

MAURITIUS **TIMES**

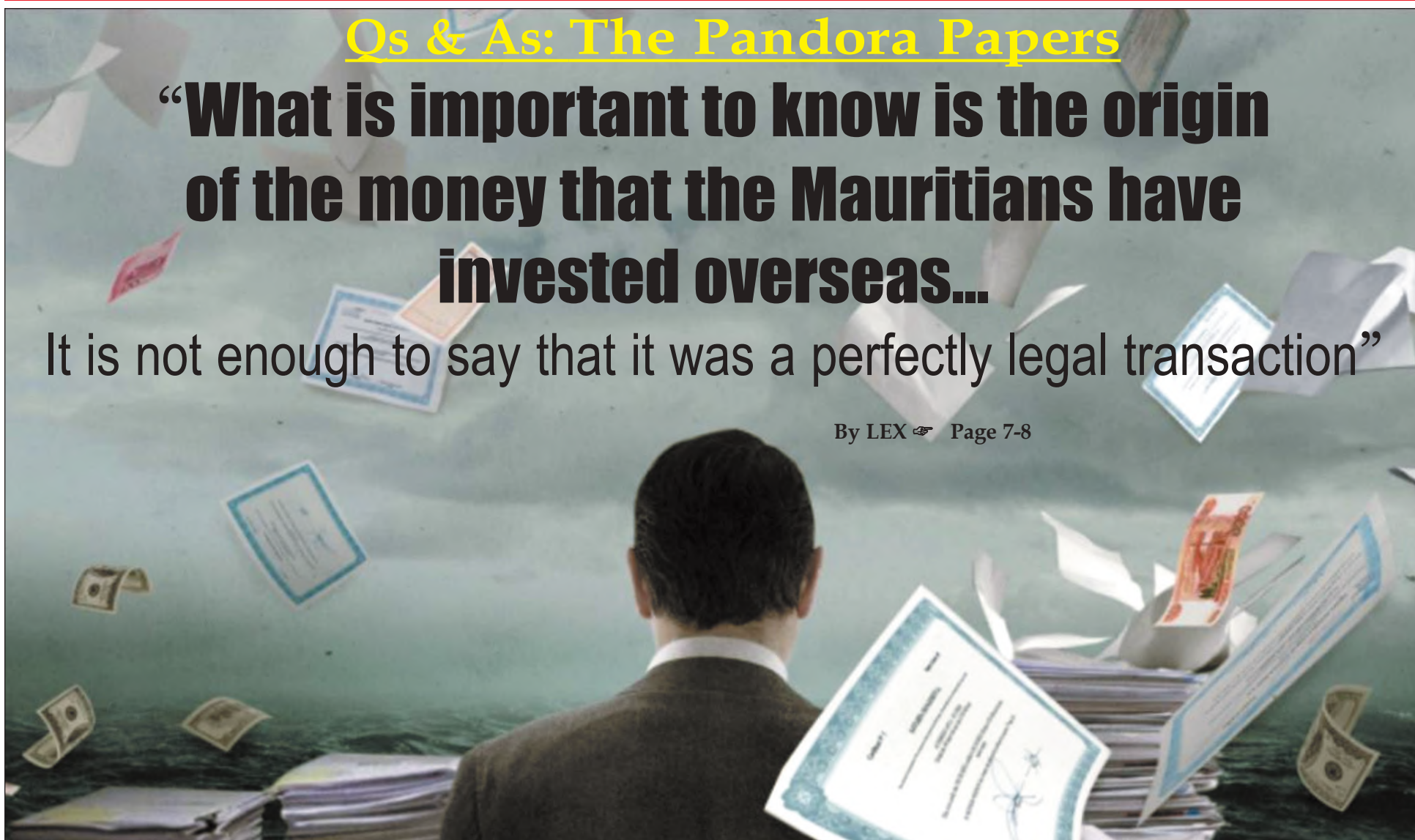
• *“Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another.” -- John Maxwell*

Qs & As: The Pandora Papers

“What is important to know is the origin of the money that the Mauritians have invested overseas...

It is not enough to say that it was a perfectly legal transaction”

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Navaratri in Greater India

As we pay reverence to Ma Durga, we should be happy that beyond 'Little India', Mauritius is rather part of the Greater India of the Global Indian Diaspora, which pitches us to a higher level of engagement in the evolving global context



By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee ☞ See Page 4

The Air Mauritius Gamble

By choosing more rather than less political and administrative control over the fate of both AHL and MK in these difficult times for the whole aviation industry, the government is undoubtedly taking a major gamble, one whose outcome is as unpredictable as the pandemic



Jan Arden ☞ See Page 3

Leadership of the Opposition

In the early hours of Sunday morning, former PM Navin Ramgoolam, returned safely to our shores after being granted a post-Covid health clearance by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences top Covid specialists and after a courtesy call on PM Modi to thank him and the Indian authorities for the support and hospitality during his treatment. Although he would still be in some form of convalescence, self-isolation or recovery, with restricted meetings and outings from his home in Floreal, the news has been received with relief in LP quarters, while many both inside and outside party ranks and sympathizers will be already keen to gauge his mood and political strategies ahead, both at party and national levels.

In last week's issue long-time astute political observer Lindsay Riviere, made the point that much depends on that mood and he pretty much made the case that the next general elections will be decided between the only two political rivals, Navin Ramgoolam and Pravind Jugnauth, both with similar strategies, namely to grab or hold the rural constituencies while looking for regional players to sway urban ones.

That such a thesis holds water has been demonstrated in the 2019 general election, where the MSM, against a divided Opposition field, held the so-called "Hindu Belt" constituencies while it succeeded in getting former MMM regional players like Kavi Ramano, Alan Ganoo and Steven Obeegadoo to carry the day in specific urban constituencies. The case that a united minority, albeit with powerful resources, can, in our First Past The Post electoral system and processes, win the day against a divided majority was made and party leaders will be fully aware of the risks of such a repeat MSM performance in 2024.

Many observers and the population at large may then have been flabbergasted by the inability of the Opposition, as structured by Paul Berenger under the 'Entente de l'Espoir' umbrella, to gain meaningful traction and recognize these days that this was not the winning formula it purported to be even in urban constituencies for upcoming municipal elections. Maybe a case of too many leader aspirants, not necessarily with converging agendas, while the MMM and its leader, Paul Berenger, have been on the back-foot with more defections, believed to have been engineered by MSM headquarters.

The whole Berenger strategy hinging on excluding the LP and Navin Ramgoolam seems to have backfired. While the 'Entente de l'Espoir' looks deprived of a natural national leader, non-traditional activists or smaller players (like Bruno Laurette, Avengers, *Resistans ek Alternativ*, and other groups) have yet to play their cards for these same municipals. Whether the scenery on the Opposition front will change in upcoming weeks or months remains to be seen. Ultimately, however, the Opposition will have to make up its mind as to who will lead an opposition alliance. Although we are some three years away from the next general election, the answer to that question will decide which alliance will win the election.

Mauritius Times

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

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

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The Conversation

Nobel Peace Prize for journalists serves as reminder that freedom of the press is under threat from strongmen and social media

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to two courageous journalists who have faced repression and death by doing their work



When the reporter becomes the story. AP - Pic - Bullit Marquez

Thirty-two years ago next month, I was in Germany reporting on the fall of the Berlin Wall, an event then heralded as a triumph of Western democratic liberalism and even "the end of history."

But democracy isn't doing so well across the globe now. Nothing underscores how far we have come from that moment of irrational exuberance than the powerful warning the Nobel Prize Committee felt compelled to issue on Oct. 8, 2021 in awarding its coveted Peace Prize to two reporters.

"They are representative for all journalists," Berit Reiss-Andersen, the chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said in announcing the award to Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov, "in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions."

The honor for Muratov, the co-founder of Russia's *Novaya Gazeta*, and Ressa, the CEO of the Philippine news site *Rappler*, is enormously important. In part that's because of the protection that global attention may afford two journalists under imminent and relentless threat from the strongmen who run their respective countries. "The world is watching," Reiss-Andersen pointedly noted in an interview after making the announcement.

Equally important is the larger message the committee wanted to deliver. "Without media, you

cannot have a strong democracy," Reiss-Andersen said.

Global political threats

The two laureates' cases highlight an emergency for civil society: Muratov, editor of what the Nobel Prize Committee described as "the most independent paper in Russia today," has seen six of his colleagues slain for their work criticizing Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

Ressa, a former CNN reporter, is under a de facto travel ban because the government of Rodrigo Duterte, in an obvious attempt to bankrupt *Rappler*, has filed so many legal cases against the website that Ressa must go from judge to judge to ask permission any time she wants to leave the country.

Inevitably, Ressa told me recently, one of them says "no." Maybe that will change now that she has a date in Oslo. But Ressa probably knows better than to hold her breath.

Last year, when I - a long-time journalist turned professor of journalism - helped organize a group of fellow Princeton alumni to sign a letter of support for Ressa, more than 400 responded.

Kathy Kiely
University of Missouri-Columbia

The Air Mauritius Gamble

By choosing more rather than less political and administrative control over the fate of both AHL and MK, the government is undoubtedly taking a major gamble, one whose outcome is as unpredictable as the pandemic

Jan Arden

Several separate events surrounding the Air Mauritius (MK) saga have unfolded bringing us back to the topic for additional comment to what has been amply treated here as elsewhere. We have had the signature of the Deed of Company Arrangement (DOCA) by the Voluntary Administrators with creditors, the creation of a public structure regrouping MK and several subsidiaries and sister companies into the mega Airport Holdings Ltd (AHL) and the appointment of some key people to head the MK and AHL entities.

In the midst of this crucial attempt at re-engineering our national flag carrier, which has suffered from a checkered history of political interference and meddling in what should have been professional aviation decisions, news hit the stands from all Indian and aviation media concerning the successful privatization of the massively indebted Air India to Tata Sons in a sort of poetic justice. But more importantly perhaps it signals a major Indian policy inflection point, ending the era when after nationalisation in 1953, bungling, incompetent or corrupt administrators and politicians, with little knowledge of management principles, still less of aviation industry matters, tried to play business tycoons while helping themselves to generous servings from the company's operations.

Previous attempts to divest from Air India date back to the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 2003 which was in favour of privatisation of both Air India and Indian Airlines and simultaneously, set up a respected autonomous civil aviation regulator. Curiously, it was the Congress-led UPA government which came to power with PM Manmohan Singh at the helm, that shelved the 2003 privatisation blueprint and has been associated with the worst episodes of bungling management that saw the profitable airline nosedive from 2007 onwards into mammoth debts and chronic annual losses which were regularly passed on to the Indian taxpayer. At heart of what can only be termed as scandalous ripoffs by inept public sector babus (bureaucrats of Indian Administrative Service - IAS - and other government officials) and a culture of graft by their political masters, were the forced expansion in 2004 of Air India's fleet by a whopping 111 airplanes without route or upgrade plans and, secondly, the colossal losses incurred that made matters worse with the merger



Flying the skies with the Maharajah again, the visionary creation of JRD Tata (in the foreground) and once the pride of the India

“In the midst of this crucial attempt at re-engineering our national flag carrier, which has suffered from a checkered history of political interference and meddling in what should have been professional aviation decisions, news hit the stands from all Indian and aviation media concerning the successful privatization of the massively indebted Air India to Tata Sons in a sort of poetic justice. But more importantly perhaps it signals a major Indian policy inflection point, ending the era when after nationalisation in 1953, bungling, incompetent or corrupt administrators and politicians, with little knowledge of management principles, still less of aviation industry matters, tried to play business tycoons...”

of Air India with the domestic carrier Indian Airlines. Investigations of the responsibilities of past UPA Civil Aviation Ministers and any supple-spined high officials in the mammoth purchase spree and the inept merger are under way by the Central Bureau of Investigation, India's premier investigating agency.

That such a situation was intolerable, PM Modi was well aware but his attempt in 2017 to flog off 75% of the airline to private sector did not elicit even a single bidder. Obviously, no serious private sector industry giant wanted anything to do with a loss-making, debt-ridden company where administrative babus and their political masters might continue to have even a minimal say or influence on sound and tough management decision-making required to redress a damaged corporate image and Air India's dire financials in a highly competitive sky-flying environment.

The only options for PM Modi's government was either to continue raking up massive debts, huge annual operating losses and costly bailouts or, despite the pandemic, tender out for a 100% lock, stock and barrel sale to a putative bidder with savvy aviation experience. The latter option, with the Indian government taking 75% of the colossal debt off Air India

books, has finally borne fruit and Rattan Tata has emotionally won back JRD Tata's visionary creation and once the pride of the Indian nation.

India's context, as can be surmised from above and the scale of operations or financials involved, is different from ours and to suggest that privatisation is the applicable mantra to obviate the hefty price for administrative and political masters meddling in MK's history would be simplistic and probably unpalatable for us on most fronts. Besides, there is no one-size-fits-all solution for national carriers before and during the pandemic: while Air India and MK are illustrative of an entrenched culture of politico-administrative meddling, save for unfortunately too brief tenures of relative autonomy, the highly successful national flag carriers like Ethiopian Airlines and Singapore Airlines show that wise statesmanship can accommodate a hands-off political interference policy and allow credible aviation management, the carrier company and national interests to thrive.

The gamble being taken by the government and the Voluntary Administrators is exactly opposite to the BJP Air India inflection and far from the models afforded by Ethiopian or Singapore Airlines. With

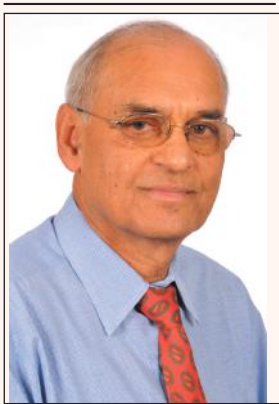
the top financial bureaucrat Dev Manraj as Chairman and two Permanent Secretaries from PMO on its Board and Special Advisor to the PM Ken Arian as CEO of the mega holding company AHL, the politico-administrative brass will undoubtedly set their stamp on MK future, its operations, fleet expansion or personnel matters. The latter, although a listed company becomes, by virtue of the DOCA, a subsidiary reporting to the parent holding politico-administrative behemoth, a situation that may have seen a first vote of confidence with the announcement that Air India will exit from its MK shareholding.

Many details are yet to be worked out regarding the regrouping of up to fourteen different entities under the wings of Air Mauritius Holdings and the complex share negotiations that may be required to that end. Neither is it known yet if, other than the listed company MK, all other costly Boards and Chairpersons will be regrouped into Divisional Units or scrapped and replaced by Officers-in-Charge (OICs), adding to possible operational savings. MK itself under this new stewardship can certainly be run by its current OIC, the experienced Raja Buton, without the need for an expensive CEO recruitment.

Since the Administrators, although handsomely paid by the virtually bankrupt MK, have not seen fit or found time to produce a strategic or business plan for MK or its Holding, that crucial job has been tasked out to Indian consultants CAPA, knowledgeable insiders who were already advising two years ago on MK restructuring and rightsizing.

By basking in a closeted ecosystem based largely on tourist arrivals/departures and a captive civil servant travel audience, buffeted by code-sharing agreements with any competing airline reducing the risk of price wars, protected by political brass, MK has for too long enjoyed the privileges of a rent-seeking culture, which in no way diminishes the efforts put in over the years by different categories of personnel, from ground staff to experienced pilots and flight commanders. With its reduced fleet of long-haul aircraft and short-range ATRs, MK would probably be advised to strictly strip down its routes to those ensuring its cargo and passenger traffic roles to the national economy. That suggests relying on a couple of long-distance hubs (Paris and Hong-Kong), a few selected medium-distance hubs (say Mumbai, Nairobi, Singapore and Jo'burg) with the ATRs providing for inter-island travel. With a savvy, credible and agile management that is unfettered by constant political meddling and occasional bungling.

By choosing more rather than less political and administrative control over the fate of both AHL and the national carrier in these difficult times for the whole aviation industry, the government is undoubtedly taking a major gamble, one whose outcome is as unpredictable as the pandemic.



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Navaratri in Greater India

As we pay reverence to Ma Durga, we should be happy that beyond 'Little India', Mauritius is rather part of the Greater India of the Global Indian Diaspora, which pitches us to a higher level of engagement in the evolving global context

Probably it was Mrs Indira Gandhi who first used the term 'Little India' for Mauritius when she came here on a visit in 1971, when she also 'officialised' what is today Aapravasi Ghat as the original landing place of Indian Indenture. Widely travelled, she was no doubt impressed on being welcomed by a Prime Minister of Indian origin, meeting so many officials equally of Indian origin, of course along with others of African, European, Chinese and mixed origins. Over and above this, she saw Indian looking people as she went around, and ladies in Indian wear, and must also have tasted local Indian food. These features are

still alive, if anything Indian food has expanded in variety and *tipuri, sept carris, gateaux piments, and dalpuris* (puris, seven curries, chilly cake or vada, and rotis containing ground dal) are popular national dishes which are healthy too, certainly healthier than the NCD-genic fast foods. (NCD = non-communicable diseases)

However, with developments that have been taking place since her visit, it is probably more appropriate to now use the term Greater India. This is because of the concept of global diaspora which has surfaced in the past few decades. The success of Alex Haley's 'Roots' – in book and cinematic forms – in the 1970s not only triggered serious studies in the slavery phenomenon, it also generated a wider interest among populations at large in their roots, launching a search for them in particular by people who had been displaced by colonization. UNESCO has also supported these endeavours through specific heritage and cultural preservation projects.

Among such peoples there are also Indians and Chinese, and it is common nowadays to hear about the Global Chinese Diaspora and the Global Indian Diaspora. The traditional method of search

for ancestry has been through genealogy, looking for and using family and official records in the countries of settlement and of origin, as well as actually going to the identified or presumed places and conducting enquiries there among descendants if any. Some Chinese friends of mine have done so, going for example to Moyan (or Moyan) where many of them originated. A number of Indian ones too have gone to UP, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to look for their ancestors. Rishi Jheengun, of Canton Nancy Pamplemousses met up with his relatives in the village Chandapur in Uttar Pradesh, and they did a puja in the 100-year-old house that had belonged to his dada's father (paternal great-grandfather) and was still standing. He has written a book about his quest, 'Untangling the knot'.

The advent of genetic studies, especially advances in testing for DNA – the price of which has come down considerably – has brought further refinement to the search for ancestry. Thus, it would appear that many people are discovering that they have Indian forebears, and might be interested in staking a claim to seek a passport that applies to this category. In addition, they have the possibility of actually going to look for which areas or vil-

lages their ancestors were from. This may be an exciting prospect, for one never knows where it might lead.

Take the case of Sylvio B who was from Beau Bassin. Barely out of his teens, he somehow found that he had South Indian ancestry. That was about 20 years ago when genomic studies were not yet as available as they are now. He followed the traditional genealogical route. Eventually he not only discovered his roots, but immersed himself so deeply that he became a disciple of Pujya Swami Dayanand Saraswati, founder of the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam based in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu. He followed the course to become a Brahmachari, and was given the name Brahmachari Yogesh. He settled in Reunion Island, where he is associated with the ashram of Swami Advaitananda (who is himself a Reunionais) also of the Arsha Vidya Gurukulam lineage, and is particularly interested in transmitting the Vedic Vidya to children. He has written books adapted to their age groups and levels, which he presented at a satsang that he held at the Institute of Vedanta in Reduit which he visited when it was situated there several years ago.

People of Indian origin (PIO) outside of India are now to be found in all continents,

numbering an estimated 30 million, where they have taken and practise their diverse cultures, which has also been soaked up by the local populations in many instances. It is thus quite appropriate to speak of Greater India, and the setting up of GOPIO or Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin is an acknowledgement of this fact. The Indian Government has come into the picture with the annual event known as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, which brings together people of the Global Indian Diaspora on a common platform to discuss issues pertaining to them, and where the prominent ones who have made significant contributions in the Diaspora are given due recognition.

One of the ways in which Indian Culture is kept alive is through the celebration of the various *utsavas* or festivals in the Indian calendar, and currently it is Navaratri which is being observed by the Global Indian Diaspora, including locally too. It is in praise of Ma Durga, also known as Ma Kali. In the preface to her book 'Kali: The Black Goddess of Dakshineswar', the American author Elizabeth U Harding, who is a devotee of Ma Kali, writes, 'Hindus... consider the mother as supreme... I offer this book at the feet of Ma Kali with reverence...'

Durga Puja reminds us of the 'centrality of the Universal Mother in our existence. Belief in a Mother Goddess can be found in almost all races and religions in the ancient times, the Semitic, Hellenic, Nordic and Teutonic alike, but what singles out India has been the continued history of the cult from the hoary past till now.' As Harding observes: 'Considering the first being a child relates to its nurturing mother, and considering that primitive people who had no scientific knowledge must have watched the miracle of birth with wonder and awe, it comes as no surprise that our remote ancestors greatly revered the mother. When ancient people began to conceive of a higher supernatural being that would nourish and protect them from evil, they naturally conceived it in the image of the mother.'

But as we evolved, she continues, 'we began to understand that there cannot be any creation unless there is the union of two, the male and the female. Extending human analogy to the creation of the universe as a whole, we came to believe in a Primordial Father and a Primordial Mother which formed the first pair. All the pairs in the universe are said to be replicas of this first pair.'

As we pay reverence to the Universal Mother represented by Ma Durga, we should be happy that beyond 'Little India', Mauritius is rather part of the Greater India of the Global Indian Diaspora, which pitches us to a higher level of engagement in the evolving global context.



Navratri celebrations in Madagascar - Pic - Trinity Mirror Southern

“People of Indian origin are now to be found in all continents, numbering an estimated 30 million, where they have taken and practise their diverse cultures, which has also been soaked up by the local populations in many instances. It is thus quite appropriate to speak of Greater India, and the setting up of GOPIO or Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin is an acknowledgement of this fact. The Indian Government has come into the picture with the annual event known as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, which brings together people of the Global Indian Diaspora on a common platform. One of the ways in which Indian Culture is kept alive is through the celebration of the various *utsavas* or festivals in the Indian calendar, and currently it is Navaratri which is being observed by the Global Indian Diaspora...”

Singapore Airlines's website crash amid surge in flight demand

Singapore Airlines Ltd.'s website was temporarily down over the weekend and travel agencies are seeing a surge in demand for flights after the city-state announced a plan to start quarantine-free travel with more countries as early as next week.

Singapore Airlines said it has seen "very high demand" for flights and may take longer to respond to queries from customers. Fares on some travel lane routes have increased, the carrier's website shows. The airline's shares jumped as much as 9.6% Monday, their biggest gain in 11 months, reports Bloomberg.

The company's website shows direct flights from Singapore to Los Angeles for S\$2,364 (\$1,747) in the vaccinated travel lane, compared with S\$1,519 for those that involve a leg not under the agreement.

Singapore has moved away from a Covid-Zero



Singapore Airlines's website crash amid surge in flight demand. Pic - s.yimg.com

approach and is opening its borders to several countries including the U.S. and U.K., backed by its high vaccination rate -- more than 80% of the population is fully inoculated against the virus.

The government on Saturday expanded its list of countries to qualify for quarantine-free travel to nine more places. Vaccinated travelers from the U.S., U.K., France, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Spain and Denmark will be allowed in without having to quarantine from Oct. 19. Those from South Korea will be able to visit via a so-called vaccinated travel lane from Nov. 15. Singapore started similar arrangements with Germany and Brunei last month.

Singapore also halved the number of tests that people arriving need to take to two from four, which has made travel more affordable, Wong said.

US has already lost to China in AI fight, says ex-Pentagon software chief



An autonomous delivery vehicle at World Artificial Intelligence Conference in Shanghai, China. Pic - c.ndtvimg.com

Pentagon's former chief software officer Nicolas Chaillan who announced his resignation on LinkedIn last month has told Financial Times that his resignation was a protest at the slow pace of technological transformation in the US military. China has already overtaken the US in the AI fight, he said, adding that he could not stand to watch China overtake America.

"We have no competing fighting chance against China in 15 to 20 years. Right now, it's already a done deal; it is already over in my opinion," the 37-year-old first chief software office for the US Air Force said.

Beijing is heading for global dominance because of its advances in artificial intelligence, machine learning and cyber capabilities, he said. Compared to China's advancement, US cyber defences in some government departments were at the kindergarten level, reports Hindustan Times.

Chaillan blamed the reluctance of

Goggle to work with the US defence department on AI. Chinese companies, on the other hand, are obliged to work with Beijing, and were making "massive investment" into AI, he said to Financial Times.

Though the US spends at least three times more than China on defence, this is not being translated into any result as the US is spending in the wrong areas and "bureaucracy and overregulation" stand in the way of change that the Pentagon needs.

In his resignation announcement, too, he did not reveal his disappointment with the way Pentagon functions. "Please stop putting a Major or Lt Col. (despite their devotion, exceptional attitude, and culture) in charge of ICAM, Zero Trust or Cloud for 1 to 4 million users when they have no previous experience in that field - we are setting up critical infrastructure to fail. We would not put a pilot in the cockpit without extensive flight training; why would we expect someone with no IT experience to be close to successful?" he had written.

Austria's Kurz resigns over corruption allegations to save coalition

Austria's conservative Chancellor Sebastian Kurz resigned on Saturday to end a government crisis after his coalition partner said he was unfit to lead the country because he has been placed under investigation on suspicion of corruption.

The move by Kurz, who denies wrongdoing, satisfied the demand by his junior coalition partner, the Greens, that he go even though he plans to stay on as his party's leader and become its top lawmaker in parliament, positions from which he can continue to influence government policy.

"I would therefore like to make way in order to end the stalemate, to prevent chaos and to ensure stability," Kurz said in a statement to the media.

He added that he was proposing to President Alexander Van der Bellen that Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg, a career diplomat backed by Kurz's party, that he take over as chancellor, reports Reuters.

Greens leader and Vice Chancellor Werner Kogler indicated he was satisfied, meaning Kurz had succeeded in pulling their coalition back from the brink.

A star among Europe's conservatives and known



Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz resigned over corruption allegations. Pic - Reuters

for his hard line on immigration, Kurz, 35, became one of the continent's youngest leaders when he took over as chancellor in 2017 at the head of a coalition with the far-right Freedom Party.

Prosecutors said on Wednesday they had placed Kurz and nine others under investigation on suspicion of breach of trust, corruption and bribery with various levels of involvement.

Starting in 2016 when Kurz was seeking to take over as party leader, prosecutors suspect the conser-

vative-led Finance Ministry paid for advertisements in a newspaper in exchange for manipulated polling and coverage favourable to Kurz.

Kurz has pledged to defend himself against what he says are false allegations. He had said he was willing to keep governing with the Greens. But the left-wing party said the investigation made Kurz unfit to serve as chancellor and called on his party to name a successor who was "beyond reproach".

*Contd on page 6



Xi's Saturday speech seemingly struck a softer note than the one he delivered on July 1 to mark the Chinese Communist Party's 100 years in which he vowed to "smash" any attempts at formal independence. Pic - img.i-scmp.com

'Complete reunification of China will be realised': President Jinping

Chinese President Xi Jinping vowed on Saturday to realise peaceful "reunification" with Taiwan, though did not directly mention the use of force after a week of tensions with the Chinese-claimed island that sparked international concern. Taiwan responded shortly after by calling on Beijing to abandon its coercion, reiterating that only Taiwan's people could decide their future.

Xi's call on reunifying Taiwan comes in the backdrop of a week of heightened military tension with the democratically-run island that Beijing claims as a breakaway region, reports SutirthoPatranobis of Hindustan Times.

The Chinese PLA deployed more than 150 fighter aircraft across the Taiwan Straits, which violated the island's air space last week prompting Taipei to call it the worst tensions with China in 40 years. The tension has also sparked international concern.

"The complete reunification of China will be and can be realised," Xi was quoted as saying by Chinese state media, adding the Taiwan question, which is purely an internal matter for China, arose out of the weakness and chaos of the Chinese nation and will be resolved as national rejuvenation becomes a reality.

"It has never ended well for those who forget their ancestors, betray the motherland, or split the country," Xi said at Beijing's Great Hall of the People on Saturday, the anniversary of the revolution that overthrew the last imperial dynasty in 1911.

"Compatriots on both sides of the Taiwan Strait should stand on the right side of history and join hands to achieve China's complete reunification and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," Xi said.

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IMF to decide 'very soon' if managing director keeps her job

The International Monetary Fund said Friday it will decide "very soon" whether its embattled managing director Kristalina Georgieva keeps her job.

An investigation by a law firm has concluded that she manipulated data in favour of China while in a senior role at the World Bank.

The IMF Executive Board said after a meeting Friday that it has made "significant progress" in its assessment of the case but agreed "to request more clarifying details with a view to very soon concluding its consideration of the matter."

On Thursday Georgieva, 68, said she hoped for an "expeditious resolution" of the case, reports AFP.

The IMF Executive Board is reviewing last month's investigation by the law firm WilmerHale that found that during her time as World Bank CEO, Georgieva was among top officials who pressured staff into changing data to China's benefit in the 2018 edition of its closely watched Doing Business report.

Georgieva spoke to the IMF board



IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva at a news conference. Pic - static.dw.co

this week.

She has repeatedly denied the report's conclusions, and on Thursday released a letter from her attorney to the board objecting to WilmerHale's findings, as well as her 12-page testimony to the 24 board members.

The law firm found that Georgieva along with her associate Simeon Djankov, a former Bulgarian finance minister who created the report, and

Jim Yong Kim, then-president of the bank, pressured staff to change the calculation of China's ranking to avoid angering Beijing.

This source added that Georgieva has won the support of France and other European countries. The United States, a key member of the IMF, has not yet stated its position on this controversy, according to two sources with knowledge of the situation.

Dragging 17-month standoff in Ladakh



Indian army convoy moves on the Srinagar-Ladakh highway at Gagangeer, northeast of Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. Indian and Chinese army commanders met on Sunday to discuss steps to disengage troops from key friction areas along their disputed border. Pic - AP

China on Monday accused India of "unreasonable and unrealistic demands" in a statement issued at the end of the 13th round of military talks held on Sunday to resolve the dragging 17-month standoff in the Ladakh area.

The meeting between India's Ladakh Corps Commander and Chinese South Xinjiang military district commander took place on Sunday on the Chinese side of the Moldo-Chushul border meeting point.

A brief statement issued by the western theatre command (WTC) and published by several state-run media outlets gave little details of the talks but struck a critical note, reports SutirthoPatranobis of Hindustan Times.

India has repeatedly and consistently rejected China's allegations that Indian troops crossed over to the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, asserting that New Delhi has always taken a responsible approach towards border management and maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas.

The Chinese statement issued on Monday morning quoted WTC spokesperson Colonel Long Shaohua as saying that China had made "...great efforts to promote the easing and cooling of the border situation and fully demonstrated its sincerity in order to maintain the overall situation of the relations between the two militaries. However, India still insisted on the unreasonable and unrealistic demands, which made the negotiations more difficult," he added. China's resolve to safeguard national sovereignty is firm, Long said.

The tone of the Chinese statement is an indication of the differences that exist between the two countries on the ongoing standoff, which has plunged bilateral ties to its worst in decades.

In August, Indian and Chinese troops had withdrawn from the Gogra area in eastern Ladakh, which marked the second round of disengagement in 2021.

It came six months after India and China pulled back troops from Pangong Tso, an icy Himalayan lake.

India and China have been locked in a border row for 17 months, a phase that witnessed the deadly skirmish in the Galwan Valley on 15 June 2020 when troops from both sides fought for hours with iron rods, clubs covered with barbed wire and rocks. Twenty Indian soldiers were killed in the clash, the first fatalities on the LAC since 1975.

China did not acknowledge casualties on its side till February this year when it admitted the death of four soldiers and made a renewed effort to blame India for tensions on the LAC. Chinese state media outlets followed up the official announcement with videos and write-ups, urging the Chinese citizens to remember the "martyrs" and how four PLA soldiers sacrificed their lives while defending the country's western borders.

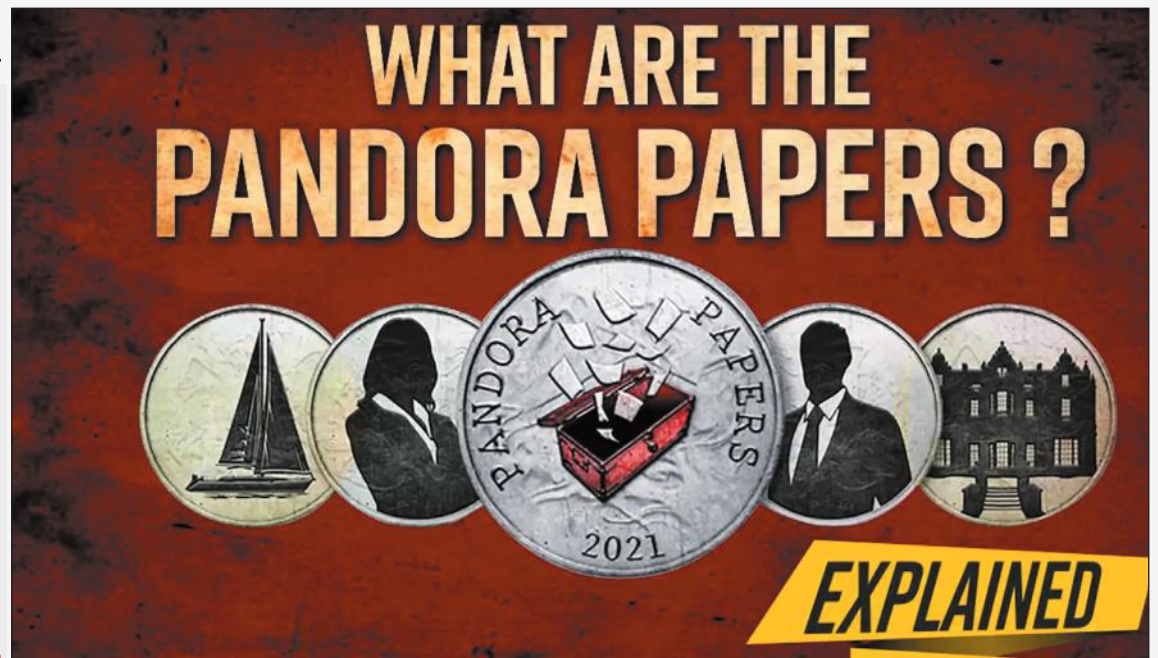
The Pandora Papers

"What is important to know is the origin of the money that the Mauritians have invested overseas...

It is not enough to say that it was a perfectly legal transaction"

LEX

The Pandora papers, released by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists shine a torchlight on practices of the wealthy "global elite" that use a variety of means (shell companies and trusts amongst others) to stash and hide their assets from public view in tax havens. If such monies have been legitimately acquired and due national taxes paid, citizens are entitled to use tax avoidance advice or assistance. There may be moral issues by some in the public sphere, but are there legal issues with such activities, much of which stem from the US or OECD to end up in far-away exotic island destinations? We ask Lex to shed some light.



* What are the Pandora Papers? And what do they reveal?

According to a paper published on 3 October 2011, the Pandora Papers investigation is the world's largest-ever journalistic collaboration, involving more than 600 journalists from 150 media outlets in 117 countries. The investigation is based on a leak of confidential records of 14 offshore service providers that give professional services to wealthy individuals and corporations seeking to incorporate shell companies, trusts, foundations and other entities in low- or no-tax jurisdictions. The entities enable owners to conceal their identities from the public and sometimes from regulators. Often, the providers help them open bank accounts in countries with light financial regulation and high secrecy.

* How is Pandora Papers different from the Panama Papers and Paradise Papers?

The Panama papers relate to documents that were released on April 3, 2016, by the German newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (SZ), which dubbed them as the 'Panama Papers'. The document exposed the network of more than 214,000 offshore entities involving politicians, public officials or close associates and entities from 200 different nations.

“What is important to know is the origin of the money that the Mauritians have investigated overseas. It is not enough to say that it was a perfectly legal transaction. It was most improper for the minister responsible for the financial services to come and state in public that the blue-eyed boy of the Prime Minister had done nothing illegal. How does he know?”

The Paradise Papers are a set of over 13.4 million confidential electronic documents relating to offshore investments that were leaked to the German reporters Frederi Obermaier and Bastian Obermayer, from the newspaper *Süddeutsche Zeitung*. The newspaper shared them with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and a network of more than 380 journalists. Some of the details were made public on 5 November 2017 and stories are still being released.

According to *Indian Express*, the Panama and Paradise Papers dealt largely with offshore entities set up by individuals and corporates respectively. The Pandora Papers investigation shows how businesses have created a new normal after countries have been forced to tighten the screws on such offshore entities with rising concerns of money laundering, terrorism funding, and tax evasion.

On the other hand, it's important to note that all the papers are exposing those who have invested outside their country with a view to avoiding tax or to hide their wealth. Avoidance of tax is not an offence. What is prohibited is tax evasion, which means concealing income or information from tax authorities - and it's illegal. Tax avoidance means legally reducing your taxable income.

*** We understand that the Pandora Papers relate to the ultimate ownership of assets 'settled' (or placed) in private offshore trusts and the investments including cash, shareholding, and real estate properties, held by the offshore entities. Why are trusts set up overseas?**

It is generally recognized that foreign-based trusts offer a number of advantages over domestic trusts. They have an extra layer of privacy. Foreign trust laws are generally designed to attract foreign investors and so are particularly favorable for the settler and the beneficiaries.

* Is setting up a trust in Mauritius, or one offshore/outside the country, illegal?

No. The trust is a mechanism that offers asset protection and confidentiality.

*** The ICIJ itself says on the site for its Offshore Leaks Database, "There are legitimate uses for offshore companies and trusts. We do not intend to suggest or imply that any people, companies, or other entities included in the ICIJ Offshore Leaks Database have broken the law or otherwise acted improperly." If trusts are not illegal, what is the investigation about and why the media hullabaloo?**

The ICIJ itself provides the answer by stating:

'ICIJ is publishing the information in the public interest. While many of the activities carried out through offshore entities are perfectly legal, extensive reporting by ICIJ and its media partners for more than five years has shown that the anonymity granted by the offshore economy facilitates money laundering, tax evasion, fraud and other crimes. Even when it's legal, transparency advocates argue that the use of an alternative, parallel economy undermines democracy because it benefits a few at the expense of the majority.'

*** If it has been known for quite some time that an abuse is made of offshore trusts for the purpose of serving as 'secret vehicles to park ill-gotten money, hide incomes to evade taxes, etc', why don't governments take remedial action?**

Whether it is offshore or trusts, many countries have introduced legislations with a view to attracting those who want to open a trust to invest in offshore companies in these countries by providing attractive packages like low tax rates and confidentiality.

● Cont. on page 8

'Avoidance of tax is not an offence. What is prohibited is tax evasion, which means concealing income or information from tax authorities'

● Cont. from page 7

A balance has to be struck though between the need of the country to attract investors and compliance with all international rules on illicit wealth and money laundering.

* Oliver Bullough is the author of *'Moneyland: Why Thieves and Crooks Now Rule the World and How to Take It Back'* argues in *The Guardian* that 'it was opposition from fund managers that stopped substantive reforms to Scottish limited partnerships after they were misused in the Moldovan Laundromat; and it is opposition from wealthy Americans that prevents light being shone on the corporate registries in Delaware...' This would suggest that the big corporations and their wealthy owners have become more powerful than elected governments around the world; they set the rules, right?

Powerful countries that are rich can afford to set their own rules. Mauritius cannot. That does not mean that there are no rogue companies or politicians that would condone illegal investment without verifying the provenance of the wealth or the morality of the investors. Why do you think we are on the grey or black list of international monitors? Surely a culture of amassing wealth since a few years back and going only after political opponents have not helped.

* **There is also the point that tougher regulations imposed by any one government will drive away the corporations and the billionaires to other, more lenient, jurisdictions and kill in the process an important and high earning job & foreign exchange-generating pillar of the economy. Which government would want to do that?**

Mauritius has been placed on a black sheep list. What do we do? We beef up the legislation. But is that enough? If the institutions that are politically nominated are unwilling or incapable to investigate malpractices irrespective of politics, then what do we do? Legislation alone will not help.

Why, for example, has the ICAC been sleeping on the Angus Road case, but not so as regards the St Louis case?

* **After the Panama papers were published, Britain promised to take action by, among other**

“Mauritius has been placed on a black sheep list. What do we do? We beef up the legislation. But is that enough? If the institutions that are politically nominated are unwilling or incapable to investigate malpractices irrespective of politics, then what do we do? Legislation alone will not help...”



“This is where the whole system of international monitoring hurts a country that is struggling to attract investors. Take the example of Mauritius. We have had the offshore sector set up for years. All of a sudden, the international governance monitors including the European Union decide that we are not compliant with rules and regulations that may expose the country to money laundering risks!”

things, forcing the 100,000 shell companies that own property in England and Wales to reveal their true owners. It has not kept that promise. Not surprising at all, isn't it?

The answer is given by Oliver Bullough who writes in *The Guardian* on 4 October:

'At the core of the three great leaks - the Panama, Paradise and Pandora papers, as well as at the heart of many smaller ones - is one single tool: the shell company, which has been used time and again by powerful people to hide their activities from fellow citizens, tax authorities and law enforcement agencies. It is perhaps the most damaging thing ever invented, since it facilitates the theft of hundreds of billions of pounds a year, while defeating investigators - no matter how determined they are, or how powerful the country, cause or corporation they represent.'

* **Many small jurisdictions have been listed as tax havens time and again and are referred to as the "usual suspects". But from Oliver Bullough again we learn that 'Britain's corporate registry is a sink of unverified information, with loopholes so large that the largest money-laundering scandals of all time have passed through. Most EU countries are little better.' It would seem the OCED and the European Commission do not go after them. Why is that so?**

This is where the whole system of international monitoring hurts a country that is struggling to attract investors. Take the example of Mauritius. We have had the offshore sector set up for years. All of a sudden, the international governance monitors including the European Union decide that we are not compliant with rules and regulations that may expose the country to money laundering risks!

* **Besides the current and former leaders featured in the Pandora Papers, there is also ex-UK PM Tony Blair and his wife, who saved £312,000 in stamp duty**

when they bought a London office through an offshore firm that they bought. However, Mr Blair had previously been critical of tax loopholes, which means that what he did may not be ethically correct, but perfectly legal, isn't it?

This is the age-old debate between law and morality. Morality is concerned with a system of behaviour with regards to standards of right or wrong whereas the law is concerned with conduct that should be prohibited in the public interest.

“At the core of the three great leaks - the Panama, Paradise and Pandora papers, as well as at the heart of many smaller ones - is one single tool: the shell company, which has been used time and again by powerful people to hide their activities from fellow citizens, tax authorities and law enforcement agencies. It is perhaps the most damaging thing ever invented...”

* **It could be the same story as regards those Mauricians who feature in the Pandora Papers, though it has to be ascertained whether the essential details are the same or not. Ethically incorrect, but perfectly legal in some cases? Or, ethically and legally incorrect in others?**

What is important to know is the origin of the money that the Mauricians have invested overseas. It is not enough to say that it was a perfectly legal transaction. It was most improper for the minister responsible for the financial services to come and state in public that the blue-eyed boy of the Prime Minister had done nothing illegal. How does he know? Only an investigation can establish that. Who would dare investigate that blue-eyed boy?

No, Covid vaccines don't stay in your body for years

But the immune cells that vaccination spurs do last a long time

While there's an enormous amount of information available online on the biological effects of vaccines, it's increasingly difficult to discern truth from falsehood or even conspiracy.

A common myth of vaccines that has appeared in recent months is the accusation they remain active in the body for extended periods of time - a claim which has increased vaccine hesitancy in some people.

However, vaccines are cleared from your body in mere days or weeks. It's the immune response against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that appears to last for a long time.

This isn't due to the vaccines themselves remaining in the body. Instead, the vaccines stimulate our immune system and teach it how to respond if we're ever exposed to the coronavirus.

Let's explain.

How do vaccines work?

All vaccines, no matter the technology, have the same fundamental goal - to introduce the immune system to an infectious agent, without the risk that comes from disease.

The vaccine needs to follow a similar pathway a virus would have taken to produce an adequate immune response. Viruses enter our cells and use them to replicate themselves. So, the vaccines also need to be delivered in cells where proteins are produced, which mimics a component of the virus itself.

The COVID vaccines all do this by delivering information into our muscle cells, usually in our upper arm. They do this in different ways, such as using mRNA, like Pfizer's and Moderna's, or viral vectors, like AstraZeneca's.

Regardless of the technology, the effect is similar. Our cells use the genetic template in the vaccine to produce the coronavirus' spike protein, which is a part of the virus that helps it enter our cells. The spike protein is transported to the surface of the cell where it's detected by the immune cells nearby.

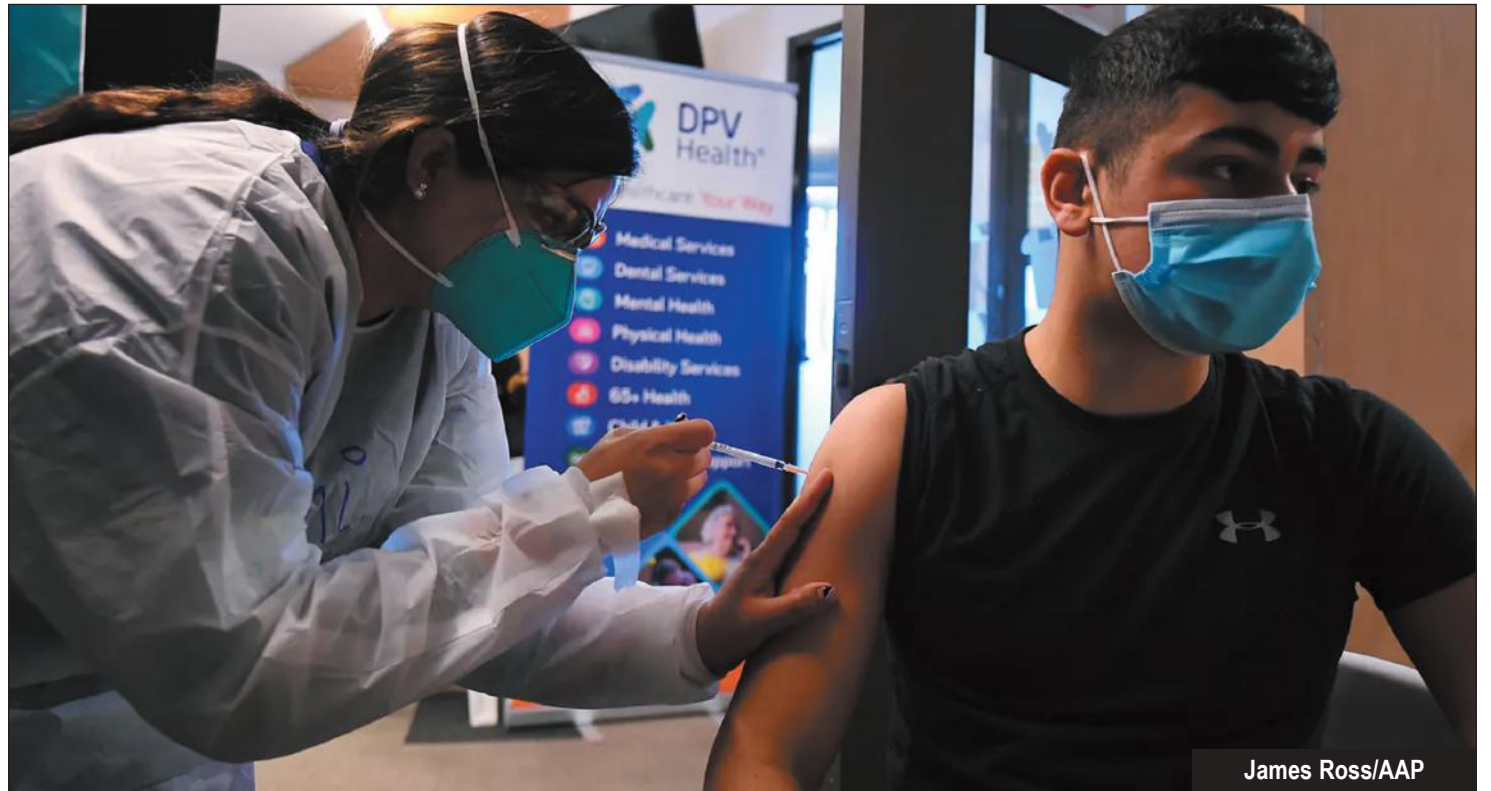
There are also other specialised immune cells nearby, which take up the spike proteins and use them to inform more immune cells - targeting them specifically against Covid.

These immune cells include B cells, which produce antibodies, and T cells, which kill virus-infected cells. They then become long-lasting memory cells, which wait and monitor for the next time it sees a spike protein.

If you're exposed to the virus, these memory B and T cells allow a faster and larger immune response, destroying the virus before it can cause disease.

So what happens to the vaccine?

Once they've initiated the immune



James Ross/AAP

response, the vaccines themselves are rapidly broken down and cleared from the body.

The mRNA vaccines consist of a fatty shell, which encapsulates a group of mRNA particles - the genetic recipe for the spike protein. Once this enters a cell, the shell is degraded to harmless fats, and the mRNA is used by the cells to produce spike proteins.

Once the mRNA has been used to produce proteins, it's broken down and cleared from the cell along with the rest of the mRNAs produced by the normal function of the cell.

In fact, mRNA is very fragile, with the most long lasting only able to survive for a few days. This is why the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have to be so carefully preserved at ultra-low temperatures.

The vector vaccines (AstraZeneca and Johnson and Johnson) use an adenovirus, which is harmless in humans, as a vector to deliver a genetic template for the spike protein to the cells.

The vector virus has all of its infectious components removed, so it's unable to multiply or cause disease. Then a genetic template for the spike protein is inserted into the vector.

Once the vaccine is injected, the vector virus binds to your cells and inserts its genetic components, before the shell breaks down and is removed.

The viral machinery gets the genetic template into the control room of the cell, the nucleus, where it takes advantage of our normal protein building activity. The vaccine doesn't cause any alteration to our DNA.

Normally, this would cause the cell to

start producing more copies of the virus, but since this was all removed, all that's produced is the spike protein.

Again, after making a large amount of the spike, the genetic templates are broken down in a matter of days or weeks.

What about the spike protein?

While the vaccines themselves are rapidly removed, what then happens to all the spike proteins that are produced as a result?

They're identified as foreign by the immune system and destroyed - teaching the cells to recognise the coronavirus in the process.

The spike proteins are fully cleared from the body after a few weeks. In this time, they don't appear to leave the vaccination site (most often your upper arm).

But antibodies specifically targeting the spike protein produced by your immune

system remain in the body for many months after vaccination.

The vaccines also stimulate your immune system to produce memory immune cells. This means even once antibody levels diminish, your immune system is ready to produce more antibodies and other immune cells to tackle the virus if you're ever exposed to it.

Vasso Apostolopoulos

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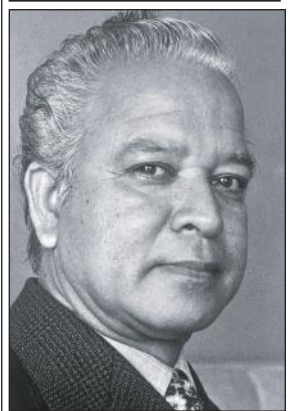
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From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

4th Year No 174

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 6 December 1957

● *Laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law. – Oliver Goldsmith*

Somduth Bhuckory

On Friday last Raoul Rivet died at his resident in Curepipe Road. He was 61. With his death dies an important era of Mauritian history, an era which will bear the imprint of his impressive personality. He came to public life at a crucial moment and the *oeuvre* he leaves behind is the greatest tribute that can be paid to his genius.

Whether we like it or not, there seems to be in Mauritius something like a conflict of cultures arising out of the illusion shared and propounded by many that cultural values can be monopolised by a particular group of people. Rivet was no Franco-Mauritian but the French Consul bowed low in front of his bier and paid the respects of France. It was not only a tribute to Rivet or his community but to Mauritius as well, where Rivet did so much to entrench a culture he loved and lived for. We search in vain for another man who has done more for French culture in Mauritius than Raoul Rivet.

* * *

By the very nature of his job as a journalist he got embroiled into politics and soon made his influence felt. He first became Municipal Councillor, then Mayor of Port Louis, and finally entered the Legislature. When he retired from active politics, he gave his time to the local problems of Curepipe where he was elected chairman of the Town Council. It was in the political field that Rivet made the greatest contribution of his career and he actually rose to the stature of a towering statesman. One might not agree with his political views, but one could not help admiring his determination to stick to his principles through thick and thin. As is usual with politicians, the graph of his career began to sink when he himself entered the evening of his life and in 1953 he retired completely from active politics. When all is said and done about Rivet, one thing stands out: he started life as a humble young man without an iota of secondary education and he died an intellectual giant whose place in our history many will covet. Rivet was a self-made man and as such his life should be a source of inspiration to the humble and even to those who are born with a silver spoon.

* * *

The End of the Beginning

The public hearing of the Police Enquiry Commission are now over and the Commissioners are leaving for London on Sunday morning. Soon they will get down to work on the report itself and in the meantime the public will be anxiously awaiting it; the police too will eagerly look forward to the report but with a different feeling altogether. When the Commissioners arrived, we said what a pity it was that a Royal Commission, as sought by the unlucky motions of Hon. Bissoondoyal, could not come. In the light of a few unexpected evidences which point to the state of affairs prevalent in the police department we still believe that a Royal Commission was the very thing we needed. Anyway, let us hope that the findings of the

Homage to Raoul Rivet



Raoul Rivet

present Commission will convince the government that our police force is in need of a thorough overhaul.

* * *

We must point out, however, that we are not satisfied with certain arrangements made in connection with the public sittings. For example, the presence of a lawyer defending the police and cross-examining the witnesses, though perhaps legal, was not helpful and it must have intimidated quite a number of people who were willing to depone before the Commission. After all, it was not a law court and neither the police nor the public required the help of a counsel to support their case. They could have simply deposed and after hearing both sides the Commissioners would have sifted the evidences and made their recommendations.

What we did not like still was the practice of the counsel to have the files of the witnesses taken out and presented to the Commissioners. Again, this must have scared many a prospective witness. Moreover, it does not mean that the guilt of the witnesses should necessarily minimize the gravity of the allegations made against the Police. As we are dealing with witnesses, we might say that the number of witnesses

deponing before the Commission was much beyond expectation and there would have been many more had the sittings been in camera. It should be remarked also that the public was expecting the Labour Party to express its views to the Commission.

* * *

We now wish to deal with what we can call the "Ribet episode" of the hearings. The Chairman of the Commission found it queer that the counsel for the Police, Mr P. Nairac, should be in possession of the file of Mr Pokun who was deponing before the Commission; he pressed the counsel to say how he knew that the witness was going to depone: he got the information from Mr Ribet, head of the CID. Mr Ribet was examined by the Chairman and after trying to evade the issue for some time, confessed that he got the information by examining the despatch riders. This is by no means a satisfactory answer. What we would like to know is how Mr Ribet came to know on what the witnesses were to speak before the Commission. If this matter is pressed further, other things might come to light.

In view of the improper practice referred to, the Chairman announced that he would write to His Excellency the Governor asking him to see it that the witnesses were not harried by the Police. This is where we are now: Instead of being protected by the police we are seeking protection from the police. We would say that a case has already been made to have a Home Minister with the police under him. The relations between the public and the police are not what they ought to be. Instead of finding a friend in the policeman we find the inhuman clutches of what we imagine to be oppressive laws. This situation is the accumulated result of a radically wrong approach. Don't we know that the ordinary constable's promotion depends on the number of contraventions he takes? Don't we remember the case of a police officer who, though found guilty of misconduct, was given promotion? Confidence should be restored in the police and we will fail in this if we condone glaring injustices.

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Nobel Peace Prize for journalists serves as reminder that freedom of the press is under threat from strongmen and social media

● Cont. from page 2

They included members of Congress and state legislatures and former diplomats who served presidents of both parties. One of them was former Secretary of State George P. Shultz, who died several months later, making a show of solidarity with Maria Ressa one of his last public acts. This show of support is a sign of what's at stake.

Three decades after the downfall of totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe, forces of darkness and intolerance are on the march. Journalists are the canaries down the noxious mine shaft. Attacks on them are becoming more brazen: whether it is the grisly dismemberment of Saudi dissident and writer Jamal Khashoggi, the grounding of a commercial airplane to snatch a Belarusian journalist or the infamous graffiti "Murder the Media" scrawled onto a door of the US Capitol during the Jan. 6 insurrection.

This irrational hatred of purveyors of facts knows no ideology. Former US President Donald Trump's disdain for the press is at least equaled by that of leftist Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega, whose response to his critics in the media has been to, well, lock 'em up.

Digital menace

What makes today's threats to free expression especially insidious is that they don't come just from the usual suspects - thuggish government censors.

They are amplified and weaponized by social media networks that claim the privilege of free speech protection while they allow themselves to be hijacked by slanderers and propagandists.

No one has done more to expose the complicity of these platforms in the attack on democracy than Ressa, a tech enthusiast who built her publication's website to interface with Facebook and now accuses the company of endangering her own freedom with its laissez-faire approach to the slander being propagated on its site.

"Freedom of expression is full of paradoxes," the Nobel Committee's Reiss-Andersen observed, in an interview



Dmitry Muratov celebrates his Nobel Prize win.
AP Pic - Alexander Zemlianichenko

after awarding the Peace Prize. She made it clear that the award to Ressa and Muratov was intended to tackle those paradoxes too.

Asked why the Peace Prize went to two individual journalists - rather than to one of the press freedom organizations, such as the Committee to Protect Journalists, that have represented Ressa, Muratov and so many of their endangered colleagues - Reiss-Andersen said the Nobel Committee deliberately chose working reporters.

Ressa and Muratov represent "a golden standard," she said, of "journalism of high quality." In other words, they are fact-finders and truth-seekers, not purveyors of clickbait.

That golden standard is increasingly endangered, in large part because of the digital revolution that shattered the business model for public service journalism.

"Free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against abuse of power," Reiss-Andersen said in the prize announcement. But it is increasingly being undermined and supplanted by what's called "content," served up algorithmically from sources that are not transparent in

ways that are designed to addict and that drive partisanship, tribalism and division.

This poses a challenge for public policymakers and the democracies they represent. How to regulate digital media and still protect free speech? How to support the labor-intensive work of journalism and still protect its independence?

Answering those questions won't be easy. But democracy may be at a tipping point. With its recognition of two investigative journalists and the crucial - and dangerous - work they do to support democracy; the Nobel Committee has invited us to begin the debate.

Kathy Kiely - University of Missouri-Columbia

MAURITIUS TIMES To Our Readers

65 years ago, *Mauritius Times* was founded with a resolve to fight for justice and fairness and the advancement of the public good. It has never deviated from this principle no matter how daunting the challenges and how costly the price it has had to pay at different times of our history.

We are determined not to abandon this line of action, which is the cardinal principle of our raison-d'être. This is what has given *Mauritius Times* a unique standing in the local publishing world.

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

However, with print journalism in Mauritius and across the world struggling to keep afloat due to falling advertising revenues and the wide availability of free sources of information, it is crucially important for the *Mauritius Times* to still meet its cost of production for it to survive and prosper.

Readers will no doubt appreciate that it takes a lot of time, hard work, money and the continued support of our contributors to produce the *Mauritius Times* - as we have done without interruption in these last 65 years. We can only continue doing it with the support of our readers.

We hope you'll continue to support the paper by taking a subscription or by making a recurring donation through a Standing Order to our not-for-profit Foundation. Our future will be secure with the support of our readers and well-wishers.

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Children live online more than ever - we need better definitions of 'good' and 'bad' screen time

Lockdowns and learning from home have further embedded digital technology in young people's lives. Educational theory and practice need to catch up fast



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The pandemic has fundamentally altered every part of our lives, not least the time we spend on digital devices. For young people in particular, the blurred line between recreational and educational screen time presents new challenges we are only beginning to appreciate.

Even before COVID, there were concerns about screen time for children. A 2019-20 survey found four in five children were exceeding the current Ministry of Health recommendation of two hours' recreational screen time a day. This was on top of screen time linked to learning.

With lockdowns and social restrictions now a new normal, it is increasingly difficult to disengage from screens. Children are growing up in a digital society, surrounded by a multitude of devices used for everything from social connection to learning and entertainment.

The boundaries between recreation, communication and learning are becoming less distinct. Screen time that may seem on the surface to be purely recreational can in reality be important for learning, supporting mental health and driving awareness of important issues.

YouTube, for example, can be both entertaining and educational. It is increasingly used in classes to supplement teaching. But it is also used in other ways, including to drive social change, as German star Rezo demonstrated with a viral climate change video that prompted sweeping public reforms.

Likewise the popular online game Minecraft has been shown to provide rich educational and social benefits. Even

games like Roblox or Fortnite, where those benefits may be less apparent, still provide opportunities for rich social engagement and spaces for problem solving and experiential learning.

Are official guidelines outdated?

This all presents an interesting dilemma: can we really fit screen time into discrete categories, and should we apply limits to some but not others?

This blurring of boundaries has led researchers from the University of Auckland's Centre for Informed Futures - Koi T? - to call for clearer and more detailed official screen time recommendations.

Specifically, they felt the current recommended limits failed to represent the variety of screen time students experience. This was supported by a review of the academic literature covering the impacts of screen time.

While research indicates a broad association between excessive screen time and a range of behavioural, learning and other problems, the results are far from conclusive and can generally be attributed to other factors.

The review also found the type of screen time is important: in many cases, negative effects were driven by passive screen use, whereas interactive use didn't have the same impacts. In fact, the latter can have positive influences, such as better learning achievement and enhanced cognitive skills.

Getting the balance right

This suggests we need to reorient our

views of screen time away from a blunt measure of time spent on screens and towards better understanding what children are really doing on those screens.

While balancing passive and interactive screen time is clearly important, so is finding ways to encourage and prioritise more socially and educationally productive online behaviour.

This should also guide the adoption of technology in schools. Rather than wholesale integration within every aspect of learning, devices should clearly add value or improve teaching and learning, not simply replace traditional practices.

The role of screen devices in classrooms is particularly relevant in light of New Zealand's 2018 PISA results, which indicated children using devices in subjects like mathematics and science achieved lower scores than those who didn't.

In August this year, the Ministry of Education responded by saying:

Digital devices have the potential to enhance learning, but there are few situations where this happens currently and many in which learning may be hindered.

Active versus passive time

It's true there is considerable scepticism about the validity of the PISA tests, and wider research into the influence of screens in classrooms has shown mixed results.

Generally, however, we cannot claim a causal, linear relationship between use of devices and academic outcomes. Rather than assuming the PISA results indicate

screen time is detrimental to learning, we need to consider how screens are actually being used in classes.

We need to focus on integrating technology that makes a difference and enhances learning. Students learn best when they are actively engaged and create and drive their own learning.

The same principles can apply to the use of digital devices - limiting passive consumption in favour of students being actively creative. This will open up new learning opportunities and provide students with authentic experiences.

For example, rather than students simply watching a YouTube clip to learn about the solar system, they might create their own augmented reality simulation, requiring them to apply their knowledge to correctly place, size and animate digital objects.

Rebalancing screen time in this way will help avoid the more negative consequences of these ubiquitous devices and highlight some of their unique advantages.

But this will require deeper and more critical thinking about what might be gained or lost in a world where engaging with digital technology is increasingly unavoidable.

Kathryn MacCallum

Associate Professor of Digital Education Futures, University of Canterbury

Cheryl Brown

Associate Professor of e-Learning, University of Canterbury

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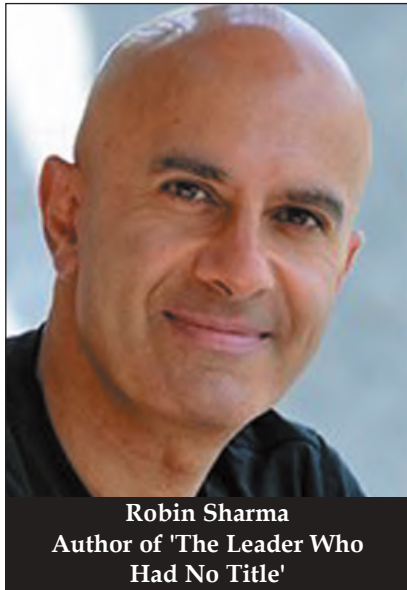


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The 90/90/1 Rule



Robin Sharma
Author of 'The Leader Who Had No Title'

This is going to be relatively quick, and I think relatively strong, and hopefully, tremendously valuable to you. I'm going to actually walk you through one of the exponential productivity routines that I teach at Personal Mastery Academy. It's called The 90/90/1 Rule. Before I get into it, I want to give you a little bit of context for why I'm teaching it.

We do live in the age of dramatic distraction. Most people really are addicted to their phones. There is a lot of research showing that it is an addiction. The same part of the brain responsible for our addiction to technology is the same centre where cocaine addiction stems from.

If you look at some of the social platforms, they are so brilliant. Why? Well, from a neuroscience point of view, they trigger, and they dial right into our reward centres. That's why you see a lot of people, whether it's in Rome, or at a beautiful... literally looking at who is liking their last picture on the social platform of the day.

The latest research actually shows the

average employee is spending 50% of their time mired in, stuck in, clinging to distractions. You have what I call a gargantuan, or an unbeatable competitive advantage divorcing or leaving the majority, and rising into the rare air of the top 5% of performers on the planet in just understanding how to let go of distraction, how to manufacture world-class days with consistency, because consistency is the mother of mastery.

Here's another idea I want to offer to you: Look at what the 95% is doing and do the opposite, and you're going to do absolutely fine in business, in productivity, in creativity, in philanthropy, in humanity and living your life like an icon.

What's this "90/90/1 Rule"? Well, it's a daily ritual that I teach along with other nine ones. When I work with the billionaires, this one morning routine has helped them profoundly, and here it is:

For the next 90 days, your first 90 minutes at work, make it focused on your single most important project. I call it your game-changing move. It might be creating a new piece of code that will revolutionize the marketplace. It might be a new product that, when you launch it.

What most people do is not doing the things that would give them legendary results. What they do is they get to the office, and rather than using prime time for A activities, they use their best hours surfing the internet looking at blogs, or playing with notifications, reading notifications, chatting with friends who are not really their friends.

Really, they're just bored, so they're distracting themselves, which is just a form of medication. They haven't done the work to know it, so really, they've created these drugs of choice, like too much email, too much web surfing, too much chit-chatting, too much looking at funny looking videos that make them laugh in the moment, that make them feel happy and give them a



short burst of dopamine. That's how they get through their day. All I'm saying is there is so much distraction available to you out there that if you are not acutely careful, it will dominate your days.

The top 5% are very, very different, because to have the results only 5% of the population have, you've got to be willing to do what 95% of the population are just not willing to do. One of those things is this freedom from distraction, building a pocket of time so that you use your highest value hours, which is really 5:00 am to 8:00 am or 9:00 am. You use your platinum hours for your most valuable activities. We can talk about the science that says your willpower, your energy, and your mental focus are highest first thing in the morning.

If you want to know what I call the five precious assets, one of them is your mental focus. The second one is your physical energy. The third one is your discipline. When I work with the billionaires, I teach them the protocols to protect these, and scale these, because it's your interior empires that are worth protecting. What I'm really trying to say is this: A ritual for you to run, and dial in, and hardwire to the point of automaticity, that's the word the researchers use when a habit becomes

your new normal, over 66 days, is The 90/90/1 Rule.

To give it to you again, so you really remember it, for the next 90 days, your first 90 minutes, create a tight bubble of total focus so that no one can distract you. Turn off your devices. Put them in a little plastic bag. Put some reminders on your door. Tell your team, tell your loved ones, maybe put a Do-Not-Disturb sign on your door.

Explain it to them, that, "For the next 90 days, I will spend 90 minutes away from distraction, away from technology, away from interruptions, focusing on my magnum opus, focusing on the genius project that I want to bring into the world." Because what makes a genius? They all have one trait in common: They were able to spend extended periods of time in isolation, focused monomaniacally on their most valuable project.

That's what allowed Einstein to do what he did. That's what allowed Jean Michel Basquiat to produce that art. They dial into a neurobiological phenomenon that I teach called transient hypofrontality. It will allow you to distribute awesome forms of value to the people that you serve in your business, in your craft, in your career, and in your life.

Work Smarter

How to increase your versatility

Versatility is a key leadership trait. Managers must have the capacity to read and respond to change with a wide repertoire of skills and behaviours. So how can you actually build this ability? Start by soliciting feedback from trusted colleagues. Ask a simple question like, "What should I start doing, stop doing, or continue doing to be a more effective teammate?"

You might also take a more systematic approach and complete a personality assessment to gauge your strengths and weaknesses. Follow up by asking colleagues if they agree with the results. Finally, learn some new habits from people you respect. Set up a meeting with a colleague who has different strengths than you to pick their brain. Your goal is to learn to see things from their perspective, so come with an open mind.

You might even ask what they are reading, how they learn, or what their day-to-day routine is. Try to adopt some elements from their approach - it just might make you a more flexible worker and versatile leader.

This tip is adapted from "The Best Leaders Are Versatile Ones," by Robert B. (Rob) Kaiser - Harvard Business Review

Adapt your leadership style to the situation at hand

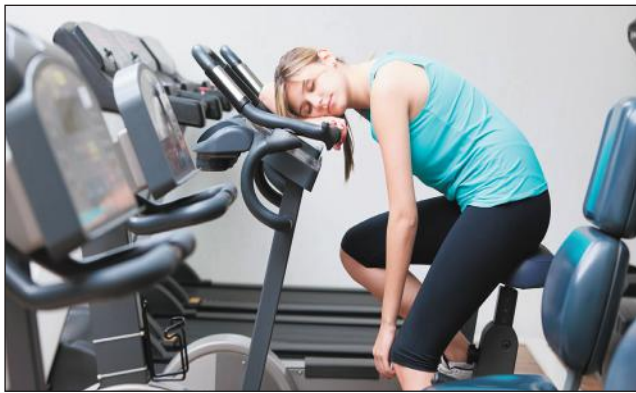
There isn't a uniform leadership style that works for everyone all the time. You may need to adjust your style based on the people you're managing, the context in which you're leading, or the external pressures you're under. Some situations call for a more directive style, while others call for a more open-ended approach.

Sometimes you need to stick to the plan, while at other times it's best to adapt on the fly. To navigate this, develop a portfolio of micro-behaviors that you can employ depending on the situation at hand. Start by understanding your natural tendencies. What's your default leadership style? What's your comfort zone? If you're not sure, get feedback from others. Then learn, adjust, and practice. Formal coaching can help - whether it's by another person or even an AI coaching bot.

Finally, work on your emotional intelligence and contextual awareness skills. This can be tricky, but if you're wondering which style is right for a given moment, trust the people around you to give you feedback. Developing the dexterity to move between different leadership styles is extremely challenging, but it can be achieved, with focused efforts.

This tip is adapted from "Every Leader Needs to Navigate These 7 Tensions," by Jennifer Jordan, Michael Wade, and Elizabeth Teracino - Harvard Business Review

Failed your New Year resolution again? Join the club



New research which surveyed participants from the UK and Australia has found that despite having the best intentions, most people give up on their New Year resolutions within the first month.

Share:

New Edith Cowan University (ECU) research has found that despite having the best intentions, thirds of participants in an online survey give up on their New Year resolutions within the first month.

The study also revealed that approximately half the people surveyed had the same, or nearly the same, resolution as in the previous year, and more than half of the resolutions listed focused on either diet or exercise.

The research, led by ECU Associate Prof Joanne Dickson, investigated personal goal factors that predicted greater wellbeing and sticking with one's most important New Year resolution over time.

Approximately two thirds (64%) of the listed resolu-

tions were described as 'general', and referred to an overly general or vague resolution (e.g., to get fit).

About those that gave up within a month, despite a strong commitment to their most important New Year resolution and a belief that they would succeed, Prof Dickson said this might be because many of the participants set general resolutions like they wanted 'to get fit' or 'exercise regularly', rather than setting specific resolutions and plans.

"An example of a specific resolution might be -- to go for a 40-minute walk on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings," Prof Dickson said.

Spouses really are together in sickness and in health

When it comes to marriage, the adage "birds of a feather flock together" is relatively true. Previous studies have indicated that we gravitate towards people of similar social class, educational background, race, and weight. The scientific name for this is assortative mating, and it means that spouses are often genetically similar. This allows researchers to explore environmental factors in greater detail.

Examining spouses from Japan and the Netherlands, a new study suggests that couples have a high degree of commonality in body shape, blood pressure, and even incidences of some diseases.

Researchers examined 5,391 pairs from Japan and 28,265 from the Netherlands, drawing on data from the Tohoku Medical Megabank Project, and the Lifelines study in the Netherlands.

Couples from both countries shared similar lifestyle habits and physical traits such as smoking, drinking, weight, abdominal circumference, and body mass index. When the researchers dived further into the data, they

"Previous research has shown that setting specific goals that include a time, place and/or people provide the mental cues to assist people to stick to their resolution goals.

"General goals or resolutions also require more thinking time, making them harder to stick to than goal resolutions that have a plan."

"The resolution to lose five kilos will more likely endure in the face of obstacles, difficulties or other competing resolutions if it's linked to higher personal values, such as beliefs about one's health or appearance," Prof Dickson said.



determined that couples had corresponding blood pressure, cholesterol, and triglycerides levels. Moreover, related incidents of hypertension, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome were also found.

Many of the correlations were between couples with low genetic similarity and high lifestyle similarity, suggesting the importance of healthy choices. The researchers encourage healthcare guidance for couples and a healthy dose of competition between partners that encourages each other to improve their health, especially against diseases shaped by lifestyle and environment.

So, the next time you go for a check-up, why not bring your partner? Better yet, challenge them to a walk to the clinic.



How did people clean their teeth in the olden days?

Dental hygiene has come a long way since the days of wine-soaked toothpicks and the urine mouthwash once thought to disinfect mouths and whiten teeth.

Some of the earliest tooth-cleaning artifacts archaeologists have found are ancient toothpicks, dental tools and written tooth care descriptions dating back more than 2,500 years. Famous Greek doctor Hippocrates was one of the first to recommend cleaning teeth with what was basically a dry toothpaste, called a dentifrice powder.

Ancient Chinese and Egyptian texts advised cleaning teeth and removing decay to help maintain health. Some of the early techniques in these cultures included chewing on bark or sticks with frayed ends, feathers, fish bones and porcupine quills. They used materials like silver, jade and gold to repair or decorate their teeth.

People in the Arabian Peninsula, North Africa and the Indian subcontinent traditionally cleaned their teeth with chew

sticks made from the *Salvadora persica* tree. They're called miswak. Europeans cleaned their teeth with rags rolled in salt or soot.

Believe it or not, in the early 1700s a French doctor named Pierre Fauchard told people not to brush. And he's considered the father of modern dentistry! Instead, he encouraged cleaning teeth with a toothpick or sponge soaked in water or brandy.

In the late 1700s, Englishman William Addis was the first to sell toothbrushes on a large scale. He got the idea after making a toothbrush from bone and animal bristles while in prison.

Before modern-day toothpaste was created, pharmacists mixed and sold tooth cream or powder. Early tooth powders were made from something abrasive, like talc or crushed seashells, mixed with essential oils, such as eucalyptus or camphor, thought to fight germs. Their flavors came from oils of cinnamon, clove, rose or peppermint. Many contained other chemicals such as ammonia, chlorophyll and



penicillin. These ingredients fight the acid-producing bacteria that can cause tooth decay and bad breath.

By the 1900s, children of immigrants to the U.S. were taught oral hygiene as a way to help "Americanize" them and their families. Factories examined and cleaned their workers' teeth to keep them from missing work due to toothaches.

Daily tooth brushing became more common thanks to World War II, when the American army required soldiers to brush their teeth as part of their daily hygiene

practices. The first nylon toothbrush was made in 1938, followed by the electric toothbrush in the 1960s.

Nowadays, there are dozens of kinds of tools and potions to help keep your mouth healthy. As a professor of dental hygiene, I believe it's most important to clean your mouth daily, no matter how you choose to do so. Well, maybe stay away from the urine mouthwash.

Jane Cotter, Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, Texas A&M University

Health & Fitness

Why sitting too much can be dangerous

Being a couch potato, desk jockey, or long-distance driver can have some significant effects on your health. See how to protect yourself, as recommended by Tyler Wheeler, MD, WebMD

It can shorten your life: You're more likely to die earlier from any cause if you sit for long stretches at a time. It doesn't help if you exercise every day or not. Of course, that's no excuse to skip the gym. If you do that, your time may be even shorter.

Dementia is more likely: If you sit too much, your brain could look just like that of someone with dementia. Sitting also raises your risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol, which all play a role in the condition. Moving throughout the day can help even more than exercise to lower your risk of all these health problems.

You'll undo all that exercise: The effects of too much sitting are hard to counter with exercise. Even if you work out 7 hours a week -- far more than the suggested 2-3 hours -- you can't reverse the effects of sitting 7 hours at a time. Don't throw away all that hard work at the gym by hitting the couch for the rest of the day. Keep moving!

Your odds of diabetes rise: You're more likely to have it, too, if you sit all day. And it isn't only because you burn fewer calories. It's the actual sitting that seems to do



it. It isn't clear why, but doctors think sitting may change the way your body reacts to insulin, the hormone that helps it burn sugar and carbs for energy.

You could get DVT: Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is a clot that forms in your leg, often because you sit still for too long. It can be serious if the clot breaks free and lodges in your lung. You might notice swelling and pain, but some people have no symptoms. That's why it's a good idea to break up long sitting sessions.

You'll gain weight: Watch a lot of TV? Surf the web for hours on end? You're more likely to be overweight or obese. If you exercise every day, that's good, but it won't make a huge dent in extra weight you gain as a result of

too much screen time

It wrecks your back: The seated position puts huge stress on your back muscles, neck, and spine. It's even worse if you slouch. Look for an ergonomic chair -- that means it'll be the right height and support your back in the proper spots. But remember: No matter how comfortable you get, your back still won't like a long sitting session. Get up and move around for a minute or two every half hour to keep your spine in line.

It leads to varicose veins: Sit for too long and blood can pool in your legs. This put added pressure in your veins. They could swell, twist, or bulge -- what doctors call varicose veins. You may also see spider veins, bundles of broken blood vessels nearby. They usually aren't serious, but they can ache. Your doctor can tell you about treatment options if you need them.

If you don't move it, you could lose it: Older adults who aren't active may be more likely to get osteoporosis (weakened bones) and could slowly become unable to perform basic tasks of everyday life, like taking a bath or using the toilet. While moderate exercise won't prevent it, you don't have to go out and run a marathon to stay mobile in your golden years. Just don't plant yourself on the couch for hours at a time.

Your cancer risk goes up: You may be more likely to get colon, endometrial, or lung cancer. The more you sit, the higher the odds. Older women have higher odds of breast cancer. That doesn't change if you're super-active. What matters is how much you sit.

How to take a stand

Work more movement into your day: Stand up and stretch every half hour or so. Touch your toes. Take a stroll around the office. Talk to your boss about a treadmill desk. All these things can help stop the negative effects of uninterrupted sitting and keep you on the road to good health.

Is your medication affecting your sleep?

If you have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep, check your medicine cabinet. Insomnia can be a side effect of some widely used prescription meds, over-the-counter drugs, and supplements, writes Brunilda Nazario, MD.

Heart medications. Alpha-blockers treat high blood pressure and prostate problems. They can keep you from getting enough deep REM (rapid eye movement) sleep and make you feel sleepy during the day. Beta-blockers treat high blood pressure, heart rhythm problems, and chest pain. They also appear to lower your body's level of melatonin, a hormone that helps control your sleep cycle. That can make you wake up at night and give you nightmares. Other heart drugs, including ACE inhibitors and angiotensin II-receptor blockers (ARBs), cause side effects like leg cramps and coughing that can keep you up at night.

Antidepressants. Selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) change the way your brain cells communicate. Doctors don't know why, but insomnia is a common side effect of these medicines.

Corticosteroids. These lower inflammation and treat many illnesses, including asthma, allergic reactions, and immune-system problems like rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. They can make you feel energized instead of



sleepy.

Cholesterol medicine. Statins can lower your cholesterol levels, but they can also cause muscle pain that can make it hard to sleep.

Alzheimer's drugs. Cholinesterase inhibitors help with dementia by boosting a brain chemical that controls memory and alertness. But they can also cause sleeplessness and bad dreams.

Asthma medicine. The oral drug theophylline can cause sleep problems, and some inhaled rescue medicines can make you jittery.

What can you do?

Many things other than medications can cause insomnia. But if you're having trouble sleeping, check the packaging of the meds you take or do some research to see if it's a possible side effect. If it's a supplement or over-the-counter drug, you can stop using it or try taking it at a different time of day. But don't ever stop taking a prescription medicine without talking to your doctor first. Let them know about your sleep problems and they can probably offer a solution.

They might be able to switch you to a medication that doesn't cause insomnia, or you may need a different dose. Taking your medication earlier in the day might reduce sleep side effects.

Your doctor may suggest a natural sleep aid like melatonin or a prescription sleeping pill.

You may not have a choice about taking a medication that disrupts your sleep. But you can make changes to your lifestyle and bedroom that may help you get better rest.

- Go to bed and get up at the same time every day.
- Get plenty of exercise early in the day.
- Keep electronics out of your bedroom.
- Make your bedroom cool, dark, and quiet.
- Try not to have alcohol, caffeine, nicotine, or a big meal within a few hours of bedtime.

LAUGHTER is the best medicine



Husband and wife had a car accident

Ambulance was called and they both end up in hospital. After some time, husband regains consciousness and starts looking for his wife around the hospital. He finds a doctor and asks him:

"Doctor, please, me and my wife had an accident and I can't find her. Can you help me? Is she alright?"

Doctor says: "Oh yes, she is alive but she will never move again. Her neck is broken."

"Oh no!!" says the shocked husband.

"Yeah, and since she won't be able to move, you will have to feed her every day from now on," says the doctor.

Husband is starting to sob uncontrol-

lably.

"You will have to change her diapers and check for blood in urine daily."

Husband falls on his knees crying.

"And since she can't move you will have to wake up every few hours during the night to turn her from side to side so she doesn't develop bedsores."

Husband just sobs on his knees trying to calm down to which doctor puts a hand on his shoulder and says, "Just kidding man, she died two days ago."

Lazy Sons

Tom and Jerry are sitting in a bar moaning about the younger generation.

"My son must be the laziest little bastard in England," Tom says sipping his drink.

"You've got no chance friend, my son Gary is the laziest little one I've ever met," the two men continue to argue and finally decide to visit each other's homes to witness the lazy lads first hand. They go to Tom's house first, where his son is lying on the sofa watching a movie.

"Go down the road and get me a box of matches, will you?" says Tom.

"Go get them yourself, I'm watching television."

"Go, I'll give you £10 if you bring it within 5 mins," says Tom.

"Nothing doing, I'm not moving," replies the boy.

Tom and Jerry then head over to Jerry's house, they walk into the living room where the curtains are shut and Jerry's son is sitting in front of the fire watching a TV show. The room is unbearably hot and the boy is weeping softly. The two men stare at the boy in disbelief: a 16-year-old lad sitting at home, openly crying over a television show. The boy does not even look at the two men when the men entered the room, he just sits in his chair, staring at the television screen, crying like a baby.

Annoyed at his son's apathy, Jerry finally walks over and turns off the TV, but it doesn't do any good as his son just goes on weeping, staring in space.

"What's the matter, son?" asks Jerry.

"I'm burning," his son replies.



Life's Lessons

Advice from a Supreme Court Judge who handled family disputes

1. Don't encourage your son and his wife to stay under the same roof with you. Best to suggest them to move out, even to the extent of renting a house. It's their problem to find a separate home.

More the distance between you and your children's families, the better is the relationship with your in-laws.

2. Treat your son's wife as his wife, not as your own daughter, maybe just treat her as a friend. Your son will always be your Junior, but if you think that his wife is of the same rank and if you ever scolded her, she will remember it for life. In real life, only her own mother and not you will be viewed as a person qualified to scold or correct her.

3. Whatever habits or characters your son's wife has is not your problem at all, it is your son's problem. It isn't your problem as he is an adult already.

4. Even when living together, make each other's business clear, don't do their laundry, don't cook for them and don't baby sit their children. Unless, of course, there is a special request by your son's wife and you feel that you're capable and don't expect anything in return. Most importantly, you shouldn't worry about your son's family problems. Let them sort out their problems themselves.

5. Pretend to be blind and deaf when your son and his wife

are quarrelling. It's normal that they do not like their parents to get involved in the dispute between husband and wife.

6. Your grandchildren totally belong to your son and his wife. However they want to raise their children, it's up to them to do that, and the credit or blame will be on them.

7. Your son's wife need not necessarily serve you. It is the son's duty. You should have taught your son to be a better person so that you and your son's wife relationship could be better.

8. Do more planning for your own retirement, don't rely on your children to take care of your retirement. You have already walked through most of your journey in life, there are still many new things to learn throughout the journey.

9. It's in your own interest that you enjoy your retirement years. Better if you could utilise and enjoy everything that you have saved before you die. Don't let your wealth become worthless to you.

10. Grandchildren don't belong to your family, they're their parents' precious gift.



I daily observe a group of ladies sitting in the park talking and laughing loudly. One day I observed all the ladies were silent. There must be some serious issue or incident happened.

So I went to a lady and asked, "Why everybody is silent today?" She replied, "All are present today..."

It took me few minutes to understand this...

Epitaph

-- Merrit Malloy

Every once in a while, a poem or song is so well constructed, so clearly conveys the author's meaning and is so precisely expressive that it becomes something of an anthem. Written by contemporary writer Merrit Malloy, 'Epitaph' captures how our loved ones can best keep our essence alive after our death -- not merely through reminiscence, but through purposeful acts of love. It has become a staple of funeral and memorial services.

When I die
Give what's left of me away
To children
And old men that wait to die.

And if you need to cry,
Cry for your brother
Walking the street beside you.
And when you need me,
Put your arms
Around anyone
And give them
What you need to give to me.

I want to leave you something,
Something better
Than words
Or sounds.

Look for me
In the people I've known
Or loved,
And if you cannot give me away,
At least let me live on in your eyes
And not your mind.

You can love me most
By letting
Hands touch hands,
By letting bodies touch bodies,
And by letting go
Of children
That need to be free.

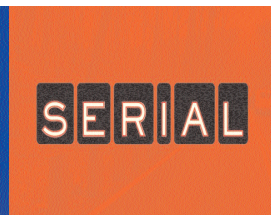
Love doesn't die,
People do.
So, when all that's left of me
Is love,
Give me away.

Teacher: Why Are You Late?
Student: Because Of The Sign On The Road.
Teacher: What Type Of Sign?
Student: The Sign That Says, "School Ahead, Go Slow.!"



CINE 12

Mardi 12 octobre - 21.10



MBC 1

06.30 Local: Crime Watch
 09.45 Local Prod: Passerelles
 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez Vous?
 11.10 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasionés
 12.00 Le Journal
 12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
 12.55 Local: Come On Let's Dance
 14.14 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida...
 14.40 D.Anime: Invention Story
 15.04 D.Anime: Baby Boss
 15.24 D.Anime: Les Triples
 16.00 D.Anime: HTDT
 17.10 Serial: Mustangs FC
 17.35 Serial: Magic Mania
 17.50 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
 20.40 Local Prod: Generations J
 21.15 Film: The Delphi Effect

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
 08.00 Educational Prod: Grade 3
 10.15 Educational Prod: Grade 4
 12.30 Film: Nyaydaata
 Star: Dharmendra, Jayapradha, Tinnu Anand, Aparajita, Asrani
 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
 15.23 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
 15.43 Serial: Bava Maradullu
 16.04 Serial: Apoorva Raagangal
 16.28 Serial: Aatish
 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan
 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
 17.30 Telugu - Premabhishekam
 18.00 Serial: My Little Princess
 18.30 Local Prod: Abhay Charan
 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
 20.04 Local: Programme In Tamil
 20.30 Film: Aman
 Star: Rajendra Kumar, Saira Banu, Saira Banu, Balraj Sahni...

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
 07.21 Mag: In Good Shape
 07.47 Doc: Amazing Gardens
 09.00 Educational Prog: Grade 5
 11.30 Educational Prog: Grade 8
 14.03 Doc: My Life With A Robot
 14.55 Mag: 360 Geo
 15.47 Mag: Global 3000
 16.47 Mag: Eco@Africa
 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
 19.30 Mag: Healthy Living
 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet
 19.00 Student Support Prog...
 19.30 Mag: Made In Germany
 20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
 20.40 Doc: Builders Of The Future
 21.17 Doc: Farah Diba Pahlavi...
 22.36 Local: Klip Seleksion
 23.18 Doc: A Passion For Helping
 23.44 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto Mobility Show

Cine 12

01.26 Film: Outlawed
 02.57 Serial: Heroes Reborn
 03.39 Film: Riding Tornado
 05.29 Tele: Muneca Brava
 06.52 Serial: Island Doctor
 09.00 Serial: When Calls The Heart
 09.48 Tele: Teresa
 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
 11.01 Serial: Heroes Reborn
 11.42 Film: Riding Tornado
 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
 14.12 Mag: Cinemag
 14.45 Serial: Island Doctor
 16.41 Serial: When Calls The Heart
 17.24 Serial: S.W.A.T
 18.05 Tele: Teresa
 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
 20.30 Serial: S.W.A.T
 21.15 Film: Fairfield Road
 22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava

Bollywood TV

08.00 Film: Chaar Din Ki Chandni
 Starring Tusshar Kapoor, Rana Jung Bahadur, Mukul Dev...
 12.04 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna
 12.24 / 20.11 -
 Chupke Chupke
 12.48 / 20.32 Mere Sai
 13.09 / 21.09 - Agniphera
 13.27 / 21.24 -
 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
 13.50 / 21.59 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
 14.06 Serial: Maharakshak
 14.53 / 22.25 - Sethji
 15.16 Film: Daud
 Star: Sanjay Dutt, Urmila Matondk
 18.00 Live: Samacher
 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
 19.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron...
 19.30 Bhakharwadi

mardi 12 octobre

MBC 1

Mercredi 13 octobre - 21.15



mercredi 13 octobre

06.56 Local: Generations J
 09.30 Local Prod: Retrovizer
 11.10 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasionés
 12.00 Le Journal
 12.20 Local: Autour Des Valeurs
 12.25 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
 12.51 Local Prod: Groov'in
 13.45 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...
 14.35 D.Anime: Invention Story
 14.55 D.Anime: Kulipari An Army...
 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Boss
 15.23 D.Anime: Les Triples
 15.31 D.Anime: Spirit
 17.05 Serial: Mustangs FC
 17.45 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
 18.55 Local Prod: Nayi Drishti
 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
 20.20 Local: MBC Production
 21.15 Film: When The Bough Break
 23.00 Le Journal

07.00 DDI Live
 08.00 Educational Prog: Grade 3
 10.15 Educational Prog: Grade 4
 12.30 Film: Sitamgar
 Star: Dharmendra, Rishi Kapoor, Parveen Babi, Poonam Dhillon
 15.00 Serial: Zindagi Ki Mehek
 15.23 Aamhi Doghi
 15.46 Bava Maradallu
 16.07 Apoorva Raagangal
 16.30 Serial: Aatish
 16.47 Serial: Imtihaan
 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
 17.28 Serial: Kulvadhu
 18.00 Serial: My Little Princess
 18.30 Local: Abhay Charan
 19.00 Zournal Kreol
 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
 20.06 Programme In Marathi
 20.30 Film: Rajwade And Sons
 22.29 DDI Live

06.00 Rev: The Global Auto...
 06.26 Mag: Healthy Living
 06.52 Mag: Check In
 07.51 Mag: Magnifique
 08.15 Doc: Builders Of The Future
 09.00 Educational Prog: Grade 5
 11.30 Educational Prog: Grade 8
 14.00 Doc: Farah Diba Pahlavi...
 14.56 Mag: Close Up
 15.22 Local: Klip Seleksion
 16.33 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
 17.48 Mag: Motorweek
 18.17 Mag: Vous Et Nous
 18.48 Doc: Set One: Heavy Load...
 19.00 Student Support Prog - G7
 19.47 Les Montagnes Du Monde
 20.40 Local: News (English)
 20.45 Doc: Zenith
 21.17 Doc: Tarzan, Aux Sources...
 22.09 Mag: Business Africa
 22.34 Doc: Beyond Men and Mas...
 23.17 Mag: Motorweek

01.25 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En...
 02.53 Serial: Heroes Reborn
 03.34 Film: Fairfield Road
 04.59 Tele: Muneca Brava
 05.43 Serial: S.W.A.T
 06.49 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En...
 09.10 Serial: When Calls The Heart
 09.45 Tele: Teresa
 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
 11.01 Serial: Heroes Reborn
 12.00 Film: Fairfield Road
 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
 14.46 Film: Mes Enfants Pris En...
 16.37 Serial: When Calls The Heart
 17.23 Serial: S.W.A.T
 18.08 Tele: Teresa
 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
 20.30 Serial: English Series
 21.15 Film: Les Guerriers De L'empire Céleste
 23.10 Tele: Muneca Brava

08.00 Film: Daud
 Star: Sanjay Dutt, Urmila Matondk
 12.04 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
 12.24 / 20.26 - Chupke Chupke
 12.44 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad..
 13.10 / 20.46 - Agniphera
 13.26 / 21.09 -
 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
 13.49 / 21.50 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
 14.11 / 22.15 - Maharakshak
 14.54 / 21.46 - Sethji
 15.21 Film: Kochadaiyaan
 Starring: Rajinikanth, Deepika Padukone
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron...
 19.30 Bhakharwadi
 19.38 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
 20.30 Serial: Redha Krishna

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06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
 06.45 Local: Fee Main
 07.15 D.Anime: Fam Rakonte
 10.15 Local Prod: Coin Jardin
 11.10 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasionés
 12.00 Le Journal
 12.50 Local: Le Rendez-Vous
 13.45 Serial: Heidi, Bienvenida A...
 14.40 D.Anime: Invention Story
 15.03 D.Anime: Baby Boss
 15.28 D.Anime: Wishfart
 15.39 D.Anime: Spirit
 17.15 Mag: Human Nature
 17.45 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
 18.55 Local: Tirth Yatra
 19.30 Le Journal
 20.30 Film: Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi
 Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Vir Das

07.00 DDI Live
 08.00 Educational Prog: Grade 3
 10.15 Educational Prog: Grade 4
 12.30 Film: Haathi Mere Saathi
 Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Tanuja
 15.20 Aamhi Doghi
 15.43 Bava Maradallu
 16.01 Apoorva Raagangal
 16.26 Serial: Aatish
 16.45 Serial: Imtihaan
 17.03 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
 17.29 Local: Amrit Vaani
 18.00 Serial: My Little Princess
 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da...
 19.00 Zournal Kreol
 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
 20.06 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
 20.32 Local: Retrovizer
 21.14 Film: Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk

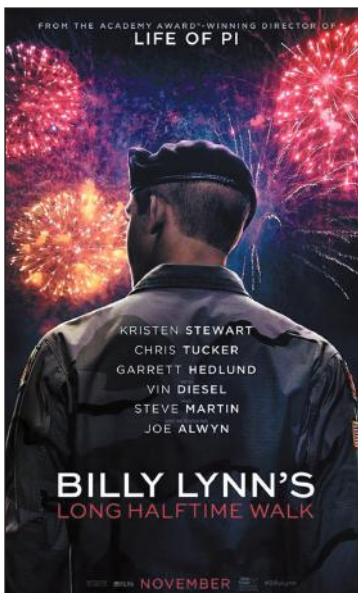
06.00 Mag: Motorweek
 06.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous
 07.19 Doc: Garden Party
 07.48 Les Montagnes Du Monde
 08.31 Doc: Zenith
 09.00 Educational Prog: Grade 5
 14.03 Doc: Tarzan, Aux Sources...
 15.20 Doc: Beyond Men And Mas...
 16.02 Mag: Motorweek
 16.31 Mag: Vous Et Nous
 18.00 Mag: Eco India
 18.30 Mag: Shift
 18.43 Mag: Sur Mesure
 19.00 Student Prog Grade 7
 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
 20.30 Local: News (English)
 20.45 Doc: Destinations
 20.52 Doc: Iran Short Of Water
 21.47 Doc: 360 Geo
 22.35 Doc: Gutenberg, L'aventure
 23.31 Mag: Eco India

03.48 Film: When The Bough Break
 05.31 Tele: Muneca Brava
 06.12 Serial: English Series
 09.00 Serial: When Calls The Heart
 09.45 Tele: Teresa
 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
 11.00 Serial: Heroes Reborn
 12.00 Film: When The Bough Break
 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
 14.45 Film: Les Guerriers De L'empire Céleste
 16.40 Serial: When Calls The Heart
 17.20 Serial: English Series
 18.05 Tele: Teresa
 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
 20.30 Serial: English Series
 21.17 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
 22.14 Film: Xtinction: Predator X
 Avec: Mark Sheppard, Elena Lyons, Paul Wall

08.00 Film: Kochadaiyaan
 Starring: Rajinikanth, Deepika Padukone
 12.05 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna
 12.22 / 20.11 - Chupke Chupke
 12.48 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
 13.07 / 21.09 - Agniphera
 13.31 / 21.24
 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
 13.48 / 21.50 - Zindagi Ki Mehek
 14.14 / 22.15 Maharakshak
 14.55 / 21.46 - Sethji
 15.30 Film: RA.ONE
 Starring: Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Armaan Verma
 18.00 Samachar
 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
 18.59 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
 19.29 Serial: Bhakharwadi

CINE 12

Jeudi 14 octobre - 21.15



B TV Jeudi 14 octobre - 15.20

Star: Shah Rukh Khan, Kareena Kapoor, Armaan Verma



MBC 1

Jeudi 14 octobre - 20.30

Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Vir Das



Abdulrazak Gurnah: what you need to know about the Nobel prize-winning author

Gurnah won the prize for his "uncompromising and compassionate" look at the "effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugees"

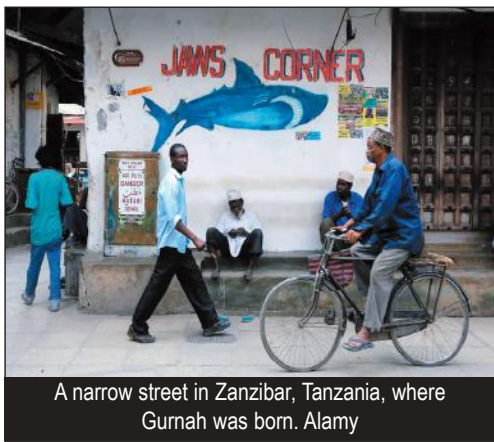
Abdulrazak Gurnah has been awarded the 2021 Nobel prize for literature. The Tanzanian novelist, who is based in the UK, was awarded the prize for his "uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents".

Migration and cultural uprooting along with the cultural and ethnic diversity of east Africa are at the heart of Gurnah's fiction. They have also shaped his personal life.

Born in Zanzibar in 1948, Gurnah came to Britain in the 1960s as a refugee. Being of Arab origin, he was forced to flee his birthplace during the revolution of 1964 and only returned in 1984 in time to visit his dying father. Until his retirement, he was a full-time professor of English and postcolonial literatures at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

Gurnah has written ten novels to date, including the Booker-nominated *Paradise* in 1994 and *By the Sea* in 2001. His most recent novel, *Afterlives*, was described by the *Sunday Times* as "an aural archive of a lost Africa", and indeed the opening pages of this and many of his other works take the reader directly into the realm of oral storytelling.

Afterlives is set against the backdrop of German rule in east Africa in the early 20th century. It tells the story of a young boy sold to German colonial troops. The novel was shortlisted for the 2021 Orwell prize for political fiction and longlisted for the Walter Scott prize for historical fiction.

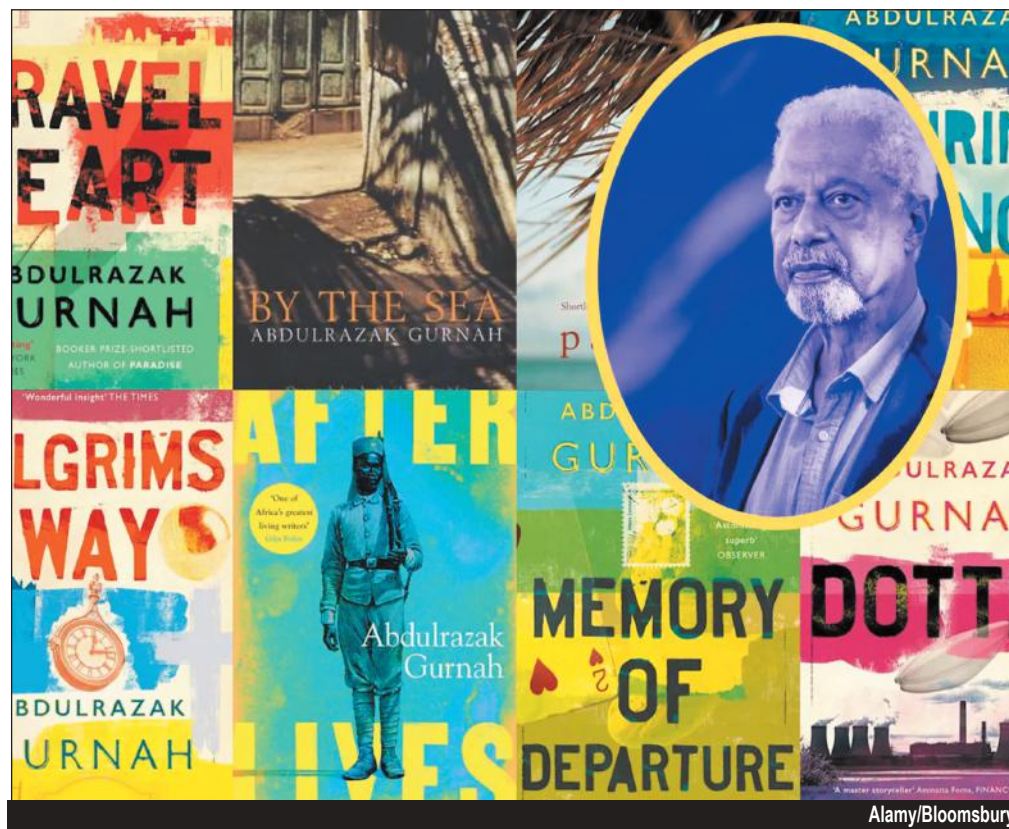


A narrow street in Zanzibar, Tanzania, where Gurnah was born. Alamy

Gurnah's work is attentive to the tension between personal story and collective history. In particular, *Afterlives* asks readers to consider the afterlife of colonialism and war and its long lasting effects, not only on nations but also, and perhaps mainly so, on individuals and families.

Influence and style

His writing is heavily influenced by the cultural and ethnic diversity of his native Zanzibar. Shaped by its geographical loca-



tion in the Indian Ocean off the coast of east Africa, it was at the centre of the major Indian Ocean trade routes.

The island attracted traders and colonists from what was then known as Arabia (modern-day Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the UAE), south Asia, the African mainland, and later Europe.

Gurnah's writing reflects this diversity with its many voices and its range of references to literary sources. Most of all, it insists on hybridity and diversity in the face of Afrocentrism, which dominated the east African independence movements in the 20th century.

His first novel, *Memory of Departure*, published in 1987, is set around the time Gurnah left Zanzibar. A coming-of-age story in the form of a memoir, it follows the protagonist's attempts to leave his birthplace and study abroad.

Consequences of colonialism

His novel *Paradise* is similarly conceived as a coming-of-age narrative, though set earlier in time, at the turn of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, when Europeans were beginning to establish colonies on the East African coast. *Paradise* also addresses domestic slavery in Africa, with a bonded slave as the main character.

Above all, *Paradise* highlights the great diversity of Gurnah's literary repertoire, bringing together references to Swahili texts, Quranic and biblical traditions, as well as the work of Joseph Conrad.

Gurnah's work, with its diverse textual references and its attentiveness to archives, reflects and touches on wider concerns in postcolonial literature. His novels consider the deliberate erasure of African narratives and perspectives as one major consequence of European colonialism.

In highlighting conversations between the individual and the record of history, Gurnah's work has similarities to Salman Rushdie - another postcolonial writer who is equally attentive to the relationship between personal memory and the larger narratives of history. Indeed, alongside his novels, Gurnah is also the editor of the *Cambridge Companion to Salman Rushdie*, published in 2007.

Gurnah's books ask: how do we remember a past deliberately eclipsed and erased from the colonial archive? Many postcolonial writers from diverse backgrounds have addressed this issue, from the aforementioned Rushdie to the Jamaican writer Michelle Cliff, both of whom pitch personal memory and story against a collective history authored by those in power.

Gurnah's work continues this conversation about the long shadow of colonialism and employs a diversity of textual traditions in the process of commemorating erased narratives.

Melanie Otto

Assistant Professor in English, Trinity College Dublin



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Making It Happen

The universe is fully supportive of what you want, but it is up to you to go for it

There are times in our lives when all the signs seem to be pointing us in a particular direction. Our thoughts and dreams are echoed in the songs and stories we hear and the media we see. Maybe the message we are getting from the universe doesn't even make sense in the "real" world, but somewhere inside, these urges feel right. Maybe you feel you are being told to move to a new city/country although your life where you are is just fine. Or maybe you feel the desire to pursue a new direction in your career when it never really interested you before. When we spend time getting in touch with our higher selves, our intuition sends us directives to lead us to become our best and most fulfilled selves. And when we are open and listening, the next step is to take action and go for it.

Once we make the decision to pursue our inner urgings, the universe sets into motion the means for all sorts of details to fall into place. A sense of peace will come over us, because we know that any questions will no longer make us wonder if our dreams are possible, but how to make them happen. Instead of deterring us from our goal, these questions only serve to clarify our focus to move us forward. We need not throw caution to the wind to follow our dream. The positive shift in our energy affects everything around us. Like a rush of water, it goes ahead to clear debris from our path so that we can go forward. Our new attitude also attracts likeminded people. Sometimes even the most unlikely angels arrive to help us along our way with the information and support we need.

Wherever your dreams are pointing you today, take a step. Take action and manifest your inner urges and soul whisperings.