


MAURITIUS **TIMES**

• *“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.” -- Marie Curie*

All Guilty

The political class stand accused of repeatedly failing the country through their inept blunders costing billions of rupees of public money

By Mrinal Roy  See Page 4



The Either/Or Mindset

History is witness to numerous cataclysmic events that should shame us as human beings - except that we don't seem to learn any lesson from history

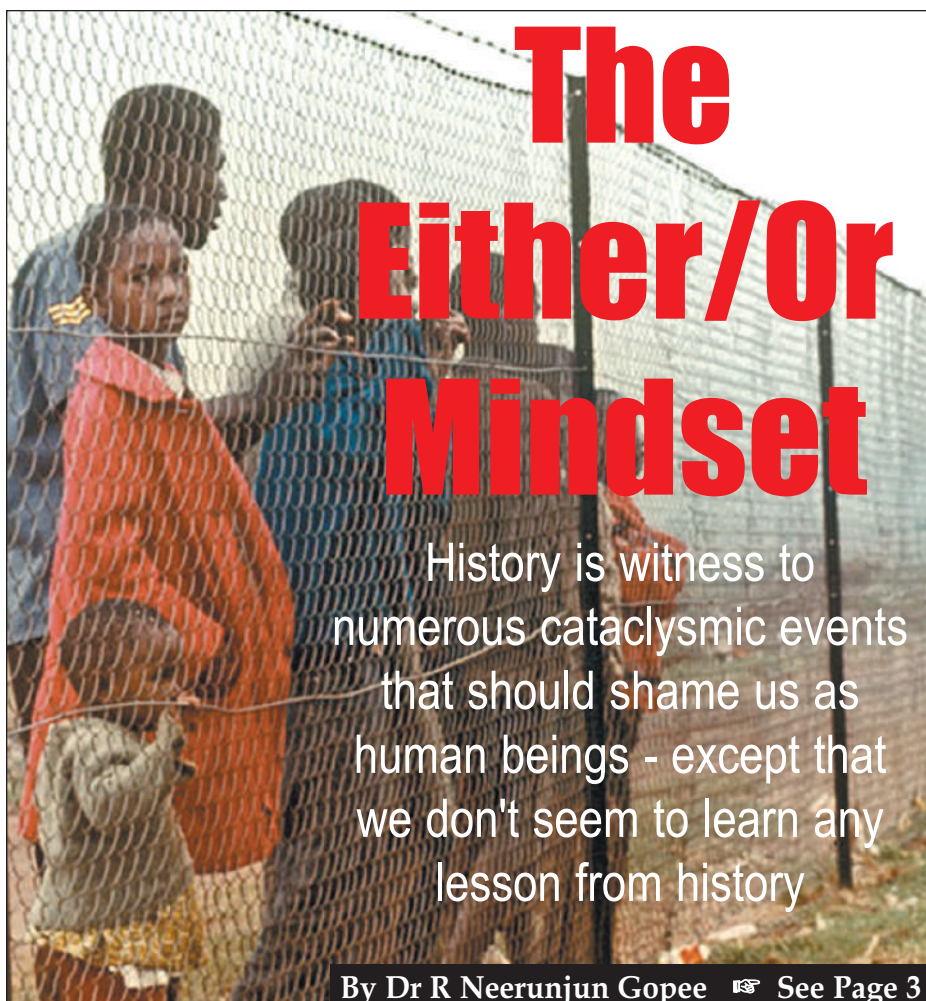
By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee  See Page 3

Interview: Rabin Bhujun, Journaliste

‘La marmite sociale va très certainement bouillonner fin 2021, début 2022...

...une économie qui sort à peine d'une récession n'est pas une économie qui crée de l'emploi à plein régime’

 Voir Page 7-8-9



Stepwise Reopening

Mauritians impatient to get back to as normal a life as possible will no doubt be relieved that as from July 1st there is going to be further lifting of restrictions that had been imposed during the ongoing pandemic. This will allow the resumption of several sectors of activities where the public usually mingle in large numbers for both work, educational, shopping and recreational activities. The list includes bazaars and open markets, prayer meetings, attendance at funerals, celebration of marriages and other occasions, eating in restaurants, going to the beach, opening of gyms, of crèches, etc.

Importantly, the tourism sector will start operating with tourists allowed to come in but will have to remain within the hotel precincts for a 14-day quarantine, after which they will be allowed to go out. Factories also will open.

All these activities will have to be undertaken under conditions that have been specified, and an appeal has been made by the Prime Minister and Ministers who intervened afterwards for cooperation on the part of the population, calling upon their sense of responsibility at individual and collective levels - that is, towards their fellow citizens. Two important points have been emphasized:

1. Covid is here to stay;
2. The need to continue observing sanitary measures which are known to all by now.

Along with vaccination that is ongoing, the return to quasi-normal lifestyle should come about without any hitch - but gradually and in a controlled manner. This is the pattern that has been followed by all countries and we are no different.

As regards vaccines, at the beginning of July the country will receive a further 500,000 doses of Sinopharm, and shortly this will be topped by the arrival of 70,000 doses of Sputnik vaccine. Online registration for vaccination has been proceeding apace, but here we must make an appeal to the authorities regarding the policy of putting workers who have not been vaccinated as yet to be put on leave without pay. This sounds somewhat unfair, because their vaccination status - assuming they are willing - will depend on when they are given a slot to get the jab, which in turn depends on availability and logistic deployment at the vaccination centres. It is a fact that in certain places people who have lined up for hours have at the end been told there is no vaccine and they will have to come back. This issue will have to be looked into. As we have repeatedly said since the Covid pandemic started, accurate and proper communication is absolutely essential so as to avoid people being subjected to additional stress. There is enough tension as it is.

Another important aspect has been highlighted by the DCP Krishna Jhugroo. Given the expansion of activities, it will be impossible for police to be present everywhere, and this means therefore that people must fully assume their responsibility especially where crowds will gather to strictly observe sanitary measures, in particular social distancing and wearing of masks. There will be helicopter surveillance in addition to hotlines being available for the public to call and signal any problem. He has reminded that if any sanctions are taken, the person concerned faces the possibility not only of heavy fines but also imprisonment, as has happened to one individual who is currently in jail. He added that the police would prefer that such situations forcing them to take sanctions be avoided by all responsible citizens.

The overall message therefore can be summed up as: Better be safe than sorry, so that we all begin to enjoy the kind life we have been sorely missing.

Mauritius Times

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

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

*This epaper has been produced with the assistance of
Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy*

Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street,
Port Louis -- Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313



mtimes@intnet.mu



www.mauritiustimes.com



facebook.com/mauritius.times

The Conversation

Who was better at predicting the course of the pandemic – experts or the public?

Members of the public were more overconfident and less accurate in predicting the likely number of infections and deaths, but both groups missed the mark

Early on in the pandemic, it seemed as if the media was asking anyone with potentially relevant expertise – scientists, doctors, statisticians – to tell us what was coming. These individuals were frequently asked to give off-the-cuff answers to questions about how bad the pandemic might get, even though there was little data to go on.

The use of expert predictions like these are important. They have the potential to shape public opinion and policy and influence how events unfold. Yet these have often been disregarded, particularly on social media, where alternative predictions by non-experts (including misinformation about experts' forecasts) spread easily.

Despite the potential influence of both expert and non-expert predictions on people's responses to the pandemic, there's been limited research on the accuracy of either – or indeed on the difference in accuracy between them. To this end, in April 2020 my colleagues and I conducted an experiment to find out whether experts really did have a better idea of what was on the way than the rest of us.

Having a sense of this could inform what sort of public role we want experts to play in a future pandemic. Likewise, it could suggest how much weight we should place on expert and non-expert predictions of how future disease outbreaks will unfold.

Higher accuracy, lower confidence

We asked 140 experts (epidemiologists, statisticians, mathematical modellers, virologists and clinicians) and 2,086 laypersons to give their best guesses on several questions about how the pandemic would progress.

We asked them, by the end of 2020, how many people in the UK would have been infected with COVID-19, how many deaths there would have been in the UK, and how many people would have died out of every 1,000 infected with the virus in the UK and worldwide. Here's how the two groups fared.



The experts' best guesses were more accurate than laypeople's on every question, but even the experts underestimated the total number of infections and deaths by a substantial margin. For example, the median estimate for the number of UK COVID-19 infections by the end of 2020 was 250,000 for non-experts and 4 million for experts. Calculations based on infection-fatality ratio research suggest the true count was closer to 6.4 million.

For each question, we also asked everyone to pick two numbers that they were 75% confident the true outcome would fall between. For example, someone might be 75% confident that between 100,000 and 1,000,000 UK residents would be infected by the end of the year. Someone who selects a narrower range – say, being 75% sure that between 200,000 and 250,000 people will be infected – is more confident about their prediction. Someone who selects a wider range is indicating that they are more uncertain.

If you are 75% sure that the true outcome will fall within the range you selected, you might reasonably hope to be correct 75% of the time. Unfortunately, our participants weren't.

Gabriel Recchia

Research Associate, Winton Centre for Risk and Evidence Communication, University of Cambridge

* Cont. on page 11



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

The Either/Or Mindset

History is witness to numerous cataclysmic events that should shame us as human beings – except that we don't seem to learn any lesson from history

Intolerance, discrimination, polarization, majoritarianism/minorityism, left/right, communism/capitalism – all these are terms that express one underlying idea: either one or the other but not

both together or an acceptable combination of both, in other words viable coexistence.

It is the atavistic **either/or** mindset that may have made sense as a survival mechanism at the dawn of mankind, but ought to have lost relevance as societies evolved and political systems developed and became more sophisticated, and people(s) started to become more accommodating of each other. Improvement along these lines occurred in leaps and bounds, perhaps accelerated to some extent after the formation of the United Nations post World War II. However, somewhere along this bumpy way we now appear to have lost our...way. Indeed, there is even more divisiveness that is now being seen, in some places in an overt and explosive manner, in others more subtly pushed or perpetrated using all kinds of subterfuges.

The term that we are hearing more often is polarization. Perhaps it is derived from the expression 'poles apart' – like the north and south poles. Or is the contemporary version of Rudyard Kipling's 'Oh, East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet.' As an online source explains, this is said of two things which are too different to ever be agreeable or harmonious. Originally this meant that if you learn young that East is East and West is West, you won't waste time trying to convert people to your views. Let alone be willing to understand their views.

I remember several years back a friend telling me that common sense tells us that a human being will always first protect self and family, then will come relatives, tribe/clan or community, society, country and last the world.

As far as tribes are concerned, I got a first-hand exposure to its reality nearly 30 years ago in Botswana. I was part of a delegation of Commonwealth Fellows who were on a tour of Southern Africa, and the first country scheduled to be visited was Botswana. I have very good memories of that visit, and one of them was the tour of the Bagatla Museum in south Botswana. Our well-read and superb guide explained to us in exquisite – sometimes gory – details about how, several decades earlier, the tribe that was currently occupying that region had fought fierce battles with and driven away the Bagatla tribe across the border: there was simply no question of the two tribes living together. 'It was either them or us,' concluded the guide. The museum displayed spears and other deadly implements used.

Our delegation comprised some Africans from other countries, and I wonder what their reaction would have been. Obviously, though, Botswana had by then moved far ahead of that *modus non-vivendi* to become one of the most developed countries under the enlightened leadership of President Masire. He was the first African leader to voluntarily step down after ruling for 18 years, the second one being Nelson Mandela after only one term. Incidentally, Botswana is also where, in a village deep inside, we were shown ancient rock paintings by a World War II veteran in the British army whose good friend was a Mauritian and he was genuinely overjoyed to meet another one almost 50

years later. Small world indeed!

The most brazen and globally decried example of intolerance and prejudice of the 20th century was of course the apartheid system in South Africa, which came to an end in 1994 when Nelson Mandela was democratically elected as President. But then came the Hutu-Tutsi conflagration in Rwanda. Fortunately, there has been reconciliation and the new dispensation that has taken over has turned around the situation to make of Rwanda a model of development in this region, leaving us far behind in many respects. We should stop our breast thumping.

Fundamentally all these terms listed above mean only one thing: that there are people who harbour deep prejudices against other people wherever they are on the basis of religion or ideology, and will go to any extent to subdue, drive away or eliminate those considered the 'other.' History is witness to numerous cataclysmic events that should shame us as human beings – except that we don't seem to learn any lesson from his-tory.

In college we were taught only Western (mainly European) history. We thus learnt about the massacre of the Cathars, the crusades, about the flight of the Quakers to America, and the Inquisition in our college days. It was much later that we came to know about the carnage that the partition of India brought about and the displacement of millions of people between India and newly-formed Pakistan, with perhaps as many barbaric deaths. Then came the Cultural Revolution in China, captured so vividly in *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*, by Chinese writer Jung Chang. Afterwards there was the genocide described by Rahul Pandita in *Our Moon Has Blood Clots*, 'the unspoken chapter in the story of Kashmir, in which it was purged of the Kashmiri Pandit community in a violent ethnic cleansing backed by Islamist militants. Hundreds of people were tortured and killed, and about 350,000 Kashmiri Pandits were forced to leave their homes and spend the rest of their lives in exile in their own country.' 'Convert, leave or die' they were told.

Wherever we look around the world, there is evidence of the either/or



Intolerance in the US. Pic - GettyImages

“Wherever we look around the world, there is evidence of the either/or mindset. Some people simply do not want to live with others not sharing the same belief(s) or subscribing to the same view about how their countries should be ruled, and who should do so. It was thought that democracy would bring about the change in mindset and foster at least a semblance of harmonious living. But it also has failed to live up to the image of the magic wand that it was supposed to be...”

mindset. Some people simply do not want to live with others not sharing the same belief(s) or subscribing to the same view about how their countries should be ruled, and who should do so. It was thought that democracy would bring about the change in mindset and foster at least a semblance of harmonious living. But it also has failed to live up to the image of the magic wand that it was supposed to be.

When will we realise that in a polity, not even the brightest and most talented of all, has all the virtues and qualities and intelligence that may help mankind attain optimum levels of existence, and that, therefore, the key to progress and sustainable lifestyle is in working together in synergy and in harmony?

Until we do that and translate it into practice within a framework that has place for everybody irrespective of race, religion or creed, or ideology, it is difficult not to be pessimistic about the future.





भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Protecting lives, ensuring happiness

LIC Centre, 1st Floor,
John Kennedy Street,
Port Louis

marketing@licmauritius.intnet.mu

208 1485, Ext 24 [Port Louis]
4674960 [Qautre Bornes]

1956-2020



Mrinal Roy

The political class stand accused of repeatedly failing the country through their inept blunders costing billions of rupees of public money

A government voted to power by the people through general elections has the sacrosanct responsibility of judiciously and efficiently managing the affairs of the State and in particular assure a sound and cost-effective use of public funds. The elected government therefore has a contract of trust with the people and is accountable for its decisions and actions. Being in power is thus not a licence for costly blunders, rash decisions undermining public interest or investment in white elephants at public expense.

However, the galling reality is that the history of Mauritius over the past decades is littered with botched decisions by successive governments costing billions of rupees to the public exchequer which have had to be borne by the people. For too long, successive governments have repeatedly made the people carry the can for their repeated blunders.

Billions galore

During the 2008-2014 period, a series of risky hedging decisions taken by Air Mauritius and the State Trading Corporation (STC) backfired. In all, they cost more than Rs 10 billion to the country which again had to be borne by the people.

“It is pointless to have institutions to ensure transparency of tender procedures while at the same time allowing emergency procedures, derogations and exemptions to enable some leonine proposals to dodge the test of objective scrutiny and evaluation to ascertain whether they are competitive, abide by all the terms requested and represent the best value for money for the country. It is equally unacceptable that confidentiality and non-disclosure clauses are used to mask full transparency of the disputed and controversial terms agreed...”

Contrary to the repeated assurances given by the government, the dismantling of the BAI Group by the government in April 2015 has cost more than Rs 20 billion of public money to the State. Why does the government not make judicious use of the findings of the nTan report to recuperate the billions of Rupees of public funds used to alleviate the distress of the BAI victims?

It is equally disconcerting that the protracted investigations relating to the allegations of corruption and bribery by 'members of the Mauritian administration and others' made by the African Development Bank and the Danish contractor Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor A/S (BWSC) in June 2020 on the Rs 4.3 billion CEB St Louis power plant contract allocated to the latter in 2014 are yet to be concluded a year later.

People have also questioned the process of emergency government procurement tenders to source medicines, protective equipment, medical supplies and equip-



“Contrary to the repeated assurances given by the government, the dismantling of the BAI Group by the government in April 2015 has cost more than Rs 20 billion of public money to the State. It is equally disconcerting that the protracted investigations relating to the allegations of corruption and bribery by 'members of the Mauritian administration and others' made by the African Development Bank and the Danish contractor BWSC in June 2020 on the Rs 4.3 billion CEB St Louis power plant contract allocated to the latter in 2014 are yet to be concluded a year later...”

ment and laboratory supplies in 2020 to fight the Covid-19 pandemic at a cost of more than Rs 1 billion from a non-descript array of suppliers. As a consequence, 50 ventilators purchased since 31 July 2020 at a cost of Rs 80 million lie distressed and uncommissioned by the suppliers.

It is pointless to have institutions to ensure transparency of tender procedures while at the same time allowing emergency procedures, derogations and exemptions to enable some leonine proposals to dodge the test of objective scrutiny and evaluation to ascertain whether they are competitive, abide by all the terms requested and represent the best value for money for the country. It is equally unacceptable that confidentiality and non-disclosure clauses are used to mask full transparency of the disputed and controversial terms agreed.

The latest source of litigation and the object of legal action for compensation is the excessive percentage of manganese in the fuel supplied by the STC in 2019 on the local market which according to the Motor Vehicles Dealers' Association has allegedly caused irreversible damage to some 3300 vehicles.

Whopping compensation

To crown it all, the whopping compensation of some Rs 5.7 billion awarded to Betamax last week by the ruling of the Privy Council will not be paid by those who irresponsibly took the questionable decision of terminating the contract between Betamax and the STC in January 2015 but once again from public funds. It is condemnable that such a rash decision was taken in the teeth of the legal advice obtained from the state legal services.

It must also be remembered that despite being repeatedly decried, the 20-year leonine contracts signed with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) as from 1997 were not terminated as they were so securely carved in stone. These contracts signed with government and its institutions beg the key question of striking the right balance between corporate interest and public interest. The Rs 5.7 billion whammy certainly has a bitter aftertaste for the people. Can hardnosed businessmen put country and the public interest above everything else?

Galling

What is particularly galling for the nation is that there has not been a single word from government to admit its

costly mistake. Instead of honestly assuming and apologizing for their patent blunder, the MSM-led government and the opposition Labour Party, the two main political protagonists responsible for this costly debacle are callously indulging in a futile blame game. In a surrealistic scenario in a context where the country has to pay out Rs 5.7 billion, the government is blaming the Labour Party for saddling the country with a leonine and allegedly tailor-made 15-year contract whereas the Labour Party is accusing the government of scuttling the contract out of vindictiveness.

This huge loss to the country and the people at a time when the country needs every available rupee from its strapped finances to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic and reboot the economy, seems secondary to the two political protagonists. For the multitude, they all stand guilty.

The political class stand accused of repeatedly failing the country through their inept blunders costing billions of rupees of public money. For the people, the current situation of impunity of governments and ministers causing enormous losses to the country through their botched decisions is anathema. This cannot go on.

Accountability is a key element of a true democracy. The bottom line is that all those responsible for huge losses incurred through their questionable decisions must be made accountable.

The laws governing accountability and transparency of government decisions must therefore be urgently reviewed to ensure full accountability and transparency of the government decision-making process with related sanctions for those causing losses or prejudice to the public interest through their rash decisions.

No to costly blunders

The long history of costly blunders also focuses attention on the quality, decision-making acumen and competence of the political class to overcome the daunting challenges of post-Covid-19 recovery. There is an urgent need for far more qualified and apt politicians having recognized credentials and sound decision-making acumen to eliminate the risk of costly botched decisions. The onus is also on the citizens of the country to be vocal watchdogs of governance and government decision-making process to ensure that decisions unswervingly uphold public interest at all times.

Bermuda digs in against global corporate tax deal

Bermuda's political and business elite is responding to the G7 push for a minimum corporate income tax as it would to the approach of an Atlantic hurricane. Officials are looking to ride out the storm - and keep intact a 19th-century revenue regime that leaves company profits untouched.

In an interview with the Financial Times, Curtis Dickinson, Bermuda's finance minister, said he was loath to introduce new levies while the island tax haven of about 64,000 people was still struggling to recover from both the Covid-19 pandemic and the financial crisis of 2008, reports Gary Silverman of Irish Times.

"Bermuda has a right to determine for itself what it thinks is an appropriate tax system for its jurisdiction," he said.

"We have a system in place for 200 years. It's not perfect. It does require some adjustment. But we would like to do that on our own and not have someone tell us to change our system to fit some global initiative... I would say it's a sovereignty issue."

Red tape

Taxing corporate profits would make Bermuda more bureaucratic and add complexity for business, Dickinson said,



threatening its role as a global hub for reinsurance, the cover that insurance companies buy to protect themselves against claims arising from hurricanes, wildfires and other disasters. Bermuda currently raises revenue through taxes on payrolls and property, customs duties and fees charged to international businesses.

The pressure on tax havens grew this month when the G7 countries moved to close loopholes that multinationals use to reduce their tax bills, agreeing to a mini-

global 15 per cent levy on corporate income. Whether anything will actually change, however, depends on wider global negotiations - meaning the implications for Bermuda remain hypothetical.

Dickinson's argument is that it is unfair to group Bermuda with tax havens that have more corporate mailboxes than people. He said it was an "anomaly" when Google last decade shifted tens of billions of dollars through its Dutch holding company to Bermuda under an intellectual

property licensing scheme called the "double Irish Dutch sandwich." Google has scrapped the arrangement, which enabled it to delay paying US taxes.

Thanks to its tax system and streamlined regulatory regime, Dickinson said, Bermuda has become a proper financial centre. The big buildings of the leading insurers - AIG, Chubb and BF&M, among them - loom over the capital. More recent arrivals include Conduit Re, which raised \$1.1bn last year through a London Stock Exchange listing, and Vantage, a reinsurer launched in 2020 with \$1bn in equity capital from Carlyle, Hellman & Friedman and its management.

Reinsurance and other "international business activity" accounted for about a quarter of gross domestic product in 2019, official statistics show. By contrast, leisure and hospitality in the tourist locale known for its turquoise seas produced around 4 per cent.

The question for Bermuda is how tax sensitive its reinsurers might be. Donald Trump's 2017 tax changes already have made it less appealing for US insurers to buy reinsurance from Bermuda. Whether the imposition of corporate taxes would override the regulatory advantages of operating a reinsurance business on the island remains to be seen.

Morgan Stanley to bar unvaccinated employees, clients from NY offices



Global banks adopt markedly different back-to-work policies.
Pic - i2.wp.com

Morgan Stanley's employees, clients, and visitors will be required to attest to being fully vaccinated in order to access the bank's offices in New York and Westchester, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters late Tuesday.

Those who are not fully vaccinated will need to work remotely, reports Reuters. The new policy will come into effect on July 12, the source said, adding that the policy will allow removal of Covid-related restrictions on face coverings and maintaining physical distancing inside office premises.

Morgan Stanley had already implemented "vaccine-only" workspaces in some divisions including institutional securities and wealth management, according to Financial Times, which first reported the news.

Japan proposes four-day working week to improve work-life balance

The Japanese government has just unveiled its annual economic policy guidelines, which include new recommendations that companies permit their staff to opt to work four days a week instead of the typical five.

Japan's famously hard-working salarymen — and, increasingly, salarywomen — are to be encouraged to reduce the amount of time they spend in the office environment as part of the government's initiative to improve the nation's work-life balance.

The coronavirus pandemic has already brought huge changes to the way that Japanese corporations — many of which are still highly rigid and traditional — go about their business.

Political leaders now hope to convince management that flexible working hours, remote working, growing interconnectedness and a host of other developments can be beneficial if they remain in place even after the end of the health crisis.

Employment pluses

The government said in the outline of its campaign that, with a four-

day working week, companies would be able to retain capable and experienced staff who might otherwise have to leave if they are trying to raise a family or take care of elderly relatives.

A four-day workweek would also encourage more people to gain additional educational qualifications or even take on side jobs in addition to their regular employment, according to the government.

Most importantly, authorities hope that an extra day off every week would encourage people to go out and spend, thereby boosting the economy. It is also anticipated that young people will have more time to meet, marry and have children, going some way to solving the worsening problem of a falling birth rate, an increasingly older national demographic and a contracting population.

"The government is really very keen for this change in attitude to take root at Japanese companies," Martin Schulz, chief policy economist for Fujitsu Ltd.'s Global Market Intelligence Unit, told DW.

Recent Japanese administrations



There are regular stories about workers either falling ill due to excessive overtime or taking their own lives due to stress.
Pic - static.dw.com

have sought a number of ways to overcome a sluggish national economy, but fiscal policy has run its course and the central bank is limited in the tools that it still has at its disposal.

That makes reforms to the lifestyles and working styles of millions of Japanese its next approach, he said.

There are regular stories in the Japanese media about young staff either falling ill due to excessive overtime or taking their own lives due to stress. Known as "karoshi," or death by overwork, inquiries often determine that workers cracked after putting in more than 100 hours of service overtime for months on end.

☞ Cont. on page 6

Prince Charles didn't axe Prince Harry's cash



Charles continued to fund the Sussexes until the summer of 2020. Pic - Australian News Review

The Prince of Wales helped the Duke and Duchess of Sussex with a "substantial sum" of money after they quit as working royals, despite Harry claiming his family "literally cut me off financially".

Accounts show Charles continued to fund the Sussexes until the summer of 2020, with a senior Clarence House spokesperson saying he allocated them the generous amount of money, reports The Independent. However, the duke told Oprah Winfrey he stopped getting financial support from his family in the first quarter of that year.

Funding for both Charles's sons - the Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge - and their families contributed to a £4.5 million bill for the prince. Harry and Meghan were still listed as receiving money from Charles's Duchy of Cornwall income, despite quitting the monarchy at the end of March last year.

Workers are quitting at historic rates — and the 'leap of faith' trend may just be beginning

Jamaica Blair finally quit her teaching job in April, demoralized by the low wages, insufficient staffing, and most recently the challenges from the pandemic. She wants to be a chef, a career decision that took a long time to make.

Blair joins the 4 million American workers who quit their jobs in April, a 20-year record, according to the Labor Department's latest JOLTS report. The rate of workers voluntarily leaving their jobs also hit an all-time high of 2.7% that month, reports DenitsaTsekova of Yahoo Money.

This could be only the beginning of a new labor trend, according to ZipRecruiter Economist Julia Pollak, who suspects a wave of workers may soon give notice in the coming months.

Workers are quitting for different reasons depending on the sector and their positions, but in general, there's an uptick in workers leaving in most industries. Accommodation and food services along with retail trade had the largest quit rates in April of 5.6% and 4.3%, respectively.

Battered during the height of the pandemic, those two sectors also saw a jump in job openings in the spring, but hiring came in at lower levels, suggesting workers aren't enthusiastic to return to those positions.

While not as high, education and health services also saw a significant increase in its quit rate, reaching a 20-year record of 2.3%.

"My colleagues are telling me to leave... they're trying to tell me like 'don't end up like me,'" Blair said. "They love children, too, but it's the benefits that they really need, so that keeps them stuck."

She's not alone on the entrepreneur front. After a lull at the start of the pandemic, the pace of new business applications since mid-2020 has been the highest on record, a new paper by the National Bureau of Economic Research found.



4 million Americans quit their jobs in April to find better work. Pic - Anchorage Daily News

Non-store retail and accommodation and food services are two of the dominant industries attracting new entrepreneurs.

Burnout is also driving workers to quit. More than half of U.S. workers (52%) said they were experiencing burnout in 2021, according to a March survey by Indeed, versus 43% who reported the same thing in a survey conducted before the pandemic.

This was the case for Vaidehi Joshi, who had just started a new role as a lead software engineer at a startup in January of last year before the pandemic hit. She was managing three engineers, leading projects, and had a senior role with good compensation. But the pandemic — along with the long work hours — took a toll on her mental health.

"For many Americans, the pandemic led to a reevaluation of priorities," George Ratiu, senior economist at Realtor.com, told Yahoo Money. "Many buyers have already voted with their dollars for a hybrid work landscape. Going forward, they have traded longer commuting distances for higher quality of life."

India, US kick off mega wargame in Indian Ocean



The integrated exercise of IAF & Indian Navy with US Navy Ronald Reagan CSG gets underway. The engagement of IAF forces is spread out over 23 & 24 June. Pic - PTI

India and the US on Wednesday kicked off a two-day multi-domain wargame in the Indian Ocean involving an array of air defence platforms to further consolidate their operational synergy in the face of China's increasing military presence in the region.

The US has deployed its naval carrier strike group, led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, as well as a fleet of F-18 fighter jets and E-2C Hawkeye all-weather aircraft for the exercise, officials said.

The Indian assets at the exercise included Jaguar and Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, IL-78 air-to-air refuelling tanker aircraft, AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft and warships Kochi and Teg.

The Indian Navy has also deployed a fleet of P8I maritime surveillance aircraft and MiG 29K jets, apart from other platforms.

The US Carrier Strike Group (CSG) is currently deployed in the Indian Ocean region.

A carrier battle group or carrier strike group is a mega naval fleet comprising an aircraft carrier, accompanied by a large number of destroyers, frigates and other ships.

"The Indian naval warships, along with aircraft from the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force will be engaged in the joint multi-domain operations with the carrier strike group comprising Nimitz-class aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan, Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey and Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh," Indian Navy's spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said on Tuesday.

He said the two-day exercise aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship and cooperation by demonstrating the ability to integrate and coordinate comprehensively in maritime operations.

The exercise is being carried out south of Thiruvananthapuram, on the western seaboard.

The Indo-US defence ties have been on an upswing in the last few years. In June 2016, the US had designated India as a "Major Defence Partner".

The two countries have also inked key defence and security pacts over the last few years, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016 that allows their militaries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provides for deeper cooperation.

The two sides have also signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018 that provides for interoperability between the two militaries and the sale of high-end technology from the US to India.

In October last year, India and the US sealed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) to further boost the bilateral defence ties.

The pact provides for the sharing of high-end military technology, logistics and geospatial maps between the two countries.

Compiled by D. Ramlallah

Interview: Rabin Bhujun, Journaliste



Une énième affaire retient notre attention cette semaine: l'affaire Betamax avec en arrière-plan le budget - légèrement satisfaisant pour certains, mais très inquiétant pour d'autres - du ministre des Finances, Renganaden Padayachy. Toutefois, malgré toutes les critiques formulées contre lui ces derniers temps, le gouvernement de Pravind Jugnauth continue de naviguer en surfant sur les vagues scélérates et poursuit sa route avec une certaine sérénité. Quelles sont les causes de la confiance affichée par le Premier ministre ? Rabin Bhujun, journaliste, nous donne son point de vue.

Mauritius Times: La demande d'une commission d'enquête faite par le PMSD sur l'affaire Betamax, et soutenue par Paul Bérenger, a déplacé l'attention de l'embarras du gouvernement par rapport à cette affaire pour recentrer l'attention sur les divergences entre le PTr et l'Alliance de l'Espoir, principalement le PMSD et le MMM. Le PTr est contre le principe d'une commission d'enquête, qui pourrait éventuellement l'embarrasser, et Xavier Duval en est sûrement conscient. Quel but politique cherche-t-il à atteindre ?

Rabin Bhujun: " La victoire a cent pères et la défaite est orpheline ", dit-on. Indira Gandhi racontait aussi que son grand-père lui avait enjoint de faire partie du groupe, peu nombreux, des personnes qui travaillent et non de celui, grand par sa taille, mais avec ceux qui s'arrogent le

'La marmite sociale va très certainement bouillonner fin 2021, début 2022...

...une économie qui sort à peine d'une récession n'est pas une économie qui crée de l'emploi à plein régime'

crédit des réalisations des autres. Le leader du PMSD a le beau rôle, aujourd'hui, à demander que toute la lumière soit faite sur les conditions entourant la conclusion du contrat avec Betamax aussi bien que sa résiliation.

Xavier Duval a été de toutes les noces. Il était *vice Prime minister* quand le contrat était scellé sous le gouvernement de Navin Ramgoolam et *Deputy Prime Minister* au moment de la résiliation après une décision du Conseil des ministres de Sir Anerood Jugnauth. A ce double titre, Xavier Duval aura, lui-même, quelques précieuses informations à partager avec la commission d'enquête...si Pravind Jugnauth consent à sa mise sur pied.

Les bleus et leur leader avaient exprimé publiquement leurs réserves au sujet du *Prosecution Bill*, fin 2016. Je n'ai toutefois pas le souvenir d'avoir entendu Duval dire, ou ne serait-ce que publiquement laisser entendre, qu'il était opposé à la résiliation du contrat de Betamax quand la décision était prise en 2015. Il régnait un climat particulier à ce moment-là. Il y avait l'euphorie de la victoire à laquelle s'ajoutait une obsession de trouver tout ce qui pourrait envoyer Navin Ramgoolam derrière les barreaux. Si Duval avait des états d'âmes, il les a probablement gardés pour lui.

*** Revenons à la motivation actuelle de Xavier Duval...**

Je pense qu'il cherche à se donner bonne conscience en démontrant qu'il fait ce qu'il faut maintenant - c'est peut-être un peu tard - pour faire la lumière sur la plus sévère sanction financière jamais imposée à l'Etat mauricien.

Par contre, il faut reconnaître que Paul Bérenger a été constant sur ce sujet. Il n'a pas attendu janvier 2015 ou la décision du Privy Council pour dénoncer ce qu'il appelait déjà un scandale. Les Mauriciens sont oublieux, rappelez donc un fait intéressant.

Le 10 août 2010, Paul Bérenger, alors leader de l'opposition, avait choisi le contrat d'affrètement de carburant à la société de Veekram Bhunjun comme sujet de sa *Private Notice Question* au ministre de l'Industrie et du Commerce. Ce dernier avait énuméré les huit avantages d'avoir un tanker domestique, dont des économies de 12,6 millions de dollars. Ce ministre était Showkutally Soodhun.

Le Parti Travailleiste (PTr) et le MSM étaient alors pleine lune de miel après leur victoire aux législatives de mai 2010.

Que ceux qui étaient aux affaires, à un moment ou à un autre, assument leur part de responsabilité.

Je persiste toutefois à dire que Roshni Bhadain est de loin celui qui a le plus décisivement contribué à ce que ce contrat soit résilié de manière précipitée sans accorder suffisamment de temps au dialogue et à la renégociation.

*** On sait que le PMSD et le MMM ont intérêt à unir leurs forces politiques conjonctuellement en vue des**

“Les législatives auront lieu dans trois ans ; les municipales sont, par contre, proches. Le MMM - qui se targue de son assise en milieu urbain - et le PTr ont tous deux mordu la poussière lors des municipales de 2015. Le bon sens voudrait donc que non seulement le PMSD et le MMM mais le PTr aussi, s'unissent dans les cinq villes pour faire oublier cette humiliation. C'est une motivation suffisante pour qu'on mette les bisbilles de côté le temps de la campagne...”

prochaines élections municipales, ce qui ne serait pas vraiment possible dans le cas des élections générales. Si Duval persiste dans sa démarche, et le gouvernement Jugnauth se montre disposé à mettre sur pied une commission d'enquête avec des termes de référence uniquement sur les circonstances entourant l'octroi du contrat à Betamax, les perspectives d'une nouvelle alliance PTr-PMSD vont s'éloigner. Qu'en pensez-vous ?

Les stratégies d'alliances à long terme ne se déterminent pas sur la base de considérations ponctuelles comme l'attitude des uns ou des autres sur le dossier Betamax.

Les législatives auront lieu dans trois ans ; les municipales sont, par contre, proches. Le MMM - qui se targue de son assise en milieu urbain - et le PTr ont tous deux mordu la poussière lors des municipales de 2015. Le bon sens voudrait donc que non seulement le PMSD et le MMM mais le PTr aussi, s'unissent dans les cinq villes pour faire oublier cette humiliation.

C'est une motivation suffisante pour qu'on mette les bisbilles de côté le temps de la campagne d'autant plus que les municipales ne s'inscrivent pas dans la même logique qu'un scrutin national. Dans ce cas, la figure du Premier ministre que propose un camp pourrait lui coûter la victoire.

Si les partis majeurs de l'opposition vont aux municipales en rangs dispersés, ils courent à nouveau le risque de les perdre. Le MSM peut toujours les devancer avec une majorité relative des votes à la faveur d'une série de batailles triangulaires.

Cela étant dit, une entente MMM-PMSD a probablement quelques cartes à jouer dans des arrondissements précis de plusieurs villes. Mais on ne pourra s'empêcher de penser que cette carte est aussi celle d'un certain clientélisme ethnique.

*** Suite en page 8**

'L'épaisseur de Pravind Jugnauth se mesurera quand il lui faudra assurer sa survie politique...

Pour l'heure, ce qu'on peut dire, c'est que Pravind Jugnauth gagne en expérience'

* Suite de la page 7

* Xavier Duval et Paul Bérenger doivent tous deux savoir qu'une prochaine lutte à trois lors des prochaines législatives leur sera défavorable, comme ce fut le cas en 2019. Et ni l'un ni l'autre ne veulent de Ramgoolam en tant que leader d'une alliance de l'opposition. Pensez-vous que le PMSD et le MMM vont faire un bout de chemin ensemble, tout en laissant la porte ouverte...?

Il y a un problème Ramgoolam au PTr. Le leader rouge est aussi le principal obstacle à un front réellement uni et fonctionnel de l'opposition face à Pravind Jugnauth aux prochaines législatives. On se retrouve désormais face à un statu quo. Ramgoolam reste leader de son parti et l'apparent premier ministrable de toute alliance dont le PTr sera la locomotive. Donc, une alliance des partis de l'opposition est très difficile à conclure à l'avenir. Face à ce qui peut être considérée comme une voie sans issue, le PMSD et le MMM soupèsent avec raison leurs options.

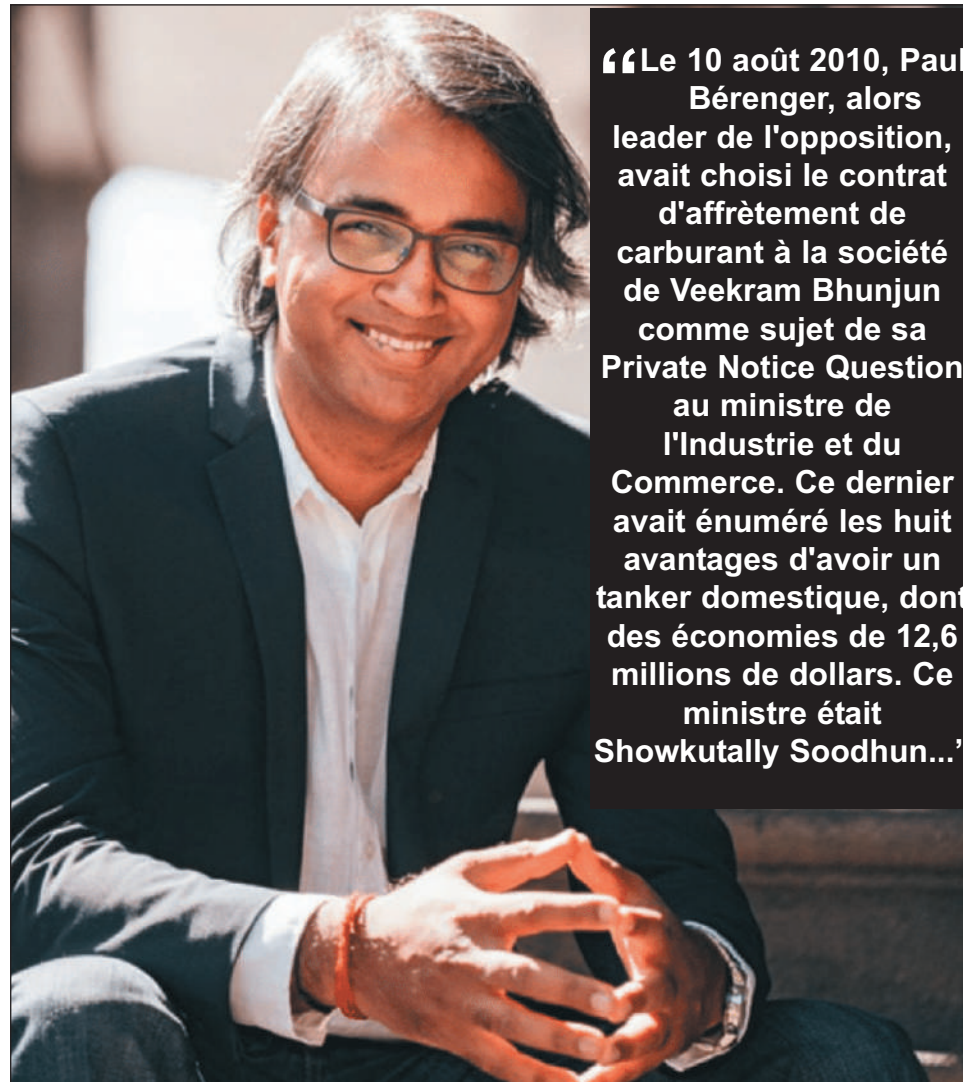
Pour le PMSD l'option la moins périlleuse pour les années qui viennent consiste à rejoindre le gouvernement. De part et d'autre, ce réalignement obéirait à une certaine logique car le PMSD n'est pas le seul demandeur dans cette affaire. Pravind Jugnauth a trois bonnes raisons de songer à un rapprochement avec les bleus.

D'abord, il y a la perception que le gouvernement est avant tout celui d'une partie de la population. Récemment, une députée de la majorité a même eu la candeur de la dire à la face du Premier ministre. L'arrivée du PMSD permettrait un début de correction de cette perception.

Ensuite, reconnaissons qu'il y a un problème Renganaden Padayachy. Le ministre des Finances n'éblouit pas vraiment ses pairs au gouvernement. La personne est également clivante dans son attitude et ses réactions. Le ministre des Finances a, par exemple, des relations exécrables avec la communauté des affaires. Il sombre dans le tout-à-l'ego. Face à ce *modus operandi*, la bonhomie de Duval pourrait changer la donne et engendrer une collaboration plus productive.

Enfin, tout en démontrant qu'il rassemble les forces et les compétences pour diriger le pays, Pravind Jugnauth priverait de manière préventive l'opposition de son seul vrai liant pour l'heure : le PMSD. Il laisserait face à lui un tandem rouge-mauve qui nourrit encore une profonde rancœur et une méfiance nées de leur association malheureuse de 2014.

* Le PTr dispose toujours d'une base électorale importante, comme



“Le 10 août 2010, Paul Bérenger, alors leader de l'opposition, avait choisi le contrat d'affrètement de carburant à la société de Veekram Bhunjun comme sujet de sa Private Notice Question au ministre de l'Industrie et du Commerce. Ce dernier avait énuméré les huit avantages d'avoir un tanker domestique, dont des économies de 12,6 millions de dollars. Ce ministre était Showkutally Soodhun...”

l'ont démontré les résultats des dernières élections générales. C'est loin d'être une *spent force*, comme ses adversaires veulent le faire croire. Il demeure toujours le principal challenger du MSM - avec ou sans Navin Ramgoolam à sa tête. Votre opinion?

Navin Ramgoolam est la plus grande faiblesse de son parti d'autant plus qu'il ne semble y avoir aucune volonté forte et organisée ou de mécanisme au sein des instances du PTr pour le faire partir. Ramgoolam a trop soufflé le chaud et le froid sur la relève pour qu'on le prenne maintenant au sérieux à ce propos.

Evidemment, le leader des rouges et d'autres au sein du PTr, voient les choses autrement. Ils tablent sur une séquence des événements allant de plusieurs victoires devant la Cour suprême dans le cadre de pétitions électorales à une déliquescence du pouvoir politique du MSM face à une économie au ralenti et un climat social délétère. Mais c'est un scénario hypothétique qui repose sur trop de conditionnalités. Ce n'est pas très raisonnable comme stratégie de retour au pouvoir.

* En tout cas, il semble que ni

Ramgoolam ni Duval ni Bérenger n'ont l'intention d'assouplir leurs conditions concernant le leadership de l'Alliance de l'Espoir. Constituer une alternative ne paraît donc pas réalisable dans un proche avenir, non? Et c'est tant mieux pour le MSM?

Je demeure convaincu que Pravind Jugnauth prie pour que Ramgoolam et les siens continuent à penser que toutes les variables imaginables tourneront en leur faveur. Cela, sans que le leadership du PTr et le statut de premier ministrable de Ramgoolam ne soient remis en cause à l'interne ou par des alliés.

* Pravind Jugnauth ne devrait pas se faire beaucoup de soucis non plus avec l'éparpillement des forces de l'opposition sur le terrain - même s'il a en face de lui des adversaires redoutables. Comment vont évoluer les choses pour lui et son gouvernement, selon vous ?

Dans une certaine mesure, Pravind Jugnauth peut remercier les restrictions sanitaires en place à cause de la Covid-19. Si on était dans une situation normale, l'opposition s'en serait donné à cœur joie à coup de manifestations et de meetings en série.

De la démission de Yogida Sawmynaden aux Rs 5,7 milliards de l'affaire Betamax en passant par le marasme économique ou le coût de la vie, les sujets de mobilisation n'auraient pas manqué. Tout cela semble toutefois anecdotique face au réel risque que le gouvernement court ailleurs.

* De quel risque parlez-vous ?

Les effets les plus dévastateurs de la crise de la Covid-19 ne se sont pas encore fait sentir. Puisqu'elles ont reçu ou reçoivent encore des aides publiques - n'oublions pas que celles-ci sont remboursables ! - de nombreuses entreprises se retrouvent dans une situation où elles ne peuvent ni licencier ni fermer boutique même si elles ne sont plus viables.

Quand ces restrictions seront levées fin 2021, nous prendrons alors la mesure réelle des dégâts de la crise avec un enchaînement de licenciements et de fermetures d'entreprises. Or, une économie qui sort à peine d'une récession n'est pas une économie qui crée de l'emploi à plein régime.

Le ministre des Finances peut s'enorgueillir des aides à l'accès à la propriété, des *schemes* (projets) pour l'installation de panneaux photovoltaïques ou des programmes pour attirer des talents étrangers. Mais allez expliquer à une mère à la tête d'une famille monoparentale ayant perdu son emploi pourquoi elle ne retrouve pas un job facilement... Cela, dans un contexte où le coût de la vie grimpe inexorablement, notamment à cause de la forte dépréciation de la roupie depuis début 2020. La marmite sociale va très certainement bouillonner fin 2021, début 2022.

* On n'est pas en présence d'un sondage fiable pour mesurer la cote de popularité du gouvernement en place (ou même de l'opposition), les interventions des intellectuels et d'autres élucubrations sur les réseaux sociaux ne constituent pas vraiment ce que pensent la majorité des Mauriciens. Quelle opinion faites-vous sur la façon dont Pravind Jugnauth et son équipe dirigent les affaires de l'Etat?

Le seul sondage qui compte est celui qui s'obtient le jour du dépouillement. J'en suis venu à m'émerveiller de la capacité de nombreux Mauriciens à taire leur affinité politique, s'ils en ont une, ou alors d'en choisir une, à quelques semaines, voire à des jours des législatives.

* Suite en page 9

* Suite de la page 8

Les sondages ne sont qu'une photographie d'un instant T, souvent avec un nombre important d'indécis qui finissent par se décider à soutenir un camp ou l'autre. Y accorder plus d'importance que cela, à trois ans de l'échéance, ne serait pas raisonnable.

Par contre, j'ai une appréciation globale de l'image que le Premier ministre et son gouvernement renvoient : c'est celle d'un pouvoir hyper centralisé, exercé par, pour et autour du chef du gouvernement. Un pouvoir qui développe son arrogance de jour en jour, notamment à cause d'une opposition incapable de s'unir et n'arrivant pas, par conséquent, à incarner une alternance crédible.

Je décèle aussi les mêmes travers qui s'étaient installés jadis chez Navin Ramgoolam. Jugnauth est entouré d'encenseurs, de collaborateurs qui ne le contredisent pas, ni le remettent en question; ils lui rapportent une version tronquée de ce qui se passe dans le pays. Tout cela amène ceux au pouvoir à se laisser aller à une vision binaire de toute situation. Pour eux, le pays se divise en deux : d'une part ceux qui soutiennent le Premier ministre, et d'autre part, ceux qui s'opposent à lui. Il n'existe pas de milieu.

* Cela nous mène où ?

Cela nous mène là où nous sommes déjà aujourd'hui, c'est-à-dire à un gouvernement qui donne l'impression de ne se préoccuper que de la frange de la population qui va assurer sa réélection dans trois ans.

La MBC convie d'ailleurs ce message quotidiennement de la manière la plus grossière. Le contenu du journal télévisé est outrancièrement propagandiste et semble même taillé sur mesure pour que certaines cultures occupent l'avant-scène en permanence.

Le message est induit : une partie de la population est importante, le gouvernement compte et s'adresse à elle avant tout. Ceux qui trouvent à redire face à cela, ne sont que des opposants. A la direction de la MBC, on vous répondra même que les critiques ne sont que l'œuvre des racistes. Comme raisonnement, c'est un peu limité !

Ce type de positionnement est déjà choquant en temps normal. Toutefois, dans un contexte de morosité économique et face à une perception que la gestion des affaires de l'Etat est loin d'être irréprochable, cette attitude exacerbe les clivages et les ressentiments. Elle risque même de fracturer durablement le pays en deux.

Ce danger est réel à mon sens et honteusement sous-estimé par ceux qui nous gouvernent. Ils ne se rendent pas compte que certaines forces ont fait de ce ressentiment et du désespoir qu'il engendre leur fonds de commerce. Ils capitaliseront sur la colère et le désespoir, c'est leur seul moyen d'exister.

* A qui pensez-vous ?

Peu après la grande manifestation du

'Ramgoolam a trop soufflé le chaud et le froid sur la relève pour qu'on le prenne maintenant au sérieux'



29 août de l'année dernière, vous m'aviez demandé mon analyse du mouvement et j'avais exprimé de sérieuses réserves sur le " *what's next* " et aussi sur la personne de Bruneau Laurette.

Je constate que le mouvement a perdu de son ampleur et de sa dynamique. Par contre, son principal animateur est toujours très actif ; notamment grâce à l'indulgence des médias qui lui assurent une généreuse couverture et qui regardent ailleurs quand ce dernier colporte de dangereuses théories de complot et des contrevérités scientifiques. C'est ce qu'il fait en ce moment dans le cadre de son dernier "combat": s'opposer à la vaccination anti-Covid.

Il faudrait être naïf pour ne pas reconnaître que Bruneau Laurette bénéficie encore d'une importante *following*. Celle-ci est constituée notamment de personnes qui se sentent oubliées ou victimisées par le pouvoir. Je n'ai aucun mal à imaginer que leur ressentiment finira par se manifester de manière moins pacifique.

Une fois que les effets les plus sévères de la crise de la Covid-19 commencent à se faire sentir et que la rhétorique de la revendication bascule sur celle de l'action...non gandhienne. Si on n'écoute pas les signes avant-coureurs, si on n'agit pas dès maintenant, je crains pour la paix sociale.

***Le gouvernement parvient quand même à surmonter les affaires impliquant certains membres du MSM ou des proches du pouvoir. Il a pris ses distances de Yogida Sawmynaden, le laissant se démener avec la justice, et on voit Showkatally Soodhun et le Speaker faisant moins de bruit... Le PM arrive à garder le contrôle de ses troupes. Il a pris de l'épaisseur...**

Son épaisseur se mesurera à l'aulne des décisions difficiles qu'il prendra et de son attitude face à l'adversité :

- quand il lui faudra assurer sa survie politique en faisant passer au second plan ses amitiés ou ses préférences personnelles ;
- quand il aura la sagesse de faire ce qu'il faut, plutôt que ce qu'il veut ou ce que ses proches et conseillers lui disent de faire.

Pour l'heure, ce qu'on peut dire, c'est que Pravind Jugnauth gagne en expérience, il est quand même Premier ministre depuis quatre ans et demi.

Et depuis qu'il a gagné les législatives de 2019, il affiche une certaine confiance en lui qu'on ne voyait pas forcément précédemment.

*** Nombreux sont les défis que le gouvernement devra affronter dans les mois à venir et durant le reste de son mandat - des défis plus énormes à relever par rapport à la situation sur le plan économique, aggravés par la pandémie de la Covid-19, et aussi sur le plan politique. Toutefois, le gouvernement ne semble pas préoccupé par l'impact de la crise. Votre avis ?**

Je ne crois pas que le gouvernement ne soit pas préoccupé par l'impact de la crise. Je pense plutôt que la réponse qu'il propose - principalement dans le cadre du dernier discours du budget - n'inspire pas confiance, étant insuffisamment claire.

L'énorme accent que le ministre des Finances place sur l'investissement public massif durant les trois prochaines années découle d'une recette économique de l'ancien monde. Très imparfaite aussi, quand elle est appliquée dans un pays qui importe l'essentiel de ce qu'il consomme et

“Son épaisseur se mesurera quand il lui faudra assurer sa survie politique en faisant passer au second plan ses amitiés ou ses préférences personnelles ; quand il aura la sagesse de faire ce qu'il faut, plutôt que ce qu'il veut ou ce que ses proches et conseillers lui disent de faire. Pour l'heure, ce qu'on peut dire, c'est que Pravind Jugnauth gagne en expérience...”

aussi ses matières premières. Ainsi, une large partie des Rs 65 milliards d'investissements publics projetés quittera le pays sous forme d'importation de matériaux de construction, d'équipements ou de la main d'œuvre étrangère.

Rien dans ce budget, notamment par rapport à la relance de l'investissement privé, ne peut être considéré comme illustrant une vraie vision innovante de ce que le pays pourrait devenir.

Nous n'avons eu droit qu'à une liste de mesures et d'annonces qui, mises bout à bout, ne dégagent aucune réelle cohérence et ne sont pas porteuses de réel espoir. C'est là tout le problème. L'espoir semble absent du pays...

Moral Education and Character Building

If we don't wake up now we will perhaps lose a God-sent opportunity to pull back our young from the brink of a civic catastrophe - a scenario of living in a dysfunctional society at odds with itself and nature



Arvind Saxena

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society"

-- Theodore Roosevelt

The world is struggling with a once-in-a-century health crisis which has shown up the many weaknesses in the economic, social, health and education models we have adopted over the last half a century. Economic disparity, environmental degradation, crumbling health, education and social security systems all point to the failure of our socio-economic development models. Even the choice of democratic forms of governance is in question with democratic societies coming to realise that the institutions which were meant to act as conduits, as well as a bulwark, between them and their elected re-presentatives have been gradually subverted. The masses have lost their voice and global neoliberal, social Darwinist interests have commandeered all power and control. Crony capitalism has re-placed laissez faire and free market transparency. As they knowingly, or unknowingly, subscribe to the pull of global capital, people in power fail to realise that nature abhors disequilibrium and the massive disparities in the lives of the few and the masses cannot last forever. An unprecedented crisis looms if corrective steps are not taken and power is restored to the masses.

Let us remember, however, that the massive crisis which challenges the status quo also offers opportunities for taking tough decisions to undo the damage and find new solutions for a better tomorrow. Just like New York built its underground infrastructure of power and transit following the massive blizzard in 1888, visionary city leaders in London invested in an extensive public health engineering framework following the massive outbreak of Cholera in 1832, and the 1871 great fire in Chicago saw the construction of many skyscrapers, the COVID pandemic should be seen as an



Shaping the moral character. Pic - Ambassador News

opportunity to accept our failures and set our models right. As mentioned earlier, this crisis has exposed and highlighted the many problems in practically all sectors of human existence.

In this series of three articles I will talk about the falling standards of education and why we should review our policies on moral education in this critical field.

Many studies have established that moral education and character building are not only necessary for a stable and constructive social order; they are also positively correlated to scholastic achievements. During the last quarter of the twentieth century, as schools neglected the moral dimension of schooling three things happened: achievement levels started coming down, discipline declined and behavioural problems increased. Students started shying away from the rigours of studying science and mathematics. We saw a decline in the quality of the study of fine arts and social sciences. Students started taking the easy option of studying management, software development, computer coding and developing Apps. This further disrupted traditional work models, which had social security and basic human rights considerations built into them.

Inculcation of discipline, telling the truth, being sensitive to the feelings of classmates, respect for teachers, engaging in debates without grudging the contrary view, developing team spirit, graciously conceding defeat on the sports field, respecting the rules and code of conduct, cheering for the success of others have been an integral part of school life. Hard work, a sense of purpose, giving back to society, caring for the underprivileged and a scientific spirit of

enquiry, which are part of moral education, build character and lay the foundation for a strong society.

Unfortunately, in our quest to keep school curriculum free from religious beliefs and mores, moral education got relegated to an ancillary status. Yet, all schools do provide a modicum of moral guidelines. Teachers do insist on honesty and school sports teachers still emphasise that athletics should be seen through the lens of sportsmanship and team spirit, rather than winning and losing. Students learn that their efforts and difficulties, their successes and disappointments are all part of a larger process of growing up. Schools can provide the uplifting experience of extending an 'undocumented' helping hand to a needy person. I have seen teachers apologize to a child - saying "I'm sorry". For a child who has never seen this at home, the purifying experience of seeking forgiveness and recognizing that we all make mistakes soon becomes apparent. Interacting with teachers and peers teaches them compassion, sharing, choosing kind words when it would be easier to shout, and speaking up for the marginalized populations. Is anyone teaching them all this?

School experience, in one form or another, also includes study of narrative tales and epic stories which carry moral lessons. They convey to the young minds vivid images of the kind of people our culture admires and wants them to emulate. They also show them how lives can be wasted or worse, how people can betray themselves and their communities. Lives of leading activists and legends, who showed strength of character to fight against wrong and champion the right causes to bring revolutionary changes,

serve as role models that the youth can follow and look up to. A school's rituals, traditions, rules and procedures have an impact on the students' sense of what is right and wrong and what is desired and undesired behaviour. Community service in some schools gives their students opportunities, guidance and practice at being useful citizens. From keeping their classrooms clean, to devoting time at blind schools, hospitals or day care centres, or even walking for a cause, students do not just develop empathy with different types of people, they learn skills of problem solving, conflict resolution and innovation - which could eventually help in their professional placements.

The point is, are schools playing this role with the conviction and determination required to mould young minds who can build a stable society? Can we use the Corona crisis to look afresh at the significance of moral education and character building in our schools and colleges? Our actions and investment in the moral and ethical education of students will pay rich dividends for the world because we will create much more than knowledge; we will arm our young with the power of goodness and kindness. Frankly, if we don't wake up now we will perhaps lose a God-sent opportunity to pull back our young from the brink of a civic catastrophe - a scenario of living in a dysfunctional society at odds with itself and nature.

This is the first of a three-part series of articles.

Arvind Saxena is an Indian civil servant and a former Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in India.

Who was better at predicting the course of the pandemic – experts or the public?

* Cont. from page 2

Actual outcomes fell within laypeople's ranges only between 8% and 20% of the time, depending on the question. For experts, actual outcomes fell within their ranges between 36% and 57% of the time.

In other words, experts were more accurate and less overconfident than laypeople, but still less accurate and more overconfident than we might hope.

Some notes of caution: our experts were individuals who held one of the occupations described at the beginning of this article and who responded to an announcement on social media. They aren't necessarily representative of experts who spent the most time talking to the media or advising governments.

And our laypeople certainly weren't practised in forecasting, unlike the experienced predictors on websites such as the Good Judgment Project and Metaculus, who may well have outperformed experts. Our laypeople were proportional to the UK



COVID-19 cases and deaths have been far higher than most people predicted. Andy Rain/EPA-EFE

population with respect to age and gender, but may have differed in other ways. However, even when we restricted the comparison to those laypeople who scored well on a maths test, experts were still much more accurate and less overconfident.

Perhaps it's not surprising that most

people's best guesses about the number of deaths and infections were off: predictions about emerging diseases are hard, and none of us has a crystal ball. We found that even experts weren't particularly good at predicting the pandemic's ultimate course and impact. But our level of confidence

about our predictions is within our control – and the evidence suggests that most of us could stand to be a bit more humble.

For experts, this suggests that extra caution is warranted around making confident public predictions, so as to avoid prediction "reversals" that may undermine public trust in science. And for the public, when faced with predictions of how future disease outbreaks will unfold, we should not be surprised if the true situation turns out to be better or worse than predicted – particularly if those predictions come from non-experts.

Unfortunately, the continued threat of pandemics means that this research may continue to be relevant in the future. For example, risks of serious natural pandemics have been estimated at between 1% and 5% every year, and the risks of engineered pandemics may grow as synthetic biology improves, so long-term investments in general-purpose disease surveillance and response technologies seem likely to come in handy eventually. In the meantime, we must all learn to live with the fact that we don't know how the future is going to unfold, and that no one can tell us for sure.

Gabriel Recchia
University of Cambridge

1 THE FAUGABALLAH PLATE 1500 m - Valeur [0-15] -- 12h15							
1	Seventh Silver	RG	8-7-9-5/4	61.5	J.Allyhosain	4	400
2	Groban	RM	9-7-7-7/7	61	R.Joorawon	1	700
3	Kings Empire	SH	R-3-1/2-2	61	B.Bhaugerothee	5	250
4	King's Story	JMH	10-7-8-9/7	60(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	3	2000
5	Biometric	VA	10-3/9-5-5	59.5(-3)	A.Roy	7	650
6	Gimme A Swinger	PM	6-5-6-10-6	58	R.K.Chumun	8	2000
7	Sarah's Secret	CR	7-5-9-5/6	58	R.Hoolash	6	800
8	Special Force	SPN	11-10-11-4	56	K.Kalychurun	2	330

2 THE MISTER CALIFORNIA CUP 990 m - Valeur [0-25] -- 12h50							
1	Coup For Lute	CD	0-0-0-4-5	60.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	6	600
2	Global Glory	PM	nouveau	60.5	R.Oliver	2	420
3	Masterofallisurvey	P	0-0-0-0-6	60	O.Sola	1	700
4	Wendylle	AS	2-4-4-8-3/	60	S.Rama	5	1400
5	Duke Of York	RM	7-4-R/3-5	59	P.C.Orffer	7	900
6	Gordonstoun	SN	4-3-1/5-3	59	G.D.Aucharuz	3	350
7	Go Jewel	VA	0-0-0-0-1	58.5	B.Fayd'herbe	9	230
8	Secret Circle	SJ	0-0-0-0-9	58.5(-3)	A.Roy	8	3000
9	New Abbey [EA]	SH	0-6-9-5-4	57	-----	4	----

3 THE DAMBUSTER CUP 1600 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 -- 13h25							
1	Bonnie Prince	SH	1-5-2-4/4	61	I.Santana	3	400
2	Bestday of Mylife	CD	2-1-2-3/2	60(-4)	M.Sonaram	2	250
3	Moschino	VA	1-4-1/6-7	60	B.Fayd'herbe	1	600
4	Viking Trail	SJ	4-2-4-3/5	59.5	N.Teeha	4	600
5	Arlingtons Revenge	SJ	8-8-4-5-4	59(-3)	A.Roy	5	2500
6	Kaydens Pride	RM	5-2-2-3/1	59	P.C.Orffer	6	280
7	Star of Zeus	PM	4-3-1-6/3	56.5	R.Oliver	7	1100

4 THE PAUL CLARENC CUP 1400 m - Valeur Benchmark 46 -- 14h00							
1	Choir Of Angels	JMH	2-7/7-R-8	60.5	J.Allyhosain	10	1100
2	Lickerio	AS	2-6-7-6/7	60.5	R.Joorawon	7	1100
3	Sea Dance	CD	2-6-4/4-1	60.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	1	230
4	Sockeroo	G	nouveau	60.5	Y.Emamdee	2	1200
5	Carlas Mambo	SJ	1-1-5/3-1	60(-3)	A.Roy	4	450
6	Steak And Ale	GR	0-0-5-4-6/	59.5	B.Bhaugerothee	11	1200
7	Juniper Lane	PM	0-0-0-2-2	59	R.Oliver	9	550
8	Watch Me Dad	GR	1-1-2-2/4	59	N.Teeha	5	550
9	Cash Call	SH	3-1-1-3-5/	58	I.Santana	8	2000
10	Gunston	SH	7-7-5-4/7	57(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	3	1600
11	Yorktown [EA]	RG	nouveau	61.5	-----	6	----

Programme des Courses

7è journée samedi 26 juin 2021

5 THE LORD DUFFERIN CUP 1600 m - Valeur Benchmark 51 -- 14h35							
1	Sea Air	CR	0-0-3-1-5	61.5(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	5	700
2	Consul of War	CD	1-3-3-2/4	60	M.Sonaram	9	550
3	Hubble	SJ	1-1-7/7-5	61(-4)	A.Roy	7	450
4	Kazaar	P	5-3-5-7/6	61(-3)	O.Sola	6	3000
5	Royal Italian	SN	0-0-0-0-8	61	D.Bheekary	4	2500
6	Bag of Tricks	RG	0-0-0-0-3	61	J.Allyhosain	2	270
7	Blackburn Roc	GR	0-8-1-1/2	60.5	N.Teeha	8	290
8	Charleston Hero	VA	1-1-8/R-6	60.5	B.Fayd'herbe	3	1200
9	Inn A Million	SN	4-5-1-2-6	60.5	G.D.Aucharuz	1	1400

6 THE J SERGE HENRY CUP 990 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 15h10							
1	Badawee	SJ	7-5-8/9-6	60.5(-3)	A.Roy	9	2500
2	James Peter	SN	0-0-0-0-1	60	D.Bheekary	7	550
3	Tyrian	PM	3-1-5-7/4	60	R.Oliver	2	900
4	Doublethink	RG	0-0-6/4-2	59.5	J.Allyhosain	4	250
5	Gunner Runner	GR	0-1-2-6-6/	59.5	N.Teeha	3	310
6	Walls of Dubrovnik	SH	nouveau	59.5	I.Santana	5	370
7	Master Mariner	JMH	nouveau	58	K.Kalychurun	8	2500
8	Ticket to Cairo	JMH	0-0-0-0-6	58(-4)	N.S.Batchameah	6	750
9	Barak Lavan [EA]	SN	2-6-5-8-8	57	-----	1	----

7 THE MAURITIUS DERBY TRIAL CUP 1400 m - Valeur G.3 - 4yrs Old - 15h45							
1	Frosted Gold	RM	nouveau	61	P.C.Orffer	7	300
2	Arizona Silk	PM	0-0-0-0-8	56	R.Oliver	8	2500
3	Fools Gold	RM	1-1-3-3-3	54.5	R.Joorawon	2	300
4	Master Of Illusion	CD	0-0-0-0-4	54	M.Sonaram	1	600
5	Ehsaan	G	1-2-4-4-6	53.5	Y.Emamdee	3	1200
6	Battle Of Alesia	RG	0-0-0-0-5	52.5	S.Rama	4	2500
7	Padre Pio	SJ	0-0-0-0-2	52.5	A.Roy	5	220
8	Pop-Ieen	SPN	0-0-0-0-7	52	K.Kalychurun	6	-----

8 THE ROYAL DEED CUP 1500 m - Valeur [0-15] - 16h20							
1	Xanthus	PM	6-2-8/3-5	61	R.Oliver	2	430
2	Blunderbuss	CR	1-4-1-9/10	60.5	S.Bussunt	6	720
3	Midnight Messenger	SPN	1-5-2-5-6	60.5	K.Kalychurun	4	650
4	Misty Roller	CD	2-2-3-2-1	60.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	1	320
5	Hit The Green	RM	2-3-3-2/2	60	P.C.Orffer	7	290
6	Tiger's Bond	P	10-5-3-9/4	60	G.D.Aucharuz	3	350
7	Slightly Scottish	AS	6-8-9-8-8	56.5	R.Joorawon	5	3000

9 THE EDOUARD DESBLEDS PLATE 1365 m - Valeur [0-26] -- 16h55							
1	Adamo	SH	6-5/8-7-4	60	I.Santana	9	550
2	Alpirod	PM	nouveau	60	R.Oliver	5	400
3	Citadel	G	nouveau	60	Y.Emamdee	2	400
4	Massimo	VA	nouveau	60	B.Fayd'herbe	7	900
5	Stageworld	P	nouveau	60	G.D.Aucharuz	4	320
6	Ultimate Warrior	RG	nouveau	60	J.Allyhosain	1	370
7	Xenon	RM	0-0-0-0-8	60	P.C.Orffer	3	1600
8	Sauna's Cessna	CD	nouveau	57.5(-4)	M.Sonaram	8	1600
9	Volatile Energy[EA]	SN	9-5-5-1/9	60	-----	6	----

SELECTIONS

- Kings Empire, Special Force, Seventh Silver
- Go Jewel, Gordonstoun, Wendylle
- Bestday of Mylife, Kaydens Pride, Bonnie Prince
- Sea Dance, Juniper Lane, Watch Me Dad
- Bag of Tricks, Blackburn Roc, Consul of War
- Gunner Runner, Doublethink, Walls of Dubrovnik
- Padre Pio, Fools Gold, Frosted Gold
- Misty Roller, Hit The Green, Tiger's Bond
- Stageworld, Stageworld, Alpirod

Online learning has changed the way students work — we need to change definitions of ‘cheating’ too

Recent allegations of cheating by university students in online exams suggest the students are adapting faster than the education system itself – and that should change.

*Linda Rowan & Fiona Murray
Massey University*

As university students wait on their mid-year exam results, some will no doubt be thinking about more than just passing. Since Covid-19 pushed teaching and testing online last year, the issue of cheating has come into sharper focus.

Recent reports of University of Auckland students allegedly cheating in online exams highlighted the potential for dishonesty in a trust-based system.

But the problem also highlights a tension between cultures: the increasingly online world of higher education, and the everyday world of students.

This has made “cheating” in exams a more complex and evolving question than it once was. It also has implications for the credibility and value of university education and how we perceive student learning.

Traditionally, entry to university exams was controlled using student identity card photo checks. Set in large rooms, exams were invigilated to ensure students couldn’t communicate with each other in order to cheat.

Everyone had their place, and what students could take into the room was described and restricted. Teachers set the exams, the students sat them, exams were marked and final grades given — simple enough.

Covid-19 changed all that. For institutions where “blended” (face-to-face and online) learning had already been integrated, the digital switch was not so dramatic. But teachers and students who relied on paper-based or face-to-face teaching and learning faced something of a crisis: how to integrate existing practices with new technology.

A rushed revolution

Of course, the adjustment wasn’t equal. While some teachers and many students could quickly grab the latest device, connect to wi-fi and carry on, others struggled to access workable devices and internet connections.

Universities, teachers and students had to engage with software that couldn’t cope. Meanwhile, new software was evolving as fast as Covid. We shouldn’t be surprised if the university behemoth struggled to adapt or change fast enough.

Often, paper-based exams were simply transferred into online learning systems with little restructuring to suit the changed circumstances.

Incidences of cheating didn’t appear as prevalent at the end of 2020’s first trimester/semester — possibly because everyone was caught on the hop by what was happening.

However, students have shown they can cope with rapid change. Resourceful and adaptable, they have created their own ways of working and systems for information exchange. They form remote and close study groups, work collaboratively and draw on each other’s strengths.

Essentially, they are demonstrating the innovative, adaptable learning skills our education system and future employers expect of them. So why should we be surprised if students apply the same approach to online examinations?

Encouraging collaboration

Universities often struggle to explain to students why academic integrity is important (the University of Otago being an exception). Unfortunately, most university policies conflate academic integrity and academic misconduct.

We would argue that definitions of collusion as

cific guidance about preparing for and sitting online exams, what are the grounds for accusations of cheating? These grey areas reflect the generally opaque nature of the post-Covid world.

Specifically, what exactly is wrong with students discussing problems, proposing solutions and presenting their own interpretation as their answer?

Exams must evolve

In the networked world, the line between what is original and what is adapted is more blurred every day. It isn’t always possible to decide what is original and unique in order to give it individual credit.

If exams are designed to assess higher-order cognitive development — demonstrating individual ability to synthesise and apply knowledge — surely collaboration can be the vehicle for what educationalist John Biggs calls deeper learning. Can’t examination practices change to capture this?

Rather than universities continuing to define student activities via traditional regulation, perhaps instead educators need to think strategically to tap into this new student energy.

University exams need to check for individual (or collective) application, evaluation and synthesis of knowledge, not just rote learning and recall of study notes.



“working with others when it is not a group assignment” and “providing information to other students” are out of step with the new teaching and learning environment and its expectations.

Furthermore, we know learning collaboratively encourages higher-order understanding — yet the current environment continues to require individual assessment of students.

If education systems and teachers can’t provide spe-

It is evident the tertiary environment is evolving and students have demonstrated their creativity in banding together to solve problems in a modern way. Now is the time for examiners and exams to get smarter, too.

Traditional ways of operating are behind us. We need to keep moving forward — away from the comfortable and into the confusing jungle of synthesised, regenerated and expanding knowledge.



Laughter is the BEST Medicine

As a group of soldiers stood in formation at an army base, the Drill Sergeant said, "All right! All you idiots fall out." As the rest of the squad wandered away, one soldier remained at attention.

The Drill Instructor walked over until he was eye to eye with him, and then raised a single eyebrow. The soldier smiled and said, "Sure was a lot of 'em, huh, sir?"

A man was walking down the street and saw a sign in a store window that said "Help Wanted," so the man ran in the store and yelled out, "What's wrong?!"

Pappu: My internet is not working properly.

Officer: Ok, Double click on "My computer"

Pappu: I can't see your computer.

Officer: No no, click on "My computer" on your computer.

Pappu: How can I click on your computer from my computer?

Officer: Listen. There is an icon labelled "My Computer" on your computer. Ok. double click on it.

Pappu: What the hell, what is your computer doing on

my computer?

Officer: Double click on your computer.

Pappu: On which icon I've to click.

Officer: "My Computer".

Pappu: Oh, you idiot... Tell me where is your office... I'll come there and click on your "Computer."

Being an astronaut is funny. It's the only job where you get fired before you start work.

A guy urgently needed a few days off work,

But he knew the Boss would not allow him to leave.

He thought that maybe if he acted "Crazy"

Then he would tell him to take a few days off.

So, he hung upside-down on the ceiling & made funny noises.

His co-worker (who's blonde!) asked him what he was doing.

He told her that he was pretending to be a light bulb, so that the Boss might think he was "Crazy" and give him a few days off.

A few minutes later the Boss came

into the office and asked, "What are you doing?"

He told him he was a light bulb.

He said, "You are clearly stressed out. Go home and recuperate for a couple of days."

He jumped down and walked out of the office...

When his co-worker (the blonde) followed him, the Boss asked her "And where do you think you're going?"

She said, "I'm going home too, I can't work in the dark!"



Life's Stories

Trust and Faith

333 BCE. Alexander's army was passing through Cicilia (modern-day Turkey). Alexander decided to take a bath in the icy water of the river Cidnus (now called 'Berdan'). The following day he developed fever, and gradually it led to febrile convulsions. The royal physicians accompanying the king were very scared and reluctant to treat him as they knew the consequence of any glitch in the treatment could cost their lives.

A physician named Philip from Acarnania was bold enough and came forward to treat Alexander. He prepared a medicinal draught for the seriously ill king. When Alexander was about to drink this potion, a letter arrived from Parmenio, one of his military generals. The letter

accused Persian king Darius III for having bribed Philip to poison Alexander. With the paper still in his hand, Alexander swallowed the cup of medicine, and then passed on the letter to Philip. No, Alexander the Great did not die of poisoning; he recovered within a short time and led his army to conquer many parts of the world.

Many years later, in 1870, the Polish painter Henryk Siemiradzki described this incident in his painting. This story is so relevant for the present time. It tells us about the importance of mutual trust between a doctor and a patient despite the harsh environment. If the trust is lost, no doctor will take the risk to treat a rare disease (however severe it may be). And without faith in his physician, no patient will progress towards recovery.

Healing begins when both patients and physicians develop this trust.

Wisdom

Forget and move on...

1. No point using limited life to chase unlimited money.
2. No point earning so much money you cannot live to spend it.
3. Money is really not yours until you spend it.
4. When you are young, you use your health to chase your wealth; when you are old, you use your wealth to buy back your health. Alas, the difference is that it is too late.
5. How wise a man is, is not dependant on how much he has, but knowing how little he actually needs.
6. No point chasing money so hard to provide for the people you either have no time to spend with, or vice versa.

You arrived in this world naked, you leave this

world with nothing.

Society may cover the body with some cloth and flowers to give you a decent send-off, not for your sake, but theirs, and, to shield eyes from a grotesquely inert carcass, devoid of 'you'!

Now, now, don't get terribly sentimental! Neither defend nor delude yourself.

The trick lies in enjoying to the hilt, whatever you have with your loved ones before the 'party' is over!

Money madness

A wise man once sat in the audience and cracked a joke - all of them laughed like crazy.

After a moment he cracked the same joke again, and a little less people laughed this time.

He cracked the same once again, and no one laughed. Some actually groaned!

Then he smiled and said: "When you can't laugh on the same joke again and again, then why do you keep crying over the same thing over and over again..."

Life's Lessons

Let's jump while we still have the strength

Put a frog into a vessel filled with water and start heating the water. As the temperature of the water begins to rise, the frog adjusts its body temperature accordingly. The frog keeps adjusting its body temperature with the rising temperature of the water. Just when the water is about to reach boiling point, the frog cannot adjust anymore, and decides to jump out. But it is unable to do so because it has lost all its strength in adjusting with

the rising water temperature. Very soon the frog dies.

What killed the frog?

Think about it!

I know many of us will say the boiling water. But what really killed the frog was its own inability to decide when to jump out.

We all need to adjust with people and situations, but we need to be sure when we need to adjust and when we need to move on. There are times when we need to face the situation and take appropriate actions.

If we decide it's time to jump, let's do so while we still have the strength.

Signs you have found your soul mate

As per certain experts, soul mates are people that are meant to be together, in spite of the obstacles or adversity they may face. In addition, a soul mate relationship is one where you connect easily and instantly. But it doesn't mean the relationship comes without effort. No matter how easily two people connect, if they don't put in the required amount of time and work in the relationship, it will fail. If you have a gut feeling that you have found your soulmate, these 7 signs, as listed by Times of India, will help you to be sure about it.

You feel a sense of calm when around them

You spend a lot of time with your significant other. So, being with them makes you feel at home and at peace. Of course, there will probably be nervousness and hesitancy at first, but after you get comfortable with each other, it should just feel natural.

You have extreme empathy for them

You are so attached to them that when they fail a test, you feel as if you have failed it too. Seeing them upset



makes you sad. And you rejoice in each other's happiness. No one is more proud of their partner than you, and when they succeed, nothing makes you happier.

You balance each other out

Even if you are not a replica of your soulmate with different temperaments, upbringings, and backgrounds, you still are meant for each other. The important part is

how you two, as very different people, come together.

You can totally be yourself

There is no faking it when it comes to your soulmate. You can be totally yourself around them and you know they will love you for who you are and not how they expect you to be. You share your guilty pleasures, your weird mannerisms, your deepest secrets, and you know it will just make them love you more!

You fight for the relationship

Relationships aren't always easy, even between soulmates. But you two work hard for your relationship. This often means compromising, working on yourself, or talking through issues. The fact that you two are showing that you are willing to take these steps is a sign you are soulmates.

You are secure in the relationship

It's totally normal to get jealous, but you should have complete trust in your soulmate. No one will get in between you two so your partner can go off and hang out with friends, maybe go to a party you have to miss, and you know nothing will happen.

You understand each other's emotional languages.

Maybe you show your love to your partner by telling them how much you love them. On the other hand, they might like to show their love with cuddles. You can totally be with someone who has a different love language than you, you just need to understand the ways that you both express love and what to expect from each other.

Parenting

Smart ways to deal with your teen's anger



triggers or irritates your teen on a frequent basis.

Stop fulfilling every demand

Often spoiled teenagers get angry when their demand is not fulfilled. In order to prevent this situation you must not give them everything they want. This habit needs to be inculcated from the very beginning. As a kid, your child needs to understand that he won't get everything he demands served on a silver platter.

Listen to them. If your teens keeps to himself and seldom opens up to you, it is time to talk to him. Listen to what he has to say and understand what triggers his anger. Assure him that he can confide in you whenever he wants, which might help him open up to you. Use different tricks and ways to keep anger at bay, be it meditating together or stopping your teen, the moment he raises his voice at you.

Know when to walk away

As a parent, you need to know when to walk away from a heated argument. This will not only calm your kid down but also give you space to cool off. You can later bring the topic up or ask your teen for justification regarding his behaviour.

Set anger limit

A little bit of scolding is necessary to tame the kid but make sure you know when is the right time to scold. Set anger limits and don't go overboard with it. Frequent rebuking can make them prone to your scolding and they won't value anything you say.

With a mix of everything at the right time, you can easily deal with your kid's anger issues and also solve them.

Teenage behaviour is quite unpredictable. Their mood swings sway in all directions, from happiness and loneliness to irritation and anger, teens go through a number of emotions. During this time, they might develop a low temperament level which can be easily triggered by even small issues. In such a scenario, it is the parents who have to deal with the situation in a careful manner. Here are some effective tips, as listed by TOI, you can use to deal with your teen's angry behaviour.

Don't scold or beat

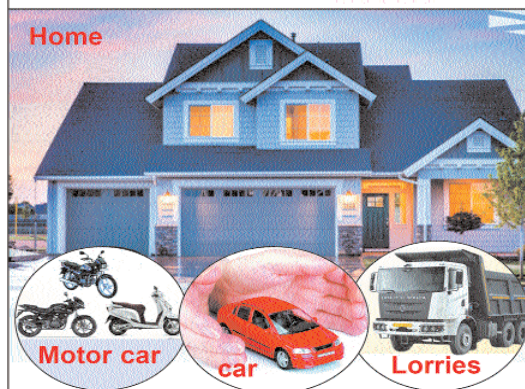
Scolding or beating an already angered teenager can add fuel to the fire. In situations like these, you must spare the rod and allow them to let their anger out at once. Either talk to them separately or enquire a while later, regarding what irritated him. This way you'll be able to circle out some main points which

Sanlam Central Agency Ltd

Accredited Agency

Contact: Mrs V. Gopal

1st floor, ARC Building, c/r SSR & Sir William Newton Streets, Port Louis Tel: 208 0289 / 5782 5678 - Fax: 213 0961
Email: centralagency@intnet.mu



Appartement à louer - long terme



Appartement meublé de 3 c.a.c, climatisé, cuisine équipée, piscine et parking, sécurité (24/24) à Trou aux Biches - Complexe Fleury sur Mer
Tel: 57809413 - 57530881

From Shanaya Kapoor to Ahan Shetty...

8 Bollywood newcomers you need to watch out for



From Khushi's viral Instagram Reels to Aryan playing Simba's voice in the *Indian Lion King*, here are the Bollywood newcomers who will be making their debut soon...

Shanaya Kapoor

Shanaya is the daughter of actor Sanjay Kapoor and cousin of actors Arjun, Rhea, Janhvi and Sonam Kapoor. The 21-year-old has previously worked as an assistant director on her cousin's film and will be making her debut very soon. However, the talented newcomer has already become a social media sensation with over 670,000 followers on Instagram. From her dance videos to her Reels, the newcomer has already caused a social media stir.

Isabelle Kaif

Isabelle, sister of actress Katrina Kaif, made her debut this year in March in a film "*Time to Dance*" which released on Netflix. The 30-year-old newcomer is half British and half Indian and lives in Mumbai, India. She started her career as a model when she was 14 and received training in acting from Lee Strasberg Theatre and Film Institute of New York.

Manushi Chhillar

Former Miss World 2017, Manushi Chhillar will be making her debut this year in Bollywood. The

24-year old is the sixth representative from India to win the Miss World Pageant. Manushi started her career as a model. Her upcoming movie *Prithviraj* is set to release by the end of this year.

Ahaan Panday

Ahaan is the nephew of actor Chunky Panday and cousin of actress Ananya Panday. The 23-year-old will be making his debut in the films along with superstar Ajay Devgn. The movie is based on a super-hero theme.

Ahan Shetty

Ahan is the son of Suniel Shetty. He just finished shooting for his first film "*Tadap*" which is a romantic action drama film. The film is set to release on September 24 and features popular actress Tara Sutaria. Apart from his upcoming film, the actor is one of the most popular star kids on the block with a reasonably large social media following. From his football videos, fitness tips and luxurious holidays, his Instagram game is definitely on point.

Suhana Khan

Suhana is the daughter of Shahrukh Khan. She currently studies at New York University but is rumoured to be making her debut in the movies very soon. The most talked about star kid has already caused a social media storm with her aesthetic Instagram along with her stylish persona. She was previously seen to be part of several short movies (which were shot as part of her degree) and from the looks of it she has the acting chops.

Khushi Kapoor

Khushi is the daughter of iconic late actress Sri Devi and movie producer Boney Kapoor. She is the sister of actress Janhvi Kapoor and cousin to actors Arjun, Rhea and Sonam Kapoor. The 20-year-old is currently studying at the New York Film Academy, but is rumoured to be making her debut very soon. The young sensation has already caused a storm on social media with her Instagram reels on all the latest trends. She also is known to be one of the most stylish star kids on the block.

Jackie Shroff on going bankrupt after *Boom* failed

'Business mein up down hota hi hai'

After the Ayesha Shroff produced *Boom* flopped at the box office, Jackie Shroff and his family found themselves in a erratic financial position.

Jackie Shroff has opened up about the financial crisis he and his family experienced after the box office failure of *Boom*. The actor had to sell his house and worked twice as hard to pay off the debts.

Boom released in 2003. The movie starred Amitabh Bachchan, Jackie Shroff, Gulshan Grover, Padma Lakshmi, Madhu Sapre, Zeenat Aman and Katrina Kaif, and was produced by Ayesha Shroff.

Now, Jackie opened up about the bankruptcy and said that he repaid everyone he owed to clear his family's name. "I knew that we tried something and we lost something. If I had to pay for it, I'd pay. I had worked as much as I could and we repaid everybody so that my family's name gets clear. Business mein up down hota hi hai. Kabhi upar kabhi niche hota hai (Sometimes it's up and sometimes it's down), but you need to know how to keep your sanity and ethics," he said, speaking with Bollywood Bubble.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

In business, beware of your sensitive fibre, which might make you lose; don't let sentiment interfere. This won't be the time to take too many risks. Your love affairs will be favoured if you know how to be understanding.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 14, 20, 31, 32

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Don't be too mistrustful, and think that friendship can very well become love one week, for your greatest joy. Don't evaluate your friendship relations in terms of possible material profit. You'll obtain appreciable results in medical, paramedical, financial, judicial careers, and also in insurances.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 11, 14, 17, 21

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Some natives of the sign will receive an unexpected sum of money. In order to succeed in your career, you'll need more self-assurance and self-confidence; an efficient way to develop these qualities is learning public speaking.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 12, 20, 28, 32

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

The career sector will be favoured, but don't forget to take all normal precautions. You'll this time want to favour friendship at the expense of love; but your mate may not hear of it; try then to dispel all possible misunderstanding and to sit on the fence.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 15, 18, 19, 20, 30

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Numerous original ideas will occur to you. A favourable week for finances; but don't be too sure of your appraisal if you make investments or if you indulge in speculation; it'll be in your interest to take the advice of specialists into account.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 11, 15, 20, 33

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You'll want to profit by the joys of existence and savour all pleasures without delay. You'll however have much to do so as to overcome the problems which your children will cause you for reason of their shaky health or their difficult character.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 15, 19, 20, 36, 37

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Your family concerns may affect your professional activities; try to control and organize yourself. Your recent small successes in your career will tend to make you heady; beware of a possible backlash. You'll have great chances to meet the amorous mate of your dreams.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 15, 20, 25, 26, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

A profound change will begin to take place within you; this evolution won't go without anguish but will prove salutary. With delicate consideration and numerous small nice gestures, you'll captivate your beloved one. Dismiss all tittle-tattle.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 24

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

It's probable that your need of money will become very worrisome; what's essential will be to hold on until the wheel turns; and it will turn in your favour almost right away. Life in your home will be subjected to many turmoils.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 10, 11, 16, 21

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You'll begin to go through a period of important questioning which will prove beneficial. Don't neglect your family in spite of the multiplicity of your duties elsewhere. In your work, unexpected events can demand you a great effort at adaptation; the stars will sustain your efforts.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 17, 21, 27, 33, 40

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Your existence may become spectacular after a new love affair will have aroused your interest. You could make an acquaintance in a society meeting, and love will pop up instantly. With your children, be firmer, otherwise you can no longer handle them.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 12, 16, 21, 30, 36

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

The sense of diplomacy will be very useful to you to solve certain problems which will present themselves: relationships with colleagues, with neighbours, with associates. Betrothals in view; but they'll probably last a long time because of certain difficulties.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 19, 20, 25, 26, 30

Kundali Bhagya's



Isha Anand Sharma ties the knot with Vasdev Jasrotia in secret ceremony

Isha Anand Sharma married pilot Vasdev Singh Jasrotia recently in Rajasthan, in a secret ceremony. Isha has said that with time they 'realised that we were meant for each other' and called it 'a crazy love story', reports Hindustan Times.

"We wanted to have a grand wedding with our relatives and friends in attendance. However, we had to postpone the plan due to the pandemic. We were waiting for things to return to normalcy to organise the wedding in a way we had envisioned it. But at our families' insistence, we decided not to delay it any further and had an intimate wedding, complete with rituals, in Rajasthan," she told the leading daily.

"It's a crazy love story. I broke up with my boyfriend a few months before I met Vasdev at a common friend's get-together. He knew about me and the fact that I was in a relationship. We got talking at the party and I told him that I had parted ways with my boyfriend. Soon we became friends and fell in love. I was shooting for *Kundali Bhagya* close to his residence, so we would often meet after my pack up. With time, we realised that we were meant for each other. We dated for a year before we got married. Vasu is mature and intelligent, while I am childish and goofy. So, there is a fine balance between us. He keeps correcting me. That's the main reason I fell in love with him and his IQ," she added.

Isha has worked in serials such *Choti Sarrdaarni*, *Kundali Bhagya*, and *Super Sisters - Chalega Pyar Ka Jaadu*. She was also a contestant in *Splitsvilla 9* on MTV.

'The show must go on': Mudit Nayar

Homecoming is always special but this time it was extra special for *Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein* actor, Mudit Nayar, who was recently in his home town Prayagraj, accompanied by his wife Aparajita, reports TOI. "It was a surprise visit, as I had not informed my parents about it, so when I reached home, they were really elated to see us. Ever since the outbreak of the pandemic my parents were really worried. Seeing the conditions in Mumbai, I had not ventured out, so travelling was out of question. Even when restrictions on travelling were lifted, we waited for some time to actually fly to my hometown," he says.

Though spending time with the family

was the greatest bliss of this trip, the *Anamika* actor says he did miss out on certain things because of the pandemic. "Usually whenever I am in Prayagraj I tend to relish the street food. There are certain favourite food joints that serve some awesome street food. This time, though I went to the Sangam area, I skipped the usual kachori breakfast dished out by some shops in that area. Some shops in the city also serve some super delicious jalebis which I could not resist even this time. I got some, microwaved it, to ward off any health scare," he says with a laugh.

The TV industry is gradually resuming shooting in this Covid times, though it could not escape the side effects of the pandemic. Some TV shows were axed and his show *Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein* was one of them.

Yeh Hai Mohabbatein fame Karishma Sharma on trolls: 'If I wear a bikini, I get slut-shamed...'

Karishma Sharma, who started her career as a model and then went to do popular TV shows like *Pavitra Rishta* and *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein*, has come a long way into the industry. After doing TV shows, the actress bagged films and web series. From facing rejections to getting typecast and handling trolls, the actress bared her heart out in an interview to Vijaya Tiwari of Times of India.

I'm gifted with looks but it's the craft that I had to work on

I've come a long way and am still working hard, learning a lot in this journey. Initially, I thought it was just the fame that I wanted. I just wanted to be famous when I was very young and new to the industry, but with time and experience I learnt that you need to work on your craft. With time I realised that I have to focus on my acting; look is also important, but that I've been gifted. Craft is something which I have to really work on. I am a huge fan of Tabu ma'am, she's so talented and she is still so relevant and doing well. I really look up to someone like her.

I try to take criticism more constructively than like just pass it on

Yes, of course, I faced rejections in the beginning especially when I was young and had just started off. But initially it didn't bother me much or affect me. Now, when I get rejected I see it very differently, I start thinking what was it that I didn't do right, what can I do to better my performance, now I try to take criticism more constructively. So, I believe with age you just kind of evolve.

I did go through a phase where people did say that she is a bold actress

I did go through a phase where people did say that she is a bold actress. It affected me initially but I took it in a positive way. There are so many web shows where bold scenes are filmed and done so well. For me my mother was very supportive and I got my strength from her and she told me if you feel happy, then I don't really care about what others say.

Don't want to get typecast

I just don't want to be typecast. I don't want people to think I can only do certain kinds of cinema, web shows. So, I took a step back and saw if I am not doing things correctly. It was difficult and I did go through ups and downs. I recently saw Priyanka Chopra's interview where she said we all go through failures but what we do with that and what you do after that is what makes the difference. I learnt and I am trying to do things differently.

It was difficult to just wait and let go off a project

It was very difficult to just wait for the right kind of project and let go off all the projects that's coming your way because they are the same. Then you see everyone doing so much work. It puts you in that place when you start thinking oh my God everyone is working and what am I doing? But I know what kind of work I believe in and the kind of project I want to see myself in. So sometimes it takes time and you have to just patiently wait. Like I did a role in *Ujda Chaman*, it was a small role but people appreciated me in it. The audience liked me and enjoyed my acting. (Photo: Instagram)

On handling trolls

Honestly, I don't care what someone is writing about me on social



media. If I ever come across anything nasty, I just go and block that person. Obviously, I can't sit and block everyone. There are so many people saying so many things that if you start caring you won't be able to live and you will lose focus on your work. It's really sad that girls have to go through so much more than men. It's just not fair and I hope some action is taken.

When I wear a bikini, trolls slut-shame me and if I wear a saree, they comment 'arre isko kya hogaya'

I feel it is a deep-rooted problem. Because when a girl, like for example me, if I am wearing a bikini, trolls start slut-shaming me. If I wear a saree, they will comment 'arre isko kya hogaya'. It's my page, my body. If I want to wear a saree and feel graceful I will do that; if I like to wear a bikini I will do that too. If you like my content, you are more than welcome, if you don't just unfollow me. Nobody is forcing you and that's the rule I follow in life.



Mudit says, "This news was unexpected for sure but I was not heartbroken. I understood the channel's stand as there are certain standing costs, since at that time (in April) when the decision was

taken, it was not very clear till when the lockdown would continue. But I would have loved it if the show would have ended in a proper manner. The next day I got a lot of fan mail who wanted the show to continue."

The actor believes that all is not bad in these pandemic times. Mudit says, "One thing that has improved is the audition process. Now I am doing all the auditions from my home which is brilliant. Now there is no need to travel, stand in the queues and be part of crowded places. One can shoot from home and send the footage to the production houses, since visiting the sets is still a bit worrisome."

The actor goes on to add, "We have to live with the present condition and try to adapt to this new way of life... as the show must go on."



Vendredi 25 Juin - 21.15

Zombieland



Samedi 26 Juin - 21.20

Triassic World



Dimanche 27 Juin - 21.15



vendredi 25 juin

MBC 1

07.00 Dessin Anime
10.15 Local Prod: Rodrig Prog
11.10 Tele: Soleil Levant
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.53 Doc: L'art Et La Matière
13.08 Local: MBC Talent Show
14.30 D.Anime: Teenie Tots
15.01 D.Anime: Spirit: Au Galop...
15.24 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
15.36 D.Anime: Little Spirou
15.42 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
16.15 D.Anime: Garfield Originals
16.29 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.00 Local: Resonances
21.20 Serial: Seal Team
23.00 Le Journal
23.35 Mag: Eye On Sadc

MBC 2

07.15 Serial: Babu
07.26 Serial: Chota Bheem
08.00 Live Educational Prog: Grade 3
10.15 Live Educational Prog: Grade 4
12.30 Film: Jenu Tadka Chhaya Naam
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.25 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.46 Serial: Bava Maradallu
16.07 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
16.27 Serial: Sila
16.48 Serial: Imtihaan
17.09 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.27 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone
18.30 Mag: Maths Factor
19.05 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Mag: Khwab Hamare Tabeer
20.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan
20.45 Local: Aqeedat Ke Phool
21.45 Local: Urdu Programme

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco India
06.26 Mag: Shift
06.38 Mag: Sur Mesure
06.52 Mag: Border Crossing
07.47 Mag: Science Ou Fiction
09.00 Educational Prog: Grade 5
11.30 Educational Prog: Grade 8
14.03 Doc: Soul Ladies
14.45 Doc: Northern Lights
15.56 Mag: Eco India
16.22 Mag: Shift
16.35 Mag: Border Crossing
17.04 Mag: Tomorrow Today
17.33 Mag: Japan Video Topics
17.46 Doc: Cholitas
18.26 Mag: The World From Above
19.00 Mag: Global 3000
20.05 Doc: Innovation On Board
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.40 Master Of Engineering
21.31 Doc: Seeds Of Profit

Cine 12

01.00 Serial: Madam Secretary
02.08 Film: American Meltdown
03.33 Serial: Shades Of Blue
04.15 Film: Marrying Mr. Darcy
05.38 Tele: Muneca Brava
07.02 Film: Zombie Shark
09.00 Serial: Mission: Impossible
09.45 Tele: Daniella
10.35 Tele: Tanto Amor
11.00 Serial: Shades Of Blue
12.00 Film: Marrying Mr. Darcy
13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: Zombie Shark
16.41 Serial: Mission: Impossible
17.29 Serial: Madam Secretary
18.11 Tele: Daneilla
19.00 Tele: Tanto Amor
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Serial: Night Shift
21.15 Film: Zombieland
22.39 Tele: Muneca Brava

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Naam Hai Akira
12.05 / 19.54 - Sanjivani
12.22 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna
12.45 / 20.32 - Agniphera
13.06 / 21.09 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai
13.35 / 21.24 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
13.56 / 21.46 - Naagin S3
14.38 / 21.59 - Sethji
15.01 / 22.25 - Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur Saburi
15.33 Film: Judwaa 2
Starring: Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Taapsee Pannu
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.51 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein

samedi 26 juin

06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man
06.24 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
06.46 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe...
07.13 D.Anime: Kid Lucky
07.35 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis...
08.02 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...
08.22 D.Anime: Teenie Weenies
08.36 D.Anime: Martin Morning
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Daniella
15.00 D.Anime: Teenie Tots
15.47 D.Anime: La Famille Blaireau
16.06 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
16.39 D.Anime: Garfield Originals
16.41 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana
17.35 Doc: A Question Of Science
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Entertainment: Dance
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.25 Local: Le Rendez Vous
21.20 Film: Legionnaire
23.00 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Harjaree
09.30 Serial: Vir: The Robot Boy
09.41 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.36 Serial: Bloody Romance
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare
12.24 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.47 Serial: High School
13.03 Annakodiyum Ainthu Pengalum
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.30 Film: Deewane Huye Paagal
18.00 Mag: Tarane Purane
18.25 Mag: Anmol Virasat
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Mag: Tarane Purane
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
20.28 Serial: Bitti Business Wali
21.01 Film: Game Over
Starring Taapsee Pannu, V. Vaidyanathan, Anish Kuruville

06.00 Doc: Cholitas
06.42 Mag: Arts And Culture
07.21 Mag: Euromaxx
07.50 Doc: Innovation On Board
08.16 Master Of Engineering
09.56 Doc: Neuschwanstein
11.01 Doc: Cholitas
12.03 Mag: Global 3000
12.51 Doc: Innovation On Board
13.17 Doc: Master Of Engineering
14.09 Doc: Seeds Of Profit
14.52 Doc: Neuschwanstein
15.34 Doc: The Solar Power...
16.03 Doc: Cholitas
16.58 Mag: Global 3000
18.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens
19.00 Doc: Cool & Clever
19.30 Mag: Check In
20.01 Doc: Volcano Stories
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.40 Doc: Destinations
20.53 Doc: Wedding The French...

01.30 Film: Zombieland
02.52 Serial: Dynasty 2
03.32 Film: Dark Tourist
04.48 Tele: Esmeraldas
05.30 Serial: Night Shift
06.38 Film: Hope Dance
08.30 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.18 Serial: The Enemy Within
09.59 Serial: Incorporated
10.41 Film: A Doggone Hollywood
12.15 Serial: Dynasty 2
13.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue
15.05 Tele: Amanda
15.45 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.30 Mag: Hollywood On Set
17.00 Serial: Night Shift
17.45 Film: Easter Under Wraps
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Series: Night Shift
21.15 Film: Triassic World
22.44 Tele: Dulce Amor

04.05 Sanjivani
04.26 Radha Krishna
04.48 Agniphera
05.11 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
05.34 Zindagi Ki Mehek
06.00 Sethji
06.21 Mere Sai - Shraddha Aur...
06.48 Bin Kuck Kahe
07.38 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron...
08.02 Zindagi Ki Mehek
09.47 Motu Patlu
10.01 Siddhi Vinayak
12.00 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.00 Sanjivani
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Baar Baar Dekho
Star: Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif
20.48 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
21.27 Serial: Naagin

dimanche 27 juin

06.00 D.Anime: Mega Man: Fully...
06.25 D.Anime: Spongo, Fuzz and...
06.46 D.Anime: Sissi, Jeune Impe...
07.59 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...
09.30 Mag: Future Mag
10.00 Local: Zanan Nou Zil
10.30 Serial: Mustangs FC
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Tele: Daniella
14.15 Local: Elle
15.10 D.Anime: Teenie Tots
15.36 D.Anime: Spirit: Au Galop En...
16.10 D.Anime: Little Spirou
17.03 Serial: Project MC
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local Production
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Local: Resonances
21.40 Film: Guernica
Avec: James D'Arcy, Maria Valverde, Jack Davenport

07.00 Film: Jeeva
09.30 Serial: Babu
11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai
11.22 Serial: Santoshi Maa
12.00 Film: Stree
Stars: Rajkumar Rao, Shraddha Kapoor, Pankaj Tripathi
15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
15.19 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
15.42 Eka Lagnachi Teesri Gosht
16.05 Apoorva Raagangal
17.00 Mahakali
17.43 Kisna
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
20.06 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas..
20.47 Serial: CID
21.32 Serial: Naagin Season 2
22.17 Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
22.59 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Amazing Gardens
06.26 Doc: Cool & Clever
06.52 Doc: The World From Above
08.13 Doc: Destinations
08.26 Doc: Wedding The French...
10.46 Doc: Sur Mesure
11.00 Doc: Amazing Gardens
11.52 Doc: The World From Above
12.18 Mag: Check In
13.27 Doc: Wedding The French...
17.42 Mag: Sur Mesure
18.00 Mag: Tendance XXI
19.00 Doc: Garden Party
20.05 Mag: Happiness Is On The...
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.40 Doc: Comme Une Envie De...
21.32 Doc: Farming Policies For...
22.14 Doc: Battle Of Social Net...
22.57 Mag: Tendance XXI
23.23 Doc: Ville En Fête
23.53 Doc: Garden Party

00.33 Serial: Night Shift
01.28 Film: Triassic World
02.57 Serial: Emerald City
03.37 Film: Legionnaire
05.16 Tele: Esmeraldas
06.00 Serial: Night Shift
06.42 Film: Sox: A Family's Best...
08.31 Serial: Mike Hammer
09.19 Film: All Hallow' Eve
10.47 Film: Easter Under Wraps
12.15 Serial: Emerald City
13.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue
15.33 Telenovela: Amanda
16.17 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.00 Serial: Night Shift
17.45 Serial: Emerald City
18.30 Serial: Supercopter
20.05 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor
21.15 Film: Jeepers Creepers
22.45 Tele: Dulce Amor

00.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi
02.15 Sanjivani
03.57 Pavitra Rishta
05.26 Film: Baar Baar Dekho
Starring: Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif
08.00 Motu Patlu
08.12 Ikyawann
10.10 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
12.00 Piya Albela
13.47 Agniphera
15.36 Bin Kuch Kahe
17.30 Punnar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Santa Banta PVT Ltd
Starring: Vir Das, Boman Irani, Neha Dhupia
20.17 Serial: Motu Patlu
20.29 Entertainment: Dance
21.17 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.37 Serial: Piya Albela

MBC 2

Samedi 19 Juin - 21.00

Stars: Taapsee Pannu, V. Vaidyanathan, Anish Kuruville



Vendredi 25 Juin - 18.30

Stars: Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Taapsee Pannu



Narcissistic leaders: even children fall for their superficial charms

Does our penchant for unfit but charismatic populists trace back to our playground politics?



Even our youngest citizens can be won over with empty promises to make the playground great again. Shutterstock

We live in an age of narcissistic leadership. Around the world, we are witnessing the rise and fall of narcissistic leaders – people who hold grandiose views of themselves, who believe laws and regulations don't apply to them, and who crave the respect and admiration of their followers.

Could narcissistic leadership have roots in childhood? As psychologists, my colleagues and I set out to investigate.

Narcissism is a personality trait that is characterised by an inflated sense of self-importance and entitlement. Our work shows that narcissism develops in childhood. From the age of seven, there are stable differences between children in their levels of narcissism. Narcissistic children are more likely to make claims such as “I am a very special person”, “kids like me deserve something extra”, and “I am a great example for other kids to follow”.

As adults, narcissists often emerge as leaders in groups. Narcissists captivate others with their alluring charm, bold vision, and unshakeable self-confidence.

Given that children spend most of

their free time at school in groups, we wondered whether narcissistic children would be seen as leaders by their peers. They may be the playground's prime ministers.

For our study, we recruited a sample of 332 children between the ages of seven and 14. We assessed their narcissism levels and then asked children to write down the names of classmates whom they perceived as a “true leader”. We explained that a leader is “someone who decides what a group does, someone who's the boss”.

Narcissistic children were often seen by their classmates as true leaders. The association between narcissism and leadership was so consistent that it emerged in 96% of all the classrooms we investigated.

So now we know that narcissistic children often emerge as leaders in their classrooms. But do they actually excel as leaders?

To address this question, we invited children to perform a collaborative task. They formed a three-person committee to select the best police officer from several candidates. They received detailed descriptions of each candidate, with

attributes such as “likes helping other people”, “is good at karate”, and “is afraid of the dark”. The task was designed so that children could only identify the best candidate when they shared information about candidates with their group members. Collaboration was key.

We randomly assigned one child to be the leader. This child sat at the head of the table and was responsible for guiding the group discussion and making the final decision.

Despite having positive perceptions of their own leadership skills, narcissistic children did not excel as leaders. Compared to other leaders, they did not show better leadership and did not guide their groups to better performance. They were perfectly average.

If narcissistic children didn't actually excel as leaders, why did their classmates still see them as true leaders? Children, like adults, may take the big talk of narcissistic individuals at face value. Indeed, people are often unable to look through the narcissistic façade, mistaking confidence for competence.

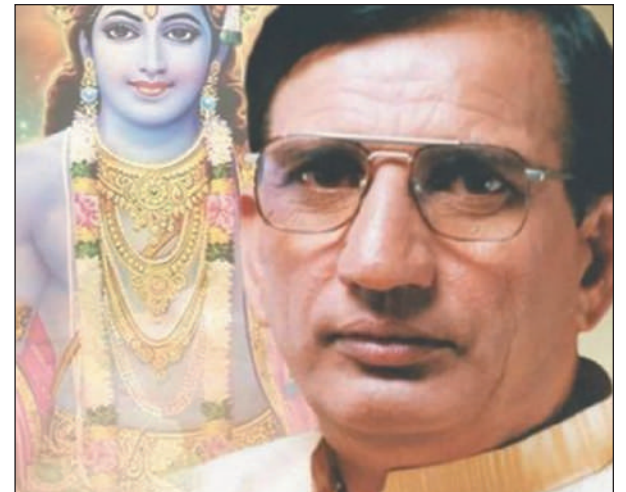
This might help us understand what drives people to choose narcissists to lead them but it doesn't mean that adult narcissistic leaders should be compared to children. It is concerning that former US president Donald Trump was, at various points, described as a “toddler in chief”, “an insecure boasting little boy” and “a spoiled five-year old throwing a tantrum”. That's not only unfair to toddlers but also legitimises Trump's behaviour while in office. An adult can be considered accountable for inciting violence and undermining democracy; a toddler cannot.

In 1931, Sigmund Freud wrote that narcissists “impress others as ‘personalities’” and are well-suited “to take on the role of leaders”. Our work shows, however, that narcissists excel at impressing others – not at leading others. As a society, we should be more careful about selecting our leaders based on their competence rather than their confidence.

Eddie Brummelman,
University of Amsterdam

Obituary

Rajendra Arun - Journalist & Ramayana Scholar



On Monday last, 21 June, Pt Rajendra Arun, President of Ramayana Centre Mauritius, passed away after a short illness.

Shri Rajendra Arun was well-known as a Ramayana scholar in Mauritius and abroad, where he was frequently invited to deliver talks on the Ramayana and take part in International and World Ramayana Conferences.

A journalist by training, he came to Mauritius from India in the 1970s to be the editor of the weekly paper 'Janata' launched by Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam. In his editorials, he quite often quoted Ramayana. In 1982, the 'Janata' paper ceased to appear, and subsequently Pt Arun joined Quality Beverages as Co-Ordinator and Advisor until his retirement.

He was in close contact with Swami Krishnanandji Maharaj, founder of Human Service Trust. Swamiji had donated a copy of Ramcharitmanas in every Hindu home and wanted to have someone to convey the values of Ramayana to the youth especially. He found in Shri Arunji the right person to meet this challenging task.

Panditji started a weekly radio programme on the MBC and at popular request began to officiate at Ram Katha satsangs that would be especially organised by the Ramayan Mandalis throughout the island. He gave talks every Tuesday at Hindu Maha Sabha hall, Port Louis, from noon to 12.45 pm, coinciding with lunch time, the audience being staff working in different ministries and the private sector.

His greatest legacy is the Ramayana Centre at Union Park, which was established following the unanimous passage of the Ramayana Centre Act in Parliament in 2001, with the help and support of numerous devotees, well-wishers and donors both locally and abroad. It comprises the Learning Complex and the Ram Mandir. In addition to the several activities that are conducted there, there is a well-furnished library which houses books relating to Ramayana and other aspects of Hinduism. They include several titles by Panditji himself, as he was a prolific writer, on the main characters of Ramayana - Prabhu Ram, Mata Sita, Bhakt Hanuman, Bharat, Dusruth, and Mata Kaikeyi, which are available in Hindi and English.

The contribution of Pt Arun will be written in letters of gold in Mauritian history as far as the promotion of Ramayana is concerned.

Mauritius Times offers its deep condolences to Mrs Vinoo Arun and her family, praying for *shubh sadgati* for the departed atman.