

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• "No matter their party, people with a conflict of interest should be banned from the Electoral College." — Da Shanne Stokes

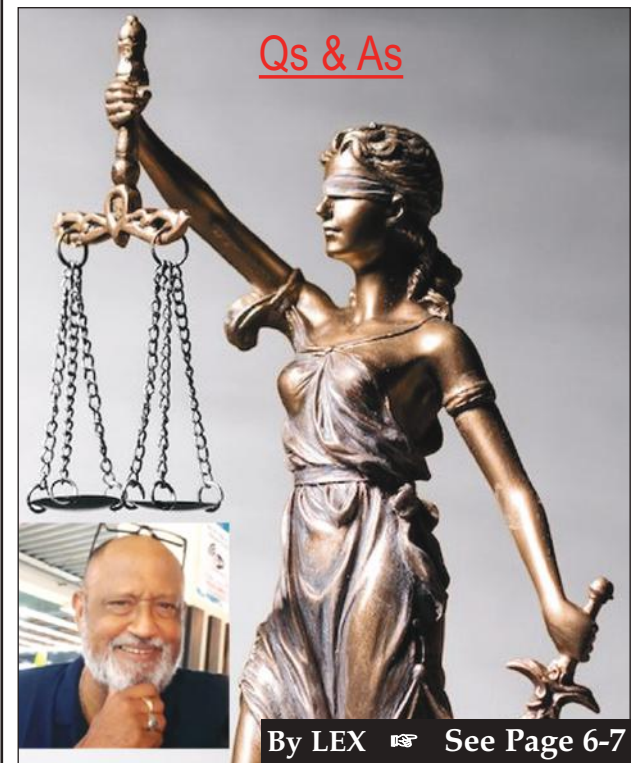


Interview: Jack Bizlall

**«La Commission électorale ne dévoilera rien. C'est remettre toutes les élections passées en question»**

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**«To have a criminal case determined after 12 years is rather outrageous»**



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By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee See Page 3





## Sugar Sector Reform At what cost?

**I**t was normal that the sugar sector should receive our prime attention in view of its overriding socio-economic implications at a time when sugar production was the predominant economic activity of Mauritius. Thus, before economic diversification was initiated in the late 70s and early 80s with textiles taking the lead, when the Commonwealth Sugar Preference came to an end in 1974 with Britain's accession to the Treaty of Rome, Labour Party leaders negotiated the Lome Convention to create the necessary opening and privileged access principally for our sugar to the European market. The sugar sector benefited due to this arrangement from a guaranteed export quota in the European Union at much above world market prices, and that was to have a positive impact on the standard of living of all those associated with the industry and on the country generally.

Today even though sugar production remains one of the major activities of Mauritius, its economic weight in terms of earnings, and still less in terms of employment, has steadily declined compared to other sectors that have emerged. Nevertheless, succeeding governments have for years given a series of concessions to the sugar sector. These ranged from the elimination of the sugar export duty, that was intended to recoup for general economic development a small part of the political price obtained for sugar under Lome, to cheap loans granted by the Bank of Mauritius at one time. Did the sugar sector reciprocate by generating more employment and/or output? Workers have instead been laid off under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme and, later, under the Early Retirement Scheme. Total annual sugar production has gone on shrinking. Falling sugar prices, especially in the wake of the end of guaranteed EU prices from 2009 and the liberalization of quotas from 2017 onwards - and various other factors including demographics and non-availability of labour, an inequitable sharing of the gains from the diversification into non-sugar sectors (energy, bagasse, distillery) - have gradually led to land abandonment mostly by small planters (whose production costs are 16 to 26% higher than Corporate Sugar's) at the rate of 2000 hectares annually; in the process the number of small planters has gone down from 27,000 in 2004 to 12,000 today.

Corporate Sugar has instead stayed put, and they should not be blamed for diversifying into other sectors, such as energy production (though only a handful of investors have taken hold of them to the exclusion of the numerous other stakeholders) and taking advantage of various schemes, such as the IRS and the Smart Cities that followed being developed by the large sugar estates, which control the large land holdings in the country. To be compatible with a fair and equitable sharing of gains, *Mauritius Times* has been arguing at length that the resulting windfall gains due to soaring prices arising from land conversion could have been employed to support targeted economic development for the benefit of the nation as a

whole and that the fallouts from the diversification into non-sugar sectors should have been more equitably distributed. Politicians of various dispensations have - for reasons best known to themselves - not listened, and nothing has materialized from this source. This could have been done by shareholding structures which are the basis of large-scale economic activities.

We now learn from the 'Mauritius Sugar Cane Sector Review - Policy Note', a report prepared by the World Bank, dated 20 Dec 2020, that 'if no policy action is taken in the short term, with the current level of losses, the (competitive) analysis shows that the sector will continue to decline and could disappear in the next 10 to 20 years (under a pessimistic scenario)'. And it goes on to propose a series of policy reforms and programs 'to halt the decline and have a high likelihood of the sector being viable over the coming decade: (i) increase the price paid for generating electricity from bagasse; (ii) decrease the sugar logistics and export costs; (iii) expand the revenues generated from the sale of specialty sugars; (iv) lower labor costs; (v) improve the efficiency of sugarcane farms; (v) allow the pass-through of market signals throughout the value chain; and (vii) augment the level of taxpayer support to the sector' -- measures, which it says 'can increase the probability of the sector turning a profit over the coming 10 years'.

In other words, what all this means is that despite the earlier Blueprint on Centralization of Milling Operations (1997), designed to rightsize operations, the Sugar Industry Efficiency (SIE) Act (2001) passed to facilitate the implementation of the Sugar Sector Strategy Plan and thereafter the Multi-Annual Adaptation Strategy ten-year plan, the sugar sector has been unable to become viable and has required regular injections of taxpayer support - Rs 1.5 billion annually to make up for its Rs 1.4 billion annual losses. The latest World Bank's report is now saying that it will again require additional direct taxpayer support for it to become viable within the next 10 years!

Following a Cabinet decision taken last Friday, Agro-industry minister Maneesh Gobin, who in July 2021 was categorically against the publication of the World Bank report, presumably because of the political implications of the policy changes proposed, in particular the lowering of labour costs, has himself last Saturday made an official presentation to the industry's stakeholders. It is not known whether the minister has found this "consultative document" of the World Bank valuable for implementation, but he would have stated that further World Bank's inputs may be called for, if required.

This begs the question of whether the country can continue to pursue the slippery road of pumping more and more funds per the WB Report recommendations - or should have recourse to a broad range of local knowledge and expertise to work out a more sustainable and viable long-term outcome.

### The Conversation

## The 'Good Chaps' Rule of Government

*In the UK, there is very little to stop a leader who doesn't care to comply with unwritten norms*



**I**t can be easy to get swept up in the drama surrounding Boris Johnson. He, after all, appears to encourage it. But the current instability plaguing the British government raises more important questions than what will happen to one man. As the administration lurches from one crisis to the next and backbench MPs wrestle with what to do about it, the fundamental flaws of the British system are becoming ever more apparent.

At the heart of the matter is a prime minister who is content to ignore the conventions and generally accepted practices of the established system. His story truly exposes how little British citizens are protected from leaders of his ilk.

The country has, in a rather British way, muddled through for years. There have been reports and inquiries and codes of conduct but, unlike countries such as the US, the UK has no single document or "written constitution" which sets out the limits on behaviour.

Instead, there are acknowledged precedents and unspoken agreement. Historian Peter Hennessy has labelled this the "good chap" theory of government - a tacit understanding that there are some things which you just shouldn't do, there's a good chap (and we should understand the rather dated term "chap" to refer to men and women alike).

But by ignoring or trampling over traditional norms of behaviour, Boris Johnson has exposed the severe weakness of the system. If the chap at the top is not a good chap, then virtually no rules or restraints seem to apply. As the lawyer and commentator David Allen Green observed in summer 2021, when a Labour MP was criticised for accusing the prime minister of lying in the House of Commons: "When a prime minister lies repeatedly, there is nothing that can be done."

**Stefan Stern, Visiting Professor of Management Practice, Cass Business School, City, University of London**

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# Lata Mangeshkar: The Singing Avatar

*Lataji was THE standard, beyond anything known, immortal and transcendent*



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

**W**hen I was a medical student in Calcutta (now: Kolkata) in the late 1960s there was a classmate who was from Khar, Mumbai. On one occasion when she came back from a holiday, she narrated to our group of friends with great pride that a small niece of hers living in Pune had been blessed with a visit by Lataji. The story was that her niece was very fond of

Lataji's songs, and she wrote a letter to the latter expressing a wish that she would like to meet her, and would she also bring a particular type of doll that she liked? Lataji fulfilled her dream...

Not one, but more likely millions of her admirers both in Bharat and abroad would no doubt have equivalent if not similar direct or indirect experiences to share. The most accessible encounter if I may put it this way, especially for those like us of the diaspora, is to be enraptured by her singing, as have generations of music lovers during her musical lifetime that spanned almost 80 years, from 1942 onwards, and others to come as long as, one can fairly say, humankind exists.

For she is no less than a Singing Avatar.

The term 'Avatar' became mainstreamed in common parlance in the wake of the 2009 film of the same name. But the idea originates from Bharat's philosophy and is captured in Shlokas 7 & 8 of the Bhagavad Gita, when Krishna Bhagavan tells Prince Arjuna:

*Yada yada hi dharmasya glanirbhavati bharata |  
Abhythanamadharmasya tadatmanam srijamyaham ||*

*Paritranaaya sadhunang vinashay cha dushkritam |  
Dharmasangsthapanarthay sambhabami yuge yuge ||*

'Whenever there is a decline of righteousness (*dharm*) and rise of unrighteousness then I Myself come forth. For the protection of the good, for the destruction of the wicked, and for the establishment of righteousness, I come into being from age to age.'

According to what has transpired in write-ups about her, one may consider Lataji's fight for and winning the rights of playback singers to royalties and picture credits (they had hitherto been denied of them) as a form of 'establishment of righteousness.' But this engagement was far surpassed by what she will ever be remembered for: her singing in that unique voice. When professional artists and singers concede that 'there was no one before nor will there be anyone after' like her, who are we common mortals to contradict them? After all, they all do their best to emulate her singing. It is common to refer to a 'gold standard.' As far as Lataji is concerned, she was THE standard, beyond anything known, immortal and transcendent.

Those belonging to the Indian tradition may be said to be biased in her favour when praising her singing. But that she transcended barriers is evident from the reaction of a young Russian lady, who only knew a few words of Hindi, after listening to her rendering of *Lagja Gale...* from the film '*Woh Kaun Thi*.' She was so emotionally stunned that she had to recoup herself for several sec-



**“There are many singers who can stir our emotions as strongly – Anuradha Paudwal, Kavita Krishnamurthy, for example – but again, they themselves bow to her uniqueness. In Indian singing contests which are meant to encourage and support emerging talents among young Indians, and which are regularly featured on TV channels, such as Indian Idols, the judges themselves invariably prod the contestants by referring to Lataji's singing of the same song...”**

onds, eyes closed, before she said: 'The whole song was like a dream. The voice was not human, cannot be human. It was like that of a fairy.' Singer Abida Parveen of Pakistan who had met her said her voice was nothing less than divine.

All this is in accord with the 'before' and 'after' appreciation of her singing sorority and fraternity, that she was indeed a voice from the beyond. And that is why '*yuge yuge*' – from age to age – she will have to come. Not in another thousand years maybe will we have such a presence – but in the meantime, her singing will continue to resonate in our hearts and in our imagination.

In our hearts most profoundly, for that's the unfathomable depth where we actually *feel* her singing. If I may paraphrase from an advertisement for Heineken beer in the 1970s in the UK (which was removed because it was judged indecent), said 'to reach parts where other beers cannot reach,' Lataji's singing touched chords in the core of our being that others cannot penetrate.

To be fair, though, there are many singers who can stir our emotions as strongly – Anuradha Paudwal, Kavita Krishnamurthy, for example – but again, they themselves bow to her uniqueness. In Indian singing contests which are meant to encourage and support emerging talents among young Indians, and which are regularly featured on TV channels, such as Indian Idols, the judges themselves invariably prod the contestants by

referring to Lataji's singing of the same song they would have sung. And I must say that there are some outstanding youngsters who to lay persons like myself are already pitched at such a high level that one wonders if there could be anything more. And yet there is...Lataji.

Where is one to begin from among the over 25,000 songs that she sang in nearly 1000 films, to which must be added the ghazals, bhajans, etc., which she said she enjoyed recording more than the film songs. It was not until the stirrings of love during my teenage years that I truly began to feel what power her singing had! To this day, '*Tera mera pyar amar...*' from the film '*Anamika*' can bring about the same churn within! As for '*Lagja gale...*', it will forever carry the potential to make one swoon as it melts the heart and brings it almost to a standstill.

But I began, so to speak, differently: fighting with my sister over her repeated singing of '*Man Dole Mera, Tan Dole Tera...*' from the film '*Nagin*'. That was the early 1950s, and I guess I had no clue about what singing was all about – unlike my classmate's niece alluded to above who was obviously much ahead, and well primed by being submerged in that ocean of musical sounds in which are immersed Bharat and her citizens, sounds which permeate to their vocal apparatus by a kind of cultural osmosis, shakti-laden memes. How often I have experienced this first hand!

Indeed, one winter evening in New Delhi, in a locality not far from the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, where the population was mostly from the working class, as I was walking, I heard a bhajan being sung. It was so melodious that I went towards where the sound was coming from, and I could not help but stop and listen. There was a small gathering, people sitting on the floor mostly, in what appeared to be a makeshift *pandal* (tent) – for it was cold – and listening to the singer who was playing the harmonium. To think that there are millions like him...

But to come back to Lataji, every song of hers evoked the emotion of the moment it was meant for – romance, love, remembrance, happiness, sadness, gaiety, nostalgia...There are so many iconic songs that it is impossible to list them, but perhaps the one that stands out the most is '*Aye mere watan ke logon...*' which came in the wake of the war between China and India in 1962. It still brings tears to one's eyes, as it did when it was first sung by Lataji.

Each one of us has our own favourites among Lataji's songs. Thanks to the MBC-TV team for the programme on Wednesday last, '*Lata Live*', which was well put together and spanned Lataji's repertoire of songs and featured short video clips wherein Lataji spoke about her singing and other matters related thereto.

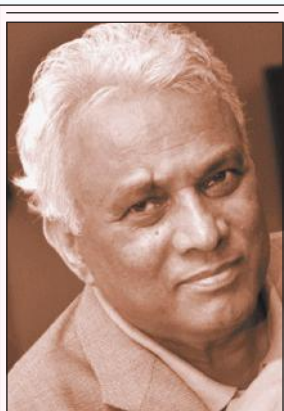
During the broadcast on Indian TV on the day of her passing, Tuesday last, it was a treat to listen to the conversation between her and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for whom she was 'Lata-Didi.' They were trying to outdo each other about who had more humility!

Privileged indeed are those who could relate to her as Lata-Aunty or Lata-Didi, and fortunate indeed the land who bore such an Avatar. In the words of AR Rahman, globally acclaimed music composer and singer from Chennai, Lataji is not just an icon, she is 'India's consciousness,' her *chaitanyam*.

*Shubh sadgati* to her atman. Om Shanti.



# Sabre rattling over Ukraine



Mrinal Roy

*Has the Cold War not ended with the dissolution of the Soviet Union? As a consequence, is NATO not an anachronistic vestige of the Cold War?*



**“In February 1990 the Soviet Union was still intact and Germany was divided. The US government asked Mikhail Gorbachev for the Soviet Union's cooperation to enable the reunification of West and**

**T**he prolonged sabre rattling over Ukraine raises so many germane questions. Has the Cold War not ended with the dissolution of the Soviet Union on 26 December 1991? As a consequence, is NATO not an anachronistic vestige of the Cold War? Have the Western powers not yet learnt the crying lessons from the mess and appalling humanitarian crisis left in the Middle East and Afghanistan in the wake of their military intervention in these countries?

Why are military tensions being artificially built around an alleged imminent Russian invasion of Ukraine when it would be foolhardy for economic and multiple other reasons for Russia to do so? Russia will go to war only if Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, is attacked. After the recent failed talks among the Russian, American and NATO representatives in Geneva to find a diplomatic solution to defuse the situation, there seems to be contrived scaremongering by the officials of the U.S. State Department, Pentagon, NATO and the intelligence agencies that the invasion of Ukraine by Russian forces massed on its borders is imminent. The media and main news channels are blithely peddling this tension-building narrative.

This tension is exacerbated by the deployment of thousands of US troops as well as those from the UK, Germany and France and other countries to bolster NATO forces in eastern Europe. After the debacle in Afghanistan and the tragic loss of American lives during the evacuation operation, are the US and European countries prepared to send more soldiers into another conflict and callously put the lives of soldiers in peril in foreign lands they have nothing in common with?

After more than two decades of permanent wars in foreign lands in the Middle East and Afghanistan resulting in these countries being in a significantly more disastrous situation than before, there cannot be any delusions that the intent was to spread democracy and free the people from oppressive regimes; the driver has always been the relentless pursuit of geopolitical interests and control over vital strategic resources. Too many soldiers have lost their lives in faraway lands. The wars have left the war-torn countries in shambles causing extensive human distress and massive exodus of people thronging refugee camps or seeking asylum in Europe and elsewhere.

## Historical background

We must recall that in February 1990 the Soviet Union was still intact and Germany was divided. The US government asked Mikhail Gorbachev for the Soviet Union's cooperation to enable the reunification of West and East Germany. As a quid pro quo, US Secretary of State James Baker promised that NATO would not expand 'one inch eastward.' This commitment was reiterated by other US offi-

cials. Russia withdrew from East Germany and Germany was reunited. However, over the next 27 years, the US broke its promise and the NATO alliance expanded eastward, adding 14 new member states among countries close to or bordering Russia. Over the years, NATO has significantly increased its military forces near Russia's borders. Western powers have also supported every colour revolution along Russia's borders causing her neighbouring countries to become pro-West.

These developments and the subsequent installation of American missile defences in Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania have raised Russian concerns about its security. The risk that Ukraine and Georgia are inducted as members of NATO therefore represents a red line for Russia.

As a consequence, in December 2021 Russia released two draft treaties formulating a radical new security arrangement which were presented to the US Government and the NATO alliance. The treaties address the aspects of the US/NATO activities in Europe which jeopardize Russia's security and put forward a series of patently tough demands including a stop to NATO's expansion and a rollback from Eastern Europe.

Talks were organized in Geneva in January 2022 to discuss these draft treaties. They failed to produce any breakthrough.

## Monroe Doctrine

The US should be able to understand the security concerns of Russia as their oft-invoked Monroe Doctrine established since 1823 clearly states that 'any intervention by external powers in the politics of the Americas is a potentially hostile act against the United States.' During the Cold War, the Monroe Doctrine was *inter alia* used when the Cuban Revolution (1953–1959) established a Communist government with ties to the Soviet Union. The US also provided intelligence and military aid to Latin and South American governments that claimed or appeared to be threatened by Communist political movements.

We must also remember that Europe is highly dependent on gas and oil supplies from Russia, which supplies about a third of European natural gas consumption and more than a quarter of its crude oil imports. It is the European Union's largest single energy source. Germany, the largest European economy, imports more than half of its natural gas and more than 30% of its crude oil supplies from Russia. France relies on Russian imports to meet its fossil fuel needs. Plans in Germany and other countries to phase out nuclear and coal power could increase this dependence on Russian gas and oil supplies.

The Nord Stream 2 (NS2) pipeline is an expansion of the original Nord Stream pipeline. It will carry natural gas from

**East Germany. As a quid pro quo, US Secretary of State James Baker promised that NATO would not expand 'one inch eastward.' This commitment was reiterated by other US officials. Russia withdrew from East Germany and Germany was reunited. However, over the next 27 years, the US broke its promise and the NATO alliance expanded eastward, adding 14 new member states among countries close to or bordering Russia...**

Northwest Russia through the Baltic Sea directly to Germany. It was approved by the German government in 2018 and construction was completed in September 2021. Once operational, NS2 will allow more Russian natural gas exports to Germany to bypass Ukraine, Poland and other current transit countries and deprive them of billions of dollars in annual transit fees. It will basically set the cat among the pigeons.

## Time for good sense to prevail

This is therefore not the time for war mongering and beligerent hawkish stances. A frontal war using cyber weapons, advanced tech firepower, drones and artificial intelligence will make soldiers become cannon fodder. It will have disastrous fallouts on Ukraine which is plagued by serious economic problems. War cannot be an option. Despite the scare mongering about an imminent Russian invasion, this is unlikely to happen unless Kyiv tries to retake the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014. There is certainly adequate diplomatic space to accommodate and comfort Russian legitimate concerns about its security whilst obtaining assurances to defuse tensions and invasion fears. There is no other way.

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## National Honours List Lessons from India

**N**ational awards conferred by a country are a token of respect and honour to awardees for exceptional achievements. India's honours list announced on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the country's Republic Day celebrated recently is a well dosed exercise of rewarding the highly deserving to highlight outstanding achievements in a wide spectrum of fields. It consistently maintains the high benchmarks and unquestionable choices of awardees of this annual exercise. In the best democracies of the world, the judicious choice of awardees are widely endorsed and acclaimed by the people.

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Jan Arden

# The EC: A barren fig tree?

**T**rees in biblical times and texts have been used for their symbolism, if only through the trees of Life or that of Knowledge, the latter presumably an apple tree whose fruit was so explicitly forbidden. If we wander further in those texts, we might come across the oak tree as a powerful double symbol of strength and righteousness, an object of praise, anathema to "faint spirits" - those, who in our modern-day parlance, might crawl about and tender to their highest moral, administrative, political or constitutional duties, hoping that their errors, omissions, corruptions and failures won't be hanging around their necks. For in our blessed island, the buck never stops anywhere, neither in the Saint Louis gate scandal, nor in the shocking stream of "affairs" since 2020 surrounding Health or STC emergency procurements, even in the tragic death of MSM agent Kistnen and still less, it seems, in the mysterious happenings surrounding voter bulletins disappearing or cropping up in the most unexpected of places.

As citizens, we are unfortunately not privy to which inquiries by our fabled agencies have even started, are ongoing, have been discretely shelved or are close to completion. Our scenery has few or no oak trees left but fig trees aplenty, these being symbols of prosperity, however acquired. Nobody wants to assume that these fig trees are barren, leaving only their dried-up leaves to mask a nudity that might shock large swathes of the population.



**“In our blessed island, the buck never stops anywhere, neither in the Saint Louis gate scandal, nor in the shocking stream of “affairs” since 2020 surrounding Health or STC emergency procurements, even in the tragic death of MSM agent Kistnen and still less, it seems, in the mysterious happenings surrounding voter bulletins disappearing or cropping up in the most unexpected of places...”**

Whatever the past performances of the Electoral Commissioner (EC), and they were indeed respected here and elsewhere over several past elections, the EC, having recognised publicly, first the “glaring anomalies” leading to the Supreme Court-ordered recount in No. 19, then gross failings at that recount that he ascribes either to “human errors” or to criminal acts, the EC cannot pass the buck around, hide behind civil servants and gloss over his ultimate responsibilities in the maintenance of trust in our electoral system, respecting our beliefs that every vote matters. Recent reports from the press suggest that several “glaring” anomalies in Recapitulation of Votes forms of the type discovered in No 19 that led to its

recount, might have marred election results elsewhere, in particular No.15.

Unless we are mistaken, these Recap forms are or should normally be in possession of the Electoral Commissioner's Office hours after voting has taken place, and it is a tall order to accept that gross errors in summaries from individual voting rooms would not be identified by the Returning Officer when tallied into Recap forms and such “glaring” errors would have escaped the strict vigilance of the third level of control - the EC's Office. The EC's alleged refusal to testify under oath and be cross-examined in recount petition for No.15, is more than surprising as it might have shed determinant light on the

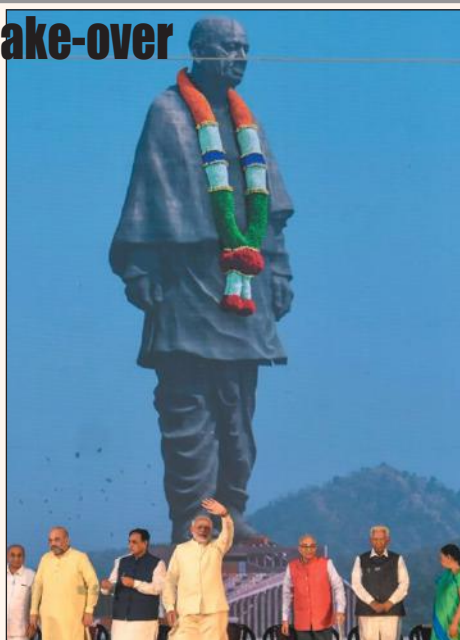
curious practices and possibly more “human errors” or criminal acts that could have tainted results in No.15, as in No.19.

We will not presume what the Supreme Court decides on that EC stand, but it is obviously, for such a constitutional responsibility, a posture devoid of panache. It would have been a golden opportunity to stand up like the oak for truth and trust as founding pillars of free, fair and credible elections, rather than adopting, sadly and shabbily, a fig-leaf that barely fits the momentous occasion to clear the air for our tottering democracy and, accessorially, restore a personal legacy at the EC's helm that has taken an unprecedented nosedive.

## India: The cultural make-over

**I**t will not have escaped even casual observers of Bharat under PM Modi, that having spent much of his first mandate delivering on a variety of BJP's campaign promises, mostly on the economic measures targeting the poorest sections while giving credence to its unabashed nationalistic stance, the Modi-II regime in parallel to its economic development drive and despite the enormous Covid difficulties, has embarked on powerful symbolic initiatives to reconnect India with its own past history and culture, unfettered by what the former colonisers and the liberal press in the West would rather see.

To quote but a few, the recently unveiled giant statue of Vaishnavite Ramanujacharya, also referred to as the Statue of Equality, in Hyderabad pays tri-bute to one of South India's revered spiritual masters, a philosopher-saint to millions, even an avant-garde environmentalist and a preacher for social freedom and equality. The unveiling last year of a giant statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat was a tribute to one of the country's staunchest freedom fighters, largely down-



**'Statue of Unity' a true homage to Sardar Patel, says PM Modi. Pic - OneIndia**

played or ignored during post-independence India. And so was the giant planned granite monument (currently a giant hologram) of Subhas Chandra Bose, which will fill the void left after King George V was removed in 1968 from the India Gate in the capital.

More are coming, says the Indian PM as he plans to open other doors and windows on India's long, rich and complex history, mostly neglected since independence. Not every move will go without its share of controversies, fuelled by his political opponents and liberal circles at some Indian and Western media stations, uneasy that such cultural and historical iconography should have been left to underscore the BJP's nationalist narrative.

Left or right of centre, their India view remains jaundiced, generally unable to apprehend PM Modi's undoubted connect with India's breathtaking cultural and regional divides and his two successive massive poll triumphs. The people must be wrong, deluded, uneducated, they chaff away in fashionable or radical-chic bourgeoisie circles, praising Arundhati Roy's

latest tirade or the NDTV huddle of bemused anchors while columnists who seem to have easy access to Princeton, the *NY Times* or *The Guardian*, will continue to warn in dire tones of gloom and doom, rivers of blood, if not the dark ages under PM Modi.

Others, like Sciences-Po researcher Christophe Jaffrelot, may be busy adding new chapters to his latest book, *'Modi's India'*, pushing the strange line that democracy cannot somehow equate with majority rule, or if it does, even in such a diverse setting, then the majority must be uneducated plebeians. Such high-brow contempt in liberal circles for a country surrounded by hostile neighbours, constantly the butt of infiltrated terrorists, or for the common man's democratic aspirations and inspirations goes down well in India's own radical-chic circles.

In their deep discomfort, they ask where would India be without the Congress? PM Modi responded with some sarcasm but in a blistering political attack in both Houses of the Indian Parliament on the legacy left behind, for better or worse, by the venerable party, which says the BJP is now only a family-run shop with noisy dynasts having replaced old warriors. With important state elections under way soon in some key states, there is no doubt a considerable amount of political sword-rattling going on. But a key take-away we can all meditate on here is Modi's assertion that the casualty of dynastic parties is talent, diversity and merit. These fly or have flown through the windows, leaving institutions to be manned tragically by flops or bumpkins. Don't we wish we were not at that stage?

Jan Arden



# “To have a criminal case determined after 12 years is rather outrageous”

LEX

**M**any people who come into conflict with the Law are heard to say that they have faith in the Justice System of the country. But at times the wheels of Justice turn so slowly that some can be driven to lose patience if not hope. How slow is too slow? If, at the end of an unusually long wait that may include severe deprivations of one's basic rights, an accused does obtain justice to his satisfaction, can he be properly compensated for the injustices he may have suffered in the meantime? Not everybody has the grit and determination and the resources to fight injustice over long periods of time. Is it then only a case of justice for the strong?

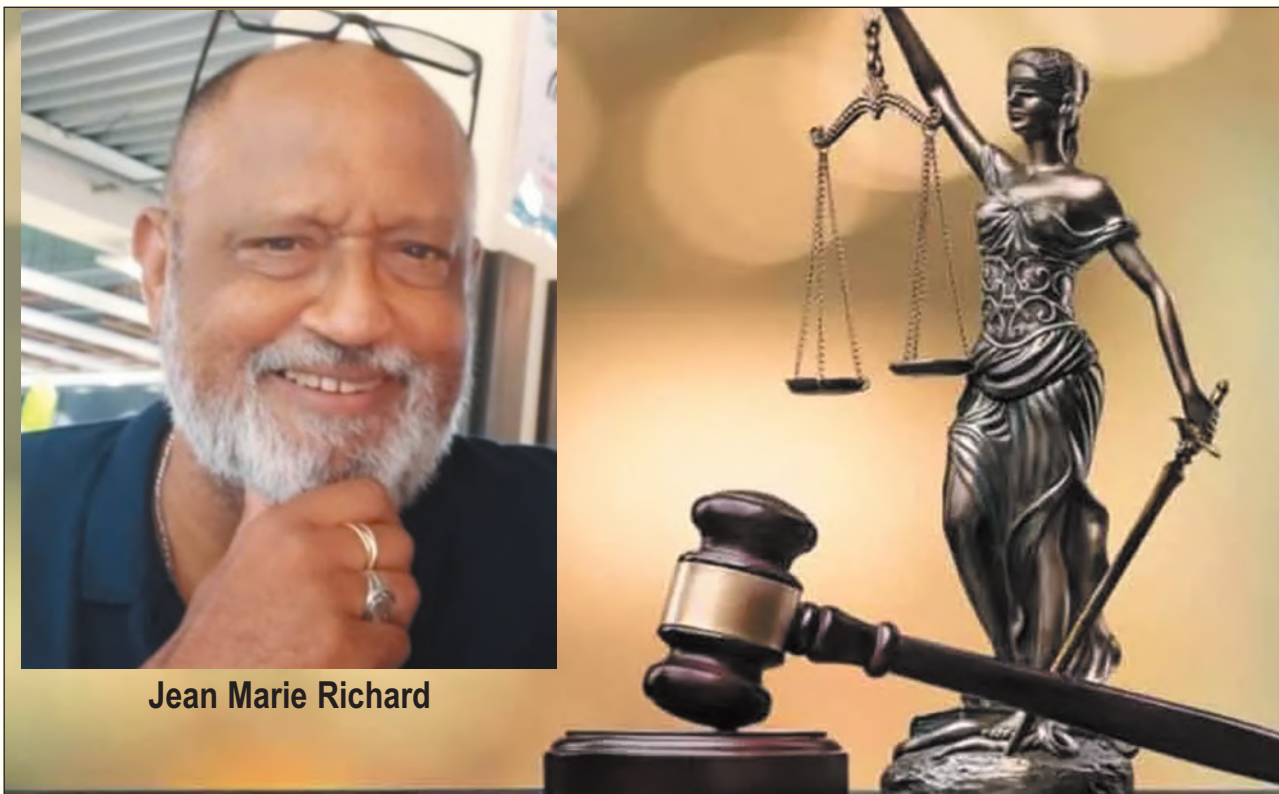
\* A 12-year struggle led by Jean Marie Richard, PR professional and radio commentator, has finally resulted in the verdict of imprisonment, pronounced in November 2017 by the Intermediate Court, quashed by the Supreme Court. Justices Nirmala Devat and Denis Mootoo found that “the quality of the evidence in the present case is poor and incongruous and justified granting the benefit of doubt to the appellant (JM Richard). What does your reading of the Supreme Court judgement tell you about law enforcement and the judicial processes in the country?

The judicial process functions reasonably well. It is not because a decision of a lower court has been quashed that we should conclude that the judicial process is crumbling. Every day in countries with a free and independent judiciary, judgments of lower courts are quashed because of errors of law and wrong appreciation of facts. The two judges in the Richard case found, after a full analysis of the facts, the evidence poor and incongruous and quashed the conviction. There must be valid reasons behind that sweeping conclusion.

\* **Gathering and preserving evidence is said to be critical for any legal issue. Evidence and determination of facts are what will eventually lead to a conviction or acquittal of the defendant. How are we doing on both counts?**

Evidence is recorded in a court file and kept securely. The judge or magistrate will analyse the evidence by judging the demeanour of the witnesses and rely on documentary evidence, if any. The appreciation of evidence depends on a number of factors. For instance, one of the expressions used when addressing a jury is that they are persons of the world and they accordingly should use their intelligence and life experiences to evaluate evidence. There is no magic formula for this exercise.

\* **The system however is working although it has taken 12 long years to obtain justice. Mr Richard**



Jean Marie Richard

“A public officer is protected as long as his acts are related to his duties. If for example a police officer proceeds to what is a lawful arrest and if he reasonably suspects that a person has committed an offence, he is protected. But if it is established that he used violence on a suspect, then he will not benefit from the protection of the POPA... because assaulting suspects do not form part of his duties...”

himself acknowledges this fact when he states that “in this specific case, our judicial system has certainly taken its time, but it should also be recognized that it works,” but he does qualify that view by adding that “it is still necessary, however, to have the resources, the will and the humility to face up to injustice”. What's your reading of that latter comment?

An accused party who has been convicted will invariably feel he has been the victim of an injustice particularly when and if the police have made an abuse of their powers and have used illegal methods to investigate or to extract a confession.

However, to have a criminal case determined after 12 years is, to my mind, rather outrageous. But there have been such precedents. Unfortunately, in cases of delay the Privy Council has ruled that the remedy is not to quash the conviction on account of inordinate delay but to give damages to the convicted person even though he has to pay a fine or spend time in jail.

\* **The other fact of the matter is that Mr Richard, probably like so many other ‘justiciables’, will have been placed during those long years under police control, with restrictions on travelling abroad, and with the obligation to report to a police station every week. He was also briefly imprisoned for contempt of court “pour avoir osé répliquer aux propos d’une magistrate”. The first questions that come up are: What exactly is contempt of court? And what hap-**

pens when you are in contempt of court?

Unfortunately, this is the system. The law is such that an accused party should not be allowed to escape justice irrespective of the outcome. This is why in many cases an accused will be kept on remand in jail pending trial if there is a serious risk that he may abscond. In other cases where the accused is released, conditions may be imposed on him. However, an accused who feels that the conditions are too harsh can always petition the court to ease the restrictions.

As for the second part of the question, a contempt of court may be committed in the face of the court by insulting a judge or magistrate or by unruly behaviour. A contempt of court may also be committed in other ways.

\* **Besides such behaviour as “yelling at a judge, disrupting the court proceedings, or becoming violent in the courtroom”, are there other examples relating to comments made in print or on audio-visual and social media platforms that may constitute contempt of court?**

Commenting on pending cases or criticising a judge or magistrate who is hearing a case before judgment is delivered or commenting on a case by suggesting solutions before judgment would amount to contempt. Undermining the trust in the judicial system would be contempt. But criticisms made in good faith without imputing motives would be permissible.

● Cont. on page 7



# 'A public officer is protected as long as his acts are related to his duties.'

But if it is established that he used violence on a suspect, then he will not benefit from the protection of the POPA'

● Cont. from page 6

\* Mr Richard was initially found guilty by the Intermediate Court of the offences of obstructing public officers in the performance of their duty (in breach of sections 3(i)(a) of the Public Officers Protection Act), and larceny with violence (in breach of sections 301(1) and 305(1)(c) of the Criminal Code). Let's consider the Public Officers Protection Act: who is a public officer under Mauritian law? Does it include local government and parastatal employees?

“The judicial process functions reasonably well. It is not because a decision of a lower court has been quashed that we should conclude that the judicial process is crumbling. Every day in countries with a free and independent judiciary, judgments of lower courts are quashed because of errors of law and wrong appreciation of facts. The two judges in the Richard case found, after a full analysis of the facts, the evidence poor and incongruous...”

Under section 2 of the Public Officers Protection Act, “public officer” means a Government servant and an officer of a Municipal City Council, Municipal Town Council or District Council. The Act creates the offence of molesting a public officer by force or violence or without violence. If no violence is resorted to, the penalty is a fine and where violence is used the penalty may go up to two years' imprisonment.

\* When you hear the term ‘public servant’, you might also think of an elected official such as a

mayor or minister. Is an elected official a public officer?

The Public Officers Protection Act says nothing about ministers. But under the Prevention of Corruption Act, a public official is defined as:

‘a Minister, a member of the National Assembly, a public officer, a local government officer, an employee or member of a local authority, a member of a Commission set up under the Constitution, an employee or member of a statutory corporation, or an employee or director of any Government company’. It also includes ‘a Judge, an arbitrator, an assessor or a member of a jury’, ‘an official of the International Criminal Court referred to in the International Criminal Court Act 2011’.

This applies in the context of corruption and related offences.

\* What is the *raison-d'être* of the Public Officers Protection Act (POPA)?

To protect public officers so that they are not unduly hampered in the performance of their duties by having cases filed against them.

\* If the POPA seeks to protect public officers' actions in the course of their public duties, does it also cover their inactions or failure to take what would reasonably amount to necessary action in a given situation? Isn't it also possible that abuses can be made by a public officer in the exercise of his/her duties?

A public officer is protected as long as his acts are related to his duties. If for example a police officer proceeds to what is a lawful arrest and if he reasonably suspects that a person has committed an offence, he is protected. But if it is established that he used violence on a suspect, then he will not benefit from the protection of the POPA... because assaulting suspects do not form part of his duties. This means that if his acts are not within the purview of his duties, he loses the protection.

\* Mr Jean Marie Richard has published a book -

‘Cachotteries - Propos d'outrage geôle’ - which relates the circumstances of his arrest and imprisonment, and his 12-year struggle to obtain justice. He says that ‘de par son effet cathartique, ce livre marque une chance pour un nouveau départ au croisement de mon existence’. Beyond catharsis, does our system provide for those who have wronged him or any ‘justiciable’ accountable?

The magistrate of the Intermediate Court found the case against Mr Richard proved but the Court of Appeal with Judges Devat and Mootoo found the evidence poor and incongruous and quashed the conviction.

Though as a general rule an appellate court would rarely quash the findings of facts of a trial court, yet the evidence in this case was really poor. One can therefore understand the frustration and anger of Mr Richard who had to wait 12 long years to be cleared.

Why did the case take so long? There may be many reasons, but given the charges it should not have taken that long.

## MAURITIUS TIMES To Our Readers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Dr Anthony Fauci, White House Chief Medical Advisor. Pic- ft.com

## 'There may be need for fourth Covid booster dose': Fauci

White House Chief Medical advisor Antony Fauci hinted that there may be the need for the fourth-dose boost in the United States to battle with Covid-19 variant Omicron, adding that the booster could be based on age, as well as underlying conditions of the individual reports ANI.

Responding to reporters over the data showing the need for a shot beyond the third dose, Dr Fauci said at the White House briefing on Wednesday that that's obviously an issue that has been followed very closely.

Earlier, President Biden's top medical adviser said that half a million people around the world have died of Covid-19 since the omicron variant of the coronavirus was first detected in November, terming it "the full-blown pandemic phase" of the coronavirus crisis.

On Tuesday World Health Organization said that about 100,000 of the deaths since omicron was declared a "variant of concern" occurred in the United States.

Speaking further, Dr Fauci said: "The data from the trials on children from six months to 24 months, as well as those from 21 months to -- up to the end of four years have been conducted by the pharmaceutical company, in this case, Pfizer."

Meanwhile, some statewide Covid-19 mask mandates in the US are coming to an end. Previously, the White House maintained its adherence to US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance encouraging mask usage in schools as some states take steps toward lifting mask mandates in the classroom, CNN reported.

The CDC recommends that those who are vaccinated should "wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission."

Last week, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a news briefing that Covid deaths are increasing in many parts of the world. He warned it would be "premature for any country either to surrender or to declare victory" against the coronavirus.

## Teacher sentenced to life imprisonment over blasphemy charges in Pakistan

A teacher was on Tuesday sentenced to life imprisonment by a local court over charges of blasphemy in Pakistan's southern Sindh province. The teacher, identified as Nautan Lal, was also fined Pakistani 50,000 rupees by Additional Sessions Judge Murtaza Solangi in Ghotki in Sindh.

The court took two years to convict Lal who has been in jail since 2019 as an undertrial prisoner. In the past two years, his requests for bail have been rejected twice.

Lal was arrested in September 2019 after a video went viral on social media in which an intermediate student of the public school alleged that the teacher had committed blasphemy against the Prophet, reports PTI.

The student claimed that Lal, who is the owner of the school and teaches physics at a local government degree college, had visited the school that day and committed the act.

Shortly afterwards, a leader of the Jamaat-e-ahle Sunnat party and local cleric Mufti Abdul Karim Saeedi filed a complaint with the police against Lal under the blasphemy act. As the news spread, a protest erupted in the



Pakistan court sentences teacher for blasphemy - Rfel.org

town and a violent mob attacked the Sacho Satram Dham Temple and damaged its idols in Ghotki. The caretaker of the temple, Jay Kumar, later said that around 50 masked men had attacked the temple but some 500 Muslims later came and guarded the temple the whole night.

Pakistan's blasphemy laws were enacted by former military dictator

General Ziaul Haq in the 1980s. Nobody has been executed under these laws but several people have been killed on mere suspicion of committing blasphemy.

Human and civil rights groups have said that the blasphemy law is often misused to settle personal enmities and land disputes particularly in rural areas.

## 'Cold War mentality': China says Quad is a 'bloc' for confrontation

China on Wednesday lashed out at the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) foreign ministers' meeting to be held in Melbourne on February 10-11, accusing the members of driving wedges in the region and having a "Cold War mentality".

Opposing the Quad in strong words, the Chinese foreign ministry said as a "bloc", it was trying to trigger confrontation unlike China, which stands for peace and development. Beijing had earlier denounced the Quad as a Cold War construct and a clique "targeting other countries".

Indian external affairs minister S Jaishankar will join his counterparts from Australia, Japan and the US for a meeting under the Quad mechanism in Melbourne on February 10-11; the meeting is expected to set the agenda for the Quad leaders' summit in Japan later this year. It will be the fourth such ministerial-level meeting of the bloc of Indo-Pacific democracies, reports Hindustan Times.

The leaders of the four countries had met in a September summit, which was attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Asked to comment on reports that said the summit will discuss ways to counter China's challenge, Chinese



United States' secretary of state Antony Blinken waves as he disembarks from his plane in Melbourne, Australia, on Wednesday. Pic - AP

foreign ministry's Zhao Lijian launched a lengthy attack on the Quad, especially the US. "The US has long lost its reputation as a democracy. However, it is still trying to force other countries to accept US-style democratic standards. The US is drawing a line along democratic values, and putting together small blocs. This is a complete betrayal of democratic values," Zhao said.

The consensus in Beijing is that the four countries came together to counter China's increasing influence and to flex their diplomatic muscle in the dispute-ridden South China Sea and the Indo-Pacific region.

In November 2017, New Delhi, Tokyo, Washington, and Canberra gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a coordinated strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific maritime region free of any influence.

In 2018, Chinese state councillor and foreign minister Wang Yi had described the Quad as "...seafoam in the Pacific or the Indian Ocean: they may get some attention, but soon will dissipate". By 2020, Wang came around to acknowledge that the Quad had become a "security threat" and a so-called Indo-Pacific "New Nato".

\*Contd on page 9



## Couple arrested for stealing \$3.6 billion bitcoin in record haul

The US Justice Department announced Tuesday it had recovered more than 94,000 bitcoin stolen in 2016, currently valued at \$3.6 billion, a record seizure.

A couple accused of seeking to launder the bitcoin were arrested in New York, the department said. Ilya Lichtenstein, 34, and his wife Heather Morgan, 31, were set to appear in federal court over the charges.



A picture of Heather Morgan, also known as "Razzlekhan," on a phone in front of the Bitcoin logo. Pic - AFP

Lichtenstein and Morgan allegedly sought to launder the proceeds of 119,754 bitcoin -- then valued at \$65 million -- that were stolen during a 2016 hack of the virtual currency exchange Bitfinex, reports AFP.

According to court documents, some of the stolen cryptocurrency was sent to a digital wallet controlled by Lichtenstein, who describes himself on social media as a "technology entrepreneur, coder and investor."

About 25,000 of the stolen bitcoin were transferred out of the wallet over the next five years "through a labyrinth of cryptocurrency transactions," and the funds were used to buy items such as gold or digital NFTs (non-fungible tokens).

The remaining bitcoin was recovered last week by US investigators, who called on victims of the initial theft to come forward and recover their losses.

## UK plans to force pornography websites to verify age of users

The UK government said it will force all websites that publish pornography to verify the age of their users as part of its Online Safety Bill.

Sites will be legally required to put "robust checks" in place to ensure users are 18 years old or over, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport said on Tuesday in an emailed statement. That could include using technology to verify users possess a credit card, or getting a third-party service to confirm a person's age against government data, it said.

If websites fail to act, the independent regulator Ofcom will be able to fine them up to 10% of their annual global sales or block them in the UK, reports Bloomberg.

Lawmakers will vote on the legislation in the coming months. Last week the government said online platforms like Facebook owner Meta Platforms Inc. would be required to show how they pro-actively prevent harmful content from spreading.

## China tightens rules in Macao to avoid Hong Kong-type unrest

China is tightening its grip in Macao with the planned election and national security measures in the area, including revision of its national security law, to prevent any political crisis like that in nearby Hong Kong from taking root in the semi-autonomous Chinese city, according to a media report.

The Macao government said it "will step up effort to improve governance, and optimize the city's legal provisions regarding national security and their respective implementation," in a December 16 statement on the publication of its 2021-25 five-year plan, reported Voice Of America (VOA).

Officials in the territory seek to "complete" the national security law, push forward enactment of terrorism and communications interception laws, strengthen enforcement of entry restrictions, and "improve" the election system, said the US publication citing the official plan document, reports ANI.

The document also stated that the fresh improvement in the election system will ensure the city's governance is safe and sound in the hands of patriots.



Policemen perform a flag raising ceremony in Macao, marking the 22nd anniversary of the former Portuguese colony's handover to Chinese rule. Pic - AP

Under the plan, Macao, designated a "special administrative region" by Beijing, will "formulate positive and negative lists of swearing allegiance to the SAR and relevant qualification examination mechanisms to regulate the way legislators perform their duties," according to VOA.

Michael Cunningham, visiting fellow at the Heritage Foundation's Asian Studies Center specialising in Chinese politics, said that the election

changes are an official step to eliminate any possibility that the pro-establishment camp will lose control of Macao. Stressing that the existing system is already very much stacked in favour of the pro-Beijing establishment, Cunningham said that the government wants to make sure it stays this way, regardless of how public opinion or political dynamics may shift in the coming years and decades.

## Geomagnetic storm destroys 40 Starlink satellites; Elon Musk's company says no risk to Earth

A geomagnetic storm has knocked up to 40 out of 49 SpaceX high-speed internet satellites on February 4, a day after they were launched to a low deployment orbit, 130 miles above Earth. The incident was believed to mark the largest collective loss of satellites stemming from a single geomagnetic event and was unique in the way it unfolded, Harvard-Smithsonian astrophysicist Jonathan McDowell said on Wednesday.

Elon Musk's company has issued a statement saying that there is "virtually" no risk as the satellites are built without any dense metallic components and should burn up entirely without pushing anything down on Earth, reports Hindustan Times.

These 49 satellites were launched from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on February 3 and were placed at their initial orbit, closer to Earth. The company said it places the satellites at a nearby orbit to carry out final checks before flying them into space.

On February 4, around 40 of them were struck by a geomagnetic storm, which is a space weather event, caused by ejections of the solar coro-



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center. Pic- AP

na into space, leading to disturbances to the Earth's upper atmosphere and increased drag on objects in low orbits.

As the geomagnetic storm struck the satellites, the Starlink team moved to action and brought the satellites into a safe mode but 40 satellites were unable to raise their

orbits.

The company said there is "zero collision risk" with other satellites as 40 satellites are reentering or already entered Earth's atmosphere. No debris is expected to hit the ground.



Interview: Jack Bizlall

# “La Commission électorale ne dévoilera rien. C’est remettre toutes les élections passées en question”

**Mauritius Times :** Faites-vous une lecture différente de la controverse et des nouvelles interrogations soulevées suivant l’exercice de ‘recount’ des voix de la circonscription no. 19 le mardi 1er février dernier? Les nouvelles anomalies découvertes lèvent-elles, selon vous, le couvercle sur des irrégularités pouvant être commises dans d’autres circonscriptions, ou faut-il attribuer tout cela à l’erreur humaine?

**Jack Bizlall :** Deux questions se posent.

La première concerne l’électorisme des partis de l’opposition de provoquer de nouvelles élections dans la circonscription No 19. Élections partielles qui peuvent ouvrir les vannes à des élections générales avec un retour du tandem Bérenger et Ramgoolam.

C’est une stratégie électorale pour faire partir la Dynastie des Jugnauth du pouvoir. Le but visé, dans son objectif politique, est souhaitable, mais c’est une guerre entre des dynasties politiques que je récusé autant dans son existence que dans son essence.

La deuxième est d’une importance politique qui se place dans le cadre de la démocratie républicaine. A mon avis, notre système électoral est plus monarchique que républicaine et, ainsi, plus dynastique qu’il ne l’était avant 1992.

J’ai rencontré le Commissaire juste après les dernières élections pour lui parler des observations du Mouvement Premier Mai et de l’Observatoire Pour la Démocratie. La mobilité des électeurs entre les élections de 2014 et 2019 est inexplicable, et elle est en plus troublante quand la comparaison est faite entre les circonscriptions rurales et urbaines. J’ai été choqué de ce constat.

“Je mets cependant les chercheurs de pouvoir en garde contre des actions politiques désespérées. Ramgoolam et Bérenger pensent sans doute que pour se retrouver au pouvoir, c’est maintenant ou jamais. Pourtant les deux, ils sont responsables de ce qui se passe dans notre pays. Ils ont vendu ce pays à une dynastie pouvoiriste...”

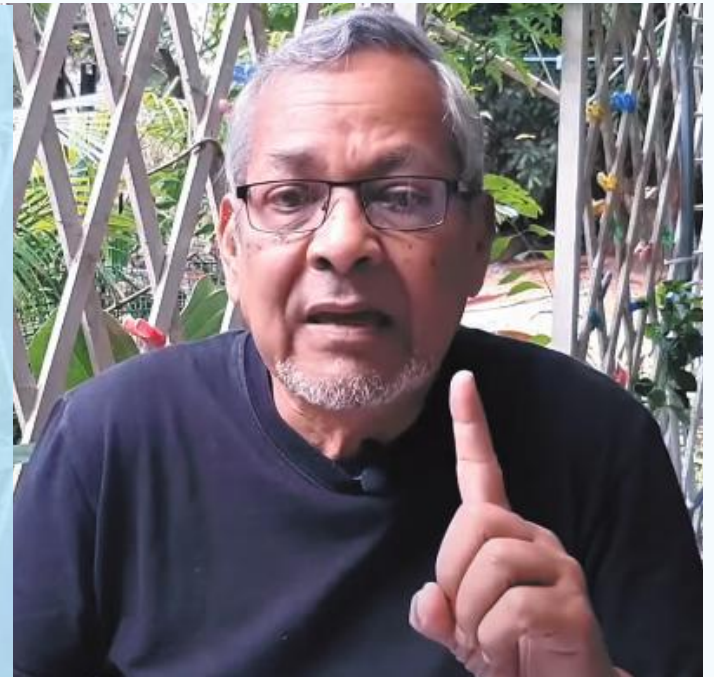
Le problème réel : c’est la confiance qui s’effrite en la Commission électorale. Il faut régler ce problème. Le Commissaire a de grosses responsabilités à assumer. Il faut qu’il rencontre les partis politiques, et ce, rapidement.

Dans le passé, j’ai déposé devant un comité parlementaire présidé par Burty David au sujet de l’introduction du vote électronique. J’en étais contre et j’en avais parlé personnellement à David pour lui dire de mettre ce projet au frigo.

Ces derniers temps, on parle de vote par correspondance. Mais ce n’est pas pour l’instant, je crois. Il faut suivre ce qui s’est passé aux Etats-Unis lors des dernières élections présidentielles.

Rien ne remplace le système actuel parce qu’il repose sur un contrôle total à partir de l’enregistrement

**D**epuis les années 2000, les politologues ont constaté une baisse de confiance politique dans le monde. Cela étant dit, la confiance des citoyens est essentielle pour soutenir l’ensemble du système, incluant la tenue des élections libres et équitables ou *free and fair*. Jack Bizlall milite depuis de longues années pour promouvoir un environnement politique juste et compétitif avec des élections libres, pacifiques et régulières, dans le respect des normes démocratiques internationales. Suite aux anomalies décelées lors de l’exercice de recount, le syndicaliste nous livre ses impressions.



## “Notre système électoral est plus monarchique que républicaine et, ainsi, plus dynastique qu’il ne l’était avant 1992”

des électeurs jusqu’au comptage des votes. Je suis beaucoup plus en faveur de la fermeture des bureaux de vote à 18.00 heures et le comptage des bulletins tout de suite après. Les résultats doivent être connus le même soir.

\* **L’opinion des partis de l’opposition et des observateurs politiques ou même de la société civile sur de telles questions compte. Mais il faut se fier aux faits concrets - *the evidence* - pour tirer des conclusions objectives et définitives à propos de l’intégrité du processus électoral à Maurice ces dernières années, n’est-ce pas? La *Electoral Supervisory Commission* garde curieusement le silence, et il appartient donc à la Commission électorale de tout dévoiler...**

La Commission électorale ne dévoilera rien. C’est remettre toutes les élections passées en question. Le gouvernement, comme on l’a déjà fait, peut passer une loi à l’Assemblée nationale pour légaliser ces élections.

C’est accorder encore plus de pouvoir au régime en place pour imposer sa politique autocratique. Il faut être aveugle pour ne pas comprendre le danger que représente le régime des Jugnauth.

Je mets cependant les chercheurs de pouvoir en

“La mobilité des électeurs entre les élections de 2014 et 2019 est inexplicable, et elle est en plus troublante quand la comparaison est faite entre les circonscriptions rurales et urbaines. J’ai été choqué de ce constat. Le problème réel: c’est la confiance qui s’effrite en la Commission électorale. Il faut régler ce problème...”

garde contre des actions politiques désespérées. Ramgoolam et Bérenger pensent sans doute que pour se retrouver au pouvoir, c’est maintenant ou jamais. Pourtant les deux, ils sont responsables de ce qui se passe dans notre pays. Ils ont vendu ce pays à une dynastie pouvoiriste.

Ils sont la cause et les effets de la trahison du Travaillisme comme du Militantisme. Point barre. Je fais une analogie avec le clavier de la machine électorale.

\* **Quoiqu’il en soit, il ne semble pas que les autres pétitions électorales auront quelque impact sur la survie de l’actuel gouvernement. Le Premier ministre a un contrôle absolu sur ses troupes, les institutions-clés du pays, comme la police, l’ICAC, etc. paraissent réticent à *rock the boat* et, en plus, il commande une majorité confortable au Parlement. Qu’en pensez-vous?**

Vous ne soulevez que partiellement le problème - tout à fait évident - de l’accaparement de tous les pouvoirs politiques et de l’appareil d’État.

Je vais plus loin pour dire que tous les leviers économiques passent sous le contrôle de cette dynastie. Il suffit de voir ce qui est fait avec les nominations en cours depuis 2014.

Le plus marquant était la nomination de Navin Beekarry. On oublie son passé.

Soyons perspicaces. Si nous constatons que le régime contrôle tout, alors affaiblir le Commissaire électoral, c’est le pousser à partir et être ainsi remplacé par un qui soit soumis à la dynastie. Il faut faire attention.

Être perspicace, cela implique que l’on milite pour une nouvelle Constitution. Je constate que peu à peu les partis politiques souscrivent à ce projet.

Suite en page 11



# 'Le Parti Travailliste doit se reconstruire...

Quant aux adhérents du militantisme, ils ne peuvent se retrouver derrière le MMM'

☞ Suite de la page 10

Une publication faite et signée par Milan Meetar-bhan, Joseph Tsang Mang Kin, Rajen Narsinghen, Jocelyn Chan Low, Alain Laridon et moi-même, sortira bientôt des presses.

L'Observatoire Pour La Démocratie compte prendre deux initiatives :

## Mettre sur pied un Observatoire des Élections

Avec Catherine Boudet, on a déjà travaillé sur sa constitution, sa déontologie et son fonctionnement. On devait le lancer en 2019 mais le temps a fait défaut.

## La publication d'un ouvrage sur tous les scandales à Maurice

On a complètement oublié l'affaire MedPoint comme tant d'autres scandales. La liste est longue. On a déjà répertorié et élaboré sur ces scandales dans un texte qui doit être publié dans le cadre des prochaines élections.

\* Par ailleurs, faute de sondages réalisés de façon professionnelle et en toute objectivité, on n'est pas en mesure de saisir l'ensemble ou du moins une bonne partie des opinions des Mauriciens sur différentes questions concernant la politique, l'actuelle situation économique ou mêmes des politiques au pouvoir et ceux dans l'opposition. Qu'est-ce que vos contacts avec la base vous informent sous ces différents rapports ?

J'explique depuis des années l'émergence de la classe moyenne dans une société capitaliste qui désocialise le travail. Cette classe hétéroclite est en train de tout contrôler.

Ses agents sont au contrôle de toutes nos institutions formelles et informelles. Leurs pratiques politiques, ni de gauche, ni de droite, poussent aux populismes de toutes sortes.

“Le Parti Travailliste doit se reconstruire... Quant aux adhérents du militantisme, ils ne peuvent se retrouver derrière le MMM. Mais le drame, c'est le journalisme qui est pratiqué, il n'est qu'évènementiel - c'est-à-dire il repose sur la pratique de privilégier l'évènement sans décrire et expliquer les actions politiques avec des prises de position par le journalisme d'investigation et d'opinion...”

Ils sont partout. Parlement, Judiciaire, Exécutif, Entreprises, Syndicats, ONGs, Médias...

Au niveau de la base, la plus grande des préoccupations est l'endettement. Je suis écoeuré par ce que j'entends et ce que je vois par rapport à l'épidémie en cours ; écoeuré par l'opportunisme des uns et des autres pour s'accaparer de tout ce qui se présente pour avoir de l'argent et pour se trouver dans le lit politique des gouvernants.

La classe moyenne est terrifiante ici comme ailleurs.

En France, l'extrême droite nationaliste, régalién, raciste avec des noms comme Reconquête ou Rassemblement national... autant insoumis que le titre



populiste du Parti de Mélenchon. Les gauches reculent – les sociaux démocrates, les écologistes, les révolutionnaires ; la gauche recule ici comme ailleurs pour raison de l'incapacité de leurs dirigeants de sortir des classes sociales...

## \* Qu'en est-il des perspectives d'avenir?

Je suis débordé par la situation anarchique qui prévaut actuellement... les entreprises anarchiques secouées par des déclarations et des actions de gens qui se présentent comme des sauveurs alors qu'ils démantèlent tout ce qui a été construit.

Je suis en plein dans la rédaction d'une lettre pour restaurer le pouvoir d'achat, reconstruire les instances comme l'*Employment Relations Tribunal* et la *Commission for conciliation and Mediation*. Pourquoi ?

- Pour protéger l'emploi contre des procédures disciplinaires anti-républicaines;
- Pour protéger des ménages;
- Pour combattre le surendettement contre l'implosion des fonds de pension, etc;
- Pour établir des déontologies et appliquer les codes de conduite...

Je suis en action sur beaucoup de terrains: négociations syndicales, publications de livres soutenant la lutte syndicale, études théoriques et pratiques. Je m'occupe de beaucoup de publications ces temps-ci. Ma priorité sera une publication sur les salaires et sur le surendettement.

Vous allez être choqué: Je suis confronté à l'emprise des travailleurs. Dans beaucoup de secteurs, les travailleurs sont égoïstes et ils jugent que ce n'est pas convenable de protéger les secteurs les plus fragiles. Ils veulent tout et tout de suite.

Sur le terrain, il y a un certain nombre de syndicalistes cupides et mercenaires. Il y a des révolutionnaires qui sont à la solde des capitalistes. Il y a des avocats qui sont aussi des mercenaires...

La bataille sera rude. C'est dans ce cadre que les travailleurs doivent créer une radio net.

\* Pensez-vous que ceux qui ont voté pour les différents partis de l'opposition perçoivent le projet d'alliance PTr-Entente de l'Espoir, toujours au stade de discussions au niveau des différents leaders, comme une alternative crédible et gagnante?

Cette alternative n'a pas de crédibilité avec Ramgoolam comme inspirateur entouré qu'il est de jouisseurs qui empêchent le changement à la tête de ce parti. Je suis désolé: il doit partir. Je lui ai écrit à ce sujet, le Parti Travailliste

“Soyons perspicaces. Si nous constatons que le régime contrôle tout, alors affaiblir le Commissaire électoral, c'est le pousser à partir et être ainsi remplacé par un qui soit soumis à la dynastie. Il faut faire attention. Être perspicace, cela implique que l'on milite pour une nouvelle Constitution...”

doit se reconstruire... Quant aux adhérents du militantisme, ils ne peuvent se retrouver derrière le MMM.

Mais le drame, c'est le journalisme qui est pratiqué, il n'est qu'évènementiel - c'est-à-dire il repose sur la pratique de privilégier l'évènement sans décrire et expliquer les actions politiques avec des prises de position par le journalisme d'investigation et d'opinion.

\* Autre question qui touche la communauté des planteurs: la réforme de l'industrie sucrière telle que proposée par la Banque mondiale. Voilà une industrie qui subit des pertes annuelles de Rs 1,4 milliards mais dont la survie est assurée par l'injection de fonds publics de Rs 1,5 milliards par an, et qui pourrait être sauvée au bout d'une dizaine d'années par la mise en œuvre d'une série de mesures dont le retrait volontaire de 800 à 2000 employés, cela financé par les fonds publics. Faut-il sauver cette industrie?

Ce n'est pas sans raison que le nombre d'emplois baisse dans l'industrie sucrière : la production du sucre baisse pour cause de réduction de la superficie avec plantation de canne. Cette production va encore baisser. Mais on importe de plus en plus de sucre pour satisfaire nos exportations garanties et pour notre consommation locale. Il y a mutation et NON baisse dans les revenus.

Il y a une mutation dans les sources de revenus de l'industrie sucrière. Certains attendent d'énormes profits avec la construction des *smart cities* qui implantent l'apartheid social. Les banques s'impliquent de plus en plus dans les transactions financières à l'étranger. Analysez le revenu de la MCB, ses réserves et ses investissements indirects.

Le secteur hôtelier va passer par une phase de *split and sell*. On va traverser une phase d'*investment swapping* avec la privatisation directe et indirecte des entreprises et des activités étatiques.



# Les limites légitimes de l'expression



Eric Ng Ping Cheun

*Une démocratie émotionnelle ne protège pas la liberté d'expression mais, au contraire, elle la prend en otage, au profit de ceux qui veulent réduire au silence les opinions qui leur déplaisent*

**L**a liberté d'expression est, dans le langage des économistes, un bien collectif, c'est-à-dire accessible à tous comme l'air pur. Elle est une liberté relationnelle, puisqu'on parle en s'adressant à des gens. C'est une liberté publique qui concerne tous les propos, pas seulement les critiques sur les radios. Elle englobe aussi la liberté de la presse écrite et la liberté de parler sur le web. Ici, il n'y a pas de véritable régulation du monde numérique, d'où l'épineuse question de limites à la liberté d'expression. Il serait dommage que les fausses nouvelles qui circulent en toute impunité sur les réseaux sociaux conduisent à un verrouillage progressif de la parole en général. Il faut bien attaquer ce problème particulier de la liberté d'expression, et le meilleur moyen de s'y prendre est... la liberté d'expression elle-même.

Au Sommet pour la démocratie, organisé par le président des États-Unis, le Premier ministre Pravind Jugnauth s'en est pris aux médias numériques qu'il considère comme une menace pour la démocratie eu égard à la désinformation et aux discours haineux qu'ils véhiculent. L'incident dont a été victime Nikhita Obeegadoo sur les réseaux sociaux témoigne de leur pouvoir de nuisance. La tribune qu'elle a publiée en guise de réfutation a fait la une de *l'express*, preuve qu'un journal peut avoir, s'il le veut, une responsabilité éditoriale qui fait office d'autorégulation.

Cette affaire, dit Rabin Bhujun dans une interview à *Mauritius Times*, «est symptomatique de nouvelles pratiques insidieuses chez les journalistes» de «s'appuyer sur ce qui est dit et montré sur les réseaux sociaux afin de traiter un sujet qui fait le buzz». Au lieu d'en faire des alliés, les journaux et les radios gagneront en crédibilité s'ils agissent comme des modérateurs des réseaux sociaux. Les préoccupations des citoyens ne sont pas nécessairement bien représentées par les campagnes fomentées par des activistes de l'internet. Les Mauriciens finiront bien par faire la distinction entre ceux qui veulent informer le public et ceux qui cherchent à le manipuler dans le dessein d'exercer un pouvoir par l'émotion.

Les dérives sur les réseaux sociaux appellent à une réflexion dépassionnée sur la liberté d'expression. Il est de bon ton de défendre une liberté d'expression inconditionnée dans son principe et ayant un fondement moral. Mais la liberté d'expression est un droit qui doit être limité si son emploi cause un dommage à autrui. A rebours du lamento journalistique, il faut réfléchir aux limites légitimes de l'expression, à ce qui est admissible ou pas.

## Normes et valeurs

Dans son livre *Sauver la liberté d'expression*, publié cette année, Monique Canto-Sperber nous invite à repenser la liberté d'expression en se focalisant non plus sur sa valeur morale mais sur les limites qu'exige son adaptabilité à la nouvelle réalité de la parole publique, que les outils numériques ont radicalement transformée en démocratisant l'accès à la parole. Pour cette normalienne, agrégée et docteur en philosophie, «régler la liberté d'expression est une question de limites, non de

morale». Elle doute que la liberté d'expression, en tant que valeur morale, puisse encore être au fondement d'un juste usage de la parole.

C'est que la liberté d'expression relève du juste, pas du bien. Chacun est libre de penser comme il le souhaite, selon ses valeurs personnelles, mais il doit respecter les normes communes qui ne privent personne de sa capacité de parler. Il ne faut pas confondre normes et valeurs. Si vous soutenez une politique de censurer vos adversaires, demandez-vous ce qui arrivera quand cette même norme sera utilisée par eux contre vous.

Une norme claire qu'il convient de fixer, c'est l'argumentation raisonnée (à coups de faits et de chiffres) à la place du chantage émotionnel. La pression sociale et l'envie de paraître plein de compassion peuvent nous interdire de porter la contradiction à des arguments émotionnels, à la bien-pensance. Autant une poussée d'émotion peut être sincère, autant un appel à l'émotion peut dégager beaucoup d'agressivité. Une démocratie émotionnelle ne protège pas la liberté d'expression mais, au contraire, elle la prend en otage, au profit de ceux qui veulent réduire au silence les opinions qui leur déplaisent.

## La parole déchaînée

Dans la tradition libérale, née du XIXe siècle, tous les propos sont permis, sauf ceux sanctionnés par la loi. Un seul motif peut justifier de restreindre la liberté de parole : éviter qu'un dommage ne soit fait à autrui. Ce mode de régulation de la parole pouvait fonctionner tant qu'ils étaient peu nombreux à avoir accès à la parole publique, et qu'ils partageaient des valeurs communes. Aujourd'hui, les valeurs sont comprises de façon de plus en plus extensive, et tout un chacun peut s'exprimer dans le domaine public grâce à l'internet, sans nuance ni débat.

Sur le web, il n'y a pas de «*marketplace of ideas*», cher à John Stuart Mill. La libre compétition entre les idées consolide la démocratie dans la mesure où elle constitue le meilleur moyen de découvrir la vérité. Une concurrence d'opinions est préférable à une conformité d'opinions. Or le fonctionnement des plateformes numériques favorise l'emballlement des émotions et rend peu praticable le débat contradictoire, libre et non faussé. Une information émanant d'un expert et la réaction d'un profane sont considérées comme interchangeables et donc substituables en valeur – une horizontalité si caractéristique de la distribution de la parole dans l'espace hertzien...

Le web promeut une «liberté de parler qui contribue à ruiner écoute mutuelle et échange argumenté», pour citer Canto-Sperber. Car le web s'avère être une caisse de résonance des propos extrêmes, renforcés par les algorithmes, charriant des torrents de haine jusqu'au lynchage. C'est la parole déchaînée, sans filtres ni codes de décence, qui prospère sur les réseaux sociaux où sévisent les séides de la parole libérée et prétendus justiciers des propos, avec la volonté d'intimider, voire des velléités



d'hégémonie d'une pensée, une forme d'intolérance que justifierait la grandeur de la cause qu'ils plaident.

## La justice dépassée

C'est peu dire qu'il faut combattre la haine en ligne, tout en préservant un équilibre entre le droit de parler et le contrôle des propos. Soulignant que «les codes législatifs des pays libéraux imposent tous des restrictions à la parole publique», à l'exception des États-Unis, la philosophe écrit que «la loi impose certes des limites à la liberté de parler à la fois pour protéger les personnes et pour préserver l'ordre public, mais la définition de ces limites reste ambiguë».

L'île Maurice n'est pas en reste. Il ne suffit pas de dire que le tort à autrui peut être réparé devant un tribunal. La justice est dépassée par les réseaux sociaux, étant peu armée devant l'anonymat et l'usage de pseudonymes. Elle peut certes exiger des plateformes une levée rapide de l'anonymat. Mais, face à la surenchère

dans la parole désinhibée, l'autorité judiciaire ne réagit qu'avec délai, étant trop lente et prise de vitesse par la réactivité des internautes qui surfent sur la diffusion maximale que permet l'internet. Et puis, ils n'éprouvent aucun scrupule à fouler au pied la présomption d'innocence, l'examen des faits et l'impartialité de la loi.

Même si la justice n'arrive pas à mettre au pas les déviances de la liberté de parler sur le web, il n'y a pas lieu de s'aplatir devant le pouvoir du numérique. La dernière chose à faire, c'est d'établir une police de la pensée. Nul sujet ne mérite d'être censuré sous prétexte qu'il choque. Le seul cas où une parole puisse être bannie, suscitant l'intervention légitime de la force publique, c'est lorsqu'elle conduirait à une action criminelle. Sinon, la censure est la meilleure couverture pour ceux qu'on combat, alors qu'un ennemi connu de tous est une cible facile et vulnérable. Ainsi que l'écrit Canto-Sperber, «quoique légalement punissables, les pires opinions ne sont pas sans utilité, et les réduire au silence nous prive d'un aiguillon nécessaire pour que nous restions en alerte».

On ne transige pas avec la liberté d'expression. Pour la philosophe, qui reprend Tocqueville («vous étiez parti des abus de la liberté, et je vous retrouve sous les pieds d'un despote»), on ne doit pas censurer la parole qu'on désapprouve, mais on doit plutôt la priver d'effet, la rendre inaudible, la délégitimer, par des contre-discours, bref «neutraliser l'effet des propos haineux tout en encourageant l'accès à la parole». Pour cela, il faut des acteurs engagés, notamment parmi les universitaires, les formateurs, les conférenciers, les commentateurs, les blogueurs, les artistes, les militants de la liberté. Favoriser un maximum d'opinions en circulation doit rester la visée de toute régulation de la liberté d'expression.

*Eric Ng Ping Cheun est l'auteur de 'Maurice la cigale' (2019), en vente chez Bookcourt, Editions Le Printemps, Editions de l'Océan Indien, Librairie Petrusmok, Librairie Le Cygne et Librairie Le Trèfle.*



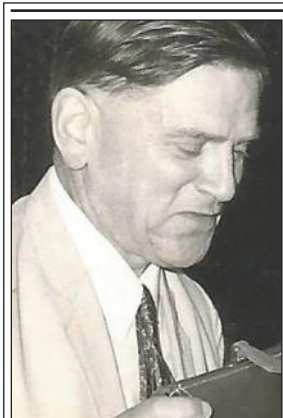
From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 183

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 7 February, 1958

• *Brevity is the one attribute of a good speech which is within the power and ability of all of us. -- Speaker of the House of Commons*



Peter Ibbotson

# An Eyewash Programme

**F**our weeks ago, I dealt with the published aims of the Parti Mauricien (PM). This week it is the turn of the programme the Parti to come under the microscope. I rely upon the programme as published in *Le Mauricien* on December 9 last.

*'Le Parti Mauricien soutient que seule la représentation proportionnelle peut..*

*faire disparaître le communalisme à l'île Maurice,'* declares the first section of the programme. Several elections have shown that the people do not want Proportional Representation (PR); and the only reason the PM is backing it is because they see in it their only hope of retaining even a vestige of their political power. As for PR putting an end to communalism, I thought it had become abundantly clear during the campaign *'Down with PR!'* that PR would aggravate, not ameliorate, communalism.

As Dr Burton Benedict's recent article in the *British Journal of Sociology* has shown (see the MT of January 17), social and political differences do not necessarily rest upon communal differences; yet PR will tend to make race, religion and language important matters at elections. The development of multi-racial political parties (the Labour Party is this already) will kill communalism; PR will only increase it.

The PM is interested in electoral reforms. This is a fascinating aspect of their policy; was it not the Keith Lucas Commission which discovered the frauds at the last-but-one municipal elections when the Labour Party was defeated and the *Daily Express* — in a hysterical article by Sefton Delmer — exulted to the skies? But the Labour Party was defeated only by fraud; how funny now to see the PM calling for electoral reform!

By the way, would the PM's reforms include legislation to compel the publication of accurate statements of expenditure at elections by all parties interested in securing the election of such lame horses as the PM has to date seen fit to back? And how about compulsory publication of the complete balance sheets and income and expenditure accounts of all political parties? Is the PM in favour?

We read of plans to relieve unemployment. Sugar production is to be increased. Secondary industries are to be developed. Planned emigration is contemplated. Public works (*creation des nouvelles routes*) are adumbrated. A bigger share of CD & W funds is to be sought. Not one word of this programme is new; it is all eyewash. Public works and the development of secondary industries are already part of the island's plan. The recently published five-year plan shows the volume of work which the Government contemplates undertaking in the next five years; the PM has nothing to add thereto.

As for development of the sugar industry and sugar production, the supporters of the PM can do this without putting it in the Parti's political programme. (The veiled

suggestion is that sugar production would be developed under a PM-dominated government but not under a Labour government — which doesn't say much for the patriotism of the supporters of the PM).

Where would *intensification de la production sucrière* lead? It would lead to the sugar barons getting richer; and the états-majors living in even more opulence than they do now. The workers would continue to get the bones left from the feasts; to have the crumbs from the rich men's tables.

Far from wishing to end unemployment, there are many supporters of the PM who would like unemployment to be as severe as possible. Widespread unemployment could be used to break the morals of the workers, to smash the trade unions, to break the power of the organized labourers and to break the back of the working-class political, trade union and co-operative movements. Wages could be depressed in an era of chronic unemployment; and the social provisions of the Labour Code and wages agreements could be flouted with impunity. The PM, in its heart of hearts, would dearly love to see a return to nineteenth-century colonialism, with cheap and abundant labour and low wages; the colonialism which made the Few rich out of the labour and sweat of the Many. (Sir Virgile Naz and Dr Ommanney have both commented on this aspect of the economics of 19th century Mauritius).

Other aspects of the policy statement which are already covered by government plans include the provision of workers' houses, the development of the health department and more hospitals, and the provision of a social security system. In all the three aspects of policy the PM is trying to make capital out of existing government policy; is trying to arrogate unto itself policies which are already in existence. All three of these aspects of the policy statement are again an eyewash.

As regards *instruction publique*, the PM is very surprisingly in favour of compulsory primary schooling as soon as possible. This is an extravagant claim to win electoral support. The PM has no interest in education for the workers' children. What the PM is interested is compelling all schoolchildren in a British colony (!) to learn French. It

is also interested in getting for its toadies free scholarships to the secondary schools for children who have attended not primary schools but the fee-paying junior departments of those selfsame secondary schools. No love for workers' educational facilities beats in the breast of Parti Mauricien and its supporters; they are out to benefit themselves and no one else. In the Royal Navy there is a saying, used of the selfish sailor, "Hard luck, Jack, I'm all right" (only sailors, not being mealy-mouthed, don't say "Hard luck"). This might well serve as the motto of the Parti Mauricien; its French equivalent, politely put, might be rendered as *"Nous nous moquons de vous, car nous allons bien."*

And as far as the desirability of *un niveau plus élevé d'instruction secondaire* is concerned, the PM is at fault. There is need for better secondary education facilities, it is true, but primary education must be tackled first and the level of primary education must be improved. Reforms are necessary in the secondary education field, of course; French as a compulsory subject at the Scholarship Examination should be abandoned, and fees in government and aided secondary schools should be abolished, with all entrants selected for their ability to profit from the secondary school course, not by their parents' ability to pay fees. But it won't be the PM which puts into effect such overdue reforms.

There are tendentious references to nationalisation which might well be the subject of an article on its own. There is, however, a section of policy regarding Income Tax. Paying lip service to the need for income tax, the PM nonetheless makes criticism of detail from which one can be forgiven for inferring that the PM — the sugar industry's political front — would like to do away with the higher rates of tax so far as to leave more profits in the hands of the barons and the shareholders. But Mauritius needs capital for development, and the vast majority of the people are too poor to provide any — except through customs and excise duties. So, the sugar barons must provide much of the money — after all, it is by the sweat of the people, the poor, underpaid people, that the barons wax fat, so that it is only fair that they should be compelled to give up a large slice of their profits in order that the people might benefit for a change.

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## NOTICE FOR PERMISSION FOR LAND USE WITHIN RESIDENTIAL ZONE

Take notice that I Mr Stephan Li Sing Pak, representing **Li Sing Pak Co Ltd** will apply to the **Municipal Council of Beau Bassin - Rose Hill** for a Building and Land Use permit for a proposed conversion of an existing store of 2nd Floor level of a building into a guest house at 25 Royal Road, Beau Bassin.

Any person feeling aggrieved by the proposal may lodge an objection in writing to the Council within 15 days as from the date of this publication.

Date: 11.02.2022



# Dr Renganaden Sunassee - FRCOG

**D**r Renganaden Sunassee (Renga) took his last dignified bow from life on 1 February 2022, during a short stay at La Clinique Mauricienne. It was somewhat fitting that he spent his last moments with his work family and colleagues who played such an enormous part in his life.

He was a doctor through and through: his consummate sense of duty and professionalism were the essence of his being. Over the years, his bedside manners morphed from that of a no-nonsense physician to a kindly, gentler fatherly figure. His patients loved him, and it gave him huge pleasure and satisfaction to watch new families being formed and in time, seeing babies he had delivered grow and become parents themselves.

Renga was the youngest son born to Kistnasamy and Armila Sunassee. He broke the family mould in his desire to pursue a career in medicine and found himself at the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI), Dublin. During his studies there, he acquired: a wife (Uma), two daughters (Vaishnavi and Geeta) and a car.

After graduating from RCSI, he returned to Mauritius to work briefly at the then Civil Hospital. He then went back to Ireland to the well-known Coombe Hospital to



**Dr Renganaden Sunassee**  
18 March 1945 - 1 February 2022

pursue his interest in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He moved to Hull (UK) as a houseman, under the guidance of (late) Mr Maden, for whom he had enormous respect. He soon made a very favourable impression and, in the words of Mr Maden: *"turned out to be one of the best housemen that I have had for a long time"*. He had a special talent for surgery. Later, he moved to Co. Limerick (Ireland), where he began his training as a Registrar at St Munchin's Regional Maternity Hospital. This was a time of joy and stability. With the arrival of their son Avinash, he and Uma took great pleasure in raising their young family.

After obtaining his 'Member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecology' (MRCOG) qualification, Renga returned with his family to Mauritius in 1980. He brought with him newer surgical techniques at which he was particularly adept and would, whilst working in the government service, cover a significant volume of surgical procedures daily. He worked tirelessly and, in time, developed his own successful private practice. Over the years he worked at SSRN hospital, Civil Hospital and Victoria Hospital. In the early nineties, he was the president of the Government Medical and Dental Officers' Association.

He, with other colleagues, successfully led the resistance against attempts by the then government to remove the right to private practice of specialist government medical practitioners. He also served as president of the Private Medical Practitioners Association and on the Medical Council in Mauritius. He was awarded the Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecology (FRCOG) in 1995.

Evolving from a quiet and unassuming young man in his student days, to a more vocal and imposing person in his later years, he enjoyed writing articles in the press and speaking regularly on the radio, generously dispensing his wealth of medical knowledge and thoughts to his audience. He was also active professionally, through various associations, in promoting community projects and in helping the disadvantaged.

To his immense joy, Renga became a grandad, and he relished his role as 'Grandpa' to Priyanka, Rohan, Krishna, Rahul and Soham. As strict as he was as a father, he was as gentle and forbearing as a grandad. He was genuinely curious, amazed, and amused by this new generation and was deeply loved in return.

He leaves behind, with decades of fond memories, wife Uma, his son Avinash and family, daughters Vaishnavi and Geeta and family, his brother Sathiamoorthy and his sister-in-law Navini, sister Mohini Cuttaree and family, nieces Amanda Lam and Manjula Virapoullé and family, cousin Dr Vinod Sunassy and family and his whole extended family.

Last but not least, he leaves behind his work family: all the students, doctors, nurses, hospital staff and patients who deeply enriched his life and who journeyed with him in his cherished role as a doctor. He lived and loved in this lifetime as he had wished. As sung by Frank Sinatra, and in his own words, he did it "My way".

## The Conversation

# The 'Good Chaps' Rule of Government

Cont. from page 2

But something will be done to a MP pointing this out."

When good chaps turn bad

Johnson has pulled off an effective confidence trick. He may look and sound like a good chap, with his archaic vocabulary and deliberately eccentric tone and posture. He has, as it were, adopted the "habitus" of the traditionally educated – prep school, Eton and Balliol – prime minister.

But he is not a good chap. He propped parliament unlawfully, as the supreme court found unanimously. He tried to abolish the parliamentary standards system when it found that a Conservative MP had been a paid lobbyist, again in breach of the rules.

His former aide has accused him of lying to parliament when claiming he thought a party held in Downing Street during a pandemic lockdown was a "work event". He has repeatedly passed on opportunities to withdraw baseless accusations he has thrown at the opposition leader in parliament that appear to have



originated in online conspiracy theories.

Most prime ministers of the last 100 years would have resigned over almost any one of these transgressions.

### Norms and abuse

Norms are usually a social construct. They are not necessarily formally written down but nonetheless provide stability and confidence that society is not a free-for-all on the brink of breakdown. The behaviour of leaders matters. In a corporate setting, governance codes require, for example, board members to question and challenge the executive. Companies should not be dictatorships. Corporate governance has been the subject of a

purposeful and quite productive debate for the last 30 years. In the private sector, it is understood that structures matter for anyone trying to run a healthy and successful enterprise.

Cabinet government is supposed to work in a roughly similar way, with the prime minister *primus inter pares* – first among equals – a Latin phrase which should not test the prime minister's perhaps fading grasp of the language too severely.

Yet even to discuss the problem in this way can sound quaint and naïve. What is not – at least, was not – quaint is the idea that an effective cabinet secretary at the heart of this system can ensure that prime ministerial excesses are very often curbed. The head of the civil service sees to it that the norms are respected and kept in place. Past cabinet secretaries were masters of this. No such figure is at work in Whitehall today, as the prime minister well knows (indeed, he saw to it that this was the case).

What we see is that a system, without norms, is wide open for abuse. Today only the moral awareness of Conservative MPs can defend a nation from a prime minister determined to stay in office come what may, no matter what he says or does.

Leadership without purpose, other than satisfying the ego, is likely to founder. Governance rules are in place, in business and the rest of society, to try to prevent immoral leaders driving their organisations into the ground. As scandals continued to break, this government's flagship policy to "level up" more deprived regions was rushed out, apparently before it was ready, as part of the bid to distract attention away from one man and his mistakes.

The true legacy of the Johnson premiership will probably be a growing demand for the hitherto unspoken norms of government to be more formally codified, even put into law. And the two-word verdict on allowing such a person to take charge in Number 10 will be stark and clear: never again.

**Stefan Stern, Visiting Professor of Management Practice, Cass Business School, City, University of London**



# National Honours List: Lessons from India

● Cont. from page 3

In India's 2022 Republic Day honours list, the Padma Vibhushan, which is the second-highest civilian award, was conferred only on four awardees. It includes (posthumously) General Bipin Rawat, India's first chief of defence staff, who died in a helicopter accident in December 2021. The Padma Bhushan, which is the third-highest civilian award, was awarded to a select list of 17 awardees. The list *inter alia* included Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech's chairman Krishna Ella and his co-founder wife Suchitra Ella, Serum Institute of India (SII) managing director Cyrus Poonawalla, Satya Narayana Nadella, the executive chairman and CEO of Microsoft, Sundararajan Pichai the CEO of Alphabet Inc and its subsidiary Google as well as a Congress opposition leader Ghulam Nabi Azad.

The highly selective and carefully thought out list of persons chosen for India's Honours list is best exemplified by the relatively few persons who have been awarded the Bharat Ratna, which is the highest civilian award of the Republic of India conferred in recognition of "exceptional service/performance of the highest order". The Bharat Ratna has been awarded to only 48 recipients during the 68 years since the award was instituted in January 1954.

The list of Bharat Ratna recipients awarded because of their exceptional contribution includes Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Indian philosopher and statesman who served as the second President of India, former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, renowned scientists CV Raman who obtained the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 and APJ Abdul Kalam, aerospace and defence scientist and President of India, Mother Theresa, social reformer Vinoba Bhave best known for his Bhoodan movement, 'Land-Gift Movement', BR Ambedkar chief architect of the Indian Constitution, Nelson Mandela, renowned filmmaker Satyajit Ray, Amartya Sen, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1998, musicians Ravi Shankar. Bismillah Khan, classical vocalist Bhimsen Joshi, singer Lata Mangeshkar, industrialist and philanthropist, JRD Tata and cricketer Sachin Tendulkar.

There are very few politicians in this exclusive list. Thus, not all

Presidents or Prime Ministers have been awarded the Bharat Ratna. For example, Atal Bihari Vajpayee who apart from serving as the Prime Minister of India for three terms (principally from 1998-2004) with distinction and an acclaimed poet was conferred the Bharat Ratna only in 2015.

National Honours are the highest honours or awards that

a citizen or an awardee can receive from a country for their exceptional service and outstanding contribution in their field of activity. The major democracies of the world also use very lofty criteria to award the various national honours. An indiscriminate award of the national honours can only devalue them. We need to compare, contrast and learn to benchmark our national awards on the highest norms prevailing in the best democracies in the world.

Mrinal Roy



## COMMUNIQUE

### EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR CONTENT OF SUGAR SWEETENED PRODUCTS

- Further to the Communiqués issued by the Mauritius Revenue Authority on 08 October 2020, 29 October 2020 and 25 March 2021 on sugar sweetened products and as mentioned in paragraph A.9. (c) of Part A of the Annex to the Budget Speech 2021-2022, importers and local manufacturers are hereby informed that the excise duty of 6 cents per gram of sugar on non-staple sugar sweetened products **shall enter into force on 1 July 2022**.

The list of non-staple sugar sweetened products with corresponding HS code is available on the MRA website [on the following link: <https://www.mra.mu>].

- Importers and local manufacturers are informed that the excise duty of 6 cents per gram of sugar shall **not** apply to:
  - sugar-sweetened products with total sugar content of up to 4 grams per 100 grams or 4 grams per 100 millilitres; and
  - fruit purées for infants.

However, importers and local manufacturers of non-staple sugar sweetened products under paragraph (i) are required to register themselves with MRA Customs in accordance with paragraph (3).

- For the proper implementation of this measure in July 2022, all importers and local manufacturers of non-staple sugar sweetened food products are required to:
  - register themselves as Economic Operators dealing in Excisable Products by submitting a duly filled registration form: **MRA/CUS/TFCC/REG/EO06**; and
  - make an application for a Part I excise licence of "Importer or manufacturer of sugar sweetened products" by submitting a duly filled application form: **MRA/CUS/EX/Form 7**.

All importers and local manufacturers of sugar sweetened products are kindly requested to submit the duly filled forms mentioned at (i) and (ii) to the Excise Section, MRA Customs, Custom House, Mer Rouge, Port Louis by 31 May 2022 to ensure the smooth implementation of this measure.

The forms **MRA/CUS/TFCC/REG/EO06** and **MRA/CUS/EX/Form 7** can be downloaded from the MRA website: [www.mra.mu](http://www.mra.mu).

- The requirements under paragraph (3) shall not apply to existing holders of licence of "Importer or manufacturer of sugar sweetened products".
- Licensed importers and manufacturers of "**sugar sweetened products**" under the Excise Act need to submit a bill of entry with specified documents, if any, and document(s) certifying the sugar content for each non-staple sugar sweetened food product.
- MRA Customs will have working sessions with licensed importers and manufacturers to provide clarifications on the implementation aspect.

For further information and assistance on this matter, you may contact the **Excise Section** of the Customs Department on **202 0500**.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

08 February 2022

Custom House, Mer Rouge, Port Louis, Mauritius

T: +230 202 0500 | F: +230 216 5946 | M: customs@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu





## Entrepreneurship

# Tips for Starting a Small Business in 2022



Entrepreneurship - Go for it! Pic - Zerox24

**Yes, your startup can flourish in turbulent times—if you identify and use the right digital tools to drive success.**

— Steffen Schebesta

If you believe in your small business idea, now is an opportune time to take the leap into entrepreneurship. It's critical to consider the economic climate when outlining your business plan. So, how do you start a new business on the heels of a global pandemic?

The past two years have brought great uncertainty, but many businesses have successfully adapted. With a well-thought-out and strategic plan, you can harness your passion, launch a small business, and achieve success during these turbulent times.

Start with the basics. Ask yourself: Why do I want to start a business?

If you are confident in your unique offering, here are a few ways to drive success for your small business during and after the pandemic.

## Find Your Niche

The pandemic affected everyone by shifting the roles of work and personal life. With these changes, new gaps appeared in the market, and existing gaps were enlarged. That leaves space for new small businesses to prosper. A new small business can create value in niche markets that larger companies don't serve.

## Go Digital

It is nearly impossible to start a business without establishing an online presence. Thousands of businesses closed for good during the pandemic -- but many avoided that outcome by focusing strong efforts on building their online community. During such an online boom, small businesses must find and use the right digital tools to thrive.

Take advantage of social media and create personalized content. Social media management tools can empower you to make the most of your brand presence online and schedule content in advance. Email marketing is another inexpensive yet rewarding tool to explore. Finally, leverage the power of search engine optimization (SEO) to become more searchable online.

## Network, Network, Network

Though traditional networking happens through in-person meetings and events, online networking with professionals is more accessible now with social media platforms, including Clubhouse, Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Identify local networking groups or events in your area to build professional relationships. Most networking groups have a Slack community, which can be advantageous, as that's one of the most effective ways to connect with new professionals in your industry of interest and share new ideas. Never underestimate the power of building relationships, whether online or offline.

Adapting to change is the key to success, and the pandemic is no anomaly to this. Today, small businesses can evolve to find their niche, use online communications, and leverage local and social communities to be successful players in the market, both during and after the pandemic.

Steffen Schebesta, an Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) member in Toronto, is the CEO and VP of Corporate Development at Sendinblue, a marketing platform for small businesses.

## Work Smarter



## Made a Big Mistake at Work? Own Up and Move On

Here's the thing about mistakes: Everyone makes them. But making a big mistake at work doesn't have to be a career killer. As awful as it might feel in the moment, you can take steps to regain trust, minimize damage, and mend the situation. It's important to be proactive. As soon as you become aware of the gaffe, try to get in front of the situation before it spirals. Address whatever took place so people know you're aware of the problem, and they don't feel the pressure to bring it to your attention. Reach out to anyone impacted by your actions, hear them out (or ask for their feedback), and share a plan for improvement moving forward. Offer an apology, if warranted. Make it genuine. Don't be defensive or make it about you. Instead, acknowledge your error and the harm you caused to the other person, team, or the business. And don't forget to show yourself compassion. Setbacks at work can be embarrassing, but being excessively self-critical isn't helpful. Berating yourself for something in the past won't make the mistake go away. So own up, and move on.

*This tip is adapted from "You Made a Big Mistake at Work. What Should You Do?," by Dina Smith - HBR*

## Stop Having Pointless Meetings

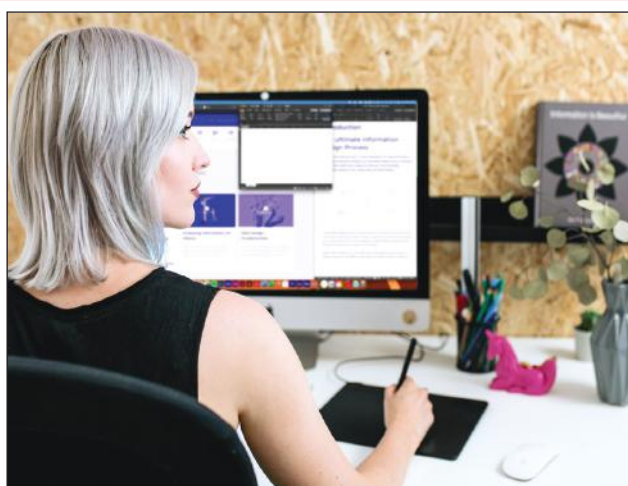
Why do bad meetings feel inevitable? Are we really resigned to sitting in — or worse, leading — pointless meetings? We shouldn't be. Here are common reasons you might be back-to-back every single day, and how you can get your (and your team's) schedule under control:

- **FOMO.** Too often, we worry that our colleagues will judge us — or worse yet, forget about us — if we don't accept every invitation. Instead of RSVPing "yes," demonstrate your value and engagement outside of meetings, and encourage your team to do the same.
- **Meeting amnesia.** Do you feel like you're having the same meeting over and over again? You might be. Make it routine to take notes and share those summaries with attendees and any relevant stakeholders who weren't present. Keeping consistent and accessible synopses of your team's meetings will help you avoid retreading the same ground.
- **Lack of accountability.** If you're using a meeting as a way to check that work is actually getting done, consider telling your colleagues in advance that you'll cancel and give everyone the time back if they meet their deadlines ahead of the set time.

*This tip is adapted from "The Psychology Behind Meeting Overload," by Ashley Whillans et al - HBR*

## Learning Should Be a Daily Practice

No matter what industry you're in or how long you've been in it, the ability to learn is an essential skill. But it's not as simple as acquiring knowledge. It's a regular practice of trying out new things and seeing the world in new ways. So conduct experiments as part of your daily work, whether it's using a new productivity tool or trying out a new approach to meetings. Keep a log where you track the experiments you're running and reflect on what you're learning along the way. You might also look for opportunities to learn from others. Set a goal of having one "curiosity coffee" each month, virtually or in person, with someone you haven't met before. This might be someone in a different department who will help you view your organization through a new lens or someone in your profession at another company who could broaden your knowledge. You can also make learning a team activity.



Try a weekly or monthly skills swap, where people can share a skill they're happy to help others learn.

*This tip is adapted from "Make Learning a Part of Your Daily Routine," by Helen Tupper and Sarah Ellis - HBR*



## Bedtime linked with heart health

**G**oing to sleep between 10:00 and 11:00 pm is associated with a lower risk of developing heart disease compared to earlier or later bedtimes, according to a study published in 'European Heart Journal -- Digital Health', a journal of the European Society of Cardiology.

"The body has a 24-hour internal clock, called circadian rhythm, that helps regulate physical and mental functioning," said study author Dr David Plans of the University of Exeter, UK. "The results of our study suggest that early or late bedtimes may be more likely to disrupt the



body clock, with adverse consequences for cardiovascular health."

The study included 88,026 individuals in the UK Biobank recruited between 2006 and 2010. The average age was 61 years

(range 43 to 79 years) and 58% were women. Data on sleep onset and waking up time were collected over seven days using a wrist-worn accelerometer. They were then followed up for a new diagnosis of cardiovascular disease, which was defined as a heart attack, heart failure, chronic ischaemic heart disease, stroke, and transient ischaemic attack.

During an average follow-up of 5.7 years, 3,172 participants (3.6%) developed cardiovascular disease. Incidence was highest in those with sleep times at midnight or later and lowest in those with sleep onset from 10:00 to 10:59 pm.

The researchers analysed the association between sleep onset and cardiovascular events after adjusting for age, sex, sleep duration, sleep irregularity (defined as varied times of going to sleep and waking up), self-reported chronotype (early bird or night owl), smoking status,

body mass index, diabetes, blood pressure, blood cholesterol and socioeconomic status.

Compared to sleep onset from 10:00 to 10:59 pm, there was a 25% higher risk of cardiovascular disease with a sleep onset at midnight or later, a 12% greater risk for 11:00 to 11:59 pm, and a 24% raised risk for falling asleep before 10:00 pm. In a further analysis by sex, the association with increased cardiovascular risk was stronger in women, with only sleep onset before 10:00 pm remaining significant for men.

Dr Plans said: "Our study indicates that the optimum time to go to sleep is at a specific point in the body's 24-hour cycle and deviations may be detrimental to health. The riskiest time was after midnight, potentially because it may reduce the likelihood of seeing morning light, which resets the body clock."

## Why we feel confident about decisions we make

**B**uying a second-hand car at a good price feels good. But choosing a delicious-looking cake in the supermarket leaves us riddled with doubt. After all, we resolved to eat a healthier diet this year -- so wouldn't it be better to buy an apple? We've all experienced this feeling at one time or another. But where does this feeling come from?

For the first time, a team of researchers at ETH Zurich and the University of Zurich led by ETH Prof Rafael Polanía has investigated this question systematically.

The authors used experimental data to develop a computer model that can predict how an individual will choose between different options and why they might subsequently feel confident or doubtful about the decision they made.

"Using our model, we've successfully shown that decisions are most likely to feel right if we have invested significant attentional effort in weighing up the different options and, what's more, are conscious of having done so," says Polanía.

Polanía together with his PhD student Jeroen Brus developed a computer model that can predict under which conditions people will have confidence -- or a lack thereof -- in their decisions. "We discovered that people are particularly likely to have a bad feeling about a decision if they introspect that they didn't pay enough attention to comparing the different options," Polanía says.

This capacity for introspection is a crucial part of our



ability to exercise self-control. Without it, Polanía says, we would be far more likely to act on our preferences for, say, unhealthy foods without questioning them. The good news is that we can train this ability through mindfulness exercises and meditation.

## What has the search for extraterrestrial life actually yielded and how does it work?



*The Universe is mind-bogglingly large and with the latest technology, the search is only just starting to heat up*

I am lucky enough to be a professional "alien hunter" for the Breakthrough Listen project, which is the biggest search for extraterrestrial intelligence we humans have ever undertaken.

My role in the search is to use data from the Parkes radio telescope in Australia to look for signals from space that might have been sent by intelligent extraterrestrial life.

The Breakthrough Listen program has been going for three years, and we have another seven years of searching to go. But people have been searching the skies for signs of intelligent life since the 1960s and to date we have found... zero aliens.

But don't lose hope! The Universe is mind-bogglingly large, and with the latest technology, the search is only just starting to heat up.

There are three exciting ways we might detect life beyond Earth in the coming years.

### Probes to planets and moons

The first is by sending probes to planets and moons in the Solar system. We already know there isn't any other intelligent life in the Solar system, but there could be simpler life like microbes.

You may have heard about the NASA missions to Mars -- the latest is the Curiosity Rover, and it has special equipment that might detect simple life like microbes on the red planet's surface.



The Parkes Observatory radio dish, the second largest telescope in the southern hemisphere, has a 'multibeam' receiver which can search 13 places in the sky simultaneously for signs of intelligent life. Shutterstock

it could still be something less interesting, like a chemical reaction between rocks. Another upcoming mission is called Dragonfly, which will venture to Saturn's moon Titan (which, amazingly, has an atmosphere) and will fly around looking for signs of life.

### Studying the atmospheres of other star systems

The second way we might detect life is by looking closely at the atmospheres of planets in other star systems, which are called exoplanets.

Astronomers have detected lots of exoplanets, and recently found water in the atmosphere of one exoplanet, but we still can't tell if there is life on the surface.

Excitingly, the next generation of optical telescopes will be able to detect gases in the atmospheres of nearby

Curiosity recently uncovered an intriguing mystery: occasionally its sensors pick up methane gas in the atmosphere. Methane is produced here on Earth by animals (in particular, cows and sheep), so finding methane could point to there being some microbes in the soil.

That would be an amazing discovery, but

exoplanets. If we see that an exoplanet's atmosphere has a mix of gases like Earth, that would be strong evidence that we are sharing the galaxy with other beings.

### The search for extraterrestrial intelligence or 'SETI'

The search for extraterrestrial intelligence, or "SETI" as it is known, is the third way scientists are looking for life. In SETI, we look for signals from space that look artificial or that don't seem natural. Detecting an artificial signal would tell us that there was not only life, but life capable of producing advanced technology.

SETI could detect an artificial signal from much, much further away than the other two methods; the disadvantage is that intelligent life is almost certainly rarer. We just don't know yet how rare, and that's the reason we need to look.

The best explanation for why we haven't found life beyond Earth yet is simply that we haven't been looking hard and long enough, and our technology has not advanced enough. There are hundreds of billions of stars in the Milky Way alone, and there are more stars in the Universe than there are grains of sand here on Earth.

As SETI pioneer Jill Tarter is fond of saying:

You wouldn't dip a glass in the ocean, come up with no fish inside and conclude, 'No fish exist'.

The tide pools and coral reefs of the Universe may be filled with life, we just need to keep dipping our glasses into the darkness.

Danny C Price, Astrophysicist,  
Swinburne University of Technology





## Après une catastrophe

Après une catastrophe, une centaine de couples se retrouvent au ciel devant St Pierre. Il leur dit:

- SVP, veuillez faire trois lignes. Une ligne pour les femmes, une ligne pour les hommes qui se sont toujours fait menés par le bout du nez par leurs femmes, et une ligne pour les hommes qui ont dû imposer leur volonté à leur femme.

Sur ce, 3 lignes se forment. Un seul monsieur se retrouve dans la ligne des hommes qui ont dû imposer leur volonté à leur femme. St Pierre s'approche de ce monsieur et demande:

- Monsieur, il y a des années que je n'ai vu personne dans cette ligne, êtes-vous sûr que vous êtes dans la bonne ligne?
- Je ne sais pas, c'est ma femme qui m'a dit de me mettre ici !

\*\*\*

### Holiday greeting

I wanted to send some sort of holiday greeting to you, but it is difficult in today's world to know exactly what to say without offending someone. So, I met with my lawyer yesterday, and on advice I wish to say the following:

Please accept with no obligation, implied or implicit, my best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral celebration of the summer solstice holiday practiced with the most enjoyable traditions of religious persuasion or secular practises of your choice with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practise religious or secular traditions at all.

I also wish you a fiscally successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2022 but not without due respect for the calendar of choice of other cultures whose contributions to society have helped make our country great (not to imply that my country is necessarily greater than any other country) and without regard to the race, creed, colour, age, physical ability, religious faith or sexual preference of the wishes.

By accepting this greeting, you are accepting these terms:

This greeting is subject to clarification or withdrawal. It is freely transferable with

no alteration to the original greeting. It implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes for her/him or others and is void where prohibited by law, and is revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher. The wish is warranted to perform as expected within the usual application of good tidings for a period of one year or until the issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.

*Best Regards (without prejudice)*

\*\*\*

### Lockdown Laughs

1. Having practised lethargy for 22 months,  
I am ready to face audition for the first season of 'Indian Idle'.
2. I started a new hobby - gardening.  
I planted myself before the TV and I have grown noticeably.
3. The lockdown is like the movie 'Dabangg'.  
Doesn't make any sense, but sequels keep getting made.
4. Without access to a barber, I look barbaric.  
The more I stay at home, the more homeless I look.
6. I've become quite shapely during the lockdown -

Round in the middle, long in the face and obtuse in the head!

\*\*\*

### After birth how long does it take to open eyes?

- Cow** – Immediately.
- Goat** – After 2 hours.
- Cat** – After 6 days.
- Dog** – After 10 days.
- Human Being** – After marriage.

\*\*\*

### Parsee Belle

The beautiful sexy Parsee Bawi Hilla, hit a Rs 50 million lottery jackpot.

Her friends thought if the news is told to her suddenly, she may die from shock due to happiness and excitement.

So, they assigned the job to her best friend Bawaji Sorabjee Bomanjee, to inform her in such a way that she didn't die of shock.

Bawaji went and asked: 'Hilla, assume you win a Rs 10 M lottery? What will you do?'

Hilla: 'I will strip nude in front of you.'

Sorabjee: 'Imagine Rs 20 million... Then?'

Hilla: 'You can have me as many times you want.'

Sorabjee: 'Super, but if you win Rs 50 M, then?'

Hilla: 'You can do all unthinkable things to me. And I will give you half the money.'

Bastard Sorabjee died of excitement and cardiac arrest!

## Inspiration

### The 6 major anti-rules for life victory in 2022

I'm not anti-many things. I do my best to live peacefully, to salute the gifts in others and to tread the earth with light footprints. Yet I do believe there are a number of things that we — if we're sincerely interested in a life of success and soulfulness — should fiercely resist. And protest. Please allow me to share 6 of the primary ones:

**1. Be Anti-Average.** Who wants to follow the herd when it will only lead you off a cliff. Stand for higher standards than the crowd chooses. Abide by the wisest values (including honesty, courage, patience, understanding, mastery and kindness). Select activities that fuel your joy and accelerate your growth. Push work that is masterful. Exemplify possibility.

**2. Be Anti-Superficial.** What an era we inhabit! 10 second videos of people dancing are consumed by millions yet too many of the heroic books remain unread by most. Be a contrarian. Go deep versus really wide. Have rich conversations. Think interesting thoughts. Apply rigour and excellence and carefulness to all that you do. Be a heavy-



weight in a culture gone ultra-light.

**3. Be Anti-Cynical.** Dreams get done every day. Human beings have a gigantic capacity to accomplish the extraordinary. And each day carries with it a window into awe and wonder, if we choose to open it. So avoid the cynicism that too many good souls have allowed to cloud their sensibility to life's wonderful beauty.

**4. Be Anti-Injustice.** Life's too short to tolerate any form of mistreatment and disrespect in your orbit. If you see someone being hurt, step up. And definitely don't allow anyone to dishonour the magic that is you. You are special and essential and important to the world. Own it.

**5. Be Anti-Interruption.** It's become ever so easy to spent our limited days on earth in useless toil versus majestic flow. We are in a war: against distraction and trivial invasion. Turn off your devices for at least a few hours each day and for a full day each week. Work in quietude, on a big problem that will revolutionize the lives of those you serve. And live with greater silence, serenity and presence.

**6. Be Anti-Fear.** I want you—in 2022—to become superbrave. Beginning today, I wish that you'd start doing more of the things you fear. Each time you do, you take back the power that you gave to it. And grow more fearless. This is a practise. So the more you train on leaning into what terrifies you the better you'll get at it.

Robin Sharma

## All Time Short Stories

### Unnecessary doubts

A boy and a girl were playing together. The boy had a collection of beautiful marbles. The girl had some candies with her. The boy offered to give the girl all his marbles in exchange for all her candies. The girl agreed.



The boy gave all the marbles to the girl, but secretly kept the biggest and the most beautiful marble for himself.

The girl gave him all her candies as she had promised. That night, the girl slept peacefully. But the boy couldn't sleep as he kept wondering if the girl had hidden some more tasty candies from him the way he had hidden his best marble.

**Moral:** If you don't give your hundred percent in a relationship, you'll always keep doubting if the other person has given his/her hundred percent.

\*\*\*



### Soar life a eagle

Did you know that an eagle can foresee when a storm is approaching long before it breaks?

Instead of hiding, the eagle will fly to some high point and wait for the winds to come.

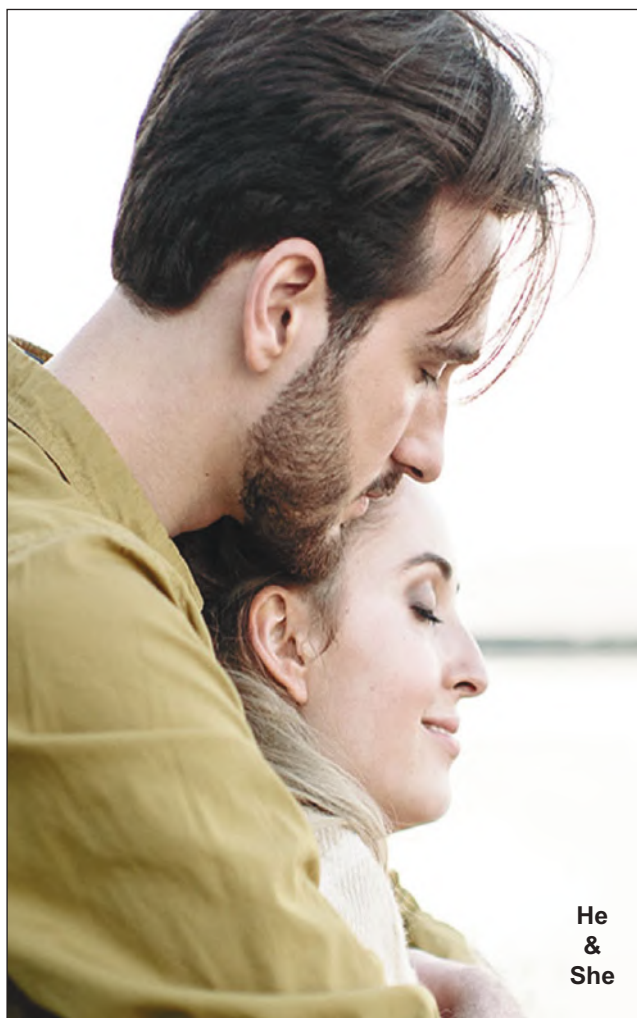
When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind can pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle soars above it.

The eagle does not escape or hide from the storm instead it uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the stormy winds which others dread.

When the storm of life or challenges hit us, we can rise above them and soar like the eagle which ride the winds of the storm. Don't be afraid of the storms or the challenges in your life. Use it to lift you higher in your life.



# Relationship Secrets Women Want Men to Know



He  
&  
She

**W**hat do women want? For those who've ever pondered this question, here are a few relationship secrets. They're based on the study of healthy, happy couples and our changing gender roles.

**Secret No. 1:** Women appreciate a guy with a sensitive side, especially when they're upset. Put your arm around them and hand them a tissue. Nurturing is a powerful way to connect.

**Chivalry still has a place:** When it comes to romance, many women do like men to take a traditional masculine role. This is especially true in the wooing stage of a relationship, according to psychologist Diana Kirschner, PhD, who's written several books about love. They are perfectly capable of pulling out their own chair or opening a door, but if you see them hesitate, they might just be waiting for you to be the gentleman.

**Dress to impress:** Styles come and go, but men's attention to their grooming and clothing should be long lasting. It's important to women from the first flirtation through the honeymoon and beyond. "You've got to figure out if there's a certain look that she likes," says Kirschner. "If she likes a guy in tight jeans, you wear tight jeans."

**Guy wears red, guy gets girl:** OK, this tip doesn't come from women, but from clever testing by psychologists of women's subconscious preferences. One intriguing study found that the colour red made men seem more powerful, attractive, and sexually desirable to women. There's a caveat, though. Red doesn't make guys appear nicer or kinder. That part is up to you.

**Don't hide your flaws:** Nothing captures a woman's heart quite like a good man who wants to be a better man, according to love guru Kirschner. "Women love personal growth, they love a man who is thoughtful and sensitive." They like it when their men recognize a flaw — a short temper, for example, or a regularly sullen mood after work — and love it when they make an effort to address it.

**Don't try to fix their world:** When something's

bothering them, they want your ear, not your advice. "Men feel the need to fix things because they are solution-oriented," says Kirschner. "But to a woman, really listening is a wonderful, wonderful thing that deepens the relationship."

**Nodding is not enough:** Listening is important, but they also want to know that they are being heard. Nodding along won't cut it. When she pauses, she's giving you a cue to respond in a compassionate, caring way, says Kirschner. If they tell you that they are upset because their boss gave them a tough time, they want to hear you say, "I'm sorry that work was such a drag for you today." And remember: Resist the urge to offer solutions.

**Women like the slow lane:** Guys often want to take the quickest path to sex. But many women prefer the scenic route. "Women want sex but they get to it in a different way," says psychologist Kirschner, who has helped hundreds of couples achieve a more rewarding relationship. "They want to feel connected and understood, they want to be romanced." That means time and talking and touching — in other words, foreplay.

**Safe sex is a turn-on:** This is something both of you need to focus on, but Kirschner says that women appreciate it and feel more protected when the guy makes it clear that it's a concern to him — and then shows her that he practices what he preaches.

**Learn what they want in bed:** Women do like to talk to about what's going on in the sack, and they want to please their man — and a tactful approach is often best. Ask them what they like. Be sure to ask for what you want in a positive and validating way. Kirschner advises saying something along the lines of, "I would really love if you [fill in the blanks]."

**Performance anxiety is shared:** When you have an off night and can't perform, they feel bad, too. They might worry that they no longer turn you on and they will want assurance that that is not true. They will want to talk about what's going on and what you are doing about it, especially if it's a recurring problem. "It's a touchy thing for both of you," says Kirschner, "but talking about it is a plus."

**Mirroring is a barometer of love:** Remember the saying "imitation is the highest form of flattery"? A woman often conveys how they feel about you by mirroring your moods and moves. They may order a meal that pairs with yours, wear your favorite color, or smile or cross their arms when you do. Mimicking is their way of putting you at ease and letting you know they are charmed.

**Your shirt may be a love magnet:** Does your partner curl up in your sweater or sneak into your work shirt? Some researchers have found that the scent of a man's perspiration has a relaxing effect on women.

**Say it, again and again:** Women like to be told they look nice, and they like a man who notices without being told. When they are wearing a sexy new dress, for example, they'll give you major points for saying how hot they look, especially if you mention the dress before they do. If they are looking particularly attractive, if they have a new haircut, if they are looking more fit — let them hear about it.

**Don't fear the relationship talk:** When your woman wants to talk about the relationship, it doesn't mean you did something wrong (well, not necessarily). Kirschner says that many women like to talk about the "state of the union" — what's going right, what's going wrong, or simply what's going on. This is a good thing. An honest, wide-ranging talk can bring the two of you closer.

**Look your partner in the eye:** You may feel more comfortable sitting side by side, but many women prefer face time — and we don't mean the latest mobile video chat technology. Kirschner says that women prefer their

men to make eye contact with them as they're talking. And looking her in the eye during sex will deepen the relationship outside the bedroom.

**Don't miss the moment:** How do you know if they are ready to commit? They'll say so. This is something that women are often quite up front about. But they don't want to have "the talk" too often. If they are ready and they have given you time, the next time the subject comes up, be prepared to step up or step off.

**Romance is simple; keep it coming:** Romance is something they will always want, whether you've been together two months or 20 years. Flowers, an intimate dinner, a few lines of love poetry — don't worry, they don't have to be your own — might sound cliché, but Kirschner insists that most women appreciate such simple romantic gestures and often show their appreciation after the lights go down.

*Medically Reviewed by Nayana Ambardekar,  
MD - WebMD*

## Beverages Industry Workers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House  
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis  
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

### Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Beverages Industry Workers' Union to be held on Sunday 27 February 2022 at its registered seat — 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am. In case of lack of quorum, the AGM will be held on Sunday 13 March 2022 at same place at 10.00 am.

#### Agenda:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Dissolution of the union
6. A.O.B

*K. Teeluck  
Secretary*

## Force Vive Gorah Issac Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Members of the Force Vive Gorah Issac (Reg. No. 11546) are informed that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Sunday 6 March 2022 at their seat at 15 Gorah Issac St., Port Louis as from 10.00 am.

#### Agenda

1. Reading and approval of minutes of last AGM.
2. President's report.
3. Treasurer's report.
4. Budget estimates for 2022
5. Nomination of 2 auditors
6. Election of executive members for 2022-2023
7. Motions if any.
8. AOB.

Motions and letter of candidature from members should reach the Secretary of FVGI by Monday 28 February 2022 at latest 4 pm.

NB: In case there is no quorum, the AGM will be adjourned for 13 March 2022 at the same venue, same time and with same agenda"

*Iqbal Damoo  
Secretary*



## Rubina Dilaik to Shweta Tiwari

*TV actresses who dealt with depression post heartbreaks*

Heartbreaks are not easy to deal with, especially if you are a public figure. Actor's life is always under public scrutiny and their breakups become headlines. While some may overcome it faster, there are a few whose life gets completely shaken. Times of India takes a look at actresses who have dealt with the worse but came out stronger than ever.

### Rubina Dilaik

Rubina Dilaik fell in love with her show, *Chotti Bahu's* co-actor Avinash Sachdev. After walking their separate ways, Rubina found it very difficult to overcome this pain, and during an interview with ETimes TV, the *Bigg Boss14* winner opened up about that phase. She had said, "The experiences, heartbreak and downfall in my life has made me a stronger woman. I emerged stronger. At that point in time I didn't realize it. I grudged, sulked and asked why this happened to me. That lamenting had to come to a closure someday because that's not me. I believe in evolution. But now I am very grateful that it happened to me and I went through that bad patch in my life." Rubina is now married to Abhinav Shukla and they are touted as one of the smartest couples of telly town.

### Shweta Tiwari

Shweta Tiwari also went through a rocky patch after her first marriage with Raja Chaudhry ended. In an interview with ETimes TV, Shweta had earlier said, "When I was going through the toughest and the worst phase of my life, Ekta and Shobha ma'am took care of me. I am thankful to them as they never pressurised me to work. They never forced me to come to shoot on time.

"I was mentally so disturbed and stressed that I used to reach on the sets of *Kasauti Zindagi Kay* at 6 pm for a 6 am call time. I kept running away from everyone. Ekta had kept two people Sandeep Singh Siddhu (her lawyer) and Saaketh (a person from their production house) to look after me. I used to do unexpected things like get off my car and start running on the road. These two guys used to run behind me."

Cut to today, Shweta Tiwari is on a career high and often attracts attention for her fabulous transformation.

### Divyanka Tripathi

Divyanka Tripathi hasn't hidden her past relationship of eight years with Sharad Malhotra from anyone. The actress fell in love with him on the set of *Banoo Main Teri Dulhan*.

Speaking about the extent of her suffering on the talk show with Rajeev Khandelwal, Divyanka had revealed, "Eight years! At that time I felt my life was coming to an end. I tried everything and became superstitious. I would meet all sorts of strange people and ask them if someone has done something on him. How could it happen after 8 years?

"After some time, I realised if you have to go to such lengths for someone's love, then is it really love? It's better to stay alone. I stopped everything and it took me some time. But I understood it was not meant to be."

Now, the actress is happily married to Vivek Dahiya, whom she met on the set of her show, *Yeh*



Hai Mohabbatein.

### Kamy Panjabi

Kamy Panjabi and Karan Patel's love affair was quite an infamous one. She was left devastated when the news about his marriage with Ankita Bhargava broke.

As per reports, Kamy had accused him of infidelity. Kamy slipped into depression and in an interview with ETimes TV, she revealed, "After Karan it took me two-and-a-half years to get back to a normal life. After the breakup, I had gone under a shell, I was not eating, sleeping. I didn't feel like doing anything. I was into depression. I was undergoing counselling and there were lots of things happening.

"And now, when I have started living my life, I am not ready to compromise or sacrifice for anyone or for anything. It felt like I was out of jail and I am not ready to go inside it again."

The *Shakti - Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki* actor is now happily married to Delhi-based healthcare professional, Shalabh Dang. She has also joined politics.

### Sana Khan

*Bigg Boss* fame and former actress Sana Khan's relationship with choreographer Melvin Lewis ended up on a very ugly note. They washed their dirty linen in public by releasing audio clips, text messages, accusing of infidelity, over possessiveness and a lot more. While Melvin denied the allegations, Sana found it extremely hard to come out of this darkness and admitted of being depressed for a really long time.

The actress had gone live on Instagram and had said that he did not allow her to work. "He told me, 'I can't see you pair up with anyone else'. I couldn't take up any work because he kept on giving excuses that there would be skin show and all. He would travel with me everywhere, keep an eye on who all are calling me, people messaging me. He wouldn't even let me meet people," said Sana.

Talking about calling him a 'cheater', Sana Khan revealed, "The day my mother met him for the first time, she warned me saying, 'Sana, this guy is number 1 cheater. He will cheat on you. He looks like a cheater'.

My entire family was against him and all of them knew that he will cheat on me." Later, Sana took the religious route to find solace and quit showbiz and tied the knot with businessman Maulana Anas Sayad.

### Adaa Khan

Adaa Khan was dating Ankit Gera and had termed her experience of being in love 'bitter.' In a talk show with Rajeev Khandelwal, the *Naagin* actress had said, "When it comes to love, I have had a very terrible experience in the past. My ex-boyfriend cheated on me and still, I forgave him thrice. But after a point, I knew that I had to let it go."

Reportedly, Ankit cheated on her with his *Sapne Suhane Ladkapan Ke* co-actor, Roopal Tyagi. However, Adaa has come out in the open recently, and shared that she is enjoying being single.

## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Your greatest power is your healthy approach, and you must behave appropriately. You will be able to experience a wide range of emotions as well as spiritual development. You will thrive as a result of new experiences.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 6, 12, 20, 33, 34

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your hard effort is going to pay off. This coming week, you could encounter new people who wish to collaborate with you. You will receive wonderful news from your family in the second half of the week. Marital friends will be blessed.

**Lucky Numbers:** 9, 12, 18, 19, 30, 33

### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Your good attitude will benefit the business as a whole as well as all of its personnel. You'll have a solid week ahead of you. Although you and your partner will not be able to spend much time with each other, you will stay very much emotionally connected.

**Lucky Numbers:** 11, 16, 20, 21, 25, 30

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You've got a lot of important decisions to make this week, which will present you with a slew of fantastic possibilities. Your partner will plan out something very special for you as they will not be available to attend you in a few upcoming days.

**Lucky Numbers:** 27, 30, 31, 36, 39, 40

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

You will motivate your co-workers to dream big and achieve their objectives. Your zeal will land you fantastic chances and clientele. Keep your spirits high. Your relationship fronts look very strong as your partner will be able to spend a lot of time with you this coming week.

**Lucky Numbers:** 7, 11, 15, 20, 23, 24

### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

This coming week will be all business and no leisure for you. This perspective will aid you in making a favourable view of your bosses. Nobody will be able to stop you from succeeding in your job.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 3, 5, 24, 30, 33

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You will begin your week on a high note and with optimistic thoughts. You'll be able to strike a better balance between your business and personal lives, and you'll discover out what your life's mission is. It will provide answers to your goal-related questions.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 4, 10, 15, 20, 26

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You have a tendency to be a bit apprehensive, but you are going to work marvels. Your well-wishers will assist you in making decisions by providing valuable advice for your new business. You will have no trouble raising funds for your business.

**Lucky Numbers:** 17, 18, 20, 29, 31, 39

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You'll have a lot of meetings, but you'll be able to complete all of your tasks. People who are already married will find comfort in their spouses after feeling worn out and tired with all the work they will have to do this week.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 7, 8, 10, 20, 33

### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

This is a good time to reflect and work on yourself. You'll meet a lot of eager folks. Although you will not be able to meet your partner on most of the days of the week, things will eventually get better with a new relationship.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 19, 20, 22, 24, 30

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You'll spend your week admiring and praising whatever you have. You will stop carping about the bad things that are happening in your life and instead focus on the wonderful and better things! Your professional front will stay uptight.

**Lucky Numbers:** 10, 12, 14, 18, 22, 40

### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

This coming week will be a week of festivities for you. Your entire family will be together in one place to honour you and your children! Marital fronts and romantic fronts will be blessed as Venus will transit to a positive spot from an unfavourable position.

**Lucky Numbers:** 20, 21, 25, 30, 36, 38



## Inspiration

# «I don't want to be born again»

— Lata Mangeshkar

«Nothing in this world can happen without God's mercy — that's my firm belief. I was raised in a very religious family and follow the precepts of Hinduism. Though I love my religion and might think it to be the best, I respect all religions as much. I frequently visit and derive tremendous peace from all places of worship, be it a temple, church, dargah or gurdwara. I have to pray every night before sleeping and I have my own puja room at home.

"Besides reciting formal prayers, I keep having informal conversations with God — it's more of telling than asking. If somebody has hurt me, been rude to me or wronged me, I confide in God as I would to a friend or my mother. But I never wish that any harm should befall that person because I believe very strongly in karma. If somebody wrongs me, I take it in my stride thinking I must have wronged that person in my past life. I had once lent a large sum of money to a man which he didn't return. Though my family was annoyed with the losses I had to incur, I viewed it as a debt I had to repay this person in my previous life which was carried forward to this life.

"I've read the Gita and certain preachings I strongly believe in — one being to do one's duty without caring for the fruits. I remember when I entered the film industry in 1947, my father had just expired. At that point, my only wish was to earn money for my family. The name, fame and adulation which followed by 1948 was God's wish. I had neither expected nor asked for fame. To date, I pray to God before each recording. I constantly thank God saying, 'I'm not so big, you made me big.' These thoughts are always on my mind. If he so wishes, everything can



finish in a second.

"Man tends to forget God in his happy times. But one should gracefully accept sorrow as willingly as one accepts happiness — that's what life is about. I certainly feel God's presence a number of times — while singing,

while recording, when I'm alone, when I hear a good song or one of my father's songs. And I believe that miracles do happen. In all honesty, I have experienced certain things which probably nobody would believe — they're what we call miracles. We all come into this world with a purpose. It's our duty to complete the task assigned to us. I suppose God wanted my services for singing. But I'm sure had I not given it my hundred percent, he would have taken this gift away from me. I would attribute my success totally to God and my parent's blessings. I only worked hard in what they gave me.

"I'm very content in life. Anyone who truly believes in God is bound to be. People ask me why I never married. To that I say that God gave me a job to do and I'm very satisfied with my work. Yes, like everyone else, I do have my moments of sorrow. But my sorrow is very temporary. What I cannot bear is to see other people suffering. I feel a sense of joy by helping such people.

"One cannot escape one's destiny, but by thinking good thoughts, helping others and doing good deeds, I feel we can lessen a sorrowful fate up to a point. Ram, we believe, is Vishnu's avatar. Despite being a king's son he had to endure an exile for fourteen years. That was his destiny. But because he did good deeds during this period, killing Ravan being one of them, he saw good times again and succeeded in creating 'Ramrajya'.

"What we are experiencing today is 'Kalyug'. Though I might not be alive, I firmly believe that God will descend upon this earth once again to set things right. If I were to meet God, I would ask him to put an end to the injustice in this world. I wish he would turn this world into a beautiful garden where mankind lives in peace. And though I do believe in rebirth, the only thing I would ask of God for myself is that I should not be born again."

*(As told to Kanaka Singh, originally published in Bombay Times on May 11, 2000)*

## Ranbir Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Mahesh Bhatt - Bollywood celebrities who confessed to cheating

Beyond the glamorous veil of Bollywood, there are steamy celebrity romances which often hit headlines. Everyone wants to know about the latest link-ups and secret relationships of B-Town. And then there have been tricky times when celebrities in committed relationships have cheated on their partners and gone astray. From Ranbir Kapoor to Saif Ali Khan and Mahesh Bhatt — Times of India draws up a list of celebrities who admitted to cheating on their partners.

**Saif Ali Khan:** The actor had made a rather cryptic confession about cheating on his partner. Back in 2017 when Saif appeared on a chat show with Karan Johar, he took a coffee shot when asked about 'cheating the partners'. The actor chose not to reveal who he had cheated on. Saif Ali Khan parted ways from first wife Amrita Singh in 2004 and was linked to Italian dancer and model, Rosa Catalana.

**Ranbir Kapoor:** In 2011, Bollywood heartthrob Ranbir Kapoor confessed to cheating while in a relationship. Although he chose not to name his former girlfriend, it was rumoured that RK romanced Katrina Kaif while he was in a relationship with



Deepika Padukone. Admitting that he cheated, Ranbir had told a magazine that he had done so out of 'immaturity, inexperience and callousness'. While not naming Ranbir, Deepika had previously revealed that a certain ex-boyfriend had cheated on her.

**Nawazuddin Siddiqui:** The actor had confessed that he had a one-night stand with a waitress in New York City. Excerpts from his book read, "Those years between 2006 and 2010 were pretty incredible too. The industry had begun to notice me... Strangely, the West was kinder to me first,

both in terms of love and work. I was at a cafe once with my friend in New York City's Soho area. The stunning waitress kept staring at me.

"You? You are an actor?" she asked a rhetorical question. 'Yes!' I replied. 'Which film of mine did you see? Gangs of Wasseypur?' She squinted, trying to remember, 'No, no,' she said. 'Another film!'

After a few moments, she responded: 'Lunchbox!' We got talking and let's just say what happens in New York stays in New York..."

**Mahesh Bhatt:** The film director, producer and screenwriter has openly spoken about his romance with Parveen Babi, while he was still married to his first wife Kiran. "I was hurled into an extra-marital affair with an actress who was fiercely lonely. She somehow reminded me of my mother. She was alone and I needed to play the prince on the white horse.

My yearning led to a tragic scenario. The narratives in which you're born have a fierce pattern of repetition," Mahesh Bhatt had told BT in 2015.



## CINE 12

vendredi 11 février - 21.15



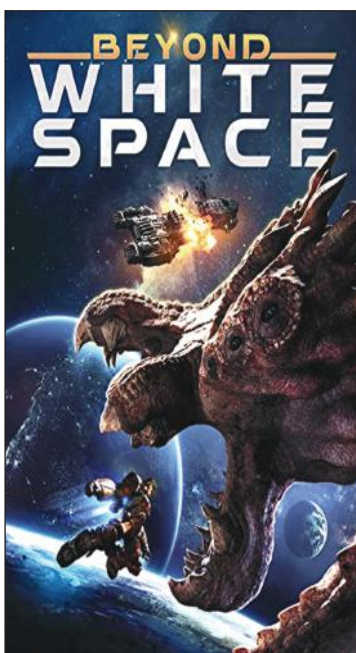
## CINE 12

samedi 12 février - 21.00



## mhc-1

dimanche 13 février - 21.15



## Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 11 février</b>	07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lines 09.00 From Enemies To Friends 10.15 Local: Rodrig Prog 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy 14.07 Local: MBC Production 14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill 15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family 15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien 15.59 D.Anime: Booba 17.05 Serial: Oh Yuck! 17.30 Serial: Project MC 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Surya Pura 18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 Local: Tou Korek 21.55 Serial: Madam Secretary 23.20 Le Journal 23.55 Mag: Eye On SADC	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Bisaat-E-Dil 11.01 Tawaan 12.00 Film: Kalavaadiya Pozhuthugal Starring: Bhumika Chawla, Prabh Deva, Prakash Raj 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.42 Serial: Bommarillu 16.07 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.25 Serial: Juda Na Hona 16.47 Serial: Imtihaan 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.25 Serial: Chhanchhan 18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag 19.05 Zournal Kreol 19.26 Serial: Radha Krishna 19.58 Serial: AAS (Urdu Serial) 21.00 Local: Urdu Programme	07.00 Mag: Border Crossing 07.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today 07.46 Doc: La Route De La Soie 09.00 Doc: Snapshots 11.30 Mag: Red Carpet 14.07 Doc: Snapshots 14.34 Doc: Lords Of Water 16.02 Mag: Eco India 16.55 Mag: Border Crossing 18.00 Doc: The Forgotten Temple.. 18.45 Mag: World Stories 19.30 Mag: Euromaxx 20.05 Doc: Quand L'Histoire... 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Documentary 21.27 Doc: Innovation On Board 23.22 Doc: The Forgotten Temple.. 00.11 Mag: World Stories 00.23 Mag: Our Voices 00.49 Mag: Euromaxx 01.15 Doc: Quand L'Histoire...	02.56 Serial: Imposters 03.39 Film: Donnie Darko 05.37 Tele: Marimar 06.18 Serial: Elementary 07.00 Serial: Island Doctor 09.00 Serial: Gone 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Imposters 11.42 Film: Donnie Darko 13.36 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Serial: Island Doctor 16.39 Serial: Gone 17.23 Serial: Elementary 18.05 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.34 Serial: Backstage 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: Timeless 21.15 Film: Underworld Avec: Michael Sheen, Rhona Mitr...	07.00 Film: Pyare Mohan 11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera 13.33 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.55 / 22.30 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.25 Film: Kya Yahi Pyar Hai Starring: Aftab Shivdasani, Ameesha Patel, Jackie Shroff 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 20.00 Siddhi Vinayak 20.30 Radha Krishna
<b>samedi 12 février</b>	06.02 D.Anime: Invention Story 06.29 D.Anime: Gon 06.53 D.Anime: Booba 07.01 D.Anime: Rev & Roll, Amis... 07.52 D.Anime: Akili And Me 08.18 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana 09.30 Mag: Happy Tales 10.00 Local Prod: Zanfan Nou Zil 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Teresa 14.50 Local Prod: Artizan 15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family 15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien 16.46 D.Anime: Tempete De Boulettes Geantes 17.15 Serial: Creeped Out 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Taare Zameen 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 21.10 Film: Julie Et Julia 23.10 Local: Le Journal	07.00 Film: Hai Apna Dil Toh Awara 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 11.03 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare 12.17 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 12.45 Serial: High School 13.02 Annakodiyum Ainthu Pengalum 13.35 Anu Pallavi 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Banjaran Starring: R.Kapoor, Sridevi, K. Kharbanda, G. Grover, Raza Murad 18.10 DDI Magazine 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 20.29 Serial: Porus - Ep 2 21.00 Film: Qayamat: City Under... Starring: Ajay Devgn, Sunil Shetty, Sanjay Kapoor, Arbaaz Khan	06.00 Doc: The Forgotten Temple.. 06.42 Mag: World Stories 06.54 Mag: Our Vocies 07.20 Mag: Euromaxx 08.18 Doc: Documentary 11.02 Doc: The Forgotten Temple.. 11.44 Mag: Our Voices 12.10 Mag: World Stories 13.33 Doc: Innovation On Board 15.00 Student Support Prog... 18.02 Mag: Future Mag 18.31 Mag: In Good Shape 19.00 Mag: The 77 Percent 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Documentary 21.37 Doc: Legendary Hotels 22.20 Doc: Julian Assange 23.02 Doc: Good Virus, Bad Virus 23.45 Mag: Future Mag 00.14 Mag: In Good Shape 00.40 Mag: The 77 Percent 01.06 Mag: Check In	01.28 Film: Underworld 03.00 Serial: Seal Team 03.40 Beauty And The Beast 04.21 Serial: Hawaii Five-0 05.03 Tele: Tanto Amor 05.45 Serial: Timeless 08.30 Serial: Macgyver 09.22 Beauty And The Beast 10.03 Serial: Hawaii Five-0 10.45 Film: 119 Jours 12.15 Serial: Seal Team 13.49 Serial: Imposters 15.10 Tele: Muneca Brava 16.19 Serial: Timeless 17.09 Film: Coup De Foudre Glace 18.35 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man 19.34 Serial: Backstage 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Series: Killjoys 21.15 Film: On Wings Of Eagles Starring: Joseph Fiennes, Shawn Dou	04.05 Radha Krishna 04.36 Anupamaa 05.03 Mere Sai -- Shraddha Aur... 05.33 Agnihera 06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan 06.25 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 06.38 Chhanchhan 06.57 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 07.18 Siddhi Vinayak 08.02 Yeh Teri Galiyan 10.01 Motu Patlu 10.12 Siddhi Vinayak 12.01 Serial: Bhakharwadi 14.00 Anupamaa 16.00 Pavitra Rishta 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Yeh Vada Raha Star: Rishi Kapoor, Poonam Dhillon, Rakhee, Shammil Kapoor 20.47 Serial: Motu Patlu 20.56 Serial: Namah 21.16 Serial: Naagin Season 3
<b>dimanche 13 février</b>	06.02 D.Anime: Invention Story 06.32 D.Anime: Gon 06.56 D.Anime: Booba 07.00 D.Anime: Rev & Roll 09.00 D.Anime: The Adventures Of.. 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 11.00 Local Production: Nu Rasinn 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Teresa 14.05 Local: Elle - No 175 15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family 15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien 15.37 D.Anime: Robot Trains 16.20 D.Anime: Gon 17.20 Serial: Creeped Out 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Local Production: Hello Love 21.25 Film: Beyond White Space Stars: Holt McCallany, Zulay Henao	07.00 Film: Yeh Dil Kisho Doon 08.56 DDI Magazine 11.00 Serial: Azhagu 11.23 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 12.10 Film: Bemisal Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Rakhee Gulzar, Vinod Mehra 14.24 DDI Magazine 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 15.45 Serial: He Mann Baware 16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.30 Local: Yaadein 17.03 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 17.43 Chacha Bhatija 18.30 Local: Tita Tita Nu Avance 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 20.05 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas.. 20.48 Serial: CID 21.33 Serial: Naagin Season 2	06.00 Mag: Future Mag 06.55 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.21 Mag: Check In 09.07 Doc: Legendary Hotels 09.49 Doc: Julian Assange 10.32 Doc: Good Virus, Bad Virus 11.17 Mag: Future Mag 12.12 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.38 Mag: Check In 13.04 Mag: Sky Eye 14.24 Doc: Legendary Hotels 16.34 Mag: Future Mag 18.00 Mag: Magnifique 19.00 Mag: The Inside Story 19.33 Doc: Comme Une Envie... 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Paradis Perdu 21.28 Will Roots Save The World? 23.35 Mag: Magnifique 00.03 Mag: Future Mag 00.58 Doc: Comme Une Envie...	01.10 Film: On Wings Of Eagles 02.58 Serial: Dynasty 2 03.38 Film: Julie Et Julia 05.36 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.18 Serial: Killjoys 07.00 Film: 119 Jours 08.30 Serial: Macgyver 09.19 Film: Julie Et Julia 11.14 Film: Coup De Foudre Glace 12.44 Serial: Dynasty 2 13.29 Serial: Imposters 15.36 Tele: Muneca Brava 17.02 Serial: Killjoys 17.48 Serial: Dynasty 2 18.30 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 19.38 Serial: Backstage 20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 20.30 Serial: New Amsterdam 22.00 Film: Little Italy Avec: Emma Roberts, Hayden Christensen	01.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak 02.09 Bhakharwadi 03.55 Anupamaa 05.55 Pavitra Rishta 08.00 Motu Patlu 08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 10.21 Jaana Na Dil Se Door 12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 14.00 Agnihera 16.29 Punar Vivaah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Film: Ajab Prem Ki Gajab Kahani Starring : Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Darshan Jariwala 20.27 Motu Patlu 20.39 Naagin Season 3 21.20 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 23.27 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 01.19 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
<b>lundi 14 février</b>	06.27 Mag: Eye On SADC 07.00 Local Prod: Nu Rasinn 07.55 Local Prod: Music Tour 2022 08.50 Doc: Iran From Above 09.35 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 11.00 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous? 11.30 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy 14.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 14.30 D.Anime: Nina's World 15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family 15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien 15.37 D.Anime: Where's Waldo 17.00 Serial: Oh Yuck! 17.25 Serial: Project MC 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Namah 19.30 Le Journal 20.40 MBC Production 21.10 Film: Flip That Romance	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 12.10 Film: Saagar Stars: Rishi Kapoor, Kamal Haasan, Dimple Kapadia 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.52 Serial: Bommarillu 16.15 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.34 Serial: Juda Na Hona 16.56 Serial: Imtihaan 17.14 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.34 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi 18.03 Serial: Colourful Bone 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.02 Local: Programme In Telugu 20.31 Film: Biskoth Star: Santhanam	06.00 Mag: Magnifique 06.55 Mag: The Inside Story 07.24 Doc: Comme Une Envie De.. 09.00 Will Roots Save The World? 11.00 Mag: Magnifique 14.00 Will Roots Save The World? 14.52 Doc: My Family War And I 16.21 Mag: Magnifique 16.48 Mag: Future Mag 18.03 Mag: Eco@Africa 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Local: Encounter 20.30 Local Prod: News (English) 21.37 Doc: Builders Of The Future 22.02 Mag: Global 3000 22.28 Mag: Science Ou Fiction 23.20 Doc: High Velocity 00.02 Doc: Does The Lynx Have... 00.28 Mag: Eco@Africa	01.43 Film: Little Italy 03.25 Serial: Imposters 04.05 Film: Coupe De Foudre A La.. 05.33 Tele: Marimar 05.57 Tele: Rubi 06.21 Serial: New Amsterdam 07.45 Film: Little Italy 09.45 Tele: Teresa 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Imposters 12.00 Film: Coupe De Foudre... 13.30 Tele: Marimar 13.45 Tele: Rubi 14.45 Film: Little Italy 16.32 Serial: New Amsterdam 18.08 Tele: Teresa 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.38 Serial: Backstage 20.05 Les Trois Visages D'Ana 20.30 Serial: Blacklist 21.15 Film: L'amour A La Certe	08.00 Film: Vir Ka Insaaf 11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera 13.33 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.00 / 22.30 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.21 Film: Mere Jeewan Sathi Starring: Akshay Kumar, Karisma Kapoor and Ameesha Patel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi 20.01 Siddhi Vinayak





# Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 15 février

## MBC 1

06.00 Local: Rodrig - D'Jam  
07.03 Local: Rodrig  
07.30 Local: Saver Kil Tirel  
08.09 MBC Production  
09.00 Doc: The Fall Of The USSR  
10.15 Local: Lavi Kontinye  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Serial: Ode To Joy  
13.10 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill  
15.20 D.Anime: Clip  
15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien  
15.59 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friend  
17.00 Serial: Oh Yuck  
17.34 Serial: Project MC²  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
18.55 MBC Production  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
21.10 Film: Donnie Darko

## MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: CID  
12.00 Film: Itni Si Baat  
Starring: Sanjeev Kumar, Moushumi Chatterjee, Arun Govil  
14.00 DDI Magazine  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Aamhi Doghi  
15.43 Bommarillu  
16.07 Sondha Bandham  
16.25 Juda Na Hona  
16.49 Serial: Imtihaan  
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam  
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone  
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Local: Tamil Programme  
20.30 Film: Prem Patra  
Starring S. Kapoor, S. Shivdasani

## MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent  
07.47 Doc: Global Drinks  
09.29 Mag: Washington Forum  
10.24 Doc: Does The Lynx Have...  
13.45 Doc: Builders Of The Future  
14.39 Mag: Washington Forum  
15.05 Doc: High Velocity  
16.14 Mag: Eco & Africa  
17.06 Mag: Africa 54  
19.00 Student Support Prog  
19.30 Mag: Made In Germany  
20.30 Local Prod: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: Garden Party  
21.15 Doc: Les Grand Mythes  
21.43 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour...  
23.16 Local: Rodrig  
23.58 Doc: Muranow  
00.32 Doc: Afrobeats  
01.16 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...  
01.32 Mag: Healthy Living

## Cine 12

01.28 Film: L'amour A La Carte  
03.07 Serial: Imposters  
03.48 Film: Flip That Romance  
05.07 Tele: Marimar  
05.31 Tele: Rubi  
06.37 Film: Les Guerriers De...  
09.00 Serial: Gone  
09.45 Tele: Teresa  
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.01 Serial: Imposters  
12.00 Film: Flip That Romance  
13.30 Tele: Marimar  
14.05 Tele: Rubi  
14.45 Film: Les Guerriers De...  
16.40 Serial: Gone  
17.29 Serial: Blacklist  
18.11 Tele: Teresa  
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
21.15 Film: Underworld  
Avec: Michael Sheen, Rhona Mitra...

## Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Mere Jeewan Sathi  
Cast: Akshay Kumar, Karisma Kapoor and Ameesha Patel  
11.38 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna  
11.59 / 20.57 - Anupamaa  
12.30 / 21.27 - Mere Sai  
13.09 / 22.07 - Agniphera  
13.30 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
14.00 / 23.07 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
14.53 / 22.25 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.20 Film: Ishq Vishk  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya  
18.59 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
19.30 Bhakharwadi  
20.00 Serial: Siddhi Vinayak

mercredi 16 février

06.00 Local: Rodrig Sa  
07.20 Local: Profil  
07.40 Local: Priorite Sante  
09.00 Doc: Innovation On Board  
10.15 Local: Rodrig Prog  
10.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.23 Serial: Ode To Joy  
13.15 MBC Production: Hello Love  
14.30 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill  
15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family  
15.23 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien  
15.37 D.Anime: Where's Waldo  
16.01 D.Anime: Gummibar & Friend  
17.05 Serial: Oh Yuck  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
18.55 MBC Production  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.30 MBC Production  
21.30 Le Journal

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki  
12.00 Film: Avtaar  
Starring Rajesh Khanna, Shabana Azmi, Sujit Kumar  
14.30 DDI Magazine  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.23 Aamhi Doghi  
15.46 Bommarillu  
16.07 Sondha Bandham  
16.25 Juda Na Hona  
16.49 Serial: Imtihaan  
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.31 Serial: Kulvadh  
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone  
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Programme In Marathi  
20.30 Film: Loose Control  
Stars: A. Mhatre, Shashikant Kerkar  
22.49 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...  
06.26 Mag: Healthy Living  
07.25 Mag: Made In Germany  
08.19 Doc: Garden Party  
09.15 Local: Rodrig  
14.03 Mag: Close Up  
14.18 Local: Rodrig  
15.03 Doc: Muranow  
16.11 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...  
16.40 Mag: Check In  
17.37 Mag: Motorweek  
19.00 Student Support Prog - G7  
19.35 Doc: Tree Stories  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: Global Food  
21.37 Doc: Olivia's Garden  
22.03 Mag: Business Africa  
22.54 Mag: Focus On Europe  
23.20 Doc: Megacity Mumbai  
00.02 Mag: Motorweek  
00.32 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
00.56 Mag: Arts.21

01.02 Film: Underworld  
03.14 Film: Julie Et Julia  
05.11 Tele: Marimar  
05.35 Tele: Rubi  
05.59 Serial: Blacklist  
06.41 Film: Donnie Darko  
09.25 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami  
09.45 Tele: Teresa  
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.01 Serial: Imposters  
11.42 Film: Julie Et Julia  
13.41 Tele: Marimar  
14.32 Film: Donnie Darko  
16.38 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami  
17.20 Serial: Blacklist  
18.05 Tele: Teresa  
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
19.30 Serial: Backstage  
20.30 Serial: Elementary  
21.15 Film: The Professionals  
Avec: Burt Lancaster, Lee Marvin, Robert Ryan

07.00 Film: Ishq Vishk  
Star: Shahid KapoorAmrita RaoShenaz Treasury  
11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna  
12.00 / 20.26 - Anupamaa  
12.30 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad..  
13.01 / 20.46 - Agniphera  
13.29 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
13.51 / 21.50 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
14.47 / 21.46 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.25 Film: Chaand Kaa Tukdaa  
Starring Sridevi, Salman Khan, Shatrughan Sinha  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Ishaaron Ishaaron...  
19.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi

jeudi 17 février

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion  
06.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
07.15 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL  
09.00 Local: Ekrir Kreol Morisien  
10.55 Mag: Le Saviez-Vous  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Serial: Ode To Joy  
13.12 Local: Music Tour 2022  
14.33 D.Anime: Boule Et Bill  
15.20 D.Anime: Clip - Akili Family  
15.39 D.Anime: Where's Waldo  
16.01 D.Anime: Gon  
16.34 D.Anime: Tempete De...  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.55 Local: Chaar Dham Tirth Yatra  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
20.20 Film: Bareilly Ki Barfi  
Cast : Ayushmann Khurrana, Kriti Sanon, Rajkummar Rao

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha  
11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...  
12.00 Film: Gharonda  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi  
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu  
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.27 Serial: Juda Na Hona  
16.48 Serial: Imtihaan  
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.30 Local: Amrit Vaani  
18.00 Serial: Colourful Bone  
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da...  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
20.45 Local: Profil  
21.09 Film: The Leisure Seeker  
With Helen Mirren, Donald Sutherland

06.00 Mag: Motorweek  
06.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
06.52 Mag: Arts.21  
07.49 Doc: Tree Stories  
09.33 Doc: Olivia's Garden  
10.29 Mag: Focus On Europe  
10.55 Doc: Megacity Mumbai  
15.40 Mag: Business Africa  
16.32 Doc: Megacity Mumbai  
17.18 Mag: Motorweek  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
19.00 Student Support Prog - G7  
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Comme Un Envie De Jardins  
21.36 Doc: Snapshots  
22.02 Mag: Nouveau Look Pour...  
23.05 Doc: Great Apes  
23.47 Doc: What Did The Big...  
00.29 Mag: Eco India

03.45 Film: The Professionals  
05.38 Tele: Marimar  
05.58 Tele: Rubi  
06.21 Serial: Elementary  
07.02 Film: Signed, Sealed...  
09.15 Serial: Gone  
09.45 Tele: Teresa  
10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.00 Serial: Imposters  
11.52 Film: The Professionals  
13.41 Tele: Marimar  
14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed...  
16.40 Serial: Gone  
17.20 Serial: Elementary  
18.05 Tele: Teresa  
19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
19.36 Serial: Backstage  
20.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'Ana  
20.30 Serial: Pine Gap  
21.15 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man

07.00 Film: Chaand Kaa Tukdaa  
Starring:Sridevi, Salman Khan, Shatrughan Sinha  
11.27 / 19.54 - Radha Krishna  
11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa  
12.25 / 20.32 - Mere Sai  
13.13 / 21.09 - Agniphera  
13.42 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
13.54 / 21.50 -  
Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 -  
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.21 Film: Prince  
Star: Vivek Oberoi, Isaiah, Aruna Shields  
Rao18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.59 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
19.29 Bhakharwadi



Jeudi 17 février - 15.30

Star: Vivek Oberoi, Isaiah, Aruna Shields



Jeudi 17 février - 20.20

Stars: Ayushmann Khurrana, Kriti Sanon, Rajkummar Rao





# Liste rouge à nuances



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

**S**i aujourd'hui encore des parents qui emmènent leur fils de cinq ans à l'hôpital sont anéantis par l'annonce de son décès suite à une injection, il faut bien débattre à propos de l'efficacité du service de santé. La santé publique devrait être une préoccupation permanente tant que les décès inexplicables et trop récurrents survenus dans les hôpitaux détruisent la vie des familles et de leurs proches.

Chacun sait que les services de santé étaient submergés de patients atteints de la Covid-19 pendant les derniers mois avant décembre 2021, et que cela n'était pas toujours sans conséquence, parfois même tragique, pour d'autres patients. Si, dans un premier temps, le public adhère à l'idée que les médias amplifiaient le problème pour discréditer les autorités concernées et nuire à l'image du pays dans le but délibéré de porter un sale coup au secteur du tourisme et affaiblir l'économie, le nombre de morts dans chaque localité, sans aucune explication valable, a suscité une inquiétude légitime.

Trop de gens ont vu leurs proches se rendre à l'hôpital quand ils avaient un symptôme extrêmement bénin d'une maladie chronique ou un autre ennui mineur et, contre toute attente, ils n'en sont plus revenus vivants.

Hormis les radios qui leur permettent d'exprimer leur désarroi et leur souffrance,

y a-t-il eu une véritable volonté de mener une enquête approfondie sur les causes de ces décès et de fournir un rapport en bonne et due forme aux familles endeuillées et aux responsables du ministère?

2020 est loin derrière nous : à ce moment-là, on avait applaudi le personnel hospitalier et on l'avait remercié pour son dévouement au public à une période où les cliniques privées aux tarifs mirobolants ont joué aux abonnés absents.

La question qui se pose aujourd'hui était la même il y a quelques décennies, et ce, malgré les progrès accomplis dans le service hospitalier, l'équipement médical moderne, les nouveaux services mis sur place pour traiter divers problèmes de santé, un meilleur accueil des patients, etc.

Feu le ministre Kishore Deerpalsing avait remis de l'ordre dans un secteur où les manquements étaient criants. En effet, certains patients reviennent satisfaits de leur séjour à l'hôpital tant au niveau des soins qu'au niveau de l'attention qui leur est accordée. Dans certains cas où ils sont affaiblis psychologiquement en raison de relations familiales destructrices, ils apprécient l'aide fournie par le psychologue de l'hôpital. Ce dernier s'occupe d'eux avec humanité et compassion.

D'autres sont reconnaissants suite à une opération chirurgicale réussie. Le service est gratuit et accessible au grand public contrairement à la plus riche démocratie du monde où les soins médicaux dépendent de votre assurance privée. Sinon, zéro soin aux Etats-Unis.

Il ne s'agit pas de jeter la pierre sur un secteur-clé du service public. Il s'agit de rassurer la population, de répondre à ses interrogations et d'établir ou de rétablir la confiance du public dans le service hospitalier.

a) D'abord, la fameuse injection qui envoie trop de monde dans l'au-delà dans la demeure du dieu védique Yama, dans le monde souterrain de Hades de la mythologie grecque, si tant est qu'il soit encore connu de nos jours, ou dans le domaine des âmes qui attendent que le patriarche

**« Trop de gens ont vu leurs proches se rendre à l'hôpital quand ils avaient un symptôme extrêmement bénin d'une maladie chronique ou un autre ennui mineur et, contre toute attente, ils n'en sont plus revenus vivants. Hormis les radios qui leur permettent d'exprimer leur désarroi et leur souffrance, y a-t-il eu une véritable volonté de mener une enquête approfondie sur les causes de ces décès et de fournir un rapport en bonne et due forme aux familles endeuillées et aux responsables du ministère? »**

du ciel et de la terre décide de leur sort, pour d'autres. Que contient cette injection pour être si mortelle ?

b) Ensuite, certains médicaments fabriqués localement et qui provoquent tremblement, faiblesse et nausée...

Si on arrive à un point où on évite les hôpitaux comme des mouroirs, et les médicaments comme du poison, il faut poser des questions et exiger des réponses.

Que se passe-t-il en cas de diagnostic erroné qui mène à une opération inutile et à une mort gratuite? Dans de tels cas de suspicion et de doute, la relation médecin/infirmier-patient ne peut pas se résumer à une condescendance et méprisante 'Vous êtes médecin, vous?' qui cloue le bec aux adultes traités comme des enfants attardés.

A l'heure d'internet, il est interdit de poser des questions gênantes à ceux qui pensent détenir le monopole de la science médicale. C'est oublier que la santé est un service et que le personnel est employé pour servir le public.

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## Tourisme et Tromelin

Il y a urgence en la demeure non seulement pour les morts inutiles mais aussi pour les milliers

d'employés embauchés et licenciés à tour de bras dans les hôtels ; ils espéraient

de beaux jours lorsque la liste rouge écarlate a fait dégringoler le pays de l'échelle des destinations fréquentables.

Quand bien même la France a voulu protéger ses ressortissants et ceux de La Réunion du service hospitalier mauricien, cette liste rouge à nuances variables nous a laissés perplexes.

Début décembre, le nombre de patients hospitalisés était en nette régression à Maurice tandis que c'était l'explosion en France et son département voisin à la même époque et encore maintenant. Il n'y avait aucune logique de lever l'interdiction en France et de la maintenir pour les Réunionnais. Résultat : un coup de massue pour le secteur touristique de Maurice avec des milliers de réservations de bungalows et d'hôtels annulés à travers l'île. De 800 réservations, un hôtel du nord est passé à cinquante touristes.

Maurice a encaissé le coup. Les chaînes de supermarchés à la Réunion ont rempli leurs caisses au-delà de la période festive. Il y a de fortes chances que le treizième mois des Réunionnais ait profité aux importateurs de voitures, secteur qui finance les partis politiques locaux. Quand l'économie est en berne un peu partout, c'est du chacun pour soi, d'abord. Et les décisions sont prises dans la haute sphère des lobbies économiques, au-dessus de la tête des administrateurs locaux et du grand public.

Maurice a certainement pris note que Réunion Première avait diffusé un reportage sur Tromelin en présentant l'île comme le plus petit territoire de la République française deux jours après que le gouvernement a remis sur table l'avenir de Tromelin. C'était en décembre. Ni plus ni moins. La géopolitique a pointé son nez dans un cadre de crise sanitaire et de grandes difficultés économiques que Maurice se démène à gérer. Et ceci malgré l'apparente coopération de la France, à travers l'Inde, dans l'entraînement militaire conjoint avec l'armée mauricienne pour contrer la puissance de la Chine communiste, le diable rouge des Américains.

Il faudrait aussi faire le tri dans toutes ces simagrées géopolitiques à fabriquer des ennemis, et qui profitent à l'industrie de l'armement des grandes puissances, comme par exemple, les milliards d'euros encaissés par la France dans la vente des avions de guerre Rafale à l'Inde. Comme le léopard qui ne change pas de taches, l'appétit impérialiste des anciens colonisateurs est resté intact. Au fond, ni la Chine ni l'Inde ne sont les bienvenus dans un espace océanique convoité par l'Occident.

Il fut un temps où le cercle intellectuel de la Réunion aurait réagi à cette posture de Paris, mais les voix se sont tues depuis bien des années. Notre dépendance sur certaines clientèles dans le secteur touristique, et sur le tourisme tout court, est à revoir. La tournée des ministres à Dubai sert à trouver des investissements et d'autres créneaux rentables pour l'économie du pays, on présume. Tôt ou tard, la question de Tromelin et d'autres îles sera-t-elle remise d'actualité conjointement par Madagascar et Maurice dans les instances internationales ?