

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that". -- Martin Luther King Jr



Interview - Jocelyn Chan Low, Historien et Politologue

«L'option MSM n'est pas à écarter pour des gains politiques à court terme...

...mais, dans le long et moyen termes, ce serait signer l'acte de décès du MMM»

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Opinion

A Culture of Opacity

Do we really have to wait for another round of warnings from external agencies to shake us out of complacency and business as usual?

By Jan Arden ☞ See Page 3



Did Nancy Pelosi put Taiwan in a Straitjacket?

Was Pelosi's visit a boneheaded error or was she standing up for Democracy?

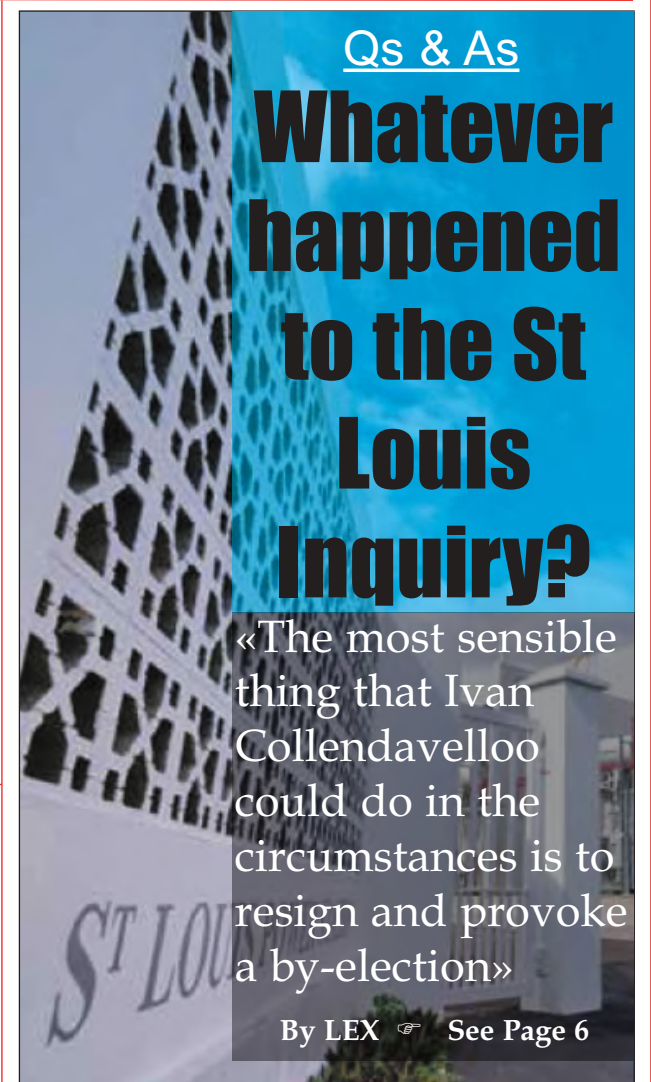
By Anil Madan ☞ See Page 4

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Whatever happened to the St Louis Inquiry?

«The most sensible thing that Ivan Collendavelloo could do in the circumstances is to resign and provoke a by-election»

By LEX ☞ See Page 6



The Opposition's Protest March

Things appear to be moving very fast these days with one crisis or scandal chasing away the previous one, and today's controversy casting a shroud over yesterday's. What initially started as the SAFE "survey/sniffing" controversy involving the Baie de Jacotet Landing Station quickly shifted to alleged espionage and counterespionage activities involving major players in the Indian Ocean, namely India and China and the latter's major technology giant Huawei which was dragged into it, much to the public displeasure of the Chinese embassy. Media's attention thereafter focussed to the constructions underway in Agalega and to suspicions about the setting up of an Indian military base on the island, which has been denied by the Mauritian Prime Minister. The words are important for an installation that can berth or accommodate naval and/or aerial surveillance vessels need not be a permanent military base as Diego Garcia or Djibouti.

Attention today has shifted to the opposition parties and their inability to come together for a protest march against the government doings and misdoings. Initially proposed by the leader of the Labour Party for 12th August, it would seem that the unsolicited but "patriotic" initiative of the former CEO of Mauritius Telecom to rally all the mainstream opposition parties together with the other extra-parliamentary political groupings for the protest march has been to no avail: the controversial Bruneau Laurette and his citizen movement, the backings of which remain unknown to the public, has chosen to move out and will hold his own protest march separately at some future date. A repeat of 29 August 2020, which has to date not delivered on its promise to overthrow the government, is what Mr Laurette may have in mind, but that remains to be seen, the more so since his Linion Pep Morisien appears to be already in tatters. The base that was being laid for an extra-parliamentary movement which would surf on the wave of indignation that has been building up since the last three years seems to be falling apart. In any case, street protests don't work in the Mauritian

context. Massive marches elsewhere have produced scant results and fail to create significant changes in politics or public policies, except for a few countries like in Sri Lanka recently and earlier in Egypt, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

The focus of the 2020 Laurette movement had initially been on the Wakashio shipwreck and the oil spill and a number of other issues which appeal to popular sentiments. It has to date not taken up issues which have a direct impact on the lives and livelihoods of the people across all social and ethnic groups to be taken to be a serious party. Whether such types of movements are in keeping with our political evolution as a parliamentary democracy remains to be seen. Despite the scepticism and dwindling support affecting all so-called traditional parties, they have served this country within the democratic paradigm well. But enormous damage has been done to their national standing down the years. The leadership which was once respected for sticking to the highest principles is totally unrecognizable by those standards today. Looking at the kaleidoscope of political parties occupying the front stage of Mauritian politics currently, it should be clear that most of their leaders have devalued their parties, thinking that voters have no choice but to stick to them no matter how much the damage they have wrought. There is some serious thinking which needs to be done at their end.

If a united Opposition front of traditional and extra-parliamentary forces for a march looks a remote possibility, government may feel free to pursue its pot-hole ridden road hoping that its standard formula will serve it in good stead for the 2024 hustings. Namely freebies for the elderlies and low-income earners and the Metro Express train with its promises of future deliverables, not to mention the clever if cynical use of the communcasteist card. However, both the Opposition and the governing MSM alliance have two years to shore up their strategies and alliances. Everything therefore remains open on the political front, and what may appear improbable today may take shape in the months ahead.

The Conversation

What ethical standards should we hold politicians to?



John F. Kennedy is a realist's dream of a good politician, despite a colourful private life. Pic- Wikimedia Commons

With Boris Johnson's departure, the drama of the Conservative leadership election, and Keir Starmer's declaration that "integrity matters" in politics, the question of what ethical standards we ought to hold politicians to has never felt more pressing in the UK.

The idea that ethics has anything to do with politics is often (justifiably) met with some degree of scepticism. As philosopher Michael Walzer notes, it is conventional wisdom that politicians are "a good deal worse, morally worse, than the rest of us".

There are two arenas where the ethics of politicians come into play. First is in their political work: putting their personal scruples aside to achieve noble political goals, engaging in "dirty deals". The other is, of course, in their private lives: the sex scandals and other personally unethical behaviour that are characterised in Britain as "sleaze".

To decide how to judge politicians who engage in either of these activities, we can turn to a philosophical debate between so-called "realists" and "moralists".

In political philosophy, the realist views politics as a different world from everyday life, where different values apply. In contrast, a moralist believes that the same ethical standards (perhaps even higher standards) apply in politics as in everyday life. As political scientist Richard Bellamy puts this, we "desire better of those that represent us because we expect them to serve our interests rather than their own".

In a recent interview, Allegra Stratton, Boris Johnson's former advisor suggested that her former boss thought that politicians who acted on principle ought to be criticised for being "not political enough". This chimes with the realist view, that the correct ethical standards for politicians are specific to politics.

As realist thinker Edward Hall puts it, "Responsible politicians do not seek to manifest a 'purity of intention [which] is unconditioned by the need to compromise, negotiate, [or] exercise authority over others', because such a view is deeply anti-political".

Joshua Hobbs, Lecturer and Consultant in Applied Ethics, University of Leeds

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Jan Arden

Many would argue that there was a time post-independence when our political leadership, their appointees at various responsibility positions and the supporting top brass of the civil service were infused with a sense of public good and the national interest and did their best to instil those virtues in thousands of anonymous public officers who manned the ranks. Everything was not rosy or picture perfect, as much due to our own propensity to hand out tea monies or keep tabs on who could assist with procedures that otherwise could drag along at a snail's pace, as by those wishing perhaps some compensation for their political involvement and investments in an electoral campaign. But, by and large, these were not unmanageable particularly with the advent of the POCA legislation and the setting up of ICAC as lead agency in the fight against corruption and money-laundering.

Controversies surrounded the agency from its inception and for years it battled to make real its "pa get figir" pledge but several affairs since 2015 implicating government ministers and VVIP nomenclature and which are at ICAC either in sleep mode or at best dawdling along, have led to a rising disenchantment, a public perception of ingrained political bias and a quasi-general loss of confidence in a key institution that could have preserved our country reputation and functioning. There is unfortunately no credible national rating of our regulatory agencies from or by customers and stakeholders, nor are international ratings of the FATF variety concerned with

A Culture of Opacity

Do we really have to wait for another round of warnings from external agencies to shake us out of complacency and business as usual?



“A credible investigative agency would usually have some legitimacy to claim discretion on ongoing inquiries while communicating periodically on their general progress, but to maintain a state of opacity about the progress of high-profile inquiries contributes its share to the assessment of diplomatically worded “weaknesses” by international bodies and the current vitiated atmosphere in the country referred to a recent MT editorial...”

the corruption of public procurement processes. Yet, it has been reported in international circles that the Covid pandemic, with its associated emergency procedures, has been notoriously rife with corruption on massive scales, often in broad daylight, by those close to power centres and benefiting from a sense of immunity.

Here too we have heard of the CEB procurement affair known as St Louis Gate, the Pack & Blister saga of defective and unusable ventilators, the various health-supply contracts handled through Commerce and the STC, the Molnupiravir saga of purchases far above requirements or prices and the unknowns surrounding vaccine purchases or gifts,

part of which have either expired or had to be distributed to some African states. As ICAC does not communicate on these matters, enquiries remain in “ongoing” mode for years, allowing convenient non-answers in Parliament, but failing the expectations of both the population and even international observers if the repeated IMF, World Bank, and Moody's warnings over three years on “institutional governance weaknesses” are anything to go by.

A credible investigative agency would usually have some legitimacy to claim discretion on ongoing inquiries while communicating periodically on their general progress, but to maintain a state of opacity about the progress of high-profile inquiries contributes its share to the assessment of diplomatically worded “weaknesses” by international bodies and the current vitiated atmosphere in the country referred to a recent MT editorial. It is certainly not a consolation for the country that the culture of opacity extends to many important questions where confidentiality clauses, sometimes purely arbitrary or peculiar, are roped in to suit government's purposes: the Rs 400m Liverpool-Mauritius promotion agreement or the renewal of Terragen (an IPP) or other public utilities contracts are cases in point.

BOM in the red

During the pandemic the Ministry of Finance decided to be non-conventional by dipping generously to the tune of Rs160 billion in Central Bank reserves, half of which went to the recurrent budget for the support the economic livelihoods of Mauritians. The other half went to the setting up of the MIC Central Bank subsidiary for an entirely novel role: dishing out billions of our accumulated savings and reserves in handouts to company majors or unexpected newbies, with the barest of information about the terms and conditions of such national generosity.

International agencies have repeatedly called attention to the downside risks of turning a regulatory central bank into a lending institution and the consequent weakening of the Central Bank's balance sheet and its ability to sustain the national currency. The latter's depreciation has stoked the galloping inflation inflicted on all Mauritians just as much as other international factors. We can assume that there was only so much those international financial institutions would stomach as Finance's dismissive disregard of their warnings before knocking us off our perch as an investment des-

tinuation: from BAA1 three years ago, to BAA2 last year and now bordering junk status at BAA3 on the Moody scale.

The Central Bank has unsurprisingly reported operating losses of more than Rs 5 billion in May this year, probably a first in its history. We can bury our heads in the sands and pat ourselves on the back that we are not yet there, but there is a price for obduracy and lack of credibility of our key financial agencies. After the recent FATF grey and EU blacklisting episodes, the last thing our financial sectors need is a degree of arrogance in being right against all expert opinion, national and international. This might not register with the Mauritian layman, but the Rupee devaluation of 25-30% against trading currencies, is biting hard on the lower and middle income classes with the belated Rs 1000 allowance barely catching with supermarket and shop realities.

Jan Arden

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Anil Madan

Did Nancy Pelosi put Taiwan in a Straitjacket?

Was Pelosi's visit a boneheaded error or was she standing up for Democracy

Two weeks before Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei, President Biden said that US military officials believe her visit is "not a good idea." A day before the President's comments to reporters, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that China would take "resolute and strong measures" should Pelosi visit Taiwan as planned.

While the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman's declarations are not the same as a statement by President Xi Jinping to President Biden in a one-to-one call, this is somewhat reminiscent of President Biden's call to President Putin warning/threatening him that the US would impose severe and unprecedented sanctions on Russia if it invaded Ukraine. These kinds of threats don't work as Biden learned with Putin and surely, the Chinese know they don't work.

Indeed, Pelosi's visit was rescheduled in April when she tested positive for Covid. Then, in early April, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi personally weighed in: "If the speaker of the US House of Representatives knowingly commits a sneaky visit to Taiwan, it will be a malicious provocation to China's sovereignty, gross interference in its internal affairs and an extremely dangerous political signal to the outside world."

A week after President Biden disclosed the Pentagon's view (presumably the reference to US military officials was a reference to Pentagon leadership), China's military spokesperson, Colonel Tan Kefei, weighed in with this: "If the US side insists on going ahead, the Chinese military will never sit idle and will take strong measures to thwart any external interference and separatist attempts for Taiwan independence."

Note that the Chinese military spokesperson equates Pelosi's visit as an action of "the US side." Now, the US State Department has revealed that US Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the potential for Pelosi's visit with China's Defense Minister Wang Yi during the recent G20 meeting in Bali. He is reported to have said any such trip would be entirely Pelosi's decision and independent of the US government.

Obviously, the Chinese do not see Pelosi's visit as a frolic of the Speaker's own. There may be some justification for the Chinese view. It is reported that Pelosi travelled on a US military aircraft which, of course, is routine for the Speaker of the House, and that it was escorted by military aircraft. Comments by US National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby also endorsed Pelosi's visit and statements as consistent with US foreign policy.

The problem with this is that US foreign policy is conducted by the State Department at the direction of the President, not by the Speaker of the House. The Chinese, on the other hand, see Pelosi as having a more exalted status because she is third in line to succeed to the Presidency. Lost in this is that being third in



Nancy Pelosi in Taiwan. Pic - Reuters

line for the presidency does not give Pelosi any authority over US foreign policy any more than being second in line gives Vice President Kamala Harris any say in the matter.

Petulant and childish outrage

So, why are the Chinese so enraged with Pelosi's visit? The most obvious reason is that, as I have written many times, the CCP and its spokespersons act with petulant and childish outrage whenever any aspect of Chinese policy is questioned or challenged. There is the usual clamour about not interfering in China's *internal* affairs. Never mind that Taiwan has been *de facto*, an independent actor (if not formally recognized as an independent nation by the world's nations due to Chinese pressure) for over seven decades. Then there is the point the Chinese underscore at every opportunity: Taiwan should not be allowed to conduct *any* foreign policy because it has no status as a nation independent of the PRC.

But there is more here. Pelosi engenders a visceral hatred in the CCP. Back in 1991, she visited Beijing and went to Tiananmen Square and unfurled a banner reading in Chinese and English: 'To Those Who Died For Democracy In China'. There are reports that American Ambassador to China, J. Stapleton Roy, confronted Pelosi about this action and was agitated and angry. Pelosi was dismissive of Roy's concerns. One can just imagine if the US ambassador was agitated and angry,

how enraged the petulant Chinese baby must be every time it is re-minded of this pacifier being pulled out of its mouth.

Pelosi's comments in Taipei also suggest that she has usurped some semblance of authority on the subject of US foreign policy. Her statements have included these:

"Our congressional delegation's visit to Taiwan honours America's unwavering commitment to supporting Taiwan's vibrant democracy.

"Was Nancy Pelosi's visit worth it? From the standpoint of western 'values' and American righteousness, sure. But what if China uses this an excuse to attack Taiwan? From the standpoint of the Taiwanese people, what will we say? Will Taiwan become another Ukraine with a developing genocide and economic devastation?"

She added that the visit by her congressional delegation, which includes an overnight stay, was completely in line with longstanding US policy on Taiwan.

Discussions with Taiwanese leadership will focus on shared interests including advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific, Pelosi said.

"America's solidarity with the 23 million people of Taiwan is more important today than ever, as the world faces a choice between autocracy and democracy."

Pelosi also wrote an op-ed piece in *The Washington Post*, which was released after she arrived in Taipei. She extolled Taiwan's commitment to democratic government, and inveighed against China for having dramatically increased tensions with Taiwan in recent years. "In the face of the Chinese Communist Party's accelerating aggression, our congressional delegation's visit should be seen as an unequivocal statement that America stands with Taiwan," she declared.

And, underscoring this in her first remarks on landing, she said: "Our congressional delegation's visit to Taiwan honours America's unwavering commitment to supporting Taiwan's vibrant Democracy."

A "lose-lose-lose" scenario

So, where does all this leave us? China's statements of outrage and indignation are one thing. But in the real world, China has imposed trade restrictions on Taiwan including suspension of fruit and some fish imports and export of natural sand to Taiwan.

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Doctors: The Challenge from IDIOT



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

On July 1, 2022 Doctors' Day various functions and celebrations were held in the South Indian state of Karnataka in recognition of their services, especially during the various waves of Covid-19.

While participating in a programme to honour senior doctors and their family members at United Hospital, Jayadeva Hospital Director, Dr C.N. Manjunath noted that due to innovations in technology, the expectations of people and patients on doctors are increasing. Due to 'IDIOT' syndrome, it is becoming very difficult to treat educated people, he said.

I had never heard of IDIOT syndrome, and it turns out the acronym stands for 'Internet Derived Information Obstructing Treatment.' People blindly trust medical information available online and stop their treatment abruptly without consulting their doctor, or query their doctors based on such information.

In fact, it is not only educated people. Anyone with a smartphone – which means everybody! – has information available 24/7 and as Dr Manjunath pointed out:

“Violence against doctors and other health staff is not uncommon in several countries, and we have had several incidents locally too. Paradoxically, it was worse during the acute phase of the Covid pandemic, when the level of stress was the highest for all parties concerned, as the article extract above shows. Undoubtedly, the IDIOT syndrome vastly complicates matters, and it's a joint societal responsibility to handle it appropriately and effectively...”

'People are getting information about their ailments and diseases with the help of technology available on their palms. Amidst the explosion of technology, the expectations of the patients and their attendants have increased. Doctors are overwhelmed when people rush to the hospital with unrealistic expectations of doctors. In this changed context, the need for a specialist doctor to have not only technical and professional skills but also communication skills has increased a lot.'

However, even before the advent of the palm held, information loaded devices, I and I am sure many of my colleagues had faced patients who come armed with what they think are intelligent questions. But it is not their fault, it's just that people talk a lot about their medical and health matters, and bits and pieces of 'knowledge' are picked up by all and sundry. We all know that the hairdresser's saloon or the open market – *la foire* – are the favoured locations where the juiciest gossip exchanges take place. Often, almost invariably in fact, they include details about one's ailments, health establishments where they are being treated, the behaviour of the health personnel including doctors of course.

These snippets are tucked away in their natural CPUs aka the brain and who knows when they may surface!

I had an inkling of this phenomenon almost thirty years ago when I was treating an elderly lady for a superficial infection of the thigh known as cellulitis in a private clinic. The diagnosis is made by a simple examination and requires no investigations whatsoever, and treatment with antibiotics had already started. Two days later when I went to visit and told her she can go home, I was not a little surprised when she asked me in Bhojpuri: 'Ultrasound-wa nahin karba?' – 'won't you do an ultrasound?' She was from a rural area, was not really literate though very cultured, and I was left to wonder where she had picked up the term 'ultrasound' which was locally relatively new then. I was reminded of our local adage: '*pas guette zozo par so plume!*' Transliterated, this means: don't judge a person by his outward appearance.

However, the context has since moved quite far from this innocuous kind of setting. The trend probably began in America, where doctors are always under the threat of the big sword of Damocles known as litigation, and which has ruined doctor-patient relationship, eroding the trust that ought to be the sacrosanct basis of medical practice.

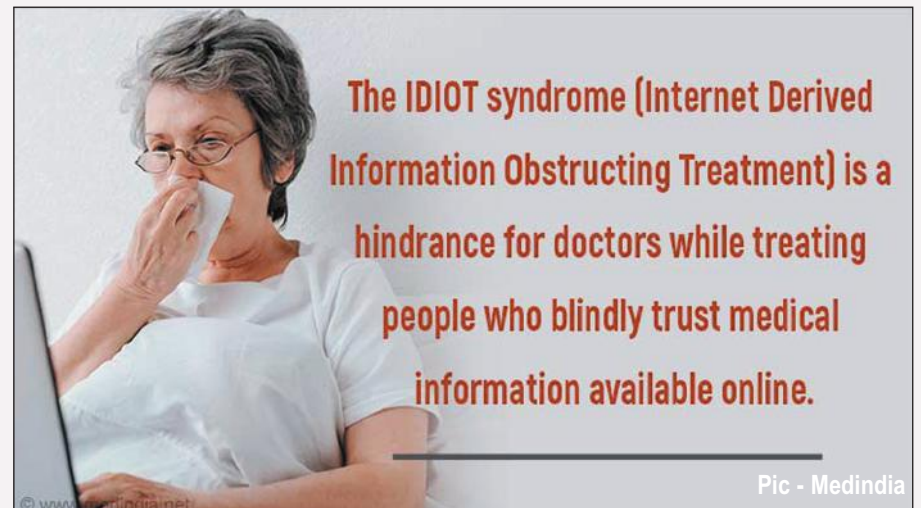
Several years ago, when I was at the Ministry of Health, we were discussing such matters with colleagues from the University of Geneva who were visiting. One of them told me that when patients due for joint replacement (hip or knee) consult their surgeons, they come with a list of the different prostheses available and point out to the treating surgeon the success rates of each one and there follows lengthy and time-consuming discussions about which one is going to be chosen. Instead, this should be left to the better judgement of the surgeon, because these data have to be analysed and understood scientifically, and the metrics advanced by the patients may not all be relevant.

Whatever be, no doubt this is the evolving situation in which we all find ourselves now, but the ground realities vary from country to country as is to be expected. Unrealistic expectations are a fact of medical life, and the more complicated the problem the greater they are. There are always difficult decisions that doctors are faced with; honest discussion and communication are key to handle such situations.

Just the day before the celebration of Doctors' Day, I was reading about the murder of a practitioner in the US, with a headline that read: 'Murder of Physician Raises the Stress Level for All Clinicians,' reported in *Medscape* of June 30, 2022. The article carried the picture of the lady doctor, and the incident was described as follows:

'Physician stress — indeed, the stress level for all medical personnel — has reached new heights.

'As if it weren't enough that doctors work in a profession where it's almost more a question of when they'll be sued than if they'll be sued — where Covid, staff shortages and long hours, and patients frustrated over canceled procedures have caused unrelenting fatigue and stress — they now have to worry that an unhappy patient is going to buy a gun, walk into their office, and kill them.



The IDIOT syndrome (Internet Derived Information Obstructing Treatment) is a hindrance for doctors while treating people who blindly trust medical information available online.

Pic - Medindia

tages and long hours, and patients frustrated over canceled procedures have caused unrelenting fatigue and stress — they now have to worry that an unhappy patient is going to buy a gun, walk into their office, and kill them.

'That's exactly what happened in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where a patient complaining of pain after back surgery murdered his doctor and several others who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.'

'The article listed some other reasons for such an extreme behaviour: 'It could be a drug-seeking patient complaining of ongoing pain, angry because he can't get a new prescription. It could be a patient whose unpaid bill was turned over to a collection agency, angry because he's now getting calls from collectors. It could be someone who blames a physician for the loss of a loved one. It could be someone who would otherwise have filed a lawsuit, who now thinks he has a more effective option for exacting retribution.'

Violence against doctors and other health staff is not uncommon in several countries, and we have had several incidents locally too. Paradoxically, it was worse during the acute phase of the Covid pandemic, when the level of stress was the highest for all parties concerned, as the article extract above shows. Undoubtedly, the IDIOT syndrome vastly complicates matters, and it's a joint societal responsibility to handle it appropriately and effectively.

CONGRATULATIONS

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Whatever happened to the St Louis Inquiry?

“The most sensible thing that Ivan Collendavelloo could do in the circumstances is to resign and provoke a by-election”

ICAC is the sole and lead agency in our fight against corruption and money-laundering. Yet, despite its significant resources, experienced investigators and vast powers, it is perceived to be serving and protecting the interests of the government and its political big-wigs. Lex is invited to comment on the lack of progress in several such affairs as the St. Louis gate, its possible exploitation as a Damoclean sword for political ends and, more generally, on this sorry state of affairs prejudicial to the country's image.

LEX

* The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has yet to bring its investigation into the case of alleged corruption in the St Louis Power Station Redevelopment Project to a closure. Bertrand Lagesse, head of AMB Lagesse Business and Engineering Consultancy, and Philippe Hao Thyn Chuan Ha Shun of PAD Co and Prof Kasenally had been called for interrogations. Those in relation to Hon Paul Bérenger and Ivan Collendavelloo, whose names have been allegedly mentioned in the partial report of the African Development Bank's Integrity Oversight Committee, have been left in abeyance. Both political leaders have therefore been left hanging in the air apparently due to the “complexity” of the matter. What's your take on that?

Whenever there is a suspicion of corruption on anybody, the ICAC should immediately set the machinery in motion and start an investigation with a view to finding out whether there is a case against the person who is suspected of corruption. Unfortunately, public perception is that ICAC is always slow to act whenever the matter involves a politician of the majority or somebody close to the government.

This is a most unhealthy situation for any institution that is supposed to act independently of political power. If there is a case against any politician or political leader, let the investigation proceed and the result communicated to the DPP. But Mauritius being what it is with the present regime, the St Louis inquiry is likely going to serve as a political weapon to get at Hon. Paul Berenger. My take on that is that there is nothing substantial against Paul Berenger and that all the noise and

allegations made are simply devoid of any merit or substance.

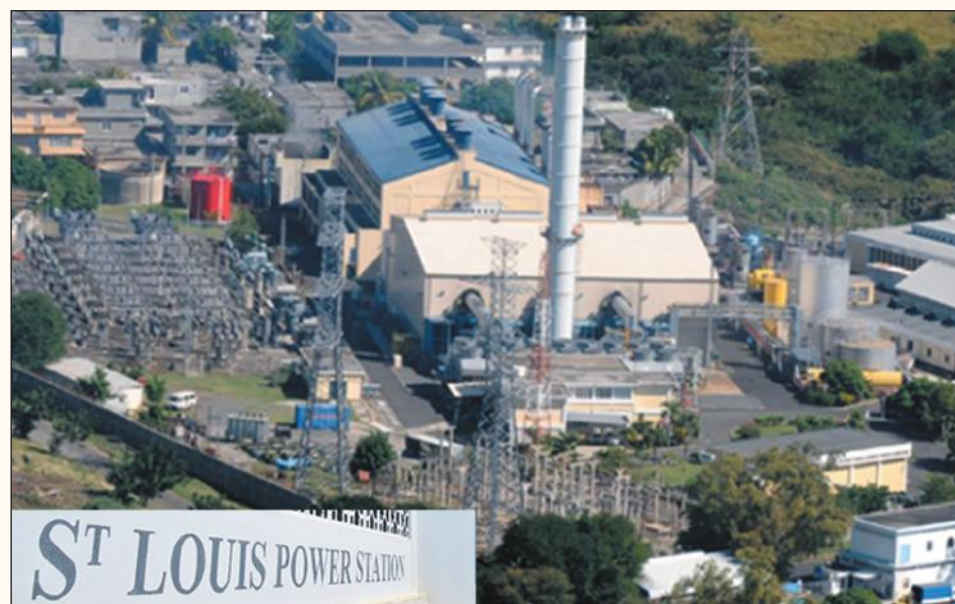
* Hon Collendavelloo has been left by the wayside for a long time now, and he is therefore unable to resume his seat in Cabinet. As for Hon Berenger, the sword of Damocles is still hanging over his head. How do you react to that?

One could reasonably suspect that had there been an iota of evidence against Paul Berenger, ICAC would have summoned him right away! It does not seem that to be the case. If there is nothing against Ivan Collendavelloo and Paul Berenger, let ICAC say so instead of sleeping on the investigation for whatever reasons.

* The Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 does not provide for an oversight mechanism to monitor the ICAC at its operational level, except for a Parliamentary Committee, whose functions is to ‘monitor and review the manner in which the Commission fulfills its functions, but cannot intervene nor interfere in any ‘specific case under investigation by the Commission’. What this means is that there is therefore no mechanism to police the ICAC. That cannot be right, isn't it?

The ICAC is not accountable to anybody or to any institution except to public opinion. But does it care?

There is a Parliamentary Committee that acts more as a political body rather than an oversight body to ensure that the ICAC is functioning as the law provides. The Parliamentary Committee has the power to monitor and review the manner in which ICAC fulfills its functions with regard to its finances, resources and staffing. It may also give general direc-



“Those in power or close to power seem to think that they are above the law. This scourge of impunity can only be fought by ferociously independent institutions - not those that are these days perceived to be doing the bidding of the powerful of the day...”

tives to the Commission with regard to the manner in which it is to perform its functions and exercise its powers. It shall also receive reports from the Commission at such intervals as the Parliamentary Committee may require; make a report to the Assembly where the Committee considers that it is expedient that the attention of the Assembly be directed to the manner in which the Commission is discharging its functions. The law also provides under Section 61 that ‘where the Parliamentary Committee issues a guideline under subsection 61(1)(d) – the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee shall lay the guideline on the table of the Assembly within 14 days from the date on which such guideline was issued.’ This begs the question: Has any guideline ever been tabled in the Assembly?

These are wide powers of the Parliamentary Committee. Has that Committee ever exercised those powers? If so, with what results?

* Could both Hon Berenger and Collendavelloo have turned to the judiciary for some form of redress if they thought they were being unfairly treated by ICAC?

That may well be pointless because all that a court of law will do is to tell the

two gentlemen that it cannot interfere in the internal workings of ICAC.

If, however either of them is summoned by ICAC, they may petition the court on the ground that there is no credible evidence for the ICAC to summon them. If that were to happen, we will see what stand our independent judiciary will take.

* We had argued earlier that for much less Ivan Collendavelloo resigned from the National Assembly in 1989 in the wake of the controversy surrounding his endorsement of the then Sun Resorts' boss Sol Kerzner's passport application. The honourable thing for him to do would be to resign his parliamentary seat and, if he so wishes, redeem his honour in an ensuing by-election besides fighting it out in court. This is the only way that Ivan Collendavelloo could salvage his honour, isn't it?

The most sensible thing that Ivan Collendavelloo could do in the circumstances is to resign and provoke a by-election. Let him go before the electorate and spill the beans. It will thus be for the electorate to judge of whether he is guilty or not given that ICAC is unable or unwilling to act as it should.

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Did Nancy Pelosi put Taiwan in a Straitjacket?

● Cont. from page 4

That sand is essential for the manufacture of semiconductor chips. One can expect such restrictions to be eased in due course since they hurt China itself as well as Taiwan. In fact, Mark Liu, Chairman of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) warned that economies on both sides of the Taiwan Strait will be plunged into turmoil should China invade Taiwan. "Nobody can control TSMC by force," he added. TSMC factories will be rendered "non-operable" in the event of a Chinese attack because the sophisticated manufacturing facilities depend on real-time connections with the outside world, with Europe, US, and Japan.

Liu also raised an indirect stark warning, invoking the Russia's invasion of Ukraine and calling it a "lose-lose-lose" scenario for the western world, Russia and Ukraine. China accounts for 10% of TSMC's business and is dependent on that supply.



In 1991, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi stood in Tiananmen Square holding a banner that read, "To those who died for democracy in China", in honour of the Chinese men and women who were killed in the Tiananmen Square Massacre. Pic- nationworldnews.com

“Pelosi engenders a visceral hatred in the CCP. Back in 1991, she visited Beijing and went to Tiananmen Square and unfurled a banner reading in Chinese and English: ‘To Those Who Died For Democracy In China’. There are reports that American Ambassador to China, J. Stapleton Roy, confronted Pelosi about this action and was agitated and angry...”

On the other hand, no one can predict with any confidence that the CCP leadership will act rationally and responsibly. Will they recognize that a tiny island with a population of some 25 million is insignificant when it comes to China's status as a world power with a population of 1.4 to 1.5 billion? Taiwan presents no threat whatsoever to China.

China did not act rationally when it cracked down on Hong Kong, an even tinier bit of real estate with a population less than one-third of Taiwan's. Nor did China act rationally when it tried to extinguish the Tibetan Buddhists, or when it acted against the Uyghurs.

Territorial ambition in the name of national pride is

apt to manifest itself in unpredictable and vicious ways as we have seen in Ukraine.

Was Nancy Pelosi's visit worth it? From the standpoint of western "values" and American righteousness, sure. But what if China uses this an excuse to attack Taiwan? From the standpoint of the Taiwanese people, what will we say? Will Taiwan become another Ukraine with a developing genocide and economic devastation? China is conducting live fire drills in the Taiwan Strait and encroaching on Taiwan's territorial waters and its ADIZ which, of course, China does not recognize.

It is too early to tell how this will play out as I write this. So, for now, I just raise the question. Was Pelosi's visit a boneheaded error or was she standing up for Democracy? Could she have said everything she said in Washington and achieved the same effect without leaving Taiwan to face the aftermath?

More importantly, way back when the US recognized the PRC as the sole government of China, we did not insist that the PRC recognize the independence of Taiwan. At that time, both the PRC and Taipei clung to the idea of One China, each claiming to be the ONE. Surely, no one expected the rise of China to its present state or the vehement hostility with which the CCP approaches the rest of the world. It is time to work hard to change this.

The statements by US officials, from Secretary of State Antony Blinken down, repeating a mealy mouth disclaimer that we are interested in resolving this issue and recommitting the US to the status quo serves no one's interests other than the CCP's.

Cheer...
Bwana

Qs & As

Whatever happened to the St Louis Inquiry?

"The most sensible thing that Ivan Collendavelloo could do in the circumstances is to resign and provoke a by-election"

● Cont. from page 6

* Besides so many questions that remain unanswered as regards the St Louis contract, there is a long list of pending inquiries at the ICAC. This does not bode well for the country's reputation at global level, especially in the wake of the European Commission's decision to place Mauritius on the list of high-risk jurisdictions. It also highlights the absence of a credible and respected investigative agency capable of handling white collar crime independently of political proximity. We do not seem to have learnt any lesson?

If ICAC is not allowed or does not of its own volition carry out its mandate as prescribed by the law, then it is the end of the fight against corruption. The legislation will just be a piece of cosmetic on the statute book. There must be a political will to combat corruption to the hilt. There must also be a ferociously independent ICAC to do so. That sadly does not seem to be the case.

* If ICAC is struggling to live up to expectations, is the fault in the structure, the nomination process, the effective oversight of the institution or what?

The director and the assessors of the Commission are appointed by the Prime Minister. This unfortunately may come in the way of the independence of the institution. On the other hand, it requires moral and mental fibre to be ferociously independent.

* What essential amendments would be necessary and/or desirable to change the perception of ICAC and its perceived lack of credibility in the public mind?

The biggest change should be in the manner of appointment of the director and the assessors. Let the process of appointment be done by calling candidates to apply and let the selection be done either by a Select Committee of Parliament or by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission.

* In India these days, the ED (the ICAC equivalent)

is being attacked by the Indian National Congress for its inquiries in the 'National Herald' case which have seen two Gandhis called in for questioning over aspects of money laundering. Is it being implied that somehow political leaders are above laws that apply in full severity to the common man?

Nobody is above the law. Lord Denning, an eminent British Judge, used the words of Thomas Fuller in a judgment against the British Attorney General: "To every subject of this land, however powerful, 'Be ye never so high, the law is above ye.'"

Unfortunately, in Mauritius these days, those in power or close to power seem to think that they are above the law. This scourge of impunity can only be fought by ferociously independent institutions - not those that are these days perceived to be doing the bidding of the powerful of the day.

LEX



China begins major Taiwan military drills after Pelosi visit. Pic - Makalu Khabar

Chinese military encircles Taiwan from six sides, fires ballistic missiles into nearby waters

Tension around the self-ruled Taiwan soared to unprecedented levels on Thursday after the Chinese military fired ballistic missiles in the waters around it amid intense live-fire exercises as the People's Liberation Army (PLA) encircled the island from six directions, blocking it from the sea as well as air.

The Chinese military did not share details but reports from Taiwan said among the missiles fired were PLA's nuclear-capable Dongfeng.

The PLA's drills, ongoing from Tuesday night, intensified on Thursday noon as Beijing continues to fume over US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei earlier this week, reports Hindustan Times.

China claims the democratically-ruled Taiwan as its own territory and has not ruled out the use of force to merge it with the mainland.

A Chinese media report said the ongoing drills, the largest ever around the Taiwan Strait, is part of a "rehearsal" for the reunification process.

Reports from Taiwan said its armed forces had gone on full alert and had upgraded their combat readiness.

The Taiwanese military closely monitored the path of the Dongfeng missiles soon after they were fired by the PLA's eastern command's rocket division.

China's state broadcaster CCTV announced the start of the drills on Thursday, adding that the exercises would end at 0400 GMT on Sunday.

Seven decades of China-Taiwan tensions

As tensions between the US and China soar over a visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan, AFP looks back at relations between the self-governing island and its superpower neighbour.

1949: separation

Mao Zedong's communists take power in Beijing in October 1949 after defeating Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang (KMT) nationalists in a civil war.

The KMT flee to the island of Taiwan and form their own government in Taipei in December, cutting off contacts with mainland China.

In 1950, Taiwan becomes an ally of the United States, which is at war with communist China in Korea. The US deploys a fleet in the Taiwan Strait to protect its ally from possible attack.

1971: Beijing gets UN, US nods

In October 1971, Beijing takes over China's seat at the United Nations, previously held by Taipei.

In 1979, the United States cuts formal ties with Taiwan and establishes diplomatic relations with Beijing instead.

Washington expresses support for the "One China" policy, which states that Taiwan is part of China, but maintains trade and military ties with Taipei.

1987-2004: relations improve

In late 1987, Taiwan residents are for the first time permitted to visit mainland China, allowing families to reunite.

In 1991, Taiwan lifts emergency rule, unilaterally ending a state of war with China. The first direct talks between the two sides are held in Singapore two years later.

But in 1995, Beijing suspends talks in protest at a visit by Taiwanese president Lee Teng-hui to the United States.

In 1996, China tests missiles off Taiwan to deter voters in the island's



Demonstrators take part in a protest against US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's Taiwan visit on Tuesday. Pic- Reuters

first democratic presidential election.

In 2000 elections, the KMT loses power in Taiwan for the first time. Over the next few years trade links between the two sides improve.

2005-2015: threats and talks

In March 2005, Beijing adopts a law authorising the use of force if Taiwan declares independence. In April, KMT chairman Lien Chan makes a landmark visit to Beijing for talks with Chinese leader Hu Jintao.

In 2008, Taiwan and China resume high-level talks after the KMT's Ma Ying-jeou is elected president on a Beijing-friendly platform.

In 2010, they sign a sweeping Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement and in 2014 hold the first government-to-government talks since separation.

2016: honeymoon over

In January 2016, Tsai Ing-wen, from the traditionally pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, wins presidential elections.

In June, China suspends all communications with Taiwan after the new government fails to acknowledge the "One China" policy.

In December 2016, US president-elect Donald Trump breaks with decades of US diplomatic policy by speaking directly, by telephone, with Tsai.

In January 2019, Xi Jinping warns

that the unification of China and Taiwan is "inevitable".

2021: US-China tensions

In 2021, Chinese military jets make hundreds of incursions into Taiwan's defence zone.

In October, US President Joe Biden says the United States will defend Taiwan if China attacks it, in comments later partly walked back by the White House.

Tsai confirms that a small number of US troops are present in Taiwan to help train its forces.

2022: Tensions spike over Pelosi visit

On May 23, Biden urges the West to stand firm against Russia over Ukraine to deter China from trying to take Taiwan by force, and repeats that the US will defend Taiwan in the event of an invasion.

On August 2, House Speaker Pelosi defies days of Chinese warnings and lands in Taiwan during an Asian tour.

The highest-profile elected US official to visit Taiwan in 25 years, Pelosi says her visit demonstrates Washington's strong commitment to the island.

China slams the United States' actions in Taiwan as "extremely dangerous" and vows to launch "targeted military actions" in response to the visit.

'It's still early...': Rishi Sunak amid reports of rival Liz Truss leading PM race

Former British finance minister Rishi Sunak said it was still "early days" in the contest to replace Prime Minister Boris Johnson, a day after an opinion poll showed his rival Liz Truss had extended her lead in the race to be Britain's next leader, reports Reuters.

The ruling Conservative Party is choosing a new leader after Johnson was forced to announce his resignation when ministers resigned en masse from his government citing a series of scandals and missteps over the last 12 months.

Sunak, whose resignation helped trigger Johnson's downfall, and Foreign Secretary Truss are the two remaining candidates in the contest.

"It's still early days and I'm looking for-

ward to meeting many more of you in the coming weeks," Sunak said in a tweet ahead of campaigning among members of the ruling Conservative Party later on Wednesday.

The party's members will vote by postal ballot or online over the next few weeks with a winner announced on Sept. 5. Plans to allow voters to change their mind at the last minute were abandoned due to concerns about the security of the online voting system.

The winner of the party leadership contest will inherit a parliamentary majority and therefore become prime minister.

On Tuesday an opinion poll showed Foreign Secretary Truss held a 34-point lead over Sunak among Conservative



Liz Truss extends lead over Rishi Sunak in race to be next UK PM. Pic - LBC

Party members, with 86% telling pollster YouGov they had decided how they would vote.

However, polling officials say there are doubts about the reliability of measuring the support among the roughly 200,000 Conservative party members. Far fewer

polls are carried out on this group, who make up about 0.3% of the British population, than among the public before elections.

Truss suffered the first major misstep of her campaign on Tuesday when she was forced to backtrack on one of her most striking pledges a day after announcing it following a backlash from fellow Conservatives and opposition parties.

Truss had set out plans to save billions of pounds a year in government spending in a pledge opponents said would require cutting the pay of public sector workers, including nurses and teachers, outside of the wealthy southeast of England.

* Contd on page 9

If govt uses forces, Imran's supporters will siege Islamabad: Ex-Pak minister

As the stage is all set for Thursday's protests by former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan against the Election Commission of Pakistan, former Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed said that if the government uses force against the protestors, the nationals will siege Islamabad and there will be "severe consequences".

This comes as Imran Khan announced to protest outside the ECP head office in Islamabad. The political party will also stage protests outside ECP offices in Lahore and Peshawar which will be attended by PTI lawmakers and a large number of activists, reports ANI.

The ruling by Pakistan Election Commission against Imran Khan's party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), that the party received funding from prohibited sources, has irked Khan.

Moreover, Rasheed threatened that if Imran Khan is jailed then there will be a massive resistance against the ruling government. These remarks came during a Live TV broadcast of ARY News' programme 'The Reporters' today.

Boasting about Imran Khan's fearlessness, the Interior Minister said that Khan was receiving threats but he was independently roaming around the whole country without getting afraid. Comparing the current leaders with



Protests by supporters of Imran Khan in March 2022.
Pic- Express Tribune

Imran Khan, the Interior Minister said that the current rulers could not even visit their constituencies due to public outrage.

He asserted that the undeserving ruling coalition has in fact given rise to Imran Khan's popularity. Sheikh Rasheed also added that now Imran's popularity stands how it used to be before the no-confidence motion. 65% out of 75% of nationals were backing Imran Khan, he

said.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah blamed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and arch-rival Imran Khan for creating chaos in the name of the protest against the Election Commission of Pakistan and expressed worry over reports about a possible attack against the commission by the PTI workers on Thursday.

The foreign funding case against Imran's party was pending since November 14, 2014, and it was filed by PTI founding member Akbar S Babar who had alleged that there are some financial irregularities in the PTI's funding from Pakistan and abroad.

ECP in its verdict revealed that the money received from the foreign countries was used by Khan to fund PTI and he made false declarations in 2018 before the elections. As the decision of the Commission is based on facts it could trigger constitutional, criminal and civil cases against the PTI and its leadership.

The show cause notice issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on prohibited funding to PTI is likely to put Imran Khan's leadership in danger as the funds received by the PTI Chief from foreign countries including the US, UAE, Australia and UK could lead to several numbers of cases against the party.

First Ukraine grain ship passes through Bosphorus route to Lebanon



An aerial view of Sierra Leone-flagged dry cargo ship Razoni as it is being checked off in Turkey. Pic- Anadolu Agency

The first grain ship to leave a Ukrainian port in wartime passed through the Bosphorus Strait on Wednesday en route to Lebanon for a delivery that foreign powers hope will be the first of many to help ease a global food crisis.

The Razoni left Odesa on the Black Sea early on Monday carrying 26,527 tonnes of corn and anchored at the entrance of the Bosphorus Strait on Tuesday night.

The shipment was made possible after Turkey and the United Nations brokered a grain and fertiliser export agreement between Moscow and Kyiv last month - a rare diplomatic breakthrough in a drawn-out war of attrition, reports Reuters.

Ukraine said it had 17 more vessels loaded with agricultural products awaiting approval to set sail.

Three ships a day

The UN-brokered deal relaunched the export of grains

from one of the world's top producers after they were stalled for more than five months after Russia's Feb. 24 invasion. The agreement aims to help ease shortages and rising prices.

After the first successful departure, a senior Turkish official, who requested anonymity, said three ships may leave from any of the three Black Sea ports of Odesa and nearby Pivdennyi and Chornomorsk every day, instead of the previously planned one.

The 120-day deal will be extended by a month at a time if exports are not completed due to the weather or problems with inspections, the official said, adding that the initial period appeared sufficient for Ukrainian silos to be emptied.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said that more outbound movement was being planned from Ukraine on Wednesday, adding that about 27 ships were covered by the export deal.

US president Joe Biden signs executive order to protect travel for abortion

President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed an executive order aimed in part at making it easier for women seeking abortions to travel between states to obtain access to the procedure.

More specifically, one of the directives Biden will issue will allow states that have not outlawed abortion to apply for specific Medicaid waivers that would, in effect, help them treat women who have traveled from out of state.

The order will also call on health care providers to comply with federal nondiscrimination laws and streamline the collection of key data and information on maternal health at the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease



Biden signs executive order supporting travel for abortions. Pic - Courthouse News Service

Control and Prevention, reports AP.

Biden described as a "health care crisis" the Supreme Court's decision overturning the landmark 1973 ruling Roe vs. Wade, and "every part of the federal government does its part at this

critical moment where women's health and lives are on line."

The order came one day after Kansas voters protected the right to abortion in the conservative state, an outcome that Biden celebrated.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

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Jocelyn Chan Low, Historien et Politologue

“L’option MSM n’est pas à écarter pour des gains politiques à court terme...

...mais, dans le long et moyen termes, ce serait signer l’acte de décès du MMM”



Les Mauriciens souhaitent préserver le suffrage universel, le pluralisme des opinions, l’Etat de droit et les libertés publiques. Jeunes et moins jeunes manifestent leurs sentiments d’une manière ou d’une autre à travers des associations, des collectifs, des groupes de pression, sur les réseaux sociaux... Existe-t-il un fossé grandissant entre les élites politiques et le public de masse? Les résultats des élections semblent le prouver à chaque fois avec une augmentation du nombre des indécis et du taux d’abstention. Faut-il craindre qu’on se retrouve avec un nouveau jeu de chaise musicale en 2024, où on reprend les mêmes et on recommence? Jocelyn Chan Low, historien et politologue, répond à nos questions.

dernières années puisse détenir la clé ou plus précisément « la réponse » du changement?

La réponse qu’il évoque, c’est peut-être non seulement une formule d’arrangement politique avec d’autres formations politiques mais surtout un programme de réformes institutionnelles pour mettre fin aux dérives autocratiques, selon les termes utilisés par le très sérieux institut V-Dem, en cours depuis ces dernières années.

Le MMM veut renouer avec une vieille tradition du parti qui est celle d’être une force de proposition. Et en cela, il s’adresse à cette très large section de l’électorat qui, comme un nombre important de sondages l’ont révélé, veut un changement systémique dans la vie politique du pays.

“En général, les Mauriciens aspirent à une vie tranquille, et ne voudraient pas être entraînés dans des conflits qui ne sont pas les leurs. C’est pour cela que le manque de transparence et cette opacité voulue par le pouvoir entourant ces questions d’une importance capitale (survey/sniffing) est très anti-démocratique et extrêmement dangereuse. On ne peut pas jouer impunément avec la souveraineté et la sécurité nationale dans l’ombre...”

Mauritius Times: Une assemblée des délégués du MMM tenue, dimanche dernier, deux ans après la précédente, et qui annonce ni décision, ni vote, ni résolution, contrairement à ce qui se fait normalement lors de telles occasions, c’est quand même surprenant. A quoi sert une telle assemblée? Démonstration de force en prévision des prochaines négociations d’alliances électorales?

Jocelyn Chan Low: Ce qui s’est passé dimanche dernier à l’assemblée des délégués du MMM au Plaza est tout à fait dans l’ordre des choses. C’était une assemblée des délégués ouverte où l’ensemble des militants des diverses branches du parti avaient été invités.

Au MMM, on a toujours fait une distinction entre une assemblée des délégués ouverte où la direction du parti rencontre les militants pour les informer des derniers développements politiques et une assemblée fermée où seuls les délégués dûment mandatés des branches y ont accès et où les décisions majeures sont prises à travers un vote démocratique de l’ensemble de ces délé-

gués. Le MMM a toujours fonctionné ainsi.

Ce qui doit nous interpeller, c’est le timing de cette assemblée. Sans nul doute, des décisions importantes sont dans le pipeline quant à l’orientation du parti. Est-ce la fin de l’Entente de l’Espoir et un énième rapprochement avec le PTr?

* Paul Bérenger a déclaré lors de cette même assemblée que «le MMM détient la réponse à la fameuse quête de changement». Difficile à croire qu’un parti dont la performance électorale s’est fortement amenuisée d’une élection à l’autre ces vingt

“Dans le sillage de l’affaire Wakashio et de l’affaire Kistnen, il y a eu des manifestations contre le gouvernement d’une ampleur jamais égalée dans l’Histoire du pays. Quel a été le résultat direct? Rien! Malgré les slogans de BLD, le gouvernement est toujours au pouvoir...”

Les ‘marches’ dans le sillage du Wakashio et les débats qui s’ensuivirent ont démontré clairement cette volonté de changement. D’ailleurs, c’est ce qui explique l’engagement de plus en plus visible des jeunes dans la politique à Maurice. Or, pour beaucoup d’entre eux, cela passe par un rejet total de l’ensemble des partis traditionnels et des ‘dinosaures’ qui ont fossilisé la vie politique à l’île Maurice pour leurs propres intérêts.

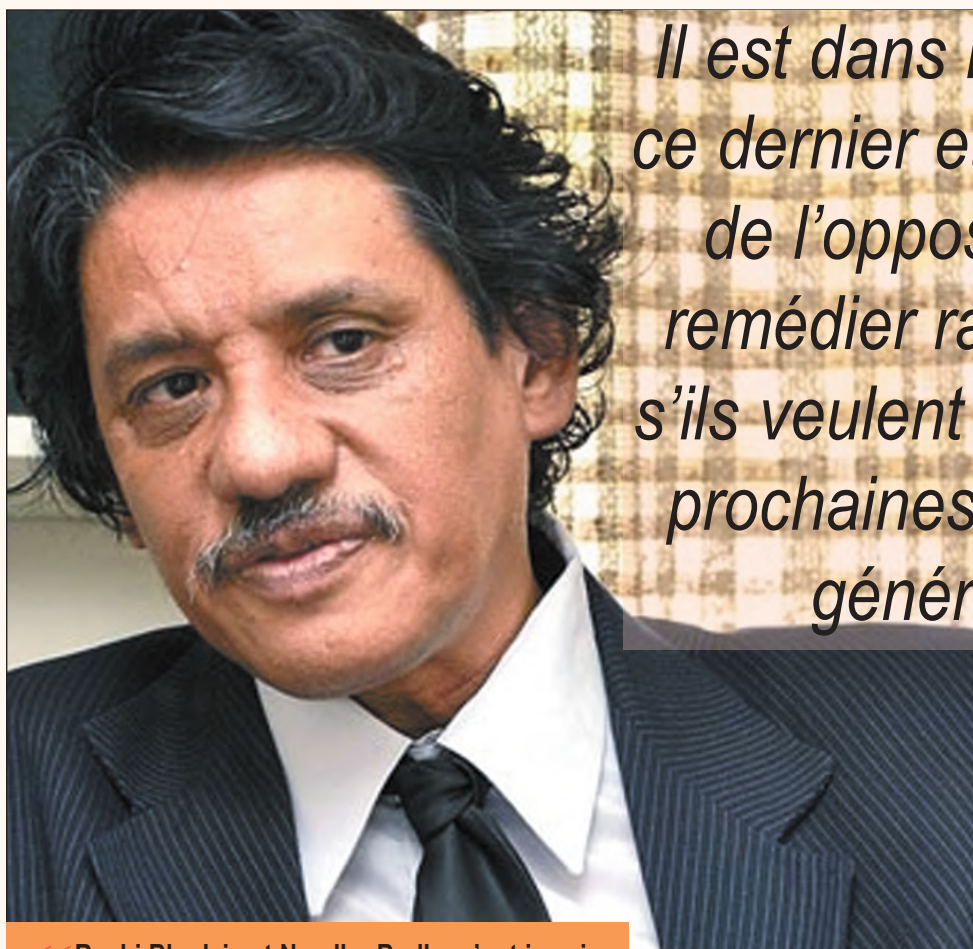
Le discours de Paul Bérenger est aussi une réponse à cette critique et une tentative de positionner le MMM comme un agent clé du changement réclamé.

* Autre fait à noter, c’est le même message adressé aux délégués du MMM dimanche dernier par Paul Bérenger, Rajesh Bhagwan et Ajay Gunness à l’effet que le “MMM pour dans prochain gouvernement”... sans en dire plus. Est-ce pour rassurer les militants au regard de l’effritement de son électorat, ou quoi d’autre?

Évidemment. La dernière fois que le MMM a été au gouvernement, cela remonte aux années 2000-2005.

● Suite en page 11

'L'impopularité du gouvernement ne profite pas à l'opposition et à Navin Ramgoolam'



Il est dans l'intérêt de ce dernier et des partis de l'opposition d'y remédier rapidement s'ils veulent gagner les prochaines élections générales'

« Roshni Bhadain et Nandho Bodha n'ont jamais caché leurs ambitions premières ministérielles. De ce fait, leur engagement au sein de l'entente était sans doute de nature conjoncturelle. En outre, les sondages démontrent qu'il y a de la place pour l'émergence d'une nouvelle offre politique qui pourrait séduire cette très large section de l'électorat qui se sent éloignée des partis traditionnels... »

● Suite de la page 10

Une des raisons majeures des défections au sein du parti, c'est justement ce désir de se sentir au pouvoir – avec les prébendes sonnantes qui y sont attachées.

Malheureusement, il n'y a plus beaucoup de place pour cet idéalisme qui prévalait dans les années 70 dans la société hyper-matérialiste de l'île Maurice d'aujourd'hui.

Il y a aussi dans ces affirmations le besoin de garder l'espoir parmi les militants coaltar et leur envoyer le signal que leurs luttes et sacrifices ne seront pas vains.

*** Pensez-vous qu'ils aient pu trouver la bonne formule pour se retrouver au pouvoir la prochaine fois?**

Il faudra connaître tous les détails avant de se prononcer. En outre, nous sommes à deux ans des élections générales et dans un monde global aussi instable et imprévisible, qui peut prédire l'avenir?

Cela dit, le gouvernement actuel, malgré sa majorité confortable à l'Assemblée nationale, ne dispose que d'une faible légitimité populaire, n'ayant été élu que par 37% des votants et un pourcentage encore plus faible

de l'électorat, et cela dans le cadre d'une élection générale contestée.

De ce fait, l'opposition dans son ensemble est plus représentative de l'électorat. Mais elle n'arrive pas à se fédérer malgré la volonté de ses dirigeants.

Le défi majeur est en effet de trouver cette formule magique qui pourra créer une synergie dans leur électorat respectif et convaincre les indécis, qui constituent en fait la grosse majorité de l'électorat, comme l'ont révélé les derniers sondages d'opinion.

*** Autre fait intéressant, c'est le vote des 313 délégués (des 404 qui ont participé au vote) du Reform Party de Roshni Bhadain, samedi dernier, et qui ont réclamé que leur parti se présente seul aux prochaines élections. Ce qui augure une première cassure au niveau de l'alliance de l'Espoir, semble-t-il?**

L'Entente de l'Espoir est exactement ce que son descriptif désigne : une entente et non une alliance, bien qu'elle aurait pu hypothétiquement évoluer dans cette direction.

Seulement, à la fois Roshni Bhadain et Nandho Bodha n'ont jamais caché leurs ambitions premières ministérielles. De ce fait, leur engagement au sein de l'entente était sans doute de nature conjoncturelle. En outre, les sondages démontrent qu'il y a de la place pour l'émergence d'une nouvelle offre politique qui pourrait séduire cette très large section de l'électorat qui se sent éloignée des partis traditionnels.

Roshni Bhadain a du charisme, des capacités de leadership indéniable, et disons le franchement, l'étoffe d'un grand Premier ministre. Il va sans doute relever le défi. Mais la route sera longue et ardue. Il aura surtout à être un bon stratège et il devra définir ses priorités en termes de contradictions primaires et secondaires au moment voulu. Vouloir courir trop vite ne mène à rien...

*** Voyez-vous Nando Bodha également emboîter**

le pas à Roshni Bhadain dans les jours à venir, cela pour la même raison? C'est-à-dire que Bodha et Ramgoolam dans la même alliance, cela ferait trop de monde?

Difficile à dire. Nando Bodha semble moins impulsif et plus calculateur, surtout que la présence de Bodha dans une alliance PTr-PMSD-MMM peut avoir une portée symbolique, et attirer une certaine partie de l'électorat du MSM.

« L'opposition dans son ensemble est plus représentative de l'électorat. Mais elle n'arrive pas à se fédérer malgré la volonté de ses dirigeants. Le défi majeur est en effet de trouver cette formule magique qui pourra créer une synergie dans leur électorat respectif et convaincre les indécis, qui constituent en fait la grosse majorité de l'électorat... »

*** Par ailleurs, l'alliance gouvernementale n'a eu de cesse d'accumuler les scandales, et le PM est lui-même pris dans la situation délicate que nous connaissons. Parallèlement à cela, nous subissons de plein fouet les effets de l'inflation et de la crise économique, avec une baisse significative du niveau de vie. Mais Pravind Jugnauth ne semble pas forcément faiblir aux yeux d'une part importante de l'électorat. Comment expliquez-vous cela?**

Il faut relativiser ce constat. Le dernier sondage de StraConsult de mars 2022 avait en fait constaté une chute de popularité de l'ensemble des partis traditionnels bien que le MSM et Pravind Jugnauth avaient devancé Navin Ramgoolam et le PTr dans l'opinion publique, surtout dans les régions rurales. Mais depuis, il y a eu une nette détérioration du pouvoir d'achat des Mauriciens, le scandale de 'sniffing', les vidéos de tortures policières, etc...

Certains faits sont assez significatifs du déclin du soutien au gouvernement comme les huées récoltées par une ministre MSM au cours d'un concert de musique bollywoodienne... Cependant, il y a une constante: l'impopularité du gouvernement ne profite pas à l'opposition et à Navin Ramgoolam en particulier. Il est dans l'intérêt de ce dernier et des partis de l'opposition d'en étudier les raisons et d'y remédier rapidement, autant que peut se faire, s'ils veulent gagner les prochaines élections générales.

*** L'affaire de 'survey' ou de 'sniffing' n'a pas provoqué le tsunami qui devait balayer le gouvernement Jugnauth hors du pouvoir malgré sa gestion maladroite de cette affaire. Quelle lecture faites-vous de cela?**

L'affaire du 'sniffing' est d'une gravité sans précédent dans l'Histoire du pays car il y a des allégations de haute trahison et d'espionnage non seulement locales mais surtout internationales et cela dans un contexte où les graves appréhensions d'une partie de la population quant aux développements en cours à Agalega deviennent de plus en plus manifestes.

● Suite en page 12

'Dans le sillage de l'affaire Wakashio et de l'affaire Kistnen, il y a eu des manifestations contre le gouvernement... Quel a été le résultat direct? Rien!'

● Suite de la page 11

Et tout cela intervient dans un contexte international de plus en plus instable et volatile. Ce qui fait que les questions diplomatiques seront de plus en plus à l'avant-plan.

Or, en général, les Mauriciens aspirent à une vie tranquille, et ne voudraient pas être entraînés dans des conflits qui ne sont pas les leurs. C'est pour cela que le manque de transparence et cette opacité voulue par le pouvoir entourant ces questions d'une importance capitale est très anti-démocratique et extrêmement dangereuse. On ne peut pas jouer impunément avec la souveraineté et la sécurité nationale dans l'ombre.

Quant au tsunami annoncé, évidemment étant donné le verrouillage du système par le régime en place, difficile de voir comment cela aurait été traduit dans les faits institutionnellement. C'est le Premier ministre qui est directement mis en cause. Or, il dispose d'énormes leviers sur la presque totalité des institutions dites indépendantes.

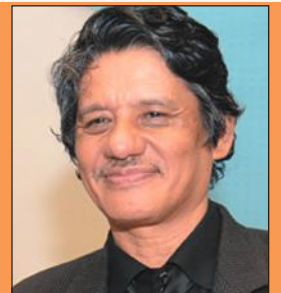
Tsunami s'il y en a, cela ne pourrait être que dans l'opinion publique et ne se traduirait en fin de compte que dans l'isolement du bureau de vote à travers un vote sanction massif.

* Dans ces conditions où les choses - en particulier le rapport de forces sur le plan électoral - ne sont pas très claires, concrétiser une alliance à deux ans et demies prochaines élections paraît un peu trop hâtive, non? Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Bérenger en sont sûrement conscients...

Sommes-nous vraiment qu'à deux ans et demi des prochaines échéances électorales? Il ne faut pas oublier que les élections municipales sont *long overdue*. A un moment donné, on évoquait dans certains milieux le mois de septembre prochain.

Finalement, est-ce que toute cette agitation n'est en fait que le prélude à une entente pour les municipales entre les partis traditionnels de l'opposition? La conjoncture politique s'y prête. Si cette entente se concrétise, quelle sera la réaction du gouvernement? Y aura-t-il renvoi de ces élections et sous quel prétexte? Et s'il y a des élections municipales, le sort de l'alliance de l'opposition en gestation dépendra du score obtenu.

“Roshi Bhadain a du charisme, des capacités de leadership indéniable, et disons le franchement, l'étoffe d'un grand Premier ministre. Il va sans doute relever le défi. Mais la route sera longue et ardue. Il aura surtout à être un bon stratège et il devra définir ses priorités en termes de contradictions primaires et secondaires au moment voulu. Vouloir courir trop vite ne mène à rien...”



Si l'opposition traditionnelle arrive à trouver une entente avec les principaux meneurs des partis extra-parlementaires, les carottes sont cuites pour le gouvernement en place. Au cas contraire, nous nous retrouverons dans une nouvelle lutte à trois, voire plus, qui ne pourrait que profiter au MSM et à ses alliés.

* Si on vous disait toutefois que l'option MSM n'est pas tout à fait à écarter du point de vue du leader du MMM malgré ses attaques contre l'alliance gouvernementale, que me répondrez-vous?

Tout dépendra de l'objectif que s'est fixé le leader du MMM. Si c'est pour des gains politiques à court terme, l'option MSM n'est pas à écarter. Mais, dans le long et moyen termes, ce serait signer l'acte de décès du MMM tout en justifiant les défections tant décriées du passé.



“Quant au tsunami annoncé, évidemment étant donné le verrouillage du système par le régime en place, difficile de voir comment cela aurait été traduit dans les faits institutionnellement. C'est le Premier ministre qui est directement mis en cause. Or, il dispose d'énormes leviers sur la presque totalité des institutions dites indépendantes...”

* On ne voit pas la manifestation des forces de l'opposition du 12 août prochain pouvant provoquer cela non plus...

Dans le sillage de l'affaire Wakashio et de l'affaire Kistnen, il y a eu des manifestations contre le gouvernement d'une ampleur jamais égalée dans l'Histoire du pays. Quel a été le résultat direct? Rien! Malgré les slogans de BLD, le gouvernement est toujours au pouvoir.

Cependant, indirectement, il ne faut pas sous-estimer l'impact de ces manifestations sur l'opinion publique et sur l'érosion de la faible légitimité populaire du gouvernement. Avec la fin des restrictions sanitaires, elles peuvent être le prélude à d'autres actions similaires sur d'autres sujets.

“L'option MSM: Tout dépendra de l'objectif que s'est fixé le leader du MMM. Si c'est pour des gains politiques à court terme, l'option MSM n'est pas à écarter. Mais, dans le long et moyen termes, ce serait signer l'acte de décès du MMM tout en justifiant les défections tant décriées du passé...”

A Maurice, les alliances politiques se font et se défont au gré des circonstances...

* Mais à bien voir, pensez-vous qu'une alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD représenterait un bloc capable de balayer le MSM aujourd'hui?

En gros, il y a aujourd'hui trois forces en présence : le MSM et ses alliés, les partis traditionnels de l'opposition et les partis extra-parlementaires antisystèmes qui essaient de capitaliser sur la méfiance d'une bonne partie de l'électorat, surtout les jeunes, vis-à-vis des 'dinosaures' des partis traditionnels.

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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.

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Tribute to our Father

By Vinod Boolell

Our father, Bhoomitre Boolell, passed away on Saturday 30 July at the age of 104. His funeral was attended by family members, friends, neighbours, people who had known him – a crowd that testifies to the endearment that our father had generated throughout his life.

To any child the loss of a parent is unimaginably painful. There are no words that could adequately describe the void that the loss of our father has left.

Our father had a lasting influence on our lives. He valued

visionary behind that success was our father, as is recognised by family members and friends.

That urge to help has been mostly manifest in another of his major achievement: his devotion to give private tuition during most of his weekends, without claiming any fees, not only to his children but also to nephews and nieces as well as to children who lived in our neighbourhood, irrespective of race or religion from the then Standard VI class up to the Junior Scholarship and Certificate of Primary Education Class. For him education was a mission and not a commercial enterprise. He instilled in his children and all those he coached values that are becoming almost inexistent today.



Picture taken on the 100th anniversary of Dad. Standing, from left to right: Mitraddev, Ranjit, Vinod, Indumatee, Vijay, Indranee. Sitting: Soolekha Jepaul- Raddhoa, former Mayor of Quatre Bornes, former Minister Etienne Sinatambou, Bhoomitre Boolell, Amita, Mala and Mila

education and brought us up to understand that the search for knowledge was key to progress. Sometimes, we had our differences but most importantly, he loved us unconditionally. Today we remember our dad and the great memories we shared.

Our dad was a very modest person but was endowed with so many qualities. He imparted to us values to help us forge our path in life. He was very strict and imbued with a sense of utter discipline. He was rigorous and meticulous in everything he did. Above all, he was very demanding of himself and of us in whatever he undertook or asked us to achieve.

Born in a very poor family on 7 May 1918, by sheer hard and studious work, he won a scholarship that got him to study at the prestigious Royal College Curepipe. After successfully completing the Cambridge School Certificate examinations and was contemplating and getting ready to pursue his secondary education, fate decided otherwise. His father died at a relatively young age, leaving behind our father and five of his brothers and sisters who were all still very young.

That episode deeply influenced our father in his life. He left school to start work and care for his widowed mother and five siblings. He joined the Health Department and trained as a nurse. He dedicated himself to cater for all the needs of his siblings by looking after their education and took an active interest in their personal lives. When Satcam, his younger brother, who had the ambition to study law, expressed that wish to our father, he readily agreed in spite of financial difficulties. Satcam ultimately became a lawyer and a successful political figure. And though he blazed the trail for our generation of professionals in mostly the legal and medical field, the

He strongly believed that the young generation should be given a chance to prove themselves. He had that vision and he was proved right as most, if not all, who studied under his exemplary and rigorous coaching, were to win scholarships to study at prestigious schools like Queen Elizabeth College, Loreto Convent and Royal College. Many of them are today professionals in their own callings.

As a nurse he has been attached not only to hospitals but also to dispensaries in villages as health centres were known. His passion and dedication to his work earned him the honorific appellation of "Doctor" by many of his patients. To him that must have been a source of solace and immense pride as he could not achieve his own ambition to become a doctor. His dream was cut short by the hands of fate. And he derived pride in seeing two of his sons, Mitraddev and Vijay, qualify as doctors.

Maybe in his lifetime we did not show enough recognition and gratitude to him for all the things he did for us, but we are sure that all along he knew how much he meant to us. We will dedicate to him these few words of Stanley of Aderley who said:

"Your day is done? It is not true. You know you left behind a memory of courage which the years can but increase. And we, your heirs, will find that in good truth there's nothing here for tears."

You are not with us but you still are. As the Bhagavad Gita teaches us,

"The wise grieve neither for the living nor for the dead. The Self within is eternal, indestructible."

MK & SBM - Culture of Opacity



● Cont. from page 3

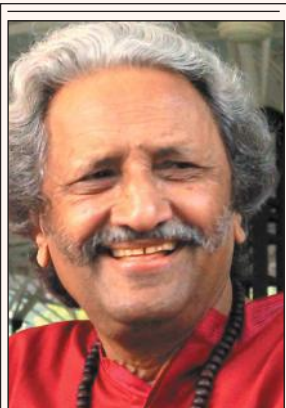
While we struggle along with our daily livelihood concerns, it is galling that government keeps up its lavish lifestyles and wastages at most departments and State-Owned or controlled companies, operating in the opacity which their status as Board-governed entities enables. Press reports have it that Air Mauritius, which has already cost the taxpayer ultimately some Rs 20 billion or more, has disposed of its Airbus fleet at unknown prices and fees last year and is now having to consider leasing of two or more Airbuses in what would be, we suspect, highly confidential transactions. None of this gallivanting and none of the fourteen companies falling under the purview of the newly created Airport Holdings, reporting to their Boards of political appointees, will be answerable in Parliament.

In a similar vein of opacity covering perhaps similar wastage the State Bank of Mauritius incurred some Rs 6 billion in vanished loans without safeguards and iron-clad guarantees, while these days, the Central Electricity Board, a profitable agency with reserves of some Rs 7-8 billion last year, is claiming losses for the coming three years to justify the significant rate increases it is pressing for. As the Audit Department will only compile and report serious deviations and deficiencies in the public sector only after they have happened, patience with our systems and processes that enable such opacity if not downright gross incompetence, is wearing thin.

At a time when the population is asked to bear with fortitude the financial and economic difficulties attributed to the Ukraine conflict, the idea that government, in important projects or expenditures, fails to walk the talk and set the example is exasperating. Do we really have to wait for another round of warnings from external agencies to shake us out of complacency and business as usual?

Jan Arden

Uganda Asian Exodus: An Inhuman Migration Transformed into Success Story



Kul Bhushan

who covered the migration from East Africa and Britain

Fifty years ago, on 4 August 1972, around 60,000 Indians living in Uganda, East Africa, were ordered to leave this country within 90 days by dictator Idi Amin. These Indians, called Asians, had been living in Uganda for over seven decades, toiling and building their businesses and lives.

Africa's most brutal tyrant, Idi Amin, had seized power a year earlier and ruled the resources rich

country on his whims and phobias. His orders became a nightmare for the docile Asians.

The Asians came to Uganda at the end of the 19th century when the British built the Kenya Uganda Railway with importing Indian labourers. During this period, the Asians opened small shops, known as 'dukas' in Swahili, in the wild bush to supply basic goods. Thus, the Asians were branded as Dukawallas. By the 1970s, they had set up many other enterprises like cotton ginneries and even large industries like sugar factories by two major industrial groups - the Madhvanis in Kakira and the Mehtas in Lugazi near Jinja town. The educated had become professionals.



The chairman of the Uganda Asians Resettlement Committee, Sir Charles Cunningham, explains the British government's action plan to journalist Kul Bhushan during a train journey from London to Leicester in 1972

In his lunatic frenzy, Amin overlooked the fact that the Asians employed a huge number of Africans in their shops, businesses, factories and even in their homes. Calling them 'bloodsuckers' of Uganda, he ordered them to leave - without any assets as they had acquired them in Uganda.

Panic was the most predominant emotion after this announcement. The Indians scrambled to get their passports in order to leave. About half had British passports, most others were born in Uganda and were entitled to Ugandan passports, but Amin would not have this and insisted that they leave.

Thus, Canada came into the picture as some Asians, led by the Ismaili leader, the Aga Khan, pleaded with



Asians arrive in Britain without any assets and hope but rebuilt their lives with business acumen and hard work

Canada. So, thousands of Asians, mostly Ismailis, went to Canada. The remaining Asians, mostly Gujaratis, went to Britain while others settled in USA, Australia and elsewhere.

As they flew out of Entebbe Airport, they were roughly checked by Ugandan soldiers so that they do not take away anything valuable. Sometimes, their suitcases were seized claiming that they were overweight.

The first group of Asian refugees, numbering 193, landed at Stansted Airport in Britain on 18 September 1972 - the first of hundreds of flights that would carry out the evacuation. They were greeted by the chairman of the Uganda Refugees Resettlement Board, Sir Charles Cunningham. They stayed in these camps until suitable accommodation was found for them. Some families with relatives and friends in Britain had made their own arrangements for accommodation, but others were taken to an RAF camp at Stradishall in Suffolk in dull, misty autumn which would turn into biting winter in November when the last refugees landed.

At that time, the British economy had slowed down after the energy crises; business sentiment was low; property prices were down and liquidity was scarce. In this scenario, many Uganda Asians who had already transferred sizeable sums to Britain withdrew their funds and purchased homes and shops. Others provided bank guarantees by their relatives/friends who had a good financial standing and also purchased their homes and shops at low prices. Those with a low level of training and/or education started work at the bottom of the economic ladder.

They mostly settled down in Wembley, London, and Leicester, Luton, Slough and other towns. In Leicester they settled mostly in Belgrave, Rushey Mead and Melton Road. The Leicester City Council placed advertisements in Ugandan newspapers warning the Asians that the city had no jobs or housing for them, thereby

discouraging their arrival. But they were not discouraged and went ahead because of their relatives and friends.

And they prospered due to their business acumen and hard work. The staid small shops were bought by Asians and were open till late evenings and on Sundays; thus, changing the concept of retail in Britain. Others started grocery stores which became multi-million-pound chains. They entered the financial sector and did equally well. Most of all, they educated their children up to the university level with professional degrees and achieved top positions. Descendants of Ugandan Asians feature among Britain's high achievers and celebrities, including Priti Patel, the Home Secretary.

Now Leicester has the heavily Indian Golden Mile of jewellery shops, cinemas and restaurants. Leicester's Asian community is so large and influential that the city now hosts the biggest Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, celebrations outside of India.

Back in Uganda, the Asian-owned shops, businesses and industries, were handed over by Amin, mostly to his fellow Kakwe tribesmen who ran them down. They had no business background and did not employ Africans in shops and businesses creating huge unemployment. In a few years, this resulted in low tax collection by the government. Meanwhile, the murderous regime of Idi Amin ended with an invasion from Tanzania in 1987 and he went into exile in Saudi Arabia the following year until he died in 2003.

However, Asians' re-settlement became a success story for British immigration and in 1991 President Yoweri Museveni invited the expelled community to "return home" to help rebuild the economy. Again, he urged them to return during his visit to Britain in 1998. Only a few accepted his invitation.

In fact, Asians have paid tributes to Idi Amin for deporting them to re-start their lives. A book, 'Thank You, Idi Amin' by Mohezin Tejani was published in January 2010. Dr Vali Jamal, a former UN consultant, has compiled an unpublished oral history of Uganda Asians running into 2650 pages, 13.8 years in producing, initially done to record people's memories of the expulsion and childhood in Uganda.

A committee has been formed to mark 50 years of Asian Exodus to organise different events, discussions, seminars, and exhibitions. 'Rebuilding Lives: 50 Years of Ugandan Asians in Leicester' will recognise those who fled the Ugandan dictator Idi Amin and celebrate the positive contributions they have made to the community in the East Midlands.

The Asians he deported after his decree that fateful August 4, 50 years ago were fortunate that they were merely deported, rather than butchered as Amin threw hundreds of Africans to the crocodiles in the Nile or killed them heinously. A human head was found in his refrigerator as he boasted of eating human flesh! Lucky Asians.

Kul Bhushan has been invited to become a Patron of the Committee to mark the 50 years of the Asian Exodus. Kul worked as a newspaper Editor in Nairobi for over three decades and now lives in New Delhi

Vers une Entité Mauricienne

Discours de M. Georges Robert

Nous vivons en ce moment line de périodes les plus critiques de notre histoire: pendant de longues années les Européens, Anglais et Français, ont administré notre île, assumant toutes les responsabilités et jouissant de tous les privilèges.

Mais aujourd'hui que chaque communauté a pris conscience de ses droits et les a réclamés, nous avons à faire face à deux dangers: d'une part, l'anarchie, où chacun essaiera de gouverner et d'imposer son point de vue, et d'autre part une hégémonie qui menacerait certaines sections de la population.

Ces deux situations ne peuvent être évitées que si chacun de nous réalise qu'en s'appelant Mauricien et en décidant de vivre sur cette île, il a assumé des responsabilités envers les autres. J'ai déjà entendu certaines personnes soutenir que le terme "Mauricien" ne veut rien dire. Ces personnes malheureusement vivent le plus souvent dans l'irréalité; ils se disent Français, Indiens ou Chinois alors qu'ils n'ont pas vraiment autant en commun avec les habitants de leur terre-mère. Nous avons certes gardé un attachement à la terre de nos ancêtres et une affection pour elle: elle nous a légué ses belles vieilles coutumes, ce qui fait que notre façon de vivre est orientale ou occidentale. Mais nous avons également assimilé quelque chose des communautés autres que la nôtre, et aussi de la pensée et des coutumes anglaises, surtout à l'école où nous devons apprendre cette langue comme si elle était notre langue mère.

Mais aujourd'hui plus que jamais nous sentons que nous avons bâti avec nos traditions différentes une nouvelle tradition, essentiellement mauricienne. C'est là-dessus réellement que nous pourrions ériger une entité mauricienne.

Certes, il y aura beaucoup à oublier et beaucoup à pardonner. Ceux-là qui évoquent les querelles passées avec trop d'insistance n'agissent pas en vrais Mauriciens. Nous nous devons de réaliser que nous avons eu mille fois tort de vivre si près l'un de l'autre sans comprendre que nous ne sommes qu'une seule grande famille. Nous devons unir nos efforts afin de créer un pays unifié plutôt que de penser à imposer notre point de vue aux autres. La contribution de la communauté blanche à cette entité mauricienne pourrait être très considérable: nous détenons une grande partie des biens du pays et vous savez que si l'argent peut beaucoup pour le mal, il peut aussi beaucoup pour le bien.

Mais à part l'argent nous pouvons également nous connaître et apprendre à nous estimer davantage. Nous devons mettre de côté tous nos préjugés raciaux: en le faisant je suis persuadé que l'exemple que nous donnerons sera vite suivi. Nos écoles ont déjà accompli énormément dans ce sens et peuvent parfaire la tâche qu'elles ont entreprise. Les années que j'ai passées au Collège Royal m'ont permis de connaître la mentalité et la pensée des diverses communautés de l'île. Je me



Mauritian cycling history to 1965

suis familiarisé avec leurs coutumes, et en ayant pour camarades des écoliers qui n'étaient pas de ma communauté, j'ai compris que j'avais plus en commun avec eux qu'avec des petits Français.

J'ai aussi compris que j'avais une certaine responsabilité à assumer en choisissant de vivre dans ce pays. Tout en me souvenant que mes ancêtres étaient Français et tout en aimant la France, il m'importait avant tout de m'associer à mes vrais compatriotes et de leur montrer que je voudrais collaborer avec eux afin qu'ensemble nous puissions assurer au pays un avenir meilleur.

Nous ne pouvons pas vivre dans l'irréel et nous imaginer en terre étrangère, car nous ne pourrions accomplir rien de constructif pour l'île Maurice comme pour la patrie de nos ancêtres. Nous devons faire face aux réalités présentes et agir, car "être homme," dit St Exupéry, "c'est sentir qu'en posant sa pierre on contribue à bâtir le monde."

Sans doute est-il bon que ceux d'entre nous qui ont eu l'habitude de vivre en occidentaux ou en orientaux continuent de le faire: car une entité mauricienne est obligée de prendre compte de certaines différences qui existent entre les Mauriciens. Mais ce qu'il faut, c'est que nous apprenions à nous mieux connaître.

Si des éléments si divers doivent coexister d'une manière pacifique, ils se doivent d'avoir un esprit large et ouvert, toujours au courant des idées et de la psychologie des autres; ils se doivent de maintenir entre eux des contacts susceptibles d'enrichir leur personnalité et de développer leur esprit de compréhension.

Nous n'arrivons pas à nous entendre souvent parce que nous ne sommes pas assez au courant de la tour-

nure d'esprit des membres des autres communautés que la nôtre pour pouvoir saisir leur point de vue. Nous les ridiculisons ou bien nous nous mettons en colère contre eux. Mais nous ne songeons pas que si nous avons fait l'effort de les étudier de plus près, nous aurions pu facilement sympathiser avec eux.

C'est pourquoi il est de première importance que nous suivions tous à l'école plus ou moins les mêmes cours. Si certains se mettent à apprendre une langue orientale pendant que d'autres apprennent une langue occidentale, cela consacrera entre nous des divisions qu'il sera difficile d'abolir. Nous avons vu récemment combien il était difficile de choisir les langues que nous devons étudier à l'école; mais le fait certain est que nous aurons à fixer un choix très bientôt.

Le travail d'unification se trouvera sérieusement compromis si l'on nous divise à l'école, car les premières impressions de jeunesse sont difficilement effaçables. Tout cela demande beaucoup de compréhension mutuelle plus facile à prêcher qu'à réaliser. Nous avons aussi à compter avec ceux de nos différentes communautés qui sont extrémistes. Mais si nous pouvions réunir nos meilleurs éléments, l'entité mauricienne serait en voie de progrès.

La JIC nous a donné un exemple ce soir: continuons cette œuvre en tâchant de coordonner nos efforts, de nous réunir plus souvent dans le but de créer finalement une grande organisation qui pourrait combattre efficacement le nationalisme et faire triompher la cause du mauricianisme. Ceux d'entre nous qui ne sont pas prêts à se sacrifier pour cet idéal ne sont pas dignes du nom de Mauriciens et par conséquent n'accomplissent pas un des grands devoirs dont nous avons à nous acquitter ici-bas : celui d'être de bons citoyens.

What ethical standards should we hold politicians to?

● Cont. from page 2

This sentiment is echoed in Machiavelli's famous exhortation that the political leader must "learn how not to be good".

For the realist, then, we should favour politicians who are prepared to engage in dirty deals in pursuit of good political goals.

A pure moralist reading of Stratton's comments might say that we should never tolerate politicians who are willing to compromise on their personal ethics in order to pursue good results. However, this take looks implausibly strong when you remember that moralists believe the same ethical standards ought to apply in politics as in everyday life.

In ordinary life, using a bad means to achieve a good end is sometimes ethically acceptable, perhaps even required. Research shows that we are all willing to prioritise good consequences over dubious means, at least sometimes.

For the moralist, cases where we ought to tolerate politicians engaging in dirty deals for good ends will be rarer, but will nonetheless exist. We ought to judge the politician here by the same standards as we judge the regular person.

Sleaze: a different story

For the realist, who holds that politics has its own set of ethical standards, we can judge the sleazy politician when this behaviour gets in the way of their political goals – but not for the sleaze itself.

We should assess the politician on their adherence to politics' internal standards (including their ability to competently engage in dirty dealings), without reference to the ethics they display in their personal life.

A good example here would be John F. Kennedy, who is generally thought of as a competent politician, but with a very chaotic (and unethical) personal life. However, he is the exception. It is more likely that someone with an unethical private life would carry this behaviour into their politics. For example, using their office for self-interested ends, enriching themselves and impro-



perly advancing their friends and lovers.

For the moralist, sleaze matters, as poor ethical judgment and character in everyday life is evidence of poor ethics in political life. This view was famously expressed by Thomas Jefferson, who claimed:

I never did or countenanced, in public life, a single act inconsistent with the strictest good faith; having never believed there was one code of morality for a public and another for a private man.

We might wonder at this point whether moralists are just insufferable prudes. However, it is important to emphasise that the moralist view is not criticising politicians for having an unconventional or colourful personal life. It is arguing that unethical behaviour in personal life is likely to translate into bad ethical character in public life. But a colourful personal life is not necessarily evidence of bad ethical character.

Who is correct?

The ethical debate between the two approaches is not going to be settled anytime soon. But we might question whether the realist view of a "good" politician – one who is good at making dirty deals and engages in sleazy behaviour only in their personal life – can really exist.

Politicians who are unethical in their personal life but not in office are rare. Bad ethical character can get in the way of competence, and politicians are no more able than the rest of us to turn their character traits on and off at work. It may be the moralists then, not the realists, who are being realistic when they take private ethical character as an indicator of how politicians will behave in office.

Joshua Hobbs, Lecturer and Consultant in Applied Ethics, University of Leeds

Laughter is the best medicine Advocacy!

A student group asked a lawyer: "Sir, what does 'advocacy' mean?" The lawyer replied: "Two persons come to me, one is very clean and the other very dirty. I advise both of them to take a bath. Now tell me, 'Who amongst them will take a shower?'"

Student 1: "The one who is dirty will take a shower."

Lawyer: "No, but the clean person will do it, because he has the habit of bathing, while the dirty one does not know the importance of cleanliness. Now tell me, who will take a shower?"

Student 2: "The clean person"

Lawyer: "No, but the dirty person will take a bath because he is the one who needs cleaning.

Now tell who will take a shower?"

Students 1 & 2: "The one who is dirty will take a shower."

Lawyer: "No, both will take a bath because the clean person has a habit of bathing, while the dirty one needs a bath. Now tell me again who will take a shower?"

Students 1,2 & 3: "Both will take a shower."

Lawyer: "Wrong, no one will take a bath, because the dirty one is not used to bathing, whereas the clean one does not need to bathe. Now tell me once again who will take a shower?"

Student: "Sir, you give a different answer every time and every answer seems to be correct. How do we know the correct answer?"

Lawyer: "That, my dear student, is 'advocacy'! It is not important what the reality is.

What matters is, how many possible arguments can you offer to prove your point".

Arthritis

On a bus, a priest sat next to a drunk who was struggling to read a newspaper!

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

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

Drunk Harry widened his eyes, shut up and continued reading the newspaper!

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

Harry: "I don't have arthritis! It says here in the paper that the Pope has it!"

Your Wife Is Your Wife

A married couple were walking through a garden, when suddenly a dog ran towards them. They both knew it would bite them.

The husband lifted his wife to let the dog bite him rather than his sweetheart.

The dog stopped before them, unsure what to do, barked a little and ran away.

The husband put his wife down, expecting a hug and a few kind words of gratitude from her.

But his wife shouted, "I've seen people throwing stones and sticks at dogs. This is the first time I see someone trying to throw his wife at a dog.

Moral: No one else can misunderstand a husband better than a wife.



1956-2021



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An elderly tailor owned a shop next to a smart French restaurant. Every day at lunch time, the tailor would go out to the back of his shop and eat his black bread and herring while smelling the wonderful odors coming from the restaurant kitchen.

Then one day the tailor was surprised to receive an invoice for \$50 for enjoyment of food over a nine-month period. He went to the restaurant to point out that he had not actually consumed any food from the restaurant.

But the restaurant owner said: 'You're enjoying our food, so you should pay for it.'

The tailor refused to pay. The restaurant owner sued him. At the hearing, the judge asked the restaurant to present its side of the case.

The owner said: 'Every day this man comes and sits outside my restaurant and smells our food while eating his; it is clear that we are providing added value to his poor food and we deserve to be compensated for it.'

The judge then turned to the tailor and asked him to defend his case.



The tailor didn't say anything, but put his hand in his pocket and rattled the coins inside.

'What is the meaning of this?' demanded the judge.

The tailor replied: 'I'm paying for the smell of food with the sound of my money.'

An old Jew on his deathbed with his three sons around him...

'Shimon, are you here?'

'Yes, father I am by your side,' said Shimon.

'And you, Moishe?'

'Yes, father, have no fear. I am with you,' replied Moishe.

'And Abraham have come as well?'

'Yes, father, I am here too,' replied Abraham.

The old man threw up his arms in horror, 'Then who is looking after the shop?'

The doctor called Mrs Kissinger to tell him that her cheque has bounced.

She replied: 'So did my arthritis.'

Wife was busy in packing her clothes.

Husband - Where are you going?

Wife - I'm moving to my mother.

Husband also starts packing his clothes.

Wife - Now where are you going?

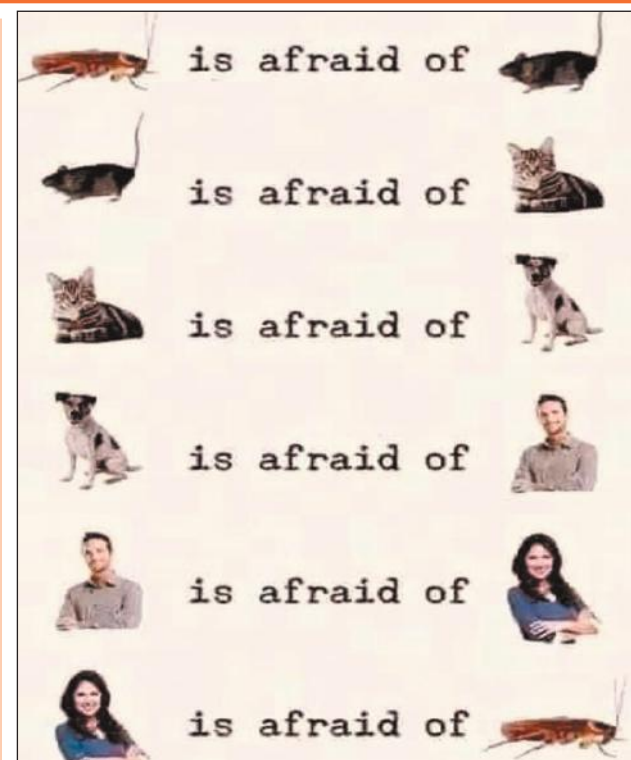
Husband - I'm also moving to my mother.

Wife - And what about the kids?

Husband - Well I guess... If you are moving to your mother and I'm moving to my mother, they should move to their mother.

Clothes unpacked.

A farmer ordered a high-tech milking machine. It happened that the equipment arrived when his wife was away. So, he decided to test it on himself first. He inserted his thing into the equipment, turned the switch on and... voila, everything else was automatic!



He really had good time as the equipment provided him with much pleasure. When the fun was over, he found that he could not take the instrument off.

He read the manual, but did not find any useful information.

He tried every button on the instrument, some made the equipment squeeze, shake, or suck harder or less, but still without success.

Panicking, he called the supplier's Customer Service Hot Line.

The farmer: "Hello, I just bought a milking machine from your company. It worked fantastic, but how can I take it off from the cow's under?"

Customer Service: "Don't worry. The machine was programmed such that it will release automatically after collecting about 2 litres of milk."

Words to Live by

I've learned

... that being kind is more important than being right.

... that when you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

... that having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

... that the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

... that when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned

... that money doesn't buy class.

... that just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

... that you should never say no to a gift from a child.

... that I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

... that no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a

friend to act goofy with.

I've learned

... that sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

... that simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

... that life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

... that it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

... that under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned

... that to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

... that when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

... that love, not time, heals all wounds.

... that the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

... that everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned

... that no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

... that life is tough, but I'm tougher.

... that opportunities are never lost; some one will take the ones you missed.

... that I wish I could have told my mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

... that one should keep his words both soft and tender because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned

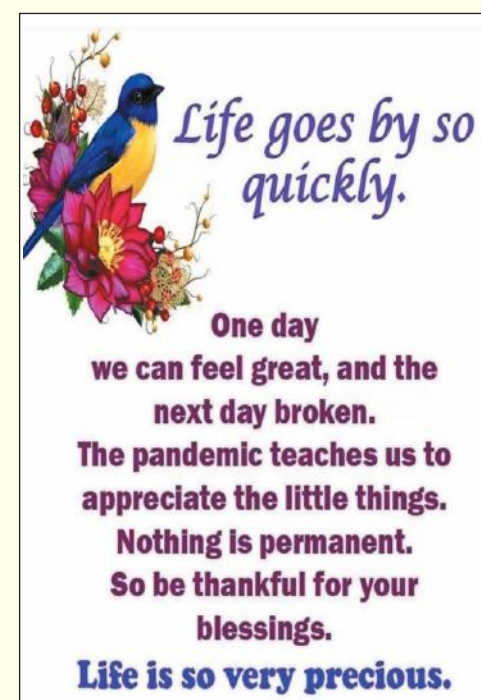
... that a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

... that when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, you're hooked for life.

... that everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

... that the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

Written by Andy Rooney, a man who had the gift of saying so much with so few words. Rooney, who used to be on CBS's 60 Minutes TV show, has passed away, but his words spoken then are more important now than ever!



That's Life

The Lie runs around the world

The Lie said to the Truth, "Let's take a bath together, the well water is very nice. The Truth, still suspicious, tested the water and found out it really was nice. So, they got naked and bathed. But suddenly, the Lie leapt out of the water and fled, wearing the clothes of the Truth.



The Truth, furious, climbed out of the well to get her clothes back. But the World, upon seeing the naked Truth, looked away, with anger and contempt. Poor Truth returned to the well and disappeared forever, hiding her shame. Since then, the Lie runs around the world, dressed as the Truth, and society is very happy...

Because the world has no desire to know the naked Truth.

Life's Lessons

Rules to teach your son

1. Never shake a man's hand sitting down.
2. Don't enter a pool by the stairs.
3. The man at the BBQ Grill is the closest thing to a king.
4. In a negotiation, never make the first offer.
5. Request the late check-out.
6. When entrusted with a secret, keep it.
7. Hold your heroes to a higher standard.
8. Return a borrowed car with a full tank of gas.
9. Play with passion or don't play at all...
10. When shaking hands, grip firmly and look them in the eye.
11. Don't let a wishbone grow where a backbone should be.
12. If you need music on the beach, you're missing the point.
13. Carry two handkerchiefs. The one in your back pocket is for you. The one in your breast pocket is for her.
14. You marry the girl, you marry her family.
15. Be like a duck. Remain calm on the surface and paddle like crazy underneath.
16. Experience the serenity of travelling alone.
17. Never be afraid to ask out the best looking girl in the room.
18. Never turn down a breath mint.
19. A sport coat is worth 1000 words.
20. Try writing your own eulogy. Never stop revising.
21. Thank a veteran. Then make it up to him.
22. Eat lunch with the new kid.
23. After writing an angry email, read it carefully. Then delete it.
24. Ask your mom to play. She won't let you win.
25. Manners maketh the man.
26. Give credit. Take the blame.
27. Stand up to bullies. Protect those bullied.
28. Write down your dreams.
29. Take time to snuggle your pets, they love you so much and are always happy to see you.
30. Be confident and humble at the same time.
31. If ever in doubt, remember whose son you are and refuse to just be ordinary!
32. In all things lead by example not explanation.
33. Dress how you want to be addressed
34. Be blessed by being a blessing

The HR Dairy

Life's Stories

A boy's meeting with God

A little boy was fascinated by the tales of God and was determined to meet God. He knew it would be a long trip, so he packed his bag with some of his favourite cookies and a flask with tea and started on his journey.

He walked around three blocks and stopped by when he saw a beautiful park. He sat on a bench beside an elderly lady. She was just sitting on the bench and watching some pigeons. He opened his bag, took out his cookies and poured some tea. When he was about to sip his tea, he noticed the lady looked hungry. He offered her his cookies and a cup of tea. She gratefully accepted and smiled at him.



The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon smiling and eating cookies, but they never said a word.

As the day went down, the boy realized that he was tired and wanted to go home. He got up to leave, but before he took more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old woman and gave her a big hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

The boy entered his house with a huge smile on his face. Surprised by the look of joy on his face, his mother asked, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I had a lunch with God today." But, before his mother could respond, he added, "And she has got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old woman went back home. Her son, astonished by the joy and peace on his mother's face, asked, "Mother, what made you so happy today?" She replied, "I ate cookies and tea in the park with God." But, before her son could give her a reply, she added, "You know, he is much younger than I expected."

Moral: Too often we underestimate the power of little acts of love and care like a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment and all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

Quotable Quotes
Comets

Some people appear as comets in our lives. They burn with such brightness and move so fast, that they don't last.

-- Jashashwini

Letters to the sky, An affair with the stars, A Universe of broken Comets, Galaxies to repair.

-- Anonymous poem

You are made up of comets and stars. Do not surround yourself with those that treat you like dirt and dust.

-- Noor Shirazie

Life is like a comet which briefly crosses the night sky without almost being noticed.

-- Habyarimana (*The great pearl of wisdom*)

Like a blazing comet, I've traversed infinite nights, interstellar spaces of the imagination, voluptuousness and fear.

-- Antonio Tabucchi

Sensual pleasures have the fleeting brilliance of a comet. A happy marriage has the tranquility of a lovely sunset.

-- Ann Landers

I've been looking for a long, long time for this thing called love. I've ridden comets across the sky, and

I've looked below and above. Then one day I looked inside myself, and this is what I found: a golden Sun residing there, beaming forth God's light and sound.

-- Rumi

Like a palm tree set on a millet plant with a growing tail on a little star, you blaze forth in kinship with the eastern moon, Oh illustrious comet!

-- Bharathiyar's Tamil poem translated by Dr T N Ramachandran

When beggars die, there are no comets seen; the heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes.

-- Shakespeare in 'Julius Caesar'

6 Common Causes of Low Back Pain

Is it your workout, your posture, or one of these chronic conditions? See what could be making your lower back hurt -- and what may bring you relief.

What is low back pain? The low back, also called the lumbar region, is the area of the back that starts below the ribcage. Almost everyone has low back pain at some point in life. Fortunately, it often gets better on its own. When it doesn't, your doctor may be able to help with several effective treatments.

Symptoms of low back pain: These might range from a dull ache to a stabbing or shooting sensation. The pain may make it hard to move or stand up straight. Pain that comes on suddenly is "acute." It might happen during sports or heavy lifting. Pain that lasts more than 3 months is considered "chronic." If your pain is not better within 72 hours, you should consult a doctor.

Symptoms that require urgent care: See a health care professional any time you have back pain after a fall or injury. The same goes if you have back pain with bowel or bladder control problems, leg weakness, fever, or pain when coughing or peeing.

Muscle strain or sciatica? Muscle strain is often the cause of back pain from heavy lifting or vigorous exercise. But sometimes it's due to small jelly-filled disks meant to protect the space between vertebrae. When one of these disks bulges or breaks, it can push on a nerve. When it's the sciatic nerve, pain runs from the buttock down one leg. This is sciatica.

Back pain culprits: Your job: If your job involves lifting, pulling, or anything that twists the spine, it may contribute to back pain. However, sitting at a desk all day comes with risks of its own, especially if your chair is uncomfortable or you tend to slouch.

Your bag: Although you may wear your purse, backpack, or briefcase over your shoulder, it is the lower back that supports the upper body -- including any additional weight you carry. So, an overstuffed bag can strain the lower back, especially if you carry it day after day. If you must tote a heavy load, consider switching to a wheeled briefcase.

Your workout: Overdoing it at the gym or golf course is one of the most common causes of overextended muscles leading to low back pain. You're especially vulnerable if you tend to be inactive during the work week and then spend hours at the gym or softball field on the weekend.

Your posture: Moms were right when they said, "Stand up straight!" Your back supports weight best when you don't slouch. This means sitting with good lumbar support for your lower back, shoulders back, with feet resting on a low stool. When standing, keep weight



evenly balanced on both feet.

Your herniated disk: The spine's vertebrae are cushioned by gel-like disks that are prone to wear and tear from aging or injuries. A weakened disk may rupture or bulge, putting pressure on the spinal nerve roots. This is known as a herniated disk and can cause intense pain.

Diagnosing Low Back Pain: To help your doctor diagnose the source of low back pain, be specific in describing the type of pain, when it started, related symptoms, and any history of chronic conditions. Your doctor will probably not need to order X-rays, CT or MRI scans before starting treatment.

Home care for low back pain: Back pain due to muscle strain will usually get better on its own, but you can take steps to make yourself more comfortable. A heating pad or warm baths may provide temporary pain relief.

The bed rest debate: When your back hurts, you may not feel like getting out of bed. But if the problem is muscle strain, doctors recommend returning to your normal activities as soon as possible. Studies suggest that any more than a day or two of bed rest can actually make the pain worse and may reduce muscle tone and flexibility.

Yoga: If back pain doesn't go away in 3 months, there's evidence that yoga can help. In one study, people who took 12 weeks of yoga classes had less back pain than those who got a book about back pain. The benefits lasted several months. Just make sure you get expert instruction so you don't hurt yourself.

Spinal Manipulation: Chiropractors and some osteopathic doctors may try to move the joints of your spine to

treat low back pain. They apply pressure with their hands to bones and surrounding tissues. This treatment is not appropriate for everyone, so be sure to tell your provider about all your symptoms and health issues.

Massage Therapy: Massage may relieve chronic low back pain, especially when combined with exercise and stretching. Researchers noted patients who did all three were able to move around easier and had less short-term and long-term pain.

Acupuncture: Can acupuncture treat back pain? The evidence is mixed for people with short-term back pain. Research showed that these people benefited from sham acupuncture as much as from real acupuncture. However, in other studies, people with chronic or long-lasting back-pain did show improvement after receiving acupuncture treatments.

Medications: Mild back pain often feels better with over-the-counter pain relievers, such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or naproxen. Pain-relieving creams may be helpful for muscle aches. For severe pain or chronic pain, your doctor may recommend prescription medication.

Injections: If simpler therapies and medications aren't helping, your doctor may recommend injections to the back. One procedure, called a nerve root block, targets irritated nerves. Injections for back pain usually contain steroid medication.

Surgery: If long-lasting back pain is interfering with your daily life, and other treatments have not provided relief, you may be a candidate for surgery. Depending on the cause of your pain, a surgeon may remove a herniated disc, widen the space around the spinal cord, and/or fuse two spinal vertebrae together.

Physical Therapy: If back pain has left you inactive for a long time, a rehabilitation program can help you strengthen your muscles and get back to your daily activities. A physical therapist can guide you through stretches, strength exercises, and low-impact cardio that will help you be fitter without straining your back.

Strengthening the Back: Strength training can help your lower back. In flexion exercises, you bend forward to stretch and strengthen the muscles of the back and hips. In extension exercises, you bend backward to develop the muscles that support the spine. If you have back pain, talk to your doctor or physical therapist about exercises that are safe for you.

Preventing Low Back Pain: There's no sure way to prevent back pain as you age, but there are steps you can take to lower your risk:

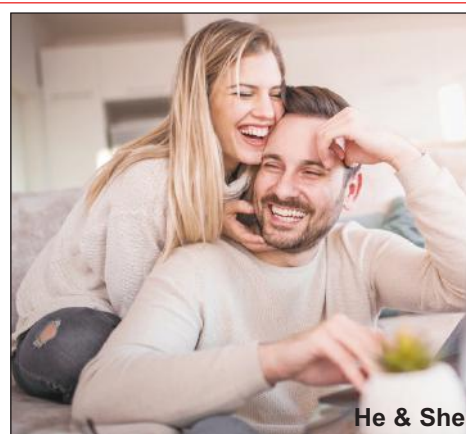
- Stay at a healthy weight.
- Exercise regularly.
- Lift with your legs, not your back.
- Make sure your work station position isn't contributing to your pain.

Medically Reviewed by Tyler Wheeler, MD - WebMD

Happily married couples do these 5 things every year

It's not easy to make a marriage work. When the boredom, constant fights and disagreements set in, the marriage begins to crumble in the absence of sufficient love, understanding and communication. But there are certain things that bridge the gap between emotionally estranged couples closer. All couples should resort to doing a few things, as listed by Times of India, and that will bring them closer. Let's take a look at some of those things.

Go on a planned vacation: No matter



how busy you both are, never ditch a planned vacation because of work stuff. Treat the vacation as a major priority because it will guarantee you time with

your partner, and that's what you both need, to keep the marriage ongoing.

Have timely discussions about finances: A lot of couples end up divorcing because of financial issues. Keeping each in the dark about financial investments and balances is not the way to go. You both should be on the same page about balances and short-term or long-term financial goals.

Sexual experiments: Make sure you and your spouse always make the best out of your time together. Try to have sex whenever and wherever possible. Amp up the temperature by spicing up your sex life, because it's necessary to initiate physical touch with your partner.

Binge-watch shows: Pick out any

show that you both can watch together. Schedule a time together, at the end of the day when you both can scooch together and cuddle while watching the series together. This can help you both to relax in each other's arms while watching your comfort show together.

Home clean-up: Every year, plan a time period when you both can clean up your house and get rid of all the stuff that you both don't need. This reduces the clutter in the house which may also be a reason you both are fighting or drifting apart slowly. Extra space can benefit you both, especially if you have new interests and things coming up that need space in the house. Remember, have a balanced space.

Erica Fernandes: 'Nothing makes me happier than getting back into Sonakshi's avatar'

Erica, in an exclusive conversation with SpotboyE.com, opened up about the kind of roles she would like to take up in future and shared the reason of her being away from reality shows so far.

How excited are you about the launch of the new season?

Nothing makes me happier than getting back into Sonakshi's avatar, which is a character that is immensely close to my heart. This show will forever fetch a special place in my heart and my loyalty towards it is going to be never-ending, so whenever it calls, I will be there for it.

Where actresses want to experiment with the characters and also get bored easily, what motivated you to play Sonakshi once again?

I didn't really need anything to motivate me to play Sonakshi again. With a character that has helped me shape up my personality in so many ways and helped me raise the bar for myself as an actor and a performer, there was no thinking twice about taking up the role again.

Season 3 focuses on the ups and downs a couple goes through after marriage. Did you take any advice from any of the married couples you are close to in order to emote better?

I think all of us just picked up from where we left our characters and worked on the emotions, feelings, and characteristics that have been put together on the basis of the storyline for this season.

Being a popular face on television, a lot of reality shows must have been offered to you. Why

didn't we see you participating in any?

As of now, I am focussing on a lot of other aspects in terms of my work, but as and when the time is right and I feel the need to take up a reality show, I definitely will.

We have always seen you play the 'good girl' character. Will you ever take up a negative role?

As an actor, it is my wish to experiment with every possible genre, so I can explore my acting abilities to the fullest. So, be it a negative role or a comic role or even the role of a superwoman, I would love to take it up to broaden my vision and better myself as a performer.

A lot of actors believe having a good Instagram following is really important to get work. Do you agree?

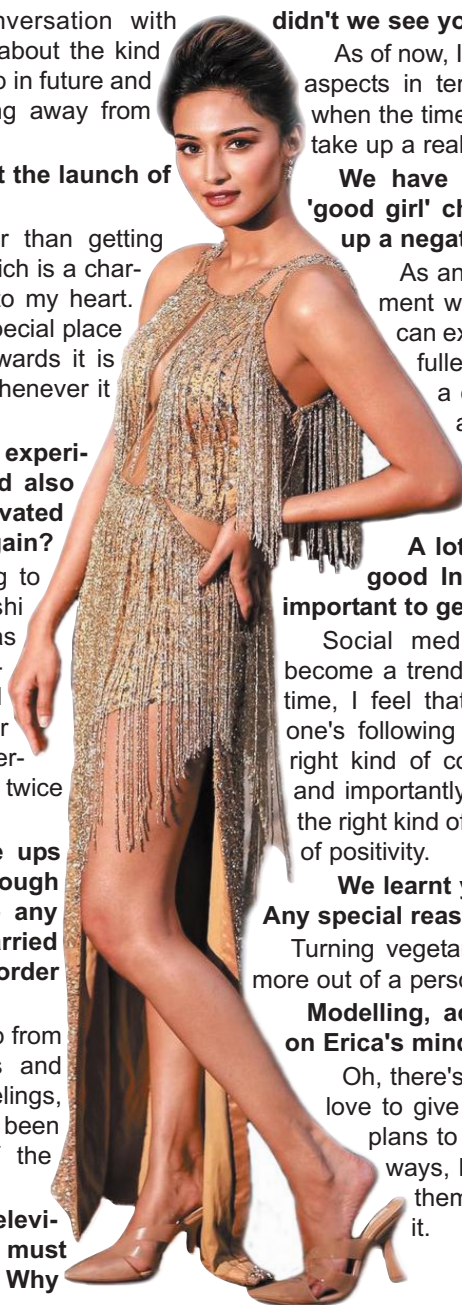
Social media numbers have definitely become a trend these days, but at the same time, I feel that it should not just be about one's following but more about building the right kind of connection with your followers and importantly using the medium to spread the right kind of messages and give out loads of positivity.

We learnt you have turned vegetarian. Any special reason?

Turning vegetarian is something I am doing more out of a personal reason.

Modelling, acting, vlogging what's next on Erica's mind?

Oh, there's a lot on my mind that I would love to give a shot at! There are a lot of plans to expand my creativity in many ways, but as and when I am sure of them, only then will I speak about it.



Sakshi Tanwar: 'Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii' set the precedent for daily soaps

Actress Sakshi Tanwar feels the iconic show 'Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii' changed the viewing experience for the better. As the show is coming back after almost 13 years, Sakshi gets nostalgic about being part of the show and portraying an ideal daughter-in-law Parvati in it, reports IANS.

According to her, this was among the shows that had set a trend of *saas-bahu* sagas on TV and was so much connected to the daily lives of people that one can see similar incidents happening next door.

She shares: "It truly pioneered the change of television viewing experience. It is one of those shows which set the precedent for what we still see on TV as daily soaps. The relationship between television actors and their viewers is quite

unique to me."

"It is a beautiful exchange of emotions through television which may even be compared to meeting your neighbours on a daily basis. I am truly excited to see its re-run on TV," adds the actress known for TV shows such as 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain', 'Kutumb' and many more.

'Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii' was one of the most successful shows on TV from 2000 to 2008. In fact, it was among the Top 5.

Actors like Sakshi Tanwar, Kiran Karmarkar, Ali Asgar, Shweta Kawatraa became household names and even today they are remembered for their roles.



YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Your professional front is likely to be strenuous. Additional responsibilities may weigh you down, affecting your output. Financial transactions in buying or selling property may be quite beneficial. You may get an opportunity to develop intimacy by undertaking an interesting vacation outside the city.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 13, 16, 21, 29

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

On the professional front, you may have to work harder to make your presence felt. This may otherwise take away the opportunity to receive recognition or a reward. On the romantic front, dullness is likely to creep into your love life. A date night with your partner may help you to reignite your passions.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 7, 18, 21, 33, 35

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

For some unforeseen circumstances, your long overdue travel plans are likely to get postponed. Legal matters related to an ancestral property may finally be resolved. Aquarius natives may not have enough time to spend with their partner, and your love life is likely to suffer. You run the risk of causing rifts in the relationship with your inconsistent behaviour.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 15, 16, 21, 33

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Over expenditures may pinch your pocket if not given serious consideration. Your domestic life may be demanding too. Your family elders may expect you to be on your toes to get their work done perfectly. Property dealing with an unknown person may lead to financial losses. Students are likely to crack tough entrance exams.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 23, 26, 30, 39, 40

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

On the family front, your loved ones may be in a celebratory mood. Being with people close to you may fill your home with warmth. As far as your love life is concerned, sharing your heartfelt desires with your significant other is likely to strengthen the ties. However, your professional front may be average.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 13, 20, 26, 30

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Lack of rest may stress you out. On the romantic front, your partner may not be in a pleasant mood. This may negatively affect your love life causing friction between you both. Those looking to embark on a fun trip with friends need to make thorough arrangements to avoid problems. Property matters are likely to run into disputes.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 15, 16, 36, 40

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

On the romantic front, those looking to settle down with their partner may face some objections. Work your way out of the problem. An exciting trip with your significant other may prove to be therapeutic and comforting. Property deals may yield major profits. Single Gemini natives may be introduced to someone interesting person, which can give you a chance to start an exhilarating romance.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 18, 20, 33, 34, 35

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Neglecting your partner for various reasons may create rifts in the relationship. Your professional life is likely to be precarious. Wasting your time and losing focus at work could negatively impact your career. A well-deserved vacation with family or friends may bring your disturbed mind back on track. Those looking to sell off an old property may receive handsome profits.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 17, 19, 21, 25, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Your economic condition is likely to remain satisfactory. Not much is expected as far as financial gains go. You may need to keep your property buying plans on hold for some time as the time does not seem auspicious. Students completing post-graduation may start receiving good job offers. Leos, your love life may be satisfactory as you spend time in the company of your romantic partner.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 16, 17, 23, 27

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Your professional front shows potential. Opportunities to broaden your career horizons on an international platform may be in the offing. Your love life is likely to shine. Planning a fun outing with your partner may bring you two closers together. However, there may be problems on the domestic front.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 6, 14, 15, 21, 31

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

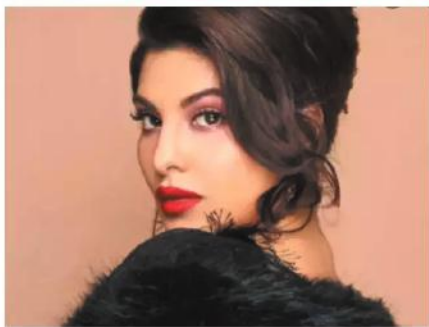
A consistently superlative performance at work may bring you a well-deserved promotion. Your financial front may remain strong. You are likely to invest in an immovable asset, which has the potential to secure your future. However, your family members may not be very cooperative. Libras may have to infuse new life into romantic relationship, as dullness is likely to kill the fun.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 16, 20, 21, 33, 36

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You may do well financially at this time. A business venture is likely to pick up pace, bringing unexpected profits. Scorpio natives may be drawn to a fascinating person. Interestingly, your feelings are likely to be reciprocated. This might herald the beginning of a new romantic relationship.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 17, 20, 22, 30, 36



This what Bollywood divas eat to lose weight quickly for their movies

Staying in shape and losing weight is a universal desire, and what fuels this desire is the fitness inspiration from gorgeous B-town celebrities.. But have you ever wondered how Bollywood divas lose weight so quickly based on their movie projects? Well, here are some well kept secrets of Bollywood divas and what they eat to lose weight faster, as reported by TOI.

Sonakshi Sinha: The actress entered Bollywood with a drastic transformation where she had lost around 30kgs. She discarded junk, carbs, artificial sweeteners and replaced them with protein. The diva also avoids consuming any carbs post 6pm, coupled with rigorous workout she prefers consuming green tea early morning

followed by breakfast which includes whole wheat toast, milk or cereal. For lunch she prefers homemade roti and sabzi with salad followed by early dinner, which includes dal, sabzi, chicken, and fish.

Jacqueline Fernandez: The stunning diva doesn't go to the gym to stay in shape, but her strict diet and workout at home makes her so flexible and gorgeous. The diva begins her day with a morning drink, which is basically a lemon water followed by breakfast at 8am. She follows a clean diet which has more fruits and less veggies. In fact, she consumes her last meal at 7pm evening and follows an intermittent diet plan.

Bhumi Pednekar: Bhumi left fans shocked with her drastic transformation after *Dum Laga Ke Haisha*, where she had to gain weight to play the main lead. Since then the diva has been vocal about her love for healthy eating, she swears by home cooked food, smoothies and healthy substitutes to stay in shape. She follows a strict diet and avoids refined sugar, carbs and alcohol.

Parineeti Chopra: This beautiful diva shared in one of her interviews "I used to be 86 kilos; I used to wear size 38. Right now, fitting into a size 30 is a big achievement."

Parineeti Chopra followed a strict diet and learnt Kalaripayattu which is a martial arts form from Kerala. She replaced all foods with brown and organic substitutes and followed a detox programme. Her breakfast included a glass of milk, brown bread with butter, two eggs - white portion only, juice followed by lunch which was a simple desi meal along with brown rice, green salad and green leafy vegetables. Lastly, her dinner will leave you surprised as she often had chocolate shakes or low calorie meals to lose weight.

Sonakshi Sinha: 'I'm in a more relaxed and comfortable space right now'

It's been 12 years since Sonakshi Sinha entered the film industry, and it has taken that number of years for her to come into her own, and pave her own path on her terms. In fact, she confesses she is busy working on her own growth, instead of being in a race to ape someone else, reports Hindustan Times.



"Now, I feel like I have come into my own. Like, earlier, it used to be very excitable, and I used to take up a lot more on my plate than I could handle. My mind was buzzing (with things) constantly," says Sinha, who made her debut in Bollywood with *Dabangg* in 2010.

When it comes to her filmography, it is a case of hit and miss, with projects such as *Rowdy Rathore*, *Lootera* and *Holiday: A Soldier Is Never Off Duty*, *Tevar*, *Akira*, *Noor*, *Force 2* and *Kalank*.

Opening up about her present position, the 35-year-old says, "I'm in a more relaxed and comfortable space right now where I'm working on my own terms and conditions and doing what I want to do, not under any sort of pressure to kind of be like someone or achieve what somebody has achieved".

"I am very happy in the space that I'm in. So, I think that's really changed for me over the last few years. I started concentrating more on my growth as a person than anything else. And I feel that's also really helped me with just kind of handling (things), and going on with my career," adds the actor.

Today, what works in her favour is everyone's willingness to experiment. "This is the right time to experiment and take risks and do things that you've never done before. Because the audience's mind has also opened up over the last few years, and they're also more accepting of risk. It is a great time to be an actor".

In fact, apart from acting, she has expanded her horizons, and embarked on an entrepreneurial journey with several ventures. And the actor admits that the road till now has been very satisfying.

"It is like a new role that I have taken up, and it is very enjoyable because I waited for the right time. A lot of people actually had approached me earlier saying they wanted me to associate with their brand, but that really didn't feel right to me," she notes.

Why? "Because I wanted to be involved in something right from scratch, from naming it to conceptualising it to portraying it. This is what I really enjoy doing, and want to continue doing so," she ends.

Bipasha Basu, Sonam Kapoor, Alia Bhatt: 'Baby on the way'

Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover are expecting their first child soon. While we wait for an official announcement, celebrations are already pouring in for the couple. While Bipasha and Karan plan for their baby, there are many other Bollywood celeb babies who will be born this year. From Sonam Kapoor to Alia Bhatt, many celebs are expecting and are due in 2022.

Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor

Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor made the big announcement last month that they are expecting their first child soon. Alia shared a picture from the sonography session and surprised fans with her announcement. Alia and Ranbir tied the knot in April 2022.

Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja

On March 21, Sonam and Anand shared a good news with the world. Sonam Kapoor took to Instagram and posted a series of photos of herself and husband Anand Ahuja while showing off her tiny baby bump. The actress wrote, "Four hands. To raise



you the very best we can. Two hearts. That will beat in unison with yours, every step of the way. One family. Who will shower you with love and support. We can't wait to welcome you.

Vinny Arora and Dheeraj Dhoopar

Dheeraj Dhoopar and his wife Vinny Arora Dhoopar shared pictures from their Maldives vacation to announce that the duo is expecting their first child soon. Vinny Arora

wrote on social media, "We're expecting a tiny miracle August 2022 (sic)." In one of the pictures, the couple is kissing and Vinny can be seen holding the sonography photo.

Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover

According to a report by Pinkvilla, Bipasha Basu and Karan Singh Grover are expecting their first child soon.

Cinema Sirsa

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

ÉK VILLAIN RETURNS

RETURNS (Featuring John Abraham, Disha Patani, Arjun Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapur)

Friday	5 Aug 2022	- 10:15/13:15/20:15
Saturday	6 Aug 2022	- 10:15/13:15/20:15
Sunday	7 Aug 2022	- 13:15 / 16:15 / 20:15
Monday	8 Aug 2022	To
Thursday	11 Aug 2022	- 13:15 / 20:15

CINE 12

Vendredi 5 août - 21.15

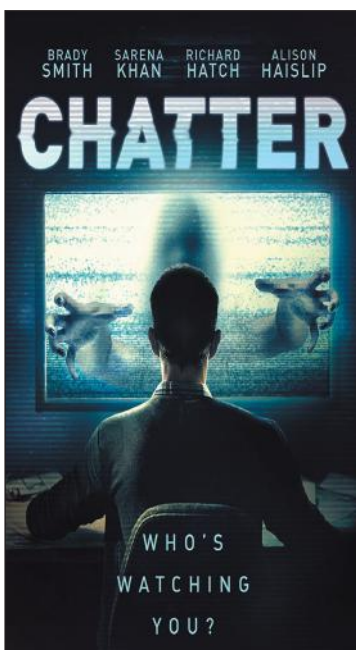


Samedi 6 août - 21.00



CINE 12

Dimanche 7 août - 21.52



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 5 août

MBC 1

06.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
07.16 D.Anime: Pet Alien
08.30 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute
09.00 Film: Heroes Of Envell
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous...
11.35 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
13.50 MBC Production
14.45 D.Anime: Gon
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
15.34 Film: Simba Junior To The...
16.59 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.55 Serial: Surya Puran
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Les Grands Noms...
21.06 Local: Radio Vision
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: Akhil
14.43 Filler: Radha Krishna
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.46 Serial: Bommarillu
16.13 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.28 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
16.47 Serial: Bhaag Na Banche...
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: Les Grand Mythes
12.17 Mag: Carnet De Sante
14.22 Doc: Castles
15.50 Doc: Stolen Soul
16.33 Doc: Albania's Last Trains
17.15 Mag: Eco India
19.00 Student Support Prog...
20.00 Mag: Football Review
20.50 Doc: World Heritage
21.35 Doc: Tigre Helicoptere...
22.24 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
23.30 Doc: The Bitter Sweet Deal
00.55 Doc: World Famous Writers
00.58 Mag: Our Voices
01.24 Mag: Euromaxx
01.50 Doc: Expedition Kachgar
02.43 Doc: World Heritage
02.48 Doc: Tigre Helicoptere De...

Cine 12

01.16 Film: Two Lovers And A Bear
03.37 Film: Adopt A Highway
05.24 Tele: Marimar
05.48 Tele: Rubi
06.59 Film: Two Lovers And A Bear
09.00 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
12.00 Film: Adopt A Highway
13.37 Tele: Marimar
14.50 Film: Two Lovers And A Bear
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: Timeless
21.15 Film: Little Italy
22.48 Tele: Marimar

Bollywood TV

06.52 Film: Aaj Daur
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Padmini..
11.24 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.54 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.23 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
12.54 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.23 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.50 / 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: Raju Ban Gaya
Gentleman
Starring: Shahrukh Khan, Juhi
Chawla, Nana Patekar
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.28 Serial: Kuch Rang Pyar
Ke Aise Bhi

samedi 6 août

06.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
07.43 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
08.00 D.Anime: Kid Lucky
08.25 D.Anime: Briko
09.30 D.Anime: Kids' Planet
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
10.30 Serial: Oh Yuck!
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna...
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
13.55 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
14.45 Local: Artizan
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
15.34 Film: Alpha And Omega 8
16.20 Film: Dragons
17.15 Mag: Human Nature
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
21.25 Film: On Wings Of Eagles
23.00 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Gharonda
Starring Amol Palekar, Zarina
Wahab, Dr. Shreeram Lagoo
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.23 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.11 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare
12.33 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.56 Serial: High School
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Jeans
Stars: Prashanth, Aishwarya
Rai, Nassar
17.47 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: Game Over
Starring Taapsee Pannu, Vinodhini
Vaidyanathan, Anish
Kuruvilla, Sanchana

06.00 Doc: Riding The Rails...
06.42 Mag: World Stories
06.57 Mag: Our Vocies
07.25 Mag: Euromaxx
07.56 Doc: Expedition Kachgar
09.45 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait...
11.15 Local: Turf Tips
12.00 En Direct Du Champ De
Mars
17.25 Doc: Smoothie Mania
18.08 Football Live - English
Premier
20.00 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
23.47 Mag: In Good Shape

01.26 Film: Little Italy
02.58 Serial: Pure Genius
03.52 Serial: Under Pressure
04.35 Serial: Gone
05.17 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.02 Serial: Timeless
06.38 Serial: Imposters
09.29 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme
09.11 Serial: Under Pressure
10.40 Film: Little Italy
12.15 Serial: Pure Genius
13.30 Serial: S.W.A.T
15.00 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.20 Serial: Timeless
17.03 Film: Ghostbusters II
18.43 Serial: Knight Rider
19.35 Serial: Oh Yuck!
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Series: Timeless
21.15 Film: 3 Secondes
22.45 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones

04.02 Radha Krishna
04.33 Anupamaa
05.03 Mere Sai
05.31 Agnihera
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan
06.31 Patiala Babes
08.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan
10.11 Motu Patlu
10.09 Sasural Simar Ka 2
12.20 Serial: Bhakharwadi
13.06 Serial: Udaariyaan
14.23 Serial: Anupamaa
16.20 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Sooryavansham
Starring A.Bachchan,
Soundarya, Jayasudha,
Rachna Banerjee
21.19 Serial: Namah
21.40 Serial: Naagin Season 3
22.23 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

dimanche 7 août

06.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
07.25 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
07.58 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
08.00 Film: Bobby The Hedgehog
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
12.00 Le Journal
12.36 Tele: Muneca Brava
13.16 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
15.21 D.Anime: Les Blagues De To...
15.35 Film: Bound
16.20 Film: Kung Fu Panda
17.15 Mag: Human Nature
17.45 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Local Production: Les Klips
21.25 Film: Beyond The Mask
23.05 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Agent Vinod
11.03 Serial: Azhagu
11.20 Jag Jaanani Maa
Vaishnodevi
11.45 Serial: Surya Puran
12.06 Film: Dil Kya Kare
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
20.05 Serial: Porus
21.26 Serial: CID
21.07 Serial: Naagin Season 3
Starring: Mouni Roy, Arjun Bijlani,
Aada Khan, Karanvir Bohra

06.00 Doc: Sweet Magic
07.02 Mag: Salad Area
07.31 Mag: Check In
09.49 Doc: Skuld
10.38 Doc: The Rocky Road To...
11.20 Doc: Sweet Magic
11.25 Doc: Snapshots
11.55 Doc: Smoothie Mania
12.25 Mag: The 77 Percent
14.09 Doc: World Heritage
14.22 Doc: Fabulous Design
15.14 Doc: Skuld
15.32 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
17.11 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
22.02 Mag: Sky Eye
22.28 Doc: The Marble Quarries...
22.54 Doc: Electricity To Go

01.28 Film: 3 Secondes
03.02 Serial: Absentia
03.43 Film: On Wings Of Eagles
05.18 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.02 Serial: Timeless
08.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme
09.11 Film: On Wings Of Eagles
10.40 Film: Ghostbusters II
12.33 Serial: Absentia
13.30 Serial: S.W.A.T
15.35 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.00 Serial: Timeless
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
22.00 Film: Chatter
23.30 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones

00.05 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2
02.15 Bhakharwadi
04.04 Anupamaa
06.00 Pavitra Rishta
08.12 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: Dream Girl
Starring: Ayushmann
Khurrana, Nushrat
Bharucha, Annu Kapoor
20.35 Naagin Season 3
21.17 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
23.03 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
00.42 Kundali Bhagya
02.59 Agnihera

lundi 8 août

06.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits
07.00 D. Anime: Clip - Akili Family
07.55 D. Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute
09.00 Film: Jungle Book 2
10.35 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.35 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
13.51 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Mere Sai
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa
Vaishnodevi
19.30 Le Journal
20.25 MBC Production
21.25 Local: La Societe
22.20 Film: Le Fort De La Derniere
Chance

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Kundali Bhagya
12.06 Film: Aaj Aur Kal
Starring Sunil Dutt, Ashok
Kumar, Nanda, Tanuja
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...
17.30 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi
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: Krack
Starring: Ravi Teja, Shruti
Haasan, Samuthirakani

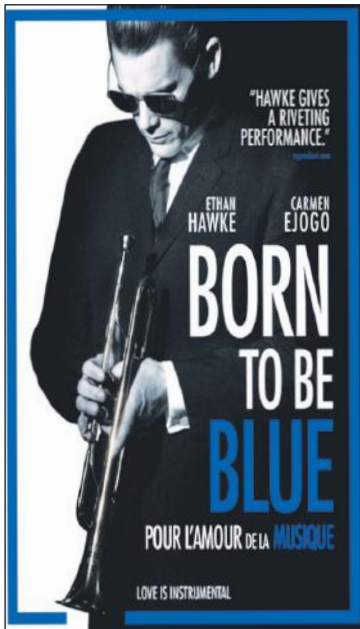
07.00 Mag: Saladeria
07.58 Doc: Paradis Perdue
08.44 Doc: World Heritage
09.41 Doc: Sky Eye
12.24 Mag: The Inside Story
14.02 Doc: World Heritage
14.59 Doc: Sky Eye
15.51 Doc: Electricity To Go
18.00 Mag: EcoAfrica
19.00 Doc: Persons
19.33 Mag: In Good Shape
20.45 Doc: Castles
20.48 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
22.06 Mag: Global 3000
22.32 Mag: Washington Forum
22.58 Doc: Cool & Clever
23.50 Mag: The 77 Percent
00.16 Doc: Persons
00.19 Mag: Africa 54
00.47 Mag: In Good Shape
01.13 Doc: Castles

02.22 Film: Chatter
04.33 Film: The Little Mermaid
05.46 Tele: Marimar
06.10 Tele: Rubi
06.34 Serial: The Good Doctor
07.15 Serial: Scorpion
08.07 Film: Beyond The Mask
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Elementary
12.00 Film: The Little Mermaid
13.30 Tele: Marimar
13.54 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: Beyond The Mask
16.35 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: Erin Brockovich

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
14.06 / 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: Karz Chukana Hai
Starring: Govinda, Juhi
Chawla
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2
20.30 Radha Krishna
21.06 Anupamaa

CINE 12

Mardi 9 août - 21.10



MBC 1

Mercredi 9 août - 21.15



MBC 2

Jeudi 11 août - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 9 août

MBC 1

06.00 Local: Rodrig
07.27 D.Anime: Pet Alien
09.05 Film: The Legend Of Snow
White
10.40 D.Anime: Kids' Planet
11.10 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
13.41 Local: Come On Let's Dance
14.41 D.Anime: Gon
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
15.35 Film: Boonie Bears 5
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers
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: The Final Scream
With: Kate Lister, Marc Ozall

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: CID
12.00 Film: Bandhan
Starring: Rajesh Khanna,
Mumtaz, Jeevan
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...
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Local: Tamil Programme
20.30 Film: Mere Bhaiya
Star: Vijay Arora, Nazima, Suresh
Chatwal

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
16.12 Mag: Eco@Africa
18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
18.41 Mag: Red Carpet
19.03 Mag: Check In
19.34 Doc: Archipel
20.30 Live: News
20.45 Doc: Tree Stories
21.54 Mag: Euromaxx
22.10 Mag: Close Up
22.36 Local: Rodrig-Klip Seleksion
23.52 Mag: The Global Auto...
00.26 Mag: Healthy Living
00.56 Doc: Persons
00.59 Mag: Check In

Cine 12

01.17 Film: Erin Brockovich
03.22 Serial: Elementary
04.04 Film: Le Fort De La Derniere..
05.26 Tele: Marimar
05.50 Tele: Rubi
06.06 Serial: Imposters
07.00 Film: Erin Brockovich
09.47 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
10.41 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Elementary
12.00 Film: Le Fort De La Derniere..
13.36 Tele: Marimar
13.54 Tele: Rubi
14.26 Film: Erin Brockovich
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: Born To Be Blue

Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Karz Chukana Hai
Star Govinda, Juhi Chawla
11.59 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna
12.28 / 20.57 - Anupamaa
12.57 / 21.27 - Mere Sai
13.28 / 22.07 - Agnipheera
13.50 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.21 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maike Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 22.25 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.10 Film: Jaan
Star: Ajay Devgn, Amrith
Puri, Twinkle Khanna
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 10 août

07.00 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
07.40 D.Anime: Sabrina
08.09 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute
09.00 Film: The Enchanted Mountain
10.30 Mag: National Anthem
11.10 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.20 Tele: Muneca Brava
13.49 Local Production: Les Klips
14.41 D.Anime: Gon
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
15.35 Film: Ribbit, Prince Malgre...
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 MBC Production
19.00 Local: Planet Bollywood
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.30 MBC Production
22.20 Film: Driving By Braille
Star: Tammin Sursok, Ryan
Eggold, Steven Bauer

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
12.00 Film: Badi Bahen
Starring: Asrani, Raj Babbar,
Chandrashekar
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.49 Bommarillu
16.07 Sondha Bandham
16.36 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
16.53 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.31 Serial: Kulvadhru
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: Born A Ninja
22.18 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...
06.41 Mag: Red Carpet
07.02 Mag: Check In
08.46 Doc: Castles
09.18 Mag: Euromaxx
14.27 Doc: Tree Stories
17.39 Doc: Destinations
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 Doc: Tresors Oublies
22.24 Mag: Focus On Europe
23.32 Mag: Motorweek
23.58 Mag: Vous Et Nous
00.26 Doc: Persons
00.29 Mag: Arts.21
00.55 Mag: The Inside Story
01.47 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into...
01.42 Doc: Planet Home

01.22 Film: Born To Be Blue
03.52 Film: Ghostbusters II
05.35 Tele: Marimar
05.59 Serial: Rubi
07.05 Film: What The Night Can Do
09.00 L'Agence Tous Risques
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Elementary
11.41 Film: Ghostbusters II
13.30 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: What The Night Can Do
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: The Wind And The Lion
23.09 Tele: Marimar

07.29 Film: Jaan
12.25 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
12.55 / 20.26 - Anupamaa
13.24 / 20.02 - Mere Sai
13.55 / 20.46 - Agnipheera
14.24 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.35 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
14.25 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
14.47 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Meherbaan
Starring: Mithun
Chakraborty, Ayesha Jhulka,
Shantipriya
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

jeudi 11 août

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
06.45 Local: Coin Jardin
06.59 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family
07.16 D.Anime: Pet Alien
08.05 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute
09.00 Film: I Heart Shakey
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
13.51 Local: Music Tour 2022
14.45 D.Anime: Gon
15.21 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
15.40 Film: Christophe Colomb
17.03 D.Anime: Cleopatra In Space
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
20.20 Film: Total Dhamaal
Starring Ajay Devgn, Anil Kapoor,
Madhuri Dixit, Riteish Deshmukh

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki
Rahasya Gatha
11.12 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...
12.00 Film: Resham Ki Dori
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.26 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
16.45 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
17.04 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.40 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
19.30 Filler: Radha Krishna
20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
20.59 Local: Profil
21.14 Film: On Wings Of Eagles
With Joseph Fiennes, Shawn
Dou

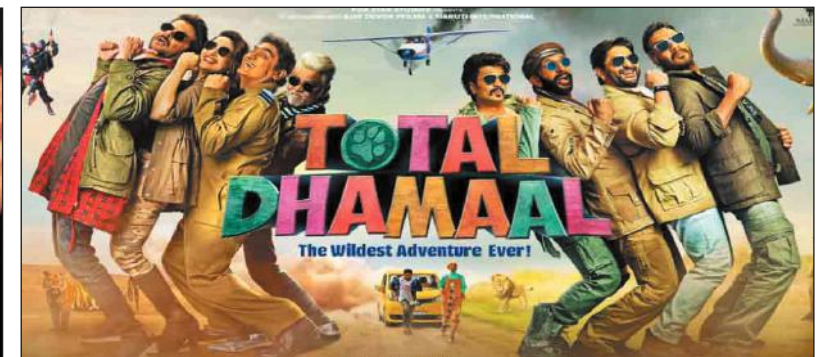
06.00 Mag: Motorweek
06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous
06.52 Mag: Arts.21
08.17 Doc: Castles
10.50 Doc: Transylvania In The...
11.45 Local: Vous Et Nous
12.44 Mag: The Inside Story
13.35 Doc: Castles
15.02 Mag: Focus On Europe
16.38 Mag: Motorweek
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.29 Mag: Shift
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.34 Doc: Hotels
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.48 Doc: Castles
21.40 Doc: The Miracle Of Hearing
22.28 Doc: China's Cities
23.11 Mag: Eco India
23.37 Mag: Shift
23.49 Mag: Carnet De Sante

01.20 Film: The Wind And The Lion
03.04 Serial: S.W.A.T
03.44 Film: Driving By Braille
05.34 Tele: Marimar
05.55 Tele: Rubi
06.51 Film: The Wind And The Lion
09.00 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
10.37 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Elementary
11.43 Film: Driving By Braille
13.35 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: The Wind And The Lion
16.35 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
17.21 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.34 Serial: Oh Yuck!
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme
21.15 Serial: Knight Rider

07.00 Film: Meherbaan
11.34 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna
12.04 / 20.28 - Anupamaa
12.33 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
13.07 / 21.09 - Agnipheera
13.36 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.06 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.23 Film: Rishtey
Starring Anil Kapoor, Karisma
Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Udaariyaan
19.34 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..
20.02 Sasural Simar Ka 2
20.30 Serial: Radha Krishna



Jeudi 11 août - 15.30

Stars: Anil Kapoor, Karisma
Kapoor, Shilpa ShettyJeudi 11 août -
20.20Star: Ajay Devgn, Anil Kapoor,
Madhuri Dixit, Riteish
Deshmukh

How the omicron subvariant BA.5 became a master of disguise

Face masks are still an effective way to help stop the spread of the BA.5 subvariant



Suresh V. Kuchipudi
Professor and Chair of
Emerging Infectious
Diseases, Penn State

The omicron subvariant known as BA.5 was first detected in South Africa in February 2022 and spread rapidly throughout the world. As of the second week of July 2022, BA.5 constituted nearly 80% of Covid-19 variants in the United States.

Soon after researchers in South Africa reported the original version of the omicron variant (B.1.1.529) on Nov. 24, 2021, many scientists – including me – speculated that if omicron's numerous mutations made it either more transmissible or better at immune evasion than the preceding delta variant, omicron could become the dominant variant around the world.

The omicron variant did indeed become dominant early in 2022, and several sublineages, or subvariants, of omicron have since emerged: BA.1, BA.2, BA.4 and BA.5, among others. With the continued appearance of such highly transmissible variants, it is evident that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, is effectively using classic techniques that viruses use to escape the immune system. These escape strategies range from changing the shape of key proteins recognized by your immune system's protective antibodies to camouflaging its genetic material to fool human cells into considering it a part of themselves instead of an invader to attack.

I am a virologist who studies emerging viruses and viruses that jumped from animals to humans, such as SARS-CoV-2. My research group has been tracking the transmission and evolution of SARS-CoV-2, evaluating changes in how well the omicron subvariants evade the immune system and the severity of disease they cause after infection.

How is virus transmissibility in a population measured?

The basic reproduction number, R_0 – pronounced "R-naught" – measures the transmissibility of a virus in a yet-uninfected population.

Once a proportion of individuals in a population become immune due to prior infection or vaccination, epidemiologists use the term effective reproduction number, called R_e or R_t , to measure the transmissibility of the virus. The R_e of the omicron variant has been estimated to be 2.5 times higher than the delta variant. This increased transmissibility most likely helped omicron out-compete delta to become the dominant variant.

The larger question, then, is what is driving the evolution of omicron sublineages? The answer to that is a well-known process called natural selection.



Natural selection is an evolutionary process where traits that give a species a reproductive advantage continue to be passed down to the next generation, while traits that don't are phased out through competition. As SARS-CoV-2 continues to circulate, natural selection will favor mutations that give the virus the greatest survival advantage.

What makes omicron and its offshoots so stealthy at spreading?

Several mechanisms contribute to the increased transmissibility of SARS-CoV-2 variants. One is the ability to bind more strongly to the ACE2 receptor, a protein in the body that primarily helps regulate blood pressure but can also help SARS-CoV-2 enter cells. The more recent omicron sublineages have mutations that make them better at escaping antibody protection while retaining their ability to effectively bind to ACE2 receptors. The BA.5 sublineage can evade antibodies from both vaccination and prior infection.

Omicron sublineages BA.4 and BA.5 share several mutations with earlier omicron sublineages, but also have three unique mutations: L452R, F486V and reversion (or the lack of mutation) of R493Q. L452R and F486V in the spike protein help BA.5 escape antibodies. In addition, the L452R mutation helps the virus bind more effectively to the membrane of its host cell, a crucial feature associated with Covid-19 disease severity.

While the other mutation in BA.5, F486V, may help the sublineage escape from certain types of antibodies, it could decrease its ability to bind to ACE2. Strikingly, BA.5 appears to compensate for decreased ACE2 binding strength through another mutation, R493Q reversion, that is thought to restore its lost affinity for ACE2. The ability to successfully escape immunity while maintaining its ability to bind to ACE2 may have potentially contributed to the rapid global spread of BA.5.

In addition to these immune-evading mutations, SARS-CoV-2 has been evolving to suppress its hosts' – in this case, humans' – innate immunity. Innate immunity is the body's first line of defense against invading

pathogens, comprised of antiviral proteins that help fight viruses. SARS-CoV-2 has the ability to suppress the activation of some of these key antiviral proteins, meaning it's able to effectively get past many of the body's defenses. This explains the spread of infections among vaccinated or previously infected people.

Innate immunity exerts a strong selective pressure on SARS-CoV-2. Delta and omicron, the two most recent and highly successful SARS-CoV-2 variants, share several mutations that could be key in helping the virus breach innate immunity. However, scientists do not yet fully understand what changes in BA.5 might allow it to do so.

What's next?

BA.5 will not be the end game. As the virus continues to circulate, this evolutionary trend will likely lead to the emergence of more transmissible variants that are capable of immune escape.

While it is difficult to predict what variants will arrive next, we researchers cannot rule out the possibility that some of these variants could lead to increased disease severity and higher hospitalization rates. As the virus continues to evolve, most people will get Covid-19 multiple times despite vaccination status. This could be confusing and frustrating for some, and may contribute to vaccine hesitancy. Therefore, it is essential to recognize that vaccines protect you from severe disease and death, not necessarily from getting infected.

Research over the past two and a half years has helped scientists like me learn a lot about this new virus. However, many unanswered questions remain because the virus constantly evolves, and we are left trying to target a constantly moving goal post. While updating vaccines to match circulating variants is an option, it may not be practical in the short term because the virus evolves too quickly. Vaccines that generate antibodies against a broad range of SARS-CoV-2 variants and a cocktail of broad-ranging treatments, including monoclonal antibodies and antiviral drugs, will be critical in the fight against Covid-19.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Keeping a Creativity Journal

One of the best ways to encourage creativity is to try new things.

There are many kinds of journals. Some people record their innermost thoughts and feelings daily. Others write a single poem or a few lines of an essay once a week, every few months, or simply "when-ever". The wonderful thing about journaling is that there are no rules or restrictions. To get your creative juices flowing, start a journal to record inspirational thoughts and ideas, or keep track of an artistic project. Choose a blank book, preferably without lines, that appeals to you in color, size, and texture. Or make your own journal, designing a cover with drawings and photographs. Starting is the most important action. In the beginning, you might want to schedule journal time into your day... but even if you don't, you know it is there waiting for you when inspiration strikes.

One of the best ways to encourage creativity is to try new things. Don't let your preconceived notions of what a "journal" should be get in your way. Anything too formal or linear is up for grabs when flying with your creativity: write with your non-dominant hand, or write in a different direction - landscape orientation is a great start, diagonally, or even in a circle. When it comes down to it, you don't even really need to write any words at all: draw, doodle, or paste a collage of images instead. The important thing is not to worry about your artistic skill in creating the journal, but to focus instead on your own expression.

Anything fresh will do to kick-start your creativity: use different colored pens or pencils; fill your pages with colorful doodles; anything to keep you from traveling the same worn paths in your thinking.

Your journal can be about any aspect of your creativity. You may or may not believe it at this moment, but there is no such thing as a "non-creative person". Any collection of fragments can be your repository of dreams, your prompt book for brilliant ideas, or the start of a larger creative endeavor. Don't just spend time putting a journal together; every once in a while, take it down off the shelf and read it as if you just found someone else's journal lying there (and that it was okay to look inside). The inspiration you discover may surprise you.