

MAURITIUS **TIMES**

• "It doesn't matter if I don't succeed in something, what matters is that I learn from my mistakes" -- Linda Evans

Interview: Ramapatee Gujadhur

«As the French would put it, 'Partir c'est mourir un peu'...

That's precisely the feeling my family and the bigger family of the stable experienced»

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Welfare or Freebie Culture?



Legal to offer freebies for voting?

Another bout of populism in 2024 at a time when public sector debt has ballooned to some Rs 450 billion, with many skeletons still hiding in closets, can only be detrimental to the country's interests

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IBA's Impartiality Guidelines

Despite strong opposition from civil society and opposition parties across the political spectrum to its earlier initiative to amend the Independent Broadcasting Act by way of regulations - the IBA (Administrative Penalties) Regulations 2022 - the different provisions of which constitute a threat to freedom of expression, the MSM-led governing alliance will not let go. It has now come forward with other provisions in the Independent Broadcasting Authority (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2022, dated 3 Dec 2022, which set out impartiality guidelines and which private broadcasters will have to comply with. On the face of it, even if these guidelines appear totally innocuous, its timing however - possibly a few months before the next general elections - makes the whole exercise highly suspicious.

The earlier 'Administrative Penalties' regulations set out the obligations that a broadcaster will have to comply with before obtaining a licence, brought down to a duration of one year from the earlier three years, thereby threatening the financial viability of a private broadcaster. Numerous other clauses, including the power entrusted to the IBA to consider the "past conduct" of the broadcaster before renewing its licence, the obligation to disclose information sources, as well as provisions to by-pass or make tenuous judiciary appeal for these administrative penalties through the powers conferred to an independent review authority mostly filled by political nominees were rightly criticised as constituting a real threat to free speech. They certainly raised constitutional issues on several fronts according to many independent jurists and were construed as a Damoclean sword over whichever private broadcaster which is considered a thorn in the side of the governing alliance. The 'Impartiality Guidelines' go one step further down that rabbit hole: it is now putting in law how private broadcasters and their programme presenters should go about ensuring the impartiality of their mostly issues-based, phone-in or other political programmes.

When legislatures are unable or not allowed to hold governments to account, it usually falls upon the press and increasingly now social media to scrutinize governments' actions, campaign for transparency and accountability. Parliaments are central to making democratic politics function properly and in the public interest. However, they can and indeed have been bypassed during moments of crisis - as during the Covid-19 pande-

mic - when governments had recourse to emergency procedures for public procurements. It appears to be the case even in established democracies in the Western world as much as it does in African and Asian societies.

Insofar the Mauritian context is concerned, parliamentary oversight has been seriously undermined since 2019 and even earlier, but there's a deeper and long-drawn situation of lack of accountability and transparency with regard to the actions taken by the government and its institutions, especially those with an investigative mandate in matters of crime and corruption and other shady deals that have tarnished the credibility of our institutions more than at any time before. It is thanks to media activism (non-State sponsored written press and private broadcasters) and legal activism prolonged by the press that a long series of irregularities and misdeeds have been flagged — the contractual agreements, which conveniently come with a mandatory confidentiality clause, from Liverpool Football Club to the Safe City Project and the St Louis Redevelopment projects as well as the Emergency Procurements, the Pack & Blister saga to the latest "ti-papiers" scandal.

The fact that these new regulations are specifically designed for private broadcasters and not the public carrier, the MBC-TV, funded from public pockets and with statutory responsibilities for fairness and equity which it flouts as a matter of course, is enough to raise alarm bells about government's real intentions. Private radio stations and their anchors, for instance, cannot be tasked with knowing the particular political sensibilities of phone-in callers to somehow in farcical manner impose some "equilibrium" of views.

The latest assault on non-State- and privately-owned stations that gave Opposition voices and democracy meaning throughout our past since their advent, including the MSM now in power, has to be challenged both in courts and internationally. The fiction that the law or regulations provide for appeal mechanism may add superficial mascara for international purposes, but the reality is crass and we suspect they would be thrown out by any competent court on constitutional grounds.

Our hard-fought press freedom and, indeed our democratic space inherited at national independence, cannot be placed under locks by a political nomenclatura fighting for survival at the next hustings.

The Conversation

The African Union at 20

Some reason to cheer, but lots of work ahead

The AU needs to address two main problems to steer Africa into a prosperous future – the use of unconstitutional means by some leaders to cling to power and disregard for the rule of law



Sudanese people march in Khartoum during one of many protests against the 2020 coup. More than 100 have been killed. EFE-EPAS/Stringer

The European Union (EU) has lived up to the primary reason it was created – ensuring that member states will not wage physical war against one another, but settle their differences amicably. It owes some of its successes to a combination of enforcement and management mechanisms to ensure member states conform to rules and policies.

Other regional bodies, like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), are advancing towards their objectives of economic growth, social progress and cultural development. ASEAN draws on its distinctive informal and consensus-based principles and decision making.

What about the African Union (AU), which was modelled on the EU?

There is some reason to cheer as the continental body celebrates its 20th anniversary on 9 July. Key among its

achievements is the African Continental Free Trade Area, which commenced on 1 January 2021. It is expected to boost intra-African trade by about \$35 billion by end of 2022.

The larger market area will likely attract investment for continental infrastructure development. The increased trade will create jobs, enhance Africa's global competitiveness, improve social welfare and position Africa for greater industrialisation. The resultant economic growth should help contribute to peace and stability for the continent's more than one billion population.

On the diplomatic front, the AU has established a permanent mission in Beijing, China, to strengthen economic, commercial and cultural ties with Africa's largest trading partner. This consolidates Africa's global profile and ability to speak with one voice on world affairs.

Chris Changwe Nshimbi,
Director & Research Fellow, University of Pretoria

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Welfare or Freebie Culture?

Jan Arden

Another bout of populism in 2024 at a time when public sector debt has ballooned to some Rs 450 billion, with many skeletons still hiding in closets, can only be detrimental to the country's interests

There has always been a seemingly unending debate among economists and international assistance institutions whether **universal** benefits schemes or those **targeting** the more vulnerable are more effective at decreasing inequalities and reducing the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Arguments based on data mining and country evidences have been presented in support of both schools of thought even as the more complex realities of today have superseded last century's raging debates without what we might acknowledge as a definitive consensus.

We have here moved away from late Sir Anerood Jugnauth's comments about ration rice being used for dogs and Pravin Kumar Jugnauth, as inexperienced Finance Minister, trying his hand at means-testing and targeting of various universal benefits earlier this century. Both landed their proponents and the MSM in political hot waters as the Labour Party lambasted those attempts to dismantle the "Welfare State".

Independence, human rights and dignity

This was a quintessentially political battle, particularly for those who had fought hard and long for nationhood, independence, human rights and dignity and who laid down the fundamental elements of that welfare state, even with the very limited means of the times: a universal pension scheme, free access to health care and pharmaceuticals, free primary and later secondary education, a decent local tertiary education infrastructure, subsidised essential commodities, inflation and salary compensation mechanisms, a broadly dedicated civil service, and so on.

With economic development, whose success had benefited from large previous investments in our level of literacy and education, private players began investing in parallel to the State in education, health and medical schemes for their employees and cadres, private pension schemes, but there was no way the State could renege on the welfare state fundamentals for the wider population, to which we may add the availability of affordable public transport, water, electricity and fuel at the pumps.

By and large, independent observers and the majority of the population must feel relieved today at the general staff quality, the robustness and general reliability of our public health infrastructure, including its several specialised units,

despite the occasional hiccups or some unacceptable lapses under the pandemic duress (e.g., the dialysis saga at Souillac Hospital), even when private clinics provide better conditions and private facilities for certain procedures and operations.

By the same token, our colleges, before the Nine-Year Schooling reform, had remained reasonably performing despite many more private and better resourced units that have sprouted over the past ten years or more. For its part, the tertiary sector has boomed with both private and public offerings of recognised international levels. There are still numerous battles out there, such as redrafting the educational development to cater for those tossed aside in the extended streams, making human values and relationships central to child development, improving the technical training and skilling opportunities, and raising the international rating and profile of at least the flagship of our public universities.

But overall, the debate about welfare or targeting has shifted since the 2019 elections, and the reversal of the MSM targeting philosophy into an outright populist approach, most evident with the pension promise to the elderlies that caught all Opposition parties somewhat off-guard. Promised "freebies" became toast, the recipient audiences overlooking the fact that populism and freebies such as these and others would be paid for from their own pockets through the national budget.

Kejriwal's outlandish promises

In India, for those who followed the recent state polls and the electoral intricacies of a more complex nature, the question of freebies has become a hot and controversial issue, the Aam Admi Party (AAP) and its leader Arvind Kejriwal standing most accused of outlandish promises to secure votes. OpIndia reported

"In a bid to possibly outdo the populism of the MSM variety, Labour Party leader Navin Ramgoolam's promise of a trip to neighbouring Reunion, at the public expense, to all those who have reached the age of 60 is regrettably a good example of the irresponsible populism at work on the local political stage today. One would expect better and more responsible politics from the Labour Party..."



Kejriwal's freebies: A road to financial disaster, comments Financial Express - Pic - Financial Express

"Kejriwal promised 300 units of free power to every home in Punjab... he also promised 'free money' to all Punjabi women, regardless of their financial situation or needs.' The method worked in Delhi and Punjab but has brought Delhi utilities and municipal finances threadbare. Kejriwal has of course defended these free schemes by arguing that as a state citizen, one is entitled to free services from the government, which one must get. But "he deceives people on how the full weight of these schemes is clandestinely shifted to the general public..."

earlier this year:

"Kejriwal promised 300 units of free power to every home in Punjab if his party wins in 2022. As per Kejriwal, the AAP government in Delhi is providing 200 units of free electricity to each family... Kejriwal also promised 'free money' to all Punjabi women, regardless of their financial situation or needs."

The method worked in Delhi and Punjab but has brought Delhi utilities and municipal finances threadbare. Arvind Kejriwal has of course defended these free schemes by arguing that as a state citizen, one is entitled to free services from the government, which one must get. But "he deceives people on how the full weight of these schemes is clandestinely shifted to the general public, and that the gain provided by these schemes is only ephemeral".

Kejriwal's party promises and the underlying political philosophy to gain political clout have failed lamentably in the latest Gujarat and Himachal polls, where the AAP secured 5 and 0 seats respectively. We cannot delve here in all the factors surrounding those poll results, but certainly the latitude of a major political party deliberately offering freebies which ultimately will have to be paid for from public funds, taxpayers, and consumers, while placing state utilities and corporations in financial distress, has

become hugely controversial. The more so as it forces other parties to somehow follow suit, thus derailing either the country's long-term interests or its economic fundamentals.

Not all electorates are as mature as those of Gujarat and Himachal where the AAP received such a discomfiture in terms of seats. We are here still bearing the costs for the MSM pension and other freebies of 2019, which, coupled with the dilapidations paid for from the public purse at the Betamax, BAI/Bramer, MK and SBM debacles, among others, the "borrow, tax and spend bonanza" through the Covid pandemic, have brought our country to its knees, with a depreciated rupee, a bankrupt Central Bank, a high inflation and cost of living, a forex crisis, a lack of credibility for serious investors and a mountain of debts, leaving it vulnerable to any external event.

Nepotism, greed, and corruption

There will be many priorities, say the Opposition, to turn the clock back on years of profligacy and reckless mismanagement, with the economy in such a shambles and no productive pillars added to bolster our resilience. The "freebie culture" embraced in 2019, coupled with nepotism, greed, and the corruption of public procurement processes while all watchdog institutions were busy looking away, have brought us here.

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Financial Crimes

“If ICAC is to serve as a role model

for the coming Financial Crimes Commission, then forget about fighting financial crimes”

An apex body, call it a Financial Crime Commission, to oversee or coordinate the six different agencies involved in investigating or preventing financial crimes, has been recently mooted by the PM, as did his predecessor late SAJ in 2016. Who would appoint their members or head such a Commission and with what degree of independence and credibility, given the current context and experience at ICAC, may plead for a reputable expatriate with constitutional protections? Lex shares his views and perspective on the real political will to stamp out corruption or another window-dressing exercise that might look good on paper.

LEX

* In his address to the forum organised by the ICAC, Bank of Mauritius and Mauritius Bankers Association, last Friday, PM Pravind Jugnauth stated that the appropriate legislation for the setting up of a Financial Crime Commission (FCC) will be worked out soon. A similar announcement was made by Sir Anerood Jugnauth on 7 June 2016 in reply to a PQ pertaining to the proposed setting up of a FCC. What do you make out of these announcements?

The Prime Minister, Pravind Jugnauth, and his predecessor have made flamboyant announcements. The purpose of the announcements is to set up a Financial Crime Commission in a bid to ensure greater coordination among law enforcement agencies and to reinforce public-private partnership in combating financial crime. Very noble intention indeed! Let us see how it works out in practice if ever it sees the light of day. If ICAC is to serve as a role model for the coming Commission, then forget about fighting financial crimes.

* SAJ said in 2016 that the proposed FCC would be “an apex body to combat white collar crimes, fraud and financial crimes and more importantly to provide the synergy between the various law enforcement and intelligence gathering agencies”. We have currently six agencies involved in tracking financial crime, namely the ICAC, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Mauritius Revenue Authority, the Financial Services Commission, the

Integrity Reporting Services Agency, the Gambling Regulatory Authority? Will a seventh bring clarity or more confusion to the fight against financial crime?

We are already projecting a very bad image of the corruption that has pervaded most of our institutions. Will a new institution make any difference? What we need is firm political will across party lines to combat financial crimes. If that new Commission will only serve to appoint another political protégé, then we cannot expect anything from it.

* There could be competing agendas, limited communication and information-sharing, mistrust as well as capacity differences between the different agencies at work in the fight against financial crime, thus the need for “synergy”, as mentioned by SAJ, but could there be some other motive behind the proposed setting up of a FCC?

It's not quite clear given the absence of precise details regarding the proposed new Commission.

There exists already a problem of mistrust between ICAC and the Integrity Reporting Services Agency, which took the unusual route of dragging another State institution - the ICAC - to court for allegedly failing to fulfil its statutory obligations, as prescribed by law, to submit detailed reports instead of summary notes on suspected cases of unexplained wealth.

The situation is already bad enough. Will the new Commission absorb all the existing institutions or will the institutions function under the umbrella of the



“We cannot compare the situation of Mauritius with what prevails in other jurisdictions where institutions are independent and operate in a fiercely independent manner. Just to mention an example: Belgian prosecutors charged European Parliament Vice-President Eva Kaili and three others with corruption last Sunday in a major investigation into an alleged illicit influence campaign believed to be orchestrated by Qatar. Do you see this happening here?”

Commission? We do not know, so let's wait and see.

* What's on the drawing board is about the setting up a superagency to combat financial crimes - and the likely appointment of a financial crime czar at its head. Would it be advisable for the government to choose from any one of the present heads of the six agencies mentioned earlier to head the FCC?

This could be the case according to persistent rumours. If that is so, then we will end up with yet another institution that will most probably be at the beck and call of the government — and you can bet that there will not be much in terms of achievements in the fight against financial crimes.

* The Prevention of Corruption Act provides that the 'Director-General shall be appointed by the Prime Minister after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition', but at the same time the Director-General would

be deemed to be heading an “independent” institution as its appellation itself suggests. What's the answer if a political appointee fails to rise to its deemed duty of independence?

Is the ICAC living up to the challenge of fighting corruption? Is the Parliamentary Committee on ICAC doing anything about it? Nothing, it would seem.

In Mauritius, we see many public officers, including those in local government bodies, especially the highly placed ones, and even ministers making an abuse of their discretionary powers when it comes to taking a decision on a matter affecting individuals, either professionally or personally. When the aggrieved party tries to challenge what he perceives to be an injustice, the courts at times take years to decide his fate. Some lawyers appearing for public officials or the government will resort to all kinds of technical objections resulting in the case dragging on for years. Is that acceptable?

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“If ICAC is to serve as a role model..”

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* The government could seize this opportunity to go forward in re-building trust by giving the head of the FCC constitutional protection in much the same way as the DPP for him/her to be able to function independently, without fear and favour. Would recourse to a high-calibre expatriate obviate the problems and difficulties encountered today, namely a lack of credibility?

The new Commission, if ever it becomes a reality, should be headed by an expatriate. Leaving such an institution in the hands of any head of an already existing institution will be a sheer disaster. Appointing another political nominee at the helm will be an even greater disaster.

* What's the track record of the FCC in other jurisdictions where it may hail from?

We cannot compare the situation of Mauritius with what prevails in other jurisdictions where institutions are independent and operate in a fiercely independent manner. Just to mention an example: Belgian prosecutors charged European Parliament Vice-President Eva Kaili and three others with corruption last Sunday in a major investigation into an alleged illicit influence campaign believed to be orchestrated by Qatar. Do you see this happening here?

* While there have been Assises on the environment and a couple of drug commissions, why hasn't there been a similar effort to tackle financial fraud and corruption as a national priority? Are financial crimes more leniently considered?

No. It is due to a lack of political will and the need to protect stooges and cronies. That's hampering the holding of such Assises. If a thorough investigation is undertaken on how political parties, especially a party in power, are funded, we will be amazed to learn about the amount of illicit money that is poured into the coffers of political parties.

* The IMF has noted that as govern-



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ments intervened more in the economy during the Covid pandemic, this has also led to considerable abuses and corruption of state procurement processes by those close to power centres. Here too it would seem. Have there been any outcome to your knowledge to any of the reported cases filed with ICAC?

On 8 May 2020, ICAC drew attention to this danger in a paper titled 'Coronavirus and Corruption Risks' in the following terms: "As governments race to source everything from food aid to face masks, and prioritizing emergency, at times often dropping competitive bidding and other safeguards, the corrupt opportunist will leave no stone unturned to misuse the system."

ICAC apparently started investigations into a few cases. Up to now, no results

have been forthcoming.

* We recall that the Britam Commission made much of the absence of notes at an official high-level meeting and construed that as suspicious. What should we make of the fact that most if not all High-Level Covid Committee allocating contracts for supplies or movements of people were held without any minutes or other traceable documentation? Would another apex structure change such matters?

Questions were asked in the National Assembly about the award of those contracts. The answer given was that, in view of the emergency, the authorities had no choice but to award the contracts to persons who came forward to supply the required masks and medical equipment. How did those who came forward come to know that such medical equipment would be needed?

Do not forget we lost millions of rupees when an award for the supply of oxygen ventilators was given to a Spanish individual? How did that individual come into the picture? Who was his local contact?

To Our Readers

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

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

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

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

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Anil Madan

Looking Ahead to 2023

Hopes and Fears for the New Year

The nations of the world can come together when the common problem facing them is big enough. The sad reality is that each of the problems I have identified is indeed big enough for the world's nations to see that cooperation is the only path forward

In a recent exchange with the editor, I was asked how I felt about writing an article on predictions for 2023. History tells us that every year, hope triumphs over experience as hundreds, if not thousands, of prognosticators offer up such articles. Frankly, it has been many years since I gave up reading such articles. I do not hope to stumble upon a latter-day Nostradamus. And, among the prognosticators, how would I know which to pick? The idea of my writing such an article produced no spark for me. But I allowed that although most forecasts are wrong, there might be some merit to looking at major worldwide challenges in a different way. Whereas we cannot with any assurance know exactly what will happen or when, the ultimate resolution of each challenge is filled with hopes and fears. Let us explore what looms from this perspective.

If we think of the seminal events just from the turn to this new century, we have had 23 eventful years. Let us take stock in a decidedly non-exhaustive way. There was the Y2K issue that despite prognostications of doom, turned out to be a nothingburger. Then there was the attack on the World Trade Center on 9-11-2001 that ushered in a new dimension to terrorism and sparked two major wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. But those were not the only countries in which violence and killing became a part of daily life. Syria has an ongoing civil war. Hostilities in Yemen and in countries across Africa have raged and continue to rage. China emerged as a formidable economic and military force and continues its repression at home against Tibet and the Uyghurs and now Hong Kong is under the CCP's thumb. Vladimir Putin invaded Georgia and Crimea, and his illegal war grinds on in Ukraine. There was the financial crisis in 2008-09 and, of course, the Covid pandemic.

Whatever the causes may be, grouped under the broad rubric of climate change, we have witnessed unprecedented heat, drought, floods, forest fires, and disastrous effects from cyclones and hurricanes. Parts of the world continue to be threatened with food insecurity and famine. The world continues to have a refugee crisis as millions seek to flee their homelands in search of greener pastures. Most

recently, we have gone from the nothing burger of the Y2K scare to the Reichsbürger movement that was aimed at displacing a major democratic government. In the US as well, there was an assault on democracy as we had a President incite a mob and unleash an attack riot on the Capitol.

One can argue about how many of these events were accurately predicted. To be sure, at least some aspect of many of these were on the radar for at least some prognosticators, but it is fair to say that no one predicted accurately the full scope of most of these events.

There have been positive events too. Breakthroughs in biotechnology, gene therapy and other aspects of medicine promise new ways to deal with illnesses and injuries. Exploration of space with new telescopes and by unmanned spacecraft with promises of manned flights to follow, have opened our eyes that hitherto were blind to many aspects of our universe. Advances in technology and the Internet have opened communication pathways and connected the world as never before. There has been a seismic shift in the way that business is conducted and how supply chains are managed.

Fears and hopes of nations, humanity

With that background, let us assess some aspects of the world that reflect the fears and hopes of nations, and in some cases, of humanity itself. One cannot ascribe a ranking to these that is meaningful. For example, the Ukraine war is as existential a problem for that nation as famine is for Somalia, or a Chinese blockade/invasion is for Taiwan. And, at a broader level, failure to contain the Covid pandemic or handle intelligently a catastrophic worldwide recession could have devastating effects throughout the world. Threats from Putin and Kim Jong Un to unleash nuclear weapons present horrors of their own not just for Ukraine, South Korea, Japan, and the US but for the rest of the world from a possible nuclear winter.

China's leaders at the helm of a nation that can make the world a better place and the lives of its own citizens richer, have chosen a dark path. The transfor-



Pic - www.refinery29.com

“We have witnessed unprecedented heat, drought, floods, forest fires, and disastrous effects from cyclones and hurricanes. Parts of the world continue to be threatened with food insecurity and famine. The world continues to have a refugee crisis as millions seek to flee their homelands in search of greener pastures. Most recently, we have gone from the nothing burger of the Y2K scare to the Reichsbürger movement that was aimed at displacing a major democratic government. In the US as well, there was an assault on democracy as we had a President incite a mob and unleash an attack riot on the Capitol...”

mation of China over the past three decades is testimony to the creativity, intelligence, and industry of its people. A catalogue of hopes for the path that China should choose include that it will remain the manufactory of the world, competing fairly and contributing to the world's economy, that it will leave Taiwan alone, that it will restore the rights of its citizens to be free, that it will end the repression of Tibet, the Uyghurs, Hong Kong and indeed in all of China. The fear is that China will continue its military buildup, its encroachment and attempts to control the South China Sea and fishing grounds of its neighbors, that it will continue to try to encircle India and threaten Taiwan and continue with its predatory lending practices that have marked its Belt and Road initiative.

Taiwan is a critical manufacturer of semiconductors. Reports suggest that if China invades Taiwan, the semiconductor fabrication plants could be sabotaged. This would be a catastrophic setback for China as well as the US and the rest of the world. A blockade of Taiwan would effectively restrict critical shipments of such products with like results.

In Ukraine, the fear is that Putin's

relentless missile attacks and destruction of Ukraine's power grid, water supply and heating systems, have so crippled that country's infrastructure, that Ukraine's ability to rebound as a nation (hopefully when) Russia is finally stopped is in doubt. The hope is that somehow, this war can be ended. It is difficult to see how negotiations can even get underway with Putin's intractable demand that Ukraine accept Russia's annexation of Ukrainian territory and Ukraine's not unpredictable response that Russia must withdraw from occupied territory before meaningful negotiations can begin.

Withal there have been reports that Russian oligarchs have attempted to seize Ukrainian farmland and that Russians have stolen millions of tons of Ukrainian grain. The fear is that the world in dire need of Ukrainian wheat and other food products, will continue to see severe shortages and high prices. A famine threatens hundreds of thousands if not millions in the horn of Africa. There is not much hope on this score. The Ukrainian harvest is pretty much nonexistent for the current year and the prospect of its return is uncertain.

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Looking Ahead to 2023 – Hopes and Fears for the New Year

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In the Middle East, Iran continues to be a threat and the hope is that a new revolution may be in the offing to displace the theocratic Ayatollahs who have only succeeded in driving their neighbors into an alliance with Israel. Surely this must have come as a huge surprise to the Ayatollahs, but these unlikely alliances do offer hope that even intractable enemies can find common good.

Pandemic and severe climatic events



“The Covid pandemic is not over. China has just abandoned its zero Covid policy. Whereas the notion that the Chinese leadership has shown some responsiveness to public sentiment carries with it a glimmer of hope that it will be responsive in other respects, that is perhaps too much of an ask. Although the US has had a robust campaign of vaccination against Covid, here too, there is a surge of cases as new variants of the virus abound and vaccine hesitancy takes its toll. The fear is that a surge of cases in China could further cripple its economy and make the anticipated worldwide recession worse...”

The Covid pandemic is not over. China has just abandoned its zero Covid policy. Whereas the notion that the Chinese leadership has shown some responsiveness to public sentiment carries with it a glimmer of hope that it will be responsive in other respects, that is perhaps too much of an ask. Although the US has had a robust campaign of vaccination against Covid, here too, there is a surge of cases as new variants of the virus abound and vaccine hesitancy takes its toll. The fear is that a surge of cases in China could further cripple its economy and make the anticipated worldwide recession worse.

Speaking of recession, stubborn inflation, steep and sustained rate hikes by central banks, and ongoing geopolitical hostilities, and tensions among China, Russia, and western nations, have led economists and asset managers to project scenarios of doom and gloom for the year ahead. The US economy remains relatively stable, but layoffs are taking their toll. Companies do not lay workers off if they expect robust revenues ahead. A recession in the US will have a major impact on the rest of the world. As the saying goes, when America sneezes, the rest of the world catches a cold.

As I have previously written, the world's nations have done precious little to curb carbon emissions. If one believes the consensus of scientists that doing so with all possible dispatch is imperative to keep the world from going over the tipping point, there is no sense of urgency. On the other hand, it is also clear that at least in the short run, the world cannot abandon the use of fossil fuels and meet its energy needs. Without fossil fuels, the world's industries and businesses would shut down and most vehicular transportation stalled. This would produce a worldwide depression. The hope is that alternative energy sources can be found and implemented. The recent success of experiments on nuclear fusion is a positive development but practical implementation is decades away.



“The Ukraine war is as existential a problem for that nation as famine is for Somalia, or a Chinese blockade/invasion is for Taiwan. And, at a broader level, failure to contain the Covid pandemic or handle intelligently a catastrophic worldwide recession could have devastating effects throughout the world. Threats from Putin and Kim Jong Un to unleash nuclear weapons present horrors of their own not just for Ukraine, South Korea, Japan, and the US but for the rest of the world from a possible nuclear winter...”

There is little hope that the world can contain the severe climatic and weather events that have seemingly become more common and widespread. The fear is that we can expect more forest fires, floods, damaging hurricanes and cyclones. Sadly, there is not much hope that the effects can be contained or mitigated.

This is not a particularly optimistic or pleasant article to write. But it does underscore that the nations of the world can come together when the common problem facing them is big enough. The sad reality is that each of the problems I have identified is indeed big enough for the world's nations to see that cooperation is the *only* path forward. There is hope for the world if we can get our leaders to see this. The fear is that leaders, blinded by power, do not see what is before their eyes.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Welfare or Freebie Culture?

● Cont. from page 3

Yet some sections of the electorate may well be expecting more freebies in the run-up to 2024, that will come ultimately from their own threadbare pockets, with the country under perfusion of debts, reeling with high fuel/VAT taxes and hanging on to a massively devalued rupee.

In a bid to possibly outdo the populism of the MSM variety, Labour Party leader Navin Ramgoolam's promise of a trip to neighbouring Reunion, at the public expense, to all those who have reached the age of 60 is regrettably a good example of the irresponsible populism at work on the local political stage today. One would expect better and more responsible politics from the Labour Party. Another bout of populism in 2024 at a time when public sector debt has ballooned to some Rs 450 billion, with many skeletons still hiding in closets, can only be detrimental to the country's interests.

Without a full due diligence of the real state of the economy and some competent



“We are here still bearing the costs for the MSM pension and other freebies of 2019, which, coupled with the dilapidations paid for from the public purse at the Betamax, BAI/ Bramer, MK and SBM debacles, among others, the “borrow, tax and spend bonanza” through the Covid pandemic, have brought our country to its knees, with a depreciated rupee, a bankrupt Central Bank, a high inflation and cost of living, a forex crisis, a lack of credibility for serious investors and a mountain of debts, leaving it vulnerable to any external event...”

hands at the helm, the Opposition will have its ingenuity tested to keep pace understandably with the key publicly funded throw-aways of the ruling regime towards 2024, while proposing to restore economic fundamentals, democratic space, public trust in institutions and a new era of clean governance.

* * *

US-Africa Leaders Summit, Chagos and Agalega

From Tuesday 13th to 16th, US President Joe Biden hosted some forty-plus African leaders at the second only (after Obama eight years ago) US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, DC, the three-day summit focusing on key challenges, including the climate crisis, good governance, human rights and freedom of the press, food security and global health, as well as bolstering US-Africa trade and investment opportunities. An ambitious financial package of assistance is expected in areas and on terms

yet to be defined as these lines are written.

After four years of disruptive “Trumpism”, Biden seeks to re-engage with the rest of the world and international institutions, although the shadow of China will loom over proceedings, both in global geopolitical strategic competition and in terms of security implications for sub-Saharan countries felt to be too deeply aligned with Huawei and other Chinese state players.

The issue of internet security lately made controversial headlines with the Baie du Jacotet affair and the foreign sniffing team involved in that episode. PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and his retinue may have the opportunity first-hand to assess whether, in the Indian Ocean superpower rivalry context and those national security concerns, some progress can be envisaged on the Chagos issue while our diplomacy strives not to take sides.

Upon his return a communication exercise by the PM on both the Chagos and Agalega islands in the evolving geopolitical dynamics of the Indian Ocean would not be amiss.

Jan Arden

WHO eyes end to Covid emergency in 2023

The World Health Organization said Wednesday it hoped that Covid-19 would no longer be a public health emergency in 2023, as it urged China to share information that could pinpoint how the pandemic started.

As the third anniversary of the original outbreak rolls around, the WHO said the virus was here to stay but would need managing alongside other respiratory illnesses, reports AFP.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the weekly Covid death toll was now around a fifth of what it was a year ago -- but was still far too high.

The WHO's emergency committee on Covid-19, which advises Tedros on whether the virus constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), will discuss the criteria for declaring an end to the emergency phase when they next meet in January.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's Covid-19 technical lead, said the committee would look at the epidemiology, variants like Omicron, and the impact of the virus.

While waves of infection are still expected, the pandemic "is not what it was in the beginning", with cases resulting in fewer hospitalisations and deaths, she said.



Epidemic-prevention workers in protective suits line up to get swab tested as outbreaks of coronavirus disease continue in Beijing, China. Pic - Reuters

While the WHO says more than 13 billion vaccine doses have been administered, around 30 percent of the world has not received a single dose, she added.

Covid origins

Nearly 650 million confirmed Covid cases and more than 6.6 million deaths have been reported to the WHO, though the UN health agency acknowledges this will be a vast undercount.

Tedros said that as the world looks to end the Covid emergency, which has upended economies and left millions suffering ongoing symptoms, it needs to understand how the pandemic began.

The first cases of Covid-19 were recorded in the Chinese city of Wuhan in December 2019.

WHO emergencies chief Michael Ryan said the organisation could not simply stop engaging with Beijing "because you're not cooperating with us on the origins", as a huge chunk of the world's population live in China.

New vaccines hope

Tedros said the virus had been around so long, it was almost part of the family.

"This virus will not go away. It's here to stay and all countries will need to learn to manage it alongside other respiratory illnesses," he said.

The WHO's vaccines chief Kate O'Brien said that the current crop of Covid jabs do not prevent people from catching the virus to the level that had been hoped for.

China administers more than 1 million vaccine doses a day as Covid cases rise



A woman wearing a face mask stands near a mural depicting a dragon in Beijing. Pic - AP

Covid-19 infections were exploding in China well before the government's decision to phase out its stringent regime.

"There's a narrative at the moment that China lifted the restrictions and all of a sudden the disease is out of control," Ryan told a briefing in Geneva.

For all its efforts to quell the virus in the three years since it erupted in the central city of Wuhan, China may now pay a price for shielding a population that lacks "herd immunity" and has low vaccination rates among the elderly, analysts say.

China has said around 90% of its population is vaccinated and its National Health

Commission (NHC) on Wednesday announced it would roll out the second Covid-19 vaccine booster shots for high-risk groups and elderly people over 60 years old.

Vaccinations in China have been ramping up in recent days. The latest official data shows it administered 1.43 million shots on Tuesday, well above rates in November of around 100,000 - 200,000 doses a day. In total, it has administered 3.45 billion shots, the data shows.

Beijing has been largely resistant to western vaccines and treatments, having relied on locally-made shots.

Pfizer's oral Covid-19 treatment Paxlovid is one of the few foreign ones it has approved. The treatment, however, has only been available in hospitals for high-risk patients, but signs have appeared in recent days that it may soon be available to the wider public.

China raced to vaccinate its most vulnerable people on Thursday in anticipation of waves of Covid-19 infections, with some analysts expecting the death toll to soar after a loosening of strict controls that kept the pandemic at bay for three years.

The push comes as the World Health Organisation also raised concerns that China's 1.4 billion population was not adequately vaccinated, and the United States offered to help China deal with a surge in infections.

Beijing last Wednesday began dismantling its tough 'zero-Covid' controls, dropping testing requirements and easing quarantine rules that had caused mental anxiety for tens of millions and damaged the economy, reports Reuters.

The pivot away from President Xi Jinping's signature "zero-Covid" policy followed unprecedented widespread protests against it. But WHO emergencies director Mike Ryan said

Indian student at Cambridge solves 2,500-year-old Sanskrit grammatical problem



Indian PhD student Rishi Rajpopat, 27, is seen. Pic - Business Today

A grammatical problem which perplexed scholars since the 5th century BC has been solved by a Cambridge University student and could "revolutionise the study of Sanskrit", a professor said, Independent reported.

Indian PhD student Rishi Rajpopat, 27, decoded a rule taught by Panini, master of the ancient Sanskrit language who lived around two-and-a-half-thousand years ago, the report said, adding that Panini's grammar, known as the Astadhyayi, relied on a system that functioned like an algorithm to turn the base

and suffix of a word into grammatically correct words and sentences, reports Hindustan Times.

However, two or more of Panini's rules often apply simultaneously, resulting in rule conflicts. Panini taught a "metarule", traditionally interpreted by scholars as meaning "in the event of a conflict between two rules of equal strength, the rule that comes later in the grammar's serial order wins".

However, this often led to grammatically incorrect results. Rishi Rajpopat rejected the traditional interpretation of the metarule and argued that Panini meant that between rules applicable to the left and right sides of a word respectively, Panini wanted us to choose the rule applicable to the right side.

Through this, Rishi Rajpopat found the Panini's "language machine" produced grammatically correct words with almost no exceptions.

Rishi Rajpopat said he had a "eureka moment" after his supervisor at Cambridge, Professor of Sanskrit Vincenzo Vergiani, advised him, "If the solution is complicated, you are probably wrong."

* Contd on page 9



Emmanuel Macron 'immensely proud' that France is in FIFA World Cup final

French President Emmanuel Macron said he was "immensely proud" that France reached the World Cup final after he travelled to Qatar to watch the team's win over Morocco in the semifinals.

Macron sat beside FIFA president Gianni Infantino during the match at Al Bayt Stadium and stood up to applaud after the 2-0 victory. France will play Argentina in the final on Sunday.

"I feel very proud of my country. I'm very happy," Macron told reporters after the match. "I want the French to enjoy this simple happiness."

The French leader paid tribute to the "great" Moroccan team, Africa's first-ever semifinalist, reports PTI.

Morocco was ruled by France from 1912-56. Wednesday's match had political and emotional resonance for both nations, dredging up everything that's complex about the relationship in which France still wields considerable economic, political and cultural influence.

Macron said he will come back to Qatar on Sunday to attend the final at Lusail Stadium. He joked about being "too superstitious" to give his prediction. But before the match against Morocco, he was quick to say "France will win."

Macron skipped a summit of European Union and southeast Asian leaders in Brussels to attend the match.

'Rubbing salt into wounds': Prince Harry's real target in royal family is...

In the new trailer for Harry & Meghan docuseries, Prince Harry said, "They were happy to lie to protect my brother. They were never willing to tell the truth to protect us." Prince Harry then goes on to make accusations of "institutional gaslighting," before Meghan Markle adds, "I wasn't being thrown to the wolves, I was being fed to the wolves."

Royal expert Richard Fitzwilliams said, "The trailer for the next three episodes of Netflix's Harry & Meghan has just been released. It confirms fears that it will be toxic. Meghan is 'fed to the wolves.' Harry says 'they were happy to lie to protect my brother.' Who exactly and what

Thailand princess, next in line to throne, 'suffers heart attack while running'

Princess Bajrakitiyabha of Thailand, next in line to the throne is reportedly "unlikely to recover" after suffering a heart attack. King Vajiralongkorn is believed to have flown by helicopter to be with his daughter who became ill in Khao Yai, north east of Bangkok.

The princess was reportedly out running with her dogs in the Khao Yai national park when she collapsed.

Journalist Andrew MacGregor Marshall said CPR was carried out "for more than an hour" but Princess Bajrakitiyabha could not be revived. It is claimed she has been put on an oxygen machine, reports Hindustan Times.

Andrew MacGregor Marshall tweeted, "Some sources are saying that despite CPR being carried out for more than an hour, there was no response and she has been



Thailand Princess Bajrakitiyabha has reportedly suffered a heart attack. Pic - static.dw.com

put on an ECMO machine, which basically means she is dead but being artificially kept alive."

"Royal sources say the prognosis for the princess is very grim and it's very unlikely she will ever recover. But she could potentially be kept artificially alive via ECMO for weeks or even months while the regime figures out what to do," tweeted Andrew MacGregor Marshall.



In this 2012 image provided by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, a technician reviews an optic inside the preamplifier support structure in Livermore, Calif. Pic - Yahoo News

Fusion milestone for clean energy that could revolutionise world

Scientists announced that they have for the first time produced more energy in a fusion reaction than was used to ignite it, marking a major breakthrough in the

decades-long quest to harness the process that powers the sun. Researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California achieved the result last week, the Energy Department said. The breakthrough will pave the way for advancements in defense and the future of clean power, reports Hindustan Times.

Here are some points on this story:

- Fusion works by pressing hydrogen atoms into each other with such force that they combine into helium, releasing enormous amounts of energy and heat. Unlike other nuclear reactions, it doesn't create radioactive waste.

- Proponents of fusion hope it could one day displace fossil fuels and other traditional energy sources although producing carbon-

free energy that powers homes and businesses from fusion is still decades away. But the announcement marks a significant leap forward.

- Kim Budil, director of the Livermore Lab, said there are "very significant hurdles" to commercial use of fusion technology, but advances in recent years mean the technology is likely to be widely used in "a few decades".



Prince Harry. Pic- Reuters

is the proof?"

Another royal commentator Herald Daniela Elser opined that Prince William is also a "victim" as he lost his mother too but doesn't feel the need to constantly play that card like Prince Harry, reports Hindustan Times.

"Something has become clear and that there is some-

thing of a forgotten victim in this sorry saga — ol' William," the royal commentator said, adding that Prince William was "the one who pushed their mother's tissues under the bathroom door as she cried" and the one who "tried to support his brother when they were both grief-stricken teenagers".

The royal commentator then slammed Prince Harry's decision to use footage of Princess Diana's 1995 interview with Panorama which Prince William said he didn't want to ever be used again.

Herald Daniela Elser described what Prince Harry did allowing that footage to be aired in the Netflix docuseries as "rubbing salt in the wound" since Prince William previously "issued an unusually forceful statement saying it should never be played again after last year's Dyson inquiry found that the princess had been duped into taking part."

Ramapatee Gujadhur

“As the French would put it, ‘Partir c’est mourir un peu’

That’s precisely the feeling my family and the bigger family of the stable experienced”

After 118 years, the Gujadhur stable which has represented so much for our countrymen and the racing community, announced that sadly it could no longer operate within the new parameters imposed by the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) and the authorities. In these troubling moments, Ramapatee Gujadhur has been asked to share some thoughts about this turn of events, the ongoing tussles of the Mauritius Turf Club (MTC) with the GRA and the playing field which seems so heavily loaded towards one newcomer. He has done so in his usual gentlemanly fashion leaving the population to form their own opinion on the course of events that have led to this sad closure.



* You must have left the Champ de Mars with a heavy heart last Sunday, but this cannot be the end of a family’s 118-year-old association with horse racing and the Mauritius Turf Club. Observant on-lookers would like to think that that’s not the end of the story; other twists and turns are likely to come. Are they wrong?

Indeed, it was a tough decision for us. As the French would put it, “Partir c’est mourir un peu”. That’s precisely the feeling I and other members of the family and the bigger family of the stable experienced. But we have to know when the time has come to draw the ladder and, believe me, we had no other option.

On the other hand, I tend to agree with you that this may not be the end of the story. However, it’s very difficult to tell about the future, so we’ll let things run their own course. In the meantime, it’s a fact today that the Gujadhur stable has closed its doors.

* You have been saying repeatedly during the last few days that the conditions for the proper functioning of a horse stable are not present anymore, thus your decision to exit from the horse racing industry. Is that the only reason?

It’s not the only reason although it may appear to be the main one. As things stand today, it’s not viable anymore to run a stable - at least for us.

The MTC, as per the new rules, could organise only 20 race meetings. They have had to cut costs and remove subsidies that they were giving to stables. They also had to reduce the stakes money substantially. Under these circumstances it had become impossible to sustain the financial burden.

* Those in the know suggest that there is more to the ongoing and long-drawn tug of war between the MTC, the traditional horse-racing organiser, and the GRA than meets the eye. There would be an under-hand ploy being employed to make the MTC irrelevant in the horse racing business. Is it also your view?

There is wisdom in letting the facts speak for themselves, and in allowing your readers and Mauritians in general to draw their own conclusions.

However, it goes without saying that the decision to allow a second operator to organise horse racing at the Champ de Mars has impacted negatively the finances of the MTC.

* From what we hear, there also seems to be a villain in the story behind the current situation the MTC finds itself today, whom few people have named but who can be easily guessed. If that is indeed the case and in view of the damage said to have already been done to horse racing, do you fear that sooner or later the industry will be taken over by a single player?

I cannot predict what will happen in the future though I would have loved to be able to do so. But the crude fact is that MTC’s future is at stake as its lease of the grounds was abruptly terminated, a matter which the courts have yet to pronounce themselves on, but in the current situation it will be practically impossible for it to sustain the financial burden which the second licence to organise horse racing will entail.

* Competition should be good for the industry, just like for other sectors. There must be room for more than one player in the organisation of horse

“I agree that the MTC has committed some blunders in the past. But it should also be pointed out that the MTC has made considerable efforts during the last several years to improve things and to function in a more democratic and fair manner. I don’t think it would be right today to judge or punish the MTC for sins committed years ago by its former management teams. The MTC of today is definitely not the MTC of yesteryears...”

racing in Mauritius, isn’t it?

I am for competition but not at the expense of any player.

Competition is most welcome when there is a level playing field and when the rules of the game apply equally to all parties. MTCSL or a sister company should also be given a licence to organise fixed odds betting by SMS as well as a Tote licence. This will contribute a lot towards fair competition.

Can we say that there exists a level playing field at the Champ de Mars currently? I do not think so. There seems today that we are in presence of a state within the state, trying to dictate terms to one and all.

* It is expected of the government to assume its responsibility to arbitrate in disputes in a fair, transparent and timely manner, and not be seen or perceived to be in cahoots with any one player. Is it also your view that that condition was also absent?

As I said earlier, Mauritians are intelligent enough to form their own judgement.

☞ Cont. from page 11

‘The role of government is to ensure that fairness and a level playing field prevail with a view to encouraging fair competition.

How can we compete if our wings are clipped?’

☞ Cont. from page 10

The role of government is to ensure that fairness and a level playing field prevail with a view to encouraging fair competition. How can we compete if our wings are clipped?

* The MTC itself has not helped in the present circumstances it finds itself today. Even if it has no doubt made significant progress in becoming more representative of our rainbow nation, there were regularly doubts expressed about illegal activities, including money-laundering, that go together with the horse racing and associated betting business - although not necessarily condoned by the Club itself. Your opinion?

I agree that the MTC has committed some blunders in the past.

But it should also be pointed out that the MTC has made considerable efforts during the last several years to improve things and to function in a more democratic and fair manner.

I don't think it would be right today to judge or punish the MTC for sins committed years ago by its former management teams. The MTC of today is definitely not the MTC of yesteryears.

It is to be noted that government has set up a horse racing division to oversee the organisation of horse racing and to ensure its integrity and somehow, we have never had such levels of controversies before. Why? A *qui profite* this situation? Have the authorities given “carte blanche” for some well-connected players to rule the roost without qualms?

* The earlier Parry Commission of Inquiry on horseracing (2014) referred to “prima facie evidence that certain persons have committed and continue to commit criminal offences of cheating in horseracing and betting in Mauritius”, “maladministration, bordering on ‘institutional corruption’”. The Commission recommended urgent actions to restore confidence in horseracing in Mauritius, and that was to pave the way for the GRA. We are not aware if things have improved on that front with the GRA now in the picture. What do you think about it?

Well, it was up to the authorities to implement the Parry Commission's recommendations through the Gambling Regulatory Authority established since 2007. What has been its track record?

If they have failed to do so, it's up to them to explain why things haven't improved so far.

* Horse racing enthusiasts must be looking for-

“Competition is most welcome when there is a level playing field and when the rules of the game apply equally to all parties. MTCSL or a sister company should also be given a licence to organise fixed odds bettings by SMS as well as a Tote licence. This will contribute a lot towards fair competition. Can we say that there exists a level playing field at the Champ de Mars currently? I do not think so...”



“Mauritians are intelligent enough to form their own judgement. The role of government is to ensure that fairness and a level playing field prevail with a view to encouraging fair competition. How can we compete if our wings are clipped?”

“As the French would put it, “Partir c'est mourir un peu”. That's precisely the feeling I and other members of the family and the bigger family of the stable experienced. But we have to know when the time has come to draw the ladder and, believe me, we had no other option. On the other hand, I tend to agree with you that this may not be the end of the story. However, it's very difficult to tell about the future, so we'll let things run their own course. In the meantime, it's a fact today that the Gujadhur stable has closed its doors...”

ward to the day when a serious, result-oriented operator would put in place in the country a world-class horse racing and leisure industry that would do justice to a long-held government ambition as announced in past budget speeches. Do you think we have the environment, the capacity and the drive to entertain and achieve such an ambition?

I think it depends on the political will of the powers that be.

We can certainly entertain the ambition to set up the best institutions in the world, but if we do not have the right persons to manage them, then they won't serve any purpose.

It's not only about creating institutions that matter; we must see to it that we have the right people in the right place to manage them. That of course assumes that the higher authorities are acting in good faith or with good intentions that are misfiring at the execution level through poor selection of persons, poor management skills or poor delivery on desirable outcomes.

For us and all those who gave their time, skills and energies alongside us to this noble adventure over more than a century, for the people who trusted and loved our endeavours, it is indeed a very sad day.

गौरव और विश्वास के 66 वर्ष

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Loving Humanity

A Tribute to Vijay Kumar Joypaul

Sunita Ramgoolam-Joypaul has brought out recently, 'Loving Humanity', which serves as a tribute to her late husband Vijay Kumar Joypaul - a long-time diplomat, who was also widely known and recognised as a man of culture, of intellectual and moral elegance. 'Loving Humanity' brings together a collection of tributes interspersed with reminiscences and anecdotes from dozens of former ministers and colleagues, newspaper editors and close friends as well as a few of his own writings.



After completing his secondary schooling at the Royal College, he went on to read sociology at Patna University and thereafter followed courses in diplomacy at Oxford University. On his return to Mauritius, he was offered a post in the Private Office of the then Premier, Dr Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, and thereafter served in the administrative and diplomatic service at a time when sons of the soil had taken over from the former British administrators and were entrusted with the formidable task of nation building and transforming the country after its accession to independence.

The economic diversification of Mauritius was launched in a world that was still heavily barricaded by pervasive trade barriers and had therefore to be facilitated by a proactive diplomatic service. The backbone

of that diversification drive was a committed and ingenious civil ser-vice, which we were fortunate to have and which was listened to by the country's political leaders. Those civil servants were men and women of conviction and driven by the ambition to make things happen for the country. Had it not been for the path-lighting and sound contribution of Vijay Joypaul's illustrious predecessors, that of his own generation of top civil servants and some star performers thereafter, we could have lost our way and ended like many of the countries in the neighbouring continent.

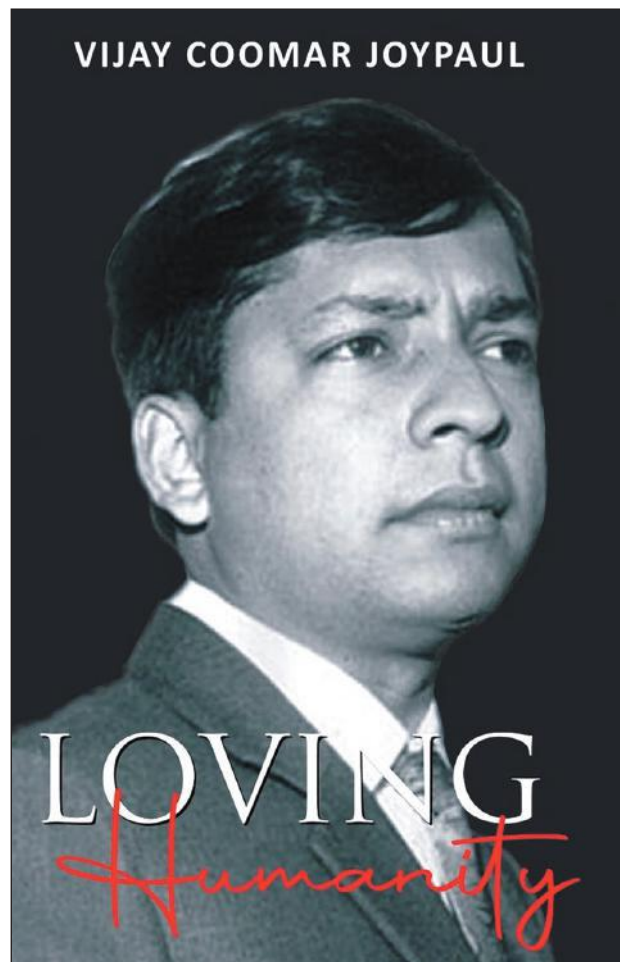
Vijay Joypaul was also recognised as a man of words. In his tribute to his RCPL mate, former President Cassam Uteem recalls his 'eloquence in and mastery of both English and French languages, as well as his love for literature, (which) were his hallmarks, and it was a real treat listening to his off-the cuff declamations of the famous lines from well-known authors... or his prepared speeches always in perfect English and equally flawless French'.

Usha Dwarka-Canabady, whose first steps in the foreign service had been under the guidance of then Ambassador Joypaul also remembers how 'many of us stood in awe' whenever the artist that he was would quote lengthy extracts from books, speeches and poems faultlessly and with style.

'During the 5th Francophonie Summit held in Grand Bay in 1993, Ambassador Joypaul even had the temerity to quote from the chronicles of *La Paille et Le Grain* to the author himself, President Francois Mitterrand. This prompted the President to turn to him and ask, "Mais qui êtes-vous, Monsieur?", and swiftly was the reply, "Monsieur le Président, je suis fils de laitier." He clearly left no one indifferent.'

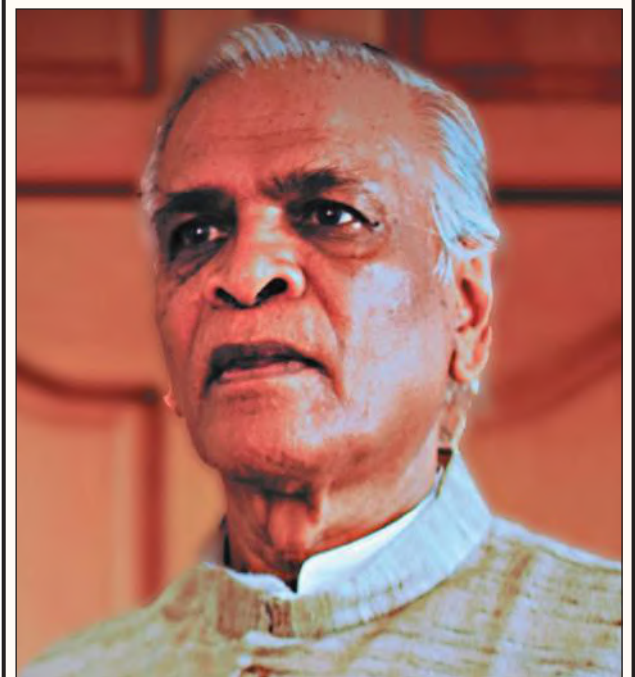
Other tributes - past and recent ones - have been paid to Vijay Joypaul by Marcel Cabon, then Editor-in-Chief of *Advance* in 1969, Shyam, former Indian Foreign Secretary, Vijay Makhan - former Secretary for Foreign Affairs and thereafter Deputy Secretary General of the OAU/African Union, Vijay Joypaul's brothers Suresh, academic, and print/audio-visual journalists Jugdish Joypaul, Manda Boolell, Alain Gordon-Gentil, Yvan Martial, Joseph Tsang Man Kin, former diplomat and Arts and Culture minister, Prof Lindsay Edouard, former senior adviser with the UN Population Fund, educationist Oudaye Joypaul, Dr Ouma Seebaluck, former airline executive and writer, Shrishti and Bill Joypaul, Bipin K. Rudhee, former Chief of Protocol, Mariame and Tibye, and Sunita Ramgoolam-Joypaul herself.

Besides telling us more about the diplomat and man of culture that Vijay Joypaul was, these contributions also provide a useful insight into the early years of nation building and much of what went into the remarkable transformation of the country, including the role played by the political leadership, the private sector and the civil service itself.



Obituary Prof Soodursun Jugessur

We have learnt of the sad demise of Prof Soodursun Jugessur, aged 82, who had a distinguished career locally and regionally. He was born in Bon Accueil, Flacq. He did his studies at the University of Madras, and returned to Mauritius with an MSc in Physics. After a brief stint at the Royal College Curepipe, he proceeded to Canada where he obtained a DSc (Doctorate) in electronic engineering and quantum electronics.



After lecturing at the University of Mauritius for a few years, he left to serve at the United Nations in Africa in the field of Science & Technology.

Upon returning to Mauritius, he continued with his academic career and authored several scientific publications. He subsequently became Chairman of the Council of the University of Mauritius as well as of the Mauritius Research Council, positions which he occupied for several years and earned the respect of his peers.

Soodursun Jugessur was a quiet person imbued with great humility, a sought-after speaker at various forums and very interested in the welfare of humanity, an advocate of peace, righteousness and harmonious living. He believed that the family was the starting point for inculcating sound values in children who would then become balanced adults serving society. To this end he sent up an NGO, 'Sukhi Parivaar' (Happy Family) which had many dedicated members who took the message around the country and encouraged families to participate actively in the various programmes.

He was a respected figure of the Arya Sabha Mauritius and often contributed articles in its publication *Aryodaye*. He was a regular reader of the *Mauritius Times* and on a few occasions contributed articles to the paper.

His cremation was held on Wednesday last at the Phoenix cemetery. *Mauritius Times* offers its deepest condolences to his bereaved family.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

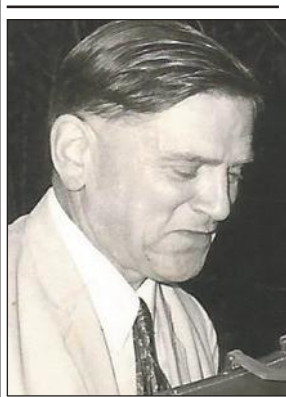
5th Year No 213

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 5 September, 1958

• 'Every shadow points to the sun.' — Ralph Waldo Emerson

Preview of the General Election



Peter Ibbotson

The late unlamented Adolf Hitler (born Schicklgruber) was an expert on propaganda. In 'Mein Kampf' he said about propaganda: "Propaganda must limit itself to a very small number of ideas and must repeat them unceasingly... The masses will only remember the very simplest ideas if they are repeated hundreds of times." Or

again, "All propaganda must find its own intellectual level according to the power of understanding it of the most stupid among its audience. Its level will thus become lower as the audience becomes larger."

Certain political propagandists in Mauritius have most certainly learned some lessons that Hitler taught: make our propaganda easy, and keep on repeating it, but at the same time confine yourself to a few basic ideas. The recent by-election in Port Louis demonstrated the few basic ideas which may well be the base of the Parti Mauricien's propaganda at the Legislative Council elections next year. Let us look for a moment at the propaganda points put forward by the anti-Labour candidate at the by-election. Little was forgotten — he included the working party, the boss's move to convene a special meeting of Legco to consider the wages of the low-paid workers, increased cost of living, higher bus fares, the taxi 4-seat law. (Not, by the way, that any of this was relevant to the Municipality!) All he left out was dissatisfaction with the Italian rice, and the language controversy.

It is probable that although the Parti Mauricien did not put forward a candidate at the municipal by-election, the Parti nonetheless looked upon the by-election as a sounding-board for its general election propaganda-to-come. Next spring we can, therefore, look forward to a repetition of the false allegations against the Labour Party that it is a party not interested in the fate of the workers of Mauritius. Of course, the Labour Party is interested in the fate of the workers; it wants to see all workers enjoying a higher standard of living. It wants to see all workers enjoying the fruits of their labours. It wants to see decent wages being paid to all workers. It wants to see strong trade unions to protect the workers against unscrupulous employers.

The Labour Party certainly has no room for trade union leaders who are in the pockets of the employers, who openly support the employers' political party. Nor has the Labour Party any room for *arrivistes* who profess Labour principles but who practise a policy of splitting the workers, of feathering their own nests by pretending to support trade union and socialist principles while in reality collaborating with the anti-socialist Parti Mauricien.

It is said that consideration is being given to a new ordinance which will give employers the right to sack their employees, even those who are employed on a monthly basis, at one day's notice. This is a devilish law if the rumour be true. If rumour be true, and if the law should come into force before the general election, then a reactionary curb would be put upon the workers straightway. The employers' hands would be strengthened; they would be able to tell their employees how to vote on pain of losing their jobs. And however strongly the Labour MLC's



feel on this matter, they would be powerless to prevent the law coming into force, since there is an anti-Labour majority in Legco, thanks to Sir Hilary Blood's nominations in 1953 (against which the Labour Party rightly protested) and to the vacant seat caused by Hon Seeneevassen's tragic death.

Is the Parti Mauricien against this proposed devilish law? It will be interesting to hear the views of its leaders, who are of course employers or hand-in-glove with employers.

The Labour Party, on the other hand, is all for the workers. Last June the 42nd session of the Conference of the International Labour Organisation (a specialised agency associated with the United Nations) adopted a convention, a recommendation, and a resolution on the condition of plantation workers: the convention has been described as "a plantation workers' charter". A plantation, by the way, is defined as "any agricultural undertaking regularly employing hired workers which is situated in the tropical or subtropical regions, and which is mainly concerned with the cultivation or the production for commercial purposes of..." and a list of products follows in which sugar cane is the third.

Part IV of the convention deals with wages; part IX with the right to organise and collective bargaining; part XI with labour inspection. Once the convention is ratified, these parts are compulsory. Ratifying countries must also apply at least two out of nine other parts, which include engagement and recruitment of workers, contracts of employment, annual paid holidays, weekly rest, workers' compensation, and freedom of association.

The ILO recommendation is not subject to ratification. It has 11 parts dealing with wages, equal pay for equal work, hours of work, welfare facilities prevention of accidents, compensation, social security, occupational diseases, and labour inspection. The resolution (submitted by the Workers' delegate from Cuba) wants a worldwide survey of the conditions of employment of all plantation workers.

It is clear from the definition of plantation that Mauritius' sugar estates and the labourers thereon are, respectively, plantations, and plantation workers. Such a worldwide survey would, therefore, have to include Mauritius. It would be most instructive to have the wages and other conditions of employment in Mauritius compared with those in other sugar-producing lands, especially with wages in the West Indian sugar-producing islands — for there, the growers get the same price (guaranteed under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement) as in Mauritius. There should not, therefore, be any great disparity between wages in the two areas — similar receipts for the product postulate similar

costs of production; or do they?

Against the insidious propaganda little of it backed up by reasons, of the Parti Mauricien and its stooges, the Labour Party must appeal to the good sense of the people. Emotional slogans such as are emitted by the Parti Mauricien, and such as have been emitted by its lame horses in Legco by-elections, have no part in serious politics and in serious discussion of the issues confronting Mauritius today. Reasoned discussion and argument are wanted; but the Parti Mauricien fears reasoned argument, simply because it knows that its irrational ill-tempered outbursts against the Labour Party and against the Labour Party's policies cannot be supported by reasons and could not stand up to counter argument.

When we hear, then, the Parti Mauricien and its janisaries prating about the working party and the necessity for a special session of Legco to consider the wages of low paid workers, let us point out: if higher wages are to be paid, the employers who are P.M. members and supporters have it in their power immediately to pay such higher wages; and since Government-paid wages depend on the wages paid in the sugar industry, then it is still the private employers who can give the lead — which as employers they can do without any special session of Legco. Let us at the same time, however, remember that of course there is not the least chance of the employers giving higher wages; all they are interested in is, through their political mouth-piece, making political capital out of the wages issue. Therefore, we must do all we can to strengthen the trade union movement, so that the employers can be faced with wage demands from unions having in membership a substantial majority of the workers.

All workers benefit from the activities of the unions; it is therefore up to all workers to help the unions by joining and remaining in membership and taking an active part in the unions' work. At the same time, the employers must not confine their recognition to one union per industry, especially if the union which is recognised for bargaining purposes represents not merely a minority of the workers in an industry but a minority, even, of those workers who are union members! In other words, the employers must deal with *bona fide* representative unions only; and unless they do so, there should be Wages Boards for all industries — particularly the sugar industry where the more militant labourers' union is not recognised by the employers.

Rebuttal of the propaganda, put about with Hitlerian technique, of the anti-Labour factions will not be easy. But it must be rebutted, if only to show how empty and false are the foundations of the reactionaries' parties. And it is important that illiterate voters do not have their emotions played upon by racist propagandist such as those who in the municipal by-election were going about saying to coloured voters. "Don't vote for Peerbye, he's a Moslem." Such a racialist approach to an election is yet another witness to the emptiness and irrationality of the anti-Labour factions.

The truth is, of course, that only the Labour Party has a positive policy and the power to put that policy into operation. It is only the Labour Party that the People trust; the opponents of the Labour Party are not bothered about anything else as long as they can weaken that trust by fair means or foul. And since fair means will not be successful, we can expect nothing but foul ones from now on.

The African Union at 20

Some reason to cheer, but lots of work ahead



Far-right political parties, often Eurosceptic, have long been at work building their influence in Brussels. On June 12, 2019, Italy's Lega and France's Rassemblement National announced that they would form the Identity and Democracy (ID) group within the European Parliament. At a press conference the next day, Marco Zanni of Lega (L) shakes hands with the RN's Marine Le Pen. Aris Oikonomou/AFP

● Cont. from page 2

Still to be achieved is reform of the UN Security Council to give Africa at least two permanent seats. Over two-thirds of the council's agenda concerns Africa, yet the continent is excluded from permanent representation.

In my view, the AU still needs to address two main problems to steer Africa into a prosperous future. These are the use of unconstitutional means by leaders to hold on to power; and disregard for the rule of law.

Unconstitutional hold on power

Africa has seen a troubling resurgence of military coups and leaders using unconstitutional means to cling to power. There have been at least 32 coups and coup attempts since 2013, when General Abdel Fattah El-Sisi toppled the government in Egypt.

The AU handed him its rotating chairship in 2019, tacitly endorsing power grabs.

Following the October 2021 coup in Sudan, United Nations secretary general Antonio Guterres expressed concern that some military leaders felt they could do whatever they wanted.

Five out of the seven coup attempts since 2020 succeeded. The coup leaders in the five countries – Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan – violently suppressed pro-democracy protesters.

The death toll from the suppression of anti-coup protestors in Sudan, for instance, is over 100. Over 18 million Sudanese are threatened by food insecurity.

But the AU acts as if it's unaware of the political paralysis in Sudan.

Some coup plotters justify their actions by pointing to poor social, political and economic conditions in their countries. For

example, Colonel Mamady Doumbouya of Guinea cited endemic corruption and lack of economic progress to justify deposing President Alpha Condé in September 2021.

Condé had manipulated the constitution to extend his term. This led to political instability. But that does not justify the coup.

Turning a blind eye to unconstitutional leaders and their actions indicates a backsliding from peaceful handover of power and democracy. It threatens Africa's security.

Some African leaders have perfected the art of unconstitutionally holding on to power. They use violence to rig elections. Or they doctor the rules of participation to exclude rivals. That happened in Tanzania, where laws that clamped down on freedoms of expression and assembly were passed and enforced ahead of the 2020 election.

Others criminalise popular opposition leaders, as happened to leading opposition challenger Bobi Wine in Uganda. Some feign constitutional reform to change constitutions and prolong their stay.

Disregard for the rule of law

Africa is seeing a relapse into the autocratic rule of the Cold War era. An increasing number of democratically elected and legitimate governments are cracking down on civil society organisations. This is worrying, even if it is part of a global trend.

The governments are squeezing out institutions that should hold them accountable and are silencing the media. They arrest activists and enact laws that restrict civil society organisations and their activities.

This reversal in democratic norms flies in the face of the normative framework mechanisms of the AU, which are about

the rule of law, peace, security, democracy, good governance and human rights.

The AU should deal decisively with member states that undermine the rule of law within their territories. The rule of law is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and the eradication of poverty and hunger. The rule of law enables people, business and commerce to flourish.

Looking ahead

African leaders should address the problems which military leaders use as the pretext for coups in African states – mainly

corruption, misrule and insecurity. Solving these problems would deny the military an excuse to interfere in civilian matters.

Instead of cracking down on citizens and civil society, states should use their natural resources to grow their economies and empower citizens. Collective economic strength will improve Africa's standing as a global actor.

The response to coups and instability can't be limited to sanctions.

The AU must also be firm and consistent in dealing with constitutional violations. It's no use hoping that illegitimate officials will relinquish power. Recent examples show that perpetrators simply defy calls to restore constitutional order.

Chris Changwe Nshimbi,

Director & Research Fellow, University of Pretoria

25 NOV - 05 FEB

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4 Biggest Gift-Giving Mistakes

Finding good gifts can be tricky. Here are some research-backed tips to help you with your holiday shopping



Julian Givi
Assistant Professor of
Marketing, West
Virginia University

A good gift can elicit a surge of happiness and gratitude in the recipient. It also feels great to give, with psychologists finding that the joy of giving a gift is more pronounced than the pleasure of receiving one.

Unfortunately, there are times when you receive a gift and you have to force a smile and fake your gratitude.

I'm a consumer psychologist who specializes in gift-giving research – in particular, gift-giving mistakes.

Here are four of the most common ones.

1. Prioritizing the big reveal

One way givers can err is by focusing too much on the moment the recipient will open the gift.

Givers want their gift to be desirable. They hope to surprise the recipient and put a smile on their face.

A chocolate fondue fountain might meet these criteria – it's quirky and sure to elicit curiosity and smiles from onlookers.

However, when people receive a gift, they care less about the moment the bow comes off, and instead think about the weeks and months ahead.

People want gifts that are useful and reliable and meet their needs.

How often would a chocolate fondue fountain realistically be used?

Compare that to a new coffee maker, which could see action every day. Sure, it isn't a novelty – and probably won't elicit "oohs" and "ahhs" on Christmas Day – but the recipient will be quite happy to have it on hand when their alarm rings each morning.

2. Unique and new are overrated

Another factor that can lead givers to go wrong

involves unwritten rules for what constitutes good gift-giving practices.

Givers often focus on these rules more than they should. For example, they may avoid giving the same gift to someone in back-to-back years because this goes against the norm of giving a unique gift each year. Givers also often refrain from giving used products as gifts because this violates the unspoken rule that a gift should be brand new.

In contrast, recipients are quite open to gifts that violate these norms.

If someone loves a certain type of wine, they're more than happy to receive it in subsequent years. And if one digital camera is lightly used but possesses several innovative features, while another is new but has fewer features, people are happy to receive the used one.

3. Being risk-averse

Givers can make missteps when they avoid gifts that they see as too risky.

Consider sentimental gifts, like a scrapbook or a nostalgic memento.

Studies have shown that recipients love these gifts; they elicit happiness for extended periods of time.

Givers, however, tend to shy away from sentimental gifts because they see them risky – sure, they could be a home run, but they could also whiff. Doubts can creep into shoppers' heads as they consider sentimental gifts: What if it comes across as sappy? What if the recipient thinks I'm being cheap?

And so people tend to opt for safer, superficial gifts that they assume will be at least somewhat well-liked. Or, to continue with the baseball analogy, givers are happy to take the sure single.

As another example, consider material goods versus experiences.

When giving gifts, people often opt for tangible objects over experiences because material goods are on the



Presenting Christmas Gifts stock photo

safer side – almost everyone could use a new appliance or a new shirt. Experiences are trickier; they require a bit more of an understanding of who the recipient truly is – not everyone loves going to see the symphony.

Yet recipients tend to be more open to experiences than givers anticipate – and these gifts are actually more likely to make people happier than material goods.

4. Does the thought really count?

Givers can also err by wanting their gift to appear especially thoughtful.

Of course, recipients appreciate thoughtfulness – but not when it comes at the expense of receiving something that's actually useful.

This plays out when givers are shopping for multiple people. They'll often choose unique gifts for each recipient, rather than give the same gift to everyone, because a distinct gift for each person will make them feel as though they put more time and effort into gift selection. People do this even if they realize that some recipients will be receiving less desirable gifts.

You'll also see this happen with gift cards. Givers often choose specific gift cards – to a particular clothing store or restaurant, for example – that reflect the interests or tastes of the recipient.

But recipients are more open to gift cards that give them more flexibility and freedom – think an Amazon or Visa gift card. That way, they can decide whether to splurge on a new sweater, dine out at their favorite restaurant – or do both.

Short Stories

Life - One step at a time

Once upon a time, a wealthy king sought a suitable man to marry his daughter. So he decided to create a challenge to test whether an individual has the appropriate attitude and will not quit at the first indication of adversity. To pass the test, each candidate had to put on royal metal armour and ascend 1000 stairs to the top of the mountain, where the king's palace was.

Many men gathered from all across the world to take on the task. However, as soon as they put on the armour, they understood that the endeavour would be impossible. The majority of the men took the first step, then glanced up at the remaining 999 and gave up. Several men made it to the second step before abandoning their quest. And so, it continued for the next couple of hundred guys, with some reaching the third stage.

The king appeared to be very concerned. He pondered if someone was deserving of his daughter. Everyone who came to try their luck with the challenge stayed away after they saw those who attempted to compete in the challenge fail miserably. Nobody thought it was possible. The top athletes tried but failed. Even the most muscular men couldn't go past the third stairwell. Nobody could make it any further. They all pointed their finger at the armour and the steps. If only the armour were lighter, the stairs weren't so steep...

Then, to everyone's astonishment, a young man who didn't appear to be very ordinary and not very impressive declared he wanted to try. He, like everyone else before him, had his chance. He donned the heavy gear and proceeded to the steps. Everyone said he wouldn't make it past the first step. But he was quick to go to the second. He could hardly move his shivering feet to the fourth step.

But he took a big breath and moved forward. He felt like he was about to collapse, but he was determined to keep going. He kept telling himself, "One step at



WHICH STEP HAVE YOU REACHED TODAY?

a time." I only have to finish this one. As he approached the fifth step, he felt a strong pull from the top. His armour became noticeably lighter. So, he took another step, telling himself, "I'm not ready to quit yet."

Surprisingly, the armour felt lighter in this following stage. He was exhausted but determined to take one more step. So, the "not-so-special young man" went on. Each stride brought his armour lighter and his goal closer.

When the young man finished the

challenge, the king praised him and then revealed a secret about the test: "You know, the challenge aimed to make sure that the guy who is going to marry my daughter is not the type of man who gives up after the first couple of difficult moments."

The armour represents the difficult times, and the magnet on top, which made each step easier after the first few you had to make on your own, represents the willpower and experience that will make your future endeavours easier to bear. Because with the proper person at your side, as well as the right mindset and

focus, you can do anything, no matter how big the problem is.

So, you know that the most challenging part of any problem you and your partner will encounter in the future is the first few steps, and it will become easier from there. You have proven yourself worthy, and now you have my blessings to marry my daughter."

Moral: Remember to take your first steps and keep going. It becomes easier as you gain experience.

Me, me, me! How narcissism changes throughout life

For parents worried that their teenager's narcissism is out of control, there's hope. New research from Michigan State University conducted the longest study on narcissism to date, revealing how it changes over time.

"There's a narrative in our culture that generations are getting more and more narcissistic, but no one has ever looked at it throughout generations or how it varies with age at the same time," said William Chopik, associate Prof of psychology at MSU and lead author.

"There are things that happen in life that can shake people a little bit and force them to adapt their narcissistic qualities," Chopik said. "As you age, you form new relationships, have new experiences, start a family and so on. All of these factors make someone realize that it's not 'all

about them.' And, the older you get, the more you think about the world that you may leave behind."

The greatest impetus for declining narcissism, Chopik said, was landing a first job.

"One thing about narcissists is that they're not open to criticism. When life happens and you're forced to accept feedback, break up with someone or have tragedy strike, you might need to adjust to understanding that you're not as awesome as you once thought," Chopik said. "There's a sense in which narcissists start to realize that being the way they are isn't smart if they want to have friends or meaningful relationships."

Chopik found that the fastest-changing age group was young adults. He also found that, contrary to popular belief,



changes in the levels of narcissism are lifelong and changes don't stop at any certain age or stage in life.

"One of the most surprising findings was that -- also contrary to what many people think -- individuals who were born earlier in the century started off with higher levels of hyper-sensitivity, or the

type of narcissism where people are full of themselves, as well as willfulness, which is the tendency to impose opinions on others," Chopik said. "There isn't much data on older generations, but now that Baby Boomers are aging into that phase of life, it's a huge part of the population that we need to be looking at."

The wisdom of crowds: What smart cities can learn from a dead ox and live fish

In 1906, Francis Galton was at a country fair where attendees had the opportunity to guess the weight of a dead ox. Galton took the guesses of 787 fair-goers and found that the average guess was only one pound off of the correct weight -- even when individual guesses were off base.

This concept, known as "the wisdoms of crowds" or "collective intelligence," has been applied to many situations over the past century, from people estimating the number of jellybeans in a jar to predicting the winners of major sporting events -- often with high rates of success. Whatever the problem, the average answer of the crowd seems to be an accurate solution.

But does this also apply to knowledge about systems, such as ecosystems, health care, or cities? Do we always need in-depth scientific inquiries to describe and manage them -- or could we leverage crowds?

This question has fascinated Antonie J. Jetter, associate Prof of Engineering and Technology Management for many years. Now, there's an answer. A recent study, which was co-authored by Jetter and published in 'Nature Sustainability', shows that diverse crowds of local natural resource stakeholders can collectively produce complex environmental models very similar to those of trained experts.

For this study, about 250 anglers, water guards and board members of German fishing clubs were asked to draw connections showing how ecological relationships influence the pike stock from the perspective of the anglers and how factors like nutrients and fishing pressures help determine the number of pike in a freshwater lake ecosystem. The individuals' drawings -- or their so-called mental models -- were then mathematically combined into a collective model representing their averaged understanding of the ecosystem and compared with the best scientific knowledge on the same subject.

The result is astonishing. If you combine the ideas from many individual anglers by averaging their mental models, the final outcomes correspond more or less exactly to the scientific knowledge of pike ecology -- local knowledge of stakeholders produces results that are in no

way inferior to lengthy and expensive scientific studies.

The study found that it is important that the opinions of different types of anglers -- recreational anglers, fisheries managers or board members of fishing associations -- are preserved and taken into account separately. The knowledge base of only a single group of anglers may have group-specific biases that can accumulate to a possibly wrong solution.

"I am excited about the possibilities for other complex systems," Jetter said. "We now understand how we can investigate problems like improving schools or increasing ridership in public transportation -- we ask people who frequently interact with these systems and merge their system descriptions. This has huge potential for making cities smarter."

"About a hundred years after the introduction of the wisdom of crowds phenomenon by Francis Galton, we expand this theory and show empirically that averaging judgments from large crowds can also work for the cognitively more demanding task of describing a complex system," Jetter said. "Maybe this will make our cities smarter, one day. If it does, it is a testament to interdisciplinary research."



How do we feel thirsty?

Our brain is amazing. It tells us when we need to drink more water. And one of the ways it tells us is to make us feel thirsty.

Most of our body is made of water. And we need water to do all sorts of really important things. We need water to help us digest our food, and move nutrients and oxygen around our body. We need water to make our muscles move and to make sure we don't get too hot or too cold.

We lose water all the time too -- when we sweat, breathe and go to the toilet.

So we need to replace that water. If we don't, we can start to feel thirsty.

Feeling thirsty is good for us

Our brain is amazing. It can tell us when our body doesn't have enough water (but has too many salts and minerals).

Our brain then sends messages to parts of our body to put things right. We feel those messages as an urge to drink. And when we feel that thirst, we drink.

How do we know when to stop drinking?

We all know that nice feeling once you start gulping down water on a hot day. But how does your brain know you've had enough water?

When we drink water, the water levels in our blood rises, and the levels of salts and minerals drop. When your brain is happy with these levels, it tells us. It removes the urge to drink any more.

Also, when we swallow water, a "happy" chemical called dopamine is released into our bodies that makes us feel good. This is why drinking other liquids, like fruit juice, can feel good, even if it doesn't do as good a job as water at rehydrating us.

Listen to your body

As the weather gets hotter, it's even more important to keep drinking water. You want to replace all that water you lose while riding your bike, or running around with



your friends in the heat.

So if you feel thirsty, that's really your brain telling you to drink up.

Roshan Rigby, Clare Van Dorssen & Lauren Ball
Griffith University



A Clear Definition of Politics... Dirty and all!!

A Russian Jew named Jacob was finally allowed to emigrate to Israel. At the Moscow airport, a customs inspector found a statue of Lenin in his luggage and asked, "What is this?"

Jacob replied: "Wrong question, comrade. You should have asked, 'Who is this?'"

This is Comrade Lenin. He laid the foundations of socialism and created the future prosperity of the Russian people. I am taking it with me as a memory of our dear hero."

The Russian customs official sent him on his way.

At Tel Aviv airport, the Israeli customs official also asked, "What is this?"

"Wrong question, sir. You should be asking 'Who is this?' This, my friend, is Lenin, the bastard who caused me, a Jew, to leave Russia. I take this statue as a reminder to curse him every day."

The Israeli official sent him on his way.

When he settled in his new home, Jacob placed the statue on a table. The following evening, he invited friends and relatives to dinner.

Spotting the statue, one of his cousins asked, "Who is this?"

Jacob replied, "Wrong question. You should have asked, 'What is this?' This is five kilograms of solid gold that I managed to bring with me from Russia without having to pay any customs duty or tax."

The Moral: Politics is when you can tell the same nonsense in different ways to fool different people and come out smelling like a rose every time.

"I LOVE YOU" means that I accept you for the person that you are, and that I don't wish to change you into someone else. It means that I do not expect perfection from you, just as you don't expect it from me. 'I Love You' means that I will love you and stand by you even through the worst of times. It means loving you when you are in a bad mood or too tired to do the things I want to do. It means loving you when you are down, not just when you're fun to be with.

3am thoughts

It's a new idea where you plunder them just a little bit on a regular basis — it's called «Taxation».



Three nuns die in a car crash and end up before the gates of St Peter.

St Peter says to the nuns, "Given you are nuns and have devoted your life to good works you only need to answer a single question each to enter Heaven."

He looks to the first nun and asks, "Where did the first woman live?"

The first nun quickly replied, "The garden of Eden".

St Peter nods approval and looks to the second nun. "What was the name of the first woman?"

The second nun pauses for a second and then replies, "Eve."

"Well done!" Says St Peter before turning to the third nun and saying, "As the Mother Superior you should be able to answer this; what did Eve say to Adam when she first saw him?"

The Mother Superior furrows her brow and says, "Oh, that's a hard one."

"Correct!" Says St Peter. "You may enter."

Two Ants

Two ants had an arrangement to meet every winter in Miami for a vacation.

Last year, when one ant gets to Miami he is shivering and shaking. The other ant asked him, "Why are you shaking so badly?"

The first ant says, "I rode down here from New Jersey in the moustache of a guy on a Harley."

The other ant says, "That's the worst way to travel. Do what I do? Go to the New Jersey airport bar. Have a few drinks. While there, look for a nice stewardess, crawl up her leg and nestle in where it's warm and cozy. It's the best way to travel that I can think of."

The first ant thanks the second ant and says he will give it a try next winter.

A year goes by... When the first ant shows up in Miami he shivering and shaking again. The second ant says, "Didn't you try what I told you?"

"Yes," says the first ant. "I did exactly what you said. I went to the New Jersey airport bar. I had a few drinks. Finally, this nice young stewardess came in. I crawled right up to her warm cozy spot. It was so nice and warm

that I fell asleep. When I woke up, I was back in the moustache of a guy on a Harley.

The CEO of a large company used to take pride in HR development of his subordinates.

One day he was speaking to his management team on sense of responsibility.

He posed a question... "Tell me, sleeping with my wife is my duty or responsibility?"

Pin drop silence.

After few moments a youngster said, "Sir, It's your duty".

"Why?" asked the CEO.

Because, "If it were a responsibility, you would have passed it on to one of us."

Her Italian Vacation

A woman has to go to Italy for a conference, so her husband drives her to the airport.

"Thank you honey," she says,

"Is there anything I can bring back for you?"

He laughs, and says, "An Italian girl!"

When the conference is over, he meets her up at the airport and asks, "How was the trip?"

"Very good," she replies.

"And what happened to my present?"

"Which present?" she asks.

"The one I asked for - an Italian girl!"

"Oh, that. I did what I could. We'll just have to wait 9 months to see if it's a girl."

A doctor remarked on a new patient's extraordinary ruddy complexion.

'It's high blood pressure, it comes from my family,' said the guy.

'Your mother's side or your father's?' asked the doctor

'Neither; it's from my wife's family.'

'I'm sorry, but I don't see how you can get high blood pressure from your wife's family.'

'You should try spending a weekend with them!'

A married couple were participating in a blood donor scheme, and as part of the pre-screening process, an elderly female volunteer was asking a series of questions.

The volunteer asked the husband: 'Have you ever paid for sex?'

Glancing wearily over his wife who was trying to calm a new baby as well as two other kids milling around her, he sighed: 'Every time.'



"It keeps me from looking at my phone every two seconds."

Talking about Success

The 5 Rs of Deep Impact Leadership

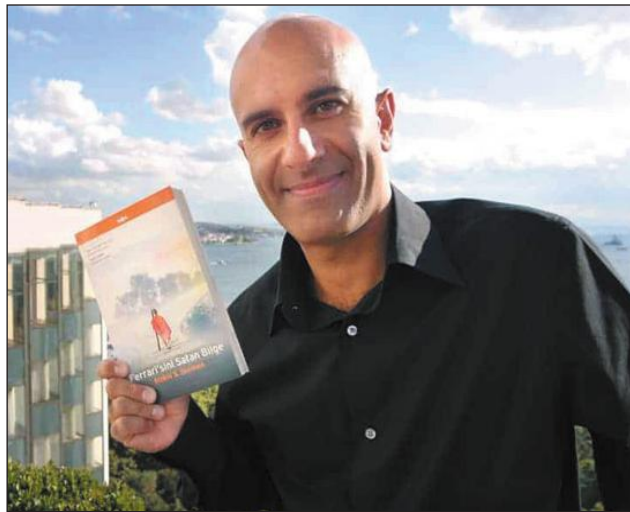
I'm in Barcelona as I write this. Just did a two-hour morning walk down to La Barceloneta, one of my favourite areas of this exceptional city. It used to be the place where the fishermen lived.

Now, I often walk down there, enter my favourite cafe that's filled with supreme soul and local characters and write in my journal (while listening to country music).

Anyway. The point of this short chapter isn't my eclectic walking routines. It's about The 5 R Framework that will help you scale your worldwide influence. As a producer, leader and human.

The 1st R is for Reader. To read is to fortify your leadership. Education truly is inoculation against disruption and the leader who learns the most wins. As you enrich your knowledge base you become more able to deliver rare value to the marketplace. And the marketplace always replies to the best value deliverers with a series of rewards that include greater income, opportunity and applause.

The 2nd R speaks to Rejector. The highest impact leaders all have one trait in common: they are extreme contrarians. They were seen by the majority as radicals,



misfits and eccentrics. They saw what most see and thought what few think. They rejected the mass hypnosis and schooled brainwashing of society. That says that geniuses are cut from a different cloth, that your ethical ambitions should be suppressed and that your life needs to be reasonable. Makes me think of the words of George Bernard Shaw who wrote: "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world. The unreasonable one persists in adapting the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man."

The 3rd R is for Reaffirmer. The job of a leader is to grow more leaders and if you're not building leaders daily then you're not leading, you're following. Deep impact luminaries leave every person they meet better than they

found them—never ever missing an opportunity to reinforce the gifts and talents of their family members, work tribe, beloved customers and strangers on the street. Leverage the power of each glorious day of the remainder of your days to reaffirm the best of the human beings who intersect your hours and you'll lead a life of such majesty that you'll remain in the hearts of those who knew you long after you're dust.

The 4th R is for Repeater. The best influencers (and elite athletes, artists and inventors) are boring. They are all about mundanity: repeating the same few habits every single day (whether they feel like performing them or not) until these consistent practices incrementally morph into a tsunami of victory. Success lies in a masterful consistency around the fundamentals (please read that thrice). Don't complicate things. Just repeat a few routines staggeringly well. I recall learning from the excellent documentary 'Tyson' that when Mike was at the top of his game as the undefeated heavyweight champion of the world, he only did three things: trained, ate and slept.

The 5th R refers to Rejoicer. To savour the simple and generally overlooked blessings of your life is to deploy an antidote to fear, apathy and scarcity. To awaken your senses to the subtle magic around you that too many good souls are too busy being busy to give attention to is to heighten your aliveness while amplifying your lust for living. And produce a constant stream of joy, peace and freedom that causes you to live your highest life. Lifting all around you with you, in the process.

Robin Sharma

Humanitarian + Leadership Missionary

Walk away
from people
who put you down.

Walk away
from fights that will
never be resolved.

Walk away
from trying to please people
who will never see your worth.

The more you walk away
from things that poison your soul,
the healthier you will be.
Paulo Coelho

Paulo Coelho Forum

Funny Quotes on Aliens!

If aliens visit us, the outcome would be much as Columbus landed in America, which didn't turn out well for the Native Americans.

-- Stephen Hawking

Two possibilities exist: Either we are alone in the Universe, or we are not. Both are equally terrifying!

-- Arthur C Clarke

I'm sure the Universe is full of intelligent life. It's just been too intelligent to come here!

-- Arthur C Clarke

Most extraterrestrials do not believe in the existence of human beings!

-- Pierre Legare

If we are really the only form of intelligence in the Universe, and we continue to destroy our planet and all forms of life on Earth, who will continue to observe the Universe!

-- Anonymous

Short Stories

Race of Life

It is hard not to desire victory in all your endeavours when the world seems so competitive and ruthless, especially if you're a boy growing up with those values. A boy grew up in a similar environment where winning was all that was valued, and he longed to succeed. The boy was good at running, so he called everyone in the nearby villages for a race. A large group of people from around came to see this exciting event!

The boy had been training hard for this race. He ran among the strongest boys from around the villages, and it looked like heat on a finish line, but the young boy came out victorious! The crowd went wild with delight as they cheerfully waved banners praising him. The boy loved the attention. It made him feel happy.

There were several types of races, sprint, long distances, relays, etc. The boy was unbeatable in all the races he competed in. The crowd loved him even more after each victory; they clapped with excitement. The boy felt very proud of his accomplishments.

But among the crowd was a wise older man who did not seem as impressed with the boy's feats as the rest. Just as the boy thought all the races for the day were over, the old man shouted from the crowd, "There is one more race left - the most important one." The boy was initially



surprised by the additional race, but he was confident he could win any race.

The old man brought two new competitors for the boy, a blind man and a frail old lady. "What type of race is this? I can easily win them," the boy exclaimed. "The most important one," said the old man. So, the boy ran the race as he knew he would win this time too. When the boy crossed the finish line, the blind man was still at the start, and the old lady had just started to move. The boy was triumphant, and he raised his hands in ecstasy after his victory when he noticed that the crowd

wasn't cheering. To his disbelief, the crowd was very silent. No one was clapping or cheering for his win. The boy was shocked. He asked the old man what had happened. The old man said, "Let's start the race again, but all three of you finish together this time."

The boy raced again, but he helped and guided the blind man, supported the old lady, and walked along with her this time. Finally, all three crossed the finish line together. The crowd cheered and clapped, which may have been louder than any earlier. The boy was confused. Who is the crowd cheering? All three of them finished the race together. So, he asked the old man, "who is the winner of this race? Who is the crowd cheering for?"

The wise old man put his hands around the boy's shoulders and answered, "Boy, you have won much more in this race than any other race you have ever run, and in this race, the crowd is not cheering for any winners."

Moral: What are you running for in your life? Do you desire success? Is victory the only dimension for you in your life? Is your action just to win over everyone? At the end of your life, it is not whether you won the race but whom did you run next to? Were they weaker, older or disadvantaged? Did you help them to the finish line, or were you just concerned about your wins? Because life is not all about winning, it is about moving together and helping others who are less fortunate than us.

Health Tips

How to recover from a party hangover this festive season

Many of us use the festive season as an opportunity to enjoy quality time with family, friends and colleagues, and often indulge ourselves with more food and drink than usual. The result of the traditional annual work party, or simply a gathering with loved ones, can leave us feeling worse for wear the following morning. But leading nutritionist Hannah Norris, from health platform Omnos, has shared her top tips for keeping that festive hangover at bay.

She said: "Ultimately, alcohol is a toxin that, no matter how it's made or what it's paired with, will always impact sleep quality, cause dehydration, blood sugar issues, inflammation of the lining of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and congestion in the liver due to a build-up of toxic products.

"However, there are steps you can take to limit the hangover, such as a boost of important vitamins and nutrients and proper rehydration." Here's how to manage that morning after feeling this festive season. A report by Freya Hodgson of The Mirror:

Hydration is key

Alcohol acts as a diuretic, meaning it promotes loss of water through more frequent urination.

Hannah explained: "Ensuring we keep our body topped up with water can help minimise dehydration and speed up the recovery after a heavy night.



"One handy trick is to alternate between alcohol and water or other non-alcoholic drinks, then have a glass of water before you sleep.

"Also, try to avoid caffeinated products such as energy drinks as this can cause further dehydration and impact sleep. Often the lack of sleep is worse than the actual hangover."

Eat your veggies

The health expert recommends eating fibre and nutrients to help your body remove toxins quicker from the body.

"Artichoke and beetroot have specific polyphenols that act as secretagogues, stimulating your liver to release toxins and reduce congestion," she said.

"Green leafy (cruciferous) vegetables, but more specifically cabbage, contain Vitamin U which may help improve digestion and give the immune system a boost."

The hangover breakfast

While many of us enjoy a greasy fry-up after a heavy night, these fatty foods could upset the sensitive digestive system, making the hangover worse.

Instead, the nutritionist recommends a healthier option: "Perhaps not the most appetising meal on a hangover, but a chicken salad containing leafy vegetables and berries on the side provides a combination of protein, fats, carbohydrates and polyphenols.

"These aid in reducing inflammation, supporting the liver, improving hydration and stabilising blood sugar regulation that alcohol will disrupt.

"It's also a rich source of B Vitamins, which are essential for energy metabolism and are depleted when drinking alcohol.

"Lastly though, don't be afraid to rest a little, over-exercising and insufficient sleep during this time will exhaust you, so opting for things like long walks and yoga may be helpful."

Relationships

5 ways being a good listener can improve your relationships

A majority of people do not listen when others are speaking. Even when we are not interrupting the speaker, we are busy thinking what to say next or sometimes simply get lost in our thoughts. There are very few people who listen intently. No wonder good listeners are trusted more than those who seem uninterested or bored. They are also the best people to offer advice as they are patient enough to have a complete understanding of your problem.

Good listeners are also more respected as they value your time and what you are telling them. One can work towards being a good listener as it has many benefits even for the relationships in our life.

"When you are a good listener, you are able to understand the speaker's message, as well as their feelings and needs. This understanding forms the basis for successful communication, whether you are trying to solve a problem or build a relationship. Good listeners also tend to be more patient and open-minded, which makes them better able to handle difficult conversations. In addition, being a good listener can help you to build trust and rapport with others. When people feel like they are being listened to, they are more likely to trust and respect you. So next time you find yourself in a conversa-



tion, take the time to really listen – it could make all the difference," says Dr Chandni Tugnait MD (Alternative Medicines), Psychotherapist, Life Coach, Business Coach. Dr Tugnait also shares with Hindustan Times 5 benefits of being a good listener:

1. Fewer misunderstandings

When you are a good listener, you are less likely to misunderstand someone.

This is because you are taking the time to hear what they are saying and to understand their point of view. Misunderstandings can often lead to conflict, so by avoiding them, you can help to keep the peace.

2. Greater clarity

When you listen carefully, you will often find that things become clearer to you. This is because you are able to pick

up on all of the details that are being shared with you. If you have trouble understanding something, listening carefully can often help to clear things up.

3. More respect

When you listen well, people will often respect you more. This is because they can see that you value their opinions and that you are interested in hearing what they have to say. Respect is an important part of any relationship, so if you want to build strong relationships, being a good listener is essential.

4. Improved communication

Good listening skills can also improve communication in a relationship. This is because when both parties are listened to, they feel heard and valued. As a result, they are more likely to open up and share their thoughts and feelings more freely. When communication is improved, it can lead to a deeper connection between two people.

5. Greater empathy

Listening carefully can also help you to develop greater empathy for others. This is because when you truly understand someone, it becomes easier to feel compassion for them. Empathy is an important quality to have in any relationship as it can help to create a stronger bond between two people.

New Bollywood pairs of 2023

Yami Gautam-Sunny Kaushal to Rashmika Mandanna-Ranbir Kapoor

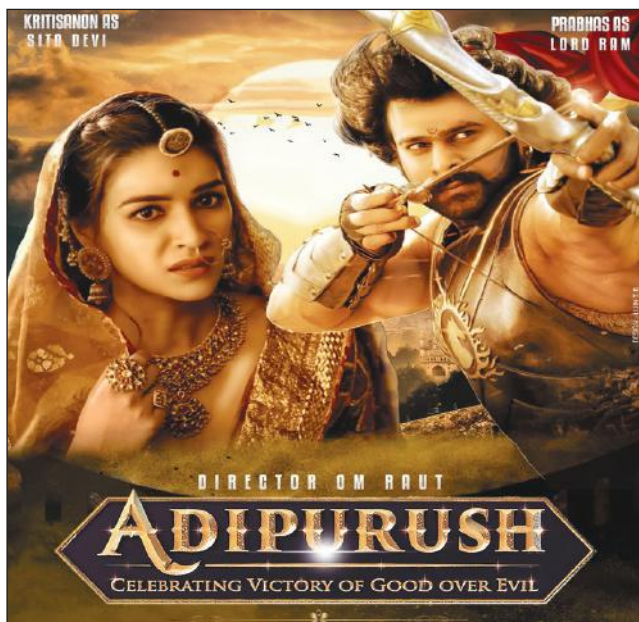
With a series of films lined up for release in 2023, viewers are set to witness new on-screen couples in films spanning across different genres. Agnivo Niyogi of The Telegraph reports on the on-screen Bollywood couples that might steal the show with their chemistry in the coming year. Take a look.

Sara Ali Khan & Vicky Kaushal in Laxman Utekar's yet-untitled film

A poster of the upcoming film shared by Sara Ali Khan and Vicky Kaushal on social media has piqued the interest of fans. Sara and Vicky have never shared the screen space in the past, and their first-time pairing in Laxman Utekar's highly anticipated film has grabbed eyeballs.

Prabhas and Shruti Haasan in *Salaar*

Prabhas and Shruti Haasan will be collaborating for the first time in the highly-anticipated drama *Salaar*, directed by Prashanth Neel. Shruti plays the love interest of Prabhas in this multilingual gangster drama.



Prabhas and Kriti Sanon in *Adipurush*

Kriti Sanon, who is riding high on the success of *Bhediya*, will be seen alongside *Baahubali* star Prabhas in Om Raut's mythological drama *Adipurush*. Both Kriti and Prabhas have been the talk of the town for their on-screen chemistry with co-stars in their previous projects. Their chemistry in *Adipurush* is likely to be one of the USPs of the upcoming film.

Yami Gautam Dhar and Pratik Gandhi in *Dhoom Dhaam*

Dhoom Dhaam, directed by Aditya Dhar, will feature Yami Gautam Dhar and Pratik Gandhi as a couple for the first time on screen. The action comedy, as the title suggests, will be high on action, drama and romance.

Yami Gautam Dhar and Sunny Kaushal in *Chor Nikalke Bhaga*

Yami will also share the screen space with Sunny Kaushal for the first time in *Chor Nikalke Bhaga*. Yami plays an air-hostess who plans a heist with her beau (Sunny) in the film. However, their plane gets hijacked, leading to a series of unexpected events. The teaser of the movie is full of thrill and adventure.

Jacqueline Fernandez and Vidyut Jammwal in *Crakk*

Jacqueline Fernandez, who has featured in action blockbusters over the years, will pair up with action star Vidyut Jammwal in *Crakk*. The action drama, directed by

Aditya Datt, is set to offer a never-seen-before chemistry between Jacqueline and Vidyut.

Rakul Preet Singh and Arjun Kapoor in *Mere Husband Ki Biwi*



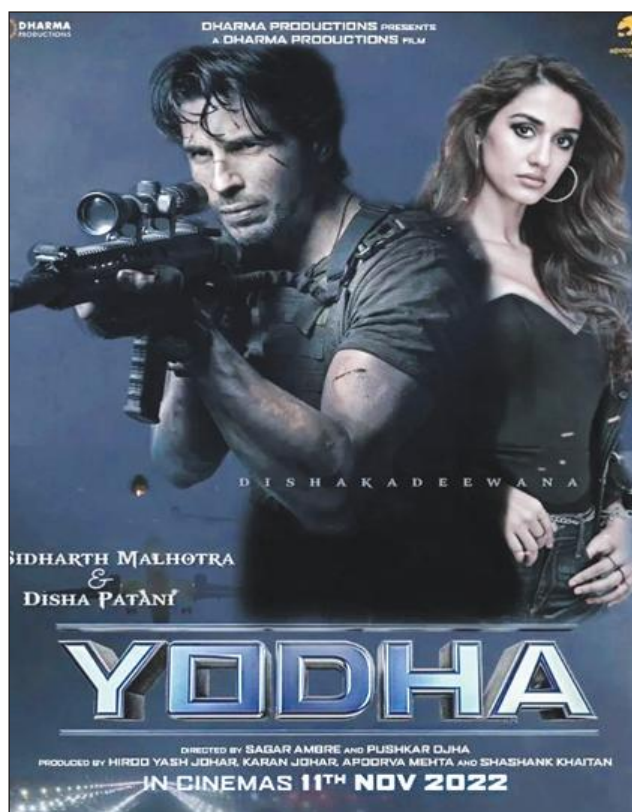
Rakul Preet Singh will be seen opposite Arjun Kapoor for the first time in *Mere Husband Ki Biwi*. The out-and-out comedy has been shot extensively in the UK.

Sara Ali Khan and Vikrant Massey in *Gaslight*

Gaslight marks the first collaboration between Sara and Vikrant Massey. The film has been shot in exotic locations in Gujarat. The plot is under wraps.

Sobhita Dhulipala and Aditya Roy Kapur in *The Night Manager* remake

Sobhita Dhulipala and Aditya Roy Kapur will be sharing screen space for the first time in a reported remake of *The Night Manager*. The Hindi adaptation, directed by Sandeep Modi, is amongst the most anticipated series of the year. The BBC original *The Night Manager* is considered to be one of the best in the espionage space.



Disha Patani and Sidharth Malhotra in *Yodha*

Disha Patani has been training hard in MMA for her upcoming film *Yodha*, in which she will be seen opposite Sidharth Malhotra for the first time. The new on-screen couple are likely to be seen in gravity-defying action

sequences in the upcoming film.

Disha Patani and Suriya in *Suriya 42* (tentatively titled)

Disha is elated to be a part of Tamil star Suriya's next film, tentatively titled *Suriya 42*. The actress will share screen space with Suriya in the period drama directed by Siva. While nothing has been revealed about Disha's character, Suriya seems to be portraying the character of a prince in the film.

Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur in *Metro in Dino*

Sara and Aditya will team up for the first time for Anurag Basu's *Metro in Dino*. The makers have also roped in Pritam for the music. The film will be going on floors soon.



Rashmika Mandanna and Ranbir Kapoor in *Animal*

With Ranbir Kapoor and Rashmika Mandanna sharing the screen space for the first time in *Animal*, the curiosity and excitement amongst fans is quite high. The leaked pictures from the movie have hogged attention on social media.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Vijay Devarakonda in *Kushi*

Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Vijay Devarakonda —two south stars who have gained immense popularity across India — will team up for Telugu romantic comedy *Kushi*.

Siddhant Chaturvedi and Malvika Mohanan in *Yudhra*

Gen-X stars Siddhant Chaturvedi and Malavika Mohanan will share the screen space for the first time in Ravi Udyawar's directorial venture *Yudhra*. The first poster of the film is already gaining a lot of attention.

Shraddha Kapoor and Ranbir Kapoor in *Luv Ranjan's* yet-untitled film

The announcement of Shraddha Kapoor and Ranbir Kapoor sharing the screen space for the first time in *Luv Ranjan's* next has got their fans excited. Leaked pictures of the two stars shooting for the film have added up to the excitement.

Alaya F & Rajkummar Rao in *Sri*

Freddy actress Alaya F and Rajkummar Rao will be seen together for the first time in *Sri*, a biopic of Srikanth Bolla, a visually impaired industrialist. Both Alaya and Rajkummar have garnered positive reviews for their performance in *Freddy* and *Monica O My Darling*, respectively.

Anupamaa's Madalsa Sharma: 'Nobody can take away your choice from you'

Madalsa Sharma has become a household name as Kavya in the television show, *Anupamaa*. After experimenting with regional films, commercials, the actress wanted to experiment with television and was waiting for the right project. Certainly, nothing could have been better than *Anupamaa*, which has bagged the number 1 spot and continues to dominate other shows. In an exclusive interview with Gayatri Nirma of ETimes, Madalsa Sharma shared about switching from films to TV, her family's support, being practical, the ups and downs in her career, and more. Read on:

How is your off-screen chemistry with Rupali Ganguly, Sudhanshu Pandey, and others, who are you closest to?

It's been more than a year and now we are so comfortable around each other, and we feel like a family. It's been an organic journey, which has grown so beautifully with everybody, right from our direction, production team, Sudhanshu, Paras, Rupali ji, Anagha, Nidhi, everybody, and we are all such good friends and very friendly with each other.

We have a lot of fun on set also. I am very close to everybody on the set. There is no particular person because we all are friends. Initially, I had my maximum scenes with Sudhanshu ji (Pandey) but now I am the part of the family, I am the wife, and now my scenes are with everybody. So, I am equally close to everyone. They are all such amazing people and fantastic actors.

Television as a medium is very demanding of an artist. Most of them prefer to stay away from it or only do finite series due to its long working hours. You've entered television after doing films, what made you take this decision?

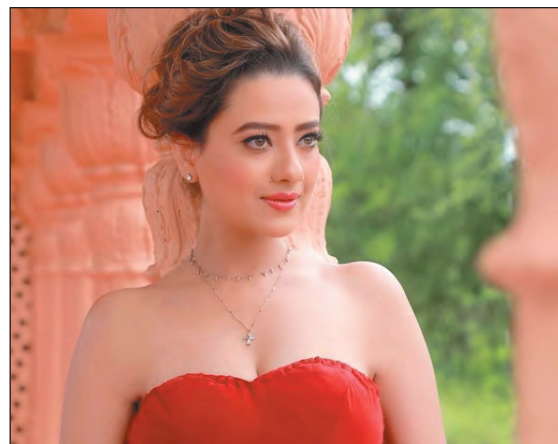
It's been amazing and a fantastic journey so far. I started my career down South when I was barely 16 years old. I did films in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and then I shifted to the Punjabi film industry. I did a German film and a few films in Bollywood too. And, then television happened to me.

When Anupamaa came my way, I knew right then that this was IT for me in television. So, making a transition from films to TV has been very beautiful and I am enjoying each and every bit of the TV part. It's amazing and the exposure you get as an actor, the kind of scenes you get to do on a daily basis are watched by so many people, all around the world, and just not in one country. So, the exposure is amazing.

Your character Kavya has grey shades and is convincing enough. Do you receive hate messages for it?

I receive a lot of positive reactions for my character but I do receive a few hate messages too. The funniest part is that even at the end of those hate messages they say that Kavya is a very strong and independent, practical, and today's woman.

People write, "She's bang on at what she's doing" and many people believe that even they should be strong in life and not compromise their life under societal pressures. It's all mixed reviews



but I am supposed to play my character in a way that people should not like.

Kavya as a person is very ambitious, independent, and determined. Is Madalsa the same in real life?

Kavya is a very real character, whatever she says and does is all situational. And, she knows what she wants from life, so, she places everything accordingly.

Personally, I am also much the same. I am an independent girl, I've always been and I am very level-headed and practical at the same time. But, I also know family's sentiments, its importance, and value and how life should be balanced that you should feel happy to give life what you want to give. Life at the other end also has so much to give back. That's why I feel it is a beautiful mixture of Kavya and Madalsa.

When I read most scenes, I feel I would have reacted exactly the way Kavya does because this is what anybody would do practically. You think about your family, which is your priority at the end of the day, along with it you also have to see that you don't lose your individuality.

There is a lot spoken about the casting couch...

In any profession, be it an actress or a corporate firm, wherever you go, for a female, there are going to be men around you. Sometimes, you come across people who are probably a little more interested in things that you are not at all willing to offer as a person, as an actor, as an employee, it's your choice. Good and bad things go hand in hand but at the end of the day, nobody can take away your choice from you.

People can try to influence you but getting or not getting influenced are two drastically different things. Personally, whenever I have felt uncomfortable in anybody's presence or during a meeting, what to do? Just get up and walk out of that door. Nobody's going to stop me or close the door and not let me go anywhere. So, it's always been my personal choice.

I am here as an actor and all I am willing to do is - perform, and show across the world what I am made of, and how talented I am. As long as that goes across, that's my job. Other than that, you should know how to deal with the situation. So, that's what I have been doing all my life.

Does your husband Mahaakshay watch Anupamaa?

(Laughs) He watches it every single day. Mimo (Mahaakshay) doesn't leave a single episode. After every episode, he gives me his feedback.

My mother-in-law (Yogita Bali), my mom, and my dad, also watch it every day and they all love everything about Kavya. It's an amazing feeling to see them love the show. When you get proper appreciation from home, it lifts your spirits.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

This is the right time to focus on your interview preparation so you get a successful result next week when you go in for the interview. While things may not proceed as expected at the moment, it is advisable for you to be calm and smart when you approach your partner.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 10, 12, 16, 21, 40

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

This coming week, you may succeed in business and social circles because of your charisma and drive. Some Capricorns can take a short trip this week. Get out of the house and spend some quality time with your significant other. The love and devotion of your partner will make you feel special and valued.

Lucky Numbers: 16, 19, 21, 25, 36, 40

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You should utilize feedback in a positive way and use it to improve your performance in the future. Your boss will be impressed in no time. Since you have been waiting for a response to your marriage proposal for a long time, there is a high chance you are going to get a positive response soon.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 13, 15, 20, 24

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You may feel loaded with work in the morning. Keeping calm and working honestly is the most effective course of action. Once you pick up the pace, the day will be in your favour. You have avoided approaching your crush for a long time due to your introverted nature. However, you will be surprised when your crush approaches you with a proposal.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 5, 9, 18, 25, 30

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

A colleague or your boss may behave in an unexpected manner, making you upset. It is advised not to take anything at work too seriously. Today is the perfect day for first dates and proposals. You have the ability to make an impression on your partner.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 10, 11, 14, 19, 32

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Due to an excessive work load, you may not be able to take vacation time, and this may create disagreements between you and your boss. It is recommended to politely persuade your boss so that he or she can grant your wishes. It is advisable to delay any proposals until next month as the stars are not in your favour at the moment.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 11, 17, 18, 30

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You are a man of few words and this is your finest quality. However, your co-worker could be jealous of your success at work and this may create some negativity in the atmosphere. There are high chances of an engagement proposal coming your way.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 19, 20, 23, 26, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You could make a good impression on your superiors by addressing them directly on certain issues. In addition to being acknowledged, you may be offered the chance to head up a brand-new endeavour. Your relationship with your significant other is likely to progress to the next level with marriage.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 12, 14, 20, 31

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Your boss will be highly impressed with your performance on an incredibly significant project that will contribute to the success of your company in the coming months. It has been some time since you spent some quality time with your partner. You should consider explaining the problems you are facing.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 5, 8, 9, 31, 34

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

There are high chances of getting your dream job. If you are planning to work abroad, then it is the right time to make some serious decisions as the stars are in your favour. In the last few days, your behaviour towards your partner has created a bit of misunderstanding between the two of you. Time will heal the wounds.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 15, 16, 21, 27

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Make sure your behaviour and performance at work is honest and sincere as your boss will closely observe you. There is a high chance of receiving an engagement proposal from your loved one today. You both are made for each other.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 10, 15, 24, 26

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Although your company hasn't been performing well in recent months, the performance you display will result in high profits for your company. You and your partner have been having arguments lately. To maintain any relationship, compromise is crucial.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 20, 23, 27, 36, 37



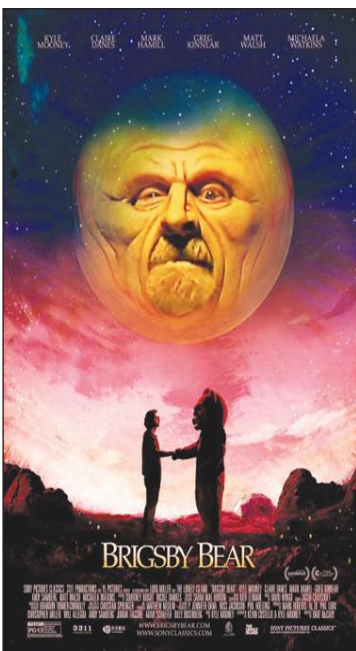
Vendredi 16 decembre - 21.15



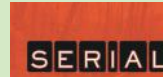
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Dimanche 18 decembre - 21.52



Programme TV



vendredi 16 decembre

MBC 1

- 07.00 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover
- 08.00 D.Anime: Gummibar...
- 08.39 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures de Caillou
- 09.04 D.Anime: Llama Llama
- 11.10 Tele: Rubi
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.40 Serial: The Wish
- 14.15 MFDC Inter-Primary
- 15.21 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover
- 15.30 D.Anime: Dinosaur Train
- 15.45 Film: Grandpa's Great...
- 16.57 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
- 17.05 Serial: The Wish
- 17.45 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Serial: Surya Puran
- 18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa...
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.25 Local: Les Grands Noms...
- 21.55 Serial: Billions

MBC 2

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
- 11.16 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
- 12.02 Film: Smile Please
- 14.08 Mag: DDI Mag
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.45 Serial: Bommarillu
- 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
- 16.31 Serial: Ishq Zahe Naseeb
- 16.49 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa...
- 17.11 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 17.30 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
- 18.01 Serial: Ancient Detective
- 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 20.00 Serial: Mushk
- 20.44 Local: Arjuman
- 21.15 Local: Unju Programme
- 22.05 DDI Live

MBC 3

- 07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
- 07.28 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 08.20 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 11.28 Mag: Eco India
- 11.54 Mag: Shift
- 13.58 Doc: La Resilience Face Aux
- 16.27 Doc: Our Future Cities
- 16.57 Mag: Eco India
- 17.23 Mag: Shift
- 17.35 Mag: Carnet De Sante
- 18.00 Doc: Squeezed Out
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 MFDC Inter-Primary
- 22.08 Doc: Planet Home
- 22.34 Doc: Insecticides
- 00.04 Doc: The Expanding Desert
- 01.13 Mag: World Stories
- 01.25 Mag: Our Voices
- 01.52 Mag: Euromaxx
- 02.18 Doc: Global Drinks
- 03.10 Doc: Hotels

Cine 12

- 01.33 Film: Last Kind Words
- 03.43 Film: War Room
- 05.44 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 06.32 Serial: Seal Team
- 06.47 Film: War Room
- 09.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
- 09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.00 Serial: Zoo
- 11.45 Film: War Room
- 13.43 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 15.00 Film: Last Kind Words
- 16.41 Serial: S.W.A.T
- 17.21 Serial: Seal Team
- 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.34 Serial: The Wish
- 20.05 Tele: L'envers Du Paradis
- 20.30 Serial: Being Human
- 21.20 Film: Final Fantasy
- 22.56 Tele: Tour De Babel

Bollywood TV

- 07.03 Film: Kya Dil Ne Kaha
Starring: Tusshar Kapoor, Esha Deol, Raj Babbar, Nina Kulkarni, Rajesh Khanna...
- 11.34 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
- 12.03 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
- 12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
- 13.07 / 22.00 - Agnihera
- 13.36 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 14.00 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes
- 14.25 / 23.00 - 100 Years Of Indian Cinema
- 15.00 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.26 Film: Aur Pyar Ho Gaya
Starring: Bobby Deol, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan...
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.25 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke...

samedi 17 decembre

- 06.04 D.Anime: Akili And Me
- 06.42 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
- 09.07 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 09.34 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover...
- 09.45 Local: Palette
- 10.15 Local: Saver Kil Tirel
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Live: Christmas Kids Fun...
- 14.05 Serial: The Wish
- 14.30 MFDC Inter-Primary
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.21 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover
- 15.45 Film: The Legend Of The...
- 17.06 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover...
- 17.40 Local: Info En Langue Des...
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen Par
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs
- 20.30 Local: Music Tour 2022
- 21.40 Film: Lake Effects
- 23.00 Local: Le Journal

- 07.00 Film: Phulwari
Starring Debashree Roy, Shashi Puri, Ashok Saraf
- 09.31 Film: Super Bheem
- 10.39 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 11.26 Serial: Dikri Vahaino Dariyo
- 11.48 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...
- 12.35 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
- 12.57 Serial: High School
- 13.17 Serial: Annakodiyum Ainthu...
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.25 Film: Jeet
Stars: Sunny Deol, Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor
- 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: Action Jackson
Starring Ajay Devgn, Shahid Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha

- 06.00 Doc: Squeezed Out
- 06.42 Mag: Our Voices
- 07.11 Mag: Euromaxx
- 07.37 Mag: Global Drinks
- 08.29 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 09.28 Doc: Planet Home
- 09.54 Doc: Insecticides
- 12.00 En Direct Du Champ De Mars
- 17.15 Doc: Squeezed Out
- 18.00 Doc: World Capitals
- 18.29 Doc: Smoothie Mania
- 18.32 Mag: In Good Shape
- 19.00 Mag: Saladeria
- 19.30 Mag: Check In
- 20.01 Doc: Volcano Stories
- 20.30 Live News
- 20.53 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 21.02 Local: Turf Tips
- 22.33 Doc: Skuld
- 22.56 Doc: Step Aside Panda!
- 23.22 Doc: Iran From Above
- 00.04 Doc: Does The Lynx Have...

- 01.10 Film: Final Fantasy
- 02.52 Serial: The Baker And The...
- 04.13 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
- 05.25 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
- 06.14 Serial: Suits
- 06.55 Serial: Wanted
- 08.30 Serial: Seal Team
- 09.12 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 10.40 Film: Final Fantasy
- 12.30 Serial: The Baker And The...
- 13.30 Serial: Zoo
- 15.00 Tele: Marimar
- 16.28 Serial: Suits
- 17.06 Film: The Last Dragon Slayer
- 18.48 Serial: Kojak
- 19.35 Serial: The Wish
- 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 20.30 Serial: Being Human
- 21.15 Film: Tears Of The Sun
- 23.11 Tele: I Forgot I Love You

- 04.33 Anupamaa
- 05.03 Mere Sai
- 05.36 Agnihera
- 06.06 Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 06.28 Patiala Babes
- 08.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 10.00 Motu Patlu
- 10.11 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 12.13 Serial: Udaariyaan
- 14.00 Serial: Anupamaa
- 16.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Film: Lootcase
Starring: Kunal Khemu, Rasika Dugal, Vijay Raaz
- 20.37 Motu Patlu
- 20.48 Porus
- 21.08 Naagin Season 4
- 21.50 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

dimanche 18 decembre

- 06.00 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 06.41 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
- 07.21 D.Anime: Panda And Little...
- 08.06 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
- 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.36 Serial: The Wish
- 14.05 Local: Elle - No 217
- 15.22 Other: Radha Krishna
- 15.35 D.Anime: Li'l Santa
- 15.40 Film: Christmas In New York
- 17.00 D. Anime: D.I.Y. Discover...
- 17.18 Serial: The Wish
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Other: Radha Krishna
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Local Production: Les Klips
- 21.25 Film: Brigsby Bear
- 23.00 Le Journal

- 07.00 Film: Jai Radhe Krishna
- 11.03 Serial: Azhagu
- 11.20 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
- 11.43 Serial: Surya Puran
- 12.06 Film: 7 1/2 Phere More than A Wedding
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.20 Mooga Manasulu
- 15.42 Serial: He Mann Baware
- 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
Starring: Bharathi, Badekkkila, Pradeep, Naresh Eswar
- 16.30 Local: Yaadein
- 16.58 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
- 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 20.05 Serial: Porus
- 20.29 Mag: Highway On My Plate
- 21.08 Serial: Naagin Season 3
- 22.32 Serial: Chacha Bhatija

- 06.00 Doc: World Capitals
- 07.06 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 07.26 Mag: Check In
- 09.45 Doc: Step Aside Panda!
- 11.16 Doc: World Capitals
- 11.25 Local: Turf Tips
- 12.00 En Direct Du Champs De Mars
- 17.15 Doc: Germany
- 18.05 Doc: La Route De La Soie
- 18.29 Doc: Smoothie Mania
- 18.32 Mag: Global 3000
- 19.31 Doc: Tree Stories
- 20.30 Live: News (English)
- 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 21.10 Doc: Expedition Yangtze
- 22.06 Doc: Innovation On Board
- 22.31 Doc: Thank You For The Rain
- 23.56 Doc: World Capitals
- 23.59 Doc: La Route De La Soie

- 00.56 Film: Tears Of The Sun
- 02.52 Serial: Imposters
- 03.35 Film: Lake Effects
- 05.11 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
- 06.22 Serial: Suits
- 07.03 Film: Bull Shark
- 08.35 Serial: Seal Team
- 09.17 Film: Lake Effects
- 10.47 Film: The Last Dragon Slayer
- 12.28 Serial: Imposters
- 13.30 Serial: Zoo
- 15.30 Tele: Marimar
- 17.00 Serial: Suits
- 17.53 Serial: Imposters
- 18.40 Serial: L'incroyable Hulk
- 19.38 Serial: The Wish
- 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 20.30 Serial: Falling Water
- 22.00 Film: Viking, La Naissance D'un Nation
- 00.13 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You

- 00.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 02.02 Udaariyaan
- 03.47 Anupamaa
- 05.36 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
- 08.00 Serial: Motu Patlu
- 08.12 Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi...
- 10.00 Kundali Bhagya
- 11.50 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 14.00 Agnihera
- 16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 16.50 Punar Vivaah
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Film: Housefull 1
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, Arjun Rampal, Ritesh Deshmukh, Lara Dutta, Jiah Khan
- 20.54 Motu Patlu
- 21.07 Naagin Season 4
- 21.50 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein

lundi 19 decembre

- 06.00 Local: Proze Dime
- 07.00 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover
- 07.56 D.Anime: Tempete De Boulettes
- 09.00 Film: Christmas In New York
- 10.30 Local: Palette No 49
- 11.15 Tele: Rubi
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.30 Serial: The Wish
- 12.54 Local Prod: Nu Rasinn
- 14.30 D.Anime: Briko
- 15.24 D.Anime: Dinosaur Train
- 16.00 Film: The Christmas Trade
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Mere Sai
- 18.55 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.25 Local Production
- 21.15 Local: Agir Ensemble
- 21.45 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
Avec: Nick Nolte, Peter Strauss

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 09.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
- 09.11 Serial: Babu
- 09.22 Serial: Tik Tak Tail
- 09.29 Serial: Kalaru Kids
- 10.00 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.06 Film: Himmatwala
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.47 Serial: Bommarillu
- 16.02 Serial: Sondha Bandham
- 16.27 Serial: Ishq Zahe Naseeb
- 16.53 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa...
- 17.17 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 17.39 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi
- 17.57 Serial: Ancient Detective
- 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
- 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 20.00 Programme In Telugu
- 20.30 Film: Sulthan

- 07.00 Mag: Salad Area
- 07.55 Doc: Tree Stories
- 09.50 Doc: Innovation On Board
- 10.16 Doc: Thank You For The...
- 11.42 Doc: La Route De La Soie
- 14.28 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 15.27 Doc: Innovation ON Board
- 17.44 Mag: Shift
- 18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 19.00 Mag: Africa 54
- 19.33 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 21.49 Doc: Volcano Stories
- 22.15 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 23.50 Doc: A Passion For Helping
- 00.42 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 01.13 Mag: Africa 74
- 01.41 Mag: In Good Shape
- 02.07 Mag: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 02.10 Doc: Les Mysteres Du Nil
- 03.02 Doc: Volcano Stories

- 01.47 Film: Man Trouble
- 03.18 Serial: The Good Doctor
- 04.05 Film: Brigsby Bear
- 07.37 Film: Man Trouble
- 09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 10.12 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
- 10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.00 Serial: Zoo
- 12.00 Film: Brigsby Bear
- 13.31 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 14.48 Film: Man Trouble
- 16.40 Serial: Falling Water
- 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 18.31 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.39 Serial: The Wish
- 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 20.30 Serial: Wanted
- 21.15 Film: Un Nouveau Depart
Pour Noel
Stars: Prashant Guptah, Grace Wacuka

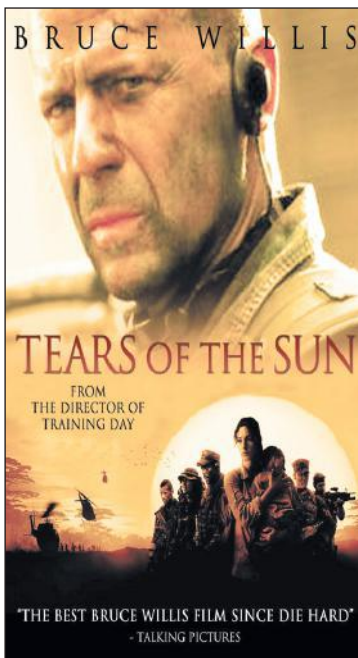
- 08.00 Taare Zameen Par
- 11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
- 11.59 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
- 12.31 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
- 13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera
- 13.31 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 14.00 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes
- 14.30 / 23.00 - 100 Years Of Indian Cinema
- 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 15.27 Film: Phir Milenge
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.01 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
- 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 20.30 Radha Krishna
- 21.00 Anupamaa
- 21.34 Mere Sai
- 22.00 Agnihera



Mardi 20 decembre - 21.10



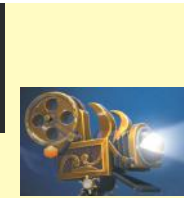
Mercredi 21 decembre - 21.15



Jeudi 22 decembre - 21.15



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
mardi 20 decembre	07.00 Dessin Anime 09.00 Film: The Christmas Trade 10.40 Mag: Recipes For Kids 11.09 Local: Sur Un Air De Noel 12.00 Le Journal 12.34 Serial: The Wish 12.58 Local: MBC Pepsi Talent... 14.33 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 14.35 D.Anime: Briko 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover 15.45 Film: Dragon 17.31 Serial: The Wish 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 20.55 Local: Ong An Eta Dalert 22.25 Film: Off Piste	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: CID 10.50 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 12.00 Film: Poonam 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.43 Bommarillu 16.04 Sondha Bandham 16.31 Serial: Ishq Zahe Naseeb 16.52 Serial: Saaton Vachanewa... 17.13 Bhakharwadi 17.35 Serial: Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: Ancient Detective 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Sapnon Ka Mandir Starring: Jeetendra, Jaya Prada 22.44 DDI Live	06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 07.27 Mag: In Good Shape 07.53 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 09.45 Mag: Washington Forum 11.24 Mag: Eco@Africa 14.14 Doc: Volcano Stories 15.09 Mag: Washington Forum 16.48 Mag: Eco@Africa 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 18.41 Mag: Red Carpet 19.10 Mag: Shift 19.30 Mag: Made In Germany 20.30 Live: News 21.10 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 21.43 Mag: Euromaxx 22.09 Mag: Close Up 23.06 Local: Rodrig-Klip Seleksion 23.59 Mag: The Global Auto... 00.25 Mag: Healthy Living 00.35 Mag: Check In 01.01 Mag: Made In Germany	01.34 Film: Squadron 23 03.14 Serial: The Good Doctor 03.50 Film: Un Nouveau Depart Pour Noel 05.13 Tele: Tour De Babel 06.01 Serial: Wanted 06.43 Film: Squadron 303 09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.37 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.00 Serial: Zoo 12.00 Film: Un Nouveau Depart... 13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.50 Film: Squadron 303 16.40 Serial: S.W.A.T 17.20 Serial: Wanted 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 19.37 Serial: The Wish 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 20.30 Seiral: Wanted 21.15 Film: Marry Me For Christmas	06.50 Film: Tezaab 11.34 / 20.29 - Radha Krishna 12.05 / 20.57 - Anupamaa 12.35 / 21.27 - Mere Sai 13.05 / 22.07 - Agniphera 13.34 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.05 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes 14.25 / 21.59 - 100 Years Of Indian Cinema 15.00 / 22.25 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.26 Film: Ready Starring Salman Khan, Asin Thottumkal, Paresh Rawal, Mahesh Manjrekar 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 19.04 Udaariyaan 19.34 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
mercredi 21 decembre	07.00 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover 07.30 D.Anime: La Petite Ecole... 07.52 D.Anime: Panda And Little... 09.05 Film: Dragon 10.41 Mag: Recipes For Kids 11.08 Local: Sur Un Air De Noel 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Serial: The Wish 12.56 Local: Les Klips 14.36 D.Anime: Briko 14.51 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover 15.28 D.Anime: Dinosaur Train 15.40 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 17.15 Serial: The Wish 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Other: Radha Krishna 19.00 Local: Planet Bollywood 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 MBC Production 22.20 Film: Tears Of The Sun Stars: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki 12.00 Film: Loafer 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.49 Bommarillu 16.15 Sondha Bandham 16.33 Serial: Ishq Zahe Naseeb 16.53 Saaton Vachanwa Saath... 17.18 Bhakharwadi 17.31 Serial: Kulvadhu 18.00 Serial: Ancient Detective 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Programme In Marathi 20.30 Film: Judgement Starring Madhav Abhyankar, Kishori Ambiye, Shalaka Apte 22.33 DDI Live	06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto... 06.56 Mag: World Heritage 07.31 Mag: Made In Germany 08.23 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 09.22 Mag: Close Up 14.12 Mag: Euromaxx 16.57 Mag: Healthy Living 18.07 Mag: Motorweek 18.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous 19.00 Doc: World Heritage 19.30 Mag: The Inside Story 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures... 21.36 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.02 Mag: Focus On Europe 22.28 Doc: A Postcard From... 23.11 Doc: The Memory Illusion 00.19 Mag: Vous Et Nous 00.47 Mag: Arts.21 01.13 Mag: The Inside Story 01.39 Doc: Les Montagnes Du Monde	01.32 Film: Marry Me For Christmas 02.55 Serial: The Good Doctor 03.51 Film: The Last Dragon Slayer 05.31 Tele: Tour De Babel 06.19 Serial: Wanted 07.01 Film: Marry Me For Christmas 09.47 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.37 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.00 Serial: Zoo 11.46 Film: The Last Dragon Slayer 13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.50 Film: Marry Me For Christmas 16.23 Mag: Zoom In 16.35 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk 17.20 Serial: Wanted 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 19.37 Serial: The Wish 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 20.30 Seiral: Seal Team 21.15 Film: Marry Me For Christmas Avec Chase Beck, Dawn Halkenny...	07.08 Film: Ready 11.30 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna 12.00 / 20.26 - Anupamaa 12.29 / 20.02 - Mere Sai 13.00 / 20.46 - Agniphera 13.30 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.00 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes 14.25 / 22.15 - 100 Years Of Indian Cinema 14.47 Other: Sayings Radha Krishna 15.25 Film: Kyo Kil... Main Jhuth Nahin Bolta Starring: Govinda, Sushmita Sen, Rambha 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 22 decembre	06.43 Local: Fam Rakonte 07.00 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover Your 07.29 D.Anime: La Petite Ecole... 08.00 D.Anime: Christmas Dinosaur 09.30 Film: Nicolas Noël 10.30 Mag: Recipes For Kids 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Serial: The Wish 14.33 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 15.21 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover Your 15.27 D.Anime: Dinosaur Train 15.40 Film: Santa Who? 17.15 Serial: The Wish 17.45 Info En Langue Des Signes 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.56 Local: Yatra 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Sanam Teri Kasam Starring Harshvardhan Rane, Mawra Hocane, Vijay Raaz	07.00 DDI Live 09.58 Serial: Agniphera 11.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas... 12.00 Film: Chor Machaye Shor 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.45 Serial: Bommarillu 16.02 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.41 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna 17.09 Bhakharwadi 17.35 Local: Amrit Vaani 17.45 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 18.00 Serial: Ancient Detective 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 MBC Local Production 21.20 Film: A Christmas Star With Robert James-Collier, Suranne Jones, Bronagh Waugh	06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous 06.57 Mag: Arts.21 07.55 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 11.00 Doc: Cool & Clever 11.56 Doc: World Heritage 12.34 Mag: The Inside Story 13.00 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 14.16 Mag: Focus On Europe 17.05 Mag: Arts.21 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Doc: Fer Goute Saison 03 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 22.08 Doc: Beethoven's Ninth 23.59 Mag: Shift 00.14 Mag: Carnet De Sante 00.36 Mag: Border Crossing 00.58 Mag: Tomorrow Today	01.28 Film: Brigsby Bear 02.58 Serial: The Good Doctor 03.43 Film: Marry Me For Christmas 05.06 Tele: Tour De Babel 06.08 Serial: Seal Team 06.50 Film: Brigsby Bear 09.00 Serial: S.W.A.T 09.25 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.18 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.05 Serial: Zoo 12.00 Film: Marry Me For Christmas 13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.45 Film: Brigsby Bear 16.30 Serial: S.W.A.T 17.11 Serial: Seal Team 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 18.51 Tele: Fierce Angel 19.41 Serial: The Wish 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 20.30 Serial: Seal Team 21.15 Serial: Kojak	07.00 Film: Kyo Kil... Main Jhuth Nahin Bolta 11.33 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna 12.00 / 21.01 - Anupamaa 12.34 / 21.31 - Mere Sai 13.14 / 21.56 - Agniphera 13.32 / 22.20 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.00 / 22.52 - Patiala Babes 14.25 - Mag 100 Year Of Indian Cinema 15.00 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.14 Film: Aap Mujhe Achhe Lagne Lage Starring Hrithik Roshan, Amisha Patel, Kiran Kumar 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2



Jeudi 22 decembre -

15.30

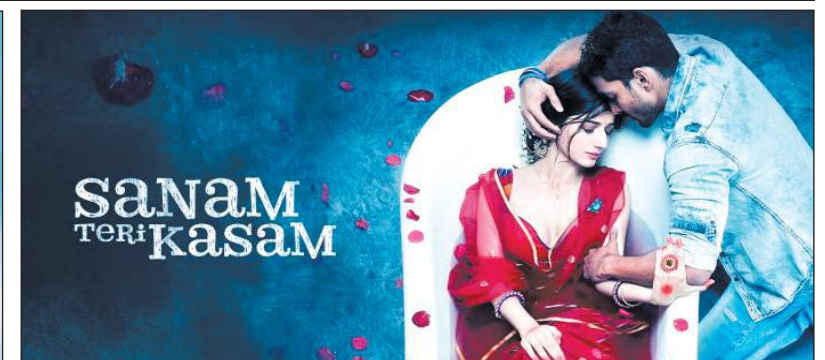
Stars: Hrithik Roshan, Amisha Patel, Kiran Kumar



Jeudi 22 decembre -

20.30

Star: Harshvardhan Rane, Mawra Hocane, Vijay Raaz



Morocco at the World Cup: 6 driving forces

The Moroccan team became the first African and first Arab team to advance to a semi-final at the tournament



Walid Regragui, Morocco's head coach is lifted into the air by the team. Justin Setterfield/Getty Images

Despite losing to defending champions France in the final four, history was made by Morocco at the 2022 men's football World Cup in Qatar.

The Atlas Lions, endowed with impeccable organisation and defensive will, creative midfield passing, speedy offence and the rousing racket of its fans, broke the elusive World Cup glass ceiling against Portugal to face France.

The sound of the Moroccan fans was a lifeblood coursing through the first World Cup to be staged in the Arab world. As magical as Morocco's progress seemed, one should not ignore the fact that no team had scored against them (save for an own goal while defeating Canada) – until France did. The team stamped its authority with unimaginable flair and controlled composure.

There are six notable forces that drove their success.

1. Team spirit

Morocco demonstrated the ultimate collective team spirit to eliminate higher ranked teams that boasted a generous supply of star individual talents – Belgium, Spain, Portugal. What Morocco lacked in stardom was compensated by sheer desire to win and technical application by the whole team.

Their quarter-final goal, coming after repeated defensive pressure, was scored in the 42nd minute. Some good touches led to Yahya Attiat Allah fielding the ball, controlling it and then sending a cross into the box. There, Youssef En-Nesyri seemed to rise forever above the outstretched hands of the tall Portuguese defenders, to head it in from the centre. The fluid passing was beautiful to watch, leaving Portugal bewildered and eliciting pandemonium in the stadium that rippled around the world.

2. Driven by history

Motivated by a desire to go past the quarter-final, Morocco had to learn from history. The last three African sides to reach World Cup quarter-finals –

Cameroon in 1990, Senegal in 2002 and Ghana in 2010 – had gone out in the most painful manner, in overtime. In each of these cases, the African teams lacked the composure to see through their leads.

A group of people in a stadium, waving red, green, black and white flags, a mascot in a horse outfit among them.

The Atlas Lions defended with all of their hearts and then scored, preventing any possibility of overtime. Even injuries – and striker Walid Cheddira being sent off after a second yellow card – did not destabilise the defensive rhythm of the team. Portugal, including star player Cristiano Ronaldo, could not find the equaliser. From the beginning, the Moroccans looked determined that history would be made.

3. Defences win championships

Until the semi-finals, Morocco had remained unbeaten. In the round of 16, they eliminated Spain on penalty kicks, where their goalkeeper Yassine Bounou made huge saves to propel them to the quarter-finals. The elimination of Portugal, just like Spain, came on the back of a solid defence that had conceded no goals.

It is often said that defences win championships. If that's the case then Morocco has the qualifications to compete and win at the highest level. But, against France, they could not summon sufficient self belief and energy to handle the onslaught for long stretches of time. Their ball possession had been 22% against Spain and 23% against Portugal, which speaks to their defensive discipline and efficient execution at scoring. The low possession percentages also show that having plenty of ball possession is not a guarantee for victory. However, taking leads also allows the team to narrow spaces, forcing the opposition to run more – and then be hit on the counter attack.

4. Fans are the 12th player

Morocco found itself in the unique position of carrying the dual hopes of the Arab region as well as the African continent.

Their matches felt like home games, with the team's supporters dominating in the stands. The Moroccan fans cheered the team, jeered their opponents and relentlessly willed on their heroes.

After the final whistle in the quarter-final, the stadium erupted as thousands jumped up and down, hugging and embracing. With fans acting as the 12th player for Morocco, it would not be a big shock if the Atlas Lions can dig deep and mount one more upset in the bronze medal playoff against Croatia. For Morocco, playing for the third place is historic and they have already opened a new chapter in the history of the World Cup.

5. Star performers

Despite the pressure of bearing the burden of history, the Atlas Lions demonstrated that they had the technical and tactical capacity to cope. Indeed, the team was steady, organised, serene, defensively sound, creative in midfield and smart and efficient in attack. Bounou, Achraf Hakimi, Azzedine Ounahi, Romain Saiss, Sofyan Amrabat, En-Nesyri and Hakim Ziyech were Morocco's stand out performers. However, an injury to Saiss was a big blow to their hopes in the semi-final.

Historically, Morocco has been a trailblazer at the World Cup for Africa and were not fazed by Spain and Portugal. They gave a good account of themselves against France. This team has raised the ceiling for African teams and send out a notice to the rest of the world that they can compete with the best.

6. Local coaching

Morocco's Cinderella story at the 2022 World Cup had a lot to do with coach Walid Regragui, who installed an effective defend-and-counter style that none of their opponents – until France – came close to solving.

Regragui ingeniously set up and steered the team to the semi-finals and, in the process, changed the false narrative that local African coaches are not equal to the task of masterminding team success at this level. Indeed Regragui's side showed that an African coach can creatively harness both the skills and the wills of the players to achieve national glory.

Eyes on the trophy

The 2022 World Cup has been characterised by unexpected upsets and exceptional entertainment for fans. One of the goals of world football body Fifa is to continue growing the game.

Morocco's qualification for a semi-final spot was a breakthrough in demonstrating that parity is emerging. There was a big portion of the world's population that would have erupted with joy and tears if team Morocco had their name engraved on the trophy. Morocco showed that it's possible for an African team to win the World Cup in the near future.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Things that Annoy Us

There will always be factors and people that we cannot control; how we respond can determine the quality of our lives.

There are many stories of spiritual masters embracing the presence of an annoying student in their community. There is even one story that documents a teacher paying an irritating person to live among his students. From an everyday perspective, this is difficult to comprehend. We generally work hard to avoid people and things that we find annoying so they don't bother us.

From a deeper spiritual perspective, however, irritation can be an important teacher and indicator that we are making progress on our path. Being able to remain centered and awake even when we feel uncomfortable is much more impressive than doing so in an environment where everything is to our liking. No matter how good we are at controlling our circumstances, there will always be factors and people that we cannot control. How we respond to these experiences to a great degree determines the quality of our lives. The goal of spiritual development is not to learn to control our environment -- which is more of an ego-driven desire. And while having some measure of control over our external reality is important, it is when we are confronted with a person or situation that irritates us and we can choose not to react that we know have made progress spiritually. It is when we have mastered our internal reality that we will have become the masters of our lives.

The more we try to eliminate annoyances, instead of learning to handle them gracefully, the further we get from developing the qualities that come with spiritual growth, such as patience, tolerance, and acceptance. It is often in the presence of people and experiences we find annoying that we have an opportunity to develop these qualities. Fortunately for most of us, our lives offer an abundance of opportunities to practice and cultivate these traits.