

MAURITIUS TIMES

• «We must keep prices under control to ensure that price increases do not exert a major negative impact on people's lives». -- Li Keqiang

Matters of The Moment



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Protest Politics

The National Security Services (NSS) must surely have been in the field this week at Camp Leveux and its surrounding areas, and earlier in the south of the island, particularly at Chemin Grenier then Plaine Magnien, following citizens protests in these places with each incident coming simultaneously within the last three weeks. If the Plaine Magnien protests had to do with the continuing problem of floodings there and in other localities around the island following heavy downpours due to faulty or inexistent drains, the street protests at Camp Leveux must have jolted the authorities given that these protests appear to be a first in many decades for reasons of economic hardships encountered by the population, in particular low income households that are hit hardest by the rising prices of essential commodities, fuel and pharmaceutical prices, etc.

There is always the suspicion of sinister and underhand manipulation by the opposition and other forces whenever citizens take to the streets to voice out different grievances, or worse, to challenge the established order. It is not known whether the NSS investigations have been able to come up with evidence other than suspicions of any such manipulation in the incidents at Plaine Magnien or at Camp Leveux, but it should be a matter of concern to the political party/alliance in power whenever such spontaneous citizens protests occur. Almost two years ago, there was social unrest with the poor planning and implementation of lockdowns. Today the public expressions of the people's sense of growing frustration about their abandonment in heavy and repeated floodings despite billions reportedly allocated to drains in the last budget add to the anger felt when those in Bambous Virieux had to street-vent recently for prolonged lack of drinking water and were subjected to police crackdown.

This week's spontaneous eruptions at Camp Leveux are clearly linked to anger at falling standard of living due to rising prices compounded by what they perceive to be abuses and wastage of public funds in prestige projects and a lack of accountability and good governance. We would not be surprised

if NSS field officers would conclude that they emanate from deep down from the ranks of the working classes themselves rather than instigated by political opponents. A hungry man who has a family to clothe and feed, and who feels he has no other outlet or means of being heard, does not respect the rule of law. A French idiom sums it up as "la violence insurrectionnelle est précédée de la violence institutionnelle", and politicians who do not listen to genuine and legitimate popular demands have good reasons to be concerned.

Without going into alarmist conjectures, it would however be well to remember that research conducted in different societies afflicted by conflicts and tensions indicates that it takes only four percent of the population to challenge the established order. In times of prolonged economic hardships, growing frustrations eventually translate into street protests that result in forcing issues affecting the common man on the political agenda and can also have a politicising effect upon the rest of the population - the bystanders - leading eventually to generalised protests all over the place. We are not there, and the government's reaction to date has been a textbook application of police intimidation. It can easily backfire as testified by the latest bout of arrests and provisional charges for a public Radio One event that rapidly turned sour for government and mayoral representatives with the hilarious exchanges on the term "gopia". That familiar Creole word has been used previously in the National Assembly by no less than the PM himself without causing a furore and only the most intellectually challenged will act upon or take such a matter to courts.

The authorities will hopefully find ways and means to alleviate real hardships faced by the lowest rungs and the frustrations of the middle classes as no institution currently offers any outlet or hope that their grievances will be attended to now and not two months down the road. Many concrete suggestions and avenues have been raised by past Finance Ministers Sithanen and Xavier Duval and many prominent economists, will they keep falling on deaf ears?

The Conversation

Did governments around the world initially over-react to the Covid-19 pandemic?

Initial responses to threats are crucial to the peace and prosperity of nations. Did governments go too far with lockdowns?



The Covid-19 pandemic and concerns about the dangers of the virus have diverted attention from the primary response to the crisis — the decision to lock down entire populations.

Yet there are important questions to ask. Why did the world go into major lockdown for this infection and not for other coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-1, which most experts considered more life-threatening, although the number of cases worldwide was much lower?

Why has there been so little debate globally about what to do in the event of a major emergency like another pandemic? Why did countries follow each other's actions on containing Covid-19 without considering local idiosyncrasies and cultural characteristics?

The answers to these questions could explain the divide in most western industrialized countries between those who defend the freedom to protect themselves as they see fit in the face of a highly infectious disease and those who prioritize the general population's health and the protection of vulnerable people.

In a recently published article entitled "Exploring the Process of Policy Overreaction: The Covid-19 Lockdown Decisions," we examine policy over-reaction.

We do not pass judgment in our

research on the overall management of the Covid-19 pandemic by governments. We focus only on the initial response to the pandemic — in particular, widespread lockdowns. We analyze the responses to the Covid-19 pandemic in several countries that took different approaches to managing the crisis.

We are strategic management professors and conducted this analysis as experts in theories of organizations and how they function, with a focus on strategic and decision-making processes.

Political over-reaction?

Early policy decisions to massively confine entire populations were made because Covid-19 was perceived as very dangerous. At first, these lockdowns elicited little public outcry almost anywhere globally, even though they profoundly affected the daily lives and well-being of the populations affected.

When the first decision in response to a major threat is large and extreme, it becomes increasingly challenging for authorities to reconsider or correct.

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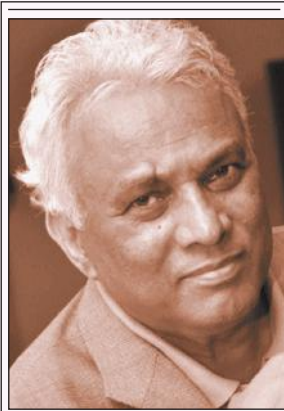
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A Pervasive Sense of Alienation in France and Mauritius

The choice of the electorate cannot continue to be about voting for the 'lesser evil'.



Mrinal Roy

The results of the first round of the French presidential elections on April 10 is yet another example of the deep sense of alienation and growing disconnect between the electorate in countries across the world and the political class as well as the pervasive frustration of the people at the chronic inability of those in power to competently address their real concerns in a context of pandemic, erosion of purchasing power and climate change threat.

It is also another jolting reminder to the political class that it is the electorate which is the final arbiter of elections. The outcome of the first round of the presidential elections sends clear messages from the electorate. Thus, the two traditional political parties, namely the centre-right party Les Républicains and the Socialist Party, which have dominated French politics and have alternately governed France since 1958 under the French Fifth Republic, have together obtained less than 7% of the votes.

For the third time, Les Républicains failed in its bid to regain power. Their candidate Valérie Pécresse obtained a mere 4.8% of the votes, which is below the threshold of five-percent required to have campaign expenses reimbursed by the State. She has launched a call for donations and funding as she is personally liable for 5M Euros of campaign expenses.

The Socialist Party's candidate Anne Hidalgo fared badly and obtained only 1.7% of the votes which is less than the 2.3% of the votes obtained by Fabien Roussel, the candidate of the French Communist Party. Since 2017 there has been a rupture between the French electorate and the leadership, policies and proposals of these two traditional parties which have again failed to rally the French electorate to their cause. They obviously appear to have lost their popularity and relevance in France's new political landscape. They therefore urgently need to reinvent themselves under new leaders who are more alive and tuned to the ground reality of France and able to innovatively recast their policy proposals and vision of the country to more concretely address the concerns and aspirations of the French people, to avoid being sidelined.

Denied a real choice

The vote of the French electorate has roughly been split three ways between Emmanuel Macron, leader of the liberal political party La République En Marche (27.8%), Marine Le Pen of the far-right party Rassemblement National (23.1%) and Jean-Luc Mélenchon of the left-wing populist political party La France Insoumise (22%). A quarter of the French electorate did not vote in the first round, the highest level of abstention since the second round in 2002. In accordance with the French electoral system, a run-off will be held between the two candidates having polled the highest number of votes which means as in 2017 a new

electoral contest between Emmanuel Macron and Marine Le Pen. Although, Jean-Luc Mélenchon obtained 22% of the votes, he did not make the cut to contest the second round of the presidential elections to be held on 24 April.

Analysts point out that Mélenchon obtained the support of many young first-time voters and long-time abstentionists from the poorer neighbourhoods as well as people who wanted to eliminate the far-right Rassemblement National from the race for the second round. Jean-Luc Mélenchon fell short by some 421,300 votes.

The upshot is that millions of voters, including young voters, feel disenfranchised as they are denied a proper voting choice and basically feel being forced to choose 'the lesser of two evils'. This galling situation carries the risk of a low voter turnout at the 24 April elections and a record number of voters casting blank ballots in protest against the absence of a real democratic choice. There have already been various protests by young voters and students chanting the slogan 'Ni Le Pen ni Macron'.

The concerns of the young have to be taken on board by the candidates and the political class. The young are at the forefront of the battle to save the planet from a climate change catastrophe and a more equal, ecological, sustainable and prosperous world for all. Climate change activists Extinction Rebellion recently forced the closure of a main square in central Paris to protest against the world leaders' lack of determinant actions to halve greenhouse gas emissions and called for a 'liveable and fair future for all'.

Gilets jaunes

We should also remember that Emmanuel Macron's presidency was rocked by the Gilets Jaunes insurgency anchored on a list of 42 demands mostly related to democracy and social and fiscal justice. The thrust of the movement was to wrest politics from the control of parties and institutions they saw as undemocratic. Jean-Luc Mélenchon's promise to convene a constituent assembly tasked with drafting a new constitution for France to usher a Sixth Republic to replace the current one, which vests too much power in the hands of the President, helped him rally many from the Gilets Jaunes movement to his cause.

Polls show that a large proportion of voters from parties opposed to the Rassemblement National will abstain instead of voting for Emmanuel Macron. As the latter polled only 27.8% of the votes in the first round owing to the profound political divide in France, one would have expected him to take on board some of the campaign proposals of the parties which have declared their intent to shun the far-right party Rassemblement National in order to wean their voters to his cause. This does not seem to be happening.

Anti-vote

Thus, for the third time in the past five presidential elections, millions of French citizens are preparing to cast their ballots not in favour of a candidate but to keep another one out of power.

Emmanuel Macron must realize that if he is re-elected



“Since 2017 there has been a rupture between the French electorate and the leadership, policies and proposals of these two traditional parties which have again failed to rally the French electorate to their cause. They obviously appear to have lost their popularity and relevance in France's new political landscape. They therefore urgently need to reinvent themselves under new leaders who are more alive and tuned to the ground reality of France... to avoid being sidelined...”

President on 24 April through the weight of the anti-Le Pen votes bent on keeping the far-right out of power compared to the pro-Macron vote, there will be questions regarding legitimacy. A remake of a contest between the liberal mainstream and nationalist extremes seems to be a winning formula for Emmanuel Macron who leads in the polls ahead of the second round on 24 April.

Imperative of a Viable Choice

Is the proposal of a strapped up hotchpotch alliance of the main opposition parties, led by the same repeatedly disavowed ageing leaders, a viable option for the future?

There is a deep sense of alienation and disconnect with the political class in Mauritius. People are fed up with political has-beens who, despite having been repeatedly defeated at the polls, continue to believe that they represent a credible alternative to the ruling government. No country can be truly democratic if it does not have a credible and able opposition to act as a counterweight to those in power. A credible opposition party led by a new breed of well-qualified and competent leaders also offers a viable choice to the electorate for an alternative government.

Hotchpotch alliance

More than ever in the chequered political history of the country, there is an imperative need for the political class and the people at large to free the country from the crippling shackles of plummeting standards of governance and offer the electorate with a viable choice at the next polls. Is the proposal of a strapped up hotchpotch alliance of the main opposition parties, led by the same repeatedly disavowed ageing leaders, a viable option for the future? The key question to be answered is whether such a nondescript alliance will guarantee victory at the next polls.

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From Gujarat to Local Shores

Jan Arden

The Jugnauth couple, PM Pravin and wife Kobita, were feted in style and regalia at the inauguration of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Gujarat on April 19, and there is no doubt that this planned trip will contribute towards consolidating the India-Mauritius axis with Ambassador Singla in attendance. Nothing beats the personal interactions that take place on the sidelines at high levels, even when hosts are equally busy at such an august and promising breakthrough event for the world medical fraternity.

The special arrangements made by the Indian authorities for PM Jugnauth and WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as chief guests, testify to the enduring strengths underlying the strong multi-faceted bonds between our two Indian Ocean countries, including national security, and the special place the PM seems to have woven personally with the highest levels of the BJP in India.

Unfortunately for the PMO, although official communication would have tried to focus on this trip, the meetings and outcomes, the Mauritian scene was erupting as the population was literally sand-bagged by a flurry of steep price rises that will add more burdensome worries to the rapidly eroding purchasing power of even the middle classes, let alone the elderlies or the struggling SMEs.

Price rises of gas cylinder bottles (12 kg ones go from Rs 180 to Rs 240), another 10% gasoline and diesel price rise at the pump stations, with possibly imminent electricity rate rises and cascading effects feared on flour or bread, public transport and supermarket commodities, have stolen the headlines away from the images of luxurious motorcades and garlands in Gujarat to our down-to-earth realities. Many families coping with making ends meet, were just angrily edging out of the painful dramas of heavy downpours and flooding which left few areas unscathed, despite billions voted in the Ministry of Finance's last budget for "drains and more drains" and which we assume would have been converted into contractor contracts at district and municipal levels, that were supervised and did actually deliver useful work.

After the publication of last year's Audit Report of more wasteful practices in the public service, the continued procurement scandals at Health during the waning out stages of the Covid pandemic, the posse of Ministers rushing to the Dubai jalsa with dozens of public servants in tow, the continued erosion of purchasing power and the depreciation of our national currency, there were no particular reasons for much of the population to enthuse at images of luxurious events from overseas.

Some have openly wondered at the timing of the latest round of price rises when the national budget is under final stages of preparation anyway. Was there any urgency to such off-budget announcements and were the real state of our national reserves in the central bank



FPM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in Jamnagar, Gujarat in the presence of PM Pravin Kumar Jugnauth of Mauritius (left) and DG WHO Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (right) on 19 April 2022 - Pic Twitter/@MEAIndia

“The special arrangements made by the Indian authorities for PM Jugnauth and WHO Director-General Dr Ghebreyesus as chief guests, testify to the enduring strengths underlying the strong multi-faceted bonds between our two Indian Ocean countries, including national security, and the special place the PM seems to have woven personally with the highest levels of the BJP in India. Unfortunately for the PMO, although official communication would have tried to focus on this trip, the meetings and outcomes, the Mauritian scene was erupting as the population was literally sand-bagged by a flurry of steep price rises...”

or parastatal agencies far more critical than the authorities were conceding, even a week ago? Many importers, retailers and traders have been complaining about serious shortages of forex affecting their activities, the reality of which was acknowledged when the Bank of Mauritius unexpectedly released some \$200m into the banking circuit last week, without it seems bothering to inform the Finance Minister.

Several leading economic personalities in these columns and elsewhere have highlighted the risks of the country running downhill along the Malaysian, Pakistani or Sri Lankan path of gross economic mismanagement, public debt spirals and rampant corruption of wealthy elites as large sections of their countrymen face dire situations. The Finance Minister has not been conspicuous in the defense of his macro-economic policies and outcomes under duress from worldwide conditions and has artfully left the individual agencies (State Trading Corporation, Central Electricity Board, National Transport Authority, etc) and their parent ministries shoulder the publicly expressed wrath of taxpayers and consumers angered by the latest round of price increases. One can understand such shyness, but for a Finance Minister to steal the thunder away from the PM's high-profile trip would have been foolhardy or bravely unconscious. The Minister is neither.

Some in the Opposition would like to believe that both the series of price rises and the overseas trip would have been premeditated to get all the bad news and the population wrath out of the way when the PM would be shielded from such mundane matters as bread prices while furrowing new frontiers of India-Mauritius friendship. In a win-win scenario, even another line of credit from PM Narendra Modi, could be purposefully marketed and hailed as a huge relief, enabling the Finance Minister in his budget speech to again praise "his" PM Pravin Jugnauth, and proceed to lighten somewhat the burden of the elderly, the downtrodden and the middle classes by a politically very astute government. The

MSM reckons that the localized and temporary angers and frustrations can be overcome at the appropriate time, for example, through some relief in the next budget pending a more fulsome delivery of pledges and stuff prior to the 2024 general elections.

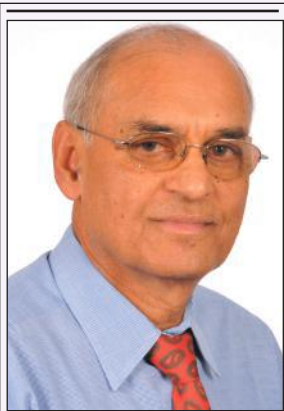
As for the Opposition forces, parliamentary and extra-parliamentary, with the prospects of municipal elections nowhere in sight, they will need more resilience if they wish to keep working towards a unified horizon in order to mobilize the 60% or so who did not vote for the MSM alliance at the 2019 elections and offer a credible alternative. Whether that is the path they find consensus and agree upon, there is a widespread feeling that the Labour Party and the Platforme de l'Espoir, either separately or in common, have to start ground meetings soon despite all the obstacles that obtain with the pandemic. By dismissing municipals to 2023 or even later, even on the flimsiest

of pretexts, government has removed one reason for some early agreement between them.

For the near future then, political parties, observers and the population at large will brace for further price escalations while many will have their antennae glued to the grapevine for some budgetary solace. Will there be any innovative solutions to our current economic model and framework or to the pursuance of pensions and the welfare state? What new horizons and perspectives will the authorities offer to the thousands of college graduates who would wish to pursue high-level tertiary studies locally in public academic institutions that are recognized on international rankings? As for those enrolled overseas, are there enough reasons to entice them back to an environment, both public and private, where who matters more than what? Are we confident that our youths will have been solidly grounded in virtues that are not merely pecuniary?

Many questions may or may not find answers in the mechanics of the coming budget, and we can recognise that the pandemic has imposed heavy tolls on our education, health and social security sectors and on a population that has survived pandemic fatigue. When restrictions are being phased out entirely for incoming visitors, should we not consider that Mauritians also deserve a progressive and rapid end to their impositions? Many might also prefer that projects, which are neither priority nor carving out new niches, nor even employing Mauritians, could be trimmed down to fit our circumstances and that there is consequential room to reduce unnecessary taxes, duties and levies, including VAT that have cascading effects on the cost of living. With public debt at its highest, to keep borrowing from the Central Bank's reserves or foreign assistance from India or elsewhere, to feed the appetite for large projects may leave future generations to bear the costs of paying for our current expansive lifestyles.

Good Friday dinner: Dalpitha and our Lived Mauritianism



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

'Hey, what will you cook tonight?'

'I will make dalpitha and a nice satini coco as I will be tired after my long day, and tomorrow make preparations for the Sunday meal for everybody.'

'Great idea, that's what I will do too at bonnefemme's place!'



Pic - Sun Resorts

That was Jenny in Toronto talking (in Creole) to her cousin Linda in Mauritius late last Thursday night (Good Friday morning locally), asking her what she was going to cook for dinner. Linda replied that since it would be rather late when she got back home after work and attending mass, she would make a simple dish, namely *dalpitha* and a nice coconut chutney to go with it, since all her children would be coming. But on Saturday she would get everything ready for their traditional Easter meal on Sunday with all the family. Jenny exclaimed that that was a super idea. She too would make *dalpitha* at her mother's place where lived her brother and his family too. Linda's daughter who had gone to Toronto about two years earlier resided in the same house with her husband and their three children. Jenny's mother, Louisa, was Linda's elder cousin who had emigrated to Canada over three decades ago.

I have known the family for a long time - in fact well before several years ago when Louisa, then seventy plus, on a visit back home sustained a fracture of the ankle and I had to operate on her. When the children had their first communion I was always assured of my share of brioche. This is just one example of the exchanges that we have shared over the years on any number of occasions with them, and with my other non-Hindu friends during Divali or Kung Shee Fat Choy.

Then there are the patients belonging to all communities who from time to time express their gratitude in the form of gifts according to their means. The latest one I have received is a shell-encrusted tissue box from the daughter of a fisherman from Mahebourg, who unfortunately has had to undergo amputations of both lower limbs above the thigh because of poor circulation. Despite that, he has always maintained a cheerful disposition and a fighting spirit. If only all patients were like

“All of us Mauritians would have stories to tell, of friendships and bonds with friends and acquaintances from across all communities. Despite all the social ills and the difficulties that we are going through, I see no reason to despair that this common ground of happily shared experiences - that span culinary customs, language and dress too - will disappear in future. For me, this has ever not only represented but been the true Mauritianism that erudites and academicians seek to define to no avail – a will-o'-the-wisp that will always remain elusive, so multilayered it is. And just as well, for to define it would be to circumscribe and limit it, whereas the field should be left open for further affective enrichment and expansion...”

that...

I am absolutely certain that all of us Mauritians would have similar stories to tell, of friendships and bonds with friends and acquaintances from across all communities. Despite all the social ills and the difficulties that we are going through, I see no reason to despair that this common ground of happy shared experiences - that span culinary customs, language and dress too - will disappear in future. For me, this has ever not only represented but been the true Mauritianism that erudites and academicians seek to define to no avail – a will-o'-the-wisp that will always remain elusive, so multilayered it is. And just as well, for to define it would be to circumscribe and limit it, whereas the field should be left open for further affective enrichment and expansion, in line with the global order and the realities of social media which allow us to connect from anywhere and everywhere.

Despite the ups and downs of our political and social history, and the more recent convulsions and hiccups, if we look at the larger picture, we cannot but conclude that it is one of peaceful coexistence. I would venture to premise that it

derives from the shared cultural spectrum that I have described above, a richness that we must never lose for the sake of our children and theirs too. I sincerely believe that we all want to live together in peace and harmony – as we actually do, don't we - which is the essential condition if we want to continue to develop and progress.

I was prompted into these reflections by the ongoing war in Ukraine. The pictures that are sent around 24/7 are so painful to watch that I cannot help switching off when they become too unbearable. Isn't it so ironical that the killings have raged on despite the period of Lent and Easter? The pious message of the Pope and the appeal of the Anglican Bishop of England have had zero effect on the resurrection of any goodwill, not to speak of brotherhood, among the two major groups in Ukraine, largely Catholic in the west and largely Russian Orthodox in the east as pointed out by former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in an article in *The Washington Post* of April 16.

After identifying what appears as another faultline, that 'the West speaks

Ukrainian; the East speaks mostly Russian', he warned that 'any attempt by one wing of Ukraine to dominate the other – as has been the pattern – would lead eventually to civil war or breakup.' But '...the root of the problem,' he continued, 'lies in efforts by Ukrainian politicians to impose their will on recalcitrant parts of the country, first by one faction, then by the other...They represent the two wings of Ukraine and have not been willing to share power.'

The 'root of the problem' then, to go by this reasoning, is leaders choosing dominance over coexistence. Under the circumstances, what to speak of *peaceful* coexistence? Neither their common religion, nor their belonging to the same White 'race' (though genetics has overturned this notion of race) has been able to salvage them from their divisive, instinctive, animalistic and domineering propensities towards each other. If we add to that the geopolitical overlay and game plans of NATO and the EU, largely Christian as well, agendas which according to those who know better (such as Democrat US Senator Tulsi Gabbard) are driven by warmongering lobbies and other vested interests both occult and overt, is it any surprise that warring was inevitable? And again, sadly and most unfortunately, the spirit of Easter has not been able to prevail, if only so much as agree to a cessation of hostilities during that saintly period, at least to allow families to bury and mourn their dead, and the beleaguered citizens to receive some humanitarian aid.

What is the lesson that the whole world must learn from this seemingly interminable conflict? Surely it is the importance of peaceful coexistence instead of dominance, of living side by side with real human and human feelings predominating. Otherwise, humanity runs the risk of endemic eruptions of social violence in a state of quasi-permanent instability that can any time morph into war.

What then is the alternative? I would make bold to say the Mauritian model, despite the couple of dark episodes that have blackened our history in the past. It is that of accepting each other's differences, appreciating our diversity and continuously exploring its potential to enrich our cultural and social life in myriads of ways, of spontaneously supporting each other in times of adversity.

It is the model that all Mauritian leaders should actively promote and market. It is the model that makes Mauritians enjoy yummy *dalpitha* and *satini coco* on Good Friday locally and in Canada, and who knows elsewhere too. I know, and all of us know, that it is our lived model, the one that we would wish to remain as a permanent legacy to our future generations and to the world too. And at this time in particular to the suffering Ukrainian and Russian families and other victims.

Of 'Gopias' and Insults

"Arresting a person who uses the word "gopia" without ascertaining in what context it was used may amount to an arbitrary arrest"

We have witnessed several recent occurrences of our police force arresting, booking and sometimes jailing members of public who were reported to have made use of derogatory descriptors against officials and Ministers of the land. The Creole language is rich in such terms as "gopia" "sinois nef" and others uttered in banter or in frustration. What does Lex make out of such usage in legal parlance and of the police actions?

LEX

* Is it a crime to offend someone?

Yes, depending on the words used and the context in which they are used. There may be crimes that deal with that like criminal defamation, insult, outrage.

Section 156 of the Criminal Code punishes outrage, and it reads:

(1) "Any outrage committed publicly, in any manner, whether against one or more members of the Cabinet or of the Assembly, or against a tribunal or court or one or more Magistrates, or a public functionary, or a minister of a religion recognised in Mauritius provided such outrage is committed against any of the aforesaid, whilst acting in the exercise of their functions, or on account of such functions, shall be punished by imprisonment, and by a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees."

Section 296 punishes insults and provides:

"Any injurious expression or any term of contempt or invective, or other abusive language, not carrying with it the imputation of a fact, is an insult ('injure') and any person who is guilty of the offence shall be liable to the following penalties -

- where the offence is committed by means of words, exclamations or threats not made use of in public, a fine not exceeding 50,000 rupees;
- where the offence is committed by means of words, exclamations or threats made use of in public, a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees;
- where the offence is committed by means of any written or printed matter, drawing, picture, emblem or image, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years and a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees."

* What is the legal definition of an insult?

The constitutive elements of the offence are any injurious expression or any term of contempt or invective, or otherwise abusive language, not carrying with it the imputation of a fact.

* Is there a marked difference between what would be construed to be an insult and a defamation?

In a case decided in 2000, the court explained the distinction as follows: "Defamation and insult are offences under Sections 288 and 296 respectively of the Criminal Code. The wording is borrowed from Article 29 of the French Law of the Press of 29th July 1881, which defines defamation as:

'toute allégation ou imputation d'un fait qui porte atteinte à l'honneur ou à la considération de la personne ou du corps auquel le fait est imputé; and l'injure as toute expression outrageante, terme de mépris ou invective qui ne renferme l'imputation d'aucun fait déterminé'.

* What is the punishment for insulting a person? And can I sue someone for insulting me in Mauritius?

Anybody can file a complaint with the police for insult as it is an offence under the Criminal Code. In addition, the person who feels insulted may enter a civil case and claim damages.

If the insult is not committed in public, the fine is Rs 50,000. If it is done in public, the fine goes up to Rs 100,000.

* Are there instances where offending words, which may be construed to be insulting, would not constitute an offence if and when uttered in an official capacity or by a witness in court or before a commission of inquiry?

Whatever a witness or counsel says in court cannot be the basis of a prosecution. Very often counsels or witnesses make serious allegations against a witness who is testifying. This is part of the cross-examination process. However, a court has the power to put a stop to a cross-examination or a statement that verges on vulgarity.

The courts also have the power to punish for contempt if a statement is unjustified and amounts to an insult.

* What is the yardstick that the courts would use to determine whether



"Usually, arrestable offences are offences of a very serious nature that carry heavy prison sentences. Arresting a person who uses the word "gopia" without ascertaining in what context it was used may amount to an arbitrary arrest..."

a rude or offending remark amounts to an insult or not?

It depends on the word used and the context in which it is used.

The matter was comprehensively explained in a case decided in 1953 as follows:

"It is for the Judge to decide, as a matter of law, whether the words complained of are reasonably capable of the defamatory meaning ascribed to them. If they are not, the case must be withdrawn from the jury. If they are, it is for the jury to say whether, in the circumstances of the case, they are in fact defamatory.

When nothing is alleged to give the words cavilled at an extended meaning, they must be construed in their natural and ordinary meaning, i.e., in the meaning in which reasonable fair-minded persons of ordinary intelligence would be likely to understand them.

When the words are ambiguous, that is, reasonably capable of either an innocent or a defamatory meaning, it is a question of fact for the jury to determine in which of the two meanings they were understood by those to whom they were published. In applying the test resulting from those principles the Judge ought not to take into account any mere conjectures which a person reading the words in question might possibly, though unreasonably, form. It is not enough to say that by some person or another the words might be understood in a defamatory sense. They must be susceptible of a libellous meaning in this sense that a reasonable fair-minded or right-thinking person could construe them unfavourably in such a sense as to make some imputation upon the person complaining."

* What if a person were to use the word "gopia" or "sinois nef" in a heated exchange with a co-worker or a politi-

cian, would that in law be considered to be an insult and therefore an offence punishable by law?

Again, it depends on the context in which the words are used. They may simply amount to a criticism made in good faith or may be disparaging or may be considered as a joke.

* Even if the words "gopia" and "sinois nef" were deemed to be insulting, would they constitute arrestable offences?

Usually, arrestable offences are offences of a very serious nature that carry heavy prison sentences. Arresting a person who uses the word "gopia" without ascertaining in what context it was used may amount to an arbitrary arrest.

But then since a few years now in this country, there is a growing perception that the police would just arrest someone and then try to find a basis for the arrest. It's a case of shoot first, then aim!

* Is the law with regard to insults, or even to offensive and abusive language, vague such that the best deterrent the authorities can have recourse to in the circumstances is the arrest and detention of deemed offenders?

There is nothing vague about the law. The offences have been interpreted and explained in many cases by the Supreme Court. The police are deemed to be aware of the constituent elements of the offences. There is therefore nothing that justifies an arrest for such offences when there is no evidence to substantiate a charge.

* If we were to go by the values - societal, philosophical, or even ideological, present in the Mauritian context, can it be anticipated what would be the likely position of our Judiciary on the alleged offence of insult conveyed in the word "gopia" as used recently at a citizens' meeting - if ever the case is prosecuted?

Judges and magistrates are no fools. They are fully aware of the constituent elements of the offences of insults and outrage. They will consider the meaning of the word "gopia" as it is normally used in the Creole language and then ascribe to it either the ordinary meaning of fool or something else.

If a minister is not living up to his mandate and is showing bias or partisanship in his dealings with some members of the public for reasons of different political allegiances, then the public may rightly consider the minister to be a "gopia" or a fool.

* What about the 'insults' traded on social media?

Day in and day out we witness statements that may amount to insults or outrage on social media platforms. Can the authorities track the authors? If they do, will they be selective and arrest only those who allegedly insult members of the government? When all is said, it is very difficult to control or even track down authors of insults on social media.



Anil Madan

The Changing Face of Nuclear Deterrence

Mutually assured destruction (MAD) is also no longer a maintainable strategy and this increases the risk of the use of nuclear weapons

Ever since the horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki seared the conscience of humanity, the nations of the world have for the most part maintained a fearful respect for nuclear weapons. Even as both the US and the Soviet Union expanded their arsenals, there was an underlying sense that such expansion should be reluctantly undertaken.

This approach made deterrence and non-proliferation possible. It eventually led to the test ban treaty and arms reduction talks. Employing even the threat of using a nuclear weapon -- except in a deterrent sense, later refined to the concept of mutual deterrence -- has been considered off limits at least for the major powers. It was assumed that Britain, France and China were committed to this same respect. India and Israel (which never admitted that it had nukes) made indirect pledges of refraining from a first strike.

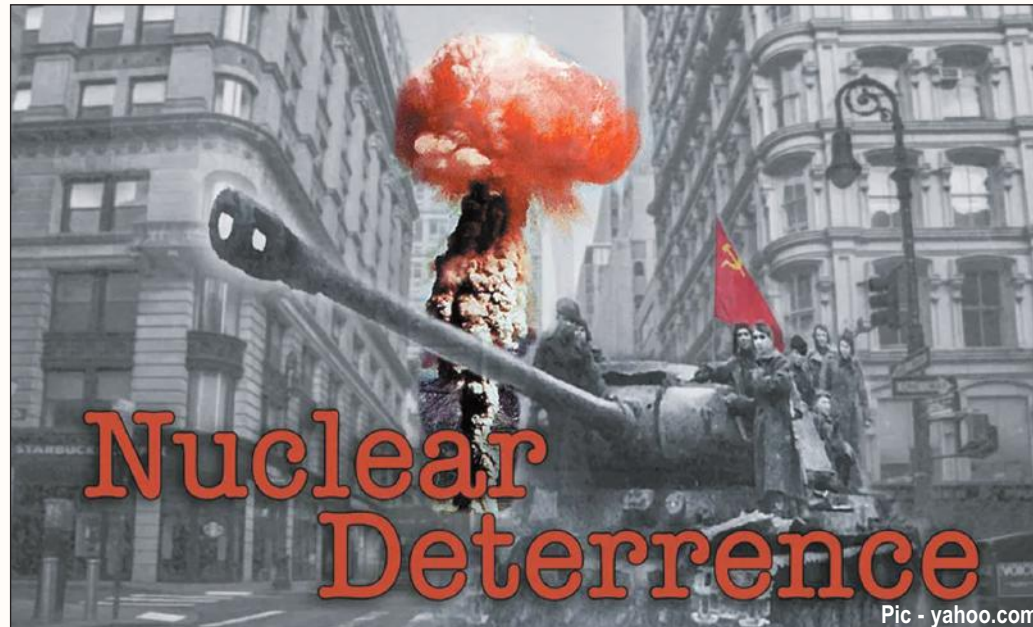
Surprising as it may be, despite the twisted logic of five superpowers having arrogated to themselves exclusive membership in a nuclear club, the world at large, with few exceptions, yielded to the imperative of non-proliferation. Of course, it was logical to expect that India could not abide China's nuclear arsenal, and that Pakistan could not abide India's. And it was not logical to expect that Israel would abjure the oxymoronic solace that comes from possessing the ultimate in destructive weapons when faced with an existential threat -- destroy first, lest ye be destroyed. That deterrence was an insurance policy for a nation's survival.

Sensible international restraint

In recent years, things have changed. South Africa's relinquishment of its nuclear weapons and Ukraine's agreement to give up control of nukes on its territory, are distant memories. North Korea's success in developing nuclear weapons and Iran's all but inevitable declaration of its membership in the nuclear club, albeit both as uninvited members, speaks to the loss of that fearful respect that we all welcomed as evidence of sensible international restraint.

Recent developments suggest that the problem is now getting worse. And the culprits are both Russia and China rather than some new entrant into the nuclear club.

Just before he began his criminal invasion of Ukraine, Vladimir Putin made a not-so-veiled threat to use his nuclear arsenal against countries that would intervene to give aid to Ukraine. He has continued to



“The features of parity and mutually assured destruction in a bipolar system are a disincentive for each of two adversaries to resort to nuclear weapons. A killer first-strike capability is not possible and any strike would not eliminate the likely certainty of destruction from a retaliatory attack. But with three powers in the mix, retaining a sufficient capacity to deal with two adversaries becomes a challenge and may not be possible without another massive buildup in the arsenal of nuclear weapons...”

issue threats. The most recent came on April 20 when the Russian defense ministry announced that it had successfully test-fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile. Putin soon declared that the new missile is “capable of overcoming all missile defense systems” and would make those who “try to threaten our country think twice.”

To be sure, Putin has not directly threatened the use of nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory, but there is no shortage of journalists speculating along those lines. And the war is still ongoing. One predicts an erratic dictator's actions at one's peril.

A recent article, about ten days ago, in *The Wall Street Journal* gives pause. It reports that China has accelerated an expansion of its nuclear arsenal because of a change in its assessment of the threat posed by the US. The assessment is attributed to unidentified “people with knowledge of the Chinese leadership's thinking.” One is tempted to say that this is either an example of irresponsible journalism or, if true, that the WSJ is being played by people with knowledge of what China's leaders are thinking. After all, one would not expect China's leaders to disclose their thinking unless they wanted to send a message.

Lending credence to the idea that the article may be irresponsible speculation is the author's acknow-

ledgment that the Chinese nuclear effort long predates Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In other words, there is nothing new here. Of course, it is well known that China had plans to build up its nuclear arsenal because its nuclear weapons number in the hundreds compared to Russia's and America's thousands.

The idea, it is said, is that China wants to defer any arms reduction talks so that it can negotiate from a position with parity to the bipolar nuclear states Russia and America. Whereas the logic of that is suspect, it does make more sense that China feels the need to build up its arsenal to avoid a first strike by either Russia or the US that leaves it vulnerable to a crippling attack by the third power. I will discuss below why this is so.

The WSJ article also suggests that Chinese leaders see a stronger nuclear arsenal as a way to deter the US from getting directly involved in a potential conflict over Taiwan. This, of course, suggests that the Chinese have taken a page from Putin's book and decided that his threats of nuclear escalation kept the US and NATO from direct involvement in Ukraine. The extrapolation required is that the Chinese leadership plans to invade Taiwan and keep America at bay by threatening it with the use of nukes.

That logic too is suspect because China's nuclear arsenal will be built up over the next 8-10 years. It seems unlikely that the Chinese leaders are telegraphing an invasion of Taiwan about eight years away. Nevertheless, this is an ominous development for it presages a new nuclear race.

Before I get to that, I must mention that the WSJ article also suggests that the Chinese leadership is driven by fears that Washington might seek to topple Beijing's communist government. This really smacks of irresponsi-

ble speculation. The US probably has a slight preference to see the CCP displaced in China but that is more wishful thinking than policy.

Certainly, the US has no viable means to effect such regime change. In any event, the US has historically shown little aptitude for accomplishing regime change anywhere in the world. Certainly, the suggestion that China is expanding its nuclear arsenal as a response to such fears seems an illogical conclusion. Paranoia may have run amuck but an eight-year program of nuclear arms development hardly seems a logical response to fears of regime change.

So, let us get back to why this is ominous. This is not because the WSJ article mentions that unidentified American military officials and security analysts are concerned that China's nuclear acceleration could mean it would be willing to make a surprise nuclear strike. That too smacks of more irresponsible journalism. China has no incentive to attack the US, its major trading partner and the locus of much of the wealth that CCP members hold. Nor does the US have any incentive to attack China, its principal supplier of manufactured goods and products that are an integral part of American life and a source of immense profit to its companies.

The Changing Face of Nuclear Deterrence



Pic - Big Think

“Calls for nonproliferation and indeed for disarmament have rested on the compelling idea that the mere possession of nuclear weapons makes their use likely. In other words, possession of such weapons can lead to one's rationalizing their use. Again, we have only to look at Putin's invasion of Ukraine as an example of how possession of artillery and bombs can lead one to use them. And let us not forget America's adventures in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, of the same tenor...”

● Cont. from page 7

The explanation may be much simpler. To some extent, it is understandable that the CCP might want to upgrade its nuclear arsenal. After all, the US does that from time to time. President Obama orchestrated a substantial upgrade of US tactical nuclear weapons and there is talk of upgrading the strategic arsenal. Putin's latest missile is an upgraded weapon and he boasts that other countries will not match it for years. It is to be expected that the Chinese don't want to fall further behind.

A tripolar imbalance

But the problem is more serious. In the just released May/June 2022 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, Andrew F. Krepinevich, Jr., a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, argues that China's construction of new missile silos signals a dramatic shift in China's approach to nuclear weapons, that it will quadruple its arsenal by 2030, to 1000 weapons. But wait. Didn't he (and I) already say that China has long planned an expansion of its nuclear force? Yes, of course it is. So that part is not new, much less a dramatic shift.

But the author goes on to make the more telling point that China's plans will upend the bipolar nuclear power system. China's entry as a power at parity with Russia and the US threatens to create a tripolar system that will inherently be more unstable with greater incentives to resort to nuclear weapons. With three competing powers, the factors that rendered the extant system stable will be moot or less reliable.

One obvious feature of a tripolar imbalance is that neither the US nor Russia will be able to focus nuclear strategies solely on the other, but must now include China in the calculus. The features of parity and mutually assured destruction in a bipolar system are a disincentive for each of two adversaries to resort to nuclear weapons. A killer first-strike capability is not possible and any strike would not eliminate the likely

certainty of destruction from a retaliatory attack.

But with three powers in the mix, retaining a sufficient capacity to deal with two adversaries becomes a challenge and may not be possible without another massive buildup in the arsenal of nuclear weapons. This, in turn, would trigger the other two to build up their arsenals in a never ending spiral. In short, it is simply not possible for each state to maintain nuclear parity with the combined arsenals of its two rivals. That logic compels the conclusion that mutually assured destruction (MAD) is also no longer a maintainable strategy and this increases the risk of the use of nuclear weapons.

Compounding all this is that the allies of the US who rely on its nuclear umbrella will be motivated to develop their own arsenals once they perceive that the US umbrella has leaks and is no longer reliable protection for them.

The author notes that in some circumstances, starting a nuclear war can be seen as a rational act. This is truly frightening but not illogical. Calls for nonproliferation and indeed for disarmament have rested on the compelling idea that the mere possession of nuclear weapons makes their use likely. In other words, possession of such weapons can lead to one's rationalizing their use. Again, we have only to look at Putin's invasion of Ukraine as an example of how possession of artillery and bombs can lead one to use them. And let us not forget America's adventures in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, of the same tenor.

The author argues that China's eventual attainment of great-nuclear-power status by way of parity will dramatically upset the delicate equilibrium of the bipolar system. Ultimately, he posits that addressing nuclear strategy in a tripolar nuclear system brings to mind the impossibility of predicting the motion of three celestial bodies based solely on their initial positions and velocities.

I will add that we cannot expect either Russia or China to behave rationally in such a system. Certainly, Putin's actions now underscore that concern. And China's willingness to create an unstable system raises legitimate concerns about its rationality in this context. Nor can we expect that the Chinese or Russians will trust the US to behave rationally.

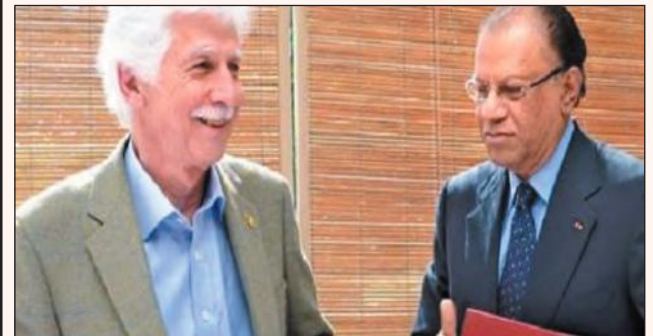
After all, if the leaders of the great powers, indeed of all nations, trusted their counterparts to behave rationally, we would not be where we are today.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Matters of The Moment

Imperative of a Viable Choice

● Cont. from page 3



“It is public knowledge that owing to latent mistrust and profound differences, there is negative synergy between the Labour Party and MMM electorate as evidenced by the debacle of the 2014 general elections. Negative synergy is when the value of the combined entities is less than the value of each entity if it is operated alone. The MMM is today considerably weakened by dissent and the exodus of key party cadres who have joined the government ruling alliance...”

It is public knowledge that owing to latent mistrust and profound differences, there is negative synergy between the Labour Party and MMM electorate as evidenced by the debacle of the 2014 general elections. Negative synergy is when the value of the combined entities is less than the value of each entity if it is operated alone. The MMM is today considerably weakened by dissent and the exodus of key party cadres who have joined the government ruling alliance. After 54 years of independence, the choice of the electorate cannot continue to be about voting for the 'lesser evil'.

Trial by fire

An enlightened and innovative socio-economic vision of the country has to be anchored on a well-grounded ideology and core principles, values and an ethos. Fundamental principles of meritocracy, equality of opportunities, transparency and accountability, independence of competently managed institutions, reforms to bridge blatant inequality and access to land, etc., should inter alia be cardinal drivers of governance of those entrusted with the management of the affairs of the State.

The country therefore needs a political big bang shorn of dynastic politics, the dead wood, cronyism, nepotism, poor governance, unending investigations into allegations of wrongdoings and costly blunders. All parties must pass this trial by fire to earn their credentials with the people.

In view of its unique import in the memory and psyche of people, a new Labour Party under a new leadership and a plural team of talented young Mauritians having proven professional expertise in different fields and an altruistic intent to serve the people can challenge the highly decried local political system and contested political establishment. This will require hard work on the ground across the country to mobilize the people around a shared vision of Mauritius, core principles and objectives and an agreed ethos.

Time is running out.

Mrinal Roy

UK PM Johnson signals visa flexibility with India: 'always been in favour of...'

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson signalled that he was ready to offer more visas to India in return for a free-trade deal after Britain's exit from the European Union. "I have always been in favour of talented people coming to this country," said Boris Johnson. "We are short to the tune of hundreds of thousands of people in our economy and we need to have a progressive approach and we will."

Johnson will begin his long-delayed visit from Ahmedabad where he will meet business leaders to discuss thriving commercial, trade and people links between the two countries. He will then travel to New Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi today. While speaking to reporters on the plane on his way to India, Johnson indicated that he was ready to be more accommodating on issues that could stall the post-Brexit deal with India, reports Reuters.

Johnson's office earlier said that the two leaders will hold "in-depth talks on the UK and India's strategic defence, diplomatic and economic partnership, aimed at



Prime Minister Boris Johnson speaks to the media on board his flight as he flies to India. Pic- AP

bolstering our close partnership and stepping up security co-operation in the Indo-Pacific."

His visit is also being watched closely for a possible attempt from Johnson to coax India away from Russia in response to the invasion of Ukraine as New Delhi stood back from international efforts to criticize President Vladimir Putin by

abstaining from UN votes.

Johnson's spokesperson Max Blain, however, stressed that the UK wouldn't "lecture other democratically elected governments on what course of action was best for them."

The spokesperson said the UK would "work with other countries to provide alternative options for defense procurement

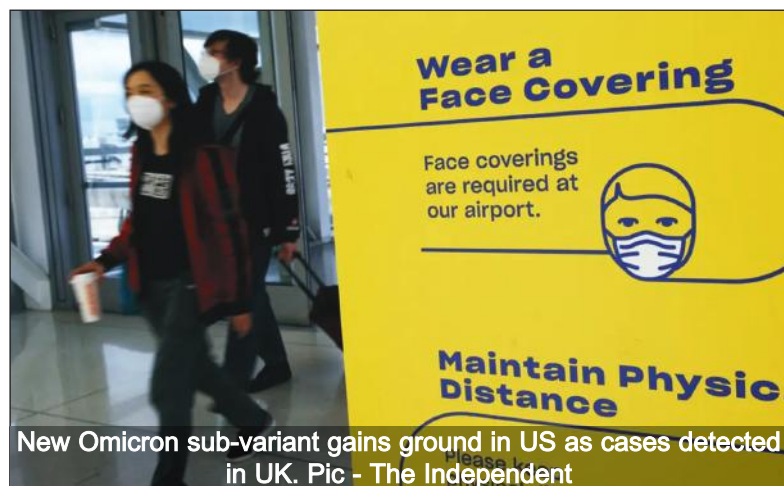
and energy for India to diversify its supply chains away from Russia."

'Desperate' Johnson accused of using India trade trip to 'run away' from Partygate crisis

On the other hand, Boris Johnson was accused of "running away" from his Partygate crisis, as he flew to India for a trade trip that critics said would achieve nothing significant, reports the Independent.

Opposition parties seized on the agenda for the visit, with no post-Brexit trade deal to be agreed – and with the Prime Minister set to avoid a confrontation over India's refusal to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The two-day trip means Mr Johnson will be absent when he orders his MPs to block a Commons inquiry into evidence that he misled parliament about the lockdown-busting parties.



New Omicron sub-variant gains ground in US as cases detected in UK. Pic - The Independent

BA.2.12.1: New Omicron sub-variant on the rise across US as first cases detected in UK

A new Omicron sub-variant, thought to be the most infectious yet, is becoming more prevalent in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

BA.2.12.1, which is estimated to be 23 to 27 percent more transmissible than its predecessor, BA.2, currently accounts for roughly 1 in 5 new cases across America, reports The Independent.

The variant is fuelling a resurgence in Covid cases seen in upstate New York, the State Department of Health reported last week.

Five cases of BA.2.12.1 have also been detected in the UK. Covid Genomics UK Consortium (COG-UK), which monitors the spread of new strains in Britain, says the variant was first picked up on 23 March.

The variant has also been spotted in Australia, Israel, Denmark and Austria.

There's no evidence to suggest that BA.2.12.1 causes more severe disease than the original Omicron variant and its various spin-offs.

It's unclear whether BA.2.12.1 is spreading more quickly than other Omicron sub-variants because it is more contagious or better at evading the body's immunological defences.

The variant has acquired one mutation of particular interest, called L452Q, in its spike protein — the part of the virus responsible for binding and gaining entry to human cells.

Shanghai reports more deaths amid falling Covid cases

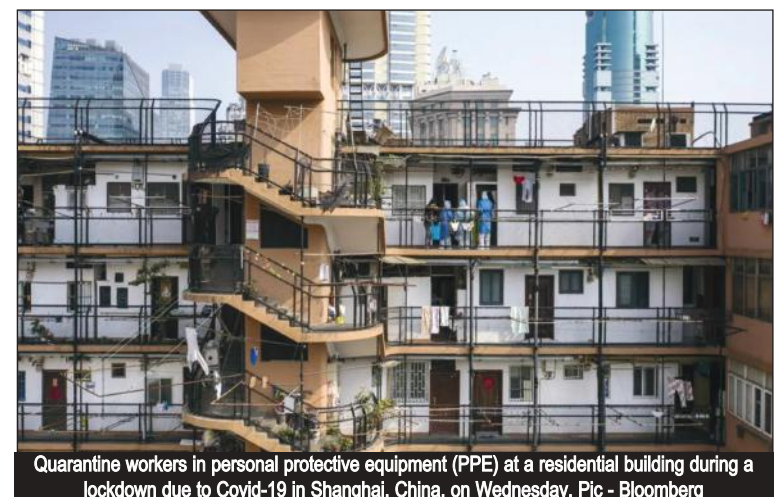
Shanghai's grim battle with the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak continued with seven more infection-related deaths and nearly 19,000 new cases reported in the Chinese financial hub on Wednesday for the day before. Overall, China reported 17,066 asymptomatic Covid-19 cases and 2,753 symptomatic local cases, reports Hindutan Times.

With the number of new Covid-19 cases falling, a city official said on Wednesday that Shanghai, a city of some 25 million residents, has brought virus transmission outside quarantined areas down to zero in two city districts and the city's Covid-19 outbreak is seeing a downward trend.

Number of residents staying in the city's highest-risk "sealed areas", who are completely locked down, has reduced significantly, official Wu Qianyu said at a daily press conference.

The new deaths – reported after weeks of the Covid-19 flare-up -- however, mean that measures to control the spread will continue to be stringent.

At least 17 Shanghai residents have died of Covid-19 in the last three days though reports have said the number could be higher especially among the elderly with comorbidities.



Quarantine workers in personal protective equipment (PPE) at a residential building during a lockdown due to Covid-19 in Shanghai, China, on Wednesday. Pic - Bloomberg

The rate of vaccination among the elderly in Shanghai is a worry for China. Last Friday, Shanghai government officials said that only 62% of the city's 3.6 million elderly - aged 60 and above - were fully vaccinated, and the rate among those aged above 80 years old is only 15.

Wu Liangyou, from the national health commission (NHC), said that from March 1 to April 18, China has logged 497,214 cases of local infections, reported from all its provinces and regions except the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) -- many more than what China had recorded in initial phase of the pandemic in early 2020.

"We should be mentally prepared for a long fight against Covid, but also have the confi-

dence to win," Wu Zunyou, chief epidemiologist at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said on Tuesday.

Wu added that China should have the ability to carry out short-term nucleic acid screening work in the jurisdiction where the epidemic is located, and strengthen the construction of medical facilities to ensure that medical services can be obtained when the number of patients increases in a short period of time.

Isolation facilities need to be expanded to ensure that those with asymptomatic infections and mild cases, as well as close contacts, have facilities available, he said.

* Contd on page 10



Imran Khan on Wednesday addressed his first ever Twitter Space. Pic- img.republicworld.com

Pakistan needs army more than Imran Khan: Former PM in 'record-breaking' Twitter Space

In a veiled reference to Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said the fault of one person does not make the whole institution faulty, hailing the Pakistan army and criticising the present army chief -- at the same time. Imran Khan made these comments in his first-ever Twitter Space, a virtual address on Twitter. With around 165K listeners joining the Twitter Space, Imran Khan broke all past records of Twitter Space, his party claimed. The Twitter Space continued for over an hour on Wednesday night.

"There are also humans in institutions.

If one or two individuals do something wrong, the entire institution is not responsible. If one person (in an apparent reference to Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa) makes a mistake, this does not mean that the whole institution is at fault," Imran Khan said, reports Hindustan Times.

"Pakistan needs the Armed forces more than Imran Khan. Had the strong Army not been here, Pakistan might have been dismembered into three pieces," he said adding that people should not criticise the army.

Talking about elections, Imran Khan said his party will give tickets after much consideration this time after learning a lesson from the recent betrayals in which several PTI members joined hand with the opposition resulting in the ouster of Imran Khan in the no-confidence vote in the assembly.

"The last 3.6 years have been difficult and the allies continued blackmailing. Bring us into the government as a majority so that we don't face blackmailing," Imran Khan said.

What is Putin's Sarmat missile that will make Russia's 'enemies think twice'?

Amid the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said Russia has successfully tested the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile which is the world's most powerful missile that is believed to be capable of penetrating any missile defence. It is colloquially known as Satan, reports Hindustan Times.

The successful test of the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile is a big and significant event for Russia's defence, Putin said adding that this will make Russia's enemies think twice.

Here is everything you need to know about Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile

1. The Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile was fired from the Plesetskcosmodrome, about 800 km north of Moscow, in the northern Arkhangelsk region, the defence ministry said.

2. In the first test launch, the missile hit targets in the Kamchatka peninsula in the far east of Russia, nearly 6,000km (3,700 miles) away.

3. The missile weighs more than 200 tonnes and is able to transport multiple warheads, more than 10, it is believed.

4. Apart from 10 large warheads, it can carry 16 smaller ones, a combination of warheads and countermeasures, or hypersonic boost-glide vehicles, it is believed.

5. The missile was being developed for years and the test does not come across as a surprise to western countries.

6. Pentagon said the test is routine and not a threat to the US and its allies. Moscow had properly notified the United



Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile weighs more than 200 tonnes and is able to transport multiple warheads. Pic - static.india.com

States before the test launch of Sarmat, the Pentagon said. US postponed its test of Minuteman III ICBM on March 2 to avoid escalating tensions with Russia, it said.

7. Russia's nuclear forces will start taking delivery of the new missile "in the autumn of this year" once testing is complete, reports said.

India will give another \$500 million in fuel aid: Sri Lanka foreign minister

India will give Sri Lanka an additional \$500 million in financial assistance to buy fuel, the troubled island nation's foreign minister told reporters Wednesday, adding that Bangladesh was also willing to postpone \$450 million in swap repayments to ease Colombo's burden.

"Assistance by the IMF will take about six months to come to us and it will come in tranches," Sri Lankan Foreign Minister GL Peiris was quoted by Reuters. "During the intervening period, we need to find funds to keep our people supplied with essentials."

This will be the second \$500 million India has provided in fuel credit to a Sri Lanka government battling the country's worst financial crisis in living memory, reports Hindustan Times.

The first line of credit was used up earlier this month after a shipment of 120,000 tons of diesel and 40,000 tons of petrol.

So far India has provided nearly 400,000 tons of fuel.

Massive protests broke out on



A Piyasiri, an auto driver, pushes his auto as he runs out of fuel while waiting in a queue for two hours, amid the country's economic crisis, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Pic - Reuters

Tuesday after fuel reserves ran low. Thousands of angry motorists burned tyres and blocked a major road leading into capital Colombo, news agency AFP reported citing police and local officials. The protests came after the state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation raised the

price of 92 octane to LKR 338 per litre - an increase of LKR 84.

That was the CPC's second price hike this month. On Monday the Lankan Indian oil company yesterday hiked its prices for a fifth time in six months.

India, meanwhile, has also extended

two credit lines worth over \$2 billion to help buy food - rice has already been sent - medicines and other essentials.

India on Tuesday also urged the IMF, or International Monetary Fund, to urgently provide financial assistance to Sri Lanka.

This was as finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman met IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva on the margins of the IMF-World Bank spring meeting in the US.

Sri Lanka had sought India's help in garnering international support to secure bridge financing as it enters negotiations with the IMF for a bailout deal.

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka last week defaulted on its external debt - reported at over \$51 billion. Officials said foreign debt payments were temporarily suspended to avoid a hard default and conserve limited reserves to import essential items.

In talks with the IMF, Sri Lanka hopes to secure at least \$4 billion in bailout.

Kadress Pillay



“The Political Class is Short of Breath and we have yet to witness the emergence of promising national leaders”

Mauritius Times: One major cause of deep concern these days is the rising cost of living, which is hitting hard low-income households and increasingly the middle class as well. Only this week the prices of cooking gas cylinders and petrol have shot up, and it would seem there is more to come. Do you get the feeling that there we are heading toward turbulent times, both on the economic and social fronts?

Kadress Pillay: There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that rising prices are affecting everybody, particularly low-income households and increasingly the middle class. I sometimes wonder what would have been the plight of old-age pensioners without the Rs 9000 monthly pension. It must be clear to any objective observer that the prices of most commodities and rates have been on the rise for quite some. This, to my mind, is a matter for concern given the potential for social unrest which arises when people can't afford to pay for basic necessities.

“By and large Westminster democracy in Mauritius has slowly taken a back seat; we only have to watch parliamentary workings, the standard of parliamentary debates, the responses and non-responses to parliamentary questions, the timetabling of proposed legislations and debates, the critiques of the Director of Audit, the state of national strategic institutions, the obvious failure of the party system and the state of the public service... and we know that we are in for a bleak future...”

To be fair, this is not solely the doing of the present government. Supply chains have been severely disrupted by the Covid pandemic, and the war in Ukraine has made matters worse. Production bases have narrowed everywhere with cost implications; freight charges have increased enormously and, unfortunately, we do not have any control over these factors. We have seen lately that without the central bank's intervention the foreign exchange market is going against us in a very troubling manner and we can assert that the impact of central banks on the foreign exchange is fairly mild and tempo-

Kadress Pillay needs no introduction as former Director of Audit or Minister of Education during the eighties. He shares his insights on the current predicaments facing the country and large sections of the population as price escalations and taxes/levies take a heavy toll on the lower and middle rungs of the ladder, eroding their purchasing powers. He also delves on the political context and the ability of the Opposition(s) to constitute a common front to counter the current regime.

rary.

What worries me is that we are not prepared to develop the local competence to face the new paradigm, nor are we seeing policies that will develop a fallback position as regards self-sufficiency in general, but food in particular. Perhaps it is also an opportunity for those who have lived a life of indulgence in material comfort to rethink their priorities as a response to the dangers ahead.

In any case, the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. Any government has to intervene in a situation of crisis but it has to be done in a focused and targeted manner; the obvious way to go about it is through the introduction of a voucher system for specific basic commodities such as gas, flour and flour. But I would also wish to see some support to our elders with regard to their health issues.

*** What government does or fails to do affects the economy one way or the other as well as the standard of living of the population. Does it seem to you that the government is doing the right things in light of the economic challenges facing the country?**

In matters of policy, I do not think we have hard and fast rules about what is right and what is wrong. In relation to the hard times that we are going through and which may stay with us for quite a while, I think we are living on borrowed money and borrowed time.

Hard work and discipline have taken a back seat and productivity is largely compromised due to a lack of competence and a mindset of putting in less and expecting more – a mentality born out of the years of plenty after the first economic miracle of 1983. There is no doubt that the challenges of what is termed as the changing world economic order are going to be tremendous and demanding.

‘Gouverner c'est prévoir’. Any responsible government should take full stock of the trends on the global stage and formulate policies that will secure the stability and peace of our multi-ethnic nation. The momentum of the first economic miracle, which lasted for some years, has created a materialistic euphoria which has veiled our vision of realities and imprisoned us in a comfort zone. Leaders of public opinion and politicians of all shades tend to view everything in terms of economic choices which may well be the case, but any society aspiring to make progress, ensure peace and stability needs more than micro- and macro-economics to lay the path to success.

That path goes through a modern education system adaptable to changing needs, an effective and modernized health system, utilities and environment prominence, food production and security, law and order, all of which are as important as economics. We should also not lose sight of the undercurrents of what is known as Industry 4.0 and 5.0.

*** Some critics have taken issue with they consider the misguided priorities of the government with, on the one hand, its huge capital expenditures on prestige projects and, on the other hand, its skewed allocations to price support subsidies - a pittance, they say - as compared to what have been budgeted and being spent on “distressed” companies through the MIC. What's your take on that?**

Let us be honest and give the devil its due. Most of the capital projects people are talking about are those initiated well before the coming to power of the present regime. Almost all of them are projects of the Labour Party, but there is no denying that the present government's strong point is its capacity to take decisions and get the ball rolling.

☞ Cont. on page 12

'The current situation may not be wholly of the making of this government, but eight years in power should make it accountable for its non-action'

☞ Cont. from page 11

As regards prestige projects, it's worthwhile to remind ourselves of the ferocious resistance many years back to the construction of the National Road known at that time as 'La Route Burton'. I was a child spending most of my free time in the beautiful village of Mount Ory, and I took special pleasure watching works being carried out. The Labour government of the day took a real battering from all quarters and certainly words like bribes and prestige were in the air. Just imagine Mauritius without this road. As for the 'Metro Leger', the 'Phoenix Overpass', the 'Chebel Bridge' projects, only time will tell about their long-term viability.

Capital expenditures on those projects should not be related to price support subsidies because their objectives, timeframes and impact are different. For example, the impact on transport cost and traveling time is certainly going to be positive. In a largely open economy, run on free market principles, price stabilization, subsidies may be of short-term relevance.

As for the MIC, I have strong reservations about the principle of responding to a critical situation, presumably short-term, by creating a permanent institution and, to add insult to injury, a company funded by the Central Bank, to support ailing private companies. I am not against the principle of support by government to the private sector during times of crisis. There are other ways of achieving the same result without implicating directly our central bank. I believe it's the duty of the commercial banks to do this job out of their significant reserves amassed during good times.

I would certainly have no issue with the Bank of Mauritius as a banker of last resort to lend to the commercial banks for that particular purpose. I'm yet to be convinced on the accountability framework put in place and the governance standards introduced and I'm asking myself in case of failure of the MIC where Rs 80 billion have been invested, what would be the position of the two deputy governors who happened to be 'au four et au moulin en meme temps.'

*** Rama Sithanen was saying only last year that 'Minister Padayachy has relied too much on 'Old Normal' remedies to cure the ailment of the 'New Normal' world. Would that be a fair comment or are the present economic conditions largely beyond the control of the government?**

Clichés like 'old normal' remedies and 'new normal' world paint a blurred picture of realities. I do not think that this is a fair comment nor do I believe that the present conditions are wholly beyond the control of government. Coming forward with simple such clichés is not enough; we would rather expect concrete actions and an innovative strategic and pragmatic approach from local economic experts to remedy the situation.

I'm an old schooler who strongly believes in hard work, discipline, dedication and honesty. Economic models matter, but they are not sine qua non. My view is that the rot has sneaked into our culture of hard work, discipline and

“The political class is short of breath, and we have yet to witness the emergence of promising national leaders. Most of the political parties of significance in the opposition have kept the same person as leader for years. One could argue that the choice has been made by democratic means, but I frankly have my own doubts about this, because the strength of manipulation of party membership by party leaders is incredible...”

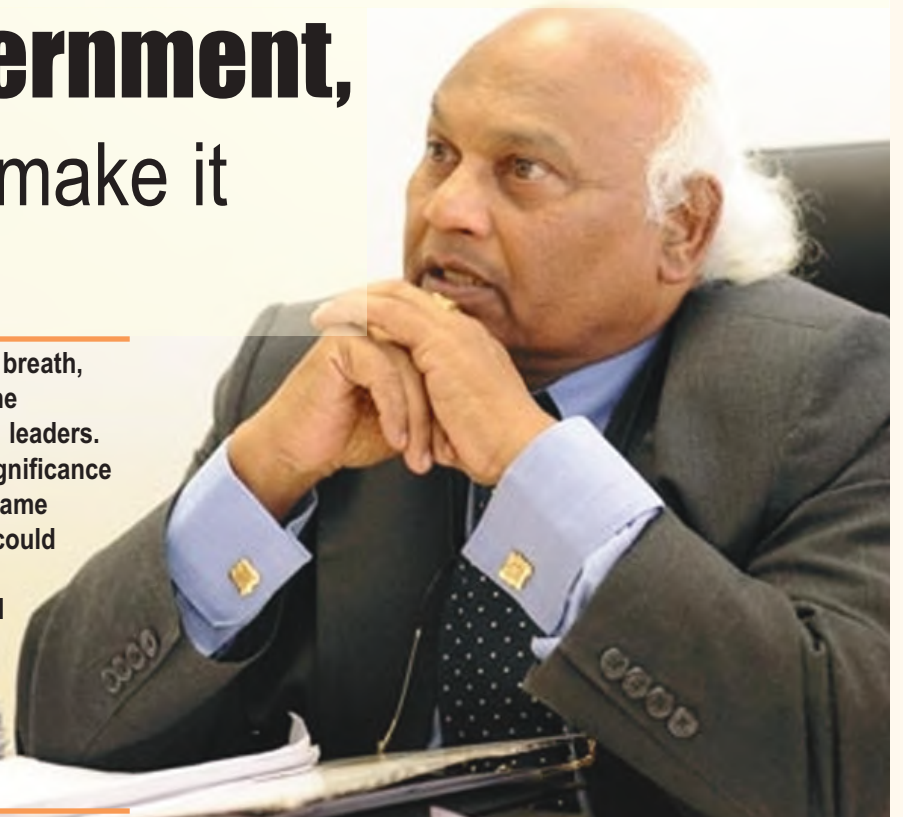
accountability well before 2014. It was veiled by the material abundance of 1983 onwards and the other economic windows that opened up in its wake.

The supply side policies during the 2008 financial crisis have also helped to reignite the economic engine, but the accompanying policy for poverty reduction through the NEF and the CSR did not have the success that we might have expected in spite of the billions invested. I was chairman of the board of the NEF for two years and, unfortunately, I had not enough time to rectify the mistakes of the past and to pave the way forward for a true social integration.

This government has been in place for eight years now and material hardship is on the rise. With the continuing global uncertainties, coupled with the fact that the country is already being pulled down by lack of ownership and responsibility at many institutional levels where accountability has dissipated, the time has come for immediate and responsible actions. The current situation may not be wholly of the making of this government, but eight years in power should make it accountable for its non-action.

*** On the other hand, social media and press comments may not be projecting an objective reflection of what the "masse silencieuse" think about the doings and misdoings of the government. What do you personally think about how the government is running the country, especially with regard to governance issues?**

“I get to meet in my daily interactions with people that come from different backgrounds and who hold different political views; most unfortunately are of the view that the only agenda of the opposition or oppositions is the following: 'Ôte-toi de là que je m'y mette'. When was it the last time that we've been gratified with a visionary plan for the future by the L'Entente de l'Espoir or the Labour Party in relation to education, health, environment, economy, law and order?”



One thing I've learned as from early childhood from my parents of modest means is 'vivre vrai' and to apologise for our mistakes. This is true for individuals as for collectives. Governance is an all-encompassing expression for leadership, good management, accountability and probity within a framework of rules and regulations that define the principles, purposes and processes.

The report of the Director of Audit for year 2021 gives an endless list of shortcomings in governance. Although the rot has started quite a long time back, it's unfortunate that eight years in power has not enabled the present regime to destroy the culture of impunity in the service. The 'masse silencieuse' has evolved significantly and positively. Its measure of awareness is extensive and they are asking the right questions and they are not getting adequate responses. We see reactions instead of actions.

*** Many people you talk to and who say they are unhappy with the way the government is running the country also ask: 'What's the alternative?' How do you respond to that?**

The opposition or oppositions, since we have many of them, are expected to be alternative government or governments in waiting. I get to meet in my daily interactions with people that come from different backgrounds and who hold different political views; most unfortunately are of the view that the only agenda of the opposition or oppositions is the following: 'Ôte-toi de là que je m'y mette'. When was it the last time that we've been gratified with a visionary plan for the future by the L'Entente de l'Espoir or the Labour Party in relation to education, health, environment, economy, law and order?

I think that by and large Westminster democracy in Mauritius has slowly taken a back seat; we only have to watch parliamentary workings, the standard of parliamentary debates, the responses and non-responses to parliamentary questions, the timetabling of proposed legislations and debates, the critiques of the Director of Audit, the state of national strategic institutions, the obvious failure of the party system and the state of the public service... and we know that we are in for a bleak future.

☞ Cont. on page 13

'Communalism, casteism, money politics and an outdated electoral system and other historical issues have made politics what it is today'

☞ Cont. from page 12

The political class is short of breath, and we have yet to witness the emergence of promising national leaders. Most of the political parties of significance in the opposition have kept the same person as leader for years. One could argue that the choice has been made by democratic means, but I frankly have my own doubts about this, because the strength of manipulation of party membership by party leaders is incredible.

This is why I would suggest that to ensure truly democratic parties, the mandate of the Electoral Commission could be expanded to include a framework of rules and regulations governing the registration and management of political parties both at the national and at the constituency levels.

For having been through the process and paid the price for my resistance, I can tell you that anybody standing his ground against a political leader is bound to be kicked out. This is certainly totally undemocratic and against the spirit of the Westminster model we have copied.

We need to amend the Constitution with proposals for an effectively independent electoral framework to ensure that best democratic practices prevail. The call for public funding of political parties can provide a real opportunity for a tradeoff for a democratic framework for the management of political parties.



“With the continuing global uncertainties, coupled with the fact that the country is already being pulled down by lack of ownership and responsibility at many institutional levels where accountability has dissipated, the time has come for immediate and responsible actions. The situation may not be wholly of the making of this government, but eight years in power should make it accountable for its non-action...”

* The Labour Party, the MMM, the PMSD and the late-comer - MSM - have been dominating politics over the past many decades, and the Laquettes, Valaydens, Sunassys and even the Bodhas and Bhadains do not appear to be making much headway. Do you think that despite their disappointments with the mainstream parties and with the so-called 'dinosaurs' heading them, the electorate still find comfort with the *status quo*?

Democracy is a cultural reflex built into our human psyche over time; in Mauritius, we have not had the same time span of 600 years or more as is the case in Great Britain. Our democratic culture is a borrowed one not imprinted in our psyche. The founding fathers of our sovereignty were aware of the cultural exigencies of the Westminster system of governance and were mentally equipped to secure our transition from colony to sovereignty and they were supported by top civil servants who were largely imbued with the same democratic frame of mind. We cannot say the same as regards those who have come afterwards.

The absence of a credible alternative with visionary

policies for an imminent digitalized world society, the power of money politics and occult social considerations will make it hard for a change unless this government pushes public opinion to the brink. However, as matters stand and in the light of what I have already said, this government holds all the keys to its electoral survival. This is said in regard to the situation at this point in time, but we all know that a week is a long time in politics, and it is possible that new forces might emerge and disturb the *status quo*.

* Do you personally take issue with the fact that two families have dominated politics for most of the last 50 years?

We operate within the framework of a rigid Constitution tailored to the measure of SSR and which unfortunately has created a prime ministerial dictatorship because of the immense powers accorded to the Prime Minister.

Communalism, casteism, money politics and an out-

dated electoral system and other historical issues have made politics what it is today. It's hard for me to accept that only two families should hold the monopoly of intelligence and the capacity to run the country; I'm sure that there are many other potential leaders, irrespective of their community and caste belongings, who can aspire to lead this country.

But unfortunately, we are imprisoned in a social, political and constitutional straightjacket that makes it difficult for anybody to rise to the top. Paul Berenger was an exception and we know how this became possible. Allow me to make a parallel with the private sector. For decades, the captains of the sugar industry came from one particular community who happen to be the majority shareholders of the industry, but at least in one major sugar group this has changed; the private sector has decided to make this possible. Let us hope that Mauritians will eventually decide that any Mauritian, whatever his/her creed, class, colour or community, can aspire to become the Prime Minister.

We are living in very complex times and the complexity of governance will continuously increase and will require a standard of acumen and ability which may not necessarily be the preserve of any single individual or group of persons. It is true that we have made tremendous strides forward as a country, but times are changing. New challenges have already emerged and will prove daunting to those at the helm as well as to those aspiring to be there.

“As for the MIC, I have strong reservations about the principle of responding to a critical situation, presumably short-term, by creating a permanent institution and, to add insult to injury, a company funded by the Central Bank, to support ailing private companies. I am not against the principle of support by government to the private sector during times of crisis. I believe it's the duty of the commercial banks to do this job out of their significant reserves amassed during good times...”



To Our Readers

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Our production circumstances have changed since last year with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, 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.

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 67 years.

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● *Half our mistakes in life arise from feeling where we ought to think, and thinking where we ought to feel.* — John Churton Collins

Report of the Electoral Boundary Commission

Correspondence to The Times

(Yesterday's mail brought us the texts of the following letters which appeared in *The Times*, London, in connection with the Report of the Electoral Boundary Commission. Mr Sauzier's letter appeared on the 12th of March and Peter Ibbotson's on the 19th. — Ed.)

To the Editor of *The Times*
Sir,

Your leading article of February 26 on the new constitutional proposals for Mauritius reveals a tragic ignorance of the problem.

You say that the Mauritius Electoral Boundary Commission have "made a bold attempt to cut a way through the jungle of Mauritian politics"; that they have "scrupulously" observed the three principles laid down in the London Agreement; and that the "new constitution has been deliberately steered away from any form of communal voting."

The truth is that, far from being bold, the solution advocated by the Commission is a depressingly conventional one which anybody sitting in London could have proposed without the need to travel 15,000 miles: it is the single-member constituency well known to every single elector in the British Isles. The only variation from that orthodox electoral system is the provision for the appointment of up to 12 nominated members, a provision for which the Commission are not responsible.

As to their "scrupulous" observance of the three main principles of the London Agreement, the fact is that they have broken two of these principles. The first one relates to a system of voting that "should be such as to facilitate the development of voting on grounds of political principle and party rather than on race or religion." In order to achieve this the Commission have divided the country into 40 constituencies based exclusively on racial and religious grounds. We are far from the deliberate intent to "steer away from any form of communal voting".

The second principle is the one which concerns the provision of "adequate opportunity for all main sections of opinion to elect their representatives in numbers broadly corresponding to their own weight in the community." This has been achieved (i) by ignoring the Franco-Mauritians as a main section of opinion (ii) by allowing the Muslims to elect *one* representative instead of five or six, and (iii) by providing

opportunity for Hindu-Mauritians to elect 25 to 27 representatives instead of 21.

The only principle which has not been broken by the Commission is the one relating to universal adult suffrage — this being outside their terms of reference. It is therefore surprising that Mr Lennox-Boyd should have accepted the findings of the Commission; this is nothing short of a complete *volte-face* in view of his previous proposals for proportional representation and his decision to link the introduction of universal adult suffrage with proportional representation "as interdependent parts of an integrated plan," in order "to meet the needs of an extremely complex political, social, and religious situation" — to quote Mr Lennox-Boyd's own words in a dispatch to the Governor of Mauritius in 1956.

The 40 single-member constituencies is positively the worst possible system for Mauritius; it completely ignores the historical background of the colony and its only certain consequence will be to perpetuate racial and religious segregation, encourage hatred and prejudice, and lead to chaos and anarchy.

I can only express the hope that it may not be too late for Mauritius to be spared such a calamity.

Yours faithfully

A. Guy Sauzier,

Member of Legislative Council, Mauritius

* * *

London S.E., 23
12.3.58

To the Editor of *The Times*
Sir,

Mr Guy Sauzier, Member of the Mauritius Legislative Council, whose letter you have published today, is deluding both himself and your readers in his animadversions on the Report of the Mauritius Electoral Boundary Commission.

He alleges that the Commission has "divided the country into 40 constituencies based exclusively on racial and religious grounds". If he will read the Report again, he will see that the basis of the division into 40 single-member constituencies is in accordance with the Commission's terms of reference; and the boundaries of the 40 proposed consti-

ties have been drawn by reference to present local government boundaries. Certainly, the Report lists the ethnic composition of the population in each proposed constituency, but this is for information only and it is made quite clear that the constituencies are not based on racial and religious grounds.

He also alleges that the Franco-Mauritian community has been ignored as a main section of opinion: that the Moslems are "being allowed" to elect 1 member instead of 5 or 6; and that opportunity is provided for the Indo-Mauritians to elect 25 or 27 representatives instead of 21. These allegations indicate a preoccupation (which in some sections of Mauritian society amounts almost to a pathological occupation) with racial considerations, and suggest that Mr Sauzier's judgment on the Report is coloured by his conviction that all voters will vote communally — a conviction which has surely been fully exploded by the last two Legislative Council by-elections.

In any case, if the Commission has "ignored" the Franco-Mauritians as a main section of opinion, it is because of their numerical smallness. Moreover, spokesmen of the Franco-Mauritian community, giving evidence before the Commission, referred to their community and to themselves as being part of the General Population, with which the Commission has therefore naturally included it. And when Mr Sauzier speaks of the Moslems "being allowed" to elect 1 member instead of 5 or 6, and the Indo-Mauritian having opportunity to elect 25-27 instead of 21, he

is referring to the fact that Moslem are in a numerical majority in only 1 of the 40 proposed constituencies, and Indo-Mauritians are in a majority in 27. He seems to think (which recent events have amply demonstrated to be wrong) that **only** a candidate's co-religionists and **all** a candidate's co-religionists, will support that candidate. Mr Sauzier completely ignores political considerations.

Far from exacerbating racial feeling (which anyway plays but little direct part in in Mauritian politics, as an article in the last issue of the *'British Journal of Sociology'* showed), the 40 single-member constituencies will help to reduce it. Only one candidate from each political party will contest each constituency, so that supporters of that party will in many cases have to vote for a candidate of a race or religion different from their own.

Far from meriting blame, the Commission deserves all praise for their imaginative solution to a thorny problem. They had to devise a system which would give all main sections of the population an adequate opportunity to secure representation in the Legislative Council, proportionate to their numbers in the whole community. Election will ensure Coloured and Hindu representation; the device of nomination of up to 12 members will enable under-representation of minority sections to be redressed.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Ibbotson

London Representative, *Mauritius Times*,



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Did governments around the world initially over-react to the Covid-19 pandemic?

● Cont. from page 2

Yet these decisions, often made in a hurry, can lead to human and economic upheaval. Their effects are usually felt over the long term, and they are not given much attention given the real or perceived urgency of the crisis.

Policy over-reaction has been documented in academic research. For example, George W. Bush's ca-tastrophic decision to invade Iraq in 2003 has been presented as a typical example of policy over-reaction, this one in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

In contrast, during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, John F. Kennedy resisted his advisers' call to arms. His actions probably prevented a nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union.

In general, initial responses to what appears to be an alarming threat — whether military, strategic or health-related — are crucial to the peace and prosperity of nations. These initial decisions create "path dependency," as explained by American management studies expert Ian Greener, when past events or decisions influence subsequent behaviour and perceptions.

Reaction to Covid-19

The French Covid-19 containment measures were extreme. France's response attracted worldwide attention, and people around the globe were struck by the image of deserted Paris streets at the onset of the pandemic.

Sweden was one of the first countries to take an opposite approach, resisting the idea of confining its entire population despite a storm of criticism from the international media and a subsequent internal reconsideration within the Swedish government. Despite this, a commission concluded in February 2022 that "Sweden's no-lockdown Covid strategy was broadly correct."

Swedish authorities acted quickly to protect the most vulnerable population segments, but refrained from widespread lockdowns, although the country has had major outbreaks in its retirement residences.

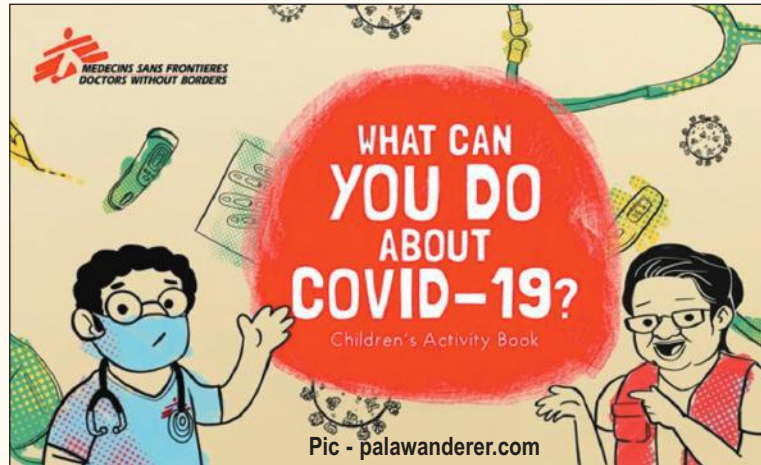
They provided constant information to the public, seeking both co-operation and social approval. The Swedish response has generally been neither better nor worse from a health perspective — as of February 2022, Johns Hopkins University estimated coronavirus-related mortality as 0.6 per cent in France, 0.7 per cent in Sweden, 0.9 per cent in Germany, 1.1 per cent in Canada and 1.2 per cent in the United States.

But Swedish authorities spared Swedes the excesses of mass confinement.

Decision-making during crises

The 1960 behavioural sciences theory known as "dis-jointed incrementalism" holds that when cause-and-effect relationships are uncertain or unknown — when there's no way of knowing how decisions will affect behaviour — broad policies are more appropriate when they first consist of small decisions, made in sequence, step by step, to facilitate learning, adjustment and avoid over-commitment. It also argues decisions should involve input from all interested groups to benefit from collective experience.

Our research suggests emotions, particularly fear,



can derail rational decision-making, a phenomenon widely documented in psychological literature. When it affects entire populations, fear can fuel "crowd behaviour."

In his book *Crowds and Power*, the British-German writer Elias Canetti, a Nobel Prize winner for literature, argued that people devolve into pack behaviour when frightened, and they become easy to manipulate. Irrational behaviour that would not normally occur individually is common in crowds, according to Canetti.

In the case of Covid-19, fear likely influenced crowd behaviour. Anxiety about the coronavirus among citizens was likely one of the factors that helped prevent any policy adjustment or correction. Instead, it led to further tightening of rules.

What's known as institutional isomorphism may have also contributed to lockdown decisions. That's when the institutional environment — laws, norms, culture and practices — pushes people and organizations into similar behaviour to justify their actions.

Health-only advice

Faced with uncertainty, pressure from the media and frightened populations, national leaders sometimes follow each other's lead, cementing an over-reaction and taking more action — sometimes questionable — to justify and enforce their decisions. But in the case of Covid-19, the process of justification and implementation often

relied on health-only advice and group think, while disregarding social sciences.

It's not wise, in our opinion, when making decisions about the well-being of entire populations, to neglect the views of psychologists, sociologists, historians, organizational theorists and other scientists.

We highlight five measures to limit the effects of negative emotions and institutional isomorphism in emergency crisis management:

1. Adopt an incremental decision-making approach to allow for learning;
2. Decentralize response decision-making;
3. Ensure open communication and listen to civil society input;
4. Build balanced decision-making structures, involving a wide range of scientific experts, but also concerned societal leaders;
5. Ensure true evidence-based management, taking into account the various aspects of an emergency crisis.

Covid-19 has undoubtedly been a significant threat for countries around the world.

But large-scale crises are difficult to manage precisely because people can react emotionally. To maintain control, it's essential to guard against extreme policy decisions that are difficult to assess and implement.

Minimizing the negative emotions, especially fear, that are generated by these crises — and providing reassurance — help control behaviour, earn public support and improve the decision-making process.

That said, in no way do we minimize the difficulty of managing such a crisis. In this vein, we recognize that governments have handled the pandemic not only to reduce the number of deaths, but also to avoid the saturation of health systems, weakened by the surge of Covid-19 cases.

Sofiane Baba, Assistant Professor in Strategic Management, University of Sherbrooke & Taïeb Hafs, Prof in in Strategic Management, HEC Montreal

Every day early morning a little girl would come to the temple and stand before the Murti, close her eyes and with folded hands, murmur something for a couple of minutes, then open her eyes, bow down, smile and go out running. This was a daily affair.

The temple Pujari was observing her and was curious about what she was doing. He realised that she was too young to know the deeper meaning of religion & that she would hardly know any prayers. But then what was she doing every morning in the temple?

A few days passed and Pujari now couldn't resist but to find out

Spirituality

more about her behaviour.

One morning, the Pujari reached there before the girl and was waiting for her to complete her Prayer. He placed his hand on her head and said, "My child, I have been seeing you since the last few days. You come here regularly. What do you do?"

"I pray," she said spontaneously.

"Do you know any prayers?" asked the Pujari with some suspicion in his voice.

"... No" Replied the girl.

"Then what are you doing

closing your eyes every day?" he smiled.

Very innocently the girl said: "I do not know any prayer, but I know 'a, b, c, d... up to z.' 'I recite it five times' and tell Bhagawan that," I don't know your prayer, but it cannot be outside of these alphabets." Please arrange the alphabets as you wish and that is my prayer."

And she ran, jumping on her way out.

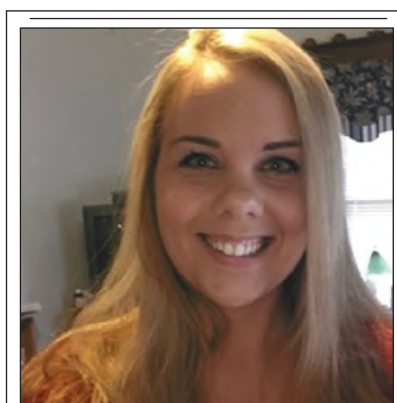
The Pujari stood there dumb-struck, staring at her for a long time as she disappeared running in the wilderness.

This is the unconditional belief in Bhagan that we pray

Beer and spirits have more detrimental effects on the waistline... and on cardiovascular disease risk than red or white wine



Research has been inconclusive on the degree to which drinking alcohol leads to the growth of harmful fat. But a new study suggests that beer and spirits are far bigger culprits than wine.



Brittany Larsen,
Iowa State University

The big idea

Drinking beer and spirits is linked to elevated levels of visceral fat – the harmful type of fat that is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, and other health complications – whereas drinking wine shows no such association with levels of this harmful fat and may even be protective against it, depending on the type of wine consumed. In fact, we found that drinking red wine is linked to having lower levels of visceral fat. These are some of the key takeaways of a new study that my colleagues and I recently published in the *Obesity Science & Practice* journal.

Although white wine consumption did not influence levels of visceral fat, our study did show that drinking white wine in moderation might offer its own unique health benefit for older adults: denser bones. We found higher bone mineral density among older adults who drank white wine in moderation in our study. And

we did not find this same link between beer or red wine consumption and bone mineral density.

Our study relied on a large-scale longitudinal database called the U.K. Biobank. We assessed 1,869 white adults ranging in age from 40 to 79 years who reported demographic, alcohol, dietary and lifestyle factors via a touchscreen questionnaire. Next, we collected height, weight and blood samples from each participant and obtained body composition information using a direct measure of body composition called dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry. Then, we used a statistical program to examine the relationships among the types of alcoholic beverages and body composition.

Why it matters

Aging is often accompanied by an increase in the problematic fat that can lead to heightened cardiovascular disease risk as well as by a reduction in bone mineral density. This has important health implications given that nearly 75% of adults in the U.S. are considered overweight or obese. Having higher levels of body fat has been consistently linked to an increased risk for acquiring many different diseases, including cardiovascular disease, certain types of cancer, and a higher risk of death. And it's worth noting that

national medical care costs associated with treating obesity-related diseases total more than US\$260.6 billion annually.

Considering these trends, it is vital for researchers like us to examine all the potential contributors to weight gain so that we can determine how to combat the problem. Alcohol has long been considered one possible driving factor for the obesity epidemic. Yet the public often hears conflicting information about the potential risks and benefits of alcohol. Therefore, we hoped to help untangle some of these factors through our research.

What still isn't known

There are many biological and environmental factors that contribute to being overweight or obese. Alcohol consumption may be one factor, although there are other studies that have not found clear links between weight gain and alcohol consumption.

One reason for the inconsistencies in the literature could stem from the

fact that much of the previous research has traditionally treated alcohol as a single entity rather than separately measuring the effects of beer, cider, red wine, white wine, Champagne and spirits. Yet, even when broken down in this way, the research yields mixed messages.

For example, one study has suggested that drinking more beer contributes to a higher waist-to-hip ratio, while another study concluded that, after one month of drinking moderate levels of beer, healthy adults did not experience any significant weight gain.

As a result, we've aimed to further tease out the unique risks and benefits that are associated with each alcohol type. Our next steps will be to examine how diet – including alcohol consumption – could influence diseases of the brain and cognition in older adults with mild cognitive impairment.

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CHANGE OF COMPANY NAME

Notice is hereby given that **La Patisserie Divine Ltd** has changed its name to **Patisserie Divine Ltd** on the **05th of November 2021**, following the due approval of directors and shareholders and Registrar of Companies. All stakeholders are required to take note of the above information.

By order of the Board of Directors
19th April 2022

Hindu Prabhat Sangh

The Annual General Meeting of **Hindu Prabhat Sangh** will be held on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 6.00 p.m. at Prabhat Hall, RameshwarMandir, Grand-Baie.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes of last AGM.
2. Matters arising.
3. Finance.
4. Amendments to rules / motions (if any).
5. President's Report.
6. Election/ reshuffling of office-bearers (if any).
7. AOB.

18.04.2022

SECRETARY



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Home



Motor car



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Lorries

The hype over medical marijuana may be exaggerated, researchers find

Obtaining a medical marijuana card (MMC) to use cannabis products to treat pain, anxiety, or depression symptoms led to the onset of cannabis use disorder (CUD) in a significant minority of individuals while failing to improve their symptoms, according to a study by Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) researchers and published in JAMA Network Open. This suggests the need for stronger safeguards over the dispensing, use, and professional follow-up of people who legally obtain cannabis through MMCs.

Says lead author Jodi Gilman, PhD, with the Centre for Addiction Medicine at MGH: "In this first study of patients randomized to obtain medical marijuana cards, we learned that people with pain, anxiety or depression symptoms failed to report any improvements, though those with insomnia experienced improved sleep." Particularly disturbing to Gilman was the fact individuals with symptoms of anxiety or depression -- the most common conditions for which medical cannabis is sought -- were most vulnerable to developing cannabis use disorder. CUD symptoms include the need for more cannabis to overcome drug tolerance, and continued use despite physical or psychological problems caused by the cannabis."

"Medical" cannabis has surged in popularity as 36 US states and the District of Columbia have commercialized its use (as of December 2021) for myriad health conditions through medical marijuana cards. These cards

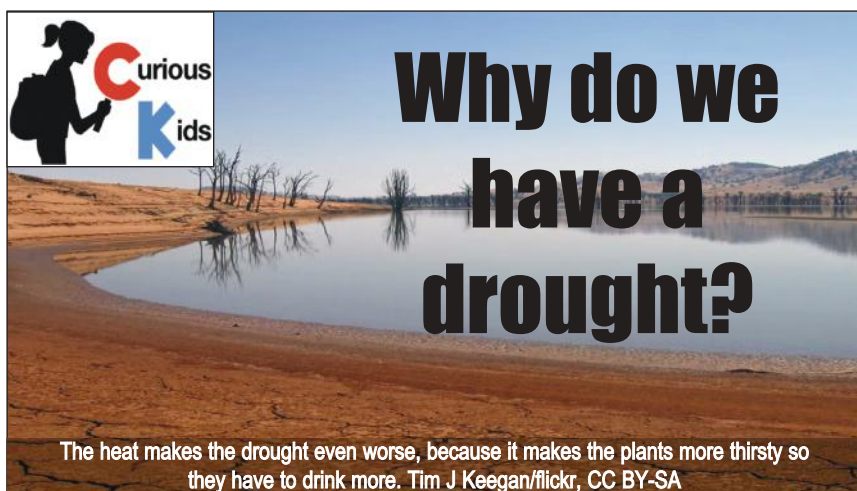


require written approval of a licensed physician who, under the current system, is typically not the patient's primary care provider but a "cannabis doctor" who may provide authorization to patients with only a cursory examination, no recommendations for alternative treatments, and no follow-up. Indeed, the medical marijuana industry functions outside regulatory standards that apply to most fields of medicine.

MGH researchers began their trial in 2017 with 269 adults (average age of 37) from the greater Boston area who were interested in obtaining a medical marijuana card. One group was allowed to get MMCs immediately, while the second group, designed to serve as a control, was asked to wait 12 weeks before obtaining a card. Both groups were

tracked over 12 weeks. The team found that the odds of developing CUD were nearly two times higher in the MMC cohort than in the wait list control group, and that by week 12, 10% of the MMC group had developed a CUD diagnosis, with the number rising to 20 percent in those seeking a card for anxiety or depression.

Regardless of the specific health condition for which cannabis is sought, Gilman believes that regulation and distribution of cannabis to people with medical marijuana cards must be greatly improved. "There needs to be better guidance to patients around a system that currently allows them to choose their own products, decide their own dosing, and often receive no professional follow-up care."



In some places it is pretty normal if it doesn't rain for a long time, like in the desert. But even they still need a little bit of rain sometimes.

When it rains, some of the water goes into the ground. That keeps the plants in your backyard, on the farms and in nature happy, because they can drink water from the soil with their roots. Some water can trickle really deep into the ground, but we can still pump that groundwater from wells when we need it.

Another part of the rain goes into the rivers and that is really important too. When you open the tap at home,

the water comes all the way from the river. The fish also need the river water, and the farmers need some of it to grow our food.

So as you can see, all of us need water: at home, on the farms and in nature. When we don't have enough water left for the people, plants and animals to stay healthy, then we call that a drought.

But why?

Maybe you want to know why it doesn't rain? Because that is also a really good question.

Most rain comes from the sea.

We need the wind to bring the clouds with the rain to us. But sometimes the wind can blow the wrong way for a long time, and then we don't get that rain.

Then it can also get really hot, like in the summer holidays we just had. It also gets hotter because we are making our planet warmer. The heat makes the drought even worse, because it makes the plants more thirsty so they have to drink more.

We can't make it rain. But we can try to make sure we have enough water to keep everyone and everything healthy. You are already helping if you don't use more water from the tap than you need.

You can also talk to your parents about the planet getting warmer. With their help there is a lot we can do about that, too. For example, when they get to choose a government they can pick a person who really wants to fix it. And when you grow up, so can you!

Albert Van Dijk

Professor, Water and Landscape Dynamics, Fenner School of Environment & Society, Australian National University

Union of Employees of the Trust Fund For Specialised Medical Care

The Annual General Meeting of **Union of Employees of the Trust Fund For Specialised Medical Care** will be held on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 12.00 p.m. at Prabhat Hall, HPS, Royal Rd, Grand-Baie.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes of last AGM.
2. Matters arising.
3. Finance.
4. Amendments to rules / motions (if any).
5. President's Report.
6. Election/ reshuffling of office-bearers (if any).
7. AOB.

18.04.2022

SECRETARY

Federation of Democratic Labour Unions

The Annual General Meeting of **Federation of Democratic Labour Unions** will be held on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 12.00 p.m. at MTUC Office, GRNW, Port-Louis.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes of last AGM.
2. Matters arising.
3. Finance.
4. Amendments to rules / motions (if any).
5. President's Report.
6. Election/ reshuffling of office-bearers (if any).
7. AOB.

18.04.2022

GENERAL SECRETARY

Federation of Local Government and Other Labour Unions

The Annual General Meeting of **Federation of Local Government and Other Labour Unions** will be held on Saturday 14 May 2022 at noon p.m. at MTUC Office, GRNW, Port-Louis.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes of last AGM.
2. Matters arising.
3. Finance.
4. Amendments to rules / motions (if any).
5. President's Report.
6. Election/ reshuffling of office-bearers (if any).
7. AOB.

18.04.2022

GENERAL SECRETARY

Moka District Council Employees Union

The Annual General Meeting of **Moka District Council Employees Union** will be held on Saturday 14 May 2022 at 10.00 a.m. at Petit Verger Social Hall, St Pierre.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes of last AGM.
2. Matters arising.
3. Finance.
4. Amendments to rules / motions (if any).
5. President's Report.
6. Election/ reshuffling of office-bearers (if any).
7. AOB.

18.04.2022

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LAUGHTER is the best medicine Consulting charges

A doctor was chatting at a party with a chartered accountant (CA).

He asked, "How do I manage this delicate issue when people even at a party like this ask me about their joint pains and heartburn and gas trouble. Just because I am a doctor... not fair!"

The CA friend replied coolly, "Just tell them the right things politely but send them a bill from your clinic the next morning... only once! Word will soon get around and it will stop immediately!"

"Wow! Thanks for the tip, said the doctor."

Next morning the doctor got a bill from his CA friend, "Consulting charges for business development."

Insults coated with humour

Insults, when coated with humour and wit, make for a great combination

She has a supreme court figure --- no appeal.

He is a real big gun -- of small calibre and immense bore.

She dresses to kill -- and cooks the same way.

He was a premature baby. He was born before his parents were married.

He was born in United States. Terrible things happen in other countries too.



His obesity is surplus gone to waist.

He left his job because of illness and fatigue -- his boss was sick and tired of him.

His credit is so bad, he cannot even borrow trouble.

He kept learning more and more about less and less, until now he knows everything about nothing.

What he lacks in intelligence, he makes up in stupidity.

He may talk like a fool and act like a fool, but don't get

the wrong idea about him -- he is a fool.

It is not that he does not have presence of mind, his trouble is absence of thought.

Her photographs do her injustice -- they look like her.

He is as phoney as a dentist's smile.

He started out in life as an unwanted child; now he is wanted in 10 states.

She has a keen sense of rumour.

He is jack of all trades, and out of work in all of them.

They are in iron and steel industry -- she irons the clothes, and he steals.

She thought she was getting a model husband -- too bad he is not a working model.

He is so boring; he cannot even entertain a doubt.

He gave a very moving performance. Everyone moved towards the exit door.

Q: What did the triangle say to the circle? A: "You're pointless!"

A man walks into a bar and sees a pianist, who is only one foot tall, playing the piano. He talks to the bartender and says, "That's amazing! Where did you find a 12 inch pianist?"

The bartender replies, "Oh, I have a genie in the back room who grants wishes. Give it a try if you want."

The man goes to the genie and says, "Oh genie, I wish I had a 100 million bucks." The genie nods his head and a few seconds later there's a puff of smoke and 100 million ducks fly over the man's head.

The man goes back to the bartender and complains, "I wished for 100 million bucks, not 100 million ducks!"

And the bartender says, "Do you really think I wished for a 12 inch pianist?"

That's Life

Confucius said

Two things in life that are difficult to achieve:

1. To plant your idea in someone's head.
2. To plant someone's money in your own pocket.

Those who succeed in planting their idea in someone's head, we call Lao Shi (teacher).

Those who succeed in planting someone's money in their own pocket, we call Lao Ban (boss).

The one who succeeds in both, we call Lao Po (wife).

The one who fails in both, we call Lao Gong (husband).

Those who understand this message, we call Lao Lang (old person). Wise with the years.

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Life's Lessons

Never forget your friends

Many years ago, after I got married, I was sitting on a couch on a hot, humid day, sipping frozen juice during a visit to my father.

As I talked about adult life, marriage, responsibilities, and obligations, my father thoughtfully stirred the ice cubes in his glass and cast a clear, sober look at me.

"Never forget your friends," he advised, "they will become more important as you get older. Regardless of how much you love your family and the children you happen to have, you will always need friends. Remember to go out with them occasionally, do activities with them, call them..."

What strange advice! I thought. I just entered the married world; I am an adult and surely my wife and the family that we will start will be everything I need to make sense of my life.

Yet I obeyed him; kept in touch with my friends and annually increased their number. Over the years, I became aware that my father



knew what he was talking about!

In as much as time and nature carry out their designs and mysteries on a man, friends are the bulwarks of his life.

After 50 years of life, here is what I learned:

Time passes.

Life goes on.

The distances increase.

Children grow up and become independent and although it breaks the parents' heart but they are often separated from them.

Jobs come and go. Illusions, desires, attractions weaken.

People do what they should not do.

The parents die.

Colleagues forget the favours.

The races are over.

But true friends are always there, no matter how long or how many miles they are.

A friend is never more distant than the reach of a need, reaching out to you intervening in your favour, waiting for you with open arms or with blessings for your life.

When we started this adventure called LIFE, we did not know of the incredible joys or sorrows that were ahead.

We did not know how much we would need from one another.

Love your parents, take care of your children, but keep a group of good friends.

Relationship

Ways to deal with social anxiety

Dealing with social anxiety is very tough. Being unable to mix well with people pushes you towards an isolated corner that is almost impossible to survive in. Sometimes when it gets tough, it is absolutely alright to reach out for help. It isn't easy to tolerate social anxiety by yourself. But taking little steps will help you be more comfortable and social around people. Here are some ways to build confidence if you have social anxiety.

Talk positively to yourself

Practise talking to yourself in the sweetest way possible. Don't let negative thoughts get into your head. Practise saying positive things and affirmations that help you feel better and elevated. Motivate yourself by saying things that you want to do or be better at.

**Think about your achievements**

Don't degrade yourself into thinking that you don't matter. Instead, think about your past achievements and what has pulled you up so far. These little moments of motivation will help you realise you are capable of doing greater things.

Accept compliments more often

When people say how good you look or how well you countered a decision, accept their compliments. Compliments are meant to make you feel good about yourself. Listen to others and also thank them for their compliments and feedback.

Good posture

Practise good posture because it helps amping up your personality to a great extent. When you sit or stand up straight, it oozes confidence. When you let your shoulders slump or close off, it will give off a very timid or meek energy.

Setting goals

Learn to set small goals at the beginning so that it is achievable. Don't pressurise yourself by setting huge goals because that can get overwhelming at first. You might even get negative thoughts, so it's necessary to take baby steps first.

Should I check my husband's phone without his knowledge?

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

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

Shahzeen Shivdasani who is a Relationship Expert & Millennial Author of the book 'Love, Lust and Lemon' and Varsha L Tripath attempt to debunk this mystery. They have a lot to say about whether it is right or not to check your husband's phone without his knowledge. A report by



Times of India:

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

In a marriage, two people have

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

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

Becoming a better you

Lessons we learn too late in life

We often realise things too late in life. These realisations can cost us many choices, decisions and preferences. These lessons teach us so much about life and lead us to think about every aspect very deeply and differently. But sometimes opportunities don't stay forever. And if we are too late in realising things we should have, these opportunities slip right past us. Here are some lessons that people tend to learn too late in life, as reported by TOI.

You have to work very hard

If you want to achieve something different in life, you have to work hard. And not just a little, but you will probably have to work 10 times harder than everyone else. You have to sacrifice nights of fun to study and go the extra mile, even when you can't.

There lies fear beneath the anger

Whenever you fear something,



you will start hating it more. And then comes frustration, anger, resentment, etc. Letting go of the fear deep-ridden in your heart will help you rise above hate – and this is necessary to move ahead in life.

Everything takes practice

Things aren't going to turn up the way as it is unless you practise. Practice makes you perfect and this can't be stressed enough. Your emotions also need practice if you trying to be a more empathetic or a forgiving person. Your daily habits and practice determine who you are.

Balance is everything in life

Every person has a motive hid-

den behind their actions. You have to care for yourself no matter how many people are after you to make things difficult for you. But if you learn to balance emotions and learn the art of give and take, life can be smooth for you. Don't exhaust yourself trying to give all of you.

Experiences are important

Don't cower away from experiencing emotions and different things in life. Experiences are what makes you. You grow, learn and become a whole new person with the help of experiences. Those who stay within their comfort zone leave behind the very essence of life-experiences.

Anupamaa Cast Educational Qualifications:

Do you know Rupali Ganguly has hotel management degree and Sudhanshu Pandey wanted to be army officer?

Anupamaa starring Rupali Ganguly, Sudhanshu Pandey and Madalsa Sharma has managed to keep audiences glued to their TV screens with interesting twists and high-voltage drama. The unique storyline and plot has grabbed many eyeballs and managed to keep itself in TRP top five charts. But, do you know Rupali aka Anupamaa, who is shown as uneducated housewife in the show, has a degree in hotel management in real life. On the other hand, Sudhanshu aka Vanraj has graduated from army school. Here India.com brings you the qualifications of the cast of the popular show.

Rupali Ganguly is shown as an uneducated housewife on the show, who could not speak English. But in real life, she is graduated from hotel management school.

Sudhanshu Pandey aka Vanraj wanted to become an army officer and he passed out from the Army school. But luck played its part when he was 19-years-old and got a modelling opportunity.

Madalsa Sharma, who plays the negative role of Kavya, is BA graduate in English Literature.



Aashish Mehrotra, who plays the role of Anupamaa's elder son Paritosh Shah, pursued Bachelor of Business Administration but had to drop out soon. He was also into choreography for 12 years.

Nidhi Shah, who plays the role of Kinjal Shah, has a bachelor degree in Commerce and post-graduation degree in fashion designing.

Rushad Rana aka Anirudh Gandhi has a bachelor's degree of Art in Philosophy. He is also a professional photographer.

Tasneem Sheikh, who plays the role of Rakhi Dave, holds a

degree of software engineering. She had also stated earlier that if she had not been an actor, she would have been part of Naturopathy or Ayurveda.

Paras Kalnawat aka Samar has earned Bachelor of Commerce degree and later went to Mumbai to pursue acting as career. He completed his dance diploma from Trencé Lewis academy and also has an acting diploma from Barry John Acting School. He won the title of Mr. Multimedia (most popular model of 2016) in the Elite model look 2016. He then entered the modelling industry.

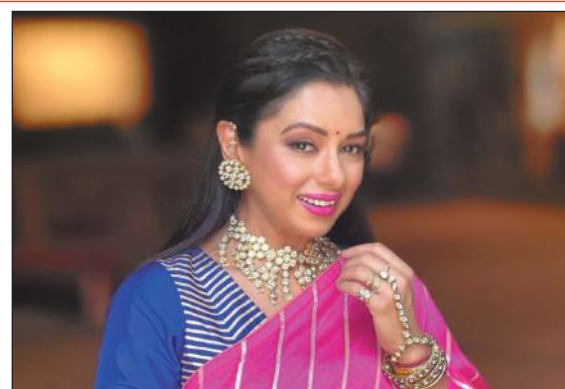
Rupali Ganguly is set to teach dance in America

In the prequel to her popular show, Rupali Ganguly reprises the titular role of Anupamaa and is set to go to the Americas to teach dance.

Rupali Ganguly, who plays the lead role in the popular TV show, *Anupamaa*, has shared the teaser of her upcoming show titled *Anupamaa: Namaste America*. The new show will stream online on Disney+ Hotstar and will show the early married life of Rupali's character, *Anupamaa*. The TV show *Anupamaa* is based on Star Jalsha's Bengali series *Sreemoyee*.

The teaser opened to Anupamaa practising her English-speaking skills. Her mother-in-law taunted her for her slow pace at learning the language. "I want to go Umrica, for...", Rupali said before she forgot what came next. The mother-in-law laughed as she told her, "If you learn English at this speed of a tortoise, you may never get a visa for America."

Ba then addressed Samar and said that she will tell him a story, that of a tortoise and a rabbit. Rupali's mother-in-law interrupted to remind her



that she has told the story many times, but she said she will continue to do so till the time the mom-in-law remembers that it is the tortoise that wins the race eventually.

Another promotional video for the show revealed that Anupamaa wants to go to America and teach dance. Ba and Anupamaa were seen buying vegetables when an acquaintance met them and said, "I have heard Anupamaa wants to go America and teach dance? Is it a good thing for a woman of a reputed household?" Ba cracked a joke at his expense and said, "Dhyan se, gir gayi na. Apki soch. Ho sake to utha lijiye (Be careful, you stooped too low. Get up if possible)."

Ba was also seen defending Anupamaa in another promo where some visitors wondered who'd take care of the kids in Anupamaa's absence. Ba reminded them that it takes a mother and a father to bring kids to life.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Handsome profits accrue in a venture undertaken by you. You will not only start a new diet regime, but also continue it. Family life runs smoothly and is likely to keep you happily engaged. Your visit to a distant place proves fruitful, as you manage to achieve your aim.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 11, 14, 17, 18

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Betting and speculation is best left alone, as you stand to lose. Your predictions about an outcome may be proved right on the professional front. A change of scene through a short vacation or local trip is possible. Property or wealth may be inherited by some.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 17, 20, 21, 23, 26

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

A gift in the form of cash cannot be ruled out. You may turn your focus towards health and become fit. A short break from the routine is indicated and will prove most refreshing and rejuvenating. Savings will come in use for buying a new gadget or automobile.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 24, 26, 29, 30, 36

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Some fresh ground may be broken on the professional front. Newlyweds can expect a blissful existence. A chance of going abroad for studies becomes a reality for some. This is the right time to realise your dream on the academic front.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 17, 16, 30, 36, 40

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Those earning big bucks are likely to get a chance to splurge on their favourite stuff. You will be more than willing to try out a new health recipe. A peaceful atmosphere at home will help you in relaxing with your loved one. You may be longing for a vacation to someplace exotic.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 17, 20, 26, 30

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

A remote possibility of earning big bucks will soon turn to reality. Learning something new at work may get you all excited. Some of you may be on the verge of adopting a healthy lifestyle. Those bitten by the travel bug may start planning a vacation. Now is the time to invest in property.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 20, 18, 30, 33, 39

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Putting money in a financial scheme will be a step in the right direction. Those afflicted with lifestyle diseases will find their condition improving. Business development personnel will achieve a breakthrough in winning an overseas contract.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 12, 14, 19, 20, 36

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Profits accrue in an investment done in the past. A fruit and juice diet will help in bringing the system in line. This is the time to spend with the family at an exotic holiday resort. A car or a dream house is about to become a reality for some.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 8, 14, 19, 20, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Past arrears are likely to bring immense financial relief to some. Being contented with your lot will provide stability and peace of mind. Celebrating an achievement of a child or sibling is on the cards. This is not the day to sit idle, so plan something exciting!

Lucky Numbers: 11, 20, 23, 25, 27, 30

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Money may come to you from a most unexpected source. Engineers and police personnel may get a chance to prove their mettle. Health remains satisfactory through own efforts. A piece of good news is likely to spread happiness in the family. An overseas journey is indicated.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 12, 18, 21, 31, 34

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

A friend is likely to support you monetarily, if such a situation arises. Regular sweat outs will soon get you back into shape. Homemakers will reap rich benefits from tight budgeting. You may have to postpone a trip or task, but you will find yourself in full control of something that you previously avoided.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 16, 17, 28, 37, 39

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Those vacating office on retirement are likely to feel a bit stagnated. Fresh country air and unencumbered mind will make stress disappear. Find solace at home surrounded by family members. A great opportunity to own property may come to you. Your efforts on the academic front will bear fruit.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 12, 17, 25, 30

Katrina Kaif sparks pregnancy rumours

Katrina Kaif, who got married to Vicky Kaushal last December, recently sparked pregnancy rumours after being spotted at the Mumbai airport, reports Gulf News.

Several videos of the 'Bang Bang' actor recently surfaced online in which she was seen donning a loose pastel pink suit paired with a matching dupatta.

Blame it on the bad camera angle, Katrina's get up or her slightly slow-paced walk, netizens started to speculate on social media if the actor was pregnant.

One user wrote, "Mommy to be soon! Can't wait to see Katrina's child," another shared, "She looks pregnant! Oh my god!". A third



person wrote, "Pregnant I think."

Katrina and Vicky, after dating discreetly for nearly two years, finally tied the knot at the Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan on December 9 last year. They hosted an intimate wedding ceremony, which was attended by close friends and family members.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Katrina will be back on the silver screen with the third installment of the 'Tiger' franchise, co-starring Salman Khan and Emraan Hashmi.

She would also feature in 'Jee Le Zara', co-starring Alia Bhatt and Priyanka Chopra, and 'Merry Christmas' with South superstar Vijay Sethupati.

Apart from this, Katrina has also been working on the horror-comedy 'Phone Bhoot' alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi and Ishaan Khatter.

Priyanka Chopra's Hollywood film 'It's All Coming Back to Me' to release in February 2023

Initially titled 'Text For You', Priyanka Chopra-starrer 'It's All Coming Back to Me' is based on the 2016 German film 'SMS fur Dich' by Karoline Herfurth, Variety reported.



In the project, Priyanka will be seen playing the role of a woman struggling to move on from the death of her fiancé. To cope, she begins sending messages to his old phone number, which has been reassigned to a new man, played by Sam Heughan. The two meet and develop a connection based on their shared heartbreak.

Celine Dion is also a part of 'It's All Coming Back to Me', which is named after Jim Steinman's power ballad 'It's All Coming Back to Me Now'.

Apart from 'It's All Coming Back to Me', Priyanka will also feature in the Russo Brothers' 'Citadel' show.



One film has led me to another one: Mrunal Thakur on her Bollywood journey

Mrunal Thakur says her journey in Bollywood has been a "beautiful" and "organic" process of one film leading her to other interesting projects. The actor, who made her Hindi movie debut in 2018 with 'Love Sonia', a hard-hitting drama on human trafficking, has worked with top stars such as a Hrithik Roshan in 'Super 30', 'Batla House' and 'Toofan' with actors John Abraham and Farhan Akhtar, respectively.

Thakur, 29, will next be seen opposite Shahid Kapoor in 'Jersey' and the actor hopes filmmakers continue to trust her.

"My big ticket to Bollywood was

'Love Sonia' and this is the film that the majority of people have not seen. The best thing is that the film did so well in the international film circuits that all the filmmakers that I have worked with have watched the film.

"The reason I got 'Batla House' was because of 'Love Sonia'. Nikkhil Advani was on the jury at the Melbourne Indian Film Festival and 'Love Sonia' was the opening film. He saw my performance and cast me for 'Batla House'," Thakur told PTI in an interview.

While she was dubbing for 'Batla House', Advani spoke to filmmaker Rakesh Omprakash Mehra when he was casting for 'Toofan'.

"So, one film has led me to another one and it has been a beautiful process. I think my journey has been organic. I would like to thank the makers of 'Love Sonia' for casting me because of that film I am actually existing in Bollywood," she said.

Thakur said her journey as an actor in Bollywood may seem short as her first Hindi feature released in 2018, but she has been working in the television industry before.

"I started working towards my

dream from the age of 17 and today I am 29. I am happy that all the films that I have done in three-four years are coming back-to-back so it may seem like a short journey but it is not.

"It took me actually eight years to reach where I am today," Thakur, who has acted in TV shows like 'Mujhse Kuchh Kehti... Yeh Khamoshiyaan', 'Kumkum Bhagya', said.

Thakur said she believes in going with the flow and is flexible with what she does next.

"I don't have any inhibitions or timelines. I want to work with new directors, new actors and in different languages. That's why I am doing a Telugu film. If I get an opportunity to work in French or Spanish films, I will do it," she added.

'Jersey', presented by Allu Arvind and backed by Aman Gill, Dil Raju, S Naga Vamsi, is set to release on April 24.

Thakur's slate is filled with projects such as Ronnie Screwvala-produced war-drama 'Pippa', a comedy with director Umesh Shukla 'Aankh Micholi', Hindi remake of 2019's Tamil movie 'Thadam', titled 'Gumrah' and Hanu Raghavpudi's Telugu movie with Dulquer Salmaan.

Coastal Resorts and Small Enterprises Employees Union

The Annual General Meeting of **Coastal Resorts and Small Enterprises Employees Union** will be held on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 10.00 a.m. at Prabhat Hall, HPS, Royal Rd, Grand-Baie.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes of last AGM.
2. Matters arising.
3. Finance.
4. Amendments to rules / motions (if any).
5. President's Report.
6. Election/ reshuffling of office-bearers (if any).
7. AOB.

18.04.2022

SECRETARY

Cinema Sira

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

HINDI MOVIE KASHMIR FILES

Friday 22 April 2022 - 20:15
 Saturday 23 April 2022 - 13:15
 Sunday 24 April 2022 - 16:15
 Monday 25, Wednesday 27 and
 Thursday 28 April 2022 - 13:15



TAMIL MOVIE BEAST (Subtitled in English)

Friday 22 April 2022 - 13:15
 Sunday 24 April 2022 - 13:15
 Monday 25 April 2022 - 20:15
 Tuesday 26 April 2022 - 13.15 / 20:15
 Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28 April 2022 - 20:15

ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN

The Annual General Meeting of Alliance for Children will be held on Saturday 7 May 2022 at 11:00 hrs at 9, Britannia Park Vacoas.

AGENDA:

1. Reading and Approval of Last Minutes of Proceedings
2. President Report
3. Treasurer Report
4. Approval of Audited Annual Accounts 2021
5. Approval of Budget Estimate and Expenditure 2022/2023
6. Approval of Future Projects/Investment
7. AOB

Secretary

CHILDREN FOUNDATION

The Annual General Meeting of Children Foundation will be held on Saturday 7 May 2022 at 10:00 hrs at 9, Britannia Park Vacoas.

AGENDA

1. Reading and Approval of Last Minutes of Proceedings
2. President Report
3. Treasurer Report
4. Approval of Audited Annual Accounts 2021
5. Approval of Budget Estimate and Expenditure 2022/2023
6. Approval of Future Projects/Investment
7. AOB

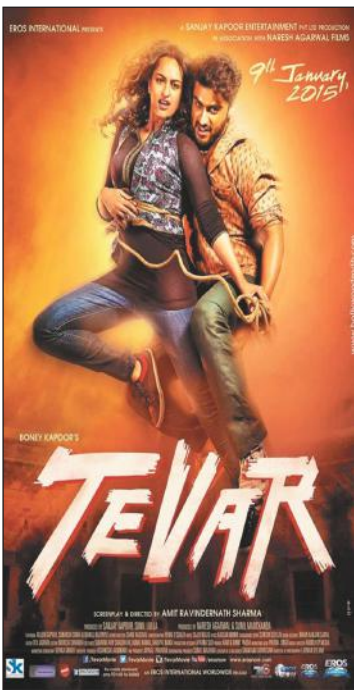
Secretary



vendredi 22 avril - 21.15



samedi 23 avril - 21.00



dimanche 24 avril - 21.15



Programme TV



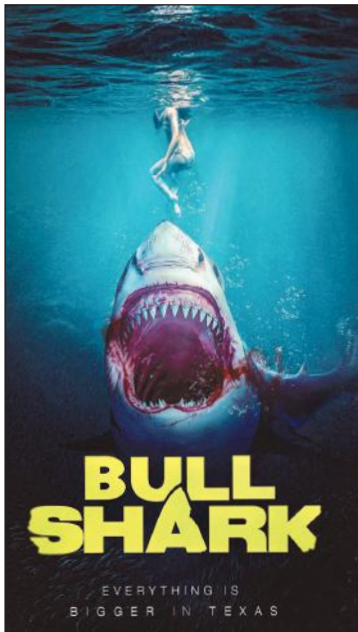
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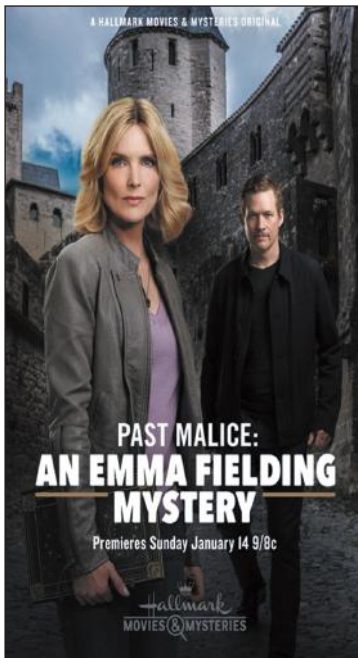
	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 22 avril	07.00 Local: Zanfa Nou Zil 09.00 D.Anime: The Story Of Book... 10.30 Serial: Les Copains Carlins 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 13.10 Les Grands Noms Inter... 14.41 D.Anime: The Twisted... 15.20 D.Anime: Word Party 15.34 Film: The Legend Of Snow... 17.05 Doc: Books 17.10 Serial: Hi Opie! 17.30 D.Anime: Kid's Planets 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Surya Puran 18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Les Grands Noms Inter... 21.10 Serial: Pulse 23.20 Le Journal 23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan 11.18 Serial: Tawaan 12.00 Film: Nani Gentleman 13.55 Mag: DDI Mag 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Serial: Bommarillu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham 18.01 Serial: The Demi-Gods... 16.47 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.30 Serial: Chhanchhan 18.01 Serial: The Demi-Gods... 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.00 Serial: Dil Ruba 20.44 Local: Anjuman 21.10 Local: Urdu Programme - Noor-E-Iman 22.05 DDI Live	07.00 Mag: Border Crossing 07.25 Mag: Tomorrow Today 07.51 Doc: La Route De La Soie 10.25 Doc: Muay Thai 12.11 Mag: Border Crossing 13.29 Doc: Castles 14.27 Doc: Snapshots 16.22 Mag: Eco India 17.52 Doc: Paradis Perdue 19.00 Doc: World Famous Writers 19.33 Doc: Expedition Kachgar 20.45 Doc: World Heritage 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: World Heritage 21.36 Doc: Volcano Stories 22.08 Doc: Paradis Perdue 23.40 Mag: World Stories 23.55 Doc: World Famous Writers 23.58 Mag: Our Voices 00.26 Mag: Euromaxx 00.52 Doc: Expedition Kachgar	01.28 Film: Grace And Goliath 03.39 Film: Easter Under Wraps 04.58 Tele: Marimar 05.49 Tele: Rubi 06.55 Film: Grace And Goliath 09.00 Serial: 19-2 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Last Resort 12.00 Film: Easter Under Wraps 13.31 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: Grace And Goliath 16.40 Serial: 19-2 17.23 Serial: Rookie Blue 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.34 Serial: Superstore 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: Zoo 21.15 Film: Pur-Sang 22.47 Tele: Marimar	07.00 Film: Daava 11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera 13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.55 / 22.30 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.25 Film: Batti Gul Meter Chalu Starring: Shahid Kapoor, Shradha Kapoor, D. Sharma 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.38 Bhakharwadi 20.08 Siddhi Vinayak
samedi 23 avril	06.22 D.Anime: Gon 06.45 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin... 06.57 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum... 07.19 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule... 07.37 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien 08.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 08.29 D.Anime: Garfield Originals 08.32 D.Anime: Cat & Keet 09.35 Serial: Nowhere Boys 10.00 Live From La City, Trianon 12.00 Le Journal 15.20 D.Anime: Word Party 15.34 Film: Adventures In Fishtale 16.46 D.Anime: Robot Trains 17.15 Mag: Human Nature 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 21.10 Film: Sniper Special OPS 23.10 Local: Le Journal	07.00 Film: Ab Tak Chhappan Star: Nana Patekar, Mohan Agashe, Revathi 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 11.05 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare 12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 12.46 Serial: High School 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Film: Second Hand Husband Stars: Gippy Grewal, Tina Ahuja, Dharmendra, Ravi Kishan 17.21 Mag: DDI Mag 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 21.00 Film: Tevar Starring Arjun Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha, Manoj Bajpayee	06.00 Doc: Paradis Perdue 06.55 Mag: World Famous Writers 06.57 Mag: Our Vocies 07.25 Mag: Euromaxx 07.54 Doc: Expedition Kachgar 10.14 Doc: Guardians Of Nature 12.33 Mag: Euromaxx 13.57 Doc: World Heritage 14.02 Doc: Les Mysteres Du Nil 14.54 Student Support Prog... 17.29 Mag: Euromaxx 18.02 Magazine De L'emploi... 18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan 19.00 Mag: Salad Area 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: World Heritage 20.50 Doc: Hotels 21.42 Doc: Global Drinks 22.34 Doc: Seeds Of Profit 23.17 Doc: Sweet Magic 23.22 Mag: Happiness Is On The...	01.28 Film: Pur-Sang 03.26 Serial: Seal Team 04.07 Serial: L.A.'S Finest 04.51 Serial: Hawaii Five-0 05.05 Tele: Tanto Amor 05.49 Serial: Zoo 08.30 Serial: The Night Shift 09.56 Serial: Hawaii Five-0 10.40 Film: Pierre Lapin 12.15 Serial: Seal Team 13.30 Serial: Heroes Reborn 14.54 Tele: Muneca Brava 16.07 Serial: Zoo 16.49 Film: Spider-Man Avec: Stéphane Bak, Camélia Jordana 18.35 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man 19.40 Serial: Superstore 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Series: Zoo 21.15 Film: Split Avec James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy, Betty Buckley	04.05 Radha Krishna 04.36 Anupamaa 05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur... 05.43 Agnihera 06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan 06.48 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 10.07 Siddhi Vinayak 11.55 Serial: Bhakharwadi 14.00 Anupamaa 16.00 Pavitra Rishta 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Hadh Kardi Apne Star: Govinda, Rani Mukherji 20.44 Serial: Namah 21.21 Serial: Naagin Season 3 21.47 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan
dimanche 24 avril	06.02 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda 06.22 D.Anime: Gon 06.50 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin... 08.20 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 09.30 Serial: Nowhere Boys: Battle... 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 11.00 Local Prod: Nu Rasinn 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.20 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 15.20 D.Anime: Word Party 15.33 Film: 00K9 - Double O.K Nine 17.05 Doc: Books - The Greatest 17.20 Mag: Human Nature 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Yeh Shaam Mastani 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Local Production: Groov'in 21.15 Film: The Post Avec: Meryl Streep, Tom Hanks, Sarah Paulson	07.00 Film: Ijaazat 11.03 Serial: Azhagu 11.24 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 11.45 Serial: Surya Puran 12.06 Film: Shaadi Mein Zaroor 14.07 DDI Magazine 15.20 Mooga Manasulu 15.42 Serial: He Mann Baware 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham Starring: Bharathi, Badekilla, Pradeep, Naresh Eswar... 16.30 Local: Yaadein 16.58 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Serial: Porus 20.46 Serial: CID 21.29 Serial: Naagin Season 2 Starring: Mouni Roy, Karanvir Bohra	06.00 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 07.02 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.28 Mag: Check In 09.45 Doc: Global Drinks 10.35 Doc: Seeds Of Profit 11.16 Doc: Sweet Magic 11.21 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 11.50 Mag: In Good Shape 12.19 Mag: Salad Area 13.17 Doc: Albatros 14.38 Doc: Global Drinks 15.07 Doc: Seeds Of Profit 16.45 Doc: Sweet Magic 18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan 19.00 Mag: The Inside Story 20.01 Doc: Planet Home 20.30 Live: News (English) 20.50 Doc: Expedition Kachgar 21.43 Doc: La Route De La Soie 22.09 Doc: Shattered Dreams 22.52 Doc: New York City Rich...	01.29 Film: Split Avec James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy, Betty Buckley 03.25 Serial: Dynasty 2 04.14 Film: Sniper Special Ops 05.24 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.08 Serial: Zoo 06.50 Film: An Emma Fielding... 08.00 Serial: The Night Shift 09.11 Film: Sniper Special Ops 10.40 Film: Spider-Man 12.24 Serial: Dynasty 2 13.20 Serial: Heroes Reborn 15.32 Tele: Muneca Brava 17.00 Serial: Zoo 17.53 Serial: Dynasty 2 18.36 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 19.12 Serial: Superstore 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: Under Pressure 21.15 Film: Bloody Mary	01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak 02.24 Bhakharwadi 03.39 Anupamaa 06.00 Pavitra Rishta 08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 10.03 Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 14.00 Agnihera 16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 17.00 Punar Vivaah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Film: Kalank Starring : Varun Dhawan, Alia Bhatt, Madhuri Dixit 21.00 Naagin Season 3 21.51 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 23.37 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 01.20 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 03.07 Kundali Bhagya 04.56 Agnihera 06.35 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
lundi 25 avril	06.27 Mag: Eye On SADC 07.00 Local Prod: Zanfan Nou Zil 07.55 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien 09.00 D.Anime: Garfield Originals 09.48 D.Anime: Word Party 11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous... 11.30 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.13 Prod: Komiko 15.20 D.Anime: Word Party 17.05 Doc: Books 17.10 Serial: Hi Opie! 17.31 Mag: Kid's Planets 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Namah 18.55 Serial: Mere Sai 19.30 Le Journal 20.40 MBC Production: Groov'in 21.10 Film: Mackenna's Gold Avec: Gregory Peck, Omar Sharif...	09.00 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi 09.24 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 09.32 Serial: Inspector Chingum 10.03 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 12.06 Film: Pyar Ke Naam Qurban 14.07 DDI Magazine 15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.42 Serial: Bommarillu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham Starring: Bharathi, Badekilla, Pradeep, Naresh Eswar... 16.24 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin 16.42 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin 17.57 Serial: The Demi-Gods... 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.00 Programme In Telugu 20.30 Film: Patra Vaitha Nerupondru	06.00 Doc: Sweet Magic 06.55 Mag: Saladeria 07.24 Mag: Arts.21 08.19 Doc: World Heritage 11.14 Doc: Sweet Magic 15.03 Doc: Shattered Dreams 15.46 Doc: New York City Rich... 16.33 Doc: Innovation On Board 17.32 Mag: The Inside Story 18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 19.00 Doc: Persons 20.30 Live: News (English) 20.45 Mag: Luana's Kitchen 23.58 Mag: Eco@Africa 00.24 Mag: The 77 Percent 00.50 Doc: Persons 00.53 Mag: Africa 01.22 Mag: In Good Shape 01.51 Mag: Luana's Kitchen 02.17 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait... 02.44 Mag: Global 3000	01.25 Film: Bloody Mary 03.28 Film: Archie Chien Robot 04.57 Tele: Marimar 05.21 Tele: Rubi 05.45 Serial: Under Pressure 07.14 Film: The Post 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Last Resort 12.00 Film: Archie Chien Robot 13.54 Tele: Rubi 14.45 Film: The Post 16.36 Serial: Under Pressure 18.08 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.39 Serial: Superstore 20.05 Les Trois Visages D'Ana 20.30 Serial: Chicago PD 21.15 Film: Dylan Dog 23.03 Tele: Marimar 23.27 Tele: Rubi	08.00 Taare Zameen Par 11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 11.47 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera 13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.00 / 22.30 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.21 Film: Police Force: An Inside Story Starring: Akshay Kumar, Raveena Tandon, Amrith 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi 20.01 Siddhi Vinayak 20.30 Radha Krishna



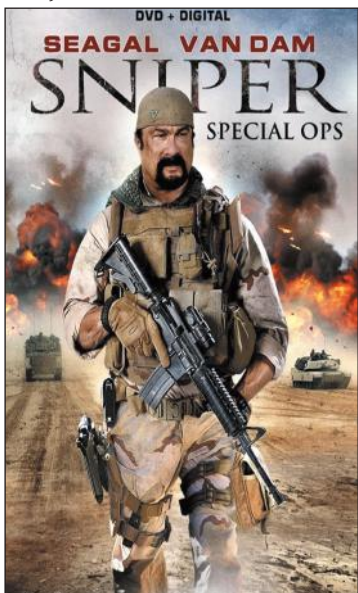
mardi 26 avril - 21.10



mercredi 27 avril - 21.15



jeudi 28 avril - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
mardi 26 avril 06.00 Local: Rodrig 07.30 D.Anime: Akili And Me 08.00 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien 10.30 Serial: Les Copains Carlins 10.40 Local: Saveur Plus 11.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 12.00 Le Journal 12.20 Autour Des Valeurs... 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Prod: Komiko 15.20 D.Anime: Word Party 15.32 Film: La Petite Princesse... 17.05 Serial: Hi Opie! 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: Bull Shark Stars: Thom Hallum, Billy Blair, Lindsey Marie Wilson	mardi 26 avril 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: CID 12.00 Film: Shukriyaa Starring: Rajeev Kapoor, Amrita Singh, Govardhan Asrani 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: Chhotki Dulhin 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And Semi-Devs 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Kasam Paida Karne... Star: Mithun Chakraborty, Smita Patil..	mardi 26 avril 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.55 Mag: Luana's Kitchen 09.17 Mag: Washington Forum 10.25 Doc: Iran From Above 14.29 Mag: Washington Forum 15.38 Doc: Iran From Above 16.23 Mag: Eco@Africa 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan 19.03 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Doc: Persons 20.30 Live: News 20.45 Doc: Castles 21.40 Doc: Les Grand Mythes 22.08 Mag: Close Up 22.32 Local: Rodrig 23.14 Doc: A World Without Bees? 23.54 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 00.20 Mag: Healthy Living 00.35 Mag: Red Carpet	mardi 26 avril 01.24 Film: Dyland Dog 03.01 Serial: Last Resort 03.52 Film: Archie Chien Robot 2 05.39 Tele: Rubi 06.03 Serial: Chicago PD 06.25 Film: Predestination 09.00 Serial: 19-2 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: Last Resort 11.49 Film: Archie Chien Robot 2 13.30 Tele: Marimar 13.54 Tele: Rubi 14.45 Film: Predestination 16.38 Serial: 19-2 17.32 Serial: Chicago PD 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 21.15 Film: Zombieland Avec: Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stonek...	mardi 26 avril 06.50 Film: Police Force: An Inside Story Cast: Akshay Kumar, Raveena Tandon, Amrith Puri, Mohan Joshi 11.26 / 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 13.56 / 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: Gair Kanooni 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Udaariyaan 19.30 Bhakharwadi 20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
mercredi 27 avril 07.15 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 07.30 D.Anime: Akili And Me 08.09 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien 08.20 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda 10.25 Serial: Les Copains Carlins 10.40 Local: Saveurs Plus 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.00 Prod: Komiko 15.20 D.Anime: Word Party 15.35 Film: I Heart Shakey 17.10 Serial: Hi Opie! 17.30 Mag: Kid's Planet 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: An Emma Fielding Mystery Starring: Courtney Thorne-Smith, James Tupper, Adam DiMarco	mercredi 27 avril 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki 12.00 Film: Jurrat Starring: Shatrughan Sinha, Kumar Gaurav, Anita Raj 14.00 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: Chhotki Dulhin 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Kulvadhu 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods... 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Programme In Marathi 21.00 Film: Pitruroon Star: Poorvi Bhawe, Suhas Joshi, Sachin Khedekar	mercredi 27 avril 06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto... 06.26 Mag: Healthy Living 06.56 Mag: Check In 08.46 Doc: Castles 09.43 Mag: Close Up 15.47 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 17.37 Mag: Healthy Living 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.35 Doc: Persons 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Castles 21.40 Les Montagnes Du Monde 22.49 Mag: Focus On Europe 23.15 Doc: Once Upon A River 23.57 Mag: Motorweek 00.38 Mag: Vous Et Nous 01.05 Doc: Persons 00.52 Mag: Arts.21 01.18 Mag: The Inside Story 01.43 Doc: Skuld	mercredi 27 avril 01.28 Film: Zombieland 03.38 Film: Spider-Man 05.07 Tele: Marimar 06.13 Serial: Chicago PD 06.55 Film: Boyne Falls 09.00 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: Last Resort 11.46 Film: Spider-Man 13.30 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: Boyne Falls 16.42 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 17.36 Serial: Chicago PD 18.18 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.30 Serial: Mustangs FC 20.30 Serial: Rookie Blue 21.15 Film: Ice Soliders With: Dominic Purcell, Adam Beach, Gabriel Hogan	mercredi 27 avril 07.00 Film: Gair Kanooni 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: Angaar Starring: Jackie Shroff, Dimple Kapadia, Nana Patekar, Kader Khan 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi 20.00 Siddhi Vinayak 20.30 Radha Krishna
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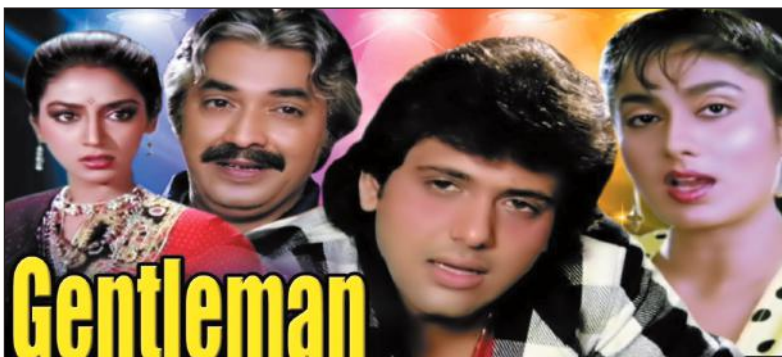
Jeudi 28 avril - 15.30

Star: Govinda, Anuradha Patel, Shakti Kapoor



Jeudi 28 avril - 20.45

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, Lara Dutta, Zayed Khan





Indian tricolour came to rescue of fleeing Pakistani, Turkish students from Ukraine. Pic - Telangana Today

The West exports arms...

-- TP Saran

Ever since the Ukrainian crisis began, several teams of reporters from around the world's several news channels have been present on ground to track the events daily and send live reports back to their newsrooms. These coverages are available on a 24/7 basis, as they are quite often re-broadcast, along with commentaries by seasoned observers and analysts in international affairs.

As the crisis unfolded, one of the major concerns of several countries was the presence of their nationals in Ukraine, and this included India which had nearly 20,000 medical students in Kyiv and a few other locations. Whereas other countries such as the US and the UK issued advisories for their nationals to leave Ukraine as fast as they could, the Indian government went one step further. It provided active assistance on ground to evacuate all its students, and repatriated them within a couple of weeks after arranging for their safe passage to neighbouring countries such as Hungary, Poland, Moldova whence they flew out on special flights of Indian carriers free of charge. A last batch that was in a location nearer the Russian border was transported to Moscow after diplomatic arrangements, and from there flew back to India.

Of note is the fact that several Pakistani students too benefited from safe passage by waving the Indian flag along with their Indian friends. Additionally, on ground there were sewa (divine service) groups, such as Sikhs and ISKCON (which is based in Kyiv) providing essential items to both students as well as Ukrainian refugees who were streaming out of their country.

As the killings and devastations of whole cities that include residences, hospitals and other infrastructure have continued, this has left millions without basic necessities. Looking back over what has been happening, Indian observers have come to the conclusion and have spelt it out in as many

words on the TV channels a chilling reality. It is that whereas the West has right from the beginning declared that there will be no boots on the ground from their side, they have hastened to export arms to Ukraine, a thriving business which continues and which is inevitably contributing to more and more deaths and destruction.

India, on the other hand, has resolutely taken a stand of finding a solution to the crisis through dialogue and diplomacy, and has firmly stood on the side of peace. Accused of sitting on the fence instead of siding with the West against Russia, this misperceived stand has been as firmly rebuffed by the External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar first in Washington during a press briefing after what is known as the U2+2 meeting between the US and Indian counterparts. Similarly, back in India he reiterated the arguments in several interviews, as well as putting in his place US's Anthony Blinken for his remarks about human rights in India. On the other hand, Arnab Goswami of Republic TV shut up a US professor invitee on his channel on precisely the same issue of fence-sitting with irrefutable arguments, affirming robustly that India will look after India's interests, just as other countries involved are looking after theirs.

In retrospect, taking a long shot from the onset of the pandemic, Indian anchors have pointed out with solid facts and figures how, as opposed to other countries which have been busy exporting arms, terror and debt traps, India has chosen to offer humanitarian aid in the form of vaccines (75 million doses), medicines, and wheat as its granaries are full, so much so that besides supplying Ukraine with these, it will soon be exporting wheat to Nigeria and Turkey amongst others.

PM Jugnauth's visit to India

On a seven-day visit to India, Prime Minister has been warmly welcomed in Gujarat, first in Jamnagar and then in

Ahmedabad. In Jamnagar, Indian PM Narendra Modi was inaugurating a Centre for Traditional Medicine which is an important thrust of WHO, in fact the Director General of WHO Dr Tedros has been present at the inauguration.

Traditional medicine in India concerns two main disciplines, homeopathy and ayurveda. The latter in particular has a focus on the holistic health of the individual, and relies on natural therapies that are directed more at the promotion of health and the prevention of disease than on treatment. This is also the main objective of what is known as Primary Health Care in the western or allopathic system of medicine which is based on modern science.

One of the major problems with all traditional medicine systems is the absence of proper regulatory mechanisms to ensure the quality of products that they propose, which are manufactured from plants. Also concerning is the problem of assessment of efficacy by means of controlled trials as is done for pharmacological products. The centre set up Gujarat will address these issues, and with the Mauritian PM being there, it is quite likely that support will be made available to local endeavours that make use of traditional medicine.

On the other hand, we will have to await the return of the PM to know what else the package of Indian aid will contain, especially at this critical time when the cost of living is going up and there are major concerns about security and maritime developments in the Indian Ocean.

Interestingly, a succession of foreign dignitaries have been visiting India ever since the Ukrainian crisis began, and the next PM due after Pravind Jugnauth is the British one, Boris Johnson.

The commanding presence of India on the world stage is only increasing, and given its role as a torch bearer for peace, this gives hope that diplomacy and dialogue will prevail over the aggressive push for war.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Healing What Hurts

When we are carrying the burden of our unprocessed pain, sooner or later it will inconvenience us.

Many of us are going through our lives aware of a well of pain underlying our daily awareness that we've felt for so long we aren't even sure where it comes from. It almost seems as if it's part of who we are, or the way we see the world, but it's important to realize that this pain is something that needs to be acknowledged and processed. The longer we sit on it, the harder it is to work through, and the more likely it is that we will be forced to acknowledge it as it makes itself known to us in ways we can't predict. Rather than waiting for this to happen, we can empower ourselves by identifying the pain and resolving to take action toward healing it.

The very thought of this brings up feelings of resistance in most of us, especially if, on the surface, our lives seem to be in order. It's difficult to dig up the past and go into it unless we are being seriously inconvenienced by the hurt. The thing is, when we are carrying the burden of our unprocessed pain, sooner or later, it will inconvenience us. If we can be brave and proactive, we can save ourselves a lot of future suffering and free up the energy that is tied up in keeping the pain down.

There are many ways to do this, but the first step is to recognize the pain and honor it by moving our awareness into it. In this process, even if it's just five minutes during meditation, we will begin to have a sense of what the pain is made of. It might be fear of abandonment, childhood abuse, anger at being mistreated, or some other long held wound. As we sit with the pain, we will also have a sense of whether we can deal with it by ourselves, or not. It may be time to work with a counselor, or form a healing circle with close friends. Whatever path you choose, resolve to go deep into the pain, so that you can release it fully, and set yourself free. Remember, it is never too late in life to heal what hurts, and there is never a better time than now.