

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "At the time of crisis, when death marks every nook and hopelessness is abundant, only one act triumphs above all: HUMANITY" – Dr Anhad Kaur Suri



Is this Umpteenth Scandal the Last Straw?

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Economist

‘High inflation and inflationary pressures will become a major issue going forward’

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Politicians' Private Lives

The talk of the town this week relates to the affairs a senior politician in office is alleged to be having with several young women. This came out in the public following an allegation made by an opposition politician at the beginning of this week. The Mauritian press, which generally is not inclined to reporting or commenting on the private lives of public men – except for the unusual coverage of some papers of the private activities whilst in office of the former Prime Minister – has so far stayed away from this matter. However, it has been overtaken by social media platforms, which have today emerged as a more powerful communication medium than traditional media due to its ease of access and its reach. The recent posts with salacious content, including pictures of the young women, meant to shame the senior minister point to the dramatic change that is taking place in the dissemination of information... and trash.

With the Internet having taken over control of information that goes round the world at a mouse's click, nobody is spared from the prying eyes of the multitudes of voyeurs keen to have a peep into the private lives of public men, especially those activities in which they partake when no one is watching – or so they think. The good name and reputation of all those involved in such affairs, especially the women, get bruised, but that is not a matter of concern - or remorse - for those who take a sadistic pleasure in posting or circulating such stuff.

On the other hand, a recurrent question that has come up for debate time and again in all democratic societies is: does a politician's private life matter? Tony Blair is reported to have said, 'Politicians are entitled to private lives the same as anyone else.' Blair's opinion does not seem to carry much weight today as only last June British Health Secretary Matt Hancock had to resign following revelations that he broke the government's own coronavirus restrictions during an affair with a close aide. In the US, many sex scandals have involved politicians, as well as persons appointed with the consent of the Senate. Wikipedia informs us that 'sometimes, the officials have denied the accusations, have apologized, or have lost their office in consequence of the scandal (e.g. by resigning, being defeated, or deciding not to run again)'.

The French are usually less inclined to criticize or condemn what their leaders do in private. Jean-Marie Charon of the *École des hautes études en sciences sociales* argues that 'the respect that French journalists pay to politicians' private lives, stems from perhaps the French Catholic culture... more forgiving than protestant culture – labelled "puritan" in French public debate.' Dominique Strauss Kahn, the former head of the IMF, who was arrested and charged with the sexual assault and attempted rape of 32-year-old Nafissatou Diallo, a housekeeper at the Sofitel New York Hotel in May 2011, went on to become a leading candidate in the French presidential election a year later. Despite the Sofitel affair, the French media never reported on the relationships Strauss Kahn had with other women. However, that affair has dented his reputation in France, where he remains in total retreat from the political scene.

We have for long seemed to have adopted the same approach as the French, but the times are changing. With little attention paid nowadays to the political ideologies, if any, and programmes of politicians, it is possible that their character and behaviour whilst in office are what could likely become the focus of the people's attention and important to them as well. It is also probable that the dissemination of information of a politician's behaviour in power and his comportment and character in private may already have had a bearing on how people vote if we go by recent elections in Mauritius – since 2014 onwards.

Without being too puritan about this issue, the debate is increasingly about whether, as Nik Antovich of *Oregon Daily Emerald* puts it, the decisions politicians make in their private lives best reflect the ones they will make while serving in public office. 'Politicians ask us to entrust them with sweeping powers, and so we have a right to know as much as necessary about their morality. It is a valuable resource voters can use to determine if a person is someone, we want to represent us in office.' In other words, politicians are not like 'anyone else' as argued by Tony Blair. What they do in private and how that impacts their decisions in office is everyone's business.

Public figures and leaders who infringe the norms of ethics and morality will have themselves to blame if and when they get exposed.

The Conversation

Covid-19 variants will keep coming

In places with low vaccination rates, Covid-19 has the chance to linger, and variants develop and travel. Without global vaccine equity, this entirely predictable pattern will repeat itself



Pic - cnbctv18.com

Canada's Covid-19 vaccination rate is 76 per cent - 10 times higher than it is across the continent of Africa.

While people in the wealthy West have had preferred access to multiple rounds of vaccines, vast numbers of people, especially in Africa and on the Indian subcontinent, haven't received a single dose. This has permitted the virus to thrive and accelerated the process of mutation, adding months and perhaps years to the pandemic.

Wherever Covid-19 has the chance to linger, variants develop and travel. This entirely predictable pattern is destined to repeat itself unless countries with resources share vaccines with others that cannot afford them.

Wealthy countries have yet to meet their pledges to provide equitable global access to vaccines via COVAX (an international collaboration to procure and distribute Covid-19 vaccines) and other initiatives. The resulting lack of broad global vaccine coverage made the rise of another variant like Omicron inevitable.

For Canada, it is more critical than ever to carefully balance the supply of vaccines available for domestic use while prioritizing international sharing - and encouraging regional manufacturing.

Millions of pre-ordered vaccine doses

When the Covid-19 crisis started, major manufacturers pre-sold their vaccines to governments as they were being developed but before they were tested, as a way of funding their work, including clinical trials.

Canada and other developed countries ordered millions of doses, enough to cover their populations many times over, with promises to share their excess vaccines with other countries. That has not happened quickly enough. While logistical, legal and other barriers did impede the wider distribution of vaccines, there appears to be a lack of will to overcome them.

The momentum gained by accelerating the development of vaccinations has now been lost.

Third doses and booster shots will be important to controlling both the ongoing threat of Delta and the spread of Omicron. Canadians should certainly heed public health guidance and get their shots when they are recommended.

Dawn ME Bowdish & Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster University

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Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy

Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis

Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

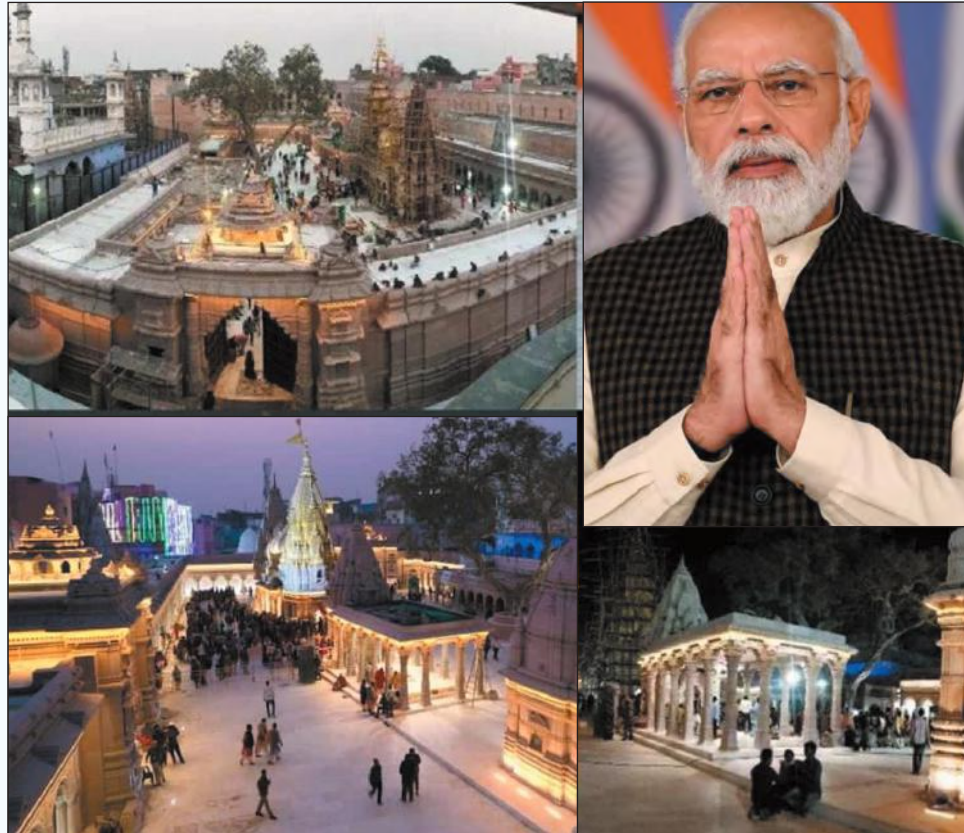
I think it was the French thinker Andre Malraux who said that the 21st century will be the century of culture. In 1993, the late Samuel Huntington published one of the most cited articles in international relations literature: 'The Clash of Civilizations?' (*Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993, pp. 22-48), followed three years later by a book on the same issue. It argued about the impossibility of different sets of values, norms and beliefs – different cultures - living side-by-side in an increasingly globalized world, leading them to inevitably clash. This has been followed by heated and ongoing debates to which fire was literally added by the 9/11 attack on the twin towers in New York. The massive influxes of migrants towards the Europe have poured more fuel.

In this cauldron, several terms have gained enhanced currency – multiculturalism, melting pot, inclusivism, exclusivism, assimilation, integration, minorityism, majoritarianism, etc. -- in an attempt to settle the question of how different peoples can live together in peace and harmony. Underlying all these, however, is the idea that every country or group of countries (Europe) have a primary culture that defines their 'civilisational' ethos. Thus, increasingly, and especially at the time of elections, the erosion of this ethos - framed by such expressions as British culture, European culture (which the Brexit vote has sharpened), American culture, Australian culture (which is now attempting to bring the Aboriginal culture into the mainstream) - is being lamented, and appeals are made for a return to the primary cultural heritage, or at least give primacy to the civilisational ethos.

But the culture aspect also finds resonance on mundane issues. This is exemplified by the remarks made (as reported by CNN and mailed to me by a friend in the US) by Kara Alaimo, an associate professor in the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication at Hofstra University, who was spokeswoman for international affairs in the Treasury Department during the Obama administration – 'Time magazine has selected tech billionaire Elon Musk as its Person of the Year. The choice says so much about our priorities as a culture and the way we fixate on the wealthy -- even when their actions are selfish and irresponsible.'

Reclaiming cultural heritage has gained global trac-

The Century of Culture



tion, promoted by UNESCO and highlighted in numerous articles in newspapers and magazines with wide international reach, such as the magazine of the Goethe Institute, the British newspaper Economist and so on.

India is one country where for nearly a thousand years repeated attempts were made to annihilate its primary culture by destruction of the iconic temples, unique architectural marvels, which defined it when alien invaders came to pillage and loot. They were the Turks and Timurites – the latter designation pointed out by Amish Tripathi (author of the *Shiva Trilogy* and Director of the Nehru Centre in London), who said in a TV interview that it is Indians who called them moguls, which is wrong because they called themselves Timurites, descendants of Taimur or Tamerlane. He lauded the thrust being given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring alive the country's civilisational ethos by restoring temple complexes that have survived despite the assaults, but many of which are in a bad state with their surroundings crowded by buildings that have come up haphazardly and that prevent or render access by devotees difficult.

He was speaking in the context of the inauguration of the first phase of the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor on Monday 13 December, a project which Modiji had at heart since 2014, and which has finally materialized. In ancient times in India or, more accurately Bharatvarsha, kings and rulers patronized the arts and culture. Since there are no more kings, it is only fitting that this mission should be assumed by the rulers who are sensitive to the issue, and in line with the global push to reclaim and promote cultural heritage, PM Modi is leading from the front to do so and consolidate his country's civilisational Indic ethos of Sanatan Dharma.

However, as Amish Tripathi pointed out, this is being done by the Chief Ministers at the state level also, in Telengana, Gujarat, and Odisha. In Gujarat in particular, it is the Somnath Temple which is concerned, a tem-

ple which has been the target of so many attacks by the invaders – but restored every time. The resilience of that civilisational ethos is remarkable. After all, we are here speaking not of hundreds but of thousands of years. Amish Tripathi was speaking from Sri Lanka, and mentioned that he had visited an ancient temple there that was also being restored.

As far as the Kashi Vishwanath temple is concerned, those who were privileged to be there for the inauguration were really lucky. Fortunately, technology allowed others to watch the ceremony, and the sheer grandeur of both the ceremony and the temple complex kept me glued to the television until the end. I was transported in time to 1969 when I spent three weeks in Varanasi with my cousin who was studying there, at the Benares Hindu University which has trained numerous Mauritians, including doctors.

Here are a few extracts from an article in the *Indian Express* by Divya A.

'The corridor has been built over an area of 5,000 hectares, and seeks to not only decongest but to also transform the temple complex, in line with Modi's vision to create better conditions for pilgrims and devotees, who had to endure the infamously congested streets and surroundings of the temple.

The Kashi Vishwanath temple lacked direct access to the Ganga, and a 20-foot-wide corridor was envisaged to connect Lalita Ghat on the holy river to Mandir Chowk on the temple premises.

Heritage restoration: Officials say the PM insisted that while removing properties that were clogging the proposed corridor, existing heritage structures were preserved.

During demolition of the buildings, more than 40 'lost' temples like the Gangeshwar Mahadev temple, the Manokameshwar Mahadev temple, the Jauvinayak temple, and the Shri Kumbha Mahadev temple were discovered. Each of these temples has a history going back a few centuries. A gallery has been devoted to showcase some of the excavated remains at the National Museum in New Delhi, and to run a narrative on their histories on screens alongside.

In Varanasi, "smart signages" have been erected to provide information on the cultural importance of heritage sites and the city's 84 ghats, which are known for their antiquity and architectural significance.

The push to revamp and redevelop the Kashi Vishwanath complex is in line with the Prime Minister's ambitious projects for temples around the country.

He has laid the foundation stone for the Ram temple in Ayodhya, and pushed beautification and redevelopment projects at the Somnath complex and the Kedarnath Dham which saw widespread destruction in the 2013 floods.

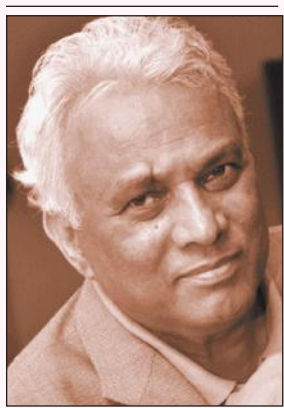
He has repeatedly described these as nation-building projects, the successful fruition of an ancient land's efforts to find and celebrate its ancient glory.'

It is apt to conclude with another quote of Andre Malraux: '*La culture...ce qui a fait de l'homme autre chose qu'un accident de l'univers*' ('Culture... that which makes of man something other than an accident in the universe.')

Bharat was waiting for Modi to happen.

Is this Umpteenth Scandal the Last Straw?

The country cannot continue to pay a heavy price for incompetence and costly blunders at the expense of public funds



Mrinal Roy

An umpteenth scandal is rocking the country. The procurement of vital medical supplies and medicine by government to fight coronavirus, treat and cure Covid-19 infected persons and save lives is once again at the centre of controversy and serious allegations of wrongdoings. Will government never learn from the plethora of costly blunders of the past?

The disturbing information provided and allegations made by the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament last week regarding the emergency procurement of 1 million generic Molnupiravir tablets from a new local company holding stocks of this tablet at a price of Rs 79.90 per tablet i.e., Rs 70 more per tablet than the 800,000 Molnupiravir tablets bought at Rs 9.30 per unit on the eve by government raises a host of germane questions.

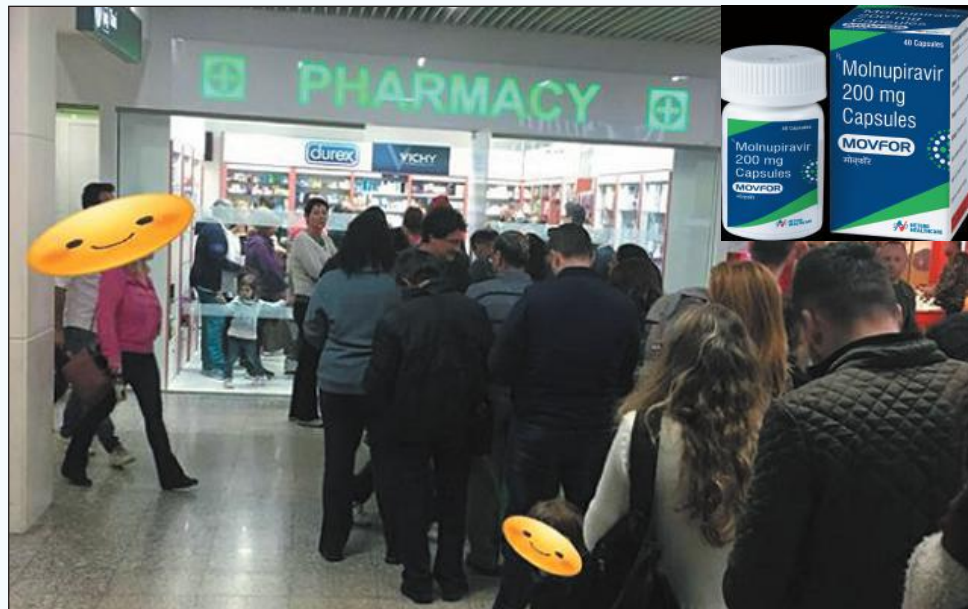
Why was the new supplier holding such important stocks at a cost? This has prompted allegations of insider trading. What was the urgency of sourcing Molnupiravir at a substantial price premium paid from public funds when government had on the eve bought Molnupiravir tablets at Rs 70 less per tablet?

Abject profiteering

Such abject profiteering on drugs meant to fight the Covid-19 pandemic and save lives, under the nose of the authorities in a context of rising Covid-19 related death toll have raised a furore in the country.

Legitimate questions have also been raised as to whether the authorities have carefully assessed the scientific evidence on the efficacy of Molnupiravir before hastily buying the tablets at a significant price premium under the cover of emergency procurement procedures.

Molnupiravir was initially heralded by public-health officials as a game-changer for Covid-19. The reality is that a small-scale global trial covering 775 infected persons who experienced mild to moderate Covid-19 symptoms was used to test the efficacy of the drug. This trial led by the US pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp and Dohme (MSD) and Ridgeback Therapeutics which developed the experimental antiviral pill Molnupiravir found that the drug reduces the risk of hospital admission or



“Is the High powered Committee not the final arbiter of all the key decisions relating to the management of the pandemic in the country? In the space of some 17 months, the process of emergency procurement of medical supplies, equipment and medicine has once again been plagued by allegations of wrongdoing. Is there no transparency and accountability and commercial oversight of the emergency procurement decisions taken? Is there not an informed appraisal of the scientific findings on the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic, variants, efficacy of new drugs and the state of infection in the countries which are our main sources of tourists before decisions are taken?”

death from Covid-19 by approximately 50%.

However, full clinical-trial data showed lower-than-expected efficacy. The FDA advisory committee that reviewed Molnupiravir found that the oral antiviral drug decreased the risk of hospitalization from Covid-19 by 30% instead of 50% observed in the initial small-scale trial. The FDA advisory committee's narrow vote to recommend at its meeting on 30 November the emergency use of Molnupiravir by 13-10 is therefore a far cry from the overwhelming approval expected after Merck announced its preliminary trial results.

The agency's lengthy deliberations could signal uncertainties about the antiviral's efficacy and safety as full trial data submitted to the FDA suggest that Molnupiravir is less effective than originally thought, dampening scientists' hopes that the relatively cheap and easy-to-administer treatment might change the course of the pandemic.

It must be flagged that Merck has an agreement with the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool to provide such licences to manufacture and sell low-cost versions of Molnupiravir.

Public outcry

Last year, the country and mainstream citizens questioned and condemned the process of emergency government procurement tenders to source medicines, protective equipment, medical supplies and equipment and laboratory supplies in 2020 to fight the Covid-19 pandemic at a cost of more than Rs 1 billion to the public Exchequer from a nondescript array of suppliers. As a consequence, 50 ventilators purchased since 31 July 2020 at a cost of Rs 80 million lie distressed and uncommissioned by the suppliers. There was a public outcry at

the questionable manner government emergency procurement tenders were organized and the purported links with the suspect deaths of a political activist and persons involved in the tender process. More than a year later, the various investigations to get to the bottom of these allegations remain stalled.

Since the beginning of the pandemic last year, the government has repeatedly touted the decisive role of the Covid-19 High powered Committee chaired by the Prime Minister which takes all decisions regarding the management of pandemic in the country. People were therefore obviously taken aback by the Prime Minister's admission this week that he was not aware of the information relating to the purchase of Molnupiravir revealed in Parliament and that after examining the procurement file with the Minister of Health, they had decided to refer the whole case to ICAC for investigation. The government has therefore decided to keep the payment of the controversial purchase made, in abeyance.

Is there no pilot in the cockpit?

This flabbergasting situation obviously raises questions about the decision making process of the High powered Committee. Is the Committee not the final arbiter of all the key decisions relating to the management of the pandemic in the country? In the space of some 17 months, the process of emergency procurement of medical supplies, equipment and medicine has once again been plagued by allegations of wrongdoing. Is there no transparency and accountability and commercial oversight of the emergency procurement decisions taken? Is there not an informed appraisal of the scientific findings on the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic, variants, efficacy of new drugs and the state of infection in the countries which are our main sources of tourists before decisions are taken?

It is patently evident that a system of governance based on nepotism and the appointment of the coterie or the party faithful to head key institutions of the country or to cushy government posts is the root cause of the systemic failings of the government decision making process and the ineptitude which undermines the management of the affairs of the state. The country cannot continue to pay a heavy price for incompetence and costly blunders at the expense of public funds. Such a decried system of governance is untenable.

Unbridled greed

It is also evident that the lack of strict transparency and accountability rules in the government decision making process as well as robust checks and balances to stem malpractices offer a field day for unbridled greed and profiteering. It is above all particularly galling that investigations to nab and bring culprits to justice are inordinately protracted. This cannot go on.

As a nation, we cannot accept the hollow rhetoric about eliminating corruption, graft and ensuring absolute transparency and accountability of the government decision making process and public expenditure when the country continues to be plagued by an endless array of costly scandals.

In a context where more than 60% of income earners obtaining up to Rs 20,000 per month are eking out a living in a context of unchecked and continuously escalating prices of essential existential needs, people are obviously up in arms at such decried scandals and greedy profiteering on drugs meant to fight the pandemic and save lives. There is a rising feeling of revolt in the country as this umpteenth scandal is the last straw.

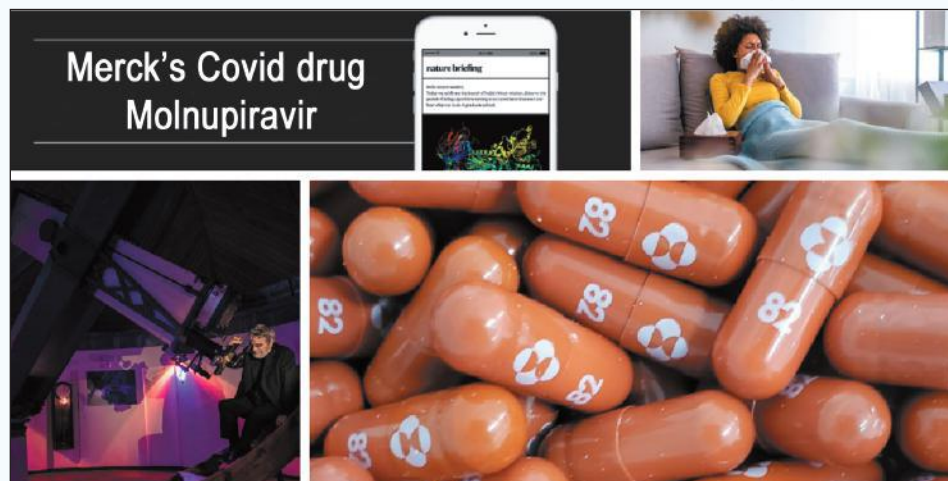
Black Friday & The Molnupiravir Saga

"Heads must roll" would have thundered Minister Alan Ganoo in his Opposition days on that black Friday

Jan Arden

The Minister of Health and Quality of Life may long remember last Friday 10th of December as an epic moment in a ministerial career that has been careening from one hot-spot to another throughout this pandemic that erupted shortly after his appointment. While many other Ministers were chirping away or working discretely in the background since March 2020, while others were saddled with double or triple responsibilities, it befell upon him to shoulder the daily and weekly workload of watching over our collective backs and steer us as safely as his army of consultants, senior advisers and higher cadres could manage. With the expert guidance of a pro-active WHO and the privileged backing of a High-level Committee chaired personally by the PM of course. Under a barrage of pointed questions from the Leader of the Opposition Friday last, the shocking dimensions of the Molnupiravir saga erupted for a bemused population and even for an acutely embarrassed government.

It is not our purpose here to pile on the misery on the hapless incumbent. But multiple levels of questions dog the particularly revealing circumstances leading to the Ministry of Health purchasing under emer-



“Government will have to brace for the possibility of further damning revelations and the constant pressure of civil society and perhaps honest and hard-working staff in various departments, fed up with the unending stream of procurement scandals at the Ministry of Health since the notorious Pack & Blister affair and related procurement scandals...”

gency conditions and stocking up, from what we read, nearly 3m doses of the generic version of that drug, of which some 800,000 per tender on 6th December and the very next day, 1 million more through an unsolicited private offer at about eight times the tender price obtained the previous day and certainly much higher than the market price in reputable high street pharmacies who, by the way, do not bulk order.

The Opposition and civil society are

since bludgeoning government, pushing the point that the many aspects that are troubling in this shocking affair and which has yet to reveal its full fraudulent dimensions, require a full investigation by a Commission of Inquiry chaired by a sitting or retired judge. For the time being, the Prime Minister in a statement at a week-end inauguration in Phoenix, has stood by his Minister, although the *embarras* was palpable, the explanations less than confident.

Separate inquiries have been started by the CCID and the ICAC, which has sprung into action soon after that intervention. The first agency is believed to be looking at the leakage of sensitive or confidential information but the fraudulent aspects of the drug deal and any conspiracy with the objective to defraud the public purse under the prevailing tough health and socio-economic conditions of the population cannot be excluded.

As for the ICAC, its self-built reputation for proceeding at snail's pace when party or government officials, agents and henchmen are involved needs no labouring with the population at large, but it will have yet another opportunity to show its mettle in the service of interest for the public good rather than for protecting the powerful.

Whatever the meanderings of those inquiries, government will have to brace for the possibility of further damning revelations and the constant pressure of civil society and perhaps honest and hard-working staff in various departments, fed up with the unending stream of procurement scandals at the Ministry of Health since the notorious Pack & Blister affair and related procurement scandals.

"Heads must roll" would have thundered Minister Alan Ganoo in his Opposition days on that black Friday.



Pic - Navbharat Times

“There is no doubt that PM Modi is riding the patriotism political wave with the inauguration of this landmark redevelopment in Kashi, but he is also getting close to his own inner spiritual dimensions, while attempting to keep the bridge between India's complex and ancient cultural and religious heritage as it heads forward in its economic future as a regional development centre. Development, he seems to postulate, is not just about blocks and cement...”

The PM of India has just inaugurated with some style, fanfare and rejoice in his constituency, the vast and immensely symbolic Kashi/Varanasi rejuvenation and urban redesign project that he launched back in 2019 and which many here might have followed through the internet news channels.

Kashi Redevelopment and Hastings

In a speech laced with emotion he spoke of foreign invaders, citing specifically the Moghul tyrant Aurangzeb: *"Invaders attacked this city, tried to destroy it. History is witness to the atrocities and terror wreaked by Aurangzeb. One who tried to change civilisation on the strength of the sword, who tried to trample culture ruthlessly. But the soil of this country is a little different from others..."*

His other historical allusion would be familiar to Indian or Bengali folk and other historians, but Warren Hasting's (first Governor General of India, 1773 to 1784) story of brokering alliances and power games between nawabs, Moghul chieftains, the local Nawab of Bengal and Marathi warlords was unfamiliar territory. It would become the hallmark of the Divide and Rule attitude so common in expanding British mercantile and colonial interests.

Modi's reference to his infamous exit from Kashi evoked only distant reminiscences of college British empire history classes and I had to beef up on my readings and the picture was complex as one UCLA education site would have it. *"Warren Hastings occupies...an unusual place in the annals of British India. He was a patron of Indian learning and evinced a keen interest in Indian literature and philosophy."*

But his erstwhile jockeying for the remote masters did not exclude financial blackmail. *"In reality, these Indian rulers and numerous others were compelled to part with*

their financial resources, on pain of being at the receiving end of British fire-power. These acts of extortion, as well as other charges pertaining to Hastings' conduct of Indian affairs, became the basis of Hastings' impeachment in Parliament" back in London and he was utterly ruined after a ten-year process.

In a few words, the insulting attempt by Hastings to demand more financial tribute from the Kashiraj, was met by the beheading of his rude envoys and the extermination of British officers and their British Indian forces at the famous battle of Shivala by local boat people whose patriotism had been aroused. When news of the revolt reached Hastings at his Residence, he packed up and fled in a "paalka" disguised as a woman and the episode is remembered in the lines: *"Ghode par Hauda, Haathi par Jin, Aisebhaaga Warren Hastings!"*

There is no doubt that PM Modi is riding the patriotism political wave with the inauguration of this landmark redevelopment in Kashi, but he is also getting close to his own inner spiritual dimensions, while attempting to keep the bridge between India's complex and ancient cultural and religious heritage as it heads forward in its economic future as a regional development centre.

Development, he seems to postulate, is not just about blocks and cement and, whether he succeeds or in what measure, it is quite an intriguing pathway to watch unfold.

Jan Arden



Anil Madan

Julian Assange of Wikileaks: The Extradition Ruling

At Assange's trial, we may expect that the US will argue that hacking and computer intrusion are not journalism in action. On the other hand, Assange's counsel will argue that he was no different from a publisher or editor who sought and published information

Julian Assange is well known as the founder of Wikileaks, an organization that has published secret and classified US government documents as well as other documents revealing corruption, abuse, tax avoidance, and illegal activities by governments, companies, and individuals around the world.

Last week, the UK's High Court in London rejected the earlier findings of a Westminster District Court Judge (DJ) that Assange could not be extradited to the US for trial and instead ruled that the matter should be submitted to the UK Secretary of State to make the final decision on extradition.

Starting in 1917, by a series of criminal complaints, indictments and superseding indictments, the United States brought charges against Julian Assange on 18 counts including conspiracy to commit unlawful computer intrusion, and for obtaining, receiving and disclosure of "National Defence Information" in violation of US law. The US government first requested that authorities in the UK arrest Assange and then filed, through diplomatic channels, a request for his extradition to the US in accordance with an extradition treaty between the two countries.

Assange's mental condition

Assange opposed the extradition request on several grounds. Significant among his objections were that the UK-US Extradition Treaty prohibits extradition for a political offense; that extradition would violate various provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights including freedom of expression; and that extradition should be refused because it would be unjust and oppressive by reason of Mr Assange's mental condition and the high risk of suicide that his confinement under harsh conditions in the US both pre-trial and post-trial would present.

The Westminster District Court Judge rejected all of Assange's arguments, noting in particular that his arguments based on lack of due process and freedom of expression and freedom of the press would be available in proceedings in the US, but nevertheless, she concluded: "I am satisfied that the risk that Mr Assange will commit suicide is a substantial one." As a result, she denied



Supporters of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange hold placards outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London on December 10, 2021. Pic -edition.cnn.com

“Assange opposed the extradition request on several grounds. Significant among his objections were that the UK-US Extradition Treaty prohibits extradition for a political offense; that extradition would violate various provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights including freedom of expression; and that extradition should be refused because it would be unjust and oppressive by reason of Mr Assange's mental condition and the high risk of suicide that his confinement under harsh conditions in the US...”

the request for extradition. It is worth noting that the Judge observed: "Free speech does not comprise a 'trump card' even where matters of serious public concern are disclosed, and it does not provide an unfettered right for some, like Mr Assange, to decide the fate of others, on the basis of their partially informed assessment of the risks."

The US Government appealed to the London High Court. That court has now allowed the appeal, concluding that the District Court Judge's ruling was incorrect.

It is important to note that the US appeal was limited to the issue of whether the District Court Judge was wrong to find that Mr Assange's mental condition was such that it would be oppressive to extradite him. In particular, after the District Court Judge's concerns were raised, the US gave the court assurances regarding Assange. The High Court concluded that it is satisfied that the US government's assurances:

(a) Exclude the possibility of Mr Assange being made subject to "special administrative measures" or held at a maximum-security prison either pretrial or after any conviction, unless, after entry of the assurances, he commits any future act which renders him liable to such conditions of detention;

(b) Undertake that the USA will consent to an application by Mr Assange, if he is convicted, to be transferred to Australia to serve his sentence; and

(c) Undertake that whilst Mr Assange is in custody in

the USA he will receive appropriate clinical and psychological treatment as recommended by a qualified treating clinician at the prison where he is held.

The High Court ruled that an expert witness who testified on behalf of Assange misled the District Court Judge and that his testimony should either have been excluded or not relied upon.

As a result, the High Court has ruled that the request for extradition should be referred by the court to the UK Secretary of State for a final decision on extradition.

First Amendment to the US Constitution

It is important to note that the UK High Court decision does not dispose of important issues concerning due process, freedom of speech and expression, freedom of the press and whether Mr Assange is a journalist and, if so, is he entitled to immunity from the US prosecution under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

On the question whether Assange is entitled to protection as a journalist, the High Court noted: "The US notes that the defence does not argue that the conduct

set out in the request is insufficient to constitute the charges identified. It submits that the defence arguments are based on the fundamental mischaracterisation of the prosecution case, re-iterating that Mr Assange is prosecuted for complicity in Ms [Chelsea] Manning's unlawful obtaining of the material and conspiring with hackers to commit computer intrusions for the benefit of Wikileaks. He is said to have personally encouraged not only the provision of national security information but also computer hacking more generally, to provide himself and Wikileaks with stolen information."

In an effort to overcome Assange's claims relating to freedom of speech, expression and of the press, the US set out in detail not just the damaging nature of the disclosures but also that Mr Assange knew that the dissemination of the names of individuals endangered them. Moreover, the US submitted that any publishing charges against Mr Assange are limited to documents containing the unredacted names of sources that compromised their safety.

Talibans hunt informants

One such example related to the raid by US Armed Forces on the compound of Osama Bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan, on May 2, 2011, which revealed correspondence to show that Bin Laden had obtained in Afghanistan significant activity reports and diplomatic cables from the WikiLeaks website.

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Julian Assange of Wikileaks: The Extradition Ruling

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On 30 July 2010, the *New York Times* published an article entitled "Taliban Study WikiLeaks to Hunt Informants" stating that after the release of the significant activity reports, a member of the Taliban had contacted the *New York Times* and stated: "We are studying the report. We knew about the spies and people who collaborate with US forces. We will investigate through our own secret service whether the people mentioned are really spies working for the US. If they are US spies, then we will know how to punish them."

In this regard, the District Court Judge's written findings contain this relevant information: "The request states that Mr Assange knew of the dangers. For example, in an interview with the US television programme 60 Minutes, when asked about the above newspaper report, he stated, "the Taliban is not a coherent outfit, but we don't say that it is absolutely impossible that anything we ever publish will ever result in harm – we cannot say that."

In August 2010, in an interview at the Frontline Club in London, Mr Assange called it "regrettable" that sources disclosed by WikiLeaks "may face some threat as a result". In the same interview he stated, "We are not obliged to protect other people's sources, military



Pic - timesinusa.com

“In August 2010, in an interview at the Frontline Club in London, Mr Assange called it “regrettable” that sources disclosed by WikiLeaks “may face some threat as a result”. In the same interview he stated, “We are not obliged to protect other people’s sources, military sources or spy organisation sources, except from unjust retribution” adding, “there are numerous cases where people sell information or frame others or are engaged in genuinely traitorous behaviour. Actually, that is something for the public to know about”

sources or spy organisation sources, except from unjust retribution” adding, “there are numerous cases where people sell information or frame others or are engaged in genuinely traitorous behaviour. Actually, that is something for the public to know about.”

On 27 November 2010, shortly before he published the diplomatic cables, he was informed by the US State Department's legal adviser that their publication would

“place at risk the lives of countless innocent individuals - from journalists to human rights activists and bloggers to soldiers to individuals providing information to further peace and security.”

At Assange's trial, we may expect that the US will argue that hacking and computer intrusion are not journalism in action. On the other hand, Assange's counsel will argue that he was no different from a publisher or editor who sought and published information. That the US government classified such information as secret and made its disclosure a crime should not trump his constitutional rights under the First Amendment. Further, Assange's counsel will argue that the US law making such conduct criminal has the effect of denying constitutional rights to free expression. There are entirely separate issues whether Assange is entitled to protection as a whistleblower once removed or whether he is indeed a journalist.

The issues are not clear-cut.

Cheerz...
Bwana

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.

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

208 1458, Ext 24 (Port Louis)
467 4960 (Quatre Bornes)

marketing@licmauritius.intnet.mu

licmauritius.mu

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Researchers find a new strategy to boost vaccine efficacy amid Omicron spread

Amid the emergence of Omicron cases across the globe, researchers have found that adding a component of a viral protein in the Covid-19 vaccines, can boost their immune response and also provide increased protection against new variants.

The researchers of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) discovered in their findings that using a fragment or component from viral polymerase protein, which is found in SARS-CoV-2 as well as other coronaviruses (SARS, MERS and the common cold) can trigger a more robust immune response from the vaccines.

The study, which has been published in the 'Cell Reports Journal' comes at a time when the World Health Organisation (WHO) said that the Omicron variant reduces the efficacy of existing Covid-19 vaccines and is also more transmissible, reports Hindustan Times.

"Given the current available data, it is likely that Omicron will outpace the Delta variant where community transmission occurs," the United Nations health agency said in a technical brief on December 12.

According to the researchers of UCLA, their findings will pave the way for prepa-

ring a new generation of Covid-19 vaccines that would be able to tackle current variants such as Omicron and Delta, and the ones that may arise in the future.

According to researchers, most Covid-19 vaccines use a component of the spike protein found on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 to trigger the immune system of the body to produce antibodies. However, newer variants such as Omicron and Delta, which carry mutations to the spike protein, can make them less detectable to the immune cells and antibodies stimulated by vaccination.

Viral polymerases serve as engines that coronaviruses (all types) use to replicate themselves, thereby permitting the infection to spread swiftly. However, unlike spike protein, these proteins are unlikely to change or mutate even as viruses evolve.

Researchers stressed on rare and naturally occurring T cells that are installed with molecular receptors on their surfaces for recognising foreign protein components called 'antigens'. They said when a T cell encounters an antigen that its receptor recognised, it self-replicates and produces additional immune cells - some of which target and kill infected cells immediately, whereas others remain inside the body for



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that as per early data available, Omicron reduces efficacy of existing Covid-19 vaccines and is also more transmissible. Pic - cloudfront-us

years to fight the same infection should it ever return.

To find out if the human immune system has T cell receptors capable of detecting viral polymerase protein, researchers exposed blood samples from healthy individuals (collected prior to the Covid-19 outbreak) to the viral polymerase antigen. The study found that some T cell receptors did, in fact, recognise the polymerase.

The researchers then used a method called 'CLInt-Seq' to genetically sequence

these T cell receptors. They also engineered T cells to carry these polymerase-targeting receptors, which allowed the research team to study the receptors' ability to detect and kill SARS-CoV-2 and other coronaviruses.

The team is now conducting more studies to analyse viral polymerase as a potential new component for Covid-19 vaccines in order to find a strategy to increase their protection and long-lasting immune response.

China's PLA conducts nuclear, chemical, biological warfare drill in Tibet

A joint military brigade of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has recently carried out a "real combat drill" involving anti-nuclear, chemical and biological warfare in Tibet in the backdrop of the ongoing Sino-India border tension in eastern Ladakh.

The exercise, including commandos, armoured assault groups and soldiers trained for chemical warfare were drawn from various wings of the army.

It was organised by the Tibet military region under the Western theatre command (WTC), the largest of China's five commands that is responsible for the Sino-India disputed border, extending for 3,488 km from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

The news of the 24-hour long exercise held in late November was published in an official PLA news portal on Tuesday, reports SutirthoPatranobis of Hindustan Times.

Chinese official military media rarely mentions drills that

involve Chinese armed forces and non-conventional weapons.

The article described in brief the nature of the drill and what the participating soldiers were responding to but did not specifically mention where the exercise was held. "A joint military brigade under the Tibet military area command held a real-combat drill on a snowy plateau in late November," the article said.

In a report in November, the US department of defence said China is carrying out research in chemical and biological dual-use technology.

"The PRC has engaged in biological activities with potential dual-use applications, which raise concerns regarding its compliance with the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)," the report said.

The drill in November is likely to have been closely

followed by the Indian defence establishment.

It is part of the PLA's continuous efforts to remain combat ready along the Sino-India border, where it is said to have deployed an unknown number of troops - estimates run into thousands - and heavy cache of advanced weaponry.

The PLA has published how it has improved the facilities and living conditions for its border troops in high-altitude areas of Tibet and Xinjiang, indicating that they have been deployed for the long-run.

Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh since May, 2020, when a violent clash in Pangong lake area led to both sides gradually deploying tens of thousands of soldiers as well as heavy weaponry along the border.

Several rounds of military and diplomatic talks have only resulted in partial disengagement of troops until now.

UK reports record daily Covid cases with Omicron spreading rapidly

The United Kingdom recorded its most daily coronavirus cases since the start of the pandemic on Wednesday as a senior British health chief said there could be a "staggering" rise over the next few days.

A further 78,610 Covid-19 infections were reported, about 10,000 more than the previous high reported in January.

More than 11 million people have now tested positive for the disease in the UK, which has a total population of around 67 million, reports Reuters.

With a new highly transmissible Omicron variant of the virus surging across Britain, PM Boris Johnson has warned of a "tidal wave" of infections.

However, he suffered a blow to his



People queue for their vaccination at St Thomas' Hospital in London, on Dec. 15, 2021. Pic - AP

authority on Tuesday when he suffered the biggest rebellion of his premiership when more than 100 lawmakers voted against measures to curb the increasing spread of the disease.

Jenny Harries, chief executive of the UK Health Security Agency, earlier called the Omicron variant "probably the most significant threat" since the start of the pandemic.

Harries said that Omicron had the potential to put the national health service "in serious peril" because of the speed at which infections were increasing.

The new variant of the virus has a doubling time under two days in most regions in Britain, with its growth rate being notable in London and Manchester in particular.

More than 10,000 cases of Omicron have been recorded, with at least 10 people hospitalised. One person has died after contracting the variant, which is set to become the dominant strain in London.

More than 146,000 people have died from Covid-19 in the United Kingdom.

*Contd on page 9

Putin, Xi hold call amid tensions with the West



Russian President Vladimir Putin holds talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping via a video link at his residence outside Moscow, Russia. Pic - aljazeera.com

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin held a video summit on Wednesday, lauding bilateral ties as a pillar of multilatera-

lism and hoping to boost economic engagement in a show of solidarity as Beijing and Moscow come under increasing pressure from the western bloc on

issues like Taiwan, Ukraine and human rights.

Putin said he looks forward to attending the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing and meeting Xi. He is the first leader of a country to do so in a show of strength with China against the backdrop of several Western democracies announcing a diplomatic boycott of the Games over the state of human rights in Xinjiang.

China and Russia have come increasingly closer under strongmen leaders Xi and Putin, seemingly forming a bloc of their own against the US and its allies, reports Hindustan Times

Putin won support from Xi for his push to obtain binding security guarantees for Russia from the West, a Kremlin official said, according to Reuters.

Xi addressed Putin as his "old friend," while the latter called Xi as both his "dear friend" and his "honourable friend" as they

talked about a wide range of issues.

Diplomatic pressure and economic sanctions have brought Beijing and Moscow with each supporting the other on most international issues.

While China has faced sanctions over abuses against Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang and for carrying out a crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong, Russia has faced international sanctions and censure for annexing Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and over the poisoning and imprisonment of opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

Xi said that he has met Putin for the 37 times since 2013, according to the Russian translation of their remarks, quoted by the NYT, as the virtual summit began.

From the appearance of the current state of China-Russia ties, the two leaders are set to meet many more times.

Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales's computer, NFT auctioned for almost \$1 million

An NFT memorializing Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales's first edit on the online reference resource 20 years ago and the computer he used when programming the platform sold for a total of almost \$1 million at auction Wednesday.

Christie's sold the NFT -- Non-Fungible Tokens that are unique digital objects and confer ownership through blockchain technology -- for \$750,000 and the Strawberry iMac for \$187,500.

The NFT is of Wikipedia's debut onscreen image when Wales posted the first words, "Hello world."

The Strawberry iMac was the personal computer he "used for development and research at the time of the website's launch on January 15, 2001," Christie's said.

The NFT, presented in JPEG format, is interactive, with the buyer able to edit the page, "which can be reset with a timer to

revert to its original state," according to Christie's.

Part of the proceeds from the sales will help fund Wales's WT.Social project, a "non-toxic alternative" social media network that uses an advertising-free model, reports AFP.

The new darling art form for some collectors and investors, NFTs have become staples of auction houses and the art market.

An NFT of the World Wide Web's source code sold in July for \$5.4 million at Sotheby's, while the all-digital work of American artist Beeple drew \$69.3 million in March at Christie's, an NFT record.

Also on Friday, Christie's announced the auction of a bulletproof vest worn by rap megastar Kanye West during a party marking the release of his 2021 album "Donda."



A Strawberry iMac owned by Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales is displayed during a press preview before the upcoming Christie's Luxury Week auction, in New York. Pic - AFP

Google to eventually fire unvaccinated employees

Alphabet Inc's Google told its employees they would lose pay and eventually be fired if they do not follow its Covid-19 vaccination rules, CNBC reported on Tuesday, citing internal documents.

A memo circulated by Google's leadership said employees had until Dec. 3 to declare their vaccination status and upload documentation showing proof, or to apply for a medical or religious exemption, according to the report.

After that date, Google said it would start contacting employees who had not uploaded their status or were unvaccinated and those whose exemption requests were not approved.



Google could eventually fire employees if they do not follow vaccination rules. Pic - c.ndtvimg.com

Employees who have not complied with the vaccination rules by Jan. 18 will be placed on "paid administrative leave" for 30 days, CNBC reported, followed by "unpaid personal leave" for up to six months and termination, reports Reuters.

When contacted by Reuters, Google did not directly comment on the CNBC report, but said, "we're committed to doing everything possible to help our employees who can get vaccinated do so, and firmly stand behind our vaccination policy."

Earlier this month, Google delayed its return-to-office plan indefinitely amid Omicron variant fears and some resistance from its employees to company-mandated vaccinations. It earlier expected staff to return to office for about three days a week from Jan. 10.

Rajeev Hasnah, Economist

'High inflation and inflationary pressures will become a major issue going forward'



Rajeev Hasnah is a CFA® Charterholder, with degrees in Economics and Finance from the Warwick Business School and the University of Mauritius. He has a rich experience in financial and economic analysis as well as public policy and foreign affairs. He is currently the Group Head of Financial Planning and Analysis of the Harel Mallac Group and the President of the CFA Society Mauritius. Prior to these positions, Rajeev was the Chief Economist/Deputy Executive Director of the Competition Commission of Mauritius and a Commissioner at the COMESA Competition Commission. He has also acquired experience in macroeconomic analysis, economic forecasting, as well as corporate finance and investment management both in Mauritius and in the United Kingdom.

As such, he is well qualified and at a good vantage point to give his views on the economic situation. While conceding that the extreme measures to deal with the initial impact of the pandemic were necessary and did help, for the future he advocates fiscal discipline, manage the country's finances more prudently and create opportunities for the youth so that they are less tempted to leave, as our fundamental fall back is our human resources.

Mauritius Times: We are not yet out of the woods, and it's not certain if the current wave of Covid-19 cases driven by the Delta and Omnicron variants could potentially be the last major wave in the world. What's your reading of how well we are presently dealing with the current economic issues?

Rajeev Hasnah: We have to admit that the impact of the global pandemic has been very disruptive, especially in today's globally connected world, and more so for Mauritius as we are a very open economy, given that we depend heavily for both our revenue generation and consumption needs on international trade. Every country had to go through a painful learning curve in dealing with this crisis and implementing extraordinary measures to deal with it.

Considering the importance of the tourism sector and our available resources, Mauritius has gone through this crisis fairly well. I may have a different opinion on the chosen strategy for the financing of the exceptional economic measures, but in the end the actions taken to protect livelihoods and avoid a systemic risk in our banking sector are commendable.

Unfortunately, the other economic woe that is taking shape is the spectre of consumer price inflation spiralling out of control. Added to the lacklustre growth in the country this is already proving very tricky and difficult to navigate through for our policymakers.

*** How long do you think it will take us to get the economy back on a solid track?**

In my opinion, the timing will coincide with that of the shift from the global pandemic to a global endemic, for a clean break with the Covid-19 pandemic, as we have all been hoping for, may not be on the table. This transition from pandemic to endemic would mean that movement of people and goods will not be hindered and disturbed as much as has been the case recently. Once this situation is entrenched globally, our growth trajectory will be on a strong footing. Still, I think that high inflation and inflationary pressures will become a major issue going forward.

*** After the initial economic rescue measures implemented by the government with the onset of the pandemic with a view to protecting livelihoods and saving distressed companies, we'll now have to 'build back better'. What will it take to do that?**

It has to be stated that not all economic sectors have been impacted similarly and while some have to be rebuilt, others are in a growth stage.

For those that will have to rebuild, we should note that they are emerging from this pandemic more indebted than previously and facing rising costs of doing business. I believe that they will have to go through a "balance sheet consolidation" process one way or the other by first catching up on the accumulated losses and then pave the way for a sustainable growth.

Still, it would be advisable to have a different mindset in this process with a focus on climatic and sustainability considerations, as climate change remains a major issue for our mere survival in the long term.

*** In some countries where the health crisis is gradually abating, attention is now turning to preparing stimulus measures for triggering economic recovery. The very mention of a broader stimulus programme may raise eyebrows here in light of past experience with such packages and the recent controversies surrounding the disbursements of the MIC and the conditions thereof. But do you think that might be necessary here?**

The key repo rate has been maintained at 1.85% despite mounting inflationary pressures; government finances are already stretched with the public debt to GDP ratio hovering around 100%; the balance sheet of the Bank of Mauritius is already reflecting the impact of money printing from last year's policies; and the major infrastructural projects around the island are already on track.

It seems that the remaining policy tools to provide additional stimulus could come from giving more money to people to spend via a lower fiscal burden on companies and individuals. But this as well will undoubtedly put a lot of

“The actions taken to protect livelihoods and avoid a systemic risk in our banking sector are commendable. Unfortunately, the other economic woe that is taking shape is the spectre of consumer price inflation spiralling out of control. Added to the lacklustre growth in the country this is already proving very tricky and difficult to navigate through for our policymakers...”

pressure on government finances, especially after the increase in social safety net related expenses of the recent years.

*** We also heard from many economists at the onset of the pandemic last year about the need for a new economic paradigm so that we do not go back to the 'old normal'. Even politicians also added their voice to that discourse, but we seem to be saddled with the same economic policies of the past two to three decades. Is it because politicians and the major economic operators seem to find comfort in the status quo?**

The visual effect of change or disruption may be abrupt, but it is a fact that change takes time, and the efforts and dynamics happen in a rather silent manner. In the same manner, changing course, reinventing our economic model is not a feat that occurs overnight, but rather it starts with a new philosophy, mindset, and idea, which then needs to be implemented diligently and consistently before we can see the effects of the change or disruption.

I would say that we have adapted rather well in this "New Normal" of doing business, which can be summarised in terms of taking the necessary sanitary precautions to safeguard lives and having the grit, diligence, and patience in navigating in a highly uncertain economic environment, with no clear visibility in the medium- to long-term.

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'We should keep on innovating and pursuing development projects such that we can reap the benefits when the opportunities are ripe... Walking the talk is key in this process'

● Cont. from page 10

Even if we are forced to operate in a highly uncertain and volatile environment in the short-term, we should nevertheless keep on innovating and pursuing development projects such that we can reap the benefits when the opportunities are ripe, just as has been the case in the past for the development of all major economic sectors of the country.

Walking the talk is key in this process.

*** What would you therefore expect a responsible government to be doing to improve matters in the medium and long terms? Are there also particular areas or issues which, in your view, require the government's attention and which we would do well to attend to immediately rather than postponing a decision thereon?**

It is the responsibility of the government, especially in today's context to focus on the well-being of its citizens in the short term.

With regard to the medium- and long-term perspectives, in my opinion, the underlying fundamental objective should be to take decisions in a manner that enhances fiscal discipline and contains the depletion of our reserves such that the country is able to consolidate its balance sheet for the future on one hand, and on the other to keep on being the facilitator that it has historically been in assisting in the creation of value and employment generating sectors of economic activity.

It is true that dealing with the pandemic is taking an enormous amount of energy and money, but we should not lose our sight on the long-term sustainability of the Mauritian economy, which as you rightly said depends on decisions we take today.

*** However, we are three years away from the next general elections, and one could expect the government to start doing what they usually do when elections are drawing nearer: put the money where the vote is, and nothing in terms of ground-breaking economic initiatives...**

We can only hope that actions are taken in the long-term interests of the Mauritian economy and its people, even though the first two years of the current government's mandate were spent in dealing with the effects of pandemic and having a key economic sector (tourism) not operating at its optimum capacity. This unfortunately required the intervention of the government in a significant manner to prevent the worst!

*** Lots of our young people, whether skilled or unskilled and even professionals, are losing hope in**

“Promoting the return of Mauritians to assist in developing the country further should be enhanced and the responsibility of the government is to ensure that the appropriate economic environment is available. For example, through ensuring better access to capital and markets and removing anti-competitive market distortions, which are the lynchpins of a successful development of new businesses and sectors of economic activity...”



“We can only hope that actions are taken in the long-term interests of the Mauritian economy and its people, even though the first two years of the current government's mandate were spent in dealing with the effects of pandemic and having a key economic sector (tourism) not operating at its optimum capacity...”

the capacity of the economy and in the ability of politicians to initiate reforms that would eventually result in the creation of good paying jobs that will allow them to lead a reasonably comfortable life. The pandemic has made matters worse as regards cost of living or job opportunities... Many of them think emigration is the answer to their present worries. Are they wrong?

Though the ability for people to move globally is a welcoming and good for economic development, we have to be cautious at our end as the main resource Mauritius has is its people. With a declining and ageing population, the ability of generating and financing a sustainable growth in the future could be tricky and more difficult than it currently is.

If this general depressing trend amongst young adults is confirmed, then it would be quite alarming for the country. On the other hand, promoting the return of Mauritians to assist in developing the country further should be enhanced and the responsibility of the government is to ensure that the appropriate economic environment is available. For example, through ensuring better access to capital and markets and removing anti-competitive market distortions, which are the lynchpins of a successful development of new businesses and sectors of economic activity.

*** At one time Lord Meghnad Desai was saying that the only way for the Mauritian economy to do a quantum leap is go the high-tech way, which is presently**

less capital intensive than manufacturing used to be. “Think of Mauritius as Estonia, or Finland, Latvia – countries with a small, highly educated population, and making huge investments in technology”. That's the only way, he added. Would you concur with that view?

I would only add that we should have a targeted approach in developing and consolidating our core strengths such that we have a good diversification of our economy as well.

The global pandemic has shown clearly that it is highly important to have a good diversification of economic activities while focusing on our core competences. Hence, we should always look at steering and developing our economy on several core fronts by making the most of our core resources: our people.

Our educational system and curriculum should prepare the country to always be ready to seize emerging opportunities and make the most of them. The investment to reap future benefits starts now.

*** In fact, going the high-tech way would indeed require a rethinking of our educational system as well as require from our local private sector initiating change away from its present focus on property development in IRS, Smart City projects. Does that sound to be a very tall order?**

This is one way of looking at the matter. But let me ask this question: Did the development of IRS and Smart City projects over the years prevent the development of other sources of Foreign Direct Investments, and employment?

Each economic phase and cycle have their own development focus and needs. Our aim should be to identify the most rewarding activities to conduct and to create the right environment and resources for entrepreneurs to make the most of the opportunities.

The development of the global business sector, business process outsourcing, textile and tourism sectors, among others, have gone through this process.

It is a fact though that the economic activities that we can make the most of today should have already been in preparation at least 2- 5 years earlier. Creating a sustainable and remunerating sector requires the development of a whole ecosystem around it, which takes time to materialise.

*** In the time remaining till the end of the present government's mandate, what do you think could be some realistic, achievable goals?**

The following could be considered:

- Implement a good fiscal discipline in the management of public funds.
- Take the right decisions for the educational system, especially in light of the recent disruptions.
- Review the financial burden and sustainability of the social safety nets. Or at least engage not to significantly increase these expenditures over the next 5 years.
- Devise policies to contain the impact of inflation on the economy.
- Have a focus on improving the image of the country internationally and facilitate further the ease of doing business in Mauritius.

The Wretched of the Earth

Quotes from Frantz Fanon that resonate 60 years later



Nigel Gibson
Professor of Interdisciplinary
Studies, Emerson College

Frantz Fanon, the Martiniquan born psychiatrist, committed Algerian revolutionary and Pan-African thinker, died 60 years ago on December 6, 1961 just after the publication of his last book, 'The Wretched of the Earth'. To mark this 60th anniversary, Nigel C. Gibson has just published his collection, 'Fanon Today: The Reason and Revolt of the Wretched of the Earth'. He discusses some important quotes from Fanon's global classic.

In the first chapter of 'The Wretched of the Earth', 'On Violence,' Fanon describes colonialism as a system of absolute violence that can only be opposed through violence. He references South Africa as he powerfully describes the colonial world expressed in space:

The colonist's sector is built to last... a sector of lights and paved roads, where the trash cans constantly overflow with strange and wonderful garbage, undreamed-of leftovers... The colonist's sector is a sated, sluggish sector, its belly is permanently full of good things.

In contrast, the colonised sector, *the shanty town, the Medina, the reservation... [is] a disreputable place inhabited by disreputable people. You are born anywhere, anyhow. You die anywhere, from anything. It's a world with no space, people are piled one on top of the other, the shacks squeezed tightly together. The colonised's sector is a famished sector, hungry for bread, meat, shoes, coal, and light.*

He then adds an important measure of decolonisation,

If we examine closely this system of compartments... its ordering and its geographical layout will allow us to mark out the lines on which a decolonised society will be reorganised.

Fanon rocked the All-African Peoples Conference in December 1958 when he raised the issue of violence in contrast to Kwame Nkrumah's nonviolent "positive action" agreed upon by many delegates. The following year Fanon became ambas-

sador to Ghana and by then the crucial problem for Fanon was the lack of ideological clarity among leaders, regardless of their position on violence and nonviolence.

The rationality of revolt and the philosophy of organisation

The centrality of the "rationality of revolt" to a "new politics" is highlighted by these two quotes, from the end of chapter 2 and the beginning of chapter 3.

The insurrection proves to itself its rationality and demonstrates its maturity every time it uses a specific case to advance the consciousness of the people in spite of those within the movement who sometimes are inclined to think that any nuance constitutes a danger and threatens popular solidarity.

If the rationality of revolt becomes the material force of revolution where "violence represents the absolute line of action," the "new politics is in the hands of... [those] who use their muscles and their brains to lead the struggle for liberation".

But it is the cowardice and apathy of the "elite" and their "incapacity" to "rationalise popular practice" and "attribute it any reason" that leads to the postcolonial tragedy.

It was not only the leaders who were subject to Fanon's anger. He was brutally honest in his criticism of the revolutionary militant:

It sometimes happens at meetings that militants use sweeping, dogmatic formulas. The preference for this shortcut, in which spontaneity and over-simple sinking of differences dangerously combine to defeat intellectual elaboration, frequently triumphs.

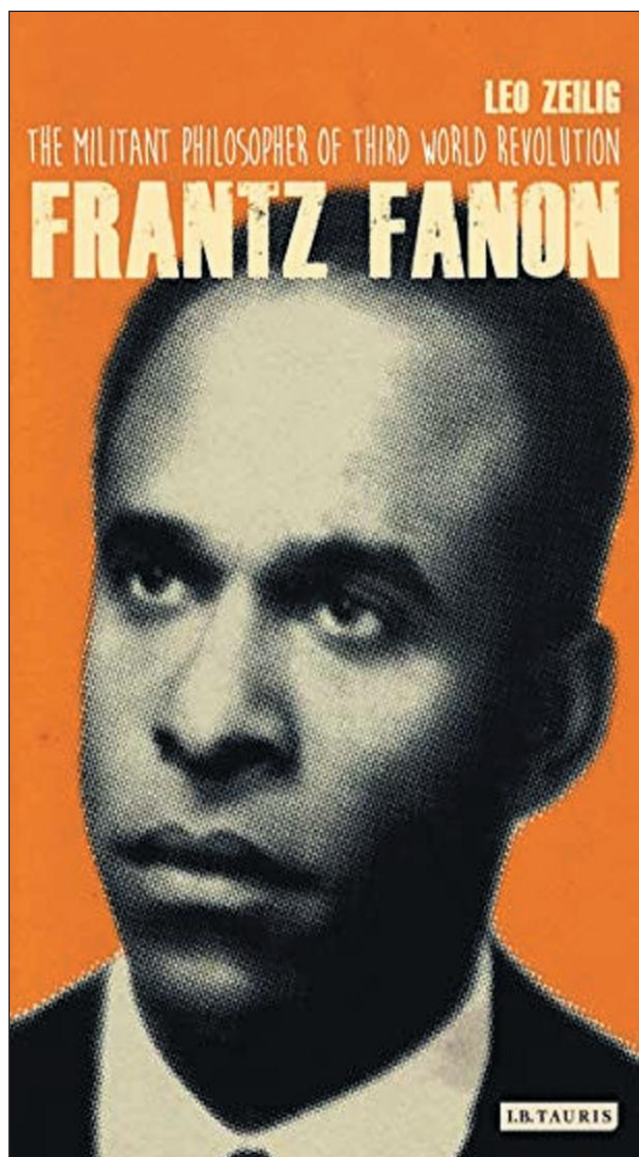
He calls the militant's logic shocking and inhuman.

The nationalist bourgeoisie and their organisation

Given that he was writing at a moment when more than half of Africa had recently gained independence, his critique of the nationalist middle class and nationalist parties reads like a script which has been repeated over and over:

Privileges multiply and corruption triumphs... Today the vultures are too numerous and too voracious in proportion to the lean spoils of the national wealth. The party, a true instrument of power in the hands of the bourgeoisie, reinforces the machine, and ensures that the people are hemmed in and immobilised.

At the same time, wary of the rising xenophobia and chauvinism in newly independent West African nations, Fanon argues that national consciousness is not



in fact nationalism. Rather, national consciousness "enriched and deepened into humanism... is the only thing that will give us an international dimension." For him the building of a nation has to be "accompanied by the discovery and encouragement of universalising values."

A new humanism

Those universal values are expressed in the four-page conclusion to 'The Wretched of the Earth':

So, comrades, how is it that we do not understand that we have better things to do than follow Europe?

Fully cognisant of the fact that neocolonialism can wear a Black or Arab face, Fanon is critical of how newly independent African countries, even when they used the language of socialism, didn't do much more than follow Europe's model, looking to take over the colonial apparatus – its states and institutions – for their own interests. Fanon considered this a product of the crisis of thought, the lack of a philosophy of liberation.

That same Europe, where they were never done talking with humanity, never stopped proclaiming that they were only anxious for the welfare of humanity. Today

we know with what sufferings humanity has paid for every one of their triumphs of the mind.

Fanon rejects the humanism proclaimed in Europe. Based on colonisation, exploitation, slavery and violence, European humanism dehumanises. And so "We must find something different". He rejects what is central to European humanism, profit and the reduction of the human to outputs in production.

"If conditions of work are not modified," he adds, "centuries will be needed to humanise this world which has been forced down to animal level by imperial powers". He's saying, humanising the world means rethinking everything, "work[ing] out new concepts... and setting afoot a new humanity".

Time as the space for human development

Fanon envisioned time akin to Karl Marx's great phrase, as "space for human development".

The sense of time must no longer be that of the moment or the next harvest, but rather that of the rest of the world.

Humanising the world means creating a new conception of time, the time to create a new society.

We have realised that the masses are equal to the problems which confront them... experience proves that the important thing is

not that three hundred people form a plan and decide upon carrying it out, but that the whole people plan and decide even if it takes them twice or three times as long. The fact is that the time taken up by explaining, the time 'lost' in treating the worker as a human being, will be caught up in the execution of the plan.

Rather than top-down the plan should come from "the muscles and the brains of the citizens" because "people must know where they are going, and why". In the early pages of 'The Wretched of the Earth' Fanon speaks of those dehumanised beings who become historical protagonists through the struggle.

This is just the beginning, the work of humanising the world does not end there, in fact by the end of the book it is clear that while this remains a crucial turning point because consciousness, let alone material reality, are not changed overnight. Mental and physical liberation has to be ongoing after the colonists had been kicked out. The "new society", the liberated "new person" – collectively, socially, and individually – has to be consciously and intentionally developed.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 179

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 10 January, 1958

● *Hatred is a heavy burden. It sinks the heart deep in the breast, and lies like a tombstone on all joys.* -- Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe



Satcam Boolell

Only ten years after achieving independence India has emerged as the greatest moral force in the world keeping in check both the Eastern and the Western blocs from engaging into suicidal wars. By virtue of the position she occupies by refusing to align either with or against any of the great powers now contending for supremacy, she has become the focus of world attention and her every move is being closely watched and commented upon by the great chancelleries of both East and West. There is not a week which passes without some foreign mission landing in New Delhi. Uninfluenced by any foreign power she is slowly but steadily marching towards her destiny which is to link her past glory with the requirements of the present atomic age.

Pakistan, whose destiny is so closely linked with that of India, is struggling to keep in step with her. But owing to the lack of a sound moral foundation on which to build her future, she can only keep an unsteady pace whose progress is frequently marred by the instability of her government and a rather inefficient administration.

A visit to India and Pakistan is both fascinating and illuminating. It is fascinating because both countries are so typically representative of the mysterious East. It is illuminating because only a contact with their people can clear up the misunderstanding and remove the prejudices which centuries of Western propaganda has built up.

I was among a group of about hundred delegates from the Commonwealth countries who had the privilege of touring India and Pakistan extensively. We covered thousands of miles mostly by air. Although our visits to most places were just flying visits, we were fortunate enough to meet and talk to a large number of people from all walks of life, from Cabinet Ministers to snake charmers.



India & Pakistan

Everywhere we were given rousing reception and over-whelming hospitality. The people were most friendly and eager to show us round and tell us all about their difficulties, their failures and their achievements. There was a burning desire among the youth in both countries to learn and to improve. But we also found some discontent and bitterness. Fortunately, the number of the discontented and embittered individuals was insignificant. All of us were full of praise for the Indians and Pakistanis for the warmth of their welcome and their genuine friendliness. But opinions were divided in our appreciation of the efforts being made and the methods being employed by both India and Pakistan to raise the standard of living of their respective people. Some expressed the view that India had put too much emphasis on heavy industries in her second five-year plan, others were skeptical about her hydro-electric and irrigation projects.

The delegates were not so critical about Pakistan. This is partly because we were not shown any project like the ones we saw in India and partly because in her present plight Pakistan is more deserving of sympathy than of criticism. Another reason might be that Pakistan belongs to the Baghdad Pact. However, we visited in Pakistan the Ghulam Mohammad Barrage situated in Sind. It is a mighty project designed to generate electricity and irrigate the lands of Sind.

It is practically impossible to obtain unanimity of opinion about what different individuals from different places feel about a country even after a group visit

by all of them to that country. Our appreciation of things is conditioned by our upbringing and outlook. But there are certain facts on which there can be no two opinions. If Russia succeeded in sending a satellite into space and the USA ludicrously failed in a similar attempt, it would be dishonest to divert world attention from Russia's leadership in guided missiles in an effort to mobilise world opinion to condemn her achievement because a dog found its death in Sputnik II.

Some of the delegates with whom I spent about six weeks gave me the impression that they were emphatically determined to gather material during their tour for an enlarged edition of Miss Mayo's *Mother India*. Others were less prejudiced. I knew one gentleman from Rhodesia who saw nothing else in India

and Pakistan except that the streets of Karachi, Bombay and Calcutta were littered with beggars. I was myself not immune from some such prejudice when I left home.

As is sometimes usual with those who have been to some extent influenced by the anti-Indian literature of the West. I expected to find in India half the City population living on alms and sleeping on the pavements, the wall of the cities stained red by the spittles of betel chewers, the river banks peopled with fakirs performing blood curdling tricks and villages infested with snakes. In a way I must confess that I have come back disappointed. The walls of the cities were painted white and the streets were kept neat and clean. I met a few beggars but not all of them sleeping on the footpath. I looked in vain for a fakir and I am glad I did not tread on even a snail in the few villages I visited. Instead I saw a surge of enthusiasm sweeping over the whole of the subcontinent.

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Covid-19 variants will keep coming

● Cont. from page 2

Once vaccine doses are in Canadian freezers and fridges they aren't going anywhere, and declining a dose won't mean that it is redistributed to other parts of the world that need them.

On a federal level, Canada should only buy what is needed domestically and commit to accelerating the distribution of vaccines elsewhere. The same is true for all wealthy countries.

The rise of Omicron

Watching the rise of Omicron is particularly frustrating. It has been apparent since the outset that the spread of Covid-19 needed to be slowed globally, precisely to prevent variants from emerging. That message should have been clearer after the spread of the agile Alpha variant. It should have been clearer still from the swift attack of the Delta variant.

Variants like Delta and Omicron will arise when the burden of infection is high and vaccination rates are low, as is the case with many countries in the Global South. Identifying variants by their country of origin perpetuates a long legacy of representing racialized people as originators or carriers of disease.

In fact, the world has been served well by South Africa's admirable investments in disease surveillance that turned up the newest Covid-19 threat.

There is no way to know where in the world the Omicron variant actually emerged, even though it was first detected in South Africa. South Africa has been down this road before with HIV, and had a well-developed pandemic surveillance system that allowed it to detect this variant.



Scientists at the Ndlovu Research Center in Elandsdoorn, South Africa, part of the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa, which discovered the Omicron variant. (Pic - AP/Jerome Delay)

Investing in global health

Canada has not historically invested in global health, infectious disease research or in vaccine innovation and manufacturing.

As a result, our country is a consumer of Covid-19 vaccines rather than a contributor to the global supply. Despite having small manufacturing facilities that had capacity to contribute a few million doses, Canada lacked the political will to repurpose these facilities to assist with the global

vaccine effort.

Regional manufacturing here and abroad could enable quicker worldwide vaccination. Vaccine manufacturers are already contracting local manufacturers in India and Africa to make vaccine doses, but these doses are being shipped to the West instead of being available locally. Sharing knowledge and technology that can help countries in the Global South develop vaccines and vaccinate their own populations will have a greater long-term benefit for the world than trying to stop variants by closing borders.

As the crisis has worn on, we have invested in domestic manufacturing in Canada, but it will take years to staff these plants with trained personnel, let alone create innovative vaccines that are more suitable for distribution to the Global South.

Rather than being consumers who contribute to inequitable vaccine distribution, we have an opportunity to weave vaccine equity into these investments.

We can commit to training people from countries where vaccines are needed most to equalize access to expertise. We can commit to global partnerships to distribute manufacturing equitably and we can be advocates for change.

As we rebuild and invest in vaccine development and production, we have an opportunity to become leaders in vaccine equity and reduce the burden of infectious disease now and in the future.

Dawn ME Bowdish - Canada Research Chair in Aging & Immunity, McMaster University

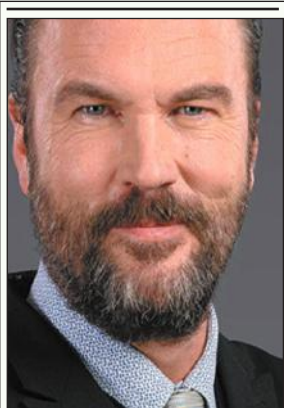
Chandrima Chakraborty - Professor, English and Cultural Studies; Director, Centre for Peace Studies, McMaster University

| Programme des Courses | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-------------|----------|----------------|----|------|--|--|--|
| 1 THE STORMY KESTREL PLATE 1500 m - Valeur [0-15] - 12h30 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Street Byte | CD | 5-6-6-5-6 | 62(-3) | A.Roy | 4 | 3300 | | | |
| 2 The Gypsy King | SPN | 5-8-8-5-7 | 62 | K.Ramsamy | 7 | 4000 | | | |
| 3 Secret Circle | SJ | 6-9-3-6-4 | 61 | T.Juglall | 3 | 400 | | | |
| 4 Sir Capers | P | 6-7-5-3-7 | 61 | N.Marday | 5 | 1200 | | | |
| 5 Newsmen | RG | 2-2-2-4-4 | 59.5 | R.K.Chumun | 10 | 1200 | | | |
| 6 Xanthus | PM | 2-2-9-3-2 | 58.5(-4) | N.S.Batchameah | 1 | 300 | | | |
| 7 Jet Path | VA | 6-6-10-8-9 | 57(-1.5) | M.Teetan | 6 | 2500 | | | |
| 8 Kali's Champ | CR | 7-7-8-8-6 | 57 | P.Mogun | 2 | 2000 | | | |
| 9 Misty Roller | CD | 1-4-10-11-5 | 57(-3) | M.Sonaram | 9 | 1100 | | | |
| 10 Bypass | SPN | 2-5-8-5-2 | 56(-4) | I.Taka | 8 | 550 | | | |
| 2 THE HAVE MERCY CUP 1400 m - Valeur [0-20] - 13h05 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Seventh Rule | SM | 9-9-2-6-4 | 61.5 | R.Joorawon | 6 | 500 | | | |
| 2 Supreme Orator | CR | C-7-2-7-2 | 61.5(-3) | A.Roy | 5 | 500 | | | |
| 3 Lasair | JMH | 8-8-3-5-3 | 61 | B.Sooful | 9 | 700 | | | |
| 4 Red Rock Canyon | SPN | 10-8-8-7-7 | 61 | T.Juglall | 10 | 9000 | | | |
| 5 Volatile Energy | SN | 1-9-7-4-5 | 61 | J.Allyhosain | 8 | 700 | | | |
| 6 Man From Seattle | RG | 6-6-4-3-4 | 60(-4) | N.S.Batchameah | 4 | 1000 | | | |
| 7 Master Of Disguise | VA | 6-10-6-5-7 | 59.5 | D.Bheekary | 7 | 2500 | | | |
| 8 Masterofallisurvey | P | 6-7-3-5-5 | 59.5 | K.Ramsamy | 3 | 2500 | | | |
| 9 The Right Stuff | CD | 7-3-4-9-7 | 59.5(-3) | M.Sonaram | 1 | 650 | | | |
| 10 Subtropical | SPN | 7-9-5-5-2 | 59 | R.Vaibhav | 2 | 570 | | | |
| 3 THE PURPLE KINGDOM SYNDICATE CUP 1365 m - Valeur Benchmark 31 - 13h40 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Kingsman | P | 7-8-3-7-6 | 61 | O.Sola | 4 | 1200 | | | |
| 2 Candle Cove | SN | 6-4-4-8-2 | 60.5 | K.Ramsamy | 5 | 550 | | | |
| 3 Savvy | SJ | 6-7-4-7-5 | 60.5 | T.Juglall | 6 | 900 | | | |
| 4 Star Of Zeus | PM | 4-3-2-7-3 | 60.5 | B.Sooful | 3 | 370 | | | |
| 5 Tripod | CR | 7-4-8-6-5 | 60.5 | P.K.Horil | 9 | 3500 | | | |
| 6 Promissory | VA | 5-7-5-4-7 | 59.5 | D.Bheekary | 1 | 450 | | | |
| 7 Unbelievable Lad | AS | 9-7-6-6-8 | 59.5 | S.Rama | 7 | 2500 | | | |
| 8 Doublethink | RG | 3-3-3-3-4 | 58(-3) | M.Sonaram | 8 | 1200 | | | |
| 9 Fort Mchenry | SPN | 3-R-7-8-2 | 57 | R.Vaibhav | 2 | 800 | | | |
| 4 THE RAOUL CORSON CUP 1500 m - Valeur Benchmark 36 - 14h15 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Numberninetynine | G | 10-5-6-5-3 | 61 | S.Bussunt | 11 | 750 | | | |
| 2 Steak And Ale | GR | 2-7-6-5-8 | 61 | N.Teeha | 3 | 700 | | | |
| 3 Times New Roman | AS | 5-9-3-7-9 | 60.5 | S.Rama | 9 | 3000 | | | |
| 4 Inauguration | CR | 3-5-6-7-7 | 60 | P.K.Horil | 4 | 1600 | | | |
| 5 Captains Fort | SH | 0-3-7-7-4 | 59.5 | J.Allyhosain | 5 | 550 | | | |
| 6 Soul Connection | SPN | 5-8-6-8-7 | 59(-4) | N.S.Batchameah | 6 | 5500 | | | |
| 7 Protea Paradise | RG | 8-9-5-6-4 | 58.5 | R.Joorawon | 10 | 1400 | | | |
| 8 Senor Don | P | 0-4-8-8-5 | 58.5 | D.Bheekary | 2 | 500 | | | |
| 9 Crazy Charlie | GR | 3-2-3-4-2 | 57.5 | B.Sooful | 7 | 520 | | | |
| 10 Travelin Man | RM | 4-2-3-R-7 | 57 | P.C.Orffer | 8 | 1200 | | | |
| 11 Secret Idea | CD | 5-8-4-4-5 | 53(-3) | M.Sonaram | 1 | 2500 | | | |
| 5 THE J. HENRY YTHIER CUP 1450 m - Valeur Benchmark 41 - 14h50 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Pop Icon | SPN | 9-7-6-7-7 | 61 | K.Ramsamy | 1 | 6000 | | | |
| 2 Freedom Of Speech | SM | 0-7-10-5-2 | 60.5 | D.Bheekary | 2 | 240 | | | |
| 3 Sockeroo | G | 3-7-3-4-5 | 60 | S.Bussunt | 6 | 1500 | | | |
| 4 Trip To The Sky | SJ | 2-4-2-4-7 | 60 | N.Teeha | 8 | 700 | | | |
| 5 Bold Horizon | AS | 6-8-9-7-5 | 59.5 | S.Rama | 5 | 7500 | | | |
| 6 Liverpool Champ | GR | 5-4-6-7-5 | 59.5 | B.Sooful | 10 | 5000 | | | |
| 7 Nevil Mu | SM | 0-10-4-6-6 | 59.5(-4) | N.S.Batchameah | 4 | 4500 | | | |
| 8 Donnan | SN | 3-2-4-2-2 | 59 | J.Allyhosain | 3 | 400 | | | |
| 9 Syds Liason | RG | 8-5-3-3-3 | 59 | R.Joorawon | 9 | 700 | | | |
| 10 Bound By Duty | RM | 1-6-2-9-4 | 57 | P.C.Orffer | 7 | 1800 | | | |
| 6 THE ROBERT DE SENNEVILLE CUP 1600 m - Valeur Benchmark 66 - 15h25 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Trippi's Express | RG | 5-3-2-2-3 | 60 | J.Allyhosain | 4 | 230 | | | |
| 2 Marshall Foch | GR | 11-10-9-8-6 | 58.5 | B.Sooful | 1 | 3000 | | | |
| 3 Var And Away | SN | 0-8-8-2-5 | 56.5(-3) | M.Sonaram | 5 | 450 | | | |
| 4 Backpacker | VA | 3-8-6-2-4 | 55 | R.Joorawon | 2 | 270 | | | |
| 5 Ideal Secret | RM | 8-6-5-8-5 | 55 | S.Rama | 3 | 1000 | | | |

| 38 ^e journée samedi 18 décembre 2021 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-------------|----------|----------------|----|------|--|--|--|
| 7 THE RHYTHMICALLY CUP 1600 m - Valeur [0-26] - 16h00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Clouded Hill | JMH | 9-7-6-9-10 | 60.5 | R.Joorawon | 6 | 5000 | | | |
| 2 Oxford Blue | CD | 3-4-2-2-3 | 60.5(-3) | M.Sonaram | 3 | 580 | | | |
| 3 Citadel | G | 3-7-3-2-2 | 60 | S.Bussunt | 5 | 340 | | | |
| 4 Stone Circle | RM | 8-R-7-5-2 | 60 | P.C.Orffer | 7 | 450 | | | |
| 5 Perfect Pursuit | SN | 5-5-10-5-9 | 59.5 | J.Allyhosain | 1 | 900 | | | |
| 6 Casanova King | SJ | 9-10-10-2-3 | 59 | B.Sooful | 2 | 620 | | | |
| 7 Gontravelin | CR | 3-2-4-2-7 | 59 | P.K.Horil | 8 | 1500 | | | |
| 8 Supreme Elevation | SH | 6-9-5-6-3 | 57 | D.Bheekary | 4 | 1000 | | | |
| 8 THE DISCO DAZZLER PLATE 1450 m - Valeur [0-25] - 16h35 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 Do Or Dare | SPN | R-8-9-7-4 | 61(-4) | N.S.Batchameah | 9 | 1300 | | | |
| 2 Tyrian | PM | 5-8-4-6-3 | 61 | B.Sooful | 1 | 700 | | | |
| 3 Bonjour Baby | CR | 9-8-9-10-5 | 60.5 | P.Mogun | 7 | 9900 | | | |
| 4 Carlton Heights | AS | 7-5-9-4-9 | 60.5 | S.Rama | 10 | 1200 | | | |
| 5 Sacred Night | VA | 7-9-4-6-4 | 60 | D.Bheekary | 5 | 700 | | | |
| 6 Ultimate Warrior | RG | 3-5-4-4-2 | 60 | J.Allyhosain | 8 | 500 | | | |
| 7 Alpirod | SM | 0-8-6-9-7 | 59.5 | R.K.Chumun | 6 | 9900 | | | |
| 8 Lead Singer | P | 7-7-7-2-6 | 59.5 | O.Sola | 4 | 1700 | | | |
| 9 Moroccan Retreat | SH | 5-9-8-4-2 | 59.5 | P.K.Horil | 2 | 310 | | | |
| 10 Manolete | CD | 5-3-8-8-4 | 57(-3) | M.Sonaram | 3 | 900 | | | |
| Selections | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Xanthus, Bypass, Secret Circle | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Man From Seattle, Supreme Orator, Lasair | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Star Of Zeus, Candle Cove, Doublethink | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Crazy Charlie, Captains Fort, Senor Don | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Freedom Of Speech, Donnan, Syds Liason | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Trippi's Express, Backpacker, Var And Away | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Citadel, Oxford Blue, Casanova King | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. Moroccan Retreat, Ultimate Warrior, Tyrian | | | | | | | | | |

Holiday reading: 4 books parents can use to fortify their children's education

Educating children in the 21st century is about teaching them to appreciate the human condition in all its diversity. Holiday reading can contribute to this.



Conrad Hughes
Université de Genève

Reading at home is important. Evidence of the effects of reading and a general culture of reading on adolescents in over 30 countries has shown that reading is good for personal development, intellectual growth, literacy and even numeracy.

A culture of reading is more likely to open doors to grow in society. Research from 2019 showed that, the mere presence of 80 books or more at home is likely to predict better social growth and development for a young child. This is because having books at home suggests a culture and role-modelling of reading by parents, which in turn suggests that the child is exposed to articulate, informed expressions of ideas by the whole family. In other words, a culture of reading at home is something that can give children references, codes and patterns of fluency that are socially empowering.

It is particularly good for children to see their parents reading and for parents to read to their children. Bedtime stories or afternoon reading time are excellent ways of improving cognition, vocabulary and grammatical structure. Discussing reading as a family is also a positive bonding activity.

It can be difficult to find the time to read since the world we are living in is so fast-moving and there are many sources of information around us, distracting our attention. It takes an effort to pull out a book and read it, but it's worth it.

My area of specialisation is education and there is no shortage of literature on the subject. However, much of it is specialised and will not appeal to non-educators or the general public: books on theories of cognition, social psychology, assessment and curriculum design. I prefer to take a wide view on education when it comes to recommending books that parents might wish to read or even read directly to or with their children – in the cases of the books I am going to list, from about 14 years old up.



Which books to read?

In the 21st century, being an educated person means being a global citizen: someone who knows at least a little about cultures, stories and histories other than one's own. There are powerful narratives that should be read and shared. Here are four I have chosen, perhaps to read over the holiday break:

Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela

This is a soaring masterpiece that takes us through the history of South Africa, the inhumane apartheid system, but also core African ideas and social structures. Nelson Mandela's story speaks to all of us for it is about resilience, humanity and the victory of light over darkness. I would recommend this as essential reading to know about Southern African history, leadership and moral justice.

The Meditations by Marcus Aurelius

This is a book I have my 15-year-old philosophy students read, but in truth, anyone can read it from about 14 years of age. It is a congregation of aphorisms about how to live one's life and contains extensive references to Greek and Roman history and philosophy. What transcends the book is an extraordinarily beautiful prose that takes us to the heart of universal psychological themes such as fear, happiness, accepting impermanence and seeking inner peace. The Roman emperor's text is a bed-side book on education for life.

Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

A short, concise and compelling read, this book is about empowering girls and educating with feminist

principles in mind. It can be read by any parent, not only those with female children. Following her famous TedTalk We Should All Be Feminists, the author drives home some of the messages we can send our children to prevent them from growing up in the shadow of gender stereotypes and sexism. Many of the seemingly innocuous, hetero-normative associations we make and subliminal messages we send to children are, in reality, skewed against women and girls. This book can be read and discussed as a family.

The Upanishads

This gem of spiritual wisdom, thousands of years old, is a powerful gateway into Eastern thought. The German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer, who kept a copy with him at all times, said that the Upanishads were his consolation in life and would equally be his consolation in death. The text describes the Hindu and Buddhist concepts of the self, the soul and pure spirit. The Upanishads can be read as aphorisms, in short sequences, and would be a good way to start each day: a few lines or pages bring the mind back to the essentials and allow us to put things into a larger perspective.

Whether parents read bedtime stories to their children, gather around as a family to read extracts from a text, stretch out on the sofa to enjoy a work of fiction just for the pleasure or create silent reading time at home, the essential is that there is reading, that we put aside some precious time to be away from screens and to enjoy the power of the text and the mind-improving benefits that this brings.

To me, educating our children in the 21st century is about teaching them to appreciate the human condition in all its diversity and multiplicity. Holiday reading can contribute to this.

Can our parenting struggles make us better leaders?

Like parents, leaders must know when to impose control and when to step back. Ranjay Gulati, Professor of Business Administration, reflects on the benefits of authoritative leadership, and what it takes to achieve it.

I'm not just a professor and business consultant; I'm also a parent to two kids. As I've often mused, the challenges leaders face at home and at work aren't necessarily all that different. In particular, both contexts leave leaders struggling between their desire to control others and their need to let go. Finding a happy medium is far from easy.

Diana Baumrind, a pioneering research psychologist, observed that parents often behave in ways that are either authoritarian, permissive, or negligent, with a tendency to bounce among the three approaches. Authoritarian parents exercise too much control. Permissive parents allow for too much autonomy on the part of children. Negligent parents don't allow for either control or autonomy -- they're simply absent or uninvolved.

A fourth option is better suited for human growth than these three -- what Baumrind calls the authoritative approach. Parents can adopt a middle ground, promoting a sense of autonomy while also allowing for at least some structure. As I've found, the best leaders also adopt this middle ground inside organizations, albeit a somewhat specific way. They choose to put just a few critical guardrails in place — a basic framework — to guide employees in their exercise of autonomy. I call this approach freedom within a framework.

Two steps to authoritative leadership

To become a more authoritative leader, I suggest taking two basic steps:

* **Communicate a clear framework.** You'll want it to contain both positive ("thou shalt") and negative ("thou shalt not") statements in order to remain durable. My own father articulated such a framework for me before sending me off to boarding school, clearly listing the types of behaviours that were and were not acceptable.

* **Reinforce the framework and hold people accountable.** My father did this as well, and eventually his list of do's and don'ts came to comprise part of my inner compass, guiding my behaviour to this day.



As my research with innovative organizations has shown, allowing employees to exercise autonomy within clear guardrails can yield favorable results. Netflix has described its culture as an amalgam of "freedom and responsibility." By freedom, the company doesn't mean a free-for-all. Yes, workers have the freedom to express opposing viewpoints, and they also have wide leeway with their vacation and travel options. But with freedom comes responsibility, which means they have an obligation to work proactively to further the company's mission.

Alaska Airlines, likewise, has become one of the most successful and well-regarded airlines by giving its frontline workers much more control over customer service issues than most of its competitors – but within boundaries that meet the company's standards on safety, caring, delivery

and presentation. So if a customer service employee decides on the spot to waive a ticket holder's fee because of an injury, she is confident that the company will approve.

Maintaining the tension between control and autonomy isn't easy, and you might find yourself veering too far at times in one direction or the other. But with a solid, well-articulated framework in place, you'll be able to correct for excesses and stay more or less in the middle zone over time. At home and at work, a blend of control and autonomy is usually the winning formula.

Ranjay Gulati is the Paul R. Lawrence MBA Class of 1942 Professor of Business Administration. This article originally appeared on LinkedIn.

Work Smarter

Don't let guilt slow you down

We all feel guilty at times. Why didn't I start that project earlier? Why did I make that comment in the meeting? Why didn't I apply for that job? While pervasive, second guessing yourself like this can waste valuable energy. Here are three ways to stop the guilt cycle.

- Take care of yourself before assisting others. You can't help anyone (whether it's your boss, friend, or family member) if you're a nervous wreck. Make time for your priorities. If you've chosen a path, don't second guess yourself or be pulled off course by others' needs.

- Pay attention to how you're affecting those around you. Your insistence on being perfect may be spilling over into your relationships. For example, if you're constantly pressuring yourself to perform, your team may feel guilty for not meeting

your same standards.

- Unplug from your responsibilities every once in a while. It's not always a bad thing to chill out and do nothing. In fact, self-care is a crucial step toward achieving your goals. Don't let your workplace or cultural norms drive you to feel guilty about not using every minute of every day to do something productive.

This tip is adapted from "Do You Feel Guilty All The Time?," by Marijn Wiersma et al - Harvard Business Review

Let your top talent move around the company

It's human nature to want to hang on to the top performers in your group, department, or division. But ultimately, that's detrimental to both the organization and the superstars themselves. Instead, grant your top performers the mobility they desire and actively move them into different roles across the

company. And if you're a senior-level leader, reward managers who not only develop people but also provide them with opportunities for further growth on other teams. The benefits are clear: When you give talented employees the freedom to move around the organization, cross-functional collaboration increases, people get less complacent, innovation improves, and your company will begin working as one cohesive unit instead of a collection of silos.

This tip is adapted from "Let Your Top Performers Move Around the Company," by Kevin Oakes - Harvard Business Review

Is It really "no big deal"?

When someone bothers or offends you, it's natural to give them the benefit of the doubt and say, "It's no big deal." But not so fast. Next time stop and ask yourself: Am I really unbothered, or am I just trying to avoid conflict? If your honest answer is the latter, it's a sign that you should take action. Though speaking up for yourself can be hard, it's the only way to really resolve the core issue. Schedule a time to talk to the offending party or pull them aside for a private conversation. It

may be better to let some time pass before you chat, so that you're less emotionally charged. And seek a conversation, not a confrontation. Treat the whole thing as an opportunity for both of you to learn and grow. Not everything that triggers an emotional response requires action. But if something really is "no big deal," chances are you'd say something without hesitation. So, next time you're inclined to say "It's no big deal," stop and consider whether that's actually true, so you can address things before they really become a big deal.

This tip is adapted from "The Problem with Saying 'It's No Big Deal'," by James R. Detert - Harvard Business Review

'Broken heart' syndrome is on the rise in women

Researchers have discovered two alarming trends in Takotsubo cardiomyopathy -- also known as 'broken heart' syndrome -- a condition that is often triggered by stress or loss and can lead to long-term heart injury and impaired heart function.

The study, published in the *'Journal of the American Heart Association'*, suggests middle-aged and older women are being diagnosed with broken heart syndrome more frequently -- up to 10 times more often -- than younger women or men of any age.

"Although the global COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges and stressors for women, our research suggests the increase in Takotsubo diagnoses was rising well before the public health outbreak," said Susan Cheng, MD, director of the Institute for Research on

Healthy Aging in the Department of Cardiology at the Smidt Heart Institute and senior author of the study. "This study further validates the vital role the heart-brain connection plays in overall health, especially for women."

What the Data Shows

Cheng and her research team used national hospital data collected from more than 135,000 women and men who were diagnosed with Takotsubo syndrome between 2006 and 2017. The results reveal the following:

- Of the 135,463 documented cases of Takotsubo cardiomyopathy, the annual incidence increased steadily in both sexes, with women contributing most cases (83.3%), especially those over 50.

- In particular, researchers observed a significantly greater increase in incidence among middle-aged women and older



women, compared to younger women.

Prior to this study, researchers only knew that women are more prone than men to developing Takotsubo syndrome. This latest study is the first to ask whether there are age-based sex differences and if case rates may be changing over time.

The Brain and Heart Connection

Cheng explains that the way the brain and nervous system respond to different

types of stressors is something that changes as women age.

"There is likely a tipping point, just beyond midlife, where an excess response to stress can impact the heart," said Cheng. "Women in this situation are especially affected, and the risk seems to be increasing."

Although medical professionals understand the connection between stress and heart disease risk are critically important, there is still a lot to discern.

"This particular study helps to clarify that women of a certain age range are disproportionately at higher risk for stress cardiomyopathy, and that the risk is increasing," said Christine M. Albert, MD, MPH, chair of the Department of Cardiology at the Smidt Heart Institute.

"The upswing could be due to changes in susceptibility, the environment, or both. More work is needed to unravel the underlying disease drivers in Takotsubo condition and other women-dominated conditions."

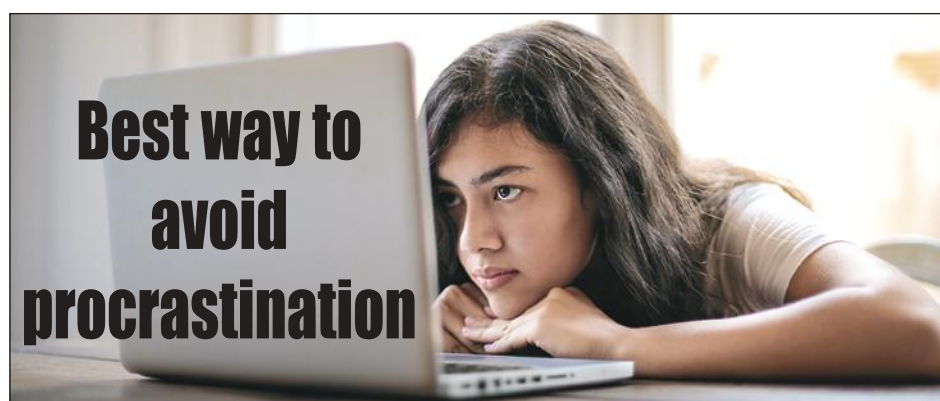
They say procrastination is the thief of time -- actually deadlines are.

New research from the University of Otago has found that if you want someone to help you out with something, it is best not to set a deadline at all. But if you do set a deadline, make it short.

Prof Stephen Knowles, from the Otago Business School, Department of Economics, and his co-authors tested the effect of deadline length on task completion for their research published in *Economic Inquiry*.

Participants were invited to complete an online survey in which a donation goes to charity. They were given either one week, one month, or no deadline to respond.

Prof Knowles says the research



began because he and his team were interested in helping charities raise more money.

However, the results are applicable to any situation where someone asks another person for help. This could be

asking a colleague for help at work or asking your partner to do something for you, Prof Knowles says.

The study found responses to the survey were lowest for the one-month deadline, and highest when no deadline

was specified. No deadline and the one-week deadline led to many early responses, while a long deadline appeared to give people permission to procrastinate, and then forget.

Prof Knowles says: "We interpret this as evidence that specifying a longer deadline, as opposed to a short deadline or no deadline at all, removes the urgency to act, which is often perceived by people when asked to help," he says. "People therefore put off undertaking the task, and since they are inattentive or forget, postponing it results in lower response rates."

He says it is possible that not specifying a deadline might still have led participants to assume that there is an implicit deadline.



Why do we see the 'sky' during the day, but the galaxy at night?

The sky on other planets doesn't look the same as the sky on Earth does. And that's because of the different gases in Earth's atmosphere.

To put it simply, the reason the sky looks different to us between daytime and nighttime is mostly because of our atmosphere.

The atmosphere surrounds Earth, and extends from the ground to outer space. It's made of different gases including oxygen (which keeps us alive as we breathe it in), carbon dioxide (which we breathe out), methane (which is also in our farts), nitrogen and argon.

All these gases, as well as all solids and liquids, are made of molecules. Molecules are collections of atoms which are much too small for us to see, but are the basic building blocks of everything that exists. Importantly, different molecules have different combinations of atoms and come in different sizes.

A molecule's size plays a role in how the molecule interacts with light. Light from

the Sun isn't one colour — it's made up of all the colours of the rainbow (which is why we see a rainbow when light behaves in a certain way).

Some of the molecules in Earth's atmosphere are just the right size that the blue part of the light from the Sun bounces off them, scattering in different directions.

So when we look towards the Sun during the day (remembering that you should never look directly at the Sun), we see rays of light that have come from the Sun straight down to us.

But when we look away from the Sun we see the blue light rays scattering from the part of the atmosphere we are looking at. That's why the sky is so bright — and blue — during the day.

The galaxy at night

At night we see stars in a dark sky, and these stars make up our galaxy, the Milky

Way. The Milky Way is made of a huge number of stars, including the Sun.

Compared with other stars, the Sun actually isn't that bright, but it looks very bright to us because it's much closer to Earth than other stars are.

At night, when your side of Earth is facing away from the Sun, the only light that reaches you is from other stars. This starlight also scatters off molecules in the atmosphere, but as there's less of it, not much scattering goes on.

This is why, at night when we're facing away from the Sun, we don't see the same thing as when we are facing the Sun during the day. Instead, we can look through the atmosphere and beyond at the big, dark expanse of space around us and the many, many faraway stars in our galaxy.

The sky on other planets

Other planets in our Solar System have

different molecules in their atmosphere compared with Earth, which means their skies look different during the day and night.

The atmosphere on Venus, for example, is so thick you would never see the Sun — not even during the day when you were facing towards it. The stars are not visible at night, either.

Astronauts who are above our atmosphere, such as on the International Space Station or on the Moon, don't see the bright blue sky we see on Earth. Instead, they see the Sun as a large nearby star against a black sky.

And they can see the galaxy all the time.

Hannah Schunker & David Pontin
University of Newcastle



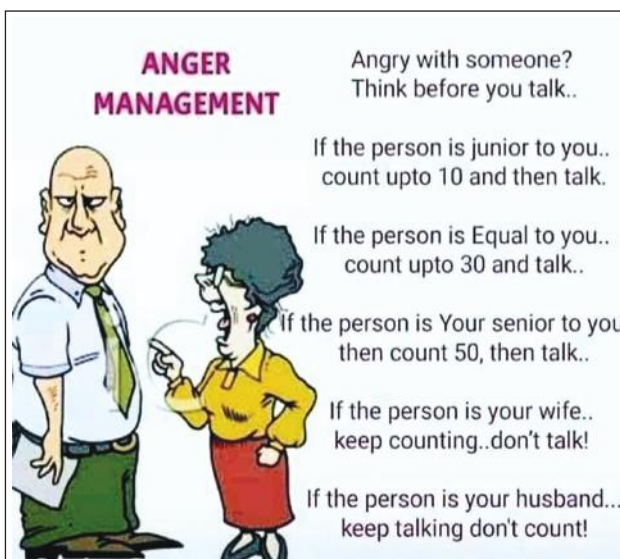
LAUGHTER is the best medicine woman goes to a fortune teller

As they sat there in the candlelit tent, the mystic waved their hands around the crystal ball, divining the woman's future. Suddenly, the soothsayer's hands went to their face and a gasp of horror escaped their mouth.

"I don't know how to tell you this, so I'll be blunt," the fortune teller says. "You need to prepare yourself to become a widow. Your husband will be murdered in a manner most gruesome before the year is done."

The woman was petrified, unable to process the information that's been given to her. Her hands began to shake and her throat felt like a desert as she barely managed to croak out the question on her mind.

"Will I be acquitted?"



Someone once told me that taking money out of your savings account is stealing from your future self.

Well luckily for me, my future self won't be able to afford a lawyer to press charges against me.

The baby that could see the future

A baby is born and during its christening, mutters "God bless Mummy, god bless Daddy, god bless Grandma, goodbye Granddad" and the next day the Granddad suddenly dies.

A few weeks pass and the baby speaks up again, babbling "God bless Mummy, god bless Daddy, goodbye Grandma" and sure enough the next day, Grandma dies.

A couple months pass, and the dad overhears the baby talking to itself again, saying "God bless Mummy, goodbye Daddy" and Dad goes to work the next morning absolutely petrified. Yet, he manages to survive the whole day.

At the dinner table, he asks his wife how her day was, and she responds... "Oh, it was terrible! The postman died on the doorstep!"

"What do you wish to do in the future?" asks the teacher.

Pete: "I want to be a pilot."

Tommy: "I want to be a doctor."

Margaret: "I want to be a good mother"

Frank: "I want to help Margaret!"

A man with 12 kids visits his Dr, asking for advice on how to prevent future pregnancies...

"Have you tried condoms?" asks the Dr.

"I did, and it resulted in 3 kids!" said the man.

"Have you tried birth control?"

"I did! And it resulted in another 3 kids!"

"Have you tried IUD (intrauterine implants)?"

"I did! And it resulted in 3 kids!"

Confounded, the Dr says bluntly, "Well, have you tried not sleeping with your wife?"

"I did! And it still resulted in 3 kids!"

- Docteur, tout le monde dit que je sens mauvais!
- Vous avez déjà essayé de vous laver?
- Oui, mais au bout d'un mois ça recommence!

Un médecin se plaint auprès d'un patient :

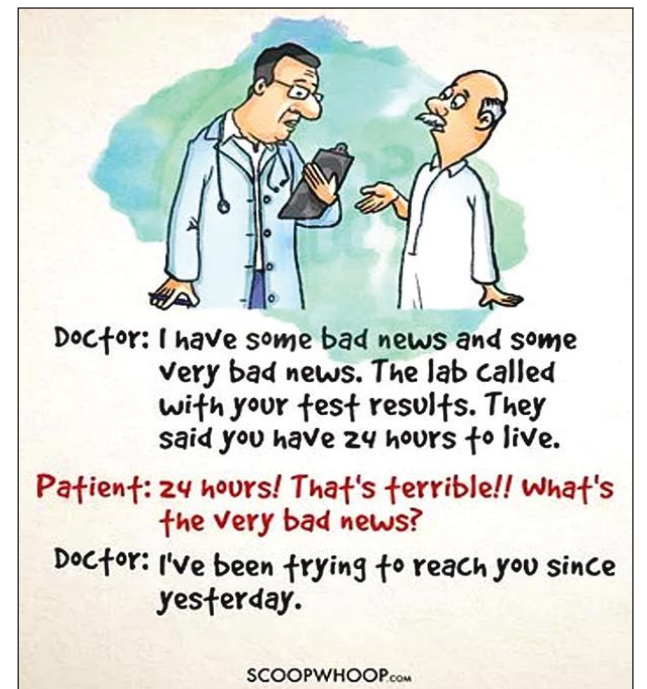
- J'attends toujours mes honoraires, votre chèque m'est revenu impayé!
- C'est logique, répond le patient, j'ai recheté!

Une dame va voir son docteur:

- Docteur! J'entends des voix!
- Et qu'est ce qu'elles vous disent ses voix?
- C'est ça le problème! Je suis dure d'oreille!

Une femme affolée :

- Docteur, docteur! Ce n'est pas chez vous que j'ai oublié ma petite culotte?
- Non madame, désolé.
- Ah bon, ben alors ça doit être chez le dentiste!



Thoughts to Live by

Nights change but not dreams. Paths change but not destiny.

Always keep your hopes alive... Because luck may or may not change but time definitely changes!

A single moment of misunderstanding can make us forget the many beautiful moments we spent together.

Have a conversation, especially with those whom you care...

People are unhappy because they always see the past better than it was,

the present worse than it is, and the future less resolved than it will be.

Never think I have nothing...

Never think I have everything...

But always think I have something and I can achieve anything.

Challenges make you more responsible.

Always remember that life without struggle is a life without success.

Don't give up and learn not to quit...

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around...

When we move our focus from competition to contribution, life becomes a celebration.

Never try to defeat people; just win their hearts.

Remember, time takes away everything from us, be good and do good to anybody and everybody in this world,

because our skin, face and personality will never stay, but our work and name will always be there...

Take up one idea. Make that one idea your life — think of it, dream of it, live on that idea.

Let the brain, muscles, nerves, every part of your body,

be full of that idea, and just leave every other idea alone. This is the way to success.

Be thankful for the bad things in life, for they open your eyes

to the good things you were not paying attention to before.

Greatness is about mastering our inner world, mastering the self.

The one who is calm and peaceful is great.

The one who can give love in the face of hatred is great.

The one who has humility when opposed with insult and arrogance is great.

Do you know when your ego is in the way?

When you get upset, defensive... when you're comparing, competing...

Ego gets in the way of your success, your relationships, and your growth.

Curb your ego, and allow your self-worth to come through, and get you on your way.

What can you do if you find someone flirting with your husband at work?

Catching someone trying to flirt with your husband can totally enrage you. And if that's at your husband's workplace, then it can be all the way more tricky. There are some women who continue to flirt with a married man even after noticing the ring on his wedding finger. Some women view it as a challenge or a game, when they try to flirt with someone's husband and it also depends on how your husband responds to it. But in such a situation, don't let your anger cloud your judgement. Act carefully. Here are some things you can do, if you find someone flirting with your husband at the workplace.



He & She

Try making her your friend

Don't just go off on that woman. For a change, you can try being nice to her. And when she sees how kind and good you are, she may feel uncomfortable hurting the wife of the man she's going for. Many women tend to have a change of heart in such scenarios.

Communicate with your husband

Confronting your husband about another woman being attracted to him straightforwardly is going to make matters worse. Calmly talk to your husband and ask him whether he has any doubts. Don't make him feel like he has led her on in any way. That is definitely going to make your husband feel bad. Instead, calmly communicate what you both think.

Pay more attention to your marriage

Has something been amiss with your husband lately? There are chances your husband talks about this to the woman, unintentionally. So, instead of increasing the communication gap, focus on rebuilding your relationship with your husband. Talk to him, go out on dinner dates and love each other fiercely.

Trust him

In such situations, it's very common to not trust the husband. But avoid doing that. Here, the other woman is at fault, not your husband. You have to trust your husband that he hasn't done anything to encourage the woman's actions.

Have a laugh about it all!

Instead of doubting and feeling angry over the woman and the whole situation, why don't you simply laugh it off! Imagine it this way, that the woman is pinning for a man who is already yours. Letting another woman get to your head will only fill you with anguish; humour yourself with this situation!

Health, Diet & Lifestyle Tips

Easy habits that can improve your mental health

Sometimes you need a mental lift. Follow these simple steps to build a "happiness habit" that may help get you through a tough spell.

Bust the blues: Sometimes you need a mental lift. There are some simple steps you can take to build a "happiness habit" that may help get you through a tough spell. These pick-me-ups aren't meant to replace treatment for serious depression, acute anxiety, or other clinical issues. If you need help, tell your doctor or a trusted friend or family member.

Curb clutter: It just sits there doing nothing. And that's the problem. Studies have found that when you're surrounded by stuff, the visual chaos goes straight to your brain. It distracts you and gets in the way of your ability to process info. Other research has shown a cluttered home amps up the stress hormone cortisol, especially in women. Make a plan right now to banish or sort your clutter.

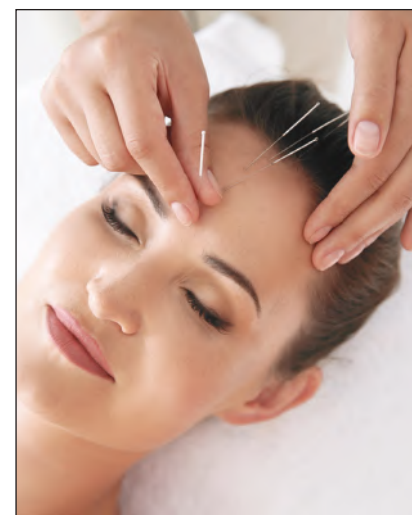
Buy yourself something nice: It doesn't have to be a spree for fancy electronics or a new designer wardrobe. Sure, the something nice can perk you up for the moment. But research shows the real magic of so-called retail therapy is the sense of control you have over your environment when you make your own choices. So, try a little smart shopping to help snap you out of short-term sadness. Just make sure your picks fit your budget, too.



Read: The fastest ticket out of a bad mood is still the simplest: a riveting read. Studies have linked reading to improvements in depression symptoms, as well as mental flexibility and brain function. Make sure it's a pleasure read -- not the news, your computer manual, or even your latest book club pick. Find a book you've wanted to check out or a

juicy magazine. Sock away at least 30 minutes every day to read in peace.

Try acupressure: To practise this ancient Chinese healing art, you press certain spots on your body to release tension. It can lessen anxiety and improve your blood flow. Try this simple move called yin tang, which refers to the middle point between your eyebrows. Sit back and relax. Place your thumb or forefinger between your brows. Press in small, gentle circles for 5 to 10 minutes. Repeat several times during the day.



Pet a furry friend: In one study, college students who chilled for just 10 minutes with a good-natured dog or cat had sharply lowered cortisol, a major stress hormone. Many college campuses have started "pet-to-de-stress" programs. You don't need to be in school to get these warm fuzzies, though. Spend extra quality time with your own pet, or volunteer at a shelter or adoption event to make some new furry friends to cuddle and play with.

Pile a power plate: A healthy dish can banish the blues, with fast and lasting results. One study looked at young adults with diets rich in fruits, veggies, and lean meats over just a few weeks. They reported less depression than a group that didn't eat as well. Studies have shown that the Mediterranean diet, which counts grains and olive oil as staples, can ease depression in older adults. (Exercise and sharing meals are key parts of this diet, too.)

Find your flow: "Flow" is your state of mind when you do something that challenges and fulfils you, without too much pressure on your performance. Note the highlights of your day or week. When did you feel "in the zone"? *Hint:* Passive entertainment like bingeing a TV show or playing computer games aren't flow. Think dancing, cooking, painting, even housecleaning -- pursuits that absorb

you and put your worries aside. Make plenty of time for them.

There's an App for it: In the ever-evolving world of electronic mental health tools, you never need an appointment. An app on your smartphone can't diagnose or treat a condition like depression or anxiety. But it may make you aware of your emotions, which can help you manage them. You can download uplifting podcasts, audiobooks, and apps for pick-me-ups while you drive, wait in line, or take a walk.

Keep up your support system: Make time for friends and family. Offer to help them out when you can -- some research suggests it can be more uplifting to give support than to get it. And while some experts say it's best to meet up in person, don't hesitate to draw on electronic tools like Skype, online chat, and texts to stay close if needed.

Find something funny: Whether you get tickled by silly videos of people falling down, witty British comedy, or a friend who tells hilarious stories, find the things that make you laugh. Humour essay books, funny podcasts, or jokes from magazines are great sources, too. Studies show laughter -- and the distraction it brings -- is one of the best mood lifters around.



Walk in nature: Ecotherapy explores how quality nature time eases stress, anxiety, and depression. A 2015 study found people who take nature walks have lower activity in the parts of the brain where negative thoughts can spool. Start with a stroll close to home or an easy trail for about a half-hour several times a week. If you're game, build up to longer-term "forest bathing" (the Japanese take on nature immersion). It works if you take a friend, too.

M.W. Smith, MD - WebMD

'It feels good to be married': Sayantani Ghosh

Newly-married Sayantani Ghosh talks about how "there are moments when we feel the same, then there are moments when we feel something has changed".

"It feels good to be married," says an excited Sayantani Ghosh, who tied the knot with Anugrah Tiwari in a private ceremony in Kolkatta on Dec 5.

"The first few days, I was under pressure and wondered why didn't I feel different? I thought I should feel something more. Maybe it could be that I was shooting for my TV show till the day I left for Kolkatta and sab jaldi ho gaya. Moreover, Anu and I have known each other for eight years as have our families so everything was familiar and nothing was new! But now that we are back in Mumbai and shifted into our new home, it feels new and different. When I apply sindoor, which I have done for my roles, but then it starts sinking it that this is real and not a role. So, there are moments when we feel the same and then there are moments when it feels that something has changed," she shares, adding if it was not for the pandemic, they would have married earlier.

Ghosh admits that the wedding was a dreamy affair and just the way she wanted it, reports Kavita



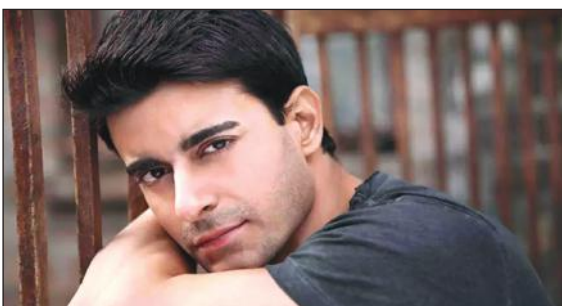
Awaasthi of Hindustan Times. She had a nine-day break from shoot for her wedding. "We wanted a wedding that was heartfelt. I was already shooting an onscreen wedding with all functions –haldi, mehendi, etc. I wanted everything simple in real life. The essence was that families coming closer and didn't want anything take away from that," says the actor, who has many TV shows including Naamkarann and Naagin 4 to her credit.

Sharing how a fan's post on her wedding touched her heart, the actor says, "She wrote that age is a huge factor in a woman's life, regarding marriage. But a woman should be ready- mentally, emotionally, physically and financially and only then one should settle down. And that is what she took from my wedding and it resonated with her."

TellyBytes

I never picked small roles, says Gautam Rode

If there is one thing Gautam Rode has been sure about all through his two-decade long career in showbiz, it is to not settle for small roles. And that, the actor feels, is the reasons for his longevity, reports Rishabh Suri of Hindustan Times.



"I never picked them in my life. I was always the main character, or one of the primary characters. I never went into a particular zone. I waited for my roles to happen to me. Even if I didn't get what I want, I took a step back, whatever the situation may be," he asserts.

There was a time earlier in his life where Rode had to face hardships, but even then he didn't compromise on his criteria. "Even if it was a dire situation. That's why I have been around for a long time. I chose and picked my things, I didn't pick any for the heck of it *ki chalo yeh karna hai mujhe, woh bhi, sab kuchh*' I never function like that. The whole perception of life for me has changed," says the

actor who has been a part of TV shows such as *Saraswatichandra*, *Suryaputra Karn*, and was recently seen in the web show *State of Seige*.

Undoubtedly, his decision may have led to certain challenges coming his way. But, Rode doesn't let them bring him down.

'Not having work gets you low': Nia Sharma

Actor Nia Sharma's last stint on TV was in 2020. Ask her what is keeping her away from the small screen and she candidly confesses, "Honestly there's not much work that has come my way. I'm not consciously keeping away, but this year no project has materialized for me. I don't know why nothing is coming my way. Nobody has approached me!"

Although music videos have kept Sharma occupied, she admits she does get affected by scanty work. Sharma shares, "Not having work gets you low. I'm not out of work, but when you sit home for long time, it gets to your head, you start thinking 'what next?' It hits you once in a day."

Partying is Sharma's coping mechanism against gloomy thoughts. "I try staying positive and gather myself up. I've worked hard for such a long time, so even if I sit at my place for some time, doesn't mean I've hit a low of my life," says Sharma.

Ask Sharma what she aspires next and she quips, "I want to be a boss lady. I want to do bigger projects; I want my work to do the talking. I want to get into business and be the woman who makes shit loads of money."

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Your friends might disappoint you; however, give them a chance to justify themselves instead of judging them. The good astral aspects will allow you to express your creativeness; your most difficult projects will come to success.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 9, 14, 26, 30

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You won't spare your pains in order to improve your purchasing power. You'll try to expand your professional activity and at the same time manage your finances carefully; your efforts will be quickly rewarded.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 11, 19, 20, 23, 24

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

In the financial domain, you'll have luck and beautiful money entries. You'll succeed in important transactions or negotiations in which you put great hopes. Heed the counsels which are given you in all good faith.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 7, 19, 26, 30, 33

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Follow your intuition for it will be excellent this time; thanks to it, you'll easily supplant tough adversaries. Family conflicts without gravity: it would suffice that each one remains calm so that the problem can be solved rapidly.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 20, 21, 23, 29, 31

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

This week will be particularly favourable to large-scale financial operations; you'll be confident, and you won't hesitate to use your good relations. You'll feel very well in the company of your mate, to let yourself go.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 6, 9, 10, 20, 21

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Don't wait for happiness to be served to you on a plate, go and get it. Those of you who are lonely will doubtlessly live a vibrating love affair; however, be on your guard for there'll be storm in the air and heated discussions with the close one.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 14, 18, 20, 31

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Beware of a tendency to mull endlessly over your more and more perfect projects but without coming to act. Know that, in spite of all, luck will be on your side this time. Certain friends will make your life easier by bringing you opportune help.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 17, 25, 30, 31, 36

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You'll probably be very irritable, contrary to your rather gentle and placid temperament. It will be difficult for you to work in a team; nevertheless, you'll be compelled to do it; so, try to bear the constraints; patience will prove paying.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 21, 29, 36, 39, 40

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

In order to get the most out of the opportunities which will present themselves, you must be prepared: concentrate your forces and your dynamism and keep your feet well on the earth.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 14, 20, 27, 30, 36

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You'll work in an agitated atmosphere which, by one side, doesn't displease you; nevertheless, remain cool-headed, that's the condition of success: you can indeed profit by the general agitation to consolidate your position and achieve your ambitions.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 12, 19, 20, 31, 33

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

These rather subtle astral aspects will advise you to put things in order in your life, to destroy certain elements of the past which have become cumbersome, and to work for a simplification of existence in many fields; sort out your papers.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 9, 15, 20, 31

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

The astral climate will incline to agitation in your sentimental and family life. Try to control yourself; count more on common sense and moderation than on brutal action to bring your amorous undertakings to a success.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 19, 20, 25, 30, 31

BollyBytes

KatVic' return to Mumbai, to resume work soon



Newly-wed celebrity couple Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif returned to Mumbai recently from an undisclosed location after a week of wedding festivities.

The actors tied the knot on December 9 in an intimate ceremony that was marked by the presence of family and close friends. The wedding celebrations began from December 7 and saw ceremonies of 'Mehendi', 'Haldi' and 'Sangeet'. Post their marriage, the two have been sharing heart-warming pictures from the wedding celebrations.

The actors will soon resume on their respective projects. While Katrina has 'Phone Bhoot' and 'Tiger 3' in the pipeline, Vicky has 'Govinda Naam Mera' and 'Sam Bahadur' up his alley.



Sushmita, Lara, Priyanka hail Harnaaz Sandhu's Miss Universe win

Former Miss Universe winners Sushmita Sen (1994) and Lara Dutta Bhupathi (2000) have run loving Instagram posts congratulating Harnaaz Sandhu for bringing the Miss Universe title back to India after 21 years.

What makes the win special is that Harnaaz was born in the year when Lara wore the crown. Harnaaz is being hailed as destiny's child.

Sushmita, who's seen a comeback to the limelight in Ram Madhvani's web series 'Aarya', which is now in its second season, posted two pictures of Harnaaz from the pageant and wrote in the caption: "Thank you for representing India so beautifully, for bringing back the Miss Universe Crown to India after 21 years (by a 21 year old, you were destined). May you enjoy every moment of learning & sharing this incredible global platform @miss-universe will provide you... May you reign supreme!!!"

Lara, too, shared a picture of Harnaaz and wrote:

"You were born in the year I won Miss Universe! That's how long we've waited for you to come along and lift that crown once more for India!! Perhaps, it was destined!! I know what lies in store for you, and I wish you a glorious reign!!"

Priyanka Chopra called Miss Universe 2021 Harnaaz Sandhu 'very smart and gorgeous' and said that she was excited about her win, reports Hindustan Times.

Speaking to Fox5 about Harnaaz's win, Priyanka said, "I'm so excited for her and I hope this is the beginning of an incredible journey. She's very smart and gorgeous, obviously, and I'm very excited for her," she added.

After Harnaaz's Miss Universe 2021 win, an old video of her showering praise on Priyanka resurfaced online. "I love Priyanka. So whatever lessons I can learn from her is nevertheless (sic). So I will always choose Priyanka," she said.

Deepika Padukone says she's 'always trying to put a leash' on Ranveer Singh's flamboyant side

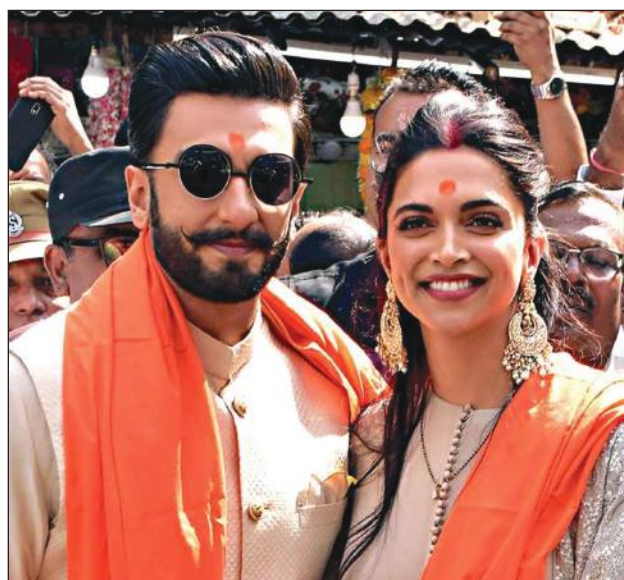
In a recent interview, Deepika Padukone has revealed how she deals with the flamboyant side of her husband Ranveer Singh and the secret behind their successful marriage.

Deepika revealed what keeps her relationship going. "One of the best things that we have is that we communicate a lot. That is extremely important for us. We might agree and we might disagree but I think when you communicate, it kind of makes marriage much easier. I think we were on pretty much the same page as far as this was concerned. Of course, at times there are battles where he would win and I have to say 'Ok fine, take this one'," she told Film Companion.

She added: "And there are times when I say something and I am very firm about my belief and he says 'okay I disagree with you but I think ok' We have those moments too."

When asked about Ranveer's flamboyant side, she said: "I'm always trying to put a leash on him. He understands and I also have wrapped my head around. That just gives him a lot of joy and that's just who he is. I don't think I can and should change that inherent part of him. So he's having fun. It's fine."

Last month, Deepika and Ranveer celebrated their third wedding anniversary. The couple flew to Uttarakhand to spend time together in the mountains on



the occasion. The couple shared several pictures of how they spent their mini-vacation.

Deepika and Ranveer dated for six years before tying the knot in 2018 in a secret wedding ceremony in Italy. The couple will be seen together in the upcoming film '83'.

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| | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Friday | 17 Dec | - 13:15 - 20:15 |
| Saturday | 18 Dec | - 13:15 - 20:15 |
| Sunday | 19 Dec | - 13:15 - 20:15 |
| Monday | 20 to Thursday 23 Dec | - 13:15 - 20:15 |

CINE 12

vendredi 17 décembre - 21.15



CINE 12

samedi 18 décembre - 21.00

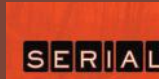


CINE 12

dimanche 19 décembre - 21.15



Programme TV



vendredi 17 décembre

samedi 18 décembre

dimanche 19 décembre

lundi 20 décembre

MBC 1

07.00 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
08.45 Mag: Happy Tales
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir
12.55 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
13.55 Local: Glwar Dantan
14.30 Serial: Les Copains Carlins
14.44 D.Anime: Pet Alien
15.31 D.Anime: Booba
15.39 D.Anime: The Twisted...
16.02 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...
17.20 Mag: Human Nature
17.50 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Surya Puran
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.29 Mag: 70th Edition Of The Miss World Pageant 2021
23.00 Le Journal
23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Bisaat-E-Dil
11.01 Tawaan
12.00 Film: Shubyham Karoti Kalyanam
Starring: VVinay Shirsath , Vighnesh Lijavat
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.26 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.46 Serial: Bava Maradallu
16.07 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.31 Serial: Mera Maan Rakhna
16.47 Serial: Imtihaan
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.25 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
19.05 Zournal Kreol
19.58 Serial: AAS (URDU Serial)
20.46 Local: Anjuman
21.11 Local: Urdu Programme

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today
07.52 Doc: Snapshots
09.00 Educa Prog: Grade 5
11.30 Educa Prog: Grade 8
14.03 Doc: Comme Une Envie De...
14.53 Doc: China's New Silk Road
15.36 Will Roots Save The World
17.30 Mag: Shift
17.42 Mag: Sur Mesure
18.00 Doc: Once Upon A River
18.42 Mag: World Stories
19.30 Mag: Euromaxx
20.05 Doc: Volcano Stories
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.40 Doc: Wedding The French...
21.39 Doc: Innovation On Board
22.06 Doc: Plague Island
22.48 Doc: My Family War And I
23.30 Doc: Once Upon A River
00.12 Mag: World Stories

Cine 12

01.28 Film: Legionnaire
03.06 Serial: S.W.A.T
03.46 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery
05.11 Tele: Muneca Brava
05.49 Serial: Elementary
06.31 Film: Legionnaire
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
12.00 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery
13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: Legionnaire
16.29 Serial: The Good Doctor
17.15 Serial: Elementary
18.10 Tele: Teresa
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
19.34 Mag: Cinemag
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Last Resort
21.15 Film: Spider-Man
Avec: Tom Holland, Michael Keaton...

Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Hote Hote Pyar Ho Gaya
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Kajol
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.33 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.00 / 22.30 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 23.00 - Chhanchhan
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Ayr Pyar Ho Gaya
Starring: Bobby Deol,
Aishwarya Rai Bachchan,
S. Kapoor, Anupam Kher.
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi

06.04 D.Anime: Robot Trains
06.29 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
06.53 D.Anime: Booba
07.01 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis...
07.51 D.Anime: All Hail King Julien
09.30 Mag: Human Nature
10.00 Local: Zanaf Nou Zil
10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Teresa
14.45 Serial: Les Copains Carlins
15.20 D.Anime: Pet Alien
15.31 D.Anime: The Twisted...
16.00 Film: Georges Le Petit Curieux Décolle
17.13 Serial: Hank Zipzer
17.40 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 MBC Production
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs
21.20 Film: November Criminals

07.00 Film: Arth
09.29 Mag: DDI Magazine
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.03 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare
12.17 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.40 Serial: High School
13.02 Annakodiyum Ainthu Pengalum
13.27 Anu Pallavi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Sooryavansham
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Soundarya, Jayasudha, Rachna Banerjee
18.10 DDI Magazine
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
20.28 Serial: Bitti Business
21.00 Film: Tera Intezaar

06.00 Doc: Once Upon A River
06.42 Mag: World Stories
06.55 Mag: Our Voices
07.50 Doc: Volcano Stories
09.08 Doc: Innovation On Board
10.22 Doc: My Family War And I
11.00 Doc: Once Upon A River
11.56 Mag: Our Voices
13.20 Doc: Wedding The French...
15.00 Student Support Prog...
18.33 Mag: In Good Shape
19.04 Magazine: Trend Book
19.34 Mag: Check In
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.40 Les Montagnes Do Monde
22.20 Love Around The World
22.53 Doc: The Forgotten Temple
23.35 Mag: Future Mag
00.05 Mag: In Good Shape
00.30 Mag: Trend Book
00.55 Mag: Check In
01.21 Mag: Sky Eye

01.27 Film: Spider-Man
03.49 Serial: Seal Team
04.20 Serial: The Magicians
05.43 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.23 Serial: Last Resort
07.05 Serial: Blacklist
08.30 Serial: Macgyver
09.17 Serial: The Magicians
09.59 Serial: Hawaii Five-0
10.40 Film: Spider-Man
13.00 Serial: Seal Team
13.41 Serial: S.W.A.T
15.05 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.11 Film: Dummie The Mummy And The Sphinx Of Shakaba
18.30 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man
19.34 Mag: Cinemag
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Series: Timeless
21.15 Film: Saint-Valentin Pour Toujours
Starring: Autumn Reeser, Eric Johnson

04.05 Radha Krishna
04.36 Anupamaa
05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur...
05.33 Agnihera
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan
06.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
06.38 Chhanchhan
06.57 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
07.18 Siddhi Vinayak
08.02 Yeh Teri Galiyan
10.01 Motu Patlu
10.12 Siddhi Vinayak
12.01 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.00 Anupamaa
16.00 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Mann
Star: Amir Khan, Manisha Koirala, Sharmila Tagore
21.23 Serial: Namah
21.44 Serial: Naagin Season 3

06.00 D.Anime: Invention Story
06.27 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill
06.55 D.Anime: Booba
07.00 D.Anime: Rev & Roll
09.30 Mag: Human Nature
10.00 Local: Zanaf Nou Zil
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Tele: Teresa
14.10 Local: Elle - No 123
15.20 D.Anime: Pet Alien
15.31 D.Anime: The Twisted...
15.50 Film: Cinderella
17.20 Serial: Hank Zipzer
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 MBC Prod: Revelations 2021
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Prod Inden: The Mic Africa...
21.25 Film: Dixieland
Starring: Chris Zylka, Riley Keough, Faith Hill

07.00 Film: Watan Ke Rakhwale
10.00 Local Prod
11.00 Serial: Oru Kai Osai
11.22 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
12.10 Film: Surya Puran
Stars: Ranbir Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Manisha Koirala
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
15.45 Serial: He Mann Baware
16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham
17.21 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
18.00 DDI Magazine
18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas..
20.48 Serial: CID
21.33 Serial: Naagin Season 2
22.19 Serial: Jai Kanhaiya Lal Ki
23.00 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Future Mag
06.55 Magazine: Trend Book
07.21 Mag: Check In
08.57 Doc: Bhutan
09.39 Doc: Love Arond The World
10.21 Doc: The Forgotten Temple
11.37 Mag: In Good Shape
12.03 Magazine: Trend Book
12.30 Mag: Check In
13.21 Les Montagnes Du Monde
14.46 Love Arond The World
18.33 Mag: Future Mag
19.00 Magazine
19.33 Doc: Comme Une Envie...
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.45 Japan From Above
21.37 Doc: Legendary Hotels
22.29 Doc: Hanau
23.02 Doc: Goods To Paradise
23.54 Mag: Magnifique
00.40 Mag: Future Mag

02.16 Film: Saint-Valentin Pour Toujours
03.40 Film: November Criminals
05.02 Tele: Tanto Amor
05.44 Serial: Timeless
06.26 Film: Saint-Valentin Pour Toujour
08.30 Serial: Macgyver
09.19 Film: November Criminals
10.39 Film: Dummie The Mummy And The Sphinx Of Shakaba
12.15 Serial: Dynasty 2
13.27 Serial: S.W.A.T
15.32 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.55 Serial: Last Resort
17.02 Serial: Dynasty 2
17.42 Serial: Timeless
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Les Proies
21.15 Film: Slumdog Millionaire
Avec: Dev Patel, Freida Pinto

01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak
02.38 Bhakharwadi
04.31 Anupamaa
06.15 Pavitra Rishta
08.00 Motu Patlu
08.11 Ikyawann
10.00 Jaana Na Dil Se Door
12.00 Piya Albela
14.00 Agnihera
16.29 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Hamara Dil Apke Paas Hai
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Aishwariya Rai, Sonali Bendre
21.09 Naagin Season 3
21.51 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
23.46 Serial: Piya Albela

06.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
06.27 Local: Saver Kil Tirel
06.55 D.Anime: The Hive
07.14 D.Anime: Pet Alien
09.50 Film: Kung Fu Panda Holiday
10.20 Local: Fam Model
11.00 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous?
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Tele: Teresa
14.00 Local: Zanaf Nou Zil
14.30 D.Anime: Gon
15.45 Film: Grandpa??S Great Escape
17.05 Serial: My Perfect Landing
17.30 Mag: Human Nature
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Namah
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 MBC Production
21.25 Film: Maison A Vendre...
Starring: Julie Gonzalo, Tyler Hynes

09.00 Serial: Selfie With Bajrang
09.22 Serial: Tik Tak Tail
09.29 Serial: Inspector Chingum
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
12.10 Film: Kaajal
Stars: Meena Kumari, Dharmendra, Raaj Kumar
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi
15.45 Serial: Bava Maradallu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.26 Serial: Mera Maan Rakhna
16.43 Serial: Imtihaan
17.34 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi
18.00 DDI Magazine
18.03 Serial: Colourful Bone
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.31 Film: Kannum Kannum Kollaiyadithaal
23.00 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Magnifique
06.55 Magazine
07.21 Mag: Comme Une Envie...
09.00 Educational Prog: Grade 5
11.30 Educational Prog: Grade 8
14.03 Doc: Japan From Above
14.55 Doc: Legendary Hotels
15.37 Doc: Hanau
16.20 Doc: Goods To Paradise
17.31 Mag: Future Mag
18.03 Mag: Eco@Africa
19.00 Student Support Prog: Grade 7
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)
20.45 Doc: Les Artisans Du Rebut Global
21.37 Doc: Global 3000
22.29 Doc: The School In The Cloud
23.10 New York City Rich And Poor

01.14 Film: Slumdog Millionaire
03.55 Film: La Charge Des Tuniques Bleues
05.29 Tele: Muneca Brava
06.10 Serial: Les Proies
06.52 Film: Slumdog Millionaire
09.00 Serial: The Good Doctor
09.45 Tele: Teresa
10.39 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T
12.00 Film: La Charge Des Tuniques Bleues
13.34 Serial: Muneca Brava
14.45 Film: Slumdog Millionaire
16.45 Serial: The Good Doctor
17.26 Serial: Les Proies
18.08 Tele: Teresa
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
20.30 Serial: Blacklist
21.15 Film: Bleeding Steel
Avec: Jackie Chan, Show Lo, Na-Na OuYang

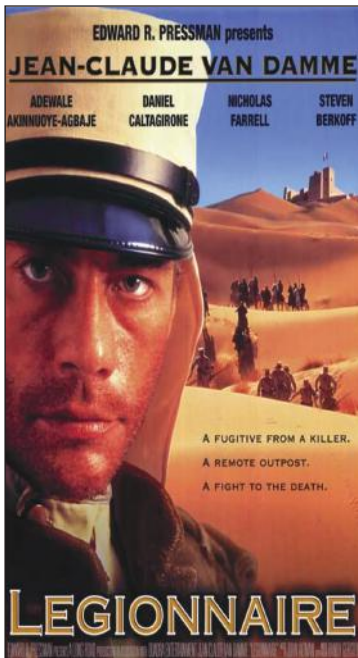
08.00 Film: Vir: The Robot Boy
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.33 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.00 / 22.30 -
Bade Acche Lagte Hai
14.30 / 23.00 - Chhanchhan
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Rabba Main Kya Karoon
Starring: Akash Sagar Chopra, Arshad Warsi, Paresh Rawal
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi



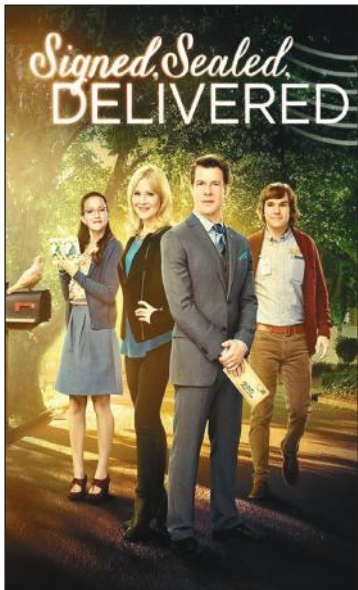
mardi 21 décembre - 21.10



mercredi 22 décembre - 21.15



jeudi 23 décembre - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



| | MBC 1 | MBC 2 | MBC 3 | Cine 12 | Bollywood TV |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| mardi 21 décembre | 06.00 Local: Rodrig - Akoustic 07.00 D.Anime: The Hive 07.26 D.Anime: Splash And Bubble 09.00 Film: Penguin Land 10.45 Serial: Superstore 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Local: Sur Un Air De Noel 14.00 MB Production 14.30 D.Anime: GON 14.43 D.Anime: Yo Yo 15.20 D.Anime: The Adventures.. 15.42 Film: Dragon 17.30 Serial: My Perfect Landing 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.15 Local: Priorite Sante 21.10 Film: Resident Evil: The Final Chapter | 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha... 12.00 Film: Gauri Starring Sunil Dutt, Sanjeev Kumar, Nutan, Mumtaz 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.26 Aamhi Doghi 15.46 Bava Maradallu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Mera Maan Rakhna 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Programme In Marathi 20.30 Film: Juari Starring Shashi KapoorNanda, Tanuja Samarth | 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.26 Mag: Destination Culture 07.47 Doc: Les Artisans Du Rebut 09.00 Educa Prog: G5 11.30 Educa Prog: G8 15.37 New York City Rich and Poor 16.23 Mag: Eco@Africa 16.50 Mag: Destination Culture 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living 19.00 Student Support Prog - G7 19.30 Mag: Made In Germany 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 20.45 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 21.11 Prod: The MIC Africa 22.01 Mag: Close Up 22.27 Local: Klip Seleksion 23.09 Doc: Screen Generation 23.51 Doc: Can Green Investment 00.17 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto.. 00.43 Mag: Healthy Living 00.58 Mag: Red Carpet | 01.28 Film: Maison A Vendre, Coeur A Prendre 03.36 Film: Bleeding Steel 05.21 Tele: Muneca Brava 05.47 Serial: Blacklist 06.53 Film: Maison A Vendre, Coeur A Prendre 09.00 Serial: The Good Doctor 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T 11.46 Film: Bleeding Steel 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.17 Mag: Cinemag 14.45 Film: Bleeding Steel 16.41 Serial: The Good Doctor 17.22 Serial: Blacklist 18.05 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 21.15 Film: Les Souliers De Noelle | 07.01 Film: Rabba Main Kya Karoon Cast: Akash Sagar Chopra, Arshad Warsi, Paresh Rawal 11.30 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna 11.59 / 20.57 - Anupamaa 12.30 / 21.27 - Mere Sai 13.09 / 22.07 - Agniphera 13.30 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.00 / 23.07 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.30 / 21.59 - Chhanchhan 14.53 / 22.25 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.25 Film: Kanu Sachcha Kaun Jhootha Star: Rishi Kapoor, Sridevi, Suresh Oberoi, Mohnish Bahl 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron.. |
| mercredi 22 décembre | 06.00 Local: Roddrig Sa 07.00 D.Anime: The Hive 07.15 D.Anime: Wishfart 08.06 D.Anime: Fangbone 09.00 Film: Elfland 10.45 Serial: Superstore 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 12.55 Local: Sur Un Air De Noel 14.00 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 D.Anime: GON 14.44 D.Anime: Yo Yo 15.20 D.Anime: The Adventure... 15.43 Film: Christmas In New York 17.20 Serial: My Perfect Landing 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 Local: Retrospective 2021 21.25 Film: Legionnaire | 07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Pyar Ka Dard Meetha... 12.00 Film: Lorie Starring Shabana Azmi, Farooq Shaikh, Naseeruddin Shah 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.26 Aamhi Doghi 15.46 Bava Maradallu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Mera Maan Rakhna 16.49 Serial: Imtihaan 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Klipvadhu 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Programme In Marathi 20.30 Film: Wajlach Pahije Marathi film 22.25 DDI Live | 06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto... 06.26 Mag: Healthy Living 07.25 Mag: Made In Germany 07.51 Mag: Magnifique 09.00 Educa Prog: Grade 5 11.30 Educa Prog: Grade 8 14.03 Local: Klip Seleksion 15.11 Doc: Screen Generation 15.54 Doc: Can Green Investment 17.20 Mag: Check In 18.00 Mag: Eco India 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Comme Une Envie... 21.36 Doc: The Maras 22.19 Doc: Crash 23.01 Doc: Legendary Hotels 23.44 Mag: Eco India 00.10 Mag: Shift 00.22 Mag: Sur Mesure 00.35 Mag: Border Crossing | 01.28 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery 02.52 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.51 Film: Les Soulier De Noelle 05.01 Tele: Muneca Brava 05.41 Serial: Blacklist 06.49 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery 09.10 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: S.W.A.T 12.00 Film: Les Souliers De Noelle 13.38 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.46 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery 16.40 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 17.20 Serial: Blacklist 18.08 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: Elementary 21.15 Film: Bienvenue A Noel 22.45 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.26 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami | 07.00 Film: Kanu Sachcha Kaun Jhootha Star: Rishi Kapoor, Sridevi, Suresh Oberoi, Mohnish Bahl 11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna 11.51 / 20.26 - Anupamaa 12.23 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad.. 12.47 / 20.46 - Agniphera 13.29 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.03 / 21.50 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 14.47 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.25 Film: Hindustani 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron... 19.30 Bhakharwadi 20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak |
| jeudi 23 décembre | 06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.45 Local: Point Culture 07.15 Film: Christmas In New York 09.00 Film: Groundhog Dave 2 10.45 Serial: Superstore 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Le Prix Du Désir 14.00 Local: Crime Watch 14.33 D.Anime: Harvery Girls... 15.20 D.Anime: Astrology 15.45 Film: La Fille Du Père Noël 17.20 Serial: My Perfect Landing 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Local: Sur Un Air De Noel 20.15 Local: Autour Des Valeurs 20.20 Local: Sawddhan 20.35 Film: Bhoothnath Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Juhi Chawla | 07.00 DDI Live 09.00 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi 10.10 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 12.00 Film: Ek Chitthi Pyar Bhari 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Serial: Bava Maradallu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.27 Serial: Mera Maan Rakhna 16.48 Serial: Imtihaan 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.30 Local: Amrit Vaani 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da... 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.33 Local: Evasion 21.27 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delivered Star: Eric Mabius, Kristin Booth | 06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous 07.19 Mag: The Inside Story 07.49 Doc: Trend Book 09.00 Educa Prog: Grade 5 11.30 Educa Prog: Grade 8 14.03 Mag: Initiative Africa 15.21 Doc: Be Afraid 16.06 Doc: The Expanding Desert 16.22 Mag: Motorweek 18.00 Mag: Eco India 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Comme Un Envie De Jardins 21.36 Doc: The Maras 22.18 Doc: Crash 23.01 Doc: Legendary Hotels 23.43 Mag: Eco India 00.09 Mag: Shift | 00.20 Serial: Elementary 03.29 Film: It's Christmas Eve 04.53 Tele: Muneca Brava 05.34 Serial: Elementary 06.38 Film: Bien Venue A Noel 09.00 Serial: The Good Doctor 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T 12.00 Film: It's Christmas Eve 13.30 Tele: Muneca Brava 14.45 Film: Bienvenue A Noel 16.42 Serial: The Good Doctor 17.32 Serial: Elementary 18.05 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages... 20.30 Serial: Elementary 21.15 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man 22.23 Tele: Muneca Brava 23.02 Serial: The good Doctor | 07.00 Film: Andolan Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Govinda, Mamta Kulkarni 11.32 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna 12.03 / 20.11 - Anupamaa 12.32 / 20.32 - Mere Sai 12.59 / 21.09 - Agniphera 13.34 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.00 / 21.50 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.21 Film: Dil Vii Pyar Vyar Starring: Madhavan, Jimmy Shergill, Namrata Shirodkar 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.29 Bhakharwadi |



Mercredi 21 décembre -

15.30

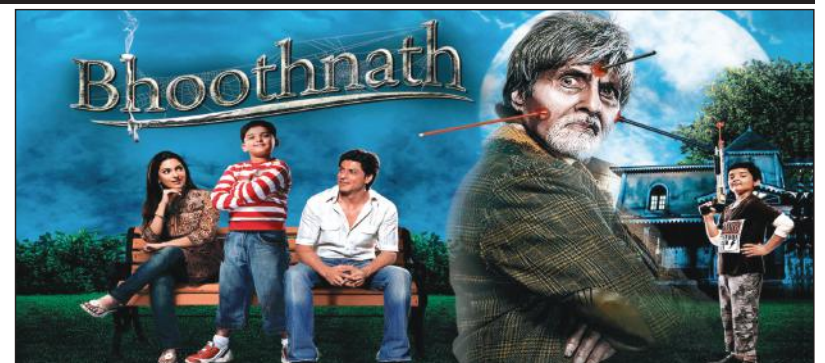
Star: Rishi Kapoor, Sridevi, Suresh Oberoi, Mohnish Bahl



Jeudi 23 décembre -

20.35

Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Juhi Chawla





Bahador Bahrami
Ludwig Maximilian
University of Munich

Why we still fall for influencers, salesmen and politicians who lie

Social influencers vie for public attention in a crowded market place. This makes the bold and the ruthless even more likely to opt for strategic dishonesty if it will further their interests

Our society is driven by social influence. The salesman who wants to sell you a car, the politician who wants your vote and the Tiktok influencer who wants you to “like” their videos have one thing in common: they are vying for your attention.

For scientists – in psychology, politics and computer sciences – understanding quite how we attract people’s attention is a challenge. In a recent study, we found that social influence is best understood as a competition.

People often think of social influence as a one-to-one relationship between the influencer and their target. But every election has at least two candidates. Similarly, thousands of videos are uploaded on TikTok every day, each hoping to be the one that goes viral. And, every time a salesman sells a car, his competing colleagues lose a customer.

Influencing is a zero-sum game. More than how to influence people, the question is how to be more influential than others.

Game theory

We designed a laboratory model of social influence in the form of a game to be played by three people: one client and two advisers. The client has to buy one of two lottery tickets but has no information about which is better. The advisers, who have private access to such information, and compete for being hired by the client.

Our model, much like social influence in real life, is a zero-sum game: one adviser’s success is the other’s failure. This allowed us to use game theory to find an optimal strategy for the adviser.

Our analysis of game theory showed that a clear strategy can be formulated: if you already have influence (if you are hired), be vague and stay close to the truth. If, conversely, you are ignored, be loud, exaggerate and, if necessary, just lie to stand out.

We conducted seven experiments with more than 800 participants who played the role of the client. We found that strategic distortion of the truth outperformed honest advising in winning over and retaining individual clients in up to 80% of the time. When advisers were strategically dishonest, they also succeeded in swaying groups of clients who elected their adviser democratically in each round.

This strategy, of course, is familiar to anyone who lived through the Brexit campaign, as former UK prime minister David Cameron clearly describes in his book, *For the Record*. According to Cameron, Boris Johnson played precisely the card we would expect the disad-

vantaged candidate (the one challenging the incumbent) to play. Cameron advocated remaining in the EU, so Johnson embraced the leave campaign.

Cameron writes that Johnson was making a strategic choice to differentiate himself from the incumbents. Johnson, he says, “risked an outcome he didn’t believe in because it would help his political career”. And, he adds, because Johnson was certain the leave side would lose, backing it brought little risk of breaking up the government he wanted to lead one day. “It would be a risk-free bet on himself,” Cameron writes.

Competition characteristics

Central to this model were the three hallmarks of competition for social influence: information asymmetry, delegation of future decisions and intractable uncertainty.

Information asymmetry occurs when influence seekers (politicians or advisers) know more about an issue than the people they seek to influence (voters or clients). In the political arena, the issues at stake are often multi-dimensional and too complex for people to be fully informed about. In the Brexit vote, for example, the regions most strongly favouring Leave were also — to the surprise of many voters — the most dependent on European Union markets for their local development.

Competition for social influence also often involves a delegation of power: voters or clients granting politicians or fund managers the power to make future decisions on their behalf.

Finally, predicting the future is hard. Political science writer Philip Tetlock, in his 2017 book, *Expert Political Judgement* shows how pundits who are regularly tasked to predict uncertain future events in finance, politics, or sports often turn out to be wrong. Competition for social influence thus tends to take place under high outcome uncertainty. Evaluating advice accuracy is difficult under high uncertainty. This creates opportunities for competing advisers to seek influence strategically because few would remember the failure of their radical but dishonest predictions.

Public support

Our findings suggest that the success of dishonesty is due to our willingness to jump to conclusions in hindsight. This chimes with what research shows on how we assess the choices we have made.

If an adviser was the only one to predict a bad out-



Pic - Shutterstock

come before it happened, we tend to think that they must have known something that others did not. While this may sometimes be true, often it is just pure luck. A strategic adviser takes advantage of this willingness we have to trust our hindsight to inflate their confidence or even, dishonestly advise against the available evidence simply to stand out.

An honest adviser, when ignored, is less effective (than their dishonest rival) in persuading the client to shift: commitment to honesty stops them from positioning themselves as a radical alternative if there is no evidence to justify it.

These kinds of strategies are repeatedly and ruthlessly employed by attention-hungry influencers because they work. Our analysis helps explain why politicians who are repeatedly found out to have lied could continue to enjoy public support. We hope that our work will generate awareness in the public and help us all to see through such manipulative and dishonest strategies and protect the citizens against them.

Sanlam Central Agency Ltd

Accredited Agency

Contact: Mrs V. Gopal

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

Email: centralagency@intnet.mu

