

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "The difference between technology and slavery is that slaves are fully aware that they are not free" -- Nassim Nicholas Taleb



Interview: Dharam Gokhool

«Sherry Singh & Pravind Jugnauth have not stepped on the eggs; they are now on a live minefield...

... in the process, it is the country that will pay the heaviest price»

☞ See Page 10

Opinion

What Values for the New Generations?



Cost of Living Protests - Pic - The Big Issue

By Jan Arden ☞ See Page 6

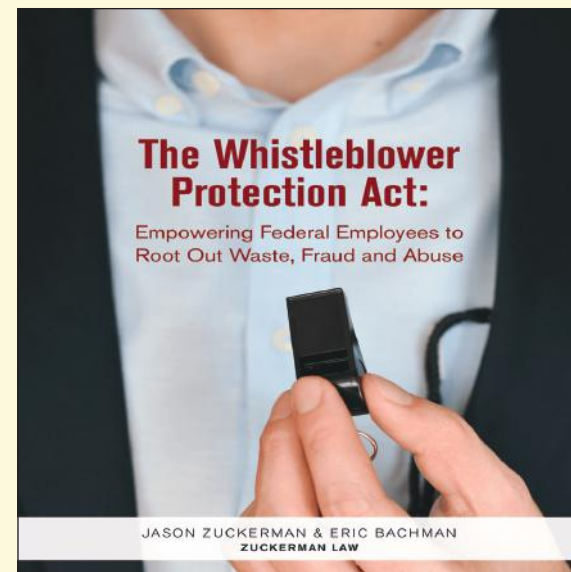
Qs & As

Whistleblowers & The Official Secrets Act

«There is in Mauritius no law for the protection of whistle blowers»

* 'Employees are bound by confidentiality rules. But if an employee feels or has an information that wrongdoing... is being perpetrated, he cannot and should not remain silent'

By LEX ☞ See Page 5



The Whistleblower Protection Act:

Empowering Federal Employees to Root Out Waste, Fraud and Abuse

JASON ZUCKERMAN & ERIC BACHMAN
ZUCKERMAN LAW

Opaque Veil

Most people will agree that trust in government and in politicians has reached an all-time low. This is not a phenomenon confined to a few countries only. Democracies around the world are distrusted by a majority of their citizens, according to the Edelman Trust Barometer. The trust deficit locally is evidenced by the rising abstention rate at most elections. If that trend were to continue, fewer Mauritians will trust their politicians and political institutions.

The present government was elected by only 37% of the voting electorate – an electoral victory that should not have given great comfort to its leaders, and one that it should have set out to fix since its early days in power. Unfortunately, the government’s credibility has been damaged by its governance of the country marked by a series of scandals involving members of the government and their protégés that it could have done without. Three ministers (Yerrigadoo, Collendavelloo & Sawmynaden) have been forced to vacate their offices since 2017 for different reasons. Whether it was the Bet365 affair, or the Emergency Procurements of medical supplies and equipment from dubious suppliers in some cases, to the St Louis Gate affair which led to the revocation of the former Deputy Prime minister, and to so many cases, the ICAC and the police have been ineffective to bring to book the culprits. Worse still, despite a judicial inquiry concerning the murder of MSM political activist Soopramanien Kistnen, police failure to pursue the inquiry effectively, all have piled up to undermine the government’s credibility in the eyes of a large majority of Mauritians.

The latest major crisis that has come up relates to the allegations of the ex-CEO of Mauritius Telecom (MT) about instructions he would have received from the Prime Minister to allow a team of Indian technicians access to the Baie Jacocet Landing Station for the purpose of installing device/equipment to monitor internet traffic to and from Mauritius. As it could be expected, an association is already sought to be made in local media with the PM’s instructions to have a “security survey” conducted at the landing station with espionage operations conducted by all the major players in this part of the world and so vital for their security interests. The second relates to the political ends that might potentially be achieved through such interference in the internet network for the monitoring and control of social media communications.

Here as well, a report by ‘The Wire’ (usually

critical of the Bharatiya Janata Party), last January 2022, about the alleged use of Tek Fog, an application software, by the information technology cell of the BJP as part of their social media campaigning mostly during pre-election periods was dug out to give credence to what could be the real intentions behind the “security survey” conducted here. This has been helped by the earlier attempt in April 2021 by the government as announced in its ‘Consultation Paper on proposed amendments to the ICT Act’, which recommended “not only legal but also technical enforcement measures” to intervene upstream with a view to screen, analyse and identify online content deemed illegal and harmful before taking action to curtail such content.

Concerning the more recent MT saga, in reply to the PNQ put by the Leader of the Opposition on 5 July 2022, the Prime Minister stated “in the most unequivocal terms” that there has been “at no point in time any installation or any attempt by my Office to install whatsoever device and or equipment at any of the Submarine Cable Landing Stations to monitor internet traffic to and from Mauritius”. He did not give any details about any security threat that compelled a “security survey”, which is quite understandable since it is unlikely that any Prime Minister would make public such details - whether such or any security threat did exist or not. Sherry Singh, who would surely be aware that he would have to face the music if he cannot substantiate his allegations, has countered the Prime Minister’s version with the assertion that he is in possession of proofs that interference with the internet network at the landing station did take place.

That remains to be seen, but all that has become quite ugly. It’s not only the government’s credibility in the eyes of Mauritians that could be seriously undermined, but also its credibility in the eyes of shareholders of the SAFE Consortium and stakeholders in the world who might be following the widely mediated affair. The government should come forward with a strong defence that the allegations are unfounded, since violation of any contractual obligation with the international Consortium, as stated by the MT ex-CEO, may indeed leave the country in an uncomfortable situation regarding future upgrade or evolution of the cable networks that link us so vitally to the rest of the world. Definitely there is a need for more openness and for giving the right information and answers that would lift the opaque veil that is surrounding this whole incident.

The Conversation

The Uber Files

Leaked documents reveal a strategy of chaos – has anything changed?



Pic - The New York Times

Uber has had a controversial history since its founding in 2009, from violent conflicts among drivers to a secret software allegedly used to evade law enforcement. Now, a leak of over 124,000 documents dubbed the Uber files shows the extent to which the firm under co-founder and former CEO Travis Kalanick capitalised on that chaos to expand across 40 countries.

My research explores the relationship between Uber and the state. The company’s strategy to grow at all costs has been uneven, shaped and slowed by varying regulations in different markets. In recent years, Uber appears to have toned down its approach and stop some of the more aggressive activity detailed in the leaks. But in my view, the strategy at the heart of the company’s success means it will always be in battle with the laws where it operates.

The Uber files reportedly show the company had a deliberate strategy of breaking or ignoring the law and was very much aware of it. Uber’s original service – citizens driving other citizens in their private cars without permits or licenses of any kind – was mostly in a grey legal area. In emails, executives joked about being “pirates” and the company’s model being “just fucking illegal”, when it faced legal opposition in entering new markets.

The leaked documents also reveal the role that lobbying and relationships with friendly politicians played in Uber’s success. The company hired powerful lobbyists, many of them former members or associates of national governments who promised to end revolving doors between politics and industry. Meetings with politicians included figures like France’s then-economy minister (and now president) Emmanuel Macron and then-mayor of Hamburg (and now chancellor of Germany) Olaf Scholz.

Embracing the chaos also allegedly included endangering the company’s drivers. Almost wherever Uber landed, taxi unions organised protests that could sometimes turn violent. Messages in the Uber files show that Kalanick considered that Uber drivers going to a taxi drivers’ protest in France was “worth it” as “violence guarantee[s] success”.

Jimena Valdez

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● Cont. on page 15

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What Values for the New Generations?

Jan Arden

The basis of Western values of liberalism was liberty, equality before the law, and democratic consent of the governed. This broad idea was buttressed by humanist themes which gave meaning to life in a fraternal society, such as civil and human rights, gender equality, freedom of speech and religion, and the separation of state from church. Not far was probably the fear that the unbridled quest for profitability by corporations could well spell misery for the majority of the populations either left by the wayside or forced to struggle for the bare essentials of daily living, forsaking often the ability to enjoy growingly privatised health, education, a decent pension or the multiple cultural awakening opportunities in their countries growing wealthier by GDP standards.

This is precisely what neo-liberalism has brought about, say many concerned economists as they watch the social and economic costs and damages. Privatisation was the World Bank/IMF mantra for years forcing us even here to the deregulation of electricity production and the Independent Power Producers contracts. Deregulation of administrations and permits (Ease of Doing Business) was pushed even further by the Economic Development Board a few years ago at about the same time as their top rungs imagined the hair-raising scheme of selling passports to any wealthy selected oligarch wishing for the convenience of a third or fourth passport and perhaps back-door access to the European Union (EU).

With the push for liberalising capital and financial flows and use of the World Trade Organization to maximize corporate profits for assumed consumer benefits, China inexorably became the world's factory and has amassed colossal reserves that enable it to be the primary challenger to US hegemony and interests, today in



Pic - The Adecco Group

the Far East, the South China Seas, the Indo-Pacific and tomorrow on the wide world seas and markets. Jobs and skills, investments and massive profits were so rapidly transferred that large swathes of industries in the US and Europe and their working populations suffered unknown impoverishment. The quest for entrepreneurship and well-earned gains or profits is not at issue but in these eras, some have benefited immensely from the mammoth changes.

Through the IT and social media revolutions, several US mega corporations were becoming empires in their own right, sometimes challenging individual countries or even the EU to reign in their intrusive power or their mega-profits without paying a fair share of taxes in any one of them. During the Covid pandemic, we have heard of the bonanza made by big pharma corporations accompanied by corruption at massive scales in broad daylight. Corporations with healthy profitability and dividends pre-pandemic were often blithely allowed to socialise the temporary crosswinds, that is, under threat of job losses, pass on the bill to the population. Today it is the Russia-Ukraine war that has created conditions for oil majors like Shell or Total and food and grain speculators to rake in exorbitant profits, again with only a trickle percolating to consumers and taxation authorities.

In short, it is now an accepted fact that in most nations that have followed those precepts of neo-liberal thought, wealth accumulation has been so widely skewed that a tiny fraction owns several times more than 90% of the population. To avoid uprisings and chaos, governments typically resort to some piecemeal hand-outs (relief on fuel prices in France and elsewhere, food rationing or some temporary subsidies), but sometimes these are not enough to contain the sufferings and anger of populations in countries crippled by debt as Sri Lanka.

Here, as in more notorious destinations elsewhere, money and wealth, however acquired seem to have displaced what liberal and humanist values might have been inculcated over previous decades. Economic freedoms are restricted to traditional and legacy corporations and those who gravitate around the spheres of power. Weak institutions have littered our landscape, and even weaker "crowns in the jewel" where occasional billions escape to unknown winds are no longer unusual. Education, particularly at lower levels, remain trapped in the competitive mould that reforms have failed to dent and, more worryingly, a large proportion of tertiary students who head overseas have little intent to



“Have the social media revolution created novel environments where social engagement is about 'likes' and posts? Not quite if the immense Wakashio mobilisation for our environment against immobilism were to go by. However, some questions have been raised that the overriding quest for money-making by any means, with the intense wealth disparities that have occurred in the recent decades, may turn a generation away from humane values our parents espoused, the solidarities engineered partly by cyclones and floods, the objectives of all-rounded development of new generations...”

return to an island where political allegiances rather than merit condition their future and presumed affinities for opposition political parties can see them condemned in their recruitment and career opportunities. Meantime, with not much envisaged as urgent corrective measures, the scourge of drug consumption and particularly the nastier varieties, as pointed out in a recent editorial here, is associated with increasing horror stories up and down the countryside.

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Cooking Oil Relief

Among the many ruins and human casualties of eastern Ukraine as the war drags on with its concomitant risks for a worldwide recession, was a global food crisis with prices for cooking oils, grains, fuel, and fertilizer soaring. Russia and Ukraine accounted for nearly a third of global wheat supplies. Russia is also a fertilizer exporter and Ukraine was a major exporter of corn and sunflower oil. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February choked supplies of grains and sunflower oil from the Black Sea, worsening exist-

ing shortages caused by extreme weather in some countries and supply chain chaos.

Since the invasion Ukrainian grain shipments from its Black Sea ports have stalled and more than 20 million tons of grain are stuck in silos, while Moscow says the damping effect of Western sanctions imposed on Russia has hurt its fertilizer and grain exports. Speculation from investors on higher future prices added more pressures on the market for cooking oil, wheat, corn, and related agri-food items. This sparked fears of a

global food crisis, which would hit poorer nations across Africa and Asia especially hard.

World prices are now easing back, it seems, to levels before the invasion. It will be a major relief around the globe that palm oil prices tumbled by as much as 40% over the past two weeks, as top producer Indonesia ramps up exports after lifting its ban. Stocks and inventories have also risen in Malaysia and production enters the seasonal high cycle. While palm oil is rather a "hard oil" not much used for cooking, that marker heralded a similar trend in a variety of cooking oils, namely US corn and soya or even groundnut.

● Cont. on page 4



Pic - www.sgs.co.uk

“Although there may still be many issues to resolve (crude oil shipments from Black Sea ports to refineries, Turkish blockades or the humanitarian corridor and/or comfort letters proposed to shipping and insurance companies by the US) and some volatility may still be expected, our own STC-imported oil should benefit from latest price easing in world markets and in quick succession, from Asian refineries. With the added benefit of some temporary subsidies from government coffers, the retail price should be far more affordable, possibly in the Rs 60-65 range, we would venture, within weeks...”

Cooking Oil Relief

• Cont. from page 3

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In addition, at current prices, Health and Consumer Protection departments may have considered the risks of some roadside fritter-friers to undesirably overextend their cooking oil usage life. We trust both the STC and Finance have the wherewithal to activate matters for a rapid relief to badly battered consumers.

The SAFE Security Survey Saga

In a reply in this Tuesday's Parliamentary sitting, providing more details about the sniffing allegations of Sherry Singh, the PM stated that two letters had been despatched (presumably by PMO) during the second half of 2021 about a “security survey” requested by “the Security Division” at his office and that these were replied to by the former CEO on 24th December 2021. It may be apposite to note that copies of these correspondences were not tabled by the PM at the National Assembly.

Either the MT reply was judged unsatisfactory by the “Security Division” or other issues cropped up since, as the PM continued his narrative: “On 12 April 2022, the CEO of Mauritius Telecom was informed that a three-member technical team from India would field a survey mission to Baie Jacotet, Bel Ombre between 13 and 15 April 2022 and he was requested to extend all necessary assistance to the team during the survey visit.” According to that latest version from the PM, as access to the restricted site Baie Jacotet was not forthcoming, he phoned Sherry Singh personally on the 15th to have that access for a survey conducted in the presence of the Chief Technical Officer of MT.

He pursued that the ex-CEO allegations were sufficiently grave that despite waiting ten days or so, “I have accordingly given a statement to the Police on 11 July 2022. I have requested the Police to initiate an enquiry into the matter forthwith.” The population still had to hear the ex-CEO side of the story with any public evidence that might substantiate his earlier claims regarding the PM's request that “sniffing” equipment be allowed to be installed by a foreign third-party at the MT SAFE landing site of Baie Jacotet. It is fair to say that the grave allegations and the public rift between two former comrades and close partners in the highest spheres of the Sun Trust inner circles, have gripped the population waiting for clear answers from either or both protagonists.

The Sherry Singh version came the same afternoon on a scheduled talk show on a private radio and web station (Radio One) which dovetailed with the PM's version on dates but differed on the real intent of the “security survey” called for verbally and pressed for personally by the PM as from mid-April 2022. What the former CEO highlighted was the fact that SAFE was the property of an international consortium, whose technical management was assigned not to MT but Telkom (SA) and any intervention, even worse in the case of verbal instructions, would have been illegal unless proper notice had been



“Despite the gravity of the Sherry Singh statements and his assurance of having enough material evidence, as the PM has registered a police case, there was no way Sherry Singh's legal advisors would not have cautioned him against public delivery of those materials and evidences that should be presented elsewhere. The SAFE saga with its immense implications both personally for the protagonists has gripped the nation's interest, but there is a feeling that it has yet to unfold fully and more legal and political implications and consequences may be expected over the near future...”

given to SAFE authorities and Telkom (SA) as per our contractual obligations.

His second thrust was the alleged admission by the foreign team leader that the “survey” was a dimensioning prerequisite to the future installation of an internet traffic capture device. That would be tantamount to doing the essential groundwork prior to another illegal operation, internet, mail and social media “sniffing” with potentially damaging international repercussions for the country, he said. Despite the gravity of the Sherry Singh statements and his assurance of having enough material evidence, as the PM has registered a police case, there was no way Sherry Singh's legal advisors would not have cautioned him against public delivery of those materials and evidences that should be presented elsewhere. The SAFE saga with its immense implications both personally for the protagonists has gripped the nation's interest, but there is a feeling that it has yet to unfold fully and more legal and political implications and consequences may be expected over the near future.

Jan Arden



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Annual General Meeting Union of Public Human Resource Professionals

The members of Union of Public Human Resource Professionals are kindly invited to its Annual General Meeting to be held on **Thursday 4 August 2022** at Hindu House from 12.00 hrs to 14.30.

AGENDA

1. Reading and Approval of the minutes of proceedings of last AGM.
2. Report of the President.
3. Report of the Treasurer.
4. Election of Executive Members.
5. Functions of Training Manager.
6. Implementation of e-HR Cadre.
7. Achievements of 2021/2022.
8. AOB.

13 July 2022

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Whistleblowers & The Official Secrets Act

“There is in Mauritius no law for the protection of whistle blowers”

LEX

* A whistle blower is defined as one person who comes forward and shares his/her knowledge on any wrongdoing which has happened or is happening in an institution or in a specific department. Would Sherry Singh qualify as a whistle blower in light of the allegations he made public about instructions received from the Prime Minister to allegedly allow a “third party” to access the Mauritius Telecom network with a view to installing equipment which would enable “sniffing” of internet traffic to and from Mauritius?

In a short article published by the Temple Group on 14 April 2020, whistle blowing is explained as follows: The term “whistle blowing” does not have a precise and universal legal definition. A commonly used interpretation is that it refers to the denunciation by an employee or any person of corruption, fraud, and other wrongdoings which could harm public interest. However, many employees do not denounce illegal activities as they are usually in a vulnerable position and fear reprisals.

Transparency International defines whistle blowing as ‘the disclosure of information about a perceived wrongdoing in an organisation, or the risk thereof, to individuals or entities believed to be able to effect action.’

Yes, Sherry Singh is a whistle blower in the sense that he has denounced what he felt is an intrusion on fundamental rights of individuals to privacy by an attempt at sniffing and possibly an invasion of national security by a third party.

* One would presume that Mauritius Telecom employees, especially the ones in the higher hierarchy, are bound by the confidentiality clauses clearly stated in their contract of employment given the highly sensitive nature of their jobs. In light of information publicly available at this stage, does it appear that Sherry Singh might be booked for breaching the confidentiality agreement with Mauritius Telecom?

As a rule, employees are bound by confidentiality

“In Mauritius there is no law for the protection of whistle blowers. Yet Mauritius has signed two conventions that are the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols. Both conventions request states to ‘provide effective protection from potential retaliation or intimidation for witnesses’, as pointed out by Transparency International...”

Successive governments have failed to come up with either a Freedom of Information Bill, even with necessary safeguards, or a legal protection for whistle blowers, who may be ostracized for daring to raise a wrongdoing of consequence that they have been made aware of. There may be good reasons in the current context of the average Mauritian’s capacity to adapt to such a novel culture or ingrain the usage of such a Freedom. On the other hand, Mauritius is signatory to two UN Conventions enjoining each state to provide legal protection to whistle blowers but as yet we have none, says Lex.



Whistleblower protest in European Parliament: Edward Snowden - Former computer intelligence consultant who leaked highly classified information from the National Security Agency in 2013, when he was an employee and subcontractor

“Would a Freedom of Information Act open the floodgates to a sort of mass spying of government ministers and public officials or would a judicious use be made of such a law? In Mauritius these days the culture is to vilify and criticise. Until we get a population more versed in cultural and other values of courtesy and responsibility there would be a danger in having such a law...”

rules. But if an employee feels or has an information that wrongdoing by way of corruption, money laundering, espionage and the like is being perpetrated, he cannot and should not remain silent. Confidentiality is a relative concept. Even in the courts of law, confidentiality must give way in the interest of a fair trial to which an individual is entitled in a democratic country.

* Some employees may reasonably believe they are acting in the public interest by whistle blowing a matter that they consider is so crucial for the public to be made aware of. If we take it that the public interest is about the common good - what benefits society or citizens in general - it should not be difficult for the courts to determine whether the whistle blower acted in good faith or not, isn’t it?

Public interest is a nebulous principle. Governments will hide behind the notion of public interest in order to

withhold documents or information from the public. In courts of law, when information which is considered confidential is required to establish whether an accused party is guilty or not, governments resort to what is known as public interest immunity. Judges or magistrates are not bound by a certificate of confidentiality, but they peruse the information in confidence and decide whether the information should be released.

Public interest is not a one-way traffic. It cuts both ways. One strand is that public interest would be against the release of secret information. The other strand is that the information should be released for the public good.

* There are confidentiality obligations that come under different laws, like the Banking Act, for example. It seems the Official Secrets Act imposes more constraining obligations, but does it apply to all citizens, not only civil servants,

who might have access to confidential information?

The Official Secrets Act apply to all.

Section 3 of the Act states: (1) Any person who, for any purpose or in any manner likely to prejudice the safety or interests of Mauritius - (a) approaches, inspects, enters, passes over, or is in the neighbourhood of a prohibited place; (b) makes any plan that is calculated or intended to be, or might be, directly or indirectly, of use to a foreign state or disaffected person; (c) obtains, receives, collects, retains, records, makes use of, publishes or communicates any code word, plan, article, document or information which is calculated or intended to be or might be, directly or indirectly, of use to a foreign state of disaffected person, shall commit an offence.

● Cont. on page 6

'Employees are bound by confidentiality rules.

But if an employee feels or has an information that wrongdoing... is being perpetrated, he cannot and should not remain silent'

● Cont. from page 5

* Is there a distinction that has to be made between confidential and secret information?

There is no difference in practice or in law as regards the use of these two terms. Both have one aim, namely to protect information that is considered to be sensitive and the release of which may be damaging to the national security of a State or to business or to the private life of an individual.

* In 2013, United States federal prosecutors filed a criminal complaint against Edward Snowden - perhaps the most famous whistle blower in history - charging him with theft of government property and two counts of violating the Espionage Act of 1917. Snowden, a former computer intelligence consultant, had leaked highly classified information from the National Security Agency when he was an employee and subcontractor. Could an employee of Mauritius Telecom be criminally charged for divulging sensitive information?

Yes, depending on the nature of the information and the damage if any caused or damage that may potentially be caused.

* There is also the issue of protection for whistle blowers. Very few people will come forward to denounce any wrongdoing or corruption/fraud if they do not obtain some form of protection from reprisals. Do our laws provide for any kind of protection?

There is in Mauritius no law for the protection of whistle blowers. Yet Mauritius has signed two conventions that are



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the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols. Both conventions request states to 'provide effective protection from potential retaliation or intimidation for witnesses', as pointed out by Transparency International.

In an article titled 'Whistle blowers crave sunshine', published in the daily *l'express* on 29 August 2008, the author refers to what the current Attorney General once stated on whistle blowing. This is what Mr Maneesh Gobin stated:

'Whistle blowing and whistle blower protection go hand-in-hand. Becoming a whistle blower is one of the loneliest and most difficult choices one can make in life. Those who come clean on the wrongdoing they witness in the corporate suite or in government risk immediate ostracism.'

Nonetheless there is still no legislation for the protection of whistle blowers.

* It does not seem that the Prevention of Corruption Act 2002, which provides the legal framework for the fight against corruption in the civil service, provides sufficient protection to informers and witnesses who provide information to the ICAC on possible acts of corruption besides non-disclosure of that information in proceedings before any court as well as the identity of the informer. Would that amount to sufficient protection for whistle blowers?

The Office on Drugs and Crime has expressed the view that - 'Promoting

integrity, transparency and accountability in the public sector is an important aspect of UNCAC Chapter II that is related to the prevention of corruption. In particular, Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention address in detail questions related to transparency and accountability in the public sector. The systems and measures States are required to introduce or consider may require new legislation or amendments to existing laws, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems.'

On the other hand, Transparency International recommends the following: 'Developing and adopting comprehensive legislation on whistle blower protection and implementing comprehensive strategies would be a clear signal from the Mauritian government that the declarations to rid the country of corruption carry weight.'

* All the parties that have been in power have not made good on their electoral promises to introduce a Freedom of Information Act/Right to Information Act. In the absence of such a law as well as one to protect whistle blowers, it's the culture of secrecy that will get perpetuated. What do you think?

Indeed, no government has dared come up with a Freedom of Information Act. The present government, which has been in power since 2014, expressed the will to come up with such a legislation and this was mentioned in the President's Address to the National Assembly.

A Freedom of Information Act would give citizens the right to access information held by public authorities. The principle behind such a legislation is to try to make a government more transparent and to increase public confidence in political institutions and the governance of a country. But then would such a legislation open the floodgates to a sort of mass spying of government ministers and public officials or would a judicious use be made of such a law?

In Mauritius these days the culture is to vilify and criticise. Until we get a population more versed in cultural and other values of courtesy and responsibility there would be a danger in having such a law. It is understandable why successive governments have not done anything about this.

Tony Blair, the former British Prime Minister, regretted having enacted the Freedom of Information Act. In his autobiography 'A Journey', he writes: "Freedom of Information. Three harmless words. I look at those words as I write them and feel like shaking my head till it drops off my shoulders. You idiot. You naive, foolish, irresponsible nincompoop. There is really no description of stupidity, no matter how vivid, that is adequate. I quake at the imbecility of it."

“Employees are bound by confidentiality rules. But if an employee feels or has an information that wrongdoing by way of corruption, money laundering, espionage and the like is being perpetrated, he cannot and should not remain silent. Confidentiality is a relative concept. Even in the courts of law, confidentiality must give way in the interest of a fair trial to which an individual is entitled in a democratic country...”

Sri Lanka riots: how the tiny Indian Ocean island nation got into such a mess

Corruption, mismanagement and financial pressure all contributed to Sri Lanka's economic turmoil



A. Misra
Lancaster University

The chaos in Sri Lanka has deepened after the country's president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, fled to the Maldives. The president and his family left Colombo on a military jet just hours before he was due to resign in the face of massive popular protests which culminated on July 9 with crowds of demonstrators storming the presidential palace.

Rajapaksa is believed to be headed for the United Arab Emirates where it is thought he will resign his office. Ranil Wickremesinghe, the country's prime minister, has taken over as acting president and has declared a state of emergency. It is thought likely he will also resign under pressure from the Sri Lankan people who are blaming the country's deep economic crisis on mismanagement and corruption among Sri Lanka's political elites.

Over the past three months, the tiny Indian Ocean nation has sunk deep into economic malaise. Inflation is running at more than 50% and is expected to continue to rise. There are shortages of food and fuel and the country defaulted on its foreign debt in May.



People power? Sri Lankans storm the presidential palace in Colombo on July 9 2022. EPA-EFE/Chamila Karunaratne

There is also political turmoil. In this situation, the role of the army will come into sharp focus. There have been reports that troops fired on protesters as they stormed the presidential palace, but army chiefs insisted they had only fired in the air in an effort to maintain order. But many are asking whether the army will step in to run the government, at least until order can be restored and a new government formed.

Will the army take over?

But while military intervention might restore order to the streets, it's unlikely army chiefs will want to take a direct hand in government.

There are two reasons for this. The first is cultural. There have been occasions when the country could have buckled to the rule by the military. These were the ethnic civil war years between 1983 and 2009. Many hold the view that it was the army which kept the nation from

breaking up during this period before winning a decisive albeit controversial victory against the separatists.

Yet, despite the oversized role played by the country's military establishment, years of hardship, war and human rights abuses, Sri Lankans have steadfastly held on to their democratic civilian government. There were coup attempts in 1962 and 1966 and again in 1991, but these were all thwarted by the civilian government.

The other reason is economic. The main problems facing Sri Lanka are a result of economic mismanagement and corruption. A new administration will need to quickly secure international loans or some other form of support to stabilise the economy and resume the importation of food and fuel. This can only be possible with a civilian leader at the helm of such negotiations.

The problem a military government would face is that the army is still discredited in the eyes of the international community as a result of mass human rights abuses committed during the civil war against the country's Tamil separatists. If an army general were to take power now, Sri Lanka will become a pariah – and would find it almost impossible to raise the foreign investment it so desperately needs.

The importance of choosing someone who is able to negotiate loans from international institutions such as the IMF, the World Bank and the ADB was underlined when Rajapaksa appointed Wickremesinghe, the prime minister, to the finance portfolio. Wickremesinghe had already announced a package of reforms designed to stabilise the economy and

planned to present a debt restructuring plan to the IMF by August.

In hock to Beijing

Sri Lanka's economic woe can largely be blamed on corruption among the country's political elites as well as government mismanagement: unaffordable tax cuts and grandiose infrastructure projects have emptied the treasury, while an enormous trade imbalance has drained the country's foreign reserves.

The problem has been made worse by the decision to repay debts rather than restructuring. China has been one of Sri Lanka's biggest creditors and has balked at any concessions, because it fears that cutting Sri Lanka's debt – racked up mainly as a result of Belt and Road projects – would prompt other debtor nations to do the same and put the Belt and Road programme into jeopardy.

In 2017, when Sri Lanka failed on its loan repayment for the US\$1.1 billion (£920 million) Hambantota port development on Sri Lanka's southern coast, it was forced to sign the port – and thousands of acres of land around it – over on a 99-year lease. China already owns 43% of the massive Colombo Port City development on another 99-year-lease.

Delhi-based think-tank, Red Lantern Analytica, said on July 9 that China had "employed its devious 'Debt Trap Diplomacy' to gain a strategic edge over the nation and hold its economy hostage". This should be a wake-up call to any other non-western countries who have borrowed heavily from China. Beijing should also take some responsibility for Sri Lanka's dire financial straits. But there is little sign, so far, that it will.



There is widespread popular anger at what is widely thought to be political corruption and mismanagement what have wrecked Sri Lanka's economy. EPA-EFE/Chamila Karunaratne

The race to replace UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is on



Two candidates were knocked out of the race to replace UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday, leaving six lawmakers battling to lead the Conservative Party and the country.

Former health secretary Jeremy Hunt and treasury chief Nadhim Zahawi failed to reach the threshold of 30 votes by Conservative lawmakers needed to stay in the contest, reports agencies.

Former finance minister Rishi Sunak scored 88 votes, ahead of junior trade minister Penny Mordaunt

on 67 and foreign secretary Liz Truss on 50.

Lawmaker Kemi Badenoch received 40 votes, Tom Tugendhat received 37 and Suella Braverman received 32.

The 358 Tory lawmakers had crammed into a humid corridor at Parliament on Wednesday afternoon to line up and cast their ballots in a grand room hung with oil paintings. Security staff made them hand over their phones to ensure secrecy.

Further rounds of voting took place yesterday and, if needed, next

week, until just two candidates remain.

The final two contenders will face a run-off vote by about 180,000 Conservative Party members across the country. The winner is scheduled to be announced on September 5 and will automatically become prime minister, without the need for a national election.

Penny Mordaunt new favourite

The Independent on the other hand reports that Penny Mordaunt is the new favourite to be the next Tory leader and prime minister, after a stunning surge in support among party MPs and members that left her rivals floundering.

The little-known former defence secretary was defeated by Rishi Sunak in the first leadership ballot – by 88 votes to 67 – but is the candidate with momentum behind her, as the race heats up.

Mrs Mordaunt leapfrogged Liz Truss into second place, ahead of a second ballot on Wednesday, and is also the overwhelming choice of the Tory grassroots who will pick the next leader, according to a bombshell poll.



China's Shanghai issues red alert over heat conditions for 3rd time this summer

As China reels under extreme heat conditions, Shanghai - the city of 25 million residents - has issued its highest 'red alert' for extreme heat for the third time this summer on Thursday.

Reportedly, the temperatures are expected to rise to at least 40 degrees Celsius over the next 24 hours. In the last five days, Shanghai has issued three alerts over the heat conditions.

On Wednesday, Shanghai's temperature went up to 40.9 degrees Celsius - matching a record set in 2017. In Zhejiang province, a record high temperature of above 42 degrees Celsius was reported on Wednesday. The coastal provinces of Jiangsu and Fujian have also witnessed high temperatures, reports Hindustan Times.

Reportedly, several people have died in China due to flooding and extremely high temperatures. In Henan, Sichuan, and Heilongjiang, several people have been hospitalized due to heat-stroke.

The Yangtze River basin - encompassing megacities from Shanghai to Chongqing in the heartland - has suffered heat waves over the past week, reported news agency Reuters.

Meanwhile, due to the higher heat conditions, the demand for electricity has also risen - leading to a load on the power grids. As per National Development and Reform Commission, China's maximum power load hit an all-time high of 1.22 billion kilowatts on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Italy govt in crisis, may fall after ally backs out of trust vote

Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi's coalition government appeared close to collapse on Thursday after the 5-Star Movement, one of its members, said it would not take part in a parliamentary confidence vote.

Other coalition parties have warned that they will quit the government if 5-Star boycotts the vote in the Senate which is due later in the day, while Draghi himself said this week that he would not head an administration without the 5-Star on board.

The 5-Star decision plunges Italy into political uncertainty, risks undermining efforts to secure billions of euros in European Union funds, and could lead to early national elections in the autumn, reports Reuters.

Italy is due to vote by the first half of next year and tensions have been rising between members of a coalition in place since early 2021 and straddling both sides of the political divide.

The prospect of a political crisis was felt in financial markets where Italian bond yields rose sharply, indicating investors demanding a higher premium to hold its debt, and shares fell.

After a day of intense party discussions, 5-Star leader Giuseppe Conte announced late Wednesday that it would not support the confidence motion, saying the government should be doing more to tackle growing social problems in the euro zone's third largest economy.

Sri Lanka crisis: Soldiers empowered to use force to stop loss of property, life

The Sri Lankan army on Thursday authorised the members of the armed forces and the police to exercise their force to prevent destruction of life and property. This comes after the military establishment refused Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe's directive to use force on the protesters.

The Sri Lankan army statement comes in wake of the anti-government protests which continue amid the exit of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa from Sri Lanka. In its statement, the Sri Lankan army said that all the heads of the armed forces and the police during meetings with the Acting President and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, the Speaker and political leaders requested them to accelerate the issues pertaining to the political instability and the crisis through constitutional provisions, reports Hindustan Times.



The army said it was unanimously maintained that the 'peaceful protests should not anyway be dealt with full force, but with minimum force as long as those protesters do not resort to violence or damage the public property.'

"Irrespective of those assurances, it has been unfortunately observed that a certain section of the protesters, purposefully deviating from its proclaimed 'non-violent' approach continued to breach law and order as of Wednesday (13) afternoon and resorted to violence by trying to place the Parliament complex as well as the Speaker's official residence under siege while destroying police barricades through heavy machinery brought in there," the army said.

The Sri Lankan army has also deployed armoured vehicles on the streets of Colombo to deal with any emergency situation. Ranil Wickremesinghe, the Acting President and Prime Minister, had asked the security forces to use force against the protesters to quell the protests. But the Sri Lankan military establishment declined it as they did not want to be seen as anti-people.

The protesters who had taken control of the government buildings and offices have vacated it, while continuing their demand of Rajapaksa and Wickremesinghe's resignation. The former has left Maldives and has reportedly headed to Singapore.

* Contd on page 9

North Korea backs independence of breakaway regions in Ukraine

North Korea has become one of the few nations in the world to recognize the independence of two Russian-backed separatist regions in eastern Ukraine in support of Russia's war against its neighbor.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry cut off diplomatic ties with North Korea in response and condemned Pyongyang's decision as undermining Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

North Korea has repeatedly blamed the United States for the crisis in Ukraine, claiming the West's "hegemonic policy" justified Russia's offensive in Ukraine to protect itself, reports AP.

North Korea's state media said Thursday that the country's foreign minister, Choe Sun Hui, sent letters to leaders in the breakaway regions of Donetsk and Luhansk a day earlier to convey the North's decision to recognize their independence and its willingness to develop diplomatic relations with both.



Donetsk People Republic Emergency Situations Ministry employees clear rubble at the side of the damaged building. Pic- AP

Donetsk separatist leader Denis Pushilin acknowledged North Korea's decision Wednesday.

Luhansk and Donetsk together make up the Donbas region, a mostly Russian-speaking region of steel factories, mines and other industries in Ukraine's east. Separatists have controlled parts of both provinces since 2014, but Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized their independence only shortly before the invasion began in February. Syria has since recognized their independence as well.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Russia's appeal to North Korea for support shows Moscow has "no more allies in the world, except for countries that depend on it financially and politically." Ukraine had already suspended its political and economic contacts with North Korea because of international sanctions imposed on the North over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles program.

Thailand on verge of using voluntary chemical castration for sex offenders



Thailand has passed a new bill aimed at reducing the sex crimes. Pic - Zeenews.

Thailand is close to introducing chemical castration as a means of tackling sex crime after lawmakers approved a bill that will give some offenders the right to choose the procedure in return for a reduced prison sentence.

The bill, which the lower house passed in March, was approved late on Monday by 145 senators, with two abstentions. It still requires another house vote, then royal endorsement.

Of 16,413 convicted sex offenders released from Thai prisons between 2013 and 2020, there were 4,848 who re-offended, according to corrections department figures, reports Reuters.

Under the bill, certain sex offenders deemed at risk of re-offending may be given the option to receive injections that

reduce their testosterone levels, in return for shorter jail time, providing they have approval of two doctors.

The offenders would be monitored for 10 years and be required to wear electronic monitoring bracelets, according to the bill.

If approved, Thailand would join a small group of countries that use chemical castration, among them Poland, South Korea, Russia and Estonia, plus some US states.

Jaded Chouwilai, director of the Women and Men Progressive Movement Foundation, a non-governmental organization that addresses sexual violence, among other areas, said use of chemical castration would not tackle sex crime.

I2U2 Summit to unveil \$2-bn initiative to tackle food security

The new grouping of India, Israel, the UAE and the US (I2U2) is set to unveil a \$2-billion food security initiative, which envisages setting up agricultural parks in India with funding from the UAE, during its first virtual summit on Thursday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join his Israeli counterpart Yair Lapid, United Arab Emirates President Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan and US President Joe Biden for the I2U2 Summit. The meeting is being held during Biden's first visit to West Asia since becoming president.

The I2U2 Summit will focus on the current food security challenge and "a \$2-billion project, which the UAE is helping to fund, for agricultural parks in India," and some other measures will be announced at the meeting, said a senior US administration on Wednesday, reports Hindustan Times.

Israel will lend technological expertise for the initiative, and there will be some support from the US private sector, the official said.

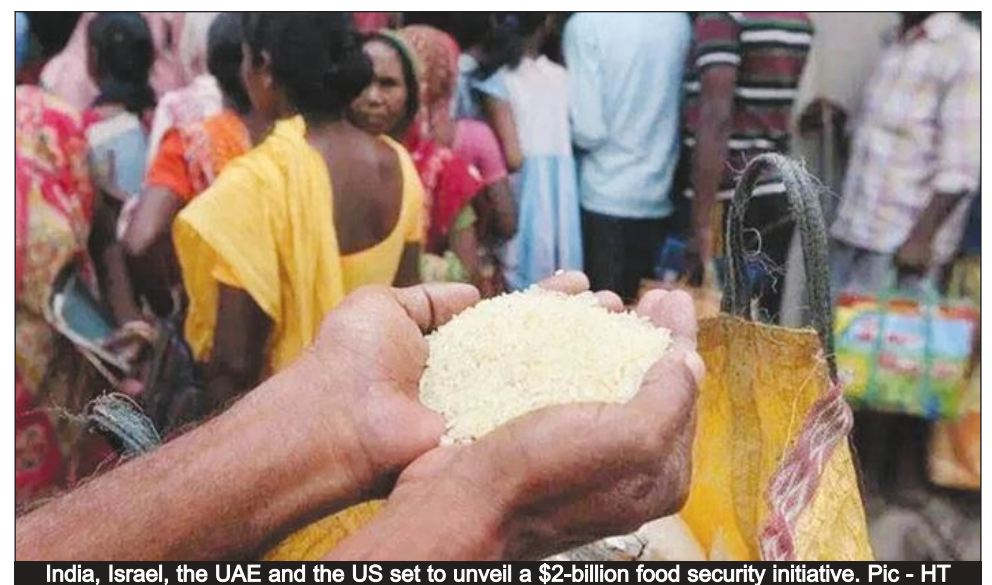
US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan also told reporters on Wednesday that there will be a "significant announcement around food security and agricultural

technology" at the summit. This is an area "where all four countries can come together to help deal with an immediate crisis facing the entire world", he added.

Asked what the US is hoping to achieve by bringing India into arrangements such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and I2U2, Sullivan said: "So, first, India plays a critical role in the Indo-Pacific. And it's one of the largest, most significant, most strategically consequential countries in the Indo-Pacific, and so it should play a central role in our strategy, including through the Quad."

India, Sullivan noted, also has very longstanding ties and engagement with the Middle East, and relationships with the Gulf countries and Israel.

Bringing together Israel, India, the UAE and the US, which have unique capacities for agricultural technology, can lead to greater food production and an alleviation of the food security challenge, Sullivan said. This also fulfills Biden's vision of a "more integrated, more globally engaged Middle East" that isn't just focused on issues such as terrorism and wars, he said, adding I2U2 can "become a feature of the broader region, just as the



India, Israel, the UAE and the US set to unveil a \$2-billion food security initiative. Pic - HT

Quad has become a central pillar of the Indo-Pacific strategy of the United States".

The senior US administration official said India and Israel will serve as innovation and entrepreneurial hubs that will facilitate I2U2's efforts to tackle the food security challenge.

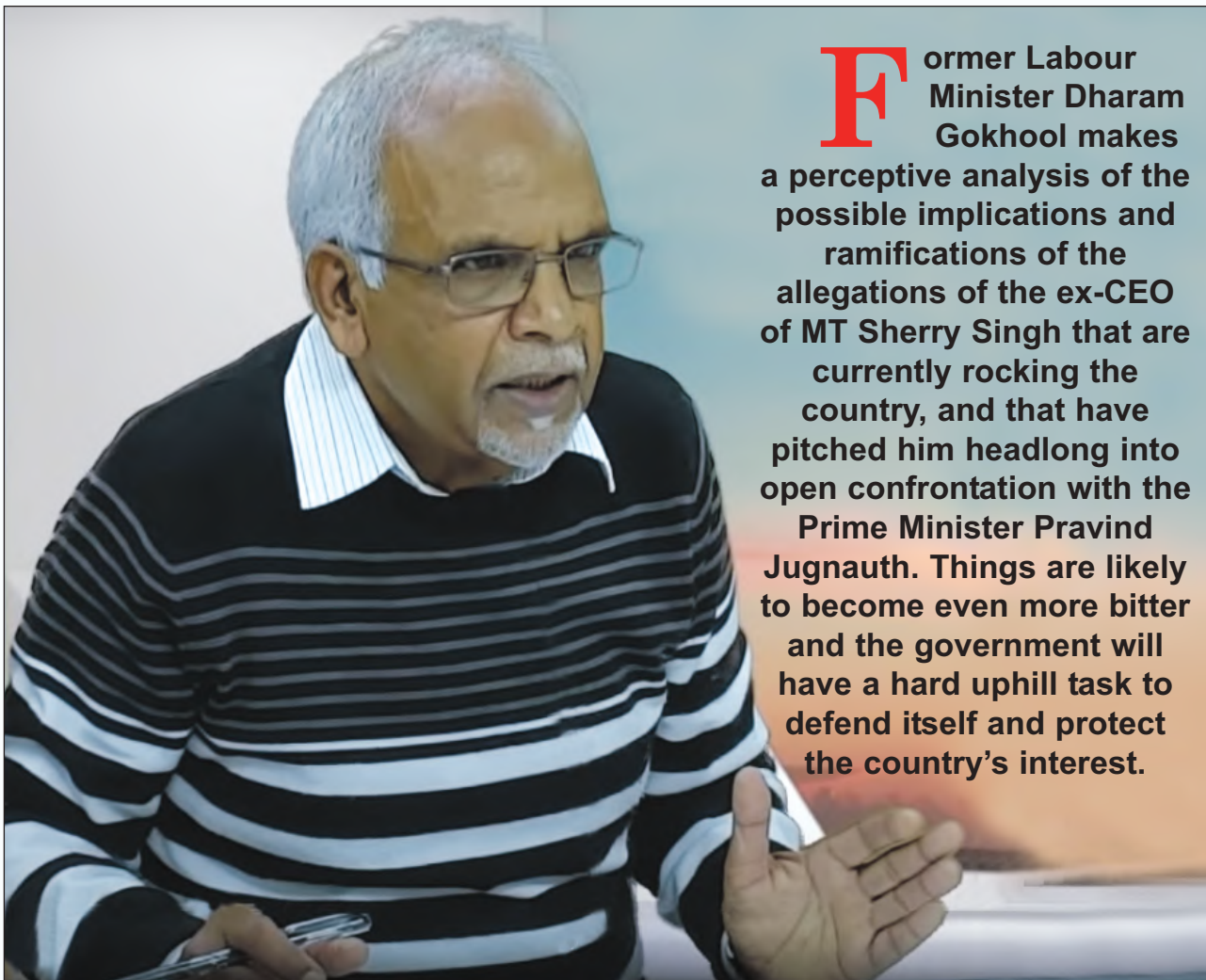
I2U2 was established as an international forum for economic cooperation at a

virtual meeting of foreign ministers of the four countries last October. These countries have said there is no military angle to their cooperation and they are pushing a constructive agenda focused on the economy, especially infrastructure projects.

Interview: Dharam Gokhool

“Sherry Singh & Pravind Jugnauth have not stepped on the eggs; they are now on a live minefield...

... in the process, it is the country that will pay the heaviest price”



Former Labour Minister Dharam Gokhool makes a perceptive analysis of the possible implications and ramifications of the allegations of the ex-CEO of MT Sherry Singh that are currently rocking the country, and that have pitched him headlong into open confrontation with the Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth. Things are likely to become even more bitter and the government will have a hard uphill task to defend itself and protect the country's interest.

Mauritius Times: The suspense around the Sherry Singh v Pravind Jugnauth has not ended and it's likely we'll get to see more twists and turns in the days ahead. Do you feel however that the main protagonists have already stepped on the eggs and that it might get nasty and embarrassing?

Dharam Gokhool: We are witnessing the unravelling of what appears to be a murky and sinister political serial, with shocking and disturbing revelations, presumably of alleged spying against the interests of the Republic of Mauritius, and with the avowed blessings of the head of government himself.

We are at the very first phase. Political observers, analysts, media pundits as well as the common citizens are trying to figure out the precise nature, the full-scale implications of these terrible revelations, and connect the dots. Is this a stand-alone event or is it the tip of a huge iceberg that will trigger a political tsunami?

With the second radio interview of Sherry Singh and the laborious and often seemingly controversial statements of the Prime Minister, the doors of further twists and turns are wide open. More on the side of the corridors of power than Sherry Singh who has so far been more coherent in his pronouncements.

Unless a miracle happens (it is often said that in politics everything is possible), the two protagonists are now already on the battlefield and the fight will take place. It's not eggs they have stepped on: they are now on a live minefield and every move from either side has the potential of destruction. In the process, it is the country that will pay the heaviest price.

*** There might be scores of reasons that militate in favour of the ouster of the present government, but the impact of the allegation picked up by Sherry Singh can be potentially embarrassing on the diplomatic and geopolitical fronts. What's your assess-**

ment of its spillover impacts?

Indeed. With a string of scandals like the Covid-19 related corruptions cases, the high-profile cases of the unresolved alleged murder of Kistnen and the Angus Road saga, together with the inclusion of Mauritius in the Black list (European Union) and Grey list (FATF), the rather muddled Mauritian diplomacy being followed by the present government, our historical and traditional allies and partners must be wondering about the real agenda of this government.

The oblique reference made by Sherry Singh in his first radio interview to a foreign country being involved in the alleged “sniffing” project, was unfortunately followed up by some prime ministerial explicit and inept public statements that inadvertently dragged one of our privileged traditional partners into our local political controversy. A serious and damaging diplomatic impair and a glaring example of lack of diplomatic finesse. There is lot of speculation about the alleged “sniffing” project. Where did the initiative come from?

“Unless a miracle happens (it is often said that in politics everything is possible), the two protagonists are now already on the battle field and the fight will take place. They have not stepped on the eggs; they are now on a live minefield and every move from either side has the potential of destruction. In the process, it is the country that will pay the heaviest price...”

“Politicians are neither outright saints nor satans; they are all humans with their strengths and weaknesses. But integrity in the political arena has become a rare commodity. The erosion of values, to which politicians have been among the main contributors, is dramatic so much so that many people have come to reconcile with the idea that evil has become the new good...”

The vibrant Indian media will certainly seek their government's version and many questions will be raised or are already being raised behind closed doors in diplomatic circles. Are the long-term strategic interests of Mauritius driving our diplomatic agenda or is the present government undermining our time-tested equidistant diplomacy? The alleged “sniffing” project does a lot of harm to our diplomatic reputation and credentials.

☞ Cont. on page 11

'The Opposition forces cannot take the risk of having to deal with an India bashing campaign, which could stoke communal sentiments'

☞ Cont. from page 10

*** We are clearly in a case where there are no real precedents, no other PM having faced such accusations. We are also navigating in troubled waters with the potential for serious geopolitical implications... As such, what do you think should be the course of action for the Prime Minister and the government, especially as regards our international partners?**

Unfortunately, we do not have a full-fledged, full-time Minister of Foreign Affairs with time-tested diplomatic skills to navigate the present storm. The Prime Minister is in the eye of the storm. He is caught in a web of controversies and his credibility has suffered a serious blow. No other Senior Minister is forthcoming to help the country in these difficult times. The damage has been done and, as I see it, damage control initiatives cannot come from this government. Has our Head of State abdicated his role and responsibility as the guardian of our Constitution at this crucial juncture? His silence is eloquent and incomprehensible. It begs the question as to whether he is conscious of his constitutional powers and responsibilities as Head of State.

In the Opposition ranks we have people who have been at the head of governments. We also have former Heads of State and some seasoned politicians. They must take the relay and open channels of communication with the diplomatic community with the message that every storm has a silver lining. They must reassure the international community of the impressive post-independence track record of Mauritius in the international arena and its adherence to the rule of law.

Serving politicians in government's ranks could also be called upon to show restraint and act responsibly in the superior interests of the country. NGOs and civil society must avoid any slipping into any form of disturbance and violence that can tarnish our image.

These are challenging times for our country and all patriots should unite to save the country and its reputation.

*** The allegation relating to the alleged sniffing of the internet networks will remain a mere empty noise unless backed eventually by solid evidence. How do you see things evolving in the days ahead? Do you see the main protagonist willing and capable to go the whole hog?**

So far Sherry Singh has come up with circumstantial evidence. These can help to draw inferences but not prove what he is claiming. For that, he has to put before the population concrete and solid evidence which he has repeatedly stated he has in his custody.

His task has been rendered quite easy by the incomplete, uncoordinated and contradictory statements by the Prime Minister in and out of the National Assembly.

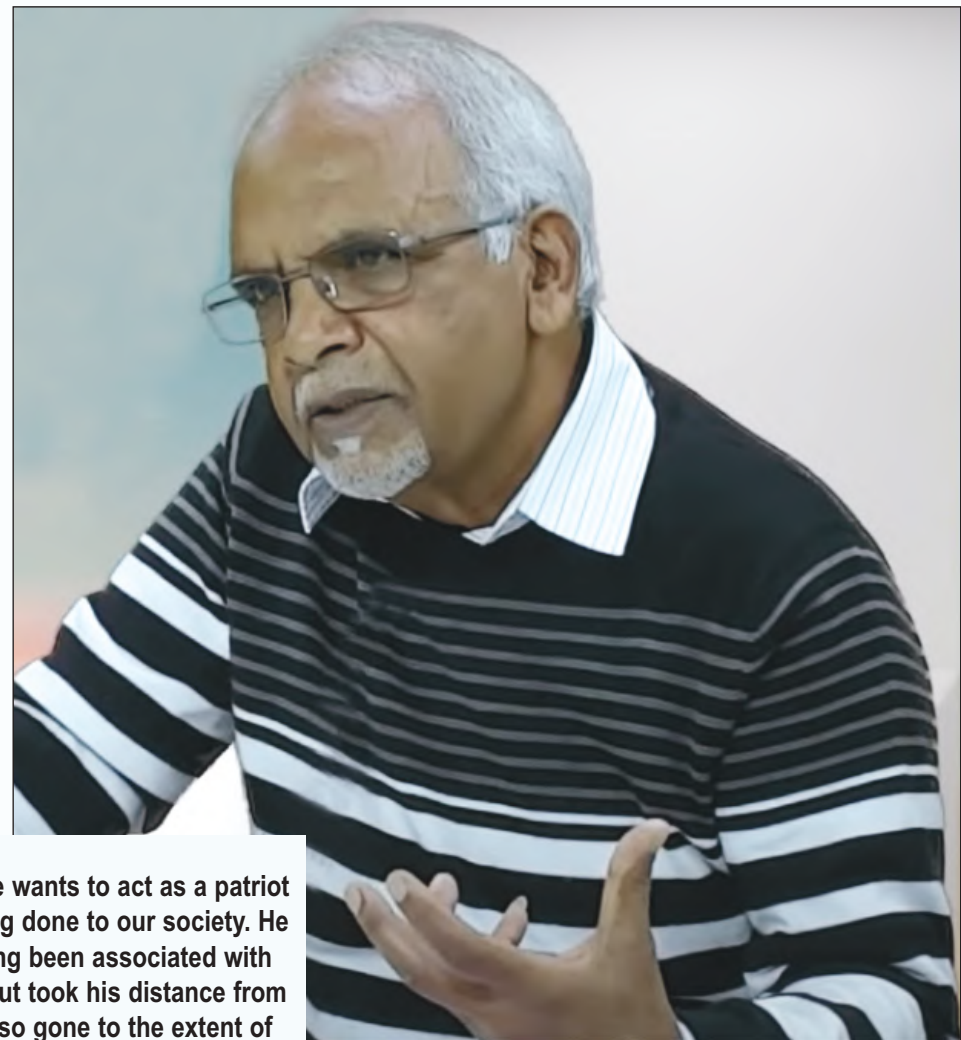
The Prime Minister is running out of time, (unless he has a move up his sleeve to check-mate Sherry Singh). The mood of the people is changing and the younger generation - the digital natives - sees in the "alleged sniffing" attempt a frontal attack on their liberty, their way of life and "their technology". They have a symbiotic rela-

tionship with the internet and abhor any intrusion or "sniffing" which they interpret as an invasion of their privacy. Even in their family milieu, they are extremely protective of their data.

Many have not yet forgotten the aborted attempt to control internet traffic through the ICTA consultation paper.

The ex-CEO of Mauritius Telecom is a digital denizen and he can read the psychology of the internet users. The Prime Minister in on slippery grounds compared to Sherry Singh and public perception and opinion is adding wind to the latter's sail.

*** Sherry Singh said during the course of his**



“Sherry Singh claims he wants to act as a patriot and prevent harm being done to our society. He has also confessed having been associated with 'Lakuizine' at some time but took his distance from 'Lakuizine 2.0'. He has also gone to the extent of saying that the MSM's victory of 2019 to which he contributed was a big mistake. Has he unburdened himself enough or not enough? Time will tell...”

“The Opposition forces cannot take the risk of having to deal with an India bashing campaign, which could be an unnecessary distraction, and stoke communal sentiments. Both in the short- and long-terms, this will be counterproductive and runs the risks of straining our special ties with India and hurting our long-term strategic interests. It may also impact on our social fabric...”

“After having tried unsuccessfully to unseat the government in the past, the Opposition seems to have found in Sherry Singh a catalytic element to unite their forces against the Prime Minister and his government. Singh's move could be the spark that the Opposition forces need to recalibrate their electoral strategy and raise their chances of winning the next general elections...”

latest interview that his focus will be on the alleged sniffing instructions received from the PM, and he is not going to tell us anything about the “merry-making” that had apparently been taking place at the level of the inner circles of power - the so-called ‘La Cuisine’, as it is famously known - and to which he is said to have been associated for many years. Isn't that odd?

This is the world of politics and we have seen enough of every colour and shade. Politicians are neither outright saints nor satans; they are all humans with their strengths and weaknesses. But integrity in the political arena has become a rare commodity. The erosion of values, to which politicians have been among the main contributors, is dramatic, so much so that many people have come to reconcile with the idea that evil has become the new good. And therefore, we need to choose between the lesser of two evils. I am sorry to see the glass as half full. But this is what comes back to me in my interactions with a wide spectrum of people.

But it's also true that circumstances can awaken in people their nobler instincts and they can try to rise up to certain situations, otherwise humanity would be doomed. Sherry Singh claims he is in that metamorphosis state of mind, wants to act as a patriot and prevent harm being done to our society.

☞ Cont. on page 12

'Will Labour come forward with a transformational agenda that will define the contours of a modern political organisation?'

☞ Cont. from page 11

He has also confessed having been associated with 'Lakuizine' at some time but took his distance from 'Lakuizine 2.0'. He has also gone to the extent of saying that the MSM's victory of 2019 to which he contributed was a big mistake. Has he unburdened himself enough or not enough? Time will tell.

But Sherry Singh seems to be clear in his strategy. His target is the forest - the bigger picture, the MSM government which he considers has betrayed the nation; not the trees, the details, his past association with 'Lakuizine'.

Definitely there is a method in his political moves.

*** We have trouble believing that the PM and the government will remain on the defensive. An open war between the PM and Sherry Singh could potentially open other very sensitive files, like the Safe City contract for example. Hasn't a sort of Pandora's box been opened with grave consequences for our security and our economy?**

The government will not take Sherry Singh's attacks lying down. The whole government machinery will be activated. Already, the CCID is interrogating Sherry Singh. There are other institutions that will join in to hound him. This has been

“The Prime Minister is in the eye of the storm. He is caught in a web of controversies and his credibility has suffered a serious blow. No other Senior Minister is forthcoming to help the country in these difficult times. The damage has been done and, as I see it, damage control initiatives cannot come from this government. Has our Head of State abdicated his role and responsibility as the guardian of our Constitution at this crucial juncture?”

the case with others who took their distance from the government. The latest is Rudy Veeramundar, the ex-Director of GIS; ICAC, MRA, IRSA, FIU could join in to harass Sherry Singh.

Sensitive files could be thrown to the public. It is going to be tough and rough for Sherry Singh. But at this moment, he has an edge over the Prime Minister in public opinion. On the other hand, the government seems to be going through a very bad phase with the economic crisis hurting the people real hard. If the Opposition joins together to support Sherry Singh, the ground reality may shift against the government.

*** The Opposition seems to have seen in the Sherry Singh v Pravind Jugnauth spat a golden opportunity to go for the kill - everything else attempted to rock the MSM's boat earlier having**



failed. Do you also see in that spat the ultimate weapon to finish off the current government?

If Sherry Singh succeeds in proving his allegations, the government will be cornered. The Prime Minister will be held responsible for tampering with the security of the state and public pressure will call for the resignation of his government. Sherry Singh's initiative to take on the Prime Minister head-on, single-handed, and his assertion that he is imbued with a sense of mission and patriotism has the resonance of a bold act, at a time when the country is at a cross-roads.

After having tried unsuccessfully to unseat the government in the past, the Opposition seems to have found in Sherry Singh a catalytic element to unite their forces against the Prime Minister and his government. Singh's move could be the spark that the Opposition forces need to recalibrate their electoral strategy and raise their chances of winning the next general elections.

*** With Bruno Laurette on one side of Sherry Singh and a Labour MP on the other and railing against the presence of Indian nationals at the level of the Security Division of the PMO and at the head of the National Coast Guard, 'c'est bien parti', as the French would say, for the Opposition's forthcoming electoral campaign, in particular for the Labour Party's in the constituencies where it matters. What do you think?**

Short-term expediencies should not jeopardise our long-term interests, through inadvertent criticisms.

The Opposition forces cannot take the risk of having to deal with an India bashing campaign, which could be an unnecessary distraction, and stoke communal sentiments. Both in the short- and long-terms, this will be counterproductive and runs the risks of straining our special ties with India and hurting our long-term strategic interests. It may also impact on our social fabric.

Lord Palmerston, the British Prime Minister had this to say about essence of diplomatic relations: "We have no eternal allies, and we have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are eternal and perpetual, and those interests it is our duty to follow."

“Rejuvenation of the Labour Party cannot be limited to a few new faces. Along with a quantitative change, it also needs a qualitative change, people with new thinking, new ideas who are in tune with the changing aspirations of our people, in a global context. Internal party processes must be democratised to avoid concentration of power in the hands of a few...”

If there are issues that need to be dealt with, the diplomatic channels should be resorted to instead of public platforms.

*** Speaking of the Labour Party, there is again talk of the proposed rejuvenation of the party cadres in the months ahead. In other words, the old boys should make way for the young lads - possibly for new kinds of leadership and political action. What do you think of that?**

Sometime back you asked me about Labour Party's way forward, and I said Labour has a strong, capable and ethnically diverse and geographically representative Parliamentary Group which can be leveraged to give Labour a competitive edge over other political forces.

Rejuvenation of the Labour Party cannot be limited to a few new faces. Along with a quantitative change, it also needs a qualitative change, people with new thinking, new ideas who are in tune with the changing aspirations of our people, in a global context. Internal party processes must be democratised to avoid concentration of power in the hands of a few. People want to have a say. Mechanisms should be put in place for the party to set up a functional Secretariat to keep in touch with the people. These are a few ideas to define the new architecture of the Labour Party.

In the days to come, will it be business as usual with some cosmetic changes for Labour or will Labour come forward with a transformational agenda that will define the contours of a modern political organisation? This is the real challenge for the Labour leadership.

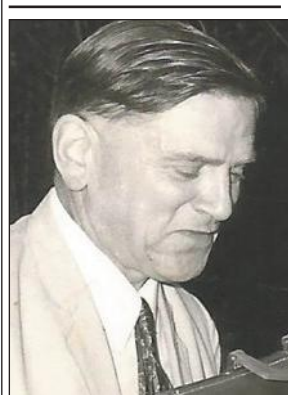
From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 198

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 23 May, 1958

•“My religious sense did not allow me to speak a rash or profane word of anything that the soul of man holds or has held as sacred.” — Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan



Peter Ibbotson

Labour Problems



What many people would like to know is: how many unemployed persons are there in Mauritius? It is no use going to the Labour Department: its figures showed, in 1955, unemployment figures ranging from 1950 in September to 3049 in February. Yet the difference in the labour force on the estates between crop and intercrop was 10,717 — a difference clearly not reflected in the Department's figures of unemployment.

Why does the Labour Department not know the number of unemployed persons? Because not every unemployed person registers every week at a Labour Exchange. And why not? Because there is no incentive for him to do so. There are no jobs anyway, so why should an unemployed person spend half a day every week, as well as his bus fare, in travelling to a Labour Exchange just in order to be told what he already knows? There is no social insurance; so weekly attendance at a Labour Exchange is unnecessary.

But failing exact figures relating to unemployment, how can the Government accurately work out a social insurance scheme? How can liabilities be estimated when all the facts (or even an approximation to all the facts) are not known? Unemployment benefits are sorely needed; at present people are starving during the intercrop because they have no money to buy food. And unemployment benefits for the great army of unemployed workers would give them something in their pockets and thus benefit the shopkeepers and trade generally.

Social insurance, contributory of course, would help all round. Workers would pay a small weekly sum and stamps would be stuck on their insurance cards. When their employment ended — when, for example, they were sacked — their employer would have to give them their cards to be handed in at the Labour Exchange. When they got a new job — through the Labour Exchange of course — they would be given their cards back to hand to their new employer for regular weekly stamping.

A necessary corollary of unemployment insurance and unemployment benefits is, of course, that workers shall be recruited by employers only through a Labour Exchange. At present many employees do not use the Labour

“The *bisoin chanter* system works this way. A labourer is employed in a gang working for the Public Works Department for example. After he has been working for two months, his sirdar sacks him. Two weeks later, he goes back to ask the sirdar to re-engage him. If he pays, say, ten rupees “entry fee”, the sirdar will agree to take him back into the gang but each week thereafter the labourer must also pay the sirdar a rupee out of his weekly wage to ensure not being sacked again...”

Exchanges; certainly many prefer instead to make use of the Parti Mauricien's private employment bureaus and the iniquitous ONE RUPEE CARD system. One reason advanced for the preference of employers for private bureaus is that these employers fear that if they use the Government Exchanges they will have to pay the minimum wages, but if they use private bureaus they can safely get away with paying lower-than-minimum wages!

Another abuse which unemployment insurance would help to check is the practice of giving a *bisoin chanter*, a “little present”, to someone who can help in getting a job. The *bisoin chanter* system works this way. A labourer is employed in a gang working for the Public Works Department for example. After he has been working for two months, his sirdar sacks him. Two weeks later, he goes back to ask the sirdar to re-engage him. If he pays, say, ten rupees “entry fee”, the sirdar will agree to take him back into the gang but each week thereafter the labourer must also pay the sirdar a rupee out of his weekly wage to ensure not being sacked again.

The job contractor also takes his “little present”. “Find me 50 men to work at Rs 3.00” says the employer to the job contractor, who goes off and finds the requisite 50 men, telling each, however, that the employer is offering only Rs 2.75 — he pockets the odd 25 cents per man per day for himself. Then, when the employer pays the job contractor the total sum of wages to be distributed among the gang of 50 workers, he of course adds the customary 5 or 10 per cent commission for the job contractor... so that the job contractor gets his cut from the employer, as well as his cut from the workers. Only, of course, the cut from the workers is a little bit of chicanery on the part of the contractor. In addition, of course, a really unscrupulous job contractor

will say to his gang: “Unless you give me a little present, I shall not remember your name for future work with me. *Bisoin chanter* with a vengeance! Yes if the Labour Exchanges were properly used by the employers, especially by the estates at crop times, the need for the parasitic job contractor (with all his possible ways of making money) would disappear.

Many employers pay under the minimum agreed wage. Many employers do not scrupulously adhere to the letter of trade and wage agreements and wage ordinances. Labour inspectors are supposed to find out abuses of the labour laws, but in practice they are often unable to do so.

Trade union leaders are forbidden access to the sugar estates except by prior notification to, and permission of, the manager — so that it is thus impossible for a trade union leader to make an on-the-spot immediate check of any of his members' complaints. And unfortunately conditions in the Labour Department itself are not always what they should be. There is much public suspicion that certain high-up personages in the Department find a conflict of loyalty between their duty to the Department and their relationship to wealthy members of their social community. In other words, between their duty to protect the workers and their instinctive loyalty.

These problems confronting the Labour Department are spotlighted by the necessity of appointing a successor to Mr James Sterling, O.B.E., as Labour Commissioner. Certain names have been mentioned as possible successors: Mr A. H. Vaudin, the Deputy Labour Commissioner; Mr Lane, a former Civil Commissioner (North); Mr Pickwood, who before he left Mauritius some years ago was Assistant Labour Commissioner — that was in the days when the Assistant Labour Commissioner was the post corresponding to the present Deputy; and Mr Carpenter, Civil Commissioner (Moka-Flacq) to name only a few.

Workers all over Mauritius have a great interest in this matter of Mr Sterling's successor. Just as it is important that justice should not only be done, but should clearly be seen to be done, it is important to have as Labour Commissioner a man who not only is impartial, but also is clearly seen to be impartial.

The Labour Commissioner must be someone whom the workers can trust; therefore someone unconnected with the estates; unconnected with the capitalists. He must be someone whose impartiality cannot, even by implication, be called into question. He must not be a man who is known to have but little faith in trade unionism, or whom report states to have but little faith in trade unions. And his appointment must be 100 per cent free from suspicion that nepotism is in any way involved, either in the appointment itself or in the manner in which the Commissioner carries out his duties.

The choice of a Labour Commissioner to succeed Mr Sterling is vitally important to the workers; and to the Labour Party. For it is Mr Sterling's successor who will be in at the birth of the projected social insurance system, so that it is essential to have a man who is utterly sympathetic to such a scheme and who is familiar (as all Britishers are) with social security systems.

It will be the Labour Government, surely due to be elected at the next General Election, which will bring in the social insurance scheme; that is why I say that the choice of the Labour Commissioner is vital to the Labour Party.

Let us hope that wisdom will prevail when Mr Sterling's successor is chosen.

Mirror mirror, is that me?

By Dr Poubani Cudian

Dr Poubani Cudian is currently a lecturer in physiology at the SSR Medical College, Belle Rive, where she graduated MBBS Honours after completing her medical studies in 2017. She has been a brilliant student throughout her primary school and secondary school years, obtaining. As in all subjects up to HSC level. She was awarded the National State Scholarship, Laureate rank 7th Science Side (Batch 2012).



Besides her academic career, she also found time to participate in extracurricular activities, obtaining second place in Ramakrishna Mission Elocution competition, Third place in the National Tamil Drama Competition and Best Delegation for Model United Nations 2011. Further, she is a polyglot, including amongst her languages Creole, English, French, German and Hindi.

She has now extended her talents to author her first book, **'Mirror mirror, is that me?'** It is about 17-year-old Lisa, who is in utter denial about her illness until she is forced by her parents to consult a psychologist. The latter makes revelations that gives a blow to Lisa and her parents with his diagnosis of Anorexia Nervosa. The book is about Lisa's life, her struggle to overcome her mental illness, and the significant role of her psychologist in daily therapy sessions to help her overcome her daily battles: her disease, adolescence, fierce school competition as well as her inability to make friends.

The unflinching support of Lisa's parents makes her learn to show gratitude towards them.

But when she is unable to get over her constant fixation for food and succumbs to her illness, Lisa lands up at the mental hospital. There, she is shattered by the thought of having to spend days amongst crazy people. However, she meets new characters who are battling their own mental illnesses. This creates a new feeling in her, compassion, which gradually changes her way of thinking and attitude towards life.

The book also gives an insight into depression, as some people whom Lisa encounters at the hospital suffer from this gnawing disease. She discovers how important it is to reach out to others before one is consumed by one's own disease. The book is Lisa's narration of her life and the discovery of herself. One day, after being discharged from the mental hospital, she decides to start writing her book. 'Mirror mirror, is that me?' is an account of her struggle as an adolescent, of her parents and psychologist coming to her rescue, and the lessons she drew from this dark episode in her life.

The book is also available in French version - **'Miroir miroir, est-ce bien moi?'**

Sweet Poison

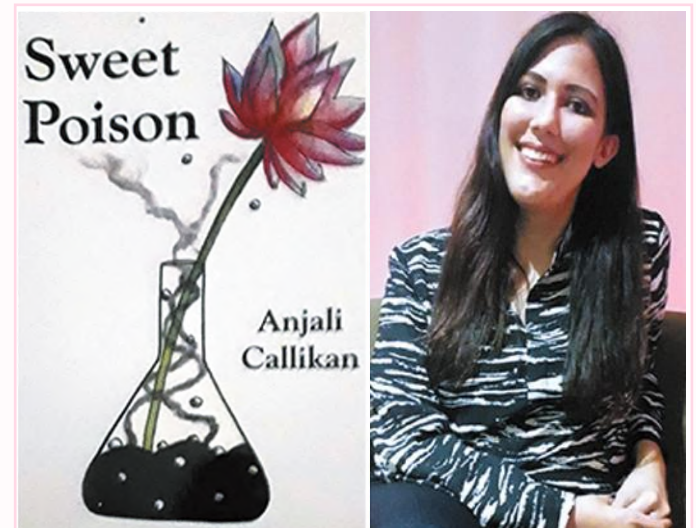
By Anjali Callikan

The thread of passion and love constitutes a vividly intimate backdrop to the author's collection of poems, 'Sweet Poison'. Anjali digs deep into the innermost recesses of her soul, with pulsating words deftly bringing the authenticity of her experiences to life, in the brave expression of a journey that has left no scars untouched and bares her deeper quest for meaning to life, love and existence.

Poetry and her ability to use it effectively for creative nuance and passion was indeed admirably suited for the purposes she had set out, to both share the engulfing beauty and perhaps exorcise the deep sorrows that this eternal theme can bring forth in whatever time and location.

An initiation and a first step into self-disco-

very, a long road which, given Anjali's flair for words tumbling out with such simplicity, confidence and maturity at her young age, we would only encourage her to follow and find meaning to the eternal questions, inner peace and wisdom without losing the zest and passion for life that permeates her book.



Bollywood and Its Global Impact

By Dr Ouma Seebaluck



India's film industry, popularly known as Bollywood, is the largest in the world, with production of films in more than 20 languages going up to over 2000 films annually. The Economic Diplomacy Division of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs estimates its valuation in 2018 at around US\$2.5 billion, and that is expected to grow to US\$3.2 billion by 2023. The yearn for Bollywood, it says, is not recent. 'Dharti Ke Lal' was the first Indian film to have

a commercial release overseas. It was released in the Soviet Union in 1949. 'Aan', was the first Indian film to have a worldwide release in 1952. With subtitles in 17 languages, the film was released in 28 countries and earned big revenue overseas.

Decades hence, Indian films continue to pull crowds around the world. Movies like 'Mughal-e-Azam', 'Guide', 'Sholay', 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', 'Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham' to more recent films like 'Dangal' and 'Uri' reflect the aspirations of an evolving society. But more than its global outreach and commercial success, Bollywood's impact on the lives of Indians and more across the world, especially its diaspora as well as its role as ambassador of India's soft power have been tremendous.

This is what Dr Ouma Seebaluck has attempted to explore in her book 'Bollywood and Its Global Impact' launched recently. Describing herself as the granddaughter of an indentured labourer, born and bred in Mauritius, Ouma says she as well as most of her friends looked up to India for inspiration in every sphere of life: 'Our main contact with the country of our forefathers was rare (during our growing up years), and our main link with 'Mother India was through films. I grew up in Mauritius with Hindi movies and Hindi songs... Indian films forged my identity and indeed to some extent that of Mauritius itself.'

A personally rewarding experience for Ouma, 'Bollywood and Its Global Impact' poignantly captures, as Dr Salman Ayaz puts it, 'the multifaceted phenomenon and global force that is Bollywood... it provides the reader with the critical insight needed to understand the relationship between Bollywood and the diaspora, its burgeoning economic and touristic appeal outside of India'.

Ouma has worked as an airline executive for over 25 years, following which she went on to do a PhD in International Studies at JMI University, New Delhi.

● Cont. from page 2

Uber also allegedly had in place a “kill switch”, a technological tool to prevent authorities from accessing Uber’s data when they raided its offices.

The company has made an effort to distance itself from the allegations in the Uber files. A statement issued by the company attributes the content of the leaks to the Kalanick era, and stresses the change in leadership and values.

Meanwhile, Kalanick’s spokesperson has said that Uber’s approach to expansion was not his own doing, but was instead “under the direct oversight and with the full approval of Uber’s robust legal, policy, and compliance groups”.

What has (and hasn’t) changed

This chaos strategy arguably worked. Uber is now a US\$43 billion (£36 billion) company, and its drivers make around 19 million journeys a day. Yet, it still struggles

with profitability and aggressive competitors.

In 2017, Kalanick stepped down and was replaced as CEO by Dara Khosrowshahi. Most of the leadership has also changed since then. Accusations about a workplace culture of harassment and sexism appear to have dried up.

The company has generally moved away from its original service towards one where licensed drivers use vehicles with specific permits to hail passengers (in other words, a taxi for the smartphone era), and introduced a food delivery wing, Uber Eats. It has also taken a calmer and more polite approach to expansion — moving slower, breaking less stuff.

Let me give you two examples: Uber entered Madrid in 2014 in disregard of a

The Uber Files



Pic - The Conversation

Spanish law requiring companies and drivers to have a specific license. It entered Berlin the same year, in violation of German competition laws. The company was banned, left both cities and returned later in compliance with existing regulations.

And yet, some things have stayed the same. The company faces multiple lawsuits, most of them around whether its workers are classed as employees, and its profitability remains an open question. As I explain in my research, these two things can be explained by the company’s fundamental strategy: that of “contentious compliance”.

Uber adapts to existing rules, but only as little as necessary to provide its services. Meanwhile, it continues to fight legislation everywhere – spending billions on lobbying and in crafting political connections – to push existing rules closer to its

preferences.

Uber’s executives know their business model might not be sustainable, and even less so if they are forced to classify workers as employees and pay for related rights and benefits. Fighting regulations is a survival strategy.

They have a preferred model in mind – as close as possible to their original one. Though they are not openly breaking laws anymore, they continue to push for their preferred regulations through the courts or by finding legal loopholes.

In a memo recently sent to employees and leaked to the press Khosrowshahi wrote: “We will be even more hardcore about costs across the board.” The company knows that if it is forced to re-classify drivers as workers (as, for example, the UK supreme court has ruled) the financial situation will be even worse.

Beyond another stain in its reputation, Uber has very real problems. Profitability might be the most urgent one for the company, but for our society there is a far more important one.

Apps like Uber and the hundreds that followed promised innovation. Instead, they have brought a barely-disguised version of the exploitation and corruption that has always characterised capitalism. Given the allegations in the Uber files, one also has to wonder if there will ever be consequences for tech entrepreneurs with a taste for rule breaking.

Jimena Valdez, Lecturer in Comparative Politics, City, University of London

Books

‘Message from an Adventurous Ancestor’

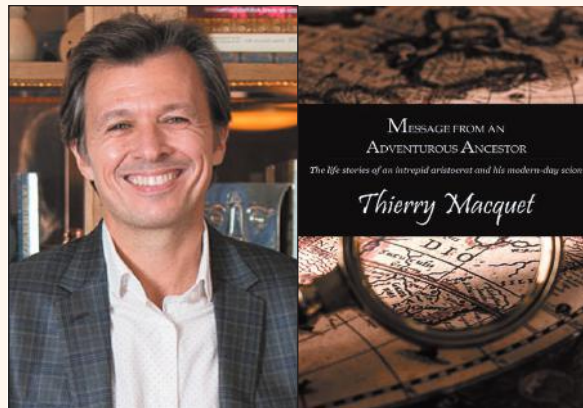
By Thierry Macquet

Our compatriot, Thierry Macquet, now settled in England, has brought out an inspiring and exciting one - ‘**Message from an Adventurous Ancestor**’. It tells the story of two men from different eras tied through blood line and the social realities of their times and how humanity does not fundamentally change over the course of centuries despite wars, revolutions, and pandemics.

Two flamboyant characters, Adrien and Charles, who can only be found in the heart of the rich and blue-blooded elite take readers on a journey through not only time but the upper drawers of society, both past and present, in the world of the “upper-class club” where outsiders are seldom welcome regardless of the friendly and eccentric image its members give to the outside world and a destructive race where drugs, money and social recognition are the supreme rulers of a borderline decadent social order.

Adrien Mullet de Lespinasse discovers an oil portrait of his direct ancestor Charles dating from the 1820s when the man was also in his mid-forties living another pandemic and this will be a catalyst which will change Adrien’s path, and open his mind to the fact that he has been looking for perfection in an imperfect world when his life already holds all the ingredients for him to be contented.

The diaries of this adventurous French Viscount discovered in the attic of their family seat will reveal striking simi-



larities between the life journey of each of those two men sharing the same genes while living two centuries apart, with both experiencing similar situations, meeting people with strikingly identical profiles, and visiting the same exotic places in totally different eras. The corona pandemic tragedy is the wakeup call which help him to finally accept who he is, with a return to his Mauritian roots which will bring him serenity.

Thierry Macquet was born in Mauritius in 1973. He started his career in the luxury hospitality and lifestyle sector in 1997. He moved to London in 2001 and set up TM Portfolio in 2009. He has lived in many different countries since his childhood, is trilingual, and has a very international approach to business development, brand marketing and PR.

Thierry holds two postgraduate degrees, sits on a few boards of directors as a consultant, and writes as a freelance Travel & Lifestyle journalist for a few high profile publications. ‘**Message from an Adventurous Ancestor**’ is his first novel, which has been published by IPC (Mauritius), and Grosvenor House Publishing (United Kingdom).

To Our Readers

Subscribe to the Mauritius Times

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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Music as medicine? 30 minutes a day shows benefits after heart attack

Daily music sessions found to reduce anxiety, pain and subsequent heart problems

Listening to music can be enjoyable, but is it also good for your heart? Patients who suffered episodes of chest pain soon after a heart attack, known as early post-infarction angina, had significantly lower levels of anxiety and pain if they listened to music for 30 minutes a day, according to a study.

Nearly 700,000 people survive a heart attack in the U.S. each year, and it is estimated that roughly 1 in 9 heart attack survivors experience subsequent episodes of chest pain and anxiety within the first



48 hours. The new research suggests music, combined with standard therapies such as medications, could be a simple, accessible measure that patients can do at home to potentially reduce these symptoms and help prevent subsequent cardiac events.

The researchers recruited 350 patients diagnosed with heart attack and early post-infarction angina at a medical center in Serbia. Half were randomly assigned to receive standard treatment while half were assigned to regular music sessions in addition to standard treatment. For most patients, standard treatment included a variety of medications such as nitrates, aspirin, clot-preventing drugs, beta blockers, statins, calcium channel blockers, blood pressure-

lowering medications and the angina-reducing drug ranolazine.

At the end of seven years, music therapy was found to be more effective than standard treatment alone in terms of reducing anxiety, pain sensation and pain distress. The patients with music therapy, on average, had anxiety scores one-third lower than those on standard treatment and reported lower angina symptoms by about one-quarter. These patients also had significantly lower rates of certain heart conditions, including an 18% reduction in the rate of heart failure; 23% lower rate of subsequent heart attack; 20% lower rate of needing coronary artery bypass graft surgery; and 16% lower rate of cardiac death.

'Toxic,' but still successful professionally?

Toxic personality is a term used to describe people who behave greedily, immodestly and unfairly and take the truth very lightly. Dr Mareike Kholin, Bastian Kückelhaus and Prof Dr Gerhard Blickle from the Department of Psychology at the University of Bonn found out why such people can still succeed in their careers. The trick that leads to the top is social skill. The results are presented in the journal 'Personality and Individual Differences'.

Social skills are in themselves a good

thing in the workplace. They can open locked doors and help to cope with daily stress. But they can also be used to deceive others, abuse trust or construct a façade of harmlessness beyond which actually lurks deceitfulness. Dr Mareike Kholin and the research team determined that toxic personalities who are considered socially adept by their colleagues were considered more capable by their superiors and occupy a higher hierarchical position. "We have to get used to the idea that social skills can be a double-edged sword," says Kholin.

In personality tests, "toxic" persons have low scores in the categories "honesty" and "modesty." "Such personalities tend to focus on themselves all the time," says Blickle. "Good social skills enable them to deceive others." On the other hand, those who are distinctly

honest and modest are a real joy for their team: Such individuals behave fairly and allow colleagues to share in their successes.

Low values for the characteristics "honesty" and "modesty"

Psychologists from the University of Bonn investigated the phenomenon by interviewing various work teams. The results showed that workers with low values for honesty and modesty can nonetheless succeed in their careers if they balance the toxic parts of their personality with social skills. Bastian Kückelhaus: "Trickery, disguise and deception are the dark side of social skills."

How can toxic personalities be



assessed more accurately? But how can companies and teams respond to these findings? "In order to slow down the ascent of toxic personalities, more attention should be paid to actual performance and less to the good impression when selecting staff and making assessments," advises Prof Blickle.



How do voices come out of our mouths?

The sound comes from our lungs and our voice box, which is at the front of the throat. Here's how it works.

We can all communicate in lots of different ways – using our hands to gesture or sign, writing letters, typing text messages, drawing pictures or even sending emojis.

But if we want to communicate by speaking then we need to use our voice.

Our voice makes sound when we use air from our lungs to vibrate our vocal cords, which sit inside your voice box.

To find your voice box, feel for the bony lump at the front of your throat. We sometimes call this an "Adam's apple" in men.

The air from the lungs causes the vocal cords to move really quickly. This is called vibration and feels a bit like buzzing.

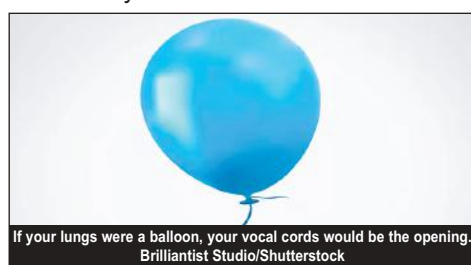
See if you can vibrate your vocal cords, like this boy in the photo. Try saying "ahh" – then, gently place your fingers on your throat.

You should be able to feel the vibration of your vocal cords.

Picture this

Another way to think about this process is to imagine your lungs are a balloon, full of air.

Now imagine the opening of the balloon is your vocal cords.



If your lungs were a balloon, your vocal cords would be the opening. Brilliantist Studio/Shutterstock

When the balloon is tied up, vocal cords are closed and no air escapes.

When the balloon isn't tied, the vocal cords are open, and all air comes out. That's like breathing out.

But if you stretch the opening of a balloon sideways, you can control the amount of air that escapes. The opening vibrates, and it makes a noise.



Place your fingers over the bump in your throat to feel the vibration. Lapinal/Shutterstock

That's similar to what your vocal cords do when they vibrate.

Then what happens?

The voice continues to vibrate as it travels up through your throat and into your mouth and/or your nose.

You can then control the flow of air using your lips, tongue, teeth, and the roof of your mouth to make different sounds.

When you say "ahh", for example, you're making your vocal cords vibrate with your mouth wide open and using the roof of your mouth to stop air escaping out through your nose.

If you say "eee" or "ooo", the air still vibrates in your mouth but because you change the shape of your mouth, you make a different sound.

Some sounds are different

Some sounds that we use to produce speech don't use the voice from our vocal cords.

Compare the sounds "sssss" to "zzzzz", for example.

The shape of the mouth and position of tongue, lips, teeth and roof of the mouth are the same but the "s" sound doesn't use our voice, and the "z" sound does.

Try saying "sssss" and then "zzzzz" out loud and feel the difference in vibration on your throat.

We also use our voice differently when we whisper. We don't vibrate our vocal cords at all, we just use air from our lungs and move our mouth, tongue and lips.

Sally Hewat
University of Newcastle



TV and Mobile

A grandson asked his grandpa one question while on the way back from school: What is the difference between 'Wife' and 'Girlfriend'?

Grandpa thought for a minute and simplified the explanation like this...

Listen son: Wife is like a TV and Girlfriend is like a Mobile.

At home you watch TV, but when you go out you take your Mobile.

Sometimes you enjoy TV, but most of the time, you play with your Mobile.

TV is (as good as) free for life, but for the Mobile, if you don't pay, the services will be terminated.

TV is big, bulky and most of the time old,

But the Mobile is cute, slim, curvy, replaceable and portable.

Operational costs for TV are often acceptable but for the Mobile, it is often high and demanding.

TV has a remote but Mobile doesn't.

Most importantly, Mobile is a two-way communication (you talk and listen), but with the TV, you MUST only listen (whether you want to or not)!

Last but not least!

Yet TVs are superior because TVs don't have viruses, but Mobile often do.

And mobiles can be easily hacked or stolen.

Take care. Stick to TV only.

Husband & Wife Exchanges

Husband: You are negative.

Wife: And you are stubborn, arrogant, a low life, care about no one but yourself and your friends, all you are interested in is your own self, all your life not fulfilled even one of your promises. It is only I who is putting up with such a miser and insensitive man. You good for nothing, fat, ugly man. Even your hair transplant failed.

Husband: I was just informing you that your Covid test is negative.

Poetry Competition

The first line must be romantic, but the second line should be the opposite. The following was the winning

entry sent by Joao Caita

My darling, my lover, my beautiful wife,
Marrying you messed up my life.

I see your face when I am dreaming,
That's why I always wake up screaming.

Kind, intelligent, loving and hot;
This describes everything you are not.

I love your smile, your face and your eyes,
Damn, I'm good at telling lies!

My feelings for you, no words can tell,
Except for maybe 'Go to hell.'

What inspired this amazing rhyme?
A bottle of Feni, little Salt n Lime!

A Chinese man came to India. He took a taxi at the airport.

On his way, by seeing a bus, he told the taxi driver, that in India buses run very slow. In China buses run very fast.

After some time, he came near a railway bridge and saw a train passing over the bridge. Then the Chinese man told the driver, that the trains also run very slow here. In China trains run very fast.

Throughout the journey he complained to the driver disparaging India. However, the taxi driver kept mum throughout the journey.

When the Chinese man reached his destination, he asked the driver what is the meter reading and taxi fare thereon.

The taxi driver replied it is Rs.10,000.

The Chinese was shell shocked after hearing the taxi fare. He shouted "are you kidding? in your country buses run slow, trains run slow, everything is slow. How come the meter alone runs fast?"

To this the taxi driver replied calmly, 'Sir, the meter is made in China.'

Murphy showed up at Mass one Sunday and the priest almost fell down when he saw him.

He'd never been to church in his life. After Mass, the priest caught up with him and said, "Murphy, I am so glad ya decided to come to Mass. What made ya come...?"

Murphy said, "I got to be honest with you Father, a while back, I misplaced my hat and I really, really love that hat. I know that McGlynn had a hat just like mine and I knew he came to church every Sunday. I also knew that he had to take off his hat during Mass and figured he would leave it in the back of the church. So, I was

IN ORDER TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, HE FIRST HAD TO UPDATE HIS OPERATING SYSTEM, DOWNLOAD AN APP, GET A USERNAME, CHOOSE A PASSWORD, LOG IN TO A HEALTH PORTAL, NAVIGATE TO MESSAGES AND WRITE HIS DOCTOR...BY THEN IT WAS TOO LATE.



This might be Future

going to leave after Communion and steal McGlynn's hat..."

The priest said, "Well, Murphy, I notice that ya didn't steal McGlynn's hat. What changed your mind?"

Murphy replied, "Well, after I heard your sermon on the 10 Commandments, I decided that I didn't need to steal McGlynn's hat after all."

With a tear in his eye, the priest gave Murphy a big smile and said: "After I talked about 'Thou Shalt Not Steal' ya decided you would rather do without your hat than burn in hell, eh...?"

Murphy slowly shook his head. "No, Father, after ya talked about 'Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery' I remembered where I left my hat..."

In a mental hospital of 38 patient's, a journalist asks the doctor: How do you determine whether to admit a mental patient or not to?

Dr: "Well, we fill a bathtub with water and then give the patient

(a) a teaspoon,

(b) a glass,

(c) a bucket, and ask them to empty the bathtub."

Journalist: "Oh, obviously a normal person would use the bucket because it's bigger."

Dr: "No, a normal person would pull the drain plug! Please go to bed No.39. We will start further investigations on you!"

You also thought of the bucket, didn't you? Please go to bed No. 40!

Life's Stories

The Cock and The Fox

The Cock and the Fox story is an Aesop's Fable for children teaching about how a trickster is easily tricked

The light from the setting sun shimmered through leaves as it touched down on this beautiful world. The wise old cock was feeling tired after his day of flying around, so he sought out safety and solitude in a tree. But just as he was about to sleep, he saw a flash of red and a glimpse of a long-pointed nose. He knew it was Master Fox.

"Have you heard of the wonderful



news, my friend?" cried the cunning fox very joyful and excitedly.

The cock was surprised by the friendly tone of the Fox. "What news are you talking about?" asked the Cock, trying to appear calm. But he had a fluttery feeling inside as he was very much afraid of the Fox.

"Our families, yours, mine and all other animals have agreed to forget all about our differences and be friends. We will now leave in peace and harmony from now. Isn't that great? This is a time for celebration. I simply cannot wait to embrace you! Come down, my dear friend, and let us celebrate the joyful event."

"How amazing!" said the Cock. "This is certainly great news."

"Oh, I see; that is why the dogs are running towards us. They must have heard the good news and ma running with joy," said the cock stretching up on tiptoes while looking afar off.

But Fox's demeanour changed as

soon as he heard about the dogs, and off he started on a run.

"Wait," cried the Cock. "Why are you running away? The dogs are our friends now! They will not harm you. Don't you want to celebrate with them too?"

"Yes indeed," answered the Fox. "But they might not have heard the good news. Besides, I almost forgot about a very important errand that needs my attention." The Fox swiftly ran away from there, leaving the Cock alone.

The Cock smiled as he buried his head in his feathers as he composed to sleep, for he had outwitted a very crafty enemy.

Moral: The trickster can be easily tricked.

Life's Lessons

37 clear lessons life taught me

As part of my process, I've been considering the most valuable lessons I've learned from life.

In the spirit of service and encouraging you to operate at your absolute best, I wanted to share 37 of them. They'll serve your ascent well... they'll remind you of what's important.

Here we go...

1. Don't follow the herd.
2. Work hard then enjoy life.
3. Develop wonderful friendships.
4. Be honest.
5. Listen intently.
6. Shine a light on people's gifts.
7. See rest as a productivity tool.
8. Treat everyone with respect.
9. Get better with age.
10. Give your customers stunning goods.
11. Spend a lot of time alone.
12. Read for two hours a day.
13. Move your body daily.
14. Fast regularly.
15. Lead without waiting to be asked to lead.
16. Don't coast.
17. Sunbathe.
18. Don't listen to critics.
19. Get up early.
20. Exploit hardship for your growth.
21. Be loyal.
22. Don't spend too much time online.
23. Take a lot of pictures.
24. Write in a journal each morning.
25. Be the most generous person you know.
26. Remember everyone alive will be dead.
27. Listen to a lot of great music.
28. Don't confuse busy with productive.
29. Don't confuse living with progress.
30. Go all in for love.
31. Dress the way that makes you happy.
32. Do work that promotes joy.
33. Don't compare.
34. Celebrate your tiny triumphs.
35. Protect your good name.
36. Be gentle with Mother Earth.
37. Be a good human.

Robin Sharma

Humanitarian & Leadership Missionary

Life's Stories
A Foolish Offer

Three friends, Jackal, leopard and crow, lived in a jungle and served the lion, the king of the forest. They worked together to survive in the wilderness. The crow could fly and see far; Jackal was very smart and could develop the best strategies for hunting. Leopard was the fast runner able to catch even the swiftest prey. The lion was the strongest and could hunt for bigger and stronger animals. They worked well as a team.



One day, while the friends were wandering in the jungle, they discovered a camel lost in the woods. This camel had separated from its caravan and was feeding itself on the green grass of the jungle. The friends informed their Master, the Lion, about the missing creature.

The crow, who had travelled afar, knew about this creature. "Master," he said as he flapped his wings excitedly. "It's known as a camel, and this creature dwells in villages. This animal's flesh is delectable, so let us kill it and consume it."

One day the lion got into a fight with a wild elephant. The large and powerful elephant seriously wounded the Lion, leaving him debilitated. He could not go out and seek for himself or other animals that served him. But the team was still strong. The leopard

and the jackal would go hunting for food for their Master every day. Although their hunt didn't use to be as big as when lion was active, they were able to survive.

But the forest was running out of animals that the leopard and the Jackal could catch. One day they were left with nothing to hunt. The leopard and the jackal went and said to the lion, "Master, we've looked all over but couldn't find anything to hunt. The camel is the only one who is not very valuable. He is big and can fill all of our stomachs. Can't we eat it?"

The lion was furious when he listened to what the jackal and the leopard had said. "I may be weak, but I do not go back on my words. Don't you remember I had promised the camel his safety in this forest?"

The jackal replied, "I understand, my lord! But if you do not eat something, you will die. And without you, we will not be able to survive any longer. The camel is enormous and will fill us for a few days till we look for new territory to hunt." The lion roared. He knew that his end was near if he did not eat anything soon. The jackal said, "It would be a sin to kill him after you've given him your assurance of protection, but it would not be a sin to kill him if he made an offer himself and offered himself as food."

The lion failed to justify the jackal

and said, "If he offers himself to me, I will not say no and accept it. But only if he offers himself."

The Jackal smiled as he had a strategy. He summoned his friends together - the crow, leopard and camel. He said, "My friends," he remarked to them all, "for the previous few days, there has been no food for our Master. If this persists, he may die of hunger. So let us volunteer to offer ourselves as food one by one."

All the animals agreed as they were very loyal to the lion.

The leopard was the first to offer and said, "Oh lord! Please kill me and consume me as food. That way, all of you will survive." The lion was surprised and said, "You are a family member. How can I possibly consider such a thing?"

Then it was the jackal's turn. He made the same proposal as the leopard, and the Lion rejected it. The crow was next in the line, but the lion refused his offer; anyway, he was too little to be any animal's food.

The camel was watching all of this and began to consider, "All of them speak about offering themselves with such eloquence, but the Master refuses to kill any. Why would the Lion harm me when he has not harmed any of his loyal servants? So why would he want to kill me? I'll try and impress the Master in the same manner." With this, the camel came forward and bowed before the lion and offered himself up. "Master, you don't have to kill any of these animals. Please eat me instead. In return for your debts, I offer myself to you. If you, please accept my offer, I will find my way to heaven," said the camel.

The lion had promised not to reject any offer from the camel, so he kept quiet.

But to the camel's surprise, the moment when he finished making the offer, all the animals jumped on him and killed him.

Moral: Never trust anyone blindly. Always be on guard. Do not be fooled by nice words.

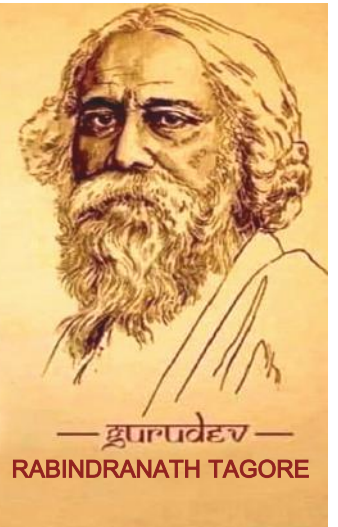
Go not to the temple to put flowers upon the feet of God,
First fill your own house with the
Fragrance of love and kindness.

Go not to the temple to light candles before the altar of God,
First remove the darkness of sin,
pride and ego, from your heart...

Go not to the temple to bow down your head in prayer,
First learn to bow in humility before your fellowmen.
And apologize to those you have wronged.

Go not to the temple to pray on bended knees,
First bend down to lift someone who is down-trodden.
And strengthen the young ones. Not crush them.

Go not to the temple to ask for forgiveness for your sins,
First forgive from your heart those who have hurt you!

Quotable Quotes
Optical Illusion

Our separation from each other is an optical illusion.

-- Albert Einstein

Our perceptions are fallible. We sometimes see what is not there. We are prey to optical illusions. Occasionally we hallucinate. We are error-prone.

-- Carl Sagan

There are optical illusions in space as well as in time.

-- Marcel proust

We live in the same world but each person sees and experiences it in a unique way. It is not the world that is different, but our point of view.

-- Anonymous

There is an optical illusion about every person we meet!

-- Ralph Wardo Emerson

Love is an optical illusion that makes you believe the object of your affection is the most beautiful person in the world.

-- Tom Holt

The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge.

-- Stephen Hawking

We live in illusion and the appearance of things. There is a reality. We are that reality. When you understand this, you see that you are nothing, and being nothing, you are everything. That is all.

-- Buddha

We struggle to open a door between us when the whole wall is an illusion.

-- Rumi

Space-time causation or name-and-form, is what is called Maya (Illusion).

-- Swami Vivekananda

Being Mum & Dad

Five tips to develop your child's personality

Every individual is born with a unique personality that is eventually shaped by his or her surroundings. The surroundings and environment play a formative role in moulding the child's future. The immediate and first environment of a child is their home, especially the caregivers—parents, grandparents and siblings. This is followed by educational institutions where teachers and fellow students form the environment of the child. Special care should thus be taken so that the child is brought up with a positive attitude and in an environment that encourages them to grow into a well-rounded individual with an impactful personality. Here are some tips that will help you achieve the same.

Be a good listener: Your child would want to share everything with you and we all know that children's idea of 'relevance' is very different from that of adults. When children talk about the most insignificant things, they wish to be heard because to them it is important. If you make them feel heard and understood in their formative years, they will feel confident and secure in your company and grow up to be confident individuals who will listen to others properly.

Refrain from comparison: Every child is unique and is blessed with diffe-

rent calibres and qualities and this also implies that every child will be exceptionally good at a thing or two but not at everything. Hence, there should always be room for mediocrity. If your child performs an activity by putting its best into it, and you end up comparing it with a peer or another child, it will completely ruin their self-esteem and confidence in their capabilities. You should know that every child is good at something but not everything. Therefore, instead of comparing, you should appreciate and encourage.

Limit screen time: Too much screen time can hamper your child's social and intellectual development because it can lead to addiction, and leave little or no time for interaction with peers and family. Parents should ensure that their child is spending more time in organic conversations and not with gadgets and the screen.

Encourage independence: Children are extremely little, fragile beings with little sense of the world and there are numerous things that they do for the first time—walk, talk, eat, crawl and read; the list is too long and goes on and on but you should always take care that you help your child to an extent. If you go above and beyond to help your little one with everything, it might make way for exces-



sive dependence. Helping the child become independent by letting it do things for itself is a good way to develop an independent personality.

Allow free playtime: This generation saw the pandemic, the rapid development of technology and excessive reliance on virtual mediums. It is thus recommended

to lay emphasis on free play and allow that among children. Values of team spirit, sharing, caring and resilience are inculcated through free play and interaction with other children. Playtime is also necessary for the physical and mental development of the child and its overall personality development.

Relationships

Pieces of advice that changed my life!

Often, someone gives you a piece of advice, very solemnly, that completely changes your outlook on life. These pieces of advice may come to you suddenly that will change your perception, your thought process and your decision-making skills. The simplest words can have such a deep impact on your life. If you come across any such piece of advice, make sure you abide by it. Here are some pieces of advice that have the power to completely turn around your life, as it did, to mine.

"Just start it"

Don't delay your ideas by thinking about the necessities you need to start your business or the next big idea. Just start somehow and get going; don't let endless obstacles come in your way.

"It's alright if it takes a second time"

Second chances can be very relaxing. Learn to accept failure if your first time wasn't a success. Giving yourself a second chance can be a very good decision because sometimes, failing can be burdensome and heart-breaking.

"Have a job that's interesting, but not only for the money"

Money is an essential part of everyone's life. However, don't just go for a job only because it pays you well, but do



something that you have an interest in, or else, later down the road, you may feel burnt out and frustrated.

"Forgive and let go"

When you have built-up anger and resentment inside of you, you are allowing yourself the opportunity to continue living in frustration. When you forgive someone for their mistakes, you can let go and move on, without any bitter feelings.

"You never stop growing as a person"

Growth is imminent. You keep growing as a person with your words and actions.

If you are kind, brave and strong, you allow yourself to experience opportunities and chances that make you a better person.

"Treat people the way you want to be treated"

You definitely want people to treat you with dignity, respect and kindness. Always project the same treatment towards others. If you are selfish, rude, and unkind, don't expect others to be good to you.

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Is Nidhi Shah planning to quit 'Anupamaa'?

Anupamaa has become one of the most popular shows on Indian television. The show often stands strong at number 1 in the TRP chart every week.

The show also stars Nidhi Shah, who is playing Anupama's daughter-in-law Kinjal. Reports were stating that the actress has quit the show and signed a new show. Recently, Bombay Times contacted Nidhi and asked her about the reports. In conversation with the leading portal, the actress refuted the rumours, but, on the other hand, she also stated that she is looking for new opportunities.

Nidhi Shah said, "The show has given me a lot, today people know me because of it. Having said that, I do want to move on and I hope to land a good opportunity in a web show, TV show or film. I feel that after a certain point you need to grow. How long can you carry on playing the same character? You also have to put in long hours and sometimes that takes a toll on health. So, I feel that given the hard work you put in, you need to grow along with it. Or else it is better to explore other opportunities."

When asked if she is ready to play the role of



mother on screen, Nidhi Shah said that she doesn't want to play a mother on TV at this point in her career.

While speaking about the upcoming track, Nidhi Shah said, "As of now, I am not aware of what's going to happen in the future episodes. All I can say is that if I get a better opportunity, I may want to take it up. And if that happens, I am sure the production will understand and let me move on." Kinjal further added that she doesn't agree with some things about her character.

Reacting to abortion ruling in US

Divyanka Tripathi says 'women should have a right to decide'

Yeh Hai Mohabbatein actress Divyanka Tripathi is known for speaking her mind when it comes to women's right and empowerment. She makes sure to raise her voice against what she thinks is wrong, and this time too, she expressed her opinion on the US Supreme Court overruling Roe v Wade, eliminating the constitutional right to abortion, reports Filmibeat.

The actress took to Twitter and said, "It's happening on the other side of the world...I'm still affected. They fought hard for it years back not to lose it again! Women from whichever ethnicity or nation, we are one and women should have a right to decide..."

Many users agreed with her and were disappointed with the decision. One of the users commented, "It's a war against all the women all over



the world; we are in 2022 and are moving backwards."

The US Supreme Court ruling has triggered a massive debate online. Several American celebrities including Stephen King, Taylor Swift, Selena Gomez and Halle Berry to name a few, took to their social media handles to voice their concern. While many in politics believe that this is an attack on freedom, Donald Trump has hailed this decision, because of which he has been receiving a lot of flak.

Kundali Bhagya

Sanjay Gagnani says audience loves to watch people fight

Sanjay Gagnani, who plays the role of Prithvi Malhotra in Kundali Bhagya, recently spoke about the content of shows on television. The actor does agree with Hina Khan, who said that it's the audience who is to be blamed for regressive content on TV. He feels that television business is just demand and supply - what audience demand, makers supply it!

The actor was quoted by Hindus-



tan Times as saying, "People find entertainment in such content, which is why they watch it. On television medium, it is all about demand and supply. At the end of the day, the goal of makers is to entertain the audiences."

Sanjay even cited *Bigg Boss'* example, where contestants are seen fighting and the show is still popular. He said that TV shows are also like that - audience love to watch people fight. "The contestants keep fighting... Most of them don't compete in a healthy manner. But it is such a popular show. Our [fiction] TV shows are also like that. The audience loves to watch people fight. Hence, the makers design shows that way to cater to that demand."

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Balanced diet and sporting activities will keep you fit and fine and in a happy mental state. Your love life may be blossoming. A surprise gift from your significant other is likely to make your day! However, your domestic front may be testing. Arguments over trivial issues may keep the homely atmosphere tensed. Make efforts to restore normalcy.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 20, 23, 26, 30, 32

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your financial condition will remain strong. Addition of a new income source, which brings good revenue, may be beneficial. Your love life is likely to go smoothly. For some, wedding bells are round the corner. However, your professional life could be upsetting. Jealous subordinates may not let you perform to your fullest capacities at work.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 7, 19, 20, 26

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Legal property issues are likely to finally go in your favour. Students may need to focus on their studies to secure good grades. For Aquarius natives, your love life promises to be exciting. A romantic adventure awaits you; so, throw open your arms for some fun times ahead!

Lucky Numbers: 7, 14, 16, 23, 28, 33

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisceans may have a flourishing profession. You may pursue an advanced training course to hone your skills to enhance your financial position. Monetary gains from multiple sources may keep your economic condition strong. However, your domestic front may be a bit tight. Family feuds may keep the homely atmosphere tensed.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 15, 20, 26, 30

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

You may face some issues with a love partner or spouse. Avoid stretching any minor issue in order to maintain peace in your love life. Some may have extra workload today. A valuable advice from fitness trainer may work well for you and help manage your minor health issues and achieve fitness goals.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 13, 21, 29, 30, 35

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Some amazing job opportunities and lucrative offers may help grow your business. This is the high time to work on your skills or hire resources to promote your business as it is all about your professional growth. Those who have recently gotten into a relationship, should take things slow.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 19, 23, 25, 30, 32

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Gemini, this is a suitable time to invest in stock markets. A short or long trip with family may refresh your mood and give you an opportunity to spend quality time with your family. Some issues are foreseen in marital relationship, so avoid expecting too much from your spouse. These issues may cause stress.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 12, 19, 21, 22, 26

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Things are going great on the family front. Some good property deals are on your way. However miscommunication and distance may create confusion in a relationship. You should handle things smartly and patiently. It's good to bury the past in order to maintain harmony in your relationship.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 24, 33, 36, 37

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Leo, you have done a lot to improve your financial condition and now you should celebrate your financial success with your family and friends. Some may buy their new home or property or go on a long trip with loved ones. This is all about making good things happen and enjoy the day to the fullest.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 7, 25, 29, 33, 40

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Stars indicate that this is a good time on the family front and you may feel happy to meet someone close to you. The financial front seems fine and you may become more concerned about your professional growth and work hard to achieve your goals. Singles may plan to propose to someone and start their love life.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 22, 23, 35, 38, 40

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Libras, your love life may flourish. Those engaged to be married are likely to enjoy courtship period. Your domestic life seems peaceful. Children may add to the warmth and happiness at home with their activities. It may be a good time to invest in speculations as your financial front seems strong.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 19, 21, 25, 33

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Following a disciplined lifestyle combined with spiritual practices may keep you fit and cheerful. Your family life is likely to be harmonious. However, your professional front may be a bit challenging. Not working to your full potential may keep you away from a well-deserved promotion. Students may perform satisfactorily in university exams.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 15, 20, 22, 31, 32

Bollywood's Highest Paid Actresses of 2022!



Alia Bhatt charging Rs 200m,
Kiara Advani earning Rs40m...

Much like Bollywood actors, actresses too enjoy a huge fan following across the world. They also demand a high fee for their films, which is reasonable given that they work hard for their roles and adhere to certain routines. Many Bollywood actresses like Alia Bhatt demand more fees than male performers.

After the pandemic, some Bollywood films may not have performed well as compared to south films, which have taken the box office by storm. That did not affect our Bollywood diva's star value. ShriKrishna Iyer of Koimoi has compiled a

list of actresses' remuneration from this year's film release. Let's have a look:

Mrunal Thakur: The actress, who started her acting career in TV soaps, made her transition into films smoothly. She has appeared in Hindi films like *Love Sonia* (2018), *Super 30* (2019), *Batla House* (2019), and *Dhamaka* (2021). In this year's release, she starred in *Jersey* opposite Shahid Kapoor. The film did not perform well at the box office. However, Mrunal took home Rs 20m for her performance, as per a Bollywood Life report.

Shalini Pandey: Shalini made her acting debut with the Telugu film *Arjun Reddy*. She then went on to act in Tamil films. The actress made her Bollywood

debut in *Jayeshbhai Jordaar*. As per Bollywood Bubble, Shalini charged Rs 20m for the film.

Manushi Chhillar: Miss World 2017 pageant winner made her Bollywood debut with *Samrat Prithviraj*, directed by Chandraprakash Dwivedi, opposite Akshay Kumar. If a report by GQ India is to be believed, Manushi charged Rs 10m for the film.

Kiara Advani: Kiara is basking in the glory of two successful films this year - *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* and *Jugjugg Jeeyo*. The Bollywood diva reportedly received Rs 20m for the horror-comedy film. Following massive success at the box office, the actress hiked her fee for Raj



Mrunal Thakur

Mehta's family drama. Now the actress draws Rs 40m for her films, reports India.com

Kangana Ranaut: Razneesh Ghai's directorial *Dhaakad* was one of the much-awaited films this year. However, the film underperformed at the box office. Nonetheless, Kangana's star value did not drop. Reports claim that the *Queen* actress was paid Rs 100m for the film.

Alia Bhatt: Alia is one of the most accomplished and well-known Bollywood actresses of her generation. With each film, the actress proved her mettle and became more renowned among her followers. Her performance in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's film *Gangubai Kathiawadi* was well appreciated. India Today report claims the actress was paid Rs 200m for the film.



BollyBytes



Athiya reacts on wedding rumours, says 'I hope I'm invited'

Bollywood actress Athiya Shetty has finally broken her silence on the rumour about her wedding with cricketer K.L. Rahul.

Athiya, the daughter of Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty, responded for the first time to rumours that the couple is marrying in the next few of months.

She took this week to her Instagram stories and wrote: "I hope I'm invited to this wedding that's taking place in 3 months lol."

Athiya and Rahul made their relationship official last year. The star cricketer wished the actor on her birthday with a social media post featuring the two. However, the two have never spoken about their wedding publicly.

The actress was last seen in 'Motichoор Chaknachoор' alongside Nawazuddin Siddiqui.

Sonali Bendre visits hospital where she was treated for cancer

Sonali Bendre, who was diagnosed with metastatic cancer in 2018, visited the hospital in New York where she had undergone treatment.

She penned down her "bittersweet" experience of re-visiting the hospital four years later.

Sonali wrote: "This chair, this view, this exact same spot... 4 years later. From sheer terror to continued hope, so much has changed yet so much remains the same. It was unreal to sit there and see patients going in and I could see that I had been through a similar journey... Saw the chemotherapy suite, the same waiting room, faces were different."



"I felt like telling the patients that there's HOPE, and I am there on the other side and look at me today I have come in for a visit on the other side of the spectrum... It was, as you can guess, a very bitter-sweet, emotional day. I stepped out, looked my son in the eye, with the sunshine on my face and thanked the universe for everything."

Sonali is known for her work in hit movies like 'Sarfaroш' and 'Hum Saath Saath Hain', to name a few.

Refreshing to see new generation date unapologetically: Pooja Bhatt

Actress and filmmaker Pooja Bhatt that says she is quite impressed with the new generation on how they set their own rules in dating and feel very unapologetic about it.

The actress was part of the show 'Swipe Ride' in which she interacted with youngsters.

Sharing her experience, Pooja said that "Dating in India has certainly evolved over the years and it is refreshing to see this generation date on their own terms, unapologetically. Having platforms like this normalises women discussing love and relationships, and stating their preferences openly."

"I loved sharing my own experiences with this new generation and understanding better how their choices and rejection of cliched relationship stereotypes help them carve out their own dating rules!"

The show is hosted by digital content creator Kusha Kapila and it invites members of Tinder dating app and it takes the members to meet their dates.

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HIT: THE FIRST CASE (2022)

Friday 15 & Saturday 16 July - 13:15/20:15
Sunday 17 July - 13:15/16:15
Monday 18 to Friday 22 July - 13:15/20:15

OM

Thursday 14 July - 13:15



Vendredi 15 Juillet - 21.15



Samedi 16 Juillet - 21.00



Dimanche 17 Juillet - 21.15



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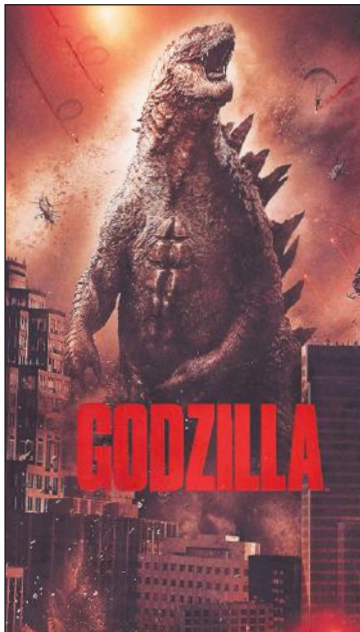
SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 15 juillet	06.00 Local: Nos Aines 07.20 Local: Glwar Dantan 08.30 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 10.00 Mag: Radio Vision 11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous... 11.30 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Local Production 14.35 D.Anime: Gon 15.20 D.Anime: The Hive 15.34 D.Anime: Panda And Little... 15.47 D.Anime: Mondo Yan 17.05 Serial: Nowhere Boys 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.55 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Les Grands Noms... 21.06 Local: Come On Let's Dance 22.50 Serial: Billions 23.45 Le Journal	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Sila 11.24 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai 12.00 Film: Ishq Wala Love 14.01 Mag: DDI Mag 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.46 Serial: Bommarillu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.32 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay 16.52 Serial: Bhaag Na Banche... 17.14 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	07.00 Mag: Border Crossing 07.51 Doc: Hotels 08.41 Doc: Castles 09.45 Doc: Himalayan Expedition 11.59 Mag: Border Crossing 13.46 Doc: Castles 14.45 Doc: Himalayan Expedition 16.29 Doc: Shift 17.06 Doc: Hotels 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.33 Doc: France Terres Sauvage 20.45 Doc: World Heritage 21.42 Doc: Volcano Stories 22.08 The Power Of Gentle Touch 23.00 Thank You For The Rain 23.37 Mag: World Stories 23.54 Doc: World Famous Writers 23.57 Mag: Our Voices 00.23 Mag: Euromaxx 00.49 Doc: World Heritage 00.54 Doc: Heritage	01.27 Film: Bull Shark 03.27 Film: Memories Of War 05.12 Tele: Marimar 05.34 Tele: Rubi 06.41 Film: Bull Shark 09.00 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T 11.45 Film: Memories Of War 13.31 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: Bull Shark 16.40 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 17.24 Serial: For Life 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 19.34 Serial: Hank Zipzer 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: The Magicians 21.15 Film: The Purge 22.47 Tele: Marimar	05.44 Film: Vapi Saajan Ki Star: Ashwini Bhawe, Reeta Bhaduri 09.55 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 10.23 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 10.53 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 11.24 / 22.00 - Agnihera 11.44 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 12.10 / 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: Malaal Starring: Meezaan Jafri, Sharmin Segal... 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.28 Bhakharwadi
samedi 16 juillet	06.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 07.43 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien 07.57 D.Anime: Kid Lucky 08.22 D.Anime: Briko 08.41 D.Anime: Cat & Keet 08.56 D.Anime: Les Triples 09.00 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare 09.33 Mag: Kid's Planet 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 10.30 Serial: Oh Yuck! 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna... 15.20 D.Anime: The Hive 15.34 D.Anime: Panda And Little... 15.47 D.Anime: Mondo Yan 17.15 Mag: Human Nature 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 21.10 Film: Matriarch 23.00 Local: Le Journal	07.00 Film: Griha Pravesh Starring Sanjeev Kumar, Sharmila Tagore, Sarika 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 11.05 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare 12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 12.46 Serial: High School 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Film: Love U... Mr Kalakaar Stars: Tusshar Kapoor, Amrita Rao, Ram Kapoor, Madhoo, 17.25 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: Karam Starring John Abraham, Priyanka Chopra	06.00 Thank You For The Rain 06.42 Mag: World Stories 06.57 Mag: Our Vocies 07.25 Mag: Euromaxx 07.52 Doc: France Terres Sauvage 09.44 Doc: Volcano Stories 11.02 Thank You For The Rain 12.02 Mag: Our Voices 12.30 Live From Sunrise Hall 15.00 Student Support Prog... 18.20 Doc: Sweet Magic 18.25 Doc: Smoothie Mania 18.31 Mag: In Good Shape 19.00 Mag: Saladeria 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: World Heritage 20.50 Doc: Fabulous Design 21.42 Doc: Skuld 22.08 Mag: Luana's Kitchen 23.15 Doc: Sweet Magic 23.42 Doc: Smoothie Mania 23.47 Mag: In Good Shape	01.26 Film: The Purge 03.30 Serial: Under Pressure 04.10 Serial: Gone 04.52 Tele: Tanto 05.07 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.02 Serial: The Magicians 08.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue 09.11 Serial: Under Pressure 10.40 Film: Eaten By Lions 12.15 Serial: Pure Genius 13.04 Serial: S.W.A.T 14.25 Tele: Muneca Brava 15.42 Serial: The Magicians 16.25 Film: Godzilla 18.30 Serial: Knight Rider 19.35 Serial: Hank Zipzer 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Series: The Magicians 21.15 Film: Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon 23.10 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones	04.17 Anupamaa 04.24 Mere Sai 04.55 Agnihera 05.16 Yeh Teri Galiyan 05.42 Patiala Babes 08.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan 10.06 Motu Patlu 10.17 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.28 Serial: Bhakharwadi 14.19 Serial: Anupamaa 16.16 Pavitra Rishta 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Hello! Hum Lallan Bol Rahe Hain Starring Rajpal Yadav, Preeti Mehra, Makarand Anaspure 20.19 Serial: Namah 20.41 Serial: Naagin Season 3 21.31 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan
dimanche 17 juillet	06.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 07.20 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 07.58 D.Anime: Kid Lucky 08.23 D.Anime: Briko 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 12.00 Le Journal 12.36 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.21 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 15.27 D.Anime: The Hive 15.35 D. Anime: Panda And Little... 16.46 D.Anime: The Drakers 17.15 Mag: Human Nature 17.45 Local Prod: 13 Minit Natir... 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Local Production: Les Klips 21.15 Film: Boundaries 23.05 Le Journal	07.00 Film: Ek Baar Kaho 11.03 Serial: Azhagu 11.17 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 11.39 Serial: Surya Puran 12.06 Film: Arjun Patiala 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 17.03 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.57 Serial: Porus 21.26 Serial: CID 22.07 Serial: Naagin Season 3 Starring: Mouni Roy, Arjun Bijlani, Adaa Khan...	06.00 Mag: Tresors Oublies De... 07.02 Mag: Saladeria 07.32 Mag: Check In 09.51 Doc: Skuld 10.38 Doc: Happy 11.22 Doc: Sweet Magic 11.30 Mag: Tresors Oublies De... 11.57 Doc: Smoothie Mania 12.31 Mag: The 77 Percent 14.14 Doc: World Heritage 14.19 Doc: Fabulous Design 15.11 Doc: Skuld 15.35 Mag: Luana's Kitchen 17.19 Mag: In Good Shape 19.00 Mag: The Inside Story 19.33 Doc: Who Killed Neanderthal 20.30 Live: News (English) 20.50 Doc: World Heritage 21.42 Mag: Sky Eye 22.50 Doc: Sweet Magic 22.55 Doc: Innovation On Board	01.28 Film: Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon 03.23 Serial: Absentia 04.06 Film: Matriarch 05.34 Tele: Tanto Amor 06.16 Serial: The Magicians 08.30 Serial: Shades Of Blue 09.11 Film: Matriarch 10.40 Film: Godzilla 13.00 Serial: Absentia 13.43 Serial: S.W.A.T 15.45 Tele: Muneca Brava 17.00 Serial: The Magicians 17.45 Serial: Absentia 18.30 Serial: L'Agence Tous Risque 19.36 Serial: Hank Zipzer 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor 21.15 Serial: Scorpion 21.52 Film: Poker Night 23.55 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones	00.15 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2 02.15 Bhakharwadi 03.46 Anupamaa 05.45 Pavitra Rishta 07.56 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 09.45 Kundali Bhagya 11.45 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 13.45 Agnihera 16.08 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 17.00 Punar Vivaah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Film: Henna Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Zeba Bakhtiar, Ashwini Bhawe 21.25 Naagin Season 3 22.02 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 23.49 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 01.32 Kundali Bhagya 03.34 Agnihera
lundi 18 juillet	06.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 07.55 Local: Music Tour 2022 09.12 Doc: The Green Revolution 10.00 Local: Radio Vision 11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.31 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: Nowhere Boys 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 20.25 MBC Production 22.05 Film: L'Amour A La Carte Avec: Santino Fontana, Dania Ramirez	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Kundali Bhagya 12.06 Film: Dharam Kanta Starring Raaj Kumar, Waheeda Rehman, Jeetendra 15.00 Samachar 15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.42 Serial: Bommarillu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.33 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay 16.50 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe 17.12 Serial: Kullfi Kumarr... 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: Naanum Single Thaana Starring: Attakathi Dinesh, Deepti Sati, Rajendran	07.00 Mag: Salad Area 07.58 Doc: Who Killed Neanderthal 08.53 Doc: World Heritage 09.50 Doc: Sky Eye 12.32 Mag: Arts.21 14.50 Mag: Sky Eye 15.16 Doc: The Cote D'Azur 16.00 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 22.06 Mag: Global 3000 22.32 Mag: Washington Forum 23.00 Doc: The Prussian Eagle... 23.40 Doc: Eco@Africa 00.08 Mag: The 77 Percent 00.34 Doc: Persons 00.37 Mag: Africa 54 01.07 Mag: In Good Shape	02.37 Film: Boundaries 04.22 Film: Boundaries 06.02 Tele: Marimar 06.25 Tele: Rubi 06.48 Serial: The Good Doctor 08.09 Film: Assassin's Code 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T 11.50 Film: Boundaries 13.35 Tele: Marimar 13.59 Tele: Rubi 14.45 Film: Assassin's Code 16.43 Serial: The Good Doctor 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 19.39 Serial: Hank Zipzer 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: Imposters 21.15 Film: Mindhunters 22.57 Tele: Marimar	08.00 Taare Zameen Par 11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 11.59 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 12.31 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera 13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.40 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes 14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.19 Film: Nishchaiy Starring: Salman Khan, Vinod Khanna, Karishma.. 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.31 Serial: Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.06 Anupamaa

CINE 12

Mardi 19 Juillet - 21.10



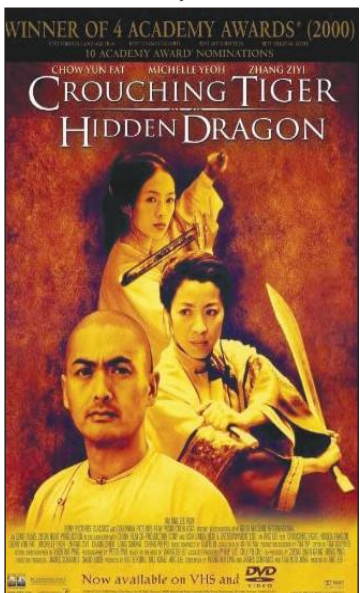
mbc:1

Mercredi 20 juillet - 21.15



mbc:2

Mercredi 21 juillet - 21.15



Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<p>mardi 19 juillet</p> <p>06.00 Local: Rodrig 07.30 Local: Saver Kil Tirel 09.05 Doc: MRNA - Hype Or Hope? 10.00 Local: La Societe 11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.34 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna... 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 14.35 D.Anime: Gon 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 D.Anime: The Hive 16.00 D.Anime: Akili And Me 17.05 Serial: Nowhere Boys 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.15 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 21.55 Film: Navy Seals With: Ed Quinn, Michael Dudikoff, Jaxxon Ryker, Mikal Vega</p>	<p>07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: CID 12.00 Film: Ram Aur Shyam Starring: Dilip Kumar, Waheeda Rehman, Mumtaz 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.43 Bommarillu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.33 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay 16.49 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 17.08 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And Semi-Devils 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Kalighata Star: Shashi Kapoor, Rekha, Danny</p>	<p>06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 07.24 Mag: In Good Shape 07.53 Mag: Luana's Kitchen 09.46 Mag: Washington Forum 11.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 13.31 Doc: Global Drinks 14.47 Mag: Washington Forum 16.01 Mag: Eco@Africa 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 18.41 Mag: Red Carpet 19.03 Student Support Prog... 19.34 Doc: Heritage 20.30 Live: News 20.45 Doc: Paradis Perdus 21.40 Mag: Euromaxx 22.10 Mag: Close Up 22.36 Local: Rodrig-Klip Seleksion 23.52 Mag: The Global Auto... 00.18 Mag: Healthy Living 00.48 Doc: Persons 00.51 Mag: Check In</p>	<p>01.23 Film: Mindhunters 03.00 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.46 Film: L'Amour A La Carte 05.17 Tele: Marimar 05.44 Tele: Rubi 06.06 Serial: Imposters 07.00 Film: The Last Boy 09.47 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T 12.00 Film: L'Amour A La Carte 13.36 Tele: Marimar 13.57 Tele: Rubi 14.45 Film: The Last Boy 16.40 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 17.25 Serial: Imposters 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: Imposters 21.15 Film: Godzilla</p>	<p>06.50 Film: Nishchaiy Star Salman Khan, Vinod Khanna, Karishma Kapoor 11.28 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna 11.58 / 20.57 - Anupamaa 12.21 / 21.27 - Mere Sai 12.52 / 22.07 - Agniphera 13.13 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.08 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes 14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 15.00 / 22.25 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.28 Film: Tyagi Star: Rajinikanth, Jayaprada, Prem Chopra, Shakti Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise.. 20.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2</p>
<p>mercredi 20 juillet</p> <p>07.00 Local: Profil 07.40 Local: Priorite Sante 08.09 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 09.00 Doc: Snapshots 10.05 Local: Morisien Konn Ou... 11.00 Tele: I Forgot I Love You 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Local Production: Les Klips 14.10 Local: Priorite Sante 14.35 D.Anime: Gon 15.20 D.Anime: The Hive 15.35 D.Anime: Panda And Little... 17.10 Serial: Nowhere Boys 17.35 Mag: The World Is Yours 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 MBC Production 19.00 Local: Planet Bollywood 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 MBC Production 22.20 Film: Meteor Star: Robert Keith, Olivia NashThom...</p>	<p>07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki 12.00 Film: Manzil Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Moushumi Chatterjee 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.49 Bommarillu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay 16.49 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Kulvadh 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods... 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Programme In Marathi 20.30 Film: Lagna Pahave Karun Stars Umesh Kamat, Mukta Barve, Siddharth Chandekar 22.31 DDI Live</p>	<p>06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto... 06.41 Mag: Red Carpet 07.02 Mag: Check In 08.22 Doc: Castles 09.44 Mag: Euromaxx 13.56 Doc Paradis Perdus 17.24 Mag: Healthy Living 18.07 Mag: Motorweek 18.26 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 22.38 Mag: Focus On Europe 23.46 Mag: Motorweek 00.12 Mag: Vous Et Nous 00.39 Doc: Persons 00.43 Mag: Arts.21 01.08 Mag: The Inside Story 02.00 Doc: Castles 02.19 Doc: Les Montagnes Du...</p>	<p>01.17 Film: Grace And Goliath 03.30 Film: Godzilla 05.41 Tele: Marimar 06.05 Serial: Rubi 07.11 Film: Grace And Goliath 08.45 L'Agence Tous Risques 09.31 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 10.41 Serial: S.W.A.T 11.20 Film: Godzilla 13.30 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: Grace And Goliath 16.35 L'Agence Tous Risques 17.21 Serial: Imposters 18.09 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 19.37 Serial: Hank Zipzer 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: For Life 21.15 Film: La Poursuite Des Tuniques Bleues 22.56 Tele: Marimar</p>	<p>07.00 Film: Tyagi 11.35 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna 12.00 / 20.26 - Anupamaa 12.35 / 20.02 - Mere Sai 13.08 / 20.46 - Agniphera 13.32 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.00 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes 14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 14.47 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.25 Film: Gair Starring Ajay Devgn, Raveena Tandon, Reena Roy, Amrish Puri 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise.. 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 20.59 Anupamaa</p>
<p>jeudi 21 juillet</p> <p>06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.50 Local: Coin Jardin 06.59 Local: Itinerer Moris 07.20 Local: Ero Deryer Rido 08.05 Local: Elle 10.05 Local: Radio Vision 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Local: Music Tour 2022 14.35 D.Anime: Gon 15.20 D.Anime: The Hive 15.40 D.Anime: Mondo Yan 17.10 Serial: Nowhere Boys 17.35 Mag: The World Is Yours 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 20.20 Film: Tumhari Sulu Starring Vidya Balan, Neha Dhupia, Manav Kaul</p>	<p>07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas... 12.00 Film: Vishwanath 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.43 Serial: Bommarillu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.33 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay 16.53 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.40 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And... 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag 18.32 Filler: Radha Krishna 20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.59 Local: Profil 21.14 Film: Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon With Chow Yun-Fat, Michelle Yeoh</p>	<p>06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous 06.52 Doc: Persons 08.17 Doc: Castles 10.23 Doc: The Memory Illusion 11.35 Local: Vous Et Nous 12.27 Mag: The Inside Story 13.21 Doc: Castles 15.02 Mag: Focus On Europe 16.10 Mag: Motorweek 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.29 Mag: Shift 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Doc: Hotels 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.48 Doc: Castles 21.40 Doc: Les Grand Mythes 22.12 Doc: Sos Amazon 23.37 Mag: Eco India 00.03 Mag: Shift 00.15 Mag: Carnet De Sante</p>	<p>01.33 Film: La Poursuite Des... 03.03 Serial: S.W.A.T 03.43 Film: Meteor 05.07 Tele: Marimar 05.30 Tele: Rubi 06.51 Film: La Poursuite Des... 09.00 Serial: Deux Filcs A Miami 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.37 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T 11.57 Film: Meteor 13.35 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: La Poursuite Des... 16.35 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 17.21 Serial: For Life 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 19.36 Serial: Hank Zipzer 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: For Life 21.15 Serial: Knight Rider</p>	<p>07.00 Film: Gair Starring Ajay Devgn, Raveena Tandon, Reena Roy, 11.34 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna 12.04 / 20.28 - Anupamaa 12.32 / 20.32 - Mere Sai 13.04 / 21.09 - Agniphera 13.31 / 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 15.23 Film: Mohabbat Ki Arzoo Starring Zeba Bakhtiar, Rakesh Bedi, Ashwini Bhawe 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Udaariyaan 19.29 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise.. 20.02 Sasural Simar Ka 2</p>



Jeudi 21 juillet - 15.30

Stars: Zeba Bakhtiar, Rakesh Bedi, Ashwini Bhawe



Jeudi 21 juillet - 20.20

Star: Vidya Balan, Neha Dhupia, Manav Kaul



Deep within things do not change...



Nita Chicooree-Mercier



Straggling clouds move raggedly towards the last rays of winter sunset glowing in the sky. The balcony of the two-storeyed house at Pointe-aux-Piments offers a panoramic view of the fields nearby, the RES project and the seaside lined up by filao trees where sparrows, mynas and pinguos or *condés* noisily hover around their nests before a night's sleep. A small, old concrete house with corrugated-iron roof stands idly in the yard; it is rather used like a shed for poultry and for storing tools. Chilli and *bringel* plants are still grown in the fertile soil of the plot of land. One can figure out that the old house used to be a straw-thatched hut fifty years ago. Like many other houses in the island, the two-storeyed house started off like a simple concrete house decades ago, and the two storeys piled up following the good fortune of the owner over decades. In summer, pieces of cotton cloth with colourful designs, and sometimes plastic tablecloths are randomly used as curtains on the balcony to keep the glaring sunrays at bay.

Three generations live together with *dada* and *dadi* occupying the second floor. Bhai is the *dada* of the family and friend of the neighbourhood. If you are looking for the perfect man with everlasting love for his sweet wife he married at a very young age, this is the place. Bhai is all praise for the one he calls his best friend on earth, the *jeevan saathi* he looks up to as a goddess. A frequent visitor from Ninth Mile Triolet, a dark-skinned woman wearing a long skirt, a blouse and a *horni* covering her head relates her week's occupations. Besides being a part-time labourer, she is also a *dhai* who massages mothers and their new-born babies. Luckily, women have kept the ancestral know-how of providing care to other women. A shining *pouli* and gold earrings lit up her dark complexion. She looks much like the ancestors who walked down the steps of Aparvasi Ghat in the 1850s.

"Should we start preparing pickles and *koutcha*?" Jaya asked me. "Do you want to take some back?"

"Oh no!" It is getting late; darkness falls suddenly and we have already started to unpack the bryani take-away I brought along. We all agree that take-aways are worthless and we'd better cook our own food. Most members of the household are

«Sanskrit is a blessing in itself in that elevates the soul and connects one to millennia-old tradition. It all gives a sense of continuity in the way we think and do things. Just like the soothing songs for the baby elephants, the caring songs for brides and bridegrooms, the respect for trees and nature, the Bhojpuri-speaking family at Pointe-aux-Piments make you feel that deep within things do not change and Time is a subjective concept...»

vegetarian except Bhai who occasionally goes for meat. The veg bryani is okay despite lacking the right flavour depending where you purchase it, the best ones being from one of ISKON's outlets. The chicken bryani is a fool's trap folks fall into whenever they forget about being cautious and selective in purchasing habit. The *dhall* and vegetables Manisha, Bhai's wife, has been preparing would have made our day.

"Let us do it next time I am visiting, Didi." I thanked Jaya for her kind proposal. We also postpone our intention to talk about wedding songs in Bhojpuri, which I think any anthropologist in Mauritius should be interested in, the songs of separation or departure, rather of the bridegroom and the bride for a new life, and the song welcoming the bride in her new home. I guess Sarita Boodhoo must have gathered some valuable texts on the topic from research work done by her associates. The point is to be aware of the fact that from times immemorial Hindu civilisation has explored and thought about every major life events of its members and celebrate these events with prayers and songs, including soothing songs for the baby elephant snatched from its mother and trained to be tamed and to carry out a few tasks for human society.

"Whoever told you to do this? Are you crazy?", Bhai gets down the stairs and stops one of the boys from cutting the branch of a mango tree. For someone who

never raises his voice, he is really outraged at the sight of the boy bringing down an axe on the tree.

Crime number one: the boy is mutilating a tree without any prayer for forgiveness.

Crime number two: He is doing it after the sunset when trees, plants and the whole world of vegetation goes for a night's rest, and he has not even asked the tree's permission before taking the life out of it.

Kreol sounds out of place in an environment where the family, neighbours and guests are 100% Bhojpuriphone. I feel like I am sort of polluting the place, the odd person out there speaking approximate Bhojpuri now and then. Shreya, the granddaughter, who has taken up a job after university studies, is a fervent Shiviyog follower and totally vegetarian. Not the sort of young lady who goes crazy over Facebook, friends and physical appearance.

On the following day a ceremony was held at a relative's place to mark 40th day of the mourning period in the wake of the demise of a cousin. The 40th day memorial ceremony is common to different civilizations since millennia much before the advent of 'religions' in the modern sense of the word. The pundit recited prayers in Sanskrit after placing the leaves in the four corners of the *havan kund* to evoke different planets. Conversation among the men folk in the row behind centres on Hinduism in India and the cultural assaults on it across centuries and still going on today.

Sanskrit is a blessing in itself in that elevates the soul and connects one to millennia-old tradition. It all gives a sense of continuity in the way we think and do things. Just like the soothing songs for the baby elephants, the caring songs for brides and bridegrooms, the respect for trees and nature, the Bhojpuri-speaking family at Pointe-aux-Piments make you feel that deep within things do not change and Time is a subjective concept.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Working through Silence

Distracting yourself with talk-radio and television can be mind-numbing, if not taken in moderation.

Our lives are typically filled with noise. There are the noises from the outside world that we cannot control, and there are the noises we allow into our lives. These noises, from seemingly innocuous sources like the television and radio, can actually help us avoid dealing with uncomfortable thoughts and emotions. However, using noise as a distraction hurts more than it helps because you are numbing yourself to what may be internally bubbling up to the surface for you to look at and heal. Distracting yourself with talk-radio, television, or other background noises can also prevent you from finding closure to issues that haunt you.



Noise as a distraction can affect us in many ways. It can help you stay numb to emotions that you don't want to feel, allow you to avoid dealing with problems, distract you from having to think, and make it easier for you to forget reality. Drowning out the thoughts and emotions you find uncomfortable or overwhelming can complicate your issues because it allows them to fester. By tuning out noise and relishing silence, you create the space to experience and express what you are hiding. It is only then that self-exploration can begin in earnest and you can stare down frightening issues. In silence, it becomes easier to let your strongest feelings come forth, deal with them, and find new ways of resolving your problems.

When you go within without the veil of noise to shield you from yourself, you'll be able to figure out what you need to heal. Embracing silence and introspection allows you to work through your thoughts and emotions and transmute them. Free of the need for noise, you can accept your pain, anger, and frustration as they come up and turn them into opportunities to evolve.