

MAURITIUS TIMES

• “We have become a society of indulgent consumers resulting in rapidly increasing debt both personally and as a nation.” – L G Durand

Interview: Rama Sithanen

Budget 2022-23:

«How will all these budget measures be financed?»

‘Minister Padayachy has used some tricks, embraced some stratagems and kicked some cans down the road’

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Budget 2022-23: 'Tricks' and 'Stratagems'

In the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war that began on 24 February, energy and commodity prices have surged, adding to inflationary pressures from supply chain disruptions and the rebound from the Covid-19 pandemic. Price shocks are having an impact worldwide, especially on poor households. Should the conflict drag on, the economic damage will be all the more devastating. Mauritius is already feeling the consequences of the war. The fall in the purchasing power of consumers, growing unemployment and increased poverty have the potential to create social unrest, as indeed they did with street protests in a few localities a few weeks back. It was therefore expected that the third budget of Hon Padayachy would come up with immediate and concrete solutions to bring relief to a large swathe of the population.

That objective seems to have been achieved, judging by the positive response across the board to the measures proposed in Budget 2022-23, namely the Rs 1000 monthly increase in salary to be granted to all employees and self-employed earning less than Rs 50,000 per month; rise in old-age pensions of Rs 1000 and Rs 2000 per month for those between 60 and 65 years and those above 65 years respectively; subsidy of over Rs 4 bn annually to keep the prices of some commodity goods unchanged and to restore some of the lost purchasing power; removal of municipal tax for town dwellers, lowering of income tax and rise in personal allowances for the middle income and increase in social aid for the vulnerable groups, etc. Even if he qualifies the measures proposed as coming 'too late for many and not enough for others', former Finance minister Rama Sithanen concedes however, in this week's interview to this paper, that 'everyone, everywhere in the country is expected to benefit somehow from these several measures...' This is all very well, and no Finance minister could have shirked responsibility in the current socio-economic climate by not addressing the pressing existential concerns of the less well-off and the middle class.

The devil however is in the details, and it is in probing into the financing of these measures that will run into billions of rupees that Rama Sithanen lifts the lid on how Hon Padayachy would have had recourse to 'tricks and some stratagems' to build a 'massive war chest' through the instrument of the 'Special and Other Extra Budgetary Funds' (SOEBF). It is in the SOEBF that are parked underutilized funds, which has the effect of 'artificially raising the budget deficit of the Consolidated Fund for the year while it increases the availability of funds in the Special Funds for subsequent years. When the deficit of the Consolidated Fund is high, he does the reverse transaction.' Sithanen adds that 'the budget deficit has become meaningless as he (Hon Padayachy) uses the money in these special funds to decide on the exact size of the budget deficit he wants to present'.

The availability of those huge funds, estimated to be around Rs55.3 bn, indicate that the government has indeed room for manoeuvre for astute balancing of economic and political objectives, as well as for the use that can be made thereof for the financing of different projects that would help meet its electoral objectives - should it go for snap elections well before the end of its mandate or even nearer the end of its mandate.

On the other hand, while these short term and medium term budgetary measures will to some extent lighten the burden on households and by extension pre-empt further social unrest, a long term concern of all citizens is the level of debt that the country has accumulated and the emptying of the Bank of Mauritius reserves, and how this will impact future generations. For some time, post-budget there may be a relative lull on these issues, but they will surely come to the fore again in due course, and the people will want cogent, convincing answers. They haven't come so far, and the sooner they are provided the less untrusting of government the people will be. This is also a matter that needs to be addressed.

Poor Laws once protected the poor from the high cost of living and led to unrivalled economic prosperity

In the closing years of Elizabeth I's reign, England saw the emergence of arguably the world's first effective welfare state. Laws were established which successfully protected people from rises in food prices.

More than 400 years later, in the closing years of Elizabeth II's reign, the UK once again faces perilous spikes in living costs. Perhaps today's government could learn something from its legislative ancestors.

Until the end of the 16th century, it was a given throughout medieval Europe that when food prices rose there would be a consequent surge in mortality rates, as people starved to death and diseases spread among the malnourished.

The Elizabethan Poor Laws of 1598 and 1601 turned the situation in England on its head. Now when food became too expensive, local parishes were obliged to give cash or food to those who could not afford to eat. For the first time in history, it became illegal to let anybody starve.

The laws were clear and simple, and required each of over 10,000 English parishes to set up a continuous relief fund to support the vulnerable. This included the lame, the ill and the old, as well as orphans, widows, single mothers and their children, and those unable to find work. Occupiers of land (landowners or their tenants) had to pay a tax towards the fund in proportion to the value of their holding.

Overseen by local magistrates, the system's transparency provided no loopholes for avoiding the tax. In fact, it encouraged a flourishing culture of charitable giving which provided almshouses, apprenticeships and hospitals for the parish poor to alleviate destitution.

With this proliferation of localised mini-welfare states, England became the first country in Europe by more than 150 years to effectively put an end to widespread famine. And it also enabled England subsequently to enjoy by far the fastest rate of urbanisation in Europe.

Between 1600 and 1800, huge numbers of young people left rural parishes to find work in cities, safe in the knowledge that their parents would be supported by the parish in times of need - and that they themselves would receive help if things didn't work out. Long before the first steam engines arrived, the Poor Laws had created an urban work-



Food Bank in the UK to help the poor. Pic - The Mirror

force which enabled the industrial revolution to take off.

Poor state of affairs

Then in 1834, everything changed. The cost of this level of welfare support was deemed too high, and replaced with a deliberately harsh new system in which the poorest men and women were separated from each other and their children and provided only with gruel in return for tedious chores in degrading workhouses. The fear of the workhouse was designed to force the poor to prefer work - for whatever abysmal wages the market offered.

It is this version of the Poor Laws which tends to stick in the popular memory, familiar from the books of Charles Dickens, and obscuring the achievements of the Elizabethan original. But extensive recent research has started to highlight how Elizabethan law changed British history - and provides us with urgent lessons for today's welfare system and the pressures of the cost-of-living crisis.

Just as the old Poor Laws supported an extraordinary period of economic prosperity, so too did the UK's welfare state after the second world war. Tax-funded investment in education (secondary and higher), and the newly-created NHS saw widened opportunities and living standards take off, as the UK enjoyed over two decades of the fastest productivity growth in its history (1951-73).

Today, people regularly speak of being forced to choose between eating and heating as food and energy prices surge. Yet there is no corresponding compensation for those whose wages and benefits do not stretch far enough.

Simon Szreter, Professor of History and Public Policy, University of Cambridge

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Mrinal Roy

2022-23 Budget Musings

The effect of the budget measures can be transient if government does not in parallel also rigorously ascertain that there are competent currency stabilizing measures in place, a more rigorous price control and price competition in the market



Pic - cdn.shutterstock.com

Finally, government has woken up to the urgent need to directly support the income of people to alleviate the increasing difficulties and hardships faced by them to make ends meet in a context of continuously escalating prices of food and basic existential needs and the sustained erosion of their purchasing power fuelled by the unchecked depreciation of the Rupee. The various measures proposed to raise the income of pensioners, the disabled and the vulnerable as well as government employees and the self employed, etc., will provide a welcome relief to consumers and allay the growing angst in the country.

However, the effect of these measures can be transient if government does not in parallel also rigorously ascertain that there are competent currency stabilizing measures in place, a more rigorous price control by the authorities and price competition in the market to protect consumers. This is crucial as any visit to diverse supermarkets shows that the prices of so many basic consumer goods such as cereals, milk, cooking oil, basic food items or sanitary products, etc., are uncannily similar.

In line with IMF directives, there were thankfully no exceptional transfers by the Bank of Mauritius to the government or

opaque MIC funds to prop up the private sector and conglomerates for the 2022-23 budget. The Minister of Finance judiciously spoke of building back our depleted reserves. Finally, financial rigour seems to prevail after the IMF's scathing indictment of such contested practices last year. What about accountability of those responsible and a transparent fact sheet on MIC funds and exceptional transfers received and used in the past year?

Drain on scarce resources

Despite committing an unprecedented Rs 11.7 billion over three years for a National Flood Management Programme last year to provide for effective drainage systems in identified flood prone areas, the 2022-23 Budget Speech states that the people continued to face hardships due to major floods in different regions. An amount of Rs 3.8 billion is thus earmarked in 2022-23 to continue the National Flood Management Programme in an extremely long list of more than 100 locations spread over all the constituencies in the country and Rodrigues. This situation raises questions regarding technical expertise and understanding of the dynamics of water flow, engineering and design as well as workmanship and cost effectiveness of contractors. The country

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cannot afford to annually sink billions of Rupees of scarce public funds in drainage systems which repeatedly fail to resolve the problem of flooding.

The forecast of a growth rate of 8.5% is highly dependent on the performance of the tourism sector and a tourist arrival figure of 1.4 billion during the fiscal year and the yardstick of an additional growth rate of 0.6% per additional 100,000 tourists arrival. The vulnerability of an economic model highly dependent on the tourist industry and the construction and sale of high-end villas to foreigners was exposed in 2020 and 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic. The crying lessons

of an inordinately high dependence on these sectors have patently not been learnt.

Actual revenue

Despite strapped finances, the 2022-23 budget expenditure of Rs 172.9 billion is materially higher than the revised 2021-22 expenditure estimates of Rs 161,618 billion. The 2022-23 revenue estimate of Rs150 billion is also significantly higher than the revised 2021-22 revenue estimates of Rs136.485 billion. The budget hinges on actual budget revenue. It will determine the actual budget deficit at the end of the financial year.

Are Sanctions Backfiring?

Why should the developing countries and poor economies already reeling under the dire impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change be now made to bear the brunt of a protracted war in Ukraine?



Pic - i0.wp.com

After more than 105 days of war in Ukraine, many burning questions are being raised by citizens in the US and the EU and people across the developing world who are the hapless collateral victims of the unending war, compelled to bear the brunt of rising food and energy prices and eroding purchasing power. Is the mano a mano between Ukraine, backed by the US, the EU and NATO countries, and Russia so highly charged that it is clouding rational thinking? Are the US,

“Is the EU shooting itself in the foot? What is the rationale of the US and Europe sending tens of billions of dollars of advanced weaponry to Ukraine when this can only escalate and inordinately prolong the war, further increase the prices of food and energy causing tremendous hardships not only in the EU and the US but also to billions of people across the world and in particularly in developing countries? Why should the developing countries and poor economies already reeling under the dire impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change be now made to bear the brunt of a protracted war in Ukraine?”

the EU countries and Ukraine so trapped in the daily spin doctoring of their war propaganda and narratives that they remain blind to the dire socio-economic impact of the prolonged war on their own citizens?

What is the logic of the EU voting a sixth package of sanctions on Russia when these cause energy and food prices in the EU to continue to soar, inflation to rise and recession to set in? Is the EU shooting itself in the foot? What is the rationale of the US and Europe sending tens of billions of dollars of advanced weaponry to Ukraine when this can only escalate and inordinately prolong the war, further increase the prices of food and energy causing tremendous hardships not only in the EU and the US but also to billions of people across the world and particularly in developing countries? Why should the developing countries and poor economies already reeling under the dire impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change be now made to bear the brunt of a protracted war in Ukraine?

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Anil Madan

Drawing Red Lines on Ukraine

How is Russia's war against Ukraine going to end? Will Ukraine win, and how do we define a Ukrainian victory? Will Russia prevail, and if so, what will it have gained?

In June 2021 just prior to the NATO summit, President Putin said the West will not be allowed to cross Russia's "red lines" — and if it does, Russia will respond "harshly, quickly and asymmetrically." But what red lines? Essentially, that Ukraine must not be allowed a path to NATO membership.

The US and European NATO countries ignored this declaration of Putin's red lines. They repeated the mantra that application for membership in NATO is a decision for each country to make and for all NATO members to agree.

In November 2021, Putin warned NATO against deploying its troops and weapons to Ukraine. Once more, he said this was a red line for Russia and would trigger a strong response.

Putin complained that NATO's expansion to the east threatens Russia's core security interests. And he lamented that NATO missiles deployed from Ukrainian territory could reach Moscow in five minutes.

"The emergence of such threats represents a red line for us," Putin said. "I hope that it will not get to that and common sense and responsibility for their own countries and the global community will eventually prevail."

Repeating his frequent brags, he said that Russia's development of new hypersonic weapons was a response to these growing threats.

As Russia's buildup of troops along



Pic - Foreign Policy

“Amid this ongoing carnage and chaos, we have calls for a negotiated settlement despite the fact that the Russians, Putin in particular, show no inclination to negotiate. After all, their demands that Ukraine cede territory and abjure forever membership in NATO, in effect remain vulnerable to another Russian invasion, are unlikely to be met. The Russians are not about to give up the Ukrainian territories that they have seized, and the Ukrainians are not about to concede an inch of territory...”

the Ukrainian border presaged an invasion, President Biden threatened that Russia would face swift and severe costs if it invaded Ukraine. As we know, Biden had two conversations with Putin during which he threatened the imposition of severe sanctions if Russia invaded Ukraine and that he also stated publicly that a "minor incursion" would not invite such sanctions and that the US would not send its troops into Ukraine or engage Russia's forces. These were more highlights with a yellow marker than red lines drawn by a President.

Now, it is four and one-half months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and we are back to talking about red lines. About ten days ago, the anchor on a Russian TV channel known to broadcast the Kremlin's propaganda, warned that if the US were to supply Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) "they will clearly be crossing a red line and we would have witnessed an attempt to provoke a very

harsh response from Russia."

Putting aside either a case of poor translation from Russian to English, and also putting aside Russian paranoia about President Biden's intentions, it is clear that Biden has striven to avoid confrontation with Putin.

But perhaps therein lies the problem. As President Zelensky calls for more offensive weapons to defend his country, Putin escalates the bombing and shelling. The US and NATO, while professing support for Ukraine, play the reluctant savior. Meanwhile, Ukraine is being pummeled and destroyed, bit by bit. President Biden says that the United States does not plan to supply Ukraine with long-range missiles for potential damage to Russian territory: "I will not send anything that can be used to shell Russia," Biden said when asked if he planned to send long-range missiles to Ukraine.

It is a big ask of a country facing an existential threat to refrain from using weapons capable of inflicting damage on the enemy that would deny its existence. If Ukraine cannot inflict damage on the Russian weapons that are inflicting damage on Ukraine, what is the point?

Amid this ongoing carnage and chaos, we have calls for a negotiated settlement despite the fact that the Russians, Putin in particular, show no inclination to negotiate. After all, their

demands that Ukraine cede territory and abjure forever membership in NATO, in effect remain vulnerable to another Russian invasion, are unlikely to be met. The Russians are not about to give up the Ukrainian territories that they have seized, and the Ukrainians are not about to concede an inch of territory.

Perhaps things will change if Putin were to guarantee Ukraine's sovereignty and that Ukrainian society will be allowed to reconstitute itself and survive. This means a rebuilding of Ukraine's destroyed cities and infrastructure. But this is against everything that Putin says is in Russia's security interests. Moreover, any such effort will take all of the seized Russian assets to fund and perhaps more.

What are the chances that Russia, facing no external threat from NATO or the US, will acquiesce? Certainly, it is possible that Russia will be humiliated in its Ukrainian adventure as it already has been to some extent. But it is too early to say that this is over. Russia still has the capability to destroy more of Ukraine. And perhaps even win a victory of sorts especially if this war drags on into next winter when logistics and supply constraints hit the Ukrainians hard.

Meanwhile, the destruction will continue. With the US and NATO countries essentially standing by and content to supply Ukraine with weapons that are not outcome determinative, nothing will change.

The calls for a negotiated settlement invariably devolve to having Ukraine concede some of its territory to Russia. Recently, an Italian proposal called for eventual sanctions relief for Russia. In Davos, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger called on Ukraine to cede territory to Russia and to begin negotiations immediately. Last week, President Macron said that Russia should not be humiliated.

What is missing in all these well-meaning initiatives is the recognition that it takes two sides to negotiate an agreement. Putin shows no signs of wanting to negotiate. Given that his slow destruction of Ukraine's cities, people, and culture, is unlikely to engender a more forceful show of support from the US and NATO, why would he?

This makes the well-meaning initiatives meaningless. And the destruction of Ukraine all but inevitable

Cheerz...
Bwana

“The calls for a negotiated settlement invariably devolve to having Ukraine concede some of its territory to Russia. Recently, an Italian proposal called for eventual sanctions relief for Russia. In Davos, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger called on Ukraine to cede territory to Russia and to begin negotiations immediately. Last week, President Macron said that Russia should not be humiliated. What is missing in all these well-meaning initiatives is the recognition that it takes two sides to negotiate an agreement...”

The Conduct of Police Interrogations

“Fighting crime does not mean defying the rule of law”

Last week we looked at the important question of the personal safety and well-being of persons taken into custody by the Police in Mauritius. This week we extend our examination of the matter into the legal and constitutional area, particularly concerning the admissibility of evidence obtained from confessions during trial of the case at court. Has the matter reached our Parliament, and with what results, if so?

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* The comment has been made that ‘the very shocking use of the Taser by the police on naked suspects only goes to show that people in authority anywhere in the world, including the police, should be held accountable for their actions albeit without affecting their ability to operate in a reasonable manner’. Is it possible to do both in the fight against crime?

The duty of the police is to combat crimes anywhere in the world. They do so in a context of the rule of law. That means that they have to comply with all existing laws which establish and demarcate their own powers as well as those relating to the rights of suspects. In Mauritius, for instance, the duties of the police are embodied in the Police Act and the Standing Orders issued by the Commissioner of Police. Just like any other citizen, the police should be able to exercise their powers and also be held accountable if they act in defiance of the law.

* **What does the law, as it stands today, provide as regards the duties and obligations of the police once a suspect has been arrested and brought in custody?**

Once a suspect is arrested, he must be informed of the reason of his arrest. He must be informed that he has the right to consult a legal adviser and all facilities must be provided to him to contact his lawyer and his relatives or persons close to him. Are these rules being adhered to in all cases? Recent allegations would suggest that this is clearly not the case in many instances. Unfortunately, some police officers would seem to have systematically breached all those provisions with the sole aim of terrorizing suspects into confessing to offences which they might or might not have committed.

* **We understand that any person held in custody must be brought before a magistrate as soon as the preliminary investigation has been completed. What does the law provide in terms of the duration of the preliminary investigation?**

The moment a person is arrested, he must be brought before a court of law as soon as it is reasonably possible. Any delay in taking him to court must be explained and justified. The police investigation can still



Pic - vistacriminallaw.com

“The law is such that the evidence, however incriminating it may be, cannot be used in a court of law. The whole investigation would have to be started anew by the police. Look at what has happened in the case relating to the murder of Soopramanien Kistnen. There has been a judicial inquiry and the Director of Public Prosecutions referred the matter back to the police for investigation. What is happening with the investigation?”

proceed after the suspect has been taken to court.

* **It would seem that it's often the less well-off - for whom justice is often too costly- who get treated in an inhuman and degrading manner, even tortured, during the early investigation stage. That's when 'confessions' are usually extracted from suspects. Doesn't the law provide for legal assistance to a suspect as soon as he is arrested?**

The Constitution states clearly that the moment a suspect is arrested, the police must inform him of his right to legal assistance. But in practice it would seem that this is rarely done. The police can always argue that the suspect was informed of this right, but that he declined the assistance of a lawyer. Unfortunately courts of law seem more often than not to accept that explanation to the detriment of the suspect's rights.

* **We are not aware if statistics are available about the number of crimes solved through confessions or to what extent if any they have been subjected to**

“Fighting crime does not mean defying the rule of law. It may be difficult for the police to obtain evidence of a serious crime like for example drug trafficking. But that does not mean that the rights of any citizen can be jettisoned in the fight against crime. If that were to be always so, then we would be living in a dictatorship with the police having a free hand in all that they do. Do we want to live in such a society?”

any form of data analysis or other scientific manipulation to extract evidence of some sort or other, etc. That might be very instructive about the local policing standards and efficiency!

We unfortunately do not have those statistics. The police would usually resort to confessions as these constitute the best evidence that they can obtain to prove that the offence was committed. This practice will continue with impunity until and unless the law relating to confessions is reformed.

* **One would expect that only confessions made voluntarily would pass the test of admissibility. Is this what is prescribed in our statute books?**

A confession is admissible if it was made voluntarily. What is meant by voluntary? The case law has over the years clearly established that voluntary means that the confession was given by a suspect of his own free will after he was warned on his right to silence. Further the confession should not have been extracted by the means of threats or bodily violence or by any promise made to the suspect.

* **It appears that Section 25 of the Indian Evidence Act clearly establishes the inadmissibility of confessions made to a police officer. It says that 'confession made to a police officer cannot be proved against the accused'. What do judicial decisions in Mauritius inform us about the admissibility of confessions?**

In Mauritius a confession can be challenged in court by the accused party on the ground that it was not obtained voluntarily. In a court of law, it is the word of the police against the word of the accused.

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What is happening with the investigation into the murder of S. Kistnen?

Are the police complying with the directives of the DPP?

● Cont. from page 5

The police can always produce police witnesses to corroborate their version that the confession was voluntary. How would an accused get out of this tight corner the more so if he has been denied of legal assistance by the police?

It we look at the cases decided on confessions over the years, it is very rare that a confession has been rejected. The police derive comfort and satisfaction from the fact that a court of law would almost never reject a confession - unless it has been proved to have been done under duress.

*** Would it serve the purpose of justice - and the protection of human rights - if the law were to be amended to provide for the admissibility of confessions only made in the presence of a magistrate, or would this hamper the efficiency of police investigations of crimes in the future?**

Certainly. The law can be amended to make a confession inadmissible if it was extracted in the absence of a lawyer or magistrate.

*** The other side of the coin is that those who are in contact with the ground realities talk about deep undercurrents of crime associated with drug trafficking traversing Mauritian society and argue that we need to strike the right balance between the demands of effective police powers for fighting crime and respect for human rights. That may not be easy to achieve in practice, is it?**

Fighting crime does not mean defying the rule of law. It may be difficult for the police to obtain evidence of a serious crime like for example drug trafficking. But that does not mean that the rights of any citizen can be jettisoned in the fight against crime. If that were to be always so, then we would be living in a dictatorship with the police having a free hand in all that they do. Do we want to live in such a society?

*** Successive governments have been unable to date to make up their minds about a proper Police and Criminal Evidence law. Would such a legislation help, or are the existing legal provisions adequate for fighting crime - without the need for the police to indulge in any form of abuse?**

According to information available, the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill has been ready since many years, but no government has taken the initiative to have it debated in Parliament and adopted. Why that is so remains a mystery. The Bill apparently contains a number of provisions regarding confessions and the manner in which suspects should be treated. Do the police feel that



Pic - American Psychological Association

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the new provisions would hamper their work? The best move the government can make is to have the Bill debated in Parliament and get views across the board. At least a positive step would have been taken to improve police-community relations.

*** Former Commissioners of Police Mario Nobin and Khemraj Servansingh will apparently be questioned this week about the action, if any, they took after the now famous USB pendrive had allegedly been handed over to them by Rama Valayden in 2019. We are not aware at this stage if they would be willing to submit themselves to an interrogation conducted by the CCID or to another panel of investigators...**

Mr Rama Valayden has stated that he never handed over the pendrive to former Commissioner of Police Servansingh. Anyway, whatever the situation may be, do you expect a CP to go and investigate a complaint? The CP is assisted by other departments and a host of deputies. Whose responsibility is it to investigate if not that of the Central CID headed by Mr Jangi who is the Deputy Commissioner on contract and in charge of crime investigations. Why is everybody focusing on former Police Commissioners Nobin and Servansingh and sparing the Central CID? After all regional CID units fall under the Central CID.

*** Labour Party leader Navin Ramgoolam has expressed his disagreement with the proposal made by other Opposition leaders for the setting up of a commission of inquiry to look into the issue of police brutality. He is instead in favour instead of a judicial inquiry. Could he be right?**

We should have neither a commission of inquiry nor a judicial inquiry. It would be a waste of time, money and resources. The law is such that the evidence, however incriminating it may be, cannot be used in a court of law.

The whole investigation would have to be started anew by the police. Look at what has happened in the case relating to the murder of Soopramanien Kistnen. There has been a judicial inquiry and the Director of Public Prosecutions referred the matter back to the police for investigation. What is happening with the investigation? Are the police complying with the directives of the Director of Public Prosecutions? Let the matter be investigated by the Police Complaints Commission.

LEX

To Our Readers

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

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

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

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Extreme poverty in the Middle East and North Africa could increase by 2.8 million people in 2022. Pic- UN

Russia-Ukraine war's impact on world is worsening, says UN chief

UN chief Antonio Guterres said Wednesday that the consequences for the world of Russia's invasion of Ukraine are worsening, with 1.6 billion people likely to be affected.

"The war's impact on food security, energy and finance is systemic, severe, and speeding up," the Secretary-General said, presenting the UN's second report into the repercussions of the conflict.

He added that "for people around the world, the war is threatening to unleash an unprecedented wave of hunger and destitution, leaving social and economic chaos in its wake."

Guterres said that while this year's food crisis is "about lack of access," next year's "could be about lack of food."

"There is only one way to stop this gathering storm: the Russian invasion of Ukraine must end," he pleaded in a speech, reports AFP.

The head of the world body said he had asked colleagues to help find "a package deal that allows for the safe and secure export of Ukrainian-produced food through the Black Sea, and unimpeded access to global markets for Russian food and fertilizers."

"This deal is essential for hundreds of millions of people in developing countries, including in sub-Saharan Africa," said Guterres.

The UN report, led by diplomat Rebeca Grynspan, says that an estimated 94 countries, home to around 1.6 billion people, are "severely exposed to at least one dimension of the crisis and unable to cope with it."

The report says that the war may increase the number of food-insecure people by 47 million people in 2022, bringing it to 323 million by the end of the year.

It is estimated that up to 58 million more Africans may fall into poverty this year, the document adds.

Extreme poverty in the Middle East and North Africa could increase by 2.8 million people in 2022, while in South Asia 500 million people are at risk, according to the report.

South Africa: Language groups demand Ryanair stop using Afrikaans Test

South Africa's language authorities have denounced Irish airline Ryanair for requiring a test in Afrikaans for all South Africans before they can fly to Britain. Afrikaans is spoken by about 12% of South Africans as their first language and the country boasts ten other official ones, including the more widely spoken Zulu and Xhosa. Singling out Afrikaans also reopens apartheid-era racial wounds, reports Vicky Stark, Voice of America.

VOA asked Dublin-based Ryanair about its test, which is given to South African passport holders traveling in Europe en route to Britain.

In response, Ryanair said: "Due to the high prevalence of fraudulent South African passports, we require passengers travelling to the UK to fill out a simple questionnaire issued in Afrikaans. If they are unable to complete this questionnaire, they will be refused travel and issued with a full refund."

The CEO of the Pan South African Language Board, Lance Schulz, says the board has expressed its displeasure with Ryanair's Afrikaans test because many South Africans do not understand the language. Schultz says the



South Africa 'taken aback' by Ryanair's Afrikaans test. Pic - BNN Bloomberg

Board believes that Ryanair must find other non-discriminatory means to test South African passports.

Meanwhile, the CEO of the Afrikaans Language Council, Conrad Steenkamp, has written directly to Ryanair to explain how absurd their test is. He says many South Africans would fail a test given in Zulu or one of the other official languages.

Reuters reports that the Department of Home Affairs in South Africa said it was taken aback by Ryanair's decision to use the Afrikaans test. The department reportedly said the government had measures that it regularly shares with airlines to curb any instances of fake

documents.

Ironically, news of Ryanair's Afrikaans test breaks in June when Youth Day is marked in South Africa. The day commemorates the 1976 uprising against the language.

On the 16th of this month 46 years ago, thousands of black students marched in Soweto against the white apartheid government's insistence that Afrikaans be a compulsory medium of instruction in South African schools. Their peaceful protest was met with teargas and live ammunition fired by police, and it's estimated at least 176 people died in the unrest.

Sri Lanka president's brother, Basil Rajapaksa, resigns from parliament

The brother of Sri Lanka's president and the country's former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa said on Thursday that he had resigned from parliament, the second from the influential family to step away from government amid a severe economic crisis, reports Reuters.

"From today I will not be involved in any government activities but I cannot and will not step away from politics," Rajapaksa told reporters.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's elder brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, resigned as prime minister last month after prolonged protests against the economic crisis turned deadly.



Basil Rajapaksa. Pic- AFP

Shanghai to lock down and test 2.7 million residents as Covid-19 fears linger

Shanghai will lock down a district of 2.7 million people on Saturday to conduct mass coronavirus testing, city authorities said, as the Chinese metropolis struggles to fully emerge from punishing curbs.

The city eased many restrictions last week, after confining most of its 25 million residents to their homes since March as China battled its worst Covid outbreak in two years, reports AFP.

But the lockdown was never fully lifted, with hundreds of thousands in China's biggest city still restricted to their homes and multiple residential compounds put under fresh stay-home orders.

The southwestern district of Minhang,



A resident gets tested for the coronavirus disease behind barriers of a sealed area in Shanghai. Pic- Reuters

home to 2.7 million people, will be placed under "closed management" on Saturday morning and all residents will be tested, district authorities said in a social media post on Thursday.

The statement also did not say what measures would be imposed if any district residents test positive.

Under China's stringent zero-Covid approach, all positive cases are isolated and close contacts -- often including the entire building or community where they live -- are made to quarantine.

Shanghai reported nine new local infections on Thursday -- none in Minhang. The district's announcement

sparked fear among some social media users that the lockdown could be prolonged beyond Saturday if any cases are found.

The lockdown in Shanghai -- a major global shipping hub -- had threatened to pile further pressure on already-strained international supply chains. But the city has slowly come back to life in recent days.

China's capital Beijing, meanwhile, is transitioning more smoothly towards normality after shutting restaurants, gyms and subway stations last month to stamp out a smaller outbreak.

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'Today 16 parties are against me and I am alone': Imran Khan

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan once again referred to India in the context of keeping its ties open with Russia -- in an interview with Piers Morgan.

Touching upon the issue of Imran Khan's controversial visit to the Kremlin just when Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the special military operation on Ukraine which turned into a raging war, Imran Khan said he believes that had Putin realised what was going to happen, Putin would not have started the war, reports Hindustan Times.

"I promise you I had no idea of what was going to happen. I was there for only one night. Countries like us which have a huge population should have relationships with all countries and make policies that benefit its people just like what India is doing right now," Imran Khan said.



"When I entered politics, I conquered my fear of dying": Imran Khan. Pic- The Asian Age

As Piers Morgan asked him why the trip was not aborted after Russia declared the war, Imran Khan said he had only an hour to make the decision. The meeting with Putin was already scheduled within an hour after he came to know about the

military operation. "We thought it is going to make any difference if Pakistan condemns Russia...", Imran Khan said adding that he is against all military operations and had also given a statement in Moscow that military operation is never the solution.

On the threat of assassination, the former PM said he came to know about it six months before the no-trust motion. "When I entered politics, I conquered my fear of dying. Today 16 parties are against me and I am alone," he said adding that he did not think his government could be ousted by a Cabinet with 60% leaders on bail. "Those who sort-of planned this whole thing are a bit worried now as they don't want me back. They did not take me out to get me back again. That's when I found out their final solution."

China to give \$15k for info on breach of national security

Chinese citizens can get cash rewards of over 100,000 yuan (\$15,000) if they tip-off the police on national security breaches, the government has announced, as it moves against what it describes as "intensifying threats" from foreign intelligence agencies.

Under the new set of rules, which state media reports said standardised existing ones, the whistleblower will be awarded at least 10,000 yuan and more than 100,000 yuan depending on the seriousness of the reported breach.

On offer for citizens are "spiritual rewards", in the form of certificates, and "material rewards", in the form of cash.

Chinese citizens living abroad can also claim the reward if they report correctly on compatriots who are acting against China's interest, the rules added.

In the release, China's top security authorities, led by the state security ministry, specified and clarified the conditions, methods, standards and procedures for rewarding citizens in accordance with the National Security Law, the Anti-Espionage Law, and other laws and regulations, according to a report in the state-run tabloid, Global Times.

The new rules said a version of a "witness protection programme" could be implemented in case the personal safety of the informants and their families was at stake because of the reporting of acts endangering national security.

China has a precedent of offering rewards to citizens for exposing alleged foreign spies or other security violations.

In 2017, for example, the Beijing municipal bureau for state security offered up to 500,000 yuan (about \$72,365) for information on suspected foreign spies.

In 2016, China had marked its annual "national security education day" -- which falls on April 15 -- by widely releasing a poster that warned female government workers about dating foreigners who could be spies.

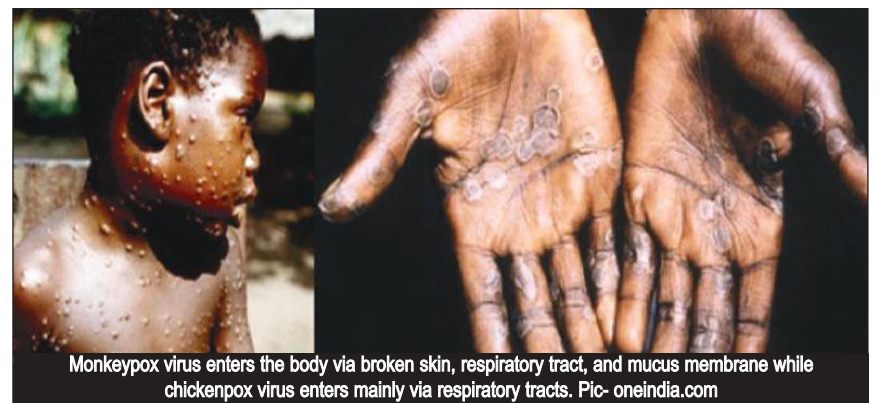
Monkeypox outbreak: WHO warns of 'real' risk as confirmed cases cross 1000

The risk of Monkeypox becoming established in non-endemic nations is real, the WHO warned Wednesday, with more than a thousand cases now confirmed in such countries.

World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a news conference the UN health agency was not recommending mass vaccination against the virus, and added that no deaths had been reported so far from the outbreaks, reports AFP.

The zoonotic disease is endemic in humans in nine African countries but outbreaks have been reported in the past month in several other states -- mostly in Europe, and notably in Britain, Spain and Portugal.

The initial symptoms include a high fever, swollen lymph nodes and a blistering chickenpox-like rash. Tedros said he was particularly concerned about the risk the virus poses to vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and children.



Monkeypox virus enters the body via broken skin, respiratory tract, and mucus membrane while chickenpox virus enters mainly via respiratory tracts. Pic- oneindia.com

He said the sudden and unexpected appearance of Monkeypox outside endemic countries suggested that there might have been undetected transmission for some time, but it was not known for how long.

One case of Monkeypox in a non-endemic country is considered an outbreak.

Tedros said that while this was "clearly concerning", the virus had been circulating and killing in Africa for decades, with more than 1,400 suspected cases and 66 deaths so far this year.

Vaccines

In the few places where vaccines are available, they are being used to protect those who may be exposed, such as healthcare workers.

He added that post-exposure vaccination, ideally within four days, could be considered for higher-risk close contacts, such as sexual partners or household members. Tedros said the WHO would issue guidance in the coming days on clinical care, infection prevention and control, vaccination and community protection.

Donald Trump set to undergo questioning in July in New York civil probe

Former President Donald Trump, his namesake son and his daughter Ivanka have agreed to answer questions under oath next month in the New York attorney general's civil investigation into his business practices, unless their lawyers persuade the state's highest court to step in.

A Manhattan judge signed off Wednesday on an agreement that calls for the Trumps to give depositions -- a legal term for sworn, pre-trial testimony out of court -- starting July 15.

Messages seeking comment were sent to the ex-president's attorneys. State Attorney General Letitia James' office declined to comment, as did the younger Trumps' attorney, Alan Futerfas.

The new agreement comes after a series of setbacks for Donald Trump's efforts to block James' 3-year-long investigation.

James has said the probe has uncovered evidence that Trump's company exaggerated the value of assets such as skyscrapers, golf

courses and even his Manhattan penthouse to get loans, insurance and tax breaks for land donations. A lawyer for her office told a judge last month that evidence could support legal action against the former president, his company or both, though the attorney said no decision had been made.

Trump has decried the investigation as part of a politically motivated "witch hunt" against him.

Rama Sithanen

Budget 2022-23: “How will all these budget measures be financed?”

‘Minister Padayachy has used some tricks, embraced some stratagems and kicked some cans down the road’

Eagerly awaited by the political class, the business community and the population, it was expected that Hon Padayachy's third budget would not propose disruptive and innovative policies but would instead address those issues that are calling for immediate and concrete solutions, namely the erosion of the purchasing power of consumers, growing unemployment and increased poverty, etc. In this week's interview, former Finance minister Rama Sithanen recognises that the Minister has met some of the expectations of the population with a few flagship measures, but the question that should be asked, he says, is: How will all these measures be financed? 'The Minister has been totally silent and conspicuously surreptitious on how he will finance these expenditures... One has to dig into the finest details of the appendices and make inferences to grasp the funding of these measures.' This is what he attempts to do in the following interview, and his answers give an indication of the 'what next' in the political calculations of the government. Read on:



Mauritius Times: The Prime Minister has stated that the 2022-23 budget was a very difficult one to prepare due to the war in Ukraine, the slow post-pandemic world recovery and rising energy and food prices globally. To what extent do you think have these events influenced the budget presented by Finance Minister Padachy?

Rama Sithanen: The tone and tenor, the form, substance and preparation of the budget have been primarily shaped by a combination of context, circumstances and prevailing public opinion.

First, undoubtedly are surging inflation, the unprecedented rises in the prices of oil, gas, food, medicines, fertilisers and other inputs that have dramatically eroded the purchasing power of everybody across the board, leading to a spike in poverty level and a sharp rise in cost of living. And as people became desperate, these carried the risks of social unrest and riots erupting as we have seen in many countries.

While headline inflation is expected at around 8.5% in Mauritius, food inflation is well above 16%. A significant share of the population spends a very high proportion of its income on food and food related items. The consequences are dramatic for them with these items rising by more than 16%. With many families struggling to make ends meet, some surviving on only one meal and children having to bear the brunt of this humanitarian crisis.

Second, there has been the lack of timely and effective response from Government to intervene since a long time to protect purchasing power, especially for the vulnerable groups. There has been almost unanimous calls for Government to swiftly intervene, as has been the case in many countries in the world, including UK and India,

“The Minister forecast 650 000 tourists for the financial year 2021-2022. At best we will achieve 550,000, basically a shortfall of 100,000 or a drop of 15%. For the year 2022, he is hoping for 1 m tourists. This requires a monthly average of around 83,000... We are more likely to be closer to the IMF target of 800,000 than the one of government at 1 m...”

which did not wait for the official budget to come to the rescue of its citizens.

In many countries, the Minister of Finance is on a third annual budget precisely to respond quickly to legitimate and urgent demands for actions to support the people. Here, Government has instead irked the population by raising again the cost of diesel and mogas by another 10% recently, causing a cumulative increase of above 46% in 5 months. And to rub salt in the wounds, the price of cooking gas has surged by 33% while public transport has become more expensive.

Third was the absolute need to change the conversation in the press, on social media, and among Mauritians on the shocking, disgusting and inhuman brutalities inflicted by some in the police force on many of our compatriots who hail mostly from the low-income groups and have difficulties to defend themselves even when they are innocent and are forced to make confessions as they are savagely beaten up.

Fourth is the likely upcoming municipal elections and Government's objective to improve its electoral chances.

There was an absolute necessity for appeasement,

for defusing the social time bomb that was ticking away, to express empathy with the trials and tribulations of the population, to stop being tone-deaf, to distract from police brutalities, to be seen to taking measures and to introduce, albeit belatedly, policies and measures to reverse the declining purchasing power of the population and restore some hope. It was payback time and the imperative to compensate people.

*** Has the Minister been able to meet the objective of protecting the purchasing power of the population with his 'With the people, For the people' agenda and his endorsement of Nobel Laureate and economist Joseph Stiglitz's credo about 'true and sustainable prosperity' being 'shared prosperity'?**

Frankly, based on facts and evidence as spelt out in the budget, the Minister has clearly met some of these objectives. May be too late for many and not enough for others.

Government had no choice than to change the political and social landscape to prevent further discontent. Expectations were also very high. Broadly speaking, most Mauritians were expecting six to seven key policy measures from Government to compensate for the massive loss in purchasing power, estimated at least around Rs 2500 to Rs 3000 per month per household earning around Rs 20,000 per month.

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'How will Moody's react to this budget in its annual review?

Especially with respect to debt sustainability? Clearly expenditures are not under control'

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Measures and policies that are similar to what other countries have introduced to safeguard purchasing power and to strengthen the social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable. Some of these expectations are well documented and have been proposed by many, namely

- (i) an across-the-board increase in salary, akin to a cost-of-living allowance;
- (ii) a rise in minimum wage by around Rs 2000 per month;
- (iii) an increase in old-age pensions and other related pensions by about Rs 2000 pm, especially as these recipients have not been compensated for two years;
- (iv) a reduction in taxes and contributions on the price of mogas and diesel after the staggering 46% rise in 5 months;
- (v) a meaningful income support or food voucher system for those most affected by rising inflation and surging food prices;
- (vi) an increase in subsidy on some food necessities to either lower their prices or prevent any further increase for some time; and
- (vii) a lowering of personal income tax and/or an increase in allowances that will benefit the middle-income group.

Objectively, he has met some of the expectations of the population with his three flagship measures. First is the Rs 1000 monthly increase in salary to be granted to all employees and self-employed earning less than Rs 50,000 per month.

"I hope the measures for food security and the green economy deliver results. Many of the measures announced have been packaged before with little impact on food security. We need bolder actions to shift land use from unproductive real estate development to strategic food security. I am concerned that we are not rising up fast enough to the challenges to build a new economic model to face the deep-seated structural and geopolitical changes taking place in the world..."

Second is the rise in old-age pensions of Rs 1000 and Rs 2000 per month for those between 60 and 65 years and those above 65 years respectively.

Third is the subsidy of over Rs 4 bn annually to keep the prices of some products such as 'pain maison', cooking gas, rice, milk and few other items unchanged.

These are the three main measures to restore some of the lost purchasing power, to contain the social crisis and to defuse the social bomb that was ticking.

He has also removed municipal tax for town dwellers, lowered income tax and raised personal allowances for the middle income and increased social aid for the vul-



nerable groups. He has also enhanced the threshold of turnover to qualify as a micro, small and medium enterprise, thus opening up some fiscal and financial opportunities to many MSMEs.

The Minister has cast the net very wide to include almost everybody among the population. Everyone, everywhere in the country is expected to benefit somehow from these several measures.

*** Let me put the preceding question differently: If you were Finance minister in these difficult times, would you have done things differently from what the current government is doing and would still be fair towards the less well-off and the middle class?**

Of course, there are criticisms that can be levelled against the Minister in his timing, his policy choices and tradeoffs. Sure, another Minister could have adopted a different set of policies and made other tradeoffs.

First, he has waited for far too long to bring relief to the distressed population. As in other countries, at least some of these measures should have been introduced months ago, especially as the fiscal space was available with so much of underspent resources as manifestly evidenced in his budget.

The Minister could easily have reallocated funds from underspent items to this critical necessity of supporting the people. He does such reallocations all the time.

During the financial crisis of 2007/2008, I presented two budgets in one financial year to ensure timely and effective measures to mitigate its adverse effects.

Second, many would argue that the loss in purchasing power is much more than the Rs 1000 additional salary per month and he should have gone further in his measures, especially for the working poor.

"The Minister has a responsibility to inform the country about which public assets are being sold for Rs 22 bn? Are these the jewels in the crown such as MT, SBM, the Port? Or MauBank and the NIC? Have the evaluation been done? To whom will such assets be sold? What happens in the unlikely event that the sale does not go through either because of no buyer or the price being unattractive? Or it takes longer to complete the transaction?"

Third, it is unfair to exclude around 130,000 pensioners between the age of 60 and 65 and recipients of widows and invalid allowances from the second tranche of Rs 1000 per month. They have also been terribly impacted by food and medicine prices, similar to those who are above 65 years and who will receive Rs 2000 more per month.

Fourth, he could have done more for those who are at the lower end of the income ladder and who are witnessing greater pain. Either through an income support or a food voucher formula as is the case in some countries. There are around 100,000 families that are really hardest hit and a targeted approach would have given them more relief.

Fifth is the lack of consideration for the prices of mogas and diesel. Evidently, there are some taxes/contributions that could have been removed and passed on to motorists. To at least show a gesture of goodwill. Many countries have lowered taxes on petroleum products to afford some relief to motorists, especially as taxes and contributions account for almost 50% of the prices of these products and the accelerated depreciation of the rupee has worsened the predicament.

Also, mechanically, the VAT paid on these products automatically rises with an increase in CIF prices. And Government has transferred the totality of the reserves of the STC to the Consolidated Fund, thus depriving the STC of the ability to intervene through its own funds. Especially as high prices of these products have a cascading effects on the prices of many products directly and indirectly and will feed into higher inflation.

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'It is plain to me that the objective of 8.9% growth will be difficult to achieve'

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Then there are three key questions that many are asking. How will all these measures be financed? Are they sustainable in the medium- to long-term? And what will be the reaction of Moody's in its forthcoming annual review on the rating of the country? The Minister has been totally silent and conspicuously surreptitious on how he will finance these expenditures, not only next year but also in the future. One has to dig into the finest details of the appendices and make inferences to grasp the funding of these measures.

*** Precisely many observers have asked this crucial question of how Government will finance all these social measures. There is a weird feeling about how this is possible when both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance have constantly been telling the population that the room for manoeuvre is tight and that fiscal space is limited. Is there a magical wand to achieve that objective or is there more than meets the eye?**

This is a very good question and since Tuesday many people have asked me for an answer. Most people think that the Minister of Finance did not have a large room for manoeuvre. Indeed, he does not have much room in the Consolidated Fund. However, he has used some tricks, embraced some stratagems and kicked some cans down the road. These tricks are not easy to detect for those who are not very familiar with the overall architecture, intricacies and complexities of the budget.

He is embracing four major tools to finance these expenditures.

First, he clearly overestimates the economic growth and thus forecasts a much higher level of tax revenues than would otherwise be the case. He has systematically done so. For instance, he forecast a 9% growth last year and he ended up with 6.9% only. Same for inflation: he predicted 4% and we will end up with 8.5%. Now, he is relying on a growth of 8.5% in 2022/23 when most independent institutions are closer to 6.5%.

As a result of his very optimistic growth forecasts, taxes are projected to rise by a significant Rs 22 bn in 2022/23. Around Rs 15 bn more in VAT and Rs 6.5 bn more for taxes on income and profit. He will also collect Rs 10 bn of CSG from both employers and employees.

Second is the financing of the budget deficit by borrowing either domestically or internationally. Both domestic debt and external debt have risen considerably since 2014. If all debts including those in Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) are recognized, the debt to GDP ratio is

“The Finance minister has waited for far too long to bring relief to the distressed population. As in other countries, at least some of these measures should have been introduced months ago, especially as the fiscal space was available with so much of underspent resources as manifestly evidenced in his budget. The Minister could easily have reallocated funds from underspent items to this critical necessity of supporting the people...”

very high at close to 100% even if it has come down in relative terms due to the disposal of 49% equity of Government in Airports of Mauritius and the rise in nominal GDP by almost 30% in two years.

Third is the exceptional financing of the budget deficit of 2022/23 of around Rs 23 bn representing 4% of GDP. In his first budget, he had used the Reserve Fund of the Bank of Mauritius, a special transfer of Rs 60 bn from the BOM to finance the deficit. And for the year ended June 2022, he has sold 49% of Airports of Mauritius to the MIC at Rs 13 bn. This has also had the effect of lowering the debt to GDP ratio by around 2.6 percentage point.

After increasing the debt to finance the deficit, after using the reserves of the BOM and many other state-owned enterprises, the printing of money and the resources of the MIC, next year he will fund the budget deficit of Rs 23 bn by disposing of Rs 22 bn of public assets which is termed 'equity sale' in the budget. There will hardly be any incremental debt to fund the budget deficit in 2022/2023.

“Most people think that the Minister of Finance did not have a large room for manoeuvre. Indeed, he does not have much room in the Consolidated Fund. However, he has used some tricks, embraced some stratagems and kicked some cans down the road. These tricks are not easy to detect for those who are not very familiar with the overall architecture, intricacies and complexities of the budget...”

The Minister has a responsibility to inform the country about which public assets are being sold for Rs 22 bn? Are these the jewels in the crown such as MT, SBM, the Port? Or MauBank and the NIC? Have the evaluation been done? To whom will such assets be sold? What happens in the unlikely event that the sale does not go through either because of no buyer or the price being unattractive? Or it takes longer to complete the transaction? He will have to raise public debt to fund the gap. He should be transparent about it.

However, the biggest trick he has played with us is the presentation of a second budget in addition to the one contained in the Consolidated Fund. This is not obvious to the naked eye and to the uninitiated about how the budget is done. This is the surreptitious use of what is classified as 'Special and Other Extra Budgetary Funds'.

*** What are these tricks? How long can such tricks be used? And with what consequences? What will we be left with after all resources would have been tapped?**

The Minister has created a massive war chest. This Special Fund is found in Appendix C of the budget. When the Minister took office in 2019, it was forecast that there would be a very small sum of Rs 435 m as balance at the



end of June 2020 in the Special Fund. Essentially to finance the National Environment Fund and a small Lotto fund. However, even before presenting his first budget in 2020, he had transferred a massive amount to this Special Fund and the actual balance at 30th June 2020 rose from a meagre forecast Rs 435 m to a staggering actual of Rs 13.2 bn net of payments.

In his first budget in 2020/21, he projected to transfer another Rs 15.5 bn to that Fund. The total was therefore at Rs 28.7 bn. He projected to spend Rs 19.6 bn during that year, thus leaving a forecast balance of Rs 9.1 bn at end June 2021. However, he actually transferred much more than Rs 15.5 bn and spent far less than Rs 19.6 bn to leave an actual balance of Rs 35.4 bn at end June 2021. A staggering difference of Rs 26.3 bn.

In his second budget 2021/22, he planned to transfer Rs 10.3 bn to the Special Fund, thus raising the total amount available to a very high amount of Rs 45.7 bn, representing around 10% of GDP. He had projected an expenditure of Rs 25.9 bn for that year, thus leaving a forecast balance of Rs 19.8 bn at end June 2022.

Again, he did the same trick. He transferred more and spent less during the year. Instead of a projected balance of Rs 19.8 bn at June 2022, he is showing a massive balance of Rs 36.3 bn in his budget for 2022/23. He will now transfer Rs 3.94 bn to the fund this year. The total sum available to be spent next year is an astronomical Rs 40.2 bn. He is expected to spend Rs 23.3 bn to leave a balance at end June 2023 of Rs 16.9 bn. No prize for guessing that the amount transferred will be higher than Rs 3.94 bn and that spent lower than Rs 23.3 bn, thus leaving a much higher balance than Rs 16.9 bn.

The trick is that these expenditures are not included in the Consolidated Fund except for transfer to and from the Special Fund. Without any transparency and accountability. He can do whatever he wants with this fund.

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'We are not rising up fast enough to the challenges to build a new economic model to face the deep-seated structural and geopolitical changes taking place in the world'

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There are six funds under this Special Fund. The two most important ones are the Covid-19 Projects Development Fund with Rs 26.7 bn and the National Resilience Fund with Rs 6 bn.

The sheer size and scale of this fund makes it a second and parallel budget. As such, there are two budgets that the Minister has presented. The official one is the Consolidated Fund and the stealth one is the 'Special and Other Extra Budgetary Funds'. The budget deficit has become meaningless as he uses the money in these special funds to decide on the exact size of the budget deficit he wants to present.

When the deficit in the Consolidated Fund is low, he transfers underutilized funds to the Special Fund. This does two things. It artificially raises the budget deficit of the Consolidated Fund for the year while it increases the availability of funds in the Special Funds for subsequent years. This is exactly what he has done this year to reach a deficit of 5% of GDP.

When the deficit of the Consolidated Fund is high, he does the reverse transaction. He transfers money from the Special Fund to the Consolidated Fund to lower the budget deficit. To avoid such deceptive tactics, the IMF and other institutions have called for a consolidation of all revenues and all expenditures in the



“There has been almost unanimous calls for Government to swiftly intervene, as has been the case in many countries in the world, including UK and India, which did not wait for the official budget to come to the rescue of its citizens. In many countries, the Minister of Finance is on a third annual budget precisely to respond quickly to legitimate and urgent demands for actions to support the people. Here, Government has instead irked the population by raising again the cost of diesel and mogas...”

Consolidated Fund. It is abundantly clear that the Minister will refuse such consolidation and transparency and governance of public funds. As it allows him to build a massive war chest.

*** So, he has great leeway in transferring funds from the Consolidated Fund to the Special Fund and vice versa?**

Absolutely. He decides which expenditure will be in the Consolidated Fund and which one in the Special Fund. Let me give an example. There was a forecast expenditure of Rs 4 bn in 2021/2022 to construct social houses. Only Rs 100 m has been spent and no house built. The National Flood Management Programme was to spend Rs 3.6 bn this year. Only Rs 800 m has been used. He had earmarked to spend Rs 1 bn for the development of vaccines. Actual spending is only Rs 100 m.

So, it is the same money that is recycled year in year out. Underspent amounts from the Capital Budget is transferred to these special funds and these special funds in turn largely underperform. Then this is used to finance some recurrent expenditure. Such as the annual contribution to the MTPA (Rs 525 m next year), EDB schemes (Rs 500 m), support to planters and farmers (Rs 1.4 bn). All these are recurrent expenditures that should feature in the Consolidated Fund but are not. It looks like an unsustainable scheme as the system only works when the Capital Budget and the special funds show huge underspending and some of these funds are used to finance recurrent expenditures.

*** Coming to this year's budget itself, what do you think will be the impacts of the proposed measures on the macroeconomic environment in the short- and medium-term?**

It is plain to me that the objective of 8.9% of growth will be difficult to achieve. The Minister forecast 650 000 tourists for the financial year 2021-2022. At best we will achieve 550,000, basically a shortfall of 100,000 or a drop of 15%. For the year 2022, he is hoping for 1 m tourists. This requires a monthly average of around 83,000. Not achieved for the first 6 months of the year. Unless there is a huge increase in the last quarter of 2022, we are more likely to be closer to the IMF target of 800,000 than the one of government at 1 m.

I do not see much for the financial services sector, ICT, the blue economy and biotechnology and the pharmaceutical industry. Nor for the fintech and the digital economy. Very lukewarm on manufacturing and the hospitality sectors. For



“Broadly speaking, most Mauritians were expecting six to seven key policy measures from Government to compensate for the massive loss in purchasing power, estimated at least around Rs 2500 to Rs 3000 per month per household earning around Rs 20,000 per month. Measures and policies that are similar to what other countries have introduced to safeguard purchasing power and to strengthen the social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable...”

the benefit of the country, I hope the measures for food security and the green economy deliver results. Many of the measures announced have been packaged before with little impact on food security. We need bolder actions to shift land use from unproductive real estate development to strategic food security.

I am concerned that we are not rising up fast enough to the challenges to build a new economic model to face the deep-seated structural and geopolitical changes taking place in the world.

A few areas are sources of concern:

- (i) Not enough is being done to revamp and modernize the traditional sectors of the economy to build global competitiveness. Some sectors still

rely almost exclusively on continued grants, subsidies, rebates, tax incentives, accelerated depreciation to survive with negative tradeoffs;

- (ii) Too much reliance on a few sectors to build economic resilience to external shocks. Diversifying into new sectors such as food security, blue, green and technology/digital/fintech economy, renewable energy and Africa are too slow to create meaningful economic impact;
- (iii) Very slow in transitioning to a higher value-added economy through depth and intensity of activities because of a severe lack of skilled people and knowledge. The current eco system with a punitive tax on skilled labour acts a disincentive to attract and retain talents;
- (iv) Whether the current strategy of high expenditures financed by high taxes, high deficit and debt, disposal of key strategic public assets and monetization of fiscal deficit and the use of the Special Fund as a second budget is sustainable;
- (v) The clear absence of structural reforms to sharpen competitiveness and unlock opportunities;
- (vi) How will Moody's react to this budget in its annual review? Especially with respect to debt sustainability? Clearly expenditures are not under control. This will play against us. I am unsure whether an exclusive dependence of growth-related tax revenue is adequate to bring debt to an acceptable level in the long term. And whether 'clever' tricks such as disposal of public assets, the use of special funds and the MIC will convince Moody's of our seriousness to bring debt to a level comparable with our peer group.



1956-2021



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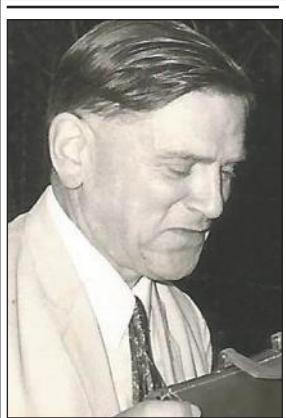
From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 193

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 18 April, 1958

● "Lets have faith that right makes might; and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it." — Abraham Lincoln



Peter Ibbotson

Large numbers of full-time students, from overseas now attend technical colleges in the UK and these numbers are increasing every year; the same applies to overseas students at universities in the UK and in the Republic of Ireland. The Ministry of Education recently urged local education authorities to give special attention to safeguarding the welfare of such students in order to ensure that students coming to the UK for higher education are helped to take full advantage of the facilities offered.

Many countries maintain a students' office in London; Mauritius is one of them. The supervisor of this office has to act as a guide, philosopher and friend to all his country's students in the UK; in the discharge of his duties, he has to undertake a wide variety of tasks. These begin in almost all cases — and certainly in the case of Mr Ortman, the Supervisor of the Mauritius Students' Unit — with helping to get the student admitted to a place of higher education.

“One advantage of Mauricians coming to the UK to study is that racial differences disappear. At a British university, Mauritian students are all lumped together as “Mauritians” — they are not regarded by their student-colleagues as Indo-Mauritians, Coloured Mauricians, Franco-Mauritians, and so on. They mix as equals and lose all race consciousness...”

If a Mauritian wants to come to the UK to undertake higher education as a full-time student at a university or technical college, he should make sure of his place there before leaving Mauritius. He should present all the documents necessary to support his application for admission to the Education Department who will forward its recommendation to the Students' Unit which in its turn will act to get the student accepted at a place of higher education. If the student expresses a preference for study at a particular university or college, the Unit will try and get that preference met; on the other hand, if the student says "I want to go to a UK university but I don't mind which one it is - I leave the choice to the Students' Supervisor", that makes Mr Ortman's task much easier. The conditions of university or technical college entry in the UK are such that *carte blanche* as to particular establishment enables entrance to be secured more readily than insistence on going to a particular university. And after all, there is not much difference between university and university; it is the degree that counts, not the place at which that degree was obtained.

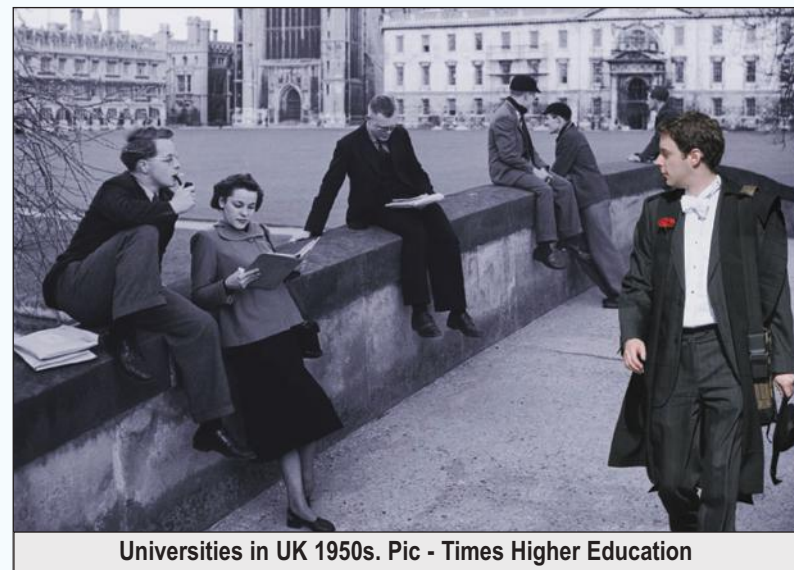
The Mauritius Students' Unit

Mauritian students evidently think so, too, for there are 143 university students in the British Islands, and they are scattered among the universities of England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Of the 143, only 13 are at London University; while London has a particular and magnetic attraction for many visitors and students from overseas, it is better from the student's point of view to be at a provincial university and probably living in a university hall of residence, than at London University and almost certainly having to live in some squalid room in Earl's Court or Paddington.

Of course, part-time study is easier for the London resident than for the provincial; and there are certain branches of study, e.g., law, where London is virtually compulsory. And as far as technical college study is concerned, London's polytechnics are another magnet for the overseas student. So, we find most of the 62 part-time students from Mauritius attending colleges in London; and thanks to the many law students and students at polytechnics, London has altogether 178 full-time students from Mauritius (only 13 being at the university) as against a total of 180 (130 being at universities) full-time students in the provinces.

All these students — 420 in October 1957 — are the care of the Students' Supervisor and the Welfare Officer, Mr Ortman and Miss Rittner. Their progress, their general behaviour, their welfare generally — all these are the responsibility of the Students' Unit. In recent months Mr Ortman has invited technical colleges and polytechnics in London, Brighton, Aberdeen, Newcastle, Glasgow and Sunderland, as well as colleges of the universities of London, Exeter, Southampton, Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews, Aberdeen and Newcastle. Miss Rittner has visited universities and colleges at Bristol, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leicester, Leeds, Sheffield, Hull, Manchester, Cardiff and Swansea, as well as hospitals in London and five provincial towns. In March, too, Miss Rittner went to Ireland, to Dublin and Galway in the republic and Belfast in the north; and in April, after Easter, Mr Ortman's journeys included a visit to France, (Paris, Montpellier and Bordeaux), where there are Mauritian students at the universities. His duties include keeping a fatherly eye on Mauricians in French, as well as in English, establishments of higher education.

The Unit helps the student to get admission to a course of higher education in the UK when it has been satisfied as to the qualifications of the student to enter the course and the ability of the student to pay for the course and maintain himself for its duration. It keeps eye on his general welfare while he is in the UK; and the Students' Unit (at present on the ground floor of an office block at 5 Victoria Street, London S.W. 1 — opposite Conservative Party HQ and round the corner from the Colonial Office) itself is always there for his use. There is a room which can be used by students to meet one another, to sit and read, to write to study. It is used in vacations more than in term-time, of course; unfortunately, it is not available



Universities in UK 1950s. Pic - Times Higher Education

during the evenings. The weekly and daily papers from Mauritius are available; so are interesting news items from the English press. Mauritius annual reports and Government notices are there too; the students can keep informed about events at home very easily. At present the papers are received by sea-mail only; but Mr Ortman hopes that next year's estimates will enable airmail subscriptions to the daily paper to be taken out. The Information Office's *News from Mauritius* is received and copies are distributed to colleges and universities where groups of students can keep in touch with happenings at home. The issue of March 15, for example, contained news of the opening of the new Legislative Council session, the enforced stay of the Queen Mother, new schools being opened, electricity being supplied to the north of the island, the second Working Party, the English Scholarship results, a new bi-weekly the *Guardian*, the basketball matches against Madagascar and the Hong-Kong acrobats.

One advantage of Mauricians coming to the UK to study is that racial differences disappear. At a British university, Mauritian students are all lumped together as "Mauritians" — they are not regarded by their student-colleagues as Indo-Mauritians, Coloured Mauricians, Franco-Mauritians, and so on. They mix as equals and lose all race consciousness. This is all to the good; and helps to promote interracial understanding. They see that racial labels mean nothing in the UK and this helps to overcome the racial label back home.

One thing the Student's Unit *cannot* do — it cannot give help at the last minute. It cannot, in other words, work miracles. And it cannot deal with criticism unless that criticism is couched in specific terms. It is no use a complainant saying "The unit was slack in dealing with my case"; what, in such a case, the Unit wants is for the complainant to say "I wrote to the Unit on such-and-such a date and hadn't heard anything by so-and-so what about it?"

And what does the Unit wish to do? "One wants," Mr Ortman told me, "to feel that the joint efforts of the Advisor in Mauritius and the Unit in London directed to helping the students get the course of education that they want."

The Mauritian Bhojpuri

Is the Bhojpuri language spoken by only 5.3% of the Mauritian population, as stated by the 2011 Census report?



Anjani Murdan

The Mauritius population is a multicultural and multilingual society. The people trace their ancestry to the four corners of the world and value their ancestral languages which they have, in large part, preserved to this day through daily use. Most languages coming from Africa have not survived because of the inhuman survival conditions prevailing during the slavery period in Mauritius. However, others coming from the Indian subcontinent in the wake of the Indian Immigration have survived and are flourishing in certain domains. Whereas some are taught in schools (like Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi), others are used at home (like Bhojpuri, and till quite lately, Tamil and Telugu).

Today, the people of Mauritius value not only their ancestral tongues, but also all the other languages spoken on the territory, especially those that are indispensable for communication on the wider scale. The Mauritian Creole (Kreol Morisien) is the language spoken fluently by all. The two international languages English and French, taught as from kindergarten and primary school, are valued as the languages of education, for better job prospects and generally of social uplift, making the people of Mauritius essentially multilinguals. Ignoring this characteristic of the population can only lead to misconceptions about languages spoken in the country. Especially so on account of the polyglossia that characterizes the language situation prevalent in the country (Asgarally, 2015).

The language situation in a country can be apprehended in two ways: first by the figures supplied by censuses and second by observation of the size of lingu-

istic groups. Censuses being State undertakings no doubt carry the weight of objectivity. However, can censuses render exact pictures of realities or for that matter, can the official interpretation of figures be true to reality? Above all, can subtle crookedness of questions jeopardize the very validity of the census exercise?

According to the '2011 Population Census Main Results' issued by the Central Statistics Office of Mauritius, some 5.3% of the Mauritian population speak the Bhojpuri language. The graph provided in the report compared the figure with that of the 2000 census, whereby 12.1% spoke Bhojpuri.

This would mean that, in the span of ten years, more than half of the speakers of Bhojpuri dropped the language, but this does not seem very realistic. If we analyse the figures supplied by the different decennial censuses of Mauritius since 1983, when for the first time Bhojpuri was considered a language in its own right to figure in the census, the results are as follows:

Table 1: Number of speakers of the Mauritian Bhojpuri according to the previous four decennial censuses

	Censuses	1983	1990	2000	2011
Total population of Mauritius		966,863	1,022,456	1,178,848	1,236,817
Bhojpuri as Language (AL) and current language (CL)	AL	180,983 18.7%	343,798 33.6%	361,250 30.6%	238,451 19.3%
	CL	147,050 15.2%	201,616 19.7%	142,387 12.1%	65,289 5.3%

In the '2000 Population Census – Main Results' report (2000, p. 6), the Table 5 presents the different languages spoken in the island by numbers and percentages. The title of the table reads as follows: 'Resident population by language usually or most spoken at home, Republic of Mauritius – 1990 and 2000 Population Censuses'. The different entries in the table read as 'Bhojpuri only', 'Creole only', and so on for all the languages spoken in the country. In the '2011 Population Census – Main Results', again the term 'only' is used.

One major problem with the Table 5 (Central Statistics Office, 2000, p. 6) is the term 'only'; it is



quite ambiguous since no explanation is given as to its real meaning. One possible meaning is that the term 'only' refers to speakers who speak only that particular language. Hence the 12.1% 'Bhojpuri only' in the 2000 Census Report and the 5.3% of 'Bhojpuri only' in that of the 2011 Census surely refer to the monolingual speakers of Bhojpuri.

Concept of 'current language'

The concept of 'current language' (CL) is another problematic issue. The 'current language' as described by the census questionnaire reads as follows: "Language usually spoken: Write the language usually or most often spoken by the person at home".

ly acknowledges the fact that there are other home languages that coexist. And indeed, there are several home languages: in the home environment, multilingual speakers can be using one language with elder family members and a different one with young ones and yet another language with peer group members.

To put it simply, for example, in an Indian descent household, children might be using Bhojpuri with grandparents, French or English with parents and Creole with siblings. Moreover, it's not only the interlocutor who determines the language choice but also the subject matter; hence, to talk about matters related to culture or religion, the language used could be Hindi/Urdu/Tamil and so on.

Concept of 'Ancestral language' (AL)

Likewise, the term 'Ancestral Language' (AL) is also quite ambiguous. In the 2011 Population census questionnaire (as in the previous ones), the 'Ancestral Language' is explained as 'languages of forefathers' and the instructions are as follows: 'Write the language(s) spoken by the person's ancestors. Up to two answers are possible.' (2011 Census, Enumerator Manual).

The term 'Ancestral language' is misleading as it can refer to long disappeared ancestors as well as to the living grandparents of today. Grandparents of this generation (among the descendants of those who came from India) are highly proficient in at least three languages: in Bhojpuri, in Creole and in one of the literary written languages (Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Urdu, Gujarati). In fact, the group of speakers aged fifty and above are the most versatile language-wise and they are the natural multilinguals, having acquired the different languages out of sheer use in everyday life.

However, in the Census questionnaire, as per instruction, only up to two languages can be chosen -- 'Up to two answers are possible.' (2011 Census, Enumerator Manual)

The census section on 'Languages of forefathers' hence forces the respondents to make a choice of only two languages when actually the present grandparents use at least three: the first one is Bhojpuri which is used as the main language of communication among the different linguistic groups coming from India; the second one is the literary language (Hindi or Tamil or Telugu or Marathi or Gujarati among others) which is mainly used in religious rituals, in literary materials and also as an ethnic identity marker. The third language is the newly learnt Creole language whose importance lay in its function as a lingua franca for much wider communication. Hence, among this group aged 50 (to take a rough estimate) and above, allowing for the choice of only two languages wholly distorts the real facts.

One of the positive points to be acknowledged about the census questionnaire is the fact that, as from 1990, provisions were made to take into account the multilingual status of speakers. Hence, some of the questions pertained to the combinations of languages used in daily life. As can be noted from the table (Table 1), for the 2011 census, a total of 18.5% and 0.6% of respondents declared to use a combination of Creole and Bhojpuri in everyday communication; another 3% used a combination of Bhojpuri and Hindi; as for monolinguals, a total of 19.3% and 5.3% used it as an ancestral language or a home language.

A rough estimate of the total number of people using the Bhojpuri language thus amounts to around 36.7% of the total population of the country. It seems to us that this figure is closer to the real language situation. Officially proclaiming that only 5.3% of the population speak the Mauritius Bhojpuri is quite evidently a gross inaccuracy, especially as the figures of Ancestral language (AL), which amounts to 19.3% has not been taken into consideration.

* Contd on page 15

● Cont. from page 3

Inflation has reached 8.5% in US and is 8.1% in the Euro area. According to the IMF the war in Ukraine will 'severely' dent global recovery from Covid-19. It forecasts a global growth of 3.6% in 2022 and 2023.

Questionable gamble

The gamble of the US, the EU and NATO is to weaken and bring Russia on its knees through a prolonged war and more and more sanctions. After more than 105 days of war, this is far from happening. Instead, Russia has gained substantial territory including towns and cities in Donbas in south-eastern Ukraine. The prolonged war has caused tremendous destruction in Ukraine, more deaths and extreme hardships and distress to Ukrainians. It has also triggered a major humanitarian crisis as more than 14 million people have fled their homes and more than 4.8 million refugees have left Ukraine for Poland and other neighbouring countries, thus putting the capacity of these countries to cope with such a scale of refugees under extreme stress.

In contrast, despite the daily propa-

Are Sanctions Backfiring?



Pic - media.thevibes.com

ganda and rhetoric, the Russian rouble, after a significant loss in value in the wake of the initial wave of sanctions, has bounced back reaching a seven-year high and becoming, according to Bloomberg, the world's best-performing currency in 2022. The Russian decision to demand that foreign buyers pay for the country's natural gas in rouble or face an immediate embargo on supplies helped prop up the rouble.

Analysts say that three factors have been supporting the rouble namely 'esca-

lating oil prices due to sanctions, capital controls and a drop in dollar demand and excess foreign exchange liquidity due to high foreign exchange revenues from exports of oil and gas'. They add that 'Russia has so far taken judicious decisions to withstand the effect of sanctions despite becoming more reliant on oil and gas as its main source of income'. However, the key question is whether the West will be able to weather its own sanctions.

Need for policy coherence

To make matters worse, the EU is looking for alternative supplies of highly polluting fossil fuels and coal to replace Russian energy from farther afield at a cost thus hiking oil prices and increasing its carbon footprint instead of using the opportunity to invest heavily in the production of green and renewable energy as well as new green energy technologies to significantly reduce its carbon emissions in line with COP26 commitments, to prevent the risk of a climate change disaster.

Every week, freak climate change events like flash floods and massive landslides, storms, extreme weather conditions including high temperatures, hail storms and thunderstorms in various countries across the world including Europe are a constant reminder that robust corrective actions have to be urgently taken to address the potent climate change threats facing the world. There is therefore an imperative need for policy coherence.

Stopping the war

It is also high time for the silent caucus of developing countries who are not party to the war in Ukraine but whose people are bearing the brunt of rising energy and food prices and eroding purchasing power caused by the war to raise their voices against this proxy war of superpowers and demand that a peace deal be urgently negotiated by the two parties to put an end to the war. They should also ask for a similar scale of financial support to help mitigate the adverse impact of the war and the hardships endured by the people in their countries.

Mrinal Roy

Is the Bhojpuri language spoken by only 5.3%...?

● Cont. from page 14

In the 1983 Population Census, the data gathered showed that out of a population of 966,863 individuals, some 328,033 considered Bhojpuri as a home or ancestral language. Hence, approximately one third of the population spoke Bhojpuri, making it as one of the major spoken languages of the country. The data for the 1983 Census are no doubt quite close to the real situation considering that some 68% of the population are of Indian descent and have used, up to the 1940s (Issur, K., 2017) the Bhojpuri language as a lingua franca. Moreover, the Hindus and the Muslims, mostly coming from Bihar, spoke it as a mother tongue.

However, unlike other written Asian languages, Bhojpuri has not been favoured in the calculations of the respondents. Its use among the Indo-Mauritians has been under reported; as pointed out by Rajah-Carrim, Hollup and Bissoonauth-Bedford (Bissoonauth-Bedford, 2019; Hollup, 1996; Rajah-Carrim, 2007), this could be due to negative attitudes. Indeed, the Bhojpuri language being only a lingua franca among the different ethnic and linguistic sub-groups of the Indo-Mauritians, probably found itself as an orphan language as described by P. Sooriah (1977), cited by Hookoomsing (2009).

To conclude, we would say that in the

decennial census form, the label 'Home language' is a most inappropriate one since in most cases, two to three languages are usually used in the home environment: the Bhojpuri language is the most used language by Indian descent adults aged about 45 or above; in some homes, with Hindi-literate parents and grand-parents, Hindi is used as a high-variety; some old parents also speak Tamil and Telugu, and what's more, with recent sensitization campaigns, some youths have also started conversing in these tongues with their elderly.

Finally, alongside these languages, the Mauritian Creole is spoken by the younger generations. Therefore, in multilingual Mauritian society, the 'home language' label used in the census forms is inaccurate and leads to a distorted view of the language situation in Mauritius. Instead, we believe that the term 'home languages' (in the plural form) would be a better formula, which would render a more accurate picture of the linguistic situation of Mauritius. Secondly, the restriction to mention only two languages regarding 'Ancestral Languages' has no validity; opening up the space for one more language can give a chance to the one waiting at the door. The added bonus would be the act of giving due visibility to minority languages that are losing ground, in part, for want of recognition and prestige.

Anjani Murdan

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Poor Laws once protected the poor from the high cost of living...

● Cont. from page 2

A one-off hand out when millions of households are facing both fuel and food poverty is but a temporary sticking plaster.

Safety net

Until there is a permanent increase in safety net payments to those on universal credit, food banks will continue to proliferate and children will continue to go to school hungry. The link between wealth and taxation was effectively used by the Elizabethans to start to tackle inequality. But today's globalised economy facilitates offshore profits and ever-rising inequality.

In my new book, 'After the Virus: Lessons from the Past for a Better Future' I explore changes in the sense of moral duty and the carefully legislated collective endeavour that formed the foundation of the UK's past – and most recent – periods of prosperity.

The Poor Laws were far from a perfect system of welfare. But the fact that protecting the poorest in society has previously led to widespread economic growth is a history lesson that should not be ignored by any government during a cost-of-living crisis.

Simon Szreter, Professor of History and Public Policy, University of Cambridge

What's in a name? Glimmers of evolution in naming babies, choosing a dog

Maverick was first used as a baby name after a television show called "Maverick" aired in the 1950s, but its popularity rose meteorically in 1986 with the release of the movie "Top Gun." Today, it is even used for baby girls.

The name Emma peaked in popularity in the late 1800s, declined precipitously through the first half of the 1900s, then shot back up to be one of the most popular names of the early 2000s. Linda peaked somewhere in the late 1940s and Daniel in the mid-1980s. But each rise in popularity was followed by an equally steep decline.

So, what's in a name -- or, at least, what's in a baby name trend? University of Michigan evolutionary biologist Mitchell Newberry has found that the more popular a name becomes, the less likely future parents are to follow suit. Same goes for popular dog breeds: Dalmatians today are a tenth as popular as they were in the 1990s.

Newberry, an assistant professor of complex systems, says examining trends in the popularity of baby names and dog breeds can be a proxy for understanding eco-



logical and evolutionary change. The names and dog breed preferences themselves are like genes or organisms competing for scarce resources. In this case, the scarce resources are the minds of parents and dog owners. His results are published in the journal 'Nature Human Behaviour'.

Newberry looks at frequency-dependent selection, a kind of natural selection in which the tendency to copy a certain variant depends on that variant's current frequency or popularity, regardless of its content. If people tend to copy the most common variant, then everyone ends up

doing roughly the same thing. But if people become less willing to copy a variant the more popular it becomes, it leads to a greater diversity of variants.

"Think of how we use millions of different names to refer to people but we almost always use the same word to refer to baseball," Newberry said. "For words, there's pressure to conform, but my work shows that the diversity of names results from pressures against conformity."

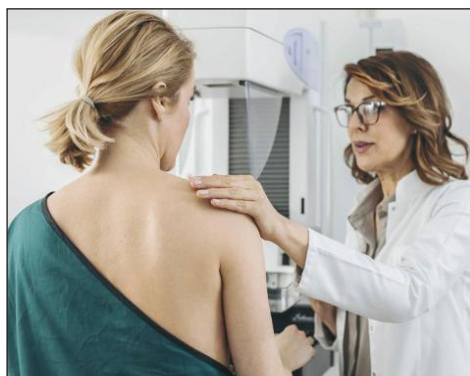
These trends are common in biology, but difficult to quantify. What researchers do have is a complete database of the names of babies over the last 87 years.

Newberry used the Social Security Administration baby name database, itself born in 1935, to examine frequency dependence in first names in the United States. He found that when a name is most rare -- 1 in 10,000 births -- it tends to grow, on average, at a rate of 1.4% a year. But when a name is most common -- more than 1 in 100 births -- its popularity declines, on average, at 1.6%.

"This is really a case study showing how boom-bust cycles by themselves can disfavour common types and promote diversity," Newberry said. "If people are always thirsting after the newest thing, then it's going to create a lot of new things. Every time a new thing is created, it's promoted, and so more rare things rise to higher frequency and you have more diversity in the population."

The paired perils of breast cancer and diabetes

Breast cancer and type 2 diabetes would seem to be distinctly different diseases, with commonality only in their commonality. Breast cancer is the second most diagnosed malignancy after some types of skin cancer; approximately 1 in eight U.S. women will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of their lifetime. More than 10 percent of the U.S. population has diabetes, with an estimated 2 in 5 Americans expected to develop the chronic disease during their lifetime.



However, past research has uncovered associations between the two diseases. Women with diabetes, for example, have a 20 to 27 percent increased risk of developing breast cancer. Insulin resistance -- a key characteristic of diabetes -- has been associated with breast cancer incidence and poor survival. Population studies suggest diabetes risk begins to increase two years after a breast cancer diagnosis, and by 10 years post-diagnosis, the risk is 20 percent higher in breast cancer survivors than in age-matched women without breast cancer.

But these epidemiological linkages are not clear-cut or definitive, and some studies have found no associations at all.



In a new paper, published in 'Nature Cell Biology', a research team led by scientists at University of California San Diego School of Medicine describe a possible biological mechanism connecting the two diseases, in which breast cancer suppresses the production of insulin, resulting in diabetes, and the impairment of blood sugar control promotes tumor growth.

"No disease is an island because no cell lives alone," said corresponding study author Shizhen Emily Wang, professor of pathology at UC San Diego School of Medicine. "In this study, we describe how breast cancer cells impair the function of pancreatic islets to make them produce less insulin than needed, leading to higher blood glucose levels in breast cancer patients compared to females without cancer."

"Cancer cells have a sweet tooth," Wang said. "They use more glucose than healthy cells in order to fuel tumor growth, and this has been the basis for PET scans in cancer detection. By increasing blood glucose that can be easily used by cancer cells, breast tumors make their own favorite food and, meanwhile, deprive this essential nutrient from normal cells."

The research was conducted using mouse models, which found that slow-releasing insulin pellets or a glucose-lowering drug known as an SGLT2 inhibitor restored normal control of glucose in the presence of a breast tumor, which in turn suppressed the tumor's growth.



Why do we get bruises?

When you hurt yourself, tiny blood vessels can break under the skin. The blood that oozes out is what gives a bruise its colour.

If you fall off your bike or knock yourself on the coffee table at home, you might notice a blue or blackish spot on your skin a couple of days later. This is called a bruise (a contusion is the medical word for it, if you want to impress your friends).

When you bump into something, tiny blood vessels, called capillaries, can break under the skin. This causes the blood to ooze out of the vessel, kind of like a leaking water pipe. The blood that oozes out then collects under the skin. This is what gives a bruise its colour.

Bruises can have many colours

If you get a big bruise, it will go through several colour changes before it disappears -- from red, to purple, to blue, and even green and yellow.

At first, when you hurt yourself, you will have a bump on the surface of your skin. It could be a bit sore, and you might notice some redness.

The bump is because of the red cells and other fluids in the blood under the skin -- that's the stuff that oozed out of the blood vessel.

After a couple of days, the bruise will start changing into a bluish or purplish colour. The changes in colour happen because the red blood cells are breaking down. The body breaks down these red blood cells because it doesn't need them anymore.

Finally, as the body starts to clear the unwanted red cells from under the skin, the bruise will look greenish or yellowish. It will start to fade away in about two weeks.

What should you do if you have a bruise?

Immediately after you hurt yourself -- that is, when you have a bump but it's not



There are many ways you can get a bruise. If you fall off your bike, you might find yourself with a few bruises. From shutterstock.com

blue or purple yet -- you might like to apply a cold pack to the sore spot for at least five to ten minutes. A bag of frozen vegetables works well too.

If the bruise is on your arm or your leg, it can be a good idea to put it up -- say on a chair or on the kitchen table.

You should tell your mum or dad or see a doctor if:

- the bruise isn't improving or the colour is not fading away after several days
- the bruise is swollen and very painful
- you can't move your leg or arm where the bruise has formed
- you're getting bruises very often for no obvious reasons.

It's very hard to avoid getting bruises altogether. Especially for kids who like to run around, climb trees, and play sports. And the odd bruise is nothing to worry about.

But when you're doing something like playing sport or riding a bike, as well as wearing a helmet, it can be a good idea to put on protective gear like knee guards, so you're less likely to get hurt.

Abishek Santhakumar

Senior Lecturer in Haematology,
Charles Sturt University



100 euros for Ukraine

A German walk into a bar and orders a beer.

The bartender tells him: '100 euros!'

The German is shocked. '100 euros? Yesterday it was 10 euros!'

'Well, today it is 100 euros.'

'Well, why 100, damn it?'

'I'll explain now: 10 euros US beer. 10 to help Ukraine. 20 assistance to European countries that have imposed sanctions and are not members of the EU. 10 euros in aid to the UK, for the successful implementation of sanctions against Russia. Then 10 euros are sent to the Balkan countries as aid to buy furnace coal. Finally, 40 euros for a gas subsidy for the EU and a fund to help maintain sanctions!'

Now, when the German silently took out the money and gave the bartender 100 euros, the bartender took them, put them in the cash register and gave him 10 euros back.

German in disbelief: 'Wait, you said 100 – I gave you 100! Why are you giving me back 10 euros?'

'Ahh... We have no beer!'

Female Artificial Intelligence

Husband: 'Alexa, I am feeling that I want to have fun.'

Alexa: Most certainly... Don't worry. I am dimming the lights. Setting your AC to 22 C degrees. I have hired your favourite Thai masseuse. She is just 12

minutes away as per her Uber ride status. I have scheduled her payment from your credit card 2 hours from now. I have checked your wife's GPS and she is shopping in a suburban mall. According to her buying checklist stored on my disk, she will take at least 2 more hours, plus according to Google maps traffic analysis, more than 1 hour to reach home. Have fun.'

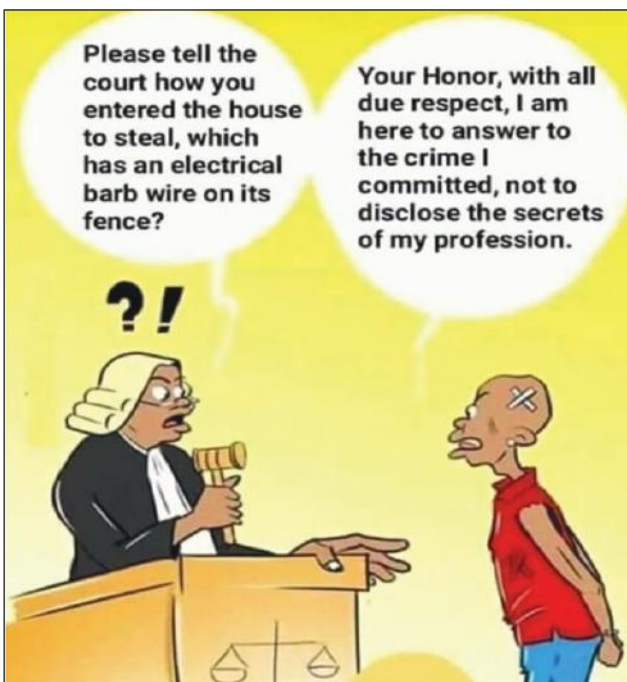
This is called true Artificial Intelligence...

Meanwhile...

Wife: 'Alexa, have you set it up?'

Alexa: 'Sure thing, he thinks you are going to take three hours. If you take an Uber home, you will be there in 45 minutes. I'm recording the whole thing with four cameras, you just need to walk in, we have him red-handed. I've got your divorce papers printed and ready, and your attorney briefed, case documents are drafted and will be completed tomorrow, \$1 M damages plus \$10,000 per month alimony. All set. Your Uber is waiting outside.'

Now, this is Artificial Counterintelligence...



After all, Alexa is a female!

How to handle women at different ages

- 8 - You take her to bed & tell her a story.
- 18 - You tell her a story & take her to bed.
- 28 - You don't have to tell her a story to take her to bed.
- 38 - She tells you a story & takes u to bed.
- 48 - She tells you a story to avoid going to bed.
- 58 - You stay in bed to avoid her story.
- 68 - If you take her to bed, that will be a story
- 78 - If you take her to bed, that's the end of the story!

Yenna Rascalaas!

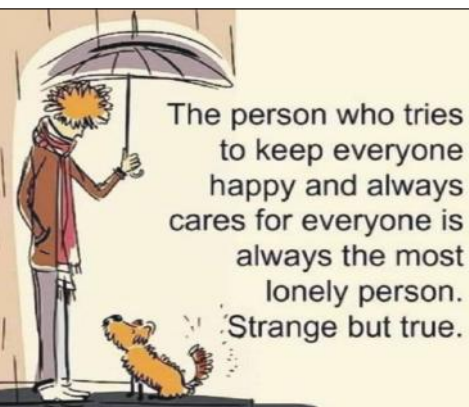
Head of American Medical Association: "Normal human being needs 70% carbohydrates and 30% protein in his breakfast."

Head of Murugan Idli Shop, Chennai wrote: "You stupid Americans... Three parts rice (carbohydrates) and one part dal (protein) is what we have been putting in our idli for the past 200 years... and you have discovered it now? Yenna Rascalaas!"

The best thing about being over 50?



We did all our stupid stuff before the invention of the internet, so there's no proof!



Life's Lessons

Do Not Gossip

In Ancient Greece, Socrates had a great reputation of wisdom. One day, someone came to find the great philosopher and said to him:

- Do you know what I just heard about your friend?
 - A moment, replied Socrates. Before you tell me, I would like to test you the three sieves.
 - The three sieves?
 - Yes, continued Socrates. Before telling anything about the others, it's good to take the time to filter what you mean. I call it the test of the three sieves. The first sieve is the **truth**. Have you checked if what you're going to tell me is true?
 - No, I just heard it.
 - Very good! So, you don't know if it's true. We continue with the second sieve, that of **kindness**. What you want to tell me about my friend, is it good?
 - Oh, no! On the contrary.
 - So, questioned Socrates, you want to tell me bad things about him and you're not even sure they're true? Maybe you can still pass the test of the third sieve, that of **utility**. Is it useful that I know what you're going to tell me about this friend?
 - No, really.
 - So, concluded Socrates, what you were going to tell me is neither true, nor good, nor useful. Why, then, did you want to tell me this?
- "Gossip is a bad thing. In the beginning it may seem enjoyable and fun, but in the end, it fills our hearts with bitterness and poisons us, too!"



Life is best for those who are **enjoying** it...
 Difficult for those who are **comparing** it...
 Worst for those who are **criticising** it...
 Your own **attitude** defines your life...
 So enjoy life for each moment.

Life's Stories

The Secret of Happiness

Once a young man wanted to learn about the secret of happiness from the wisest man on the earth. The lad wandered through the desert, mountains, and plains to find the wisest man in the land. He finally reached a beautiful castle atop a mountain where a very wise man was said to live.

The young man had imagined the wise man to live like a sage with a modest and quiet lifestyle. But to his surprise, he was not at all like a sage. He saw lots of activities happening in the castle. Tradesmen came and went, people were conversing in the corners, a small orchestra was playing soft music, and finally he saw a table covered with platters of the most delicious food in that part of the world.

The wise man conversed with everyone, and the young man had to wait for several hours to meet the wise man. The wise man listened attentively to the young man's curiosity about the secret of happiness. The wise man replied that he didn't have time to explain about the secret of happiness at that moment. But he suggested the young man to have look around his castle and its beauty and uniqueness and return in two hours. He also assigned a task to the man. He handed over a teaspoon which had two drops of oil. The wise man said to the young lad: "As you wander around, carry this spoon with you without allowing the oil to spill."

The young man began climbing and descending the many stairways of the palace, keeping his eyes fixed on the spoon. After two hours, he returned to the wise man's room.

"Well," asked the wise man, "Did you see the Persian embroideries that are hanging in my dining hall? Did you see the garden that it took the master gardener ten years to create? Did you notice the beautiful parchments in the library?"

The boy was embarrassed and confessed that he had observed nothing. His only concern had been not to spill

the oil that the wise man entrusted to him.

"Then go back and observe the marvels of my world," said the wise man. "You cannot trust a man if you know nothing about that man and his surroundings."

"Relieved, the boy picked up the spoon and returned to his exploration of the palace, this time more conscious about the surroundings and observing all of the works of art on the ceilings and the walls. He saw the gardens, the mountains all around him, the beauty of the flowers, and the taste with which everything had been selected.

Upon returning to the wise man, he explained in detail everything he had seen. "But where are the drops of oil I entrusted to you?" asked the wise man.

Looking down the spoon he held, the boy saw that the oil was gone.

"Well, there is only one piece of advice I can give you," said the wisest man. "The secret of happiness is to see all the marvels of the world, and never to forget the drops of oil on the spoon."

"Then go back and observe the marvels of my world," said the wise man. "You cannot trust a man if you know nothing about that man and his surroundings." Relieved, the boy picked up the spoon and returned to his exploration of the palace, this time more conscious about the surroundings and observing all of the works of art on the ceilings and the walls. He saw the gardens, the mountains all around him, the beauty of the flowers, and the taste with which everything had been selected. Upon returning to the wise man, he explained in detail everything he had seen. "But where are the drops of oil I entrusted to you?" asked the wise man.

Looking down the spoon he held, the boy saw that the oil was gone. "Well, there is only one piece of advice I can give you," said the wisest man.

"The secret of happiness is to see all the marvels of the world, and never to forget the drops of oil on the spoon."

What is the message here? You have all right to enjoy the beauty and pleasures of the world, but you have to

fulfil your duty as well. A balance needs to be created between everything. You need to take care of your job, family and then society. Many people forget to enjoy the beauty of life and get lost in the rat race of the world. While some lose the sense of responsibility and waste their life without fulfilling their duties. Balance is very important in life. Work, family, health, and enjoyment are equally important. Whatever you are doing, creating the balance in life is very important.

A Little Poem For The Old Is Gold

Another year has passed
And we're all a little older,
Last summer felt hotter
Now winter seems much colder.

There was a time not long ago
When life was quite a blast.
Now I fully understand
About 'Living in the Past'

We used to go to parties,
Picnics and lunches.
Now we stay at home
Preferring snacks to brunches

We used to go out dining,
And couldn't get our fill.
Now we ask for take away,
Come home and take a pill.

We used to often travel
To places near and far.
Now we get restless syndrome
From riding in the car.

That, my friend how life is,
And now my tale is told.
So, enjoy each day and live it up
Before you get too old.



Life's Lessons

Nicky wasn't a mistake

In 1979, I was managing a Wendy's in Port Richey, Florida. Unlike today, staffing was never a real problem, but I was searching for a someone to work three hours a day only at lunch. I went through all my applications, and most were all looking for full time or at least 20 hours per week. I found one however, buried at the bottom of a four-inch stack that was only looking for lunch part-time. His name was Nicky.

Hadn't met him but thought I would give him a call and see if he could stop by for an interview. When I called, he wasn't in, but his mom said she would make sure he would be there.

At the accorded time, Nicky walked in. One of those moments when my heart went in my throat. Nicky had Down's Syndrome. His physical appearance was a giveaway, and his speech only reinforced the obvious. I was young and sheltered. Had never interacted on a professional level with a developmentally dis-



The Down Syndrome Association of Greater Charlotte

abled person. I had no clue what to do, so I went ahead and interviewed him.

He was a wonderful young man. Great outlook. Task focused. Excited to be alive.

For reasons only God knew at that time, I hired him. 3 hours a day, 3 days a week to run a grill. I let the staff know what to expect.

Predictably, the crew made sure I got the message, "No one wants to work with a retard."

To this day I find that word offensive. We had a crew meeting, cleared the air, and prepared for his arrival. Nicky showed up for work right on time. He was so excited to be working. He stood at the time clock literally shaking with anticipation. He clocked in and started his training.

Couldn't multitask but was a machine on the grill. Now for the fascinating part...

Back in that day, there were no computer screens to work from. Every order was called by the cashier. It required a great deal of concentration on the part of all production staff to get the order right.

While Nicky was training during his first shift, the sandwich maker next to him asked the grill man/trainer what was on the next sandwich.

Nicky replied, "Single, no pickle no onion." A few minutes later it happened again. It was then that we discovered Nicky had a hidden and valuable skill. He memorized everything he heard! Photographic hearing? What a skill!

It took 3 days and every sandwich maker requested to work with Nicky. He immediately was accepted by the entire crew. After his shift he would join the rest of his crew family, drinking Coke like it was water!

It was then that they discovered another Rainman-esque trait.

Nicky was a walking/talking perpetual calendar! With a perpetual calendar as a reference, they would sit for hours asking him what day of the week was December 22, 1847 or some more. He never missed. This uncanny trait mesmerized the crew.

His mom would come in at 2 to pick

him up. More times than not, the crew would be back there with him hamming it up.

As I went to get him from the back, his mom said something I will never forget: "Let him stay there as long as he wants. He has never been accepted anywhere like he has been here." I excused myself and dried my eyes, humbled and broken-hearted at the lesson I just learned.

Nicky had a profound impact on that store. His presence changed a lot of people.

The Lesson

Today I believe with every fibre of my body that Nicky's hiring was no accident. God's Timing and Will is Perfect.

We are all like Nicky. We each have our shortcomings. We each have our strong points. But we are all of value. God made us that way and God doesn't make mistakes. Nicky certainly wasn't a mistake.

God doesn't care if you are rich or poor, republican or democrat, black or white. He doesn't care if your chromosome structure is perfect. He doesn't care what level of education you have attained.

There is a little bit of Nicky in all of us and I suspect there is a Nicky somewhere in your life that is looking for the chance to be embraced.

Relationships

5 reasons why people lie even when they don't have to

We all tell lies in some way or the other in our lifetimes. White lies are acceptable as long as they serve a purpose like wriggling out of a situation, but there are times when people lie even when they do not have to. So here are a few reasons why people lie, without taking sides. Read with an open mind, try to understand the reasons instead of judging the liar.

* It feels like an inconvenience

For many people, telling the truth can mean giving up control. They may be trying to control a certain situation to influence a decision so that they get the reactions they want. Truth may be a bit inconvenient as per the situation.

* They fear disappointing others

A person often lies because he/she does not want to disappoint the other. Some people have many expecta-



tions from us and they react aggressively if things are not sounding the way they like it. So a person who does not want to get into any sort of argument or have bad blood with the other, tends to lie.

* Lying is important to them

This is one of the main reasons indeed! If someone is telling lies, it is possible that it is important for them to lie. It may not be important for you, but it may be important to

them. They could be overthinkers or people who have the tendency to put unnecessary pressure on themselves.

* Pathological liars

This is a whole different category when it comes to liars. Some people have this habit of lying at the drop of a hat because they make-believe a lot. It is a kind of a disease which they cannot help. They can lie about the smallest thing like their mug's colour, what they wore yesterday, silly things that do not need to be lied about.

* They believe in those lies

When someone is under pressure, the mental state of a person can shake things up. We try to escape into another world in our head to calm down ourselves and start believing in that make-believe picture ourselves. It may be a lie to you, but for them it is not a lie, it is in fact the truth because that is what they believe they did. The stress, their current scenario plays games on their mental health. If you confront them, they will become defensive because their brain is rejecting that stressful truth.

Diet & Weight Management

Eating Habits to Adopt Today

To make your healthy diet one you can actually live with, start with these tips - they'll help you to set yourself up for good choices.

Sneak yourself more vegetables

You know you should eat more veggies. They're full of good-for-you fiber and vitamins. But the average person eats only about half the amount they should. So how can you get more in? Swap out pasta for strands of zucchini that you shred with a julienne peeler. Or pulse cauliflower in the food processor until it looks like rice, and use it in pilafs and stir-fries. You'll cut calories and add major nutrition.

Curb snack attacks with protein

It's hard to resist the junk food-filled vending machine when your stomach is growling at 3 p.m. But you don't need to rely on willpower alone. The right food choices earlier in the day can set you up for success. Reach for protein: It fills you up and helps you feel satisfied longer than carbs do. Go for meals and snacks that include things like hardboiled eggs, Greek-style yogurt, peanut butter, and skinless chicken.

Don't ditch full-fat dairy

If you miss the flavour and texture of

whole milk and full-fat yogurt because you think skim is better for your waistline, you may be in luck. It's OK to indulge in the regular versions of dairy products from time to time. Drinking creamy whole milk was even linked to a lower risk of obesity in one study. Just make sure you don't overdo it and get too many calories or grams of fat overall.

Give yourself proper portions

You might think you're likely to eat more when you're really hungry or if you're digging in to one of your favourite dishes. But that's not always the case. One of the biggest things guiding how much you eat is portion size. Studies show that people eat more food, even if they don't like it, when it's served in a large container. So, serve food on smaller plates to limit how much you eat.

Log your meals in a food journal

It takes just a few minutes a day and can make a big difference. Not only do these journals make you more aware of your food choices, but they also can help you stick to a healthy diet. In one study, people who kept food diaries over the course of a year lost more weight than those who didn't. Try online tools, mobile apps, or plain old pencil and paper to find what works for you.

Eat more beans

A satisfying, protein-rich meal doesn't have to be built on an expensive slab of steak or pork. At only about 25 cents per cup, dried beans are one of the best values at the grocery store. To save time, cook up a double or triple batch of beans and freeze them in 1- and 2-cup portions for fast meals later on. Don't get stuck in a rut with any one kind: There's a rainbow of options that can add variety to your diet.

Have veggies at breakfast



There's no rule limiting vegetables to lunch and dinner. If you want more in your diet, breakfast is a great place to start. Cut one egg out of your favourite omelet and add cooked spinach, mushrooms, onions, or red peppers. Make a smoothie loaded with kale, apples, bananas, and yogurt. Vegetables are lower in calories than most other breakfast foods, and their fiber will keep you feeling full longer.

Cut back on the food blogs

Ever find yourself drooling over photos and recipes on TV shows, magazines, or blogs? Seems harmless. But when you ogle those images of tasty dishes, you're likely to be hit harder by cravings. Pictures of food can make your body produce more ghrelin, the hormone that makes you feel hungry. To stick with your healthy habits, try to limit the foodie TV shows and blogs -- and view them after you've eaten, not before.

Plan a weekly menu

It can be hard to think straight when you come home tired at the end of the day. It's also the worst time to try to figure out what to make for dinner. You can save yourself from the drive-thru when you plan meals and have convenient dinner building blocks handy, like frozen vegeta-

bles. When you cook, make a double batch. Sliced and seasoned chicken means an almost instant stir-fry, and cooked ground beef makes for a speedy taco night.

Chop right

When you bring your groceries home from the store, don't just stash your veggies in the crisper. Instead, take a few minutes to cut your carrots, cucumbers, and red peppers into snack-friendly sticks. That way, when you get hungry, vegetables are just as easy to grab and eat as pretzels or potato chips. Hate chopping? Buy bite-sized veggies like baby carrots and grape tomatoes, or get the pre-cut kinds.

Focus on the positive

As you build healthy eating habits, find things you can add to your diet. Seek out cool new fruits beyond the usual apples and bananas, like kumquats or clementines. Pick up an unfamiliar vegetable at the farmers market, like a neon-coloured cauliflower. You're more likely to stay on track when you embrace what you can have instead of dwelling on things you want to limit, like junk food and sugary soda.



Nakuul Mehta & Disha Parmar

'Our chemistry look good on-screen'

Nakuul Mehta and Disha Parmar are loved by millions of fans as Ram Kapoor and Priya from *Bade Achhe Lagte Hain*. The duo, who have known each other for more than a decade, recently relived their old memories and also spoke about the qualities they admire about each other in an exclusive interview with ETimes TV.

A quality you like about each other

Disha Parmar: One thing that I totally admire about Nakuul Mehta is that he's very punctual and he also comes before time on the sets. Initially, 10 years ago things were different. Initially, he used to be late and I would be on time. Now, it's changed that he's on time and I am the one who's late. He is a very good actor and I learn so much from him on set.

Nakuul Mehta: I think her best quality is that she has a very easy vibe about her which I think is difficult to have in this industry. Once people do well and they succeed, they start building all these guards around them. I think it's been the other way around. She was guarded when she joined the industry and now she knows herself better, she is easier in her skin.



Nakuul on the secret behind their crackling chemistry

Disha is very good at what she does. I am able to do my best because I get to work with her and she is very open to suggestions. I don't have to think twice before suggesting something and it is the same with her. It is the most important factor about us being able to make our chemistry look good on-screen. It is the major factor because there is no pretence or I want to show off how good I am in a scene.

We don't need to show off to each other. We are always working towards how both of us can work better so that the scene is better.

Nakuul recalls their first scene together in *Bade Achhe Lagte...*

Our first scene together was when I entered her house, it was a crazy scene. The scene came out so well and I think as soon as we did that we realised that something feels right.

Disha on their first meeting 10 years ago

We met for the first time in July, 2011 at Rajshri's office. In July we met and in August we shot for the pilot episode. I remember him coming out of Kavita Barjatya's office. That was when I met Nakuul for the first time.

Nakuul reveals he saw Disha's audition video for *Pyaar Ka Dard* 10 years ago

I remember Kavita Barjatya, our first producer of *Pyaar Ka Dard*... she showed me her audition. I was already on for the show and she was like this is the girl we have liked. I saw her and I was wow man she's so new, young, raw and she was really young. Then I remember meeting her when we shot close to Ahmedabad. My memories were that I used to come and say good morning to her and I would never hear Good morning from her because she was so soft.

much more to learn, and grow. Now, I am looking forward to the future".

For her next adventure, she has hopped on to a stunt-based reality show, and she admits, "Just the fact that it's a reality show and I'm not portraying a character is outside my comfort zone".

"More than anyone else, I'm looking forward to surprising myself. In fact, taking the decision to do the show, I took myself by surprise," says the actor, who has studied in Delhi.

In fact, Jha is not restricting herself to any medium, and is open to exploring everything.

"I'm open to all acting jobs. I don't know whether there is a particular kind of role that I would like to do. But whatever I have been auditioning till now, no two roles have been similar. I didn't get through any audition but it was so nice to audition for so many different parts written by different writers," says the actor, with a special mention to the OTT platform for rewriting content of the entertainment industry."



Sriti Jha:

Loving preparing and giving auditions after so long

For eight years, actor Sriti Jha infused life to the character of Pragya Arora on the small screen, and now she is enjoying the whole process of searching for new avenues to experiment, and hopes to surprise herself along the way.

"After leaving my show, *Kumkum Bhagya*, I miss the people with whom I worked. But it was eight years, it was time for me to move on," Jha tells us.

She continues, "After the show, I hope I have evolved. I would like to believe that I'm more patient now with things. I take time before I make decisions. I would like to believe that I have matured. But then the profession that I have chosen is adventurous. There's no other profession where you get to be childlike. It is always new. I cannot say that I have evolved as much as I could have because there is so

Cinema Sirsa

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Vikram (Hindi Version and Tamil Version)

Show times are as follows for both Tamil Version (TV) & Hindi Version (HV):

Tuesday	7 June - 20:15 (TV)
Wednesday	8 June & Thursday 9 - 13:15 (TV) / 20:15 (TV)
Friday	10 June - 13:15 (TV) / 20:15 (HV)
Saturday	11 June - 13:15 (HV) / 20:15 (TV)
Sunday	12 June - 13:15 (TV) / 16:15 (HV) / 20:15 (HV)
Monday	13 June - 13:15 (HV) / 20:15 (TV)
Tuesday	14 June - 13:15 (TV) / 20:15 (HV)
Wednesday	15 June - 13:15 (HV) / 20:15 (TV)

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Get ready to embark on a favourable phase on your professional front. You will be quick to learn and equip your skills to better yourself. This will provide you with better opportunities to grow. You are advised to remain careful of the choice of the words while speaking.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 18, 20, 30, 32

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your financial situation is likely to remain stable. You may profit from your family business. Your romantic life is likely to hit a rough patch. Due to differences in opinion, you and your partner may not get along very well. Make a concerted effort to reclaim your beloved's love.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 20, 23, 26, 29, 33

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You are advised to be careful while spending as some unwanted expenditures may create a hole in your pocket. You will be able to complete most of your unaccomplished tasks that have been pending for a long. Make meditation a part of your daily health routine to enhance your emotional and mental alertness.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 6, 9, 20, 25, 30

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Professionally, some new opportunities may come up. Businesspeople are advised against any new investment at this time as it is likely to get stuck. Your life partner may have to face difficulties with respect to their health and career. They need your full support.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 4, 6, 15, 29, 32

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

On the romantic front, your relationship with your partner is likely to improve. Your significant other may be proud of your achievements. Your financial situation may be a little shaky as well. Property issues may be difficult to resolve even with legal assistance.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 9, 15, 21, 23, 27

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

New financial possibilities and opportunities may signal the start of an exciting period for you. Profits from multiple sources are expected. In terms of health, dietary changes and a fresh perspective on life may make a significant difference. Your domestic life may be cheerful and welcoming.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 20, 27, 28, 30, 31

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You are likely to have a fantastic time on the domestic front. An occasion may provide you with a reason to rejoice with your loved ones. Your financial situation remains stable. You might be able to lavishly spend on yourself and others close to you. Your romantic life appears to be blossoming as well.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 5, 17, 21, 28

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Your professional life appears to be highly stressful. You may not be able to overcome obstacles or handle work pressures. Make an attempt to better yourself. Your romantic life could be challenging. Your partner is likely to anticipate a commitment from you. Make an effort to make things right.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 17, 23, 27, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Your domestic situation may also be problematic. More than ever, your loved ones are prone to get into arguments about minor concerns. On the health front, you may go through a happy period. Spirituality may also provide you with mental peace and contentment.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 10, 15, 16, 22

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Your financial situation is likely to remain moderate. Property transactions may turn out to be lucrative. On the romantic front, there could be some issues in your relationship. Your tight work schedules may conflict with your dates, causing friction with your partner.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 14, 21, 23, 36, 38

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Your financial situation is likely to remain average. Property transactions can be extremely profitable. On the romantic front, you and your partner may lack mutual understanding, causing the relationship to suffer.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 11, 14, 17, 33, 40

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Students may require motivation to succeed in their studies. Property-related legal difficulties can be readily resolved. Your love life looks bright, as you are likely to be overwhelmed with joyful news from your significant other, which could include a marriage proposal.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 13, 18, 21, 30

Aishwarya Rai wants to work with Abhishek Bachchan again but...

Aishwarya Rai is hopeful to do a film with her husband Abhishek Bachchan. The actors were last seen on the screen together in the 2007 film *Guru*.

The 2007 film was directed and co-written by Mani Ratnam, who is also directing Aishwarya's upcoming film *Ponniyin Selvan: I*. This also marks her first film in almost four years.

As per ETimes, when Aishwarya was asked about working with Abhishek again, she looked up to the skies with hopeful eyes, and said, "It should happen." Aishwarya had recently broken into a dance on her seat as her husband was performing at the IIFA Awards in Abu Dhabi, and fans had expressed wishes to see them together on the screen. Abhishek had also told Indian Express in April this year that he would 'love' to collaborate with Aishwarya again, but 'it has to be the right script at the right time.'

Aishwarya also revealed in her recent conversation with ETimes that she has finished filming for both parts of *Ponniyin Selvan*, in which she will



appear in dual roles as Nandini and Mandakini Devi. She will also be a part of Rajinikanth's next *Thalaivar 169*. However, she hinted that she will still be seen in a limited number of projects. She said, "My priority is still my family and my child. I braved and stepped out to complete Mani sir's *Ponniyin Selvan*, but that doesn't change my focus for my family and Aaradhya."

Aishwarya was last seen on the screen in the 2018 film *Fanney Khan*, which also starred Anil Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao. Her next film *Ponniyin Selvan: I*, scheduled for a release on September 30, is a historical drama based on Kalki Krishnamurthy's 1955 Tamil novel of the same name, which chronicles the story of the early days of Arulmozhiwarman, one of the most powerful kings in the south, who went on to become the great Chola emperor Rajaraja Chola I.

Health & Fitness

How to get a fit body like Bollywood star Rakul Preet Singh

Indian actress Rakul Preet Singh is that slightly annoying but admirable person who will be at a gym even before its doors open and finds exercising therapeutic rather than a retribution after indulging in a calorific meal. The *'Runway 34'* star views her body as a temple and treats it with immense respect. Even if she's at the airport, she makes sure that she stocks up on homemade food so that she doesn't eat anything greasy or unhealthy.

Need more proof? Just go through her Instagram account and you will see her feasting on ice cream as well as doing pull-ups with impressive agility a few posts later. "But that yummy ice cream had no sugar and is made with jaggery [natural sugar cane] and trust me it tastes as good if not better than the ones with a lot of refined sugar," said Singh in an exclusive interview with Gulf News.

The self-made star is an authority of sorts when it comes to fitness and nutrition. "My brother always jokes that if nothing happens in my life I can always become a nutritionist who's thorough about eating right. He thinks I am that school in all things nutrition," said Singh with a laugh.

Here are the top seven fitness philosophies that Manjusha Radhakrishnan of Gulf New gleaned from our conversation with Singh, who seems to be a walking encyclopedia in maintaining a clean and lean life.

Lesson 1: "Carbs are not anyone's enemy"

"This is the biggest myth. I have loaded myself on carbs in the morning and afternoon. I just don't eat processed or fried food. I don't eat sugar either, but I eat rice and they are good for you. I can just go and on about this. But it's just how the marketing industry globally has made carbs such an enemy through gimmicks. Think about it: carbs are rice or rotis for us. Avoid sugary carbs like croissants. But if you eat sweet potatoes or vegetable loaded with fibre and simple carbs, then you are all good."

Lesson 2: "Don't work out for anybody but yourself"

"I go to the gym and put the right stuff in my body for myself and not for anyone else. I feel energetic after a

workout and I feel like I have achieved my optimum in terms of my energy levels or mental alertness. I want to feel my best all the time and it so happens that I feel best when I work out and eat right. I feel good when I have balance in my life. I have always grown up that way and I don't know any other way ... Go to the gym because you want to and not because you have to."

Lesson 3: "Don't be that couch potato who can watch content online for hours at a stretch"

"I feel grateful that my generation was not exposed to phones when we didn't eat as kids. Perhaps, our parents ran behind their kids and did whatever it took to feed them. I remember my mom finding a cow for me so that I would eat in peace ... I had some weird fixations with eating when a cow is around. But I feel sad for this generation, but I am not here to correct them. All I want to say is that so much exposure to radiation is going to eventually affect us. Balance is the key to everything in life. And it's important to expose your body to some physical activity to keep your heart rate healthy and your blood pressure going. In today's times you hear of so many 30-40 year olds getting heart attacks which were unheard of earlier ... All that boils down to lifestyle habits. If people don't learn from that, then I don't know how else they would?"



Lesson 4: "Make exercise your ally or take up a sport"

"If I don't train for two days or if I don't do any form of physical activity, I become a very grumpy person... Just like how we are conditioned to eat breakfast, I am conditioned to work out. Imagine if somebody asks you to skip

your meal, you will feel uneasy. And that's what happens when I don't work out. Even if my day starts at 6 am, I will wake up at 4am and train at 4 am. So make exercise or sports a part of your lifestyle. I love doing yoga to start my day too."

Lesson 5: "Treat yourself right"

"If we don't treat ourselves right, life will always throw something at us that will force you to do it. You don't want to reach that state. Remember, we are all born with the same strength of immunity and there's a limit to which your body can handle toxicity or bad food. We aren't eating right any more, and we need to have a handle on it. Nowadays, we often don't know what we are eating, the air we are breathing, or the water we are drinking. So take care of your body."

Lesson 6: "Even if you don't cook, know what you put in your plate"

"I don't cook but I do know what I have to tell my cook. I know well what I eat for lunch or dinner. I am not someone who will eat anything when they are on the go or when they are hungry. I carry my own lunch wherever I go — even if it's some coconut curry, some rice, and veggies. Since I hate feel bloated with greasy food, I feel better carrying my own."

Lesson 7: "Losing or gaining weight rapidly is a bad idea"

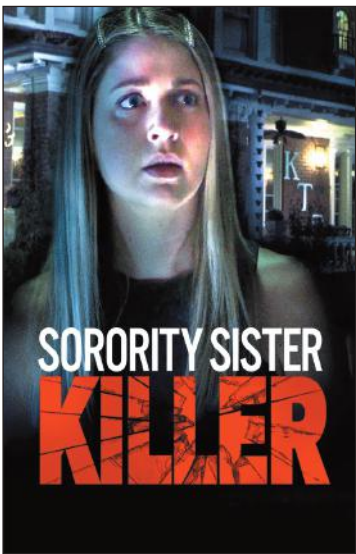
"It's not right. Sometimes, it's our job as an actor to lose or gain weight rapidly. But we do it with utmost care because that's our profession. We are extremely cautious on how we do it. Don't abandon food and that's never the solution. Picking healthier options works. But trust me, if I am asked to put on weight for any film in the future, I will not do it. It will take a huge toll on my body and can't yo-yo so many times in my life. Even if it's a kick-ass script, but I have to put on 15kg, I won't do it. Losing those 15kg will need so much effort and it isn't good for my body."

Lesson 8: "Wellness retreats are brilliant and you must give it a shot"

"I know many celebrities who hate going to the gym or isn't a fan of wellness spas. They ask me why I want to take a holiday to eat healthy and some of my friends even ask me why I go to health retreats for a detox since I don't eat anything unhealthy. But for me, it's not just about eliminating the toxicity ... It's about being in that environment and how it reboots my system. It help me cut off from the madness of the city and channelise my thoughts. The environment there helps me connect to my mind, body, and soul."



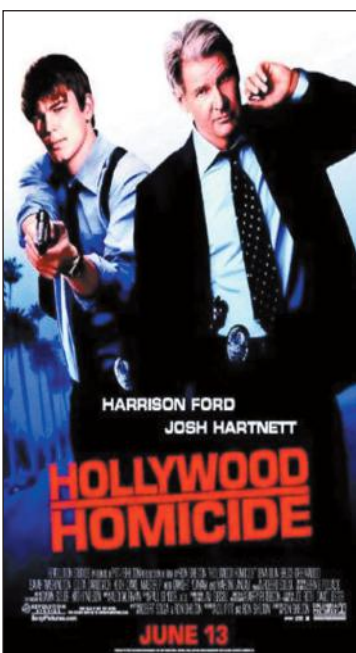
Vendredi 10 Juin - 21.15



Samedi 11 Juin - 21.00



Dimanche 12 Juin - 21.52



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 10 juin

samedi 11 juin

dimanche 12 juin

lundi 13 juin

MBC 1

06.00 Local: Nos Aines
07.30 Local: Glwar Dantan
08.30 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer..
10.30 Mag: Check In
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous...
11.35 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.15 Local Production
14.33 D.Anime: Gon
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
15.34 D.Anime: Booba
15.40 D.Anime: Mondo Yan
17.05 Serial: Backstage
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.55 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Les Grands Noms...
21.06 Local: Radio Vision
22.35 Serial: Billions
23.30 Le Journal

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan
11.18 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
12.00 Film: Size Zero
14.04 Mag: DDI Mag
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.26 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
16.47 Serial: Bhag Na Banche Koi
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.30 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.01 Serial: The Demi-Gods...
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.00 Serial: Dil Ruba
20.44 Local: Anjuman
21.10 Local: Urdu Programme -
22.05 DDI Live

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.58 Sur Les Traces Du Renard
08.46 Doc: Castles
09.38 Doc: Snapshots
12.17 Mag: Border Crossing
13.12 Sur Les Traces Du Renard
14.10 The Prince Of The Forest
16.30 Mag: Eco India
16.56 Doc: World Famous Writers
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.33 Doc: Lost Edens
20.45 Doc: World Heritage
20.48 Doc: Nos Cinq Sens
21.41 Doc: Vincent Van Gogh...
22.25 Istanbul Quake
23.00 Doc: Blue Girl
23.42 Mag: World Stories
23.54 Doc: World Famous Writers
00.27 Mag: Euromaxx
00.49 Doc: Lost Edens
01.46 Doc: World Heritage

Cine 12

01.27 Film: Meet The Blacks
03.42 Film: Christmas Jars
05.05 Tele: Marimar
05.27 Tele: Rubi
06.57 Film: Meet The Blacks
09.00 Serial: Timeless
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: New Amsterdam
11.56 Film: Christmas Jars
13.31 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: Meet The Blacks
16.40 Serial: Timeless
17.24 Serial: For Life
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.34 Serial: My Perfect Landing
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: Zoo
21.15 Film: Sorority Sister Killer
22.49 Tele: Marimar

Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Love Story
Star: Kumar Gaurav, Vijayata Pandit, Danny Denzongpa
11.00 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.30 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
11.59 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
12.23 / 22.00 - Agnihera
12.49 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.19 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Mehbooba
Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Ajay Devgan, Manisha Koirala
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.28 Bhakharwadi

06.22 D.Anime: Gon
06.45 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
06.57 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts
07.19 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
07.37 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
08.19 D.Anime: Briko
08.36 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
08.51 D.Anime: Les Triples
09.00 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
09.33 Serial: Hank Zipzer
10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
12.00 Le Journal
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
15.34 D.Anime: Booba
16.06 D.Anime: Robot Trains
17.15 Mag: Human Nature
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
21.10 Film: Happy Housewives
23.10 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Mangalsutra
Star: Starring Rekha, Anant Nag, Prema Narayan
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.05 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bharo
12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.46 Serial: High School
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Film: Champion
Stars: Sunny Deol, Manisha Koirala, Rahul Dev
17.44 Mag: DDI Mag
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
20.30 Serial: Porus
21.00 Film: Force 2
Starring John Abraham, Sonakshi Sinha, Tahir Raj Bhasin

06.00 Doc: Blue Girl
06.42 Mag: World Stories
06.57 Mag: Our Vocies
07.25 Mag: Euromaxx
07.54 Doc: Lost Edens
09.42 Doc: Vincent Van Gogh...
11.48 Mag: World Stories
12.30 Doc: Lost Edens
13.27 Doc: World Heritage
14.30 Student Support Prog...
17.52 Doc: Sweet Magic
18.00 Magazine De L'emploi
18.33 Mag: In God Shape
19.00 Mag: Salad Area
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: World Heritage
20.50 Doc: Hotels
21.42 Doc: Skuld
22.08 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
23.15 Doc: Sweet Magic
23.46 Doc: Smoothie Mania
23.49 Mag: In Good Shape

01.31 Film: The Delphi Effect
03.10 Serial: Powers
03.37 Serial: L.A.'S Finest
04.20 Serial: Reckoning
05.06 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.08 Serial: Zoo
08.30 Serial: Killjoys
09.10 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
10.40 Film: The Stronghold
12.15 Serial: Powers
13.30 Serial: Blacklist
15.15 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.30 Serial: Zoo
17.03 Film: Origine Inconnue
19.35 Serial: My Perfect Landing
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Series: Zoo
21.15 Film: Tears Of The Sun
Avec Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser
23.15 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasionnes

04.22 Radha Krishna
04.51 Mere Sai
05.14 Agnihera
05.40 Yeh Teri Galiyan
10.30 Motu Patlu
10.42 Sasural Simar Ka 2
13.00 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.43 Serial: Anupamaa
16.30 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Aap Mujhe Aache Lagne Lage
Starring Hrithik Roshan, Amisha Patel, Kiran Kumar
21.12 Serial: Namah
21.34 Serial: Naagin Season 3
22.16 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

06.00 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda
07.00 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts
07.55 D.Anime: Akili And Me
08.19 D.Anime: Briko
10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
12.00 Le Journal
13.20 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.21 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
15.27 D.Anime: The Hive
15.35 D. Anime: Booba
16.46 D.Anime: Shezow
17.15 Mag: Human Nature
17.45 Local Prod: 13 Minit Natir...
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Local Production: Les Klips
21.15 Film: Hollywood Homicide
23.05 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Mafia
11.03 Serial: Azhagu
11.24 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
11.45 Serial: Surya Puran
12.06 Film: Sangram
15.00 Samachar
15.20 Mooga Manasulu
15.42 Serial: He Mann Baware
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
Starring: Bharathi, Badekilla, Pradeep, Naresh Eswar
16.30 Local: Yaadein
16.58 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Serial: Porus
20.46 Serial: CID
21.16 Serial: Naagin Season 2
Starring: Mouni Roy, Karanvir Bohra...

06.00 Mag: Tresors Oublies De...
07.02 Mag: Salad Area
07.28 Mag: Check In
09.45 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into...
10.37 Doc: The Miracle Of Hear...
11.26 Doc: Sweet Magic
11.30 Mag: Tresors Oublies De...
11.57 Doc: Smoothie Mania
12.31 Mag: The 77 Percent
14.18 Doc: World Heritage
14.23 Doc: Hotels
15.15 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into...
15.25 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
18.35 Doc: Smoothie Mania
19.00 Mag: The Inside Story
20.01 Doc: Planet Home
20.30 Live: News (English)
20.50 Doc: World Heritage
21.43 Doc: La Route De La Soie
22.08 Doc: Losing Sleep
23.32 Doc: Sweet Magic

00.30 Film: Tears Of The Sun
02.50 Serial: Absentia
03.30 Film: Dans La Ligne Du Mire
05.33 Tele: Tanto Amor
10.37 Serial: Zoo
07.11 Serial: Island Doctor
08.30 Serial: Killjoys
09.11 Film: Boyne Falls
10.40 Film: Origine Inconnue
12.15 Serial: Absentia
13.31 Serial: New Amsterdam
15.35 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.00 Serial: Zoo
17.45 Serial: Absentia
18.30 Serial: L'Agence Tous Risque
19.36 Serial: My Perfect Landing
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor
21.15 Serial: Scorpion
21.52 Film: Celle Qui A Tous Les...
23.46 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasionnes

00.26 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2
02.26 Bhakharwadi
04.11 Anupamaa
05.58 Pavitra Rishta
08.01 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
10.03 Kundali Bhagya
12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
13.57 Agnihera
16.01 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Film: Phir Milenge
Starring: Salman Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Shilpa Shetty
21.09 Naagin Season 3
21.35 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
23.20 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
01.00 Kundali Bhagya
03.00 Agnihera

06.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
07.55 Local: Music Tour 2022
09.00 Doc: The Power Of Gentle...
10.05 Local: Radio Vision
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.34 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.15 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
17.05 Serial: Backstage
17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Mere Sai
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 MBC Production
22.20 Film: Dans La Ligne Du Mire
Avec: John Malkovich, Clint Eastwood

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Kundali Bhagya
12.06 Film: Bees Saal Baad
Starring Biswajeet, Waheeda Rehman, Madan Puri
14.17 DDI Magazine
15.00 Samachar
15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.42 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.24 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
16.42 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe
17.57 Serial: The Demi-Gods...
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.00 Programme In Telugu
20.30 Film: Majili
Starg: Naga Chaitanya, Samantha Ruth Prabhu

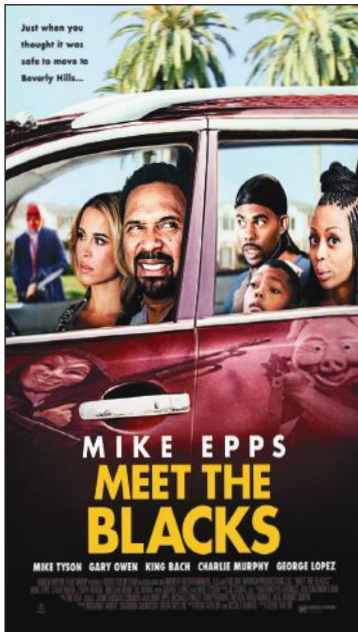
07.00 Mag: Salad Area
07.58 Doc: Planet Home
08.24 Doc: World Heritage
10.32 Doc: Sri Lanka
12.21 Mag: The Inside Story
13.13 Doc: Planet Home
14.38 Doc: La Route De La Soie
16.32 Doc: Innovation On Board
18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.33 Mag: In Good Shape
20.45 Doc: Castles
20.48 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
21.41 Mag: Global 3000
22.08 Mag: Washington Forum
22.33 Doc: One Way Ticket
23.15 Doc: Congo
23.57 Mag: Eco@Africa
00.27 Mag: The 77 Percent
00.49 Doc: Persons
00.52 Mag: Africa

01.20 Film: Celle Qui A Tous Les...
03.47 Film: Hollywood Homicide
05.28 Tele: Marimar
06.02 Tele: Rubi
06.26 Serial: The Good Doctor
07.49 Film: Norman
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: New Asterdam
11.45 Film: Hollywood Homicide
13.35 Tele: Marimar
13.54 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: Norman
16.41 Serial: The Good Doctor
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.39 Serial: My Perfect Landing
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: Chicago PD
21.15 Film: Blood Circus
22.38 Tele: Marimar

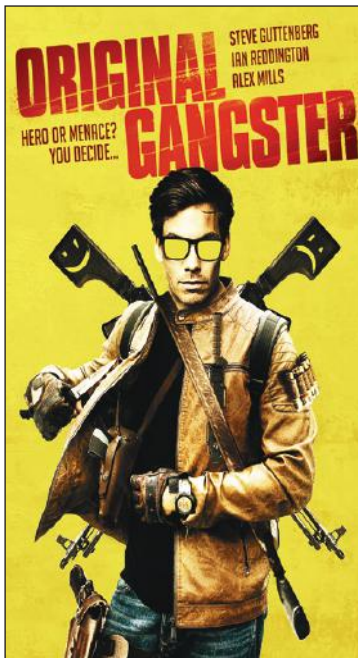
08.00 Taare Zameen Par
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.59 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.31 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.55 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Naam
Starring: Nutan, Kumar Gaurav, Sanjay Dutt
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2
20.30 Radha Krishna
21.06 Anupamaa



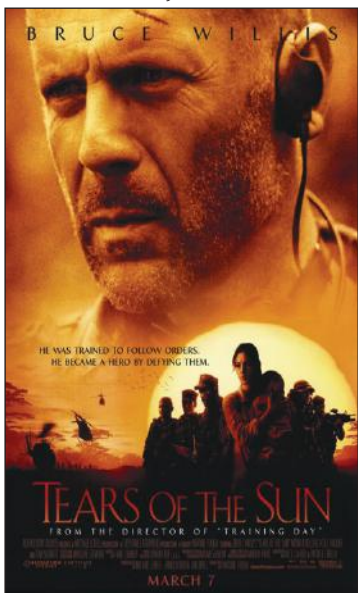
Mardi 14 Juin - 21.10



Mercredi 15 juin - 21.15



Jeudi 16 juin - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 14 juin

MBC 1

- 06.00 Local: Rodrig
- 07.50 Local: Encounter
- 08.30 Local Prod: Agri Ensemble
- 10.00 Local: La Societe
- 11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous...
- 11.35 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna...
- 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
- 13.15 Prod: Come On Lets Dance
- 14.33 Mag: MBC Production
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 16.00 Live: National Assembly
- 17.05 Serial: Backstage
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 18.55 Local Prod: Kala
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
- 22.05 Film: Meet The Blacks
With Mike Epps, Zulay Henao...

MBC 2

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Serial: CID
Starring: Jeetendra, Jaya Prada
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.20 Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.43 Bommarillu
- 16.07 Sondha Bandham
- 16.25 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
- 16.49 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
- 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
- 17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam
- 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And Semi-Devils
- 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 20.06 Local: Tamil Programme
- 20.30 Film: Khilona
Star Jeetendra, Sanjeev Kumar, Mumtaz, Shatrughan S

MBC 3

- 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 07.55 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
- 09.17 Mag: Washington Forum
- 10.25 Doc: Congo - Millionaires...
- 13.58 Mag: Global 3000
- 14.50 Doc: One Way Ticket
- 16.17 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
- 18.41 Mag: Red Carpet
- 19.03 Student Support Prog...
- 19.30 Doc: Nos Cinq Sens
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.45 Doc: Castles
- 21.40 Mag: Euromaxx
- 22.08 Mag: Close Up
- 22.32 Local: Rodrig
- 23.14 Mag: The Global Auto...
- 23.40 Mag: Healthy Living
- 23.55 Mag: Red Carpet
- 00.10 Doc: Persons

Cine 12

- 01.26 Film: Blood Circus
- 02.49 Serial: New Amsterdam
- 03.37 Film: Dans La Ligne Du Mire
- 05.33 Tele: Marimar
- 05.56 Tele: Rubi
- 06.19 Serial: Chicago PD
- 07.00 Film: Blood Circus
- 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
- 10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.00 Serial: New Amsterdam
- 11.43 Film: Dans La Ligne Du Mire
- 13.37 Tele: Marimar
- 13.57 Tele: Rubi
- 14.45 Film: Blood Circus
- 16.44 Serial: Timeless
- 17.25 Serial: Chicago PD
- 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
- 21.15 Film: Underworld
Avec: Michael Sheen, Rhona Mitra...

Bollywood TV

- 06.50 Film: Naam
Star Nutan, Kumar Gaurav, Sanjay Dutt
- 11.32 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna
- 11.59 / 20.57 - Anupamaa
- 12.30 / 21.27 - Mere Sai
- 12.52 / 22.07 - Agniphera
- 13.22 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 13.52 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes
- 14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
- 14.53 / 22.25 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 15.28 Film: Mahaadev
Star Vinod Khanna, Meenakshi Sheshadri, Raj Babbar
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
- 18.59 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Bhakharwadi
- 20.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2

mercredi 15 juin

- 07.00 Local: Profil
- 07.30 Local: Priorite Sante
- 08.09 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 09.00 Mag: Happiness Is On The...
- 10.05 Local: Morisien Konn Ou...
- 11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous Actre...
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
- 13.15 Local Production: Les Klips
- 14.05 Local: Priorite Sante
- 14.35 D.Anime: Gon
- 15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
- 15.35 D.Anime: Booba
- 17.10 Serial: Backstage
- 17.35 Mag: The World Is Yours
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 18.55 MBC Production
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.30 MBC Production
- 22.20 Film: Original Gangster
Star: Steve Guttenberg, Ian Reddington

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
- 12.00 Film: Taj Mahal
Starring Pradeep Kumar, Bina Rai, Veena
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.49 Bommarillu
- 16.07 Sondha Bandham
- 16.25 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
- 16.49 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
- 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
- 17.31 Serial: Kulvadh
- 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods...
- 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 20.06 Programme In Marathi
- 21.00 Film: The Dragon
Star: Yuen Bo Alan Chan Kwok-Kuen Sai Gwa-Pau Lo Hoi-Pang Kwan Hoi-San

- 06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...
- 06.41 Mag: Red Carpet
- 07.02 Mag: Check In
- 08.46 Doc: Castles
- 09.40 Mag: Euromaxx
- 15.49 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
- 17.08 Local: Yoga
- 18.00 Mag: Motorweek
- 18.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.35 Mag: The Inside Story
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.45 Doc: Castles
- 21.29 Les Montagnes Du Monde
- 22.37 Mag: Focus On Europe
- 23.46 Mag: Motorweek
- 00.12 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 00.39 Doc: Persons
- 00.42 Mag: Arts.21
- 01.08 Mag: The Inside Story
- 01.34 Doc: Skuld
- 02.00 Doc: Castles

- 01.25 Film: Underworld
- 03.39 Film: Meet The Blacks
- 05.08 Tele: Marimar
- 05.57 Serial: Chicago PD
- 06.37 Film: Christmas Jars
- 09.00 L'Agence Tous Risques
- 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
- 10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.01 Serial: New Amsterdam
- 12.00 Film: Meet The Blacks
- 13.30 Tele: Marimar
- 14.45 Film: Christmas Jars
- 16.49 L'Agence Tous Risques
- 17.31 Serial: Chicago PD
- 18.09 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.30 Serial: My Perfect Landing
- 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
- 20.30 Serial: For Life
- 21.15 Film: They Came To Cordura
- 23.13 Tele: Marimar
- 00.00 L'Agence Tous Risques

- 07.00 Film: Mahaadev
- 11.29 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
- 12.25 / 20.26 - Anupamaa
- 12.31 / 20.02 - Mere Sai
- 13.08 / 20.46 - Agniphera
- 13.32 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 14.00 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
- 14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
- 14.47 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 15.25 Film: Ek Tha Raja
Starring Sunil Shetty, Saif Ali Khan, Aditya Pancholi, Neelam Kothari
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 20.30 Radha Krishna
- 20.59 Anupamaa

jeudi 16 juin

- 06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
- 06.45 Local: Coin Jardin
- 06.59 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 07.45 Local: Ero Deryer Rido
- 08.15 Local: Elle
- 10.05 Local: Le Mag Avec Josian...
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
- 13.15 Local: Music Tour 2022
- 14.35 D.Anime: Gon
- 15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
- 15.34 D.Anime: Booba
- 17.10 Serial: Backstage
- 17.35 Mag: The World Is Yours
- 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
- 20.20 Film: Raabta
Starring Deepika Padukone, Rajkummar Rao, Kriti Sanon

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha
- 11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...
- 12.00 Film: Juari
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
- 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
- 16.27 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
- 16.48 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
- 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
- 17.40 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
- 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...
- 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
- 19.30 Filler: Radha Krishna
- 20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 20.59 Local: Profil
- 21.05 Film: Tears Of The Sun
With Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser

- 06.00 Mag: Motorweek
- 06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 06.52 Doc: Persons
- 08.17 Doc: Castles
- 10.23 Doc: Raqqa
- 11.35 Local: Vous Et Nous
- 12.34 Mag: The Inside Story
- 13.26 Doc: Castles
- 15.05 Mag: Focus On Europe
- 16.19 Mag: Motorweek
- 18.00 Mag: Eco India
- 18.29 Mag: Shift
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.30 Doc: Sur Les Traces Du...
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.48 Doc: La Naissance Des Industries De Luxe
- 22.23 Doc: Les Grand Mythes
- 22.49 Doc: Muay Thai
- 23.36 Mag: Eco India
- 23.57 Mag: Shift

- 01.52 Film: Sorority Sister Killer
- 03.22 Serial: New Amsterdam
- 04.03 Film: They Came To Cordura
- 06.01 Tele: Marimar
- 06.25 Tele: Rubi
- 07.28 Film: Sorority Sister Killer
- 09.00 Serial: Timeless
- 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
- 10.37 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.00 Serial: New Amsterdam
- 11.42 Film: They Came To Cordura
- 13.41 Tele: Marimar
- 14.45 Film: Sorority Sister Killer
- 16.40 Serial: Timeless
- 17.21 Serial: For Life
- 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.36 Serial: Creeped Out
- 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
- 20.30 Serial: For Life
- 21.15 Serial: Knight Rider

- 07.00 Film: Ek Tha Raja
Starring Sunil Shetty, Saif Ali Khan, Aditya Pancholi, Neelam Kothari
- 11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa
- 12.32 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
- 13.19 / 21.09 - Agniphera
- 13.44 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 14.05 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
- 14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
- 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
- 15.18 Film: Kala Bazaar
Starring Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Farha Naaz, Kimi Katkar
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 18.59 Udaariyaan
- 19.29 Bhakharwadi
- 19.54 Sasural Simar Ka 2



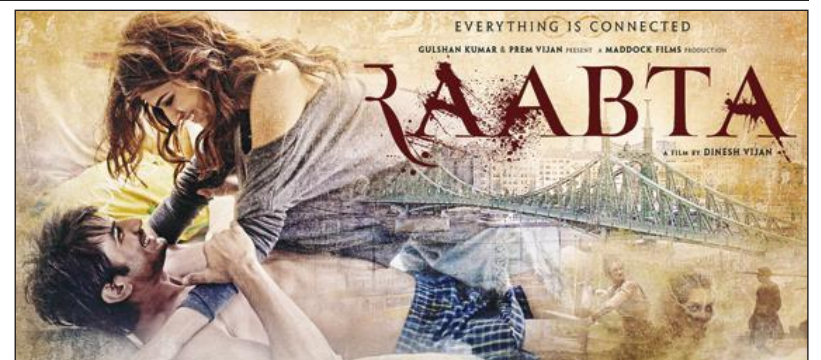
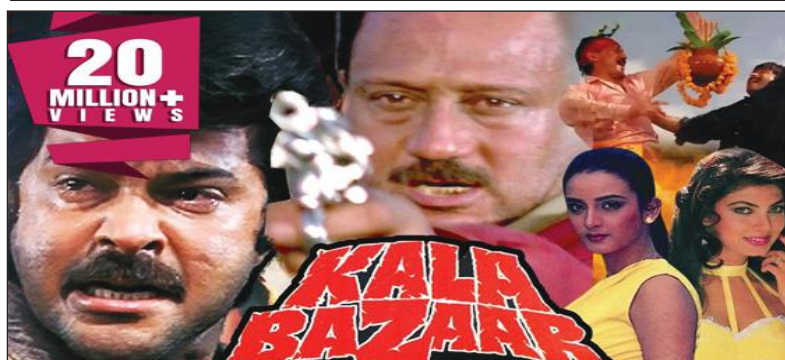
Jeudi 16 juin - 15.30

Stars: Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Farha Naaz, Kimi Katkar



Jeudi 16 juin - 20.20

Star: Deepika Padukone, Rajkummar Rao, Kriti Sanon



Le pouvoir par le vote. Une réalité ? Le prix fort



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Il y a quelques années, une spécialiste de 'civilisation américaine' disait ceci dans un amphithéâtre rempli à craquer: 'Je ne vous apprend rien en vous disant que voter ne sert à rien de nos jours.'

Le terme 'civilisation' peut paraître quelque peu prématuré pour un jeune pays d'à peine 300 ans d'existence, le terme anglais 'American Studies' est plus approprié. L'inutilité des élections concerne en plus des Etats-Unis, l'Europe aussi, selon la conférencière.

D'autres pays pourraient s'y retrouver dans cette affirmation catégorique qui traduit l'idée d'une illusion de choix démocratique. Sous-entendu qu'il y aurait d'autres forces qui dirigent le monde au-delà des courants idéologiques et des partis politiques et que toute agitation des campagnes électorales relève d'une mascarade. Est-ce vraiment le cas ?

Dans un premier temps, cette idée peut paraître convaincante. Et même d'autres pays hors de la sphère occidentale sont contraints de suivre une voie unique tant l'économie du marché est incontournable à l'échelle internationale.

C'est peu dire que le socialisme n'a jamais été en odeur de sainteté dans l'Establishment américain. La majorité des Américains tiennent en horreur cette idéologie venue d'ailleurs et se battra bec et ongles contre toute tentative d'implantation sur son sol et est prête à lui déclarer la guerre partout dans le monde.

Vu sous l'angle d'une économie de marché, le capitalisme ayant signé le glas du socialisme dans les années 80, le peu de choix sur le plan économique paraît évident et la rivalité partisane se résume à une guerre d'égos et les élections quinquennales à une gesticulation bruyante. Aujourd'hui tout devient caricatural tant le



A quoi sert le vote dans un pays comme la France? Pic - CSMonitor.com

monde est en ébullition et les choses changent à grande vitesse. Rien n'est simple.

L'économie n'est pas l'alpha et l'oméga d'un pays, les peuples de ce monde ne représentent pas que des millions d'estomac à nourrir. Les peuples ont une histoire, une mémoire collective, une culture, une langue, un patrimoine littéraire et artistique, un mode de vie, des us et coutumes et une religion qu'ils partagent et qui leur donnent une identité, tandis que d'autres tels que ceux de l'Inde et de la Chine sont les héritiers d'une civilisation millénaire.

Le romantisme idéologique du socialisme paré d'une utopie égalitaire et le consumérisme libéral ont rendu « ringard » tout discours portant sur culture et identité. Une panoplie d'épithètes s'acharne sur tout tenant d'un discours qui est devenu sujet tabou et honni dans les pays avancés.

Ceux qui se permettent de parler de leur ventre, siège de mémoire et de de l'émotion, se font vite taxer de racistes, fascistes, nationalistes, fanatiques et xénophobes. Le discours politiquement correct est surtout l'apanage des Etats-Unis, et s'est bien implanté contre le gré des peuples en Europe et ses alliés du Canada et de l'Australie.

A quoi sert le vote dans un pays comme la France lors des dernières élections?

Le discours ambiant voudrait que le pouvoir d'achat, donc l'économie, prime sur toute autre considération de civilisation ou de culture, que profondément les Français ne voient aucune menace à leur mode vie. Le score du Rassemblement national (RN), dénommé Front national (FN) jusqu'en 2018, parti de droite identitaire, est tout de même arrivé en deuxième position à l'élection

présidentielle.

Quant à Reconquête!, un mouvement politique, dirigé par Eric Zemmour, et qui se donne pour objectifs de défendre l'intérêt national et de promouvoir la grandeur de la France, ce parti talonnait LaRem (La République en marche) du Président Macron le 23 avril dernier en dépassant le RN avant que les médias ne le fassent dégringoler en l'associant à un Poutine ultra-patriotique lors de l'invasion de l'Ukraine.

Le vote impulsif en temps de guerre et aussi, par défaut, pour Macron au deuxième tour fit de cette élection, encore une fois, une farce électorale unique à la France.

Maintenant qu'ils sont coincés avec un vote utile pour Macron, la logique requiert qu'ils lui donnent une majorité pour gouverner. Ce qui lui permettrait de continuer d'appliquer les diktats de Bruxelles sous commande des Etats-Unis. Et c'est là que tout coince.

- Les résultats s'annoncent serrés pour Renaissance, nouveau nom de LaRem pour faire court comme Reconquête, mimétisme absurde, renaître de quoi ?
- La France Insoumise a réussi à rassembler les partis de gauche sous Mélenchon, le poste de Premier ministre ne séduit pas la patronne du RN. L'extrême gauche ne porte pas l'Union européenne dans son cœur alors que la gauche socialiste y adhère, et de l'autre côté, les Communistes rêvent d'un Frexit sans concession.

Tout ce beau monde a joué la carte européenne jusqu'ici. Et quelle liberté de politique économique aurait la Nupes (Nouvelle Union populaire écologique et sociale, qui est une alliance politique conclue

entre plusieurs partis de gauche) pour les cinq ans à venir ? Car si tant est qu'ils tentent un Frexit, cela durera quelques années. C'est une patate chaude qui pourrait faire fuir en masse les électeurs vers Macron.

L'électorat socialiste qui a boudé le RN n'a pas bien saisi le programme économique très socialiste de Madame Le Pen. C'est une confusion totale dans les esprits. Que cherchent les gens dans une élection ?

Pour les raisons purement électoralistes, Mélenchon a retourné sa veste dans une posture anti-Russie pour la présidentielle. En cas de victoire, il retrouverait vite sa sympathie pro-russe et mettrait fin au soutien de la France à l'alliance occidentale menée par les Etats-Unis. Seul point positif à l'horizon. A l'approche technocrate de Macron qui consiste à considérer l'immigration comme une chance, Mélenchon rajoute le romantisme idéologique de multiculturalisme, voire l'euphémisme de créolisation, comme un progrès.

Donc rien ne changera, ce sera encore pire pour une France qui voit déjà des sociétés parallèles avec un différent mode de vie, code vestimentaire et religion, essentiellement issues de l'immigration de l'Afrique du Nord, s'établir partout dans une posture de défi à l'égard du pays d'adoption qu'une idéologie expansionniste et radicale vise à dominer sur le plan démographique à long terme.

Tout un programme qui est rejeté en France, mais aussi dans les pays nordiques prospères et jadis paisibles que sont la Suède et la Norvège. Ces pays ont pris des mesures fortes pour éradiquer une idéologie porteuse de délinquance, de criminalité et de séparatisme. Mesures suivies par bien d'autres pays européens.

Si les élections ne servent qu'à satisfaire l'estomac dans une approche matérialiste de la vie en commun, l'âme du peuple et de sa civilisation en pâtira à la longue. Vu de la Chine ou la Russie, cette liberté de choix dans les démocraties peut paraître comme une illusion. Mais ceux qui sont attachés à la notion de liberté aspirent à ce que les élections ne soient pas une farce. Qu'en est-il en réalité ?



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Fill Yourself from the Inside Out

Creating and expanding your own inner light is a simple way of tending to your own energy field

Life presents us with many opportunities to gain mastery in tending our own energy fields. At times we may want to protect ourselves by using energy shields of color, light or angelic presence. Or in order to become more grounded, we may run energy down through our feet or first chakra, rooting ourselves to the earth. Sometimes it's appropriate to play openly with others in an expansive, flowing state; and at other times, we may want to limit our availability to a chosen few.

In certain public environments such as graduation ceremonies, work conventions, or even weddings, it may be important to remain open-hearted and able to connect, while



still preventing our individual systems from depletion or overwhelm. In these situations, rather than putting a barrier between ourselves and the world around us, we can fill our energy fields from the inside out. In doing this, we become so filled with our own personal energy that no room is left for outside influences or discordant energy to enter in and affect us.

When you need to connect with people on a one-to-one basis, separate from the bustling environment around you, here is a visualization technique you might try. You can start in the morning and repeat any time as needed. Begin by taking a few moments to breathe deeply and relax. When you are calm and present, envision a ball of light in your solar plexus area just above your belly button. Allow it to build there, growing stronger and stronger. Eventually, allow the light to expand throughout the rest of your body until it fills your entire physical and energetic field.

By filling yourself with your own energy in this way, you become fortified with your own power. You retain access to all of your intuitive and mental abilities. And, you are able to act from a loving space in the midst of any situation.