

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "The budget should be balanced, the treasury should be refilled, the public debt should be reduced and the arrogance of public officials should be controlled." -- Ross Perot

Culpable Inaction

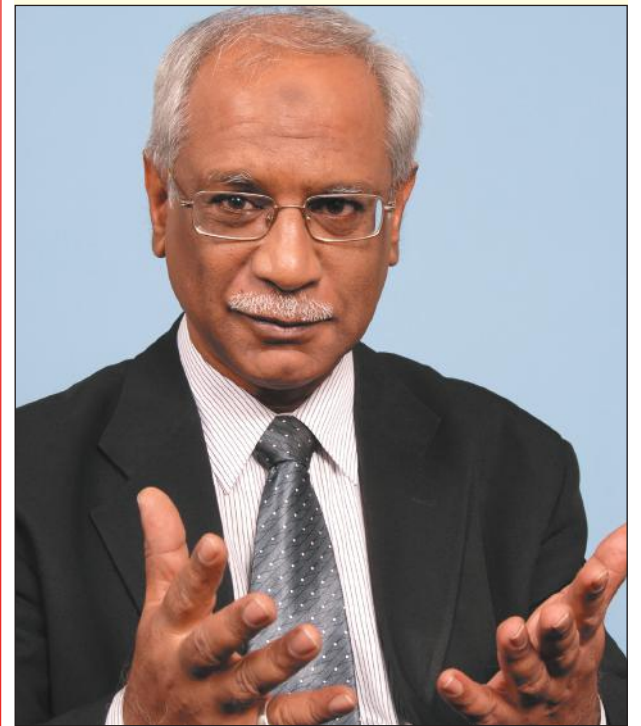
Instead of repeatedly rehashing past social and other assistance schemes implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic, people want government to competently address and resolve their current existential hardships

Mrinal Roy ☞ See Page 3



Interview - Cader Sayed-Hossen

«**Nous nous assurerons qu'aucun 'Mickey Mouse business' n'ait lieu en 2024...**



... aucune manipulation quelconque au niveau des élections et au niveau du décompte des votes»

☞ Voir Pages 10

US-Taiwan

From Strategic Ambiguity to Strategic Confusion?



It is time for the US to take the lead and influence President Xi and the CCP to act like adults and understand that peaceful trade is far more productive than a military takeover

By Anil Madan ☞ See Page 4

Qs & As

Registration of Voters

«**If there is nothing mysterious or untoward about the use of the Social Media Analytics**

Cloud by the Electoral Commission for the 2019 elections, why should the Electoral Commissioner deny it...?»



By LEX ☞ See Page 6

Our oh-so-fragile lives...



By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee ☞ See Page 5

2019 Elections

Reopening the Pandora's Box

It would seem that Xavier Duval has reopened the Pandora's box as regards the conduct and organisation of the 2019 elections by the Electoral Commission (EC) with his assertion pertaining to the alleged use of the Social Media Analytics Cloud (SMAC) software by the EC for the last elections - a software that would allow for the profiling of electors. This has been denied by the Electoral Commissioner Irfan Rahman in a press communique, stating that the Leader of the Opposition would be making "misleading claims". "The indisputable facts are as follows: No such software has been acquired, nor is it used by the Office of the Electoral Commissioner or the Electoral Supervisory Commission in connection with the voter database," he said. Not to be so easily dismissed, Xavier Duval responded to the EC's denial by referring to the State Informatics Ltd's communique, as published on its website, indicating its successful completion of the EC's project "to upgrade its software application using the latest technology that can support SMAC".

After the discrepancies noted in the Recapitulation of Votes forms with respect to the election in Constituency No. 19, revealed two years after the last elections by the EC itself (that is, on 13 January 2022 when the electoral petition case lodged on 28 November 2019 by unreturned candidate Jenny Adebire came up for hearing), the opacity surrounding the operation of Computer Rooms at Counting Centres, the alleged use of social media analytics is a matter of serious concern. The literature relating to social media analytics informs us that the use that's made of it is drawn from its 'ability to gather and find meaning in data gathered from social channels to support business decisions'. That's not all, since in 2018, a popular social networking site came under heavy fire from US regulators after it was found that a third-party vendor had collected data of users illegally and which was then used to influence the outcome of the US 2016 presidential elections. The attraction in social analytics is said to be its ability to 'simplify data from dozens of networks, millions of people and a variety of activities' giving a far deeper understanding of user behaviour and demographic data than Google Analytics ever could.

Unless the Electoral Commissioner were to come forward with the confirmation that no such social analytics software has been acquired nor been made use of in the last elections, in response to Xavier Duval's reference to the State Informatics Ltd's website communique, one would be perfectly entitled to ask whether the Commission which, under the Constitution, has 'general responsibility for and shall super-

wise, the registration of electors... and the conduct of elections' would be acting in conformity with its mandate if it were to be carrying out the profiling of electors, and if so for whose benefit?

In a detailed analysis of the impact of social media data on elections, Prashanth Ramesh & Ashwin Srinivas of Latent View, involved in business analytics and data engineering, speak of the crucial role that social media plays in today's politics: 'As users increasingly turn to social media to voice their opinions about social issues and share news and other information with their peers, they generate immense amounts of information. If analyzed intelligently, this information can provide a wealth of data about the pulse and preferences of voters.'

'One of the methods to accomplish this is through psychographic studies. Data obtained from the news feed, timelines, and messages can also aid in profiling individuals based on their nature. This information can help in micro-targeting advertisements to narrow constituencies during the electoral campaign. This data may, for instance, allow for early detection of emerging issues and trends in populations of interest, which could be of considerable value. Political strategists segregate and tag people (individual or a community) based on their psychographics for better performance of their campaigns.'

Moreover, expertise in digital campaigning and even manipulation of social media content is already being made use of in some African countries, points out Martin N Ndlela, Professor of Communication, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences. International consultancy firms like the now defunct Cambridge Analytica (CA) came into prominence by stage-managing Donald Trump's shock win in 2016 but even before they helped Mr Trump, the company was active in Kenya, using the work it says it did during the 2013 elections, then again for the 2017 elections as one of its case studies. CA hints that it would have been busy elsewhere in Africa, notably South Africa and Nigeria.

The EC's swift denial communique has not only earned it egg on its face, but more worryingly, raises a number of questions about who and under what conditions would SMAC be used for. In Kenya, "using scaremongering tactics to win votes ahead of the August 2017 elections," or propagating fake videos about key opposition figures that would go viral were part of the game, said Rebekka Rumpel, research assistant for the Africa program at think tank Chatham House.

This is indeed pretty serious. Will the authorities come clean on the matter?

The Conversation

Sue Gray report

Why hasn't Boris Johnson resigned?

The ministerial code states that misleading parliament is a offence requiring a resignation. But it's the prime minister himself who decides if the rule has been broken.



Pic - EPA/Andy Rain

Fresh revelations in the partygate affair have many asking why Boris Johnson feels no need to resign. The full version of the report by civil servant Sue Gray into gatherings at Downing Street during pandemic lockdowns included multiple images of the prime minister raising a glass near a table littered with wine bottles. He had previously insisted in the House of Commons that no rules were broken on this date.

Whether or not the photos depict Johnson enjoying a party is now a central question in the debate over whether he should resign for breaching the ministerial code.

Has Boris Johnson broken the ministerial code?

The ministerial code is a set of rules which government ministers are expected to abide by during their time in office.

The code includes a duty for ministers to abide by the law. This is set out in paragraph 1.3, which details "the overarching duty on ministers to comply with the law and to protect the integrity of public life".

The code also specifies that ministers must abide by a document published in 1995 called the Seven Principles of Public Life - which is also reproduced in full in the annex of the code. These principles are selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

We already know that Johnson was fined by police for attending a party in Downing Street on June 19 2020. The fine is an acknowledgement by the Metropolitan Police that they consider the prime minister to have broken COVID laws. That raises an obvious question: if the prime minister has broken the law, then hasn't he broken the ministerial code too? The answer, unfortunately, when it comes to matters of the British constitution, is that it is never that simple.

Before assessing the facts of the case against the prime minister, it's important to understand, in this situation, that the ministerial code is not a legal document. It reflects constitutional rules and conventions rather than laws.

Thomas Caygill, Lecturer in Politics, Nottingham Trent University

● Cont. on page 14

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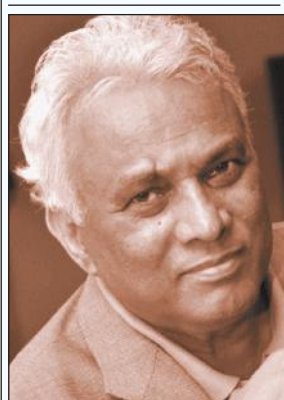


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Mrinal Roy

Culpable Inaction

Instead of repeatedly rehashing past social and other assistance schemes implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic, people want government to competently address and resolve their current existential hardships



The government appears trapped in its contrived narratives. It seems blind to the tremendous hardships and increasing difficulties faced by the people to make ends meet in a context of continuously escalating food prices and basic existential needs and the sustained erosion of their purchasing power fuelled by the unchecked depreciation of the Rupee. People are fully aware through international news channels and social media that citizens across the world, including those in developed countries are also enduring similar distress owing to the surging prices of food and energy in the wake of the war in Ukraine and the sanctions imposed.

Against such a grim backdrop, people expect government to take bold and decisive actions to alleviate their current distress. Instead, government rhetoric is trying to justify the slapping of four successive hikes of mogas and gasoline prices at the maximum allowable rate of 10% in the space of some 5 months by cock and bull narratives. The price of mogas thus increased from Rs 50.70 per litre on 28 December 2021 to Rs 74.10 per litre on 19 May 2022 representing a cumulative price increase of 46%. Repeatedly parroting the narrative that fuel prices are surging across the world and that the latest increases of local fuel prices are still lower than in a selected number of countries to mask the specificity of the gasoil and mogas pricing system in the country in press conferences, ministerial declarations at every opportunity does not make it right in the larger context of the financial distress of households.

Narrative versus reality

The crying reality is that there is a Rs 34 difference between the CIF price of Mogas of some Rs 39 per litre and the latest gas station price of Rs 74.10 per litre announced last week made up of various contributions and subsidies and VAT, etc. Despite the government's claim, the majority of commuters, including some 225,000 owners of motorcycles and autocycles comprising field and factory workers and self-employed service providers are not reimbursed their fuel costs. The increases also affect the cost of energy in manufactures and industries.

In the context of the continuously rising cost of living, would it not have been in order to provide relief to citizens and industries by waiving the imposition of contributions which are not related to the price of fuel and which artificially inflate the price of mogas and gasoil until the situation comes back to normal, the more so as there seems to be no end to the war in Ukraine?

Windfall gains

In contrast, food and energy companies have seen their profits surge exponentially. According to an Oxfam brief 'Profiting from pain' released this week in the con-

text of the Davos World Economic Forum, the Covid-19 pandemic compounded by the steep increases in food, basic necessities and energy prices due to the war in Ukraine and the related sanctions imposed have generated a surge in the fortunes of billionaires as companies in the food, pharma, energy, and tech sectors have cashed in whilst millions of people around the world are facing a global cost-of-living crisis.

The richest 10 men have more wealth than the poorest 40% of humanity combined. 'Inequality, already acute before Covid-19, has risen to unprecedented heights since the start of the pandemic. The rapidly rising prices of food and energy, which hit the incomes of the poorest hardest, are set to drive up global inequality still further. There is an urgent need for governments to implement highly progressive taxation measures that in turn must be used to invest in powerful and proven measures to reduce inequalities.'

'Global food prices have spiralled by 33.6% in the past year and are expected to increase by 23% in 2022.' Oxfam estimates that 263 million people could be pushed into extreme levels of poverty this year because of Covid-19, rising global inequality, and soaring food prices rises due to the war in Ukraine and the related sanctions.



“The US, the EU and NATO countries continue to support the Ukraine war effort with tens of billions of dollars of advanced weaponry which are bound to prolong the war instead of ending it through a peace deal. There are legitimate interrogations in the US Congress at the whopping scale of the \$ 53 billion of arms and other US assistance to Ukraine, which is more than two thirds of the State Department's entire budget for the year. Why are similar quantum of funds not spent on health care and public welfare or as financial support to the hapless collateral victims of this proxy war in countries across the world? There seems to be no end to geopolitical folly...”

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IMF proposals

The UN has warned last week that the world is facing the risk of a global food crisis owing to the adverse impact of the prolonged war in Ukraine and the sanctions imposed. Alive to the dire consequences of rising food and energy prices on households, Kristalina Georgieva, the head of the IMF proposed this week that governments should subsidise food and energy as people around the world are struggling with the rising cost of living. She added that support measures and subsidies have to be preferably provided directly to people. Is government not tuned to these sensible proposals to alleviate the hardships of households?

In a bid to safeguard their food security many countries across the world are banning exports of wheat, other grains, edible oils and chicken which would trigger scarcity and cause food prices to soar further. War in Ukraine, climate change and inflation are already taking their toll all over the world.

No end to geopolitical folly

To crown it all, the US, the EU and NATO countries continue to support the Ukraine war effort with tens of billions of dollars of advanced weaponry which are bound to prolong the war instead of ending it through a peace deal. There are legitimate interrogations in the US Congress at the whopping scale of the \$ 53 billion of arms and other US assistance to Ukraine, which is more than two thirds of the State Department's entire budget for the year. Why are similar quantum of funds not spent on health care and public welfare or as financial support to the hapless collateral victims of this proxy war in countries across the world? There seems to be no end to geopolitical folly.

Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky expressing concern about the scale of US support, inflation and rising energy and gas prices pointedly declared: 'My oath of office is to the US Constitution, not to any foreign nation,' adding, 'We cannot save Ukraine by dooming the US economy.'

The EU, our main market, is directly exposed to the fallouts of the conflict in Ukraine.

● Cont. on page 7



Anil Madan

US-Taiwan

From Strategic Ambiguity to Strategic Confusion?

It is time for the US to take the lead and influence President Xi and the CCP to act like adults and understand that peaceful trade is far more productive than a military takeover

President Biden's remarks during a joint news conference with Prime Minister Kishida in Japan about whether the US would intervene militarily if China invaded Taiwan, have drawn the ire of the Chinese Communist Party and prompted much speculation about whether Biden's statements were calculated or a gaffe by an aging politician.

To get some perspective, we might start with a transcript of Biden's remarks at the press conference. (N.B. This is my transcription of what I heard on the video). The relevant portion:

Reporter: Are you willing to get involved militarily to defend Taiwan if it comes to that?

Biden: Yes.

Reporter: You are?

Biden: That's the commitment we made. That's the commitment we made... We agree with the One China policy... But the idea that it can be taken by force is just not appropriate. It would dislocate the entire region and be another action similar to what happened in Ukraine, so it's a burden that is even stronger.

This doesn't sound to me like a gaffe. Rather, it seems more an attempt to rethink Biden's mistaken equivocal responses about Ukraine. It seems to evince a desire not to repeat what could only have been a message to Russia that it would face no military opposition from NATO and the US if it invaded Ukraine. In fact, President Biden explicitly said as much when he equated a potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan to Putin's invasion of Ukraine and noted that the burden (on the US) is even stronger. In a previous comment, I explained my view that Biden blinked when it came to Ukraine and that his equivocating has brought us to where we are. Clearly, his comments in Tokyo were a forceful attempt to forestall a Chinese invasion of Taiwan. Or at least an attempt to forestall Chinese adventurism along the lines of Putin's Ukraine invasion.

The problem is that White House and the US diplomacy and defense establishment bureaucracies sprang into action almost immediately to explain away Biden's remarks. And at the same time, the Chinese Communist Party's apparatchiks sprang into their chorus of petulant juvenile laments. It was almost a foregone conclusion that some Chinese official would declare that Taiwan is strictly an "internal affair" as far as China is concerned and that China would not compromise on its sovereignty or territorial integrity. Spare me, the childish antics. And, if we take a closer look at the American bureaucrats' "explanations" we see that they really did not detract from Biden's basic message.

Let us first understand what the One China policy is and what strategic ambiguity means.

The One China doctrine or policy (depending on which side you are on) dates to the end of the Chinese civil war when the victorious Communist Party declared that the mainland was the People's Republic of China. Meanwhile, the defeated Kuomintang (KMT) relocated to Formosa or Taiwan and pretended to still rule China. The Communist Party not only rejected the KMT's claim to be the legitimate ruler of China but also claimed that Taiwan was an integral part of China and that they would use force if Taiwan ever threatened to formalize its break with the mainland by declaring independence.

Of course, China was in no position to invade Taiwan and take it over by force. And so, the status quo remains that Taiwan, an independent nation in all but recognition by the CCP, has lived with the Sword of Damocles hanging over it.

To make a long story short and perhaps to oversimplify matters, when the US sought to establish diplomatic relations with China, it essentially agreed to recognize China's claim that there is only one China and to break diplomatic relations with Taiwan. Of course, the US found a way to maintain informal relations with Taiwan. The US also passed the Taiwan Relations Act under which it guaranteed support to Taiwan to defend itself. So far, this has meant arms sale, training and joint military exercises, but not necessarily direct military involvement in case of an attack by China.

The US recognizes the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate government of mainland China and acknowledges, but does not agree with, China's claim that Taiwan is an integral part of China.

When it comes to defense of Taiwan, the US has maintained what has come to be known as "strategic ambiguity" about whether it would come to Taiwan's assistance if China attacked the island. Let us be realistic about this. From 1949 when the KMT retreated to Taipei until perhaps 2010, China was not about to invade Taiwan especially if the US came to Taiwan's aid. Since



US President Joe Biden, left, attends a bilateral meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at Akasaka Palace, Monday, May 23, 2022, in Tokyo. Pic - AP Evan Vucci

then, China's military prowess has been growing. There are still some who question whether China has the capability to mount a successful amphibious invasion of the island. And there is talk by Taiwanese diplomats about the need to emulate some of the asymmetric warfare strategies that the Ukrainians have successfully used. But it does seem inevitable that in the next 10-20 years, China will likely have the capability to invade Taiwan.

Taiwan's Foreign Ministry thanked Biden for reaffirming US support for the island if Beijing invaded.

However, China's Foreign Ministry expressed "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition." Then there were the obligatory remarks that China has no room for compromise or concessions relating to matters of sovereignty and territorial integrity. In a petulant addendum, the spokesperson declared: "No one should underestimate the strong determination, firm will, and strong ability of the Chinese people to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity, and do not stand against the 1.4 billion Chinese people." Of course, the CCP probably does not speak for 1.4 billion Chinese people but that is another matter.

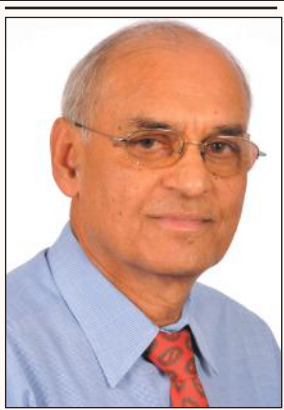
The apparent purpose of the doctrine of strategic ambiguity has been to dissuade the CCP from attacking Taiwan while keeping Taiwan from taking US support for granted and provoking China by declaring independence.

A White House official quickly said that Biden's comments did not reflect a policy shift away from the One China policy. But this is meaningless. The US has surely never reconsidered the idea that there is only one China.

It is time to recognize that there is one China but also one Taiwan. Surely, the adult response is for the US to convince Taiwan to agree that it no longer has any claim to the Chinese mainland.

● Cont. on page 14

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

About ten days ago on Sunday morning I left the road on Trou-O-Cerfs after completing my rounds and was walking on the grass to a spot where I would do some free hand exercises to wind up. As I was doing so, I was followed by a friend who started to engage me in conversation. Up there we all have our own little groups with whom we walk, and that friend was in the group who can go round and round the whole day and talk nothing but Liverpool and Manchester and the league matches going on – that friend happened to be a Liverpool diehard -, which is not my cup of tea.

But that morning as our respective groups were dispersing, he decided to chat with me, I do not remember exactly what about. Anyway, I started doing my exercises, and soon he told me, 'OK then I will let you carry on and get going too.'

Next morning when I reached Trou-O-Cerfs, a common friend announced to me that our friend had died during the night. He was a little over 60, one of the most regular fellow walkers, and was a teetotaller, non-smoker and very meticulous about what he ate. He was a dedicated primary school teacher who was adored by his pupils, and on many occasions in the past when we had just come to know each other, he shared his passion for teaching with me – which resonated as I was also of the same disposition – as well as many bits and pieces of interesting information culled from his extensive reading repertoire, again something which found echo with me.

Two days ago, came another sad news – another friend had passed the day before. He had not been coming for walks for the past couple of years because of illness, though he still kept working in his shop. I met him about weeks ago at the clinic waiting to see his treating

Our oh-so-fragile lives...



Pic - catholic Link

“Disease and death are the levellers, irrespective of who we are or think we may be. Human lives are indeed very fragile, and it is a reality we have to reckon with. Though we need not mull over this hard truth 24/7 or allow it to frighten or depress us, at the very least it should inculcate in us some humility and inspire us to make the best of our limited time on this planet. And also, spread goodness rather than the acid of hate around, as many people around the world do...”

doctor, when he told me that 'things are not good.' Sometime before that I had met him at his shop, and he was proudly showing me the latest pictures of his grandchild born to his daughter in France and was hoping to visit them later this year. A dream that he could not fulfil...

In the past couple of years, we have lost some other fellow walkers to Covid, despite being otherwise fit – at least as we could make out from their lifestyle habits that we knew about, such as being regulars at the crater.

But alas, disease and death are the levellers, irrespective of who we are or think we may be. Human lives are indeed very fragile, and it is a reality we have to reckon with. Though we need not mull over this hard truth 24/7 or allow it to frighten or depress us, at the very least it should inculcate in us some humility and inspire us to make the best of our limited time on this planet. And also, spread goodness rather than the acid of hate around, as many people around the world do.

I am not the only one who thinks along these lines, as evidenced by the touching note of appreciation sent by my friend Michael, a retired teacher, which reads as follows: 'I have finished reading your wonderful article on the state of war in this world. You stress the need for reconciliation and healing. This can work provided both sides come with goodwill. In my prayers I pray that a third world war does not break out. It will be apoplectic. Beyond imagination. Thanks a lot for this enriching article.'

Who can deny that the most pressing need of our times is goodwill, peace and reconciliation? For that matter, such sentiments are urgently needed here. Indeed, charity could begin at home, in our parliament, where there seems to be unending acrimony if we go by the declarations of the members of the opposition after their walkout on Tuesday. We do really need a mega fresh wind of change in that august house don't we. If only a huge fan could be installed at Trou-O-Cerfs that would blow the cool morning air in the direction of our temple of democracy! I am sure that that is what is needed, both in actual fact and metaphorically. Cooler temperatures and tempers...

In the meantime, life must go on, though beneath the semblance of normalcy there is much distress and stress being caused not only by the loss of loved ones - Covid-related or not, sudden, and unexpected or as result of pre-existing illness - but also by the increase in the cost of living that has been happening step by step. The same amount of money is buying less and less, despite the targeted measures that do not appear to be reflected on the shelves of retail outlets.

Human lives are precious, but also fragile and precarious. The precariousness is enhanced by anything that deprives us of basic needs or the affordable access to them. Decisions and policies which may lead to such deprivation should be carefully weighed before they are implemented. That's the very least that citizens can legitimately expect from those at the helm of the country, and we pray that the appeals and voices of concerned stakeholders will be heard loud and clear.

To Our Readers

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

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

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

We are so grateful that our voice and readership extend far beyond our actual subscription base of loyal well-wishers. But we now need to expand that base of readers who value our independence and commitment to continue improving the paper and reach new audiences.

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Registration of Voters

“If there is nothing mysterious or untoward about the use of the Social Media Analytics Cloud by the Electoral Commission for the 2019 elections, why should the Electoral Commissioner deny it...?”

The Electoral Commissioner's Office is proceeding apace with its canvassing of electors in what must be the most antiquated method available, that is door to door checking of inhabitants at a fixed period in time. There have been numerous allegations that the 2019 exercise have either deprived some 7% of voters of their legitimate rights or, worse still, an unaccounted for 45,000 voters were ditched out of the register instead of 9,900 previously. We have failed to hear from the EC any plausible let alone convincing explanations regarding those serious failings or the controversial use of computer rooms during the 2019 counting process. Lex weighs in.

LEX

* According to the Section 4(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1958, only those persons having reached the age of 18 on 15 August in that year, and Commonwealth citizens (having resided in Mauritius for at least two years) are qualified to be registered as electors and to vote. That's for qualification for registration as voters, but does the law make it an obligation for citizens, qualified by virtue of age, to get themselves registered as electors, and if so what would be the penalty for failure to do so?

There is nothing in the law that makes it an obligation on a citizen of 18 years or more to register as an elector. Just as there is no law that makes voting compulsory at an election.

* The tedious registration of electors process as prescribed by the Representation of the People Act 1958 may need to be revamped with the input of latest technology. There have also been calls expressed on the need to introduce a rolling register of voters so as to avoid excluding voters. That should not be a big deal in a small country like Mauritius as compared to what obtains in India where hundreds of millions of Indian citizens are duly registered by the Electoral Commission of India, isn't it?

We cannot compare Mauritius with India. However, the system certainly needs to be revamped as it is an archaic system with shades of the colonial era. It is ridiculous to have public officers go from house to house to register electors or to confirm that their names appear on

the electoral list. If the public officer does not meet with the people who had previously been registered as electors, what happens? Does this mean that the name of an elector which is already on the list is then simply blotted out?

* The Representation of the People Act came into force in 1958, much earlier than the National Identity Act, which came into operation in 1985, and which requires Mauritian citizen having attained the age of 18 to apply for the Mauritius National ID Card within a grace period of six months. In 2019, the Electoral Commission should have had access to the Mauritius National ID Card's database to countercheck and correct any discrepancy in its Electors' List allowing for reasons of deaths, emigration, etc. That should be possible, isn't it?

Many things are possible, it only requires the will to get things properly implemented. The Electoral Commission and the Electoral Commissioner should formulate proposals that are commensurate with modern-day technology. Remember how they were quick to introduce the controversial computer rooms in the 2019 elections. Both the Electoral Commission and the Electoral Commissioner should be constantly on the alert and come up with new ideas to reinforce the democratic process.

* Checking if one is indeed registered to vote at the next elections should be a rather straightforward matter. Is that indeed the case as things stand today?

It should be, but it does not appear to be so. What happened during the 2019 elections is an eye-opener: numerous



“It is a shameful aberration to allow foreigners many of whom do not know anything about the stakes involved to vote in our elections. Maybe in 1968 when this clause was inserted in the Constitution it was felt at that time that it would be a good thing to involve Commonwealth citizens in our electoral process. But this has been perverted by money politics to which many foreigners succumb. It is high time to scarp that blot from our Constitution...”

people who genuinely believed they were on the electoral list were sent back from the voting centres because their names did not appear on the electors' list. What this amounts to is that they were effectively forfeited the right to vote due to the bureaucratic failings of the Electoral Commission.

Should we therefore expect people to leave their place of work or residence and go check with the Electoral Commission until the eve of elections to ensure that their names remain on the electors' list? What if their names are not there despite the fact that they had voted in previous elections? Will the Electoral Commission come forward with remedial measures in such cases to ensure that these people may exercise their right to vote?

* There have indeed been reports about so many people having learnt to their dismay on election day in 2019 that their names did not appear on the list of registered voters. According to Leader of Opposition Xavier Duval, 6800 qualified voters registered their protests for that reason. How could that be possible when so many of these same people had been able to cast their votes in previous elections?

The answer is simple. Something is terribly rotten in the State of Denmark.

The custodians of the electors' lists have been incapable to provide us with clear rational answers. Were the names omitted deliberately to favour one particular party/alliance? We do not know. Were the names omitted through an administrative error? We do not know. Until we get straightforward answers from the custodians of the lists, the suspicion of impropriety will persist.

* Xavier Duval referred to figures available in 'Statistics Mauritius & Electoral Commission's Office, which indicate that 45,412 qualified voters were left out from the 2019 elections, as against 9900 in the 2014 elections. That makes around 4.6% from the total number of citizens, potentially voters, having attained the age of 18. That's pretty serious... since a shift of only 5% in the electoral voting pattern — with or without the Bangladeshis' votes — might have changed the electoral outcome. Shouldn't that have called for an investigation into that huge discrepancy?

Right from day one there has been a call for a thorough investigation. What has been the result? Nothing has happened. The fact that nothing has happened may mean a lot of things...

● Cont. on page 7

Culpable Inaction

● Cont. from page 3

Surging commodity prices, disrupted supply chains, and unprecedented trade and financial sanctions will all weigh on growth and push inflation higher in the near-term. Central bank interest hikes could push parts of the global economy into recession.

Against such a forbidding backdrop, the government is at pains to justify its inaction. Is it alive to these potent risks weighing on the socio-economic outlook? Instead of repeatedly rehashing past social and other assistance schemes implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic, people want government to competently address and resolve their current existential hardships and difficulties.

This is also not the time for commercial partners, supermarket companies and retailers to reap windfall gains and cash in on escalating prices of food and existential needs at the expense of consumers but for unequivocal solidarity to help consumers tide over the crisis. Can government ensure that this is so? Otherwise, consumption will be dented. There must also be competent and robust currency stabilizing measures to protect consumers, a more rigorous price control by the authorities as well as a reduction of fuel prices through a review of the fuel pricing system, as suggested above. Beyond the rhetoric and given the extensive availability of land, it is also high time to make food security in the country become a reality.

Above all, this is not time for culpable inaction.



Demonstrators rally outside Assange's extradition hearing in Sept 2020.
Pic - The New York Times

Saving activist and public watchdog Julian Assange

In a world marked by trumped up propaganda, questionable narratives and unholy alliances, people must more than ever protect freedom of speech and opinion

Julian Assange, the WikiLeaks founder who has been held in a British high-security prison for three years without being convicted of any crime, is facing extradition to the United States. All legal avenues have been explored to stop his extradition. The decision now lies with the UK Home Secretary Priti Patel who is expected to decide this month. Last week, the EU Commissioner for Human Rights Dunja Mijatović wrote to the UK Home Secretary to ask her not to extradite Julian Assange as this 'would have a chilling effect on media freedom and could ultimately hamper the press in

performing its task as purveyor of information and public watchdog in democratic societies.'

It should be remembered that some 10 years ago, the extradition of Gary McKinnon, a computer hacker who managed to break into the computer systems of NASA and the US defence department in search of information about UFOs and left behind some mildly rude messages about the systems sloppy security, was halted by Theresa May, the Home Secretary at the time.

In a world marked by trumped up propaganda, questionable narratives and unholy alliances, people must more than ever protect

freedom of speech and opinion and whistle blowers who driven by a high sense of probity expose scandals, covert dealings and actions against the public interest at their own risk and peril.

Assange has rocked the world with his leaks and made people across the world wake up to the reality of seedy hidden truths detrimental to public interest. He has done great service to society and investigative journalism. The idea of muzzling such crusaders of truth is anathema to the multitude.

It is probably in reaction to this abject reality and growing public outcry that the Disinformation Governance Board set up three weeks ago by the White House and the Department of Homeland Security labelled 'Ministry of Truth' (from George Orwell's book 1984) by critics has been unceremoniously shut down.

The world is keenly awaiting the decision on Assange as it would determine whether democracy is strengthened rather than insidiously undermined.

Mrinal Roy

Qs & As

Registration of Voters

'Computers were used in the 2019 elections but the Electoral Commission asserted that were not used for the counting the votes. Why were they there then?'

● Cont. from page 6

* In fact, in November 2019, 838 foreign nationals residing in Mauritius - 523 Indians, 68 South Africans, 36 Pakistanis, 67 Britons and 45 Bangladeshis - registered in our electoral lists might have cast their votes in the then general elections, and possibly helped produce an electoral outcome that would not affect them directly. Is that acceptable?

The outcome did not depend only on the foreigners' votes. But it is a shameful aberration to allow foreigners many of whom do not know anything about the stakes involved to vote in our elections. Maybe in 1968 when this clause was inserted in the Constitution it was felt at

that time that it would be a good thing to involve Commonwealth citizens in our electoral process. But this has been perverted by money politics to which many foreigners succumb. It is high time to scarp that blot from our Constitution.

* Allegations have recently been made about the use of Social Media Analytics Cloud (SMAC) software by the Electoral Commission (EC) for the 2019 elections that would allow for the profiling of electors. This has been denied by the Electoral Commissioner, but this has been followed up by Xavier Duval who referred to the State Informatics Ltd's communique, as published on its website, indicating its successful completion of the EC's

project "to upgrade its software application using the latest technology that can support SMAC". Is that perfectly in order in light of the Representation of the People Act 1958?

Computers were introduced at the last elections without any legal text that provided for them at an election. But the Supreme Court found this normal in two cases. The Electoral Commissioner stated that he introduced computers as an administrative measure.

It would appear that the Electoral Commission has become a law unto itself, such that it feels authorized to implement any administrative decisions for the purposes of elections and registration of voters.

If there is nothing mysterious or untoward about the use of the Social Media Analytics Cloud (SMAC) software by the Electoral Commission for the 2019 elections, why should the Electoral Commissioner deny it in the teeth of information emanating from State Informatics Ltd's communique, as published on its website?

* In 2018, a popular social networking site came under heavy fire from US regulators after it was found that a third-party vendor had collected data of users illegally and which was then used to influence the outcome of the 2016 presidential elections. How do you react to that?

It is difficult to have complete control over social media. People will misuse it for political or financial gains. So, what do we do about it? Political parties the world over will make use of social media to spread all kinds of rumours about their opponents. We have had this in Mauritius. It remains to be seen if governments in democratic countries will do something about it. Here computers were used in the 2019 elections but the Electoral Commission asserted that were not used for the counting the votes. Why were they there then?

LEX

Imran Khan gives 6 days to Pakistan govt for announcing polls

After a massive show of strength, which held Pakistani cities under siege until Thursday morning as Imran Khan's Azadi march reached the capital Islamabad in the early hours of Thursday, former Prime minister Imran Khan warned that if election dates are not announced within six days, he will again come to Islamabad.



Pakistan army on the roads as Imran Khan's 'Azadi March' enters Islamabad. Pic - News18/Reuters

As Imran Khan's Azadi march started on Wednesday, clashes between party workers and cops broke out at several places in Punjab, Karachi and Lahore, reports Hindustan Times.

Before the march entered Islamabad, the army was called in to protect the Red Zone of the city consisting of important structures like the Supreme Court, Prime Minister's residence, etc., from what Imran Khan wanted to be a 'peaceful protest'. Islamabad was sealed off to not allow the entry of the march and police shelled tear gas as Islamabad turned into a battleground on Thursday.

Pakistan's Geo News claimed PTI supporters attacked its office injuring some journalists.

Imran Khan reached Islamabad and addressed the march where he said the government would be happy if he stages a sit-in as that would lead to more clashes between his partymen and the police. "I had decided that I will sit here until the government dissolves assemblies and announces elections, but of what I have seen in the past 24 hours, they (govt) are taking the nation towards anarchy." The PTI chairman also claimed that five protesters from his party were killed in clashes.

'No petrol in any station, no cash in ATMs': Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez

On a day Lahore witnessed clashes between supporters of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and police, former Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Hafeez took to Twitter and slammed the Pakistani establishment over the shortage of fuel and cash, tagging prominent politicians in the country.

"No Petrol available in any petrol station in Lahore??? No cash available in ATM machines?? Why a common man have to suffer from political decisions," the former Pakistan all-rounder tweeted and also tagged Khan and current Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif among other politicians.

Political and economic volatility



No petrol available in Lahore, no cash in ATM machines: Ex-Pakistan player Mohammad Hafeez. Pic - Republic World

has deepened in the nuclear-armed nation ahead of a likely announcement by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) later in the day on

whether it will resume a \$6 billion rescue package, reports Hindustan Times.

Elon Musk says he is a rare exception as a rich person who has many kids

Carrying on his argument on population, Tesla CEO Elon Musk has tweeted that he is a rare exception as a rich person who has many kids as most rich people he knows have zero or one kid. "Contrary to what many think, the richer someone is, the fewer kids they have. I am a rare exception," the billionaire who has seven children tweeted. Elon Musk has recently argued that the narrative that people are not having kids because it is harmful to the environment is "total nonsense".

"Some people think that having fewer kids is better for the environment.



Elon Musk said the birth rate of the United States has been below the minimum sustainable levels for 50 years. Pic Reuters

Environment's gonna be fine even if we doubled the population. I know a lot of environmental stuff...Japan had lowest birth rate. Having kids is essential for

maintaining civilization. We can't let civilization dwindle into nothing," Elon Musk said.

On Twitter, Elon Musk posted a graph on US' fer-

tility slump and said the birth rate of the United States has been below the minimum sustainable levels for 50 years, reports Hindustan Times.

This is not the first time that Elon Musk raised the issue of the declining population. Earlier, he had said if there are not enough people for Earth, then there will definitely be enough people for Mars.

Musk has seven children - twins Xavier and Griffin, triplets Kai, Saxon and Damina. His latest born is X Æ A-Xii, while his former partner Grimes claimed to have had a second secret child with Elon Musk, named Y.

China conducts military exercise around Taiwan to warn U.S.

China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Wednesday said it has conducted a military exercise around Taiwan as a warning against its "collusive activities" with the United States, two days after President Joe Biden said Washington would get involved militarily if China were to try to take the self-ruled island by force.

"The PLA Eastern Theater Command recently organised multiple military services and branches to conduct a joint alert patrol and realistic combat exercises in and above the waters around the island of Taiwan," Senior Colonel Shi Yi, a spokesperson of the Eastern Theatre Command, said in a press release on Wednesday.

"This is a stern warning to the recent collusive activities by the US and Taiwan



China's Harbin (112) guided missile destroyer takes part in a week-long China-Russia navy exercise. Pic - AP

secessionists," Shi was quoted in Chinese state media as saying.

Shi accused the US of saying one thing and doing another over the Taiwan question, as well as frequently encouraging "Taiwan independence" forces,

reports Hindustan Times.

"It is hypocritical and futile, and will only lead the situation to a place where it becomes dangerous, with the US facing serious consequences as well," Shi said.

Shi did not give details about when the

drill was held or whether the exercise was ongoing.

Separately, Chinese defence ministry spokesperson, Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, said, "The PLA is all set to await the order for battle, and will take all necessary measures to resolutely thwart interference by external forces and 'Taiwan independence' forces' secession attempts".

The announcement of the drill comes a day after China and Russia sent air force bombers over the seas in northeast Asia coinciding with the in-person Tokyo summit of the leaders of the Quad countries India, the US, Australia and Japan. It was Beijing's and Moscow's first joint military exercise since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24.

* Contd on page 9

Zelensky says war getting worse as 'Russia going all in'

Russian troops advanced in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday, pounding key cities and aiming "to destroy everything there," President Volodymyr Zelensky said, as Moscow signalled it was digging in for a long war against its neighbour. Heavy fighting, meanwhile, was reported in the Donbas, the eastern industrial heartland that Moscow's forces are intent on seizing. "The situation is very difficult and unfortunately it is only getting worse. It is getting worse with every day and even with every hour," Sergiy Gaidai, governor of the eastern region of Lugansk, said on Tuesday as Russian forces were bombarding the industrial city.

More than six million people have fled Ukraine and eight million have been internally displaced since the war broke out, according to the United Nations, reports Hindustan Times.

Here are latest developments in Russia-Ukraine war

1. The Ukrainian military said on Tuesday that Russian troops had fired at Ukrainian border guards in the north-eastern Sumy region in the latest of a series of alleged cross-border attacks over the past few weeks. "Seven shots from Russian territory," the official said.

2. Meanwhile, Russian shelling con-



A Ukrainian soldier walks past debris of a burning military truck, on a street in Kyiv, Ukraine, Feb. 26, 2022. Pic- AP

tinued around Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv Tuesday, even after Russian troops withdrew from its surroundings last week.

3. In the port-city of Mariupol, workers digging through the rubble of an apartment building found 200 bodies in the basement, Ukrainian authorities said Tuesday as per news agency AP. The city - home to 400,000 people before Russia's invasion - has seen some of the worst suf-

fering of the 3-month-old war.

4. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in his video address on Tuesday night said that Russia is using everything at its disposal in the fight for four cities in the eastern Donbas region. "The situation in the Donbas now is very difficult," Zelensky said yesterday. "Practically the full might of the Russian army, whatever they have left, is being thrown at the offensive there. The occupiers want to destroy

everything there."

5. The Ukrainian president renewed his appeal for even more weapons from the West to keep Ukraine in the fight including multiple-rocket launchers and tanks. The Ukrainian army is fighting back, but "it will take time and a lot more effort by our people to overcome their advantage in the amount of equipment and weapons," he said last night.

6. The European Union will allow Ukraine to export grain through EU ports to help avert a global food crisis, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. The EU was also "financing different modes of transportation so that Ukraine's grain can reach the most vulnerable countries in the world."

7. Meanwhile, in a bid to recover from the economic crisis, the Russian parliament approved a bill on Tuesday that would allow the government to appoint new management of foreign companies that pulled out of Russia after its invasion of Ukraine. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said the new law made it even more imperative for foreign companies remaining in Russia to leave. "It's the last chance to save not only your reputation but your property," he said in a statement.

War in Ukraine may trigger global recession, says World Bank chief

Russia's war on Ukraine could trigger a global recession because of the impact on food, energy and fertiliser prices, with developing nations among the worst affected World Bank president David Malpass said Wednesday. He said that while Ukraine and Russia would likely see significant contractions, Europe, and the United States were seeing slower growth. On China he said the relatively sharp slowdown was due to Covid, inflation and a pre-existing real estate crisis.

"As we look at global GDP... it's hard right now to see how we avoid a recession. The idea of energy prices doubling is enough to trigger a recession by itself," he was quoted by Reuters. He did not give details on when it might begin.

The World Bank chief's warnings are one of several about increased global risks, driven most recently by the war in Ukraine but also fuelled by a Covid-19 pandemic and associated restrictions that are now in its third year, reports Hindustan Times.

A day before Malpass' warning the Institute of International Finance slashed 2022 growth outlook for global output from 4.6 per cent to 2.3 per cent.

The risk of a worldwide recession has also been flagged at the ongoing World



Unauthorised weekly vegetable markets have once again resumed in the Pune corporation limits after the easing of Covid curbs. Pic - HT

Economic Forum in Davos, with concern over inflation at its highest level in a generation in major economies including the United States, Britain and Europe.

Last month the World Bank reduced 2022 global growth forecasts from 4.1 per cent to 3.2 per cent - due to the impact of Russia's war on Ukraine.

For India the World Bank in April lowered growth estimates from 8.7 per cent to 8 per cent, business publication Live Mint reported. This was on the basis of worsening supply bottlenecks and rising inflation risks due to the war.

In India retail prices grew at 7.8 per cent - the highest in eight years - squeezing household budgets and likely paving the way for more monetary action by the Reserve Bank of India, which raised rates last week to combat spiking inflation.

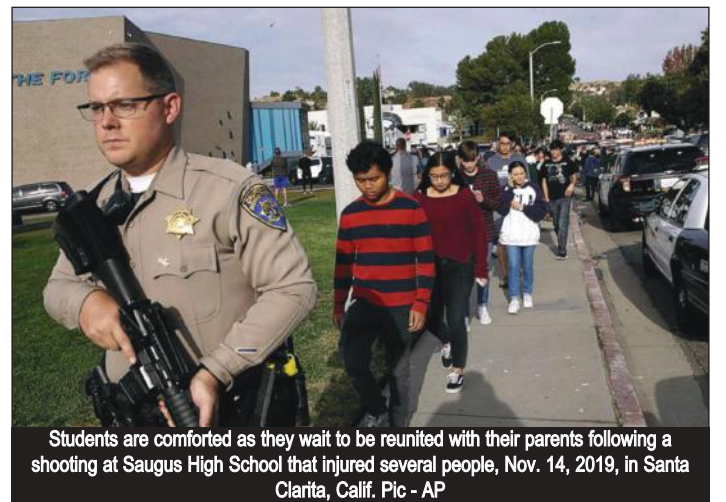
Texas student caught with firearms outside school day after mass shooting horror

A student in Texas, United States, was caught with firearms outside a high school in Richardson city, the police department said, a day after mass shooting in the US state sent shockwaves across the world. In a statement, the Richardson Police Department said that it received a phone call at 10.55 am (local time) in the 1500 block of East Spring Valley

Road, reporting a male holding what appeared to be a rifle. "The male was last seen walking towards Berkner High School, located at 1600 East Spring Valley Road," the police department said.

"Within minutes of the call being dispatched, numerous police officers from various units within the Richardson Police Department responded to Berkner High School and initiated a search and investigation into this incident. Nearby schools were notified of the police activity," the statement added.

The male suspect was identified as a "juvenile student" of the high school. He



Students are comforted as they wait to be reunited with their parents following a shooting at Saugus High School that injured several people, Nov. 14, 2019, in Santa Clarita, Calif. Pic - AP

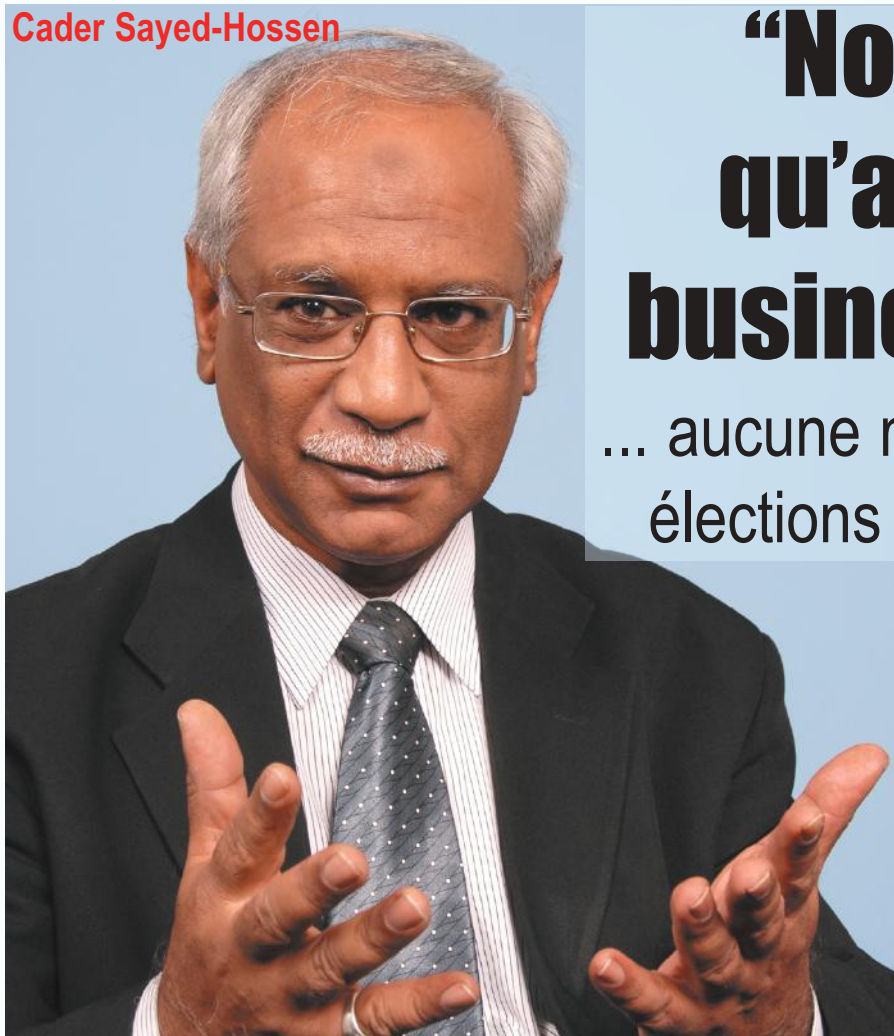
was located inside the school, but no weapons were found, reports Hindustan Times.

This incident comes a day after a deadly shootout at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde city of Texas - 19 students and two teachers were among those who lost lives.

The shootout at the Robb Elementary School again sparked criticism of the constitutionally protected US gun laws, especially those allowing the sale of automatic weapons to people under the age of 21.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Cader Sayed-Hossen



“Nous nous assurerons qu’aucun ‘Mickey Mouse business’ n’ait lieu en 2024...”

... aucune manipulation quelconque au niveau des élections et au niveau du décompte des votes”

Aujourd’hui, étant donné les difficultés économiques au niveau mondial, l’avenir de chaque pays dépend de la bonne gouvernance. La qualité de l’ensemble des processus de gouvernement et du fonctionnement des institutions, et aussi les pratiques gouvernementales en matière de prise de décision et de réglementation deviennent extrêmement importantes. Il est aussi normal que les objectifs de tout gouvernement doivent se concentrer sur l’amélioration du bien commun et non pas de quelques groupes spécifiques. Malheureusement, les sondages et plusieurs articles de presse indiquent que notre pays n’est pas sur la bonne voie. Au contraire, la République serait sur une pente glissante. Cader Sayed-Hossen donne son opinion à propos de la transparence, de la responsabilité, de l’obligation de rendre des comptes, de la participation active pour répondre aux besoins de la population durant la gouvernance de ces dernières années.

Mauritius Times: La dépréciation de la roupie et l’appauvrissement grandissant de certaines sections la population, le “state capture”... il y a là suffisamment d’éléments parmi d’autres pour l’opposition de contrer efficacement l’actuel gouvernement, mais selon plusieurs observateurs, il ne semble toujours pas qu’elle soit en mesure de démontrer le bien-fondé de ses vues et de se présenter comme une alternance valable. Vous en êtes conscient, non?

Cader Sayed-Hossen: En ce qui concerne la situation économique, la réalité des choses est bien plus grave qu’il puisse sembler à première vue. Alors qu’en 2014 (quand le Parti Travailleiste était au pouvoir), le US Dollar valait Rs 30.66, il vaut aujourd’hui Rs 43.50 : la roupie s’est dépréciée de 43% en 8 ans de régime Jugnauth, entraînant ainsi un renchérissement insupportable du coût de la vie à Maurice.

L’appauvrissement touche en fait des sections très larges de la population. Prenez cet indicateur de la richesse nationale qu’est le Produit National Brut (PNB) par tête d’habitant. Les statistiques officielles nous présentent le PNB par tête d’habitant en roupies – alors que nous importons en US Dollars la quasi-totalité de notre consommation. Exprimé en US Dollars, le PNB par tête d’habitant est passé de USD 10,154 en 2014 à USD 8,825 en 2021, soit une baisse, donc un appauvrissement moyen, de

13%.

Il n’est certainement pas juste de dire que l’opposition n’est pas en mesure de démontrer le bien-fondé de ses vues. La Constitution et la convention politique prévoient que l’opposition s’exprime à l’Assemblée nationale ainsi que sur des plateformes publiques.

Or, nous connaissons tous la situation honteuse qui prévaut à l’Assemblée nationale avec un Speaker qui se comporte comme un membre vociférant de la majorité gouvernementale et qui expulse de la Chambre, souvent sans motif valable, les députés de l’opposition. Le fonctionnement de l’opposition parlementaire et le fonctionnement démocratique de l’Assemblée nationale est ainsi bloqué.

Résultat : l’opposition arrive à peine à s’exprimer. Il reste les plateformes publiques. Mais quelle que soit la gravité de la situation économique et sociale, la population n’a pas la tête aux grands rassemblements populaires. Non seulement la situation sanitaire ne le permet pas, mais en plus, c’est déjà assez dur pour elle de gagner sa vie. Cela viendra à l’approche des élections, comme cela a toujours été le cas.

Par ailleurs, Navin Ramgoolam tient régulièrement des conférences de presse et le Parti Travailleiste est de nouveau, après les confinements successifs que nous avons connus, actif au niveau de la population, dans les différentes circonscriptions.

En plus, l’absence de grands rassemblements publics ne signifie nullement que la population n’est pas consciente de la situation économique catastrophique du pays.

Les résultats du sondage effectué récemment par Straconsult/AfroBarometer le montre clairement : 66% des Mauriciens trouvent en 2022 que le pays va dans une mauvaise direction, contre 50% en 2017 et 54% en 2020; 63% des Mauriciens pensent que la situation économique est soit mauvaise soit très mauvaise, contre 37% en 2017.

La perception au sein de la population que le pays va

vers une catastrophe est très claire.

*** Et quid du conflit du MTC avec la GRA à propos de l’organisation des courses hippiques?**

Le conflit entre le MTC et le GRA est une illustration parfaite d’une culture de *state capture* et d’envahissement de toutes les sphères de la vie économique et sociale du pays, poussée à l’extrême.

Pravind Jugnauth a placé à la tête des principales institutions du pays des personnes dont l’allégeance première n’est ni au pays ni à l’institution dont elles ont la charge, mais à Pravind Jugnauth et à ce que l’on nomme couramment *La Kwizinn*.

Le MTC n’est pas une institution comme la Banque de Maurice, la Financial Services Commission, etc., mais le MTC gère les courses hippiques, dans les milieux desquels circulent des sommes d’argent très considérables.

Le gouvernement a créé en quatrième vitesse une compagnie, le Côte d’Or International Race Course and Entertainment Ltd, d’abord domiciliée au ministère des Finances et maintenant au Prime Minister’s Office, avec en plus le remplacement de plusieurs directeurs de la compagnie par des hommes opérant tous au PMO.

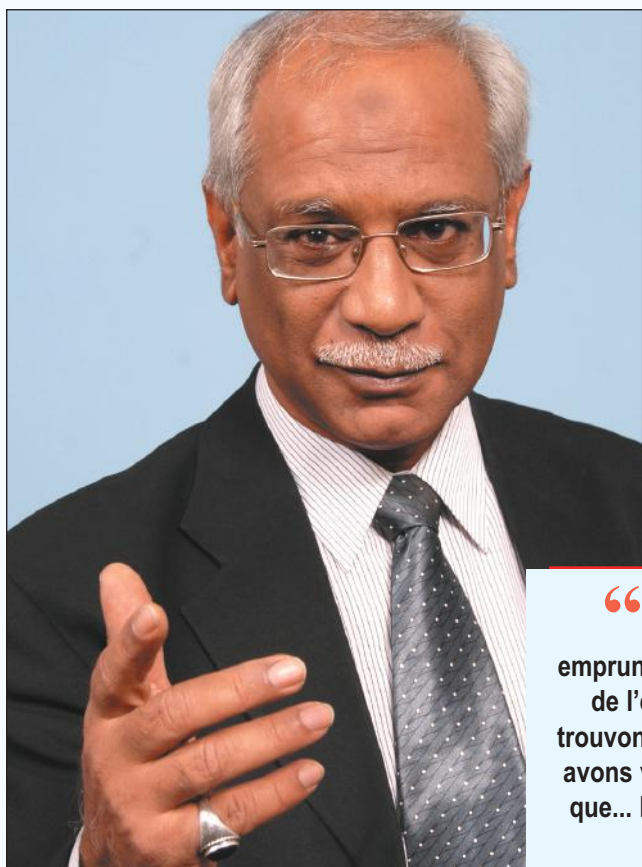
Et c’est cette compagnie, directement sous le contrôle de Pravind Jugnauth, qui va décider de l’organisation des courses au Champ de Mars. Est-ce le vénérable MTC de 210 ans d’âge, ou le People’s Turf, encore une compagnie créée à la va-vite et dirigée par un homme proche du pouvoir? Ici, tout ne serait-il pas opportunisme, opacité, mainmise sur les sources de revenus?

Après avoir presque ruiné la Banque de Maurice, la State Trading Corporation, le Central Electricity Board, la Financial Services Commission et la Mauritius Ports Authority, en raclant le fond de leurs caisses, le gouvernement s’attaque maintenant aux courses et très probablement au contrôle des paris sur les courses: n’aurions-nous pas clairement affaire à des prédateurs à l’appétit sans fin?

● Suite en page 11

“Le tourisme se remet lentement de la pandémie. Le Global Business Sector, GBS, est le seul secteur qui soit en bonne santé et j’espère de tout cœur que cela continuera. Mais nous devons aussi constater que la balance des paiements est devenue très ou trop lourdement dépendante du GBS. Donc, est-ce que le gouvernement a les moyens d’affronter cette crise? Non. Alors il aura recours encore à l’endettement...”

'Malgré une petite contestation de courte durée, à aucun moment, le leadership de Navin Ramgoolam n'a été remis en question'



Il n'a pas tout à fait tort quand même. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Rama Valayden a le goût des formules lapidaires. Donc, passons. Pravind Jugnauth n'a jamais été élu Premier ministre. Son père, Sir Anerood Jugnauth lui a remis le fauteuil de Premier ministre comme s'il s'agissait d'un héritage familial et la question s'il est redevenu Premier ministre en 2019 à la suite d'élections truquées reste encore posée aujourd'hui.

Avec son triste et lamentable bilan de gabegie, de dilapidation des fonds publics, de tant d'allégations de corruption et de népotisme dépassant même l'imagination la plus fertile, de gestion catastrophique de l'économie entraînant un appauvrissement sans précédent de la

“Le *mismanagement* cumulatif et le colmatage des conséquences de ce *mismanagement* par des emprunts massifs sont les causes profondes et structurelles de l'état d'urgence économique dans lequel nous nous trouvons. Aucun, je dis bien aucun, des indicateurs que nous avons vus ne peut être redressé d'ici 2024. Mais je suppose que... Pravind Jugnauth introduira des mesures populistes pour essayer encore de berner l'électorat...”

● Suite de la page 10

* Cependant l'opposition doit aussi veiller à préparer l'alternance, en étant prête à assumer le pouvoir au cas où le gouvernement échouerait. Mais là également, les choses sont un peu tassées, paraît-il, en raison du désaccord sur le leadership d'une alliance élargie de l'opposition. C'est tant mieux, diriez-vous, au regard des conclusions du récent sondage de Le Mauricien-Straconsult, surtout par rapport à la cote de popularité de l'Entente de l'Espoir?

Indépendamment des conclusions du sondage en question et de la cote de popularité des uns et des autres, il n'a jamais, je dis bien jamais, été question pour nous au Parti Travailleiste d'un leadership autre que celui de Navin Ramgoolam en cas d'une alliance élargie de l'opposition.

Certes, il y a eu des velléités un peu surréalistes de la part de certains de vouloir prétendre assumer le leadership, mais qui ont vite été classées comme *irrelevant* et ont aussi été vite oubliées. A raison d'ailleurs. Penser mettre fin aux années sombres que nous fait vivre Pravind Jugnauth et sa *Kwizinn* autrement qu'avec le leadership de Navin Ramgoolam est une illusion.

Mais l'essentiel est déjà acquis dans les rangs de l'opposition, non seulement au niveau des partis politiques traditionnels, mais aussi au niveau des forces et des mouvements politiques extra-parlementaires: l'urgente nécessité historique nationale de mettre fin au régime le plus incompétent, le plus antipatriotique... que le pays n'ait jamais connu.

Et le Parti Travailleiste est prêt à se présenter à l'électorat pour offrir non seulement une alternance crédible parce qu'ayant fait ses preuves dans des situations économiques internationales très difficiles, mais surtout parce que le Parti Travailleiste reste la seule alternance possible.

* Rama Valayden disait lors d'un entretien accordé à l'express en février dernier que “si Pravind Jugnauth est réélu, ce sera la faute à Bérenger et Ramgoolam”.

population, son manque total de compassion vis-à-vis de la souffrance de tout un peuple, je vois mal comment ce régime pourrait survivre.

Comme je vous l'ai dit déjà, l'objectif commun de toute l'opposition est de mettre fin à ce régime afin que le pays puisse respirer et nous sommes confiants que la majorité de la population partage cet objectif.

N'oublions pas qu'en dépit de toutes les anomalies qui ont entouré les résultats des élections de 2019, en fin de compte, les chiffres montrent que plus de 65% de la population a voté contre le MSM et ses alliés, et, comme le démontrent les conclusions du sondage Straconsult/AfroBarometer, 66% de la population est insatisfait ou profondément insatisfait de la situation économique du pays, et 63% de la population pense que la situation va empirer dans les 12 mois à venir – ce qui démontre une absence considérable de confiance en ce régime et en ce Premier ministre.

De plus, vous pouvez être certain que pour les prochaines élections, nous nous assurerons qu'aucun *Mickey Mouse business* n'ait lieu – aucune manipulation quelconque au niveau des élections et au niveau du décompte des votes.

* Le PTR dont vous faites partie devra néanmoins, même si la question de leadership ne fait plus débat, comme vous le dites, trouver la bonne formule - “a win-win formula”, comme dirait Paul Bérenger même s'il n'en fait pas partie - pour faire basculer l'électorat dans les circonscriptions No. 5 à 14. Comme d'autres l'ont dit, le temps presse, n'est-ce pas?

D'abord, abordons la question de leadership du Parti Travailleiste. Ceci n'a jamais fait débat au sein du parti, même si la presse en a fait pendant un bon bout de temps son chou gras. Malgré une petite contestation de courte durée, à aucun moment, le leadership de Navin Ramgoolam n'a été remis en question.

Ensuite, considérons l'électorat des circonscriptions 5

à 14 – celles qu'on appelle les circonscriptions rurales. L'histoire a démontré que pour gagner des élections, il faut avoir une majorité dans ces 10 circonscriptions rurales. Cela, le Parti Travailleiste l'a déjà fait, et il n'y a aucune raison que, compte tenu du bilan négatif du gouvernement MSM, du programme gouvernemental à venir du Parti Travailleiste et de son ancrage historique dans les régions rurales, nous n'arrivions pas, en alliance ou pas, à faire, comme vous dites, basculer ces circonscriptions.

Bien entendu, il nous faudra certainement trouver, le moment venu, la bonne formule. Mais il est peut-être bien prématuré d'en discuter maintenant. En fait, cette question de trouver la bonne formule n'a rien de nouveau.

Vu la configuration électorale mauricienne et compte tenu des mutations assez profondes dans les attitudes, les perceptions, les attentes et les comportements électoraux (mutations normales qui vont de pair avec les changements sociaux que nous avons connus au cours des 10-15 dernières années), il est toujours impératif de définir la bonne formule – comme c'est d'ailleurs le cas pour beaucoup de grands partis dans beaucoup de pays. Le nier serait de l'hypocrisie.

Le temps presse, ont dit d'autres? Oui et non. On a aussi dit qu'en politique, une semaine peut être une éternité.

* Une “win-win formula” avec ou sans les Bérenger, Bodha, Bhadain?

L'essentiel est bien sûr de définir cette *win-win formula* pour gagner les élections, car il est essentiel de gagner les prochaines élections pour en finir avec ce régime. Mais, comme je vous l'ai dit déjà, il est prématuré d'en discuter maintenant.

“Ce pays a un grand besoin d'être rééquilibré de tous les points de vue: les institutions pourries par la mainmise outrancière de l'actuel gouvernement et de cette fameuse *kwizinn* doivent être nettoyées ou *sanitised*, l'économie doit être remise sur les rails, notre industrie doit fonctionner à nouveau, notre agriculture devra revivre, l'éthique publique doit être restaurée...”

Avec ou sans X, Y ou Z ou encore A, B ou C : c'est justement cela, la formule. Evidemment la notion de «avec» implique nécessairement que X, Y ou Z, ou encore A, B ou C puisse contribuer à une victoire électorale par un apport suffisant de votes au niveau national.

En revanche, ce qui est certain, c'est que le leader de n'importe quelle formule ne peut être autre que Navin Ramgoolam – pas seulement parce qu'il est le leader du Parti Travailleiste, mais parce qu'il est le seul à pouvoir s'opposer victorieusement à Pravind Jugnauth.

* Est-ce que l'aggravation de la situation économique - même si vous ne le souhaitez sans doute pas - constituera votre cheval de bataille en 2024?

Bien évidemment, au Parti Travailleiste nous sommes des patriotes et nous n'avons jamais souhaité ni une économie chancelante ni une aggravation de la situation économique pour en faire notre cheval de bataille électoral.

● Suite en page 12

'66% des Mauriciens trouvent en 2022 que le pays va dans une mauvaise direction.

La perception au sein de la population que le pays va vers une catastrophe est très claire..."

• Suite de la page 11

Mais la perception du peuple est que les deux principaux problèmes du pays (il y en a beaucoup d'autres) sont la mauvaise gestion de l'économie nationale et le chômage (10%), surtout le chômage des jeunes (25%) – aussi directement lié à la mauvaise gestion de l'économie nationale. Et, bien sûr, nous ne pouvons rester silencieux sur cette situation très alarmante qui plonge une bonne partie de la population dans une profonde misère. Mais il n'y a pas que cela.

Il y a l'inqualifiable arrogance d'un pouvoir sans cœur et sans compassion, totalement insensible à la souffrance de centaines de milliers de nos compatriotes qui ne mangent pas à leur faim, au désespoir des enfants qui dorment dans la rue (oui, il y a à Maurice en 2022 des enfants qui dorment dans la rue), et volontairement sourd à tous les appels.

Je ne peux m'empêcher de penser à ce troupeau de ministres mauriciens (plus de la moitié du Conseil des ministres...) allant au World Expo de Dubaï supposément pour aller à la chasse aux investisseurs. La ministre de l'Egalité des Genres voyageant pour rencontrer des investisseurs! Des dizaines de millions dépensées pour que plus d'une douzaine de ministres de Pravind Jugnauth aillent à Dubaï se promener et faire du shopping alors que des dizaines de milliers de nos compatriotes ne mangent pas à leur faim... Telle est la perception populaire en ce moment!

“Indépendamment des conclusions du sondage en question et de la cote de popularité des uns et des autres, il n'a jamais, je dis bien jamais, été question pour nous au PTr d'un leadership autre que celui de Navin Ramgoolam en cas d'une alliance élargie de l'opposition. Certes, il y a eu des velléités un peu surréalistes de la part de certains de vouloir prétendre assumer le leadership, mais qui ont vite été classées comme *irrelevant*...”



Mais, puisque nous parlons de cheval de bataille, il y a surtout le changement social que nous proposerons à la Nation. Ce pays a un grand besoin d'être rééquilibré de tous les points de vue: les institutions pourries par la mainmise outrancière de l'actuel gouvernement et de cette fameuse *kwizinn* doivent être nettoyées ou *sanitised*, l'économie doit être remise sur les rails, notre industrie doit fonctionner à nouveau, notre agriculture devra revivre, l'éthique publique doit être restaurée après des années de mauvaise gestion, entre autres.

* Le gouvernement misera sans doute sur une nette amélioration de la situation économique avant 2024, ce qui devrait constituer également un de ses objectifs prioritaires dans les mois à venir. Très objectivement, pensez-vous que c'est réalisable?

Très objectivement? Non. Comment est-ce que les

mêmes incapables qui ont œuvré depuis 2015 au démantèlement de toute la prospérité que le Parti Travailleiste a construite entre 2005 et 2014 pourraient-ils redresser la barre en deux ans et atteindre une bonne santé économique en 2024?

Comme je vous l'ai déjà dit, la situation économique est beaucoup plus grave qu'il ne puisse sembler à première vue, et en plus, c'est une accumulation exponentielle de *mismanagement* et des conséquences de ce *mismanagement* sur huit ans qui débouchent sur la situation actuelle.

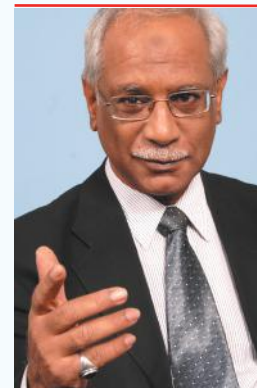
Voyons quelques chiffres en comparaison avec les mêmes éléments en 2014, quand le Parti Travailleiste a quitté le pouvoir.

- La roupie s'est dépréciée de 43% vis-à-vis du US Dollar par rapport à 2014 (Rs 30.66 en 2014 contre Rs 43.50 en 2022).
- Le PNB par tête d'habitant en termes réels a chuté de 13% entre 2014 et 2021, passant de USD 10,154 en 2014 à USD 8,825 en 2021 – ce qui nous ramène aujourd'hui au même niveau de richesse qu'en 2009.
- Le déficit de la balance commerciale a grimpé de 73% entre 2014 (Rs 77 milliards) et 2021 (Rs 133 milliards).
- Le déficit de notre balance des paiements a augmenté de 205% entre 2014 (Rs 21 milliards) et 2021 (Rs 64 milliards).
- Nos exportations physiques, principalement de biens industriels, ont chuté de 13% entre 2014 (Rs 95 milliards) et 2021 (Rs 82 milliards).
- Le *Foreign Direct Investment* ou investissement étranger direct, FDI, a chuté de 54% entre 2014 (Rs 18.5 milliards) et 2021 (Rs 8.5 milliards).
- La dette publique est passée de Rs 238 milliards en 2014 (61% du PIB) à Rs 413 milliards en 2021 (89% du PIB). Si nous tenons compte des emprunts hors budget, par le truchement des véhicules à usage spécial ou *special purpose vehicles*, la dette publique a dépassé 105% du PIB, alors qu'il est largement admis qu'une dette publique de 80% du PIB est le maximum que nous pouvons supporter sans faire obstacle à notre développement économique et social.

Le *mismanagement* cumulatif et le colmatage des conséquences de ce *mismanagement* par des emprunts massifs sont les causes profondes et structurelles de l'état d'urgence économique dans lequel nous nous trouvons. Aucun, je dis bien aucun, des indicateurs que nous avons vus ne peut être redressé d'ici 2024.

Mais je suppose que, fidèle à ses habitudes, Pravind Jugnauth introduira des mesures populistes pour essayer encore de berner et d'endormir l'électorat, mesures qu'il financera par de nouveaux emprunts massifs, ce qui ne fera qu'aggraver encore plus notre situation économique.

* Au vu de l'incertitude quant à la durée du conflit affrontant la Russie à l'Ukraine, le gouvernement sera confronté à un double défi: chercher des solutions pour amoindrir ses conséquences tant économiques que sociales. Après le coût financier de la pandémie, ce qui a fragilisé les finances publiques, voyez-vous le gouvernement disposant des moyens pour affronter cette nouvelle crise?



“L'histoire a démontré que pour gagner des élections, il faut avoir une majorité dans les circonscriptions 5 à 14. Cela, le Parti Travailleiste l'a déjà fait, et il n'y a aucune raison que, compte tenu du bilan négatif du gouvernement MSM, du programme gouvernemental à venir du PTr et de son ancrage historique dans les régions rurales, nous n'arrivions pas, en alliance ou pas, à faire basculer ces circonscriptions...”

Il y a quelque chose de paradoxal dans la perception de cette guerre. Si on en croit les médias occidentaux, c'est un conflit qui a ou qui aura un impact sur le monde entier. Or, tel n'est pas le cas. Les effets de cette crise affectent particulièrement les pays voisins et l'Europe, lourdement dépendants du gaz naturel russe et de l'huile de tournesol et du blé ukrainiens.

Cette crise est probablement, avec la spéculation qui est toujours un facteur important dans la détermination des prix des commodités ou *commodities*, une des raisons derrière la récente augmentation du prix du gaz (LNG, *liquefied petroleum gas*) que nous achetons. Il est donc faux de dire que la guerre entre la Russie et l'Ukraine constitue pour nous un défi majeur, même si le gouvernement a plusieurs fois tenté, et le fera encore, de mettre ses difficultés économiques, surtout le renchérissement répétitif du coût de la vie sur le dos de la guerre en Ukraine. Par contre, la pandémie a eu, autant pour les ménages et les affaires que pour l'Etat, un coût financier certain.

Je ne pense pas qu'il y ait une «nouvelle crise» car la guerre entre la Russie et l'Ukraine, tout en ayant un impact relatif sur certains de nos partenaires commerciaux, ne nous affecte pas directement.

Mais crise il y a, et cette crise c'est l'écroulement d'une bonne partie de notre structure économique. Le secteur industriel périclité (cela se voit aux chiffres à l'exportation) parce que le ministère de l'Industrie est inactif, notre agriculture se meurt parce que nous n'avons pas de ministre de l'Agriculture – seulement un Attorney General qui agit comme ministre de l'Agriculture à temps partiel.

Dans ces deux secteurs très importants, il n'y a plus de dialogue Etat-Opérateurs Economiques, la synergie Etat-Secteur Privé n'existe plus comme c'était le cas sous le Parti Travailleiste.

Le tourisme se remet lentement de la pandémie. Le *Global Business Sector*, GBS, est le seul secteur qui soit en bonne santé et j'espère de tout cœur que cela continuera. Mais nous devons aussi constater que la balance des paiements est devenue très ou trop lourdement dépendante du GBS.

Donc, est-ce que le gouvernement a les moyens d'affronter cette crise? Non. Alors il aura recours encore à l'endettement. J'ai envie de dire, comme Macbeth, “*this government is in blood steeped so far...*”

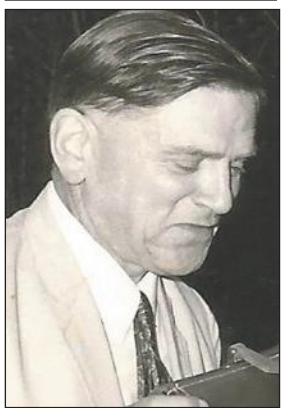
From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 192

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 11 April, 1958

• Many men have too much will power... It's won't power they lack — John A. Shedd



Peter Ibbotson

Les Iles-Soeur

The Francomaniac press has for some time been publishing the programmes of Radio St Denis; and at least one reporter on *Le Cernéen* listens to the news bulletins from the *radio dyonisienne*. It seems that Hon. Sauzier's letter to the *Times*, which appeared on March 12, was the subject of a news item in the morning newscast from

Radio St Denis on March 13. One wonders what interest there is for the people of Reunion in comments on constitutional development in Mauritius. And equally one wonders what interest there is for the people of Mauritius in the emissions of Radio St Denis... the action of the Francomaniac press in publishing the Reunion radio programmes is equivalent to the *Daily Worker* in England publishing the English-language programmes of Radio Moscow.

Instead of broadcasting about reactionary Mauritian's animadversions on the report of the Electoral Boundary Commission, Radio St Denis could perform a valuable service in broadcasting, instead, details about life in Reunion. For Reunion, *l'île soeur*, is an overseas department of France, and if we look at conditions in that island we can judge for ourselves what life would be like in Mauritius if Mauritius were still a French colony (or overseas department). And we can see, too, the fruits of French colonialism and the results of 300 years of French rule in Reunion.

But first let us turn to the testimony of the French periodical *Démocratie Nouvelle* of May 1955. We read that the aim of French colonialism is a *mission civilisatrice*, aimed at transforming *arabes, berbères, noirs, jaunes, en autant de Français de langue et de culture, égaux en tout à leurs concitoyens de la métropole*. But French capitalism has never accepted or put into operation this doctrine except in so far as it has been necessary to train a local elite to carry on the local administration. The capitalists *ont toujours farouchement limité la diffusion de l'instruction et l'octroi des droits, qui les auraient privés de la possibilité d'exploiter à vil prix le travail des populations dont le niveau de vie misérable, l'ignorance et la dépendance permettaient les bas salaires*.

These criticisms, made by Jean-Maurice Hermann in the periodical referred to, lead to the conclusion that France would cut a better figure in the world *si elle avait offert aux pays d'outre-mer des instituteurs, des médecins, des ingénieurs plutôt que des parachutistes et des gendarmes*. And Hermann alleges that France has not applied the principles of equality, but the *principles du racisme et de la terreur policière*.

Certainly Madagascar has suffered *la terreur policière*; 700,000 died in the Malgache repression eleven years ago, and that island still awaits economic development and political rights. (It is said that the deficiency of meat exports from Madagascar to Mauritius has its origins in an economic link-up between Malgache and Mauritian capitalists who are using Mauritian reliance on imported meat as a political weapon). And although Reunion may have escaped the *terreur policière*, it certainly suffers from a

shortage of teachers and doctors; and it has suffered a denial of rights.

I turn to the January 1958 issue of the Paris periodical *Les Cahiers du Progressisme* in which a brief article refers to the matters *A la Réunion*. It begins by referring to the legislative elections last November: *c'est M. Cerneau qui a été élu contre Jean Hinglo, candidat républicain progressiste... ces élections, entachées de fraudes graves, ont abouti à une véritable suppression du suffrage universel*.

The article also details certain aspects of normal life in Reunion — which is, remember, an overseas department of France, and all the Reunionnais are therefore, in legal theory, equal to the inhabitants of metropolitan France. Says the article: *le travailleur perçoit des allocations familiales cinq fois plus faibles que celles du travailleur en France, on du fonctionnaire en service dans l'île*. (This underlines the criticism made in *Démocratie Nouvelle* relating to the training of a local elite). But, the Reunionnais *fonctionnaire* enjoys conditions of service inferior à celles de son collègue de même grade venant de l'extérieur. Other facts of life in the outpost of France in the Indian ocean are that *40% des jeunes appelés soient réformés pour déficience physique; il y ait 25,000 tuberculeux pour 300,000 habitants, soit 1 tuberculeux sur 12 Réunionnais; il y ait 11,000 chômeurs sur 70,000 salariés*.

Our Francomaniacs will be sure to retort that conditions in Mauritius are not much better. If they do so, they can be told that it is up to them to help the Government to redress the evils of malnutrition, low wages and squalid housing conditions; they can be told that they can give active support to the Government to introduce unemployment allowances; they can be told that they must be prepared to pay higher taxes to help the poor and unfortunate of Mauritius.

On the other hand, perhaps, the Francomaniacs will not say that conditions in Mauritius are not much better than in Reunion. If they do not compare Mauritius favourably with Reunion, it will be because they know that conditions for the people of Mauritius are bad — in which case we can still say to them "Co-operate with the Government to introduce unemployment allowances, to redress the evils of low wages, poor housing and malnutrition, and to provide for the cost of all this social amelioration by paying higher taxes and by not exporting your profits to South Africa."

How, in fact, do Mauritius and Reunion compare in certain aspects for which comparable statistics are available? Let us see if the criticism is valid that France has not sent teachers and doctors to her overseas possessions, whether colonies or departments.

In Reunion, in 1949, there was one bed for every 280 inhabitants. By 1952, the number had fallen to 220 per bed. In Mauritius, on the other hand, there was one bed for every 210 inhabitants in 1949 and as low as 135 in 1952. In France, in 1952, there was one bed for every 65 inhabitants only.

In France in 1954 there was 1 doctor to every 1100 persons. In Reunion, in 1953, however, there was 1 doctor to



Pic - Nationaal Archief/flickr

every 5300 persons. This was, I will admit, much better than five years earlier, when there was only 1 doctor to as many as 20,000 persons; and in this matter of doctors, Reunion is slightly better-off than Mauritius; for in Mauritius there was 1 doctor to 5900 persons in 1954 — slightly worse than in 1949 when there was 1 doctor to 5400 persons.

Mauritius has a lower proportion of its total population at school than has Reunion; but whereas the school-going proportion of the population rose in Mauritius between 1950 and 1954, in Reunion the school-going proportion of the population fell. And using 1954 figures again, while in Mauritius there were 33 pupils to each primary school teacher, in Reunion there were 42 pupils per teacher. In 1954, too, there were 48 Mauritian in every 100,000 of population enrolled at institutions of higher education; but for Reunion, this information is "not available". Dare we suggest that it is not available because it is discredibly low? All the foregoing statistics come from a very reliable source: *Report on the World Social Situation* prepared by the Bureau of Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and published by the United Nations in April 1957.

For a last statistical comparison between Mauritius and Reunion, I turn to a UNESCO publication, *World Illiteracy at Mid-Century*, published in Paris in French and in English editions late in 1957. From this invaluable book we learn that illiteracy among the adults of Reunion was 60.6% of the adult population; but in Mauritius the illiteracy rate among adults was lower, at 45-50%. The *Report on the World Social Situation* gives an illiteracy rate of 51.8% for Mauritius at the 1952 census.

Little in these comparisons reflects credit on the French administration of the overseas department of Reunion. Little in them suggests that Radio St Denis, or the administration of the island, can afford the time to meddle in the affairs of Mauritius. Instead of commenting on a matter which is an internal affair of the Mauritian people, Radio St Denis should be first putting its own house in order. When illiteracy has been eliminated in Reunion; when TB has disappeared; when the 11,000 workless are in work; when educational and medical facilities are equal to those in Mauritius; and when there is equality in fact as well as in practice between the Reunionnais and the expatriate Frenchman — then will be time that Mauritians will gladly permit Radio St Denis to poke its nose into their affairs. Until then, Radio St Denis can mind its own business, and leave Mauritius to mind its.

And until then the Francomaniac press would be better advised to leave off publishing the Reunion wireless programmes.

US-Taiwan

From Strategic Ambiguity to Strategic Confusion?

● Cont. from page 4

The stakes are not difficult to contemplate. Taiwan's people have a democratic society and a productive economy that does significant volumes of trade with both the US and mainland China. The CCP does not need more land or more people. In the long run, trading with Taiwan is a far more productive proposition for the CCP than is satisfying some imagined national pride that an island remaining independent for 73 years is a vital necessity for China.



Pic - EPA/UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

Biden's comments did not reflect a policy shift away from the One China policy, said a White House official. Pic - ANI news

We should also not underestimate the importance of the Taiwanese manufacturers as suppliers of semi-conductors, scientific and medical equipment, and, in general, to the worldwide supply chain of engineered products.

Biden is right to point out that an invasion of Taiwan equates to an invasion of Ukraine and that such an action would destabilize the entire Pacific region.

“The stakes are not difficult to contemplate.

Taiwan's people have a democratic society and a productive economy that does significant volumes of trade with both the US and mainland China. The CCP does not need more land or more people. In the long run, trading with Taiwan is a far more productive proposition for the CCP than is satisfying some imagined national pride that an island remaining independent for 73 years is a vital necessity for China...”

It is time for the US to take the lead and influence President Xi and the CCP to act like adults and understand that peaceful trade is far more productive than a military takeover of an unwilling people. We have seen too much killing over imagined national pride over the course of human history and most recently in Ukraine.

If President Biden's remarks reflect this reality, we should welcome them. If he blundered into them, it is a more welcome blunder than the blunder that Putin gave us.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Sue Gray report

Why hasn't Boris Johnson resigned?

● Cont. from page 2

It's also important to note that each new prime minister updates and re-issues the ministerial code at the beginning of their tenure, which also means that the prime minister himself is the final arbitrator of the code.

It is for Johnson to decide whether a minister should be investigated after being accused of breaking the code. This is clearly a questionable state of affairs when it is the prime minister who stands accused of the breach.

Did Boris Johnson mislead parliament?

Fresh evidence that a party took place on government premises on November 13 2020 are particularly important because they bring into play another part of the ministerial code: the section that cites misleading parliament as a resigning offence.

November 13 is key because the prime minister has been asked about that date specifically in the House of Commons. During prime minister's questions on December 8 2021, Labour MP Catherine West asked if he would tell the House whether a party had taken place on that day and the prime minister said:

Given that there is now photo evidence, the allegation is that the prime minister has misled parliament.

According to paragraph 1.3c of the ministerial code:

It is of paramount importance that Ministers give accurate and truthful information to Parliament, correcting any inadvertent error at the earliest opportunity. Ministers who knowingly mislead Parliament will be expected to offer their resignation to the Prime Minister.

The challenge with this part of the code (beyond the prime minister having the final say over the it) is the word “knowingly”. However much the evidence suggests that a party was held on November 13 in contravention of the lockdown rules of the time, it is incredibly hard to prove that the prime minister knowingly misled parliament if his reasoning for his answer to West's question was that he believed the event on November 13 was within the rules.

It is also important to note at this stage that the Metropolitan Police have not fined the prime minister for his attendance at this event. That makes it all the easier for him to insist that he has not broken the code and does not have to resign on this point.

All this helps to explain why, in responding to the findings of the Sue Gray report in parliament, Johnson insisted once again that he had no knowledge of most of the events that took place in his home and workplace at the time and that his own attendance was fleeting and in compliance with rules about workplace gathering.



Pic - EPA/UK Parliament/Jessica Taylor

What happens next?

If the prime minister is not going to police the ministerial code, then it raises the question of who will. Without a legal mechanism, it comes down to parliament (particularly MPs).

The house has called on its privileges committee to investigate Johnson for having potentially misled parliament. This is a cross-party committee and is due to begin its investigations after the publication of the Gray report. How long the investigation will take is up to the committee and any sanctions recommended will need the approval of the whole house – so it can't itself issue any sanctions against Johnson.

In practice, and given the government's substantial majority, it really comes down to Conservative MPs to decide Johnson's fate. They have the option of triggering a vote of no confidence in his leadership. The publication of Sue Gray's report might tip some Conservative MPs over the edge and trigger such a vote.

It's worth remembering that two important by-elections are coming up. If this scandal is followed by a double loss, more MPs might be tipped over the edge and a vote against Johnson could happen. But the prime minister has survived before and may survive again. His political future and the future of the government rest in the hands of his own MPs.

Thomas Caygill, Lecturer in Politics,
Nottingham Trent University



1956-2021



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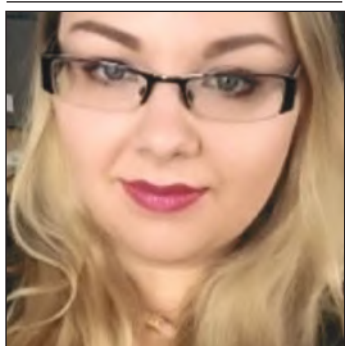
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Haven't had Covid yet? It could be more than just luck

Even taking into account people who have had COVID but didn't know it, there's still likely to be a group of people who have never been infected.



Lindsay Broadbent
Queen's University Belfast

We all know a few of those lucky people who, somehow, have managed to avoid ever catching Covid. Perhaps you're one of them. Is this a Marvel-esque superpower? Is there any scientific reason why a person might be resistant to becoming infected, when the virus seems to be everywhere? Or is it simply luck?

More than 60% of people in the UK have tested positive for Covid at least once. However, the number of people who have actually been infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, is thought to be higher. The calculated rate of asymptomatic infections varies depending on the study, though most agree it's fairly common.

But even taking into account people who have had Covid and not realised it, there is still likely a group of people who never have. The reason why some people appear immune to Covid is one question that has persisted throughout the pandemic. As with so much in science, there isn't (yet) one simple answer.

We can probably dismiss the Marvel-esque superpower theory. But science and luck likely both have a role to play. Let's take a look.

The simplest explanation is that these people have never come into contact with the virus.

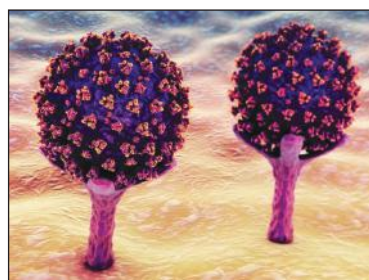
This could certainly be the case for people who have been shielding during the pandemic. People at significantly greater risk of severe disease, such as those with chronic heart or lung conditions, have had a tough couple of years.

Many of them continue to take precautions to avoid potential exposure to the virus. Even with additional safety measures, many of these people have

ended up with Covid.

Due to the high level of community transmission, particularly with the extremely transmissible omicron variants, it's very unlikely that someone going to work or school, socialising and shopping hasn't been near someone infected with the virus. Yet there are people who have experienced high levels of exposure, such as hospital workers or family members of people who have had Covid, who have somehow managed to avoid testing positive.

We know from several studies vaccines not only reduce the risk of severe disease, but they can also cut the chance of household transmission of SARS-CoV-2 by about half. So certainly vaccination could have helped some close contacts avoid becoming infected. However, it's important to note that these studies were done pre-omicron. The data we have on the effect of vaccination on omicron transmission is still limited.



Some theories

One theory around why certain people have avoided infection is that, although they are exposed to the virus, it fails to establish an infection even after gaining entry to the airways. This could be due to a lack of the receptors needed for SARS-CoV-2 to gain access to cells.

Once a person does become infected, researchers have identified that differences in the



I Wei Huang/Shutterstock

immune response to SARS-CoV-2 play a role in determining the severity of symptoms. It is possible that a quick and robust immune response could prevent the virus from replicating to any great degree in the first instance.

The efficacy of our immune response to infection is largely defined by our age and our genetics. That said, a healthy lifestyle certainly helps. For example, we know that vitamin D deficiency can increase the risk of certain infections. Not getting enough sleep can also have a detrimental effect on our body's ability to fight invading pathogens.

Scientists studying the underlying causes of severe Covid have identified a genetic cause in nearly 20% of critical cases. Just as genetics could be one determining factor of disease severity, our genetic makeup may also hold the key to resistance to SARS-CoV-2 infection.

I research SARS-CoV-2

infection on nasal cells from human donors. We grow these cells on plastic dishes which we can then add virus to and investigate how the cells respond. During our research we found one donor whose cells could not be infected with SARS-CoV-2.

We discovered some really interesting genetic mutations, including several involved with the body's immune response to infection, that could explain why. A mutation we identified in a gene involved with sensing the presence of a virus has previously been shown to confer resistance to HIV infection. Our research is on a small number of donors and highlights that we're still only scraping the surface of research into genetic susceptibility or resistance to infections.

There's also the possibility that previous infection with other types of

coronaviruses results in cross-reactive immunity. This is where our immune system may recognise SARS-CoV-2 as being similar to a recent invading virus and launch an immune response. There are seven coronaviruses that infect humans: four that cause the common cold, and one each that cause Sars (severe acute respiratory syndrome), Mers (Middle East respiratory syndrome) and Covid.

How long-lasting this immunity may be is another question. Seasonal coronaviruses that circulated pre-2020 were able to reinfect the same people after 12 months.

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Home



Resistance exercise may be superior to aerobic exercise for getting better ZZZs

Resistance exercise may be superior to aerobic exercise as a way to get better sleep, and sleep is important for cardiovascular health, according to preliminary research.

"It is increasingly recognized that getting enough sleep, particularly high-quality sleep, is important for health including cardiovascular health. Unfortunately, more than a third of Americans don't get enough sleep on a regular basis," said study author Angelique Brellenthin, Ph.D., assistant Prof of Kinesiology at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

"Aerobic activity is often recommended to improve sleep, yet very little is known about the effects of resistance exercise versus aerobic exercise on sleep. Our study is one of the largest and longest exercise trials in a general adult population to directly compare the effects of different types of exercise on multiple sleep parameters."

Previous research has confirmed that not getting enough sleep (the recommended amount for adults is seven to eight hours a day) or getting poor quality sleep increases risks for high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol and atherosclerosis, which happens when fatty deposits build up in arteries. Not getting enough sleep is linked to weight gain, diabetes and inflammation, all of which can worsen cardiovascular disease. Sleeping too much or too little also has been shown to increase the risk of stroke, heart attack

and death.

For this study, researchers enrolled 386 adults who met the criteria for overweight or obesity, which was a body mass index from 25-40 kg/m². Participants were inactive and had elevated blood pressure, measuring from 120-139 mm Hg systolic (top number) and 80-89 mm Hg diastolic (bottom number).

The various workouts included:

Aerobic exercise participants could choose among treadmills, upright or recumbent bikes or ellipticals for their aerobic modality during each session. Researchers monitored their heart rates to keep them continuously in the prescribed heart rate range for a moderate-to-vigorous intensity exercise.

The resistance exercise group completed their sets and repetitions on 12 resistance machines to work all the major muscle groups in a session. The machines included leg press, chest press, lat pulldown, leg curl, leg extension, biceps curl, triceps pushdown, shoulder press, abdominal crunch, lower back extension, torso rotation and hip abduction. Participants performed three sets of 8 to 16 repetitions at 50-80% of their one-rep maximum.

The study found:

More than one third (35%) of study participants had poor quality sleep at the beginning of the study.

Among the 42% of participants who



were not getting at least 7 hours of sleep at the study's start, sleep duration increased by an average of 40 minutes in 12 months for the resistance exercise group, compared to an increase of about 23 minutes in the aerobic exercise group, about 17 minutes in the combined exercise group and about 15 minutes in the control group.

Sleep efficiency increased in the resistance exercise and combined exercise groups, but not in the aerobic exercise or no exercise group.

"While both aerobic and resistance exercise are important for overall health, our results suggest that resistance exercises may be superior when it comes to getting better ZZZs at night," Brellenthin said. "If your sleep has gotten noticeably worse over the past two stressful years, consider incorporating two or more resistance exercise training sessions into your regular exercise routine to improve your general muscle and bone health, as well as your sleep."



Is it possible to recreate dinosaurs from their DNA?

Ever since moviegoers saw the first 'Jurassic Park,' millions have wondered if scientists could make a dinosaur in the lab.

As a paleontologist – that's a scientist who studies ancient life – I'm asked this question all the time. After all, the scientists in "Jurassic Park" (and later, "Jurassic World") used DNA to recreate dozens of dinosaurs: Triceratops, Velociraptor and T. rex.

And if you saw any of those movies, you had to wonder: Could real scientists do that today?

The ABCs of DNA

DNA – which stands for deoxyribonucleic acid – is something in every cell of every organism that ever lived on Earth – including dinosaurs.

Think of DNA as molecules that carry the genetic code, a set of instructions that helps bodies and minds grow and thrive.

Your DNA is different from everyone else's. It determines many of the characteristics that define you, like the color of your eyes or whether your hair is straight or curly.

DNA is much easier to find in the "soft parts" of an animal – their organs, blood vessels, nerves, muscle and fat.

But a dinosaur's soft parts are long gone. They either decomposed or were eaten by another dinosaur.



Tyrannosaurus rex was a relentless predator who lived during the Cretaceous Period more than 65 million years ago. Roger Harris/Science Photo Library via Getty Images

Is DNA in the fossils?

Dinosaur fossils are all that's left of those prehistoric animals.

Immersed for tens of millions of years in ancient mud, minerals and water, the fossils come from the dinosaur's so-called "hard parts" – its bones, teeth and skull.

We find dinosaur fossils in the ground, in riverbeds and lakes, and on the sides of cliffs and mountains. Every now and then, someone finds one in their backyard.

Often, they're quite near the surface, and usually, they're embedded in sedimentary rock.

With enough fossils, scientists can build a dinosaur skeleton – what you see

when you go to the museum.

The trouble with 'dino-DNA'

But scientists have a big problem when trying to find DNA in dinosaur fossils.

DNA molecules eventually decay. Recent studies show DNA deteriorates and ultimately disintegrates after about 7 million years.

That sounds like a long time, but the last dinosaur died at the end of the Cretaceous Period. That's more than 65 million years ago.

Dig up a fossil today, and any dino-DNA within would have long since fallen apart.

That means, as far as scientists know, and even using the best technology available today, it's not possible to make a dinosaur from its DNA.

Although it's too late to find dino-DNA, scientists recently found something almost as intriguing.

They discovered DNA fragments in the fossils of Neanderthals and other ancient mammals, such as woolly mammoths.

Now that makes sense; those fragments are less than 2 million years old, well before all of the DNA would decay.

Imagine for a moment ...

Just for fun, let's imagine that somehow, sometime in the future, researchers came up with fragments of dinosaur DNA.

With only fragments, scientists still could not make a complete dinosaur.

Instead, they would have to combine the fragments with the DNA of a modern-day animal to create a living organism.

That creature, however, could not be called an actual dinosaur. Rather, it would be a hybrid, a blend of dinosaur and, most likely, a bird or reptile.

Think that's a good idea? After all, the scientists in the "Jurassic" movies tried that. And you know what happened there.

William Ausich

Professor Emeritus of Paleontology, The Ohio State University



Laughter is the Best Medicine

The oldies hit back!

Since youngsters of today have their texting codes (LOL, OMG, TTYL, etc.) the oldies decided not to be outdone by these kids and have now developed their own codes too...

ATD - At the Doctor's
BFF - Best Friend's Funeral
BTW - Bring the Wheelchair
BYOT - Bring your own teeth
FWIW - Forgot Where I Was
GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA - Got Heartburn Again

Synonyms, humourously!

Synonyms generally don't have identical meanings. If you don't use them with care, you will be in trouble.

John Donovan wrote a witty verse on this in 1946 in the *Saturday Evening Post*. This will tell you effectively and humorously what a synonym is:

Call a woman a kitten, but never a cat;
You can call her a mouse, cannot call her a rat;

Call a woman a chicken, but never a hen!
Or you surely will not be her caller again.

You can call her a duck, cannot call her a goose;
You can call her a deer, but never a moose;

You can call her a lamb, but never a sheep;
Economic she likes, but you can't call her cheap.

You can say she's a vision, can't say she's a sight;
And no woman is skinny, she's slender and slight!

If she should burn you up, say she sets you afire;
And you'll always be welcome, you tricky old liar.

Sometimes even if you dream, you cannot do it

An elderly man was having a calm walk when he passed a brothel.

One of the prostitutes calls out: "Hey Grandpa! Why don't you try?"

The old man replies: "No, my child, I cannot!"

The prostitute: "Cheer up! Let us try!"

The elderly man enters and performs like a 25-year-old.

The prostitute says: "Oh Gosh! And you still say you cannot."

The old man replied: "Aaah, sex I can, what I cannot is... pay!"

Don't mess around with old men!

A Message from Saul

Hi, Morris

This is Saul, next door. I've been riddled with guilt for a few months and have been trying to get up the courage to tell you face-to-face. When you're not around, I've been sharing your wife, day and night, probably much more than you. I haven't been getting it at home recently. I know that's no excuse. The temptation was just too great. I can't live with the guilt and hope you'll accept my sincere apology and forgive me. Please suggest a fee for usage and I'll pay you... Saul.

Morris, feeling enraged and betrayed, grabbed his gun, went next door, and shot Saul dead. He returned home, shot his wife, poured himself a stiff drink and sat down on the sofa. Morris then looked at his phone and discovered a second text message from Saul.

Second Text Message from Saul

Hi, Morris

Saul here again. Sorry about the typo on my last text. I assume you figured it out and noticed that the darned spell-check had changed "wi-fi" to "wife." Technology, huh? It'll be the death of us all... Saul.

Blague sur la succession

Quelqu'un a mis cette annonce :

« A vendre Mercedes-Benz, excellent état. Prix demandé : 1 € »

Les jours ont passé.

Tout le monde pensait qu'il s'agissait d'une annonce farfelue ou bien qu'il y avait un piège, alors personne n'a répondu.

Néanmoins, un homme, poussé par la curiosité, est allé voir la voiture.

La vendeuse, qui se trouvait être une dame aisée d'un certain âge, lui a présenté une Mercedes-Benz de 2020, avec 12,000 km au compteur et en excellent état.

Elle a précisé que le prix de vente était toujours le même, soit 1 €!

Affaire conclue.

Elle lui a remis les papiers, le certificat de vente et les clés du véhicule.

Il lui a donné une pièce de 1 € qu'elle a empoché avec beaucoup de satisfaction.

GO GREEN GO!



Alors que l'homme s'apprêtait à partir au volant de sa magnifique Mercedes, il se tourna vers la dame et lui demanda : "Je mourrai de curiosité si vous ne me dites pas pourquoi vous avez vendu cette voiture à ce prix ?"

La dame lui répondit : "Je ne fais qu'accomplir la volonté de mon défunt mari, où il est écrit dans son testament que l'argent reçu de la vente de sa Mercedes irait à sa secrétaire!"

A bald man had a real hang-up about his lack of hair. He had tried all types of treatment, but without success. Then one day he saw a barber's shop with a sign in the window that read 'Bald men, your problems solved instantly, you too can have a head of hair like mine for \$1000', and beneath the sign was a photo of the barber with his flowing man of hair.

So, the bald man entered the shop and asked the barber: 'Can you guarantee that for \$ 1000 my hair will be like yours?'

'Certainly,' said the barber, 'it will take no more than a few minutes for us to look alike.'

'Ok, then, let's go for it,' said the guy handing the money to the barber.

The barber took the money and gave him his wig.

A man walked into the bar and said to the bartender: 'Give me a beer before the argument starts.'

The bartender poured him a beer.

A few minutes later, the man requested for another beer before the argument starts.

The bartender poured him another beer.

Half an hour later, the man asked for a third beer again stating before the arguments starts.

Thoroughly confused, the bartender said, 'Excuse me, when are you going to pay for all the three beers?'

The man said, 'Now, the arguments starts.'

Life's Lessons

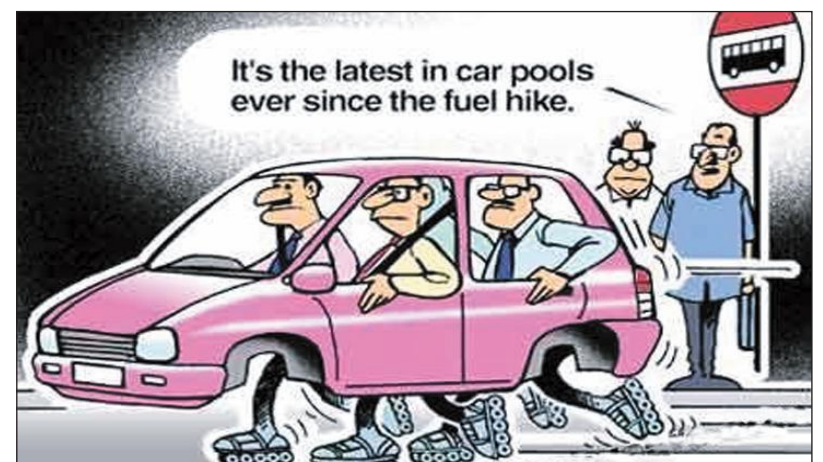
Nothing lasts forever

Whatsapp killed BBM (Blackberry)
YouTube killed DVD
CDs killed Cassettes
Android killed Window phones
Uber killed Yellow Cab

Phone killed Post Office
SMS killed Letter Writing
Email killed Fax
Civilization killed Culture
Computer killed Typewriter
E-card killed Greeting Card
Money killed True Love
Internet killed Library
Google killed Dictionary
Wikipedia killed Encyclopedia
No condition is permanent in this world, be humble.
And finally MoMo i.e. "Mobile

Money" is killing ATM Machine and Bank Queues in the bank.
Solar Power will soon kill Generator...

So whatever position you are today use it positively, tomorrow may not be yours, but someone else's. At the end, Death will kill Life. So be careful, this world is not for one person... we are just passing through it.



Life's Lessons

Rules to lead the field in uncertain times



Robin Sharma, Humanitarian & Leadership Missionary

Leadership isn't just for CEOs and presidents. We ALL can lead. Because leadership's mostly a mindset and a way of doing things. Taxi drivers can lead, and street

- sweepers can lead and teachers can lead as can managers, artists and sales-people.
- These 47 rules are drawn from my over 26+ years of passionate work with the Fortune 100 companies, empire-builders, and world-changers. If you'd like to go deeper into how the world's finest heroes transform crisis into greatness, download my audiobook called 'The Victory Over Difficulty Anthem' for free. It's been a complete game-changer for many amazing humans and organizations and you can get it here at absolutely no cost.
1. To lead is to serve.
 2. At the heart of mastery lives consistency.
 3. Take care of the relationship and the money will take care of itself.
 4. The seduction of safety is always more dangerous than the illusion of uncertainty.
 5. To double your income, triple your

- investment in your professional education and your personal development.
6. The swiftest way to grow your company is to grow your people.
 7. If you're not leaving a trail of leaders behind you, you're not leading. You're following.
 8. An addiction to distraction is the end of creative production.
 9. The calibre of your practice determines the quality of your performance.
 10. Leaders Without Titles are less about ego and more about getting things done.
 11. Don't worry about the economy when you can be so genius at what you do that you create your very own personal economy.
 12. Lead where you are planted. Start where you stand. And remember that much of winning is just beginning.
 13. The true measure of our leadership

- is how we perform in volatile conditions versus in times of ease.
14. To lead is to be yourself in a world of clones.
 15. Aim for iconic. Why be in it if you're not dreaming of being in the history books? But be kind, decent and ethical along the way.
 16. The humblest is the greatest.
 17. Energy is more valuable than intelligence. Health is more brilliant than gold.
 18. The thing you most fear carries your greatest growth.
 19. All change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end.
 20. Criticism is the price brave people pay to arrive at iconic.
 21. If you're not lifting people up, you're bringing people down.
 22. Leadership has less to do with authority and more to do with a mind set.
- (● More next week)

Life Stories

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room.

One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window. The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back.

The men talked for hours on end. They spoke of their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation.

Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window.

The man in the other bed began to live for those one hour periods where his world



would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and colour of the world outside.

The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every colour and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all this in exquisite details, the man on the

other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine this picturesque scene.

One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade passing by. Although the other man could not hear the band — he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Days, weeks and months passed.

One morning, the day nurse arrived to bring water for their baths only to find the lifeless body of the man by the window, who had died peacefully in his sleep. She was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take the body away.

As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up

on one elbow to take his first look at the real world outside. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed.

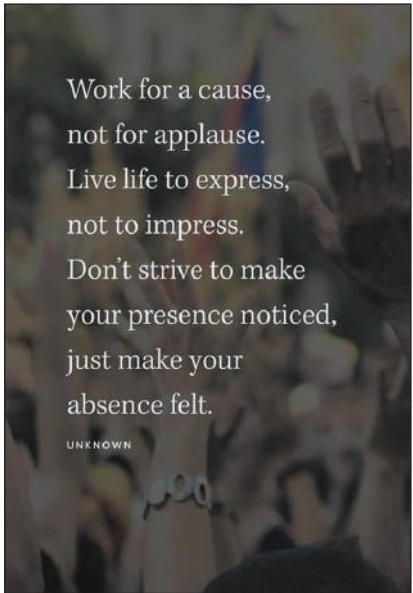
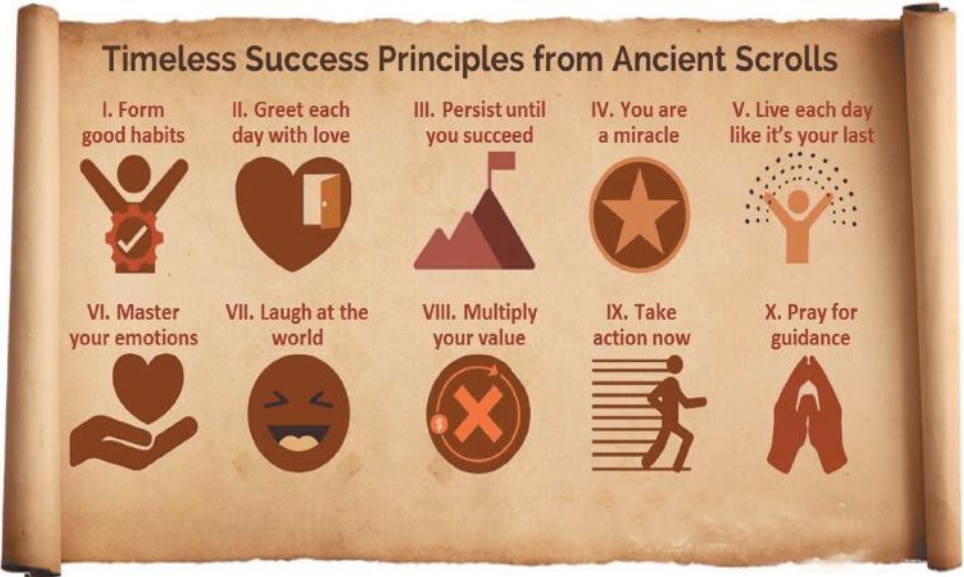
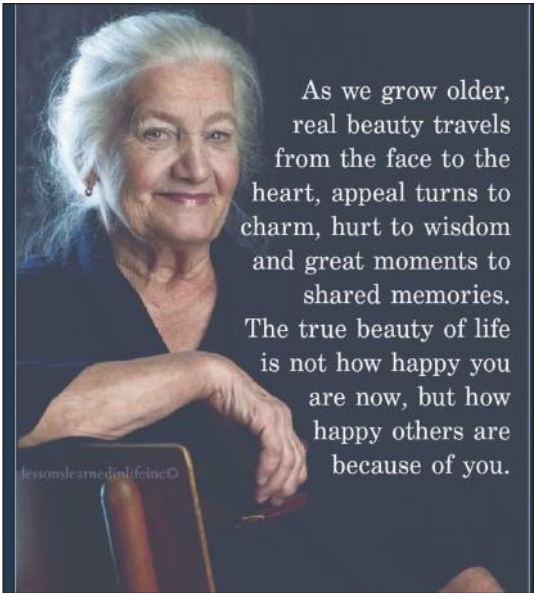
It faced a blank wall.

The man asked the nurse what could have compelled his deceased roommate who had described such wonderful things outside this window.

The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall.

She said, "Perhaps he just wanted to encourage you."

Epilogue: There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy. "Today is a gift, that is why it is called The Present."



Questions to ask yourself after a first date

The first date is always tricky and unpredictable. By any chance, if it happens to go well, there are a hundred questions swirling around in your mind about the date. "Was I looking good?", "did he like me?" or "will there be a second date?" and many such thoughts occur in your mind that force you to continuously ponder over your date. But to be in the clear, here are some questions as listed by Times of India that you should ask yourself after the first date.

"Did I actually enjoy time with the person?"

This is the question you should ask yourself first because spending a good time with that person should be a priority. Don't compromise over quality time just because that person either seems too good to be true or is very attractive.

"Was there a chemistry?"

Having chemistry or an intense connection between two people is extremely necessary to formulate a bond. So it's important to understand if you and your date are compatible and have chemistry between you both. If not, then it's just a dull date, after all.

"Was he/she interested in me?"

You can know the answer to this question by analysing how many and what type of questions your



date was asking you. If a person is interested in someone, then they will be inquisitive about the person's life, preferences, friends, etc. If not, they will

"What are their values?"

This may not seem like a big issue but having similar values helps when looking for a potential partner in a committed relationship. When you have contrasting values and interests it can often turn into a huge problem or fights later on.

"Do I want to see this going further?"

Before you ponder over your date, you must be clear with your own intentions. Ask yourself if you're in the state to date someone seriously or can you see this going further, possibly towards a secure future? This is very important because it makes you clear about what you want and also keeps your partner informed.



Prediabetes: You Can Turn It Around

This blood sugar problem makes you more likely to develop type 2 diabetes and heart disease

What is prediabetes? It's when your blood sugar is higher than normal, but not high enough to be called diabetes. You won't necessarily notice any symptoms -- you can have it and not know it. A simple blood test can tell you if you do. You're at risk if you're overweight, over 45, and you don't exercise. It makes you more likely to have type 2 diabetes and heart disease, but you can take steps to change that.

Lose Weight: It doesn't have to be a lot. If you lose just 7% of your body weight, it can make a huge difference (that's only 14 pounds for a 200-pound person). The first step is to eat healthier food with fewer calories. Start by keeping track of your weight, eating habits, and physical activities.

Eat Healthy: A good rule of thumb is to fill half your plate with non-starchy vegetables (asparagus, Brussels sprouts, and carrots, among many others). One quarter should have starchy foods (like potatoes, corn, or peas). The remaining



quarter should be protein -- chicken, fish, or beans are best. Be extra careful with carbs like baked goods or pasta -- they can raise your blood sugar.

Exercise: You'll lose weight faster and feel better if you get out and burn more calories. You don't need to train for a marathon: A brisk 30-minute walk five times a week should do the trick. A workout buddy can sometimes help you stick to a routine, so call a friend or join a gym and make some new ones. Aerobic exercise (walking, swimming, dancing) and strength training (weight lifting, pushups, pull-ups) are both good. A little of both is best.

Get Your ZZZs: The right amount of shut-eye helps keep your blood sugar at healthy levels. If you can't stay asleep, wake up too early, or get less than 5 hours a night, you're more likely to get diabetes. About 7

or 8 hours a night is ideal. For better sleep, don't have alcohol or caffeine late in the day, keep regular sleep hours, and stick to a calm, quiet bedtime routine.

Don't Smoke: If you smoke, now's the time to quit. Smokers are 30% to 40% more likely to get type 2 diabetes than non-smokers. And if you get diabetes and still smoke, your symptoms may be worse and your blood sugar may be harder to control.

Medication: Certain drugs can help with blood sugar levels and obesity, as well as high cholesterol and high blood pressure. And you're more likely to have those if you have prediabetes. If you do, take your medication as prescribed -- it can improve your health and help you live longer.

Medically Reviewed by Jennifer Robinson, MD - WebMD

Beauty Tips

Benefits of including water in skin care

Water in its purest form, as well as other states such as steam and ice, can be used as part of our skincare regime to achieve glowing skin. While drinking too much water will also do harm, there are other ways water can be included as part of your skincare regime as it is the most natural way to cure many skin problems as well. Below is a list of benefits of including water in skincare to achieve that glow, as recommended by TOI.



PH Balance: With so, many products being applied on your face, and with the pollution that it faces, it is a wonder that our skins have not already been damaged beyond repair. Drinking water ensures that the pH balance of the skin is restored back to normal. Washing your face with water, too, cleans the acidic and alkaline substances in your skin, and gives out balanced healthy skin.

Puffy eyes: With the amount of workload and disruption of our sleep cycles owing to technology, it is not uncommon to see dark circles under our eyes and resembling pandas! Well, instead of using more makeup to conceal it, compressing ice wrapped in a handkerchief or even cloth damped in cold water helps the circulation under your eyes, and helps in getting rid of dark circles.

Toxic flush: Drinking the required amount of water help flush out the toxins via different means including sweating, which is very important to remove the toxins from the skin. Similarly, steaming helps deep cleanse the skin as it removes adamant toxins from the skin easily, and clears blackheads as well.

Elasticity: Water helps in regaining your once bouncy skin, which has now become dull due to lack of nutrition and pollution. The more the water retains in the skin, the bouncier and healthier your skin will look. This also helps in preventing wrinkles.

Skin sagging: Losing weight has an aftermath of leaving sagging skin, which people find very inconvenient. Drinking water could help keep up with the collagen, as it constitutes the major part of collagen. Hence, drinking plenty will help with the sagging.

With inputs from Ruchika Acharya, founder Glow and Green.

Anupamaa's Rupali Ganguly on her own wedding:

'Decided to get married just two days in advance'

As fans are celebrating Anupamaa's wedding with Anuj in the serial Anupamaa, actress Rupali Ganguly opened up about her own wedding in a recent interview to ETimes



Ashwin came dressed in a shirt and jeans and then the *kanyadaan* happened and we exchanged garlands. Our wedding was over in few minutes."

But, it was not without a party that the wedding could be completed. Rupali Ganguly added, "We threw a wedding after-party after we got married on the same day in Versova at an eater later for our friends. Ours was a fast, hilarious and a super quick wedding. I feel that instead of spending money on a big, fat wedding, you should rather share your happiness by helping the less privileged."

Talking about the MaAn wedding that everyone is going gaga about, Rupali Ganguly revealed, "Weddings are supposed to be grand and opulent on TV but our wedding was portrayed beautifully on a smaller scale and I liked it. The show's production house is known for big weddings in their shows but because of the storyline, we had everything simply yet tastefully done. I am glad that producer Rajan Shahi has given me this opportunity. Right from the jewellery to the red and white theme to the colour-coordinated outfits in every function, I feel that we received a lot of love and affection."

back. We fixed a date and I was hoping that Ashwin would show up on time."

She added, "We were planning to do a registered wedding at my home in Worli but then my father (film director Anil Ganguly) decided to do *kanyadaan* and we called a pandit. I had asked a designer friend to get a blue blouse with my red sari and we waited for the pandit who did not reach till late evening. Ashwin entered a 'no entry' lane and he was fined by the police. It was hilarious how finally Ashwin landed at my home and the pandit started chanting the mantras from the ground floor till he came to my flat. In total, I had around 99 people at my wedding.

If there one show that has consistently been topping the TRP list, it is undoubtedly Anupamaa. In fact, with *Anupamaa* and Anuj's wedding (to come soon), fans are ecstatic. Now, in a recent interview, Rupali Ganguly, who plays Anupamaa, revealed that her actual wedding was very different from what is going on-screen.

Talking to ETimes, she revealed that she had decided to get married in a hurry and had told her family just two days prior to the wedding. Rupali, who is married to a corporate professional Ashwin Verma, revealed, "Ashwin and I had decided to get married just two days in advance and I had announced it to my parents. My brother (Bollywood choreographer Vijay (Ganguly) was taking a flight out of Mumbai and I had to ask him to stay

Sanaya Irani reveals why she is staying away from the small screen

Sanaya Irani, who was last seen in Bollywood film, *Ghost* has been away from the small screen for quite some time now. And the actress has no plans to return to daily soaps which are long formats. In an exclusive chat with ETimes TV, the actress shared that she is not open to long format shows on TV as it restricts an actor's growth and the job becomes robotic.

"Right now, I don't want to be a part of any long format show. If a project is made on television in the finite format, then I am open to it. I don't want to do anything in a long format. I like working on one character and then moving on to another one. For an actor it is growth. *Ek hi cheez mein ek do saal rehna*, it becomes robotic and I don't want to do that anymore right now. I have done that for a long time now. I want to



do something different," she said.

Sanaya, who will be seen in a web show with Mohit Malik shared she is loving her simple, no makeup looks unlike daily soaps where actresses have to wear heavy jewellery and makeup, "I love this simple look. I love that there is no heavy jewellery, makeup or hairstyle. My makeup and hair team is a little hassled by me because every day we have the same look makeup wise. I love it because it is as natural as possible.

"I love the fact that in my new show everything is normal, natural. It is more organic and I don't care how I am looking in the show. In fact, if someone even reminds me that my dark circles are visible, I tell them it's fine, let it show, it looks natural," she concluded.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Make proper use of the opportunities coming up, they may not come again. You are likely to be a bit temperamental which can create some confrontation, both in personal and professional life. Those who are single are likely to meet the partner of their choice. Those married may rekindle the romantic passion in their relationship.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 6, 12, 17, 23, 30

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Today, working professionals are likely to get positive results from their hard work and new growth opportunities may come to the fore. Avoid sharing a family secret with your romantic partner just yet. Some misunderstanding may crop up between the committed natives. Avoid lashing out in anger.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 15, 20, 30, 32, 36

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You are likely to be successful in maintaining the right balance between your personal and professional life. Working professionals can expect a positive change in their career. Your spouse can play an important role in maintaining family peace. Those of you eligible for marriage can expect to hear good news in this regard.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 20, 21, 32, 36, 38

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

If you want to do better in your career, then you are advised to strategise a new plan without wasting time. Some of you may feel stuck or stagnant in your current profile. You should focus on the important things in your life such as your partner and your family. Those who are single are likely to find the going smooth.

Lucky Numbers: 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 40

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Be cautious in taking any professional decisions. There could be some financial problems coming your way which can cause stress. Some of you are likely to receive the green light to travel abroad for leisure or educational purpose. This time is likely to be auspicious for those students who are applying for an internship.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 10, 17, 25, 30

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You may involve yourself with creative work. Important changes in your career are foreseen. Be prudent in money matters. Those married may experience a fortunate time as their spouse can see an enhancement in professional life. If you long for some excitement in your love life; don't despair.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 24, 26, 30, 31, 37

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Businesspeople can sign new deals and look at new investment opportunities. The time is likely to be especially good for students pursuing higher education and they may be able to successfully make decisions for their future. If you are single, you will enjoy attention from someone you've recently met at a social do.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You will need to make some important decisions due to which you may face anxiety. In such a situation, don't hesitate to take help from your elders. Love life may throw up a few challenges. Deal with them tactfully. Those students who wish to pursue higher education are likely to be successful in per their goals.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 14, 17, 18, 27

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You may have to bear a financial burden. You may have to make the right strategy for stabilizing your financial situation. Interference of a third person could lead to some issues with your spouse which can cause anxiety. Also, talking about romantic affairs to casual friends may bring you dispute. Be discreet.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 8, 14, 23, 24

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You can proceed ahead with the property deal you are negotiating as the stars appear favourable. Jealousy or insecurities may harm your harmonious romantic ties. You should convince your sweetheart that they are the one and only person in your life. Keep the communication channel open.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 17, 20, 23, 26, 30

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

A positive outlook toward life is likely to be immensely beneficial. Some beneficial changes can take place at your workplace. There are possibilities that you need to make big decisions to make your financial status strong. A new person can enter your life, who would cast a spell over you. Enjoy the changing dynamics.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 11, 13, 19, 20

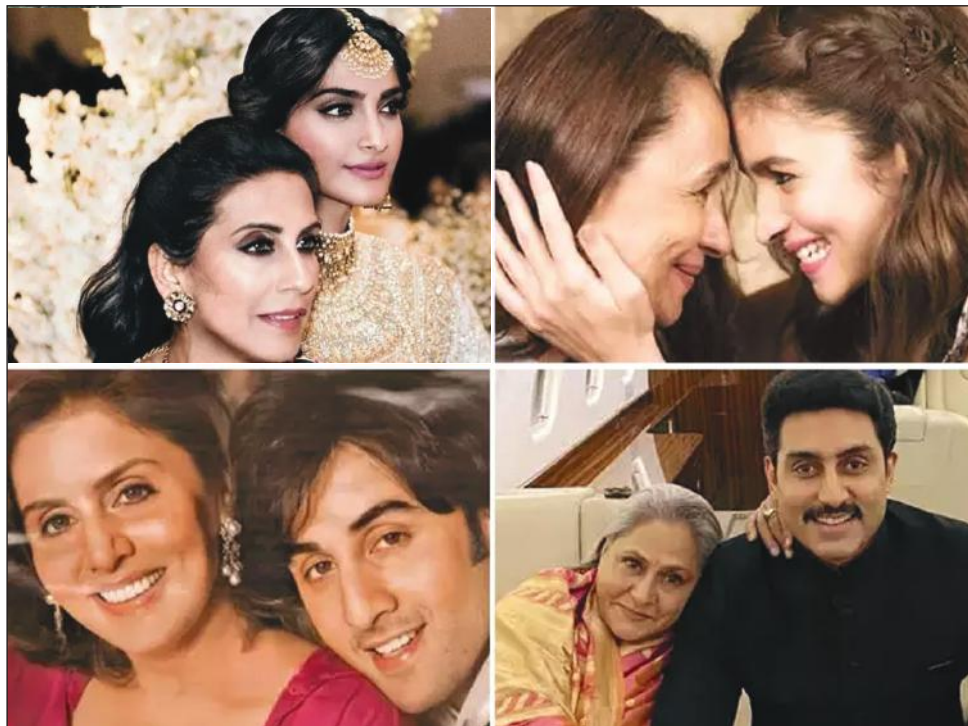
Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Much excitement is in store on the romantic front as you find your partner very supportive and understanding. A long journey may turn out to be a memorable one in the company of special someone. Some of you are likely to witness a transfer or a good change in your job soon. It may prove most opportune for your professional growth.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 11, 19, 21, 23, 24

Mother's Day Special

Bollywood stars who share a beautiful relationship with their mothers



Time and again, celebs like Sonam Kapoor Ahuja to Sara Ali Khan, Abhishek Bachchan to Ranbir Kapoor – they've set examples of the beautiful relationship between a mother and their child and how they are their best friends. This Mother's Day, Filmfare highlights some of the most admired mother-daughter and mother-son duos that we would love to see more of, be it onscreen or off-screen! Let's have a look:

Neetu Kapoor and Ranbir Kapoor

The Kapoors have been in the news for the last month or so for all the right reasons, one of which was the wedding of Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. What the wedding pictures also brought to the limelight in abundance, yet again, is the beautiful relationship between Ranbir Kapoor and yesteryear actress and his mother – Neetu Kapoor. Ranbir has always been extremely attached to his mother.

Earlier Ranbir had also shared how his mother made his childhood a lot easier and happier. Going down the memory lane he shed light on how he was always taught to credit and experience joy with the little things in life and focus on what seems real and authentic. Neetu Kapoor had made Ranbir her biggest confidante and that as a child, was special to him.

Quite playfully, he had also mentioned how he absolutely has no qualms about being tagged as a mama's boy as he loves spoiling his mother with all the love he has for her.

Soni Razdan and Alia Bhatt

Alia Bhatt's relationship with her mother Soni Razdan is one that every daughter envies. Open, communicative, and always supportive of each other. Alia Bhatt had earlier shared the little aspects of good mannerisms that her mother had inculcated in her since her childhood. She had revealed that his mother still scolds her when she forgets to express gratitude or say a simple thank you.

Recalling her first shot where she was required to walk down a flight of stairs and turn and look back, she remembered how when she did she could see her mother welling up as she conversed with her sister Shaheen. Quite often the trio are also clicked going on vacation to exotic locations together or simply catching up over cozy family brunches in the city. Alia Bhatt has also shared a short screen space with her mother in Raazi for which she won many accolades as well.

Jaya Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan

Abhishek Bachchan, who is an avid social media user, has gone on to show

his unparalleled love for his mother and legendary actress Jaya Bachchan time and again. On memorable occasions, Abhishek has commented about how proud he feels of being Jaya Bachchan's son considering the prestigious accolades and recognition she has gathered all through her life.

On her birthdays too, Abhishek is always seen putting up some vintage pictures and penning down some thoughtful yet a crisp message that encapsulates his deeply felt emotions in the most beautiful manner.

Sunita Kapoor and Sonam Kapoor

One of the many common threads that bind Sonam Kapoor so close to her mother Sunita Kapoor is their eternal love for sartorial fashion picks. In fact, on most occasions, Sonam is seen bejewelled in her mother's statement pieces that make her look all the more ethereal, and has a much higher emotional quotient attached to them. The Kapoor family has always been vocal about their strong bond in the family, they are the biggest cheerleaders of each other and that is where we have witnessed how close Sonam Kapoor is to her mother Sunita Kapoor.

This gorgeous mother-daughter duo has often showcased their eternal love for style – be it at Sonam's wedding or her stunning wedding photoshoot, Sonam has always taken a leaf out of her mother's look book.

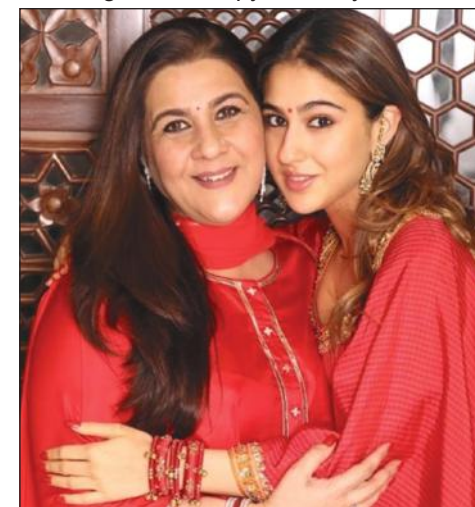


Karuna Dhawan and Varun Dhawan

Even though one does not get to see a lot of PDAs taking place when it comes to Varun Dhawan and his mother Karuna Dhawan, on special occasions like her birthday, he always goes on to share his

deep love and gratitude towards her. On one of her birthdays, Varun had taken to social media as he shared a series of pictures and had gotten emotional as he mentioned how his mother has always kept others' happiness ahead of her. He's been extremely expressive in confessing that his mother is the greatest strength and conscience that he has been bestowed with.

In numerous instances, he has also shared throwback images from his childhood, penning down mushy yet cute one-liners such as, "Through holidays and quarantine Ma and me were always meant to be together #keepyourfamily safe."



Amrita Singh and Sara Ali Khan

Being a single mother so early on in life is not an easy task, but Sara Ali Khan sure had a beautiful childhood unfolding in front of her that made her establish such close kinship with her mother. Her mother is her best friend, and she has always made it clear how important that feeling and bond are to her. On several occasions, she has even mentioned how she would only get married if the guy agrees to come and stay with her and her mother.

Sara is seen celebrating festivals throughout the year with her mother and brother whenever possible. She has also shared several images from some vacations which she makes time for amidst her hectic work schedules. Heartfelt confessions have always been the crux of who Sara is. She doesn't shy away from expressing how her mother has always kept her grounded and given her a reality check whenever necessary.

Anupamaa actress Anagha Bhosle quits film and TV industry, cites 'Religious Beliefs'

Anupamaa actor Anagha Bhosale, who had previously expressed her wish about quitting the television industry, has finally made her decision official. Anagha penned a note on social media, wherein she mentioned that she is 'officially quitting the film and television industry.' Anagha's post suggests that she is making the decision for her 'religious beliefs and spiritual path', reports News18.

In her note, Anagha mentioned that people should understand human birth is to serve and love God and spread Krishna consciousness. She opined that people should get away from situations or people who increase their distance with God/Krishna.

"Hare Krishna Family, I know you all have been kind and have shown concern after the show and thank you for that I am really grateful," she started her note and

went on to confirm that she is exiting the film and television industry.

Stating that showbiz was tampering with her consciousness levels, Anagha wrote, "The field where I was in is way different and tampers with my consciousness levels, makes you something which you are not and takes you away from what you believe in." She thanked her fans, friends and family for all the love and respect. "I feel if you need any answers

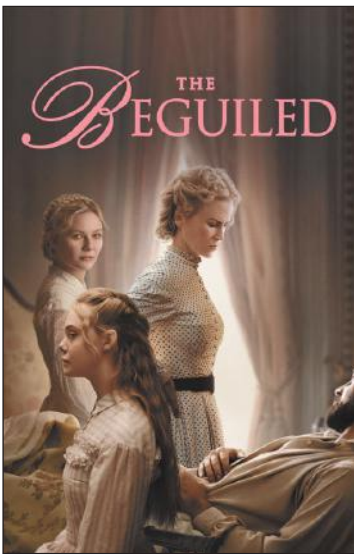
read spiritual 'holy book'. Read Shrimad Bhagavad Gita," she wrote.

Concluding her note, the former actor stated that she will update her fans about her endeavours through pictures and videos, and further mentioned that she respects every religion and every individual's journey with almighty.

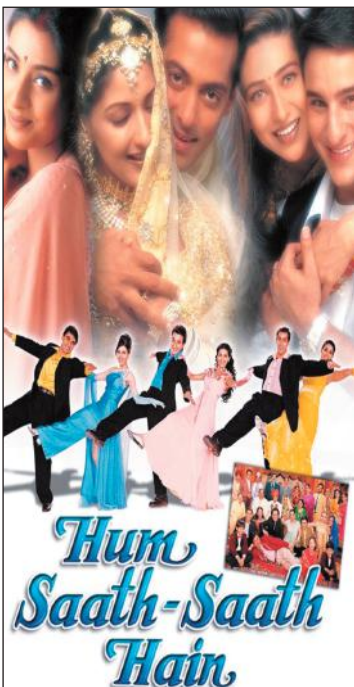
In *Anupamaa*, Anagha played the role of Nandini, and had recently quit the superhit show.

CINE 12

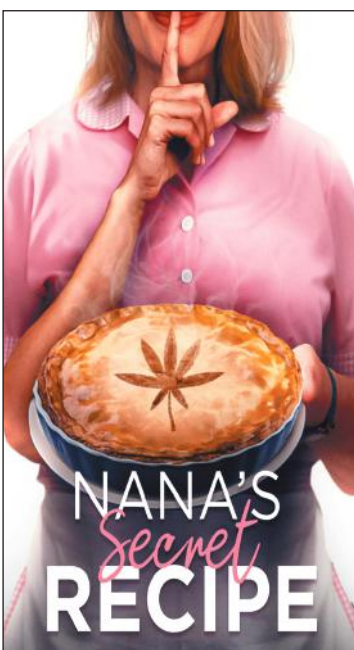
vendredi 27 mai - 21.15


mtv

samedi 28 mai - 21.00


mtv

dimanche 29 mai - 21.15



Programme TV


SERIAL


vendredi 27 mai

MBC 1

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
09.00 Doc: Nu Rasinn
09.45 Local: Bricolo Ecolo
10.30 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
13.15 Local Production
14.30 D.Anime: The Twisted...
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
15.38 D.Anime: Briko
17.10 Serial: Backstage
17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Surya Pura
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Les Grands Noms Inter...
21.10 Serial: Billions
23.00 Le Journal
23.35 Mag: Eye On SADC

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan
11.18 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai
12.00 Film: Maa
13.59 Mag: DDI Mag
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.26 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.47 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.30 Serial: Chhanchhan
18.01 Serial: The Demi-Gods...
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.00 Serial: Dil Ruba
20.44 Local: Anjuman
21.10 Local: Urdu Programme -
22.05 DDI Live

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.58 Doc: Lost Edens
08.46 Doc: Castles
10.10 Doc: The Business Of Hope
12.17 Mag: Border Crossing
13.12 Doc: Lost Edens
14.10 Doc: Goods To Paradise
16.40 Mag: Eco India
17.44 Doc: The Healing Power...
19.00 Mag: Euromaxx
19.33 Doc: Lost Edens
20.45 Doc: World Heritage
20.48 Doc: Nos Cinq Sens
21.41 Doc: Volcano Stories
22.08 Doc: Guardians Of Nature
23.00 Doc: The Healing Power...
23.42 Mag: World Stories
23.54 Doc: World Famous Writers
00.27 Mag: Euromaxx
00.49 Doc: Lost Edens
01.46 Doc: World Heritage

Cine 12

00.46 Film: La Dernière Tueuse...
03.42 Film: California Solo
05.16 Tele: Marimar
05.39 Tele: Rubi
06.45 Film: La Dernière Tueuse...
09.00 Serial: Timeless
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Blacklist
11.56 Film: California Solo
13.31 Tele: Marimar
14.27 Film: La Dernière Tueuse
16.40 Serial: Timeless
17.24 Serial: Rookie Blue
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.34 Serial: Mustangs FC
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: Zoo
21.15 Film: The Beguiled
22.49 Tele: Marimar

Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Saand Ki Aankh
Star: Taapsee Pannu,
Bhumi Pednekar, Prakash
Jha, Viineet Kumar.
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.22 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.01 / 22.00 - Agnihera
13.32 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.00 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Bhabhi
Starring: Govinda,
Bhanupriya, Juhi Chawla
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.28 Bhakharwadi

samedi 28 mai

06.22 D.Anime: Gon
06.45 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...
06.57 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
07.19 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule...
07.37 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien
08.19 Serial: Les Copains Carlins
08.33 D.Anime: Garfield Originals
08.36 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
08.51 D.Anime: Les Triples
09.00 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
09.33 Serial: Hank Zipzer
10.00 Au Pays Des Merveilles
12.00 Le Journal
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
15.34 D.Anime: Briko
17.15 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
21.10 Film: Beyond Valkyrie
23.10 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Paheli
Star: Satyajeet, Nameeta
Chandra, Durga Khote
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
11.05 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare
12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.46 Serial: High School
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Film: Jaanwar
Stars: Akshay Kumar,
K. Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty
17.56 Mag: DDI Mag
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki
Rahasya Gatha
20.30 Serial: Porus
21.00 Film: Hum Saath Saath Hain
Starring Salman Khan, Sonali
Bendre, Mohnish Behl, Tabu,
Saif Ali Khan, K. Kapoor

06.00 Doc: The Healing Power...
06.42 Mag: World Stories
06.57 Mag: Our Vocies
07.25 Mag: Euromaxx
07.54 Doc: Lost Edens
10.14 Doc: Guardians Of Nature
11.48 Mag: World Stories
12.30 Mag: Euromaxx
12.59 Doc: Lost Edens
15.00 Student Support Prog...
17.34 Mag: Euromaxx
18.08 Prod: Mag De L'emploi Et...
18.25 Mag: Tresors Oublies De...
19.00 Mag: Check In
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: World Heritage
20.50 Doc: Hotels
21.42 Doc: Skuld
22.29 Doc: Saving The Temples...
23.15 Doc: Sweet Magic
23.46 Doc: Smoothie Mania
23.49 Mag: In Good Shape

01.31 Film: The Beguiled
03.10 Serial: Powers
03.43 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
04.41 Serial: Reckoning
05.26 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.08 Serial: Zoo
08.30 Serial: Killjoys
09.10 Serial: L.A.'s Finest
10.40 Film: 119 Jours
12.15 Serial: Powers
13.30 Serial: Blacklist
15.05 Tele: Muneca Brava
16.21 Serial: Zoo
17.03 Film: A Day Late And A Dol...
19.35 Serial: Mustangs FC
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: Zoo
21.15 Film: Lost And Found
Avec Samaira Armstrong,
Sierra McCormick
22.46 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones

04.22 Radha Krishna
04.51 Anupamaa
05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur...
05.50 Agnihera
06.20 Yeh Teri Galiyan
09.40 Motu Patlu
10.07 Sasural Simar Ka 2
11.55 Serial: Bhakharwadi
14.00 Serial: Anupamaa
15.46 Pavitra Rishta
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Mother
Starring Jeetendra, Rekha,
Randhir Kapoor
20.30 Serial: Motu Patlu
20.41 Serial: Namah
21.03 Serial: Naagin Season 3
21.44 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

dimanche 29 mai

06.00 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda
07.00 Film: Paf, Le Chien
07.59 D.Anime: Akili And Me
08.21 Serial: Les Copains Carlins
10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.21 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
15.35 Film: Mother's Day
16.46 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
17.15 Local: Saver Kil Tirel
17.45 Local Prod: Rodrig
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Special Mother's Day
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Local Production
21.15 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe
23.00 Le Journal

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

06.00 Mag: Tresors Oublies De...
07.02 Mag: Saladeria
07.28 Mag: Check In
09.45 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into...
10.41 Doc: Saving The Temples...
11.18 Doc: Sweet Magic
11.30 Mag: Tresors Oublies De...
11.49 Doc: Smoothie Mania
12.31 Mag: The 77 Percent
14.18 Doc: World Heritage
14.23 Doc: Hotels
15.15 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into...
15.25 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
18.35 Doc: Smoothie Mania
19.00 Mag: The Inside Story
20.01 Doc: Planet Home
20.30 Live: News (English)
20.50 Doc: World Heritage
21.43 Doc: La Route De La Soie
22.50 Doc: Nepal
23.32 Doc: Sweet Magic

01.03 Film: Lost And Found
02.34 Serial: Absentia
03.15 Film: Capitaine Phillips
05.23 Tele: Tanto Amor
06.07 Serial: Zoo
07.11 Film: Beyond Valkyrie
08.30 Serial: Killjoys
09.11 Film: Extortion
10.56 Film: A Day Late And A Dollar
Short
12.24 Serial: Absentia
13.31 Serial: Blacklist
15.35 Tele: Muneca Brava
17.00 Serial: Zoo
17.45 Serial: Absentia
18.30 Serial: L'Agence Tous Risque
19.36 Serial: Mustangs FC
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: Scorpion
21.15 Film: After The Wedding
23.07 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones

00.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2
01.46 Bhakharwadi
04.23 Anupamaa
06.00 Pavitra Rishta
08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
10.03 Kundali Bhagya
12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
13.57 Agnihera
16.01 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
17.00 Punar Vivaah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.03 Film: Laadla
Starring: Sridevi, Anil
Kapoor, Raveena Tandon,
Anupam Kher, Farida Jalal
21.09 Naagin Season 3
21.50 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
23.47 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
01.31 Kundali Bhagya
04.28 Agnihera

lundi 30 mai

06.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil
07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
07.55 Local: Music Tour 2022
09.00 Doc: Fast Fashion
10.15 Local: Artizan
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You
11.34 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.15 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
17.05 Serial: Backstage
17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Mere Sai
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa
Vaishnodevi
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 MBC Production
21.10 Film: Capitaine Phillips
Avec: Tom Hanks, Catherine Keener...

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Kundali Bhagya
12.06 Film: Mera Karam Mera
Dharam
Starring Dharmendra,
Moushumi Chatterjee
14.00 DDI Magazine
15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.42 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.24 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.42 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin
17.57 Serial: The Demi-Gods...
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.00 Programme In Telugu
20.30 Film: 90 ML
Starg: Kartikeya Gummakonda,
Neha Solanki

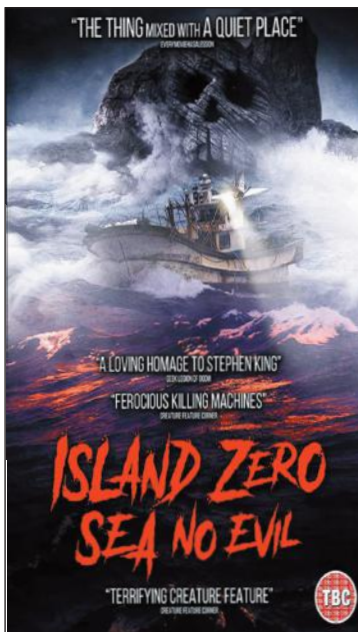
07.00 Mag: Salad Area
07.58 Doc: Planet Home
08.24 Doc: World Heritage
10.30 Doc: Nepal
12.21 Mag: Salad Area
13.18 Doc: Planet Home
14.38 Doc: La Route De La Soie
16.32 Doc: Innovation On Board
18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.33 Mag: In Good Shape
20.45 Doc: Castles
20.48 Mag: Luana's Kitchen
21.41 Mag: Global 3000
22.08 Mag: Washington Forum
22.33 Doc: Fat, Fatter, Fattest
23.15 Doc: The Internet Of Every...
23.57 Mag: Eco@Africa
00.27 Mag: The 77 Percent
00.49 Doc: Persons
00.52 Mag: Africa

01.46 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe
04.11 Film: After The Wedding
06.09 Tele: Marimar
06.35 Tele: Rubi
06.51 Serial: Scorpion
07.27 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Blacklist
12.00 Film: After The Wedding
13.35 Tele: Marimar
13.54 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe
16.55 Serial: Scorpion
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.39 Serial: Mustangs FC
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: Chicago PD
21.15 Film: All Is True
22.45 Tele: Marimar

08.00 Taare Zameen Par
11.59 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
12.29 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.59 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.51 / 22.00 - Agnihera
14.21 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.49 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.15 Film: Dil Hi To Hai
Starring: Sridevi, Anil
Kapoor, Raveena
Tandon, Anupam Kher,
Farida Jalal
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2
20.30 Radha Krishna



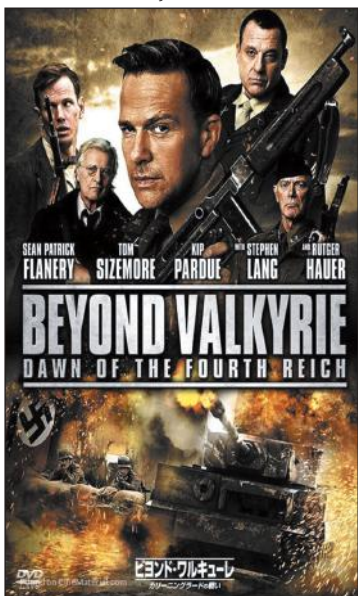
Mardi 31 mai - 21.10



Mercredi 1 juin - 21.15



Jeudi 2 juin - 21.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 31 mai

mercredi 1 juin

jeudi 2 juin

MBC 1

06.00 Local: Rodrig
07.40 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
08.30 Local Prod: Rodrig Prog
10.30 Mag: Art.21
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous...
11.35 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna...
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.15 Prod: Come On Lets Dance
14.33 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis...
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
15.34 D.Anime: Paf Le Chien
17.05 Serial: Backstage
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: Island Zero
With Robins, Adam Wade McLaughlin

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: CID
12.00 Film: Kathutli
Starring: Jeetendra, Mumtaz
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.43 Bommarillu
16.07 Sondha Bandham
16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.49 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And
Semi-Devs
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Local: Tamil Programme
20.30 Film: Shree
Star Nargis, Nadira and Raj
Kapoor

MBC 3

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

Cine 12

01.08 Film: All Is True
02.44 Serial: Blacklist
03.27 Film: Capitaine Phillips
05.35 Tele: Marimar
05.56 Tele: Rubi
06.19 Serial: Chicago PD
07.00 Film: All Is True
09.30 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
10.45 Serial: Blacklist
11.26 Film: Capitaine Phillips
13.30 Tele: Marimar
13.57 Tele: Rubi
14.45 Film: All Is True
16.27 Serial: Timeless
17.12 Serial: Chicago PD
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
21.15 Film: Django Unchained
Avec: Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz...

Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Dil Hi To Hai
Star Jackie Shroff, Divya Bharati,
Gulshan Grover,
11.32 / 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
13.56 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maikhe Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
14.53 / 22.25 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.28 Film: Maidan-E-Jung
Starring Akshay Kumar, Manoj
Kumar, Dharmendra
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Udaariyaan
19.30 Bhakharwadi
20.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2

07.15 Local: Profil
07.30 Local: Priorite Sante
08.09 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
09.00 Mag: Happiness Is On The...
10.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous Actre...
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.15 Local Production
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive
15.35 D.Anime: Paf Le Chien
17.10 Serial: Backstage
17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
18.55 MBC Production
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.30 MBC Production
21.25 Film: Boyne Falls
Starring: Axel Harney, Mike Kopera

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
12.00 Film: Santan
Starring Rajendra Kumar, Tuli,
Kamini Kadam, Nasir Hussain
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.49 Bommarillu
16.07 Sondha Bandham
16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
16.49 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.31 Serial: Kulvadh
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods...
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.06 Programme In Marathi
21.00 Film: The Dragon The Hero
Star: John Liu, Yen-Tsan Tang,
Phillip Ko

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...
06.26 Mag: Red Carpet
06.41 Mag: Check In
08.34 Doc: Castles
09.29 Mag: Euromaxx
15.57 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
17.08 Local: Yoga
18.00 Mag: Motorweek
18.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.35 Mag: The Inside Story
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.45 Doc: Castles
21.29 Les Montagnes Du Monde
22.23 Mag: Focus On Europe
23.31 Mag: Motorweek
23.57 Mag: Vous Et Nous
00.21 Doc: Persons
00.24 Mag: Arts.21
00.50 Mag: The Inside Story
01.19 Doc: Skuld
01.45 Doc: Castles

01.08 Film: Django Unchained
04.26 Film: 119 Jours
05.50 Tele: Marimar
06.34 Serial: Chicago PD
07.16 Film: Little Kingdom
09.00 L'Agence Tous Risques
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.01 Serial: Blacklist
12.00 Film: 119 Jours
13.40 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: Little Kingdom
16.22 L'Agence Tous Risques
17.11 Serial: Chicago PD
18.09 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.30 Serial: Mustangs FC
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: Rookie Blue
21.15 Film: The Tall T
23.18 Telenovela: Rubi
23.42 L'Agence Tous Risques

07.00 Film: Maidan
11.56 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
12.25 / 20.26 - Anupamaa
12.56 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad..
13.27 / 20.46 - Agniphera
13.56 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.27 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
14.47 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.25 Film: Deewane Huye
Paagal
Starring Akshay Kumar,
Shahid Kapoor, Sunil Shetty
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi
20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
20.30 Radha Krishna

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
06.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem
06.59 Local: Itinerer Moris
07.50 Local: Rodrig Prog
08.35 Local: Elle
10.40 Mag: In Good Shape
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor
13.15 Local: Music Tour 2022
14.35 D.Anime: The Twisted
Whiskers Show..
15.20 D. Anime: The Hive
17.10 Serial: Backstage
17.35 Mag: The World Is Yours
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
20.20 Film: Rangoon
Starring Saif Ali Khan, Shahid
Kapoor, Kangana Ranaut

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki
Rahasya Gatha
11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...
12.00 Film: Billo Baadshah
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.27 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
16.48 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin
17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala
17.40 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...
18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da...
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
20.59 Local: Profil
21.22 Film: Beyond Valkyrie
With Sean Patrick Flanery, Tom
Sizemore, Kip Pardue....

06.00 Mag: Motorweek
06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous
06.52 Doc: Persons
08.17 Doc: Castles
10.23 Doc: Great Apes
11.35 Local: Vous Et Nous
12.34 Mag: The Inside Story
13.26 Doc: Castles
15.05 Mag: Focus On Europe
16.19 Mag: Motorweek
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.29 Mag: Shift
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.30 Doc: Secret Des Plantes
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.48 Doc: Megastructure In The...
22.06 Doc: Snapshots
23.13 Doc: Can Data Fix The
Climate?
23.56 Mag: Eco India
00.22 Mag: Shift

01.33 Film: The Tall T
02.44 Serial: Blacklist
03.26 Film: Boyne Falls
04.50 Tele: Marimar
05.13 Tele: Rubi
06.42 Film: The Tall T
09.00 Serial: Timeless
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
10.37 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Blacklist
11.55 Film: Boyne Falls
13.30 Tele: Marimar
14.45 Film: The Tall T
16.40 Serial: Timeless
17.21 Serial: Rookie Blue
18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.36 Serial: Mustangs FC
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride
20.30 Serial: Rookie Blue
21.15 Serial: Knight Rider

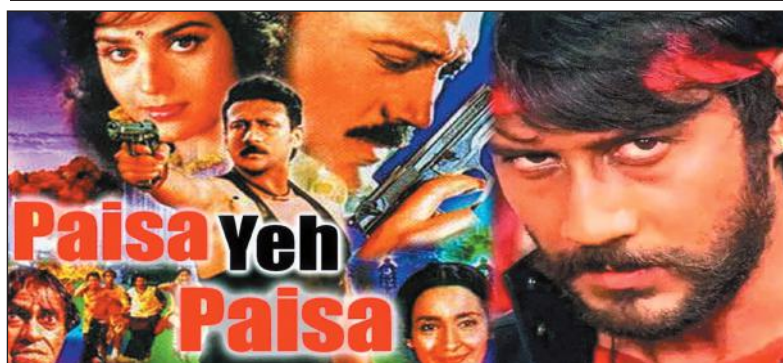
07.00 Film: Deewane Huye
Paagal
Starring Akshay Kumar,
Shahid Kapoor, Sunil Shetty
11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa
12.32 / 20.32 - Mere Sai
13.01 / 21.09 - Agniphera
13.35 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.05 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali
Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
15.00 / 21.46 -
Yeh Hai Mohabbatein
15.18 Film: Paisa Yeh Paisa
Star: Jackie Shroff,
Meenakshi Seshadri
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Udaariyaan
19.29 Bhakharwadi



Jeudi 2 juin - 15.30

Stars: Jackie Shroff, Meenakshi
Seshadri

Jeudi 2 juin - 20.20

Star: Saif Ali Khan, Shahid Kapoor,
Kangana Ranaut



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Un défilé motorisé des protestataires contre la hausse du prix des carburants et de la vie chère organisé par Linion Pep Morisien (LPM) dans la capitale un mardi après-midi est une nouveauté par certains aspects dans le paysage des manifestations de rue initiées depuis 2020.

D'abord, la voiture n'est pas le moyen de locomotion de tout un chacun pour se rendre dans la capitale ; les ouvriers, les petits salariés, les employés de bureau prennent l'autobus, en général. Se priver d'une journée de salaire est quelque peu risqué par les temps qui courent.

L'usage de la voiture est surtout destiné à la sortie dominicale en famille pour un pique-nique animé par tout un tam-tam sur les plages de l'île. La voiture comme moyen d'exprimer le mécontentement comporte un aspect individualiste qui est moins susceptible de susciter l'adhésion populaire.

Une foule dans les rues brandissant pancartes et criant des slogans hostiles au gouvernement, honorée par la présence physique des dinosaures, ténors et autres *Avengers* héroïques sauveurs de la nation, tous masqués comme à cette date mémorable du 29 juillet 2020 à Port-Louis, c'est quand même d'une autre trempe (!). Et le tout couronné par la liesse populaire dont on a eu un *remake* dans un esprit de grande fraternité et de solidarité avec le tam-tam et, scellé par des baisers échangés entre les gens du commun et les nanties des bungalows du coin un 12 septembre 2020 à Mahebourg.

Il faut avouer que la voiture, même en klaxonnant pour mettre un peu d'ambiance, est moins *fun*. C'était aussi prévisible qu'une manifestation dans les bagnoles risquait de ne pas carurer fort...

En évitant de programmer l'opération aux heures de pointe entre 7 hres et 8 hres du matin,



« Cette nouveauté que représente l'Opération Escargot est un mimétisme de manifestations de l'île sœur où c'est monnaie courante de crier sa colère contre la mère patrie, la métropole. Des files de voitures à n'en plus finir dès 7 hres du matin à bloquer toute circulation dans le but de faire plier les autorités... »

il y a eu le souci d'éviter un excès de zèle à créer un embouteillage monstre qui aurait pu mettre à dos colégiens, automobilistes et tous les pressés du matin qui convergent vers la capitale au volant de leur voiture et, pour lesquels le temps c'est l'argent, inféodés au capitalisme sans filtre qui aiguise l'appétit d'un bon nombre d'individus. En fin de compte, la manifestation aurait pu être contreproductive et se retourner contre les organisateurs.

Bien entendu, tout en cautionnant l'opération, la presse a pris le soin d'en délimiter les limites et de proscrire tout acte de vandalisme et de saccage de biens publics et privés. Une précaution qui évite de voir débarquer les gabelous à quatre heures du matin chez soi pour avoir encouragé la perturbation de l'ordre public. Port-Louis n'est pas Paris et les Mauriciens ne sont pas particulièrement fans des Gaulois réfractaires, Astérix et Obélix.

Cette nouveauté que représente l'Opération Escargot est un mimétisme de manifestations de l'île sœur où c'est monnaie courante de crier sa colère contre la mère patrie, la *métropole*. Des files de voitures à n'en plus finir dès 7 hres du matin à bloquer toute circulation dans le but de faire plier les autorités. Une leçon bien apprise, parmi d'autres, dans l'art et la manière de tenir tête aux gouvernants, avec une nuance, toutefois, car la violence de saccage et pillage style *Black Blocs* au blouson noir infiltrés dans les rangs des 'Gilets Jaunes' n'est pas dans les mœurs des locaux.

Quant à la propension à imiter les cousins de la Réunion, on retrace la genèse aux images des pneus en flamme diffusées par la chaîne de télévision de la Réunion jadis RFO, que certains

à Maurice ont cru bon de prendre comme modèle. Un premier aperçu en 1999 lors des émeutes, qui a fait des émules au gré des crises de colère ici et là pour le grand bonheur de ceux qui comptent en tirer un capital politique.

La réaction populaire suscitée par la comparaison du prix de l'essence, du diesel et du gaz aux Seychelles et à Singapour et à la Réunion souligne la différence des revenus de la moyenne des gens dans ces pays et ne tient pas compte du coût de la vie qui accompagne ces revenus perçus comme étant relativement élevés. Si, aux Seychelles, paradis pour touristes à la recherche d'exotisme tropical resté intact, un archipel d'îles si peu peuplé à mourir d'ennui, le prix d'un simple sandwich pâle et fade était très élevé dans les années 90 et idem pour les autres commodités, on imagine bien le montant aujourd'hui. Si un salaire minimum plafonne dans les Rs80,000 à Singapour, le loyer moyen d'un appartement modeste dans les tours à dix étages avoisine les Rs 40,000, et je vous en passe du prix des produits alimentaires, légumes, viande et poisson, tous importés en raison de l'exiguïté de la ville-état.

A la Réunion, si le salaire minimum tourne autour de Rs 48,000 et Rs 56,000, un coup d'œil au prix des légumes, de viande et de poisson fait réfléchir. Les brèdes se vendent 2 à 3 fois plus que le prix pratiqué à Maurice, le prix normal des carottes et aubergines reste entre Rs 18 et Rs 33 plus cher à la livre qu'à Maurice. Le poisson thon frais local est à une moyenne générale de Rs 220 la livre alors qu'il est entre Rs 70 Rs 80 à Maurice. Les autres poissons s'invitent dans votre assiette à Rs 350 et Rs 400 la

livre. Le pain maison à Rs 2.60 est une spécialité mauricienne, une baguette simple est à Rs 43 à la Réunion. En revanche, la promotion de la viande congelée importée offre, par périodes, des opportunités d'achat à un prix moins élevé que dans les supermarchés de Maurice. La fabrication locale de beurre, huile, farine ou jus de fruit est inexistante à la Réunion. La bonbonne de gaz est passée à plus de Rs 960.

Le loyer moyen d'un appartement de 45 mètres carré se situe entre Rs 25,800 et Rs 30,000 ; un appartement de 80 mètres carré se loue dans les Rs 12,000 dans les régions côtières à Maurice, et pour une maison de 4 pièces, il faut déboursier une moyenne de Rs 60,000 à la Réunion, donc, inaccessible à la majorité des ménages.

Si la dépréciation de la roupie s'évalue par rapport aux devises fortes, c'est à se demander pour combien de temps le dollar et l'euro maintiendront ce statut. Les coups de massue livrés par le yuan et le rouble au dollar et à l'euro dans la vente du pétrole par la Russie, l'Arabie saoudite et le Qatar n'assure en rien la pérennité des monnaies fortes. Cet équilibre des monnaies est vraiment souhaitable dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. Maurice en profitera tôt ou tard.

Une manifestation devant l'ambassade des Etats-Unis et les bureaux du représentant de l'Union européenne, en particulier, ceux du couple franco-allemand, ténors de l'UE, serait beaucoup plus percutante. Car, finalement, ce sont eux les vrais responsables de ce pétrin économique qui empoisonne la vie des milliards d'habitants dans le monde entier. Qu'on ne se trompe pas de coupable!



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Imposing Your Will Upon Others

Resisting the urge to control

When we impose our will onto others, we are telling them we want to control and leave them without a true voice.

The right to make your own choices is a precious one. We grow when we have the freedom to decide our own paths and determine what makes us happy. Yet there are those who are inclined to try and control others. They may be driven by insecurity, envy, fear, or the need for power. These people are deeply critical of themselves in their own minds, and underlying that critical nature is unhappiness. Their need to feel sure-footed and secure is quenched by controlling those around them, whether they are friends, colleagues, or even pets. However, nearly everyone has found themselves imposing their will upon others at one time or another.

Trying to impose your will on others can be tempting for many reasons. You may feel that your way is the best way or that you have a keener insight into the direction their life should be taking. But, in imposing your will, you are indirectly saying, "I want to control you." Thus, even when you have the best of intentions, others may end up resenting you for your actions. It is always helpful to remember that it is possible to influence people and change their behavior through education or example without imposing your will on them.

If you've caught yourself being a bit bossy on a regular basis, make a note of it. Write down what the situation was and why you acted the way you did. You may have pushed a friend to try something new, because deep inside you wanted to try it yourself but were feeling hesitant. Or you may be unjustly interfering with work teammates because you aren't sure of their abilities.

Next, make an effort to understand and accept their preferences and ways of doing things. It can feel natural to impose your will when you feel that you "know best." But there is a freedom to trusting others to find their own methods and joys, even when they might differ from yours. Sometimes the best course of action is to step back and relinquish control. You may, in doing so, see everything from a different point of view.