

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Budgeting is not just for people who do not have enough money. It is for everyone who wants to ensure that their money is enough." — Rosette Mugidde Wamambe

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low, Historien

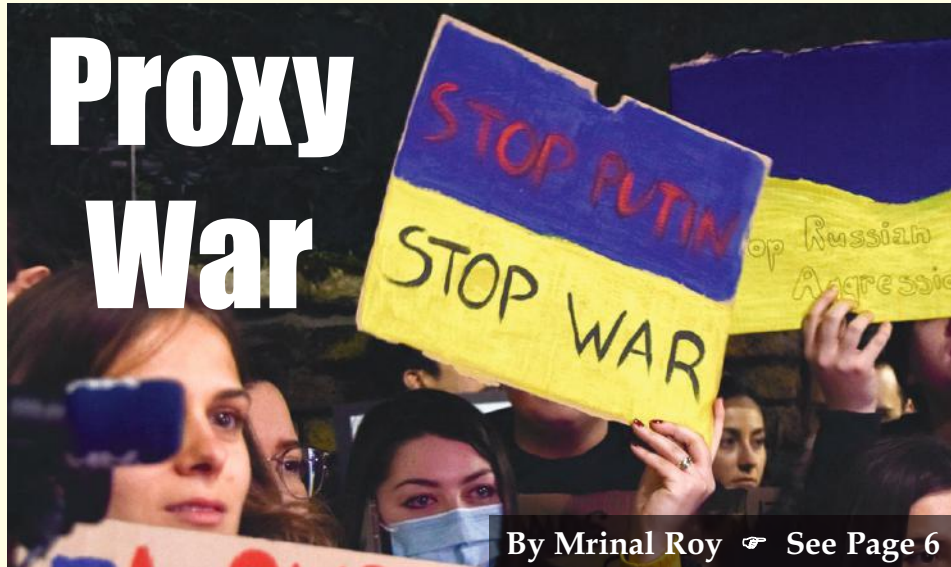
«Avec la guerre en Ukraine, il est possible que le pire soit devant nous»

*** 'Tout sépare le MMM du régime actuel. Mais, en politique, tout est possible... Avec le MSM peut-il s'attendre à un *fair deal* plus qu'à un *bad deal* ?'**

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How multinationals avoid taxes in Africa and what should change

African countries, rich in resources, easily fall prey to aggressive tax planning and tax evasion facilitated by offshore companies

In developing countries, and the sub-Saharan region especially, the scale of unmet basic needs is enormous. It is estimated that 3 billion people in the developing world subsist on less than US\$2 a day per person.

About 2.37 billion people are without food or unable to eat a balanced diet on a regular basis. The prevalence of undernourishment is highest in sub-Saharan Africa: 24.1%. Out of the almost 60 million children not in school, 33.8 million are in this region.

Revenues from taxation are fundamental to changing this dire situation. Taxes enable the state to redistribute wealth to alleviate poverty. They also provide education, healthcare, social security, pensions, efficient public transport, clean water and other public services taken for granted in developed economies.

But in both developed and developing countries, tax revenues are being undermined by the ability of some of the wealthiest taxpayers – including many transnational companies – to effectively opt out of the corporate tax system. They do this through a combination of ingenious (and lawful) tax haven transactions, and huge tax concessions awarded by governments.

These practices have received plenty of attention from scholars. Broader accounts of their impact on developing countries are relatively scarce, though. In a recently published paper, we therefore aimed to investigate the effect of tax dodging on development in Africa, with a focus on Nigeria and Zambia.

Using publicly available evidence, we show that tax havens and offshore financial centres, shaped by globalisation, facilitate the sophisticated tax schemes of highly mobile transnational corporations. The effect of low-tax jurisdictions ("tax havens") hampers the social and economic development of poorer states.

We advocate radical reform. This should close the gaps that allow tax evasion and avoidance by transnational corporations. It calls for legislation and stronger institutional structures.

Forms of tax dodging

Tax dodging is used to describe all of the ways – tax avoidance, tax evasion, corruption and offshore accounts – that companies and rich individuals employ to reduce their tax bills. They lobby governments for tax breaks and lower corporate tax rates, exploit obscure loopholes in tax laws or shift profits into tax havens.

*Jia Liu - Professor of Finance, University of Portsmouth
Olatunde Julius Otusanya - Professor of Taxation, University of Lagos*

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The Leadership Issue

Rama Sithanen's proposal for a national unity government (NUG) in light of the challenges facing the country, especially the imminent deterioration in the economic situation in the months ahead due to the Russian-Ukraine war, has, as it was to be expected, been shot down by the main parties concerned, namely the Labour Party and the MMM. An earlier speculation about an imminent NUG was floated in August, last year, following the fortuitous meeting between the MSM leader Pravind Jugnauth and the LP leader Navin Ramgoolam at the Indian High Commission, on the occasion of the celebration of India's Independence Day. The speculation then was about an alliance between the MSM and the Labour Party, which would rope in Xavier Duval's PMSD. Neither political leader at the reception denied any such conjectures, and subsequent events and the continuing polarisation between the MSM and the latter's main challenger, the LP, put those speculations to rest.

That a government regrouping recognised competencies outside the narrow MSM fold might be necessary for the country can well be argued for, as proposed by Rama Sithanen in last week's interview to this paper, in the current difficult economic circumstances, the more so that concerns about a global recession have returned. Such a proposal would also be reassuring for the private sector conglomerates given the guarantee of political stability that such a political arrangement would ensure. They could assume this might provide a much larger majority of the electorate behind it, as opposed to what is presently the case with the current MSM-led government with a popular support of only 37% of voters in 2019 and assailed from different quarters for its questionable management of the affairs of State. But it would take more than wishful thinking to form a national unity government comprising in the main the Labour Party and the MSM, together with the PMSD and the MMM, the more so given that the LP and MMM might still be considering other options and they would therefore wish to keep their cards close to their chest.

On the one hand, it has not become evident that the LP leadership necessarily sees much

promise in another alliance with the MMM in light of the disastrous experience of 2014. Neither is it clear whether the electoral arithmetics or ground realities have improved to favour such an alliance. On the other hand, the battle of political leadership of an important section of the electorate have pushed the MSM and the Labour Party apart to such an extent that there now appears to be an unbridgeable chasm between these two parties - even as some interests might be quietly pushing forward this agenda. The Labour Party's strategy as a national mainstream party on the political spectrum may lie in opposition to the MSM-led government, but the longer it takes to get back to power the higher the risk of the MSM capturing the bulk of the electorate that elects the political party/alliance to power. That is the challenge presently facing the LP and its leadership.

The LP has two strengths which it can count upon: its foundational values in favour of a just, caring and democratic society through the establishment of the welfare state, free education, appropriate constitutional safeguards for all irrespective of class or creed, and the absence of dynasty contrary to the MSM and the PMSD - as well as the MMM which seems also to be going in that direction. What remains unaddressed is the leadership of the party. Given the changed times and higher expectations in terms of proper and adequate methods of going about to lead a party, the issue of leadership will have to be thrashed out sooner rather than later. It is therefore important that a solid structure and a relatively acceptable leadership selection process be put in place to ensure that the LP becomes self-sustaining for the future.

There are assuredly many factors at play in the selection of the ideal candidate that has the credibility and authority over the party's faithful, the charm to win over politburo colleagues and the gravitas necessary to be projected as the party's prime ministerial candidate. But further kicking the can down the road may no longer be acceptable. General elections being at least two years away, the LP and its leadership would have the necessary time to dovetail any changes they recognise as necessary for the party and its core of faithful followers.

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The Chaos in Europe: Kurukshetra Revisited

Jan Arden

The Chinese Year of the Tiger promised to be potentially eventful with flared tempers, fiery impulses, raw power demonstrations and explosions around the world, but few would have predicted that eruption would indeed happen, that it would be so ghastly and world-engulfing, and that European hinterlands would constitute the Kurukshetra plains of such a woeful misfortune between cousins of the same fold.

The naked aggression by Russia, even pushed to its limits by a reckless unnecessary NATO expansion and nuclear encirclement policy, is a repulsive geo-political last resort and has been condemned by many capitals around the world, even by those suffering the most from the immense havoc being caused in food, fuel, currency and commodity markets. In its 40th day, even after all the scars of a deeply disturbing war, there is still no substitute for a meaningful dialogue towards lasting peace in that troublesome continent, with guarantees for a neutral non-NATO Ukraine.

Almost half of the world lives under one form of autocracy or another, with few and erratic civil rights. Democracy, even with its fault-lines or drifts towards kleptocracy, remains an undoubted boon which de-serves defending. While we therefore, as many others, should stand with traditional Western and liberal values of democracy and the international structures that have kept the world relatively at peace, most countries and political leaders have been embarrassed at being asked or ordered to throw reason, cultural and historical affinities, their own national security contexts or trade realpolitik overboard and "take sides".

At the UN General Assembly or the UN Security Council, in other public fora, they, in effect, have been far more nuanced in their stand than the Manichean constructs of the West would have wished. Some, like China's Foreign Minister has stoutly condemned NATO as the prime cause behind the Ukraine crisis, while India, still in the teething phases of Western realignment and QUAD membership, has steadfastly refrained from outright condemnation of the Russian military intervention. It has numerous valid reasons to do so, even if the West fails to appreciate the deeper ties, rationale and perspectives that justify such a stance.

The masterminds of shortsighted US-Western aggressiveness towards Putin will have noted the obvious consequential rapprochement between Moscow and Beijing while, having led a naive President Zelensky up the garden path of robust promises, NATO has vanished from the front-lines.

The BRICS, constituting 40% of the world population, has resisted calls to join some Western-led sanctions overdrive, with, for instance, President Cyril Ramaphosa, hailing from the region, blasting such attempts at pressuring the African continent into West-

driven Cold War "games" that should never have been.

Mexico and much of Latin/South America have balked too at those Western pressures. The Saudis and other major oil producers of the Middle East and even staunch US ally Israel have snubbed such crude realpolitik and refused to play ball with Biden. President Erdogan of Turkey, a full-fledged NATO member, has

get that sanctions rarely result in regime change (Southern African region or Iran are cases in point) but the primary victims are the largely innocent populations. That sanctions policy could easily backfire, with potential repercussions on promoting non-dollar trade and closer Ruble link-ups with other currencies (namely yuan, rupee or anything else for that matter).

All those countries which constitute the bulk of humanity are not just Putin apologists or US stooges, but they lucidly assess that this costly invasion and continuing dirty war is not about some Western-defined "morality", which is neither blameless in the formation of this avoidable horror nor exemplified itself in numerous areas of the world which need not be listed here.

We know all too well, at our level, that the UK/US abandoned any moral high ground, when they are bent on ignoring international condemnation of the continued unlawful Chagos occupation even when offered a long-term direct lease for the US naval base with strong guarantees. With Biden's foreign policy gaffes (unceremonious exit from Afghanistan) and failures (preventing or even leading up to the Ukraine catastrophe, dollar challenges), it is widely reckoned that the Biden-Harris administration may be blasted by the GOP (the Republican Party, also referred to as the "Grand Old Party"), first in November in the House/Senate elections, then at the next Presidential.

Some will mourn Europe's inability to thrash out a security pact with Russia without NATO and US interference leading today to the shambles on European soil. Others, the end of an era since the collapse of the Soviet Empire after the Cold War, when relative peace and stability reigned across Europe, save for the Baltic region. Still others will try to fathom the mystifying logic of the US deep state priorities when, by its own avowal, its recognized primary global challenger was certainly not Putin's Russia. As for most African, South American and South Asian populations, they will continue to pay the massive costs of the chaos from the rolling thunderstorm in the Kurukshetra plains that nobody expected or could have predicted, even under the fiery Tiger's auspices.



Pic - Republic World

“The BRICS, constituting 40% of the world population, has resisted calls to join some Western-led sanctions overdrive, with, for instance, President Cyril Ramaphosa, hailing from the region, blasting such attempts at pressuring the African continent into West-driven Cold War “games” that should never have been. Mexico and much of Latin/South America have balked too at those Western pressures. The Saudis and other major oil producers of the Middle East and even staunch US ally Israel have snubbed such crude realpolitik. President Erdogan of Turkey, a full-fledged NATO member, has largely ignored the Western bullying...”

largely ignored the Western bullying, by playing his cards astutely as a regional mediator between the two warring factions.

Putin may have been surprised by the actual resistance bravely offered by the Ukraine army and people, and each day the war drags on, with its horrific images, is certainly a loss of face and may even drag out a desirable rapid settlement of the national security dispute. On the other hand, the attempt by Joe Biden to brazenly deprive Russia of its international treasury reserves, hound Russian businessmen (as if oligarchs and billionaires exist only in Russia), and destroy that country's economic infrastructure through sanctions, seem insufficiently thought through. One should not for-

Pandemonium Nearby: Sri Lanka and Pakistan

While the chaotic big bang is taking place in Europe, with repercussions worldwide, some countries and allies in our Indian Ocean region are also facing turmoil, if not upheaval, in this rocky year.

We cannot hope to do justice here to the complexities of the pandemonium that have rocked both Sri Lanka and Pakistan over recent days and weeks. Sri Lanka's population, who had to bear the brunt of price escalations wrought about first

by the pandemic then the consequences of the Ukraine conflict, exploded in such angry public manifestations that the whole government was compelled to resign this week.

Sri Lanka's cloak of democracy has always been besieged by its ethnic rivalries that at one point resulted in the violence of the Tamil minority. As one Sri Lankan observer noted recently: "Ethno-centric policies such as the Ceylon Citizenship Act of 1948 that ex-

cluded estate Tamils from citizenship and the later amendment which disenfranchised them, the Sinhala Only Act of 1956, which violated language rights of the Tamils, and Article 9 of the 1978 Constitution, which gives Buddhism the foremost place in Sri Lanka."

While pandering to the majority's instincts, Sinhalese political parties made corruption and the plunder of public funds a way of life.

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Sadasivam Reddi

Tackling Food Insecurity

Food shortage is a major trigger of social and political instability throughout the world... people with empty stomachs obey no rules or the law

During the past two years, in the wake of the Covid pandemic, politicians, economists and businessmen have fretted about world recession. They were right, and now with the war raging between Russia and Ukraine, they have even become more pessimistic with billions of people facing the spectre of food insecurity.

Already in 2014, more than 500 million people were facing food shortage of one kind or another and now, since the middle of 2020, global food prices have increased by 50%. In Mauritius, inflation, depreciation of the rupee, adverse climatic conditions and unemployment have already created food problems for many families. Mauritius moved back from a high-income to a middle-income country in 2020, with relative poverty turning into absolute poverty. High food prices mean that some have had to skip meals and many families are cutting down on their basic food necessities especially for children.

It is well known that in earlier times food shortages were traumatic for our parents and grandparents and left bad memories of their struggle for their daily basic needs. They survived only on local produce from vegetable plantations and from home gardens with maize, manioc and sweet potatoes becoming their main diet for months, if not years, on end at a time when they had to work for 10 to 12 hours a day.

Nowadays with a crisis as serious as the one we are likely to go through, there is little hope that the situation would be any better for the suffering poor unless we seek the collaboration of all stakeholders from different fields and implement solutions tailored to our needs.

During the First World War, despite the sugar boom and the means to pay for basic commodities, the population faced a severe problem of food shortage. Government took measures to establish price control and for setting up a profiteering court. However, among the 12,000 people who perished during the Spanish influenza pandemic which also hit the island at that time, malnutrition among the poor was a major contributory factor.

The situation hardly improved during the Second World War. In April 1941, the colonial Secretary of State inquired from Governors in different colonies about measures to ensure food security and gave directives for the implementation of a series of measures. The colonial government in Mauritius faced a lot of resistance which vitiated the food security situation in the island during the War.

To avoid any food shortage, measures were taken to store foodstuffs for a period of 90 days. After discussions with the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture and the

Department of Agriculture, the Food Control Board was set up with the necessary executive powers to handle these matters. A Food Comptroller was appointed to monitor food supply in the island. Landowners with more than 20 acres of land were required to grow food crops, but there was no compulsion initially.

After the Japanese had overrun the East, it became important to implement more drastic measures. In 1942, the situation became critical and vast acres of lands were required for food crops. In 1943, lands to be allotted to food production by sugar estates was fixed at 34,000



“Without better planning, coordination and more importantly greater political will, it is doubtful whether the present initiatives will prove successful. Will the big landowners put more lands available to those who want to grow food crops? Are measures envisaged to safeguard and increase our sea products/sea foods? What about increasing food storage capacity to avoid a glut on the market which will only discourage food producers? The Agricultural Marketing Board, the State Trading Corporation and various ministries have major roles to play at this juncture...”

acres. Several measures were taken to increase food supply with the setting up of new institutions like a nutrition department, provision of financial support and compulsory growing of food crops by the sugar estates.

In the end the food growing programme was a dismal failure because King Sugar reigned supreme. Sugar estate owners opposed the food growing programme for various reasons, many being just pretexts. Though they were opposed to the growing of food crops on lands which were used to cultivate cane sugar, which at that time fetched very high prices, there was also a lack of consideration for the population since they were assured of their own food supply from their estates. Due to food scarcity, not only did people suffer from malnutrition and other diseases, workers' productivity dropped considerably as people had to frequently absent themselves from work due to illness.

There was a shortage of workers in many regions and lorries had to carry workers from one region to another to make up for the shortage. A food crisis occurred in 1943 and was averted only by the timely arrival of manioc starch and wheat from Madagascar and Australia. According to Dr Clyde, the Food Adviser of the Colonial

Office, the food production programme was a relative failure since only 49,000 tons of foodstuff were harvested between 1943-1944 while sugar production was not only maintained but increased.

That's history. Nowadays government and all stakeholders are more conscious that food shortage is a major trigger of social and political instability throughout the world... people with empty stomachs obey no rules or the law. Several initiatives are being taken to increase food crops, ranging from encouraging young people to turn to agriculture, providing them with training or initiating them in agricultural technology. Many of these suggestions regarding food security have been advocated in the past by the Young Farmers clubs, and at present Eric Mangar, Resistans ek Alternativ and many other people but have generally fallen on deaf ears or encountered practical difficulties, some related to our soil and climate conditions, others to the impact of pests that damaged investments

and livelihoods and still others to the lack of planting coordination by some authority to avoid gluts or deficits.

It appears that the initiatives and projects being implemented presently are very limited in scope; for instance, little has been heard about our sea resources which have been an important source of food for our people for decades. Without better planning, coordination and more importantly greater political will, it is doubtful whether the present initiatives will prove successful. Will the big landowners put more lands available to those who want to grow food crops? Are measures envisaged to safeguard and increase our sea products/sea foods?

What about increasing food storage capacity to avoid a glut on the market which will only discourage food producers? The Agricultural Marketing Board, the State Trading Corporation and various ministries have major roles to play at this juncture to ensure that not only adequate food supplies are available at reasonable and

affordable prices but also that those at the lowest rungs of the ladder obtain adequate food support. It is well known that very often famines occur not because there is shortage of food but because poor people cannot afford them. We should also not forget that only recently the Wakashio disaster affected the supply of fresh fish and other sea foods of a large section of the population for many months.

If we are really serious about food security, *ad hoc* measures will not suffice; we need a comprehensive plan crafted with the collaboration of researchers and experts in various fields and other stakeholders with indigenous and practical knowledge in these areas to devise solutions which are tailored to our needs. If not, food security or even food sovereignty will remain mere rhetorics.

Finally, let's not forget that the Gorvin Report on agricultural diversification in 1946 was not implemented because it was rejected by the sugar estates. Today agricultural diversification by sugar estates is geared towards the tourism industry with the surplus being dumped on the local market. Has capitalism become more humane now that King Sugar is no longer sitting on the throne?



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Heavy rains: drains, more drains...

'We'll have the same scenarios repeated *ad nauseam* all over again, with more and more money going literally down the drain...

Ever since cyclone Batsirai visited the country in January, bringing a humongous amount of rain of the kind that we had not witnessed for a long time, we have been battered frequently by

no less heavy rains. The latest downpour started last Friday and continued through Saturday, disrupting normal life as it always does, and causing havoc with the schooling of children that puts stress on them as well as their parents.

As it is, one shudders while watching the scenes of swollen rivers and flooded residential areas, streets, cars being carried and floating in the muddy water. But

what is more heart-rending is to see people whose yards and houses were suddenly overtaken by rapidly rising waters against which they were helpless. Chairs and sofas, tables, beds, and other furniture were soon standing in water if they hadn't already been washed away and tossed helter-skelter outside as was seen in quite a few houses. Other personal belongings also met the same fate, or got damaged before they could be secured, such as the laptop of a student according to his mother who was explaining what had happened when a veritable wall of water came crashing into her home.

There was hardly any part of the country that was spared. The situation seemed to be particularly dire in Fond du Sac, where women whose houses had been hit hard had heart-breaking stories to tell. For example, of a 6-month-old baby who had to be rushed to the neigh-

bours so as to be safe, as the mother tried to save whatever she could. Furniture was strewn outside, in a bid to dry them in the meek sun that had come out. Scenes reminiscent of cyclones, no less – for me, iconic Carol of April 1960.

If I remember correctly, it was during the first mandate of the present regime that the Prime Minister paid a visit to Fond du Sac with a delegation after people had complained about the damage their houses had suffered during floods. The problem of inadequate drainage was raised, and a sum of about Rs 60 M was pledged for building drains. According to the witness accounts over the weekend, no drains had ever been built, and again this time round there was a ministerial visit with the promise of drain works to be completed in 24-36 months, that is 2-3 years - when the current mandate is due to be over. Is that a coincidence?

Clearly, there is a grave issue of implementation that has remained unresolved, and that needs to be addressed urgently. But again, only too naturally all the cries by the victims of the floods were harping on only one thing: drains, more drains, adequate drains! And local people must be heard when these are planned, a top-down approach will not do. There is something called folk wisdom, and the people's knowledge and intuition are critical inputs that need to be factored into the equation and harmonized with expert recommendations. If this is not done, then we'll have the same scenarios repeated *ad nauseam* all over again, with more and more money going literally down the...drain.

The contribution of local knowledge is highlighted in an article in *The Conversation* of April 5, 2022: 'Natural disasters hit disadvantaged people the hardest, but we can lessen the impact' – a situation surely similar to ours, with vulnerable people mostly affected as we have seen. The article points out how 'indigenous expertise is reducing bushfires in northern Australia. It's time to consider similar approaches for other disasters' and that 'by collaborating with Indigenous ranger groups, we can make strategic fire and land management practices economically sustainable for traditional landowners.'

In devising future strategies to cope with our own natural disasters, we must be prepared to learn from the experience of others.



“It was during the first mandate of the present regime that the Prime Minister paid a visit to Fond du Sac with a delegation after people had complained about the damage their houses had suffered during floods. The problem of inadequate drainage was raised, and a sum of about Rs 60 M was pledged for building drains. According to the witness accounts over the weekend, no drains had ever been built, and again this time round there was a ministerial visit with the promise of drain works to be completed in 24-36 months, that is 2-3 years - when the current mandate is due to be over. Is that a coincidence?”

Who will win the Ukraine war?

Valeur du jour not even the most seasoned speculating experts will venture a guess. Only one thing is known for certain: who the losers are. It's the people, in their majority Ukrainians. Officially about 5 million of them have already left the country, but unofficial estimates double this figure which does not reveal the tragic underlying truth: these are mostly women and children, because the menfolk have been left behind to fight.

The end result will be a lot of widows and orphans when – or perhaps if – the war gets over. With no decent home, or home at all for that matter, to go back to. For along with the fleeing of its populace, the regions where they ran away from now lie in ruins. Of course, many Russian soldiers, among whom those barely out of

their teens, will also die. But what does that matter in a country used to despatching deemed adversaries to the gulag?

Then will march in the real winners: the mega contractors and builders of infrastructure. As commentator/analyst Michel Collon said in a French outlet, 'L'OTAN pour la démocratie, c'est de la rigolade.' In the same programme, another commentator pointed out that the major targets in the war were the infrastructure, which will need rebuilding. On the other hand, arms sales by NATO countries to Ukraine have increased tremendously since the war began. And military budgets in several of these countries have been upped too. Naturally. There's profit to be made. Meanwhile, Russia and Ukraine can continue to dis-

pute whose version of the massacres in the town of Bucha is the most believable one.

The Ukrainian president, Zelensky, has even taken the matter to the **UN Security Council** from the comfort of his bunker and, feeling indignant, has perhaps rightly said that if it cannot do anything, the **UN body** should be dissolved.

One must not forget the glaring hypocrisy of NATO members and the EU in this conflict, as many analysts have pointed out. While threatening countries which have nothing to do with the war in the sense that they never started it with sanctions and having the gall to proffer sanctimonious lectures, the ugly truth is that during the month of March, when the war was already raging, who were the

major buyers of Russian gas and oil? Of course, NATO countries. They did better still: they bought 15% more in March than they did in the previous month of February! And they will continue to buy Russian gas and oil which they cannot do without, apparently for at least another year.

Again, as Michel Collon noted, hasn't it been said that the economy is but a continuation of war?

With due respect to President Zelensky, one must wonder whether some day in the near future when he looks at his ruined country and suffering people, he will ask himself whether he had been taken for a ride by more experienced hawks, whether he could have done otherwise and spared his country the devastation and his people the suffering?

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Mrinal Roy

Proxy War

Are geopolitical gains more important than people's lives, human distress and the widespread destruction of Ukraine?

"In war, truth is the first casualty." — Aeschylus 6th BCE

The war in Ukraine has yet again exposed the hidden and sordid facets of armed conflict. The world is waking up to the cruel reality that the accompanying propaganda battle and daily spin doctoring on every development and event in the war broadcast and repeatedly rehashed on the main news channels seem to have overshadowed the human distress, widespread destruction and deaths caused by the war. Unverified narratives aired and recycled by mainstream media have become weapons of war.

Amidst the anguish and devastation, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky became the only Head of State to successively address the US Congress, the EU Council, and the parliaments of various European countries, etc., to viva voce seek their military and material support as well as request them to take various actions and impose tougher sanctions on Russia.

Propaganda war

The well-oiled propaganda machine built around claims of missile attacks on hospitals, maternity wards, schools, civilian casualties, and children killed cumulating in the latest allegations of war crimes in Bucha spins a Manichaean narrative on the war pitching Ukraine, the US, the EU, the West, NATO and their allies against Russia. This has triggered calls for imposing additional sanctions on Russia and the pledge to supply more advanced and lethal weapons to Ukraine. The callous gamble is to unduly prolong the war despite the escalating civilian casualties and havoc wreaked to the point that the sanctions imposed sap Russia's resolve to pursue the war. It is quite shocking that world leaders are glibly accusing Russia of war crimes without waiting for an independent inquiry by forensic and other qualified experts to establish the truth. Russia has denied the allegations and qualified the 'evidence' presented by Ukraine as 'fabricated'. The propaganda war is also an unequal battle.

What is also particularly galling is the lack of independent investigative journalism to objectively sort the wheat from the chaff in the daily blitzkrieg of claims and counter claims in the propaganda war opposing the protagonists.

Ground reality

In the light of the ground reality, what on earth is the logic of continuing to supply billions of dollars of arms to Ukraine to prolong an unequal battle which daily wreaks widespread destruction and human suffering across the country, reduces cities into rubble and forces millions of Ukrainians to flee their homes with some 4.3 million seeking refuge in neighbouring countries? Despite the bravado and the hype about Ukrainian resistance and eventual victory, the stark reality of this costly proxy war is that Ukraine and its hapless people are bearing the brunt of the daily devastation, distress and casualties wreaked by the conflict. The major beneficiaries of the war are the arms manufacturing industry and those insidiously jockeying for their parochial geopolitical interests.

In this proxy war between the West, the US, NATO and Russia, sovereign countries having no axe to grind in the conflict have been press-ganged to toe the line at the UN and choose the right camp. The world has been divided. Even China and India were lobbied. The superpowers must realize that the world is experiencing tectonic changes and shifting power dynamics ushering a new world order which is multipolar. The war in Ukraine is also catalysing this process.

In contrast to the billions of dollars of weapons supplied to Ukraine, the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, released on 28 February 2022, reveal that the most polluting countries and the world leaders have failed to take the urgent actions necessary and commit the scale of resources required to halve greenhouse gas emissions this decade in order to save our planet and mankind from a climate change catastrophe, bearing in mind that some of climate change consequences are already irreversible.

Instead of reducing its dependence on fossil fuels for its energy production to combat the dire consequences of climate change following its decision to cut down its imports of highly polluting coal, oil and gas from Russia, the EU is turning to alternative sources of fossil fuels, gas and coal having a larger carbon footprint, proposed by US and other allies. The Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban termed the proposal of 'replacing cheap Russian gas with expensive American gas' as 'absurd'.

The war in Ukraine has also showcased the scale of destruction caused by the arsenal of the latest high-tech weaponry, state of the art missiles and firepower unleashed in the war.

After more than 42 days of war, the main cities of Ukraine are in ruins and more than 11 million people have fled their homes. It is particularly deplorable that against such a grim backdrop there has been no serious initiative by the main leaders of the world and the United Nations to broker a peace agreement to end the war at the earliest. World leaders should have multiplied their efforts to end the war and not stoke it. Are geopolitical gains more important than people's lives, human distress and the widespread destruction of Ukraine?

Some news channels thriving on sensational news

have even displayed an irresponsible frivolity about the likelihood of a nuclear war. Has the world not learnt the traumatic lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki? People must realize that a nuclear war and its attendant radiation would be disastrous for humanity and the world. The whole world must do what it takes to eliminate nuclear weapons and forestall every risk of a nuclear war.

Hope for peace

It is noteworthy that the initiative for a peace agreement between Ukraine and Russia was not taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations nor the leaders of the United States and the EU. Turkey provided the forum to facilitate direct negotiations between representatives of Ukraine and Russia. The outcome of the round of negotiations held on 29 March in Istanbul as spelled out by the Ukrainians and the Russians as well as the Turkish President Recep Erdogan are very constructive and finally provide a hope for peace.

However, despite extensive details of the constructive peace talks being spelled out, there was new spin doctoring and scare mongering to question the elements of the proposed peace agreement to patently derail the process.



Ukraine War & Climate Change . Pic - Reuters

"In contrast to the billions of dollars of weapons supplied to Ukraine, the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, released on 28 February 2022, reveal that the most polluting countries and the world leaders have failed to take the urgent actions necessary and commit the scale of resources required to halve greenhouse gas emissions this decade in order to save our planet and mankind from a climate change catastrophe, bearing in mind that some of climate change consequences are already irreversible..."

What if?

Is there a latent fear that peace will bring to light documents, video footage, evidence seized during the war and testimonies of victims which could reveal the sordid truths on the underlying causes of the protracted war in Ukraine, claims of atrocities during the war or the nature of research carried out in the biological and chemical laboratories uncovered in Ukraine? Too many questionable acts and unholy alliances have been justified in the name of geopolitical interests. Peace could expose the untruths and hidden truths of the devastating war in Ukraine and ensure that all those responsible are made accountable and punished for their acts and wrongdoings.

After the widespread destruction, death, and distress in Ukraine, it is time to give peace a chance and for truth to prevail.

The State of our Democracy

"Parliament has the power to pass laws as long as these laws do not offend any provisions of the Constitution"

The question of what pillars and threads constitute and protect our democracy and the civil rights or freedoms that go with it, should not generally be the cause of agitation if they are properly guarded by a functional set of institutions and processes. But recent years have witnessed such mediatised encroachments that many questions are being raised both locally and, in the internet age, internationally. How far should we be concerned and can we reverse the trend are topics we have asked Lex to shed light upon.

LEX

*** We seem to give more credence to failings or perceived failings in our country or the systems in place when these are singled out by Western media or ratings agencies. What more has the 'Financial Times' report on Mauritius, probably sponsored by the local authorities, informed us about the state of our democracy than what we already know?**

It is not a question of what we know more. The present regime shouts on the rooftops that we are a viable democracy. It may try to mislead the population and its ardent supporters, but you cannot fool independent observers, either local or those from outside, who not only keep watch on all countries to monitor their track record with regard to democracy but also seek the views of local observers. At the end of the day, in the internet age, international observers have broader inputs and information about our democracy than what we might be aware of ourselves.

*** If we go by definitions and the main features of a democracy, namely one in which would prevail a system for choosing and replacing the government through free and fair elections; active participation of the people, as citizens, in politics and civic life; protection of the human rights of all citizens; freedom of speech, expression and choice as well as various rights as enshrined in our Constitution, and the rule of law, are there good reasons to complain about the state of our democracy?**

Democracy cannot be gauged or assessed only by the regular holding of elections every five years and having a parliament that is supposed to have been democratically elected. It is in the workings of the principles of democracy that one can infer whether a country is committed to democracy or not. Let's consider only one example: our Parliament. Can we look up to it as a model of a working democratic parliament?

*** If we could measure democracy on the basis of its expected outcomes, like for instance open public debate on major policies and legislations; and citizens' right to information about the government and its functioning, what would be the actual performance of our democracy from these particular angles?**

I am afraid we might be heading towards a system where democracy exists only on paper. We are not yet an open dictatorship, but we appear to be on the way to becoming an autocratic State since the 2014 elections. Arbitrary arrests by a police force, the attempt to destroy the independence of the Office of the DPP, the appointment of

cronies that cannot deliver in strategic institutions... all of these do not speak well for the reputation of our country. And, we may add, these facts are equally known or closely watched by international media and observers.

*** Our Constitution has established a democratic republic form of government. "Mauritius shall be a sovereign democratic State which shall be known as the Republic of Mauritius," states section 1 of our Constitution. Does this constitute the bedrock on which any legislation should be based and ultimately promulgated, and any piece of legislation or decision that goes contrary to the spirit of that Article can be challenged in Court, right?**

Parliament has the power to pass laws as long as these laws do not offend any provisions of the Constitution. For example, a few years ago the MMM-MSM government voted a law to deny bail to a certain category of suspected drug traffickers and terrorists. That was done through an amendment of section 5 of the Constitution that guarantees the freedom of individual. Both the Supreme Court and the Privy Council held that the amendment was unconstitutional as it went against the principle of democracy that dictates that it is for the judiciary, not the executive, to decide on the liberty of the individual.

*** What institutions should at all cost remain and be seen to be independent to protect and promote our democratic regime?**

To start with, it should be the Parliament itself. Then we have the police force; the Independent Commission against Corruption (ICAC); the Office of the DPP; the Judiciary; the Bank of Mauritius and the Director of Audit. Up to now the Office of the DPP and the Director of Audit have remained ferociously independent. The Judiciary so far is perceived to be independent. But is the ICAC acting impartially? Is the Bank of Mauritius independent from the MOF or government? The question is that we collectively depend on the political class to clean up, stiffen and make our institutions more robustly independent and credible, will they walk the talk?

*** Constitutions are said to define the various institutions of government; prescribe their composition, powers and functions; and regulate relations between them. What if amendments were to be brought to the Constitution that would upset the democratic scheme of things?**

Whatever amendments are brought should comply with the notion of democracy in section 1 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court and the Privy Council have held time and time again that section 1 is not merely a preamble but a substantive provision. A number of provisions cannot be altered without a weighted majority of three quarters. Even then if the amendments offend or go against the notion of democracy they will be struck down.

*** There have been instances when the constitutionality of certain legislation or amendments have been challenged in Court - at times successfully. There is therefore no reason to suggest that the independence of our judiciary has been undermined; it remains a bulwark for freedom and democracy and a force for justice, isn't it?**

Certainly. Judges have been bold enough over the years to strike down laws that offended against the Constitution. Recently Judges David Chan and Karuna Gunness-Balaghee struck down some provisions of the ICTA law before it was amended on the ground that they were



Democracy cannot be gauged or assessed only by the regular holding of elections every five years'

unconstitutional.

*** What about the protection of human rights and good governance?**

The Constitution embodies fundamental rights in Chapter 2. There is also a provision that allows any citizen to go to the Supreme Court if he or she is of the view that his/her rights under the Constitution have been violated.

It's all very nice to have all these rights embodied in an instrument, but if those who wield power like the government or the police have no respect for these rights what is the point of having them?

In an insidious way many rights are being eroded or not respected. The continuing pandemic regulations have further stretched those erosions and many may feel it is high time these were rolled back.

*** Transparency International says its research has established a clear link between having a healthy democracy and successfully fighting public sector corruption. We have not reached that stage to date, isn't it?**

There is a perception that corruption is rife in the country. Whether this is true or not is another matter, but the perception is there and that is bad for a democracy. The question that cannot evade all political leaders and parties, is what do we propose to do about this unsavoury situation?

In a small island state with numerous lobbies, there are obvious difficulties and reconciliations needed to achieve a necessary consensus on the fundamentals and the overriding principles, but that necessity, in the light of recent experiences, is now an imperative.

*** What could constitute threats to our democracy?**

I can do no better than to quote from an article that appeared in *L'express* in March this year where the author gave the following views that answer your question.

"Nepotism, award of contracts in a totally opaque way, getting hordes of police officers to arrest citizens on the mere complaint of oversusceptible politicians, abuse of the State media, running Parliament as if it is a central committee of a political party, stifling the voice of the Opposition with the assistance of the Speaker, who is far from being objective and independent, attempt at removing the independence of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, filling institutions that are supposed to run in total independence with individuals who cannot deliver, making allegations in Parliament against people who are not even members of the National Assembly, forcing journalists to reveal the source of their information, all these are being mentioned not as a criticism of anyone but as blunt facts that have tarnished our solid reputation as a democratic country and as a role model not only in Africa but in the rest of the world."

Pandemonium Nearby: Sri Lanka and Pakistan

● Cont. from page 3

The *Colombo Telegraph* titled a documented article in 2012 about the First Family: "Rajapaksa Family stands to receive in commission anywhere between us\$1.2 to us\$1.8 billion during 2005-15."

During the 2019 election campaign, populist deep tax cuts were promised by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and enacted several months before the pandemic. With the reduced fiscal revenues, the lucrative tourism industry in limbo, foreign workers' remittances minimal, national reserves depleted and currency depreciated while corruption had scaled new heights, the inability to pay for almost any food or fuel imports, the prognosis was towards rapid bankruptcy. Sinhalese or Tamil, they all pray for a way out of this nightmare.

In Pakistan, the corruption of the



Government Medical Officers' Association members walks with placards against the Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa after his government lost its majority in the parliament, amid the country's economic crisis, during a protest near a road leading to the parliament building in Colombo, Sri Lanka, April 6, 2022. Pic - Reuters

elites is also a way of life with colossal accumulated proceeds stashed overseas, as the current PM Imran Khan Niazi has consistently alleged as he promised changes galore and bringing to court the powerful families (reputed at 22) that have ruled Pakistan's deep state.

But with only 155 seats in the

National Assembly and reliant on Army backing and the support of two allies for a parliamentary majority (172 needed), he and his party - the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf - were always going to find such a task a tall order and a rather risky venture should his allies prove foot-loose and the diverse Opposition united.

That has happened and thus, the pandemonium, as the latter, having the required majority, brought in a no-confidence motion, rejected by the Speaker in a move whose constitutionality is being challenged in the Supreme Court (SC). Chaos meantime reigns supreme in the streets while the Army tries to play "neutral" observer.

As in many Commonwealth jurisdictions, the SC is loathe to intervene in parliamentary affairs and proceedings, unless matters of constitutionality are at stake. An outcome at the SC is expected this week.

Jan Arden

Tribute

Yousuf Mohamed, S.C., G.O.S.K



We learnt with great sadness the passing away of Yousuf Mohamed, 88, through a post of his son, MLA Shakeel Mohamed on Sunday 3rd of April 2022. Having read law at both Bristol and later Paris in the sixties, Yousuf Mohamed was undoubtedly one of our leading judicial practitioners since he resumed his practice in 1965. Soon however, the scion of Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed, a leading contributor to the struggle for independence, was to enter the political arena, being first elected as MLA in 1967.

From then followed an equally long and rich career as Member of the Legislative Assembly, Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations Minister of Industrial Relations and Ambassador to Egypt, with accreditation to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and Deputy Speaker in the National Assembly until he returned to his practice in 1981.

But the passion for public affairs and his pursuits in legal or social matters, beyond the confines of political parties, remained vibrant throughout his illustrious career and he remained a gentleman whose articulated opinions, legal mentoring and towering source of advice were always sought both by media and political parties. In September 2020 he was seen marching humbly alongside countless thousands from all walks of life in the streets of the capital behind the national flag, expressing a cross political dream for a better Mauritius with better governance.

Having exchanged with him on several occasions in this paper and elsewhere, we can concur wholeheartedly with the tributes being paid across all spectra of society to the brilliant mind with an endearing attitude in life.

Mauritius Times wishes to extend to the bereaved family its deepest condolences and sympathy for such an immense loss.

Spirituality

Varusha Pirappu

Tamil New Year is celebrated on the 1st of the month of Chithirai. It is on this day that Brahmaji created this world. This is the ideal day to start new activities. This day is also seen as the first day of spring. Oil baths and herbal water baths are usually done on this day. It is special to read and listen to the Tamil Panchangam on that day. According to the birth of each Tamil new year, the predictions for the country and world are made through mundane astrology.

On that morning, it is customary to see Chittirai Kani (fruits, gold, silver, mirror and money, Pooja items), to cook delicious (Arusuvai) food and offer it to the Lord. It is also customary for elders to give money to the little ones and bless them. Kula deity (Kula devivatha) worship should be done that day. Doing good deeds on the very first day of the year would help and motivate us to continue the good deeds throughout the year. Donations can be made too.

Chinmaya Mission Mauritius

Who will win the Ukraine war?

● Cont. from page 5

Perhaps he should have paid attention to what Henry Kissinger, US Secretary of State 1973-1977, wrote in a piece in *Washington Post* of 23 Feb 2022, 'How the Ukraine crisis ends,' which he begins with 'Public discussion on Ukraine is all about confrontation,' and then pertinently asks 'But do we know where we are going? In my life, I have seen four wars begun with great enthusiasm and public support, all of which we did not know how to end and from three of which we withdrew unilaterally. The test of policy is how it ends, not how it begins.'

Some extracts from that article will throw light on an alternative that could have been. 'The European Union must recognize that its bureaucratic dilatoriness and subordination of the strategic element to domestic politics in negotiating Ukraine's relationship to Europe contributed to turning a negotiation into a crisis.'

'The West is largely Catholic, the East largely Russian Orthodox. The West speaks Ukrainian; the East speaks mostly Russian. Any attempt by one wing of Ukraine to dominate the other - as has

been the pattern - would lead eventually to civil war or breakup.'

'...the root of the problem 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.'

'For the West, the demonization of Vladimir Putin is not a policy; it is an alibi for the absence of one.' 'Putin should come to realize that whatever his grievances, a policy of military impositions would produce another Cold War. For its part, the United States needs to avoid treating Russia as an aberrant to be patiently taught rules of conduct established by Washington. Putin is a serious strategist...'

'Ukraine should have the right to choose freely its economic and political associations, including with Europe. Ukraine should not join NATO, a position I took seven years ago, when it last came up.'

President Zelensky belatedly declared that Ukraine would not join NATO, after his bid to do so failed. The rest will be history...

RN Gopee

Ukraine war: US, UK slap fresh sanctions on Russia

The US and UK on Wednesday announced new sanctions targeting a combination of Russian institutions and elites in retaliation for "war crimes" in Ukraine.

The measures come in the wake of what a senior US administration official on Wednesday called the "sickening brutality of Bucha" reflecting the "despicable nature of the Putin regime", referring to the recent evidence of atrocities emerging in the wake of the retreat by Russian forces from the Ukrainian town.

The European Union, separately, was considering a ban on coal imports from Russia in a bid to reduce its energy dependence and cut off a source of revenue for Moscow, reports Hindustan Times.

The US on Wednesday imposed full blocking sanctions on Russia's largest financial institution, Sberbank, which holds one-third of Russian banking assets, and the country's largest private bank, Alfa Bank.

Additionally, by prohibiting any investment from any Americans in Russia, the US also aimed to make the exit of over 600 private sector multinational companies from Russia in the wake of the war a more enduring phenomena.

The US treasury also prohibited Russia from making debt payments with funds subject to US jurisdiction. "Russia is a global financial pariah – and it will now need to choose draining its available funds to make debt payments or default."

In addition to sanctions aimed at Putin's adult daughters, Mariya Putina and Katerina Tikhonova, the US targeted



A local man walks past a damaged ambulance, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, in the settlement of Hostomel, outside Kyiv, Ukraine. Pic - Reuters

Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin; the wife and children of Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov; and members of Russia's Security Council, including Dmitry Medvedev, a former president and Prime minister.

In a move co-ordinated with the US, Britain also slapped a full asset freeze on Sberbank. Plus, it froze the assets of Credit Bank of Moscow. The UK will also end all imports of Russian coal and oil by the end of 2022 and sanction another eight wealthy Russians, it said.

According to the senior administration official, the far-ranging measures are expected to wipe out the last 15 years of economic gains in Russia with the economy contracting by up to 15%, pushing Russia down from the 11th largest economy to possibly outside the top 20 global economies.

The sanctions are also expected to boost inflation to above 20%; cripple Russian growth; make it harder for

Russians to travel and access goods and services; cause economic, financial and technological isolation; and push Russia "back to the living standards of Soviet Union of the 1980s".

However, the official added, the sanctions were not permanent, and depended entirely on Putin's choices. "We can escalate or de-escalate depending on circumstances," the official said.

Why US, EU targeted Putin's daughters Mariya, Katerina in new sanctions?

Amid mounting global accusations of Russian war crimes in Ukraine, the United States on Wednesday announced a new set of sanctions targeting President Vladimir Putin's two adult daughters Mariya Putina (Vorontsova) and Katerina Tikhonova, and said it was toughening penalties against Russian banks.

The penalties cut off all of Putin's close family members from the US financial system and freeze any assets they hold in the United States, reports Hindustan Times.

Who are Mariya Putina and Katerina Tikhonova? Mariya Vorontsova and Katerina (or Ekaterina) Tikhonova are in their mid-30s.

According to the European Commission list of proposed individuals and entities to sanction, Vorontsova, Putin's eldest daughter, was included because she was co-owner of Nomenko, a company "involved in Russia's largest private investment project in healthcare".

She was thus deemed to benefit from the Russian government and was involved in a sector providing its revenue.

She is reportedly married to a Dutch businessman.

The commission list had her sister Tikhonova included because "she currently heads the Innopraktika development initiative, funded by key Russian companies whose directors are members of the inner circle of oligarchs close to President Putin".

She was also, therefore, seen to benefit from the Kremlin and be involved in providing it revenue.

According to The Guardian, Vorontsova is reported to be a specialist in rare diseases in children.

Tikhonova, an academic who for years competed in acrobatic rock'n'roll dance contests, was appointed in 2020 to run an artificial intelligence institute at Moscow State University.

'Concocted idea': Ex-Trump official dismisses Imran Khan's 'foreign conspiracy' claim

Claims by embattled Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan that the United States tried to topple his government are 'concocted,' Lisa Curtis, an erstwhile senior official in the administration of US President Joe Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, has said.

"According to me, Imran Khan has concocted this idea that somehow the US is looking to overturn his government. He has simply concocted this story to try to shore up his own base and gain support for his position," Curtis, who was Trump's deputy assistant and point person for India during his four years in office, said.

She further remarked that the former cricketer-turned-politician brought in the United States to hold on to his support base and get them riled up, adding that the nuclear-armed country's military leadership has become 'disillusioned' with him, reports Hindustan Times.

"I think that we are looking at a period of political uncertainty in Pakistan. However, as we've seen before, no government in Pakistan has completed a full term. So, we've seen this before. And, therefore, people don't need to panic,"



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi poses for photos with his Pakistan counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi before they head their bilateral meeting in Tunxi on March 30, 2022. Pic- AP

Curtis, now a senior fellow and a director of the Indo-Pacific Security Program at the Centre for a New American Security think tank, said.

In recent days, Khan, who, on April 3, survived the opposition's no-confidence motion against him in the National Assembly as it was dismissed by the deputy speaker who is from the ruling PTI, has repeatedly spoken about an 'international conspiracy' hatched by the United States, involving Pakistan's opposition parties, to remove him from power.

He accused Donald Lu, Washington's assistant assistant secretary of state for south and central Asian affairs, of threatening Pakistan's then-envoy, Asad Majeed, of 'implications' if Khan survived the no-trust vote.

The US has already dismissed Imran Khan's allegations, which, it said, are bereft of truth.

China says ties with Pakistan 'unbreakable' despite political upheaval

China's ties with Pakistan are "unbreakable and rock solid", the foreign ministry said on Wednesday against the backdrop of the ongoing political crisis in Islamabad.

The ministry added the country's internal turmoil will not affect the overall cooperation between the all-weather allies, including projects under the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian was asked to comment on the political situation in Pakistan at the

regular ministry briefing on Wednesday.

"China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. History has proven once again that no matter how the international landscape may evolve, and how our respective domestic situations may change, China and Pakistan relations will always stand unbreakable and rock solid," Zhao said.

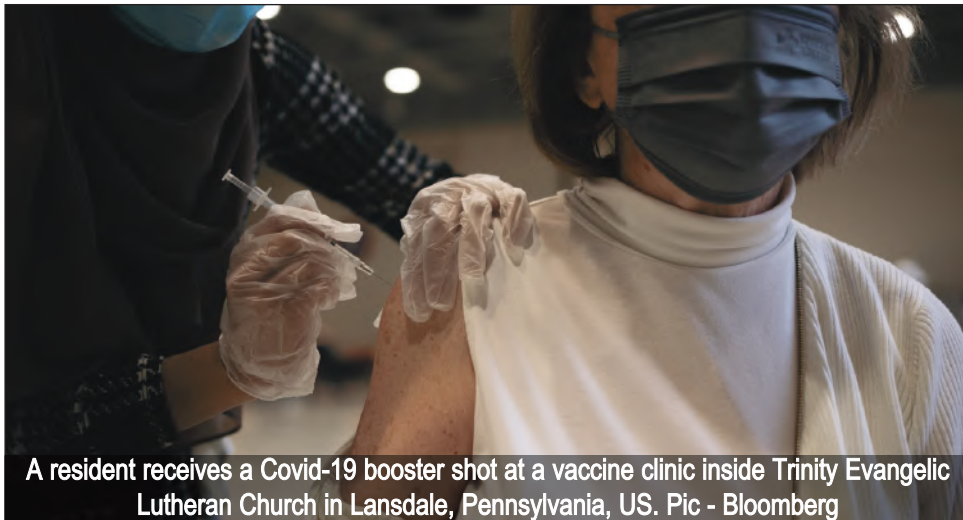
Zhao added that while the political situation may not affect Beijing's close ties with Islamabad, Beijing hoped that parties would close ranks to stay united for the development and stability of the country.

"China always follows the principle of non-interference in other countries' domestic affairs," he said.

Beijing will likely keep a close watch on the political developments in Pakistan given its big investments in the country. Under the CPEC, for one, which connects Pakistan's Gwadar port in Balochistan province to China's Xinjiang, Chinese companies are building a host of infrastructure projects.

* Contd on page 10

UK studies new XE variant of Covid-19



A resident receives a Covid-19 booster shot at a vaccine clinic inside Trinity Evangelic Lutheran Church in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, US. Pic - Bloomberg

A new Covid-19 variant called XE has been found in the UK, which is a mutation of strains of the Omicron variant, and early indications suggest it could be around 10 per cent more transmissible than other Omicron mutations, it emerged on Tuesday.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is studying XE — a mutation of the BA.1 and BA.2 Omicron strains — and as of March 22, 637 XE cases had been detected in England, according to official figures. Professor Susan Hopkins, the UKHSA's chief medical advisor, said such variants are known as "recombinant" and usually die off "relatively quickly".

"So far there is not enough evidence to draw conclusions about transmissibility, severity or vaccine effectiveness," Hopkins told 'The Sun'.

As of March 16, XE had a growth rate 9.8 per cent above that of the so-called stealth BA.2 Omicron variant — already known to be highly transmissible, the UKHSA said.

The agency cautioned that "as this estimate has not remained consistent as new data have been added, it cannot yet be interpreted as an estimate of growth advantage for the recombinant."

"Numbers were too small for the XE recombinant to be analysed by region," the UKHSA said.

According to the agency, while there are signs of "community transmission" of XE in England, it remains less than 1 per cent of the totally sequenced coronavirus cases.

The XE variant has also been detected in Thailand and New Zealand. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said further data is required before more can be said about the mutation, reports PTI.

It said: "Early-day estimates indicate a community growth rate advantage of 10 per cent as compared to BA.2."

There is no evidence XE is any more serious in disease severity, with all Omicron variants so far shown to be less severe.

Sri Lanka reserves drop to \$1.93 bn in March, \$8.6 bn due in payments this year

Sri Lanka's foreign exchange reserves dropped 16.1 per cent to \$1.93 billion in March from a month earlier, the central bank said Thursday, as the island nation struggles through its worst economic crisis in decades. Protests have erupted over the shortage of food, fuel and other essential commodities; last week thousands took to Colombo streets to demand president Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation, prompting clashes outside his home that left 15, including police personnel, injured and led to a brief state of emergency.

An estimated \$8.6 billion in debt payments fall due this year, according to an analysis by Bloomberg, and rapidly falling reserves raise questions about Sri Lanka's ability to pay even a part of this sum.

Sri Lanka had about \$2.3 billion of foreign reserves in February.

The country also faces a test of global investor confidence later this month, Bloomberg reported, when interest payments on a 2023 dollar bond and 2028 note fall due; the two combined amount to \$78.2 million.

"To get out of the crisis, the quick establishment of an effective government should be the first priority. Clinching a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) should be next," Bloomberg Economics' economists Ankur Shukla and Abhishek Gupta wrote in a note Tuesday.

Sri Lanka is due to hold talks with the IMF this month. Earlier today the president named a team of experts to advise the government on this crisis.



Protests in Sri Lanka over shortage of food, fuel and other essential commodities. Pic - H. Times

The country has also reached out to India and China for help.

The Indian government responded swiftly with lines of credits totalling over \$2 billion to help buy food, fuel and other essentials. Shipments of petrol and diesel have already been delivered, with another of rice due soon.

But ahead of talks with the IMF there was another setback - finance minister Ali Sabry quit 24 hours after replacing president Rajapaksa's brother Basil.

Sabry today said Sri Lanka must restructure a \$1 billion sovereign debt due in July and said help must be sought not just from the IMF but also the World Bank and Asia Development Bank. "... there is no other solution..." he said.

The country has yet to appoint a replacement for Sabry.

Rajapaksa, meanwhile, has refused to step down despite his coalition losing its majority. An offer to the opposition to form a 'unity' government was dismissed amid insistence the Rajapaksa government must go 'starting with the president'.

Pressure was ramped up Tuesday after two ruling coalition lawmakers warned of 'anarchy' sans an interim government.

Congressman backs deeper India-US defence ties

A US congressman has said India and the United States agree on 'far' more things than the two disagree on, adding that containing the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its aggression remains the top challenge in the Indo-Pacific and the two sides must have conversations about strengthening mutual defences.

In an interview, US congressman Raja Krishnamoorthy — an elected representative from Illinois and a member of the house permanent select committee on intelligence — also talked about helping reduce Indian dependence on Russian arms while ensuring it has access to the best technology, reports Hindustan Times.

Claiming that India-US ties remain strong in the wake of Russia's invasion, the congressman said that different countries have different opinions with regard to different subjects.

"The fundamentals remain extremely strong and that's why the US and India

continue to cooperate on a range of issues, from security matters as part of the Quad initiative to economic matters, trade matters, and of course, people to people and cultural ties," he said.

Krishnamoorthy rejected the premise that the differences in the position on Ukraine may lead to an erosion of strategic trust, and instead highlighted the long-term trajectory and the strategic subtext of the relationship. "I think that everyone understands that what we share in common far, far outweighs anything that we may disagree about," he said.

According to him, CCP's aggression in the Indo-Pacific presents an important challenge "and I think that if we take the eye off that ball, we lose an opportunity to



Claiming that India-US ties remain strong in the wake of Russia's invasion, the congressman said that different countries have different opinions with regard to different subjects. Pic - HT

really stabilise the region and create a rules-based international order, which is what I think all democratic countries desire."

He also accused China of "misinformation, propaganda, falsehoods and fabrication", and underscored the need for democracies to work together.

"I think democracies based on the fundamental principle of equality under the law, liberty and freedom for people, protection of minorities, all the shared values of the United States and India have in common, will ultimately prevail. That is what we see in history," he said.

He agreed with American administration's recent push for deeper India-US defence cooperation to offset Delhi's dependence on Moscow and said that he would be willing to champion ties that took into account Indian concerns.

"We should increasingly talk about what is the manufacturing and technology supply chain on the defence side, how do we make sure that our mutual defences are strong, and how do we make sure that India has the capability that it requires to defend itself without being so dependent on Russian imports and, at the same time, have access to the most modern technology."

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low, Historien

“Avec le reflux de la pandémie et la levée des restrictions, on croyait que le pire était derrière nous.

Hélas! Avec la guerre en Ukraine, il est possible que le pire soit devant nous”

Mauritius Times : Une nouvelle situation s’est développée avec la guerre en Ukraine dont les conséquences sont ressenties à travers le monde. Rien n’est certain quant à la durée et à l’issue de cette guerre qui a déjà entraîné son lot de destructions et de pertes de vies humaines. Comment les choses se présentent-elles, selon vous?

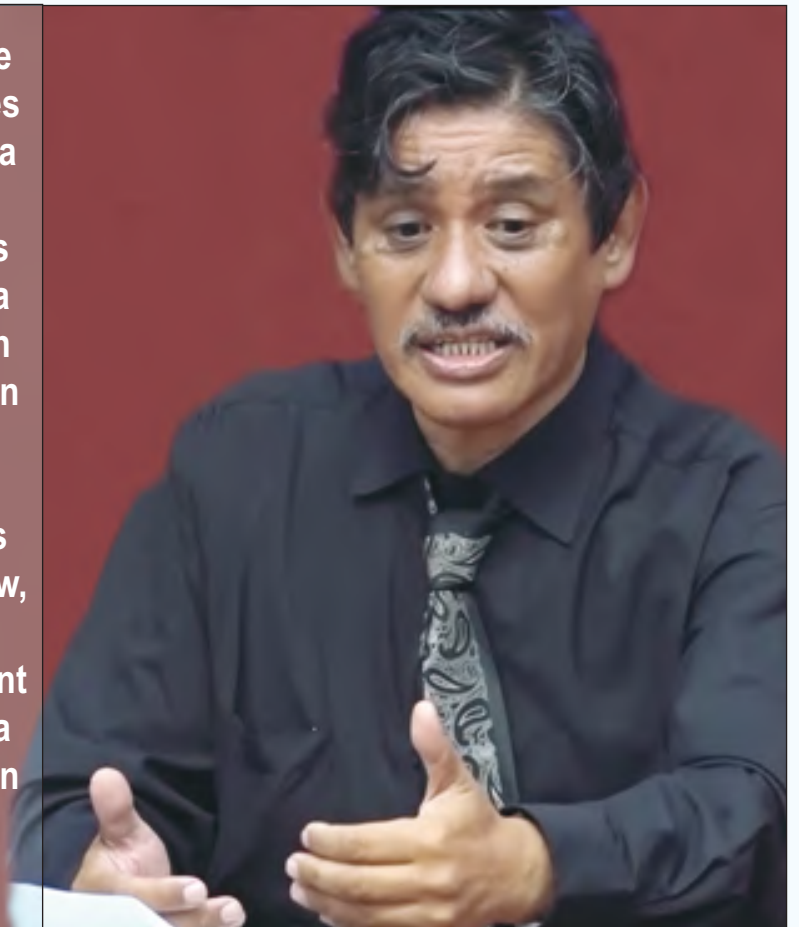
Jocelyn Chan Low : Les raisons menant au déclenchement de ce conflit sont présentement et seront pendant longtemps sujettes à controverse. Et comment serait-il autrement quand on constate que même après l’ouverture de toutes les archives de la Première Guerre mondiale, plus de cent ans après, les historiens débattent toujours des causes de cette guerre.

Toutefois, il est vrai que nombre d’analystes, et non des moindres, à l’instar de Georges Kennan, soulignait que l’élargissement de l’OTAN vers les anciennes républiques de l’ex-Union soviétique, plus particulièrement vers l’Ukraine, entraînerait inéluctablement un conflit avec la Russie. Toute l’histoire de la diplomatie russe et de l’Union soviétique est marquée par une véritable pathologie de la sécurité, le pays ayant connu à maintes reprises des invasions le mettant en danger existentiel - entre autres, celles des Tartares, des Français sous Napoléon Ier, et de l’Allemagne nazi sous Hitler.

Cependant, depuis le début de l’invasion russe, nous sommes témoins d’une véritable guerre de propagande par médias interposés entre les pro-russes et les pro-occidentaux. Remarquez qu’historiquement cela a toujours été le cas au cours des grands conflits internationaux. Un diplomate anglais Arthur Ponsonby a même établi au début du 20e siècle une grille de lecture des discours de propagande de guerre - diabolisation de l’ennemi sur lequel on rejette tous les torts quant à l’origine du conflit, exagération de ses pertes militaires, l’annexion de la morale et des artistes à nos côtés, inventions de crimes de guerre alors que nos bêtises sont accidentelles, utilisation d’armes prohibées par l’ennemi, etc. En bref, tout ce qu’on retrouve si on analyse les discours des grandes chaînes de presse et de télévision des protagonistes.

Avec l’importance croissante des médias dans l’espace public, comme le souligne Jacques Baud, ancien colonel et responsable du Service de renseignement suisse, dans son excellent ouvrage ‘Gouverner par les fake news - 30 ans d’infox utilisées par les Occidentaux’ (2020), les États légitiment leur politique étrangère et les

Une guerre inattendue en Europe frappe les esprits tandis que la pandémie suit son cours et continue de faire des victimes dans le monde entier. Outre la situation sanitaire, la situation économique devient de plus en plus préoccupante, notamment à cause de la flambée des prix des produits alimentaires. Jocelyn Chan Low, historien, jette un éclairage sur les causes menant à l’invasion de l’Ukraine par la Russie, et les implications d’un tel affrontement sur le plan mondial et régional.



conflits dans lesquels ils s’engagent au moyen de *fake news* souvent distillées par leur services de renseignement et relayées par les médias complaisants.

*** Mais derrière ce constat il y a l’épais brouillard de post-vérité fait d’intox, de désinformation, ce qui rend difficile la lecture des événements et encore plus aléatoires les prédictions quant à la durée et l’issue de cette guerre, non?**

Tout à fait. Prenons le cas des buts de guerre de Vladimir Poutine. Est-ce toute l’Ukraine, ou simplement le Donbass et la mer d’Azov, transformant le reste de l’Ukraine, démilitarisé et neutre, en zone tampon entre la Russie et l’Otan ? On n’en sait rien malgré les nombreuses supputations faites à partir

- des tentatives maladroites de psychanalyse à distance du président russe ou
- de ce qui ressemble à des bobards quant à son état de santé physique et mental, ou
- du fonctionnement du pouvoir au Kremlin, ou encore
- de la qualité de l’appareil militaire russe.

Il faut ajouter sur cette liste les déductions construites à partir d’une lecture des écrits et discours des théoriciens de l’Eurasianisme tels que le philosophe russe Aleksandr Dugin ou du patriarche Cyrille de l’Église orthodoxe russe.

Comme l’écrivait Clausewitz, la guerre est le prolongement de la diplomatie par d’autres moyens. Mais comment comprendre le déroulement des négociations diploma-

tiques qui devraient mettre un terme au conflit sans appréhender les buts de guerre des protagonistes de même que la situation militaire sur le terrain ?

*** Cependant la situation reste explosive et dangereuse, n’est-ce pas?**

Oui, on ne saurait écarter le danger d’un conflit qui perdure avec la perspective de la mise en place d’un engrenage qui finirait par entraîner une descente aux enfers et l’élargissement du conflit vers une guerre nucléaire entre deux camps hostiles.

On a constaté qu’au moment même où il y a eu une percée diplomatique pouvant mener à la fin des hostilités, il semblerait que d’autres forces ou circonstances ont œuvré pour saboter le processus de paix...

Il est certain cependant que nous sommes en ce moment à un point de bascule de l’Histoire du monde et du 21e siècle. Grosso modo, l’euphorie qui avait gagné les milieux libéraux et occidentaux, suivant la fin de l’URSS, quant à la ‘fin de l’histoire’ ou ‘le triomphe de l’occident’ à travers l’émergence d’un monde unipolaire dominé par les États-Unis, s’est définitivement estompée.

Il y avait déjà des signes avant-coureurs que tout cela n’était qu’une grande illusion. L’événement tout récent, c’est le départ en catastrophe des Américains de Kaboul avec comme justification qu’il était impossible d’exporter ‘la démocratie’ et les ‘valeurs’ occidentales à travers le monde.

● Suite en page 12

“Une partie grandissante de la population mauricienne n’arrive plus à joindre les deux bouts. La population s’attend légitimement à des mesures correctives du gouvernement pour augmenter le pouvoir d’achat. Où trouver les ressources pour le faire ? Une fuite en avant ne pourra qu’entraîner une descente aux enfers et nous amener effectivement à la faillite et à la situation prévalant au Sri Lanka actuellement...”

‘L'évolution des flux commerciaux et financiers démontre clairement que le 21e siècle sera “le siècle du grand retour de l'Asie”’

• Suite de la page 11

Plus important, la mondialisation - à travers la libéralisation des échanges a été accélérée par l'ouverture de la Chine, les transformations structurelles en Inde, au Brésil, etc. Cela va saper la domination économique de l'Occident. L'évolution des flux commerciaux et financiers démontre clairement que, d'un point de vue économique, le 21^e siècle sera «le siècle du grand retour de l'Asie».

Il existe déjà l'hégémonie du dollar sur le commerce et le système économique mondial. En y ajoutant l'appareil militaire, cette hégémonie constitue l'un des piliers de la puissance américaine. Mais elle commence à être sérieusement entamée. En bref, le monde unipolaire ne peut que céder la place à un monde multipolaire.

Comme le souligne un récent rapport de l'*Economist Intelligence Unit* sur les conséquences de cette guerre, dans l'immédiat, elle va d'abord accélérer la bifurcation du monde en deux camps hostiles, accroître la dépendance de la Russie sur la Chine, contraindre les Etats-Unis à se focaliser à la fois sur l'Europe et l'Asie (avec évidemment un grand risque de 'strategic overstretch' - dépassement des limites stratégiques - que les Américains voudraient éviter), susciter une accélération de la course aux arme-



“Le fondement de la diplomatie mauricienne, petit État insulaire, a été tracé par Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam au cours de la première guerre froide et se résume à deux mots ‘Perfect neutrality’. Et, dans ce conflit, Maurice s’est déclarée neutre, bien qu’à la différence de Madagascar, elle a voté la résolution condamnant l’invasion de l’Ukraine par la Russie...”

ments, le réarmement de l'Allemagne avec des conséquences majeures sur la scène diplomatique européenne, accroître les risques d'éclatement de conflits dans d'autres régions du monde, et entraîner une plus grande contestation du modèle libéral occidental.

*** Ce qui paraît probable aussi, c'est que cette guerre va entraîner un réalignement sur le plan géopolitique, ce qui pourrait intervenir dans les moyen et long termes avec la stratégie de la Russie et des pays BRICS en vue de créer un nouvel ordre international et monétaire par le biais de la dé-dollarisation des échanges commerciaux le plus rapidement possible. Voyez-vous là un facteur d'instabilité qui risque d'être introduit dans le système monétaire international et, par extension, dans la géopolitique mondiale?**

'War is the locomotive of History', écrivait Trotsky. Effectivement, cette guerre va accélérer les tendances que nous avons mentionnées. Je me souviens des débats, au cours des conférences universitaires en Europe et ailleurs, auxquels j'ai assisté dans les années 2000 où certains évoquaient déjà la provincialisation de l'Europe et l'émergence d'un monde nouveau et multipolaire, économiquement, politiquement et culturellement.

Assistons-nous en ce moment à la fin d'un cycle qui a débuté en 1500 avec l'émergence de la suprématie occidentale et, par la suite, son prolongement avec l'hégémonie américaine?

Le vote aux Nations Unies sur la résolution condamnant la Russie est très révélateur : les pays qui se sont abstenus représentent plus de la moitié de la population

mondiale. Parmi les BRICS, la Chine, l'Inde, l'Afrique du Sud, le Brésil mais aussi le Pakistan, des pays du Moyen Orient, 17 pays africains, dont Madagascar. De même sur la question des sanctions à l'encontre de la Russie, l'Europe est certes unie mais seule. Même la Turquie qui fait pourtant partie de l'OTAN s'abstient d'appliquer les sanctions.

Les Etats poursuivent leurs intérêts et ne se laissent plus dicter par l'Occident. Comme le disait Nelson Mandela, 'l'erreur de l'Occident est de croire que vos ennemis sont automatiquement mes ennemis.'

En outre, au niveau de l'Occident et des Etats-Unis, on a vu éclater au grand jour, l'occidentalisme - c'est-à-dire la tentation de confondre le monde, la communauté internationale et l'universel à l'Occident et à ses intérêts.

Le résultat a été une vague de condamnation de ce qui est perçu comme une hypocrisie flagrante quant au traitement différentiel des réfugiés ukrainiens - 'blonds aux yeux bleus' - par rapport aux Africains, aux Asiatiques ou à ceux issus du Moyen-Orient et au racisme indéniable lors de la couverture des événements par certains journalistes des grandes chaînes de télévision occidentales.

Le traitement médiatique accordé à l'Ukraine contraste singulièrement avec le traitement de la guerre en Irak, en Palestine ou au Yémen.

Quant à la question des crimes de guerre, de nombreux commentateurs s'interrogent sur l'impunité accordée à Georges W. Bush et à Tony Blair au vu de leur rôle dans le déclenchement de la guerre en Irak en 2003. De même, le ton menaçant des responsables européens ou amé-

ricains par rapport au vote des pays africains et asiatiques à l'ONU a fait bondir d'indignation plusieurs responsables politiques des pays concernés, à l'instar d'Imran Khan, Premier ministre du Pakistan.

Quant à la dédollarisation des échanges commerciaux, il faut souligner que le processus était déjà amorcé avant l'invasion de l'Ukraine. Dès la fin de 2021, la Chine avait approché l'Arabie saoudite pour que ses achats de pétrole ne soient plus effectués en dollars mais en yuans.

Avec les sanctions, inévitablement, d'autres monnaies que le dollar seront utilisées pour les transactions commerciales avec la Russie. Et la décision de geler les réserves de dollars de la Russie va indubitablement accélérer la recherche d'alternatives chez les dirigeants d'autres États, et ce, afin de ne pas se retrouver politiquement à la merci des Etats-Unis.

*** Se dirige-t-on donc vers l'émergence d'un nouvel ordre mondial?**

Dans le moyen terme, la fin de l'hégémonie du dollar aura un impact considérable sur une administration américaine déjà surendettée. Elle ne pourra plus continuer d'imprimer des dollars pour éponger ses dettes, avec comme résultat un détricotage de son outil militaire, ce qui annoncerait la fin de l'ordre unipolaire américain, favorisant l'émergence d'un nouvel ordre mondial.

Cependant, historiquement, les transformations d'une telle envergure ont souvent été accompagnées de guerres comme nous le rappelle Ray Dalio dans son ouvrage 'The New World Order: Why Nations Succeed or Fail' (2021) ou encore Graham Allison dans son livre 'Vers la guerre: La Chine et l'Amérique dans le Piège de Thucydide?' (2017).

A ce propos, certains n'hésitent pas à affirmer que la fin du régime de Kadhafi et l'exécution de ce dernier seraient le résultat d'une initiative qu'il avait lancée pour mettre fin au pétrodollar.

“Le traitement médiatique accordé à l'Ukraine contraste singulièrement avec le traitement de la guerre en Irak, en Palestine ou au Yémen. Quant à la question des crimes de guerre, de nombreux commentateurs s'interrogent sur l'impunité accordée à Georges W. Bush et à Tony Blair au vu de leur rôle dans le déclenchement de la guerre en Irak en 2003. De même, le ton menaçant des responsables européens ou américains par rapport au vote des pays africains et asiatiques à l'ONU a fait bondir d'indignation plusieurs responsables politiques des pays concernés...”

Cela dit, la guerre a été omniprésente dans certaines régions du monde depuis 1945. Et les Etats-Unis ont été impliqués dans un grand nombre de conflits depuis la Deuxième Guerre mondiale - Corée, Vietnam, Irak, Afghanistan, etc... Cependant les puissances nucléaires ne se sont jamais retrouvées face à face, les affrontements n'étant jusque-là que des wars by proxy. Avec l'invasion de l'Ukraine, la donne risque de changer.

• Suite en page 13

'Remplacer Pravind Jugnauth non seulement par qui mais pour faire quoi ?'

Jusqu'ici l'Opposition n'a pas fourni de réponses claires'

● Suite de la page 12

Quant à l'économie mondiale, le déclin du dollar pourrait entraîner la fragmentation de l'économie mondiale en blocs régionaux, utilisant des monnaies distinctes comme moyens d'échanges. Quand on y ajoute le retour de la division du monde en blocs rivaux, le développement séparé de la technologie hi-tech, la fragmentation de l'internet, entre autres, on peut y entrevoir un coup d'arrêt à la mondialisation.

*** Deux grandes puissances économiques, la Chine et l'Inde, ont refusé chacune, pour diverses raisons, de se ranger dans le camp de l'Ouest et condamner l'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie. Jusqu'où pourraient-elles persévérer dans cette voie, selon vous ?**

La Chine et l'Inde, en tant que puissances émergentes, sont - de fait - les plus aptes à bénéficier de l'émergence d'un monde multipolaire.

Il est vrai qu'entre ces deux grands États, il y des divergences profondes - conflits frontaliers qui perdurent, les relations avec le Pakistan, le *Belt and Road Initiative* et les perceptions qui en découlent. D'ailleurs, ces divergences ont amené l'Inde à se rapprocher des États-Unis et de l'Aukus.

Mais l'Inde est loin d'être inféodée aux États-Unis. D'ailleurs, elle a de profondes divergences économiques avec ce pays, notamment sur les tarifs à l'importation. Quant à ses relations avec la Russie, elles sont inébranlables du fait que cette dernière a été l'allié indéfectible de l'Inde depuis l'indépendance, notamment sur la question du Cachemire.

“Avec le reflux de la pandémie et la levée des restrictions, on croyait que le pire était derrière nous. Hélas ! Avec la guerre en Ukraine, tel n'est plus le cas... il est possible que le pire soit devant nous. Le rapport de l'*Economist Intelligence Unit* sur l'impact économique de cette guerre et des sanctions prévoit une nette décélération de la croissance dans les pays du G7, parmi lesquels on retrouve certains de nos plus gros clients et pourvoyeurs de touristes...”

En outre, c'est la Russie qui lui pourvoit la grosse partie de son armement militaire. Et les sanctions contre la Russie offrent de bonnes opportunités à l'Inde en ce qu'il s'agit de l'achat de ses produits pétroliers. Il faut ajouter à cela que la Russie dispose d'un fort capital de soutien au sein de la population indienne.

Quant à la Chine, ses relations avec la Russie sont établies sur le roc. Non seulement cette relation sécurise l'énorme frontière qu'elle partage avec la Russie, mais les deux pays ont le même objectif révisionniste par rapport à l'ordre mondial. En outre, la Russie sanctionnée apporte dans son sillage d'énormes opportunités aux entreprises chinoises.

Au vu de leurs intérêts mutuels, on voit mal ces deux pays abandonner leurs relations avec la Russie sous pression de l'Occident. Les États-Unis ne feront rien pour contraindre l'Inde alors qu'un bras de fer économique avec la Chine serait catastrophique pour l'Europe.

*** Maurice a-t-elle bien joué ses cartes dans cette confrontation opposant deux grandes superpuissances du monde ?**

Le fondement de la diplomatie mauricienne, petit État insulaire, a été tracé par Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam au cours de la première guerre froide et se résume à deux mots *'Perfect neutrality'*. Et, dans ce conflit, Maurice s'est déclarée neutre, bien qu'à la différence de Madagascar, elle a voté la résolution condamnant l'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie. Il ne faut surtout pas oublier le poids de l'Union européenne à l'île Maurice...

*** Les conséquences économiques de cette guerre sur l'économie mauricienne tout comme pour beaucoup de pays africains risquent d'être très dures. Étant déjà fragilisés par la pandémie de la Covid-19, la récession économique nous guette, selon les écono-**

“Dans le moyen terme, la fin de l'hégémonie du dollar aura un impact considérable sur une administration américaine déjà surendettée. Elle ne pourra plus continuer d'imprimer des dollars pour éponger ses dettes, avec comme résultat un détricotage de son outil militaire, ce qui annoncerait la fin de l'ordre unipolaire américain, favorisant l'émergence d'un nouvel ordre mondial...”

mistes, et cela risque de rejaillir sur le plan social comme c'est le cas présentement au Sri Lanka et au Pakistan... Faut-il craindre une nette détérioration sur ce plan-là ?

Evidemment. La pandémie de la Covid-19 ne pouvait qu'avoir un impact important sur une économie tournée essentiellement vers l'extérieur et où le tourisme demeure l'un des plus gros pourvoyeurs d'emplois et de devises étrangères. Le pays est extrêmement dépendant des importations pour sa survie.

Le gouvernement, à juste titre, bien qu'il y ait des critiques quant à la manière de son utilisation, a puisé dans les réserves de la Banque centrale pour limiter la casse sociale. Grosso modo, le pays et l'économie ont été placés sous respiration artificielle. Et, avec le reflux de la pandémie et la levée des restrictions, on croyait que le pire était derrière nous. Hélas ! Avec la guerre en Ukraine, tel n'est plus le cas... il est possible que le pire soit devant nous. Le rapport de l'*Economist Intelligence Unit* sur l'impact économique de cette guerre et des sanctions prévoit une nette décélération de la croissance dans les pays du G7, parmi lesquels on retrouve certains de nos plus gros clients et pourvoyeurs de touristes.

Certes, la Russie bien que puissance militaire mondiale majeure, ne se retrouve qu'à la onzième place dans le classement des économies du monde. Cependant, elle est l'un des plus gros fournisseurs de gaz et de pétrole du monde et de l'Europe en particulier. En outre, avec l'Ukraine, elle demeure l'un des plus gros producteurs de blé, de céréales et d'autres produits alimentaires. Il faut ainsi s'attendre à une flambée du prix des carburants et des produits alimentaires, et aussi à une augmentation des



risques de famine dans les mois qui viennent.

En outre, la guerre et les sanctions entraînent des perturbations majeures dans le fret, les chaînes de production et les marchés financiers. Avec le prolongement des hostilités, le pire est devant nous. Déjà certains signes, tels que le récent *'inverted yield curve'* à la bourse américaine, laisse présager une récession aux États-Unis dans les mois à venir. Tous ces développements ne pourront qu'avoir des répercussions sur l'économie mauricienne.

Déjà la dévaluation continue de la roupie entraîne une hausse constante des dépenses des ménages et une partie grandissante de la population mauricienne n'arrive plus à joindre les deux bouts. La population s'attend légitimement à des mesures correctives du gouvernement pour augmenter le pouvoir d'achat.

Où trouver les ressources pour le faire ? Une fuite en avant ne pourra qu'entraîner une descente aux enfers et nous amener effectivement à la faillite et à la situation prévalant au Sri Lanka actuellement.

*** Au regard des conséquences de cette guerre sur l'économie mauricienne et possiblement sur le domaine social assez rapidement, la proposition a été faite de réunir les compétences politiques du pays dans un gouvernement d'unité nationale, cela afin éviter que la situation ne dégénère. Que faites-vous de cette proposition de Rama Sithanen ?**

La proposition est intéressante à plus d'un titre. Il est vrai que le gouvernement actuel dispose d'une majorité très confortable à l'Assemblée nationale. Quant à la question de compétences, cela relève d'une question d'appréciation. De toute manière, les ministres sont épaulés par des fonctionnaires qui assurent la continuité de l'État et de l'administration.

Cela étant dit, un gouvernement élu avec 37% des suffrages a tendance à tout faire pour augmenter sa cote de popularité.

- Est-ce possible et judicieux en temps de crise ? Peut-on renvoyer les mesures impopulaires aux calendes grecques ?

● Suite en page 14

'Un gouvernement d'unité nationale mettrait en suspens les divergences, trop souvent personnelles et futiles'

• Suite de la page 13

- Peut-on éternellement puiser dans les réserves et s'en detter au-delà de nos capacités pour susciter un *feel-good factor* artificiel?

Un gouvernement d'unité nationale mettrait en suspens les divergences, trop souvent personnelles et futiles, afin de se concentrer sur l'objectif prioritaire de sortir le pays de cette mauvaise passe résultant- en grande partie- d'imprévus.

Certains avancent qu'un tel gouvernement serait un pas de plus vers la répression et équivaldrait à un chèque en blanc pour la mauvaise gouvernance. Cependant il pourrait tout aussi bien susciter des *checks and balances* à l'intérieur même du gouvernement. D'autres avancent que ce serait essentiellement un gouvernement de 'dino-saures'. Mais, au cœur de la tempête, peut-on faire appel à des novices pour diriger la barque?

En outre, le vide dans l'opposition faciliterait l'émergence d'une nouvelle force, avec de nouvelles idées et un nouveau personnel politique comme cela a été le cas avec le MMM sous le gouvernement de coalition mené par Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam et Sir Gaëtan Duval.

Toutefois, si l'on se réfère aux dernières déclarations de divers responsables de l'Opposition, et de certains dirigeants de l'alliance gouvernementale, cette idée est irréalisable. D'ailleurs, avec les personnalités en jeu, connues pour leur ego surdimensionné, on risque de se retrouver avec un gouvernement miné par des tiraillements, ce qui saperait la cohésion de l'action gouvernementale.

*** Certains opposants de l'actuel gouvernement estiment toutefois que débarrasser le pays du régime des Jugnauth devrait demeurer la principale priorité de l'Opposition. Il n'est pas évident à ce stade si l'électorat, une majorité du moins, va suivre l'Opposition sur ce plan-là. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

L'opposition - malheureusement - donne l'impression de continuer à personnaliser tout le débat politique, que ce soit dans ses rapports avec le gouvernement ou entre ses diverses composantes, donnant ainsi l'impression aujourd'hui que toute sa politique et son programme se résument à : 'Ôte-toi que je m'y mette.'

La grande question devrait être 'remplacer Pravind Jugnauth non seulement par qui mais pour faire quoi?' Jusqu'ici elle n'a pas fourni de réponses claires à cette interrogation.

*** Les Travailleurs vont se réunir au sein de leur Bureau politique demain pour prendre une décision concernant un éventuel arrangement avec l'Entente de l'Espoir. Déjà les choses ne sont pas au beau fixe avec la sortie de Nando Bodha contre les Travailleurs. N'avez-vous pas le sentiment que le leader du PTr va traîner les pieds avec qu'il ne se décide? Et cela, probablement pour de bonnes raisons?**

L'Opposition, dans son ensemble, a accepté bon gré mal gré que l'opposant direct à Pravind Jugnauth au poste de Premier ministre aux prochaines élections générales, sera issu du Parti Travailleiste, le plus grand parti de l'Opposition en termes électoral.

En outre, le Parti Travailleiste est moins affecté par les défections et autres tentatives de débauchage, sans doute parce que le parti a de grandes perspectives de se retrouver au pouvoir dans un avenir pas très lointain.



“Le Parti Travailleiste est moins affecté par les défections et autres tentatives de débauchage, sans doute parce que le parti a de grandes perspectives de se retrouver au pouvoir dans un avenir pas très lointain. Et le Parti Travailleiste a plusieurs options d'alliances. On sait que des intérêts œuvrent pour un rapprochement du PTr avec le MSM...”

Et le Parti Travailleiste a plusieurs options d'alliances. On sait que des intérêts œuvrent pour un rapprochement du PTr avec le MSM.

Reste le fait qu'il y a une forte possibilité que les élections municipales soient organisées cette année-ci. Toute fragmentation de l'Opposition ne pourrait que profiter au régime actuel. La solution serait un arrangement uniquement pour les municipales bien que le MMM insiste que *'nothing is agreed until everything is agreed'*.

*** Il y a le risque toutefois que plus ça tarde, plus cela pourrait pousser Paul Bérenger à envisager ce qui pourrait paraître inimaginable présentement, cela pour assurer la survie de son parti, qui est déjà absent des régions rurales et dont le poids électoral, même dans des régions urbaines, ne pèse pas très lourd au regard du désenchantement des militants. Voyez-vous des signes annonciateurs d'une telle éventualité?**

La réponse d'Ajay Gunness à l'idée d'un gouvernement d'unité nationale peut donner la perception que tout sépare le MMM du régime actuel. Mais, en politique, tout est possible.

Cependant le rapport des forces est nettement en défaveur du MMM qui ne s'est point consolidé depuis sa défaite aux dernières élections générales tant au niveau de sa base électorale qu'au niveau de l'appareil du parti. Avec le MSM peut-il s'attendre à un *fair deal* plus qu'à un *bad deal*?

*** Le MSM mise sur la fragmentation des forces de l'Opposition, ce qui risque de se produire avec la venue de nouvelles formations politiques, dont la dernière c'est 'Linion Lepep Morisien'. Beaucoup d'eau va sans doute couler sous les ponts jusqu'aux prochaines élections. Mais voyez-vous l'économie comme le facteur déterminant en fin de compte?**

Divers sondages ont démontré que le noyau dur des partis traditionnels s'est considérablement rétréci. Et le

personnel politique des partis *mainstream* s'est beaucoup décrédibilisé. En outre, l'activisme politique et social ne se retrouve plus au sein de ces partis, d'où la création de 'Linion Lepep Morisien', fragmentant davantage l'Opposition. On voit mal émerger un front uni regroupant une opposition aussi disparate.

Certes la détérioration de la situation économique devrait - en théorie - augmenter le *protest vote* contre le gouvernement, mais le manque d'unité de l'Opposition va entraîner non seulement une dispersion de ce vote mais aussi une confusion au niveau du choix, augmentant le nombre des abstentionnistes. Cela devrait profiter grandement à Pravind Jugnauth et son équipe, eu égard aux moyens dont ils disposent pour mobiliser leurs partisans.

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.

We are so grateful that our voice and readership extend far beyond our actual subscription base of loyal well-wishers. But we now need to expand that base of readers who value our independence and commitment to continue improving the paper and reach new audiences.

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- We should not investigate facts by the light of arguments, but arguments by the light of facts; for the facts were not put together to fit the arguments, but the arguments to fit the facts. — Myson of Chenae

A Landmark in The History of Indians in Mauritius

(Tomorrow is the 49th anniversary of the foundation of 'The Hindusthani')

By D. Napal

Manilal Doctor has a claim to our gratitude for more than one reason. During the few years that he stayed among us he militated with remarkable zeal and undaunted courage in favour of Mauritians of Indian origin. He pleaded their cause and voiced their grievances before the Royal Commission of 1909. He agitated for the suppression of the double cut, which made the poor indentured labourer forfeit his pay for ten days for a day's absence. He led a vigorous campaign for the abolition of indentured labour, which was but an euphemistic term for slavery, with all the horrors which it implied. He demanded to put an end to Indian immigration, which was resorted to by the white planters to procure cheaper labour on the market, regardless of the interests of those Indians who had made of the island their home.

The Royal Commissioners of 1909 while drafting their Report were more than once inspired by the evidence of Manilal Doctor on these and many other aspects of the Indian question. In many of their recommendations regarding the Indians, we can find an echo of this evidence. But towering above all his achievements, is the foundation of *The Hindusthani*. Manilal Doctor realised the role of a newspaper in shaping public opinion. He realised it the more as no local paper would have anything to do with matters affecting the Indians. The Conservatives were hostile; it was a tradition with them to do so. And those papers which called themselves democratic or liberal supported the cause of Indians only so long as they needed them to break the influence of the Conservatives. They too often joined the Conservatives in the common outcries against the "Asiatic spectre". Manilal Doctor had the financial help of some rich merchants of Port Louis belonging particularly to the Muslim and Tamil communities in the foundation of *The Hindusthani*. The first issue appeared on Monday the 15th March 1909. Boldly displayed on top of it were the words: Liberty of Individuals! Fraternity of Men! Equality of Races!

This issue announced that on Saturday the 13th of March 1909 the organizers of *The Hindusthani* and their friends offered thanksgiving prayers to God in order to invoke His blessings upon the inauguration of the paper.

There was also a short article explaining the paper's motto.

In this article we read among other things: "The fraternity of men which denotes love amongst human beings as fellow creatures, fellow workers and fellow sufferers follows logically from the essential nature of man as cast in the image of God."

Here were expressed the same ideas which were embodied in Remy Ollier's famous words: *L'homme à quelque rang qu'il appartienne est le fils de Dieu et à ce*

titre un frère. Going further in our comparison of *The Hindusthani* with the *Sentinelle*, we do not fail to notice the similarity of ideas in the prospectus of both papers. There is this essential difference, however: whereas Remy Ollier admittedly fought for the liberation of coloured men, for their dignity and self-respect and their rights, Manilal Doctor fought for the oppressed Indian community. And this community was oppressed indeed! Those were the days when Hon. Duclos alluded to them as "hordes de barbares" and many other members of the Council followed suit in flinging similar epithets at the Indian community.



The Hindusthani too, as Remy Ollier's *Sentinelle*, preached an entente among the different communities. It appealed to all Hindus, Muslims and Christians to bury their petty differences and to work for common ideals. Again, as the *Sentinelle*, *The Hindusthani* stressed the fact that such an entente could become a reality only if all the communities were held in respect and not looked down upon by some communities. *The Hindusthani* repeatedly wrote on the importance of the Indian com-

munity in the moulding of the destiny of this island. In the very first issue it gave a warning reminiscent of Rev. Patrick Beaton's words. Here it is: "Take away these *Hindusthani* merchants and the colony will come to standstill, take away Hindusthani labour and the country must perish. In short, the Hindusthani traders and the Hindusthani labourers are the breadmakers of the colony without whose co-operation the nabobs and their queens must starve in their cool palaces at Curepipe."

The whole collection of *The Hindusthani* must constitute an important document which can be of great use in the writing of the history of Indians in Mauritius. It is an unfortunate fact that only a few copies of this paper are found at the Archives. These valuable copies convince us of its militant nature and of its ceaseless fight against the forces of oppression and colonial prejudice. We deplore the non-existence of the whole collection of *The Hindusthani* at the Archives. We feel as if a veil were drawn on an important aspect of Manilal Doctor's work for the Indian community.

We therefore end this article with the note of appeal to anybody who may have copies of *The Hindusthani* to forward them to us. We shall take the necessary steps to make the Archives authorities purchase them for their collection. In case the owner of such copies would not like to part with them we could have them on loan so that the photocopies of these precious documents may be kept at the Archives. Their value to future historians of Indians of this island is invaluable.



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How multinationals avoid taxes in Africa and what should change

● Cont. from page 2

Globalisation has created new transnational spaces where economic actions take place without much regulation, taxation or surveillance. Behind a wall of secrecy, corporations can devise complex schemes to boost their profits. The activity of offshore companies and tax havens is therefore central to the antisocial tax practices of corporations and elites.

A 2015 report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development estimated that profit-shifting by multinational companies costs developing countries US\$100bn a year in lost corporate income tax. Another report, by International Monetary Fund researchers, estimated that developing countries may be losing as much as US\$213bn a year to tax avoidance. In addition, Oxfam estimated that developing countries lose between US\$100 billion to US\$160 billion annually to corporate tax dodging.

African countries, rich in resources, easily fall prey to aggressive tax planning and tax evasion enabled by offshore companies. As the UN Conference on Trade and Development reported in 2020, high volumes of intra-company trading, the secrecy cloaking foreign investment activities, and loopholes in treaties leave countries in Africa vulnerable to tax avoidance. Governments in sub-Saharan Africa lack the human, financial, and technical resources to stem this outflow of wealth.

Zambia and Nigeria

Zambia and Nigeria provide examples of tax dodging practices among transnational corporations, enabled by tax havens.

Zambia, a country rich in natural resources, gains scant rewards from the foreign companies that extract its mineral wealth. For example, in 2011, five companies producing copper worth US\$4.28 billion paid only US\$310 million to the government in taxes. This represented 11% and 19% of production for 2010 and 2011 respectively. In fact, only one or two mining companies declared positive earnings. Others reported losses of questionable validity, according to the UK-based non-governmental organisation War on Want and the Zambia Extractive



1998-1999 Shell Petroleum International Mattschappij B. V. v Federal Board of Inland Revenue, appeal no. FHC/L/CS/1A 96, Volume 1. This is not unusual; it is one of many cases.

Why does exploitation continue?

Industries Transparency Initiative.

Consequently, the country loses about US\$3 billion a year in tax revenues, a sum equivalent to an eighth (12.5%) of its current annual GDP.

War on Want has accused Vedanta, a copper producer operating in Zambia, of dodging taxes through transfer mispricing. This is when related companies or divisions trade with each other at prices that aren't market related, to avoid being liable for tax. Vedanta has 29 subsidiaries operating in the "secrecy jurisdictions" of Mauritius, the Netherlands, the British Virgin Islands and Jersey. Zambia's tax regime allows the company to pay less tax when it spends money on physical assets or makes losses. It paid only US\$11,111 against profits of US\$221 million in 2011-2012.

Likewise, Associated British Foods was accused in 2015 of paying no tax in Zambia, even though its local affiliate, Zambia Sugar, made profits of US\$123 million. This, according to War on Want's report, cost Zambian public services US\$27 million — enough to put 48,000 children into school. The revenue lost to tax havens was 10 times greater than the amount given each year to Zambia by the UK in educational subsidies.

Nigeria provides another example. The Shell Group, through its affiliate, Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, had a special sharing arrangement with another affiliate, Shell Petroleum International Mattschappij BV (SPIM). Services and expenditure were charged to the group so that it made no profit over eight years, between 1992 and 1993. This cost Shell £20.09 million (US\$44.75 million) in tax revenues. This is published in the Nigerian Revenue Law Report,

In an age of globalisation, developing countries have been encouraged to deregulate and privatise their economies to attract foreign investment. The flow of foreign direct investment into Nigeria from transnational corporations grew from US\$0.59 billion in 1990 to US\$2.14 billion in 2000 and US\$2.31 billion in 2019. That represented 1.09%, 1.64%, and 0.52% of GDP respectively. Zambia attracted US\$0.12 billion in 2000 and US\$1.11 billion in 2017.

As our investigation reveals, however, opening economies to the outside world can have the opposite effect of that intended. Rather than attracting the lucrative inward investment so desperately needed, countries in sub-Saharan Africa have opened their economies to self-interested multinational corporations.

Globally, between 50 and 60 tax havens give sanctuary to more than 2 million companies, including thousands of banks and investment funds. Of the Fortune 500 companies, nearly three-quarters have subsidiaries in offshore tax havens.

As long as small, independent nations gain financial benefit from declaring themselves tax havens, poor nations will be exploited.

There is an urgent need to clamp down on tax practices that drain countries with impoverished economies, and to give poor countries a real voice in tax negotiations.

It seems probable that if the loopholes in the tax laws are not closed, then the rule of law and the effective administration of tax will not be strengthened in Africa. Consequently, the continent may continue to lose billions of dollars to the activities of transnational corporations and their affiliates.

Jia Liu - Professor of Finance, University of Portsmouth
Olatunde Julius Otusanya - Professor of Taxation, University of Lagos

Forum

Revisiting Curepipe

After quite a few years I had the opportunity to revisit Curepipe where I spent a good part of my youth as a resident schoolboy.

The high street has remained largely unchanged from St Helene Church to the market area facing the town hall. It was bustling with activity all along. Sadly the sidewalks remained uneven, broken in places, sloping in some areas and often punctuated by a sheer drop on to the asphalt at street crossings.

Perhaps this explained why there were so few elderly citizens walking as their arthritic knees, poor balance and spinal disc disease just could not handle it. All the more the pity since the health benefits from active walking could have helped in this elderly group prone to diabetes and related conditions.

Perhaps also it explains why there were few tourists to be seen: coming this far from northern climes they were unlikely to be backpackers with limited means, more likely the tourists would feature middle age and above groups who possess the means to travel afar. They can't have been enamoured with our pavements and dilapidated sidewalks.

There were the usual catcalling shows between different college groups in front of the Royal College. This was a show in itself with bemused tourists watching perplexed. Few tea and coffee places along the route - a pity since Mauritian chai could have been a tourist attraction.

Step outside the main roads: the side streets are ill maintained often with no sidewalks and open drainage canals - enough to deter all but the bravest tourists.

Still it felt like home. I could happily spend the rest of my remaining years there - bar the high humidity which is less tolerated as thermoregulation decreases as we age.

Farook Hossenbux
Ontario - Canada

Pain: Rolling Downhill

When Algea's stranglehold suffocates,
And the Dragon's forked tongue lashes out,
In the dark shadows of Tenebrae's realm;
When every effort of an-Algea has failed
To soothe the thousand pulsating wounds
Of this terrible existence called Life,
Dissipating all joy and happiness,
Then what do Man do, oh Gods!

When a thousand prayers are ignored,
When any plea for respite goes unheeded;
And Erebus from inside mother's womb
Banishes all hope from Eos day-break;
And Hemera's life-giving light vanishes
From Zeus immense universe,
Then what is left for Man?

From Pantheon to simple Humanity,
Eos and Tithonus for an eternal life meet.
But little does poor He suspect of the agonies
To follow in Life's eternal continuum
That is meant only for Gods and Goddesses!
Old creaky bones, arthritic joints,
Leaky urethras, terrible Indignities!

The piercing, razor sharp pain
Pushes me downhill to roll in searing agony --
Shrieking, laughing, crying, cursing, blessing!
But to share it with anyone would be cruel, alas!
Yet I have spoken to Hemera's day,
I have reasoned with the dark Erebus;
And have heard their counsel loud and clear:
Pain, like Death, is to be savoured alone.

Thus sat alone at the festal table of Life.
I am obliged to gorge myself stupid.
With pain, I have to stuff my belly
Till no more is no more,
And my soul explodes with consumption.
Help, Ye bloody Gods!

TD Fuego

The Secret to Staying Young

New research highlights power of lifelong exercise to keep muscles healthy



Lifelong physical activity could protect against age-related loss of muscle mass and function, according to research published in 'The Journal of Physiology'. Individuals aged 68 and above who were physically active throughout their life have healthier ageing muscle that has superior function and is more resistant to fatigue compared to inactive individuals, both young and old.

Researchers from University of Copenhagen, Denmark,

found that elderly individuals who keep physically active throughout their adult life, whether by taking part in resistance exercise, ball games, racket sports, swimming, cycling, running and/or rowing had a greater number of muscle stem cells, otherwise known as satellite cells in their muscle. These cells are important for muscle regeneration and long-term growth and protect against nerve decay.

Lead author, Casper So-

endenbroe, University of Copenhagen, Denmark said: "Using muscle tissue biopsies, we've found positive effects of exercise on the general ageing population. This has been missing from the literature as previous studies have mostly focused on master athletes, which is a minority group. Our study is more representative of the general population aged 60 and above, as the average person is more likely to take part in a mixture of activities at a moderate level. That's why we wanted to explore the relation between satellite cell content and muscle health in recreationally active individuals."

"The single most important message from this study, is that even a little exercise seems to go a long way, when it comes to protecting against the age-related decline in muscle function. This is an encouraging finding which can hopefully spur more people to engage in an activity that they enjoy."

It is worth noting that the study was only carried out in males and the average age was 73. As the effects of ageing on muscle health become more pronounced at 80+ years, follow up studies are needed to see if the benefits of lifelong exercise are maintained later in life.

What's the prevailing opinion on social media? Look at the flocks...

A University at Buffalo communication researcher has developed a framework for measuring the slippery concept of social media public opinion.

These collective views on a topic or issue expressed on social media, distinct from the conclusions determined through survey-based public opinion polling, have never been easy to determine. But the "murmuration" framework developed and tested by Yini Zhang, PhD, an assistant Prof of communication in the UB College of Arts and Sciences, and her collaborators addresses challenges, like identifying online demographics and factoring for opinion manipulation, that are characteristic on these digital battlegrounds of public discourse.

Murmuration identifies meaningful groups of social media actors based on the "who-follows-whom" relationship. The actors attract like-minded followers to form "flocks," which serve as the units



of analysis. As opinions form and shift in response to external events, the flocks' unfolding opinions move like the fluid murmuration of airborne starlings.

The framework and the findings from an analysis of social network structure and opinion expression from over 193,000 Twitter accounts, which followed more than 1.3 million other accounts, suggest that flock membership can predict opinion and that the murmuration framework reveals distinct patterns of opinion intensity. The researchers studied Twitter because of the ability to see who is following whom, information that is not publicly accessible on other platforms.

The results, published in the Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication, further support the echo chamber tendencies prevalent on social media, while adding important nuance to existing knowledge.

Zhang says it's important not to confuse public opinion, as measured by survey-based polling methods, and social media public opinion.

"Arguably, social media public opinion is twice removed from the general public opinion measured by surveys," say Zhang. "First, not everyone uses social media. Second, among those who do, only a subset of them actually express opinions on social media. They tend to be strongly opinionated and thus more willing to express their views publicly."

"Murmuration can allow for research that makes better use of social media data to study public opinion as a form of social interaction and reveal underlying social dynamics," says Zhang.



Why does my older sister not want to play LEGO with me anymore and stays in her room?

Puberty can make us behave differently.

Iam sorry to hear your 13-year-old sister does not want to play LEGO with you anymore and stays in her room all day. This must make you feel sad and maybe a bit rejected.

It is not your fault. There are many reasons why this could be happening and I can't say for sure what it is. In this article, I am going to talk mostly about one of the possible reasons that could be involved (but it may not explain everything).

Like many 13-year-old girls, your sister is going through a change in her mind and body called puberty. It may be making her behave differently. Puberty is when your body changes from being a child to becoming an adult.

What is puberty?

During puberty, a person's brain and body suddenly starts to produce a lot more hormones. Hormones are chemical messengers that send signals from the brain to body glands.

The main hormones that cause puberty changes are found in two parts of the brain – the hypothalamus and the pituitary. These brain parts make hormones called luteinising hormone and follicle stimulating hormone. The main puberty gland in girls are the ovaries, and in boys it is the testes.

In girls, eggs are stored in the ovaries, which are in the lower belly. The ovaries make other hormones called estrogen and progesterone.

Estrogen and progesterone in girls cause lots of body changes like growing breasts and having periods (bleeding from the vagina) once a month.

Hormones can affect how we feel

The increase in all of the hormones in the brain also affects other parts of the brain to cause some people (girls and boys) to become sad and angry. They might be upset at times or really happy at other times.

As hormone levels go up and down, that can trigger changes in brain chemicals called "serotonin" and "dopamine". Serotonin and dopamine can change a person's mood and behaviour. Some people get very moody and feel really irritated by small things that did not bother them before.

Puberty changes in the brain can also make kids start to feel more grown up. Your sister might also look more like an adult woman in her body and feel that she is too grown up to play LEGO anymore. She might want more of her own space to chill out.

But it is important for your parents to find out why she is staying in her room so much – in case she is feeling too sad or actually depressed (which is severe sadness) and wanting help.

What do you do now?

I suggest that you keep being nice to your sister and let her know that you care about her. Try waiting for her to chat to you. Change is tough for everyone. Your sister is trying to cope with the changes of puberty, and you are trying to deal with the changes in your sister.

Most brothers and sisters end up being good friends again – but it can take a bit of time.

Hang in there!

Jayashri Kulkarni
Professor of Psychiatry, Monash University



Read it top to bottom and follow instructions below.

Leader: Yes, now the right time has come.
Public: Will you loot the Nation?
Leader: Oh, no.
Public: Will you work for us?
Leader: Yes, very much.
Public: Will you increase the prices and cost of living?
Leader: Don't think about that.
Public: Will you provide us jobs and livelihood?
Leader: Surely will do that.
Public: Will you do scams and do misap

propriations?
Leader: Are you mad? Absolutely not.
Public: Can we believe in and trust you?
Leader: Yes.
Public: Oh, our leader.
The leader won the election and returned elected.
Now read from bottom to top.
* * *

Notice on entry gate of a Apple Store in NY

"Don't ever fart here;
The smell will stay for ages.
We don't have Windows."
And tit for tat from Microsoft in their premises...
"Anyone visiting us here can be free to use Windows in case you need to release stale gas from yesterday's half eaten apple.
We have been providing open window systems to the world since ages."
* * *
Matthew saw Samuel, his ex-business

partner, begging on the street and invited him to get into his limousine.
"What happened to your share of \$15 million each of us received?" Matthew asked.
Samuel answered: "Well, I bought a yacht for \$5 mil and just as we were coming out of a Fiord in Norway, hit an iceberg and it sank. Then I bought a jet. Whilst taking off from Manila the tires burst and it crashed. I decided to retire in Monaco with remaining \$5 mil and met this gorgeous woman and got married. After 2 years and a divorce, she took off with my remaining \$5 mil. And so, here I am!"
"My God, Samuel. So what did you learn out of all this?" Matthew asked.
Samuel replied: "If anything floats, flies or f..ks, rent it; don't buy it!"
* * *
A rich man and his wife are being served dinner by their chef.
"You know dear, if you could cook, we could fire the chef," says the man looking at the soup.
"That's true, darling, and if you could

be a man, we could fire the chauffeur," she responds.
* * *
A native American boy asks his father: "How did you pick up names for us, kids, dad?"
"Well," the chief replies, "when your elder brother was born, the first thing I saw when I came out of the teepee was an eagle soaring in the sky, so I named him Flying Eagle, and when your sister was born, the first thing I saw was a deer running away, so named her Running Dear. Why do you ask, Jumping Dog?"
* * *
Three heavily pregnant women meet in the maternity ward.
The first woman says, "I was on my back during conception, so I'm going to have a girl."
The second one says, "Well I was riding on top at conception, so I'm going to have a boy."
The third one looks horrified, and says, "Oh my god, I'm going to have puppies."

Life's Lessons

Thorn bushes have roses

A famous book writer sat in his study, he took his pen and began to write:
"Last year, I had surgery to remove gallstones. I had to be bedridden for a long time.
In the same year, I was 60 years old and entering retirement age, quitting a job in a company that I loved so much. I had to leave the job I've been doing for 35 years.
That same year I was abandoned by my beloved mother.
Then, still in the same year, my son failed his final medical exam because of a car accident. Repair costs due to car damage were the peak of bad luck last year."
At the end he wrote:
"What a bad year!"
The writer's wife entered the room and found her husband who was sad and pensive... From behind, the wife saw the husband's writing. Slowly she backed away and out of the room.
15 minutes later she came back in and put down a piece of paper with the following inscription:
"Last year, my husband finally managed to get rid of his gallbladder which had been making his stomach hurt for years.
That same year I am grateful that my husband can retire in a healthy

and happy condition. I thank God, he has been given the opportunity to work and earn for 35 years to support our family.
Now, my husband can spend more of his time writing, which has always been his hobby.
In the same year, my 95-year-old mother-in-law has without any pain returned to God in peace and happiness.
And still in the same year, God has protected my son from a terrible accident. Our car was seriously damaged by the accident, but my son survived without any defects."
In the last sentence his wife wrote:
"Last year was a year full of extraordinary blessings from God, and we spent it full of wonder and gratitude."
The writer smiled with emotion, and warm tears flowed down his cheeks. He was grateful for a different point of view for every event he had gone through last year. A different perspective had made him happy.
Friends, in this life we must understand that it is not happiness that makes us grateful. But it is gratitude that will make us happy. Let's practise seeing an event from a positive point of view and keep envy in our hearts.
"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses," said Abraham Lincoln.

Young and Old

When young, I was worried about my pimples.
When I am old, I am worried about my wrinkles.
When I was young, I was waiting to hold her hand.
When old, I am waiting for someone to hold my hand.
When young, I wanted my parents to leave me alone.
When I am old I am worried to be left alone.
When I was young, I hated being advised.
When old, there is no one around to talk or advise.
When young, I admired beautiful things.
When I am old, I see beauty in things

around me.
When I was young, I celebrated the moments.
When I am old, I am cherishing my memories.
When I was young, I found it difficult to wake up.
When old, I find it difficult to sleep.
When I was young, I wanted to be a heart-throb.
When old, I am worried when will my heart stop.
At extreme stages of our life, we worry but we don't realize.
Life needs to be experienced.
It doesn't matter whether young or old.
Life needs to be lived and lived with love and loved ones.

We are a generation that will never come back

A generation that walked to school and then walked back.
A generation that did their homework alone to get out asap to play in the street.
A generation that spent all their free time in the streets with their friends. A generation that played hide and seek when dark.
A generation that made mud cakes.
A generation that collected sports cards.
A generation that found, collected and washed and returned empty coke bottles to the local grocery store for 5 cents each, then bought a candy bar with the money.
A generation that made paper toys with

their bare hands.
A generation who bought vinyl albums to play on record players.
A generation that collected photos and albums of clippings of their life experiences as a kid.
A generation that played board games and cards on rainy days.
A generation whose TV went off at midnight after playing the National Anthem.
A generation that had parents who were there.
A generation that laughed under the covers in bed, so parents didn't know we were still awake.
A generation that is passing and unfortunately it will never return no matter how hard we try.
I loved growing up when I did; it was the best of times.

Being Mum & Dad

The way parents communicate with children matters



Communication is one of the most important aspects of parenting. The way you talk to your child plays an important role in determining your child's feelings about itself and you. Some sentences that might be run of the mill to adults but are extremely degrading for your child's mental health and self-esteem. You might be joking lightly or making way for a playful conversation but the child can interpret it as they wish.

Since children look up to their parents and make sense of wrong and right according to their parents' view of the same, listening to such comments and conversations can lead to the development of wrong models of behaviour. It has been found that certain phrases can make the child feel the same things that a bully might do, even when the parents' intent is a playful conversation or light banter. Read on to know the four phrases or communication styles that should be avoided while conversing with your child.

Nick names and name calling

Even though there are several names that parents can give to their child, some might be adorable while other names may not always be to the child's taste. The lack of understanding that children exhibit at this age can also lead to internalization of certain names and define itself with reference to it. This can have a negative effect on the child's self-esteem and can lead to a distorted self-image which can cause problems in the future.

The 'no offence but' qualifier

Sentences starting with this phrase are clearly offensive because it actually means that what is going to follow is offensive and they should not say it but they are going to say it anyway. This tact is used often by bullies and people who wish to insult or humiliate obliquely.

The phrase clearly shows premeditation and real-life bullies can use this phrase to get rid of accountability for their hurtful words. This is not an example of

brutal honesty but a willingness to hurt deliberately, a behaviour you wouldn't want your child to follow.

'You're weird'

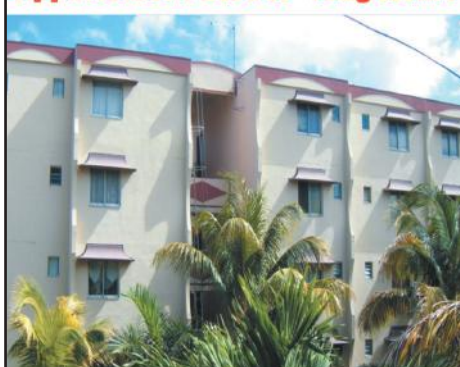
Love is basically acceptance and accepting a child for who it is should always reflect in your behaviour and words. Telling your child that they are weird or annoying will instill a fear within them which will not let them be themselves. Such statements may be very definitive to some children and can affect their self-esteem. Being gentle with words and phrases is thus extremely important for the child and your relationship with it.

Comments or jokes on appearance

At school and in the playground, your child meets peers and children who openly comment on each other's appearance. Bullies do that very often and extremely well. Such comments, however, can lead to internalization of these traits and a heightened awareness of their flaws.

At home, try and create a safe space where the flaws aren't pointed out but accepted. Joking or commenting on your child's appearance can lead to the development of insecurities.

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Relationships

Do you forgive easily? How it can work wonders for your relationship, health

Emptying your mind from a huge burden of repetitive and toxic thoughts about someone or a situation, can be liberating. Its impact can be felt in your relationships and also your overall well-being, reports Hindustan Times

You may get your share of criticism for letting go and forgiving people in no time by your friends and well-wishers. You may even earn a tag of happy-go-lucky for your easy-going attitude by many, as you could be quick to forgive yourself too! However, forgiveness is worth it, considering unresolved conflict and long-held resentment could affect your physical and mental health in ways you cannot imagine. Emptying your mind from a huge burden of repetitive and toxic thoughts about someone or a situation, can be liberating and its impact can be felt in your relationships and also your overall well-being.

"The standard acquired in psychology says that forgiveness is a good thing and it also conveys a number of benefits, whether you have experienced a little slight or you have suffered a much more serious pain. This includes both forgiving yourself as well as others too," says Dr Pallavi Joshi, Consultant Psychologist at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute.

Forgive your partner to strengthen your bond

While forgiveness does not mean you forget and repeat the same mistakes again, it also means you can move forward. In case of romantic relationships, unconditional forgiveness can make your bond grow stronger and deeper over a period of time. Forgiveness in relationships is to accept that like them, their partners can be flawed too and this attitude promotes understanding, empathy and compassion.

"Having a understanding and forgiving attitude towards yourself and others is also a good component of successful relationships. Being able to build close emotional connection with others is important, but for this you also need the ability to repair those bonds when they get damaged," says the psychologist.

The habit of forgiving others can help heal one from an abusive relationship too as one can move forward in life by letting go. It although doesn't mean tolerating abuse or violence of any form or not retaliating if something wrong has been done



to you. Forgiving means once the storm has passed off, you decide to discard the remnants of negativity from your life.

Self-forgiveness, the ultimate healer

This also includes self-forgiveness. People at times find it difficult to forgive themselves or accept their shortcomings. They also have repetitive thoughts about what different they could have done in a given situation.

"Letting go the things that are hurting you and offering yourself forgiveness can help you to boost your feelings of wellness and make you ready to improve your image in front of you. Several studies shows that when people practise self-forgiveness, they experience lower levels of anxiety and depression. But once you forgive yourself and others, your self-compassion will associate you with higher levels of success, productivity, focus, and concentration," says Dr Joshi.

How forgiveness can boost your health

Dr Joshi says the deed of forgiveness also works wonders for our physical health as research shows that forgiveness can improve your body cholesterol level, reduce body pain, headache and blood pressure, and also reduce the risk of a heart attack.

"Forgiveness is very important for emotional freedom and moving on in life to achieve successful happiness and self-worth. Conclusion is to remember the lessons given by the experience. So forgive but don't forget, so one will not repeat the same mistakes," concludes Dr Joshi.

Rashami Desai, Kamya Panjabi to Devoleena Bhattacharjee...

TV celebs who became victims of abuse and threats on social media

Bigg Boss 15 fame Rashami Desai recently faced harassment from Umar Riaz's fans on social media. Post which, the actress sought to help from the cyber cell of the Mumbai police. A few days back, **Tera Yaar Hoon Main** actress Vibhuti Thakur also opened up about facing abuse and threats. Previously too, many TV actresses have been in a tough spot owing to incessant trolling, abuse and threats on social media. Here's a list of celebs who've been victims of cyberbullying:

Rashami Desai : Rashami faced umpteen negativity from Umar Riaz's fans after she spoke about his personal life in an interview. She got bombarded with abusive comments from the latter's fans for talking about his private life. Not only this, Umar's fans also targetted Rashami's family in their comments and remarks against her. Upset with the same, the actress slammed a few on social media and specified that even their 'ideal' aka Umar Riaz won't be happy with the trolling.

In a tweet, Rashami Desai raised the issue to the Mumbai Police. She accused Umar Riaz's fans of harassing her and dragging her family into the matter and wrote, "My request plz look in to the matter because they are harming me and my family image...."

Vibhuti Thakur: **Tera Yaar Hoon Main** actress Vibhuti Thakur became a victim of cyberbullying after her phone number got leaked. The actress started getting calls from strangers seeking sexual favours. Vibhuti got emotionally distressed and unable to handle it, she reported the issue to the cyber police.

Speaking to ETimes TV about the mess, Vibhuti shared, "Initially, I thought it was some kind of a prank, but I broke down when few people started asking for sexual favours. I was shocked beyond belief because till now I have never faced a situation like this."

Tina Datta: **Uttaran** fame Tina Dutta faced harassment after she shared a topless picture on social media. The actress received filthy comments from a young user post which she reported the troll to cyber cell.

Tina called out the troll for his vulgar remarks by sharing a screenshot. She shared the social media profile of the user, tagged a cybercrime cop



while bashing the troll and asked for help.

Kamya Panjabi: Kamya faced cyberbullying for supporting her friend Kavita Kaushik during her **Bigg Boss 14** stint. Trolls targeted the actress for supporting Kavita and questioned if she is being paid to publicise her. The actress shared screenshots of the abusive messages and comments in a tweet and sought to help from the Maharashtra cyber crime cell.

Devoleena Bhattacharjee: The actress became a victim of cyberbullying in 2017. She fell prey to the ugly fan wars during **Bigg Boss 13**, which she was a part of. An apparent fan of Shehnaaz Gill sent Devoleena audio clips that had nasty abuses against her and her mother. Unable to take the filthiness, Devoleena filed a complaint against the internet user.

Nia Sharma: Nia became a victim of cyberbullying when her social media account got hacked in 2017. The hacker sent hate messages to the actress from her own account. Nia learnt that her account was hacked after fans informed her about it. The actress then sought help from the cyber crime cell.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Health front doesn't seem quite rosy. Leaving nothing pending at work is likely to be in your favour. You will enjoy a leisure trip with someone close. Those wanting to buy a specific piece of real estate will find their wish being fulfilled. A new found love is likely to prove all consuming.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 3, 9, 20, 23, 27

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You will be able to consolidate your financial strength and even buy some assets. Some differences with spouse over a domestic issue are foreseen. Someone close is likely to include you in an excursion or a fun trip. Some of you are likely to excel in academics.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 9, 11, 14, 17, 20

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Good budgeting will help in keeping the expenditure under control. A professionally satisfying day is foreseen for some. Busy schedule may make it difficult to attend a family function. Lover's romantic ideas may simply amaze you, so just follow the directions!

Lucky Numbers: 2, 18, 23, 24, 26, 32

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

A good offer on the business front may become hard to refuse. Family life promises to cruise along smoothly. Some of you may be on the verge of finalising a property. Incompatibility with partner can become the bane of an arranged marriage for some.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 12, 13, 20, 24, 30

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Those in the marketing field are likely to find the day most profitable. Some good health options are likely to be selected by you. Remaining away from all domestic controversies will help retain your peace of mind.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 16, 18, 22, 23, 32

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You will enjoy good health by not letting temptations get the better of you. You can be at loggerheads with a parent over some personal issue. A property owned by you may start giving good returns. Good showing in exam will get you firmly on the path to success.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 18, 25, 30, 32

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

The days ahead will turn out excellent on the professional or academic front. Family will be most supportive and give timely advice. A business trip abroad will prove most fruitful. Good returns from property are indicated for some.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 5, 14, 17, 28, 29

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Things turn favourable at work as your performance is appreciated by higher ups. Continuing with exercise regimen that suits your lifestyle will help keep you trim and slim. Take help on the domestic front, instead of overburdening yourself. Some of you can fall in and out of love!

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 11, 19, 23, 25

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

A financial transaction promises to fetch handsome returns. Your work on the professional front is likely to get you due recognition. Getting an immovable asset through inheritance cannot be ruled out for some.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 15, 18, 22, 27, 31

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You will find the energy to undertake a task on the home front. A positive development on the property front may warm the cockles of your heart. Students should keep pace on the academic front to perform well. A passionate evening cannot be ruled out for some.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 11, 12, 27, 28

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

A favourable period begins as you achieve much on the career front. Workouts can prove tiring, but will keep you fit. Steps taken on the property front will be lauded by all. Romance can remain at the top of your mind.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 9, 15, 20, 21

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You are likely to become health conscious. Good earning will tempt you to spend, but buy only what is needed. Someone in the family is likely to do you proud. You may feel liberated as lover parts ways.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 10, 17, 20, 25, 31

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Bollywood actors who went bankrupt...



Bollywood celebrities are frequently associated with popularity and a lavish lifestyle, but life isn't always easy for them. Actors frequently invest their hard-earned money in ventures that do not provide them with the expected profits.

TV actress Rupali Ganguly, popularly known as Anupamaa, has said in a recent interview with Pinkvilla, that her father, director Anil Ganguly, was forced to sell their home due to a project that was delayed. He was in the film alongside Dharmendra. Ganguly claimed that the film took four years to complete and that their family experienced a "massive loss" as a result. This had an impact on her father because his 'USP was creating pictures quickly.' Her father collaborated with Dharmendra in the 1991 film 'Dushman Devta.'

From Govinda to Anupam Kher, here are five actors who went bank-

rupt and also recovered from it with hard work and consistency, as reported by Outlook India.

Govinda

Actor Govinda's dominance in Bollywood came to an end after years of success, and he received no offers for three to four years. The star became indebted and even broke down in front of the media. 'Partner', his comeback film starring Salman Khan, was essential in his financial recovery.

Jackie Shroff

Veteran actor Jackie Shroff revealed that he had taken a loan from filmmaker, Sajid Nadiadwala in 2008 and couldn't repay it in time because he didn't have money after a series of flops. It was also reported that he sold his real estate properties to deal with the financial crisis.

Shah Rukh Khan

Bolly star Shah Rukh Khan put

everything he had into 'Ra.One', a 1.5 billion film co-produced by his wife Gauri Khan. When the film bombed at the box office, however, the actor was not left with much. During the film's production, he is said to have signed blank checks. 'Don 2' and 'Jab Tak Hai Jaan,' on the other hand, demonstrated that the actor was still relevant and benefited him financially.

Preity Zinta

Actress Preity Zinta made her Bollywood comeback in 2013 with the film 'Ishq in Paris', which she produced with her own production company. However, the picture did not do as well as planned at the box office. Her financial situation deteriorated as a result of the film's failure. Salman Khan, a personal friend and Bollywood star, stepped in to help her get out of the situation.

When Amitabh Bachchan reprimanded Abhishek Bachchan for not taking studies seriously

Abhishek Bachchan recalled how his father, Amitabh Bachchan, once sourced his report card, despite Abhishek's best attempts to keep it from him. Abhishek went to boarding school in Switzerland, and in an interview, recalled how he'd be scared of his father scolding him for poor grades, reports Indian Express.

Speaking to RJ Siddharth Kannan, Abhishek was asked if his parents had ever reprimanded him when he was a student. Abhishek replied, "They never scolded me, but they'd calmly explain to me that they were working very hard to pay for my education, and that I shouldn't waste my time. You have to be responsible."

Abhishek added, "My father has never raised his hand on me, or his voice. And it wasn't required. He would just



need to have a firm tone and the whole household came to its senses." He said that his mother, Jaya Bachchan, 'tried' to smack him a few times, but because he had a growth spurt, he was 'out of reach'.

Recalling the plan he came up, he said he tried to hide his report card from his father. Abhishek said that he'd wait for the postman to arrive with it and then make sure that his father doesn't see the report card until he'd already left for Switzerland for another term. But

Abhishek's plan didn't work because the report card never came.

One evening, he said, just before he was about to leave for the airport, his father called him up to his office on the house intercom. He'd sourced the report card himself. Abhishek said that he was 'finished'. "How he managed to get that report card, I don't know. He would read out the report card, and in the early 90s, he'd taken a bit of a sabbatical... He used to read aloud the comments, sitting on his desk in his study. Did he bribe the postman? Did he wake up before me? I had all these conspiracy theories."

Abhishek will be seen next in *Dasvi*, which will be released on Netflix and JioCinema. In the film, he plays a politician who attempts to clear the 10th standard while in prison.

Akshay Kumar:

I don't say no to ANY work, it's kaam, kamaayi, karm for me

Akshay Kumar's most recent film, *Bachchan Paandey*, may not have been a box-office success, but that won't stop him from signing new projects and returning to the big screen. The actor has no reservations about taking on more acting and endorsement work, despite being accused of constantly working for money. Not only that, but the 54-year-old prefers to take things in his stride and go on, even if memes tease him by implying that he will be in every biopic made. Excerpts from a freewheeling chat with Hindustan Times:

***Bachchan Paandey* received mixed reviews and the success of *The Kashmir Files* also seems to have impacted the box office collections. What's your take?**

Yes, I would have liked *Bachchan Paandey* to better than what it is doing but not once do I blame *The Kashmir Files* for it. That film is a storm and we came in the eye of it.

The kind of response *The Kashmir Files* has got has been so unexpected. What are your thoughts on such films becoming a success story not just critically but even commercially?

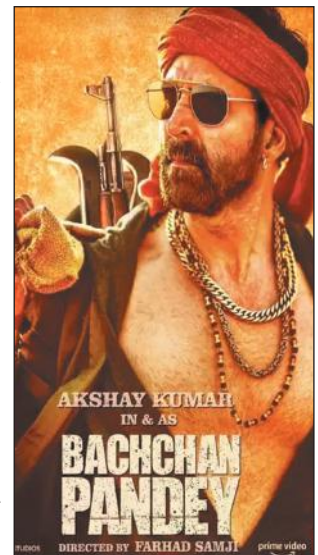
I am elated with the success that *The Kashmir Files* has seen. It tells you the power of cinema and that there is no formula of starting budgets and films of a certain way that guarantees success.

There's this constant allegation that you won't stop making money whether it's making biopics, doing all kinds of films or through endorsements. Are there any boundaries you have set for yourself?

Mujhe apni saari zindagi mein teen basic words samajh aaye - Kaam, Kamaayi aur Karm. For the past many years, I have paid the maximum tax each year, and I have contributed 10% of the remaining income to some noble cause. If today, I start thinking about doing lesser work, lesser films, lesser ads, then all these causes will also be impacted in a way. Main simple insaan hun... Mujhe itna hi samajh aata hai — kaam kar, kamaayi kar, karm kar.

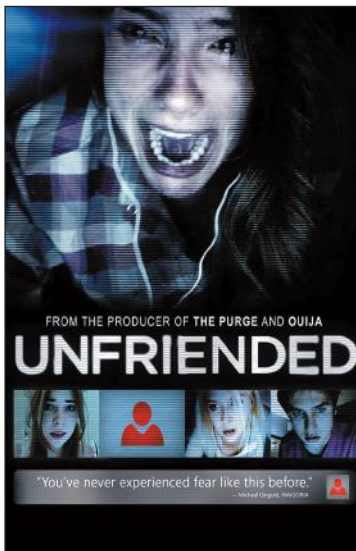
When someone goes viral on the internet, whether it's 19-year-old midnight runner Pradeep Mehra or 126-year-old Swami Sivananda receiving Padma Shri, it's assumed, especially by trolls, that you're already working on their biopic or have acquired the rights to make a film about their lives. Do you come across these memes on a regular basis? What is your reaction?

If the meme is funny, I laugh. It's normal to laugh if you find a joke funny, isn't it? And who doesn't like a good laugh? As for being at the centre of these memes, I couldn't be happier because I'm glad over the years I've managed to carve out a space for myself wherein I can fit into such varied roles. This is what has helped me stay relevant and in the memory of my audience. The one featuring Pradeep, I saw that... it's a still from my upcoming film *Raksha Bandhan*.

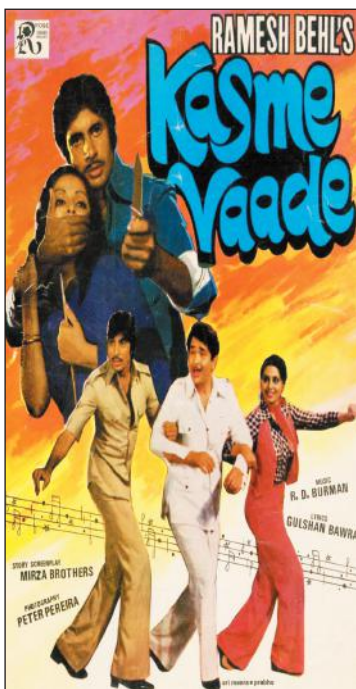


CINE 12

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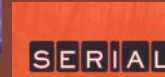
samedi 9 avril - 21.00



dimanche 10 avril - 21.15



Programme TV



vendredi 8 avril

MBC 1

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lines
09.00 Doc: The Internet Of Every...
10.15 Local: Rodrig Prog
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
14.07 MBC Production
14.33 D.Anime: Fangbone
15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
15.34 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
16.32 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
17.05 Serial: Mustangs FC
17.30 D.Anime: Kid's Planets
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Surya Pura
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa
Vaishnodevi
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.30 Local: Tou Korek
21.15 Serial: Madam Secretary
23.20 Le Journal
23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan
11.18 Serial: Tawaan
12.00 Film: Bow Bow
13.55 Mag: DDI Mag
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.26 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.47 Serial: Imtihaan
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

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.25 Mag: Tomorrow Today
07.51 Doc: La Route De La Soie
10.11 Doc: Snapshots
12.18 Mag: Border Crossing
13.46 Doc: Documentary
14.34 Doc: Lost Edens
16.42 Mag: Eco India
17.35 Mag: Border Crossing
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.30 Mag: Euromaxx
20.05 Local: Navsamvatsar Utsav
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: World Heritage
21.36 Doc: Volcano Stories
22.50 Doc: Day Zero
23.33 Doc: Paradis Perdus
00.16 Mag: World Stories
00.28 Doc: World Famous Writers
00.31 Mag: Our Voices
00.59 Mag: Euromaxx

Cine 12

01.02 Film: Heaven's Fall
03.26 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En...
04.58 Tele: Marimar
05.18 Tele: Rubi
06.07 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
09.00 Serial: 19-2
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Heroes Reborn
12.00 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En...
13.31 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: Heaven's Fall
16.30 Serial: 19-2
17.15 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
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: Unfriended
Avec: Kurt Carley, Colin Woodell

Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Kunwara
11.12 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.43 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.12 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
12.42 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.12 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.55 / 22.30 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Chal Mere Bhai
Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Salman
Khan, Karisma Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.38 Bhakharwadi
20.08 Siddhi Vinayak
20.38 Radha Krishna

samedi 9 avril

06.02 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz...
06.22 D.Anime: Gon
06.45 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
07.19 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule...
07.37 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
08.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
09.35 Serial: Nowhere Boys
10.00 Local Prod: Zanfan Nou Zil
10.30 Serial: Creeped Out
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Contre
15.34 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
16.46 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
17.15 Mag: Human Nature
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Taare Zameen
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Music Tour 2022
21.10 Film: Tornado Valley
Avec: Meredith Monrone, Cameron ...
23.10 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Fryday
Star: Govinda, Varun Sharma,
Digangana Suryavanshi
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.05 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhar
12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.46 Serial: High School
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Film: Ahista Ahista
Stars: Abhay Deol, Soha Ali
Khan, Shayan Munshi
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: Kasme Vaade
Starring Amitabh Bachchan,
Raakhee, Neetu Singh, Amjad
Khan, Randhir Kapoor

06.00 Doc: Paradis Perdus
06.42 Mag: World Stories
06.57 Mag: Our Vocies
07.25 Mag: Euromaxx
07.53 Magazine
10.30 Doc: Day Zero
12.33 Mag: Euromaxx
13.23 Doc: World Heritage
14.14 Doc: Volcano Stories
14.51 Student Support Prog...
17.26 Mag: Happiness Is On The...
18.02 Mag: In Good Shape
18.24 Mag: The 77 Percent
18.50 Local: Talk On Ramadan
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.53 Des Montagnes Du Monde
21.35 Doc: Global Drinks
22.28 Doc: India's Nomads
23.10 Doc: Soils At Their Limit
23.54 Mag: Happiness Is On The...
00.20 Mag: In Good Shape
00.46 Mag: Salad Area

01.02 Film: Unfriended
02.34 Serial: Seal Team
03.14 Serial: L.A.'S Finest
03.58 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
04.39 Tele: Tanto Amor
05.22 Serial: Zoo
08.30 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
09.15 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
09.56 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
10.45 Film: Flowers And Honey
12.30 Serial: Seal Team
13.53 Serial: Heroes Reborn
14.45 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.10 Serial: Zoo
17.05 Film: Ophelia
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: Instructions Not
Included
Starring: Eugenio Derbez, Karla...

04.05 Radha Krishna
04.36 Anupamaa
05.03 Mere Sai -- Shraddha Aur...
05.33 Agnihera
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan
06.34 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
06.38 Chhanchhan
06.57 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
07.18 Siddhi Vinayak
08.02 Yeh Teri Galiyan
10.35 Motu Patlu
10.47 Siddhi Vinayak
12.18 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.13 Anupamaa
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Doli Saja Ke Rakhna
Star: Akshaye Khanna, Jyothika
21.16 Serial: Namah
21.37 Serial: Naagin Season 3
22.19 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

dimanche 10 avril

06.02 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz...
06.22 D.Anime: Gon
06.50 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
07.14 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule...
09.00 D.Anime: The Adventures Of...
10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
11.00 Local Prod: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto
13.20 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Contre
15.33 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
15.48 D.Anime: Robot Trains
16.02 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
17.20 Mag: Human Nature
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Local Production: Groov'in
21.25 Film: Drone
Avec: Sean Bean, Patrick Sabongui...

07.00 Film: Pathar Ke Insan
11.03 Serial: Azhagu
11.24 Jag Jaanani Maa
Vaishnodevi
11.45 Serial: Surya Pura
12.06 Film: Ram Rajya
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: Mann Mein Vishwas
Hai
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
09.36 Doc: Global Drinks
10.29 Doc: India's Nomads
11.58 Doc: Sweet Magic
12.03 Mag: Happiness Is On The...
12.29 Mag: In Good Shape
12.55 Mag: Salad Area
13.51 Doc: In Quest Of Carribous
15.31 Doc: Global Drinks
17.48 Doc: Sweet Magic
18.00 Doc: Tree Stories
19.00 Mag: The Inside Story
20.01 Doc: Planet Home
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.50 Doc: Tresors Oublies De...
21.16 Doc: La Route De La Soie
22.24 Doc: Dreamchaser
23.06 Doc: The Expanding Desert
23.38 Doc: Tree Stories

01.23 Film: Instructions Not
Included
03.25 Serial: Dynasty 2
03.56 Film: Tornado Valley
05.41 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.25 Serial: Zoo
07.07 Film: Signed, Sealed...
08.34 Serial: The Night Shift
09.15 Film: Instructions Not
Included
11.05 Film: Ophelia
12.59 Serial: Dynasty 2
13.45 Serial: Heroes Reborn
15.46 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.00 Serial: Zoo
17.53 Serial: Dynasty 2
18.36 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
19.38 Serial: Superstore
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Under Pressure
21.54 Film: The Baker

01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
01.44 Bhakharwadi
03.40 Anupamaa
05.52 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: Action Replay
Starring : Akshay Kumar,
Aishwarya Rai Bachchan,
Om Puri
21.00 Naagin Season 3
21.43 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.40 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
01.01 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein

lundi 11 avril

06.27 Mag: Eye On SADC
07.00 Local Prod: Nu Rasinn
07.55 Local Prod: Music Tour 2022
09.00 Doc: To Tell A Tale
09.45 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous Act...
11.30 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.13 Prod: Komiko - Panik
15.33 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
15.48 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
16.12 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
16.20 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts
17.00 Serial: Mustangs FC
17.31 D.Anime: Kid's Planets
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Namah
19.30 Le Journal
20.40 MBC Production
21.10 Film: Represailles En Arizona

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Kundali Khagya
12.00 Film: Poonam
Stars: Poonam Dhillon, Raj
Babbar, Shakti Kapoor
14.13 DDI Magazine
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.45 Serial: Bommarillu
16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.30 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
17.03 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.43 Vandhal Sridevi
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Radha Krishna
20.29 Film: Sulthan - Tamil
Starring: Karthi Rashmika
Mandanna
22.57 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Tree Stories
06.55 Mag: The Inside Story
07.24 Mag: Destination Culture
08.26 Doc: Tresors Oublies...
11.14 Doc: Sweet Magic
15.17 Doc: Dreamchaser
15.55 Doc: The Expanding Desert
16.30 Doc: Tree Stories
17.28 Mag: The Inside Story
18.00 Mag: EcoAfrica
19.00 Student Support Prog...
20.30 Live: News (English)
20.45 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
23.41 Doc: Good News From The...
00.33 Mag: The 77 Percent
00.44 Doc: Persons
01.01 Mag: Africa
01.59 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
02.10 Doc: Secret Des Plantes
03.02 Mag: Global 3000
03.43 Mag: Washington Forum

02.29 Film: The Baker
04.34 Film: Drone
06.00 Tele: Marimar
06.47 Serial: Under Pressure
08.11 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En
Otag
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Heroes Reborn
12.00 Film: Drone
13.35 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En
Otag
16.43 Serial: Under Pressure
18.08 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.29 Serial: Superstore
20.05 Les Trois Visages D'Ana
20.30 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...
21.15 Film: Boyne Falls

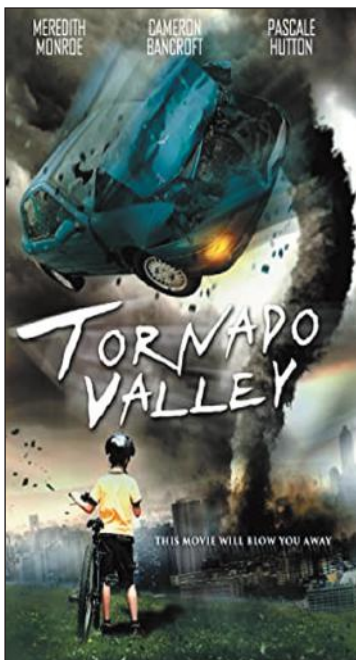
08.00 Taare Zameen Par
11.16 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.47 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
12.48 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.18 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.00 / 22.30 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.21 Film: Rajaji
Starring: Govinda, Raveena
Tandon, Shakti Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi
20.01 Siddhi Vinayak
20.30 Radha Krishna
21.00 Anupamaa



mardi 12 avril - 21.10



mercredi 13 avril - 21.15



jeudi 14 avril - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 12 avril

MBC 1

06.30 Local: Point Culture
07.20 Local: Evasion
08.00 Magazine
08.50 Local: Elle - Invitée
10.05 Local: Lavi Kontinye
10.25 Mag: Arts.21
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna...
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.15 Prod: Komiko
15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
15.34 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
17.05 Serial: Mustangs FC
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
18.55 MBC Production
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
21.10 Film: Thirteen Days
Stars: Kevin Costner, Bruce Greenwood, Shawn Driscoll

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: CID
12.00 Film: Chakkar Pe Chakkar
Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Rekha
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Aamhi Doghi
15.43 Bommarillu
16.07 Sondha Bandham
16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.49 Serial: Imtihaan
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And Semi-Devils
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Local: Tamil Programme
20.30 Film: Gora Aur Kala
Starring Rajendra Kumar, Hema Malini, Rekha

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.55 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
09.42 Mag: Washington Forum
10.03 Doc: The Virus Within
14.36 Mag: Global 3000
15.12 Doc: Washington Forum
16.39 Mag: Eco@Africa
18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
18.30 Local: Talk On Ramadan
19.03 Student Support Prog...
19.33 Mag: Made In Germany
20.30 Live: News
20.45 Doc: Castles
20.50 Doc: Les Grand Mythes
21.14 Doc: Nature's Keepers
22.08 Mag: Close Up
22.32 Local: Rodrig
23.14 Doc: Vincent Van Gogh...
23.57 Doc: A Passion For Helping
00.23 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...

Cine 12

01.28 Film: Represailles En Arizona
03.01 Serial: Heroes Reborn
03.42 Film: Boyne Falls
05.22 Tele: Rubi
05.46 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...
06.35 Film: Represailles En Arizona
09.00 Serial: 19-2
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.01 Serial: Heroes Reborn
11.49 Film: Boyne Falls
13.30 Tele: Marimar
13.54 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: Represailles En Arizona
16.48 Serial: 19-2
17.32 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...
18.14 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
21.15 Film: Viking, La Naissance...
Avec: Danila Kozlovsky, Svetlana...

Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Rajaji
Cast: Govinda, Raveena Tandon, Shakti Kapoor
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: Muskurahat
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Udaariyaan
19.30 Bhakharwadi
20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

mercredi 13 avril

07.15 Local: Profil
07.25 Local: Priorite Sante
09.00 Doc: Tresors Oublies...
10.15 MBC Prod: Rodrig Prog
10.35 Mag: Tomorrow Today
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.00 Prod: Komiko
15.20 D.Anime: L'heure Du Contre
15.52 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
15.48 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
16.12 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
16.57 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
17.05 Serial: Mustangs FC
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
18.55 MBC Production
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.30 MBC Production
21.25 Film: Tornado Valley
Starring: Meredith Monroe, Cameron Bancroft, Pascale Hutton

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
12.00 Film: D Premee
Starring Rishi Kapoor, Moushumi Chatterjee
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: Imtihaan
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: Daagdi Chaawl
Star: Ankush Choudhary, Pooja Sawant, Makrand Deshpande

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...
06.26 Mag: Healthy Living
06.56 Mag: Check In
08.46 Doc: Castles
09.29 Mag: Close Up
15.40 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
17.37 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
18.00 Mag: Motorweek
18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.35 Mag: The Inside Story
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: Castles
21.55 Les Montagnes Du Monde
22.38 Mag: Business Africa
23.04 Mag: Focus On Europe
23.30 Doc: The Maras
00.13 Mag: Motorweek
00.38 Mag: Vous Et Nous
01.05 Doc: Persons
01.08 Mag: Arts.21
01.34 Mag: The Inside Story

00.58 Film: Viking, La Naissance...
03.51 Film: The Lion Woman
05.07 Tele: Marimar
05.36 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des Sortilèges
06.18 Film: Thirteen Days
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: Heroes Reborn
11.46 Film: The Lion Woman
13.30 Tele: Marimar
14.24 Film: Thirteen Days
16.50 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
17.36 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...
18.18 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.30 Serial: Superstore
20.30 Serial: Billions
21.15 Film: Instructions Not Included
With: Paul Giamatti, Damian Lewis

07.00 Film: Muskurahat
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: Shiva
Starring Nagarjuna, Amala
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi
20.00 Siddhi Vinayak
20.30 Radha Krishna
21.00 Anupamaa

jeudi 14 avril

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
06.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem
07.45 Local: Rodrig Prog
09.15 Mag: Made In Germany
10.30 Mag: Saveurs Plus
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.22 Prod: Komiko
15.27 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
15.33 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
15.48 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
16.19 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
16.30 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
20.23 Film: Mera Pehla Pehla Pyar
With Ruslaan Mumtaz, Hazel Crowney

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...
12.00 Film: Hasti
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.27 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.48 Serial: Imtihaan
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.30 Local: Amrit Vaani
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da...
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
20.59 Local: Profil
21.14 Film: The Baker
With Damian Lewis, Kate Ashfield, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau

06.00 Mag: Motorweek
06.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous
06.52 Doc: Persons
07.53 Doc: Castles
10.01 Live from Arulmigu Amma Tookay Thirukkivil
12.00 Local: The Tamil Culture
14.03 Doc: Castles
15.28 Mag: Business Africa
15.58 Mag: Focus On Europe
17.06 Mag: Motorweek
18.00 Mag: Eco India
19.00 Student Support Prog - G7
19.30 World Famous Writers
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.48 Doc: Castles
21.40 Doc: Snapshots
22.38 Doc: Sri Lanka
23.31 Doc: Asteroids
00.14 Mag: Eco India
00.53 Mag: Red Carpet

01.45 Film: Signed, Sealed...
03.00 Serial: Heroes Reborn
03.46 Film: Instructions Not Included
05.48 Tele: Marimar
06.12 Tele: Rubi
07.07 Film: Signed, Sealed...
09.00 Serial: 19-2
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.37 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: Heroes Reborn
11.41 Film: Instructions Not Inclu...
13.36 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed...
16.30 Serial: 19-2
17.21 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.36 Serial: Superstore
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages...
20.30 Serial: Billions

07.00 Film: Shiva
Starring Nagarjuna, Amala
11.27 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna
11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa
12.25 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
13.13 / 21.09 - Agniphera
13.42 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.54 / 21.50 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.30 Film: Safari
Star: Sanjay Dutt, Juhi Chawla
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Udaariyaan
19.29 Bhakharwadi
19.59 Siddhi Vinayak



Jeudi 14 avril - 15.30

Star: Sanjay Dutt, Juhi Chawla



Jeudi 14 avril - 20.45

Stars: Ruslaan Mumtaz, Hazel Crowney





Dr Rajagopal Soondron

Some scientists have postulated that the *present* lasts only for a few seconds – because soon we would be moving into another ‘present’ - seconds ahead of us; we, the biological thinking machine, seem to be the interface between those time tyrants. It’s as if psychological time has become enmeshed into our mind, equating most of our thinking processes with the past and the future, thereby enslaving our self with a very restless, slippery mind and thoughts.

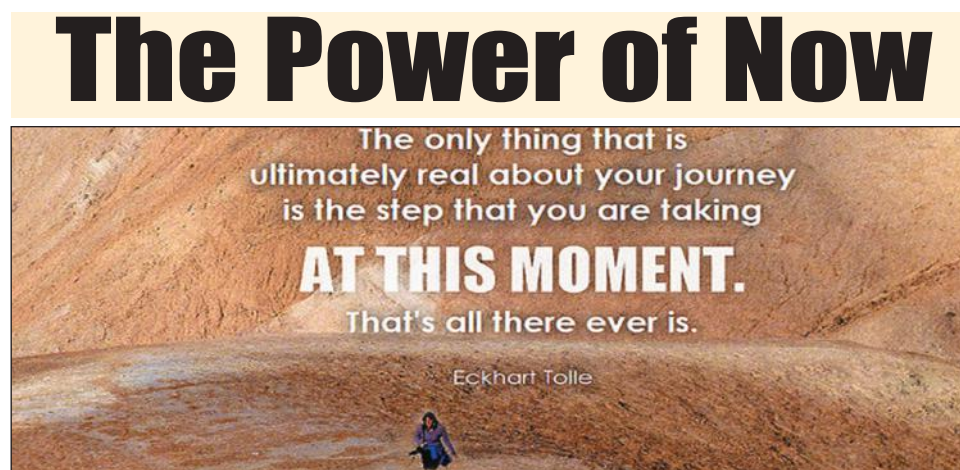
How we remember those days when we would put on our canvas shoes and surreptitiously run away from home to join our buddies for a football match, happily forgetting every problem of this world. Similarly, how we saw our uncle enthusiastically picking up his tackle and fishing line to meet his friends for a fishing party; or can we forget those youngsters who would prepare their outing for a Saturday night dancing party?

All those players, fishermen and dancers had something in common: they were out to give a total miss to their past and future with utmost enthusiasm. The respite from ongoing time is tremendous – for we always rave to indulge in these absorbing activities as often as possible – much to the concern and scorn of the elder, wiser philosophical generation. One school of thought believes that it’s the very urge that addicts want to achieve when they get hooked to some addictions – be it alcohol, drugs, gambling or sex; it’s a slippery attempt to delete our painful past and uncertain future so as to dwell in the “Now” as long as possible. Unfortunately, it is just a pipe dream – a hallucination.

Enter Eckhart Tolle

In his book *The Power of Now*, Tolle opens up again our exaggerated daily preoccupation with clock time which is behind and ahead of us. He extols on what most Eastern philosophy had done long before. Followers of Jiddu Krishnamurti would be pleasantly surprised to realize that Tolle used the same principle as JK in his books – answering to questions his interviewer would ask about what is the present. In fact, in 1985 Krishnamurti talked of clock time and psychological time, which E. Tolle exploited successfully in his book.

The latter goes a step further by giving a new interpretation and twist to Jesus Christ’s preaching and parables, relative



to these Eastern concepts, as being a call to his followers to identify themselves with the ‘Unmanifested’ silent Being – the *Tao* – which is common to all of us. It’s an attempt to draw the West nearer to the Eastern philosophies -- to achieve a synthesis? So also, he mentions the relaxation technique which primes us to stay longer into the *present* – and which is just a replica of Hatha yoga’s teachings.

However, by simplifying Eastern philosophy ideas beautifully and concisely, Tolle has facilitated our understanding of his message. Which is to do our best to stay in the Now as long as possible, coaxing us to stretch horizontally the few seconds that the Now lasts into minutes and hours. Which all of us were doing when we ran away to play football, to go fishing and dancing.

However, we would be naïve to believe that it is Tolle’s only message, for it goes philosophically very deep into the quest of internal peace and the true self, liberated from our overactive mind and obsessive thinking, as preached by Indian gurus, Buddhist monks and Zen masters for centuries if not millennia.

The Now

Our aim, says Tolle, when we wake up in the morning to a new day is to give our past a miss; release our mind of that burden – let it be, let it not ruffle our present few seconds we have of the *Now*; similarly let us drop that obsessive habit of *always* planning for the future – as if all our happiness and life hang exclusively on that mental rut. Having decided to sublimate our thinking to the point of liberating our mind from clock and psychological time, then we would suddenly discover that our silent mind is face to face with the *Now* – and free to *dwell* in it. And what’s the *Now*?

It’s precisely what we feel, see, hear, smell around us at this very moment: by concentrating on these sensations, we would keep both past and future at bay. And the next step is to delete also these mental senses of sight, touch, audition and smell; let the sensations fade away – so suddenly we would find ourselves face to face with a void, with a silence permeating our true ultimate self – the ‘Unmanifested’ - after having rid ourselves of our noisy mind. In so doing we discover that we have escaped from the custody of time and our senses.

Unfortunately, a mind habituated to get

hooked on the past and the future since our young age, coaxed along by our educational system to analyse and dig into bygone history and experience won’t cede so easily. Tolle also warns us against a mind obsessively switching to and from between past and future, which we would obsessively adopt to reinforce and embellish the sense of our false ego. And that’s where *goodwill* is needed to discipline our inner thinking so as to stay steadfastly to our central preoccupation – that of staying more in the *Present*. Those of us who can do that would experience a tremendous relief from the burden of psychological time. That, it is supposed, should lead us to greater inner peace and happiness.

But the spiritual hub message of Tolle is that by practising that form of mind disciplining we would soon be face to face with our Being; we would discover our true self – the stillness within, the silence of our soul. Liberated, our mind would be totally free to indulge in self-contemplation; we would be able to rise above that confused subjugated mind; we would be able to gaze at it, witnessing the conflict being waged by our reasoning and emotional faculties as they swing between yesterday and tomorrow. They would battle to retain centre stage in our psyche so as to keep reinforcing the illusion of our fake self. Most of the time we would cede under the psychological pressure as part of us agrees to give up and yield to the call of the old primitive egoic forces to which we have come to identify our being.

Hence Tolle’s call for perpetual discipline to dwell into the Now as long as possible, to effortlessly widen the gap between our past and future, thereby recruiting more and more space for the *present*. If we can do that then we would gradually have a glimpse of the silent ‘Unmanifested’ Being -- our Being – the only true, untarnished, untouched entity – the one and only central Being ... the *Tao*.

But to stay in the *NOW* *unconsciously* would be of short-lived benefit; instead, we must be totally aware of our self – so as to reap fully from that process.

The problem is how do we train our mind, as Tolle is suggesting, to forget our worries and not to wander irresistibly in time? How to delete our old mental demonic tendency to shuttle between past and future? A lot of probing, self-analysis and internal gazing to do.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Maintaining the Flow

Life energy flows through us like a swift stream, when there is nothing to obstruct it.

The essence of all being is energy. Our physical and ethereal selves depend on the unrestricted flow of life energy that is the source of wholeness and wellness. Though the channels through which this energy flows are open systems and influenced by factors outside of our control, we ultimately choose what impact these will have in our lives. It is up to us to identify and clear blockages in the energy field to ensure that flow is maintained. A healthy, grounded individual absorbs some portion of the energy emitted by other people and the environment, but this does not interrupt the continuous stream of balanced energy sustaining them. The same individual copes constructively with stress and upset, and they are not subject to the stagnation that frequently goes hand in hand with negativity. When we keep the energy in and around our bodies flowing harmoniously, we are naturally healthy, vibrant, and peaceful.

Life energy flows through us like a swift stream when there is nothing to obstruct it, but various forces such as trauma, downbeat vibrations, and disappointments act like stones that impede the current. If we allow these to pile up, our life energy is thrown off its course or blocked entirely, causing illness, restlessness, and a lack of vigor. If, however, we take the time to clear these forces away, we rob them of the power to impact our lives. When we cultivate simple yet affirmative habits such as taking regular cleansing baths, practicing meditation and breathing exercises, smudging, and self-shielding, we protect ourselves from outside influences that might otherwise impede our energy flow. Likewise, we lessen the impact of inner influences when we clear our auras of unwanted attachments and divest ourselves of blocked emotions.

A strong and fluid energy field is the key that unlocks the doors of self-healing and peace of mind. Your awareness of the flow of energy sustaining you empowers you to take charge of your own well-being by taking steps to unblock, correct, and enhance that flow. Fear will likely be the culprit when you cannot identify the source of stagnation -- you may simply be afraid to let go of what is obstructing the flow. Letting go can be challenging, but the exuberance you will feel when the flow is restored will be a welcome and blessed reward.