

# MAURITIUS TIMES

*Businesses do not fail because they are short of cash. Businesses fail because of financial mismanagement. - Faizal Ahamed, Suxus Menswear*



**“Le PTr, le MMM et le PMSD sont dans l'opposition. Qu'ils y restent. Qu'ils assument leur rôle parlementaire”**  Voir page 8-9

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## Reinventing Mauritius

This is not the time for government to cave in as in the past to tall private sector demands

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## Covid-19 Act & Workers Rights Act: So un-Mauritian!

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## Repatriation of stranded citizens is State's duty

A couple of weeks ago we published a letter from a group of Mauritians in Italy who were stranded in a hotel where they had been put up after a cruise trip, since lockdown had already been imposed locally. They had been there for two months, and were desperate to come back. Besides bureaucratic hassles, they had faced rudeness on the part of the Mauritian embassy staff in Paris who were contacted for advice and assistance. We learn that they flew back home on 21<sup>st</sup> May, relieved to be freed from what amounted to being in almost prison-like conditions: for all these weeks they were forced to stay in their rooms and could not even go down to the lobby. As to the food - pasta and boiled fish at every meal - the less said the better.

This issue of our Mauritian compatriots being literally abandoned by the Mauritian State will no doubt go down in our history as an ugly chapter in our management of the Covid-19 crisis. In the past several days, social media has carried many witness accounts by Mauritians who have been left to their own devices abroad after lockdown was declared, and worse, were allegedly facing the refusal of the State of Mauritius to allow them to return to their country. This is in sharp contrast to what other countries have been doing, undertaking to bring their citizens back from countries where they happened to be in at the time of declaration of the pandemic by WHO. As those from India who spoke said, in Mauritius the authorities often cite India as an example. So why are they not emulating what India is doing: the Indian government has taken the bull by its horns and organized the repatriation of 100,000 Indian nationals by air and sea. Several thousands have already been brought back.

The Mauritians who have been locked out of their country and find themselves in alien environments abroad are in a sorry plight. Whether they had gone for treatment, work, study or vacation, they suddenly found themselves trapped in places which themselves were locking down, and that included hotels, eating places, public transport. They had carried money enough to cover expenses for the duration of their expected stays abroad, so they quickly found themselves short of money, without any ready help forthcoming, and cut off from their only lifeline, the Mauritian Embassies and High

Commissions.

There are heart-trending tales of despair and suffering, of helplessness which seem to have fallen on the deaf ears of the Mauritian authorities, such as that of the couple in Botswana, the wife being pregnant and nearing seven months after which she will not be allowed to take a plane. Besides, they will soon reach the expiry of the three months they have rented a house for, at Rs 50 K per month, and are at a loss to know what to do next. Another group in South Africa has been left in the lurch after being made to purchase tickets anew, and it includes a lady who has suffered a second stroke while waiting.

During the official press briefing on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May evening, it was stated: 'Rapatriement des Mauriciens bientôt de: Chennai, Mumbai, Madagascar, Reunion, Australie. Ils seront tous placés en quarantaine avec un protocole sanitaire renforcé. Le gouvernement est en contact avec les compagnies de bateaux de croisière pour l'assistance aux compatriotes bloqués sur ces navires.'

This statement sounds hollow - coming as it does after the Government would not allow the nine Mauritians who were aboard the Island Princess cruise ship - that had sailed from South Africa - that was about 30 miles off Mahebourg coast to be brought ashore last weekend, despite legal proceedings being initiated. The ship has been forced to sail away, and the nine cruise ship workers will change ship in Mumbai, whence they will be taken to Philippines. They are likely to remain there for 2-3 months, and it will be quite some time before they are reunited with their families.

According to expert legal opinion, the right of any citizen to return to his country is enshrined in our Constitution, and Government's action is nothing short of being unconstitutional. At this juncture of our history, when under cover of a sanitary crisis harsh laws have been enacted, perhaps only *suo moto* judicial activism can come to the defence and salvation of our citizens whose *cri de coeur* has resonated in so many Mauritian hearts and homes. The official statement about repatriation makes no allusion to any timeline. Will the judiciary, our bulwark in the defence of citizens' rights, come to the rescue?

## The Conversation

## Why Britain and Africa need each other more than ever

For many years following the independence of its former African colonies after the Second World War, Britain continued to play an outsize role in African affairs - as an economic partner, a place of education and as a donor. Still, the failure to resolve Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965 and Britain's continuing close relations with apartheid South Africa soured the political relationship with the rest of Africa.

But links remained strong, and between 1992 and 2010, Britain had prime ministers who clearly cared about Africa and supported it politically, economically and internationally. Relations with Britain and the influential role of the Department for International Development (DFID), played a part in the "Africa Rising" narrative of the early 2000s.

Since 2010, the climate has changed. This seems strange, as on the face of it Britain's policies have not. The UK's commitment to spending 0.7% of GDP on aid has been enshrined in legislation. The Commonwealth remains a central part of foreign policy. Britain has been active on international issues affecting Africa, such as climate change, terrorism, Somalia and piracy in the Gulf of Aden. It has also remained one of Africa's biggest trade and investment partners, with imports of fruit, vegetables and flowers growing fast and major outward investments in oil, mining and telecoms on the continent.

### Neglect and retreat

But many Africans I speak to, in all walks of life from Senegal to Kenya and Egypt to South Africa, see it differently. What they feel is political neglect and commercial retreat. British prime ministers have visited rarely, at least compared with those from China, France, Germany and the US. British Airways has pulled out of a number of African routes, the British Council has shrunk from culture into just English language teaching and British brands have disappeared with Land Rovers being replaced by Toyotas. Meanwhile, visas to visit the UK are ever more expensive and harder to get.

For the young African generation, Britain is seen as part of the past not the future. Many students tell me that for business they prefer to go to China, for education to the US, Canada or India, for fun to Dubai. For older Africans there is still an affection, even respect, especially for the Royal Family, the BBC and for London - but also a growing feeling of distance.

And many are puzzled by Brexit: why would Britain do this and make itself weaker? Still, many also see it as a golden opportunity to create a more balanced relationship between Britain and Africa - one that includes aid with fewer strings, more advantageous terms of trade, bigger investments, easier visas, cheaper education and, above all, more and higher-level political attention.



Respect, in short.

Can Britain respond? The government of the former Prime Minister, Theresa May, made a useful start by recognising the problem, identifying five strategic shifts that would help reposition Britain on the continent, and visiting Africa to signal this change. Her speech in Cape Town in August 2019 raised hopes of a new start.

Her successor, Boris Johnson carried through on the first part of that plan, holding a well-attended UK-Africa Investment Summit in London in January 2020, and expanding Britain's diplomatic footprint in Africa. The perpetually rotating position of the UK's Africa minister has at last fallen to someone, in James Duddridge, who knows Africa well from a pre-politics career in finance.

### Coronavirus crisis

Then came the coronavirus pandemic. The health impact in Africa is so far limited - thanks, not least, the swift response of African governments in locking down and preparing their people, who know well enough the perils of infectious diseases. But the economic impact has been immediate and dramatic. Export prices have fallen off a cliff and some exports, including flowers, stopped completely. Tourists have disappeared.

Remittances - normally three times the volume of aid - have fallen by 20-50% worldwide, according to the World Bank. In some African countries, lockdowns and transport restrictions are making it harder for the poor to access food.

To reinforce its future partnership with the continent, Britain must step up as Africa's friend in need. African governments need liquidity to replace lost revenue, debt relief to give them breathing space, as well as reinforcement for their health sectors and help with developing and disseminating a vaccine.

That will help open the door, once Britain's relations with the EU are defined, to mutually beneficial trade and investment agreements with African countries and relations with the continent. When the coronavirus passes, Africa is still likely to have the world's fastest growing population and several of its fastest growing economies. Britain will need Africa as a partner, as much as vice versa. So now is the time to commit.

Nicholas Westcott, Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy, University of London

## Mauritius Times

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

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

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Lockdown is precipitating mental health problems

*We have to be both rational and reasonable if we do not want to cause disruptions that can destroy families and by extension our social integrity. This is what is at stake during prolonged confinement, and it concerns all of us*

A few days ago I learnt from a Community Physician – medical officers who are based at Area Health Centres – that, done with the initial panic about Covid-19, the bulk of patients they were now seeing were those with mental health issues, and as a consequence there is an increasing number being referred for specialized psychiatric opinion.

This is in line with a pattern that has been observed in all countries where lockdown has been imposed – and especially when it has been extended. Whether it is in the US, UK, France and other European countries, Asia, Australia, there have been numerous reports about a surge in domestic violence, alcoholism, anxiety and depression, even suicides during the period of forced confinement. There is only so much of being restricted in one's movements that any human being can take, even if it is in one's own house. Though the impact is worse where people live in apartments, it is nonetheless equally felt by those who have some yard space to move about in.

“It is human nature to want to be up and about, reach out, meet and socialize. Granted that there is a sanitary emergency - which no one has denied, with broad general understanding of and acceptance of the strict measures that have been put in place. This does not mean, however, that we must lose sight of the other dimensions of the day to day living that we have been used to all our lives. Suddenly putting a brutal halt to the routine sends a shock wave which is akin to an assault on reason, which then has to struggle with the ill-defined contours of a new reality. Even before the ripples have died down, worries begin to accumulate...”

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mean, however, that we must lose sight of the other dimensions of the day to day living that we have been used to all our lives. Suddenly putting a brutal halt to the routine sends a shock wave which is akin to an assault on reason, which then has to struggle with the ill-defined contours of a new reality. Even before the ripples have died down, worries begin to accumulate as one tries to sort out how to cope with the myriads of challenges that have suddenly come to the fore.

It is a fact that, like so many other countries including even the most advanced ones like the US, UK, France, etc - we were unprepared for this crisis, and how best to tackle it. There was no precedent in recent times or memory, no template which could be learnt from. The result is that we had to hurriedly apply measures that WHO was recommending based on the medical evidence that was still being compiled, and therefore subject to change. The pandemic was, and remains a dynamic situation. What this implies in concrete terms is that we must be prudent in our implementation of the recommendations being made, and use both hard data and our commonsense in their application at all levels – individual, family, community and the public space.

And when these recommendations are to be applied within a legal framework, a necessary step because there inevitably will be some people who would show resistance, this means that there is going to be enforcement on the part of those responsible for maintaining law and order. In the public space they are the police officers who, unless they are properly briefed during sessions which have to be promptly set up, are likely to be very rigid in the exercise of their duties. This is understandable because they cannot be expected to have the sensitivity that goes with a deeper understanding of the rationale of the sanitary measures.

In a whole of society approach, there must be wide understanding of the unexpected vulnerability into which people abruptly find themselves, with the potential to cause upsets and inconveniences of all kinds – because it demands a total reorganization of schedules for everybody, and perhaps the most difficult problem is making arrangements for children, if any. Even at the best of times, this is challenging. So one can well imagine what it is

blind enforcement of the law?

In another case, an elderly person who was going to hospital to see his sister early in the morning was also stopped and had to plead with the officer to be allowed to proceed.

That is why I have emphasized commonsense and training sessions. And that is why also we need everyone to contribute to the public debate so as to create awareness of issues, all of which it is impossible for the deciders to know.

It is not for nothing that there is a saying about the spirit and the letter of the law. While this may be beyond the purview of the police officers on the roads,



Photo - images.onlymyhealth.com

at the worst of times as we are in now: there is not only simple apprehension, but actual fear of one or one's family falling sick with coronavirus, what happens next and so on. One must also remember that we already have a non-communicable disease (NCD) epidemic, which means that there may well be other diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, etc., that need to be attended to.

And as the lockdown has disrupted the economy, thousands of households face the added spectre of looming unemployment, possibly of both wage earners. With futures that look bleak, is it a surprise that there should be emotional and psychological imbalance? Naturally this impacts the whole family. On top of that to keep occupied young children, what with their short attention spans and their overflowing energy, is enough to throw many a parent into a mental spin on a daily basis. Especially that we now live in the era of the nuclear family, so that there aren't grandparents around to help taking care of the kids.

In this context, there's what I think is a most unfortunate incident that was brought to my attention a few days ago. It was about a couple whose children were feeling so stifled that they had to take them out for a short drive. What happened next is a real tragic irony: they were booked by the police: all four of them. Can one imagine such a

we pray that when such cases as that of the family that was booked come before our learned magistrates, their superior knowledge and understanding will be able to colour their decisions with some empathy towards those who, far from committing any crime, were simply trying to do their duty as good parents in a bid to keep sanity in the family.

We have to be both rational and reasonable if we do not want to cause disruptions that can destroy families and by extension our social integrity. This is what is at stake during prolonged confinement, and it concerns all of us. And those of us who are privileged to appreciate the grave imports of actions – however legal they may be -- that may potentially sap this integrity should not hesitate to speak out or to contribute in preserving it by virtue of our positions in society.

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Mrinal Roy

# Reinventing Mauritius

*This is not the time for government to cave in as in the past to tall private sector demands*

**C**ovid-19 has been a traumatic wake up call for the world. People across the world are now alive to the reality that the post Covid-19 world must be materially different from the pre-Covid-19 situation. It must be recast on the basis of the numerous lessons learnt from the pandemic. Countries would therefore have to significantly overhaul their economic model and adapt to the imperatives of a new world order defined by the people.

First and foremost, the world has to cut loose from an economic model which continues to choke the world with more and more carbon emissions, despoils the environment and the world's rich biodiversity despite the overwhelming scientific evidence of an impending climate change catastrophe on our planet if urgent steps are not taken to drasti-

inequality and enhanced the massive accumulation of wealth by a few as highlighted in the annual Oxfam reports and has brought to light in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic the vulnerability, precarity and lack of adequate public health protection and security of large swathes of people in the world.

## Self-reliant

Covid-19 has also exposed numerous failings of the world economic model to deal with the multiple challenges faced during the pandemic. Countries across the world suddenly found out that they were not sufficiently self-reliant to protect lives and people against the havoc wreaked by the pandemic across the world.

Many countries including some of the richest countries discovered that they were ill

prepared to cope with the Covid-19 crisis as they did not have adequate stocks of Personal protective equipment (PPE) used every day by healthcare personnel to protect themselves, patients, and others when providing care, treatment drugs, surgical gloves and masks, etc. Countries including Mauritius scrambled for supplies from friendly countries.

India which advocates the philosophy of "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam" - 'the whole world is one family' and produces some 70 per cent of world vaccines and other drugs promptly supplied key drugs to neighboring countries, the US, the EU, Israel and Brazil to help them fight Covid-19.

Public health protection and security will now be factored in the strategic thinking of countries in the post Covid-19 world. Countries would have to hold strategic stocks of essential drugs and protective gear to assure the health protection and security of the people in the context of the enduring pandemic.

Covid-19 has also underscored the urgent need for countries to assure a certain degree of self reliance as regards essential food supplies. In Mauritius, the full potential of the entrepreneurship of planters and the farming community has not been fully tapped. It urgently needs to be boosted through the support of the promised infrastructure, modern storage facilities, cold rooms and options for direct sale

to consumers to maximize the revenue of producers and the land reforms necessary to *inter alia* ensure that the country is as self-sufficient in agricultural produce and other essential food supplies as possible.

In its package of incentives to reboot the economy after the lockdown, the Indian government has recently provided a massive support equal to 10% of India's GDP to achieve economic self-reliance in a country with an enormous market of 1.3 billion people. These funds will be available to industry and businesses of all sizes and to farmers and entrepreneurs with the aim of keeping manufacturing, markets and supply chains local.

Covid-19 has also shown that globalization has caused countries to be dependent and crippled by disrupted supply chains. There is therefore a need to build in respect of essential goods and services new supply chains with reliable strategic trade partners rather than low cost but inoperative supply chains.

Covid-19 has also brought to light the unequal way the virus has impacted on the elderly, the people with health problems, obese

tanced from any political meddling. The board must regularly report on the state of the funds and be open to public scrutiny. We cannot compromise on these fundamental safeguards.

## New ground rules

The determinant factor will however be the ground rules to reboot the economy. Countries across the world are showing the way. If judiciously used, the Rs 60 Billion fund provides a unique opportunity to trigger fundamental and long overdue reforms in the skewed structure of the Mauritian economy. The overriding objective must be to ensure through robust safeguards, strict rules of governance and transparency that the Rs 60 Billion fund is prudently and rigorously managed and that all funds advanced to companies are fully secured by solid guarantees and protected and also provide a fair return.

If properly managed, the fund could be opened to investment by the public who are, in the wake of the significant reduction of the bank rate to help economic operators tide over the Covid-19 crisis, receiving a pittance on



“A study published this month in the journal *Nature Climate Change* shows that daily carbon emissions during the Covid-19 global lockdown in early April 2020 decreased by 17% globally to levels last observed in 2006 compared to mean daily levels in 2019. In contrast, one of the thriving economic activities during the lockdown in Mauritius has been the unabated burning of coal in lucrative power plants to produce electricity in the country, proudly showcased on prime time TV recently...”



“The One-Off exceptional contribution of Rs 60 Billion from the Bank of Mauritius (BoM) is a colossal sum for Mauritius. The chilling history of squandered public funds in state owned companies and advanced to private companies through shoddy due diligence exercises and poor oversight is a gnawing reminder of the inherent risks weighing on these enormous funds. Robust bulwarks have to be put in place to ensure transparency, accountability and management by seasoned professionals ...”

cally cut down and end the use of highly polluting coal and fossil fuels to reverse the adverse fallouts of climate change. A study published this month in the journal *Nature Climate Change* shows that daily carbon emissions during the Covid-19 global lockdown in early April 2020 decreased by 17% globally to levels last observed in 2006 compared to mean daily levels in 2019. In contrast, one of the thriving economic activities during the lockdown in Mauritius has been the unabated burning of coal in lucrative power plants to produce electricity in the country, proudly showcased on prime time TV recently.

The world must also jettison an economic model which has thrived on and deepened

people, the poor, indigenous people and other vulnerable groups. There is therefore a legitimate clamour for quality health care, health protection and safety of people to be included as a fundamental right by countries.

## Big bang

The new world would also have to build an economic model which makes smart use of new technologies and digital tools especially in the services sector to enhance productivity and value addition through work from home.

There is therefore an imperative need for a big bang. Mauritius cannot be an exception to this rule. The country will therefore have to reinvent itself on the basis of a new ethos and a recast economic model anchored on sustainable development and some of the above fundamental principles and objectives drawn from the lessons of Covid-19 which rally the multitude.

The One-Off exceptional contribution of Rs 60 Billion from the Bank of Mauritius (BoM) is a colossal sum for Mauritius. The chilling history of squandered public funds in state owned companies and advanced to private companies through shoddy due diligence exercises and poor oversight is a gnawing reminder of the inherent risks weighing on these enormous funds. Robust bulwarks have to be put in place to ensure transparency, accountability and management by seasoned professionals under the oversight of an independent, investment savvy and highly qualified board, dis-

their savings.

Doing business is about risk taking. The driver of risk taking is profits. Key questions must be asked. Is the company seeking financial support viable? Is the company operating in a productive sector having positive multiplier effect on the economy? Profitable corporate groups should draw from their own funds to bail out their companies. Private companies receiving public funds should be subject to a rigorous due diligence exercise to ascertain their viability, cede equivalent equity as security, grant board membership to assure oversight of the company's decisions and strictly abide by principles of corporate good governance, its social responsibility and sustainable development norms.

This is not the time for government to cave in as in the past to tall private sector demands.

*On tire notre dernière cartouche.* The country cannot afford to go wrong.

## Licence to illegality?

The long winded and convoluted narrative by the Minister of Housing and Lands this week about the patent illegality of those brazenly staking a claim on marshy state land and other localities despite repeated government warnings fizzled out in discomfiture. In the space of two weeks, the legal stance of government towards illegal behaviour has swung from extreme harshness to disconcerting leniency. Such licence is anathema to the multitude.





Sada Reddi

# Covid-19 Act & Workers Rights Act: So un-Mauritian!

*Is it fair and normal that a politician or a bureaucrat should sit in an office and decide that trade unions should not have the right to strike or laws should be applied retroactively?*

**M**y personal experience as an education officer at John Kennedy College during the student unrest of May '75 has taught many of us one important lesson. Even when students, staff and even school managers have different interests and come from different classes, solidarity and some ideological commitment can bring people together, even in an uncoordinated manner, to fight for a common cause and win. Such a lesson of unity is most relevant at this hour when workers, the unemployed and the population are being driven to the wall.

We may not have a near sacred institution like the UK's National Health Service, which one politician has likened to something like a religion for the British with its staff members priding themselves of forming part of a priesthood. But Mauritians do view their jobs and their rights as workers as something sacred in our democracy. We have been fighting for more than a hundred years to secure these rights and are still struggling to get the right to work as one of the fundamental and elemental human rights of a free citizenship in our Constitution.

When these rights are undermined and abolished altogether, one can understand the anger, fear and frustration which grip all workers and their families in the country, and at the same time the determination to fight to the finish to safeguard their jobs and their rights. It is a matter of survival and struggle for the human dignity for our population.

When a law under the cover of public health deprives workers of their rights in the most arbitrary manner one can think of, it is neither modern nor a piece of reform, if by reform we mean an improvement in workers' conditions. Such a law is archaic, and the insecurity and rightlessness it brings in its wake is reminiscent of the notorious Code Noir of the 18th century.

A brief look at the law shows that it deprives workers of a fair wage, fair working conditions, reduces wages, overtime pay and

annual leave and other paid annual leave. In addition, it deprives workers of their collective rights in their trade unions besides facilitating the termination of employment and other contractual obligations between the employer and his employees. It criminalizes behaviour, eliminates acquired rights and allows employers to extract the maximum labour as they wish. It is so un-Mauritian that it looks more like a copy/paste legislation from an authoritarian regime.

A saving grace for the workers is the mediocrity of our bureaucrats and politicians who passed these laws to clamp down on the population. The flaws in these laws and their subtle and not so subtle violation of workers' rights will certainly come for scrutiny from legal experts, trade unionists, and the workers themselves for they know best where the shoe pinches. Our hope is that trade unionists and their lawyers will put up a strong defence in the courts of law to seek redress.

One thing that is certain is the way the state and its bureaucrats operate. They will always take a synoptic and myopic view of a situation, at the risk of oversimplification to make the population gullible so as to better manipulate it. In this process, their attempt at passing a blanket law to cover everything is so untidy, unwieldy and devoid of commonsense that

“No one can stand aloof and be a bystander when the rights of 500,000 workers are removed and democracy threatened. Make no mistake, there is going to be a long struggle to restore our rights and a struggle that has to be waged on all fronts in the courts of law, at the negotiating table, in the National Assembly and ultimately on the ground. We all know that trade unionists and workers will rise up to the challenge and benefit from the support of the population across the country and across the political divide...”

they have already lost the battle of public opinion and undermined their own legitimacy and that of the law. It is like an officer acting smart and switching off a camera to cover up a horrific brutality but leaves evidence that uncovers his own participation as an accomplice.



Laying off of a worker instead of protecting jobs, erasing workers' rights just by the stroke of a pen reflect both a reprehensible and a callous attitude of the State and its lackeys. One cannot accept that a country is governed in the sole interests of a plutocracy. One can also expect that their plutocrats and their accomplices will always seek to justify their action by some flimsy arguments, exaggerating some threats and resorting to blackmail to undermine the unity of the workers and the population. These are old tricks of an obsolete past which the plutocrats would like to revive at their own risks. A few of them, politicians and employers, at least know that these arguments in any situation are morally indefensible and have tried to hammer in some commonsense but to no avail.

The response of workers and trade unionists by building unity through a consortium of trade unions, irrespective of ideological differences, is a healthy first step in this situation. One knows too well

that workers and employees belong to different economic and social groups, and all too often such differences can be divisive, and employers and state bureaucrats will play on such differences. Employers will only shout victory if they succeed in this policy of divide and rule, and it is on this strategy that they will focus all their efforts.

At no time in our history do we need more than ever the unity of the whole labour force and the support of the population. Permanent communication among workers, trade unionists and a con-

a legal strike being declared illegal by a minister -- but never has the right to strike been undermined to such an extent.

No one can stand aloof and be a bystander when the rights of 500,000 workers are removed and democracy threatened. Make no mistake, there is going to be a long struggle to restore our rights and a struggle that has to be waged on all fronts in the courts of law, at the negotiating table, in the National Assembly and ultimately on the ground. We all know that trade unionists and workers will rise up to the challenge and benefit from the support of the population across the country and across the political divide.

At this critical time, the struggle for jobs and income security and workers' rights and for a healthy democracy is a legitimate struggle.

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At this hour, the words of Swami Vivekananda 'Arise, Awake and stop not till the goal is reached' are very pertinent. Like all struggles, they are not only for the present but also for the future generations and the future of our democracy.



## Boris Johnson announces test-and-trace system will launch today

**T**he new NHS test-and-trace programme was launched across England on Thursday, UK's Prime Minister announced, a project involving an army of 25,000 contact tracers and an additional 25,000 people working to process tests. Tracers will hunt down anyone who has been within two metres of a person infected with coronavirus for more than 15 minutes without protective equipment, reports The Independent. Anyone found to have done so will be asked to isolate for 14 days even if they do not have symptoms, Boris Johnson said on Wednesday.

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More than 100,000 Americans have now died as a result of the nation's coronavirus outbreak, accounting for more than a quarter of all Covid-19-related deaths around the world, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. In just four months since the onset of the disaster in the US, more Americans have died from coronavirus-related illness than from decades of military conflicts in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan combined.

**W**ith more than 31,000 cases, Mumbai accounts for more than a fifth of India's coronavirus infections and nearly a quarter of deaths. The BBC's Yogita Limaye finds out why India's financial capital is so badly affected.

Mumbai has long been described as a city always on the run. It sounds like a cliché, but as someone who has lived here most of my life, I can confirm it's true. Even during the 2008 attack, on a day when there were active gunmen in south Mumbai, in other parts of the city, trains were running, millions went to work, and restaurants and offices remained open. But Covid-19 has turned the city into a ghost town as a stringent lockdown remains in place with no easing of restrictions. It has also left its medical infrastructure on the brink of collapse.

"Mumbai has some of the finest health facilities and doctors. But it was not prepared for a pandemic," Dr Swati Rane, a public health expert in Mumbai, says. "The city of dreams has become a city of nightmares."

One of the reasons it faces such a tough battle against the virus is its population density - the second highest in the world according to a WEF report.

According to a government report, Mumbai has 70 public hospitals with a capacity of 20,700 and 1,500 private facilities with 20,000 beds. The city has roughly one bed per 3,000 people, well below the WHO recommendation of a bed per 550 people.

Mumbai's population has expanded rapidly since this estimation 10 years ago. But the health

# Mumbai: How Covid-19 has ravaged India's richest city



Photo - cdn.dnaindia.com

infrastructure has not kept pace.

Government doctors have been stretched particularly thin by Covid-19 because they have been bearing a disproportionately large burden.

"The whole load came on the crippled public sector. The private sector is hardly involved - only a few of their beds are being used for Covid-19," Dr Rane said.

Last week the government of Maharashtra state, of which Mumbai is the capital, said private hospitals would have to dedicate 80% of their resources to treat Covid-19 patients, while prices would be capped.

"There was some reluctance at the beginning because of the nature of the infection," Dr Avinash Bhondwe, the Maharashtra presi-

dent of the Indian Medical Association, a body that represents many private practitioners, said. "Now, around 3,000 independent doctors have signed up so far to help out. But we need PPE from standardised providers at standardised rates, which has not yet been made available to us."

But these private doctors are still to be inducted, and so far there is no relief for most government facilities.

"Help is urgently needed. We are working without any days off, or any time to quarantine ourselves," a Sion hospital doctor said on Monday.

Field hospitals that can accommodate around 4,000 patients are being built in many parts of the city, and a dashboard is being made to

show which hospital has free beds.

"We can keep building new facilities. They will get full in a day. Unless we find the source of the spread of the virus and curb it, the city will have to remain under lockdown for months to come," warns Dr Rahul Ghule, who has been working with the municipal corporation to conduct door to door

thermal screening in congested parts of the city.

Iqbal Chahal, Mumbai's municipal commissioner, says they've launched a programme called 'Chase the Virus' this week, which aims to aggressively trace the spread of the infection. "In slum areas, we will now be quarantining as many as 15 high risk contacts of a confirmed Covid case. So far we have screened 4.2 million people in Mumbai."

But another threat is looming. The monsoon is fast approaching, and with it comes the risk of other illnesses including malaria, typhoid, gastric infection and leptospirosis. The work of essential services will be even harder during the rainy season.

## 'I made a ventilator from a coffee machine'

**S**cottish design engineer Ross Hunter has made it to the finals of a global competition to create low-cost ventilators for Covid-19 sufferers. His achievement is all the more remarkable because his prototype is based on a commercial coffee machine.

Ross Hunter is used to thinking outside the box. As chief executive of a company that specialises in designing accommodation pods, he has constantly sought innovative solutions to help keep his business ahead of the competition. In his spare time over the years, he has also enjoyed "tinkering" with design concepts.



With his business near Edinburgh under lockdown, Mr Hunter learned of a global challenge set by a group of doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital who were concerned at a potential shortage of ventilators to help seriously ill Covid-19 patients.

Mr Hunter quickly realised that

he already had the makings of a ventilator in his coffee machine concept and decided to adopt an alternative approach to a traditional "bellow" ventilator system.

He says: "It struck me that I could easily change a few components in my coffee machine prototype to make a ventilator."

"My coffee machine idea uses a drive system instead of a traditional pump. It is similar in concept to a lever coffee machine, but with a drive system that can be easily controlled."

"To get the ventilator prototype working I needed to make a few modifications to the coffee machine design - replace the plunger system with bellows and re-programme it to work."

Working on his own, Mr Hunter

took just three weeks to develop a prototype and 3D models for his CORE Vent design.

"I focused on creating the simplest ventilator possible that could be built anywhere and didn't require specialist parts or equip-

ment," he explains.

Despite his unconventional approach, the CoVent-19 judges were impressed. Mr Hunter has made the final seven out of well over 200 entries from more than 40 countries.

Compiled by  
Doojesh Ramlallah



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# Should you fly yet?

*Fear of flying means something altogether different in the age of the new coronavirus. Now the biggest concern is how to keep from becoming infected. If you must fly, here are some things to consider*

**W**e don't know about you, but we're ready to travel. And that typically means flying.

We have been thinking through this issue as moms and as an exposure scientist and infectious disease epidemiologist. While we've decided personally that we're not going to fly right now, we will walk you through our thought process on what to consider and how to minimize your risks.

## Why the fear of flying?

The primary concern with flying – or traveling by bus or train – is sitting within six feet of an infected person. Remember: Even asymptomatic people can transmit. Your risk of infection directly corresponds to your dose of exposure, which is determined by your duration of time exposed and the amount of virus-contaminated droplets in the air.

A secondary concern is contact with contaminated surfaces. When an infected person contaminates a shared armrest, airport restroom handle, seat tray or other item, the virus can survive for hours though it degrades over time. If you touch that surface and then touch your mouth or nose, you put yourself at risk of infection.

## Before you book, think

While there is no way to make air travel 100% safe, there are ways to make it safer. It's important to think through the particulars for each trip.

One approach to your decision-making is to use what occupational health experts call the hierarchy of controls. This approach does two things. It focuses on strategies to control exposures close to the source. Second, it minimizes how much you have to rely on individual human behavior to control exposure. It's important to remember you may be infectious and everyone around you may also be infectious.

The best way to control exposure is to elimi-

nate the hazard. Since we cannot eliminate the new coronavirus, ask yourself if you can eliminate the trip. Think extra hard if you are older or have pre-existing conditions, or if you are going to visit someone in that position.

If you are healthy and those you visit are healthy, think about ways to substitute the hazard. Is it possible to drive? This would allow you to have more control over minimizing your exposures, particularly if the distance is less than a day of travel.

## You're going, now what?

If you choose to fly, check out airlines' policies on seating and boarding. Some are minimizing capacity and spacing passengers by not using middle seats and having empty rows. Others are boarding from the back of the plane. Some that were criticized for filling their planes to capacity have announced plans to allow customers to cancel their flights if the flight goes over 70% passenger seating capacity.

Federal and state guidance is changing constantly, so make sure you look up the most recent guidance from government

agencies and the airlines and airport you are using for additional advice, and current policies or restrictions.

While this may sound counterintuitive, consider booking multiple, shorter flights. This will decrease the likelihood of having to use the lavatory and the duration of exposure to an infectious person on the plane.

After you book, select a window seat if possible. If you consider the six-foot radius circle around you, having a wall on one side would directly reduce the number of people you are exposed to during the flight in half, not to mention all the people going up and down the aisle.

Also, check out your airline to see their engineering controls that are designed or put into practice to isolate hazards. These include ventilation systems, on-board barriers and electrostatic disinfectant sprays on flights.

When the ventilation system on planes is operating, planes have a very high ratio of outside fresh air to recirculated air – about 10 times higher than most commercial buildings. Plus, most planes' ventila-

tion systems have HEPA filters. These are at least 99.9% effective at removing particles that are 0.3 microns in diameter and more efficient at removing both smaller and larger particles.

## How to be safe from shuttle to seat

From checking in, to going through security to boarding, you will be touching many surfaces. To minimize risk:

- Bring hand wipes to disinfect surfaces such as your seat belt and your personal belongings, like your passport. If you cannot find hand wipes, bring a small washcloth soaked in a bleach solution in a zip bag. This would probably freak TSA out less than your personal spray bottle, and viruses are not likely to grow on a cloth with a bleach solution. But remember: More bleach is not better and can be unsafe. You only need one tablespoon in four cups of water to be effective.
- Bring plastic zip bags for personal items that others may handle, such as your ID. Bring extra bags so you can put these things in a new bag after you get the chance to disinfect them.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer as often as you can. While soap and water is most effective, hand sanitizer is helpful after you wash to get any parts you may have missed.
- Once you get to your window seat, stay put.
- Wear a mask. If you already have an N95 respirator, consider using it but others can also provide protection. We do not recommend purchasing N95 until health care workers have an adequate supply. Technically, it should also be tested to make sure you have a good fit. We do not recommend the use of gloves, as that can lead to a false sense of security and has been associated with reduced hand hygiene practices.

If you are thinking about flying with kids, there are special considerations. Getting a young child to adhere to wearing a mask and maintaining good hygiene behaviors at home is hard enough; it may be impossible to do so when flying. Children under 2 should not wear a mask.

Each day, we are all constantly faced with decisions about our own personal comfort with risk. Arming yourself with specific knowledge about your airport and airline, and maximizing your use of protective measures that you have control over, can reduce your risk. A good analogy might be that every time you get in the car to drive somewhere there is risk of an accident, but there is a big difference between driving the speed limit with your seat belt on and driving blindfolded, 60 miles an hour through the middle of town.

Kacey Ernst, University of Arizona;  
Paloma Beamer, University of Arizona



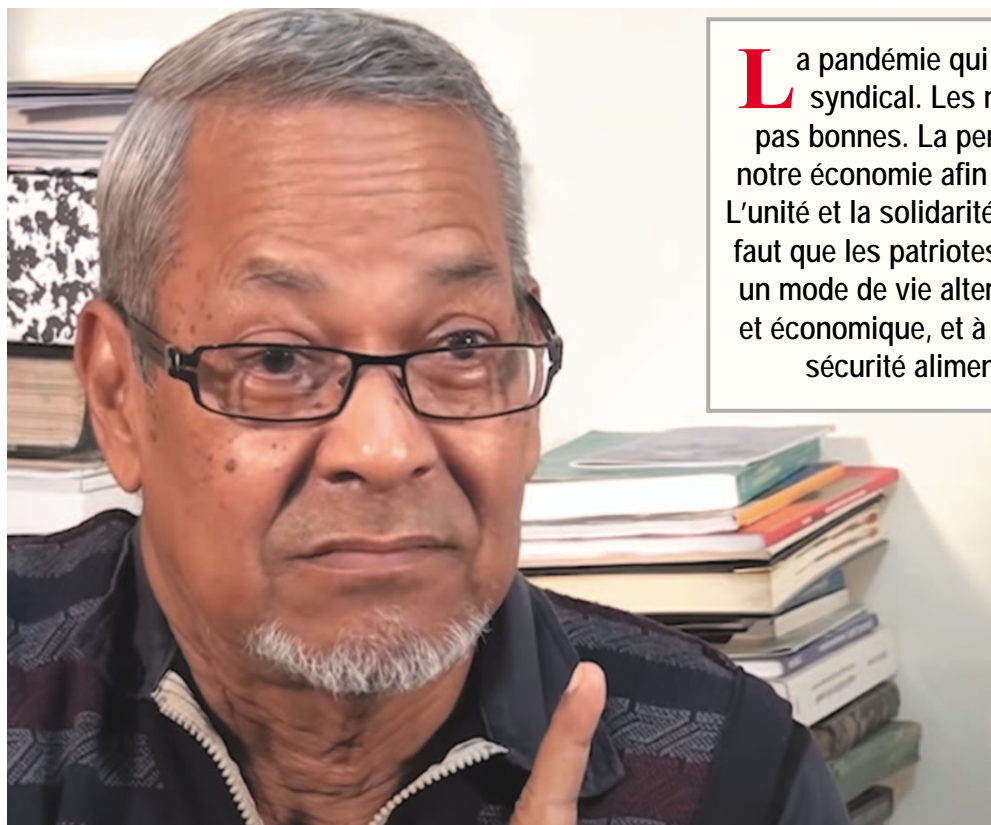
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Jack Bizlall

# “Le PTr, le MMM et le PMSD sont dans l'opposition. Qu'ils y restent.

Qu'ils assument leur rôle parlementaire”



**L**a pandémie qui a secoué le monde inquiète le monde syndical. Les nouvelles provenant d'ailleurs ne sont pas bonnes. La perte d'emplois nous oblige à repenser notre économie afin de ne pas sombrer dans la psychose. L'unité et la solidarité sont essentielles, mais plus encore, il faut que les patriotes se mettent ensemble pour réfléchir à un mode de vie alternatif, à plus de responsabilité sociale et économique, et à l'équilibre écologique pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire. Jack Bizlall nous en parle.

**Mauritius Times : Maurice a surmonté la pandémie du coronavirus sans trop de dégâts, mais le pire est à venir, paraît-il, en ce qui concerne ses conséquences sur le plan économique mais aussi social. Êtes-vous inquiet pour le pays?**

**Jack Bizlall :** Je ne crois pas que c'est le moment de démontrer une inquiétude paralysante, amplifiée par une politique inappropriée. Il y a donc nécessité de se pencher sérieusement sur deux choses : le rétablissement de la confiance par la sécurité alimentaire, sanitaire, corporelle, etc... Et le maintien de notre niveau de vie conçu autrement. Mais surtout pas d'attaques soutenues par la répression étatique sur les

l'agro-industrie et un retour à une autre industrialisation (incluant celle de substitution à l'importation) et de l'économie de proximité (incluant l'économie informelle non illicite). Il ne faut plus faire de notre économie d'appoint de substitution à l'exportation un appendice à l'économie des pays développés.

Normalement, nous devrions subir une crise économique déflationniste comme après la crise de 1929. La production internationale baisse considérablement... suivant la baisse générale de la croissance au niveau mondial surtout si on l'amplifie par la baisse de la masse salariale.

On verra si les dispositions prises ne

« Je regrette que des juristes qui m'ont grandement aidé dans le passé ne soient plus là. En l'occurrence Madun Gujadhur, Kader Bayat, Robert Ahnee... Ils sont décédés. Mais j'en ai parlé à Dev Ramano et je vais demander à plusieurs avocats de ma connaissance de nous aider. Je regrette que les Obeegadoo, Collendavelloo, Gannoo soient dans le Gouvernement. J'espère que ce ne sera pas pour longtemps puisqu'ils auront à prendre position un jour ou l'autre... »

vrais producteurs que sont les travailleurs... C'est cette classe sociale qui va être le premier moteur du redressement économique... Il faut incruster ce fait dans notre conscience...

En parlant de changement économique, il faut que l'on porte attention à l'économie réelle et ainsi un retour vers l'agriculture,

vont pas dans la direction inverse artificiellement. Dans les deux cas, la situation risque effectivement de s'aggraver. Quelqu'un m'a dit l'autre jour que si l'Etat finance massivement la consommation par les salaires et autres allocations sociales, le résultat ne peut être la désinflation... accompagnant la déflation. Il y a une nuance entre les deux termes, comme c'est

le cas entre la globalisation et la mondialisation...

Je pense qu'il faut mettre de côté les indices d'analyse que le capitalisme impose sur les sociétés à travers leurs intellectuels organiques. Je regarde trois indices :

- (1) la surproduction qui s'amplifie par la productivité de plus en plus croissante;
- (2) la désocialisation du travail et ainsi le chômage structurel résultant de cette surproduction, et
- (3) le niveau d'intervention de l'Etat par l'étatisme.

« D'un parti révolutionnaire, le MMM va devenir électoraliste, et voilà le résultat aujourd'hui... Une famille est au pouvoir... Alors que la lutte qui l'a mené au pouvoir est couverte du sang des travailleurs et des jeunes intellectuels. D'autre part, nos jeunes intellectuels, dans leur grande majorité, ne sont ni de gauche ni de droite, et ils ont fait de leur engagement politique une voie vers le parlementarisme pour représenter QUI ?... sinon eux-mêmes... »

Donc j'analyse non seulement les FAITS, mais aussi les RAPPORTS.

Il faut que la masse populaire s'organise dans le but de rectifier tout dérapage. Son engagement dans un cadre de pouvoir extraparlémentaire est plus que jamais souhaitable pourvu qu'il ne soit pas populiste de droite comme de gauche.

**\* Plusieurs pays se préparent à une vague de licenciements et de faillites sans précédent dans les mois à venir. Ici même, le ministre des Finances a estimé que le nombre de chômeurs pourrait atteindre les 100,000 d'ici la fin de cette année. A l'état actuel des choses, comment se présente déjà la situation sur le plan de l'emploi et des relations industrielles?**

Il faut comprendre deux choses de mon point de vue :

- (1) Il faut prendre des mesures pour protéger les salaires et l'emploi. Notre économie interne repose presque entièrement sur les salaires et la

consommation. Si on adopte la bonne solution de soutenir financièrement les salaires et la consommation, conjointement par le secteur privé et l'Etat, on n'aura pas une masse d'emploi perdue irrémédiablement. Avec un financement de 30 à 35 milliards du secteur privé et le reste par l'Etat, je ne vois aucun problème pour transcender cette crise économique ;

- (2) Retourner à l'économie de production et revoir notre secteur de service. C'est un secteur trop important par rapport à l'économie réelle. Il faut prendre état que beaucoup de pays vont appliquer une politique d'échange internationale basée sur le protectionnisme. Serons-nous en situation de 1973-74 avec l'endettement des Etats (FMI et BM) pour relancer l'économie mondiale ou en 1983-84 quand les Etats-Unis ont soutenu la production internationale par la dette de leurs ménages, de leurs industries et de leur Etat. Ou devrons-nous puiser dans les avoirs et les accumulations du secteur financier pour sortir de ce pétrin? Ici, comme ailleurs. En France, on commence à parler d'une taxe spéciale sur la richesse.

Au nom de l'Observatoire de la démocratie, j'ai fait plusieurs propositions au Gouvernement. Je crois qu'il va adopter une stratégie économique néokeynésienne. Il faudra porter notre attention sur ses investissements. Le BOT sera de retour ainsi que l'*investment swapping* du secteur privé par des privatisations directes et indirectes.

Il faut donc se concentrer en priorité sur

l'emploi, les salaires directs et indirects, les heures de travail, la protection sanitaire sur les lieux de travail et la pension. Les négociations se tiennent en ce moment dans le secteur du Tourisme-Hôtellerie-Transport (aérien). Il n'y a plus de négociation collective. On est en train d'éliminer implicitement la reconnaissance des syndicats. J'ai opté pour que les discussions se fassent au ministère du Travail. Sinon les relations industrielles peuvent se retrouver au plus bas niveau comme dans les années 70. La mobilisation populaire doit absolument se faire sans populisme.

Mais qui osera remettre en question les *Smart Cities*, rétablir les opérations bancaires sur ses bases comme l'a recommandé un ancien gouverneur de la banque d'Angleterre... démanteler le surendettement des ménages...

Toute une liste de mesures a été proposée au Gouvernement.



# 'La pandémie peut nous faire reculer comme nous faire avancer dans l'histoire. Un rien peut tout remettre en question'

« Il n'y a plus de négociation collective. On est en train d'éliminer implicitement la reconnaissance des syndicats. J'ai opté pour que les discussions se fassent au ministère du Travail. Sinon les relations industrielles peuvent se retrouver au plus bas niveau comme dans les années 70. La mobilisation populaire doit absolument se faire sans populisme... »

☞ Suite de la page 8

**\* Avec Rs 60 milliards mises à sa disposition par la Banque de Maurice, et qui vont servir, entre autres, à soutenir le tourisme et le secteur manufacturier, le Gouvernement devrait pouvoir mitiger les conséquences négatives sur l'économie mauricienne. Mais voilà qu'on parle déjà de 100,000 chômeurs d'ici la fin de cette année. Est-ce normal?**

Il faut un système d'intelligence pour agir sinon ce sera de l'argent gaspillé. Avec les fonds disponibles et la contribution de secteur privé, le Gouvernement peut recueillir plus de 110 milliards... Il aura besoin d'argent pour financer le budget national... Les revenus de l'Etat seront en baisse... moins de taxes directes et indirectes... bien plus de dépenses sociales...

Il faut aborder le redressement de l'économie secteur par secteur et commencer par le plus faible en ce moment : le secteur touristique. Inclure dans ce redressement l'hôtellerie, l'aviation civile (à commencer par Air Mauritius, les agences de voyage, etc.) ; le commerce moyen de gamme et haut de gamme (nous avons un autre problème qui nous attend qui est la Mauritius Duty Free Paradise...). Il faut un accord global. Par exemple, dire aux hôtels de consommer la production locale.

En accordant notre attention à ce secteur en priorité, nous apprendrons à régler l'autre problème des fonds de pension... sans oublier que la protection du pays - après le déconfinement des frontières - ne pourra se faire que par l'aéroport. Nous en sortirons gagnants sur tous les plans.

**\* Dans l'hôtellerie, plus de 4,000 employés de New Mauritius Hotel pourraient avoir une réduction de leur salaire d'environ 50% le mois prochain, apprenons-nous ; ce qui permettra, selon le management de la compagnie, de préserver les emplois tout en réduisant la masse salariale temporairement. Est-ce inévitable du fait de la suspension du business dans ce secteur?**

D'abord, cette histoire de 50% n'est pas une décision de la NMH, mais une proposition faite à l'Hôtel Shandrani et mal répercutée. Avec la Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union (HREU), je rencontre la NMH le 1er juin 2020 et nous serons plus en mesure de savoir ce qu'il en est exactement. Attendons...

Lors de la crise dite des *subprimes* 2007-08 qui a eu des répercussions jusqu'en 2010, nous avons eu un accord avec la NMH pour

la préservation totale de l'emploi alors qu'il y avait une baisse importante dans l'occupation des chambres et un système de négociation individuelle au cas par cas avec chaque touriste pour les inciter à venir ici.

Nous avons soumis à l'arbitrage une question d'incapacité de paiement de la NMH en cas de force majeure. L'arbitre M. R. Chetty n'a pas voulu arbitrer sur les définitions proposées et a laissé le soin aux avocats de le faire conjointement.

Nous sommes dans une situation de force majeure, et il faudra reprendre la question. Cet élément de force majeure devrait animer les négociations collectives sous la protection des lois du pays. Nous avons deux gros handicaps à résoudre concernant les amendements qui ont été apportés à la *Workers Rights Act* à la fois dans ses définitions, et sa légalité par rapport aux conventions du BIT et à notre Constitution, sans oublier les pouvoirs excessifs que détient le Premier ministre. Il faut aussi définir les pouvoirs du ministère du Travail.

**\* Alors qu'on parle de solidarité, de *burden sharing*, on amende en même temps les lois du travail, ce qui pourrait faciliter la mise à pied des travailleurs au nom de la pandémie. D'autre part, alors que les autorités se défendent de quelque tentative autoritaire avec la *Covid-19 Act*, voilà que la police aurait débarqué chez certains employés d'Air Mauritius pour s'enquérir, allègue-t-on, s'ils comptent se rassembler pour manifester. Comment réagissez-vous à cela?**

J'ai initié des dispositions à trois niveaux à ce sujet :

- (1) Que les travailleurs mettent à la porte ces policiers. Ils n'ont aucun droit d'agir ainsi, voire même de rapporter ces cas à la police.
- (2) Si la décision vient des deux Administrateurs, il faudra vérifier, on va manifester contre lui comme il y a une manifestation qui sera organisée contre le Président de la République. Une lettre lui a été adressée à ce sujet.
- (3) C'est une décision du Commissaire de police. Lui aussi, il aura à rendre des comptes. Je sais que dans les années 70, la police soumettait un rapport chaque jour au ministre du Travail lui indiquant la situation dans le pays. J'ai vu de mes yeux de tels rapports que le responsable de ce ministère me



montrait régulièrement, en cachette. Il faudra un jour mentionner son nom. Il était un démocrate...

Par ailleurs, si une manifestation est organisée après le 1er juin et que la police refuse l'autorisation aux organisateurs, il faudra, comme la loi le prévoit, demander la justice à notre judiciaire. Si nous sommes dans une période d'exception, du 23 mars au 1er juin 2020, pour raison de la pandémie, on ne peut étendre le pouvoir du PM, d'étendre cette période *by regulations*.

Je regrette que des juristes qui m'ont grandement aidé dans le passé ne soient plus là. En l'occurrence Madun Gujadhur, Kader Bayat, Robert Ahnee... Ils sont décédés. Mais j'en ai parlé à Dev Ramano et je vais demander à plusieurs avocats de ma connaissance de nous aider. Je vais tester

« Ils sont dans l'opposition ; qu'ils y restent ! Qu'ils assument leur rôle parlementaire ! Je crains fort cette situation car que ce soit le PTr, le MMM ou le PMSD, ils ont eu des liens avec le MSM. Qu'ils utilisent ce temps précieux pour se donner une ligne de conduite conforme à notre Constitution. Certains doivent préparer leur départ... »

tout pouvoir arbitraire de la Police et du PM. Je regrette que les Obeegadoo, Collendavelloo, Gannoo soient dans le Gouvernement. J'espère que ce ne sera pas pour longtemps puisqu'ils auront à prendre position un jour ou l'autre...

Je vais aussi demander aux présidents des syndicats de produire un affidavit concernant la conversation qu'ils ont eue avec l'administrateur principal. Rassurez-vous, il y aura un champ de combat juridique à initier.

**\* Le confinement aidant, la résistance, que ce soit du côté des syndicats ou des forces de l'opposition, n'est pas en mesure de s'organiser. Au nom de la pandémie, tout risque de passer...**

Je suis attentivement le comportement des syndicats. Il existe des syndicats opportunistes qui se cachent derrière les autres pour ensuite tirer les marrons du feu. Il existe des agences syndicales qui ne voient pas les intérêts objectifs des travailleurs pour des raisons que je n'ose mentionner. Il existe des syndicats corporatistes qui ne défendent que leurs intérêts et qui ne recherchent le soutien des autres que quand ils sont dans le pétrin.

Il existe sans doute des syndicats qui ne se rendent pas compte qu'un syndicat est un front de lutte... et qu'il faut savoir analyser l'état de la situation de notre pays et du monde, et prendre les actions qui s'imposent dans le cadre de ce que l'on peut proposer comme alternative qui soit comprise, acceptable et applicable.

Quant aux responsables des trois partis politiques formant partie de l'opposition parlementaire, on leur a écrit une lettre pour une rencontre. Leur rôle est crucial puisque constitutionnel. Il existe le danger d'un gouvernement d'« unité nationale » ici comme ailleurs. On verra ce qu'ils nous diront. Il ne faut pas se presser.

Je pense que personne dans l'opposition parlementaire n'a le droit de grossir les rangs du Gouvernement sous le prétexte qu'il y aurait la nécessité d'avoir un gouvernement d'« unité nationale ». Pour moi, c'est un terme infect. Ils sont dans l'opposition ; qu'ils y restent ! Qu'ils assument leur rôle parlementaire ! Je crains fort cette situation car que ce soit le PTr, le MMM ou le PMSD, ils ont eu des liens avec le MSM. Qu'ils utilisent ce temps précieux pour se donner une ligne de conduite conforme à notre Constitution. Certains doivent préparer leur départ.

La pandémie peut nous faire reculer comme nous faire avancer dans l'histoire. Un rien peut tout remettre en question. Vous savez, le militantisme et la voie révolutionnaire sont les résultats des protestations à travers le monde en 1968. Un simple incident peut tout détourner. J'ai en tête le fait que le MMM publie son manifeste le 1er août 1970 et Lall Jugnauth (l'oncle d'Anerood Jugnauth) meurt le 2 août 1970. Le décès d'un parlementaire change le cours de l'histoire...

D'un parti révolutionnaire, le MMM va devenir électoraliste, et voilà le résultat aujourd'hui... Une famille est au pouvoir... Alors que la lutte qui l'a mené au pouvoir est couverte du sang des travailleurs et des jeunes intellectuels.

D'autre part, nos jeunes intellectuels, dans leur grande majorité, ne sont ni de gauche ni de droite, et ils ont fait de leur engagement politique une voie vers le parlementarisme pour représenter QUI?... sinon eux-mêmes et la classe moyenne montante. J'ai déjà vu ça après la grève de Mai 75.



# Five ways online university learning can be better than face-to-face teaching

*The benefits of online learning include accessibility and a personalised approach*

The University of Cambridge has announced that all lectures will be offered online for the academic year beginning in October 2020. Other UK universities are expected to adopt similar policies, adopting a format which blends online learning with more traditional teaching.

The announcement has disappointed and worried some students, who are concerned about the quality of their educational experiences and lack of opportunity to socialise on campus.

Over the past few months, universities have had to scramble to move courses online. In some cases this has reportedly resulted in unsatisfactory student experiences and has exacerbated negative perceptions of online learning.

Online university courses may not be able to replicate the experience of on-campus social life. But in terms of teaching, well-designed online learning can be more satisfactory than sitting in a large lecture theatre.

Here are five ways online learning can outperform traditional university teaching.

## 1. Accessibility

Online learning is free from a range of physical restrictions that impede face-to-face teaching. Students - and lecturers - with certain physical and health conditions often find

online learning more accessible than campus-based activities. It provides not only an opportunity to acquire new knowledge but also an opportunity to meet and socialise with other students, which is otherwise unavailable.

For many students with travel difficulties and social responsibilities, online learning may be the only option. It can open up educational opportunities to a bigger group of international students. Well-produced learning content such as recorded lectures can enhance the ease of learning - particularly for students who, for whatever reason, may find it difficult to pick up new information in real time from one-off lectures.

## 2. Personalisation

Students enter university with diverse backgrounds, prior knowledge and experiences, and they learn at different speeds. However, in large lecture theatres, it is extremely difficult to customise the difficulty of lecture content for varying student needs. Instead, teachers may assign independent tasks that need to be completed between weekly lectures and hope that lower-level students can catch up.

In online courses, however, it is possible to present multiple learning paths with different sets of resources and activities, allowing students to choose their own learning content and pace. A brief self-assessment to help students better understand their readiness for the subject and choose the best



Students learning online can build networks around the world. fizkes/Shutterstock

option for themselves can be a great start to online learning. Such flexible learning experiences can greatly improve student satisfaction.

## 3. Clarity

Clarity is at the heart of well-designed online learning. Every single idea and task, large or small, is explicitly and repeatedly explained in online settings. Students pause, reflect and repeat until they understand.

Although we often assume that face-to-face communication is more effective, numerous ideas, rules and details are left unspoken and misunderstood. Teachers are often hurried to finish lectures, mistakenly perceiving a couple of students nodding as a sign of class consent, and confused students are too embarrassed to ask for clarification.

## 4. Flexibility

Online learning offers the opportunity to

shake up the traditional pattern of university study. Rigidly scheduled weekly lectures can be replaced by group project work or intensive tutorials. The size and attendance requirements of sessions can be varied according to their purpose.

This means that students will have diverse learning experiences which may be more challenging and stimulating than face-to-face lectures with little variation. Lecturers can be creative when designing modules and arranging activities, without worrying about room availability and a fixed timetable.

There are various ways for students to interact academically in online modules. These range from class discussions to peer review exercises and small group project-based learning. Students can feel supported by structured peer-to-peer activities and develop a strong sense of community online.

## 5. Independence

The shift from face-to-face "teaching" to online "learning", suggests it is ultimately students who need to regulate and direct their learning. It is important to note that many students may find it challenging. They can go through a painful trial-and-error process until they establish the right habits and routines, working in their unique learning situations.

But they obtain invaluable life-long learning skills and attitudes through this process. Success in online learning offers a profound sense of achievement. Although it may be difficult for teachers to let the control go in the first place, they are often amazed by how active students can be in their learning. Students as a group also find creative ways to overcome virtual restrictions and achieve beyond what is intended and imagined.

**Kyungmee Lee**

Lecturer in Technology Enhanced Learning, Lancaster University

## Obituaire

### Aslakha Callikan-Proag a rejoint Marcel Cabon



Succombant à une crise cardiaque en début de semaine, Aslakha Callikan-Proag combattait une maladie depuis trois semaines. Mais, la mort nous l'a enlevée à jamais.

Elle rejoindra à coup sûr son maître Marcel Cabon: elle lui avait dédié sa vie de chercheuse. Depuis mon entrée en journalisme à L'express en 1991, elle ne vivait que pour mettre Cabon en lumière. Beaucoup médisaient alors d'elle, disant qu'elle "accaparait" l'auteur de "Namasté", mais il faut reconnaître qu'un écrivain a souvent besoin d'un exégète sincère, pour entretenir sa légende. Aslakha l'a fait pour Cabon. Et elle est pour beaucoup dans le renouvellement perpétuel de la lecture de l'œuvre de Cabon.

Brillante intellectuelle, Aslakha était la sœur de Dan Callikan, lui-même lauréat. D'allure mince, elle était toujours cintrée dans un sari coloré, et était de tous les débats sur la culture dans son île, et dans le monde. De sa petite voix fluette, elle déclinait alors Cabon dans un monologue fascinant, qui démontrait que Marcel était à ses côtés, tellement elle en parlait avec fascination.

On avait d'ailleurs conçu un "Portrait d'artiste" de 52 minutes sur la vie et l'œuvre de l'écrivain, avec elle en narratrice. L'émission est toujours à la MBC. Et ce serait un bel hommage à elle que de la reprogrammer. A l'étranger, les exégètes sont aussi révéérés que les auteurs car, sou-

vent, ces adorateurs d'un écrivain et de son œuvre arrivent à nous faire voir d'autres aspects d'un être qui ne nous était connu qu'à travers ses livres.

Bien entendu, certains avaient reproché à Aslakha de s'être trop "approprié" Cabon. Mais, pour ma part, pour avoir souvent parlé de son travail de chercheuse, je sais qu'elle était sincère dans sa démarche. Et il manque de telles personnes dans notre landerneau littéraire: des êtres sincères qui épousent un écrivain, et son écriture, et restituent ensuite leur regard d'amoureux de ses mots.

Décédée à l'âge de 65 ans, Aslakha compte une abondante bibliographie sur Cabon: "Contes, nouvelles et chroniques de Marcel Cabon", "Cahier deuxième" et "L'enfant bihari", entre autres. Son grand regret était de n'avoir pas pu retrouver le roman, publié en feuilleton, que Cabon publia dans un journal, à Madagascar. Elle voulait tant retrouver ce livre, mais la distance, et le temps, lui jouaient des tours. Je l'imagine déjà aux portes du paradis des artistes, demandant où se trouve Marcel Cabon. Et ils doivent être déjà en train de dialoguer. Lui, l'accueillant avec bienveillance et, elle, sachant enfin où se trouvait "La séraphine".

A la famille endeuillée, mes sincères condoléances. J'ai souvent côtoyé Aslakha. On se tutoyait, et il y avait un respect mutuel entre nous. Son regard perçant, voire transperçant, me manquera. Il me restera ses nombreux écrits pour apprendre à la retrouver dans la quiétude. Je sais qu'il y avait des inédits d'elle sur Cabon. Qu'elle avait été obligée de ne pas publier, vu l'incompréhension autour de son travail de recherche sur l'auteur de "Namasté".

C'est d'ailleurs par ce salut indien qu'elle m'accueillait tous les jours. Comme une introduction au plus beau des romans jamais écrits dans notre île. Aslakha Callikan-Proag n'est plus. Et Marcel Cabon doit maintenant être le plus heureux des hommes. Il retrouvera celle qui a entretenu sa légende ici-bas !

**Sedley Assonne**

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### A Tribute from MGI Colleagues

It is with great sadness that we learned on Tuesday 26th May 2020 that Mrs Aslakha Callikan-Proag had passed away. Mrs Aslakha Callikan-Proag will always be remembered by her colleagues at Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

She was held in high regard by all who knew her. She was respected for her forthright manner and outspokenness. She spoke her mind, but, also sometimes allowed her deeper emotions to come through. This was particularly apparent when she spoke about the Mauritian author Marcel Cabon, whose writings were the central focus of much of Mrs Callikan-Proag's academic work. Her critical work on Cabon was seminal in the 1970s and remains an important reference in literary critique in Mauritius.

She was also very interested in cultural diversity and delved into history and the arduous field of literary translation. In the latter field, among other works, she produced a translation of a selection of short stories of Abhimanyu Unuth from Hindi into French.

We shall remember her as a remarkable woman under a "frail frame".



# Lockdown and tech overload - how to escape your screens

*Excessive screen use has been linked to addictive behaviours, changes in mood, increased stress and difficulty sleeping - here's how to take a break..*

From churchgoers to nursery school children, video calls, conferences and quizzes have become a lifeline at this time. But this has also meant the boundary between work and family life has become blurred and unbalanced - with notifications, calls and messages, interrupting mealtimes and conversations.

And herein lies part of the problem, because research has found that breaks from work where we engage with our smartphones - to play games or scroll through social networks - are less effective or restorative than conventional breaks such as walking or napping.

This is in part why we have started a new research project to find out how increased screen use during the pandemic - for both learning and downtime - is affecting student wellbeing and concentration levels. Existing research shows that students who are addicted to their phones have lower level of self-regulated learning, low level of flow - or feeling "in the zone" - and are constantly interrupted by applications on their phones when they are studying. So we want to see if enforced break time - away from all screens - could help.

## What the research says

Studies have found that by three months of age, about 40% of children regularly watch television, DVDs, or videos. And by 24 months, this number rises to 90%.

Research from the US has also found that between the ages of eight and 18, children spend on average seven hours and 11 minutes a day engaging with screen-based entertainment. While research from Ofcom shows that, on average, adults in the UK check their phones every 12 minutes.

In this sense, lockdown isn't helping those who are already addicted to their screens. The need to constantly check the news is also creating new screen addicts - linked with increased levels of stress, anxiety, insomnia, and even trauma.

Research proves that too much screen time results in headaches, migraines, eyestrain, obesity and sleep deprivation. It's thought to also cause behavioural problems in children, difficulties at school, and increased levels of violence.

## How to de-screen

All of which highlights the importance of taking a break from screens - particularly during this time of increased stress. Below are some tips to help.

**Take a day off:** Put one day a week aside to give yourself and your gadgets a rest. Turn off the laptop, TV, tablet and smartphone and spend some quality time "offline". Cook a meal for your family, do some gardening, work on your hobbies, tick off some chores on your to-do list - anything as long as it's away from the screens.

**Don't carry your phone around:** Your phone does not have to permanently reside in your pocket, this just encourages bad habits like checking it on the toilet or at the dinner table. Being "deviceless" helps you to live in the moment, unwind and focus more on what you're



doing - without worrying about what might be happening "out there".

**Allow yourself to be bored:** Experiencing boredom off-screen is a natural path to creativity. We can use our boredom as fuel to motivate us to achieve tasks we have been putting off. This will allow your dopamine receptors to recover from all that tech use as well - excessive screen use causes too much dopamine to flood the brain which has been linked to addictive behaviours, changes in mood, increased stress and difficulty sleeping. Time away from the screen can also give you the chance to think about what you want to accomplish and how.

**Try a family switch off:** Set aside some device-free time into your family schedule a few times a week. On certain days, after 6pm the whole family should switch off all devices. This will push everyone to have a few hours of quality screen-free time before bed.

**Step away from the screen:** It might also be worth thinking about how to counterbalance all that screen time. For every hour you spend working, you could take ten minutes to walk around the house, make a cup of tea, jump on a trampoline, go for a quick run, do some stretches - anything to get you up and moving. This will help to bring some separation into your life - allowing you to switch off and think - without all those notifications and alerts.

All of this is important because studies show that exceeding two hours of recreational screen time directly affects our brains, resulting in slower processing speed, shorter attention span and deterioration in memory. Reduced screen time, on the other hand, sharpens our concentration and allows us to complete tasks more efficiently and manage our time more effectively.

In fact why not start now: put down your phone, tablet, or whatever you are reading this on, look at something in the distance to give your eyes a good stretch, and get up and do something else - your body and brain will thank you for it.

Sina Joneidy  
Teesside University

Charmele Ayadurai  
Durham University

## Food for Thought

# School of Man Making

Standing on a hilltop, a man was admiring the landscape of the valley dotted with temples, small houses and footpaths existing on the periphery of a modern down town boasting of material progress. Suddenly his attention was attracted by a set of unique huts and old-time classrooms surrounded by trees. Curiosity ignited, he started a downward trek towards the cluster.

His destination was defined by an intriguing sign board "School of Man Making".

Peeping through the gate, he saw many boys and girls, studying books, sitting in meditation, learning vocations and performing on stage. All well-coordinated and self-motivated.

The man spotted Acharya and respectfully asked, "What is this School of Man Making?"

Acharya shocked him with his answer, "It is actually a School of Animal Modification."

"How is that," he asked.

The Acharya responded, "The trainees observe them and then train them, it is an orientation program.

"The students start with donkeys, who love to sit, laze and shirk carrying loads.

After that they work on rabbits, wanting to circumvent responsibilities and difficult situations. Next are two eagles ready to pounce, to be taught not to hurt and destroy others. Then come two hawks, staring at everything - good or bad; teaching discretion is curriculum.

"The most difficult to tame is the "snake." Although it is locked in a strong cage with 32 bars, it is always ready to sting, bite and poison anyone nearby. The trainees have to mollify venom.

"Our success rate is lowest with lions. They are proud and vain, always thinking that they are kings, deserving lion's share in every imaginable sphere."

"That sounds like a big zoo or circus. Where do you keep all of those, I do not see them? There are no training arenas where the aspirants can experiment, learn and train."

The Acharya explained, "The essential part of the training is to recognize, catch and control. Although the catchment area is limited in physical dimensions but it has a myriad of sanctuaries, preserved and reserved from times immemorial within the limited area. Each animal inherits the imprints of his nature derived from a series of experiences and also learns to camouflage it with masks of deception."

The Man getting confused by the terminology said, "Where can I see this plethora of so far invisible animals, running loose, behaving in their primordial nature?"

The Acharya indicated towards a full-length mirror reflecting the image of the man. "But that is me," said the bewildered man.

The Acharya smiled, "Not only you, different animals roam loose inside our bodies exhibiting different degrees of ferocity. The programs are named and designed to suit individual personality traits."

Donkey is our Body - inculcate Diligence,

Rabbits is Feet - promote Determination,

Eagles are Eyes - develop Discernment,

Hawks are Hands - awaken Compassion,

Snake is Tongue - imbibe Deference,

Lion is Ego - teach Humility.

The objective of man-making is achieved when two hawks and two eagles are trained, a rabbit assured, one snake disciplined, a donkey motivated and a lion tamed..."



In A Light Vein

# Recent findings on the Covid-19... after extensive research !!!

1. Only 3 persons can travel in a car... the 4th person attracts the Covid.
2. The pillion rider on a two-wheel is Covid prone !!
3. Only 20 persons in a bus. 21st will bring corona.
4. After 7 pm, corona takes walk till 7am. Don't venture out.
5. If you carry liquor from shop, corona won't mind. But it will catch you if you sit in bar and drink.
6. If you travel with pass between Zones you won't get it. But it will hold on to you if you travel without pass.
7. You won't get it, if you buy from vendor or shops. But it is waiting for you in a market
8. It won't touch politicians and their crony, without mask. But if it happens to see a common man without mask, it will run to embrace him.
9. Sunday don't venture out. It is on a spreading spree ... but it is on a holiday on week days.
10. It is waiting in temples, mosque and churches. But stays away from factories and industries.
11. It will surely catch you if you dine in hotels. But it doesn't bother if you sit there waiting to take away food.
12. It is not invited in rich marriages with N number of guests. But in poor man's marriage, it accompanies 51st man.

So be careful and learn to live with it...

\* \* \*

## Debate about reopening

*The American Medical Association debated whether the country should be re-opened. Here are the results by medical specialty...*

**T**he Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

Meanwhile, Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" While Pediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and the Internists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow.

The Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter." Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea.

Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the a..holes in Washington.

\* \* \*

## Hard-hitting humorous comments!

**I**n my many years I have come to a conclusion... that one useless man is a shame, two (useless men) is a law firm and three or more (useless men) is a government.

-- John Adams

If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed.

-- Mark Twain

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.

-- Winston Churchill

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

-- George Bernard Shaw

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.

-- Douglas Casey, Classmate of Bill Clinton at Georgetown University

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

-- P.J. O'Rourke, Civil Libertarian

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!

-- Pericles

No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session.

-- Mark Twain

\* \* \*

The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other.

-- Ronald Reagan

The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.

-- Mark Twain

What this country needs are more unemployed politicians.

-- Edward Langley, Artist

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have.

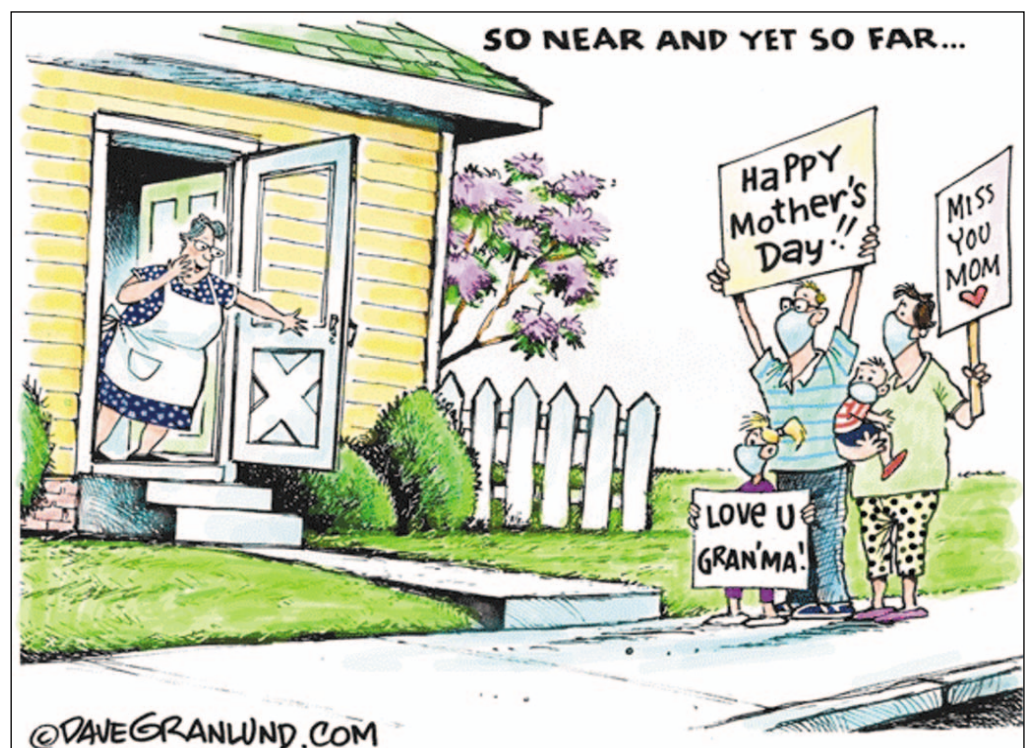
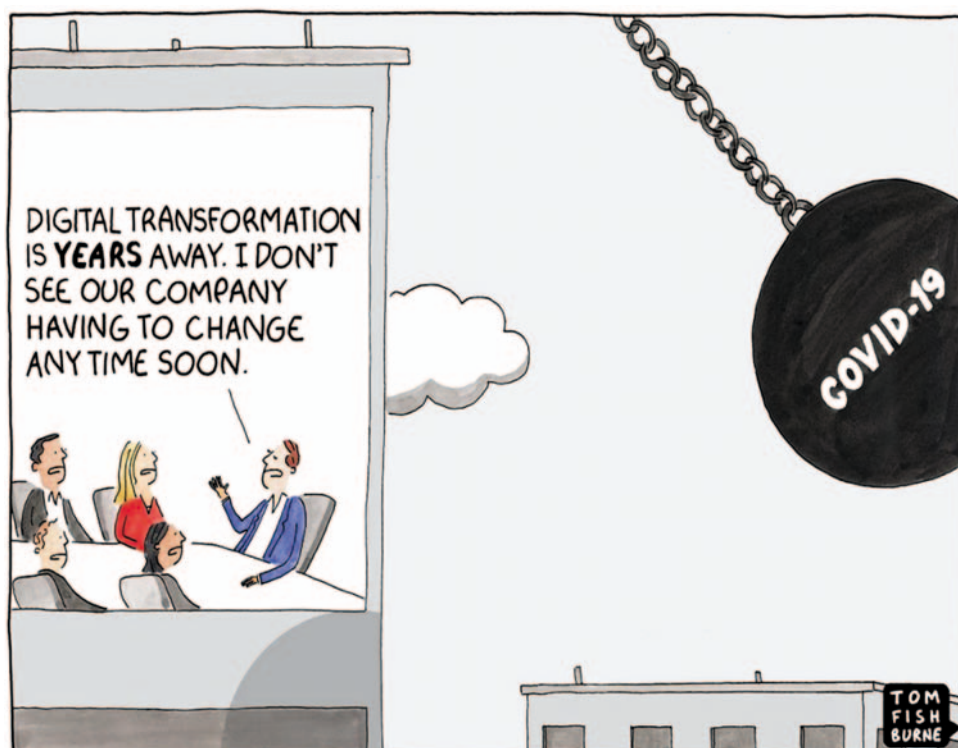
-- Thomas Jefferson

We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office.

-- Aesop

If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free!

-- P.J. O'Rourke





# Killing off Wolverine in 'Logan' was logical, says James Mangold

'Logan' was Hugh Jackman's swansong as Wolverine and director James Mangold says killing off the adamantium-clawed mutant was a simple, logical decision. It was announced in 2015 that the Hollywood star would play the fan favourite X-Men character for the final time in the 2017 sequel to 'The Wolverine'.

The director said both he and Jackman were on board right from the outset of the film's premise.

Mangold said the process was "a lot less of a committee than you'd 'think'".

"It was really Hugh and I at first. It seemed logical, that if it were going to be his last film, that he's either going to ride off onto the horizon or die, that you need to have some kind of curtain on his story. That's a logical assumption, right?"

"But the reason the choice was at our feet was because you needed the sense of closure. You needed some sense of an ending if you were going to end, if you were dealing with the legacy of Hugh's many performances and many films, and trying to set this part in some definitive way," he told.

Jackman, who tasted international stardom as Wolverine in his first Hollywood movie 'X-Men', played the role from 2000 to 2018 in the film series.

The Australian actor holds the Guinness World Record for "longest career as a live-action Marvel superhero" for playing Logan/ Wolverine.

And contrary to their expectations, Mangold revealed, studio Fox was surprisingly in favour of killing off such a popular character when they pitched the idea.

"Frankly, even the studio didn't even have nervousness about it, because it felt like an event. It gave the movie, on a simple level, the reality that while it may not feature as flamboyant or expensive action as some other movies, that the



must see of the movie was going to be because it would be the end of a legend," he added.

Jackman recently admitted he departed the 'X-Men' franchise at the right time.

He added that he is looking forward to some other actor take up the role in a potential new take.

## Urvashi Rautela: Bad taste in guys is my talent

Meanwhile, the actress is looking forward to the release of her film *Virgin Bhanupriya* on an OTT platform. She has assured fans that the experience of watching the movie on a digital platform will be no less than watching it in theatres.

Actress and former beauty queen Urvashi Rautela feels she has "bad taste" in guys. Urvashi took to Instagram to share a short video, where she takes a dig at her taste in men. "Bad taste in guys is my talent," she wrote while posting the video along with a heart emoji.

She recently also shared a stunning new photograph in a red cut-out crop top. She completed her look with a winged eyeliner and nude lips. Urvashi Rautela donated Rs. 50 million to aid the fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic a while back. She also took to Instagram to inform her fans about conducting a virtual dance masterclass. Her session is free for all those who wish to lose their weight and learn dance. In the



session, she taught zumba, tabata and Latin dance. The dance masterclass on TikTok connected her with 18 million people, and she received Rs. 50 million for it, which she donated.

Meanwhile, the actress is looking forward to the release of her film *Virgin Bhanupriya* on an OTT platform. She has assured fans that the experience of watching the movie on a digital platform will be no less than watching it in theatres.

"The experience of watching *Virgin Bhanupriya* on digital platform will be no less than watching the film in theatres. It's exciting that at least the film is ready and a lot of people will see it. What better than digital platform or an OTT platform, which is going to go across 200 territories worldwide? It's like a world premiere to me. More people will watch it," said Urvashi in an interview.

*Virgin Bhanupriya* also stars Gautam Gulati, Archana Puran Singh, Delnaaz Irani, Rajiv Gupta and Brijendra Kala, Niki Aneja Walia and Rumana Molla.

### YOUR STARS

#### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You'll be determined to face a certain number of problems, which you've tried to dodge until now. Your relations with your close relatives will be warmer. Excellent relations with your friends. As for singles, they will make very promising encounters.

#### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Beware of your present emotions, because they'll induce you to adopt an ambiguous attitude, which will prove to be a source of problems. If you must ask for a loan or make a financial transaction of utmost importance, this will be the perfect moment.

#### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Your personal bloom and relations with others will hardly be favoured - everything will seem to you confused, complex, and negative. You won't really make out that well in your emotional life; sometimes so eager for tenderness, sometimes distant, you'll confuse those who love you.

#### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You'll use your abilities to advantage in your work by bringing an extremely ambitious project to a successful conclusion. A very good week for straightening out your accounts; you'll consolidate your material situation thanks to a complete reorganization.

#### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Get out of yourself by means of a thrilling hobby; rid your mind of black ideas and morose obsessions. The family ambience will not be eventless! You who know so well how to appease quarrels will tend this time to add fuel to the fire, only in order to be able afterwards to restore calm yourself.

#### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Everything will go well health wise, but you'll have to avoid excessive fatigue. You'll be very skilful and will know how to obtain a lot from everybody, particularly on the professional plane. Don't fulminate against that unexpected incident: nobody's able to foresee everything and something has to be left to chance!

#### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Your relationships with your children will be placed under the sign of good understanding. You won't be spared various worries, notably the ones related to a succession. Beware of certain of your neighbours.

#### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll have the impression of having all of the world's pieces of bad luck at the same time, but it will only be an impression! Hurry to pay bills, possible parking tickets, taxes, and debts; you'll feel much relieved afterwards. It would be useful to adopt a relaxation method which you'll practice regularly; it can be yoga, tai-chi, or warm bath.

#### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

At home, things will run smoothly. A favourable week for stable marriages. Take care of your appearance; this could help you to influence others positively. You'll be exposed to cuts, bruises, and various minor ailments that could get on your nerves considerably.

#### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You'll need to make your everyday life less chaotic. Control your words, and content yourself with holding back anything that you're not obliged to say; in case of trouble, quickly recognize your errors or take the first steps toward a reconciliation.

#### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Notable progress in your social situation; what you'll achieve this time can be deciding for your long-term future. Beware of certain unscrupulous friends of yours. You'll feel more and more close to and bound up with your spouse or partner; remember that in love it's much more important to give than to receive.

#### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Take advantage of this favourable time to discuss important family matters with your spouse; together, you'll make judicious decisions; if you don't do it now, the dialogue will become more difficult.





## 'Bin Kuch Kahe' stars and their enviable chemistry!

Popular Television show *Bin Kuch Kahe*, which airs on Zee Channel, whose lead protagonists Sameer Arora and Shamata Anchan are melting the hearts of television audience with their unusual onscreen chemistry!

According to sources close to them, the duo not only share an interesting chemistry on screen but have a great camaraderie off screen as well.

Talking about their chemistry, Sameer says, "We sometimes fight over petty things like who will give his/her close up shot first or whose tea spot dada should get first, especially when he shows up with only one cup (laughs). The direction team, specially the chief AD has in fact praised us for

the sharing a similar on & off screen, which is so natural."

Leading lady, Shamata also had some really good things to say about her chemistry with Sameer.

"I met him at the workshops for our show prior to the shoot. We instantly connected during our scene rehearsals & made ourselves comfortable for the shoot. I love pulling his leg & joking around with him. We have a friendly relationship. What I particularly love about Sameer's character Kabir is that he's a thorough gentleman, caring & a suave guy. He takes care of my character Myra's family for which I eventually start respecting. I believe his character is similar to that of Mark Darcy from the novel 'Pride And Prejudice'," the actor shared.

In conversation with Aaron Thanki of urbanasian.com

## Karan V Grover: 'For now I will say my fan is Dr Rohit Sippy'



**You have been in the television industry for over 15 years, what has been your most favourite character to play to date?**

Frankly I'm not a person of any

favourites; I have no favourite colour, food or hobby. I thoroughly enjoy what I do in the present as it tends to consume all my energy and for that period of time it becomes my favourite. So, for now I will say my fan is Dr Rohit Sippy.

**Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum is your comeback on TV after 2 years, what made you choose the character of Dr Rohit Sippy?**

What attracts me to a role or a show is always the makers conviction and, in this case, Sandeep Sikkand's belief, confidence and conviction in a show like *Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum* and more importantly in an unconventional character like Rohit Sippy. Rohit is all shades of emotions but in extreme doses. Firstly, he is a top-notch heart surgeon with lots of wit and sarcasm. Add to that he is crazily romantic and passionate and highly guarded and protective of his family. Moreover, he has a temper, so I really get to create and play 'the 50 shades of Rohit Sippy'.

**What makes Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum different from other serials you've been a part of?**

*Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum* is the only show which is portraying the TV Industry the way it is. The challenges, the pre-

sumptions, the hard work as well as the chaos and shortcomings are most aptly shown to the audience. Our female lead Sonakshi Rastogi played by Dipika Kakar Ibrahim talks to the audience directly breaking the fourth wall which has not been done before. So, in these ways it is totally different. Also, we have a love story between a heart surgeon, someone who has grown up on logic and reasoning vs someone who believes in magic of a fictional world, an actor from the glamour field. Two total opposites! That's what makes it fresh and fun.

**What has been your most memorable scene to shoot in Kahaan Hum Kahaan Tum?**

I shot a scene for the Maha Episode where Sonakshi catches Rohit dancing naked. That one was crazy!

**What are your dynamics like with your co-stars?**

The team has a mixed bunch of talented and fun individuals. Dipika's zeal and involvement is highly encouraging, she makes me up my game with every passing episode. That said, each and everyone wants to bring forward their "A game". I feel blessed to have them around me. It truly makes my work and my life feels abundant and rewarding.

### TV SERIAL

## Kulfi Kumar Bajewala

**Friday 29 May:** Sikander scolds Amyra for insulting Kulfi. Later, she apologises to him. But, there is more to it than meets the eye.

**Monday 1 June:** Kulfi is elated to learn that Sikander will publically declare her as his daughter. Later, Kulfi and Amyra stun the audiences with their melodious performance.

**Tuesday 2 June:** Sikander learns about Amyra's love for him but is terrified that she has harmed herself. Later, he makes an unexpected decision, leaving Kulfi shattered.

**Wednesday 3 June:** Sikander's cowardly act distresses Kulfi while Amyra rejoices. Later, enraged with Sikander, Mahinder takes a startling decision.

**Thursday 4 June:** Mahinder publicly undertakes Kulfi as his responsibility. Meanwhile, Loveleen is baffled by Sikander's behaviour.

## Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai

**Friday 29 May:** All people of the colony are very irritated with the abnormal behaviour of Naina's father and try to maintain distance from him. But this makes him feel more inferior and mentally ill.

**Monday 1 June:** Sameer finally reaches to a director's office for an interview where he gets rejected due to his dancing skills. He returns from there and goes to Naina to let her know about his grief.

**Tuesday 2 June:** Naina's father allows Sameer and Naina to celebrate their first anniversary by going out. Sameer surprises her with chocolates but mistakenly are liquor chocolates.

**Wednesday 3 June:** Sameer and Naina are in a fix, where they ask Naina's father for forty thousand rupees so that Sameer can join the acting classes and she defends her point by mentioning that by learning acting, he shall find work more easily.

**Thursday 4 June:** Naina plans to sort everything out with the society members during the Christmas party but Nirmala calls them and tells them that they shouldn't risk it by going to the party. Sameer comes up with a plan and takes help from Shibani.

## Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

**Friday 29 May:** Sonakshi rescues Rohit but he does not appreciate her gesture. Later, she panics on seeing police at the check post while Netra gets some unexpected news.

**Monday 1 June:** At Netra's insistence, Sumit apologises to Sonakshi. Later, she overhears Rohit's conversation, which forces her to take a drastic step.

**Tuesday 2 June:** Rohit is forced to call Sonakshi to inaugurate the new wing of the hospital. Later, he gets impressed with her speech at the press conference.

**Wednesday 3 June:** The Sippys praise Sonakshi at the party, but she is hurt when Rohit remains unimpressed. Later, he stops her from meeting a young fan in his hospital.

**Thursday 4 June:** When Sonakshi spends a night in the hospital, she chances upon her ex-boyfriend Karan. Later, Rohit gets a shocking phone call in the middle of the night.



## CINE 12

Vendredi 29 mai - 21.15

## Still Alice

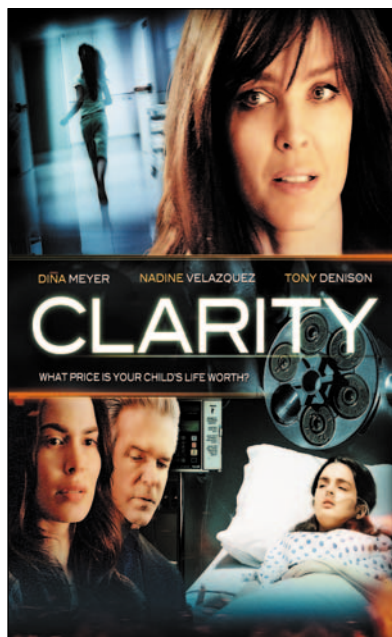
Avec: Julianne Moore, Alec Baldwin,  
Kristen Stewart

Un professeur de linguistique et sa famille trouvent leurs liens testés lorsqu'elle reçoit un diagnostic de maladie d'Alzheimer.

## CINE 12

Samedi 30 mai - 21.15

## Clarity

Avec: Nadine Velazquez, Dina Meyer,  
Maurice Compte

Lorsque Maggie, 22 ans, tombe soudainement dans le coma, les médecins lui ont diagnostiqué une maladie rénale génétique.

Déjà au stade final, elle doit recevoir une greffe de rein d'un membre de la famille avec une correspondance parfaite. À son insu et à celle de ses frères et sœurs, Maggie a été adoptée du Mexique après avoir été kidnappée et vendue à sa riche famille.



vendredi 29 mai

## MBC 1

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion  
07.00 Dessin Anime  
10.30 Mag: Origami  
10.45 Mag: Zoboomafoo  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Doc: Wildlife Heroes  
12.35 Doc: 360 GEO  
13.20 Local: Rodrigues  
14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur  
14.41 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack  
14.44 D.Anime: Astrology  
15.07 D.Anime: Kuu Kuu Harajuku  
16.28 D.Anime: Johnny Test  
17.00 Live Press Conference  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.00 Local: Press Conference  
20.35 Prod: Komiko  
22.15 Serial: Chicago Police...  
23.00 Le Journal

## MBC 2

04.30 Aastha TV  
07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: Tumhaari Natasha  
11.19 Serial: MOL  
12.04 Film:  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Honaar Soon Mee Hya...  
15.43 Mooga Manasulu  
16.03 Apoorva Raagangal  
16.30 Serial: Ki Jaana Mein Kaun  
16.53 Serial: Gangaa  
18.00 Serial: Dr. Quin  
18.30 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 DDI Magazine  
19.50 Local: Yaadein  
20.20 Serial: Mah-E-Tamaam  
21.25 Local: Anjuman  
21.26 Local: Urdu Programme  
22.37 DDI Live

## MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India  
06.44 Mag: Shift  
07.00 Mag: Border Crossing  
07.29 Doc: A Question Of Science  
07.31 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
08.53 World Stamps  
09.00 Live Educational Program...  
16.56 Mag: Strictly Street  
17.19 Doc: The War On My Phone  
18.04 Doc: Curse Of The Pacific  
18.43 Mag: Urban Gardens  
19.00 Mag: Global 3000  
19.29 Doc: A Question Of Science  
19.58 Doc: Six Pieds Dans La...  
20.52 Doc: World Stamps  
21.03 Local: Car Wars  
21.46 Doc: Photo Number 6  
22.28 Digital Warriors Women  
23.12 Doc: Curse Of The Pacific  
23.59 Mag: Arts And Culture  
00.37 Doc: A Question Of Science

## Cine 12

01.34 Film: Sniper Reloaded  
03.02 Serial: S.W.A.T  
03.40 Film: Notting Hill  
05.44 Tele: Amanda  
07.08 Film: Cassidy Red  
09.00 Serial: Line Of Duty  
09.51 Tele: Au Nom De L'Amour  
10.13 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett  
10.35 Serial: S.W.A.T  
11.25 Tele: Dulce Amor  
11.45 Film: Notting Hill  
13.44 Tele: Amanda  
14.45 Film: Cassidy Red  
16.40 Serial: Line Of Duty  
17.39 Serial: When Calls The Heart  
18.21 Tele: Au Nom De L'amour  
18.45 Tele: Mariana Et Scarlett  
19.10 Tele: Dulce Amor  
20.05 Tele: Totalment Diva  
20.30 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
21.15 Film: Still Alice

## Bollywood TV

09.21 Film: Chori Mera Kaam  
12.04 / 19.54 -  
Kahan Hum Kahan Tuam  
12.26 / 20.11 -  
Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala  
12.46 / 20.32 Radha Krishna  
13.08 / 21.09 - Bin Kuch Kahe  
13.30 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek  
13.52 / 21.46 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.14 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan  
14.35 / 22.25 - Ishqbaaz  
15.10 Film: Laila Majnu  
Stars: Avinash Tiwary, Tripti Dimri  
18.00 Live: Samacher  
18.30 Kumkum Bhagya  
18.51 Piya Albela  
19.13 Mere Angne Mein  
19.24 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai  
20.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum

samedi 30 mai

06.00 Dessin Anime  
09.36 Mag: Origami  
09.55 Serial: Grandpa In My Pocket  
10.25 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida...  
11.15 Local: Itinerer Moris  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Local: People - No 28  
13.10 Local: Elle  
14.00 Local: Fee Main  
14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur  
14.44 D.Anime: Le Quiz De Zack  
16.09 D.Anime: The Deep  
16.30 D.Anime: Johnny Test  
17.00 Live Press Conference  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Entertainment: Nach Baliye  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.00 Local: Press Conference  
20.35 Local: Autour Des Valeurs  
21.40 Film: Ride  
23.15 Local: Le Journal

04.30 Aastha TV  
07.00 Film:  
11.40 Good Morning Shanghai  
12.00 Nanda Saukhya Bhare  
12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
12.48 Serial: Brundavanam  
13.10 Serial: Annakodiyum Ainthu  
13.35 Serial: Anu Pallavi  
14.05 Entertainment: Dil Hai Hindu  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Film: Imtihaan  
18.00 Mag: Check In  
18.30 Mag: Eco@Africa  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 DDI Magazine  
20.05 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki  
Rahasya Gatha  
20.21 Serial: Bitti Business Wali  
21.00 Film:  
23.15 DDI Live

06.00 Doc: Curse Of The Pacific  
06.47 Mag: Arts And Culture  
07.29 Doc: A Question Of Science  
08.03 Doc: The Pacific, An Ocean...  
08.51 Doc: World Stamps  
09.48 Doc: Photo Number 6  
10.31 Digital Warriors Woman  
11.16 Doc: Curse Of The Pacific  
12.02 Mag: Amy Winehouse  
13.01 Mag: Arts And Culture  
13.17 Six Pieds Dans La Savanne  
14.10 Doc: Car Wars  
15.00 Local: Bonn Fet Mama  
17.28 Mag: Urban Gardens  
17.33 Mag: Global 3000  
18.04 Doc: Horizon S  
19.00 Doc: Olivia's Garden  
19.30 Mag: Mixeur, Les Gouts et...  
20.02 Doc: Wildlife Heroes  
20.59 Doc: World Stamps  
20.58 Doc: Les Dessins D'yves...  
21.53 The Reverse Exploration

01.42 Film: Still Alice  
03.22 Serial: The Bletchley Circle  
04.02 Film: Lucky Dog  
05.30 Tele: Destiny  
06.18 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
06.45 Film: The Pirate  
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer  
09.19 Film: Miracles From Heaven  
10.55 Film: Beethoven  
12.27 Serial: The Bletchley Circle  
13.13 Tele: L'esclave Blanche  
13.55 Tele: La Premiere Dame  
14.52 Mag: Hollywood New Feed  
15.05 Film: Lucky Dog  
17.00 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
17.45 Film: Changing Saddles  
19.16 Mag: Close Up  
20.05 Tele: Totalment Diva  
20.30 Series: Midnight, Texas  
21.15 Film: Clarity  
22.45 Tele: Eva Luna

04.05 Kahan Hum Kahan Tum  
04.26 Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala  
04.43 Radha Krishna  
05.05 Zindagi Ki Mehek  
05.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
05.47 Chhanchhan  
06.07 Ishqbazz  
06.29 Kumkum Bhagya  
06.50 Piya Albela  
07.12 Mere Angne Mein  
08.00 Zindagi Ki Mehek  
10.11 Yeh Un Dinon Ki Baat Hai  
12.30 Film: Fanny Khan  
Starring: Anil Kapoor,  
Aishwarya Rai Bachchan,  
Rajkummar Rao  
14.35 Bin Kuch Kahe  
16.00 Pavitra Rishta  
18.30 Film: Padmaavat  
21.06 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
21.49 Serial: Naagin Season 2  
22.34 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek

dimanche 31 mai

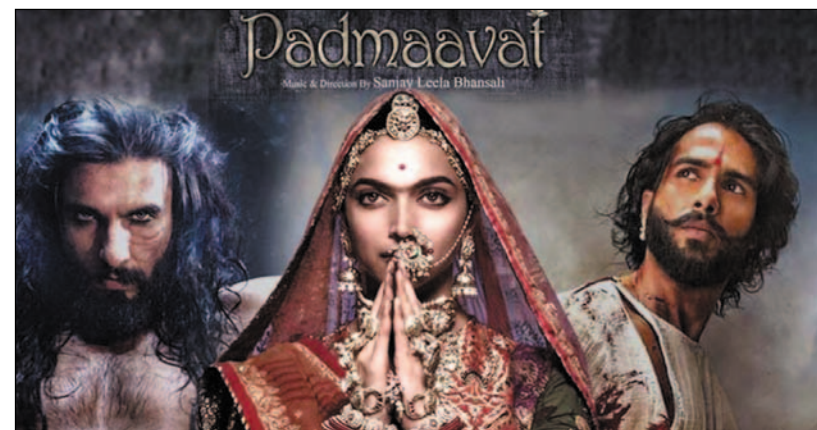
06.00 Dessin Anime  
09.45 Serial: Grandpa In My Pocket  
10.05 Au Pays Des Merveilles  
11.00 Local: Un Rasinn  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Prod: Komiko  
14.30 D.Anime: Bob Le Bricoleur  
14.46 D. Anime: Le Quiz De Zack  
14.55 D.Anime: Zou  
15.30 D.Anime: Astrology  
15.55 D.Anime: Mademoiselle...  
16.30 D.Anime: Johnny Test  
17.00 Live Press Conference  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.05 Local: Press Conference  
20.35 Local: Autour Des Valeurs  
21.30 Local: Faya Vibes  
22.00 Film: Left For Dead  
23.30 Le Journal

04.30 Aastha TV  
07.00 Film: Paapi  
10.00 Local: Shree Durga...  
11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai  
12.00 Film:  
15.00 Samachar  
15.20 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
15.40 Serial: Eka Lagnachi Teesri  
16.06 Apoorva Raagangal  
16.28 Local: Yaadein  
16.54 Serial: Mahakali  
18.00 Lettre Pastorale Careme  
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 DDI Magazine  
20.00 Serial: Maharakshak  
20.42 Serial: Naagin  
21.28 Serial: CID  
22.15 Serial: Piya Rangrezz

06.00 Doc: Horizon  
06.51 Doc: Olivia's Garden  
07.44 Doc: Wildlife Heroes  
08.38 Doc: World Stamps  
10.28 By Train Across Sri Lanka  
11.10 Doc: Horizon S  
12.00 Musical Concert Selena  
13.56 Doc: Les Dessins D'yves...  
14.51 The Reverse Exploration  
16.24 Doc: Horizon S  
17.19 Doc: Olivia's Garden  
17.45 Mag: Mixeur, Les Gouts...  
18.11 Doc: Anna's Wildlife  
18.35 Doc: Garden Party  
19.05 Doc: Builders Of The Future  
19.35 Mag: Mixeur, Les Gouts Et...  
20.06 Doc: Gutenberg, L'aventure  
20.58 Doc: World Stamps  
21.49 Doc: Dream Babies  
22.43 Doc: Africa Rising  
23.25 Doc: Anna's Wildlife

00.24 Tele: Midnight, Texas  
01.34 Film: Clarity  
03.04 Serial: Hawaii 5-0  
03.46 Film: Changing Saddles  
05.14 Tele: Destiny  
06.09 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
06.45 My Best Friend Wedding  
08.34 Serial: Mike Hammer  
09.18 Film: Notting Hill  
11.18 Film: Changing Saddles  
12.46 Serial: Hawaii 5-0  
13.28 Tele: L'esclave Blanche  
14.09 Tele: Premiere Dame  
15.06 Film: La Promesse D'une Vie  
17.09 Serial: Midnight, Texas  
18.30 Series: Mission: Impossible  
19.16 Mag: Hollywood News Feed  
20.05 Tele: Totalment Diva  
20.30 Serial: Counterpart  
21.15 Film: Inside Man  
23.18 Film: Notting Hill

01.13 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
02.14 Bin Kuch Kahe  
04.05 Pavitra Rishta  
05.28 Film: Padmaavat  
08.16 Chhanchhan  
09.58 Itna Karo Na Mujhe Pyaar  
12.30 Film: Mera Ghar Mere  
Bachche  
Starring: Raj Babbar,  
Smita Patil, Meenakshi  
Sheshadri  
15.10 Kulfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.00 Punar Vivaah  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Film: Baghban  
Starring: Amitabh  
Bachchan, Hema Malini,  
Aman Verma  
20.42 Entertainment: Nach Baliye  
21.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai

Samedi 30 mai - 12.30 Stars: Anil Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai  
Bachchan, Rajkummar RaoSamedi 30 mai - 18.30 Stars: Deepika Padukone, Shahid  
Kapoor, Ranveer Singh



# La réalité des ressources



Nita Chicooree-Mercier



„Les terres inexploitées pourront servir à développer l'agriculture par les planteurs tandis que s'exprime davantage la nécessité de mettre à la disposition des particuliers les terrains abandonnés en friche couverts de plantes sauvages, épineuses, lianes et utilisés comme dépotoirs pour objets encombrants dans les villages et les quartiers résidentiels le long des côtes. C'est une pratique courante qui gagnerait à être répandue. Très souvent les propriétaires résident ailleurs dans l'île ou à l'étranger et consentent en tout bon sens à laisser les voisins cultiver les terres. Il incombe au ministère de l'Agriculture et le *District Councils* de mettre sur pied ce type d'exploitation des terres qui existe dans d'autres pays. Il suffit de répertorier les terrains et de prendre contact avec les propriétaires, et aussi, de mettre les terres de l'Etat à la disposition des cultivateurs...”

être revues à la longue.

A peine trois semaines après le confinement la difficulté de s'approvisionner en légumes s'est fait sentir chez les végétariens purs et d'autres qui le sont à 80-90%. Compte-tenu des prix prohibitifs affichés dans les supermarchés (quand c'était affiché!) qui ont grandement profité de la situation en tant que seuls vendeurs, les gens ont vite trouvé la solution en s'approvisionnant directement chez les cultivateurs ou dans les petites échoppes le long des routes. Cette entorse à la règle a suscité quelques commentaires avec photos à l'appui. Les queues interminables et l'offre réduite des légumes dans les supermarchés ont refroidi un bon nombre de personnes. Il n'est pas question pour les *veggies* et autres de se tourner vers les morceaux congelés qu'offrent en abondance les rayons des supermarchés.

Les terres inexploitées pourront servir à développer l'agriculture par les planteurs tandis que s'exprime davantage la nécessité de mettre à la disposition des particuliers les terrains abandonnés en friche couverts de plantes sauvages, épineuses, lianes et utilisés comme dépotoirs pour objets encombrants dans les villages et les quartiers résidentiels le long des côtes. C'est une pratique courante qui gagnerait à être répandue. Très souvent les propriétaires résident ailleurs dans l'île ou à l'étranger et consentent en tout bon sens à laisser les voisins cultiver les terres. Il incombe au ministère de l'Agriculture et le *District Councils* de mettre sur pied ce type d'exploitation des terres qui existe dans d'autres pays. Il suffit de répertorier les terrains et de prendre contact avec les propriétaires, et aussi, de mettre les terres de l'Etat à la disposition des cultivateurs en attendant que se précisent d'autres usages bien-intentionnés des autorités. Les propriétaires n'ont rien à perdre, et l'Etat non plus. Ce sera un plus dans un projet accentué par la pandémie de se diriger vers l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

La plantation de courgettes - dont un vol de 250 kilos dans un champ annoncé parmi d'autres vols de légumes - semble destinée aux supermarchés et hôtels. Ce légume est inexistant sur le marché local; est très prisé dans la cuisine méditerranéenne et en Europe, et le populariser davantage ajouterait de la variété et du goût à la cuisine locale.

Le constat d'une interruption de fabrication de fromage de chèvre par quelques Italiens pour les besoins de leur restaurant et magasin suscite une réflexion une fois qu'on a dégusté le lait de chèvre distribué par un propriétaire de cabris dès le début du confinement. Pourquoi ne pas développer une fabrication artisanale à plus grande échelle qui pourrait satisfaire l'appétit d'une clientèle restreinte à ce jour mais qui pourrait s'élargir au fil des années ? Elargir l'offre et goûter autre chose que celui affiché sur les grands panneaux publicitaires flattant 'le goût de l'île Maurice' depuis des années, un fromage salé et pas terrible comme goût. La fabrication de fromage ne relève pas de la grande technologie, que l'on sache. On ne peut que se réjouir du grand projet d'autosuffisance pour l'heure en espérant que l'intention sera suivie des actes concrets.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## Wisdom of the Owl

Owls are patient messengers, bringers of information and the holders of wisdom, capable of seeing the unseen.

For as long as humankind has recognized animals as teachers, wise men and women have recognized traits worthy of respect in both wild and domestic creatures. The cultural and spiritual significance of certain animals transcends geographical boundaries, unifying disparate peoples. Not so the majestic and mysterious owl, which has over many millennia served as the focal point of numerous contradictory beliefs. Though owls have been regarded with awe and fascination, they have also inadvertently served as agents of fear. Since owls are nocturnal, human-owl encounters tended to occur at night and likely when the bird was swooping silently down to earth to grapple with prey. Yet even as some shied away from the owl, calling it an agent of darkness, others recognized the depths of awareness in beautiful owl's eyes.

In the classical Greek tradition, an owl could often be found perched on the shoulder of Athena, goddess of wisdom, while owls could ward off bad luck in Roman lore. It is in Native American mythos, however, that the owl attains its own unique identity. Owls are patient messengers, bringers of information and the holders of wisdom, and they are capable of seeing the unseen. With their keen eyesight, they can glance into the soul to discern meaning and motive, and they are totems of truth. Unlike our distant forebears, we may never encounter an owl in the wild, but we can nonetheless internalize the wisdom of the owl by attuning ourselves to its most venerable qualities. Fully integrating the medicine of the owl into spiritual existence is a matter of considering how we might open ourselves more fully to the wisdom that can be found in the larger universe.

Should you find your efforts blocked as you commune with the owl, remember that it was not always revered as an icon of wisdom. This denizen of the nighttime has overcome many prejudices in its long association with humankind. To reveal those hidden elements of the self that impact your life for better or for worse, you must often make your way through the darkest parts of your soul as if you yourself are the nocturnal hunter. There is indeed darkness both inside the self and outside the self, but like the owl you can transcend it by drawing nourishment from the insights you receive when you penetrate it.