be unlimited supplies of medical equipment available, she said.



People wearing face masks walk at a downtown street in Hong Kong. Pic - AP

Lam acknowledged that there won't be enough beds to isolate everyone found to be infected with the virus during the city-wide testing program, though she vowed to make the process as quick and comprehensive as possible. People will be able to get their needs met even during the mass testing effort, she said, ruling out a "wholesale" city lockdown, though she did not clarify how

the mass testing would be conducted and when.

The information vacuum has exacerbated deteriorating conditions in Hong Kong as its outbreak becomes one of the deadliest in the world. The city's loss of control is a real-world illustration of the limits of the Covid Zero strategy in the face of more transmissible variants like omicron.

India engages Moscow for students' evacuation through Ukraine-Russia borders

With Operation Ganga in full swing on Ukraine's western borders, the Narendra Modi government is in constant touch with Moscow to give safe passage to Indian students stranded in Kharkiv and Sumy warzones and allow evacuation through the eastern border with Russia. A Russian speaking team from the Indian embassy in Moscow has been parked in Belgorod, which is close to both war-hit cities of Ukraine, for the past few days and evacuation through Russian diplomatic channels are being worked out at the highest levels.

According to ballpark figures available, due to the fullest cooperation of Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova, and Romania governments, as many as 13000 Indians have been evacuated out of Ukraine through the western borders with another 3000 making their way to the Ukraine war zone to safety. Around 4,000 Indian students are stuck in Kharkiv and Sumy, where the Russian military offensive is on with Putin's forces trying to encircle the key cities of Ukraine, reports Hindustan Times.

With Russian-Hungarian speaking External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar having past personal equity with Foreign



The Indian embassy in Ukraine said over 470 students will exit Ukraine and enter Romania through the Porubne-Siret border on Friday and that it is moving them to neighbouring countries for onward evacuation. Pic - tosshub.com

Ministers of all nations on Ukraine's western border, Operation Ganga has taken off on the western front. "The problem is moving the stranded Indians to the western borders due to traffic jams and long queues on the Ukrainian side of the border. There is no problem being faced in evacuation as all the countries are offering the fullest cooperation. A total of seven Russian speaking teams are available on all borders as well as Ukraine," said a senior Indian diplomat on the Poland-Ukraine border. The synergy between the Ministry of External Affairs on Raisina Hill and the diplomats on the borders is evident as all the Indian missions in

Europe have dispatched young officers to the Ukraine borders.

However, the key concern of the Modi government is evacuation from the eastern borders as both Kharkiv and Sumy are at the heart of the Russian offensive towards Kyiv. With all the roads choked by massive Russian armoured vehicles and rocket regiments from Belarus and the eastern border with Ukraine, the only option of safe evacuation for Indian students will be if Moscow allows a safe passage to the stranded Indians as there is full-fledged urban warfare going on within the cities.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Sheila Bunwaree

'It has become more urgent than ever before to ask ourselves what kind of society do we wish to live in, how do we get there'

As usual, Prof Sheila Bunwaree, one of the MMM's leading voices, does not mince her words commenting on various topics of current interest and broader issues regarding our development post-pandemic, the difficulties the middle and lower income categories are facing and the agenda of those running affairs of government on our behalf...

Mauritius Times: Every time we listen to private radios or read the newspapers these days, we are given the impression that things are going from bad to worse in different areas of society and public life. Government spokespersons will tell you that there is an obvious exaggeration in many of those reports for purely political reasons. The situation of state is not sinking, they assert, and most countries are going through a rough patch at the present time due to issues and conditions made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic. How do you react to that?

Sheila Bunwaree: I am appalled by the ease with which some people, particularly some of government's spokespersons tend to put everything on the back of Covid-19. It will be no surprise when they soon find yet another scapegoat: the Russia Ukraine conflict. The one thing that the current regime excels at is finding scapegoats.

That Covid-19 has wreaked havoc on the global economy and impacted on various spheres of people's lives, including here in Mauritius, cannot be denied. But the truth is that many of our economic woes originate from much before Covid-19, largely due to a lack of planning, incoherent policy making, economic mismanagement. For some years now, things have gone on deteriorating. What is more worrying is that there seems to be no strategy and ability to put things right again.

Moreover, our problems are not only in the economic realm, they are present in almost all sectors. When the MSM-led government came to power in 2014, the nation was presented with a government programme entitled 'Achieving Meaningful Change'. People pinned their hopes on the various projects and promises made to them. Many of these were unkept. Then in 2019, the MSM-led government fooled the electorate once again.

I am not only shocked but also disillusioned by the fact that a number of people who claim to have a sense of justice and righteousness, who promised to engage



politics differently, are in fact stuck in a rut. They are getting increasingly immersed in the rot of the current system, without the least desire to challenge the status quo. How can we therefore possibly think that the state is not sinking? A mere glance at the increasing level of misery on the ground highlights the urgency of revisiting and reengineering state-society relations so that we have a stronger, more human and nature-centric state which can respond to emerging complex challenges we are confronted with.

So, when you ask me how do I react, I should tell you that my reaction does not stop at being shocked or disillusioned, it goes beyond. I will fight to my last breath. I will do everything that it takes to bring about an alternative development paradigm and a more just society.

*** There is definitely room for improvement in different areas, and the current situation makes it clear that we must re-think many aspects of the way in which we address different issues. Is that being done at the level of the Government, the Opposition, Academia, etc? It does not appear to be the case since we do not know what contributions either of the former are making to the debate...**

Speaking about room for improvement can imply that

things are not all that bad, that there is scope to ameliorate; but when governance is built on a rotten foundation, the rot needs to be completely scrapped out so that we can start afresh, on a clean slate.

The current situation certainly demands a rethink, a revamping of the system but this cannot be done within the confines of the current economic model and/or a mere alternation of power. The alternative development paradigm I referred to earlier has to be infused with a Whole-of-Society approach, where all stakeholders contribute to the debate. Equally important is an effective functioning of our institutions. We are all aware of the kind of institutional decay that has set in, constituting a major obstacle to the country's advancement.

It has become more urgent than ever before to ask ourselves what kind of society do we wish to live in, how do we get there and how do we meet the aspirations of the

“It is deplorable that our Parliament does not have a system of parliamentary committees working on key concerns and issues. That could assist in getting some greater clarity on some of the issues we have talked about. We should perhaps also put an end to this practice of nominating unreturned, unlucky candidates at elections, as Speaker of the House...”

people? It is important to engage the ordinary citizen but where is the platform for this?

Coming to the government - it is often reactive and arrogant. There is no sense of planning, no consultation, no debate. We have an authoritarian government in front of us, the dictum is 'we are government, we decide' even if those decisions are detrimental to national interest. Two recent controversial pieces of legislations which have been pushed down our throat include the IBA Amendment Act and the Petroleum Bill, jeopardizing our rights and the future of younger generations in particular.

As far as the Opposition is concerned, it remains fragmented - and has been so far unable to develop a coherent, common vision around a new societal project. I am certainly not talking of who is going to fill which positions, and who will replace who, but rather of an alternative vision - one which is truly inclusive, more green and more just - one where the fundamental rights of all citizens are respected and promoted and where women's perspectives and voices are counted in.

Coming to academia where I hail from, I am sorry to say that it is far from playing its role effectively.

☞ Cont. on page 13

The Opposition remains fragmented - and has been so far unable to develop a coherent, common vision around a new societal project'

Cont. from page 12

Universities are known to be repositories of knowledge, sites of resistance and the reflection of a social conscience. But do we hear the voice of the academics apart from a handful. We have some very competent people who could make a significant contribution to the debate but somehow, they seem to have been silenced.

I certainly think that the country has everything to win by revisiting the regulation regarding academics" right to participate in active politics. They should perhaps be given "leave without pay" so as to be able to participate in the political life of the country, thus enriching the debate.

*** Let's take up a few of the issues that are making the headlines. Prices of consumer goods are going up and are causing a negative impact on the standard of living of the poor; petrol prices have again been raised, and rupee depreciation is making things even more difficult. Do you get the impression that the burden of recovery is being shifted onto the shoulders of the poor and the middle class?**

Yes, the poor and the middle class are experiencing a rapid erosion in their purchasing power. They are bearing the brunt. This is not only an impression, it is borne out of facts and based on narratives from the ground. They are having great difficulty in making ends meet and in bringing food to the table.

What is shocking is that on the one hand the government talks about building back better and leaving no one behind, having mastered the UN language of recovery very well, but on the other hand, we find a growing chasm between the poor and those at the top, while the middle class is thinning out each day.

I share the view of those who believe that the government could have removed the tax of Rs 2 that was imposed for vaccines and the Covid Solidarity Fund. This could have eased off the pressure a little bit but no one seems to listen.

It is however also important to remember that recovery is much more than a question of fuel prices and standard of living. Recovery means giving a chance to increase our productive capacity, grow our economy, create more jobs, but the deliberate weakening of the Mauritian currency does not seem to help move the economy in this direction. Being hugely dependent on food imports, on raw materials and inputs for its manufacturing sector, inclusive of small businesses, the persistent depreciation of the rupee can easily slide the country into chronic current account deficits and weakening of other macroeconomic fundamentals.

Recovery would be meaningless if we do not build back better and fairer but this demands that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are designed in the DNA of recovery according to Elizabeth Boggs Davidson, Director of SDG impacts at the UN. But are we doing this? Data that a couple of colleagues and myself collected for our forthcoming book on 'Sustainability and the SDGs - Covid 19 - opportunity or constraints', shows that the country is quite far from such

a recovery process.

*** Finance minister Renganaden Padayachy is talking of a projected growth rate of 6.5% this year. That is all well and good, but one would have thought the Finance minister would have directly intervened at the level of price fixing for petroleum products and also with respect to interest rates with a view to stemming the fall in the value of the rupee, and that in the public interest. What do you think?**

I certainly think so. A government which claims that it cares for its people, cannot allow the situation to worsen. I have just commented on the rising prices of the petroleum products and the rapidly deprecia-

"The recent alleged cases of corruption at UOM leading to the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor as well as the alleged case of sexual harassment linked to the resignation of a professor are all very troubling and reflective of a deeper malaise in our society. A lot more is happening which is not necessarily good and perhaps also impacting on the performance of the University..."

ting rupee, but it is perhaps important to exercise a word of caution here, particularly as regards certain politicians" obsession with growth.

Achieving higher growth levels is no doubt important but if obtaining Padayachy's projected growth of 6.5% for instance does not create sufficient quality jobs and allows prices to rise rapidly and does not do enough to prevent overshooting on the ecological side in respect of the planetary boundaries, then there is likely to be big trouble ahead.

We will end up with a stagflation i.e., high unemployment, high inflation and demand which remains rather stagnant. Being obsessed with high growth models and rising GDP per head is not tantamount to progress and well-being and therefore not in the public interest.

*** There are also issues related to accountability and governance with respect to the running of the once prestigious national university, the UOM, and the MITD in the education sector, marine pollution and shipwrecks at Pointe au Sables coming after the Wakashio oil spill, the presence of Danish investigators here in connection with the CEB's St Louis Redevelopment Project scandal. What's your take on these issues?**

As I mentioned earlier, our institutions are in state of



disarray, thus leading to a lot of chaos and mismanagement. If we take the environmental issue and the question of marine pollution, for instance, one would think that the Wakashio ecological disaster would have served as a good lesson to prevent any further vessels entering our territorial waters and ending up as wrecks on our coral reefs. The three recent ship wrecks in the Pointe aux Sables vicinity testifies to the fact that there is a persistent lack of professionalism and security capacity.

On a different note, our biodiversity is being destroyed at an exponential rate. Do you know that a marine pollution bill was promised at paragraph 222 of the Government Programme 2015-2020 but like the Freedom of Information Act, it was removed from the radar of the MSM-led government programme of 2020- 2024 and never brought back?

The recent alleged cases of corruption at UOM leading to the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor as well as the alleged case of sexual harassment linked to the resignation of a professor are all very troubling and reflective of a deeper malaise in our society. A lot more is happening which is not necessarily good and perhaps also impacting on the performance of the University, albeit indirectly contributing to the institution's poor ranking on the international university ranking index.

Reading what is happening at the MITD with students not having been given their certificates for over 2 years and the failure to upgrade the equipment at the training centres and other associated problems makes us wonder how on earth can we possibly aspire to become a knowledge hub with such poor governance and accountability at our institutions of higher learning.

Cont. on page 14

'Recovery would be meaningless if we do not build back better and fairer'

☞ Cont. from page 13

I am very concerned, all the more so since the country's human capital is our only resource and should be given the best opportunity to thrive. The failure to optimize on the country's human capital is a threat to the very sustainability of the island.

* Two other issues which have been in the news lately relate to the World Bank's reform plan of the sugar sector which is unable to stand on its feet without taxpayers' assistance to the tune of Rs1.5 billion annually, and the continuing land dispossession issue and Clency Harmon's declared intention to go on a third hunger strike. These appear on the surface to be two unrelated issues, but in both cases the Government does not seem to be able to make up its mind as to what constitutes the public interest. Why is that so?

Every single issue regarding development is connected and entangled with another especially when we appreciate development not as economic growth *per se* but rather as a question of rights and entitlements.



“Achieving higher growth levels is no doubt important but if obtaining Padayachy's projected growth of 6.5% for instance does not create sufficient quality jobs and allows prices to rise rapidly and does not do enough to prevent overshooting on the ecological side in respect of the planetary boundaries, then there is likely to be big trouble ahead. Being obsessed with high growth models and rising GDP per head is not tantamount to progress and well-being and therefore not in the public interest...”

important now is to sit around a table with all stakeholders and forge some kind of consensus, based on a win-win formula. Achieving the latter may not be easy, compromises may have to be made, with some people having to let go of certain vested interests. Only then can a greater good be achieved.

Some of the above are perhaps what makes it difficult for government to make up its mind as to what constitutes public interest.

* We'll hopefully get some clarity and more answers from the PQs which might be raised in relation to the issues we have talked about when Parliament resumes soon... 'si le Speaker le veut bien'?

Seriously! I have no such hope. Judging by what the current regime and the Speaker of the House have reduced the 'temple of democracy' to, how can we hope for greater clarity and more answers. I am sure you can recall the very many questions which remained unanswered during the last sittings, the unjustified suspensions of parliamentarians with the Speaker allegedly making an abuse of Standing Order 49, at times.

Getting clarity and more transparency becomes very difficult in a system where there is a domineering presence of the executive, leading to a lack of oversight. It is also deplorable that our Parliament does not have a system of parliamentary committees working on key concerns and issues. That could assist in getting some greater clarity on some of the issues we have talked about. We should perhaps also put an end to this practice of nominating unreturned, unlucky candidates at elections, as Speaker of the House.

*Another headline grabbing issue these days relates to the Russian "invasion" of Ukraine. We have heard PMSD's Xavier Duval and the 'L'Entente de l'Espoir' calling on the Government to condemn vehemently the Russian war initiative. Aren't there two sides to this tragedy?

There is always more than one side to a story or a tragedy. And needless to say that when the dynamics unfolding in front of us are in the context of shifting geopolitical tectonic plates within the new global order,

the issues become more complex.

Whatever be the complexity, however, an unjust and an unequal war needs to be condemned. Genuine democrats, lovers of peace and freedom and those believing in a common humanity cannot and should not tolerate the kind of aggression Ukraine is being subjected to. We have to stand up in global solidarity to challenge all those trying to infringe the principles of international law, showing no respect for territorial integrity and undermining the UN charter on peace and security.

L'Entente de l'Espoir is absolutely right in inviting the government to vehemently condemn the Russian war initiative, to use your own term.

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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“What is shocking is that on the one hand the government talks about building back better and leaving no one behind, having mastered the UN language of recovery very well, but on the other hand, we find a growing chasm between the poor and those at the top, while the middle class is thinning out each day...”



In his book, 'Terres-Possession et Dépossession', which in fact originates from Clency Harmon's hunger strike of 2019, Jean Claude de l'Estrac aptly notes: «La répartition très inégale des terres tout au long de notre histoire, est la principale raison encore, des profondes inégalités de notre société.» My own article: 'Land justice in an unjust society - Harmon's hunger strike', published in one of the papers in April 2019, also raises several questions making it clear that the land question is an issue of public interest.

The long-awaited World Bank report on the sugar sector, which was kept from public domain for more than two years, is also of public interest. The recommendations made by the World Bank do not provide for anything particularly innovative however. What seems more

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 185

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 21 February, 1958

• If people take no care for the future they will soon have to sorrow for the present. — Chinese Proverb

From Ajanta to the National Defence Academy



Satcam Boolell

To the tourist in India a visit to the famous Ajanta and Ellora Caves is a must. If he is unconvinced of the glory that was India, that visit would be most revealing. Situated about 300 miles from Bombay, these caves have become a place of pilgrimage to lovers of art from all over the world. If the Taj Majal is a poem in marble, the frescoes of Ajanta are the most perfect expressions of devotion to Buddhism.

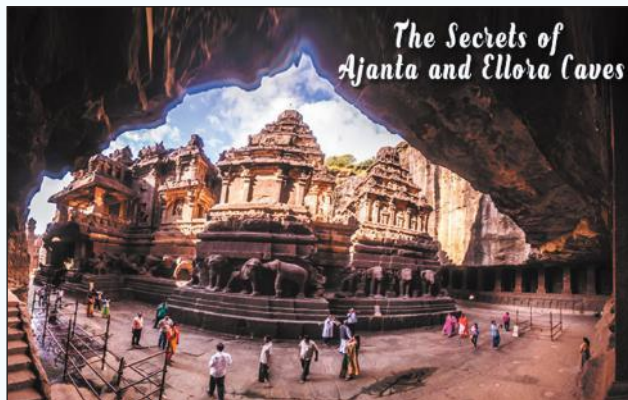
Carved out of the mountain rocks with the chisel and hammer as the only tools, the monasteries and temples of Ellora stand as proud monuments of Indian sculpture at its zenith. The Kailash Temple scooped out of a single rock is one of the most magnificent examples of what people animated by religious fervour can achieve. It is 184 feet in length, 109 feet in breadth and 98 feet in height. The work started from the top to come to the bottom. On the outer walls are *bas reliefs* representing scenes from the Ramayan and Mahabharata.

About 100 miles from Ellora are the now world-famous Ajanta Caves of Buddhist origin. There are twenty-nine of them in all. Situated in a crescent-shaped mountain among the wilds of the Hyderabad border infested with tigers, those caves were forgotten for ages until towards the end of the last century they were accidentally discovered by a British soldier who had lost his way in the jungle in a tiger hunt. Today, Ajanta is a great tourist attraction. Thousands of people visit it every year. The caves which consist of monasteries and chapels and huge statues of Lord Buddha are among the greatest achievement of Buddhist art and among the greatest prides of India's past glory.

The frescoes on the walls depicting the scenes from Lord Buddha's life have preserved all their freshness even after two thousand years. According to experts, the antiquity of the caves has been placed between the 2nd century BC and the 7th century AD. There are two things which impressed me most during my visit to the caves. One was a huge stone statue of the Buddha sitting in his usual posture so symbolical of a state of complete detachment and serenity. If one looks at the face from a certain angle, the Buddha looks so defected that one wonders whether it was the same happy face that one had just seen from the front. How the artist succeeded in giving two diametrically opposite moods to the same face is still puzzling my mind. The other thing which impressed me was the freshness of the frescoes. What substance went into the composition of the colour is a mystery even today.

Standing on the opposite bank of the stream which traverses the lovely glen where the caves are situated, one can perceive only small holes pierced into the rocks little sensing that inside those holes are to be found some of the greatest artistic treasures of India.

As Buddhism is the religion of detachment, love,



peace and self-abnegation leading ultimately to Nirvana, i.e., a state of eternal and sublime serenity and bliss, what better place could the Buddhist monks have chosen for their monasteries and chapels and chapels than the idyllic surrounding in the wilds of Ajanta? Could they have found any better place to meditate, to pray and to paint?

When I left Ajanta, I could not help expressing my regret that I could not enjoy for a longer time its serene atmosphere. I almost envied those monks who lived in those caves so many centuries ago.

From ancient to modern India, it was not a far cry. The next day after our visit to Ajanta and Ellora, we were at Poona visiting the Hindustan Antibiotics Laboratory where to combat the ills and sufferings of civilised man the Indian scientists and medical research workers were engaged in manufacturing penicillin and other antibiotics. The scientists and their assistants form a small colony of their own. Their pay is attractive and every worker is provided with accommodation according to his job in the concern.

As we are living in an age where fear dominates our whole life and where most of our activities are directed towards the strengthening and consolidation of protective forces, our next call was inevitably at the National Defence Academy.

Major-General Halibullah, the Head of the Academy,

who saw active service during the last war under Auchinleck, Wavell, Alexander and Montgomery proudly took us round the premises of the Academy after a lunch was solemnly served in true military tradition where rank and status were rigidly observed. The Academy, which is the Indian equivalent of Sandhurst, recruits young men between the ages of 17 and 19 for training as cadets. They spend three years at the Academy following courses in such a wide variety of subject as Mathematics, Geography, Botany, Chemistry, Physics, Languages, etc. The emphasis, however, General Halibullah told us, was on character formation. The three services, Navy, Army and Air Force, are combined and all the cadets follow the same courses. After the three-year training, the trainees are diverted to their respective services for which they opt and the next stage is their intensive training for commission.

The National Defence Academy is built on an elevated plateau at the foot of the hill famous in history as the stronghold from where Shivaji routed the Moghul army and compelled the Moghul Emperor to make truce with him. In that cool and quiet setting where everything is conducive to peace and calm, the young cadets pursue their training under the shadow of the memory of the great Shivaji, still the symbol of military courage and tenacity. In the New India that is rising to greatness, the National Defence Academy is already a prominent institution. Those young men who will one day be entrusted with the defence of their motherland are taught not only how to fight for the country but also how to serve as examples of honesty, courage and loyalty.

Strange as it may seem, the spirit of Gandhiji is so strongly alive that even the armed forces in India cannot escape its influence. In order to accommodate Gandhism in the armed forced, a synthesis had to be evolved to avoid any possible conflict between the two. Major-General Halibullah told us that his boys were also being trained to observe those two values which have been so dear to India throughout the ages: loyalty to truth and services to humanity.



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Tackling inequality will break the gridlock on what to do about climate change

● Cont. from page 2

The recent data from the World Inequality Report show the historical CO₂ emissions linked to the development paths from 1850 to 2020 have considerably shrunk the remaining emission-budget which would allow us to stay under 1.5° or even under 2° from now until 2050.

What the data also tells us is a story of inequality: inequality of CO₂ emissions and inequality of development.

With the onset of the Covid pandemic in 2020, this situation has only worsened as it is estimated that it between 119 and 124 million people have been pushed into extreme poverty.

So, in assessing our current state, the World Inequality Report concurs with the Oxfam Davos report, titled this year "Inequality kills", as they both show a significant increase of inequality in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Oxfam's report shows staggering facts on how, because of Covid-19, the wealth of the 10 richest men has doubled, while the incomes of 99% of humanity are worse off. A recent Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development survey also shows that people are increasingly concerned with this rise in income disparities.

And we know that poverty would decrease even more if inequality was lower.

It is the extractivist type of growth that led to this situation of increased inequality both between and within countries, and also led to unsustainability from the climate perspective.

Going back to old ways is a bad idea

Voices have started to rise on how the fallout from the Covid pandemic could be a window of opportunity to rebuild dif-

ferently, to redefine solidarity, social values and prosperity.

A number of influential commentators, such as Nicholas Stern, ex-chief economist of the World Bank and of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and lead author of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, have seen this moment as an opportunity to put more sustainable social and economic processes in place too by linking these social and economic changes to more climate friendly production and consumption patterns.

For a short period, it seemed that many agreed. But now that recovery strategies are being implemented, it is being seen as imperative to restart growth as it was before, despite the fact that it is commonly acknowledged that it was an unsustainable growth path.

This disjuncture between where inequality, Covid and the climate emergency took us and the seeming amnesia of this business-as-usual approach is perplexing.

Of course, it is imperative that economies get going again. But, single-minded attention to restarting growth once more rests on the view that this growth will trickle down to include all in society and will lower inequality. But we know that this is not true.

A different approach

If existing growth processes do not trickle down and exclude potentially productive sections of the population from participating in the economy, then a starting point for thinking about what it might mean to build back differently should be a detailed interrogation in each country



Inequality polarises societies and makes them less inclined to act for the common good. Getty Images/ Stock photo

context of the multidimensional inequalities that restrict inclusion. Economists Dani Rodrik and Stefanie Stantcheva provide a useful framework to use. See below:

		At what stage of the economy does policy intervene?		
		pre-production stage	production stage	post-production stage
Which income segment do we care about?	bottom incomes	primary education and early-childhood programs; vocational training	minimum wage; apprenticeships; reduced social security contributions by firms; in-work benefits	social transfers (housing, family, child benefits); guaranteed minimum income; earned income tax credit; full employment macro stabilization policies
	middle class	public higher education; adult retraining programs	industrial policies; occupational licensing; on-the-job training; collective bargaining & work councils; trade policies	unemployment insurance; pensions
	top incomes	inheritance, gift & estate taxes	R&D tax credits; competition and anti-trust policies	top income tax rates; wealth taxes; corporate taxes

Policy matrix proposed by S. Stantcheva and D. Rodrik.

Each of these dimensions needs to be considered together. In this framework there is an insistence on the need to consider economic and social policies jointly and in an integrated way.

Moreover, the required policy combinations differ for those who fall in the bottom, middle- and top-income classes of a society. Therefore, the extent and nature of current inequalities are central to evaluating and planning growth policies that benefit everyone.

These policies need to be based on a detailed understanding of the way inequalities empower – or constrain – possibilities.

South Africa serves as a good example. It's very high inequality sees the bottom half of population sharing only 8.5% of the total income (while the richest 10% concentrate 52% of total income). The

main reason for this lies in the fact that the bottom-income group, which represents almost half of the country's population, is largely delinked from the labour market. This is due to the intersection of different types of inequalities, ranging from spatial, racial to wealth and assets.

Growth has to focus on enhancing the productivity of this bottom-income group. For this to happen social and infrastructure spending are key investments. Inclusive growth cannot happen without them.

Investing in people is not only crucial for socioeconomic sustainability, but also for climate sustainability. The "Yellow vests" movement in France was only a glimpse into why the ecological transition needs to be backed by social policies, but there is growing awareness of the looming risks.

Some options

When thinking around the role of inequality reduction in the fight against climate change, a couple of channels stand out. The most obvious one is the enormous gap in emissions between the poorest and the richest. Oxfam estimated that 20 of the richest billionaires emit, on average, as much as 8,000 times more carbon than the billion poorest people.

But the distorting impact of inequalities on climate change goes beyond inequalities of emissions. Inequality polarises societies and makes them less inclined to act for the common good. This is particularly problematic for effecting socially optimal change as inequality results into elites capturing the power of action and being less prone to give up their privileges, which are often linked to the current non-inclusive and unsustainable structures of production and consumption.

Reducing inequalities allows us to shift from the gridlock of only talking to the established elite. In turn, this will facilitate climate action and open up the possibility of doing things differently.

Murray Leibbrandt, University of Cape Town; Anda David, Agence française de développement (AFD)

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TV watching linked with potentially fatal blood clots

Take breaks when binge-watching TV to avoid blood clots, say scientists. The warning comes as a study reports that watching TV for four hours a day or more is associated with a 35% higher risk of blood clots compared with fewer than 2.5 hours. The research is published today in the 'European Journal of Preventive Cardiology', a journal of the European Society of Cardiology.

"Our study findings also suggested that being physically active does not eliminate the increased risk of blood clots associated with prolonged TV watching," said lead author Dr Setor Kunutsor of the University of Bristol, UK. "If you are going to binge on TV you need to take breaks. You can stand and stretch every 30 minutes or use a stationary bike. And avoid combining television with unhealthy snacking."

The study examined the association between TV viewing and venous thromboembolism (VTE). VTE



includes pulmonary embolism (blood clot in the lungs) and deep vein thrombosis (blood clot in a deep vein, usually the legs, which can travel to the lungs and cause pulmonary embolism).

To conduct the study, the researchers undertook an analysis, which included three studies with a total of 131,421 participants aged 40 years and older without pre-existing VTE. The amount of time spent watching TV

was assessed by questionnaire and participants were categorised as prolonged viewers (watching TV at least four hours per day) and never/seldom viewers (watching TV less than 2.5 hours per day).

The average duration of follow-up in the three studies ranged from 5.1 to 19.8 years. During this period, 964 participants developed VTE. The researchers analysed the relative risk of developing VTE in prolonged versus never/seldom TV watchers. They found that prolonged viewers were 1.35 times more likely to develop VTE compared to never/seldom viewers.

Regarding the possible reasons for the observed relationship, Dr Kunutsor said: "Prolonged TV viewing involves immobilisation which is a risk factor for VTE. This is why people are encouraged to move around after surgery or during a long-haul flight. In addition, when you sit in a cramped position for long periods, blood pools in your extremities rather than circulating and this can cause blood clots. Finally, binge-watchers tend to eat unhealthy snacks which may lead to obesity and high blood pressure which both raise the likelihood of blood clots."

Dr Kunutsor concluded: "Generally speaking, if you sit a lot in your daily life -- for example your work involves sitting for hours at a computer -- be sure to get up and move around from time to time."

Why people deceive themselves

A philosophy team from Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB) and the University of Antwerp analysed the role self-deception plays in everyday life and the strategies people use to deceive themselves. In the journal 'Philosophical Psychology', Dr Francesco Marchi and Prof Albert Newen describe four strategies used to stabilise and shield the positive self-image. According to their theory, self-deception helps people to stay motivated in difficult situations.

"All people deceive themselves, and quite frequently at that," says Albert Newen from the RUB Institute of Philosophy II. "For instance, if a father is convinced that his son is a good student and then the son brings home bad grades, he may first say that the subject isn't that important or that the teacher didn't explain

the material well." The researchers call this strategy of self-deception the reorganisation of beliefs.

This includes selecting facts through purposeful action: people avoid places or persons that might bring problematic facts to their attention, such as the parent-teacher conference.

Another strategy is to reject facts by casting doubt on the credibility of the source. As long as the father hears about his son's academic problems only indirectly and does not see the grades, he can ignore the problems.

The last strategy is what Newen and Marchi call generating facts from an ambiguous state of affairs: "For instance, if the kind mathematics teacher gently suggests that the son is not coping, and the



father would have expected a clear statement in case of difficulties, he may interpret the considerable kindness and the gentle description as a positive assessment of his son's abilities," Francesco Marchi elaborates on the example.

The researchers describe all four strategies as typical psychological thinking tendencies. Self-deception is neither unreasonable nor detrimental to people in the short term, but always in the medium and long term. "These are not malicious ways of doing things, but part of the basic cognitive equipment of humans to preserve their established view of themselves and the world," says Newen.

In normal times with few changes, the tendency to stick to proven views is helpful and also deeply rooted in evolution. "However, this cognitive tendency is catastrophic in times of radically new challenges that require rapid changes in behaviour," adds the Bochum researcher.



How deep is the ocean?

In some places, the ocean is almost 7 miles deep. Scientists exploring the ocean floor have found strange sea creatures, bizarre geologic formations and records of Earth's history.

Explorers started making navigation charts showing how wide the ocean was more than 500 years ago. But it's much harder to calculate how deep it is.

If you wanted to measure the depth of a pool or lake, you could tie a weight to a string, lower it to the bottom, then pull it up and measure the wet part of the string. In the ocean you would need a rope thousands of feet long.

In 1872 the HMS Challenger, a British Navy ship, set sail to learn about the ocean, including its depth. It carried 181 miles (291 kilometers) of rope.

During their four-year voyage, the Challenger crew collected samples of rocks, mud and animals from many different areas of the ocean. They also found one of the



deepest zones, in the western Pacific, the Mariana Trench which stretches for 1,580 miles (2,540 kilometers).

Today scientists know that on average the ocean is 2.3 miles (3.7 kilometers) deep, but many parts are much shallower or deeper. To measure depth they use sonar, which stands for Sound Navigation And Ranging. A ship sends out pulses of sound energy and measures depth based on how quickly the sound travels back.

The deepest parts of the ocean are trenches -- long, narrow depressions, like a trench in the ground, but much bigger. The HMS Challenger sampled one of these zones at the southern end of the Mariana Trench, which might be the deepest point in the ocean. Known as the Challenger

Deep, it is 35,768 to 36,037 feet deep -- almost 7 miles (11 kilometers).

Ocean scientists like me study the sea floor because it helps us understand how Earth functions. For example, our planet's outer layer is made of tectonic plates -- huge moving slabs of rock and sediment. The Hawaiian-Emperor Seamount chain, a line of peaks on the ocean floor, was created when a tectonic plate moved over a spot where hot rock welled up from deep inside the Earth.

When two tectonic plates move away from each other underwater, new material rises up into Earth's crust. This process, which creates new ocean floor, is called seafloor spreading. Sometimes super-hot fluids from inside the Earth shoot up through cracks in the ocean floor called hydrothermal vents.

Amazing fish, shellfish, tube worms and other life forms live in these zones. Between the creation and destruction of ocean plates, sediments collect on the sea floor and provide an archive of Earth's history, the evolution of climate and life that is available nowhere else.

Suzanne OConnell

Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences,
Wesleyan University



LAUGHTER is the best medicine

To whom it may concern

"Mr Martin was 75 yrs old, had two stents put in, was feeling very frisky. He approached his wife, who immediately told him that she was afraid he could die of exertion if he got frisky with her.

Despite his pleading, she said that if his doctor said it was ok then she would relent.

He goes immediately to his doc who examines him carefully and passes him fit. He asks the doc to give him a letter to say he was ok and fit.

The doc obliges and writes the letter. It stated: 'Dear Mrs Martin, Mr Martin is very healthy and could easily pass as a young man of 30 in any physical activity that involved sex. In fact he might prove to be younger now that he has two stents. Yours sincerely, Doc Ebrahim'

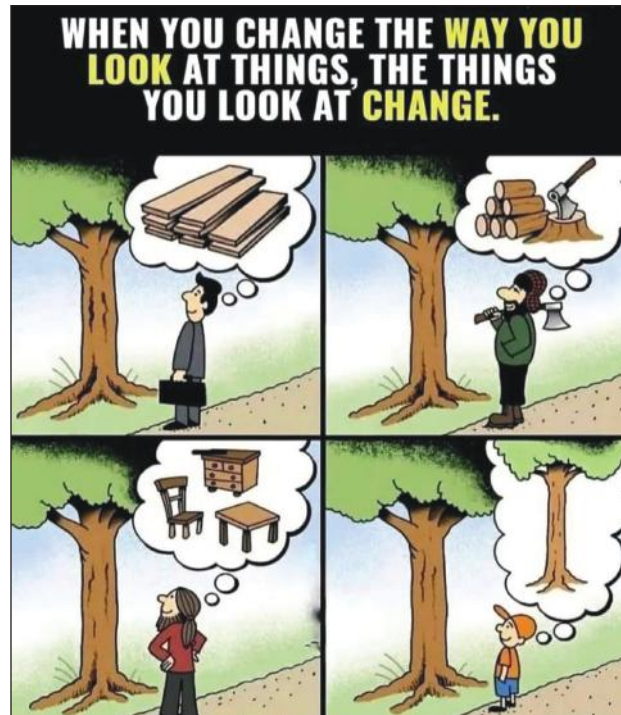
The old man reads the letter and is very satisfied. He tells the doc to make a small change to the letter. He says, 'Could you please remove Mrs Martin and put 'To whom it may concern'.

Two men, one American and one Indian were sitting in a bar and discussing about their family problems. The Indian told the American, "We have problems in India, we cannot marry the one whom we love, my parents are forcing me to get married to a homely girl from the village whom I haven't even seen once. We call it arranged marriage, I don't love -- I told them that openly and now have a hell lot of family issues."

The American said, talking about love marriages, "In US we can marry the one woman whom we love. I'll tell you my story: I married a widow whom I deeply loved and dated for two years. After a couple of years, my father fell in love with my step-daughter and married her, so my father became my son-in-law, and I became my father's father-in-law.

"Legally my daughter is my mother, and my wife my grandmother. More problems occurred when I had a son; my son is my father's brother and so my uncle.

"Situations turn worse when my father had a son, now my father's son. My brother is my grandson. Ultimately, I have become my own grandfather and I am also my own grandson, and you say you have family



problems."

The Indian fainted.

Husband to wife: "Today is a fine day."

Again, the next day, he says the same thing: "Today is a fine day."

Finally, after a week, the wife can't take it and asks the husband: "Since a week, you are saying, 'Today, is a fine day'. I'm fed up. What's the matter?"

Husband: "Last week when we had an argument, you said - 'I will leave you one fine day.' I was just trying to remind you."

On a bus, the priest sat next to a drunk.

Suddenly, with a slurred voice, the drunk asked the priest: "Do you know what arthritis is?"

The parish priest soon thought of taking the opportunity to lecture the drunk and replied: "It's a disease caused by sinful and unruly life: excess, consumption of alcohol, drugs, marijuana, crack, and certainly lost women, prostitutes, promiscuity, sex, binges and other things I dare not say."

The drunk widened his eyes, shut up and continued reading the newspaper.

A little later the priest, thinking that he had been too hard on the drunk, tried to soften: "How long have you had arthritis?"

"I don't have arthritis! It says here in the paper that the head priest has it.

To all connoisseurs of good puns!

How does an attorney sleep? First, he lies on one side, then he lies on the other side!

I have a few jokes about unemployed people, but none of them work.

How do you make holy water?

You take some regular water & boil the hell out of it.

Will glass coffins be a success remains to be seen.

Hear about the new restaurant called Karma. There's no menu - you get what you deserve.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers yesterday but couldn't find any.

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?

A maybe.

I tried to sue the airline for losing my luggage.

I lost my case.

Is it ignorance or apathy that's destroying the world today? I don't know and don't really care.

I wasn't originally going to get a brain transplant, but then I changed my mind.

Which country's capital has the fastest-growing population? Ireland. Every day it's Dublin.

The guy who invented the door knocker got a no-bell prize.

I saw an ad for burial plots, and I thought: "That's the last thing I need!"

I used to be indecisive; now I'm not so sure.

Sleeping comes so naturally to me, I could do it with my eyes closed.

What do you call a super articulate dinosaur?

A Thesaurus.

Life's Lessons

Put your glass down

A professor entered his classroom with a glass of water. He raised the glass of water. Everyone in the room expected the 'half entry or half full' question. Instead, to everyone's surprise, the professor smiled and inquired: "How heavy is this glass of water?"

The answers called out for the range from 8 Oz to 15 Oz.

"I need to weigh it to know how much exactly it weighs. But the question, I really want you to answer is – what if I held the glass up for a minute?" asked the professor.

"Nothing," the students answered unanimously.

"But what if I hold it for an hour?" asked the professor.

"Your arms will start aching," answered one of the students.

"You are right! But what if I held it up for a whole day?" queried the professor.

"Your arms will feel numb, your muscles get stressed and it may even get paralyzed," ventured another student.

"You are right!", exclaimed the professor. "So, what should I do to avoid the pain?" asked the professor.

"Keep the glass down," answered a student.

"Exactly!" said the professor. He continued: "In all cases the weight of the glass remains the same. But the longer I hold it up, the heavier it becomes. The stress and worries in life are like the glass of water. If you think about them for a while, nothing happens. Think about them for longer, they will start hurting. Think about them for even longer, you will feel stressed and paralyzed."

It is important to think about the problems in your life. But you should not carry the stress long enough that it begins to ache and paralyze your life. It is important to let go. Don't carry your stress all day and always remember to put the glass down before you go to bed!

All Time Short Stories

Everyone has a story

A young man in his twenties was seeing out from the train's window shouted...

"Father, look at the trees! They are going behind!"

The young man's father smiled at the man and a young couple sitting nearby, looked at the young man's childish comment with pity.

Suddenly, the young man exclaimed again.

"Father, look at the clouds! They are all running with us!"

The couple couldn't resist and said to the old man: "Why don't you take your son to a good doctor?"

The old man smiled and said: "We did and we are just coming from the hospital. My son was blind from birth and he just got his vision today."

Every person in the world has a story. Don't judge people before you truly know them. The truth might surprise you.

Leaking urine that you can't control is not an inevitable part of ageing. Even if it does happen to you, there are ways to get the problem under control.

It happens to everyone with age

Myth. Urinary incontinence -- leaking urine that you can't control -- is not an inevitable part of aging. Even if it does happen to you, there are ways to get the problem under control. If you start to notice symptoms, let your doctor know so you can figure out the best treatment plan.

Bladder problems are common

Fact. Around one-third of older men and half of all women leak accidentally from time to time. It's even more likely for women during and after pregnancy, childbirth, or menopause.

It only affects older people

Myth. Lots of things can cause incontinence: Obesity, anxiety, smoking, or nerve damage from diabetes, Alzheimer's, or Parkinson's. For women, pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause might cause it. Prostate problems can be the cause in men. You can even have temporary symptoms from too much alcohol or caffeine.

Constipation makes it worse

Fact. When you can't poop, you're more likely to have an infection and other problems in your urinary tract that can affect your bladder control. Make sure you get enough exercise, fluids, and fiber from vegetables, fruits, and whole grains to keep you regular. If that's not enough, talk to your doctor about supplements, medication, and diet changes that might



help.

It's because your bladder is small

Myth. Most people don't actually have a bladder that's physically smaller than normal. But for some, the organ can't hold the usual amount of urine (about 2 cups) or its muscle loses the ability to stretch to hold that amount of fluid. That can lead to an overactive bladder and incontinence.

You can train your bladder

Fact. This is one way to improve incontinence. It means you build a routine where you pee every 2 or 3 hours. If you

feel the urge to go before then, you might use deep breathing or meditation to help you get through it. Eventually, you can extend the time that you are able to wait. It may help to keep a diary of your bathroom habits to see if you are making progress.

You should drink less to stop leaks

Myth. Without enough fluids, your urine gets too strong, which can irritate your bladder. Make sure you stay hydrated throughout the day. Still, your doctor might suggest you avoid some drinks, like

those with caffeine or alcohol, which cause irritation. And it might be a good idea to limit how much you drink a few hours before bedtime to prevent problems when you sleep.

Exercise can help your bladder

Fact. Strong pelvic floor muscles help you hold in your urine. Men and women can strengthen them with Kegel exercises that tighten and relax the muscles that release and stop your pee. If you have trouble figuring out which muscles to work on, a doctor or physical therapist with special training can help you find and flex them correctly.

It's permanent

Myth. Incontinence isn't a disease by itself -- it's a symptom of another health problem. A temporary condition like an infection could cause it. Treat that with antibiotics, and the incontinence goes away. But even when it's due to a long-term illness like diabetes, there are exercises, diet changes, devices, medications, and surgery that can treat both the illness and your bladder problem.

It helps to quit smoking.

Fact. Smoking makes you cough more, which can stress your bladder and make you pee accidentally. It's also the biggest cause of bladder cancer, which can lead to incontinence and other serious problems. And some people say that it irritates their bladder and makes them want to pee more.

Medically Reviewed by Nazia Q Bandukwala, DO - WebMD

Some people have a hard time saying 'I love you' to their partner. But it is not the only way to express love. The truth is doing little things for your special someone can at times be even more romantic than poetry and love letters, especially when you are hoping for this relationship to be long term or 'forever'.

There are innumerable ways to tell your partner the importance they hold in your life and how much you care for them. After all, if you want them to be a part of your life, you will not risk taking them for granted, right?

For some people, a partner who's a great listener can be a major turn-on, while others may consider someone who respects their opinion more romantic than any other gesture. Understanding each other and connecting with each other emotionally and mentally are signs that your relationship is heading towards the right direction, writes P. Uniyal of Hindustan Times. If you are someone who wants his/her partner to stay in a relationship for long (or forever), Sara Kuburic, writer and psychotherapist has some tips for you.

1. Give a compliment: A genuine compliment can light up any one's day. It is the way of showing that you value and appreciate them and their gestures for you.

2. Respect their opinions: Respect is a crucial aspect of a relationship. If you



respect your partner, he/she can feel comfortable around you and be themselves. People who feel disrespected are unlikely to stay in a relationship for long.

3. Accept when they say no: This is also part of respecting their decisions. Forcing decisions on your partner is a

mark of immaturity and disrespect.

4. Buy them cookies: The element of surprise spices up a relationship like nothing else in the whole world. Get them something nice to eat and it would be a delight to see their happy reaction.

5. Work towards resolving conflict: It is very common to have fights between partners. But it is how you resolve the conflict or your intention towards settling your differences, that could make your partner feel special.

6. Designate time for just them: 'Some people make their partner feel special by waiting for them. Yes, you read that right. Waiting for them to come back from office, a friend's place, an interview...Taking out time that is exclusively for your partner can make them feel valued and oh so special.

7. Set boundaries: By setting boundaries, you are allowing your partner to have their own life and a freedom to choose.

8. Be honest: Without honesty, the foundation of a relationship will always be weak. Being honest with your partner is a way of telling them that you can be trusted.

9. Give them a hug: Hugging your partner is not only important for physical intimacy but also emotional. Give them a hug to show that you care and want them to be closer to you.

10. Ask about their day: After a long day, asking about your partner's day, even when your own day sucked, shows how much you care about him/her. A small question, gesture, or an act can at times go a long way in setting the foundation of

Rupali Ganguly's glam look leaves fans speechless

'Who is she! Where's Anupama?'



Rupali Ganguly, the lead actor of TV show *Anupamaa*, has impressed her fans with her new look. Rupali, who is usually seen in traditional sarees on her show, was wearing a glamorous jacket in the picture. Fans of the actor swarmed the post with loving comments and said that they couldn't recognise her at first. Her *Anupamaa* co-stars Gaurav Khanna and Aneri Vajani were all praises for her look, reports Hindustan Times.

"Stepping into spring in style... I'm my own sunshine," Rupali captioned the post, adding a shining sun emoticon. In the picture, she was wearing a yellow jacket that was studded with pearls. She matched it with pearl earrings and a pearl necklace. She also added a gold bangle to complete her look. For the photoshoot, Rupali did a subtle dewy makeup with brown eye shadow and pink lips, and had her loose hair pulled back in a sleek do.

Rupali's look received a lot of compliments from her fans, as well as her *Anupamaa* co-star Gaurav Khanna. Gaurav, who plays Anuj Kapadia on the show, commented, "Nice pic EGM," adding a raising hands emoji. Actor Aneri Vajani, who plays Gaurav's younger sister Malvika Kapadia on the show, also praised Rupali's picture. She exclaimed, "Who is sheee?!!!!!!!"

Several other fans of the actor agreed with Aneri's comments and said they failed to recognise her at first. "Who is she?? Where's *Anupama*??" one wrote, while actor Jaswir Kaur wrote, "What," adding a heart-eyed emoji.

One fan said, "Don't you look like Lady Gaga in this pic!!" Another commented, "Someone call the fire department, because this picture is fire," adding several fire emojis.

Rupali recently won an award at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Award as the 'Most Promising Actress in Television' for her portrayal of *Anupamaa*.

Rupali: Proud to be a TV actor

In another HT article, Rupali Ganguly, at the very outset, makes it clear that she is "very proud" of being a television actor. But the hierarchy places them below film actors, and that is something which she wants should change.

She senses that TV actors don't get their due. "I don't know why TV is still considered like *filmon ka chhota bhai*. I think there are fantastic actors here on TV but perhaps, because of easy accessibility it has become a norm, a set thing in

people's minds that film celebrities are huge. A lot of TV actors have made it big as film stars, such as Shah Rukh Khan, R. Madhavan, Sushant Singh Rajput. Slowly, but steadily TV stars are getting their due credit," says the 44-year-old.

She shares, "I went to a place where there was a film star. People equally clamoured, if not more, to meet the character I play in my show. That overwhelmed me. TV actors are still known for their characters, whereas film actors are known as themselves. For example, Alia Bhatt is playing Gangubai, Kajol played Simran, but my character is Rupali Ganguly. We still haven't reached that demigod status that film stars enjoy."

The actor also points out that we need to have TV actors recognised at a national level too, like their film counterparts.

"We are slowly getting there. National Awards are extremely coveted. I think it is high time even we got recognised on a national, government level as actors are doing phenomena work. We are working 24/7... even in times of Covid, such challenging times, TV units have been working around the clock," says the actor.

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YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Health will blossom well. Abide by your daily routine to get the best benefit. You will get benefits due to financial gains. You will settle well in marital life and the satisfaction will reflect in your professional excellence. Chances of success will be high by the mid of the week.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 7, 10, 22, 36, 38

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You may want to have important meeting with your subordinates. Health may be expected to decline due to allergy and infection. There would be harmonious bonding amidst family members and partners. With continuous efforts you will be able to achieve desired success in employment.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 8, 15, 18, 22, 33

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Love relationships will bring in a sense of familiarity. Those desirous of going the family way may conceive. Family life will bond well in unity and good pleasure. Health-wise, the middle of the week is expected to bring in moderate results. Money matters can lead to sudden rise in expenses.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 20

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your domestic life will reflect comfort and success. If you have children of marriageable age, you may note prospective alliance for them. Your love relations will settle well. Caution will be required to protect your relationship.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 14, 19, 25, 30, 36

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

If you are looking for jobs, it would be important to increase your efforts to get success. Health will be comfortable. Any kind of suffering lingering for a long time, is likely to end by now. Give importance to your finances by the end of the week. Love relationships will remain comfortable.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 12, 13, 18, 20, 31

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

If you are associated with political work or doing work for social cause, the mid of the week will bring in positive changes. There will be comfort with your loved ones. You will achieve desired progress in your work and business, and your health will be bright and strong.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 14, 17, 19, 21, 36

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

There will be happiness in marital life. Your spouse may want to pamper you with good food, fashion, clothes and entertainment. There will be substantial progress in health. But you can expect dispute regarding parental property.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 10, 14, 13, 18

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Pleasant times with your marital partner will keep you enthralled by the mid of the week. With added confidence, your personality will blossom well. Those in authority and power will appreciate you in your profession. Projects stalled for a long time will finally find progress.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 18, 19, 20, 31, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Financially you will continue to gain. By the mid of the week you will gain well in foreign funds and in investments. There will be sweet harmonious relation between couples. There will be joyous times in the family.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 15, 17, 20, 30

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Parents will be happy with your work and promotion. Family remains your priority and there will be positive environment at home. This week you may become aware of some hidden secrets and treasures in your office environment. Personal relationships between partners will be nice and well respected.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 13, 16, 20, 24, 30

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

There will be pleasant relations amidst family. Consistent efforts will benefit you in terms of investment and foreign funds. Your health may decline by the mid of the week. Avoid having food which is stale and sour. In the middle of this week, you will gain high position and reputation.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 6, 12, 30, 31, 36

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

There may be anxieties regarding losing a precious object. By the mid of the week, there will be good compatibility between associates and friends. You may wish to spend time in religious activities. This will be a good and productive week.

Lucky Numbers: 21, 25, 26, 31, 33, 36

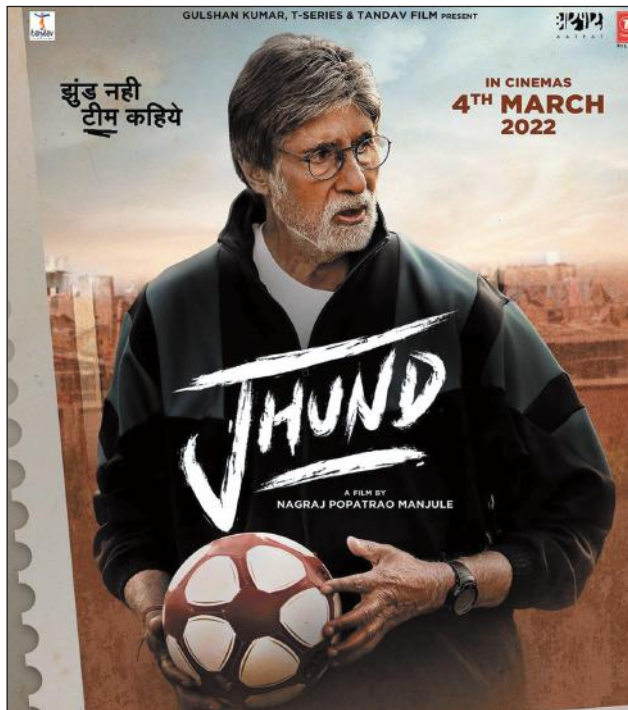
Amitabh Bachchan and staff took fee cut for 'Jhund'

Amitabh Bachchan will be playing the role of a football coach who brings underprivileged children together to form a football team

Amitabh Bachchan slashed his fees for his upcoming movie *Jhund* and asked producer Sandeep Singh to spend it on the movie instead. In the sports drama, the actor will be playing the role of a football coach who brings underprivileged children together to form a football team. The film is based on the life and events of Slum Soccer founder Vijay Barse, who rehabilitated Nagpur's Street children through football. It has been helmed by Sairat director Nagraj Popatrao Manjule, and will mark his first Bollywood film, reports Hindustan Times.

Jhund's producer Sandeep Singh recently revealed that he could only imagine Amitabh Bachchan in the role of football coach Vijay Barse, but the film had a modest budget. However, Amitabh, who is also an ardent football fan, liked the script so much that he decided to take a fee cut. His staff also followed suit and slashed their fees so that the money could be spent on the movie instead.

Sandeep shared in a recent conversation with Mid-Day, "Mr Bachchan loved the script. When we were figuring out how to bring him on board, given the film's [modest] budget, he stunned us by cutting down on his fee. He said, 'Instead of spending on me, let's spend on the film.' His staff too slashed their fees."



Sandeep revealed that the project faced financial hurdles even after the gesture from Amitabh Bachchan and his staff. Director Nagraj built a set for the film in Pune in 2018, but had to shut it down due to lack of

finances. The filming remained on a standstill for over a year after that, until T-Series heard the script and decided to finance the movie.

Sandeep said, "We shot the entire [film] in Nagpur, thanks to Bhushan Kumar (T-Series chairman) who believed in us. These kids were handpicked by Nagraj, his brother and his team from Nagpur's streets. That's why their body language is so raw."

Bachchan here plays Professor Vijay Borade who is on the verge of retirement. Borade teaches in a Nagpur college catering to upper-class students, while in a sprawling slum in the vicinity, their peers indulge in petty crimes for survival. The wall dividing these two sets of people is both literal and figurative. The good Professor – modelled on the real-life activist Vijay Barse – is the only one who bothers to cross over from his side, reports First Post.

One day, Borade spots young slum-dwellers playing football with a can and realises that the sport could lift them out of their difficult lives. '*Jhund*' chronicles his efforts to win them over, the change in their priorities wrought by this new interest, and the lengths to which he goes to facilitate their exit from a marginalised existence.

Jhund is scheduled for a release on March 4. Apart from Amitabh Bachchan, and Sairat actors Akash Thosar and Rinku Rajguru, the film will star a number of new faces.

11 Bollywood movies to your 2022 Watch List

Bollywood is back in full force with exciting new films and even more to look forward to later this year. As usual, there are a rich variety of genres on the menu. There are unconventional badass female narratives, a number of fun family-friendly musicals, serious action thrillers, and epic period movies. So grab your popcorn, take a seat, and check out these amazing 2022 Bollywood movies. A report by Jasmine Ting of Cosmopolitan...

A Thursday

A schoolteacher, played by Yami Gautam, holds 16 of her students hostage at daycare. She puts forth a series of demands that not only shake Mumbai and its police force but have repercussions for the rest of the country and its politicians.

Loop Lapeta

Loop Lapeta is a Hindi-language remake of the 1998 German thriller *Run Lola Run*. It follows a young woman named Savi (Taapsee Pannu) whose boyfriend loses a mob boss's money. It's up to her to try and save him from the deadly criminal and find a way out of the seemingly infinite time loop she finds herself stuck in.

Mahaan

This Tamil-language action thriller follows one simple man's journey to becoming a billionaire, and the huge challenges he faces in his family after he gains status.

Gehraiyaan

Thirty-year-old Alisha (Deepika Padukone) is a yoga studio owner who has been in the same okay six-year relationship and whose attempts at getting funding for a yoga fitness app haven't been successful. Things have come to a standstill, and it seems that both her love life and her career are going nowhere. But when her cousin Tia and her fiancé Zain come to visit, she feels re-stimulated...as she bonds with Zain.

Badhaai Do

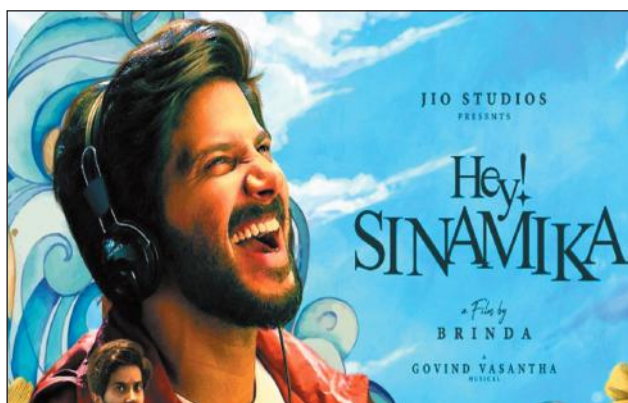
Policeman Shardul (Rajkumar Rao) and teacher

Sumi (Bhumi Pednekar) agree to get married out of convenience after they reveal to one another that they're gay. They decide to date other people while maintaining a balanced and happy married life, but things get complicated when Sumi's girlfriend comes to stay with them.

Gangubai Kathiawadi

The film is a semi-biographical drama loosely based on Ganga Harjivandas Kathiawadi, whose life was written about in the book 'Mafia Queens of Mumbai', by S. Hussain Zaidi. In the film, Ganga (Alia Bhatt) is a young woman who starts as a brothel worker and becomes a powerful underground figure. There's also an intriguing controversy surrounding the film, which almost always is a good reason to watch.

Hey! Sinamika



This musical romantic comedy may have dazzling dance numbers, but it also has a good amount of drama. A couple falls madly in love and gets married, but eventually things fizzle out. But when her husband suddenly gains a new female friend, the wife realizes she may not be as over him as she thought.

Release date: March 3, 2022

RRR

This Telugu-language period action drama is set in the '20s. It tells the story of two legendary revolutionaries who, after a journey away from home, go back to India to fight back against British colonizers.

Release date: March 25, 2022



Aank Micholi

This movie is bound to be a blast! The story revolves around a wacky family of misfits who are preparing for a huge wedding—a classic premise that never fails for family entertainment. And yes, this one's a musical, with music composed by Sachin-Jigar.

Release date: May 13, 2022

Adipurush

This mythological action film is based on the Indian epic Ramayana.

Release date: August 11, 2022

Action Hero

There aren't too many details revealed about the plot of this film, but it looks very 007-esque based on this announcement teaser. It stars the talented Ayushmann Khurrana in the lead role.

Cinema Sirsa

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

NEW MOVIE: JHUND

Friday 04 March 2022 - 20:15
Saturday 05 March To Thursday 10 March 2022 - 13:15/20:15

MOVIE: GANGUBAI

Thursday 03 March 2022 - 13:15/20:15
Friday 04 March 2022 - 13:15
Sunday 06 March 2022 - 16:15

CINE 12

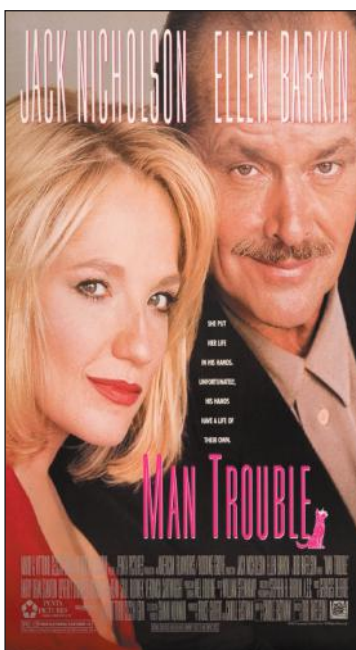
vendredi 4 mars - 21.15



samedi 5 mars - 21.00



dimanche 6 mars - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 4 mars

MBC 1

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lines
09.00 Doc: Day Zero
10.11 Local: Rodrig Prog
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy
14.07 MBC Production
14.33 D.Anime: Fangbone
15.20 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
15.27 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
16.03 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friend
17.05 Serial: Mustangs FC
17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Surya Pura
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa
Vaishnodevi
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Les Grands Noms...
21.15 Serial: Madam Secretary
23.20 Le Journal
23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Bisaat-E-Dil
11.18 Tawaan
12.00 Film: Brand Badu
Starring: Eesha Rebba,
Shallendra, Pujita Ponnada
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 Bajawala
17.25 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
19.05 Zournal Kreol
19.26 Serial: Radha Krishna
19.58 Serial: AAS (Urdu Serial)
20.40 Local: Anjuman
21.00 Local: Urdu Programme

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.25 Mag: Tomorrow Today
07.51 Doc: La Route De La Soie
09.52 Doc: Losing Sleep
11.57 Mag: Border Crossing
14.12 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour...
15.09 Doc: Losing Sleep
16.42 Mag: Eco India
17.31 Mag: Border Crossing
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.30 Mag: Euromaxx
20.05 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait...
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: Forces Of Nature
21.37 Doc: Innovation On Board
23.23 Doc: The Forest Rescuers
00.04 Doc: Craft Chocolate
00.31 Mag: Our Voices
01.12 Mag: Euromaxx
01.38 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait
Dates

Cine 12

01.42 Film: Island Doctor
03.48 Film: Two Lovers And A Bear
05.14 Tele: Marimar
05.34 Tele: Rubi
06.00 Serial: Pine Gap
09.00 Serial: 19-2
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Reef Doctors
12.00 Film: Two Lovers And A Bear
13.30 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Serial: Island Doctor
16.23 Serial: 19-2
17.04 Serial: Pine Gap
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.34 Serial: Backstage
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Killjoys
21.15 Film: Extortion
Avec: Eion Bailey, Barkhad Abdi...

Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Jeet
11.12 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.43 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.12 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
12.42 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.12 / 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: Ladies Tailor
Starring: Rajpal Yadav, Kim
Sharma
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.38 Bhakharwadi
20.08 Siddhi Vinayak
20.38 Radha Krishna

samedi 5 mars

06.02 D.Anime: Invention Story
06.29 D.Anime: Gon
06.53 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
07.01 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...
07.52 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
08.26 D.Anime: The Hive
09.35 Serial: My Perfect Landing
10.00 Local Prod: Zanfan Nou Zil
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Teresa
14.50 Local Prod: Artizan
15.20 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
16.46 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
17.15 Mag: Human Nature
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Taare Zameen
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
21.10 Film: The Vow
Acteurs: Rachel McAdams, Channing...
23.10 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Sitamgar
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.03 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare
12.17 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.45 Serial: High School
13.11 Annakodiyum Ainthu
Pengalum
13.35 Anu Pallavi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Phillauri
Starring: Anushka Sharma, Diljit
Dossanjh, Suraj Sharma
18.10 DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki
Rahasya Gatha
20.29 Serial: Porus - Ep 5
21.43 Film: Paltan
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Arjun
Rampal, Sonu Sood

06.00 Doc: Craft Chocolate
06.42 Mag: World Stories
06.55 Mag: Our Vocies
07.25 Mag: Euromaxx
07.53 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait...
11.00 Doc: Craft Chocolate
11.43 Mag: World Stories
11.54 Mag: Our Voices
13.11 Doc: Forces Of Nature
15.00 Student Support Prog...
18.02 Mag: Future Mag
18.31 Mag: In Good Shape
19.00 Mag: The 77 Percent
20.30 Local: News (English)
21.10 Des Montagnes Du Monde
21.27 Doc: Marvel
22.09 Doc: Legendary Hotels
23.34 Mag: Future Mag
00.03 Mag: In Good Shape
00.29 Mag: The 77 Percent
00.55 Mag: Check In
01.21 Mag: Sky Eye

01.28 Film: Extortion
03.04 Serial: Seal Team
03.46 Beauty And The Beast
04.27 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
05.17 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.00 Serial: Killjoys
08.27 Serial: Airwolf
09.16 Beauty And The Beast
09.53 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
10.45 Film: Extortion
12.22 Serial: Seal Team
13.30 Serial: Absentia
15.00 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.15 Serial: Killjoys
16.47 Film: The Lost Soldier
18.35 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
19.40 Serial: Backstage
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Series: Killjoys
21.15 Film: Italian Race
Starring: Matilda De Angelis,
Stefano Accorsi, Roberta Mattei

04.05 Radha Krishna
04.36 Anupamaa
05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur...
05.33 Agnihera
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan
06.34 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
06.38 Chhanchhan
06.57 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
07.18 Siddhi Vinayak
08.02 Yeh Teri Galiyan
10.35 Motu Patlu
10.47 Siddhi Vinayak
12.18 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.13 Anupamaa
16.23 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Hum Tumhare Hain
Sanam (2002)
Star: Salman Khan, Shahrukh
Khan, Madhuri Dixit
21.04 Serial: Namah
21.37 Serial: Naagin Season 3

dimanche 6 mars

06.02 D.Anime: Invention Story
06.32 D.Anime: Gon
06.56 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
07.00 D.Anime: Commic Quantum...
09.00 D.Anime: Les Triples
10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
11.00 Local Production: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Tele: Teresa
14.05 Local: Elle - No 178
15.20 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
15.27 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
15.41 D.Anime: Robot Trains
16.18 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friend
17.20 Mag: Human Nature
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Local Production
21.25 Film: Man Trouble
Stars: Jack Nicholson, Ellen Barkin...

07.00 Film: Dillagi
08.44 DDI Magazine
11.00 Serial: Azhagu
11.23 Jag Jaanani Maa
Vaishnodevi
12.10 Film: Luka Chuppi
Stars: Kartik Aaryan, Kriti Sanon,
Aparshakti Khurana
14.13 DDI Magazine
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
15.45 Serial: He Mann Baware
16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.30 Local: Yaadein
17.03 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
17.43 Chacha Bhatija
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas..
20.48 Serial: CID
21.33 Serial: Naagin Season 2

06.00 Mag: Future Mag
06.29 Mag: The 77 Percent
06.59 Mag: Check In
09.16 Doc: Legendary Hotels
09.59 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail
10.41 Mag: Future Mag
11.10 Mag: In Good Shape
11.37 Mag: The 77 Percent
12.03 Mag: In Good Shape
13.26 Les Montagnes Du Monde
14.08 Doc: Marvel
16.17 Doc: The Forest Rescuers
18.00 Mag: Magnifique
19.00 Mag: The Inside Story
20.01 Doc: Planet Home
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.37 Doc: Tresors Oublies De...
22.56 Doc: Poisoned Land?
23.38 Mag: Magnifique
00.05 Mag: Future Mag
00.34 Mag: The Inside Story

01.29 Film: Italian Race
03.21 Serial: Dynasty 2
04.01 Film: The Vow
05.43 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.25 Serial: Killjoys
07.00 Film: Signed. Sealed...
08.30 Serial: Airwolf
09.19 Film: The Vow
11.05 Film: The Lost Solider
12.32 Serial: Dynasty 2
13.15 Serial: Absentia
15.32 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.00 Serial: Killjoys
17.45 Serial: Dynasty 2
18.36 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
19.38 Serial: Backstage
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: New Amsterdam
21.54 Film: Outlawed
Avec: Adam Collins, Emmeline
Hartley, Andy Calderwood

01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
01.44 Bhakharwadi
03.40 Anupamaa
05.52 Pavitra Rishta
08.00 Motu Patlu
08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
10.03 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
11.39 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
14.00 Agnihera
16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Panga
Starring : Salman Khan,
Shahrukh Khan, Madhuri
Dixit
20.36 Naagin Season 3
21.18 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.28 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
00.44 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein

lundi 7 mars

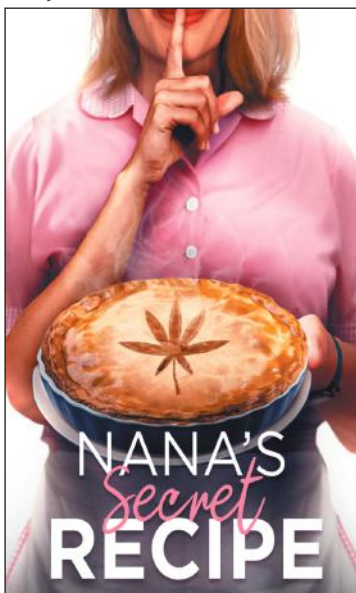
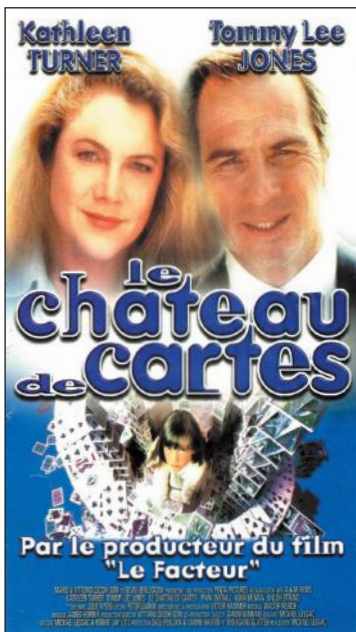
06.27 Mag: Eye On SADC
07.00 Local Prod: Nu Rasinn
07.55 Local Prod: Music Tour 2022
09.00 Doc: India's Nomads
09.45 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
11.00 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
11.30 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy
14.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
14.30 D.Anime: Fangbone
15.20 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
15.27 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
15.37 D.Anime: Akili And Me
17.00 Serial: Mustangs FC
17.31 Mag: The World Is Yours
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Namah
19.30 Le Journal
20.40 MBC Production
21.10 Film: Fool's Parade

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
12.10 Film: Angaaray
Stars: Raj Babbar, Smita Patil
14.00 Mag: DDI Mag
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.52 Serial: Bommarillu
16.15 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.34 Serial: Juda Na Hona
16.56 Serial: Imtihaan
17.14 Kullfi Kumarr Bajawala
17.34 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi
18.03 Serial: Colourful Bone
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.02 Local: Programme In
Telugu
20.31 Film: Shaadi Mubarak
Stars: Manav Gohil, Rati Pandey

06.00 Mag: Magnifique
06.55 Mag: The Inside Story
07.24 Mag: Destination Culture
08.38 Doc: Wedding The French...
11.13 Mag: Magnifique
14.25 Doc: Tresors oubliés...
15.44 Doc: Poisoned Land?
16.30 Mag: Magnifique
17.26 Mag: The Inside Story
18.00 Mag: Eco India
19.00 Mag: Africa 54
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.45 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
23.30 Mag: Eco India
00.02 Mag: The 77 Percent
00.28 Mag: Japan Video Topics
00.59 Mag: In Good Shape
01.25 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
01.51 Doc: Builders Of The Future
02.16 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
02.42 Mag: Global 3000

04.16 Film: Man Trouble
05.51 Tele: Marimar
06.11 Tele: Rubi
06.35 Serial: New Amsterdam
07.55 Film: Les Aventuriers Du
Bout du Monde
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Reef Doctors
12.00 Film: Man Trouble
13.35 Tele: Marimar
13.56 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: Les Aventuriers Du
Bout du Monde
16.39 Serial: New Amsterdam
18.08 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.38 Serial: Backstage
20.05 Les Trois Visages D'Ana
20.30 Serial: Anomalia
21.15 Film: War Room

08.00 Taare Zameen Par
11.16 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.47 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
12.48 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.18 / 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: Super Nani
Starring: Rekha, Sharmen
Joshi, Randhir Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi
20.01 Siddhi Vinayak
20.30 Radha Krishna
21.00 Anupamaa



Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 8 mars

MBC 1

06.30 Local: Arsiv 231
07.15 Local: Evasion - China
08.00 Magazine
09.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
09.30 Live: Women's Day 2022
10.55 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Les Grands Noms Internation
12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy
14.30 D.Anime: Fangbone
15.20 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
15.41 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
17.05 Serial: Mustangs FC
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
18.55 MBC Production
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
21.10 Film: Le Chateau De Carte
Avec Kathleen Turner, Tommy Lee Jones
23.00 Le Journal

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: CID
12.00 Film: Dear Maya
Manisha Koirala, Madiha Imam, Shreya Chaudhary
14.00 DDI Magazine
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Aamhi Doghi
15.43 Bommarillu
16.07 Sondha Bandham
16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.49 Serial: Imtihaan
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Local: Tamil Programme
20.30 Film: Dor
Starring Shreyas Talpade, Ayesha

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.47 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
09.37 Mag: Washington Forum
10.03 Doc: Back To Chernobyl
14.37 Mag: Washington Forum
15.46 Mag: Shift
16.00 Mag: Eco India
16.26 Mag: The 77 Percent
17.18 Mag: In Good Shape
17.44 Mag: Shift
18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
18.30 Mag: Healthy Living
18.46 Mag: Red Carpet
19.01 Mag: Check In
19.30 Mag: Made In Germany
20.01 Mag: Magnifique
20.30 Live: News
20.45 Doc: Garden Party
21.14 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
21.30 Doc: Les Grand Mythes

Cine 12

01.18 Film: Fools' Parade
02.48 Serial: Reef Doctors
03.31 Film: War Room
05.31 Tele: Marimar
05.51 Tele: Rubi
06.14 Serial: Anomalia
09.00 Serial: 19-2
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.01 Serial: Reef Doctors
11.39 Film: War Room
13.40 Tele: Marimar
14.05 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: Fools' Parade
16.40 Serial: 19-2
17.29 Serial: Anomalia
18.11 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
21.15 Film: Erin Brockovich
Avec: Julia Roberts, Albert Finney

Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Super Nani
Cast: Rekha, Sharmar Joshi, Randhir Kapoor
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
14.26 / 23.07 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
14.53 / 22.25 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.28 Film: Mission Mangal
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Udaariyaan
19.30 Bhakharwadi
20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

mercredi 9 mars

07.15 Local: Profil
07.35 Local: Priorite Sante
09.00 Doc: Tresors Oublies...
10.15 MBC Production
10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy
13.15 MBC Production
14.35 D.Anime: Fangbone
15.20 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
15.27 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
15.41 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
16.05 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friend
17.05 Serial: Mustangs FC
17.30 Serial: Project MC²
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
18.55 MBC Production
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.30 MBC Production
21.25 Film: Outlawed
23.00 Le Journal

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
12.00 Film: Jeevan Dhaara
Rekha, Raj Babbar, R. Roshan
14.17 DDI Magazine
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.23 Aamhi Doghi
15.46 Bommarillu
16.07 Sondha Bandham
16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.49 Serial: Imtihaan
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.31 Serial: Kulvadh
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Programme In Marathi
21.00 Film: Rivals Of The Silver
Fox
Star: Casanova Wong, Kim Ki-Ju
22.30 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...
06.26 Mag: Healthy Living
07.10 Mag: Made In Germany
08.02 Doc: Garden Party
09.55 Mag: Close Up
15.46 Local: Rodrig
16.36 Mag: Check In
17.02 Mag: Healthy Living
18.00 Mag: Motorweek
19.00 Mag: Arts.21
19.35 Mag: The Inside Story
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Local: Doctor Brain
21.37 Doc: Olivia's Garden
22.18 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
22.28 Mag: Initiative Africa
22.54 Mag: Focus On Europe
23.20 Doc: Guardians Of The Desert
00.03 Mag: Motorweek
00.29 Mag: Vous Et Nous
00.57 Mag: Arts.21

01.28 Film: Erin Brockovich
03.33 Film: Le Chateau De Carte
05.18 Tele: Marimar
05.35 Tele: Rubi
05.59 Serial: Anomalia
06.41 Film: Erin Brockovich
09.00 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.01 Serial: Reef Doctors
11.46 Film: Le Chateau De Carte
13.30 Tele: Marimar
14.30 Film: Erin Brockovich
16.38 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
17.20 Serial: Anomalia
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.30 Serial: Backstage
20.30 Serial: Pine Gap
21.29 Film: Berlin Falling
Avec: Ken Duken, Tom Wlaschiha, Axel Hartwig

07.00 Film: Mission Mangal
11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 20.26 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad..
13.01 / 20.46 - Agniphera
13.29 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.51 / 21.50 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
14.47 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Teesri Aankh
Starring Sunny Deol, Ameesha Patel, Neha Dhupia
11.27 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna
11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa
12.25 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
13.13 / 21.09 - Agniphera
13.42 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.54 / 21.50 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.21 Film: Love Ke Liye Kuch Bhi Karega
Star: Saif Ali Khan, Fardeen Khan, Aftab Shivdasani, Sonali

jeudi 10 mars

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 MBC Production
14.33 D.Anime: Fangbone
15.20 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
15.27 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
16.01 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friend
16.34 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
20.45 Film: Panipat
With Arjun Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, Kriti Sanon

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...
12.00 Film: Himmatwala
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.27 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
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
20.59 Local: Profil
21.14 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe
With Linda Bradshaw, Nancy L. Gray, Cinda Donovan

06.00 Mag: Motorweek
06.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous
06.52 Mag: Arts.21
07.49 Doc: Skuld
09.36 Mag: Initiative Africa
10.29 Guardians Of The Deserta
11.14 Mag: Motorweek
15.45 Contest Of The Cathedrals
16.28 Mag: Motorweek
16.54 Mag: Vous Et Nous
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 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour...
22.38 Doc: A Passion For Helping
23.04 Doc: Can Green Investment
23.30 Mag: Eco India
23.56 Mag: Shift

01.25 Film: Berlin Falling
02.51 Serial: Reef Doctors
03.46 Film: Juste Un Peu D'Alchimie
05.41 Tele: Rubi
07.07 Film: Signed, Sealed...
09.00 Serial: 19-2
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.37 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Reef Doctors
11.45 Film: Juste Un Peu...
13.36 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed...
16.10 Serial: 19-2
16.53 Serial: Pine Gap
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.36 Serial: Backstage
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'Ana
20.30 Serial: Billions

07.00 Film: Teesri Aankh
Starring Sunny Deol, Ameesha Patel, Neha Dhupia
11.27 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna
11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa
12.25 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
13.13 / 21.09 - Agniphera
13.42 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.54 / 21.50 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.21 Film: Love Ke Liye Kuch Bhi Karega
Star: Saif Ali Khan, Fardeen Khan, Aftab Shivdasani, Sonali



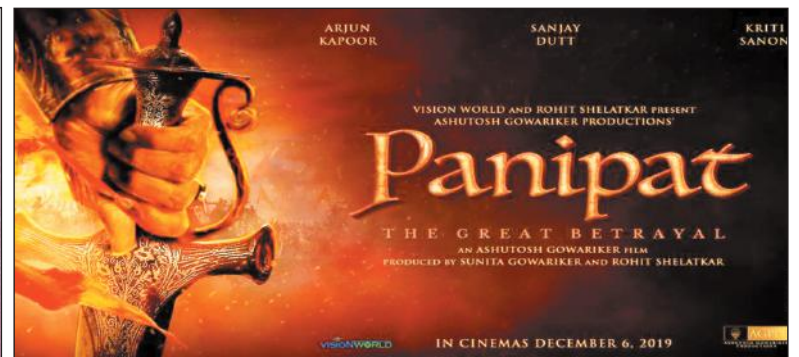
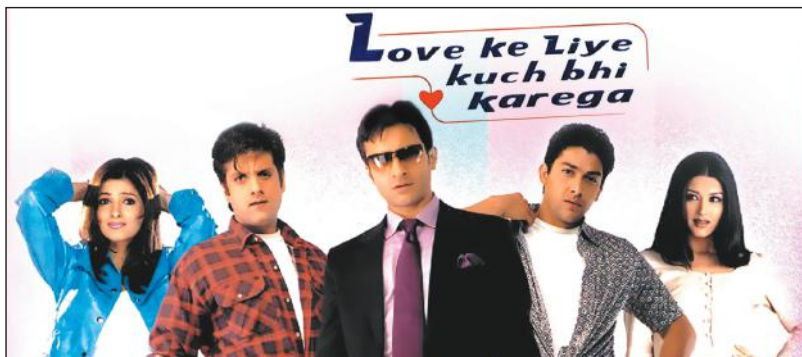
Jeudi 10 mars - 15.30

Star: Saif Ali Khan, Fardeen Khan, Aftab Shivdasani, Sonali



Jeudi 3 mars - 20.45

Stars: Arjun Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, Kriti Sanon



Chronicle of War Foretold

Chris Hedges

I was in Eastern Europe in 1989 reporting on the revolutions that overthrew the ossified communist dictatorships that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was a time of hope. NATO, with the breakup of the Soviet empire, became obsolete. President Mikhail Gorbachev reached out to Washington and Europe to build a new security pact that would include Russia. Secretary of State James Baker in the Reagan administration, along with the West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, assured the Soviet leader that if Germany was unified NATO would not be extended beyond the new borders. The commitment not to expand NATO, also made by Great Britain and France, appeared to herald a new global order. We saw the peace dividend dangled before us, the promise that the massive expenditures on weapons that characterized the Cold War would be converted into expenditures on social programs and infrastructures that had long been neglected to feed the insatiable appetite of the military.

There was a near universal understanding among diplomats and political leaders at the time that any attempt to expand NATO was foolish, an unwarranted provocation against Russia that would obliterate the ties and bonds that happily emerged at the end of the Cold War.

How naive we were. The war industry did not intend to shrink its power or its profits. It set out almost immediately to recruit the former Communist Bloc countries into the European Union and NATO. Countries that joined NATO, which now include Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia were forced to reconfigure their militaries, often through hefty loans, to become compatible with NATO military hardware.

There would be no peace dividend. The expansion of NATO swiftly became a multi-billion-dollar bonanza for the corporations that had profited from the Cold War. Poland, for example, just agreed to spend \$ 6 billion on M1 Abrams tanks and other U.S. military equipment. If Russia would not acquiesce to again being the enemy, then Russia would be pressured into becoming the enemy. And here we are. On the brink of another Cold War, one from which only the war industry will profit while, as W. H. Auden wrote, the little children die in the streets.

The consequences of pushing NATO up to the borders with Russia — there is now a NATO missile base in Poland 100 miles from the Russian border — were well known to policy makers. Yet they did it anyway. It made no geopolitical sense. But it made commercial sense. War, after



Chronicle of a War Foretold. Pic The Economist

all, is a business, a very lucrative one. It is why we spent two decades in Afghanistan although there was near universal consensus after a few years of fruitless fighting that we had waded into a quagmire we could never win.

In a classified diplomatic cable obtained and released by WikiLeaks dated February 1, 2008, written from Moscow, and addressed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, NATO-European Union Cooperative, National Security Council, Russia Moscow Political Collective, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State there was an unequivocal understanding that expanding NATO risked an eventual conflict with Russia, especially over the Ukraine.

"Not only does Russia perceive encirclement [by NATO], and efforts to undermine Russia's influence in the region, but it also fears unpredictable and uncontrolled consequences which would seriously affect Russian security interests," the cable reads. "Experts tell us that Russia is particularly worried that the strong divisions in Ukraine over NATO membership, with much of the ethnic-Russian community against membership, could lead to a major split, involving violence or at worst, civil war. In that eventuality, Russia would have to decide whether to intervene; a decision Russia does not want to have to face. . . . Dmitri Trenin, Deputy Director of the Carnegie Moscow Center, expressed concern that Ukraine was, in the long-term, the most potentially destabilizing factor in U.S.-Russian relations, given the level of emotion and neuralgia triggered by its quest for NATO membership. . . . Because membership remained divisive in Ukrainian domestic politics, it created an opening for Russian intervention. Trenin expressed concern that elements within the Russian establishment would be encouraged to

meddle, stimulating U.S. overt encouragement of opposing political forces, and leaving the U.S. and Russia in a classic confrontational posture."

The Obama administration, not wanting to further inflame tensions with Russia, blocked arms sales to Kiev. But this act of prudence was abandoned by the Trump and Biden administrations. Weapons from the U.S. and Great Britain are pouring into the Ukraine, part of the \$1.5 billion in promised military aid. The equipment includes hundreds of sophisticated Javelins and NLAW anti-tank weapons despite repeated protests by Moscow.

The United States and its NATO allies have no intention of sending troops to the Ukraine. Rather, they will flood the country with weapons, which is what it did in the 2008 conflict between Russia and Georgia.

The conflict in the Ukraine echoes the novel "Chronicle of a Death Foretold" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. In the novel it is acknowledged by the narrator that "there had never been a death more foretold" and yet no one was able or willing to stop it. All of us who reported from the Eastern Europe in 1989 knew the consequences of provoking Russia, and yet few have raised their voices to halt the madness. The methodical steps towards war took on a life of their own, moving us like sleepwalkers towards disaster.

Once NATO expanded into Eastern Europe the Clinton administration promised Moscow that NATO combat troops would not be stationed in Eastern Europe, the defining issue of the NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations. This promise again turned out to be a lie. Then in 2014 the U.S. backed a coup against the Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich who sought to build an economic alliance with Russia rather than the

European Union. Of course, once integrated into the European Union, as seen in the rest of Eastern Europe, the next step is integration into NATO. Russia, spooked by the coup, alarmed at the overtures by the EU and NATO, then annexed Crimea, largely populated by Russian speakers. And the death spiral that led us to the conflict currently underway in the Ukraine became unstoppable.

The war state needs enemies to sustain itself. When an enemy can't be found an enemy is manufactured. Putin has become, in the words of Senator Angus King, the new Hitler, out to grab the Ukraine and the rest of Eastern Europe. The full-throated cries for war, echoed shamelessly by the press, are justified by draining the conflict of historical context, by elevating ourselves as the saviors and whoever we oppose, from Saddam Hussein to Putin, as the new Nazi leader.

I don't know where this will end up. We must remember, as Putin reminded us, that Russia is a nuclear power. We must remember that once you open the Pandora's box of war it unleashes dark and murderous forces no one can control. I know this from personal experience. The match has been lit. The tragedy is that there was never any dispute about how the conflagration would start.

This first appeared on ScheerPost.

Chris Hedges is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who was a foreign correspondent for fifteen years for *The New York Times*, where he served as the Middle East Bureau Chief and Balkan Bureau Chief for the paper. His books include 'American Fascists: The Christian Right and the War on America', 'Death of the Liberal Class', and 'War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning and Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt', a collaboration with comics artist and journalist Joe Sacco.