

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Money has never made man happy, nor will it, there is nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more of it one has the more one wants". -- Benjamin Franklin

The Baie Jacocet Submarine Cable Survey Controversy: Checkmate?



The stench of gutter politics and diehard fixations reminiscent of a bygone era have no place in today's Mauritius. There is also no place for loose cannons in politics who are unable to grasp, imbibe and adhere to the founding ethos of independent Mauritius.

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Interview: Rama Sithanen

«We are in a hole that is fast growing because of downside risks and we should stop digging to make it a bigger hole»

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UK: Online debate among contenders for PM post



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Indian Ocean Realities 2022



The Indian Ocean, with its crowded and in some cases contested sea lanes, is becoming the centre of international maritime rivalry, with various powers jousting for influence and advantage in the world's third largest body of water, which serves as a vital transit route for the global economy. Pic - Stagecraft and Statecraft

New realities and strategic rethink have superseded older visions of the Indian Ocean's strategic importance to economies around much of the globe

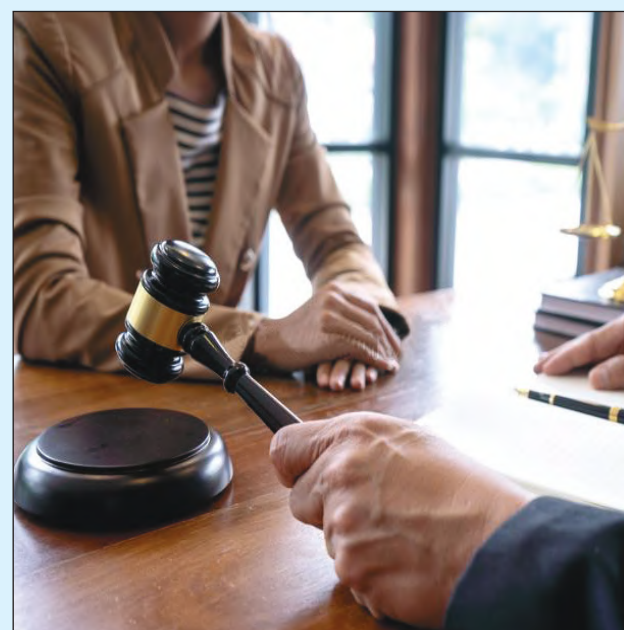
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Qs & As

'Don't Talk to The Police'

«A case is not decided on the mere silence of an accused

who takes the gamble to remain silent in the hope of getting away»



By LEX See Page 7

A Vitiating Atmosphere

For any country, democratic or otherwise, it is better that its government be one that is there by popular mandate through a voting process. It is also preferable that it goes out too by the same route than be forced to give up power. Whether we are approaching that eventuality may perhaps be a premature speculation. Pravind Jugnauth still commands a comfortable majority in Parliament, and on that basis, he may see himself as being still in control of his government and of the political agenda in the country. But the succession of revelations as regards different affairs that have come up, one more incriminating than the other, the catalogue of scandals and cases of irregular appointments and of appointees not fit for purpose, and the worrying socio-economic situation of the country, the most recent being the IMF's Article IV Report 2022, point in another direction: that the tide may be turning against the government. The latter perception has been reinforced by the latest controversy that has been hogging the headlines these last two weeks: the Baie Jacocet survey controversy, which has been compounded by the government's handling of this hot issue and which has vitiating the atmosphere in the country even more. Public opinion may be swaying towards perceiving a change of government as being the only viable solution in the current circumstances.

This cannot last for long. An extreme trust deficit in the government now prevails. Whether the situation can be reversed is entirely in the hands of the government and the Prime Minister. A first step has been made which has seen the former board of Mauritius Telecom replaced by a new set of directors (the Mauritian component that is), a decision which, according to the official narrative, would allow for a more transparent and objective examination of whatever is alleged to have taken place at the Baie Jacocet Submarine Cable Landing Station. This comes after the one taken by Pravind Jugnauth personally to lodge a case with the police against the ex-CEO of Mauritius Telecom for, amongst others, criminal defamation and diffusing false news.

Whether the police can be trusted with conducting an independent inquiry into this matter rests entirely with the police itself. Inquiries into so many scandals that have shaken confidence in public institutions these last years have become a matter of grave concern to most citizens. We have not done too badly for a long time and that is what allowed the country to develop and progress – until some while ago. That is, ever since disturbing questions have been raised about the mis-governance of the country, marked by a series of scandals invol-

ving members of the government and their protégés. Whether it was about the “emergency procurement” of medical supplies and equipment to the St Louis Gate affair, the inquiry into the murder of Soopramanien Kistnen, compounded by the failure of the Safe City surveillance system to provide records, which would have been of crucial interest in assisting the judicial inquiry into the death of the political activist — all of these have added up to convey the message that some of our public institutions are failing the country.

Given the trust deficit in the independence of crucial public institutions now prevalent in the country - a situation that cannot be allowed to last for long - the view that is now being held in some quarters is for the Director of Public Prosecutions to instruct a judicial inquiry into the “sniffing/survey” matter. We had earlier in our Qs & As column canvassed this proposition as the only option that may be available to dig out all the facts relating to this matter. To the question as to whether the DPP is empowered by virtue of Section 64 of the District and Intermediate Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act to direct a Magistrate to start an inquiry into this matter, our legal correspondent Lex took the view that ‘there is much doubt and confusion around this particular section. It says the DPP may direct an investigation into any offence. Should that be predicated on an accused having committed an offence or is it a blanket provision that confers on the DPP the power to direct an inquiry by a magistrate? The matter is far from clear. Until a court of law gives a ruling on this, it will be difficult to order an inquiry into an offence.’

When Parliament is in a quasi-permanent state of dysfunction and does not allow any proper debate or questions, the last thing we would wish for are failing institutions and agencies. If those in the political nerve centre have an enormous role in this state of affairs, so, unfortunately, our top rungs of civil servants have some introspection to do and responsibility to share. Some older hands witnessed the days when policies implemented by largely independent and honest cadres, turned Mauritius into the blue-eyed boy of international agencies. Neither the earlier STC derailments, nor the SBM fiasco of lost billions, nor the epic Air Mauritius failure, nor again the MT saga, to name but a few where our administrative top guns cosied up to political appointees, encourage us to disculp them from their contribution to the overall vitiating atmosphere in the country. What price will future generations, our children and grandchildren, pay for the borrow and spend policies of today or the notorious failures of our institutions, while our best cadres serve the political masters of the day?

The Conversation

Inflation is 2022's boogeyman. How can we address rising living costs, while helping bring it down?

It has been decades since many countries have faced significant rises in inflation. But thanks to the invasion of Ukraine and Covid-19, we are now having to learn just what rising inflation means.



Inflation has risen to levels not seen for three decades. Consumers will feel the squeeze as their purchasing power drops. Pic- Getty Images

An entire generation has never experienced life with high inflation. But that is set to change. Countries like Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and others are reporting rising inflation. In New Zealand, inflation has climbed to its highest rate in 32 years. Our collective inexperience with the scourge of inflation, and how to solve it, could be a real problem.

For those experiencing high inflation for the first time, it is helpful to understand just what economists and politicians are talking about.

Inflation is a sustained increase in overall prices. Not everything goes up by the same amount but when people are having to pay more each week, month or year for the same basket of goods and services then that's inflation.

Inflation is harmful in many ways. It works like rust – slowly eating away at the value of your money. Inflation affects all of us. It doesn't matter what the face value of your money is – what matters is the quantity of goods and services you can buy with it.

The real value of money

One easy way to understand inflation is to look at what you can buy for the money you have.

Suppose at the start of the year your \$100 note bought you 20 cups of coffee.

Stephen Hickson - Economics Lecturer and Director Business Taught Masters Programme, University of Canterbury

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Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah - Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah / Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee

This epaper has been produced with the assistance of

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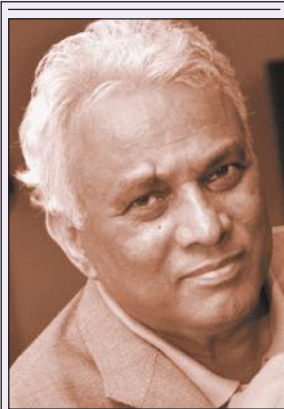


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Mrinal Roy

The Baie Jacocet Submarine Cable Survey Controversy: Checkmate?

The stench of gutter politics and diehard fixations reminiscent of a bygone era have no place in today's Mauritius There is also no place for loose cannons in politics who are unable to grasp, imbibe and adhere to the founding ethos of independent Mauritius.

The highly charged survey/sniffing affair relating to the Mauritius Telecom (MT) Submarine Cable Landing Station at Baie Jacocet epitomises what is fundamentally wrong with the appalling state of governance in the country. This serious matter has sapped the goodwill and repute of Mauritius and threatened to put at risk the bulwarks in place to safeguard the sanctity of internet and international telecommunications traffic and the interests of economic actors. It has caused deep apprehensions among the people about the country's sovereignty, security and encroachments on their freedom of expression and internet exchanges and raised some fundamental questions. The nation therefore expects clear and honest answers.

How can the Prime Minister of the country verbally instruct the CEO of Mauritius Telecom, a private company having diverse shareholders to allow a foreign team of technicians to have access to the MT high security Baie Jacocet Submarine Cable Landing Station belonging to a broad consortium of countries, to carry out a survey mission without first seeking their approval?

Orange SA (France Telecom) holds a 40% shareholding since 2000 following the controversial decision of the government at the time to cede a large chunk of MT shareholding. Why did the chairman of Mauritius Telecom, who is also the Secretary to the Cabinet, allegedly only informed the CEO of MT on 14 April that a foreign technical team was already in Mauritius and wished to carry out a survey of the Safe Cable? Why did he not urgently call a board meeting of Mauritius Telecom to first obtain their and the consortium's approval to allow a physical intervention on such a high security and sensitive international telecommunications cable?

Mayhem

The most flabbergasting aspect of this questionable decision is that there has been no written and detailed request by the PM for a survey of a highly sensitive international telecommunications cable to be carried out by a foreign team of technicians. Everything is verbal. This is patently evident in the Hansard records and live broadcast of the parliamentary sessions covering the Private Notice Questions on this extremely serious matter. This departure from best practice norms has unleashed a highly damaging mayhem and caused a furore in the country.

Tentacular control

This deplorable situation is the outcome of a mode of governance which is widely decried in the country. Key laws are being amended and more and more discretionary powers are being entrusted to the PM or Ministers. The style of governance grounded on a tentacular and hegemonic control over key institutions and state companies, nepotism and the appointment of political nominees, the coterie and the party faithful to head public companies and man key posts has bred incompetence and left a long trail of costly blunders.

A system of governance without robust checks and balances, accountability and transparency can boomerang.

This is evidenced by the tens of billions of Rupees of public funds lost under the watch of government in the costly Betamax litigation, the cost overruns of the Bagatelle Dam and the Cote d'Or National Sports Complex, emergency procurement tenders, the Safe City project whose cost effectiveness still seems elusive, recurrent flooding chaos despite billions of rupees annually invested in drains, etc.

The main protagonists of the ongoing saga have all been appointed to their posts as Chairman and CEO of MT or appointed after retirement on contract to head the Police Central Criminal Investigation Department (CCID) in charge of the investigation on the allegations of the MT affair, by the PM. Such a flawed system of governance can give the comforting illusion that everything is possible and cloud sound judgment. Such heady delusions of power can backfire. The whistle blowing ex-CEO of MT has obviously upset the apple cart.

Shadow boxing

People understand that against such a backdrop, the ex-CEO of MT must hide his hand in this deep game. Without details of the alleged incriminating evidence available, there can be no countervailing gambits in this political shadow boxing. The focus is now on the reports of the senior officers of the MT delegated to accompany the foreign technical team on what was exactly done during the 6 hours the team spent at the MT Baie Jacocet Landing Station.

This is too damning a situation for government and the PM to mask its patent discomfiture behind the alibi of national security. The current government stratagem, filibustering ploys and vacuous politicking in response to the barrage of legitimate interrogations of the opposition and the public at large undermines the government posture at a time when people expect forthright answers from the PM. Nothing less than the truth will dispel any nagging apprehension that the government is hiding a bigger incriminating truth.

All agog

It must also be said that the opposition parties are all agog with excitement at the unexpected turn of events which has breathed hope and lifted spirits in opposition ranks. They smell blood. Politicians of every hue are coming out of the woodwork. However, without new revelations from the ex-CEO of MT and other leaks, the opposition parties do not have a leg to stand on. Each step of this mano a mano uncovers tell-tale hidden truths about this murky crisis. They provide handles for the leader of the opposition to relentlessly pursue his incisive questioning of the PM during the PNQ sessions.

The hidden truth cannot be buried. The resignation of the Chief Technical Officer of Mauritius Telecom this week is another tell-tale event in this messy saga. There are already cracks in the defence line. There is still time to own up and come clean and avoid the risk of an ignominious checkmate.



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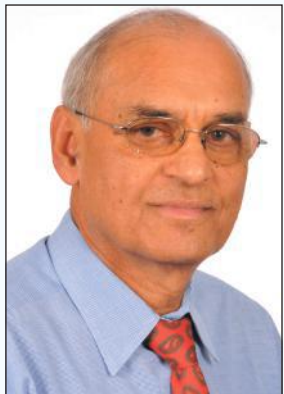
Loose canons

The MT survey/sniffing affair has also uncovered some seedy and lowly aspects of Mauritian politics which the multitude thought had been buried for good at the time of independence. The stench of gutter politics and diehard fixations reminiscent of a bygone era have no place in today's Mauritius There is also no place for loose cannons in politics who are unable to grasp, imbibe and adhere to the founding ethos of independent Mauritius.

The Mauritius we want

It is equally important for the political class to realize that the status quo is not acceptable to the multitude. The leaders of the different opposition parties are all jockeying and rearing to play a leading role should there be new general elections and a change of government. The political class must realize that 54 years after independence the people and in particular the young want a radical change in the credentials, qualifications, standard of probity and competence of political leaders and the political class, the mode of governance and the policy framework of an inclusive growth pathway.

Without a radical change, the country will be boxed in a time warp which would hobble the lofty ambition and prospects of the country and the young. Despite the contrived government narrative, the latest IMF country report catalogues a messy situation which is a damning indictment of the government's flawed governance. The people therefore need a strong response to the current daunting challenges faced by the country. This urgently requires a radical change of policies, long overdue reforms and more importantly a new breed of highly qualified, altruistic and competent political leaders and politicians having a track record of achievements, who can brainstorm an innovative growth template for the future, usher a new dawn and deliver sustainable prosperity and individual fulfillment for the benefit of all. This is the only viable way forward for people and country.



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

UK: Online debate among contenders for PM post

A few days ago, I listened to the online debate among the four contenders in the race for the post of PM – Kemi Badenoch, Liz Truss, Rishi Sunak and Penny Mordaunt. Simply by hearing their opening statements one was able to appreciate the level of debate that was to follow. There were no allusions to personal matters at all. Every candidate spelt out their respective ideas, some focusing on principles, others on actual measures intended such as about cutting taxes, ligh-



Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss - Pic - s.yimg.com

tening the burden of consumers, as also about their own track record.

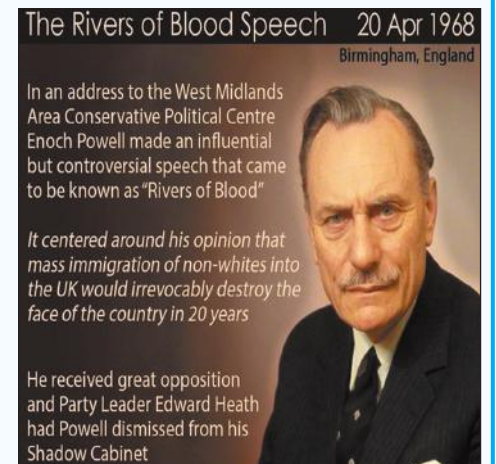
They then answered questions that came from a broad constituency, and were as open to questions as they were also able to respond with confidence and provide the clarifications sought.

“The Conservative Party has come a long way from the time in 1965 when Enoch Powell pronounced his notorious ‘rivers of blood’ speech. Britain has become more diverse, and more accepting of that diversity, giving opportunity to the second generation of migrants – which Kemi Badenoch and Rishi Sunak represent – to rise too. Welcome to open-mindedness...”

Rishi Sunak, who had earlier won the highest number of votes (115) among his party members to qualify for this round, followed by Penny Mordaunt with 82, was clearly the one who articulated his programme most ably, in his crisp, almost squeaky clean London accent, a real pleasure to hear.

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Powell pronounced his notorious ‘rivers of blood’ speech. Britain has become more diverse, and more accepting of that diversity, giving opportunity to the second generation of migrants – which Kemi Badenoch and Rishi Sunak represent – to rise too. Welcome to open-mindedness.



Mind The Language

Language is a funny thing but, depending, can also be beautiful – or make us beautiful in our choice of words and the way we articulate them. It can also reflect our nature, our level and degree of crudeness, or sophistication in its positive sense.

Drawing from my profession of surgery, I can cite an example of what I mean. Often the surgeon is faced with a problem which can be treated either by means of operation or without it. But some surgeons are what we call knife-happy: for whatever reason(s) in such situations they always opt for operation. But ‘just because you can do it (the operation) doesn’t mean you have to do it.’

When we are teaching budding surgeons, that’s how we will put it to them, in a direct way. But an illustrious surgeon who was President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, pitched the same message at a higher level, when he said: ‘The feasibility of an operation is not an indication for its performance.’ One can immediately picture what kind of a person we are having to do with.

This also shows that when we speak, context mat-

ters. Nothing is said in a void, because our brains function by association, with people, events, memories, which all act as triggers. Currently in the local media there has been an uproar about a proverb (or *sirandane*) in Creole cited by Member of Parliament Hon Joanna Bérenger in a Facebook post as a comment on Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth shown performing a puja during Shraavan Maas.

This was surely inappropriate, because it shows disrespect for another culture. After all, not everybody – that includes me – is familiar with that Creole expression, and there are as many and as varied in Hindi and Bhojpuri as well, which I doubt the MP would know about. Further, as was made clear later, that proverb means being a hy-

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pocrite, and its use had therefore a political connotation since both the MP and the PM who was targeted are politicians.

The appropriate forum, therefore, for the MP to show her disapproval is the Parliament, where it would probably have been unparliamentarily to fling those words, and so too hypocrite I would think. In which case perhaps ‘you don’t practise what you preach’ could have been a substitute, and to which the intended adversary in fairness would have sought a right of reply.

A constant appeal regarding our politics over the past several years is the induction of new, younger blood. And when we of the older generations saw some of the new faces surfacing, up went our hopes for a fresh air in our political atmosphere. We have been disappointed a few times already, and this is the latest episode.

No wonder we have nostalgia for *letan longtemps*. Thus, many years ago in reply to an attack on his person (rather than his ideas) by his opposite in the Parliament in the choicest *langue de Molière*, former Minister of Culture Motee Ramdass from the same MMMas MP Joanna Bérenger, ended his speech by citing a French poet: ‘*La bave du crapaud peut-elle salir la blancheur du lys?*’

Why not India?

On the contrary, here we seem stuck in the same atavistic mode that caused so much of bad blood and divisiveness during the struggle for independence, when India and Hindu-bashing became almost the norm. But good sense eventually prevailed and we were able to overcome our base instincts and behave as Mauritian citizens. And we have opened up to co-

operation with both traditional and new partners in the building of the nation.

That is why perhaps to the question in Parliament put by MP Reza Uteem, about why the Security Adviser to the PMO should be an Indian, the PM’s response was why not India? Let us not go back to those days of India-bashing at a time when we need all the expertise and the help that we can source to complement local competencies. This will not serve us any good.

Former Minister Dharam Gokhool

has put things in a more realistic perspective in his interview to this paper last week:

‘The Opposition forces cannot take the risk of having to deal with an India-bashing campaign, which could be an unnecessary distraction, and stoke communal sentiments. Both in the short- and long-terms, this will be counterproductive and runs the risks of straining our special ties with India and hurting our long-term strategic interests. It may also impact on our social fabric.’

Lord Palmerston, the British Prime Minister, had this to say about essence of diplomatic relations: “We have no eternal allies, and we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those in-terests it is our duty to follow.”

If there are issues that need to be dealt with, the diplomatic channels should be resorted to instead of public platforms.’

RN Gopee

Indian Ocean Realities 2022

New realities and strategic rethink have superseded older visions of the Indian Ocean's strategic importance to economies around much of the globe

Jan Arden

The Indian Ocean's vast expanse of 74m sq kms is host to heavy international maritime traffic that includes half of the world's container cargo, one third of its bulk cargo and two thirds of its oil shipment. In particular, its waters carries heavy traffic of petroleum and petroleum products from the oil fields of the Persian Gulf and Indonesia so vital for all churning economies and factories. The ocean, with its natural choke-points, was without doubt the highway of international trade for essential commodities. There have also been as yet untapped expectations of re-sources from the ocean's seabed or its largely unexplored submarine realities.

Towards the dawn of the 21st century, Western powers and some Far East countries (China, Japan) had increasingly integrated the fact that the Indian Ocean consisted of some of the most critical sea lanes and choke points that connected the oil-rich Middle East, East Asia and Africa on which most oil and goods trade relied and their own development came to depend. Inevitably, the geodynamics of the region has been shifting rapidly, leaving by the wayside concepts that no longer fitted the evolving ages: Indian Ocean - zone of peace, Demilitarised and denuclearised Indian Ocean, the Chinese "string of pearls" protocol that unsettled India's new political establishment and even the relatively recent Indian Ocean Rim Association have all faded out as the new imperatives and strategic thinking by major players evolved.



Pic - specials-images.forbesimg.com

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It is no longer simply a matter for navies plying the high seas to demonstrate a friendly and perhaps reassuring presence around the coasts of island and continental countries, with courtesy exchanges and visits. Neither is it about rival navies from competing European nations taking pot-shots across each other's bows as in the 18th century or the type of brazen “gunboat diplomacy” that was witnessed in the British Empire's heydays.

Nor is it about the even more hare-brained attempt of US and British naval squadrons attempting to blockade Indian ports and its fledgling fleet as the country was entangled unwittingly in the liberation of East Bengal from the murderous oppression of West Pakistan with millions of refugees streaming into Indian Bengal. New realities have by necessity and sometimes by strategic rethink superseded older visions of the Indian Ocean's strategic importance to economies around much of the globe.

Few of these countries obviously can afford on their own to ensure the safe and secure traffic of their essential supplies from the Indian Ocean and depend for their vital trade interests to be safeguarded through the security afforded by international and regional powers and their navies as they patrol both the SLOCs (sea-lines of communication) and the increasing piracy attempts off the eastern coast and the Horn of Africa. That security had traditionally been implicitly or explicitly devolved to the US and some historical European powers, which could

afford to man and operate frigates, destroyers, aircraft carriers and even submarines on the high seas of the Indian Ocean and the necessary naval bases for easier refuelling, rest and rotation of crew.

The USA as main guardian last century, through the disputed British artifice of the British Indian Ocean Territory excised illegally from Mauritius and the consequent displacement of Chagos islanders there, have set up their main base of aero-naval operations in Diego Garcia, completed by the new Fifth Fleet, created in 1995, and stationed in Bahrain. Further north-east they also hold base in Djibouti at the mouth of the Suez Canal, the whole triangular set-up providing the necessary logistics for monitoring the northern Indian Ocean SLOCs effectively.

This did not prevent occasional mishaps when, for instance, in 2000 the USS Cole, a Navy warship berthed at Aden, was rammed by a rubber dinghy jam-packed with explosives, leaving 17 dead sailors and twice more wounded. Permanent turbulence in several unstable Middle-East countries from Pakistan and Iran to Yemen and Somalia, makes for the US cover of the northern SLOCs more than desirable for most countries.

France has historical claims to be considered as a full-fledged Indian Ocean state, through its presence in former colonies (Djibouti, Madagascar) and the legitimacy of such DOM-TOMs as Reunion, Mayotte and even disputed Tromelin. As such, and given its dependence for trade and oil on the Persian Gulf region, France maintains a significant fleet in the Indian Ocean and occasionally berths visiting nuclear-carriers and submarines to the region. Its ability to patrol the SLOCs and ward off piracy is significant.

Neither the Middle-Eastern countries, nor Australia or South Africa have shown interest nor have they the financial resources and naval muscle to project themselves as Indian Ocean and SLOCs stabilisers and the Brits have mostly a residual legacy.

India, with 7,500 kms of coastline, therefore emerged naturally as a legitimate Indian Ocean regional player capable to muster enough resources for a naval Indian Ocean presence to ensure security of its own vital supplies and the greater security of SLOCs through patrols and joint anti-piracy exercises with Western partners such as the USA and France and, more recently, the QUAD agreement.

For India, that meant critical rebalancing and some diversion of its overall defence budget from the more traditional demands of Army and Air Force to maintain secure northern borders from obdurately hostile neighbours China and Pakistan.

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Its naval presence has been reinforced considerably by a naval and military logistics agreement signed with France in 2018, which gives reciprocal access to each other's military facilities and led to joint security exercises (e.g., Varuna 2021) for improving the security of SLOCs.

The French Embassy in a statement on the exercise observed that "this exercise underscores the shared interests and commitment of both nations in promoting maritime security in the Indo-Pacific. It bears testimony to the vitality of the strategic partnership between France and India..." It adds a useful dimension in this area to India's closer partnerships with Australia and the US in matters of high sea security, anti-piracy and safe navigation for all.

China is the only non-bordering Indian Ocean state but has ambitions not to depend on Western powers for its vital supplies or exports that have to be shipped across thousands of miles of the Ocean and to position itself as primary challenger to US predominance as an economic and military superpower. Some China specialists reckon that it would proceed by rolling out a "spheres of influence" policy, which means three successive levels of power demonstrations:

- military overlordship or upper-hand over what it considers as its immediate sphere (Taiwan, South China Sea, Himalayan borders and states where the humiliation of Ladakh setbacks against Indian armed forces will not stop the continued Chinese pressure);
- the second sphere stretches farther out to Vietnam, the Philippines, Japan and covers our Indian Ocean region both for power demonstration purposes and taking a more active role, with a newly established base in Djibouti, in securing China's own vital supplies; its submarines and frigates are already a reality in the Indian Ocean;
- finally, Chinese warships will ply further East on the Pacific high seas and round the coast of Africa for securing commercial supplies and trade interests. These require some naval refuelling bases or stations for such long distances and Mauritius, Madagascar or Tanzania would constitute prize catches for naval refuelling ports and establishments under the disguise of "dual-purpose" commercial/fishing stations and naval outposts.

India's role in the Indian Ocean Region was defined in 2015 through the

“Both Indian authorities and their Mauritian counterparts could better coordinate their strategies to remove past emotive scars of Diego from the Agalega equation and dynamics. More could also be done to communicate better with the local islanders and ensure their integration in developments that would follow as the infrastructure reach completion...”

SAGAR Initiative - Security and Growth for All in the Region - aimed at safeguarding maritime interests of its mainland and the islands of the Ocean. According to a Dec 2020 article in the *Diplomatist*, "It represents a nexus of maritime cooperation, naval security along with economic development. It also brings out the importance of Coast Guard agencies of the littoral states to counter-piracy actions by non-state actors. Another crucial element of this initiative is to enhance collaboration in trade, tourism, and infrastructure while keeping in view the climate change problems and thus promote sustainable development of the region."

It is in this context that the Jugnauth governments since 2015 seem to have signed on as partners in this security pact. In an island scarred by the UK/US controversies over Diego Garcia's excision and devolution to the US for its military and naval base, the question of developments ongoing in Agalega have been regularly decried in some press sections. The secrecy surrounding what exactly

Mauritius signed up to has not helped matters although it should be manifestly clear that

we have neither the resources, fleet, expertise to monitor our reported 2m kms of economic zone in this Ocean and depend on our traditional allies to effectively man this vast sub-expanse.

The Mauritian side has occasionally said that the port and air landing infrastructure would be invaluable for Agaleans themselves and for our broader security interests and that their use would fall squarely under Mauritian administrative control. However, it is a matter of concern that the low credibility and recent turbulences at Mauritius Telecom make Mauritians deeply mistrustful of Pravind Jugnauth's dealings with India.

Aside from traditional India-bashing from some quarters, we have every reason to be satisfied with developments funded and built by India for the account of Mauritius and to remain under the latter's



Pic - DiePresse.com

sovereign control. Whether it is also used for aero-naval surveillance or berthing of naval ships ascribed to monitoring the SLOCs in the northern part of the Indian Ocean in a nexus comforted by France and the USA, should be reassuring rather than disquieting and should enable Mauritius to develop its own sorely lacking maritime capacities on the higher seas of our zone.

Nevertheless, both Indian authorities and their Mauritian counterparts could better coordinate their strategies to remove past emotive scars of Diego from the Agalega equation and dynamics. More could also be done to communicate better with the local islanders and ensure their integration in developments that would follow as the infrastructure reach completion.

Jan Arden

France Boyer de La Giroday State Secondary School Parent Teachers' Association Plaine Magnien

TEL: 637-5175 — FAX: 637-5175

Tender Notice **SCHOOL CANTEN**

Tenders are invited for the running of a mobile canteen for the period August 2022-October 2022. Canteen operators will have to make arrangements for their mobile infrastructure. The premises, water and electricity will be on rent.

Prospective tenderers are invited to send their applications by Registered Post to the Secretary of the PTA by Wednesday 3rd August at noon, upon payment of a non-refundable sum of three hundred rupees (Rs 300). Relevant documents and details of the conditions are available at the school.

Tenders received after the specified date and time will **NOT** be considered.

The PTA does not bind itself to accept the highest bidder or any tender nor will assign any reason for the rejection of a tender without thereby incurring any liability to any tenderer or without any obligation to inform the tenderer of the grounds of the Committee's decision.

Please write 'Tender Notice Canteen' on your sealed envelope.

For further inquiries, the Secretary may be contacted on 637-5175.

Miss P. Chuttooar
Secretary

15th July 2022

To Our Readers

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

Readers will no doubt appreciate that it takes a lot of time, hard work, money and the continued support of our contributors to produce the *Mauritius Times* - as we have done without interruption in these last 67 years.

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

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'Don't Talk to The Police'

"A case is not decided on the mere silence of an accused

who takes the gamble to remain silent in the hope of getting away"

LEX

Followers of US matters would be familiar with the expression "I plead the Fifth" meaning the Fifth Amendment to the US Constitution allowing any citizen to remain silent under questioning by police. Here too that right to remain silent under questioning is enshrined in our Constitution and is absolute. However, says Lex, a case is not always determined by the silence of an accused but on evidence presented and the courts may draw their own inferences from the silence of the accused person.

* Three provisional charges relating to criminal defamation, diffusing false news, and breach of the Information and Communication Technologies Act have been pressed against the ex-CEO of Mauritius Telecom (MT), following the case lodged by the Prime Minister. Mr Sherry Singh is being interrogated by the Central CID in that connection, and he has apparently chosen to remain silent to certain questions put to him by the police. What is the meaning of 'you have the right to remain silent', and is this a constitutional right?

When a person is arrested on suspicion of having committed an offence, he has to be informed of the charge and told that he has the right to be assisted by a lawyer. The most important aspect of the procedure when the police want to question him is that he must be told that he has the right to remain silent or talk. It is a constitutional right on account of the concept of the presumption of innocence which means that an accused has the right to remain silent as it is for the prosecution to prove the case against him.

* What's the reasoning behind this constitutional right?

The reasoning is that it is for the State to prove the elements of an offence against an accused. This is so because the State has an armada of means to

investigate and gather evidence. The burden is on the prosecution to prove the case against the accused party. If the burden were on the accused, it would be most difficult if not impossible for him to gather evidence to establish his innocence.

* Is the right to remain silent extremely important to use when you are detained, arrested, and interrogated?

Yes and no. A suspect has the absolute right to remain silent. However, if this right is also exercised during trial, a judge or magistrate would have the right to take that into consideration when determining the case against the accused.

* What happens if a suspect invokes his right to remain silent? Does it put an end to all police questioning?

Yes. The police will record that fact in a statement and will inform the court in an eventual trial.

* Can silence be incriminating for a suspect and be used against her/him as evidence of guilt?

According to the case law on the matter, the right of an accused party to silence is enshrined in section 10(7) of our Constitution and is certainly to be respected but one must be careful not to read too much into it. The courts have made clear that this right does not carry

"According to the case law on the matter, the right of an accused party to silence is enshrined in section 10(7) of our Constitution and is certainly to be respected but one must be careful not to read too much into it. The courts have made clear that this right does not carry with it a right not to have reasonable inferences drawn from such silence and it is exercised at the accused party's risk and peril..."



Pic - Quinnan Law

completely silent. Or he may make a statement from the dock. Or he may decide to give evidence as a witness under oath or solemn affirmation and be subjected to cross examination. It should be noted that the statement an accused makes from the dock does not have much evidential value though the court has to consider it.

* Are there exceptions to a suspect's right to remain silent, for example in cases involving state security, the fight against drug trafficking or against terrorism?

There are no exceptions. It is an absolute right. As far as terrorism is concerned, we know how suspects were tortured at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp to extract confessions from them. Recently in Mauritius we have seen cases of police brutality amounting to torture with the sole aim of extracting confessions.

'An accused has the right to remain silent as it is for the prosecution to prove the case against him'

with it a right not to have reasonable inferences drawn from such silence and it is exercised at the accused party's risk and peril when, at the close of the case for the prosecution, a prima facie case has been clearly established

* How long can a suspect remain silent? Are their limits to that right?

No, there are no limits subject to the risk of having a court drawing inferences that may go against the accused.

* A person that is arrested for any reason must be brought before a magistrate or judge within a prescribed timeframe at the very latest. Would it still be advisable for that person to invoke his right to remain silent thereafter in case he is maintained in police custody?

That an arrested person must be taken to court within reasonable time following his arrest is enshrined in our Constitution. Taking a person to court following his arrest has nothing to do with the right to silence. Both principles are independent of each other. Whereas the police have an obligation to take a person to court following his arrest, the arrested person is not obliged to talk and may decide to keep silent.

* Can the same right be invoked during trial?

In a court of law, after the prosecution have closed their case, the accused has three options. He may decide to keep

* A suspect who remains silent may be believed to be guilty, but does that right to remain silent be considered as one of the most important safeguards protecting citizens against arbitrary actions of the state?

As stated earlier, an accused takes a risk by remaining silent but this is his absolute right.

* Are there indications that would suggest that those who have chosen to invoke their right to silence have improved their chances of getting cleared of any criminal offence?

A case is not decided on the mere silence of an accused who takes the gamble to remain silent in the hope of getting away. A case is decided on the evidence presented in court.

* The last word should perhaps go to law professor James Duane of the Regent University School of Law, Virginia, USA, who in 2016 brought out a book with the title 'You Have the Right to Remain Innocent', and thereafter followed it up with a lecture (together with Officer George Bruch from the Virginia Beach police department) on 'Don't Talk to the Police'. That seems to be the best option, right?

It may be the best solution, but that does not preclude the court from drawing inferences adverse to the accused.



People wearing protective masks walk at a Japanese izakaya pub alley, amid the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) outbreak, in Tokyo, Japan. Pic- Reuters

Tokyo hits pandemic record driven by new Covid-19 subvariants

Tokyo will report its highest number of Covid cases for the entire

pandemic this week, Nippon Television reported, driven by the spread of more infectious variants just as Japan started reopening to tourists.

The city will record more than 30,000 new infections, the broadcaster said, eclipsing the previous record of 21,562 cases set on Feb. 2. The numbers are evidence that a

Covid resurgence has taken hold in the Japanese capital ahead of the summer holidays, reports Reuters.

The rising case counts are forcing political and health care leaders to reconsider what steps, if any, are needed to contain the outbreak. Central government officials have denied the need for fresh restrictions on business activity or movement, saying they will keep a close eye on serious infections and deaths.

The number of people with severe infections remains relatively low, so the market isn't expecting the government to reimpose strict prevention measures or declare a state of emergency, he said.

Slow uptake of booster shots among younger residents may be allowing the pathogen to spread more widely in schools and social gathering areas for young adults.

Ranil Wickremesinghe sworn-in as Sri Lanka's new president

Veteran politician Ranil Wickremesinghe, a six-time former prime minister, was elected as Sri Lanka's President by lawmakers on Wednesday, in a rare move that could provide continuity for crucial discussions with the IMF for a bailout deal for the cash-strapped nation.

He secured 134 votes in the 225-member House while his nearest rival and dissident ruling party leader Dullas Alahapperuma got 82. Leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna leader Anura Kumara Disanayake secured just three votes during the voting held in Parliament amidst tight security.

He faces the task of leading the country out of its economic collapse and restoring order after months of mass protests.

A Cabinet of 20-25 members will be appointed within the next few days to serve under President Wickremesinghe, the Daily Mirror newspaper reported.

Wickremesinghe's comfortable victory with the backing of the Rajapaksa's Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party showed the Rajapaksa family's firm grip on Sri Lankan politics despite the resignations of President Rajapaksa, former prime minister Mahinda



Sri Lanka's newly elected president Ranil Wickremesinghe. Pic - AFP

Rajapaksa and former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa in recent weeks in the face of massive anti-government protests.

Wickremesinghe's victory could inflame the situation once again as many anti-government protesters see him as inextricably tied to the erstwhile Rajapaksa regime, blamed for the country's worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.

Wickremesinghe will have a mandate to serve out the rest of Rajapaksa's term, which ends in November 2024.



Afghanistan's women and minorities learning to live with tension and uncertainty. Pic - Arab News

Women, minorities worst hit since Taliban takeover of Afghanistan

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) on Wednesday released a report on the

human rights situation in the country that was retaken by the Taliban more than 10 months ago.

The report summarised the UNAMA's findings with regards to protection of civilians, extrajudicial killings, torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, rights of women and girls, fundamental freedoms and situation in places of

detention. It also contained recommendations for both de facto authorities and the international community.

It further stated that despite significant reduction in armed violence between mid-August 2021 and mid-June 2022, 2,106 civilian casualties – 700 deaths, 1,406 injuries – were recorded. Majority civilian casualties were attributed to targeted attacks by the ISKP (Islamic State – Khorasan Province) against minority communities in places of worship, reports Hindustan Times.

The report said that monitoring found that despite the improved security situation since 15 August, the people of Afghanistan, in particular women and girls, are deprived of the "full enjoyment of their human rights".

Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid termed the report as not true and nothing but propaganda."



Liz Truss faces Rishi Sunak in race to be next U.K. prime minister. Pic - TodaysChronic.com

Rishi Sunak, Liz Truss final 2 in race for UK PM

Conservative rivals Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss, offering competing visions for Britain's response to multiple crises, will duel in the coming weeks to become the next prime minister after the party's lawmakers held a last vote Wednesday.

Former finance minister Sunak, running on a centrist platform of fiscal rectitude allied with "green levies" to fight climate change, again headed the field with 137 votes in the fifth and final elimination ballot, reports AFP.

The crucial race for second place was narrowly won by Foreign Secretary Liz Truss on 113 votes, against 105 for former defence secretary Penny Mordaunt.

Sunak and Truss now take their case to Conservative party members, who will decide the new leader and prime minister after a series of nationwide hustings in August.

The result will be announced on September 5. But Britain is already guaranteed to get either its first prime minister of colour, or its third woman leader.

At his last session of Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons earlier Wednesday, Johnson bowed out by saying "Hasta la vista, baby!"

White House says Biden is not battling cancer

Social media was left abuzz on Wednesday after a video of US President Joe Biden supposedly saying he has cancer was shared widely. He made the comment while giving a speech on climate crisis and global warming in Somerset, Massachusetts. The statement initially appeared quite casual wherein Biden blamed emissions from oil refineries near his childhood home for giving him and those he grew up with cancer, reports Hindustan Times.

However, social media users quickly got curious and wanted to know if the US president indeed was hiding a cancer diagnosis.

In the 23-second video, Biden spoke about his mother driving him and his siblings rather than making them walk as children, and putting on windshield wipers "to get literally the oil slick off the window".

The White House quickly jumped in clarifying that Biden is not battling cancer. Deputy press secretary Andrew Bates retweeted a post by Washington Post's chief writer and editor Glenn Kessler, which said that Biden had his "non-melanoma skin cancers removed" before he took office. Kessler attached the US president's November 2021 medical report to back his statement in which Biden's physician Dr. Kevin O'Conno noted that he is "fit to successfully execute the duties of the presidency".

"This is what the President was referring to," Bates wrote on Twitter by sharing Kessler's tweet.

* Contd on page 9

Myanmar is sinking like Sri Lanka, violence up economy down

While Sri Lanka is facing a political crisis triggered by an economic one, junta-ruled Myanmar is sinking like the island nation with rise in violence and continued downturn of economy. When scattered pro-democracy protests were being held across Myanmar to mark the 75th anniversary of the assassination of the country's independence hero and father of the ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the currency was selling at 2,400 per dollar after it further depreciated.

This despite the country's central bank ordering all companies with 35 per cent foreign investment convert their foreign currency holdings into local currency kyat by July 18. A report by Global New Light of Myanmar said that unspecified action would be taken against companies not following the rules. The rule was aimed at relieving pressure on the kyat to include more businesses.

A day before the coup d'état, which took place on February 1, 2021, kyat's value against the US dollar stood at 1,340.



Myanmar is sinking like Sri Lanka, violence up economy down. Pic - The Business Standard

Food and fuel prices in Myanmar have shot up with the plunge in the value of kyat and experts are worried that the crisis could further deepen in the embattled

nation, reports Hindustan Times.

Meanwhile, the violence has been on the rise in Myanmar as the military regime continues its crackdown on pro-democracy

voices. The protests held on Tuesday were dispersed within a short time to avoid confrontations with security forces.

Myanmar's liberal democratic party National League for Democracy said that 48 NLD leaders have been killed and more than 900 party lawmakers have been arrested since the coup. NLD's Human Rights Record Group spokesperson Kyaw Htwe told a media briefing that 11 party leaders died during detention while eight died in prison.

The opposition National Unity Government of Myanmar, which considers itself the country's legitimate administration, said that it is unable to meet the firearms requirement for its armed wing despite spending 95 per cent of its budget, adding that it needs at least \$10 million per month to fund the resistance movement. There are 259 township-based battalions of the NUG's armed wing with approximately 80,000 to 100,000 members, according to people familiar with the matter.

Elon Musk's dad asked to donate sperms to create new generation of Elons

Elon Musk's father Errol Musk, 76, who has recently made public the news of his secret child (born in 2019) with his stepdaughter, has claimed that he has been asked to donate sperms to create a new generation of Elons, *The Sun* reported. "I've got a company in Colombia who want me to donate sperm to impregnate high-class Colombian women because they say, 'Why go to Elon when they can go to the actual person who created Elon?'"

Elon Musk's father however added that he was not promised any payment for his services. But if he had agreed, he could receive other perks.

"They haven't offered me any money but they have offered me first-class travel and five-star hotel accommodation and all

that sort of stuff," he said.

But will he yield to such demands? "Well, why not?" *The Sun* quoted Elon Musk's father as saying. "If I could have another child I would. I can't see any reason not to," he said.

Earlier, as Errol Musk confirmed a secret love child with his stepdaughter Jana, Errol said, "The only thing we are on Earth for is to reproduce". "If I could have another child I would. I can't see any reason not to," he said at that time.

The secret love child was born in 2019, Errol said and clarified that he is not with Jana, his stepdaughter, anymore -- mostly because of their age gap. Errol and Jana share a 5-year-old boy named Elliot Rush, born in 2017.



Elon Musk's father had recently disclosed about of secret love child born in 2019 with his stepdaughter. Pic - Techstry

Prince Harry shares the moment he realised Meghan was 'soulmate'

Britain's Prince Harry on Monday revealed the moment he realised Meghan Markle was his "soulmate". Delivering a keynote speech at the United Nations headquarters on the occasion of Nelson Mandela International Day, Harry spoke about seeking insight from Mandela in the times of global uncertainty involving climate change and the threats from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

He also spoke about a 1997 photo taken in Capetown of Mandela and his late mother Diana, Princess of Wales, which he said hangs on his wall, reports Hindustan Times.

The Duke of Sussex said that he realised Meghan Markle was his "soulmate" during one of their trips to Africa.

According to Page Six, Prince



Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan attend the celebration of Nelson Mandela International Day at the UN Headquarters in New York. Pic- Reuters

Harry said, "Since I first visited Africa as a 13-year-old boy, I've always found hope on the continent," he shared, describing it as his "lifeline" where he's "found peace and healing time and time again."

He added, "It's where I felt closest to my mother and sought solace after she died," he went on, "and where I knew I'd found a soulmate in my wife."

The couple visited Africa twice during their courtship – to Botswana shortly after they began dating in July 2016 and returned the following August to celebrate Meghan's 36th birthday – and once after they were married.

Harry and Meghan got married in May 2018 at London's St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle in a lavish ceremony.

Rama Sithanen

“We are in a hole that is fast growing because of downside risks

and we should stop digging to make it a bigger hole”

There's more happening presently than the Baie Jacocet Submarine Cable Survey controversy, which has been hogging the headlines these past two weeks. The recently published IMF Article IV Staff Report gives a gloomy picture of the present state of the Mauritian economy and the serious predicaments facing it. In this week's interview, Rama Sithanen comments on its general presentation and the diplomatic wording of key advisory recommendations. More importantly, he shares with us in layman terms the serious predicaments and grave risks facing the Mauritian economy, aggravated both by external factors, poor public finance management and bad policy choices at the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank.



Mauritius Times: You have been Minister of Finance and have experience in dealing with the IMF and its Article IV reports. What have you “sniffed” and what new data have you captured from the latest report on the current state of and prospects for the economy?

Rama Sithanen: One must be familiar with the IMF's approach to fully grasp the meaning and significance of their Article IV reports. They do not always explicitly criticize Government policies as they have to be diplomatic. One has to diligently read between the lines, decode some carefully crafted sentences to fully comprehend their analysis, findings and recommendations.

They embrace three to four postures. Often, they use a politically correct language to express their views so as not to irritate the country being reviewed in order to maintain engagement especially if the country does not have an IMF programme but is pursuing inappropriate fiscal and monetary policies. At times, they would even err on the side of political correctness when the actual situation calls for

“While the scale and magnitude of the economic decline and decay of Sri Lanka is different from Mauritius, the trend and direction of policies are not dissimilar. Sri Lanka is in a very deep hole for reasons that have been well documented. We are in a hole that is fast growing because of downside risks and we should stop digging to make it a bigger hole...”

“Someone in the future will have to bite the very bitter bullet of painful fiscal and tax adjustment. The longer the policy inaction, the more painful the fiscal shock will be”

tougher criticisms and observations as they would not want to burn the bridges of continued dialogue.

Many of these institutions also have a soft spot for Mauritius as we have performed well compared to many African countries in human development and they do not want to be seen hitting hard at the poster country of social and economic achievements since independence.

However, they will speak the blunt truth about the economic predicament in one-to-one meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Governor of the Central Bank and their senior officers. And if their messages and policy recommendations continue to be disregarded, they will have no choice than to state the facts and figures in their report so as not to lose their credibility and not to be blamed in case the economic predicament worsens. The situation changes altogether when the country is in dire straits and has no choice than to negotiate a programme with the IMF to have access to funds. In these circumstances, tough conditionalities would be imposed to access these critical funds and to reverse the economic decline.

As is the case currently with the likes of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Argentina, Lebanon, and now Ghana. These countries have often rejected the policy recommendations of the IMF and other independent economists for years with

the outcome that we all see. They are either bankrupt or close to bankruptcy and either cannot import or have extreme difficulties to import essentials such as food, energy, fertilisers and medicine. They are now on their knees and pleading for assistance from the same IMF that they rebuffed. And worse, the costs of adjustment will be more painful for the population, especially the most vulnerable segments of society.

*** Can you give us examples of this multi-faceted approach of the IMF in its last report?**

It is clear that the IMF is very disappointed with the role of the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) in the extreme monetization of the fiscal deficit and in depleting its reserves by transferring significant sums to government. As a result, the BOM does not have enough capital and reserves to conduct proper monetary policies and to defend the rupee. Hence the IMF's systematic call since some time for the Government to recapitalise the very low equity base of Rs 10bn. Equally the IMF was totally against the setting up of the Mauritius Investment Corporation Ltd (MIC) under the aegis of the BOM as it encourages quasi fiscal operations that are totally outside the scope of the Central Bank. This poses systemic risks to the balance sheet of the BOM and distorts both the allocation of resources and adversely affects its independence. The IMF has recommended that the MIC be transferred to either the Government or the

DBM and that unutilized funds be returned to the Central Bank to enhance its equity and reserves.

It further states that there is an absolute necessity to safeguard the independence of the central bank and improve its legal framework and its governance. It underscores that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) includes an adviser to the Ministry of Finance and three representatives from the private sector, which may challenge the BOM's independent decision making. Absolutely no prize for guessing what the IMF thinks of the independence and governance of the BOM and the composition of the MPC.

The IMF argues that Government is lowering its borrowing requirement and its debt through quasi fiscal measures of one-off disposal of public assets instead of credible expenditure and revenue measures. This strategy is not sustainable in the medium-term according to them.

A veiled rebuke is found at paragraph 39 under the heading of 'Other Issues'. The IMF states that continued efforts are necessary to further strengthen public financial management and fiscal transparency, and safeguard independence of Statistics Mauritius. If one decodes the sentence, it refers to three critical issues besetting the Government.

☞ Cont. on page 11

'If we add state capture in the decision-making process, economic populism, allegations of fraud and corruption, we have a toxic mix that puts us on the road to Sri Lanka'

☞ Cont. from page 10

The strengthening of public financial management refers to significant lapses in procurement and deficiencies in the management of government projects and the need to obtain value for money as well as strict observance of procurement rules and proper management of capital projects. There is clearly a lack of fiscal transparency as many public funds and debt sit outside the consolidated funds of Government. Some of these figures are also doctored.

The IMF calls for the independence of Statistics Mauritius which has lost its credibility as there is too much interference to compel it to produce fairy tale economic forecasts that invariably turn out to be wide off the mark. Its independent Chairperson resigned because of such unacceptable intervention. John Kenneth Galbraith famously said that the only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable. It seems to apply to the Government. Very good at overpromising and very good at underperforming.

*** What more does the July 2022 of the IMF Country Report tell us about the state of the economy that what it had not drawn attention to earlier and which we might already be aware of?**

Quite a lot in fact.

The most alarming for consumers is that the rupee will likely further depreciate by 26% to 39% because of the massive deficit in the current account balance at 13% of GDP. In the absence of structural reforms to increase significantly the export of goods and services and/or lower import of goods and services, the USD is on its way to a range of Rs 57 to Rs 63. Inflation will thus remain elevated for a long time.

“The IMF calls for the independence of Statistics Mauritius which has lost its credibility as there is too much interference to compel it to produce fairy tale economic forecasts that invariably turn out to be wide off the mark. Its independent Chairperson resigned because of such unacceptable intervention. John Kenneth Galbraith famously said that the only function of economic forecasting is to make astrology look respectable. It seems to apply to the Government. Very good at overpromising and very good at underperforming...”

The BOM is borrowing heavily from abroad and accumulating the foreign exchange deposits of commercial banks to artificially increase the international reserves of the country. If we adjust for these liabilities, reserves have fallen significantly and will continue to decline as the trade and current account deficits remain very high.

Growth at 6.2% in 2022 will be much lower than what the Minister has told us in the budget. The number of tourists will not reach 1 million. Worse there are downside risks if there is a recession and high inflation in Europe and there is a negative income effect impacting the propensity of people to travel.

Inflation will be much higher at 11.9%.

GDP per capita in USD has fallen considerably by



21.5% in three years.

The debt sustainability analysis shows that public debt is still very high and could rise above 100% of GDP in the medium term. Also, debt vulnerabilities remain elevated while the balance sheet of the BOM is very weak due to high contingent liabilities.

Public debt has come down recently not because of credible revenue and expenditure measures but mostly due to quasi fiscal measures as the sale of shares of Airport Holdings Ltd worth Rs 25bn to MIC which helped reduce the overall borrowing requirement. More sales of government assets for an amount of Rs 22bn are expected to lower debt, even if the IMF believes that this target of asset disposal is overambitious in this financial year.

The BOM is in a precarious predicament. Without a recapitalization of its equity and the Government meeting the cost of mopping up excess liquidity, it will be incapable of conducting its monetary policy, fight inflation and defend the rupee. As it costs money for the BOM to raise interest rates and to increase domestic liquidity sterilization.

*** Is the IMF report also saying that the economic situation is likely to get worse before it gets better?**

Very much so. The economic situation will get worse before it gets better. Because of a combination of external risks and uncertainty and policy paralysis or inappropriate policies domestically and an absence of structural reforms to transform and diversify the economy and to build resilience.

Mauritius had structural weaknesses before the pandemic hit us hard. Covid amplified the economic problems. The war in Ukraine has made the predicament worse with supply chain disruptions, surging inflation, rising freight costs, higher food and energy prices. Now there are high risks of stagflation with structurally high inflation and either low or negative growth in trading partners, less optimistic prospects for tourist flows, and worsening terms of trade.

The FED has been very aggressive with interest rate hikes which has caused the USD to strengthen against all

currencies. The USD is at parity with the Euro which is bad for Mauritius as we earn a lot in Euro and spend mostly in USD to import almost everything.

The report mentions that there are significant downside risks to the economy. To highlight the importance of such downside risks, the report contains a Risk Assessment Matrix divided into conjunctural shocks and structural risks. Geopolitical and deglobalisation risks are considered very high as they will provoke both inflation and cause lower economic growth.

“Reckless investment in ‘white elephant’ infrastructure with low economic and financial returns are some of the undesirable features we share with Sri Lanka. And we add state capture in the decision-making process, economic populism, allegations of fraud and corruption, we have a toxic mix that puts us on the road to Sri Lanka. Let us hope that reason and economic common sense will prevail to close that road. A good start would be to stop fairy tale economics, fanciful public finance and magical Central Banking...”

Rising and volatile food and energy prices carry high risks for Mauritius as they would also lead to much higher inflation and lower demand for our tourism industry. There are also risks if Government does not embrace fiscal consolidation to lower debt and deficit and the Bank of Mauritius does not act fast to control inflation and to raise its equity and reserves to conduct proper monetary policy.

*** The IMF notes in the very first paragraph of its introduction that ‘unprecedented high borrowing requirements in FY2019/20, partly driven by a sharp increase in pensions, pushed the public debt to around 85 percent of GDP... The substantial fiscal stimulus to mitigate the health and economic impact of the pandemic, revenue losses, and the contraction in GDP further pushed debt to about 100 percent of GDP in FY2020/21.’ Despite this debt level, Minister Padayachy is still promising to bring up old-aged pension to Rs13,500 by the end of the government’s mandate. How do you react to that?**

Let us be very candid. Pension has become a largely politically motivated issue with everybody auctioning higher amounts to win elections. It is an absolute tinder box that will explode as the population ages and there will be fewer people working to support the rising cohort of old people. The IMF and all actuaries have stated that the current pension system is not sustainable. In fact, it is a very simple mathematical problem. Expenditure on pension is projected to reach 8.4% of GDP in two years while pension revenue will stand at 1.5% of GDP. This is a fiscal chasm.

Worse, this massive gap will rise as the country is rapidly ageing. It will worsen the old-age dependency ratio and increase pension spending.

☞ Cont. on page 12

'Political demagoguery and economic populism will simply trump economic realities and affordability...

Until there is no money to pay future pensioners'

☞ Cont. from page 11

Government is simply transferring the burden of adjustment from the current generation to their children and grandchildren. To complicate matters, Government has decided to include contributions from the CSG in the consolidated funds as opposed to creating a special fund as was the NPF. As a result, the money is being used for all purposes including the monthly Rs 1000 granted to employees and self-employed earning up to Rs 50,000 per month. The funding gap will be much larger in 2023/2024. Either the CSG will have to rise exponentially or other taxes will have to increase sharply to finance this massive gap.

To make the pension system sustainable and to protect children and grandchildren from an unbearable fiscal burden, the IMF has made four recommendations. To gradually raise the eligibility age to 65 in line with the CSG benefits, to adopt a targeted approach by giving it to those in need, to keep the current pension nominally unchanged until it reaches 20% of average wage and to convert the CSG into a pension system similar to the NPF with benefits accruing only to those who contribute.

Some of these measures are politically difficult. However, in the absence of fundamental reforms, the funding gap will rise. At the next election, there will be the usual auction of which party will offer more. Political demagoguery and economic populism will simply trump economic realities and affordability. Until there is no money to pay future pensioners. Similar to what has happened to many countries and locally to Air Mauritius.

*** But he'll have the Rs 31.7 bn transferred to the Special Fund to pay for those increased pensions?**



“The BOM cannot defend the rupee which is depreciating fast and it cannot combat inflation. Yet the same BOM has diverted Rs 80bn of its precious and scarce reserves to conduct policies that are well outside its statutory scope: land acquisition and speculation, highly risky venture capital funds, financing zombie and insolvent companies. We are already paying a heavy price for this dystopian and delirious Central Banking strategy...”

The gap between expenditure on pension at 8.4% of GDP and pension revenue at 1.5% of GDP is 6.9% of GDP. This represents around Rs 36bn at current GDP level. So, the amount in the Special Fund will almost cover the gap for one year only if the entire amount is used for that purpose!

The IMF has recommended that all Special Funds be transferred to the Consolidated Fund for fiscal transparency purposes so that the real size of the deficit and public debt are disclosed. It has also proposed that all unutilized funds that were transferred from the Bank of Mauritius to Government be returned to the Central Bank to beef up its reserves to enable it to conduct monetary policies. Part of the money in the Special Funds were either money printed by the Central Bank to give to Government or MIC money obtained in sale of shares by Airport of Mauritius.

Also, the remaining amount in the surplus funds are, on paper, earmarked for the construction of 12,000 social houses and for significant flood management projects.

*** Do you get the impression that the government will press on with its objectives no matter what the IMF**

“Pension has become a largely politically motivated issue with everybody auctioning higher amounts to win elections. It is an absolute tinder box that will explode as the population ages and there will be fewer people working to support the rising cohort of old people. At the next election, there will be the usual auction of which party will offer more. Political demagoguery and economic populism will simply trump economic realities and affordability. Until there is no money to pay future pensioners...”



would propose in terms of corrective measures whether with regard to our pensions system or the incestuous Bank of Mauritius-MIC relationship, etc.?

This is abundantly clear both from the Budget Speech and the IMF report. The Minister is 'allegedly' using CSG money from the Consolidated Fund to finance the Rs 1000 monthly allowance to employees and self-employed persons. I say allegedly because money is fungible and as there is no specific fund where CSG contribution is credited, it is impossible to make the difference on the use of that payroll tax. Just like we cannot say that receipts from income tax are used to pay for the health sector.

The challenge will arise where there will not be enough money to pay for the pension commitments of Government. There are only two solutions. Either massive cuts in public expenditure or very high taxes. The additional revenue from higher economic growth will not be enough as the economy will revert to its low secular growth of only 3 to 3.5% in the medium term in the absence of structural reforms to spur growth. It is very clear that someone in the future will have to bite the very bitter bullet of painful fiscal and tax adjustment. And as is often the case, the longer the policy inaction, the more painful the fiscal shock will be.

Both the Minister and the Governor have stated that

and Government refuses to recapitalize it and to incur the costs of sterilization, there are no funds for the BOM to effectively carry out its statutory monetary policy obligations. It does not have money to finance its open market operations to pump up excess liquidity; it cannot defend the rupee which is depreciating fast and it cannot combat inflation. Yet the same BOM has diverted Rs 80bn of its precious and scarce reserves to conduct policies that are well outside its statutory scope: land acquisition and speculation, highly risky venture capital funds, financing zombie and insolvent companies. We are already paying a heavy price for this dystopian and delirious Central Banking strategy.

*** The tumultuous events in Sri Lanka, the worsening economic situation in other countries, namely Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Lebanon, etc., have raised apprehensions locally that we might ultimately go the Sri Lanka way what with the current management of the economy. Would you say that's really farfetched?**

While the scale and magnitude of the economic decline and decay of Sri Lanka is different from Mauritius, the trend and direction of policies are not dissimilar. Sri Lanka is in a very deep hole for reasons that have been well documented. We are in a hole that is fast growing because of downside risks and we should stop digging to make it a bigger hole.

If we are not careful and do not reverse inappropriate policies and embrace deep seated reforms to cure the structural weaknesses of the economy, transform and diversify the economy, we are heading towards disaster and will face dire consequences.

While history does not always repeat itself, it often rhymes. As Einstein rightly pointed out: 'Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.' There are robust lessons to be learned to avert the catastrophic economic situation of the likes of Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Argentina, Lebanon and now Bangla Desh, Suriname, Zambia and now Ghana.

Unfortunately, we share many characteristics with Sri Lanka.

Rising inflation, depreciating currencies, elevated and unsustainable level of debt, lower foreign exchange reserves, limited policy space, a high dependence on tourism, lack of transparency in fiscal and debt policies, poor governance of public sector bodies, reckless investment in 'white elephant' infrastructure with low economic and financial returns are some of the undesirable features we share with Sri Lanka. And we add state capture in the decision-making process, economic populism, allegations of fraud and corruption, we have a toxic mix that puts us on the road to Sri Lanka.

Let us hope that reason and economic common sense will prevail to close that road. A good start would be to stop fairy tale economics, fanciful public finance and magical Central Banking.

they will not change the ownership and the scope of activities of the MIC. Even if it weakens considerably the balance sheet of the BOM by exposing it to high contingent risks. Worse the MIC has expanded its scope of intervention. The Central Bank is now involved in land acquisition and it will also invest in venture capital for SMEs, which is highly risky.

As stated by the IMF, the BOM's ownership of the MIC weighs on the BOM's independence, blurs the separation of monetary and fiscal policies, and will likely contribute to higher monetary policy costs and/or higher inflation going forward

The key macroeconomic challenge for Mauritius is to continue its economic recovery while keeping inflation under control in a global environment with high fuel and food prices and slow recovery in demand due to the war in Ukraine.

*** How can the country achieve this when the BOM do not have the funds to accomplish its statutory obligations?**

We have a unique Orwellian predicament in the history of a Central Bank. Because its balance sheet is so weak

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 198

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 23 May, 1958

• "My religious sense did not allow me to speak a rash or profane word of anything that the soul of man holds or has held as sacred." — Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Towards A Mauritian Entity

Our readers no doubt remember the forum 'Vers une entité mauricienne', which was held at the Rose Hill Town Hall on Monday, May 5, under the chairmanship of Rev. Father Souchon—the promoter of the forum. It has been felt that in order to ensure as wide a diffusion as possible of the ideas expressed in the forum the speeches of the five orators be published.

Mauritius Times gladly offered its columns, and it is happy to have been able to print this week the speeches *in toto*. The introductory article by Father Souchon will certainly enlighten everybody on the aims and objects of the forum.

Another forum on the same subject but with different orators will be held at Curepipe Town Hall on Monday,

May 26, at 5.30 pm. Father Souchon will again be in the chair and the orators will be S. Florent, J. Saminaden, G. Peerbye, G. Robert and Kwet Chan.

We believe that when the YOUTH of this country is genuinely striving to seek harmony in a world of disharmony, people of all shades of opinion, of any community or class should offer a helping hand.

Genèse du Forum 'Vers Une Entité Mauricienne'

Par M. L'Abbé Henri Souchon

La 2ème Tamil Scouts est bien connue pour ses multiples succès théâtraux au Drama Youth Festival. La JIC de Rose Hill a brillé tout récemment dans la pièce de théâtre "Bernadette devant Marie".

Du même âge, de la même ville, partageant le même goût pour l'art théâtral, ayant fait les mêmes études, parlant les mêmes langues, ces jeunes gens avaient bien des choses en commun.

Et pourtant ils ne se connaissaient pas parce qu'un grand fossé artificiel les séparait.

J'ai eu l'avantage d'être souvent invité à partager les activités de la 2ème Tamil Scouts, tandis qu'en même temps j'apprenais à connaître la JIC de Rose Hill dont j'avais été nommé aumônier.

Et c'est ainsi que par mon entreprise ils se sont réunis un soir pour discuter "le péril hindou". La discussion franche et passionnée dura trois heures. La conclusion fut celle que j'avais espérée. De part et d'autre ils disaient avec étonnement: "Après tout nous ne sommes pas tellement différents." D'autres réunions suivirent. D'autres invités se joignirent au groupe.

Et c'est ainsi que fut décidé un forum interracial qui allait s'appeler "Vers une Entité Mauricienne".

Nous étions quand même un peu nerveux cet après-midi de fin d'été. La salle des fêtes du Plaza était comble. Il y avait des gens debout dans la varangue. Les orateurs autour du tapis vert, le micro et le magnétophone, une carte de Maurice traversée par un flambeau tenue par cinq mains: voilà le coup d'œil offert aux assistants. Dans l'air une atmosphère de jeunesse, d'angoisse et d'espoir: voilà l'impression ressentie par les orateurs.

Et le forum commença. Et il recommencera et à Curepipe et à Port Louis et peut-être même à la radio.

La situation vous la connaissez tous. 600,000 habitants dans 720 milles carrés de terre entourée d'océan. Cinq communautés aux barrières étanches sur le plan vertical, ces mêmes communautés divisées horizontalement en une demi-douzaine de classes sociales non moins étanches. D'où haine et mépris. On vit juxtaposé, se prêtant des sentiments mauvais, s'ignorant volontairement.

Cette situation douloureuse et complexe ne connaît

pas de solution toute faite. Mais la bonne volonté d'une élite, décidée, par quelques grands principes, peut faire énormément.

En trois mots voici ces principes : **respecter, connaître, aimer.**

Respecter les coutumes, cultures, langues, et religions qui ne sont pas les nôtres. S'il est difficile sur le plan intellectuel de comprendre certaines attitudes, il est toujours possible sur le plan affectif d'admirer la sincérité qui anime ces attitudes.

Apprendre à connaître car toute nouvelle connaissance enrichit notre personnalité. Pour apprécier ce que nous possédons il nous faut des points de comparaison. La connaissance vraie enlève le préjugé et fait disparaître la méfiance.

Et ensuite **aimer** ou peut-être d'abord aimer, chacun selon son tempérament plus intellectuel ou plus affectif. Rien de fort ne se bâtit sans l'amour vrai, gratuit et désintéressé.

Ici certains diront quand même: "Beau programme, mais irréalisable." Les forums terminés, le vent en emportera les paroles. Qu'en savez-vous? Autant en emporte le vent et peut-être qu'une âme ouverte à



L'abbé Henri Souchon. Pic - La Vie Catholique

l'écoute du vent en recevra le message. La vérité semée à tout vent triomphera quand même.

Demain peut-être les hommes comprendront qu'ils sont tous frères.

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Reinfection will be part of the pandemic for months to come.

Each repeat illness raises the risk of long Covid



John Donne Potter
Massey University

SARS-CoV-2 is not the first virus to cause unexplained chronic illness, but the sheer size of this pandemic means more people will develop long Covid.

The latest Omicron variant BA.5 is fast becoming dominant worldwide, including in New Zealand and Australia. As it continues to surge, reinfection will become increasingly common and this in turn means more people will develop long Covid.

The two most concerning aspects of long Covid are its high prevalence (up to 30% of those infected) and a link between reinfection and a higher risk of harmful outcomes.

American science writer Ed Yong, commenting on government responses to the pandemic, described them as a case of *débrouillez-vous*, which approximates to “you work it out – you’re on your own”.

In the face of official attitudes that are increasingly *laissez-faire* towards the continuing pandemic, many people no longer take even those precautions over which we have individual control: mask wearing, physical distancing and choosing carefully whether to attend crowded events. The consequences are an increase in both daily case numbers and the lurking burden of long Covid.

Omicron’s first variant, BA.1, emerged in late 2021, substantially different – clinically and genetically – from earlier variants. It displaced the Delta variant and, in early 2022, was itself replaced by BA.2.

The degree to which BA.2 had evolved away from BA.1 is far greater than the genetic distance between the original version of SARS-CoV-2 and the Delta variant. BA.5, a sub-variant

of BA.2, is now quickly overtaking other variants.

Omicron variants, and BA.5 specifically, show several worrying features. They can evade immunity acquired through earlier infections and breakthrough infections in vaccinated people. BA.5 is better able to infect cells, acting more like Delta than the previous Omicron variants.

What we know about long Covid

SARS-CoV-2 is not unique in its ability to cause post-acute symptoms and organ damage. Unexplained chronic disability occurred in a minority of patients after Ebola, dengue, polio, the original SARS and West Nile virus infections.

What is different is the sheer size of this pandemic and the number of people affected by long Covid. One of the absolutely critical issues about long Covid is that we should not underestimate it. It is now clear from multiple large studies that:

- It is a set of syndromes
- it affects multiple organs and systems
- it resolves in some but remains persistent in others
- it can be markedly debilitating
- its risk is reduced by vaccination
- its pathology is poorly understood
- we are just beginning to find ways to predict risk and monitor its course
- and management is, at best, ad hoc.

Perhaps most crucially, reinfection may now become a feature of the pandemic for at least the next 12 to 36 months, raising the risk of long Covid with each repeat infection.

Some large studies in Denmark, England, and the US show 20-30% of people who tested positive for Covid -19 experienced at least one post-acute symptom, up to 12 months after infection. Symptoms included loss of smell and taste, fatigue, shortness of breath, reduced limb strength, concentration difficulties, memory disturbance, sleep disturbance and mental or physical exhaustion.

In England, the prevalence of persistent symptoms was higher



A fan is swabbed at the Covid-19 testing site prior to attending the opening night game of the Tomlin UNITED Tour on March 29, 2022 in San Diego, Calif. Pic - Getty Images

in women and older people. Obesity, smoking or vaping, hospitalisation and deprivation were also associated with a higher probability of persistent symptoms. Those who were hospitalised with Covid in the UK showed even more severe outcomes.

In the US, younger survivors were at higher risk than people over 65 for heart-rhythm disturbances and musculo-skeletal pain. This is consistent with other observations that long Covid is not a disorder only of older age.

However, older survivors had a statistically significantly higher risk of developing certain conditions, including kidney failure, clotting disorders, cerebrovascular disease (stroke), type 2 diabetes, muscle disorders and a variety of neurologic and psychiatric conditions.

A US study involving more than five million people shows the risk of long Covid increases with the number of reinfections. But vaccination consistently reduces the risk of long Covid as well as severe disease, hospitalisation, ICU and death.

The century-old lesson we’re yet to apply

There are lessons from the 1918-19 influenza pandemic that we need to bring back into our

repertoire, not for a month or two but for the long term.

Japan adopted mask wearing as a key public-health element on a short list of available measures. As science writer Laura Spinney notes in her excellent 2017 coverage of the flu pandemic’s history, it “probably marked the beginning of the practice of mask wearing to protect others from one’s own germs”.

In Japan, mask use was compulsory for some, such as the police. In some towns, people were not permitted on public transport or allowed to enter a theatre without a mask. Japan had the lowest death rate of all Asian countries in the flu pandemic and is looking to be close to the lowest cumulative mortality in the OECD for the Covid -19 pandemic.

During the 1918-19 pandemic, the US, unlike Europe, put considerable effort into public-health interventions, which reduced total mortality. San Francisco, St Louis, Milwaukee and Kansas City had the most effective interventions, reducing transmission rates by 30-50%.

In historian Geoffrey Rice’s Black November and Black Flu (together the most comprehensive coverage of the 1918-19

pandemic in Aotearoa), there are some photographs of people wearing masks and a reference to “gauze masks” for shopkeepers. However, there is little evidence to suggest mask wearing was widespread or encouraged in New Zealand.

The influential Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* reported daily death tolls during the 1918-19 flu pandemic until civil authorities asserted it was stirring up anxiety and forced it to stop. As Spinney notes, people could see the exodus of dead bodies from their neighbourhoods and the silence was provoking even more anxiety.

The pandemic and the silence conspired to confuse people about the efficacy of public-health measures and compliance dropped off even further. People drifted back to church and race meetings – and left masks at home. Public-health infrastructure collapsed.

Vaccines (not available a century ago) are almost all that stands between us and a similar collapse. We would remain stronger and healthier – and reduce the burden of long Covid – if we increased vaccination coverage and universally adopted Japanese-style regular mask use and physical distancing.

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Inflation is 2022's boogeyman. How can we address rising living costs, while helping bring it down?



Since its creation in 1999, the inflation rate in the euro zone has only exceeded 4 percent for a few months, on the eve of the Great Recession of 2008. Pic - Shutterstock

● Cont. from page 2

However, inflation pushes coffee from \$5 to \$6 a cup. By the end of the year, your same \$100 only buys you 16 cups of coffee. The face value of your money is the same but its real value (in terms of the number of coffees you can buy) has gone down. Your money is worth less now than a year ago.

This rise in costs hurts wage earners who have limited opportunity to renegotiate their wages. Inflation also hurts those on fixed incomes such as beneficiaries and superannuitants who only receive periodic adjustments.

Rising inflation hurts savers who find the real value of their savings going down if returns on savings don't keep up with inflation – which they currently aren't.

Inflation can benefit borrowers who have the same debt at the end of the year but the value of that debt is lower in real terms. Providing there is at least some inflation adjustment to their income, borrowers have to sacrifice less to

repay their debt.

While this sounds good, it's not. It encourages poor borrowing decisions and discourages savings.

The all-encompassing impact of inflation

In a progressive tax system, inflation hurts salary and wage earners who get pushed into higher tax brackets as they receive inflation adjustments to their pay.

Inflation can also cause issues at a national level.

If one country's inflation rate is higher than their trading partners then its currency falls in value. In the early 1970s, the NZ dollar was worth almost US\$1.50. Our higher inflation rates of the 70s and 80s saw it fall to around US\$0.50 by the mid 80s.

This drop in value limits what we can buy from overseas – things like life-saving drugs will become more expensive for us if we don't get inflation down and others do.

The causes of inflation can come from good intentions

Inflation is too much money chasing too few goods.

If central banks push more money into circulation, there is a real risk of inflation. A big increase in demand for goods from, for example, an increase in government spending can also trigger inflation. So can supply chain disruptions that reduce the goods available (meaning the same amount of money chasing fewer goods).

Unfortunately, all these triggers are currently in play as countries respond to a series of global crises.

The invasion of Ukraine and ongoing Covid-19 supply chain disruptions have reduced the goods available. Governments globally have boosted spending to support their economies. But this latter factor has been put on steroids by central banks being willing to purchase government debt.

Unintended consequences

The RBNZ bought billions of government bonds to keep interest rates low as part of its "large scale asset purchases" programme.

In New Zealand, the average money growth between 1995 and 2019 was about 8% per year. This accommodates a growing population, a growing economy and a little bit of inflation (a little bit is OK). In the last two years money supply has grown by around 30% per year.

Of course, it's easy to look back with the benefit of hindsight. Those who made the decisions at the time don't have that luxury. The RBNZ is now they are having to wind back their asset purchases and raise interest rates to rein in inflation. Some argue the RBNZ has been distracted and has dropped the ball on their key job and we are now facing the risk the inflation genie is out of the bottle.

Whether that criticism is justified or not, the RBNZ will now have to act decisively to reduce inflation. But getting inflation down is never painless.

Households with mortgages will find their weekly budgets squeezed as interest rates rise. Firms will face falling demand from consumers with less to spend. Job growth will dry up – though New Zealand is in the fortunate position of starting with very low unemployment.

Regardless, the RBNZ must do the job they got back in 1989 with the passing of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand Act. New Zealand's central bank is the only one that can control monetary conditions; it's the only one that can get inflation under control.

The same could be said for many of the countries facing growing inflation.

If central banks don't take decisive action, we could get a sharp reminder of just how bad inflation can be.

Stephen Hickson - Economics Lecturer and Director Business Taught Masters Programme, University of Canterbury

In the dusty streets of a large city lived a beggar procuring alms and rice daily from passers-by. Most of the days he was unable to obtain enough food for a meal, and coppers to buy some firewood to cook and keep him warm. At night, he slept under the sky with only a rag to cover him. His life was difficult, but he had grown used to it over so many years.

One day, the beggar heard the news that the emperor was coming to town for a rare visit. "I am sure the generous emperor will see the state I am in and grant me a generous gift. The richest of all men will bestow some sympathy and relief in a manner that would undoubtedly surpass the paltry alms of the regular citizens," he thought.

He made plans to get a seat along the route the Emperor will be traversing, so that the emperor would not miss to notice the beggar's misery. He gathered all his belongings and set his spot on the street on the night before the procession.

The Beggar and the Emperor

The royal caravan finally approached and stopped right in front of him around midday. While the beggar had expected no more than a little gift to support his life on the streets from the Emperor's servants, he was speechless when the cavalcade halted beside him, and the great ruler himself emerged in front of him.

The Emperor approached the beggar, shook the poor man's hand, touched him gently and said: "Tell me, kind sir, may I have a little gift of rice?"

For a moment, the beggar didn't understand what the Emperor had just said. The Emperor motioned to his bowl with some rice, urging him on. "Can you please spare some grains of rice?" the powerful man insisted.

The beggar could barely believe what was happening to him. He was expecting the great Emperor to ask him anything. He had only a handful of grains, but he



was being beseeched by he who had everything. The beggar slowly took the bowl into his hands and stared at the little rice left.

He knew he could not deny the Emperor's request by any means. He was barely able to hide his indignation but he reluctantly counted out five grains of rice

and dropped them into the hands of the Emperor.

The Emperor thanked him and shook his hand once more and went his way. Confused, hurt and angry, the beggar watched the caravan disappear into the dust and left him alone with nothing more than what he had before.

That night, while he was cleaning his rice for his dinner, he noticed something glinting in his bowl. He looked closer and a thrill shot through him when he dug put the tiny gold nugget out of his bowl.

The gold nugget was enough for him to buy him a few months off the street.

"There must be more of it" he thought and started to sift through the rice in search of more gold. He found four more pieces of gold nuggets inside his rice bowl.

As he stared down at the small fortune in his bowl, it dawned on him that there were five gold nuggets. One for each grain of rice he had offered the Emperor.

Sleep well, but not too well

Clocking seven or eight hours of shut eye a night seems to be sweet spot for heart health

Whether you like to burn the midnight oil to check emails or binge watch your favourite series, toss and turn or sleep until mid-morning, it seems the amount of sleep you get matters when it comes to your future vascular and heart health. Compared with people who slept for longer or shorter periods of time, those who reported sleeping seven or eight hours a night had significantly less evidence of stiffness in their arteries, indicating a lower chance of developing heart disease or suffering a stroke, according



to research presented at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session Together with World Congress of

Cardiology.

Even after accounting for other known risk factors for heart disease or stroke, people who slept less than six hours or more than eight hours a night had significantly greater odds of having plaque buildup in the walls of their carotid arteries -- a 54% and 39% increase, respectively -- compared with those who got seven or eight hours of shut eye. The study adds to mounting evidence that sleep patterns, similar to diet and exercise, may play a defining role in someone's cardiovascular risk.

"The message, based on our findings, is 'sleep well, but not too well.' Getting too little sleep appears bad for your health but too much seems to be harmful as well," said Evangelos Oikonomou, MD, consultant cardiologist and the study's

lead author. "Unlike other heart disease risk factors such as age or genetics, sleep habits can be adjusted, and even after taking into consideration the impact of established risk factors for atherosclerosis and cardiovascular diseases."

Researchers have uncovered a U-shaped pattern between sleep duration and early indicators of atherosclerosis, which underscores the need for a balanced sleep pattern, Oikonomou said. Intima media thickness and plaque buildup in the artery walls was greater in both the shorter and longer sleep duration groups as compared to normal sleep duration.

Researchers said that adopting a balanced sleep pattern of six to eight hours nightly may be just what the doctor ordered.

Overweight children are developing heart complications

The percentage of obese children and teens jumped from 19% pre-pandemic to 22%, according to a study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And the rate at which body mass index (BMI) increased doubled.

New research from the University of Georgia suggests that could spell bad news for children's cardiovascular systems both now and down the line.

Published in 'Pediatric Obesity', the study measured abdominal visceral fat levels and arterial stiffness in more than 600 children, adolescents and young adults. Visceral fat is the fat found in the abdomen that infiltrates vital organs. Arterial stiffness forces the cardiovascu-

lar system to work harder to pump blood throughout the body.

The researchers found significantly higher levels of visceral fat and arterial stiffness in the overweight youth, suggesting that abdominal fat likely contributes to cardiovascular problems in kids.

"The stiffer the artery, the faster blood is going to move through those blood vessels, and that can be detrimental and overstress our system," said Joseph Kindler, corresponding author of the study. "As these issues build up, unfortunately, it's sort of this game of dominoes. You tip one over, and the rest of the systems start being overtaxed. That's



when really pervasive health issues can occur."

Studies of cardiovascular risks in youth are limited, but researchers believe the negative changes to the cardiovascular system that lead to disease and heart attacks likely begin in childhood and adolescence.

The researchers used technology known as dual energy X-ray absorptiometry, or DXA, to measure levels of

body fat in the children.

"One really important take-home message is that arterial stiffness, which predisposes children to cardiovascular disease down the line, looks to be the most pronounced in individuals who have a high BMI," Kindler said.

Another concern is that children are increasingly being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, a condition previously only seen in adults. Being overweight is a big risk factor.

"It's a very pervasive, scary condition in youth, even more so than in adults," Kindler said. "Many body systems tend to degrade at a more accelerated rate if the disease occurs during the growing years than in adulthood. This disease attacks the brain, the kidneys, the bones, the liver. It really heightens the need for understanding ways we can prevent disease."



Could people breathe the air on Mars?

Oxygen is in the air we breathe here on Earth. Plants and some kinds of bacteria provide it for us.

But oxygen is not the only gas in the Earth's atmosphere. It's not even the most abundant. In fact, only 21% of our air is made up of oxygen. Almost all the rest is nitrogen -- about 78%.

Now you might be wondering: If there's more nitrogen in the air, why do we breathe oxygen?

Here's how it works: Technically, when you breathe in, you take in everything that's in the atmosphere. But your body uses only the oxygen; you get rid of the rest when you exhale.

The air on Mars

The Martian atmosphere is thin -- its volume is only 1% of the Earth's atmosphere. To put it another way, there's 99% less air on Mars than on Earth.

That's partly because Mars is about half the size of Earth. Its gravity isn't strong enough to keep atmospheric gases from

escaping into space.

And the most abundant gas in that thin air is carbon dioxide. For people on Earth, that's a poisonous gas at high concentrations. Fortunately, it makes up far less than 1% of our atmosphere. But on Mars, carbon dioxide is 96% of the air!

Meanwhile, Mars has almost no oxygen; it's only one-tenth of one percent of the air, not nearly enough for humans to survive.

If you tried to breathe on the surface of Mars without a spacesuit supplying your oxygen -- bad idea -- you would die in an instant. You would suffocate, and because of the low atmospheric pressure, your blood would boil, both at about the same time.

Life without oxygen

So far, researchers have not found any evidence of life on Mars. But the search is just beginning; our robotic probes have barely scratched the surface.

Without question, Mars is an extreme



An artist's concept of an astronaut walking on Mars. But what would happen if the astronaut weren't wearing a space helmet? cokada/E+ via Getty Images

environment. And it's not just the air. Very little liquid water is on the Martian surface. Temperatures are incredibly cold -- at night, it's more than -100 degrees Fahrenheit (-73 degrees Celsius).

But plenty of organisms on Earth survive extreme environments. Life has been found in the Antarctic ice, at the bottom of the ocean and miles below the Earth's surface. Many of those places have extremely hot or cold temperatures, almost no water and little to no oxygen.

And even if life no longer exists on Mars, maybe it did billions of years ago, when it had a thicker atmosphere, more oxygen, warmer temperatures and significant amounts of liquid water on the surface.

That's one of the goals of NASA's Mars Perseverance rover mission -- to look for signs of ancient Martian life. That's why

Perseverance is searching within the Martian rocks for fossils of organisms that once lived -- most likely, primitive life, like Martian microbes.

Do-it-yourself oxygen

Among the seven instruments on board the Perseverance rover is MOXIE, an incredible device that takes carbon dioxide out of the Martian atmosphere and turns it into oxygen.

If MOXIE works the way that scientists hope it will, future astronauts will not only make their own oxygen; they could use it as a component in the rocket fuel they'll need to fly back to Earth. The more oxygen people are able to make on Mars, the less they'll need to bring from Earth -- and the easier it becomes for visitors to go there. But even with "homegrown" oxygen, astronauts will still need a spacesuit.

Right now, NASA is working on the new technologies needed to send humans to Mars. That could happen in the next decade, perhaps sometime during the late 2030s. By then, you'll be an adult -- and maybe one of the first to take a step on Mars.

Phylindia Gant & Amy J. Williams
University of Florida



The Duck With One Leg

This is an old story from my school days.

A hunter had a cook who would make delicious dishes from all game he brought in.

One day the cook was preparing to cook a crane...a duck which normally stands to fish in river banks.

His friend came and was captivated by the delicious roast duck...and demanded that the cook give him one leg piece. After much resistance the cook relented and gave him the desired duck leg.

But when his master saw one leg missing from his favourite duck, he was obviously furious and demanded explanation from the cook.

Cook: "Master...but these cranes only have ONE LEG!"

Master: "Are you crazy?! Trying to fool me?! You must have eaten the other leg!"

Cook: "No sir! If you come with me to the river tomorrow, I will prove it to you."

Next day both of them went early morning to the river bank. There the cook pointed out all the cranes standing on SINGLE LEG!

Master: "You rascal! Trying to be funny with me?! Wait...I will show you." And he shouted: "Shoooo!"

Immediately the cranes put down their other leg and flew away.

The master turned triumphantly to his cook: "See!"

The cook was indeed clever. He calmly replied: "Master, why didn't you shout this SHOOO to that crane on your table? He would have also put out its hidden leg?!"

A man is stranded in the desert with nothing but a camel

As the days drag on, all alone with no sign of civilization in sight, the man becomes increasingly lonely. One day, the feeling is so strong that he loses his better judgement and decides to make love to his camel.

So, the man positions himself behind the camel. Then, just as he's about to do the deed, the camel takes a step forward and the man falls, face first, into the sand. Ashamed, the man continues his journey, ever keeping an eye out for towns or cities on the horizon.

After a few more days, the man is feeling lonely once again and, against his better judgment, decides that he will try again to make love to his camel.

Once again, the stubborn creature steps forward at the least opportune moment, leaving the man lying face-first in the sand.

This goes on for a week, leaving him embarrassed and ashamed.

One day, just as he is about to make his fifth attempt, he hears a woman screaming off in the distance. He rushes towards the sound and discovers a woman buried in the sand, with only her head visible. She has silky, blonde hair and big, chocolate eyes and after weeks of isolation, the man thought that she was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen.

"Help me! I've been trapped here for hours," she says.



The man hurries himself digging and pulling until he has completely freed the woman from the sand. Brushing the sand off of her body seductively, she smiles at the man. "Thank you so much!" she says. You saved my life and I insist on repaying you. I'll do anything you want, absolutely anything, just ask."

The man smiles excitedly. It seemed too good to be true, it was the moment he had dreamed of for weeks.

"Well if you mean anything," he says nervously, "can you hold my camel?"

A son was arguing with his dad, insisting that 1+1 equals 11

The father then looked at his son's eyes and said: 'Right, then go and buy 2 popsicles!'

His son then goes and buys 2 popsicles.

Then, his dad said: 'Now give me one and the other to your brother!'

Son asks: 'What about mine?'

Father answers: 'You can have the other nine left over stubborn kid!'

Cunning Wife

Wife: Listen, shall we go to the circus?

Husband: No... I'm busy.

Wife: It seems there's a girl riding on a lion without clothes!

Husband: You have become very stubborn. Okay, let's go. Anyway, I've not seen a Lion for a long time!

The rest of the story ...

Husband & wife went to the circus. Husband even bought front row seats.

Lion show started... and also got over. But no girl without clothes. Soon, the entire circus show was over...

Husband: You told me there is a show where a girl comes without clothes?

Wife: I said a lion without clothes, not girl.

Ram fell in love with a beautiful white woman

Once upon a time, there was a young Indian man named Ram who fell in love with a beautiful white woman. Although his parents did not approve, he stubbornly married the woman and brought her to live in the home he shared with his parents.

The next day, Ram's mother, named Sita, made breakfast for the whole family. She lovingly made lunch for her husband and son to take to work. The white woman, however, stayed in bed long after the two men went off to work. When she finally came out of her room, Sita was shocked to see the white woman completely naked!

"Why aren't you wearing clothes?!" asked Sita.

"This is my birthday suit. I was born in this suit, and this is the suit that I shall wear at home."

Sita tried to explain that the woman couldn't just walk around the house naked. What would Ram's father think?! The white woman ignored her requests.

Later that evening, Sita spoke imploringly to her son. "Ram, your wife is walking around in her birthday suit... These white people...!"

"I don't mind," said Ram, laughing. "I like it."

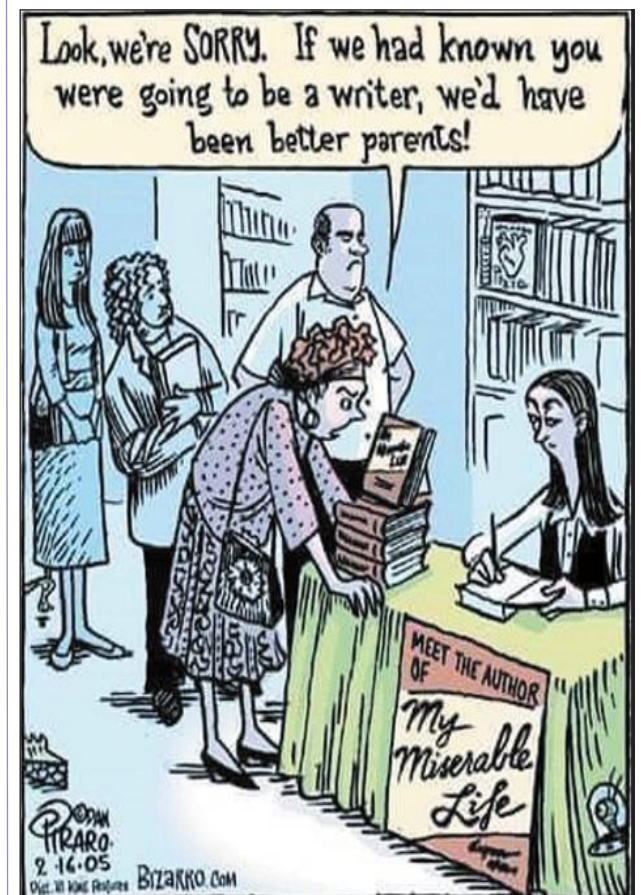
Shocked, Sita went to her own husband and explained the problem to him. "Sita, she is making her husband happy. She should try to keep him pleased with her," said Ram's father.

Over the next few days, Sita watched as her daughter-in-law walked around the house in comfort, and suddenly her own sari seemed like a burden to wear. She also noticed that her son couldn't keep his hands off his wife. Despite doing no housework at all, this white woman's birthday suit was keeping her husband very happy.

Sita decided to embrace her daughter-in-law's ways. The following day, her husband found her reclining peacefully on the couch, absolutely naked.

"What do you think? I'm in my birthday suit," she said, smiling.

"Sita, at least you should have ironed it!"



Life Stories

Sudha Murthy and JRD Tata

It was April of 1974. I was the only girl in my postgraduate department and was staying at the ladies' hostel. I was looking forward to going abroad to complete a doctorate in computer science. I had been offered scholarships from universities in the US. I had not thought of taking up a job in India.

While on the way to my hostel from our lecture-hall complex, I saw an advertisement on the notice board. It was a standard job requirement notice from the automobile company Telco (Tata Motors).

It stated that the company required young, bright engineers, hardworking and with an excellent academic background, etc. At the bottom was a small line: Lady candidates need not apply.

I read it and was very upset. For the first time in my life, I was up against gender discrimination. Though I was not keen on taking up the job, I saw it as a challenge.

After reading the notice I went fuming to my room. I got a postcard and started to write, but there was a problem: I did not know who headed Telco. I knew JRD Tata was the head of the Tata Group; I had seen his pictures in newspapers (actually, Sumant Moolgaokar was the company's chairman then). I took the card, addressed it to JRD and started writing.

To this day I remember clearly what I wrote.

"The great Tatas have always been pioneers. They are the people who started the basic infrastructure industries in India, such as iron and steel, chemicals, textiles and locomotives; they have cared for higher education in India since 1900 and they were responsible for the establishment of the Indian Institute of Science. Fortunately, I studied there. But I am surprised how a company such as Telco is discriminating on the basis of gender."

I posted the letter and forgot about it.

Less than 10 days later, I received a telegram stating that I had to appear for an interview at Telco's Pune facility at the company's expense.

I was taken back by the telegram. My hostel mate told me I should use the opportunity to go to Pune free of cost and buy them the famous Pune saris for cheap! I collected Rs 30 each from everyone who wanted a sari. When I look back, I feel like laughing at the reasons for my going.

It was my first visit to Pune, and I immediately fell in love with the city. The place changed my life in so many ways.

As directed, I went to Telco's Pimpri office for the interview. There were six people on the panel, and I realized then that this was serious business.

This is the girl who wrote to JRD. I heard somebody whisper as soon as I entered the room.

By then I knew for sure that I would not get the job. The realization abolished all fear from my mind, so I was rather cool while the interview was being conducted.

The panel asked me technical questions and I answered all of them.

Then an elderly gentleman with an affectionate voice told me. 'Do you know why we said lady candidates need not apply? The reason is that we have never employed any ladies on the shop floor. This is not a factory. When it comes to academics, you are a first ranker throughout. We appreciate that, but people like you should work in research laboratories.'

I did not know the ways of large corporate houses, so I answered... 'But you must start somewhere, otherwise no woman will ever be able to work in your factories.'

Finally, after a long interview, I was told I had been successful. So, this was what the future had in store for me. Never had I thought I would take up a job in Pune. Later I met a shy young man from Karnataka there, we became good friends and we got married.

It was only after joining Telco that I realized who JRD was the uncrowned king of Indian industry. Now I was scared, but I did not get to meet him till I was transferred to Bombay.

One day I had to show some reports to Mr Moolgaokar, our chairman. I was in his office on the first floor of Bombay House, the Tata headquarters, when JRD walked in.

That was the first time I saw 'JRD'. I was feeling very nervous, remembering my postcard episode. Someone introduced me - 'This young woman is an engineer, and she is the first woman to work on the Telco shop floor.'

JRD looked at me.

I was praying he would not ask me any questions about my interview or the postcard that preceded it. Thankfully, he didn't.

Instead, he remarked: 'It is nice that girls are getting into engineering in our country. By the way, what is your name?'

'When I joined Telco, I was Sudha Kulkarni, Sir. Now I am Sudha Murthy.'

He smiled and started a discussion with SM. As for me, I almost ran out of the room.

After that I used to see JRD on and off. He was the Tata Group chairman, and I was merely an engineer. We had nothing in common.

One day I was waiting for Murthy,



my husband, to pick me up after office hours. To my surprise I saw JRD standing next to me. I did not know how to react.

'Young lady, why are you here?' he asked. 'Office time is over.'

I said, 'Sir, I'm waiting for my husband to come and pick me up.'

JRD said, 'It is getting dark and there's no one in the corridor. I'll wait with you till your husband comes.'

I was quite used to waiting for Murthy but having JRD waiting alongside made me extremely uncomfortable. I was nervous.!

Out of the corner of my eye I looked at him. He wore a simple white paint and shirt. He was old, yet his face was glowing. There wasn't any air of superiority about him.

I was thinking. Look at this person. He is a chairman, a well-respected man in our country and he is waiting for the sake of an ordinary employee.

Then I saw Murthy and I rushed out...

JRD called and said, 'Young lady, tell your husband never to make his wife wait again.'

In 1982 I had to resign from my job at Telco. When I was coming down the steps of Bombay House after wrapping up my final settlement when I saw JRD coming up. I wanted to say goodbye to him, so I stopped. He saw me and paused...

Gently, he said, 'So what are you doing, Mrs Kulkarni?'

'Sir, I am leaving Telco.'

'Where are you going?' he asked.

'Pune, Sir. My husband is starting a company called Infosys and I'm shifting to Pune.'

'Oh! And what will you do when you are successful.'

'Sir, I don't know whether we will be successful.'

Never start with diffidence, he advised me. 'Always start with confidence. When you are successful you must give back to society. Society gives us so much; we must reciprocate. Wish you all the best.'

Then JRD continued walking up the stairs.

I stood there for what seemed like a millennium.

Sudha Murthy

Wife of cofounder of Infosys,
Narayana Murthy

The Power of Silence

Once a farmer lost his precious watch while working in his barn. It may have appeared as an ordinary watch to others, but had a deep sentimental value for him.

After searching high and low among the hay for a long time, the old farmer got exhausted. The tired farmer did not want to give up the search for his watch and requested a group of children playing outside the barn for help. He promised an attractive reward for the person who would find his beloved watch.



The children hurried inside the barn and went through and round the entire stack of hay to find the watch. After a long time looking for a watch in the hay, some of the children got tired and gave up. The number of children slowly decreased and only a few were left. The farmer gave up all hope to find the watch and called off the search.

Just when the farmer was closing the door, a little boy came up to him and requested the farmer to give him another chance. The farmer let the little boy in the barn.

After a little while the little boy came out with the watch in his hand. The farmer was happily surprised and asked how the boy succeeded to get the watch while everyone had failed.

The boy replied "I just sat there tried listening to the ticking of the watch. In silence, it was much easier to listen to it and direct the search in the direction of the sound."

The farmer was delighted to get the watch and rewarded the little boy as promised.

Moral: A peaceful mind can think better than a worked-up mind. Once in a while allow a few minutes of silence to yourself. Sometimes all you need is to do is relax and listen.

That's Life

Gender bias

I sent 100 applications as a man and a woman. It's MUCH better being a woman

So, I did an experiment, I work in CS and decided to test what the gender bias is. So, I took my CV and changed the name to a female name. I'd send it out with my real name, then a few days later (or few days before) with a female name.

Out of 100, my applications with a male name got 7 responses for an interview.

Out of 100, my applications with a female name got 45 responses

The female resume was 650% more likely to get a callback. And the resumes were identical.

So, then I thought "What about someone looking for working class jobs?" So, I decided to focus on restaurants - servers, hosting, etc. Made a fake resume and responded to craigslist ads with both male and female names. Sometimes the male went first, sometimes the female went first.

Out of 100, my applications with a male name got 10 responses.

Out of 100, my applications with a female name got 87 responses.

The female resume got 870% more responses.



Relationships

Pieces of advice that changed my life!

Often, someone gives you a piece of advice, very solemnly, that completely changes your outlook on life. These pieces of advice may come to you suddenly that will change your perception, your thought process and your decision-making skills. The simplest words can have such a deep impact on your life. If you come across any such piece of advice, make sure you abide by it. Here are some pieces of advice that have the power to completely turn around your life, as it did, to mine.

“Just start it”

Don't delay your ideas by thinking about the necessities you need to start your business or the next big idea. Just start somehow and get going; don't let endless obstacles come in your way.

“It's alright if it takes a second time”

Second chances can be very relaxing. Learn to accept failure if your first time wasn't a success. Giving yourself a second chance can be a very good decision because sometimes, failing can be burdensome and heart-breaking.

“Have a job that's interesting, but not only for the money”

Money is an essential part of everyone's life. However, don't just go for a job only because it pays you well, but do something that you have an interest in, or else, later down the road, you may feel burnt out and frustrated.

“Forgive and let go”

When you have built-up anger and resentment inside of you, you are allowing yourself the opportunity to continue living in frustration. When you forgive someone for their mistakes, you can let go and move on, without any bitter feelings.

“You never stop growing as a person”

Growth is imminent. You keep growing as a person with your words and actions. If you are kind, brave and strong, you allow yourself to experience opportunities and chances that make you a better person.

“Treat people the way you want to be treated”

You definitely want people to treat you with dignity, respect and kindness. Always project the same treatment towards others. If you are selfish, rude, and unkind, don't expect others to be good to you.

Being Mum & Dad

How parents can raise kind-hearted kids

While most parents push their children to achieve excellence, to do well in academics and life in general, it is also important that parents aim towards raising tender-hearted children. To do that, here are some things to keep in mind, as listed by TOI.

When you're trying to raise your child to be a kind soul, building emotional intelligence in them is of utmost importance. (Emotional intelligence has to do with the ability to understand, use, and manage one's own emotions in positive ways so as to relieve stress, communicate efficiently, empathize with others, overcome problems and resolve issues.) Doing so will not only make kids understand how they feel about certain situations but will also make them knowledgeable about what others are feeling. This way they will know how to effectively control their own emotions as per the situation.

Raising emotionally intelligent kids is therefore very important when you're also looking forward to raising kind kids.

Build a kind environment

In order to raise kind children, it is crucial that parents create an environment that is warm and affable. Children develop most of their traits from their surroundings, which is why parents must set good examples and be good role models.

Make sure that you practice kindness along with your child. Do not be rude to people and then expect children to do the opposite of it. They'll do what they see and witness. That said, to avoid that, be good to people, use positive language and gestures. Indulge in positive role-playing activities and create fictitious scenarios asking children how they'll



react in the situation. Help them differentiate between the right and wrong and guide them through the process.

Recognize acts of kindness and celebrate it

If you notice your child being nice to someone, helping someone out through tough times, make sure to acknowledge it and support it. This only encourages them to do more deeds of goodness. The positive feedback you give will only warm their hearts further, pushing them to be kinder and more giving in the future.

Simultaneously, do not let unkind language and gestures slide by. Bring them to your child's notice, do not punish or yell at them, but let them know why it's wrong. Although,

this might not change them immediately, but it will make them more aware of what they did wrong.

Help children control destructive feelings

Most importantly, it is important to know what your child is going through. Being kind has a lot to do with the person's own state of mind, how he or she is being treated by others. Communicate with your child regularly and identify the red flags.

If your child is dealing with destructive feelings, help them deal with them. Ask them to open up to you and provide support. Do not tell them “It'll pass.” Rather let them know you're always there for them. The love and care may have a long-term positive effect in their life, giving them hope and assurance.

Annual Delegates Meeting of Mauritius Trade Union Congress

The Annual Delegates Meeting of Mauritius Trade Union Congress will be held on Saturday 27 August 2022 at 10.00 am at the seat of MTUC, at GRNW, Port-Louis.

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of last ADM.
2. Matters Arising.
3. President's Report.
4. Executive Secretary's Report.
5. Finance.
6. Motions/ Amendments to Rules (if any).
7. Election of Bureau Members/ Reshuffling (if any).
8. AOB.

Dr M.P. ODI

General Secretary

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Sriti Jha: 'I might come across as an intelligent person but I am very fickle-minded'

Recently, Sriti Jha exited popular show *Kumkum Bhagya*, which she was a part of for five long years. She is currently seen shooting for *Khatron Ke Khiladi 12* in Cape Town, South Africa. Meanwhile, Sriti had performed at a spoken word festival which became a topic of discussion on social media. Her poem titled 'Confessions of a romantic asexual' at The Spoken Fest in Mumbai went viral and left many wondering if it was based on her personal experience. The actress felt that people might have misunderstood, as it was written in first person. She said that it was a very cathartic experience, but the poem on asexuality was not about her.

Sriti was quoted by Indian Express as saying, "I have written poems about the LGBTQ community and I understand that because it was written in first person, many felt it was about me. I have written a couple of more poems and that's when a poet Daniyal told me that I may be taking the voice away from the people and their important stories by putting them in the first person. The poem comforted me in many ways because I have gone through a phase when I felt I wasn't understood and felt the pressure of being cool like others. I think it was very cathartic to me but no, the poem is not about me."

When asked if she lost out on eligible dating



prospects because of what people thought about her sexual orientation, she laughed and said, "Not really" and added that if people were so judgmental then it was good riddance.

Sriti comes across as an intelligent person and when asked if that intimidates people, she called herself a very fickle-minded person.

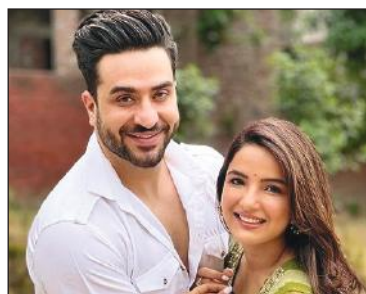
She said, "I might come across as an intelligent person but I am very fickle-minded. There isn't enough depth of substance. Also, I think there are enough interesting people. And we should be approaching others as humans and not with too many expectations. What we all seek is kindness and a sense of humour."

Jasmin Bhasin says she waited for Aly Goni for 3 years

Jasmin Bhasin has been in the news lately more for personal reasons. She has been in relationship with *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein* actor Aly Goni. A couple of months ago, she had shot for a bridal shoot and that sparked secret wedding rumours. However, the actress clarified that she isn't married.

In an interaction with Bollywood Bubble, she clarified about wedding rumours and even spoke about love.

She was quoted by the entertainment portal as saying, "You know what, I think *meri joh*



actual cheese hoti hain news se jyada rumours jyada interesting hoti hai. Kyunki everybody believes in them."

Jasmin also clarified that she is not getting married and she has lot of time for that, as she

has to do a lot of work.

She said, "*Aaj kal rahi hai ki mein shaadi kar rahi hu... nahin yaar nahin kar rahi hu mein... bohot time hai... mujhe bohot kaam karna hai abhi.*"

When asked if she is an old school romantic, she said yes and added that she waited for Aly for three years. Can she wait for five more years? she said that she can do that as well.

"Yes, I am an 'old school' romantic person. I waited for Aly for three years. We were friends and I obviously had feelings for him."

Dheeraj Dhoopar and Surbhi Chandna to star in 'Sherdil Shergill'?

Dheeraj Dhoopar was a part of the most popular daily soap *'Kundali Bhagya'*, and starred opposite Shraddha Arya. The actor's chemistry with Shraddha Arya made them the most popular on-screen couple. Now, after five long years, Dheeraj has bid a final goodbye to the show as the actor wishes to explore other opportunities.

According to a ETimes TV report, Dheeraj is all set to star in Saurabh Tewari's next show titled *'Sherdil Shergill'* (SS). Actress Surbhi Chandna has apparently been roped in to play the female lead in this show. Sources close to the show say that SS is a rom-com revolving

around two individuals from different backgrounds and ideologies. While Dheeraj is the privileged one, Surbhi will play a self-made woman. It will be interesting to see how their paths cross and eventually fall in love.

In an interview with Etimes, the actor opened up about quitting *Kundali Bhagya*. "I still can't believe that I am no longer a part of *Kundali Bhagya*. The feeling is yet to sink in. Karan and Dheeraj are alike and hence, there is no way that I can be separated from Karan. I am bidding adieu to KB with a heavy heart but as I said, the time is opportune to embark on a new journey both for the show and me."



On the professional front, Surbhi Chandna was seen in the popular TV show *Naagin 5* opposite Sharad Malhotra, with whom she also appeared in a music video. Apart from these, she had replaced new mom Bharti Singh for the time being to host *Hunarbaaz: Desh Ki Shaan* as she was on a break from work to take care of her newborn baby boy.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You just need to be cautious on the family front. There are chances of conflicts between you and your relatives, so try to be calm and patient till your stars turn favourable. Your love life may rock and give you plenty of reasons to smile and celebrate.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 14, 18, 19, 20, 33

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Some may be really interested in serious investments and go for property inspection. Day does not seem good on the love front. You need to put efforts to recharge fading romance. Don't let your temporary irritation make a permanent damage to your love life.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 17, 20, 24, 25, 30

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You may get chance to shine on the professional front as stars are favouring your professional success. It's a good idea to sort out all pending issues at work. You may have to attend a social event with your loved ones this coming week, but it may not interest you and bore you. Love is in the air for some.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 14, 15, 16, 20

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your stable financial condition may allow you to add capital to your business and hire a marketing team to grow your business and reach target audience. This is a moderate day and you may plan a day out or watching a romantic movie with your beloved.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 7, 14, 23, 29, 31

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Success is foreseen for some on the work front. Someone may inspire you and make you join a professional course that may prove beneficial for your career growth. Things are going great and you may have a wonderful time with your beloved.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 10, 16, 18, 20

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

This is not the suitable time to discuss some issues with your beloved or spouse. If you want to do so, you need to be patient. Some may also reap the benefit of past investments. Avoid expressing your opinions on something you feel wrong as it may give the wrong idea to your partner.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 18, 20, 31, 32, 34

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Gemini, you have been working hard to improve your financial condition for a long time and now you can celebrate your success and financial stability. Some may get promoted to higher positions. It can be a wonderful day for love birds too. You may be in the mood to take your relationship seriously.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 15, 26, 27, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Day seems to be moderate and you may be busy enjoying activities that interest you the most. Some may meet new people or make new friends. Some may work hard to achieve professional goals. Day seems very good for newlywed couples.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 20, 22, 30, 31

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Your higher level of positivity and activity may inspire people around you. Some foreseen circumstances and may get you huge business profit. Time is favourable to propose to someone for marriage.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 13, 20, 24, 25, 30

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Your stable financial condition may allow you to bear sudden expenses associated with a health emergency. Those who are single may meet the person of their dreams. Those who used to believe in short term relationships may crave for long term relationships or true love.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 15, 30, 36, 40

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Family members may support your decision to start something new. Nothing complicated is foreseen on the financial front, but you should avoid taking any big risks. Bitterness from the past may not let you enter into new phase of life and you may miss good things that are coming.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 15, 17, 24, 30

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Your past investments may reap you rewards and keep your bank balance brimming. Romantic encounters or a romantic trip is indicated for some. You may make efforts to form a strong bond with your beloved and it may impress your partner too.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 12, 19, 21, 24, 30

BollyBytes



Sangram has no problem with Payal keeping her maiden name

TV actress Payal Rohatgi and wrestler Sangram Singh tied the knot on July 9 in Agra. Sangram decided to break certain societal norms and said that he believes in equality and will never ask Payal to change her surname.

"That's her identity and her choice. Marriage does not make a woman subservient to man."

He also shared that he took just one Rupee as a token in marriage.

"I am totally against dowry. It troubles me when boys demand money, gifts and cars from the bride's family. In my marriage I have taken only one Rupee."

"Parents spend so much in bringing up their children and then to ask them for dowry is totally wrong. I am not taking anything from my parents, even for wedding expenses. We are doing it all by ourselves."

"That's how it should be. I would request people following me to follow this example," he said.

Payal and Sangram met while shooting for the reality show, 'Survivor India' in 2011 and fell in love. They got engaged in February 2014.

Janhvi Kapoor improves Bihari diction for 'Good Luck Jerry'

Janhvi Kapoor says that she trained extensively for Bihari diction for her upcoming film 'Good Luck Jerry'.

Revolving around the life of a young girl, Jerry, the movie comically puts together her struggles as she goes above and beyond to save her ailing mother. But her path remains riddled with twists and turns in this journey bringing hilarious moments of chaos and comedy.

The film stars Janhvi as the docile yet gritty character along with a terrific ensemble including Deepak Dobriyal, Mita Vashisht, Neeraj Sood and Sushant Singh.

Janhvi helms the role of Jerry, an ordinary girl from a small town in India, it was important to grasp the dialect for this role of the town she represented.

Commenting on her diction for the film, Janhvi said: "I trained extensively. We had a few coaches namely Ganesh Sir & Mr Vinod. We attended a workshop and listened to all those songs, he even made me do an exercise wherein he would make me say Bihari abuses as a part of the training."



"The whole process was a lot of fun eventually. I am so thankful about getting to know the syntax of that section of our country."

Vicky Kaushal's latest picture shows 'infinite' love for Katrina



Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal has shared a romantic picture with his actress wife Katrina Kaif, who recently turned 39.

The star couple are currently in the Maldives with friends and family members as they celebrated Katrina's 39th birthday.

Vicky took to Instagram, where he shared a picture featuring him and Katrina. In the image, the two are looking at each other and laughing on a yacht.

The actor captioned it with an infinity sign in the caption.

Vicky and Katrina's friends could not stop gushing about the picture.

Speaking about work, Katrina has Salman Khan starrer-'Tiger 3' and 'Merry Christmas' with Vijay Sethupathi. She also has the horror-comedy 'Phone Booth', featuring Ishaan Khatter and Siddhant Chaturvedi.

Vicky will next be seen in 'Sam Bahadur' and 'Govinda Naam Mera'.

Ranbir-Alia's 'Kesariya' full version sparks a meme fest



man who is known for his knack of writing unusual lyrics, his songs like 'Pardesi', 'Mast Magan', 'Babaji Ki Booti', 'Ullu Ka Pattha', 'Kalank Title Track and several others serve as testimony to his lyrical prowess and genius.

But this time the audience isn't too pleased with what Bhattacharya has doled out. As soon as the song hit the airwaves, it sparked a meme fest on Instagram and Twitter with many memers pointing out the visible difference before and after the mouthing of 'love storiya'.

'Brahmastra' directed by Ayan Mukerji, is set to drop in theatres on September 9, 2022.

India New England News

The makers of the Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt-starrer 'Brahmastra' heard the pleas of music lovers and released the full version of the 'Kesariya' song from the film recently. Earlier, only a part of the song was released in April ahead of the wedding of Alia and Ranbir.

However, the song has caught the netizens' attention for all the wrong reasons.

The listeners are perplexed at the use of the 'love storiya' phrase in the song, which sticks out like a sore thumb.

What compounds the audience's odd listening experience is the fact that the lines have been penned by none other than Amitabh Bhattacharya, the

Cinema Sirda
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SHAMSHERA
 (Ranbir Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt, Ronit Roy And Vaani Kapoor)

Friday	22/07/2022	-	20:15
Saturday	23/07/2022	-	13:15 / 20:15
Sunday	24/07/2022	-	13:15 / 16:15 / 20:15
Monday	25/07/2022	-	13:15 / 20:15
Tuesday	26/07/2022	-	13:15 / 20:15
Wednesday	27/07/2022	-	13:15 / 20:15
Thursday	28/07/2022	-	13:15 / 20:15

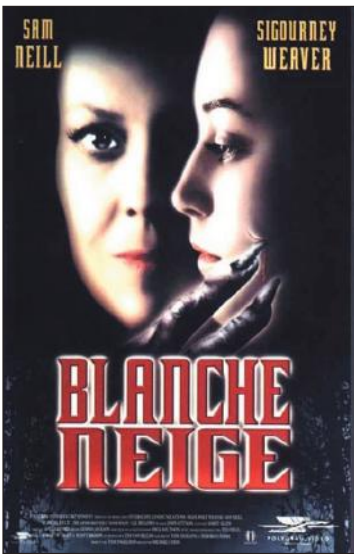
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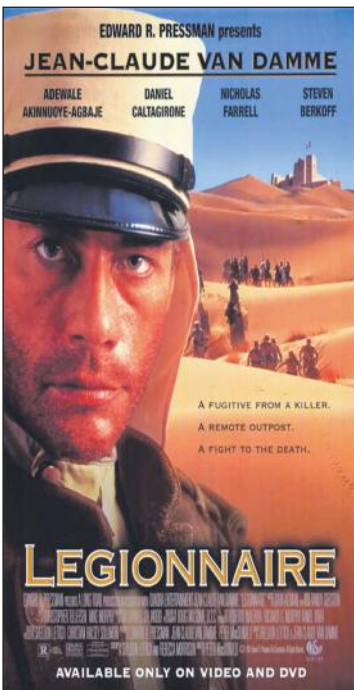
Motor car, car, Lorries



Vendredi 22 Juillet - 21.15



Samedi 23 Juillet - 21.00



Dimanche 24 Juillet - 21.52



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 22 juillet

samedi 23 juillet

dimanche 24 juillet

lundi 25 juillet

MBC 1

06.00 Local: Proze Dime
07.20 Local: Glwar Dantan
08.30 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
10.00 Mag: Radio Vision
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous...
11.30 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
14.07 Local: Generations J
14.35 D.Anime: Gon
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
15.34 D.Anime: Panda And Little...
15.47 D.Anime: Mondo Yan
17.05 Serial: Nowhere Boys
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.55 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Les Grands Noms...
21.06 Local: Come On Let's Dance
22.05 Serial: Billions
23.00 Le Journal

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Sila
11.24 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
12.00 Film: Nimir
14.01 Mag: DDI Mag
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.46 Serial: Bommarillu
16.13 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.38 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
16.52 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe...
17.14 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

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.51 Doc: Hotels
08.41 Doc: Castles
09.45 Doc: Sos Amazon
12.11 Mag: Border Crossing
13.59 Doc: Castles
15.02 Doc: Sos Amazon
16.56 Doc: Shift
17.06 Mag: Carnet De Sante
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.33 Doc: France Terres Sauvage
20.45 Doc: World Heritage
21.32 Doc: Volcano Stories
22.40 Doc: 175 Years Of Zeiss
23.22 Doc: The Dresden Legend
00.05 Mag: World Stories
00.17 Doc: World Famous Writers
00.20 Mag: Our Voices
00.46 Mag: Euromaxx
01.12 Doc: France Terre Sauvages
02.05 Doc: Paradise Lost

Cine 12

01.02 Film: Boundaries
03.27 Film: Crouching Tiger Hidden
05.18 Tele: Marimar
05.40 Tele: Rubi
06.41 Film: Boundaries
09.00 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
11.45 Film: Crouching Tiger Hidden
13.37 Tele: Marimar
14.50 Film: Boundaries
16.30 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
17.24 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.34 Serial: Oh Yuck!
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: The Magicians
21.15 Film: Blanche Neige
22.45 Tele: Marimar

Bollywood TV

05.44 Film: Vapi Saajan Ki
Star: Ashwini Bhawe, Reeta Bhaduri
09.55 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
10.23 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
10.53 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
11.24 / 22.00 - Agnihera
11.44 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
12.10 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Shankara
Starring: Sunny Deol, Neelam Kothari
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.28 Serial: Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi

06.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
07.43 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
07.57 D.Anime: Kid Lucky
08.22 D.Anime: Briko
08.41 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
08.56 D.Anime: PAF Le Chien
09.03 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
09.33 Mag: Kid's Planet
10.00 Local: Zanford Nou Zil
10.30 Serial: Oh Yuck!
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna...
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
15.34 D.Anime: Panda And Little...
15.47 D.Anime: Mondo Yan
17.15 Mag: Human Nature
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
21.10 Film: Legionnaire
23.00 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Kachha Chor
Starring Randhir Kapoor, Rekha Helen, Ranjeet Jagdeep
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.11 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare
12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.46 Serial: High School
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Film: Hote Hote Pyar Ho Gaya
Stars: Jackie Shroff, Kajol
17.38 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: Dum
Starring Vivek Oberoi, Diya Mirza

06.00 Doc: The Dresden Legend
06.42 Mag: World Stories
06.57 Mag: Our Vocies
07.25 Mag: Euromaxx
07.52 Doc: France Terres Sauvage
09.35 Doc: Volcano Stories
11.30 Doc: The Dresden Legend
12.13 Mag: World Stories
12.30 Live From Sunrise Hall
15.00 Student Support Prog...
18.08 Doc: Snapshots
18.34 Doc: Smoothie Mania
18.37 Mag: In Good Shape
19.00 Mag: Salad Area
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: World Heritage
20.50 Doc: Fabulous Design
21.42 Doc: Skuld
22.08 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
23.15 Doc: Sweet Magic
23.42 Doc: Smoothie Mania
23.44 Mag: In Good Shape

01.26 Film: Blanche Neige
02.58 Serial: Pure Genius
04.10 Serial: Under Pressure
04.35 Serial: Gone
05.17 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.02 Serial: The Magicians
07.28 Serial: Imposters
08.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue
09.13 Serial: Under Pressure
10.40 Film: Grace And Goliath
12.15 Serial: Pure Genius
13.30 Serial: S.W.A.T
15.00 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.20 Serial: The Magicians
17.03 Film: L'Amour A La Carte
18.36 Serial: Knight Rider
19.35 Serial: Oh Yuck!
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Series: The Magicians
21.15 Film: Lake Effects
22.45 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones

04.11 Mere Sai
04.55 Agnihera
05.16 Yeh Teri Galiyan
05.32 Patiala Babes
08.21 Yeh Teri Galiyan
09.42 Motu Patlu
09.53 Sasural Simar Ka 2
12.05 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.00 Serial: Anupamaa
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Kyo Kil... Main Jhuth Nahin Bolta
Starring Govinda, Shushmita Sen, Rambha
20.30 Serial: Namah
20.52 Serial: Naagin Season 3
21.31 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

06.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
07.25 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
07.58 D.Anime: Kid Lucky
08.25 D.Anime: Briko
10.00 Local: Zanford Nou Zil
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
12.00 Le Journal
12.36 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.21 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
15.21 D.Anime: The Hive
15.28 D. Anime: Panda And Little...
16.15 Film: Fireman Sam
17.21 Mag: Human Nature
17.45 Les Grands Noms Interna...
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Local Production: Les Klips
21.15 Film: L'Etranger
23.05 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Chitchor
11.03 Serial: Azhagu
11.24 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
11.45 Serial: Surya Puran
12.06 Film: Naseeb
15.00 Samachar
15.20 Mooga Manasulu
15.42 Serial: He Mann Baware
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
Starring: Bharathi, Badekilla, Pradeep, Naresh Eswar
16.30 Local: Yaadein
17.03 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.57 Serial: Porus
21.26 Serial: CID
22.07 Serial: Naagin Season 3
Starring: Mouni Roy, Arjun Bijlani, Adaa Khan, Karanvir Bohra

06.00 Doc: Sweet Magic
07.02 Mag: Salad Area
07.31 Mag: Check In
09.51 Doc: Skuld
10.38 Doc: Healthy Eyes
11.22 Doc: Sweet Magic
11.30 Doc: Snapshots
11.57 Doc: Smoothie Mania
12.26 Mag: The 77 Percent
14.10 Doc: World Heritage
14.15 Doc: Fabulous Design
15.07 Doc: Skuld
15.27 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
17.10 Mag: In Good Shape
19.11 Mag: The Inside Story
19.37 Mag: Japan Video Topics
20.30 Live: News (English)
20.50 Doc: World Heritage
21.42 Mag: Sky Eye
22.08 Doc: Asteroids
22.51 Doc: The Science Of Avalan..

01.28 Film: Lake Effects
02.58 Serial: Absentia
03.36 Film: Legionnaire
05.15 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.13 Serial: The Magicians
08.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme
09.11 Film: Lake Effects
10.40 Film: L'Amour A La Carte
12.15 Serial: Absentia
13.30 Serial: S.W.A.T
15.31 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.00 Serial: The Magicians
17.45 Serial: Absentia
18.30 Serial: L'Agence Tous Risque
19.36 Serial: Oh Yuck
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor
21.15 Serial: Scorpion
21.52 Film: 100 Streets
23.30 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones

00.05 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2
02.15 Bhakharwadi
04.04 Anupamaa
06.00 Pavitra Rishta
07.56 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
10.01 Kundali Bhagya
12.01 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
14.02 Agnihera
16.08 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Bhoonthath
Starring: A. Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Juhi Chawla, Satish Shah, Rajpal Yadav
20.40 Naagin Season 3
21.22 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
23.06 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
01.00 Kundali Bhagya
03.00 Agnihera

06.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits
07.00 D. Anime: Clip - Akili Family
07.55 D. Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute
09.00 Film: Dino Dana
10.15 Doc: Destinations
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.36 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.15 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
17.30 Serial: Nowhere Boys
17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Mere Sai
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
19.30 Le Journal
20.25 MBC Production
22.05 Film: La Poursuite Des Tuniques Bleues

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Kundali Bhagya
12.06 Film: Jurmana
Starring Rakhee Gulzar, Amitabh Bachchan, Shreeram Lagoo
15.00 Samachar
15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.47 Serial: Bommarillu
16.13 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.37 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
16.57 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe
17.16 Serial: Kullfi Kumarr...
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: Jaanu
Starring: Sharwanand Samantha, Ruth Prabhu

07.00 Mag: Saladeria
07.58 Doc: Paradis Perdue
08.44 Doc: World Heritage
09.41 Doc: Sky Eye
12.41 Mag: The Inside Story
14.19 Doc: World Heritage
15.16 Doc: Sky Eye
15.43 Doc: Asteroids
18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.33 Mag: In Good Shape
20.45 Doc: Castles
20.48 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
22.06 Mag: Global 3000
22.32 Mag: Washington Forum
23.00 Doc: Losing Sleep
23.40 Doc: Eco@Africa
00.08 Mag: The 77 Percent
00.34 Doc: Persons
00.37 Mag: Africa 54
01.07 Mag: In Good Shape

01.16 Film: 100 Streets
03.27 Film: Fast & Furious 7
05.39 Tele: Marimar
06.01 Tele: Rubi
06.25 Serial: The Good Doctor
07.06 Serial: Scorpion
07.45 Film: 119 Jours
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
11.31 Film: Fast & Furious 7
13.43 Tele: Marimar
14.07 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: 119 Jours
16.43 Serial: The Good Doctor
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.39 Serial: Oh Yuck
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: Imposters
21.15 Film: What The Night Can Do

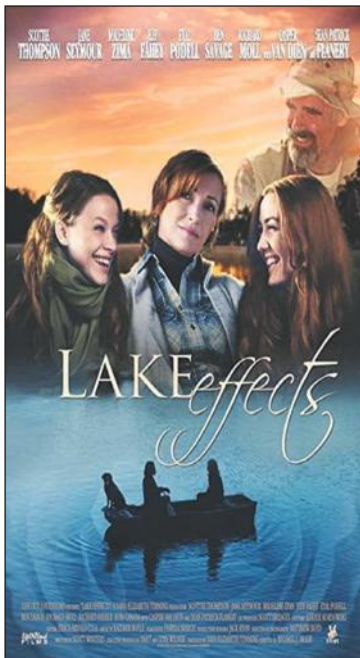
08.00 Taare Zameen Par
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.59 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.31 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.40 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.19 Film: Raiszaada
Starring: Govinda, Sonam, Shashi Kapoor...
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.31 Serial: Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2
20.30 Radha Krishna
21.06 Anupamaa



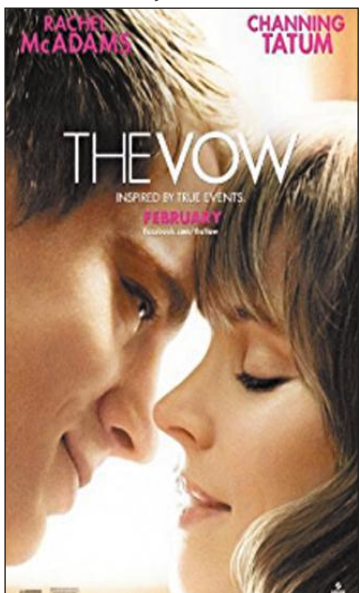
Mardi 26 Juillet - 21.10



Mercredi 27 juillet - 21.15



Jeudi 28 juillet - 21.15



Programme TV



mardi 26 juillet

MBC 1

- 06.00 Local: Rodrig
- 07.27 D.Anime: Pet Alien
- 09.05 Film: Boonie Bears
- 10.40 D.Anime: Kids' Planet
- 11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
- 11.32 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna...
- 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
- 14.35 D.Anime: Gon
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
- 15.35 Film: Bobby The Hedgehog
- 17.30 Serial: Nowhere Boys
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.15 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
- 21.55 Film: Amazing Grace

With: Ioan Gruffudd, Albert Finney, Michael Gambon

MBC 2

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Serial: CID
- 12.00 Film: Be Shaque
- Starring: Jalal Agha, Yogeeta Bali and Mithun Chakraborty
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.20 Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.43 Bommarillu
- 16.07 Sondha Bandham
- 16.33 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
- 16.49 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
- 17.08 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: Devata
- Star: Sanjeev Kumar, Shabana Azmi..

MBC 3

- 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 07.24 Mag: In Good Shape
- 07.53 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
- 09.46 Mag: Washington Forum
- 11.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 13.26 Doc: Global Drinks
- 14.47 Mag: Washington Forum
- 16.38 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
- 18.41 Mag: Red Carpet
- 19.03 Student Support Prog...
- 19.34 Doc: Heritage
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.45 Doc: Paradis Perdus
- 21.40 Mag: Euromaxx
- 22.10 Mag: Close Up
- 22.36 Local: Rodrig-Klip Seleksion
- 23.52 Mag: The Global Auto...
- 00.18 Mag: Healthy Living
- 00.48 Doc: Persons
- 00.51 Mag: Check In

Cine 12

- 01.32 Film: What The Night Can Do
- 03.04 Serial: S.W.A.T
- 03.46 Film: La Poursuite Des Tuniques Bleues
- 05.17 Tele: Marimar
- 05.44 Tele: Rubi
- 06.06 Serial: Imposters
- 07.00 Film: What The Night Can Do
- 09.47 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
- 10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
- 12.00 Film: La Poursuite Des...
- 13.36 Tele: Marimar
- 13.57 Tele: Rubi
- 14.45 Film: What The Night Can Do
- 16.31 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
- 17.20 Serial: Imposters
- 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
- 21.15 Film: Upgrade

Bollywood TV

- 06.50 Film: Raisaada
- Star Govinda, Sonam, Shashi Kapoor, Asha Parekh
- 11.28 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna
- 11.58 / 20.57 - Anupamaa
- 12.21 / 21.27 - Mere Sai
- 12.52 / 22.07 - Agniphera
- 13.20 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 13.46 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes
- 14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
- 15.00 / 22.25 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 15.28 Film: Shiva Ka Insaaf
- Star: Jackie Shroff, Poonam Dhillon, Shakti Kapoor
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
- 18.59 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..
- 20.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2

mercredi 27 juillet

- 07.00 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
- 07.40 D.Anime: Sabrina
- 08.09 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute
- 09.00 Film: Space Boy
- 10.50 Doc: Destinations
- 11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Love You
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
- 13.15 Local Production: Les Klips
- 14.10 Local: Priorite Sante
- 14.35 D.Anime: Gon
- 15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
- 15.35 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 3
- 17.30 Serial: Nowhere Boys
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 MBC Production: Theatre
- 19.00 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.30 MBC Production
- 22.20 Film: 100 Streets
- Star: Idris Elba, Gemma Arterton

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
- 12.00 Film: Ram Teri Ganga Maili
- Starring: R. Kapoor, Mandakini, D. Rana, Saeed Jaffrey
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.49 Bommarillu
- 16.07 Sondha Bandham
- 16.25 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
- 16.53 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
- 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: Thunder Of Gigantic Serpents
- Stars Pierre Kirby, Edowan Bersmea, Danny Raisebeck

- 06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...
- 06.41 Mag: Red Carpet
- 07.02 Mag: Check In
- 08.22 Doc: Castles
- 09.22 Mag: Euromaxx
- 14.04 Doc Paradis Perdus
- 17.46 Mag: Shift
- 18.07 Mag: Motorweek
- 18.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.35 Mag: The Inside Story
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.45 Doc: Castles
- 21.29 Les Montagnes Du Monde
- 22.23 Mag: Focus On Europe
- 23.32 Mag: Motorweek
- 00.12 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 00.39 Doc: Persons
- 00.43 Mag: Arts.21
- 01.08 Mag: The Inside Story
- 01.47 Doc: Castles
- 02.16 Doc: Les Montagnes Du...

- 01.22 Film: Upgrade
- 03.30 Film: Amazing Grace
- 05.36 Tele: Marimar
- 06.05 Serial: Rubi
- 07.11 Film: Armed Response
- 09.00 L'Agence Tous Risques
- 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
- 10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
- 11.41 Film: Amazing Grace
- 13.40 Tele: Marimar
- 14.45 Film: Armed Response
- 16.40 L'Agence Tous Risques
- 17.22 Serial: Imposters
- 18.09 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.37 Serial: Oh Yuck!
- 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
- 20.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme
- 21.15 Film: Lake Effects
- 22.45 Tele: Marimar

- 07.00 Film: Shiva Ka Insaaf
- 11.21 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
- 11.50 / 20.26 - Anupamaa
- 12.21 / 20.02 - Mere Sai
- 13.01 / 20.46 - Agniphera
- 13.30 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 14.00 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
- 14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
- 14.47 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 15.25 Film: Kasak
- Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Neelam Kothari, Chunky Pandey
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..
- 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 20.30 Radha Krishna
- 20.59 Anupamaa

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- 06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
- 06.45 Local: Coin Jardin
- 06.59 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
- 07.16 D.Anime: Pet Alien
- 08.05 D.Anime: P'tit
- 09.00 Film: Sissi
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
- 13.15 Local: Music Tour 2022
- 14.35 D.Anime: Gon
- 15.21 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
- 15.40 Film: Spark: A Space Tail
- 17.03 D.Anime: Cleopatra In Space
- 17.30 Serial: Nowhere Boys
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
- 20.20 Film: Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara
- Starring Hrithik Roshan, Abhay Deol

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
- 11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...
- 12.00 Film: Jab Jab Phool Khile
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
- 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
- 16.33 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
- 16.53 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
- 17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
- 17.40 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
- 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And..
- 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
- 18.32 Filler: Radha Krishna
- 20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 20.59 Local: Profil
- 21.14 Film: The Vow
- With Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum, Sam Neill

- 06.00 Mag: Motorweek
- 06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 06.52 Doc: Persons
- 08.17 Doc: Castles
- 10.23 Doc: The Forest Rescuers
- 11.35 Local: Vous Et Nous
- 12.34 Mag: The Inside Story
- 13.26 Doc: Castles
- 15.02 Mag: Focus On Europe
- 16.10 Mag: Motorweek
- 18.00 Mag: Eco India
- 18.29 Mag: Shift
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.30 Doc: Hotels
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.48 Doc: Castles
- 21.40 Doc: Les Grand Mythes
- 22.12 Doc: Our Friend The Atom
- 23.37 Mag: Eco India
- 00.03 Mag: Shift
- 00.15 Mag: Carnet De Sante

- 01.20 Film: Legionnaire
- 02.59 Serial: S.W.A.T
- 03.54 Film: Lake Effects
- 05.24 Tele: Marimar
- 05.48 Tele: Rubi
- 06.51 Film: Legionnaire
- 09.00 Serial: Deux Filcs A Miami
- 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
- 10.37 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
- 11.57 Film: Lake Effects
- 13.30 Tele: Marimar
- 14.45 Film: Legionnaire
- 16.35 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
- 17.21 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme
- 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.28 Serial: Oh Yuck!
- 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
- 20.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme
- 21.15 Serial: Knight Rider

- 07.00 Film: Kasak
- Starring Rishi Kapoor, Neelam Kothari, Chunky Pandey
- 11.20 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna
- 11.50 / 20.28 - Anupamaa
- 12.20 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
- 12.50 / 21.09 - Agniphera
- 13.19 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 13.45 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
- 14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
- 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 15.23 Film: Vijeta
- Starring Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon, Paresh Rawal
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 18.59 Udaariyaan
- 19.29 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..
- 20.02 Sasural Simar Ka 2



Jeudi 28 juillet - 15.30

Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon, Paresh Rawal



Jeudi 28 juillet - 20.20

Star: Hrithik Roshan, Abhay Deol, Farhan Akhtar, Katrina Kaif, Kalki Koechlin



Ghana's return to the IMF within three years underscores its deeper economic problems



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Ghana hasn't been able to withstand economic shocks or manage its debt because it hasn't dealt with structural economic problems.

Ghana is again seeking assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to enable the country to meet its payments to the rest of the world and restore the health of government finances. It is the second time in the past three years and 17th since independence in 1957 that Ghana has turned to the IMF for help.

The latest foray reverses the current administration's earlier stance that it would avoid approaching the multilateral body because of the conditions that come with its assistance. Ghana's finance minister Ken Ofori-Atta said in May 2022 that government was "confident in its homegrown solutions such as the e-levy in getting the economy to recover ... seeking a bailout from the IMF is not an option".

Ghana's approaches to the IMF, which have averaged every four years over the past 65 years, tell a story of recurrent failure of government to properly build the economy to withstand internal and external shocks. Ghana's lack of fiscal discipline, and its recent history of dependence on foreign financing – with as much as 48% of the total public debt being held by external investors – leaves the country vulnerable to swings in investor sentiment, and accompanying portfolio investment selloffs.

The request to IMF also underscores the fact that Ghana has much deeper structural economic problems. These require a multi-stakeholder approach to resolve. Unfortunately, the pervasive and deeply entrenched nature of the country's Fourth Republican clientelist politics which manifests in a 'winner take all' approach to governance has often distorted a much-needed national debate on what needs to be done and how it must be done.



Various political administrations have failed to prudently manage the economy. Pic- Getty Images

Ghana must fix the structural problems – such as its over-reliance on primary commodity exports – and live within its means. As we argue in an upcoming research project, there is a greater political leaning towards shorter-term goals of maintaining regime stability or forcing a change in the regime.

Ghana came out of the last IMF programme in 2019 with some significant macroeconomic gains.

It had been forced to tap IMF assistance to deal with global and local economic shocks - the same as now. These included the spillovers of the slowdown in China, the 2014-2017 commodities price slump, reckless spending in the lead up to often highly contested elections especially in 2012 and 2016, and a prolonged domestic electricity crisis known locally as 'dumsor'.

Ghana's current external shocks are related to the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine. Internally, the government has also recklessly managed its finances with excessive borrowing, resulting in a looming debt crisis. The country now spends about a third (27%) of its expenditures in just servicing debt alone, not including principal repayments. This is often more than the compensation of workers on the government payroll, estimated at 26% of total expenditure in 2022.

The depth of Ghana's mess

A review of recent economic data shows why it was inevitable that Ghana would seek IMF assistance.

Real GDP growth slowed from an average of 6.9% from 2017-2019 to 0.4% in 2020

during the pandemic but picked up to 4.7% in 2021. The November 2021 forecast of 5.6% real growth in GDP in 2022 is likely to be lower because of rising price pressures. This is mainly driven by food and refined petroleum products due to the Russia-Ukraine war and global supply chain bottlenecks. Ghana's inflation, as measured by a basket of goods and services, hit 29.8% in June 2022 - the highest level in 20 years.

Rising prices have forced the Bank of Ghana to raise its policy rate by 4.5 percentage points to 19% by May 2022 in an attempt to tame inflation. Commercial banks have in turn raised the rate at which they lend to businesses and individuals. The policy rate last hit 20% in January 2018 and drastically reduced to 13.5% until the recent hikes started in November 2021. The unintended consequence of stemming inflation is a potential stifling of economic activity through crowding out of the private sector by the government and high cost of capital.

In addition, the local currency – the cedi – had depreciated by almost 20% against the US dollar as of June 2022, making imports more expensive, forcing prices of goods and services upwards.

Ghana's economic challenges have been made worse by the country's reliance on portfolio flows. This is the foreign money that moves in and out of countries in search of the best investment returns. Unlike money that builds factories, these flows are more sensitive to a country's short-term economic and financial developments. Given Ghana's significant borrowings from commercial rather than multilateral develop-

ment financiers, the country has become more vulnerable to the rising cost of debt. Multilateral development institutions lend for longer at more reasonable rates.

Of Ghana's total public debt of US\$55.1 billion (78% of GDP) as of March 2022, 40.2% (US\$28.3 billion) was owed to external parties. And of the external debt, about 57% was owed to commercial creditors, predominantly in Eurobonds.

To add salt to Ghana's economic wounds, rating agencies downgraded the country's sovereign risk scores earlier this year. This significantly limited the government's ability to borrow on the international capital markets to finance the budget.

Ghana's fiscal policymaking has shown a bias towards overspending during good times, with little being saved to help when there are downturns or external shocks.

This is largely driven by commodity price cycles - oil, cocoa and gold - and fiscal excesses during election periods. Ruling parties often overspend ahead of elections to buy votes and then tighten the purse strings afterwards.

So, what should Ghana differently this time round?

Way forward

The following could be a guide to ensure that Ghana benefits from its new deal with the IMF:

First, Ghana should use the IMF programme to negotiate some debt restructuring with commercial and multilateral creditors. The country failed to take advantage of earlier schemes like the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI). Debt struc-

turing would create the space to spend on priorities such as food and fuel. However, the country must urgently reinstate the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2018 - which was suspended during the pandemic - with the 5% cap on fiscal deficits in any given year. It must also publish an updated medium-term debt management plan that either caps or places a moratorium on the contraction of non-concessional loans for a while.

Second, Ghana must implement fully any agreed structural reforms to put the economy on a sound footing. This includes significant cuts in the largesse and waste in government and public service delivery. The President must cut the size of his government and enforce key performance targets for key socio-economic sectors such as public finances, education, energy, and health, among others. Other reforms should include the aggressive restructuring of state-owned enterprises and hiring of competent hands, removing of some, and improvements in the targeting of subsidies as well as trimming the government payroll and flagship initiatives like free secondary schooling. The government must also insist on a strong social protection element, especially for cash transfer programmes such as Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) and capitation grants for public basic schools.

Thirdly, Ghana must aggressively grow and diversify its small open economy to reduce reliance on primary commodities such as cocoa, gold and oil. These are the major export earners for the country but are subject to significant price volatility. Ghana has a great opportunity to pursue green growth policies in new industrial clusters such as the critical minerals value chain and renewables. These can be supported by a reinvigorated Ghana Infrastructure Investment Fund (GIIF) and the Minerals Income Investment Fund (MIIF), among other players.

Lastly, Ghanaians, especially the two main parties, must stop over politicising the economic issues. Populism is clouding effective decision-making. What the current crisis reveals again is the urgent need for broad-based national development plan or framework.