

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." -- Helen Keller

Is Government out of Its Depth?

It is in times of crisis that the managerial acumen of the government is put to test. The onus is squarely on government to prove its mettle or face public sanction

Mrinal Roy See Page 3



Opinion

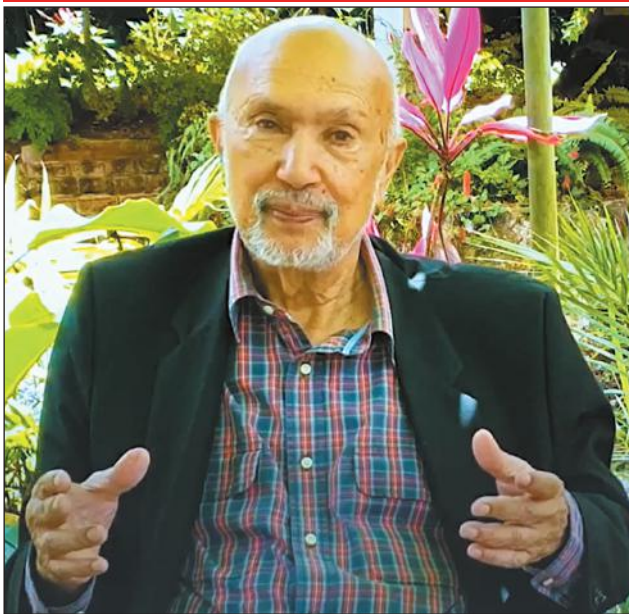
Castles on Sand



Administrative prose and public agency websites are a reflection of our levels and aspirations often to an internet-savvy world, but what really matters is whether the agencies do walk the talk

Jan Arden See Page 4

Interview: Dr Michael Atchia



«We need all competencies for the country to advance, if not at least to decently survive»

See Page 10

Qs & As

Of Sovereignty Issues & The «lawful removal» of foreign nationals



'Dawood Rawat was under a Red Notice for a long time. Would or could the Mauritius police have landed in France and take him away with the assistance of the French police force?'

By LEX See Page 5

The CEB-Terragen Tussle

The issues related to the use of biomass, and in particular, cane bagasse, towards electricity generation are at several levels: from the use of a renewable energy source in our generation mix, through return on investment for millers to set up such generation units, to the adequate revenue sharing of electricity sales proceeds with cane planters and the price paid by CEB and ultimately consumers to such Independent Power Producers (IPPs). The generational trust deficit between planters, millers and large establishment planters has meant that all of the above could be and indeed have been contentious since the first IPP contract was signed and the Compagnie Thermique de Belle Vue, now known as Terragen, started operations in the north. Several in other regions followed suit in the early 2000s under the impulsion of the World Bank, although we are given to understand that their contracts, though still controversial, were not of the “take or pay” early model adopted for Terragen.

A further vexed question remained the necessary use of coal as complementary fuel when bagasse would not be available i.e., in the intercrop season and the rising green energy concerns both for cane millers/owners and, for instance, the proposed large all-coal CT Power project in Albion by a foreign investor which drew heavy flak and was ultimately abandoned. Unhappiness with either the precursor IPP contract model or later variants, made necessary a general review and a new cane sugar framework when the Labour Party-Alliance Sociale partners came back to power in 2005 followed by a report on a new greener energy strategy.

The situation has now come to a head with the announcement, this week, that Terragen Ltd was suspending its production of electricity due to the rise in prices of coal - from USD 206 end February to USD 430 on 2 March, according to *l'express* (its spot price was USD 308.20 on 4 May 22, according to Markets Insider). It is worth mentioning, as Hon Patrick Asirvaden, former Labour Party spokesperson on energy and chairman of CEB, pointed out on air yesterday, that the initial Terragen contract for twenty years has been renewed in 2020 (with or without renegotiation), while demanding that those terms be made public.

Although this unilateral Terragen decision, taken it seems after all high-level discussions for a compromise failed, has the CEB scampering to use its reserve capacities and reschedule its normal maintenance activities, the contract would have expired anyway towards December this year, something we reckon that the CEB would have planned for. All other IPP contracts signed in the early 2000s will also soon come up for renewal at the end of their 20-year initial periods and therefore the time is appropriate for a fundamental review both of our energy strategies, safeguarding and protecting the interests of all stakeholders, particularly those whose voices fail to reach higher abodes, while aiming for a greener, more sustainable Mauritius with greater food and energy security.

Energy minister Joe Lesjongard's response to the current CEB-Terragen tussle, which has now reached the courts, is that Terragen Ltd would have accumulated profits to the tune of Rs1.5 bn from 2012 to 2021. In other words, what he is hinting at is that Terragen was also not doing its bit for the country in these difficult times ushered in by the Ukraine war, which is affecting the global economy via financial sanctions, commodities prices and supply-chain disruptions.

It bears repeating that it was in the mid-1990s that experts of

the World Bank and the IMF recommended that the CEB, which had for most of its existence been both the producer and distributor of electrical energy in the country, should give up its role as producer of electricity to the big sugar producers (which had then started diversifying into real estate and energy production), and to restrict itself to being its distribution and marketing agency. That recommendation was adopted by the then government, possibly because the CEB could not then afford the huge capital outlays necessary to step up its production capacity, but it resulted in the CEB losing its key role in the production of electricity. Up to 60% of the electricity the CEB distributes to the public comes today from the IPPs of the sugar producers.

According to the precursor “take or pay” Terragen contract then signed by the CEB, the latter had to buy up all the electricity produced by the IPP in the first place and only then make good any residual shortage in the demand through its own production. This means that the CEB has to install spare capacity (thermal and hydro-electric) and keep it aside so as to activate it to make good any shortfalls in supply from the IPPs. But if IPPs are increasing their supply, the CEB should cut down its own production to take up the IPP supply, no matter if its own installed capacity has to remain idle.

This and the other contracts between the CEB and the IPPs also provide that any fluctuations in cost due to higher cost of inputs (including coal), any external or internal price inflation, changes in freight rates, any adverse effect of exchange rate changes on the cost of production of the IPPs, any taxes will be factored into the price of electricity charged by the IPPs. In other words, the IPPs are passing on all risks to the CEB and, by extension, to the public.

The contracts between the CEB and the IPPs, which thus operate as a quasi-collective monopoly, speak for themselves. Under existing arrangements, the public sector has no say in the price at which electricity is delivered by the IPPs to the CEB. Earlier attempts by the government to bring the IPPs to review the price charged and other conditionalities in their contracts with the CEB have failed despite the recourse to an independent foreign mediator.

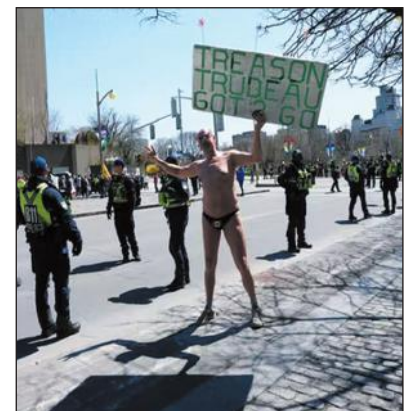
Moreover, attempts to bring in other competitors in this market have met with all manner of restrictive market practices and misinformation. Lobbies might have been at work with the objective of preventing “intruders” from occupying an area of production which seemed to be reserved to some exclusive group of IPP promoters. So strong has this lobby been that the promoters of CT Power had to go to court to get the necessary clearance, even after they had already been issued the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificate, implying that the environmental risks posed by the project had been assessed and found to be compatible with laid-down standards.

The present government is surely also aware of all the issues flagged above, including that of the powerful vested interests and their lobbies. The question is whether we can look forward to the government acting as the true custodians of the public interest, and spare consumers from having to continue sustaining a heavy burden or will it urgently look into ways to mitigate the unhealthy hold of the IPPs over the energy sector?

The Conversation

Why Covid-19 gaslighting by politicians is so dangerous for democracy

As Covid-19 continues to evolve, surprise, disappoint and frustrate us, efforts by politicians to pretend it's behind us is a dangerous form of gaslighting that will deepen societal divisions.



A near-naked participant protests during a 'Rolling Thunder' demonstration in Ottawa on April 30, 2022. Pic - The Canadian Press

In the aftermath of the Jan. 6, 2021, uprising at the United States Capitol building, the Republican Party faced a crucial moral test: whether to reject the baseless conspiracy theory that the 2020 general election had been “stolen” from Donald Trump or to embrace that dangerous falsehood as official party dogma.

After gauging the political winds, the Republican Party cynically chose to embrace the falsehood, going so far as to ostracize party members who upheld the truth. In doing so, the GOP solidified its mutation from a political party to a political cult.

After two years of acknowledging the dangers of Covid-19, something eerily similar has happened with public health policy across the western world.

Jason Hannan, University of Winnipeg

● Cont. on page 15

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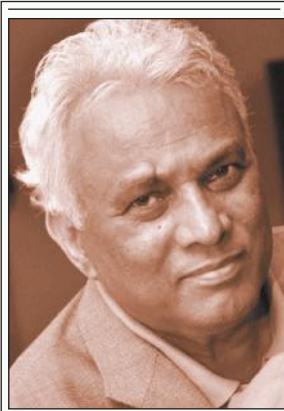
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Is Government Out Of Its Depth?



Mrinal Roy

It is in times of crisis that the managerial acumen of the government is put to test. The onus is squarely on government to prove its mettle or face public sanction

Across the world people are suffering from the continuous erosion of their purchasing power caused by the constant rise of prices of essential goods and commodities fuelled by the disruptions to trade and escalating costs in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and the sanctions imposed in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine.

They are therefore clamouring for concrete actions from governments to mitigate the dire impact of the unabated rise in the prices of groceries and their existential needs on their wallet.

The World Bank has warned that the war in Ukraine is set to cause the "largest commodity shock" since the 1970s. The war and the adverse impact of sanctions have already significantly increased the prices of fuel, natural gas and essential commodities such as wheat, flour, cooking oil and cotton. The surge in fuel and food prices are hitting low-income populations and people in developing countries hardest. There is therefore a general pushback of people across the world against the unchecked rise in prices of food and basic existential needs. The IMF has forecast that owing to the impact of the war on essential commodities, inflation is expected to rise to 5.7% in advanced economies and 8.7% in emerging market and developing economies.

“The current economic crisis requires competent currency stabilizing measures to protect consumers, a more rigorous price control by the authorities and an unequivocal solidarity from commercial partners, supermarket companies and retailers to help consumers tide over the crisis. Supermarkets offer significant price reductions of 14% to 34% or more every fortnight on a range of food and other products which attest to the wide price flexibility they have. At this critical juncture, why can't the supermarkets and retailers be asked to keep the prices of groceries and essential goods at the discounted prices during the enduring crisis?”

It is therefore not surprising that the erosion of purchasing power was at the centre of people's concerns during the recent French Presidential elections and the 1st May Labour Day rallies and protests across Europe. It could be a determinant factor in the forthcoming legislative elections in France in June.

Ivory towers

Consumers shopping in supermarkets and retail outlets in the country are buckling under the constant rise of prices of food and groceries since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 as they navigate through different sections in search of the best deals commensurate with their budget. Are Ministers and the



Government in Mauritius so cut off in their ivory towers from the ground reality that they are unaware that more and more people in the country are enduring tremendous hardships to buy their essential groceries and existential needs owing to the continuous erosion of their purchasing power caused by the unchecked depreciation of the Rupee and the sustained rise of prices of groceries and basic commodities due to the compounded impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine? Some 47.8% of the employees in the country earning up to Rs15,000, the senior citizens dependent on their basic pensions and the poorest households are particularly affected by the price increases as they spend a larger share of their income on basic existential needs such as food and energy.

Has government lost the plot?

People and in particular the most vulnerable therefore expect government to take urgent corrective actions now to alleviate their present existential difficulties and distress. In response, they certainly did not expect government in Parliament to tom-tom about the mixed bag of past social and other measures including the payment of the 2016 and 2021 PRB awards, free tertiary education in public institutions or the subsidy on the purchase of water tanks costing Rs 112 Billion of public funds, taken by government during the period December 2014 to June 2020.

After a week of deliberations, Government mainly came forward with nothing better than a subsidy of Rs 150 million to maintain the prices of seven products (canned fish, canned tomatoes, cheese, edible oil, margarine, milk powder and pulses) at the current level up to 30 June 2022. This is a far cry from the billions of Rupees of public funds advanced in total opacity from the Mauritius Investment Corporation to bail out distressed Corporate conglomerates and private companies or the wide range of support measures granted from public funds to smart city projects, the tourism and sugar cane sectors and other sectors to keep them afloat.

How can such a stopgap measure help alleviate the current distress and hardships of consumers? Instead of reducing the cost of groceries of households, this ques-

tionable government policy of recurrent subsidies basically comforts the profits of retailers and supermarkets. Is VAT collection to shore strapped government revenue at the expense of consumers a determinant factor in government decision-making? Has government lost the plot?

The current economic crisis requires competent currency stabilizing measures to protect consumers, a more rigorous price control by the authorities and an unequivocal solidarity from commercial partners, supermarket

companies and retailers to help consumers tide over the crisis. Supermarkets offer significant price reductions of 14% to 34% or more every fortnight on a range of food and other products which attest to the wide price flexibility they have. At this critical juncture, why can't the supermarkets and retailers be asked to keep the prices of groceries and essential goods at the discounted prices during the enduring crisis faced by consumers?

Double standards

However, what particularly riles people is the double standards prevailing in the country. It is galling that mainstream citizens and the people are made to bear the brunt of unchecked and continuously rising prices over the last two years while the wastage of public funds and costly blunders amounting to tens of billions of Rupees of public funds continue unabated. With the lifting of travel bans, Ministers have started flying out of the country. In the current crisis, government is expected to lead by example and be more circumspect in its spending from public funds bearing in mind the costly blunders and allegations of wrongdoings marring its tenure. The plethora of Ministers who travelled to Dubai recently in the context of the Dubai Expo 2020 and the costs thereof has raised legitimate questions from the common man. What have been the tangible benefits of these diverse ministerial missions?

In contrast, it is worth flagging that on his first international visit this year Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Germany, Denmark and France on a three-day visit this week from 2 to 4 May where he had bilateral meetings with the leaders of these countries. The visit *inter alia* boosted ties in the areas of trade, energy and green technology. PM Modi's visit included 25 engagements with eight world leaders, 50 business CEOs and the Indian diaspora. In Denmark, the Indian PM held separate bilateral talks with leaders of Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Finland attending the second India-Nordic Summit.

In this difficult context, it is therefore equally important that the government gets its priorities right.

● Cont. on page 6

Castles on Sand

Administrative prose and public agency websites are a reflection of our levels and aspirations often to an internet-savvy world, but what really matters is whether the agencies do walk the talk

Jan Arden

Recent weeks have seen the island engulfed in a number of storms ranging from flood disaster discontent through water shortages to the plight of many sections of the population with cascading price rises, not all due to the Ukraine crisis, to the recent “exfiltration” by the police (against a stay order from the Supreme Court) of a Slovak national with an Occupation Permit to a waiting plane, and the reactions of or the management by the authorities of such events. While some observers are still trying to figure out the communiqué from the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) about this matter, many questions are yet unanswered and may be the subject of more controversies or revelations in the days ahead.

Our purpose here revolves around the official prose that may be related to such handling and the first questions concern the residence and/or occupation permit officially granted by the Economic Development Board (EDB) to the Slovak national since 2018 when any cursory vetting or application examination should have revealed that he was under the radar for alleged drug fabrication or sale in his country. This in itself should wake the authorities up to what really happens behind the scenes at an Agency that seems to deliver and follow up such permits with a levity that astounds and raises national security concerns if the PMO or the Passport and Immigration Office (PIO) are not involved.



“The EDB has been no stranger to controversy since its inception, some amusing, others disquieting. We need not recall here the vagaries of permits (including investment banking) and authorisations offered with gallant ease to one of the reputedly greasiest fellows of the Angolan establishment, Senor Alvaro and his well-introduced local contacts. The authorities and the EDB having finally back-pedalled on his mega-property deals, the matters are now in court against local businesses which have declared bankruptcy, not the sort of high-profile events one would boast of...”

The EDB began life as a statutory body on 15th January 2018 following the merger between three promotion agencies, the Board of Investment, Enterprise Mauritius and the Financial Services Promotion Agency, each operating in its own sphere. The purported rationale would have been therefore to ensure greater coherence and effectiveness in implementing policies and going further, as postulated by the EDB on its website, “draw the vision for the economic development path to be adopted to reach a high-income economy status, through sustainable and inclusive growth, whilst ensuring economic independence.”

Whether that centralisation policy was both useful and necessary and how far it indeed succeeded in drawing that broad vision to ensure our “economic independence” is better left to independent analysts and economic policy historians, but we can observe that its reporting ministry being the PMO, there was obviously high importance attached to its functioning, regulatory role and investment deliverables.

We can recognise that the EDB website is a model of transparency, both informative and well-structured with various schemes and their conditions, requirements and downloadable forms clearly available for all visitors, Mauritians, expatriates or potential investors alike. Some

offered with gallant ease to one of the reputedly greasiest fellows of the Angolan establishment, Senor Alvaro and his well-introduced local contacts. The authorities and the EDB having finally back-pedalled on his mega-property deals, the matters are now in court against local businesses which have declared bankruptcy, not the sort of high-profile events one would boast of.

Unfazed, the EDB came into more hirsute prominence with the glitzy eldorado of over-the-counter passport sales proposal in tandem with commission agent Henley & Partners to rich oligarchs wanting the security of a third or fourth place of residence. Thereupon, followed the rows over the first selected CEO, forced to vacate his job after barely a year in office. The PM’s allegations about the drug and other criminal dealings of the expeditiously “extracted” Slovakia national, of his EDB occupation permit, of the waiting plane for his exfiltration and the manner such operation was conducted by the police despite a stay order from a Supreme Court judge, leaves room for numerous questions.

As the EDB falls directly under the purview of PMO, we fail to see who will investigate the Agency’s operations or bell the cat before we welcome more undesirables onto our shores.

might consider this a strict minimum to expect from an Agency that had become our island’s sole destination marketer (with the exception of hostelry and tourism that have succeeded in retaining autonomy of their marketing structures and processes from the nascent behemoth) but at a time when public agencies, regulators and corporations seem to be less than forthcoming in transparency, this effort deserves mention and inadvertently sets benchmarks, we dare say, for all other authorities.

Yet and despite this commendation, the EDB has been no stranger to controversy since its inception, some amusing, others disquieting. We need not recall here the vagaries of permits (including investment banking) and authorisations

Principles and Practices

Other agencies feel little or no need to explain their standard operating procedures (SOPs), still others pay lip-service to customer expectations and rights, if any of course, their occasional pamphlets being more of an excuse for peddling the importance of the Minister and his coterie of cadres than about actual customer rights, mechanisms and processes.

A cursory examination of the Ministry of Health website will reveal such a grandiloquent gargle entitled proudly Customer Charter, Dec 2020.

We do not want to be overly critical of young or older scribes of the Ministry saddened with such a heavy burden as writing a

decent Charter in English prose, but a marvel that begins its launch into what should be well-charted territories with “The Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOH&W) Customer Charter indicates the core services that it provides and defines its commitments and obligations, its customer’s rights and obligations, as well as explicit mechanisms to address complaints.” would have been sacked by any college language teacher.

The rest of the prose is worthy of the start and deserves no further mention. On a less amused note however, not every Mauritian would have heard of such a Charter, but they surely know of the recurring scandals at Health procurement or the

“We have all been witnesses to the principles and practices of the police force in numerous recent instances that test their own writings. Administrative prose and public agency websites are a reflection of our levels and aspirations often to an internet-savvy world, including expatriates and foreigners, even if we will all concur that behind the style and the words, what really matters is whether the agencies do walk the talk they sometimes feel obliged to display. Popular wisdom has it that you cannot build castles on sand...”

deaths at the Souillac dialysis centre, where the Fact Finding Committee Report has been buried to all intents and purposes.

As for human rights, to take a couple of other websites at random, that of the Human Rights Commission which you and I might assume to be in priority concerned about the state of human rights in

Mauritius and mechanisms for grievances and addressing them, may leave us rather dumbfounded by its antiquated look and feel, referring most matters it seems to its Human Rights Division (HRD), not to be confused with the similar HRD operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

● Cont. on page 12

Of Sovereignty Issues & the “lawful removal” of foreign nationals

‘Dawood Rawat was under a Red Notice for a long time. Would or could the Mauritius police have landed in France and take him away with the assistance of the French police force?’

A sovereign democratic State, reads our Constitution in the substantive provision of its Section 1. Today, we try to further our readers’ enquiries about the notion of sovereignty, the multiple ramifications of this fundamental tenet and the agencies that would be exercising full vigilance to ensure its application over the breadth of our territories (including Rodrigues, Outer Islands, Chagos). These questions and Lex’s views thereon were felt pertinent in the light of the recent “extraction” of a foreign national residing on our shores over the past four years despite being wanted since 2015 for alleged criminal activities in his home country.

LEX

*** What does it mean for a country to be sovereign and why is it important?**

It simply means that the country has the right and power to manage its own affairs through an elected government subject to its obligations under international law, like complying with international treaties or conventions it is a party to.

*** A key provision in our Constitution is Section 1, which states that ‘Mauritius shall be a sovereign democratic State which shall be known as the Republic of Mauritius’. Sovereignty here appears to be a simple idea, as if casually mentioned in the Constitution, but could it be complex in its implications?**

No, it is not a simple idea. Both the Supreme Court and the Privy Council have in many cases held that Section 1 is an important substantive provision which should be given full effect and that any law that is passed or any action that is taken must comply with the principle enunciated in Section 1.

*** The concept of sovereignty could mean that sovereign power rests with the people and is only exercised through a representative body, i.e., Parliament, but how does it work in practice as regards autonomy and freedom from external control?**

Any law that is passed is subject to the scrutiny of the Supreme Court, which is empowered to judge whether a law is consonant with the Constitution. To that extent it cannot be said that Parliament is sovereign.

*** Since October 2001, the island of Rodrigues enjoys an autonomous status within the Republic with its own Regional Assembly and an Executive Council for the framing and implementation of its socio-economic policies. It is administered by a Regional Assembly whereby elections are held every five years. Does that make it a sovereign country?**



“Even when somebody has been placed under a Red Notice and is located in a foreign country, the requesting State where he is wanted would make a request for extradition and not send its police force to take the person away. Because extradition proceedings give the suspect the right to state his position and defend himself according to human rights principles and the rule of law. Dawood Rawat was under a Red Notice for a long time. Would or could the Mauritius police have landed in France and take him away with the assistance of the French police force? Just give it a thought...”

No. Section 26(1) of the Rodrigues Assembly Act states that the Regional Assembly shall, in relation to Rodrigues, be responsible for the formulation and implementation of policy in respect of the matters set out in the Fourth Schedule. Under Section 30 of the Act, Bills that are adopted by the Assembly of Rodrigues, shall be transmitted by the Chief Commissioner to the Minister with a request for its introduction into Parliament for enactment into law. Further the Fourth Schedule of the Rodrigues Assembly Act contains a list of matters over which Rodrigues has no power.

*** The Criminal Code was amended in 2020 to make it an offence for any person who “acting under the authority or instructions of, or pursuant to a contract with, or with the direct or indirect financial support of, a foreign State or any organ or agency of such a State produces, distributes, supplies or markets any coin, stamp, official map or technical report or other similar object or document which, in any manner, misrepresents, or conveys misleading information to the public about the sovereignty of Mauritius over any part of its territory...”** This demonstrates very clearly that the

authorities take this matter of sovereignty very seriously, right?

Of course. Any country would do so. In Mauritius the avowed motive was to ensure that nobody and no foreign power ever questions our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. Let us assume that the United Kingdom keeps saying that the Chagos is British: the United Kingdom would be committing an offence, but how will the Mauritian government prosecute the spokesperson of the British government who makes such a claim of sovereignty over the Chagos? It’s a question worth pondering.

*** There has been the suggestion however that the “lawful removal” of Peter Uricek, a Slovakian national from the Mauritian territory by “Slovakian authorities” on Tuesday 26 April 2022 defeats the commitment of the authorities to safeguard the sovereignty of the country as laid out in the amendment to the Criminal Code. Isn’t that suggestion far-fetched?**

If the police authorities of a foreign country were allowed to penetrate the country and instruct the local police that they wanted to be handed over the Slovakian national, then our police force would be surrendering their power as a sovereign State to act independently.

The authorities that allowed the Slovakian national to stay here for over four years (Economic Development Board, Mauritius Police Force) all operate under the aegis and control of the PMO, so who would dare bell the cat and take the police or other authorities to task?

*** The average Mauritian does not understand all the “fuss” that’s being made about the “lawful removal” of Peter Uricek, which as revealed by a communique issued by the PMO was the object of an Interpol Red Notice; he was wanted for prosecution in the Slovak Republic for “establishing, masterminding and supporting a criminal group”, and for “illicit manufacture, possession of trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, poisons”. What’s your take on that?**

Even when somebody has been placed under a Red Notice and is located in a foreign country, the requesting State where he is wanted would make a request for extradition and not send its police force to take the person away.

● Cont. on page 7

Is Government out of Its Depth?

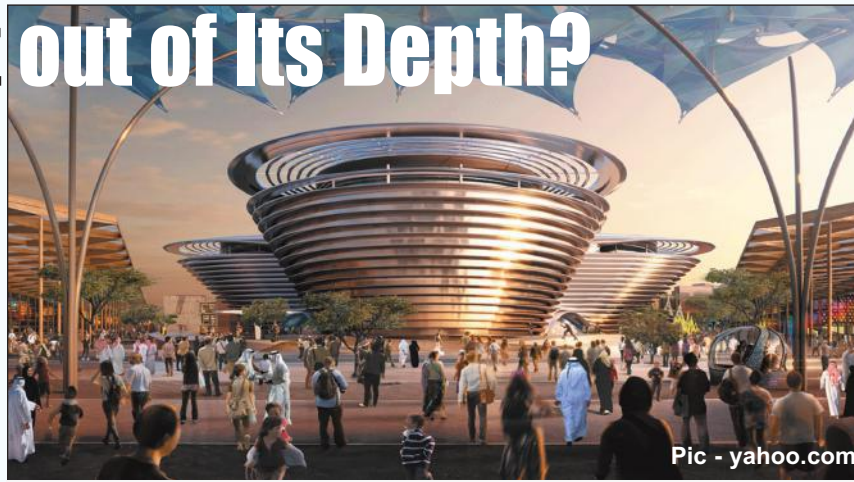
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This is not the time to invest in costly white elephants the country can ill afford. It is also anathema for government to seek grants and financial support from friendly countries in a context of strapped public finances, to invest the funds in projects which are far from being priorities at the moment.

Is government out of its depth? It is in times of crisis that the managerial acumen of the government is put to test. Their actions are under constant scrutiny by the people. The situation is grave. The onus is squarely on government to prove its mettle or face public sanction.

Escalation

The government must also wake up to the stark reality that the new fund of \$100 billion pledged by the US to provide high tech military and other support to Ukraine as well as the billions of Euros of arms and missiles



“With the lifting of travel bans, Ministers have started flying out of the country. In the current crisis, government is expected to lead by example and be more circumspect in its spending from public funds bearing in mind the costly blunders and allegations of wrongdoings marring its tenure. The plethora of Ministers who travelled to Dubai recently in the context of the Dubai Expo 2020 and the costs thereof has raised legitimate questions from the common man. What have been the tangible benefits of these diverse ministerial missions?”

provided by Europe and NATO will escalate and prolong the war and the distress caused to the civil population. There is no initiative to broker a deal to end the war. In this proxy war, the US declared intent is to weaken Russia. This objective cannot be pursued at the expense of hardships endured by billions of people across the world.

The collateral casualties of this geopolitical game plan are the beleaguered people of Ukraine and people across the world forced to endure the dire consequences of continuously rising prices of basic food, energy and prime necessities as long as the war does not come to an end. The current situation cannot go on. In the absence of honest initiatives to end the war, it is high time for the silent caucus of nations across the world to seek urgent financial support through a Special Fund set up by the United Nations, international financial institutions and the principal protagonists to mitigate the dire impact of the war in Ukraine on people across the world on a scale commensurate with their destructive war effort. The world leaders in Africa, Asia and South America must team up and act now. This is the only way.

Mrinal Roy

AFREXIMBANK

Current
Vacancies

The **African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)** is a Pan-African multilateral financial institution established in 1993, for the purpose of financing and promoting intra and extra African trade. “The Bank” is currently hiring the below positions. All positions are based at “The Bank’s” Headquarters (HQ) in Cairo, Egypt unless otherwise stated on the job description.

To view further information, please visit their website: www.afreximbank.com

Deputy Chief Economist - Cairo, Egypt

The role of the position holder will be to participate in the Bank’s research and economic analysis activities especially in trade development and financial economics. The role will also include conducting sector and country studies as well as preparing the Bank’s various reports for Senior Management, the Board, and shareholders.

To view a full job description and apply, please visit www.caglobalint.com. For further information please email Lise Kotze at LKOTZE@CAGLOBALINT.COM

Manager, Strategic & Business Planning - Cairo, Egypt

The role of the position holder will be to provide professional input for the Bank’s strategic planning process, working with various cross-functional teams to identify, evaluate, and analyse evolving strategic priorities, setting strategic objectives and goals, identifying instruments for the attainment of such goals, and monitoring and evaluation of chosen strategy.

To view a full job description and apply, please visit www.caglobalint.com. For further information please email Scott Fraser at SFRASER@CAGLOBALINT.COM

Senior Manager, Communication and Events (Strategic Corporate Communications) - Cairo, Egypt

The role of the position holder will be to plan, organise, coordinate, and lead the activities of the Strategic Communications and Marketing Management unit. The Senior Manager will be responsible for two sub-units, Product Management, Marketing Support & delivery of the overall strategic measures of the department. The Senior Manager will support the development and implementation of strategies and plans to support the Bank’s communication process with external and internal stakeholders.

To view a full job description and apply, please visit www.caglobalint.com. For further information please email Fabio Da Silva Faria at FDASILVAFARIA@CAGLOBALINT.COM

Assistant Manager, Communications & Events (Office of the President) - Cairo, Egypt

The role of the position holder will be to establish a process for ensuring that all newsworthy information related to the activities of the President are documented using all required tools, communicated across all relevant media channels with internal and external stakeholders as may be required, and stored/archived in such a way that the records can be easily accessed when required.

To view a full job description and apply, please visit www.caglobalint.com. For further information please email Leroy Gona at LGONA@CAGLOBALINT.COM



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Of Sovereignty Issues & the “lawful removal” of foreign nationals

● Cont. from page 5

Because extradition proceedings give the suspect the right to state his position and defend himself according to human rights principles and the rule of law. It is understood that an extradition request was being processed in Court by the Attorney General, therefore the reasons for “lawful removal” that was by-passing the ongoing normal process remain mysterious.

Dawood Rawat was under a Red Notice for a long time. Would or could the Mauritius police have landed in France and take him away with the assistance of the French police force? Just give it a thought.

* There are some nagging questions about the role and responsibility of the EDB in this matter of the alleged Slovakian narcotrafficker, who was granted a three-year Occupation Permit on 19 April 2019. Now we learn from the PMO communique that it was reported by the Slovakian authorities that Mr Uricek and a criminal group were involved in drug-related activities, namely the production of methamphetamine. This raises the question about whether a proper due diligence exercise was carried out by the EDB with the cooperation of other state agencies?

Well, according to information in the media, Peter Uricek had a clean morality certificate. It is assumed that the EDB did their due diligence properly before granting the Slovakian national an occupational permit. If they did not, they should explain. Could it be they looked in his eyes and concluded that he was clean?

“If the police authorities of a foreign country were allowed to penetrate the country and instruct the local police that they wanted to be handed over the Slovakian national, then our police force would be surrendering their power as a sovereign State to act independently. The authorities that allowed the Slovakian national to stay here for over four years (Economic Development Board, Mauritius Police Force) all operate under the aegis and control of the PMO, so who would dare bell the cat and take the police or other authorities to task?”

At any rate even if there were pending charges against him and he had never been convicted, nothing would appear on his morality certificate. People should be reminded that before the DPP issues a morality certificate the person is investigated by the police, not by the DPP's Office.

* By the way, one cannot understand why the Executive has relinquished its role and responsibility in the vetting and issue of Occupation or Resident Permits to the EDB, peopled for the most by non-Civil Servants at the level of its board. Shouldn't such an important and sensitive matter be better left with the Executive?



“According to information in the media, Peter Uricek had a clean morality certificate. It is assumed that the EDB did their due diligence properly before granting the Slovakian national an occupational permit. If they did not, they should explain. Could it be they looked in his eyes and concluded that he was clean?”

Section 6(3)(a) of the Economic Development Board Act provides that Every member appointed to the Board shall be a fit and proper person – (i) of high integrity from among the business sector, public sector or civil society, with expertise and experience in, but not limited to, banking and finance, agri-business, the energy sector, regional development, information technology, medical research, industry development, higher education and academia, science, innovation, engineering, urban planning and renewal or public policy.” All appointments are made by the Prime Minister except for the chairperson who is appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. What this means is that they are all political appointees. Without attacking the integrity of any one person, we all know what is the public perception of political appointments.

LEX

Sai Centre of Lallmatie

Royal Road, Lallmatie

‘Donne Ou Disang Sauve Enne La Vie’

Blood donation, organised by Sai Centre of Lallmatie, will be held on Sunday 15th May, from 8 am to 1 pm, at the seat of the centre, Royal Road, Lallmatie.

This blood donation (liquid love) is offered at the Lotus feet of Shri Satya Sai Baba with love and devotion.

Mrs Rani Nobuth
Secretary

To Our Readers

Subscribe to the Mauritius Times

67 years ago, *Mauritius Times* was founded with a resolve to fight for justice and fairness and the advancement of the public good. It has never deviated from this principle no matter how daunting the challenges and how costly the price it has had to pay at different times of our history. We are determined not to abandon this line of action, which is the cardinal principle of our *raison-d'être*. This is what has given *Mauritius Times* a unique standing in the local publishing world.

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

For those who are regular readers but are not subscribed, please do consider becoming a **regular subscriber** by sending us your contribution. To do so, please click on the link below to see the payment options available and to enter your personal details which are required to ensure immediate processing of your subscription. Thank you.

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Atelier de Formation Joie de Vivre

Charles Telfair Street, Chemin-Grenier
Tel: 622 8819 - Email: atelierjoiedevivre@gmail.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Atelier de Formation Joie de Vivre to be held on Wednesday 11 May 2022 from 16.00 to 18.00 at the seat of the Atelier, Charles Telfair Street, Chemin-Grenier.

AGENDA

- Reading and Approval of Minutes of last AGM.
- President's report on the workings of the Association in 2021.
- Approval of the Financial Statement for 2021.
- Presentation of Budget for 2022.
- Election of a new Managing Committee for 2022.
- Election of 2 auditors.
- AOB

29 April 2022

The Secretary



Russia's President Vladimir Putin. Pic- Reuters

Russia practises nuclear-capable missile strikes, says defence ministry

Russia on Wednesday said its forces had practised simulated nuclear-capable missile strikes in the western enclave of Kaliningrad, amid Moscow's military campaign in Ukraine.

The announcement came on the 70th day of Moscow's military action in the pro-Western country, with thousands killed and more than 13 million displaced in the worst refugee crisis in Europe since World War II, reports AFP.

After sending troops to Ukraine in late February, Russian President Vladimir Putin has made thinly veiled threats hinting at a willingness to deploy Russia's tactical nuclear weapons.

During Wednesday's war games in the enclave on the Baltic Sea located between EU members Poland and Lithuania, Russia practised simulated "electronic launches" of nuclear-capable Iskander mobile ballistic missile systems, the defence ministry said in a statement.

The Russian forces practised single and multiple strikes at targets imitating launchers of missile systems, airfields, protected infrastructure, military equipment and command posts of a mock enemy, the statement said.

After performing the "electronic" launches, the military personnel carried out a manoeuvre to change their position in order to avoid "a possible retaliatory strike," the defence ministry added.

The combat units also practised "actions in conditions of radiation and chemical contamination". The drills involved more than 100 servicemen.

Russia placed nuclear forces on high alert shortly after Putin sent troops to Ukraine on February 24.

The Kremlin chief has warned of a "lightning fast" retaliation if the West directly intervenes in the Ukraine conflict.

Observers say that in recent days, Russia's state television has attempted to make nuclear weapons use more palatable to the public.

Sri Lanka crisis will last at least two more years: Govt

Sri Lanka will have to endure its unprecedented economic hardships for at least two more years, the country's finance minister said Wednesday while warning of an imminent cash crunch.

Months of blackouts and acute shortages of food, fuel and pharmaceuticals have brought widespread suffering across the South Asian island nation.

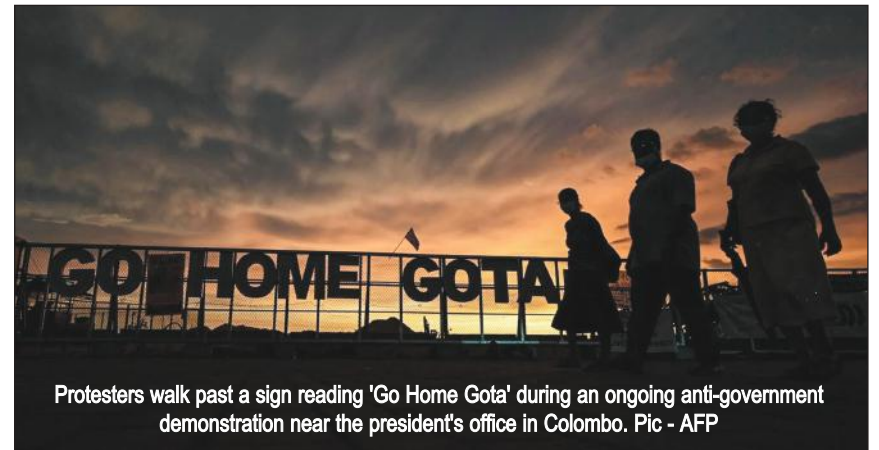
Public anger has sparked sustained protests demanding the government resign over its mismanagement of the economic crisis, Sri Lanka's worst since independence in 1948.

"People should know the truth. I don't know if people realise the gravity of the situation," Finance Minister Ali Sabry told parliament, reports AFP.

Sabry said the country now has less than \$50 million in usable foreign exchange reserves, needed to finance essential goods to keep Sri Lanka's import-dependent economy ticking over.

Official data shows \$1.7 billion in reserves, but most of that figure includes a Chinese currency swap which cannot be used to pay for imports from other countries.

Sabry said the government had erred by delaying an approach to the



Protesters walk past a sign reading 'Go Home Gota' during an ongoing anti-government demonstration near the president's office in Colombo. Pic - AFP

International Monetary Fund for a bailout. Negotiations with the IMF are ongoing but Sri Lanka's central bank chief has said any assistance from the lender is months away.

The government will unveil a new budget soon and raise taxes to replenish state revenue.

Sri Lanka's economic crisis took hold after the coronavirus pandemic hammered income from tourism and remittances.

Unable to pay for fuel imports, utilities have imposed daily blackouts to ration electricity, while long lines of people snake around service stations for petrol and kerosene. Hospitals are short of vital medicines and the government has appealed to citizens abroad for donations.

Last month Sri Lanka announced it was defaulting on its \$51 billion foreign debt.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has said he is willing to form a unity government to manage the country through the crisis. But the opposition has refused to join an administration with the president or any other members of the powerful Rajapaksa family still in power.

Protesters have been camped outside the president's seafront office for nearly a month to pressure him into stepping down.

Trade unions, which staged a strike last week, have said they will stop work again on Friday to pressure the entire government to resign.

The Omicron subvariants may burn themselves out in the next couple of months and there could be another outbreak of Delta or a different coronavirus strain this summer, according to a modelling study conducted in Israel.

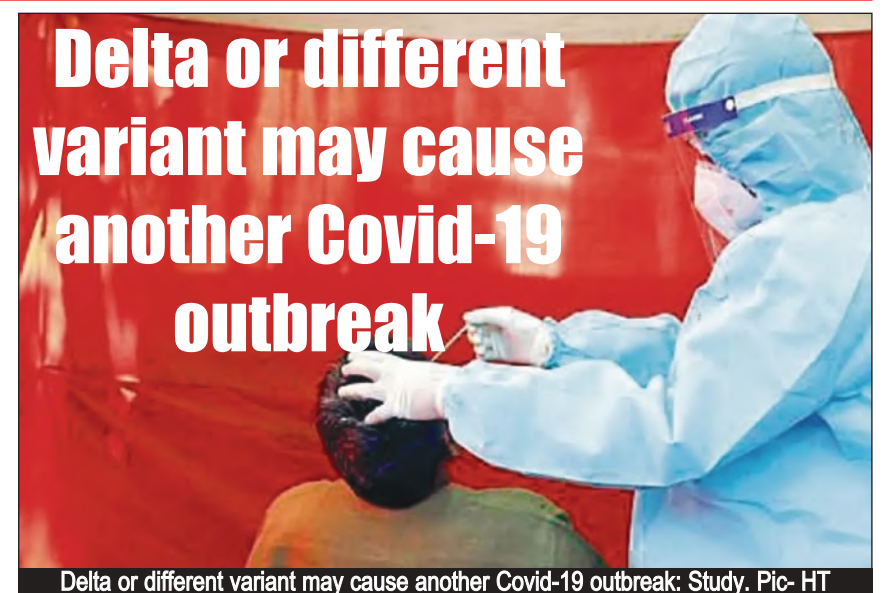
The finding, published last week in the journal 'Science of The Total Environment', suggests that while Delta wiped out the variants that preceded it, Omicron has not eliminated the deadly variant which could re-emerge, reports PTI.

Researchers from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU) in Israel developed sensitive arrays that can differentiate variants from each other in wastewater which continues to give indications of where the coronavirus is active, even when PCR and rapid testing of people declines.

They monitored sewage in Beer-Sheva city of Israel from December 2021 to January 2022 and noticed a "disturbing interaction" between the Omicron and Delta variants.

The researchers also built a model which predicts that Omicron is burning itself out while Delta is just biding its time.

Until now, the researchers said, whenever a new, dominant, variant



Delta or different variant may cause another Covid-19 outbreak: Study. Pic- HT

appeared, it overpowered its predecessor after a short parallel period.

However, in contrast to the expected dynamics whereupon the Delta variant diminishes as Omicron variant increases, results received from wastewater detection indicated a cryptic circulation of Delta even with the increased levels of Omicron, they said.

According to the researchers, including Karin Yaniv from BGU, Omicron is spreading swiftly around the world with record morbidity

reports.

Unlike the Delta variant, previously considered to be the main variant of concern in most countries, the dynamics of the Omicron variant have shown different characteristics, they said.

The researchers noted that the deployment of wastewater-based epidemiology is recommended as a convenient and representative tool for pandemic containment.

* Contd on page 9

Taliban stops issuing driving licences to women in Afghanistan: Report

The Taliban regime in Afghanistan has now stopped issuing driving licences to women and other provinces of the land-locked country.

Before the Taliban took over Afghanistan, women could be seen driving in some of the major cities including Kabul. But now the regime has imposed this restriction.

The human rights situation in Afghanistan has worsened since the Taliban's return to power last year. From banning girls from schools above sixth grade to not allowing women to take trips alone, there have been reports of women rights being snatched away by the new government, reports Hindustan Times.

Here's a look at some of the restrictions Taliban has imposed on women since capturing Afghanistan.

On March 23, the Taliban regime shut schools for girls for secondary classes across the country, just hours after they had reopened for the first time since the new regime took over. In 2021, just a month after takeover, the Taliban had allowed some schools for girls up to class 6 to reopen. The move evoked stern response from the



Women walk through the old market as a Taliban fighter stands guard, in the city of Kabul, Afghanistan. Pic - AP

United Nations. The UN Security Council had said, "Security Council members reaffirmed the right to education for all Afghans, including girls, and called on the Taliban to respect the right to education and adhere to

their commitments to reopen schools for all female students without further delay." The Taliban's Ministry of Education (MoE) said the Islamic Emirate is close to a solution for reopening the school for girls.

Barely a month after it took over, the Taliban administration barred women from effectively working in government offices, banks, media companies and other work places. Waheedullah-Hashimi, a senior figure in the Taliban, said the regime will fully implement sharia law, while adding that women should not work alongside men.

In December last year, the Taliban ruled that women seeking to travel anything other than short distances must not be offered transport unless escorted by close male relative. Also, the regime called on vehicle owners to offer rides only to women wearing hijabs.

China against US' plan to boost domestic semiconductor manufacturing: Biden



President Joe Biden answers questions from reporters in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, in Washington on Wednesday. Pic - AP

Directly accusing China of intervening in American legislative processes, US President Joe Biden has said that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is lobbying to oppose the passage of the CHIPS Act, which is meant to create incentives to boost semiconductor manufacturing, in the US Congress since it is linked to national security.

Biden made the charge while speaking at a Lockheed facility in Alabama responsible for assembling Javelin missiles on Tuesday. The US and its allies have sent 5,500 Javelins to Ukraine to bolster its defences against Russia forces till date. Biden has also asked the US Congress for an additional \$33 billion to enhance security and economic assistance to Ukraine, reports Hindustan Times.

In the course of his speech, Biden also spoke of the importance of semiconductors and the need to boost its domestic manufacturing, a key policy priority for his administration. The US, according to the Department of Commerce's National Institute for Standards and Technology, was historically domi-

nant in the semiconductor global supply chains, but its share of global fabrication capacity has dipped from 40% in 1990 to 11% in 2020 even as their role in a range of industries, from automobiles to emerging technologies, has sharply increased.

To make up for this lag, the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors for America, also known as the CHIPS Act, was embedded in the National Defense Authorisation Act. In June 2021, the US Senate passed a legislation the US Innovation and Competition Act, which included a \$52 billion in federal investments for domestic semiconductor research, design and manufacturing provisions of the CHIPS Act. In February 2022, the House of Representatives passed the America Competes Act, which has a similar provision for semiconductors. Both chambers now need to arrive at a joint legislation which will then be signed into law by Biden.

After touring the Lockheed facility, the president said he had learnt that each Javelin included more than 200 semiconductors. "I have been a

broken record, as the press will tell you, on our need to be able to produce more semiconductors in the United States...We invented the sucker...we, the United States. We are the one that modernised it. We have done more than anybody else. But guess what? We stopped investing in ourselves. And so now we are back in the game, making sure that we become the primary producers of those semiconductors - computer chips that power much of our lives."

Pointing out that semiconductors were critical to defence production capacity, Biden said it was both why the US was making it hard for Russia to get hold of semiconductors and advanced technologies, and why it was taking steps to source it domestically during a time of global shortage.

Urging the Congress to act quickly to provide the emergency funding for the CHIPS Act by passing the broader Bipartisan Innovation Act, Biden said, "I am determined to make sure the US holds the technological high ground in competition with other nations, especially China."

Thirty-five years ago, the US used to invest 2% of its entire GDP in research and development and now it does half of that. "We used to be number one in the world. Now we are number 13 in the world...The US used to own the innovation field."

The Innovation Act, Biden said, would reverse "decade-long decline in federal research and development investment", create jobs, expand US manufacturing and strengthen national security.

Imran Khan talks about sons, Bushra Bibi; says, 'Worst thing of divorce is...'

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan in an exclusive interview with HUM News on Wednesday said he has not seen his sons Suleiman Isa Khan and Qasim Khan in 2.5 years because of the pandemic. On being asked what Eidi Imran Khan sent to his children, Imran Khan said, "The worst thing of a divorce is when you get separated from your children". Imran Khan has two sons Suleiman Isa Khan and Qasim Khan from his marriage with Jemima Goldsmith.



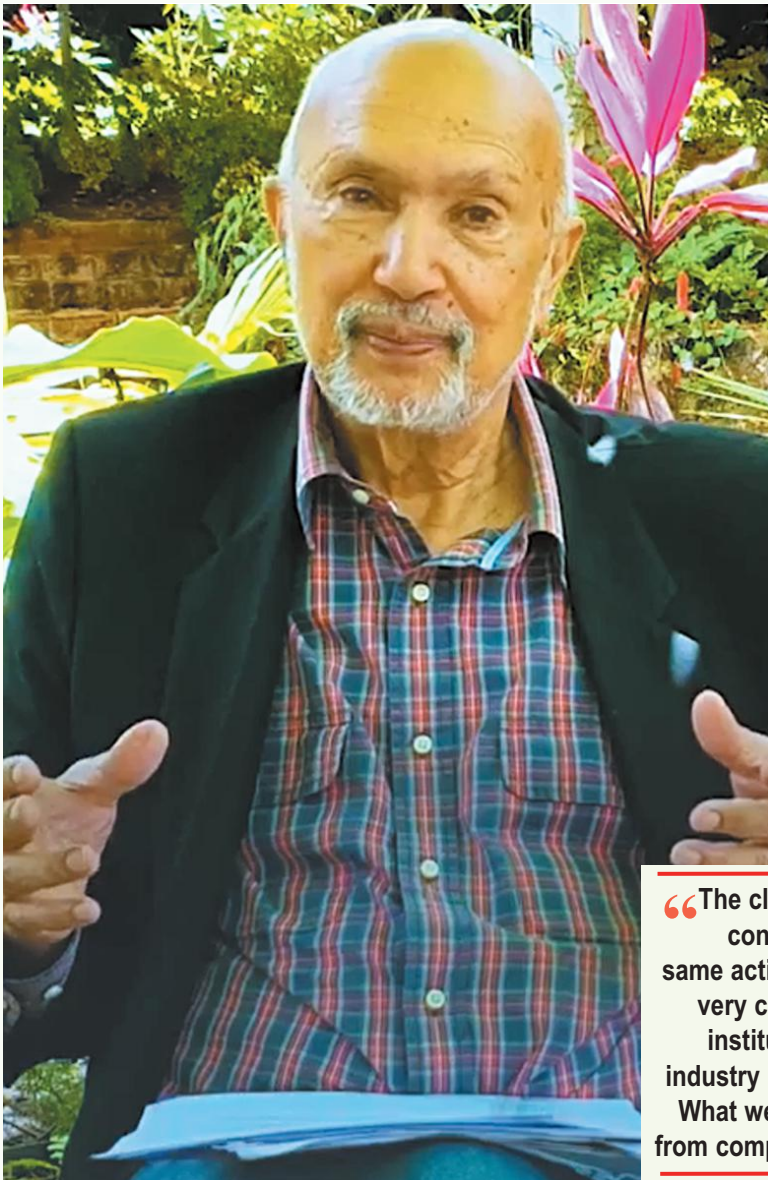
Imran Khan with former wife Jemima Goldsmith. Pic - The Chhattisgarh

"No person is as stupid as the man who thinks he has the upper hand in the home," Imran Khan said talking about Bushra Bibi who is also his spiritual guide. "She is way ahead of me on this spiritual path," Imran Khan said. "It is for Bushra Begum that my guests get such a warm welcome in my residence nowadays. Long ago, I remember an incident when I used to stay alone. An American ambassador came and my attendant brought a packet of biscuits and gave him the packet," Imran Khan said.

Talking about his defeat in the no-confidence motion, Imran Khan said his defeat has been a reason for celebration for India and Israel.

His enemies are now preparing material for full-blown character assassination. Imran Khan has been claiming that his enemies are hatching plots to assassinate his character. They are making some tapes, Imran Khan said during the interview.

Meanwhile, fake social media accounts in the name of Imran Khan's sons appeared on social media, Jemima Goldsmith tweeted.

Dr Michael Atchia**“We need all competencies for the country to advance, if not at least to decently survive”**

Dr Michael Atchia needs no introduction to our readers as a pedagogue with an interest in environmental matters. We chose to seek his views on his previous appeal for a government of national unity, on the directions the development of the country is taking and concrete ways forward for a greener, sustainable, more self-sufficient island when, like many, we are caught in the disruptions and upheavals caused by the Ukraine conflict.

Nevertheless, Mauritius voted for the resolution condemning Russia for aggression in Ukraine at UN General Assembly. Others reacted. The worldwide effects of any war, especially this one involving a superpower, Russia can be far reaching, affecting food supply, energy, world trade, bilateral and group alliances such as EU, AU, SADC.

We are remote from Ukraine and the direct effects of this war but not from the worldwide effects. This Government has shown awareness of food supplies problems (we import over 75% of what we consume), but measures to secure stability in supplies are still being addressed. Urgency here is necessary! For example, assessment of uncultivated land in various parts of the island followed by a strong national drive in

Published locally it went international on the website of ISC, the International Science Council. Result: several organisations issued similar statements, adding to the pressure for peace. Some excerpts from the statement read as follows:

‘Solving conflicts through rational dialogue

‘We scientists, members of the Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology (MAST) are *against* and *condemn all forms of war*, such as what is happening at present in Eastern Europe. The world must use *peaceful* and *rational dialogue* to solve any existing conflicts.

‘The cost of warfare, even a limited war, in terms of human lives, destruction of resources and pollution of the environment, is extremely high. We can never forget that 100 million humans (half of them civilians) were killed during two World Wars and numerous other conflicts, in the last century, the 20th.

‘Most modern weapons release pollutants, which in no time spread around the world and are obnoxious to the entire planet. Nuclear weapons are a prime example of such weapons, so is biochemical warfare. In an era where humanity as a whole is struggling against a pandemic and is engaged in the long-term struggle to prevent global warming with all its negative consequences for life on the planet, no one has the legal, moral, ethical right to use and unleash *any* weapons as means of ‘solving’ conflicts.’

*** You came out some time back in support of the proposal made in favour of a government of national unity. But this has been shot down by the main opposition parties, and it’s not certain whether the ruling party itself would welcome such an arrangement. Do you think it’s still valid in view of the volatile times we are living in?**

A government of unity or national unity (GUN) is, in my view, a cohabitation formed following a negotiated agreement between different parties to manage a difficult national situation. Such an initiative usually comes after an election.

In the British context, an arrangement such as Lib-Lab (a working arrangement between the Liberal Democrats and the Labour Party) or Lib-Con (Liberal Party-Conservatives) would be a simple alliance, but a Lib-Lab-Con government on the other hand would be a government of national unity. In India any planned post-election alliances between the Congress or BJP and other parties will not have any significance after a landslide victory of Modi.

● Cont. on page 11

“The closure and taking over of the MTC is utterly condemnable as it seems done to favour the same activity (i.e., horse racing) to be run by people very close to the government. Will any private institution/body/structure/bank/clinic/factory/industry be safe from unilateral takeover after that? What we are talking about here is totally different from compulsory acquisition in the public interest...”

Mauritius Times: We are living in volatile times that, just two months ago, we would not have imagined. The Ukraine war has proved to be a major blow to the global economy, and it would seem that dealing with its disruptive impacts is also proving to be a headache to most governments, including ours. How would you say the current government is doing in that respect?

Dr Michael Atchia: Minor country, minor world role.

“The combination of government, opposition, private sector, NGOs, institutions and citizens is crucial in times of crisis... A call for such collaboration is essential. It does absolutely require Government not to name and appoint only its people (*nou bann*) at the detriment of 80% of other competencies. We need all competencies for the country to advance, if not at least to decently survive...”

promoting and planning the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. Exploration of the production of wheat and rice, our staple foods, in case of disruption in trade and shipping for these commodities. We know how Ukraine was, for example, one of the world’s major producers of wheat. In the meantime, the use of diplomatic channels with friendly countries for agreements for the supplies of staples (flour and rice) as well as fuels.

And what about a strategy of regular policing and surveillance of cultivated areas to discourage theft? And the real encouragement given to large entities to further go into food production?

It’s not only Government who should react. Other bodies and institutions must do their share, against war, for peace, hence for preservation of world trade.

I would like to bring to the attention of this paper’s readers that the Mauritius Academy of Science (MAST) of which I am the current President came up 24 February 2022 with a strong statement entitled ‘*Scientists Against War*’. It was signed by me as well as by Dr Yashwant Ramma and Dr Salem Saumtally.

'The closure and taking over of the MTC is utterly condemnable. Will any private institution be safe from unilateral takeover after that?'

● Cont. from page 10

In the United States, the coexistence between a Democratic President and Republican chambers, or similarly in France between Left and Right, remotely resemble governments of national unity without formally being so.

In the local context, the proposal was made by Democracy Watch Mauritius (DWM) in the national interest. At this stage we are not re-tabling the idea of a government of national unity (as proposed by me for DWM on 30th May 2014, in *Le Mauricien* and re-tabled again by an ex-minister recently). But today for an *effective governance structure* we strongly recommend that representatives of the government, the opposition, the private sector and the civil society consider urgently the setting up of a National Crisis Committee - to listen, discuss, propose appropriate measures and communicate with the population. In the present circumstances, we sincerely believe that this is the best way forward. Will the Prime Minister take the lead? The ball is in his court.

*** Judging by the government's response to the citizens protests two weeks back and its heavy-handed manner in which it has been tackling certain issues, namely the MTC/GRA tussle, it does not seem worried about its political future. Do you share that view?**

The closure and taking over of the MTC is utterly condemnable as it seems done to favour the same activity (i.e., horse racing) to be run by people very close to the government. Will any private institution/body/structure/bank/clinic/factory/industry be safe from unilateral takeover after that?

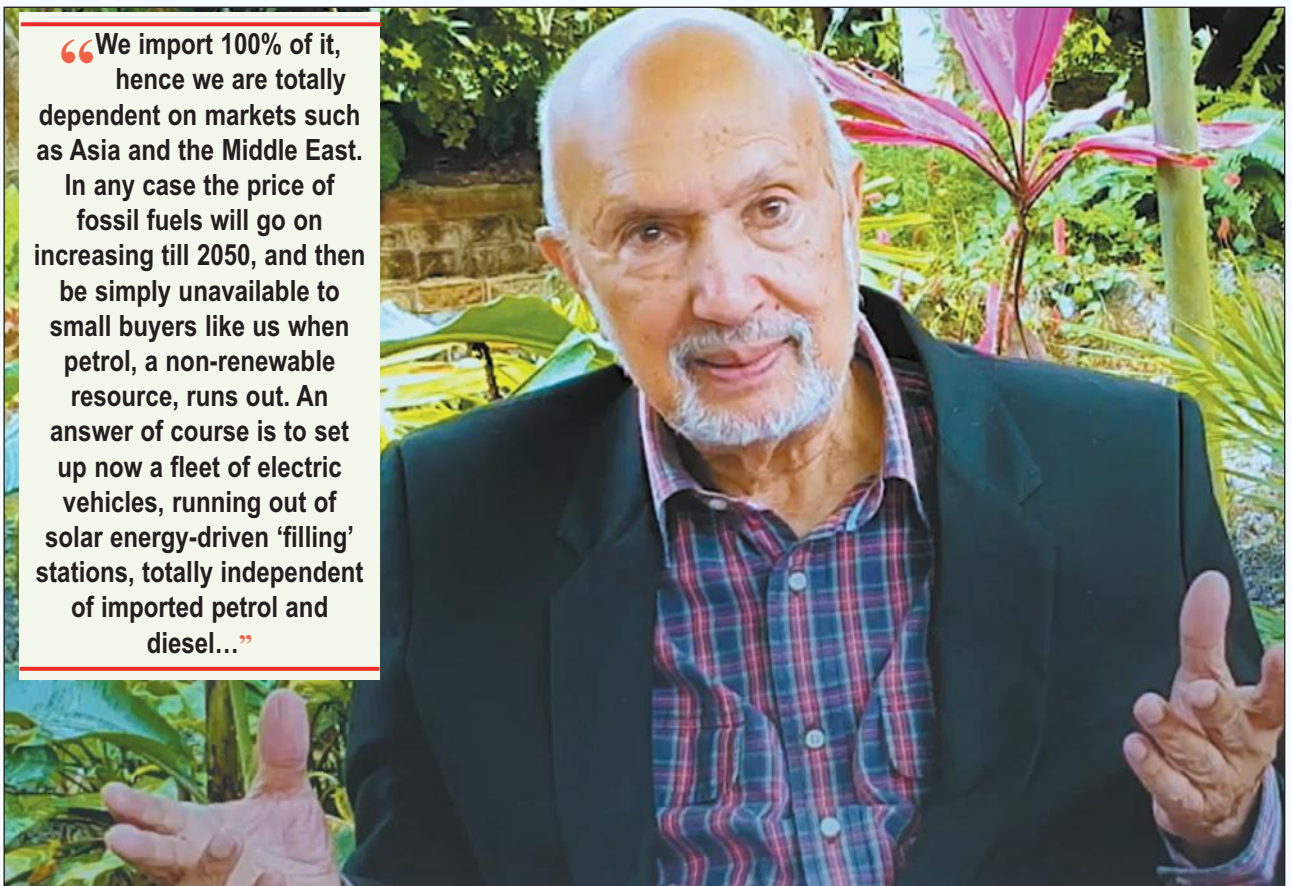
What we are talking about here is totally different from compulsory acquisition in the public interest such as houses on the path of the new metro, which is unavoidable, but with proper compensation given to the affected people.

*** We do not hear the rumblings of discontent in relation to price rises anymore although their root causes have been but partially addressed. Do you think the embers have been put out?**

Yes, the embers of discontent are out for now, mainly through communication with citizens to explain how in this *only one world*, we are *totally* dependent on imports of what we do not produce and in time of reduced supplies, on world price rise.

“Today for an effective governance structure we strongly recommend that representatives of the government, the opposition, the private sector and the civil society consider urgently the setting up of a National Crisis Committee - to listen, discuss, propose appropriate measures and communicate with the population. In the present circumstances, we sincerely believe that this is the best way forward. Will the Prime Minister take the lead? The ball is in his court...”

“We import 100% of it, hence we are totally dependent on markets such as Asia and the Middle East. In any case the price of fossil fuels will go on increasing till 2050, and then be simply unavailable to small buyers like us when petrol, a non-renewable resource, runs out. An answer of course is to set up now a fleet of electric vehicles, running out of solar energy-driven 'filling' stations, totally independent of imported petrol and diesel...”



We, as a small country, cannot fight world prices. We buy or go without.

People rumble, protest when they, rightly so, do not understand what is happening. And more importantly they do not know what can be done to reverse negative situations.

The answer is doing our very best to produce (including drastic increase of food and minerals from the sea, from our 1 million sq km of Mauritian EEZ), ensuring a large degree of food security (from the current 20% of our needs in 2022 to 60-80% within 8-12 years. Work hard for it: Government, private sector, citizens, for energy and food self-sufficiency soon.

Added to that, the obvious action: buy what we produce (*Aster 'Made in Moris'*) produce what we need and, most importantly, reduce waste, all of which citizens can do.

Take the issue of petrol prices; we import 100% of it, hence we are totally dependent on markets such as Asia and the Middle East. In any case the price of fossil fuels will go on increasing till 2050, and then be simply unavailable to small buyers like us when petrol, a non-renewable resource, runs out. An answer of course is to set up now a fleet of electric vehicles, running out of solar energy-driven 'filling' stations, totally independent of imported petrol and diesel.

As one of the world's recognised environmental experts, I have for the last several years, from Duval to Padayachy as Ministers of Finance, proposed a plan to make us largely independent of fossil fuel. Not retained. Why? It's not proposed by a foreign expert? Or does it have to do with vested interest such as from vehicle

importers? I do not know. Here is a gist of my proposal, again repeated for this Budget 2022-23 - the objective being to **make** Mauritius a country independent of imported petrol:

A fleet of electric vehicles + the metro will ensure our mobility when petrol becomes too expensive or is not available. And to the consumer a drastic reduction in his/her "petrol" bill. Fortunately, the CEB is already planning for solar charging stations for such vehicles.

In 2014 there was only one Nissan electric vehicle available. Today many vehicles manufacturers make hybrid and electric vehicles, such as Nissan itself, Renault, Ford, Toyota, Hyundai, Kia, BMW, Jaguar, Mahindra, Peugeot, Chevrolet, Citroën, Fiat, Honda, Volkswagen, Mitsubishi, Mercedes-Benz, TESLA, etc.

The four proposals are:

1. Electric vehicles imported *duty-free*.
2. Democratise the import of zero emission vehicles with a subvention of Rs 200,000 per vehicle, limited to one par family. We already give subventions for solar water heater, why not for cars?
3. When batteries will be more efficient and cheaper, we can assemble electric vehicles here, including (using the latest technology) convert old second-hand petrol vehicles into electric ones. Also, as from right now *all duty-free* vehicles authorized for civil servants would have to be electric cars.
4. Increase of 20%, then 50%, of custom duties on all petrol and diesel vehicles imported.

● Cont. on page 12

‘The embers of discontent are out for now, mainly through communication with citizens.

People rumble, protest when they, rightly so, do not understand what is happening...”

● Cont. from page 11

* To be fair, however, there is only so much that the government can do about this particular issue; the private sector should also be doing its bit to help alleviate the difficulties of the consumer, don't you think?

The combination of government, opposition, private sector, NGOs, institutions and citizens is crucial in times of crisis — to analyze, get to appropriate solutions and implement them.

A call for such collaboration is essential. It does absolutely require Government not to name and appoint *only* its people (*nou bann*) at the detriment of 80% of other competencies. We need all competencies for the country to advance, if not at least to decently survive.

* There is presently the tussle opposing the CEB to the Independent Power Producer Terragen Ltd, which has suspended its production of electricity due to the rise in prices of coal - from USD 206 end February to USD 430 on 2 March, according to *l'Express* (its spot price was USD 308.20 on 4 May 22, according to *Markets Insider*). If we go by Energy minister Joe Lesjongard's comments - Terragen Ltd would have apparently accumulated profits to the tune of Rs1.5 bn from 2012 to 2021 - he would be suggesting that the IPP would also not doing its bit for the country. Do you share that view?

No. The world prices for coal have exploded, partly due to war and also abuse by exporters. We have the solution here which Terragen Ltd has been so successfully implementing, namely combine coal with a biofuel, namely bagasse to produce electricity, and gradually reduce coal and increase bagasse, including exploring other biofuels, such as bamboo, as so often proposed.

As research has shown, the use of biofuels, made from plants which grow using sunlight, is entirely sustainable. At present the world including us a tiny small island state is running on non-renewable fossil fuels, which is unsustainable. The sooner we make the shift the better!

* For having been associated with education for a long time, how do you react to the latest Education Statistics, which indicate a gradual fall in the intake of students at all levels - from pre-primary to tertiary - especially in public schools?

Largely a population problem. As Monique Dinan rightly said, we must repopulate Mauritius. The diversity of schools in Mauritius, namely public, private, confessional and international is a huge contributor to *quality in education* and must be preserved. But recently the PSEA has moved against this, increasing its unnecessary control over private and confessional colleges. Utterly condemnable.

* It's said that if the middle class start abandoning public schools or government-run health services, it's the quality of these services that will come down. Is that indeed the case?

Parental choice is crucial and indeed pivotal in the choice of



“Parental choice is crucial and indeed pivotal in the choice of schools for their children. With, as we move up the age ladder, the choice of where to do HSC, or a degree, being given to the students himself/herself as to choose, depending of course on previous results and availability of seats. No, I do not see abandonment of any of these four sectors, but greater demand for mobility. This is a good thing...”

“We have the solution here which Terragen Ltd has been so successfully implementing, namely combine coal with a biofuel, namely bagasse to produce electricity, and gradually reduce coal and increase bagasse, including exploring other biofuels, such as bamboo, as so often proposed. As research has shown, the use of biofuels, made from plants which grow using sunlight, is entirely sustainable. The sooner we make the shift the better!”

schools for their children. With, as we move up the age ladder, the choice of where to do HSC, or a degree, being given to the students himself/herself as to choose, depending of course on previous results and availability of seats. No, I do not see abandonment of any of these four sectors, but greater demand for mobility. This is a good thing.

Same indeed for the health sector and the combination of public and private facilities. We must recognise the huge efforts made by successive governments from SSR's onwards to provide free health services to the population. Take for example the excellent cardiac units we have in the public sector and the major improvement made to the ENT for the treatment of Covid-19 cases.

Principles and Practices

● Cont. from page 4

The latter feels necessary to grandstand its Minister and his career highlights before enunciating: “*Human rights are basic rights and freedoms that belong to each person in the world, from birth to death. They apply to each individual, regardless of the his/her nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, religion, language or any other status. Human Rights are universal, interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.*”

Brightly said then, but you would be foolhardy to look for an actual definition of what human rights cover in 21st century Mauritius, rather than the dry list of acronyms and treaties we have become signatories to. But they can be forgiven, for the site does compile in no particular order, a dozen or so relevant legislations, from our Constitution to the Chemical Weapons Convention Act 2003. Although we are nowhere closer about a simple workable definition of human rights that apply to Mauritian citizens or residing foreigners, whether under normal or pandemic conditions.

At least the Mauritius Police Force website, whose senior officers having probably followed University of Mauritius courses, do display prominently a Principle of Police Ethics which includes such likeable statements that Police Officers have to

Display self-control, tolerance, understanding, and courtesy appropriate to the circumstances in their dealings with all individuals, both outside and inside the Police Force.

Uphold fundamental human rights, treating every person as an individual and display respect and compassion towards them.

We have all been witnesses to the principles and practices of the police force in numerous recent instances that test their own writings. Administrative prose and public agency websites are a reflection of our levels and aspirations often to an internet-savvy world, including expatriates and foreigners, even if we will all concur that behind the style and the words, what really matters is whether the agencies do walk the talk they sometimes feel obliged to display. Popular wisdom has it that you cannot build castles on sand.

Jan Arden

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 190

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 28 March, 1958

• An ounce of enterprise is worth a pound of privilege. — Frederic Marvin

Indo-Mauritians' fight for cultural survival

Doojendranath Napal

One obvious fact about the Mauritians of Indian origin is that they have preserved their culture and religious outlook to a remarkable degree. However, we are apt to forget what a tough fight they had to put up against the many forces which allied themselves to cut them off from their moorings. They came in poor conditions; they had often to work as little better than slaves for more than twelve hours a day. Their children had meagre opportunities for education. Those children who ever got any opportunity at all for education, went to schools where they were subject to influences noxious to their culture and religion. Yet those indentured labourers, despite finding themselves in the humblest and often most humiliating circumstances, saved their culture from complete annihilation. For they were conscious all the time that they were the heirs of a rich culture.

All the while they had to resist the inroads of militant Christianity. Those who had received some European education had to fight against temptations which Christianity offered them. The bait of a prospective government or semi-government post or a job in some firm or other private concern was often dangled before them. And the Christian missionaries were the not sparing in their efforts to proselytize the Indian masses.

Fortunately for the Indians these efforts proved almost fruitless. For example, in the years 1854-1863, Pere Laval worked hard to spread Catholicism among the lower classes of the people. He made marvellous progress among the emancipated slaves but failed to make conversions *en masse* among the Indians. If he met with any success, it must have been insignificant enough not to be mentioned in his biographies. One curious fact about this period is that many Indian immigrants who had professed the Christian faith in their native land returned to the hold of Hinduism after having stayed for some time in this island. Here is what Rev. Patrick Beaton writes in this connection:

"These men, on their arrival in the Colony, were at once surrounded by all the seductive influences of sin, without any agency to counteract these influences. They had no pastoral superintendence and no place of worship. That under such circumstances many of them should have relapsed into those sinful



habits which are common among their heathen countrymen causes no surprise."

In those days, Protestant and Catholic missionaries vied with each other in making converts. In the year 1854 came to the island Messrs A. Taylor and John Baptist in order "to make some provision for the spiritual wants of the coolie immigrants in Mauritius." (Report of Madras Bible Society for 1855). The rivalry between Catholics and Protestants continued with intensity. The above Report tells us: "The Indian intellect is too subtle to present a favourable soil for the reception of the seeds of Romanism."

On the whole the endeavours of the Christian missionaries proved fruitless. Conversion *en masse* never took place among the Indians. This is laudable enough but what is worth remembering is that there were very few intellectuals among the indentured labourers. These did their utmost to impart to their less literate brethren a knowledge of their culture and religion. They all toiled as slaves in the day; but till deep into the night and early before dawn their little lamps could be seen burning and their voices heard chanting hymns or reading their sacred books, the heritage they had brought from India.

John De Lingen, an orientalist who had made a study of the cultural and social life of the Indians in Mauritius summed up the position: "These poor people in their utter destitution and lack of mental and material resources, dazzled by contact with Western material achievements, cut off completely from their motherland and from the higher ranks of their countrymen, were left almost naked to choose between Western ideas and utter blankness... The government on its part took in hand the cause of the

Christian missionaries. It was interested in the proselytisation of the Indians who were branded as heathens and idolators."

Despite these heavy odds, they strove hard not to allow the torch of faith to be extinguished. In course of time, they began to have their places of worship — their temples and mosques and could put up some huts (baitkas) where their children could be initiated into their rich culture and could learn their mother tongue.

Meanwhile the Christian missionaries began to be frightened by the state of things. They felt all the bitterness at their failure to bring these aliens within the fold of Christianity. A meeting was held on the 21st of May 1874, under the aegis of the Bishop of Mauritius. The avowed purpose of this meeting was to find means for the conversion of Indians. As was to be expected, the culture, religion and morals of the Indians were criticized; the fact was deplored that the Indians were shut off from the blessings of Christianity. Governor Sir Arthur Gordon, who was at that meeting, said: "The first fact — that

the population is largely, I may say chiefly, heathen, is one patent to all. Indeed, it may be questioned whether the island can properly, any longer, be styled a Christian country. An enormous proportion of the population are idolators, whilst another large portion, the Mussulmans, are non-Christians. It is impossible to travel many miles in any direction without coming upon some idol

temple, many handsome and substantial structures of stone and lime. There is hardly a place in which the sound of the gong, calling men to worship the false gods of the Indian Pantheon, does not penetrate. I hear it daily coming from the ravine below my house. I doubt not, my Lord, similar sounds are as distinctly heard in yours."

At this meeting the Governor passed the following resolution: "That the condition of the Indian population of this Colony offers a most urgent and important field for Missionary operations, and this meeting pledge itself to increased and sustained efforts for duly carrying them into effect."

Such then were the bare facts. If a Governor expressed himself in such terms, no wonder that every effort was made to bring the "heathen" Indians under the shadow of the cross. These systematic efforts, however, proved fruitless. The Mauritians of Indian origin have known how to keep their ancestral faith alive. And at what sacrifice!



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Giving people money with no strings attached is good for their health, dozens of studies indicate

A global team of researchers analyzed 34 studies of unconditional cash-transfer programs administered in low- and middle-income countries.



Sze Yan Liu
Assistant Professor of Public Health, Montclair State University

The big idea

When people living in poverty in countries like Malawi, Indonesia and Ecuador receive cash payments without having to do anything in return, they have better health, according to a scientific review of a large body of research.

To reach that finding, our interdisciplinary team of public health experts, economists and epidemiologists from Canada, Germany, New Zealand and the U.S. pooled data from 34 studies that involved 1,140,385 participants in 50,095 households across Africa, the Americas and Southeast Asia.

Our systematic review and meta-analysis also determined that unconditional cash payments in low- and middle-income countries not only reduce poverty, but they also lead to greater food security,



A growing number of assistance programs give recipients money. himarkley/E+ via Getty Images

improved nutrition and more consistent school attendance.

Follow-up surveys with individuals who received this money earlier found that they were less likely to have been sick in the previous two weeks to three months compared to individuals who did not receive this money. In addition, there is some evidence that people who got cash payments spent more money on health care.

The studies we examined involved 24 different cash payment programs in 13 countries that were run either by governments, nonprofits or researchers. The value of the money given to people in need varied widely, equaling anywhere from 1.3% to 81.9% of gross domestic product per capita.

Why it matters

Governments, nonprofits and researchers around the world are increasingly

experimenting with a simple approach to reduce poverty: giving people money to spend on whatever they need.

Many of these cash-transfer pilots and experiments – often called basic income programs – have required people to do something to receive the money, such as making sure their children regularly attend school. Sometimes the condition involves completing a specific health-related task, such as attending a health education workshop or going to a preventive care medical appointment.

Researchers are debating whether these conditions improve or hinder the effectiveness of these programs.

Other programs, like those we studied, have no such requirements.

One advantage of the no-strings-attached approach, argue the GiveDirectly nonprofit and other supporters, is that it eliminates the need to monitor compliance

and slashes administrative costs. Unconditional cash payments may empower recipients more since they can decide how to use the money to meet some of their immediate needs.

Making payments contingent on people meeting requirements may also unintentionally harm people in need who can't comply with conditions due to physical, social and economic barriers. For example, requiring a clinic visit to "earn" a cash payment does not help anyone unable to make the trip.

What still isn't known

We still don't have enough information to determine if this pattern holds true in the United States and other wealthier nations.

The long-term health benefits of unconditional cash payments is also not clear.

Finally, more research is needed to understand whether the impetus for these programs, such as when they follow a hurricane or other major disaster, makes any difference.

What's next

Our team plans to study whether cash-payment programs that require compliance with conditions lead to better health too. We also want to update a previous review we conducted of payments given to people who had experienced humanitarian disasters to include evaluations of similar efforts carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Good to Know

Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.

When a person dies, hearing is the last sense to go. The first sense lost is sight.

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself.

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

The song Auld Lang Syne is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your

mouth by 61 percent. Drinking a glass of water before you eat may help digestion and curb appetite.

Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F.

The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.

Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.

Airports at higher altitudes require a longer airstrip due to lower air density.

The University of Alaska spans four time zones.

In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it meant she accepted.

Warner Communications paid 28 million dollars for the copyright to the song 'Happy Birthday', which was written in 1935!

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.

A comet's tail always points away from the sun.

Caffeine increases the power of aspirin and other painkillers, that is why it is found in some medicines.

The military salute is a motion that evolved from medieval times, when knights in armour raised their

visors to reveal their identity.

If you get into the bottom of a well or a tall chimney and look up, you can see stars, even in the middle of the day.

In ancient times strangers shook hands to show that they were unarmed.

Cashews are the only fruits whose seeds grow on the outside.

Avocados have the highest calories of any fruit at 167 calories per hundred grams.

The moon moves about two inches away from the Earth each year.

The Earth gets 100 tons heavier every day due to falling space dust.

Due to earth's gravity, it is impossible for mountains to be higher than 15,000 meters.

Soldiers do not march in step when going across bridges because they could set up a vibration which could be sufficient to knock the bridge down.

Everything weighs one percent less at the equator.

For every extra kilogram carried on a space flight, 530 kg of excess fuel are needed at lift-off.

The letter J does not appear anywhere on the periodic table of the elements.

Why Covid-19 gaslighting by politicians is so dangerous for democracy



A paramedic loads a stretcher back into an ambulance after bringing a patient to the emergency room at a hospital in Montréal in April 2022. THE CANADIAN PRESS - Ryan Remiorz

● Cont. from page 2

'Live with it'

Federal and municipal governments in North America, Europe and Australia have begun lifting basic protections like vaccine and mask mandates, winding down public testing, ending contact tracing and withholding critical public health data, like case counts, hospitalization numbers, wastewater results and even the size of local outbreaks. Pandemic management has been transformed from a public health problem to an individual one.

The now-quaint 2020 slogan "We're all in this together" has since been replaced with the dire prescription — "Assess your own risk." Political leaders have reversed course, urging their constituents to "learn to live with Covid."

The dismantling of pandemic infrastructure, however, suggests that those constituents must learn to live instead as if Covid-19 no longer exists. By removing basic protections that enabled us to survive the pandemic for the last two years, public health policy has effectively been rewritten in light of the desires, demands and delusions of anti-maskers, anti-vaxxers and Covid-19 denialists.

Fiction vs. reality

Western politicians and public health officials have managed to craft a fictional universe in which we have reached endemicity, where infection is now "mild" and getting "milder" by the variant, where Covid-19 is "like the flu," where mass infection builds a "wall of immunity" and where voluntary vaccination alone is our ticket out of the pandemic.

This sunny picture has numerous problems.

First, not only are we nowhere near endemicity, there would be nothing to celebrate about it if we were.

Second, the glib talk of mild infection overlooks Covid-19's frightening vascular and neurological effects. Those infected by it are at increased risk of serious heart complications, including inflammation, acute coronary artery disease and cardiac arrest. Even mild cases can lead to changes in brain structure.

According to one recent meta-analysis, 43 per cent of Covid-19 survivors experienced symptoms of what's known as long Covid, signalling a coming nightmare for public health, the economy and education. For a supposedly mild disease, Covid-19 notably led to hospital collapse in both the United Kingdom and Canada in April 2022.

Public gaslighting

Yet none of these grim realities are acknowledged by politicians who insist that we "just move forward" and "get on with our lives," and who repeat the "freedom convoy" talking point that we need not be "afraid."

There's a vast chasm between the Covid-19 fictions of politicians and the realities of hospital wards and long Covid clinics. The

downplaying, dismissal and denial of these realities amount to public gaslighting, a reckless political manoeuvre with unsettling implications for the future of western democracies.

As it turns out, we are still living in a post-truth world. But this time, it's not Donald Trump who's distorting reality.

Instead it's federal and municipal governments across the political spectrum gaslighting their citizens and constituents, denying the reality and severity of a pandemic that, once again, is tearing through our communities at frightening speed, driven by a highly contagious and rapidly evolving virus.

Undermining democracy

A functioning democracy requires some common ground upon which its citizens can agree. Covid-19 gaslighting erodes that common ground. It erodes trust in government and public health, as well as institutions, like school boards, that follow their cue.

It undermines the public authority of medicine and biomedical science to guide us through the pandemic. Just as climate change has been subjected to "both-sidesism," we now increasingly hear about "both sides" of Covid-19. When politicians encourage us to "move on," Covid denialism becomes a respectable opinion.

Despite our habit of entertaining "both sides" of many issues, some things just aren't a matter of political opinion: whether Trump won the 2020 election, whether climate change is real and whether we're still in a pandemic.

Unfortunately, western political leaders and some public health officials have decided to indulge the worst kind of individualist impulse: the desire to choose your own reality, including the fantasy that the pandemic is over.

This is the unfortunate consequence of a market-driven society in which truth is just one more commodity, where the line between citizenship and consumerism is dissolved and where many feel entitled to cancel election results and the pandemic alike just as they would an order from Amazon.

Erosion of trust

Perhaps most tragically, Covid-19 gaslighting erodes our trust in each other. It feeds our mutual suspicion, paranoia, hostility and division. When infection risk is intrinsically social, the promotion of noxious ideological concepts like "individual choice" and "assessing your own risk" only encourages us to blame each other in the event of an outbreak.

Public health policy modelled on **The Hunger Games** is a recipe for confusion and chaos.

Covid-19 gaslighting will only deepen our existing social divisions and exacerbate our culture wars, further eroding our already fragile democracies. As SARS-



Counter-protesters watch a a convoy-style 'Rolling Thunder' protest in Ottawa on April 30, 2022. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ Patrick Doyle

CoV-2 continues to evolve, surprise, disappoint and frustrate us at every turn, Covid-19 gaslighting will drive citizens deeper into isolated and self-enclosed silos, online and off-line.

It will further encourage the violent trolling of health-care workers and scientists, and feed dangerously reactionary politics. Extremism is the only possible beneficiary of this erosion of public trust.

Jason Hannan, University of Winnipeg

Can your mobile phone get a virus? Yes – and you'll have to look carefully to see the signs

It's true that phones aren't as prone to viruses as computers – but they're still far from immune.



Ritesh Chugh,
CQUniversity Australia

With nearly 84% of the world's population now owning a smartphone, and our dependence on them growing all the time, these devices have become an attractive avenue for scammers.

Last year, cyber security company Kaspersky detected nearly 3.5 million malicious attacks on mobile phone users. The spam messages we get on our phones via text message or email will often contain links to viruses, which are a type of malicious software (malware).

There's a decent chance that at some point you've installed malware that infected your phone and worked (without you noticing) in the background. According to a global report commissioned by private company Zimperium, more than one-fifth of mobile devices have encountered malware. And four in ten mobiles worldwide are vulnerable to cyber attacks.

But how do you know if your phone has been targeted? And what can you do?

How does a phone get infected?

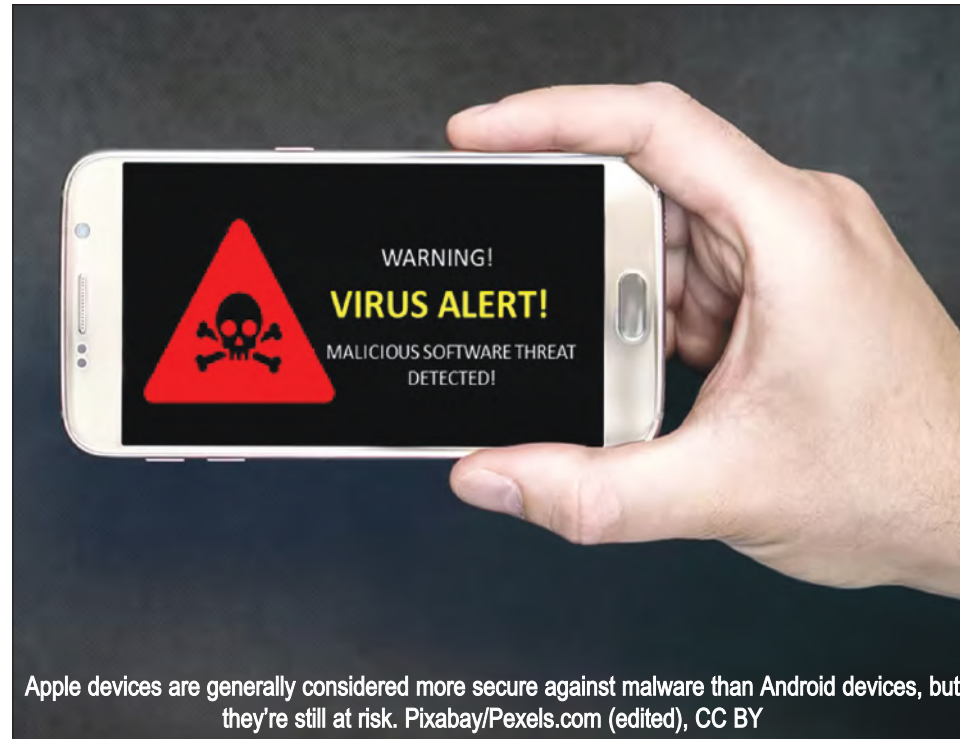
Like personal computers, phones can be compromised by malware.

For example, the Hummingbad virus infected ten million Android devices within a few months of its creation in 2016, and put as many as 85 million devices at risk.

Typically, a phone virus works the same way as a computer virus: a malicious code infects your device, replicates itself and spreads to other devices by auto-messaging others in your contact list or auto-forwarding itself as an email.

A virus can limit your phone's functionality, send your personal information to hackers, send your contacts spam messages linking to malware, and even allow the virus's operator to "spy" on you by capturing your screen and keyboard inputs, and tracking your geographical location.

In Australia, Scamwatch received 16,000 reports of the Flubot virus over just eight weeks in 2021. This virus sends text



Apple devices are generally considered more secure against malware than Android devices, but they're still at risk. Pixabay/Pexels.com (edited), CC BY

messages to Android and iPhone users with links to malware. Clicking on the links can lead to a malicious app being downloaded on your phone, giving scammers access to your personal information.

Flubot scammers regularly change their target countries. According to cyber security firm Bitdefender, FluBot operators targeted Australia, Germany, Poland, Spain, Austria and other European countries between December 1 2021 and January 2 of this year.

Is either Apple or Android more secure?

While Apple devices are generally considered more secure than Android, and less prone to virus attacks, iPhone users who "jailbreak" or modify their phone open themselves up to security vulnerabilities.

Similarly, Android users who install apps from outside the Google Play store increase their risk of installing malware. It's recommended all phone users stay on guard, as both Apple and Android are vulnerable to security risks.

That said, phones are generally better protected against viruses than personal computers. This is because software is usually installed through authorised app stores that vet each app (although some malicious apps can occasionally slip through the cracks).

Also, in comparison to computers, phones are more secure as the apps are usually "sandboxed" in their own isolated environment – unable to access or interfere with other apps. This reduces the risk of infection or cross contamination from malware. However, no device is entirely immune.

Watch out for the signs

While it's not always easy to tell whether your phone is infected, it will exhibit some abnormal behaviours if it is. Some signs to watch out for include:

- poor performance, such as apps taking longer than usual to open, or crashing randomly
- excessive battery drain (due to the malware constantly working in the background)
- increased mobile data consumption
- unexplained billing charges (which may include increased data usage charges as a result of the malware chewing up your data)
- unusual pop-ups, and
- the device overheating unexpectedly.

If you do suspect a virus has infected your device, there are some steps you can take. First, to prevent further damage you'll need to remove the malware. Here are some simple troubleshooting steps:

1. Use a reliable antivirus app to scan your phone for infections. Some reputable vendors offering paid and free protection services include Avast, AVG, Bitdefender, McAfee or Norton.
2. Clear your phone's storage and cache (in Android devices), or browsing history and website data (in Apple devices).
3. Restart your iPhone, or restart your Android phone to go into safe mode – which is a feature on Android that prevents third-party apps from operating for as long as it's enabled.

4. Delete any suspicious or unfamiliar apps from your downloaded apps list and, if you're an Android user, turn safe mode off once the apps are deleted.

As a last resort, you can back up all your data and perform a factory reset on your phone. Resetting a phone to its original settings will eliminate any malware.

Protecting your phone from infection

Now you've fixed your phone, it's important to safeguard it against future viruses and other security risks. The mobile security apps mentioned above will help with this. But you can also:

- avoid clicking unusual pop-ups, or links in unusual text messages, social media posts or emails
- only install apps from authorised app stores, such as Google Play or Apple's App Store
- avoid jailbreaking or modifying your phone
- check app permissions before installing, so you're aware of what the app will access (rather than blindly trusting it)
- back up your data regularly, and
- keep your phone software updated to the latest version (which will have the latest security patches).

Continually monitor your phone for suspicious activity and trust your gut instincts. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

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How toddler-mother attachment impacts adolescent brain and behaviour

Interpersonal trust is a crucial component of healthy relationships. When we interact with strangers, we quickly gauge whether we can trust them. And those important social skills may be shaped by our earliest relationship with caregivers.

Adolescents who had an insecure attachment to their mothers as toddlers are more likely to overestimate the trustworthiness of strangers, according to a new study from the University of Illinois.

"The idea is to understand whether early attachment relationships with mothers have a longitudinal, predictive association with how adolescents process cues related to trustworthiness, both at the behavioural level and the brain level," explains Xiaomei Li, doctoral student at the University of Illinois College and lead author on the paper.

In the first round of data collection, 128 toddlers and their mothers participated in a laboratory visit where researchers observed their interactions and evaluated their attachment style.

Ten years later, when the children were in their early adolescence, they were invited back for a second round of studies. This time, the researchers wanted to observe how the adolescents evaluated the trustworthiness of strangers.

Placed under an MRI scanner, the adolescents viewed pictures of faces and



were asked to rate the trustworthiness of each face on a scale from 1 to 5. Simultaneously, the MRI scanner measured their brain activity. In rating trustworthiness, adolescents were told to consider how likely they would be to approach the person for help or directions if they were alone in an unfamiliar city.

The pictures were selected from an established database containing photos of actors posing with emotionally neutral faces. The faces show varying degrees of trustworthiness, determined and validated by prior studies among independent observers who rated how trustworthy each

face appears to be according to their first impressions and gut feelings.

Securely and insecurely attached children agreed on rating the "high-trustworthiness" faces, but the children who were insecurely attached as toddlers were less likely to rate "low-trustworthiness" faces as such. Their brain scans also showed less activity in brain regions associated with emotional processing when viewing untrustworthy faces.

"The adolescents who had a history of secure attachment showed greater sensitivity to untrustworthy cues compared with their insecure counterparts," Li states.

"We were able to see how early relationship dynamics during toddlerhood, which is a key period for social-emotional development, predicted adolescent functioning, even at the level of the brain."

The core of attachment theory is whether the child trusts their primary caregiver to provide warmth and comfort when needed. Inconsistent or unreliable support from the caregiver can lead to a pattern of insecure attachment.

"Because children with an insecure attachment have experienced inconsistent and unreliable care when they are young, they may now choose to avoid negative social cues as a defensive mechanism to protect themselves. The lack of brain activation supports this explanation, suggesting that insecure adolescents are not processing untrustworthy cues," Li says.

"In comparison, adolescents with a secure history of attachment may be more open to thinking about and responding to negative social cues."

The findings also suggest the importance of parents being open to their child's negative emotions. "It's okay for children to be upset and these are important, teachable moments when parents can help children deal with their emotions in an age-appropriate way. By doing so, children will be better prepared to engage in whatever comes their way later on."



Why are the northern lights only spotted near the North Pole?

The northern lights are also called auroras, and they are regularly visible near Earth's North and South Poles. They are a direct connection between the Earth and what's happening on the sun.

Did you know that the sun has weather? But unlike Earth's weather, the sun's weather can affect the entire solar system! We call it space weather.

The sun is constantly blowing a spray of tiny particles in all directions, called the solar wind. This wind isn't made of air, like on Earth. It's made of mostly hydrogen, and it's blowing at hundreds of kilometres per second (this is more than a thousand times faster than hurricane-force wind on Earth).

This incredibly fast wind has been blowing on to the Earth for billions of years, so why hasn't it blown away Earth's air by crashing into us?

Fortunately, for living things like us, the Earth has a magnetic field, which causes the planet to act like a giant magnet in space and protects Earth from the solar wind. Earth's magnetic field is what causes a compass to work. The small magnet in a compass aligns with Earth's magnetic field and always points to Earth's magnetic North Pole. Earth's magnetic field is totally invisible to our



The northern lights as seen from Iceland. (Shutterstock)

eyes, but we can measure it with magnets and other scientific instruments.

The particles that make up the solar wind are deflected by Earth's magnetic field, so they mostly pass around the Earth without crashing into us. But it's not a perfect shield: because of the shape of Earth's magnetic field, close to the North and South Poles, a little bit of the solar wind can sometimes get through and crash directly into the Earth's atmosphere.

This crash happens between very tiny particles at speeds much faster than a bullet, so the result is very different from than say, a car crash. Instead of throwing off smaller pieces or exploding, they emit light. The colours tell us about what type of atmospheric particle is being crashed into by the solar wind. Red and green are

from oxygen collisions, and blue is from nitrogen.

Space weather

Exactly what the auroras look like depends a bit on the state of Earth's magnetic field and atmosphere, but more directly depends on space weather. Sometimes the sun produces a storm, called a solar flare or a coronal mass ejection, when there are suddenly a lot more particles injected into the solar wind, making it stronger than usual. Because we have telescopes in space and on Earth that carefully watch the sun for these storms, we usually have two to three days warning before a storm hits the Earth.

Typically, a solar storm will cause an impressive display of auroras only for people who live in the far north and south of the world, underneath the part of Earth's magnetic field that can let the solar wind through. But sometimes, a really powerful storm can cause the auroras to be visible much closer to the equator.

When this happens, it means that a lot of the solar wind particles are crashing all over Earth's atmosphere. It's not dangerous to us directly because we're protected from these fast-moving particles by Earth's atmosphere. But astronauts who are above the atmosphere may have to

take shelter in a heavily shielded part of the space station, and satellites can be temporarily shut down or even broken.

On very rare occasions, the auroras caused by a solar storm can be so powerful that electrical lines on Earth can be damaged, causing many people to lose power.

The sun has a cycle of storms: it has more frequent storms every 11 years, which is called the solar maximum. When the sun is near solar maximum, auroras are more likely to happen. The next solar maximum is predicted to be in late 2024 or early 2025, so we will have more and more auroras to watch over the next few years.

If you want to see auroras, you can check the space weather forecast every night just like you can check your local weather forecast every day.

In places close to the poles, where people have been watching auroras for as long as we've been human, many cultures understand the lights as a cosmic connection.

A truly bright auroral display is an incredible experience. It's a powerful reminder of connection between the Earth's atmosphere, magnetic field and the sun, all of which are vitally important to life on Earth.

Samantha Lawler

Assistant professor of astronomy,
University of Regina



LAUGHTER
is the best medicine

Words and figure should match

Why is it mandatory in the banks to write on cheques the amount of money in both words and figure?

At 4.00 pm, when the bank was closed for the day, the branch manager received a phone call from a woman in a very sweet, melodious voice. From the other end of the phone, the lascivious lady murmured like a fountain falling from a hill, "Sir, I desperately need Rs 200,000 in cash. I'll get the cheque in ten minutes; will you please wait for me?"

The branch manager was overwhelmed by the woman's melodious voice. He ordered the cashier to keep the money ready. The cashier got angry with utter annoyance, but started getting ready to pay Rs 200,000.

Meanwhile, a huge, fat, ugly-looking woman patted the door of the branch manager's office and said in a melodious voice, "Can I come in, sir?"

For so long, the manager had imagined the face of a beautiful woman... but when he saw this real woman, he became speechless for a while. But he regained his senses quickly and said, "Sorry, madam, the cash office is closed today. Come tomorrow."

"You could have said that over the phone!" the woman walked out of the bank with a bang.

The cashier, who was waiting ready to pay, said angrily to the manager, "If you had decided not to pay, why did you hold me back?"

The manager said: You also must know the international rule of banks: "If **words** and **figure** do not match, payment will be declined."

The cashier fainted!

Rooster: What are they cooking
Cat: Your wife with potatoes



A wife frustrated by her husband's bone-idleness around the house especially in the utilities department, sees cause for concern. One day when the toilet gets clogged up, she decides to ask him if he'd mind seeing to it, and is greeted with a gruff, "Who do I look like, a toilet cleaner?"

The next day the waste disposal unit seizes up. Summoning all her courage she tells her husband "Would you mind trying to fix it for me?"

"Who do I look like, some sort of plumber?"

To cap it all, the next day the washing machine goes on the blink and, taking her life in her hands, the wife addresses the sofa bound slob: "Darling, I know you are busy, but the washing machine's packed up."

"Oh, and I suppose I look like a bloody washing machine man," her old man replies.

Finally fed up, she calls out three different repairmen to come and fix the appliances.

That evening she informs her husband of her deci-

sion; he frowns angrily and asks how much it will cost."

"Well, they said I could pay them either by baking a cake or having sex with them," she says.

"What kind of cake did you make?" he growls.

"You think I am a master baker!"

Always read instructions

Three new inmates are sitting in their cell, contemplating their future.

The first one takes out a mouth organ. "At least I can keep myself amused by playing a little music, it'll help to pass the time."

The second takes out a pack of cards. "We can while away the time playing poker," he says.

The third man takes out a box of tampons. "What are you going to do with those?" the other two ask.

He grins and says, "It says on the box, I can ride, swim, ski and play tennis with these."

Father John was chatting with his replacement in a small village church.

"Father, Peter, you'll be looking after my flock from now on," he says.

"But where will I start, you have been in confessions for over forty years, I'll be lost," the young man spoke.

"Don't worry, I've written a list of sins and absolutions on the wall in the confessional box. Look up the sin and it will tell you next to it what to say," says Father John.

One week later, Father Peter is sitting in the confessional box looking at his mentor's list when his first visitor crops in.

"Forgive me father, for I have sinned, I had to give my husband a gobble last night," says a female voice. The priest searches the wall but can't find the correct answer anywhere. In desperation he pulls the curtain of the box and stops a choirboy.

"Oh, what did Father John give for a gobble?"

"A kit kat," the lad replies.

Life's Lessons

Camels are on the horizon

The founder of Dubai, Sheik Rashid, was asked about the future of his country, and he replied, "My grandfather rode a camel, my father rode a camel, I ride a Mercedes, my son rides a Land Rover, and my grandson is going to ride a Land Rover...but my great-grandson is going to have to ride a camel again." Why is that he was asked?

His reply was, "Hard times create strong men, strong men create easy times. Easy times create weak men, weak men create difficult times. Many will not understand it, but you have to raise warriors, not parasites."

"Add to that the historical reality that all great empires...the Persians, the Trojans, the Egyptians, the Greeks, the Romans, and in later years, the British...all rose and perished within 240 years. They were not conquered by external enemies; they rotted from within. America has now passed that 240-year mark, and the rot is starting to be visible and is accelerating. We are



past the Mercedes and Land Rover Years... the camels are on the horizon.

"The greatest generation consisted of 18-year-old kids storming the beaches at Normandy. And now, two generations later, some 18-year-old kids want to hide in safe rooms when they hear words that hurt their feelings. They also want free stuff from the government because they think they are entitled to it."

"Camels are on the horizon" for sure. Something to ponder... History has a way of repeating itself.

Short Stories

The Magical Sticks

A rich merchant had many servants in his house. One day the merchant's wife's beloved necklace disappeared from her vault. Gradually precious things in the house started disappearing one by one. The merchant was troubled by the thief in his house. He suspected one of his many servants to be the thief. But it was very difficult to identify and catch the thief among all the other servants in his huge house. The troubled merchant contacted his wise friend Birbal about the recent incidents.

After listening to the merchant, Birbal agreed to help the merchant and went to his house. Birbal summoned all the servants and started interrogating them one by one. He received nothing but absolute denial from every single one of them

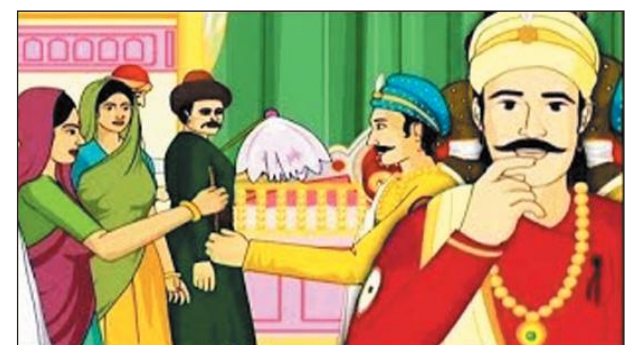
An idea then struck Birbal. He handed over a stick to every servant, all of the same

length. He told them that the stick was magical and the stick of the thief would grow by two inches the next day. The servants were ordered to present the stick to Birbal the next day.

The next day, as ordered, the servants assembled at the merchant's house with their sticks. As Birbal examined each stick, he noticed that one of the servants was holding a stick that was two inches shorter.

"This is your thief, merchant," Birbal said, pointing at the servant.

When the merchant asked Birbal to reason his accusation, he said: "Honest men never feared about the growth of their stick. The thief had already cut his stick shorter by two inches fearing that his stick will be long by two inches next morning."



Fitness & Exercise

Top Tips for Fitness Newbies

You're trying to get in shape after years of sedentary living. Get expert advice on how to start a fitness routine you can stick to safely.

Maybe you're not going to be a superstar athlete. But you can still set a big fitness goal for yourself, even if you've never tried a sport before. Examples of fitness goals training for a triathlon (a series of three endurance events, often swimming, cycling, and running), or join a sports league.

Get out of your comfort zone

First, consider the possibilities. There are lots of activities you could try, and you might discover you like something you never thought you'd do.

You might have a big goal you want to reach one day, like a marathon. The best way to get there is to set a series of smaller goals that lead to your big goal. For example, before you sign up for a marathon, set goals to do a few 5K races first. And before that, work up to running a mile. Fitness apps can help you keep track of each great thing you do on your way to your big goal.

Mix things up

You may get bored doing the same workout every day. And after you do the same activity all the time for 6 to 8 weeks, your muscles adapt to it. You burn fewer calories and build less muscle. Try interval training: Step up your pace for a minute, then slow down, and repeat. Try strength training and cardio activities like swimming, indoor cycling, and kickboxing.



Get your doctor's OK

If you're not active now, talk to your doctor before you start exercising if you're over 45 (men) or 55 (women). It's also a good idea to get a doctor's OK if you have a health problem or take regular medication. To avoid injuries and burnout, start working out slowly: 3 days a week for 10-15 minutes. Then gradually add time and intensity.

Eat and drink for fuel

Exercise burns extra calories and raises your metabolism. So, eat every couple of hours -- three meals plus healthy snacks. Before a workout, snack on carbs (juice, fruit, or yogurt) for fast energy. After a long, tough workout, replenish with a carb/protein mix, like a peanut butter sandwich or a smoothie. Otherwise, keep your meals and snacks light: Try an apple and peanut butter, yogurt and nuts, or an egg on whole wheat toast.

Drink enough water

Unless your workout is really long or tough, you don't need a special sports drink with electrolytes. Water works

just fine. Drink plenty: If you're dehydrated, your muscles may cramp, and you raise your risk of heat exhaustion and heat-stroke. Two hours before you exercise, drink about 2 to 3 cups of water. During your routine, drink about 1 cup every 10-20 minutes. Keep drinking after you're done exercising, too.

Do strength training

Even if your goal -- a marathon, for example -- might center on cardio, you should practice strength or resistance training, too. Strong muscles burn more calories, help prevent injuries, and build stronger bones. Work muscles on weight machines, with hand-held equipment like free weights, kettle bells, or resistance bands, or by doing exercises like push-ups. Rest each muscle group, such as biceps and triceps, at least 2 days between strength workouts.

Dress for comfort

You need the right clothes and shoes when you work out. It's not about looking good (although that can't hurt) -- it's about feeling comfortable. It's no fun to walk, run, or bike if you have flapping sleeves or flimsy shoes. Ask the experts at a sporting goods store for help. Look for fabrics that draw moisture away from your body -- not sweat-absorbing cotton. In cool temperatures, wear layers that you can peel off as you warm up.

Learn proper form

Whether you're running or weightlifting, it's easy to get hurt if your form or technique is wrong. Don't assume you're exercising the right way, especially if your routine is causing you pain. If your gym has trainers or fitness staff, they may be able to watch you exercise and give you advice on improving your technique. Or you can read fitness magazines or find online videos that show correct techniques.

Parenting

How parental conflict affects a child?

There's no relationship that does not falter. Arguments, disagreements and conflicts are extremely common even in a healthy relationship. But while it may seem normal to you, your child may be negatively affected by your and your partner's actions. There is no telling when a squabble between a couple may aggravate and escalate into something ugly, which when witnessed by a child, might devastate them gravely.

In light of parental conflicts, a child may become prone to anxiety, depression, discomfort and even struggle with their relationships in the future. Depending on how severe or aggressive marital dissatisfaction or parental arguments are, it may go on to do as much damage to the child's psyche.

That said, it is important that parents know how to deal with their disagreements privately and maturely, while ensuring that the children are not affected by the same.

* Why parental conflict impacts a child?

Every child looks up to their parents for advice, guidance and for support, which is why, if parents reveal their most unpleasant selves to their kids, it is likely to confuse them, making them uncomfortable.

Studies have shown that parents' fights impact their children in the most negative ways. Parents indulging in toxic arguments, name-calling and throwing insults at each other can give away a wrong impression to the kids, leading to emotional damage.

Researchers at the University of Oregon found that children as young as 6 months old can be negatively impacted by harsh parental arguments. Additionally, young adults up to 19 years of age can also be affected by the same. This suggests that a parent's relationship, how they decide on handling their actions, affects how their children grow up to or handle their problems.

Therefore, some of the negative impacts of parental conflict on kids include feeling insecure, stressed, confused about the future and may also strain parent-child relationships. Given that parents involved in a fight may not feel in the right mind or will most probably be distracted with the ongoing crisis, they're less likely to pay attention to the child's needs and wants.



* How can it affect children in the long run?

Experts believe unresolved parental conflict can affect a child's life in the long run. The effects may linger on even in their adult life. Just like their parents, they may find it difficult to maintain healthy relationships when they're older. While they grew up with their parent's fighting with each other, they may find their aggressive nature normal and justified.

Increased aggression may go on to become a problem in a child's adult life. They may become more prone to misconduct and behavioral problems that may lead them to further trouble. Apart from that, children go on to have a pessimistic

approach to life and a negative perception of people, leading to impaired social life and low self-esteem. A 2012 study published in the Journal of Youth and Adolescence found that kids who have been subject to parental conflicts are likely to run low on confidence.

* What should parents do differently?

Parents who lose their cool in front of their children must know how severely they're affecting their child's mental well-being. It is important to note that it is your duty to give your child a healthy childhood rather than a turbulent one. Having said that, while fights and arguments are absolutely natural, here are some things parents can do to minimize the damage done to a child's mind.

- Keep your discussions private. Avoid involving the children.
- Be polite and courteous, so children know that shouting and screaming are not the only way to resolve issues.
- Communicate productively. Do not overlap each other, rather take turns to speak.
- Focus on finding a solution rather than revisiting the mistake.
- Amid all the chaos, do not neglect your children.
- Make sure you let your child know that they are not the problem.

Sasural Simar Ka 2 brings back Dipika Kakar, actor says 'lets create magic again'

Dipika Kakar is coming back to daily soaps with her hit supernatural drama, *Sasural Simar Ka*. The actor has even shared a video to announce the same.

Taking to Instagram, Dipika shared the first glimpse at her character, Simar, in the second season. "Simar is a part of me that has always been alive in me for all these years and here today she is ready once again to make her way to your hearts... Are you ready... Let's create magic again," she wrote with her post?

In the video, Dipika begins by greeting everyone 'Jai Mata Di' in Simar's usual style. She informs viewers that she is coming back because of all the love they gave her through the years. She even teased that new faces will be seen on the show.

Sasural Simar Ka aired on Colors TV from April 2011 to March 2018. During its tenure, the show went from being a daily soap about female empowerment to a supernatural show with regular appearances from demons and visits to 'paatal lok'. Clips from the show often went viral for their bizarre logic and execution.

Dipika took part in Colors TV's reality show, *Bigg Boss* season 12, and went on to win the trophy. Speaking about her win, she had told PTI, "I wanted to prove that *Bigg Boss* is not about being mean or demeaning anybody and it is about being honest and good. I am very happy (with) the way I conducted myself on the show. I won."

More about 'Sasural Simar Ka 2'

Sasural Simar Ka 2 is an Indian Hindi-language television series and being a spiritual sequel to the 2011 long-running soap opera *Sasural Simar Ka*. The series is produced by Rashmi Sharma Telefilms and stars Radhika Muthukumar, Avinash Mukherjee, Tanya Sharma, Jayati Bhatia and Karan Sharma.

The story revolves around Simar and Reema Narayan, two sisters with different personalities. While Simar dreams of becoming a singer, Reema aspires to be a model. Aarav



Oswal and Vivaan Oswal are cousins who love and respect one another. They fall for Reema, but Simar falls for Aarav. Reema is chosen to be his bride but leaves on the wedding day for an event for her modelling career.

Simar instead is requested to marry Aarav, but the Oswals reject her. Reema manipulates and marries Vivaan with the hope of taking revenge on Simar. Yamini Devi is a renowned classical singer. Unaware she is the second wife of Geetanjali's late husband Gopichand, Simar considers her as a singing idol. Aarav starts falling for her. Reema realizes her love for Vivaan, who evades her after knowing her motives to marry him. Simar and Aarav divorce on Geetanjali's insistence.

Simar begins to focus on her musical dreams. While giving an audition, Simar meets Samar, Yamini Devi's adopted son. Months later, Simar and Aarav

yearn for each other. However, Reema, on Geetanjali's instructions finds Samar for Simar's second marriage.

Simar agrees to the marriage as Reema manipulates her. Geetanjali Devi gets Aarav arrested by the police to prevent him from stopping the marriage. However, he escapes from jail with the help of his sister Aditi and Simar's brother Gagan and confesses his love to Simar in front of everyone. As Simar reciprocates the same, Aarav takes Simar to a temple and they finally get married. Their family throws them out of the house. Samar was still heartbroken because Simar left him alone in mandap. Geetanjali asks the family members that Aarav's name be moved from her will and write Vivaan Oswal's name on his place.

Badi Maa tells Gajendra that she is naming everything on Vivaan's name. Reema gets happy and goes to Vivaan...

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YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You remain financially secure, as previous investments keep you financially strong. You may develop a dislike for someone at work, who is forever pulling your leg. Focus on health will become your priority and will have a positive fallout on your fitness. Hopes of a quiet romantic weekend may be dashed due to some unforeseen circumstances.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 16, 20, 23, 25, 30

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Financially, you will be very well off. An issue at work which is giving you tense moments will be finally sorted out. You will resolve to remain regular in your workouts just to remain fit. A short journey will prove relaxing for those trying to unwind. Love is likely to knock at your door, so be prompt to respond!

Lucky Numbers: 3, 15, 29, 31, 34, 36

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Correct advice from someone on the family front will help resolve a conflict in your mind. Your popularity on the social front may keep you in an upbeat mood. At work, you are likely to be saddled with a task that you simply hate. Intense yearning for love can nudge you towards the one you desire.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 10, 11, 24, 33, 37

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Shirking work will neither endear you to your co-workers, nor seniors. Some time for physical will help keep them fit. Domestic harmony is ensured only if you follow the path of non-confrontation. There is a strong possibility of finding a suitable match for the eligible.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 11, 31, 36, 40

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Someone may ask for your resources, so be forthcoming. Accolades and congrats may pour in for something you have achieved. Some of you are likely to enjoy your stay with a friend. An exciting weekend when you will be socially much in demand. Love life may not be a bed of roses.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 15, 21, 34, 36, 40

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Financially, you will get to save a lot as you make others foot the bill for you! Leading an active life will keep you in excellent shape and good health. Spouse may accuse you of not doing enough on the domestic front. Your efforts on the romantic front are certain to bear fruits.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 10, 11, 15, 23, 33

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Professionally and academically, a good phase begins that will give you an edge over others. Property acquired recently promises to give good returns. Friends will be loving and supporting, and will readily do your bidding. Lover can have a special surprise in store for you.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 19, 22, 27, 28, 33

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

A perfect day for people involved in any kind of trade. You will manage to curtail expenditure by instituting some austerity measures. Those wanting to unwind will find the home atmosphere most conducive. Meeting someone you have not met in years will be most enjoyable.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 11, 15, 17, 24, 36

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Money comes to you from various sources and add to your wealth. There will be a ray of hope for those feeling discouraged on the professional front. A property matter promises to turn out the way you had wanted it to. Mutual give and take and perfect understanding will help make romance ever stronger.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 25, 27, 31, 40

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

A good investment opportunity comes your way and you are likely to make the most of it. You may be called upon to undertake a task which will raise your image on the social front. Those hunting for a mate may not find a suitable one yet.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 18, 24, 28, 29, 36

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You may be entrusted with something important and are likely to do a good job of it. Lending money now is like losing it, so desist from it. Something included in your diet is likely to have a positive effect on your overall health. This is a good day to utilise your time in clarifying doubts on the academic front.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 15, 18, 22, 30, 35

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You will be able to improve your position on the professional front. You will enjoy good health by not letting temptations get the better of you. You can take a break from your hectic work schedule to be with the family. Your helpful nature will be appreciated.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 11, 22, 24, 31, 35

Alia Bhatt is 'rendered speechless' as 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' becomes top non-English film on Netflix

Alia Bhatt starrer *Gangubai Kathiawadi* has been breaking box office records since its release on February 25, 2022. The Sanjay Leela Bhansali directorial also stars Shantanu Maheshwari, Vijay Raaz and Ajay Devgn.

Within a week, *Gangubai Kathiawadi* has become number one non-English film on Netflix globally. The film has been watched for 13.81 million hours and has featured in the Top 10 in Films in 25 countries across the world, including Canada, United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and UAE, reports Hindustan Times.

Alia and her mother Soni Razdan shared the news of *Gangubai Kathiawadi*'s new milestone on their Instagram Stories. The film is based on S Hussain Zaidi's book 'Mafia Queens of Mumbai' and follows the journey of Gangu (played by Alia), who was sold into a brothel in Mumbai's Kamathipura.

Speaking about the film's success on Netflix, Alia said, "It's amazing to see how great stories continue to find new audiences, within India and beyond with Netflix. With



all the love that *Gangubai Kathiawadi* has been receiving from its viewers all over the world, I'm rendered speechless. I've always aspired to work with Sanjay Leela Bhansali and to have our film find a home on Netflix and receive the splendid response it did, fills me with gratitude."

"Streaming services, especially Netflix, break barriers of borders and languages and allow stories to find newer audiences every day. To see *Gangubai Kathiawadi* trend at #1 in Non-English films globally on Netflix and in the Top 10 in 25 countries from Australia, Canada to the United Kingdom is simply overwhelming," she further said.

Sanjay also expressed his happiness and said, "*Gangubai Kathiawadi* is a special film that I hold very close to my heart. The audience loved it when it was released in theatres and now, with Netflix, we are delighted to see how wide the film has been able to reach, finding new audiences. Its success on Netflix reinforces that Gangubai's story of fight for justice for women is truly universal."

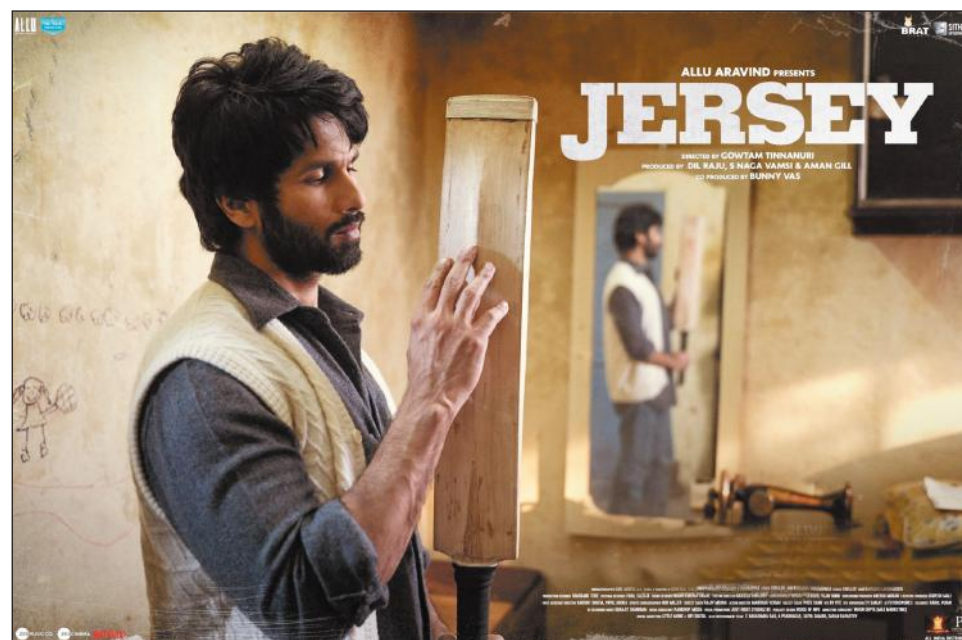
Shahid Kapoor: 'Jersey' gave me a sense of hope

As an actor, the only thing he stays away from is monotony. With nearly two decades behind him, Shahid Kapoor seeks newness, challenges and a great emotional and psychological journey with every character he chooses to play. The actor gears up for three outings this year, starting with *Jersey*, which has him playing a dotting dad. Shahid spoke to Times of India about second chances, drawing parallels between his reel and real roles and more. Excerpts:

In your previous interview with BT, you had mentioned how deeply you had connected with the Telugu version of *Jersey* featuring Nani and why you wanted people to end 2021 or begin 2022 with your version of the film. It must have been heartbreaking to move the release at the nth hour?

We waited two years to release the film. As heartbreaking as it was, I don't think it was prudent to release a film at a time when the mood of the people was about choosing health over entertainment. It was the right call. We thought we were two-three weeks ahead of the curve, but we weren't. It just surged so quickly; Mumbai peaked on January 12. The numbers spiked. You don't want to put out a family film at a time when people are not sure about stepping out.

This is a film for the family. My last film, *Kabir Singh*, was technically an adult film, but the number of people who have liked it and watched it with their families is unbelievable. Somehow, it made it to the family space despite being edgy and aggressive. *Jersey* is a family film because it has those emotions that you have to experience with family and friends. Pure emotions are what we have experienced in the last two years from close quarters. It takes you back to the fundamentals of relation-



ships and the basics of life.

I have a lot of love for this film, not just because it is my film but because it did something to me when I saw the original. It gave me a sense of hope and this drive to never give up, regardless of circumstances. You can get up today to chase something you really want. This is the spirit of this film and I connected deeply with that. If the emotions are strong and visceral, after going through whatever they have in the last two years, people will feel it and it will give them that boost that they all want right now.

You said that deeply *Jersey* impacted you. What was it about the script that struck a chord with you?

It is a unique film - it's many things put into one. It's not a sports drama. It is not about a cricketer trying to make a comeback either.

It's said that either you are living life

or you feel alive. We go through these phases. There are times when you don't feel excited, driven or motivated. You're just living your life, without feeling connected with it. You need something to chase and feel alive - whether it's to do with your children and their future, your own passions or a goal you set for yourself. You have to find a goal and say that I want to do something about where I am today in life.

That is what *Jersey* is all about, with the backdrop of cricket. We have chosen a sport as the backdrop, but the film is about what happens when you make that choice and decide that you want to feel alive.

Apart from connect-

ing with *Jersey* at a personal level, did you connect with the father-child relationship in the film?

It was more with my daughter Misha at that point in time, Zain was way younger. So, the parallel I had here was with my daughter. That protective feeling, living your life through them, seeing them grow and being there for them... whatever happens in your life, you don't want to let that affect them because you want their mind and heart to remain pure.

When I saw the original, I felt it was extremely inspiring. It makes you feel motivated and elevated. It all begins as a self-oriented journey of trying to prove what you are capable of as an artiste, but with time, you realise that it's nothing if you don't represent it. As a parent, you have to represent all that you want your child to work towards and inculcate.

You have to lead by example; otherwise, if you say one thing and practice another, you create your child's first contradiction. It's not fair to them.

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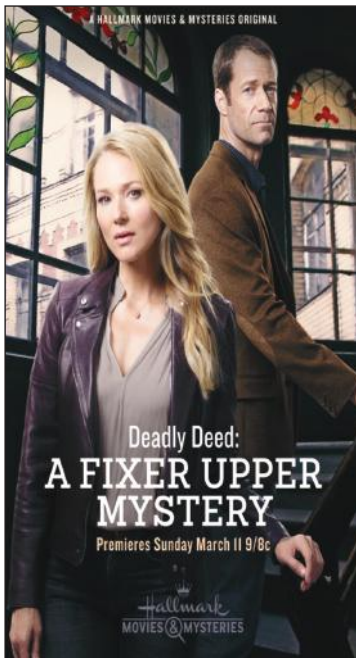
	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV			
vendredi 6 mai	07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 09.00 Doc: High Velocity 09.45 Local: Mots & Ecrits 10.30 Mag: Check In 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 13.15 Les Grands Noms Inter... 14.30 D.Anime: The Twisted... 15.20 D.Anime: Word Party 15.38 D.Anime: Briko 17.10 Serial: Hi Opie! 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 20.10 Les Grands Noms Inter... 21.10 Serial: Pulse 23.20 Le Journal 23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Band Kheeriyaa 11.18 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai 12.00 Film: Billa Pandi 14.18 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: Chhotki Dulhin 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.30 Serial: Chhanchhan 18.01 Serial: The Demi-Gods... 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.00 Serial: Dil Ruba 20.44 Local: Anjuman 21.10 Local: Urdu Programme - 22.05 DDI Live	07.00 Mag: Border Crossing 07.52 Doc: la Route De La Soie 08.24 Doc: Gustave Eiffel's 10.25 Doc: A Catastrophe In Court 12.11 Mag: Border Crossing 13.18 Doc: Castles 14.07 Doc: Snapshots 16.20 Mag: Eco India 18.00 Doc: About Time 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.33 Doc: Expedition Kachgar 20.45 Doc: World Heritage 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: World Heritage 21.36 Doc: Volcano Stories 22.08 Doc: Guardians Of Nature 00.24 Mag: World Stories 00.36 Doc: World Famous Writers 00.00 Mag: Our Voices 00.27 Mag: Euromaxx 00.53 Doc: Expedition Kachgar	01.28 Film: The Throwaways 03.39 Film: 119 Jours 04.53 Tele: Marimar 05.15 Tele: Rubi 06.55 Film: The Throwaways 09.00 Serial: 19-2 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Last Resort 12.00 Film: 119 Jours 13.31 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: The Throwaways 16.40 Serial: 19-2 17.19 Serial: Rookie Blue 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.34 Serial: Mustangs FC 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: Zoo 20.15 Film: Underworld 22.46 Tele: Marimar	07.00 Film: Raja Hindustani Star: Aamir Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Suresh Oberoi... 11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 12.22 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 12.46 / 22.00 - Agnihera 13.13 / 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: Kitne Door Kitne... Starring: Fardeen Khan, Amrita Arora, Satish Shah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.28 Bhakharwadi			
	samedi 7 mai	06.22 D.Anime: Gon 06.45 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin... 06.57 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum... 07.19 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule... 07.37 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien 08.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 08.29 D.Anime: Garfield Originals 08.32 D.Anime: Cat & Keet 08.46 D.Anime: Les Triples 09.00 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare 09.35 Serial: Nowhere Boys 10.00 Local: Zanaf Nou Zil 12.00 Le Journal 15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.34 D.Anime: Briko 17.15 Mag: Human Nature 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 21.10 Film: Danger One 23.10 Local: Le Journal	07.00 Film: Woh Saat Din Star: Anil Kapoor, Padmini Kolhapure, Naseeruddin Shah 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 11.05 Serial: Dikri Wahalno Daryo 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare 12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 12.46 Serial: High School 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Film: Vivah Stars: Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao, Anupam Kher, Alok Nath 17.56 Mag: DDI Mag 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.00 Film: Ghayal Starring Sunny Deol, Meenakshi Seshadri, Raj Babbar	06.00 Doc: About Time 06.42 Mag: World Stories 06.57 Mag: Our Vocies 07.25 Mag: Euromaxx 07.54 Doc: Expedition Kachgar 10.14 Doc: Guardians Of Nature 11.48 Mag: World Stories 12.33 Mag: Euromaxx 12.59 Doc: Expedition Kachgar 15.00 Student Support Prog... 17.29 Doc: Sweet Magic 18.02 Mag: In Good Shape 18.35 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.00 Mag: Check In 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: World Heritage 20.50 Doc: Hotels 21.42 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into... 22.34 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 23.26 Mag: Salad Area 23.55 Mag: Check In	01.28 Film: Underworld 02.59 Serial: Powers 03.47 Serial: L.A.'S Finest 04.41 Serial: Reckoning 05.21 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.08 Serial: Zoo 08.30 Serial: The Night Shift 09.56 Serial: Reckoning 10.40 Film: The Last Boy 12.15 Serial: Powers 13.30 Serial: Last Resort 14.54 Tele: Muneca Brava 16.25 Serial: Zoo 16.49 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 18.35 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man 19.40 Serial: Mustangs 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Series: Zoo 21.15 Film: Extract Avec Mike Judge Avec Jason Bateman, Kristen Wiig 22.40 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones	04.05 Radha Krishna 04.36 Anupamaa 05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur... 05.43 Agnihera 06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan 10.00 Motu Patlu 10.07 Siddhi Vinayak 11.55 Serial: Bhakharwadi 13.43 Serial: Anupamaa 14.00 Anupamaa 15.46 Pavitra Rishta 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Ek Hasina Thi Star: Urmila Matondkar, Saif Ali Khan, Aditya Srivastava 20.17 Serial: Motu Patlu 20.28 Serial: Namah 20.49 Serial: Naagin Season 3 21.32 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan		
		dimanche 8 mai	06.00 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda 07.00 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum... 07.55 D.Anime: Akili And Me 08.29 D.Anime: Garfield Originals 10.00 Local: Zanaf Nou Zil 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.21 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.35 D.Anime: Briko 16.49 D.Anime: Robot Trains 17.15 Mag: Human Nature 17.45 Local: Itinerer - Rodrig 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani... 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 MBC Production 21.10 Film: Ingrid Goes West 23.00 Le Journal	07.00 Film: Jazbaat 11.03 Serial: Azhagu 11.24 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 11.45 Serial: Surya Pura 12.06 Film: Aakhree Raasta 14.07 DDI Magazine 15.20 Mooga Manasulu 15.42 Serial: He Mann Baware 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham Starring: Bharathi, Badekkila, Pradeep, Naresh Eswar.. 16.30 Local: Yaadein 16.58 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Serial: Porus 20.46 Serial: CID 21.29 Serial: Naagin Season 2 Starring: Mouni Roy, Karanvir Bohra	06.00 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 07.02 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.28 Mag: Check In 09.45 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into... 10.41 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 11.33 Mag: Salad Area 11.36 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.05 Mag: Check In 15.42 Serial: Origami Code 13.23 Doc: World Heritage 14.23 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into... 14.44 Doc: Luana's Kitchen 15.44 Mag: In Good Shape 18.35 Mag: Global 3000 19.00 Mag: Saladeria 20.01 Doc: Planet Home 20.30 Live: News (English) 20.50 Doc: Expedition Yangtze 21.43 Doc: La Route De La Soie 22.50 Doc: Treasures In The Sand 23.32 Doc: Sweet Magic	01.29 Film: Extract Avec Jason Bateman, Kristen Wiig 02.57 Serial: Dynasty 2 03.37 Film: Danger One 05.20 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.08 Serial: Zoo 06.44 Film: An Emma Fielding... 08.30 Serial: The Night Shift 09.11 Film: Meteor 10.40 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 12.33 Serial: Dynasty 2 14.53 Serial: Last Resort 15.32 Tele: Muneca Brava 17.00 Serial: Zoo 17.53 Serial: Dynasty 2 18.36 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 19.36 Serial: Mustangs FC 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: Under Pressure 21.59 Film: Spinning Man 23.36 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones	01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak 01.57 Bhakharwadi 03.39 Anupamaa 06.00 Pavitra Rishta 08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 10.03 Kundali Bhagya 13.47 Agnihera 15.34 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 16.34 Punar Vivaah 17.33 Live: Samachar 18.03 Film: Love Starring: Salman Khan, Revathi 20.04 Naagin Season 3 20.46 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 22.41 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 00.26 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 02.10 Kundali Bhagya 04.16 Agnihera	
			lundi 9 mai	06.00 Local: Zanaf Nou Zil 07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 07.55 Local: Music Tour 2022 09.00 Doc: Thank You For The Rain 10.15 Local: Fam Model 11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.31 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Local: Nu Rasinn 15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 17.05 Doc: Books 17.10 Serial: Hi Opie! 17.31 Mag: Kid's Planets 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Namah 18.55 Serial: Mere Sai 19.30 Le Journal 20.40 MBC Production 21.10 Film: Ride Lonesome Avec: Randolph Scott, Karen Steele	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Kundali Bhagya 12.06 Film: AB Dilli Door Nahin Starring Sulochana Latkar, Yakub, Master Romi 14.13 DDI Magazine 15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.42 Serial: Bommarillu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham Starring: Bharathi, Badekkila, Pradeep, Naresh Eswar.. 16.24 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin 16.42 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin 17.57 Serial: The Demi-Gods... 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.00 Programme In Telugu 20.30 Film: Sema Thimiru Starring Dhruva Sarja, Rashmika Mandanna	06.00 Doc: Sweet Magic 06.55 Mag: Saladeria 07.27 Mag: Arts.21 08.19 Doc: World Heritage 11.14 Doc: Sweet Magic 14.35 Doc: La Route De La Soie 14.56 Doc: Treasures In The Sand 16.28 Doc: Sweet Magic 17.05 Mag: Global 3000 18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.30 Live: News (English) 20.45 Mag: Luana's Kitchen 23.42 Mag: Eco@Africa 00.24 Mag: The 77 Percent 00.50 Doc: Persons 00.53 Mag: Africa 54 02.14 Mag: Luana's Kitchen 02.40 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait... 03.07 Mag: Global 3000 03.33 Mag: Washington Forum	01.40 Film: Spinning Man 03.57 Film: Mon Mariage Avec Mon Meilleur Ami 05.09 Tele: Marimar 05.43 Tele: Rubi 06.07 Serial: Under Pressure 07.31 Film: Spinning Man 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Blacklist 12.00 Film: What The Night Can Do 13.54 Tele: Rubi 14.45 Film: Spinning Man 16.47 Serial: Under Pressure 18.11 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.39 Serial: Mustangs FC 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: Chicago PD 21.15 Film: The Throwaways 22.39 Tele: Marimar	08.00 Taare Zameen Par 10.47 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 11.17 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 11.48 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 12.15 / 22.00 - Agnihera 13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.13 / 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: Aag Starring: Govinda, Shilpa Shetty, Sonali Bendre 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna



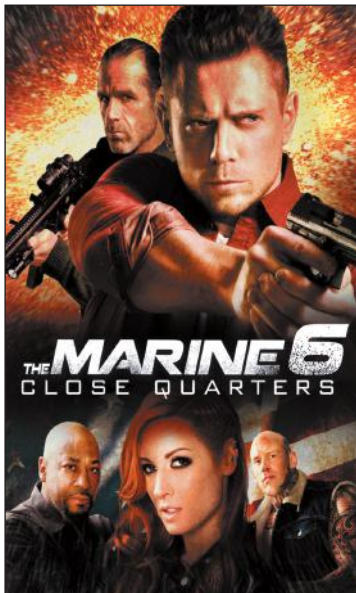
mardi 10 mai - 21.10



mercredi 11 mai - 21.15



jeudi 12 mai - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<p>mardi 10 mai</p> <p>06.00 Local: Rodrig 07.30 Local Prod: Saver Kiltirel 08.30 Local Prod: Rodrig Prog 10.30 Mag: Art.21 11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous... 11.35 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna... 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Prod: Come On Lets Dance 14.33 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis... 15.20 D.Anime: L'heure Du Conte 17.05 Serial: Hi Opie! 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 21.10 Film: Meteor Stars: Robert KeithOlivia NashThom Hallum</p>	<p>07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: CID 12.00 Film: Saarangsh Starring: Rohini Hattangadi, Anupam Kher, Soni Razdan 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Bommarillu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin 16.49 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And Semi-Devils 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Mere Sanam Star Biswajeet, Asha Parekh, Mumtaz</p>	<p>06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.55 Mag: Luana's Kitchen 09.17 Mag: Washington Forum 10.25 Doc: In the Realm Of Women 14.29 Mag: Washington Forum 15.38 Doc: In The Realm Of... 16.17 Mag: Eco@Africa 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living 19.03 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Doc: Persons 20.30 Live: News 20.45 Doc: Castles 21.40 Mag: Euromaxx 22.08 Mag: Close Up 22.32 Local: Rodrig 23.14 Doc: To Tell A Tale 23.54 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 00.20 Mag: Healthy Living 00.35 Mag: Red Carpet</p>	<p>01.24 Film: Ride Lonesome 02.39 Serial: Blacklist 03.20 Film: The Throwaways 05.06 Tele: Rubi 05.30 Serial: Chicago PD 06.36 Film: Ride Lonesome 09.00 Serial: 19-2 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: Blacklist 12.00 Film: The Throwaways 13.30 Tele: Marimar 13.54 Tele: Rubi 14.45 Film: Ride Lonesome 16.38 Serial: 19-2 17.20 Serial: Chicago PD 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 21.15 Film: Underworld Avec: Kate Beckinsale, Theo James...</p>	<p>06.50 Film: Aag Starring Govinda, Shilpa Shetty, Sonali Bendre 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: Kya Dil Ne Kaha 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Udaariyaan 19.30 Bhakharwadi 20.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2</p>
<p>mercredi 11 mai</p> <p>07.15 Local: Profil 07.30 Local: Priorite Sante 08.09 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 09.00 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 10.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous Actre... 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Local Production 15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.35 D.Anime: Briko 17.10 Serial: Hi Opie! 17.30 Mag: Kid's Planet 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 MBC Production 21.25 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery Starring: Jewel Kilcher, Colin Ferguson, Erin Karpluk, Ron Lea, Colin Lawrence, and Jason...</p>	<p>07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki 12.00 Film: Bobby Starring Rishi Kapoor, Dimple Kapadia 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.23 Aamhi Doghi 15.46 Bommarillu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin 16.49 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Kulvadh 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: Hirkani Star: Sonalee KulkarniChinmay Mandlekar</p>	<p>06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto... 06.26 Mag: Healthy Living 06.41 Mag: Red Carpet 08.46 Doc: Castles 09.43 Mag: Close Up 15.57 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 17.08 Mag: Healthy Living 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.35 Doc: Persons 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Castles 21.40 Les Montagnes Du Monde 22.49 Mag: Focus On Europe 23.05 Doc: Opaque Worlds 23.47 Mag: Motorweek 00.12 Mag: Vous Et Nous 00.39 Doc: Persons 00.42 Mag: Arts.21 01.08 Mag: The Inside Story 01.34 Doc: Skuld</p>	<p>01.28 Film: Underworld 03.38 Film: The Last Boy 05.07 Tele: Marimar 05.53 Serial: Chicago PD 06.33 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 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: Blacklist 12.00 Film: The Last Boy 13.30 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 16.42 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 17.24 Serial: Chicago PD 18.18 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.30 Serial: Mustangs FC 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: Rookie Blue 21.15 Film: Extract 22.47 Tele: Marimar</p>	<p>07.00 Film: Kya Dil Ne Kaha 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: Kasam Starring Sunny Deol, Naseeruddin Shah, Chunky Pandey, Neelam Kothari 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna</p>
<p>jeudi 12 mai</p> <p>06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 06.59 Local: Itinerer Moris 07.45 Local: Saver Kil Tirel 08.15 Local: Elle 10.30 Mag: In Good Shape 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Local: Music Tour 2022 14.35 D.Anime: The Twisted Whiskers Show... 15.35 D. Anime: Briko 17.05 Doc: Books 17.10 Serial: Hi Opie! 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 20.20 Film: Blackboard V/s Whiteboard Starring Manish Choudhary, Dharmendra, Alismita Goswami</p>	<p>07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas... 12.00 Film: Swarag Se Sunder 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: Chhotki Dulhin 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 Marine 6 With Mike 'The Miz'Mizanin, Shawn Michaels</p>	<p>06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous 06.52 Doc: Persons 08.14 Doc: Castles 10.23 Doc: Opaque Worlds 11.33 Local: Vous Et Nous 12.58 Doc: Skuld 13.24 Doc: Castles 15.05 Mag: Focus On Europe 16.42 Mag: Vous Et Nous 17.35 Mag: The Inside Story 18.00 Mag: Eco India 19.00 Student Support Prog - G7 19.30 Doc: World Famous Writers 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.48 Doc: Castles 21.40 Doc: Snapshots 22.07 Doc: Argentina 23.31 Mag: Eco India 23.56 Mag: Shift 00.09 Mag: Red Carpet</p>	<p>01.27 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery 02.58 Serial: Blacklist 03.38 Film: Extract 05.07 Tele: Marimar 05.27 Tele: Rubi 07.34 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery 09.00 Serial: 19-2 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.37 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Blacklist 12.00 Film: Extract 13.30 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: An Emma Fielding... 16.30 Serial: 19-2 17.21 Serial: Rookie Blue 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.36 Serial: Mustangs FC 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: Rookie Blue 21.15 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man</p>	<p>07.00 Film: Kasam Starring Sunny Deol, Naseeruddin Shah, Chunky... 11.27 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna 11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa 12.32 / 20.32 - Mere Sai 13.01 / 21.09 - Agniphera 13.35 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.05 / 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: Eena Meena Deeka Star: Vinod Khanna, Rishi Kapoor, Juhi Chawla 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Udaariyaan 19.29 Bhakharwadi</p>



Jeudi 12 mai - 15.30

Star: Vinod Khanna, Rishi Kapoor, Juhi Chawla



Jeudi 12 mai - 20.20

Stars: Manish Choudhary, Dharmendra, Alismita Goswami





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Noam Chomsky, the famous American academic once observed that fighting wars had been a favourite pastime in Western countries for centuries. Non-European countries were stunned by the ferocity Europeans displayed in fighting. He added that they even gave beautiful names to wars. Well, they came back to their senses after World War II and opted for a more civilized way to resolve issues. For a change, beautiful names were given by Western media to other countries' uprisings and conflicts: 'Orange Revolution' in Ukraine, 'Carnation' in Georgia and 'Jasmine' in Tunisia, for instance. Names of flowers to qualify wars may sound weird to other countries and reminiscent of England's 'War of Roses'. As things stand presently, the West sets the narrative and writes history which the rest of the world takes for granted until a few contemporary historians stand up and deliver their version of historical events in Africa and Asia, namely Dipesh Chakrabarty in his book 'Provincializing Europe'.

Why the two wars that were ignited in European territories are defined as world wars is questionable. Africa, North Africa, and Asia were alien to the root causes of the wars, and only participated as subjugated people recruited to serve in the armies for the interests of former colonial powers. The reason why hardly any gratitude is expressed towards all these men who were forced to leave their countries to fight other people's wars during official commemorations in Europe is probably because, as citizens of protectorates and colonies, they were considered as subalterns.

The atrocities committed by Hitler's fascist regime shattered all conceptions on civilization, progress, culture, and intellectual development in the very heart of the most advanced continent in the world. Slogans like 'The war to end all wars' in 1918, and 'The End of History' - book by an American academic in 1997 - prove to be erroneous and hollow because they are the intellectual products of navel-gazing self-centred Westerners who have not fully grasped the rationale underlying the causes that lead to wars. Second, it would seem that some countries never draw lessons from history. In 1997, Zbigniew Brzezinski, of Polish origin and key advisor of Democrats in the US, published a book - 'The Grand Chessboard' - which laid out the policy to be implemented from 2005 to 2015 on how to bring Ukraine, a buffer zone between Russia and Europe, into the

9th May in Russia



Victory Day parade in Red Square. Pic - Financial Times

« President Putin wrote that the US devised such a plan for Ukraine which ensures that whatever government is in power, it will be anti-Russia. The other point is that once again Russia is confronted with Nazi elements after combating them in WWII. Do you expect Russia to go soft on the Ukrainian army? Western media mockingly comments on Putin's wish to achieve a significant victory in the eastern region for 9th May celebration. Can Russia proclaim victory on that day? If anything, it is no laughing matter to Russians because 9th May means a lot to them...»

European orbit in the interests of the US and isolate Russia.

A legitimate question that arises is: was Mr Brzezinski settling scores with Russia for historical reasons? Very likely. At the request of formidable Cossack warriors in Ukraine, Russia in 1654 drove away the Polish-Lithuanian dynasty that had been ruling the country for three centuries. Poland disappeared from the map for three centuries until the Allies brought it back on the world map at the end of WWI in 1918.

Mr Brzezinski's outlook set the basis for US policy in that part of the world and went unquestioned by American and European media. Why? Certainly, because the US status as the world's sole superpower and global cop is taken for granted in the West, and it arrogates to itself the right to blow hot and cold, interfere in other countries' affairs, flout international law and dismiss UN disapproval at will. The US is fully convinced of its own righteousness in foreign policies and expects the rest of the world to align with its position by peddling a narrative around the defence of human rights, democracy and so on.

What did WWII cost Russia? Twenty million Russian soldiers died in Ukraine and Russia to weaken the Nazi army before the Allies, led by the Americans, ventured to disembark in Normandy. Russians were acclaimed as heroes when they barged into concentration camps to liberate the starving prisoners, much before American boots marched in there.

The point is that after such terrible costs against the Nazis in WWII with huge losses of lives and the complicity of a regiment of

Ukrainians with the Germans, celebrating victory over the Nazis on May 9th means a lot to the Russians. Do England and France ever thank Russia for its major contribution to defeat Germany? You never get to hear any hint of gratitude towards Russia during official ceremonies. If Western countries viewed Russia solely through the spread of Communism after 1945, what about post-1990 era? Russia warmed up to Western ideals of democracy and freedom to some extent. Leave alone thanking Russia for WWII, there was no Western-sponsored policy geared towards the reconstruction of Russia as compared to the Marshall Plan that was undertaken in Germany and in Europe generally after 1945. The West missed the opportunity to build a meaningful relationship with Russia.

Any observer of geopolitics in the region is aware of how Mr Brzezinski's plan for Ukraine materialized from 2005 to 2015, and how Russia retaliated. The Azov battalion, a neo-Nazi unit of the National Guard of Ukraine based in Mariupol in the coastal region of the Sea of Azov, from where it derives its name, was recommended by the US authorities to head Ukrainian army. A former American ambassador to Ukraine came back and was given Ukrainian nationality and the post of minister. She was instrumental in the re-writing of history and wiping out Russian presence and language and imposing Ukrainian language on the whole territory and forbidding Eastern Russophones to speak Russian. A documentary made by a French journalist, Anne-Laure Bonnel on the atrocities committed by the Azov regiment in Donbas is forbidden in France. She talks about 14,000 people killed, 50 burnt alive, hospitals and schools bombed.

President Putin wrote that the US devised such a plan for Ukraine which ensures that whatever government is in power, it will be anti-Russia. The other point is that once again Russia is confronted with Nazi elements after combating them in WWII. Do you expect Russia to go soft on the Ukrainian army? Western media mockingly comments on Putin's wish to achieve a significant victory in the eastern region for 9th May celebration. Can Russia proclaim victory on that day? If anything, it is no laughing matter to Russians because 9th May means a lot to them.

Montesquieu wrote: 'Those who are responsible for wars are not the ones who trigger them, but the ones who made them inevitable.'



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

The Wonderment of Life

Stopping to feel a moment of gratitude for the many small miracles of life on earth, can be what you need to shift your day.

Most of us begin our days with a continuous list of things we need to do to keep our lives running smoothly, but we rarely take time to note all the things we don't need to do. For example, we don't need to figure out how to breathe. We don't need to find a way to make sure the earth continues to revolve around the sun. We don't need to concentrate to ensure that our heart beats and our cells regenerate. All of these things, and many more, take care of themselves without our having to think or do anything at all. This is the miracle of life on earth.

Beyond the wonder of the natural world, we have the wonder of human-created conditions such as indoor plumbing, electricity, automobiles, airplanes, telephones, and the Internet to name a few. Someone living just a hundred years ago would be overwhelmed by the ease with which we can communicate with people all over the world. Every day, millions of us jump on airplanes and fly to distant locations in a matter of hours. If we have access to a computer, we can read obscure information about any subject, free of charge, at any time of the day or night. And yet, it's only when one of these miraculous inventions fails that we notice it at all.

When you wake up tomorrow, take time to notice how many things are running smoothly, how many small miracles compose your day. If you wear glasses or contact lenses, as you put them on, take a moment to appreciate the fact that without them, you would be unable to see. Your life would be entirely different if someone hadn't invented corrective lenses. As you take in your world, you might feel a moment of gratitude for the basic fact that, once again, the sun has risen to illuminate the abundant earth, and the earth's gravitational field holds you and all that you hold dear in a tight, life-affirming embrace.