

# MAURITIUS TIMES

● "Each day is a new opportunity to live your life to the fullest. Don't let your today be stolen by the unchangeable past or the indefinite future". -- Anurag Prakash Ray

Interview: Lindsay Rivière

## «Pourquoi Navin Ramgoolam sauverait-il le MSM, tuant ainsi les chances du PTr de reprendre le pouvoir?»

'Le MSM lui aurait à se battre sans grands alliés (ni PTr ni MMM). Cela va donc être un 'uphill battle' pour Pravind Jugnauth'

☞ Voir Page 10

### Opinion

## The MSM Caravan, Sound-Bytes and Theatrics



What the caravan has made abundantly clear, if any confirmation was needed, is that the MSM will fight tooth and nail in a bitter, no holds barred contest for its political survival

By Jan Arden ☞ See Page 3

### Qs & As

Ken Arian & The Anonymous Letter Conspiracy

## «Making wild allegations of conspiracy is just a means of shouting into the wind»



By LEX ☞ See Page 7



# A Credible Alternative

**I**t might be too early in the day to establish whether the Labour Party (LP), the MMM and the PMSD will eventually join forces in an electoral alliance to challenge the MSM and whatever the Jugnauth party will be associated with at the next general elections most likely to be held at the end of the current government's mandate. In the meantime, a lot of water will surely flow under the bridge as it happens in local politics, and it should be expected that different permutations could take place on the political scene bringing together alliances between traditional parties and non-parliamentary ones as well as with and between various other interest groups, including the so-called citizens movements.

Whether the LP-MMM-PMSD will make it to the next general elections will depend entirely on the assessment of the leaders of the respective parties of their combined electoral weight to successfully challenge the MSM *et al* in 2024 or beyond, and this is what could explain the current apparent hesitancy of the LP leader to fix his sights on a definite electoral alliance with the MMM - not so much in light of their past unwelcome *mésalliances*, but mostly on his party's ability to sell convincingly another alliance with Paul Berenger's MMM to the LP's traditional electorate in constituencies (5 to 14) which in the main elect parties to power. The combined electorate weight of the LP and MMM does not always produce the desired results as the elections of 2014 had demonstrated, neither would another three-cornered battle do any of these two mainstream parties any good as evidenced by the 2019 results.

Besides the risks posed by unforeseeable circumstances in the run-up to the next elections or by loose cannons and other contingencies that may rock the boat down the road, which is usually why alliances are only concluded a few months prior to election day, what seems of particular interest to the LP leader presently is to ascertain whether the electoral shifts that have taken place during the last decade are sufficiently broad and deep, or only conjectural. How the electorate will react to another LP-MMM alliance after the 2014 experience and whether that alliance will be perceived as yet another carry-forward of fundamentally untenable association made among political leaders for specific purposes, is the crux of the matter. The answer to that question is not discernible at this stage.

It is not known either whether the present-day electorate, who seems more concerned about their purse and state-financed freebies and pensions than governance issues, will again want to put up with the same political adventures of the recent past or it is looking for something more enduring, well thought-out and not made up of a circumstantial patching up of parties with disparate and insubstantial aspirations. On the other hand, given the opportunism of that same electorate, it has yet to be ascertained whether a Labour Party-MMM-PMSD combine will prove to be a winnable proposition in the face of a resilient adversary, a past master in ethno-caste politics and not averse to making an abusive use of the state machinery for propaganda and other electioneering purposes.

Successive governments have been formed without being based on deep conviction. If conviction there was, it was for all intents and purposes often directed to securing power by all means. We have seen the same pattern follow on as governments change, despite the electoral promises for remedial changes and doing things differently. The renewed pledges for transparency, meritocracy and competence soon give way to the old habits of anointing cronies, relatives, political sponsors and agents and so on. Raising of voices through the media and other forums peter out as the government forges on regardless while a largely helpless population has no choice but to sit by the sidelines.

Opposition in all its shapes and civil society in general can in some perverse way be thankful to the current dispensation in office to have illustrated the many insufficiencies, shortcomings, loopholes and failures both at constitutional levels and in the functioning of key institutions within a responsive, equitable, democratic framework. The charting of a new age and a future radically different from what is observed today should not therefore pose an insurmountable problem *per se*. There are radical reforms awaited on so many fronts. Beyond and above alliance conditions and issues that need discrete sorting out, the main task would be to prepare the respective electorates and convince them that there is a credible agreement for a real departure from past and present practices. Getting everybody onboard for a new departure might be a credible alternative against a formidable foe which has had ample time to entrench itself in power and will certainly spare no effort to prolong that stay.

## The Conversation

# Rishi Sunak is more authentic and emotional, and Liz Truss more analytical

*A linguistic analysis throws up unexpected results*



Pic -Alamy/Reuters

**I**n a series of hustings across the country, Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss are talking to Conservative party members about what they plan to do if elected as leader of the party and prime minister of the UK.

The topics of discussion are, by now, well established, from taxes to energy prices. But, at a deeper level, the way the two speak is potentially very revealing about what kind of leader they would make.

The words that people use can be "honest signals" that give insights into their underlying psychological processes and potential behaviours. And since these linguistic choices are subtle, speakers themselves may not be consciously aware of them. Also, they're hard to conceal.

I used computerised text analysis to analyse the speeches Sunak and Truss gave during a hustings in Eastbourne on August 5 and compared their scores with each other and with overall averages for three key language variables: "authenticity", "emotional tone" and "analytical thinking".

The findings were unexpected and in some ways belied the candidates' respective reputations. Sunak came out as

more authentic and emotional while Truss was more analytical. But, rather worryingly, both were below average for analytical thinking and neither checked all the boxes.

## Sunak was more authentic than Truss

Sunak is often criticised for his slick PR operation and has been accused of being out of touch. But the analysis revealed his speech to be more authentic than that of his rival.

Speakers are rated as more authentic when they reveal themselves in an honest way through language that's more personal, humble and vulnerable. Words indicating authenticity and self-awareness include greater use of the first-person singular "I" relative to the first-person plural "we". Sunak's I: we ratio was higher than Truss's. This suggests that he accepts personal ownership of the claims he is making during the hustings rather than inferring some kind of collective ownership.

Margaret Thatcher has been repeatedly invoked in this leadership contest, and it's interesting to note that she took the use of the word "we" to new heights by referring to herself using the "royal we".

**Eugene Sadler-Smith**

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# The MSM Caravan, Sound-Bytes and Theatrics

*What the caravan has made abundantly clear, if any confirmation was needed, is that the MSM will fight tooth and nail in a bitter, no holds barred contest for its political survival*

Jan Arden

*"It will be said that the despot assures his subjects of civil tranquillity. Granted; but what do they gain, if his insatiable avidity, and the vexatious conduct of his ministers press harder on them than their own dissensions would have done? What do they gain, if the very tranquillity they enjoy is one of their miseries?"*

— Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Many observers have been left baffled by the political caravan launched last week by the MSM and its associates running the country and more specifically by the objective behind what was a well-funded exercise, its messaging repeated with garrulous ease on soap-boxes in four zones of the rural belt. Was it a 'galop d'essai' for any elections that are still in the hazy future or a testing out of key campaign themes and planks that would, one assumes, keep that half of the electorate in thrall? Perhaps an attempt to divert the conversation away from live issues and affairs that were seen to be assailing the regime every fortnight, fresh ones superseding the previous?

Was it an attempt to stem the tide and hold the fort after a bad series of revelations or some nervousness at the possible conclusion of a tripartite Opposition alliance in the offing? Or a demonstration of the MSM's following in constituencies that, according to the party's logic, would determine the next general elections? In which case some may feel that the towns



**“Was it a ‘galop d'essai’ for any elections that are still in the hazy future or a testing out of key campaign themes and planks that would, one assumes, keep that half of the electorate in thrall? Perhaps an attempt to divert the conversation away from live issues and affairs that were seen to be assailing the regime every fortnight, fresh ones superseding the previous? Was it an attempt to stem the tide and hold the fort after a bad series of revelations or some nervousness at the possible conclusion of a tripartite Opposition alliance in the offing?”**

and the capital are, in a way, not felt as winnable by the party politburo against some form of a united Opposition front and not deserving therefore of the level of attention and messaging rolled out for the rural folk.

Alternatively, there have been speculation that, with that Opposition platform still in the works, the MSM may opt to go straight to general elections, even prematurely, rather than risk intervening Municipals that may not provide a comforting run-up to the ruling regime. On the other hand there may be no mileage for the MSM in election dates that do not take account of the planned completion and scheduling of the Curepipe-to-Port Louis full stretch of the Metro tramway. Whatever be the case, the caravan was certainly a well-prepared series of interventions, designed to grab and divert headlines or commentary and accessorially lay the ground for a "bilan" that would come, according to the PM, in due time.

Meantime, the attendees, bussed in from various quarters, might have been regaled by the repetitive nature of MSM political attacks verging on vulgarity and threats some of which are too obnoxious to even deserve mention here, more so as they have been amply commented upon in most media. The implicit assumption that the attendees from this electorate deserve no better is appallingly disparaging and may not hold water as

social media pointed out that some sections of the crowds were getting restless and were preparing to leave even before the leader had embarked on his full hour delivery.

Although the *jhals* and *dholoks* were there, in Triolet as elsewhere, there was noticeably less enthusiasm as compared to previous MSM jamborees, either from the somewhat outdated jibes and piques targeting Navin Ramgoolam, the Opposition, rolled in "India bashing" accusations, the media outlets not toeing the official lines and even the PM's

defaulting close aide and confidante, Sherry Singh. Maybe, they did not all embrace being taken for immature and communally-bent folk whose loyalty was a granted. Or, more understandably perhaps, because the PM three years ago was essentially a relatively unknown quantity to whom the electorate decided, with a relative majority of 37%, to grant the privilege of managing a complex island where tolerance, unity and diversity matter.

Today that aura of novelty has gone and each one of us must have made up his or her mind as to the personal qualities and attributes Pravind Jugnauth brings to the country's top-job and the governmental team of elected representatives, advisors and political appointees he has stitched together to assist him.

Of the current *tracas* of the ordinary folk, of the devaluation of the Rupee and rising cost of living, of the massive taxes maintaining high retail fuel costs when world oil prices have been tumbling, of the new property sales provisions for foreigners, pricing many first-time Mauritian buyers out of the market, of the perspectives for new pillars of growth and job creation, of the joblessness of youths in the countryside, of the scale of public debts or the ratings of international watchers, not much was heard as the pulpits of crowd-warmers and top MSM politburo belched out their fulsome attacks.

Maybe that was not the forum to answer those questions or provide meaningful answers, however topical in these wintry days. And, no doubt, there is some element of "tamamsos", sound-bytes and theatrics in all such political functions aimed at galvanising loyalists, although how far they bring on board the doubtful or the fence-sitters remains a moot issue. What the caravan has made abundantly clear, if any confirmation was needed, is that the MSM will fight tooth and nail in a bitter, no holds barred contest for its political survival as the lead-up to general elections, nominally to be held end 2024, heats up.

## Metro line to Cote d'Or - Another Rs14 billion burden on our heads



Meantime Mrs Nandini Singla, the Indian High Commissioner, has announced a grant of \$25 million to the country and that India would be accommodating towards a further request from Mauritian authorities should they wish another substantial borrowing of \$300M to extend the costly Rose-Hill-Ebene stretch to the exotic and quintessentially political destination of Cote d'Or.

Jan Arden

● Cont. on page 7



# The Toxicity of Bollywood



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

In the late 1960s when I was studying in Kolkata, I went along with another Mauritian student and an Indian friend of his to see an Indian film. After we had the tickets in hand, the Indian guy said: 'When you buy the ticket to see an Indian film, leave your brains at the counter.' By which I suspect he meant that the film(s) had low content value and that one should just enjoy the - love-triangle or often convoluted - story line, and songs and dances that were invariably a feature of these films. As he was much older to us (in his 30s) and definitely more knowledgeable about his country and its institutions, we took his words for granted. Not that I was a great fan of the films from Bombay.

According to Wikipedia, the term Bollywood was coined afterwards, in the 1970s, 'when the conventions of commercial Hindi films were defined. Key to this was the *masala* film, which combines a number of genres (action, comedy, romance, drama, melodrama, and musical).' And so indeed most of them were, the core objective being commercial, that is, to make money, which remains so to this day.

It goes without saying that all the players in the industry - from the script-writer to the producer and director and the actors and other minions - were driven by this mindset. Nothing wrong with that because everyone has to make a living, and in a system of cut-throat competition ethics gets short-shrifted.

During what was deemed to be the 'golden period' of the industry, the 1940s and 50s, and probably until the early 1980s, never mind the ethics but at least there was some regard for decency in the depiction of courtship or love scenes. Facial expressions and eye-play along with suggestive bodily gestures were enough to symbolize, depict or arouse the more sublime emotions, so that families with young children could watch a movie together.

Since approximately the past three decades, however, the slide toward imitating the worst excesses of the entertainment industry in the West began. This was exemplified during an award ceremony where nubile female dancers clad bikini style were gyrating, and at one point were seen to be doing a rubbing up and down movement with their hands on their private parts, and

**“Today, Bollywood is in deep crisis even if some industry stalwarts, in their arrogance and disconnect with the ground, refuse to see it. People today have countless alternatives for entertainment. They have access to better-quality world cinema where they get originality. They feel embarrassed when they see that Bollywood's quality has been dismal, compared with films from even poorer countries. They can ignore Bollywood and yet have no dearth of options to entertain themselves'...”**



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this was being watched by the glitterati audience, old and young ones together.

Film critics, commentators, magazines devoted to Bollywood and those fawning on the personalities found nothing odd in all this and went with the flow as it were. However, spurred by what they considered to be repeated insults to the millennial old dharmic ethos and culture of their country in several films of recent vintage, the more discerning media and movie analysts started to decode in retrospect many of the films that began to be produced after the 'golden period,' and perhaps they weren't so surprised that this disrespect and misrepresentation of their culture had already started to infiltrate quite a few of these films. Far from abating, this trend has accelerated.

In an article titled 'The Demise of Bollywood' in *Swarajya Magazine* of Aug 16, 2022 Sanjeev Newar and Swati Goel Sharma give a detailed and comprehensive account of this phenomenon and its many ramifications. They trace its origins to the decades post the 'golden period' (their designation), when 'the industry came firmly into the grip of two prominent groups - Communists and pan-Islamists. The language was primarily Hindi-Urdu.' Further, 'the left-leaning Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA), which was affiliated with the Communist Party of India, was heavily populating and influencing it (the industry).'

They go on to explain how several personalities of the Lahore film industry such as famed 'Mehboob Khan, who would later make the controversial *Mother India* (1957), went to Pakistan after the partition but returned to Bombay.' This was because 'Lahore was ravaged by communal riots, and the future of an entertainment industry in a nation created in the name of Islam that looked down upon music, dance and photography,

looked bleak.' Moreover, 'these professionals had the advantage of functioning and producing content in the same language - Hindi-Urdu - that the Bombay-based industry primarily worked in. These included Muslims as well as Hindus and Sikhs,' and cite several well-known names such as Pran, Om Prakash, Jivan, Qamar Jalalabadi.

They go on to point out how 'any casual observer of Hindi-Urdu cinema would tell you that while themes from ancient Indian epic texts largely disappeared, those eulogising Turkic-Moghul conquests in the sub-continent, along with social commentaries on evils of the 'Hindu caste system' and promotion of Nehruvian socialism and Gandhian secular-

rism, came to dominate' and give the example of the blockbuster *Mughal -e-Azam* (1960) which had 'dialogues glorifying Akbar's lineage from Taimur Lung.'

They add that 'the industry developed and perfected certain themes that it repeated in one film after another and convinced at least three generations of Indians that they really did exist in society.'

They give several examples of how 'In the, 1970s, 80s and early nineties films...pushed a communal agenda while deriding Hindu culture and symbols. If *Deewar* showed Amitabh Bachchan refusing to enter Hindu temple or eat prasada..., *Awam* showed Amar refusing to swear by Gita as a show of non-communalism. *Judaai* showed Ashok Kumar tearing a copy of Ramayana to hide sugar cubes as a joke...'

However, people started to be awakened to other realities, such as 'accusations against the industry icons for suspected links with the Underworld, adultery, prostitution and money laundering.'

Later films began to normalize terrorism, and even justify it. As they point out, 'people could not be brainwashed beyond a point.'

Besides, 'with the coming of the Internet, the audience got access to global culture and cinema. Bollywood was exposed as a serial plagiariser of everything from its music to movie plots and twists to camera work'. The Internet and social media 'also ensured that the film-stars no more remained Gods who could be worshipped or appreciated only from a distance. Their human side came to the fore, even if they did not want it,' and 'by this time, Bollywood stars were passing on the mantle to their second or third generation.'

● Cont. on page 7



## Ken Arian &amp; The Anonymous Letter Conspiracy

# “Making wild allegations of conspiracy is just a means of shouting into the wind”

LEX

**T**here has been a lot of commotion this week with the publication of an anonymous letter addressed by a “patriote indigné” to the PM, covered with handwritten corrections which an expert graphologist has considered identical with the handwriting of Mr Ken Arian, then Senior Advisor at PMO. The letter records various allegations against in particular, Mrs Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, at that time Head of State under pressure to resign. Lex pores over the ensuing allegations of a ‘complot’ at high levels to force her departure or stifle questions in Parliament as the PM immediately referred the letter to ICAC.

\* The press has recently alluded to an anonymous letter, allegedly fabricated by former PMO Senior Adviser Ken Arian, and which contained allegations against former President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim. Do you think that such an anonymous letter would be admissible as evidence in a court of law, or would it be considered as hearsay and lacking foundation or substance?

It would be hearsay and inadmissible. The court acts either on direct evidence or circumstantial evidence, that is facts from which it draws inferences.

\* We learn that one expert graphologist based in Reunion Island, Patrice Balletti, has concluded that the hand corrections in a draft copy of the typed anonymous letter would be virtually identical to the handwriting of Ken Arian in a separate manuscript. We presume the findings of the graphologist would be challenged in case this matter is prosecuted. What would it take for the graphologist’s findings to pass the test of admissibility and as being conclusive?

A graphologist would be an expert witness. When an expert is summoned to testify in court his expertise in the field in which he is called to testify may be questioned.

In addition, he would be searchingly cross-examined on the findings and conclusions he has reached. Counter evidence may be brought up by an opposing party to contradict the expert.

At the end of the day, it will for the court to decide which evidence would be relevant and can be relied upon.

\* In the meantime, what would you expect the recipient of the anonymous letter to do whenever such a letter containing serious allegations against the head of state is brought to his attention? What should be the procedure/s to follow in such cases?

It depends on the tenor of the anonymous letter. If it

reveals an offence known in Mauritian law, then the recipient may refer it to the police for investigation on the contents and on the persons, if any, targeted by the anonymous letter. If the letter reveals a financial crime, the letter may be sent to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for any action it would deem fit to take.

\* The Prime Minister revealed in a press conference on the day Ameenah Gurib-Fakim submitted her resignation as President of the Republic (23 March 2018) - he confirmed the same information in reply to a PNQ in Parliament on 27 March - that he had referred the matter for investigation by ICAC. Does that letter contain sufficient serious matters to warrant an investigation by the ICAC? And, why ICAC, not the Central CID?

It is possible that there was a suspicion of a financial crime having been committed, thus the decision to refer the matter to ICAC. Since the letter has been referred to ICAC, have we heard anything about it from the anti-corruption institution? Has ICAC summoned anybody for interrogation? There is this nagging thought that the idea might have been to draw political capital out of this matter.

\* The trend these last years has been to disallow questions in Parliament in relation to any controversy or scandal once the matter has been referred to ICAC or the police for investigation – notwithstanding whether the investigation is being conducted or not. Is that perfectly in order?

Well, this is the political strategy that has been utilised by the present government. Once a delicate matter is raised in Parliament, the matter is referred to ICAC or to the police where it seems to go into hibernation, resulting in questions being disallowed in Parliament.

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Pic - TOPFM

“Ms Gureeb Fakim has her lawyers to advise her. What she can do is to ask the Commission to consider the letter and circumstances in which it was written. That would then require the Commission to summon both Ken Arian and the Prime Minister and possibly the Director General of ICAC. But would the Commission dare do that?”

ment. This is a most undemocratic method used to stifle questions.

\* What about the commission of inquiry set up to investigate the alleged dealings of the controversial Angolan investor Alvaro Sobrino and those attributed to Ameenah Gurib-Fakim. Is it also perfectly in order to suspend an investigation by ICAC due to a commission of inquiry having been set up?

No. ICAC is independent from the Commission. Maybe ICAC will use the Commission as an excuse not to probe into this matter and get away with it.

Remember the Commission’s mandate is not to establish guilt or innocence. It is a fact-finding body. Any findings adverse to an individual cannot be used against him in a court of law, and an investigation has to be started all over again following the findings of the Commission either by the police or ICAC, depending on the nature of the offence/s which would have been committed.

\* We have yet to take cognizance of the findings of that Commission of Inquiry presided by former Justice Caunhye. Why should it take so long for the Commission to submit its report?

The question must be addressed to the commissioners. But this is what usually happens when sitting judges already saddled with the burden of a heavy workload at the level of the Supreme Court are called upon to preside over commissions of inquiry. The chairperson is now a retired chief justice, and he should now be able to finish the task at hand.

● Cont. on page 7

# Trump's Lies and the Mar-a-Lago Search Warrant



Anil Madan

**U**S Attorney General Merrick Garland has, over the months, come under heavy criticism for not indicting former President Trump. He has also been criticized for not being more forceful in going after those who have defied the US House of Representatives Select Committee investigating the January 6, 2020, attack on the US

Capitol, and in not being more aggressive against major political figures for their involvement in the events of January 6. Not surprisingly, these criticisms have come mostly from Democrats and a few independents.

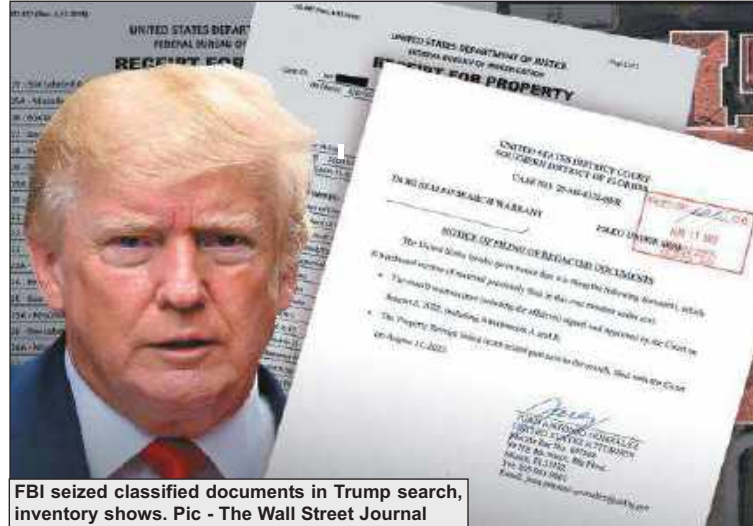
Last week, the FBI obtained a search warrant from a federal judge to search Trump's Mar-a-Lago property and seized documents most of which are the property of the United States. The FBI seized 27 boxes of documents; eleven contained packets of classified documents. The classification level of the documents ranged from 'Confidential', to 'Secret', to 'Top Secret', to 'TS/SCI'. The last category stands for 'Top Secret, Sensitive Compartmented Information' that can be viewed only by persons with special access under controlled conditions to prevent data leaks.

It should come as no surprise that Trump reacted with vehement rage. He accused the FBI of "breaking-into" his home and suggested that President Joe Biden was behind the incident. This, as might be expected of most things Trump says, was false.

It should also come as no surprise that Trump supporters and loyalists, sprang to his "defense" and issued charges that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has been weaponized. FBI agents and even the federal Magistrate Judge who approved the issuance of the search warrant, have been threatened with violence.

The charges of partisanship and weaponizing of the DOJ are striking in that Merrick Garland has been measured and as noted, criticized for not being aggressive enough against Trump and other high-ranking Republicans. When he was appointed Attorney General by President Biden, Garland quoted former Attorney General Edward Levi who served under President Ford, in his acceptance speech: "Nothing can more weaken the quality of life, or more imperil the realization of the goals we all hold dear, than our failure to make clear by words

**"It should also come as no surprise that Trump supporters and loyalists, sprang to his 'defense' and issued charges that the Department of Justice (DOJ) has been weaponized. FBI agents and even the federal Magistrate Judge who approved the issuance of the search warrant, have been threatened with violence..."**



FBI seized classified documents in Trump search, inventory shows. Pic - The Wall Street Journal

**"The consequences for Trump about having classified documents depend on when they were removed. If he was still President, he is likely immune from prosecution. If the documents did include secrets about the production and use of nuclear weapons (highly unlikely), the situation might be different. Once he ceased to be President, the violations probably devolve to unlawful possession and failure to deliver the documents to the National Archives..."**

and deed that our law is not the instrument of partisan purpose."

## What is at stake

With this overview, let us step back and consider what has happened and what is at stake.

A search warrant is legal authorization from a judge or magistrate that permits law enforcement officers to search a specified location or item (e.g., a vehicle or boat) for evidence that could be connected with a crime. The law enforcement agency seeking the warrant must establish probable cause that a crime has been committed **and** that evidence of the crime is at the location or thing to be searched.

Search warrants are rarely made public although the person served may publicize the content of a warrant served on him. In this case, the federal judge has released the search warrant and the inventory of items seized. However, the underlying affidavits submitted to establish probable cause have not yet been released. The court is considering whether such materials should be released. The DOJ objects on the grounds that release of the information might compromise its investigation and put information about its means and methods at risk and endanger law enforcement personnel.

The most important point to keep in mind is that the search warrant establishes that someone is under a criminal investigation. The application for the search warrant cites three federal statutes one of which is the Espionage Act, another relating to mishandling, mutilation, or destruction of documents, and the third relating to obstruction of justice.

Many in the mainstream media have jumped to the conclusion that Trump is the subject of the criminal investigation, but the truth is that we do not know that to be the case. One of his staffers may be under investigation. In fact, a Trump lawyer certified in June, that all government

documents had been turned over. This was obviously not true. That lawyer may be the subject of the criminal investigation.

Reports have also surfaced that the documents at Mar-a-Lago included confidential nuclear secrets. We do not know that this is the case, and we may never know because the contents of classified documents are not going to be made public. However, if Trump did take such documents to Mar-a-Lago, one must question why. The potential compromise of national security is a palpable threat.

Attorney General Garland's response was forceful and telling. In brief remarks, he stated that he personally approved the application for the search warrant and castigated those who have unfairly attacked the FBI agents involved.

## FBI accused of planting documents

Having stated what we do not know, let us look at what we do know. Trump first accused the FBI of planting documents that it seized as part of the search. Garland pointed out that a Trump lawyer was present during the search, thus effectively debunking this charge.

Trump then asserted that he had declassified the documents. This is, of course, entirely inconsistent with any suggestion that the FBI planted classified documents and then seized them.

Leon Panetta, who was President Obama's Chief of Staff, then Director of the CIA, and eventually Secretary of Defense, was asked about Trump's claims that he had declassified the documents. He noted that there is a procedure to be followed when documents are declassified, including that the agency that classified the documents gets a say in the matter. There is no record that any of this was done under Trump. In short, Panetta said Trump's claims are "BS." There is also the problem that documents about the production or use of nuclear weapons cannot be declassified at will even by a President.

There has been media speculation that the FBI used the search warrant simply to retrieve the classified documents that Trump had wrongly transferred to Mar-a-Lago. This seems highly unlikely. The FBI had previously issued a subpoena seeking return of all classified documents. As noted, a Trump lawyer had certified that all documents had been returned. If the FBI was merely seeking the return of documents, it would have brought an action to enforce the subpoena, not sought a search warrant on the grounds that there was probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed.

The consequences for Trump about having classified documents depend on when they were removed. If he was still President, he is likely immune from prosecution. If the documents did include secrets about the production and use of nuclear weapons (highly unlikely), the situation might be different. Once he ceased to be President, the violations probably devolve to unlawful possession and failure to deliver the documents to the National Archives.

All in all, it seems to me that there is less here than meets the eye.

Let us not forget, however, that the investigation in Georgia into election interference by Trump and his cronies such as Rudy Giuliani and Lindsey Graham, and the civil investigation in New York continue. Those proceedings are entirely separate from the investigation that led to the FBI search at Mar-a-Lago.

Cheerz...  
Bwana



## 'Only a thorough and independent investigation can establish whether Ken Arian was the author or not of the anonymous letter'



Only a thorough and independent investigation can establish whether he was the author or not. Making wild allegations of conspiracy is just a means of shouting into the wind.

**\* Would the mere allegation of a 'complot' to discredit the former President especially as regards her alleged dealings with Alvaro Sobrinho have any bearing on the findings of the Commission?**

No. If Ms Ameenah Gurib Fakim believes that there has been a conspiracy against her and that she can prove it, her lawyers can make a motion to the Commission to reopen its investigation so that she can submit the evidence and draw the attention of the Commission to the anonymous letter and leave it to the Commission to act accordingly.

**“A graphologist would be an expert witness. When an expert is summoned to testify in court his expertise in the field in which he is called to testify may be questioned. In addition, he would be searchingly cross-examined on the findings and conclusions he has reached. Counter evidence may be brought up by an opposing party to contradict the expert. At the end of the day, it will for the court to decide which evidence would be relevant...”**

● Cont. from page 5

**\* Ken Arian has denied being the author of the anonymous letter. AG Fakim on her part has spoken of a 'complot' (conspiracy) in reference to the anonymous letter. A conspiracy would suggest more than one person might have been involved in finalising and vetting the letter. Does that constitute a serious criminal offence if proved to be true?**

A conspiracy is a serious offence that is punishable by imprisonment.

**\* Could the former President argue that the Commission of inquiry as per its terms of reference be declared null and void in light of a 'complot' engineered at very high level with a view to discredit her?**

Ms Gurib Fakim has her lawyers to advise her. What she can do is to ask the Commission to consider the letter and circumstances in which it was written by whomsoever. That would then require the Commission to summon both Ken Arian and the Prime Minister and possibly the Director General of ICAC.

LEX

## Metro line to Cote d'Or - Another Rs 14 billion burden on our heads

● Cont. from page 3

Given the parlous state of our economy and already sky-high total public debt, the unknown but probably massive subsidies being incurred to maintain the existing main metro line above water, a further extension to that low population density area should presumably not send the Minister of Finance or Public Transport abuzz with excitement.



**“After all, a 10-km extension at what would amount to an extra burden of Rs14 billion on our heads deserves to be assessed with greater care than usual.**

**This bodes poorly on the 80% of the adult population that as late Sir Anerood Jugnauth and ex-Minister**

**Lutchmeenaraidoo stressed are already digging deep into their pockets to fund the tramway's operations and financial reimbursements. We can suspect more pressure in the form of VAT, taxes and high fuel costs, for an extension that should be justified in terms of costs and benefits...”**

After all, a 10-km extension at what would amount to an extra burden of Rs14 billion on our heads deserves to be assessed with greater care than usual. This bodes poorly on the 80% of the adult population that as late Sir Anerood Jugnauth and ex-Minister Lutchmeenaraidoo stressed are already digging deep into their pockets to fund the tramway's operations and financial reimbursements. We can suspect more pressure in the form of VAT, taxes and high fuel costs, for an extension that should be justified in terms of costs and benefits. Unfortunately, such is the state of public affairs management and the general inertia of key institutions around public wastes and many corrupt procurements that even such elementary expectations are unlikely to be entertained.

Jan Arden

## The Toxicity of Bollywood

● Cont. from page 4

The lives of these “star-kids” were largely a disappointment to those who adored their parents and expected extraordinary things from their offspring.

‘Social media turned the tide, and it was not in favour of Bollywood.’

But there's more: ‘The tragic death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, considered an “outsider” in the industry as he was not a “star-kid”, created an anti-Bollywood movement on social media. The triggers were the emergence of alleged drug cartels and a cold response by most prominent names in the industry.

The movement saw several smaller players from Bollywood coming out to speak against the dark realities of the



industry, proving to be the proverbial last straw to break the camel's back.’

The result is that ‘today, Bollywood is in deep crisis even if some industry

stalwarts, in their arrogance and disconnect with the ground, refuse to see it. People today have countless alternatives for entertainment. They have access to better-quality world cinema where they get originality. They feel embarrassed when they see that Bollywood's quality has been dismal, compared with films from even poorer countries. They can ignore Bollywood and yet have no dearth of options to entertain themselves.’

Let's leave the last words to a comment from a reader of the article: ‘Why should the audience be forced to watch eve teasing, rape as form of entertainment, porn as mass entertainment, poor jokes, slapstick comedy in bad humour with racism, discrimination of women or children or seniors or weak as storyline of entertainment.’

The toxicity of Bollywood, to say the least...

RN Gopee



## Canadian parliamentary committee plans Taiwan visit amid tensions



A large Canadian parliamentary committee delegation is planning to visit the Chinese-claimed island of Taiwan in October, local media reported on Wednesday, a development that could further worsen relations between Ottawa and Beijing.

The planned visit, if it happens, will follow a high-profile visit to the self-governed island by US Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi in August, which sparked a furious response from Beijing and led to it launching its largest military drills around the island.

Eight members of Canada's House of Commons standing committee on international trade are

expected to travel to Taiwan, including many who are members of the Canada-Taiwan Friendship Group in the parliament, reports Hindustan Times.

The House standing committee is chaired by Judy Sgro, a member of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's ruling Liberal Party. Sgro said the committee "is very anxious to go and to visit Taiwan and see what opportunities there are for deeper trade relations between our two countries," a CBC News report said.

"I'm trying to be diplomatic in my comments, but clearly I'm proud that Canada is standing up to China as well. And I think that pushback is very important," she added.

Three of the 12 member of the

committee are Canadians of Indian origin: Chandra Arya, Anju Dhillon and Arif Virani. However, it is not known whether any of them will participate in the trip, though Virani has also supported the causes of the Tibetan diaspora in Canada. Beijing sent troops into Tibet in 1950 and a year later declared its "peaceful liberation", according to AFP.

Tension between China and Canada deepened after Canada in 2018 detained an executive of Chinese telecoms giant Huawei on a US warrant linked to a suspected breach of US sanctions on Iran.

China, which said the accusation was fabricated, subsequently arrested two Canadians on spying charges. Canada dismissed the accusations against the two.

The diplomatic standoff ended when all three were released in September 2021.

Also in June, Canada's military accused Chinese warplanes of harassing its patrol aircraft as they monitored North Korea sanction evasions.



## Rishi Sunak losing UK prime minister race, trails Liz Truss by 32 points

Liz Truss led Rishi Sunak by 32 points in the latest survey of UK Tory members by the ConservativeHome website, suggesting she remains on track to win the race to succeed Boris Johnson as Prime minister.

Some 60% of the 961 Tory members polled by the influential website said they favoured Truss to become the Conservative Party's new leader, while just 28% backed Sunak, ConservativeHome said on Wednesday. The result is similar to the last poll of Tory members on Aug. 4, when Truss also enjoyed a 32-point lead.

Truss has enjoyed large leads over Sunak in a succession of polls and surveys since the contest was narrowed down to two candidates last month. With Sunak showing little sign of making inroads, Truss is the hot favourite to become the party's -- and the country's -- next leader. The result is due on Sept. 5, with the winner taking over from Johnson the following day, reports Bloomberg.

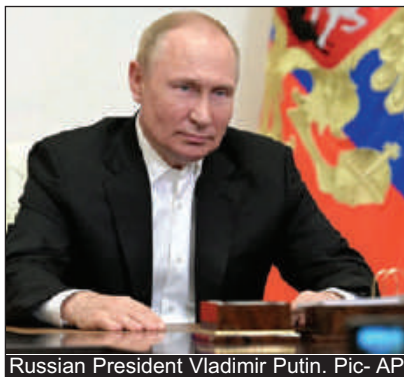
ConservativeHome found that just 9% of those surveyed remain undecided. Some 60% said they had already voted, while 40% haven't. Although surveying Tory members is notoriously difficult, Conservative Home polls have previously produced similar results to YouGov polling.

## Putin revives 'Mother Heroine' title, announces reward for bearing 10 kids

The Russian president Putin this week signed an order that said women who bear and raise 10 or more children will be bestowed with Russia's 'Mother Heroine' title as an 'honour'.

They will also receive a one-time payment of 130,000 rupees after the 10th living child turns one, local reports said. The mothers will 'qualify' for the 'award' even if any of their children die in battle, as the result of a terrorist act or in an emergency situation, reports Hindustan Times..

This decree was first introduced in 1944 by Soviet leader Josef Stalin in the wake of massive population losses during World War II. The title stopped being awarded after the



Soviet Union collapsed in 1991 following the Cold War.

Russia's population has been in near-constant decline for decades, falling to 145.1 million after a decline of around 400,000 in early 2022. It

fell dramatically in the 1990s that were characterised by the tough economic and social climate after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and Putin has faced demographic problems for much of the time since he became president in 2000.

Previous attempts to improve the situation have been unsuccessful, causing concern among economists about what the impact of having a smaller workforce will be on the economy.

Since 2021, the rate of Russia's population decline has almost doubled when the Covid-19 pandemic led to the country's largest natural population decline, worsening the demographic woes.

## India, China troops will attend military drill hosted by Russia

Indian and Chinese soldiers will take part in a week-long multi-country drill in Russia starting later this month, with troops from the two countries practising military manoeuvres together in the backdrop of the ongoing border tension in eastern Ladakh and the war in Ukraine.

Led by host Russia, the drill will include troops from India, Belarus, Mongolia, Tajikistan and other countries besides China, the Chinese defence ministry said in a brief statement on Wednesday. The drill, which will be held between August 30 and September 5 at various military facilities in Russia, is likely to be closely tracked globally given the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine.

While there was no official comment from the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, people familiar with the matter said both countries have sent troops for such



exercises in the past in keeping with multilateral commitments to cooperate on defence and security issues, reports Hindustan Times..

The Chinese defence ministry said the exercise is "unrelated" to the current international and regional conditions. The Russian government confirmed the "Vostok" (East) drills last month without sharing details.

The Chinese defence ministry confirmed the exercise and shared some more details on Wednesday. "In accordance with the annual plan for cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries and the bilateral agreements, the PLA (People's Liberation Army) will soon delegate and send part of its forces to Russia for participation in the Vostok-2022 exercise," the Chinese statement said.





## Imran Khan says Pak descending into banana republic

after close-aide arrested on sedition charges

**F**ormer Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said that the country "is descending into a banana republic" amid the arrest of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill on charges of sedition. Khan, who heads the PTI, has also termed Gill's arrest as a "conspiracy" to target him, and his party colleagues.

On Twitter, Imran Khan shared a 22-second clip of Gill and wrote: "Descending into a banana republic. The civilised world will be shocked at our levels of barbarism. The worst part is an easy target has been chosen to make an example of through torture & without a fair trial." Khan further accused the ruling PML-N's Nawaz Sharif, her daughter Maryam, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and PPP leader Asif Zardari for targeting the state institutions 'in the worst way possible', and still getting away 'without even a hint of a reprimand', reports Hindustan Times.

Shehbaz Gill, a close aide of Imran Khan, was arrested last week in Islamabad for allegedly making controversial remarks against the Pakistan Army on a private TV channel, local media outlet GeoNews reported. He was eventually booked on charges of sedition and inciting members of state institutions against the Pakistan army. A day before, he was remanded in two-day custody of the Islamabad police.

## 'Living with Covid doesn't mean....': WHO chief as deaths rise by 35% in 4 weeks

**W**ith the pandemic in its third year, it has been repeated multiple times by leaders and experts that the world has to learn to live with Covid. But in a warning against dropping guards, WHO chief Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus has said that this does not mean that "we pretend it's not there". "It means we use all the tools we have to protect ourselves, and protect others," he said.

Omicron remains the dominant variant and, in the last one month, BA.5 sub-variant represented more than 90% of sequences.

In a message to the world, the WHO chief - in a video shared on his Twitter account - is heard saying: "15,000 people around the world lost their lives to Covid. 15,000 a week is completely unacceptable when we have all the tools to prevent infections and save lives."

"None of us is helpless. Please get vaccinated if you're not, and get a



booster (dose) if you need it. Wear mask and maintain social distancing," the WHO chief urges in the video. "We cannot live (with the virus) with 15,000 deaths a week. We cannot live with mounting hospitalisations. We can't live with inequitable access of vaccines," the world health body chief said in a desperate appeal.

The world has reported over 590

million cases since the start of the pandemic and over 6.4 million deaths. The United States has reported a majority of these cases (over 93 million), followed by India (around 44 million).

The WHO has on multiple instances spoken of unequal distribution of vaccines as the virus continues to mutate.

## Punjabi fourth-most widely spoken language in Canadian homes

**P**unjabi is the fourth-most widely spoken language spoken at home in Canada while the number of those using other Indian tongues has risen steeply, according to new data released on Wednesday.



A person walks in front of new homes under construction in Brampton, Ontario, Canada. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of Punjabi speakers increased by 49% to 520,000. Pic - Reuters

Canada's two official languages, English and French, remain the two spoken most predominantly at home, followed by Mandarin and Punjabi, according to details issued on Wednesday by Statistics Canada (StatCan), the country's data agency. This is based on the 2021 census.

However, the growth of Punjabi speakers has been sharper than that for Mandarin. Between 2016 and 2021, the number of Punjabi speakers increased by 49% to 520,000, while those for Mandarin rose by a more moderate 15% to 531,000, reports Hindustan Times..

Other Indian languages are also flourishing in Canada. The number of those speaking Hindi escalated by 66% to 92,000, while those using Gujarati were at the same figure but increased by a comparatively lower 43%. Also on the list is Malayalam, which saw its usage rising by 129% to 35,000 speakers.

Overall, the number of Canadians who speak predominantly a non-official language at home rose 16% since 2016, from 4.0 million to 4.6 million.

English is the main language spoken in Canada, with its users going up to 75.5% in 2021 from 74.8% five years earlier. The other official language French though is losing users, down from 22.2% to 21.4%. The number of those adept at both official languages remained static at 18%.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

## Mutation behind monkeypox spread?

**T**he world saw 7,500 new monkeypox cases last week, a 20% surge compared to the previous week, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Wednesday, giving the latest updates on the virus that has triggered concern globally. Most of these cases have been reported from Europe and the Americas "and almost all cases continue to be reported among men who have sex with men," the head of the World Health Organization highlighted.

With the latest spike, the global monkeypox tally has passed the 35,000-mark and 12 deaths have so far been reported; the virus has spread to 92 countries and territories.

Monkeypox is the second virus to gain wide focus after Covid. The rapid mutation of coronavirus has been a matter of concern during the course of the pandemic.

Is mutation of the monkeypox virus also linked to the



spread? The world health body has told news agency AFP that studies are underway to know more.

The supplies of vaccines and the data is also limited for now.

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Interview: Lindsay Rivière

# “Pourquoi Navin Ramgoolam sauverait-il le MSM, tuant ainsi les chances du PTr de reprendre le pouvoir?”



Commissaires Administratifs comme au temps de Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (mais alors c'était sous l'état d'urgence). La pression électorale est donc moindre que la gestion des crises actuelles. La stratégie du MSM est claire: repousser toutes les crises; gagner du temps; faire oublier les scandales qui s'accumulent; laisser les gens oublier. Créer des diversions.

« Dans tout éventuel gouvernement MSM-PTr, c'est Pravind Jugnauth qui aurait la haute main sur lui. Vous voyez Navin Ramgoolam, un concentré d'orgueil et d'autoritarisme, plier le genou devant Pravind Jugnauth? Ceux qui évoquent ce scénario rêvent les yeux grands ouverts! »

\* Voyez-vous Pravind Jugnauth aller jusqu'au bout du mandat, ou a-t-il intérêt de surprendre tout le monde et aller vite aux élections générales avant que la situation sur le plan économique ne s'empire malgré ce qu'affirme le ministre des Finances?

Les deux scénarios sont envisageables. En général, un Premier ministre ne dissout prématurément le Parlement et ne va vers des élections anticipées que s'il a des chances raisonnables de gagner et est plein d'optimisme, comme Navin Ramgoolam en 2000.

Objectivement, cela n'est pas le cas aujourd'hui.

Réagir à l'aggravation de la crise économique en avançant la date des élections ne paraît pas un argument assez solide. Au contraire, Pravind Jugnauth pourrait attendre deux ans et demi, le temps que les choses s'améliorent.

Déjà on voit le tourisme se revigorer (470,000 visiteurs pour le premier semestre 2022, peut-être un million sur une année pleine, ce qui nous rapporterait 50 à 60 milliards de devises) ou encore la progression actuelle des exportations (+18%).

Lentement mais sûrement, le ciel pourrait s'éclaircir, ce qui inviterait Pravind Jugnauth à attendre. Avant de se décider, il lui faut faire baisser la pression sur son gouvernement.

\* Il existe un sentiment anti-gouvernement très fort sur les réseaux sociaux et dans certains titres de presse, mais il est difficile et complexe de saisir et de comprendre le 'mood' réel de l'électorat à ce stade vis-à-vis du Gouvernement ou même de l'opposition. C'est bien cela la clé du problème, n'est-ce pas?

C'est vrai qu'il existe à tout moment 40 à 50% d'indécis à Maurice et une grosse majorité silencieuse, dont il est difficile d'imaginer la position qu'ils assumeront demain en cas d'élections.

● Suite en page 11

**A**lliance électorale: Y a-t-il un accord durable PTr-MMM-PMSD ou est-ce que c'est uniquement un artifice qui cache une union fragile? Lindsay Rivière, fin observateur des stratégies politiques mauriciennes, nous livre les secrets des arrangements pour arriver à une entente, ce qui dépend de l'état des relations entre groupements politiques et des rapports de convenance régissant les liens entre les leaders politiques.

**Mauritius Times:** Un accord de principe pour une alliance pour les élections municipales réunissant les partis parlementaires de l'opposition - le PTr, le MMM et le PMSD - est intervenu durant la semaine écoulée. Est-ce que c'est cela qui explique la nervosité et l'agressivité du leader du MSM à l'égard de toute opposition?

**Lindsay Rivière:** Largement ! Rien ne semble plus aller pour Pravind Jugnauth. Si la fin de son premier mandat, en 2019, lui permettait d'aborder avec optimisme les élections de cette année-là, son second mandat est proche d'un véritable cauchemar: deux années de Covid; scandales à répétition; affaires diverses choquant la nation; une équipe ministérielle et parlementaire bien moins efficace que celle de 2014-19; une économie qui s'essouffle; une crise sociale en raison de la cherté de la vie; l'inflation à deux chiffres à gérer, etc.

Le PM est nerveux et agressif parce que tout cela le stresse en permanence et on le serait à moins. Pravind Jugnauth sent que le terrain lui glisse sous les pieds et on peut l'imaginer frustré et agacé à chaque mauvaise nouvelle. Remarquez qu'il s'attire lui-même certains de ces ennuis par sa méthode de tout attirer sur lui et de promouvoir une hyper-personnalisation du pouvoir.

\* Il apparaît en tout cas plausible que le 'mood' et le 'body language' du leader de l'alliance gouverne-

mentale trahissent une posture défensive et défiante d'un leader politique en face d'une bataille éventuelle qu'il compte affronter dans les prochains mois. D'ailleurs, la tournée actuelle du Premier ministre dans toutes les circonscriptions semble renforcer ce sentiment croissant que nous nous approchons d'une échéance électorale sur le plan national. Ou serait-ce une tactique de diversion?

Probablement davantage une tactique de diversion! Pravind Jugnauth n'a toutefois pas à organiser des élections générales avant deux ans ou même deux ans et demi. De plus, le renvoi des municipales ne requiert qu'une majorité simple au Parlement, et il peut très bien renvoyer les Municipales une fois de plus l'année prochaine.

On parle d'ailleurs déjà de la nomination de

« Le renvoi des municipales ne requiert qu'une majorité simple au Parlement, et Pravind Jugnauth peut très bien renvoyer les Municipales une fois de plus l'année prochaine. La stratégie du MSM est claire: repousser toutes les crises; gagner du temps; faire oublier les scandales qui s'accumulent; laisser les gens oublier. Créer des diversions... »



# 'La nouvelle alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD a plus de chances de demeurer soudée...'



« Un des grands enseignements à émerger du jugement de la Cour suprême est que des promesses ou initiatives formulées sur le plan national pour l'ensemble du peuple (augmentations de pensions, Metro Express, par exemple) ne peuvent être imputées à un candidat précis pour son électorat précis et entraîner l'invalidation de son élection. Soyez sûr que cela n'est pas tombé dans l'oreille de sourds! »

## ● Suite de la page 10

Mais il est indéniable qu'il existe un fort mécontentement actuellement à Maurice, une grande misère sociale également, et on n'entend pas beaucoup de monde défendre le gouvernement, ses actions et ses manquements.

J'ai fait assez de sondages politiques, pour le compte de la SOFRES, pour savoir que chez nous, il est dangereux d'anticiper des résultats électoraux avant la dernière semaine de campagne quand s'installent des tendances variées. Le récent sondage mené par Amédée Darga et StraConsult semble confirmer qu'il existe toujours une forte base MSM. Je l'ai toujours dit: Ce serait une erreur pour l'Opposition de simplement 'write off' le MSM.

**\* Au fait, si les activistes sur le terrain ou sur les réseaux sociaux sont d'avis que l'actuel gouvernement doit débarrasser le plancher au plus vite, il est également probable qu'un nombre important d'électeurs soit d'un avis différent, et ce pour diverses raisons?**

Beaucoup de facteurs influencent le comportement de l'électorat et 'one week is a long time in politics', comme on dit. Il ne faut donc pas sauter trop vite aux conclusions. La politique mauricienne est pleine de surprises et de rebondissements. Tant de choses peuvent se passer en deux ans. Ce qui est sûr, c'est que le MSM ne

« Pourquoi sauverait-il le MSM, tuant ainsi les chances du PTr de reprendre et d'exercer le pouvoir jusqu'aux années '30? Pourquoi sacrifierait-il son parti auquel il est si attaché et qui est sa respiration même pour devenir, au Réduit, un Président largement symbolique? En vérité, Navin Ramgoolam veut sa revanche... »

va pas 'just roll over and die' sans livrer un rude combat.

Pravind Jugnauth croit encore conserver ses chances car il estime

- (a) qu'il aura ses adversaires à l'usure
- (b) que PTr et MMM ne s'entendront pas sur le long terme
- (c) que Navin Ramgoolam ne pourra pas 'vendre' son accord avec Paul Bérenger et Xavier Duval dans les régions rurales
- (d) qu'inversement, Bérenger ne pourra pas faire accepter Ramgoolam par ses partisans et que les voix de l'Opposition seront encore une fois dispersées.

Attendons voir!

**\* Un des effets indirects du jugement dans l'affaire Suren Dayal v/s Pravind Jugnauth, c'est que les mêmes méthodes utilisées en 2019, celles qui n'ont pas été jugées contraires aux lois du pays, seront sans doute utilisées en prévision des prochaines législatives. Le MSM est devenu un 'past master' dans l'utilisation des moyens pas toujours claires et parfois à la frontière des bonnes pratiques démocratiques pour arriver à ses fins. La bataille promet donc d'être très dure et rude?**

Un des grands enseignements à émerger du jugement de la Cour suprême est que des promesses ou initiatives formulées sur le plan national pour l'ensemble du peuple (augmentations de pensions, Metro Express, par exemple) ne peuvent être imputées à un candidat précis pour son électorat précis et entraîner l'invalidation de son élection.

Soyez sûr que cela n'est pas tombé dans l'oreille de sourds!

**\* Du côté de l'opposition parlementaire, si le PTr se donne aujourd'hui la possibilité de rassembler au-**

delà de ses 30% de soutien électoral, comme vous le soutenez dans un article de presse, les choses peuvent toujours évoluer à l'approche des élections - que ce soit au niveau de ses soutiens électoraux ou de par la configuration politique changeante. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Les choses peuvent évoluer dans toutes les directions en deux ans et demi.

Pour l'heure sur papier, l'accord avec le MMM et le PMSD (possiblement avec Bodha s'il accepte que Ramgoolam serve à nouveau comme PM) permet objectivement au PTr d'espérer ajouter des renforts à ses 30-35% de voix traditionnelles.

Sur le papier, cet accord apporte assez de soutien au PTr pour espérer gagner les élections dans les villes, là où le MSM a fait élire quelques candidats de justesse en 2019 ou même dans les régions rurales, où l'écart entre MSM et PTr en 2019 n'était parfois que de quelques dizaines de voix.

« La nouvelle alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD a plus de chances de demeurer soudée. Hors de celle-ci, que ferait, en effet, Paul Bérenger? Vous le voyez aller seul avec le MMM en 2024? Par ailleurs, où Ramgoolam irait-il chercher les 15% de voix qui lui manquent pour reprendre le pouvoir? N'oubliez pas également que pour Bérenger comme pour Ramgoolam, 2024 sera leur dernière élection générale... »

Ce qui est sûr, c'est que MMM et PMSD apporteront plus de renforts au PTr dans les villes que la Plateforme Militante (Obeegadoo, Ganoo, Collendavelloo, Ramano, etc) n'apportera au MSM. Mais il faudra aussi voir quel est le 'backlash' possible des alliances des deux côtés.

**\* Est-ce probable donc que cette alliance de l'opposition parlementaire conclue pour les municipales va durer aussi longtemps qu'elle «serve its purpose», et pourrait être vite abandonnée si ce n'est plus le cas, c'est-à-dire du moment qu'elle soit perçue comme incapable de gagner les prochaines élections?**

Il semblerait, cette fois, que la nouvelle alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD a plus de chances de demeurer soudée. Hors de celle-ci, que ferait, en effet, Paul Bérenger? Vous le voyez aller seul avec le MMM en 2024? Ce serait folie furieuse, voire suicide.

Par ailleurs, où Ramgoolam irait-il chercher les 15% de voix qui lui manquent pour reprendre le pouvoir? N'oubliez pas également que pour Bérenger comme pour Ramgoolam, 2024 sera leur dernière élection générale avant leur retrait. Donc, 'it's now or never'.

Comme on dit: Nécessité fait loi! Il existe donc, aujourd'hui, de bonnes raisons pour que l'accord tienne. Je ne crois pas, d'autre part, que l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD sera perçue comme 'incapable de gagner'.

● Suite en page 12



# 'Le MSM lui aurait à se battre sans grands alliés (ni PTr ni MMM).

Cela va donc être un 'uphill battle' pour Pravind Jugnauth'

● Suite de la page 11

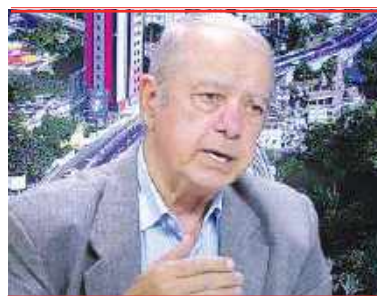
\* Qu'en est-il du poids des partis extraparlimentaires? Si les prochaines élections seront plus multipartites que jamais, comme vous le disiez dans votre article, à qui profitera ce multipartisme? Au MSM au bout du compte, qui pourrait retrouver là quelque chose qui ressemble à la lutte à trois qui l'avait favorisé en 2019?

Même s'il y a élections multipartites, dans le sens qu'il y aura beaucoup de partis en lice, la réalité est que les électeurs voteront prioritairement pour deux blocs: PTr-MMM-PMSD ou MSM-Plateforme militante.

Je l'ai toujours dit dans vos colonnes ou ailleurs, et la suite des événements m'a toujours donné raison: Les petits partis sont incapables de gagner, seuls, des sièges au Parlement. Ensemble, même avec les candidats indépendants, ils font toujours à peine 10% des voix. Or, 80% des votants votent toujours pour les grandes coalitions, malgré leurs grognements.

Je ne crois tout simplement pas dans les petits partis. Je n'y ai jamais cru.

Pour gagner des élections générales, il faut faire élire au moins 36 députés, attirer au moins 400,000 électeurs sur 900,000



« Pravind Jugnauth sent que le terrain lui glisse sous les pieds et on peut l'imaginer frustré et agacé à chaque mauvaise nouvelle. Remarquez qu'il s'attire lui-même certains de ces ennuis par sa méthode de tout attirer sur lui et de promouvoir une hyper-personnalisation du pouvoir... »

retrouverons une nouvelle fois dans une lutte à trois, et dans ces circonstances le MMM pourrait être tenté par l'option MSM – cela pour des gains politiques à court terme... Ce n'est pas tout à fait à écarter, n'est-ce pas?

Je respecte certes l'opinion de Jocelyn Chan Low, mais je suis en total désaccord avec lui sur cette question.

Pour moi, il n'y a pas une chance sur mille aujourd'hui que Paul Bérenger s'allie au MSM, même dans les pires circonstances.

Vous voyez le grand Paul Bérenger, après une vie de courageux combats et de rectitude morale qu'il s'attribue toujours, terminer son extraordinaire parcours politique à 76 ans assis entre Bobby Hurryman, Manesh Gobin, Joe Lesjongard, Deepak Balgobin et son laptop ou Mme Koonjoo, et applaudissant à deux mains l'étranglement de la démocratie mauri-

sans bien réfléchir est 'totalement improvable'.

Posez-vous la question? Pourquoi Navin Ramgoolam le ferait-il? Pourquoi sauverait-il le MSM, tuant ainsi les chances du PTr de reprendre et d'exercer le pouvoir jusqu'aux années '30? Pourquoi sacrifierait-il son parti auquel il est si attaché et qui est sa respiration même pour devenir, au Réduit, un Président largement symbolique?

En vérité, Navin Ramgoolam, après

« Paul Bérenger n'aimait pas Sir Anerood Jugnauth, mais au moins il le respectait. Non seulement n'aime-t-il pas Pravind Jugnauth mais il ne le respecte même pas... Pravind Jugnauth le lui rend bien d'ailleurs! »



« Il est dangereux d'anticiper des résultats électoraux avant la dernière semaine de campagne quand s'installent des tendances variées. Le récent sondage mené par Amédee Darga et StraConsult semble confirmer qu'il existe toujours une forte base MSM. Je l'ai toujours dit: Ce serait une erreur pour l'Opposition de simplement 'write off' le MSM... »

dans 20 circonscriptions et dépenser des centaines de millions, sinon aujourd'hui des milliards ! Les petits et moyens partis n'ont aucune chance dans ce jeu d'éléphants et le jeu démocratique tournera toujours, à Maurice, autour des grands partis ou des grandes coalitions.

Voilà pourquoi je dis toujours dans vos colonnes – et je le dis une fois encore aujourd'hui – que Bodha, Bhadain, Linion, Laurette, Sherry Singh, etc., ne peuvent avoir que des ambitions très, très limitées.

\* Jocelyn Chan Low nous disait dans une récente interview qu'au cas où les choses ne marchent pas au niveau de l'opposition parlementaire, nous nous

cienne, après tout ce qui s'est passé depuis 2014?

Ce serait à désespérer et les militants eux-mêmes lui cracheraient au visage.

Paul Bérenger n'aimait pas Sir Anerood Jugnauth, mais au moins il le respectait. Non seulement n'aime-t-il pas Pravind Jugnauth mais il ne le respecte même pas... Pravind Jugnauth le lui rend bien d'ailleurs!

\* Par contre, ce qui paraît actuellement totalement improbable, c'est l'option d'une alliance PTr-MSM - certains disent que ce serait entretenu par le MSM. Le pensez-vous également?

Non, ce scénario qu'on évoque ici et là

deux humiliantes défaites en 2014 et 2019, veut sa revanche et veut retirer Pravind Jugnauth du pouvoir. C'est, dit-il, sa dernière mission. Dans ses rapports avec Pravind au gouvernement en 2010, c'est lui qui était le Premier ministre et qui donnait des ordres à Jugnauth.

Aujourd'hui, la situation est inversée. Dans tout éventuel gouvernement MSM-PTr, c'est Pravind Jugnauth qui aurait la haute main sur lui. Vous voyez Navin Ramgoolam, un concentré d'orgueil et d'autoritarisme, plier le genou devant Pravind Jugnauth?

Ceux qui évoquent ce scénario rêvent les yeux grands ouverts ! Même s'il arrivait malheur à Navin Ramgoolam, la probabilité est qu'Arvin Boolell serait encore plus anti-MSM et anti-Pravind Jugnauth que Navin Ramgoolam, et il refuserait toute alliance PTr-MSM.

C'est pour cela que j'ai écrit récemment dans *L'express* qu'alors que le PTr aurait en 2024 ou avant des renforts possibles pour gagner, le MSM – lui – aurait à se battre sans grands alliés (ni PTr, ni MMM). Cela va donc être un 'uphill battle' pour Pravind Jugnauth. Mais il y a une leçon dans tout cela: On ne peut pas se mettre à dos tout le monde tout le temps d'un mandat et espérer être sauvé demain par ces mêmes personnes!

## To Our Readers

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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.

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From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 199

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 30 May, 1958

• "La connaissance vraie enlève le préjugé et fait disparaître la méfiance" — M. l'Abbé Souchon

# Press and Parliament

By Editor

**F**or some time past the press which usually puts others in the news found itself in the centre of news. It was being mercilessly taken to task by some members of the Legislative Council. The main theme of the chorus of complaints against the press was the inaccurate and distorted press reports of the speeches delivered at the Legislature. It was even said that some sections of the press were behaving in as disgusting a manner as a "gutter press" would.

The reaction of the press to the sharp criticisms levelled at it has been prompt and direct. In council Mr Beejadhur took up the cudgels for the press and it should be conceded that he admirably defended the press as a whole. All this is at it should be and the Mauritian press is grateful to Mr Beejadhur.

Next to parliament the press is the most sacred institution of a civilised people. And if democracy is to survive and flourish any infringement of its freedom must be resisted and any attempt to tamper with its rights must be repudiated.

The press is like politics: it is what we make of it. That's why we aver that a 'bad' press is preferable to a gagged press. Because a 'bad' press can be corrected or countered while a press which has lost its sense of freedom and militancy becomes atrophied and consequently useless.

It is a matter of great regret however that those who attacked the press did not care to specify which section or sections of the press they had in mind. Consequently, the unspecified and sweeping allegations have left the press uneasy. We



Mauritius' Legislative Council in the 1960s. Pic - Vintage Mauritius

believe that in order to avoid misunderstandings and perhaps to ameliorate the relations between press and parliament those who criticised the press ought to have been less sweeping. Moreover, it's no use saying that this or that press is guilty of so many sins without at least substantiating the accusations.

The general accusation that certain sections of the press deliberately distort the views expressed by some members of the legislature seems exaggerated. What in fact happens is that some papers give wider publicity to news or views that are more to their liking or rather that actually suit the cause they have espoused. This is but natural with papers militating for some well-defined purpose.

It is common knowledge that most of our papers, especially the main dailies, give preferential treatment to speakers of their predilection. When a Labour member speaks for two hours in Council you will read only half a column in the non-Labour paper, but if a conservative member

speaks for thirty minutes you can certainly expect to read his speech almost in toto in next morning's conservative paper. The Labour paper is not, however, immune from such practice. But for the good name of a great institution like the press, journalists should see to it that in their desire to further their cause they do not mislead their readers or misrepresent their opponents. And here lies the acid test of honest and straightforward journalism.

In order to reduce the possibilities of misrepresentation or misinterpretation of what is said in Council we suggest that the Legislature should take steps to furnish journalists with authorised texts of its deliberations within a reasonable delay to enable them to inform their readers as quickly as possible.

\* \* \*

**F**ollowing the recent protest of the five newspapers, *Action*, *Advance*, *Le Cerneen*, *Le Mauricien* and *Mauritius Times*, against the statement of the Financial Secretary, His Excellency the

Governor met the five Editors and discussed the matter with them. His Excellency explained that Mr Wilson did not in the least mean to attack the press. After a friendly and frank discussion, it was agreed that the matter was disposed of. His Excellency expressed his appreciation of the offer made by the press to co-operate with Government in all matters of public interest.

We are happy that the misunderstanding between Mr Wilson and the Press has been removed. But we cannot help pointing out that such misunderstanding are bound to crop up so long as the press is kept in the dark about vital aspects of government policy. We think that government should regularly inform the press of the problems of the country and what it intends doing to meet them. What about holding a regular monthly press conference?

Press and Parliament are the greatest pillars of democracy, and it is precisely because of this that both should be allowed to function freely and fully.

## Misunderstanding or What?

**O**ur Readers' Forum column carries a letter signed by 13 trade-unionists requesting that the present Acting Labour Commissioner be appointed Labour Commissioner. The trade-unionists declare that they want to "appuyer la demande du **Mauritius Times** parue le 25 avril 1958 at intitulée: 'Who will succeed the Labour Commissioner'."

We have re-read the article referred to by the signatories of the letter and we fail to see how we ever asked that the Acting Labour Commissioner be appointed Labour Commissioner. Is it misunderstanding or... misrepresentation?

## MAHATMA GANDHI SECONDARY SCHOOL (FLACQ) PTA

REG No: 7630

### RE: Cancellation of Annual General Meeting

All members of the Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School (MGSS) Flacq Parent Teacher Association (PTA) are kindly referred to the announcement published on Friday, 12th August 2022, in which it was informed that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the above-mentioned Association is scheduled to be held on Thursday 25th August 2022 at 12:30 pm.

The MGSS Flacq PTA hereby wishes to withdraw the notice of the AGM and as a result, confirms that the AGM scheduled for Thursday, 25th August 2022 at 12.30 pm is cancelled. The MGSS Flacq will accordingly announce a new date of the AGM in due course.

Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School Flacq  
François Mitterrand Street  
Central Flacq

Miss T. Beeharry  
The Secretary

Date: August, 18, 2022



65<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

1956-2021



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# Rishi Sunak is more authentic and emotional, and Liz Truss more analytical

● Cont. from page 2

When her daughter-in-law gave birth in 1989, she emerged from Downing Street to announce, "We have become a grandmother." This was later interpreted as an indicator of her emerging hubris syndrome, which eventually led to her downfall at the hands of her party.

Sunak's language was also more vulnerable. For example, he illustrated vulnerability when he said of his opposition to tax cuts: "What I'm not going to do is pursue policies that risk making the situation far worse." His words confirmed that he knew he was risking alienation from those Tory Party members who favour tax cuts.

Sunak's language showed an above average level of authenticity compared to the wider public. Truss, on the other hand, was below the average.

## Sunak was more emotional

Emotional tone is an essential skill if a potential leader wants to relate to the people they seek to lead. Sunak was ahead in this respect. He scored above the average for emotional tone.

A linguistic analysis of emotional tone involves identifying all the words that express sentiment, both positive and negative – such as "happy" or "bad".

In two particularly emotional sentences from his speech, Sunak said:

*I will give you my everything, my heart my soul, to ensure that each and every one of you here this evening will always feel enormously proud.*

And:

*The bonds of family are far greater than anything any government could ever hope to replicate.*

By contrast Truss displayed a lower and below average level of emotional tone in her speech.



Pic - cdn.images.express.co.uk

There is a wealth of evidence suggesting that emotions play an integral part in election campaigning, something Truss may need to reflect upon if she wins the leadership contest.

## Truss was more analytical

When it came to analytical thinking, the tables were turned. Truss's language displayed more analytical thinking than Sunak's, even though he is the one with the reputation for being a technocrat.

Analytical thinking can be detected when people use words that suggest formality, logic, hierarchical relationships and quantities. For example, Truss used more quantifiers than Sunak. Examples included: "first of all", "extend to more countries", "fulfil all of our promises", "deliver more deals", "investing more in" and especially "we need", as in "we need more of that sense of pride".

Worryingly though, both candidates were below the

average for analytical thinking. This might indicate that they haven't really thought through their ideas, are avoiding being too specific or even flip-flopping in response to each other's claims and counter-claims in frantic efforts to win votes.

But certainly a head of government must possess analytical thinking skills of the highest order. As we are only too well aware, a dearth of analytical thinking bedevilled their predecessor, Boris Johnson.

## What do people want in a leader?

Being the leader of a political party, government and country requires exceptional qualities. Amongst these are logical and analytical thinking, integrity and authenticity, and the ability to connect emotionally with citizens. There are notable differences between Sunak's and Truss's language in terms of analytical thinking, authenticity and emotional tone.

It's regrettable that neither of the candidates checks all the boxes by being emotionally aware, analytic and authentic.

For the time being, the Conservative Party members are the ones who get to decide which of these qualities are the most important in a leader. But it won't be long before the victor has to face the wider country.

Voters outside the Party membership may have different ideas about which combination of these qualities they feel are needed by the next prime minister and a misjudgement now could cost the Conservatives dear at the next general election.

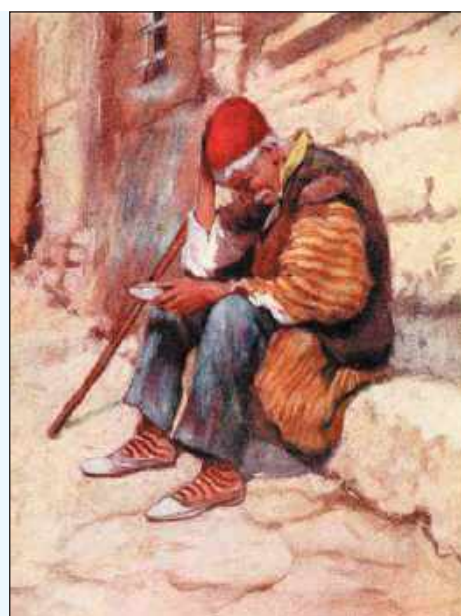
**Eugene Sadler-Smith**

*Professor of Organisational Behaviour,  
University of Surrey*

## Life Stories

Once a country was ruled by a king who had no son to succeed to the throne. Since the king was getting old, he wanted to select a suitable heir to rule the country. The king sent out notices throughout his country. The notices invited every qualified young man in the country for an interview with the king. The outcome of the interview with the king would decide a possible successor to the throne. The only qualification for the candidate was that they should have immense love for their fellow human beings.

Every young man across the country was very excited at the possibilities of being the ruler of the country. A poor young man from a remote village also read the notice and started to prepare for an interview with the king. The man was a kind, hardworking lad but he was very poor due to various circumstances. The man had no good clothes to look presentable. So, the young man worked really



hard and saved some money to buy him proper clothes and supplies to support him for a long journey to the palace.

He travelled many days and had almost completed the journey when he came upon a poor beggar by the side of the road. The poor beggar sat trembling in

## The Beggar King

the cold, covered only in tattered rags. The beggar extended his arms and pleaded for help. His weak voice croaked, "I'm hungry and cold. Please help me sir."

The young man was so moved by the pathetic condition of the beggar that he immediately stripped his new attire and offered it to him. He also provided him with his very limited food he had carried for the journey. The beggar thanked the man immensely. Since the man had given up his good clothes to the beggar, he was a bit hesitant to go for the interview. He however gathered enough courage to enter the palace in his old dirty clothes. Upon his arrival at the palace, a king's attendant showed him the way to the great hall. After a short respite to clean off the journey's grime, the man was admitted to the throne room for the interview.

The young man bowed low as the king entered the room. When he raised his eyes, he gasped in astonishment as he noticed that the king looked very similar to

the beggar he met on the way.

The king saw the shock in the man's eye and said, "Yes, I was the beggar you met on your way."

"But...bu...bu... why did you dress up like a beggar. You are king. Well, then, why did you do this to me?" the young man stammered after gaining some composure.

"Because I had to be sure that you had a good heart and you genuinely love your fellow human beings," said the king. "I knew that if I came to you as king, you would have done anything to impress me. But that way I would never have known what is truly in your heart. So, I used a ruse. A beggar had nothing to offer you. Looking at your love, generosity towards the beggar proved that you sincerely love your fellow human beings. This country needs a leader who would work for the welfare of all of the nation, not just ones who would offer and cater to the throne. You have proved that you are the right person to be my successor," promised the king.



# 75 years ago, Britain's plan for Pakistani and Indian independence left unresolved conflicts

*on both sides – especially when it comes to Kashmir*



Sumit Ganguly  
Indiana University

In 1947, the United Kingdom was exhausted. World War II had ravaged its military and economy, and anti-colonial movements had begun to challenge empires. Within the Indian subcontinent, the U.K. faced two powerful, seemingly irreconcilable nationalist movements: one calling for the creation of Pakistan, a homeland for the Muslims of South Asia; the other for India, a pluralist democracy. The U.K. chose to partition the region and withdraw. Under the terms of the Indian Independence Act, the subcontinent was formally divided into two new dominions at midnight of Aug. 14, 1947 – 75 years ago this month.

Dividing a diverse land of hundreds of millions of people was far messier than the partition plan itself. Around 1 million people died, and more than 12 million were displaced, by the mass violence that broke out immediately afterward.

One particularly complicated piece of this history, which I have written about in my work as a scholar of Indian politics, is the fate of the regions known as “princely states,” which had some autonomy under the British. This dilemma still shapes the region, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, which has been ridden with conflict ever since.

## Time to choose

Under British rule there had been two classes of states. One set of states, those of British India, were directly ruled from London. The other, the “princely states,” were nominally independent as long as their rulers recognized the “paramountcy” of the British Crown.

Under the terms of this doctrine, these “princely states” could largely manage their internal affairs but had to defer to Britain on three critical policy issues: defense, foreign affairs and communications. Around the time of independence and partition there were approximately 562 such states, many of them quite small.

As the British prepared to depart, Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last British viceroy – the British monarch’s representative in India – decreed that the rulers of the princely states had a choice: They could join either India or Pakistan. Independence, as an option, was effectively ruled out.

Moreover, Mountbatten added two important stipulations: that the states could be merged with India or Pakistan on the basis of demographic features and their geographic location. Accordingly, predominantly Muslim states would go to Pakistan and others to India. Finally, he also stipulated that states that were geographically situated inside the borders of one of the two emergent countries, regardless of their demographic composition, had to join that particular country.

## Dragging their heels

The vast majority of the rulers of the princely states, despite harbouring reservations about this plan, recognized that they had little or no choice and acceded to either India or Pakistan, though a few did have to be prodded or cajoled. However, a small number of them, for a variety of complex reasons, were reluctant to agree to the terms that Mountbatten had spelled out.

Three of them proved to be especially trying. The first of these was the monarch of Jammu and Kashmir, in the northwest. Maharaja Hari Singh was a Hindu ruling over a predominantly Muslim population. To compound matters, his state lay between the two emergent countries of India and Pakistan.

India, which was created as a secular state, wanted to incorporate Kashmir to demonstrate that a predominantly Muslim region could thrive in a Hindu-majority country committed to secularism. Pakistan, on the other hand, sought Kashmir because of its physical proximity and Muslim majority.

Singh was unwilling to cast his lot with either of the two states. He did not wish to join India because he was aware that India’s principal nationalist leader, Jawaharlal Nehru, had socialist leanings and would likely induce him to dispense with his vast landed estates. Simultaneously, he was averse to joining Pakistan because he was mostly at odds with his predominantly Muslim subjects.

Even after the independence of Pakistan and India was declared, Singh vacillated about which country to join. In October of 1947 a tribal rebellion broke out in Poonch, a district of Jammu and Kashmir. As his troops sought to quell the rebellion, the insurgents quickly found



Portrait of the Maharaja of Kashmir, Hari Singh. Keystone-France/Gamma-Keystone via Getty Images

military support from Pakistan.

As the rebels approached his capital, Srinagar, Singh appealed to India for military assistance. Nehru, India’s first prime minister, agreed to provide assistance as long as two conditions were met. Singh would have to obtain the support of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, the leader of the largest popular and secular political party in the state, and he would have to formally sign the Instrument of Accession to India.

After Singh agreed to the conditions, India sent troops into the state, leading to a war with Pakistan – the first of four between the two countries, the most recent in 1999. The first conflict came to a close in 1948 with Pakistan gaining control over a third of Kashmir.

Neither country has wholly reconciled itself to Kashmir’s status. India claims the state in its entirety, as it became a part of its territory legally. Pakistan, however, has historically held the view that Kashmir was ceded to India by a ruler who did not represent its majority Muslim population. Indeed, this dispute between two nuclear-armed powers remains a potential global flashpoint.

## Consequential choices

Another contentious case involved the Muslim ruler of the state of Hyderabad, well inside central India, who did not wish to join India. Nehru initially sought to negotiate an end to this impasse. However, when the ruler, the Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan, proved resistant to his requests, Nehru authorized the use of force to ensure the state’s integration into India.

Finally, a third difficult case was Junagadh, a princely state in western

India. The ruler, the Nawab Muhammad Mahabat Khan Babi III, acceded to Pakistan despite its predominantly Hindu population. Unhappy with his decision, which defied the directive that states located within the new dominion of India should accede to it, India’s leaders sent in troops to reverse the outcome. To legitimize the decision, the government held a referendum in 1948, in which over 90% of the citizenry voted in favor of the accession.

The departure of the British from their Indian colony left a host of unresolved issues, ranging from the traumas of the partition to the ongoing dispute over Kashmir. These consequences still shape geopolitics in the region, and beyond.

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## To reap heart benefits of a plant-based diet, avoid junk food

*Plant-based diet found to reduce cardiovascular risk, but only if foods are healthful*

**P**lant-based diets are becoming more popular in many areas of the world, but the health benefits of this dietary pattern may depend largely on the specific foods consumed. A new study being presented at the American College of Cardiology's Annual Scientific Session Together with World Congress of Cardiology suggests that people following a plant-based diet who frequently consumed less-healthy foods like sweets, refined grains and juice showed no heart health benefit compared with those who did not eat a plant-based diet.

"Based on these results, it seems that simply following a plant-based or vegetarian diet is not enough to reduce cardiovascular disease risk," said Demosthenes Panagiotakos, PhD, Prof of biostatistics, research methods and epidemiology at Harokopio University of



Athens, Greece and the study's lead author. "It is also important to focus on specific, healthful plant-based food groups to see a benefit in terms of reducing cardiovascular disease."

Researchers tracked eating behaviour and the development of heart disease among more than 2000 Greek adults over a 10-year period, beginning in 2002. Participants were asked to complete a detailed food frequency survey at the time of enrollment, after five years and after 10 years.

At the end of the study period, researchers analyzed the relationship between diet and the development of cardiovascular disease using a dietary index that divided participants into three groups based on the number of animal-based foods (which included meats as well as animal-derived products such as eggs and dairy) they consumed per day. Overall, men eating fewer animal-based foods were 25% less likely to develop heart disease compared to men eating more animal-based foods. The same overall trend was seen in women, but the relationship was less strong, with an overall risk reduction of about 11% among women eating the fewest animal-based foods.

Differences in eating patterns -- and associated cardiovascular risk reduction -- were also observed between women and men. In general, men ate about three times per day while women tended to snack more, eating four to five times daily. At the same time, women showed a more dramatic increase in heart disease risk when eating an unhealthy plant-based diet and a more dramatic reduction in risk when eating a healthful plant-based diet compared to men who fell into the same two categories. This suggests that snacking on healthful foods can be beneficial while snacking on unhealthy foods can bring higher risks, Panagiotakos said.

## Cynicism and disrespect: A vicious cycle

**A**n international team of scientists has found out that being treated disrespectfully can lead people to develop cynical beliefs about human nature. Cynical beliefs about human nature, in turn, contribute to again being treated disrespectfully by others -- and behaving disrespectfully towards others oneself. Through elaborate cross-sectional, longitudinal and experimental studies, the

scientists showed that disrespect and cynicism constitute a vicious circle.

A cross-sectional analysis of data from the European Social Survey (ESS) with representative population samples of European countries (a total of 53,333 respondents) showed a clear connection between experienced disrespect and cynicism in 28 out of 29 countries.

A longitudinal analysis of data from the

US Health and Retirement Study (HRS) with a total of 19,922 respondents showed that, on the one hand, experienced disrespect predicted the development of cynicism over a period of four years. On the other hand, harbouring cynical beliefs about human nature also made future experiences of disrespect more likely.

Daniel Ehlebracht remarked: "When people are treated disrespectfully by

others, they often tend to generalize their negative experiences and unwarrantedly consider other people to be immoral, unfair and selfish in general. However, such a distorted image of humanity can paradoxically lead to provoking renewed bad experiences with other people and also to a tendency to treat others badly oneself."

According to Ehlebracht, the scientists' new findings can also help to understand why cynicism and disrespect towards others are on the rise in many societies.



## What is inside teeth?

**O**ur teeth are not just for chewing, though. We also need teeth for speaking, because different teeth contribute to different sounds. For example, we need upper front teeth to speak words starting with "f" or "v" sounds.

### How teeth develop

The teeth in the upper jaw are called as maxillary or upper teeth, and those on the lower jaw are called as mandibular or lower teeth. Then each jaw has two side-to-side halves. All up, that's four quadrants of teeth.

We have two sets of teeth. There are 20 teeth in the first set. We commonly call these "milk teeth" or "primary teeth". They start forming while we are in the womb, even before we are born! The first one starts coming out of the gums when we are six months old, and most people have all their milk teeth by the age of three.

We keep our milk teeth until we are six years old, when we start losing them and the "adult teeth" or "permanent teeth" start coming in. By 14 or 15 years of age, most of us will have all our adult teeth except the last tooth in each side of the jaws. Some people call these "wisdom teeth". There are 32 teeth in an entire adult set, with an

equal number of teeth on each side.

We have four different types of teeth:

- incisors – front teeth to help cut food
- canines – sharp and pointy teeth on each side for tearing food and controlling how the teeth slide on each other
- premolars – that we only get in the adult teeth set
- molars – back teeth which work with premolars to help chew, grind and crush food.

### Protection, pain and the bit in between

Each tooth can be divided into two parts. The crown is the part of the tooth we can see in the mouth, while the root sits within the gum and bone of the jaw. Some teeth have more than one root.

And each tooth has two layers: enamel and dentine, with pulp at the centre which has nerves and blood. Roots do not have enamel but another layer called cementum.

Enamel is the hardest substance in the body and protects the dentine and pulp, just like a helmet protects your head.

Dentine is the second layer and makes up most of the tooth.



Unsplash/Mieke Campbell, CC BY

We feel pain in the tooth when the innermost part, pulp, is involved.

Scientists have been working hard to find how special cells called "stem cells" in pulp could be used to repair other parts of the teeth, gums and even other body parts such as the spinal cord, brain and heart.

### Protecting the whole tooth

Hopefully you've already got into the habit of brushing twice every day with a fluoridated toothpaste for at least two minutes.

Tooth decay is caused by germs that love to feast on sugary or treat food in our mouth. We can stop that happening by

saving lollies and sweets for special occasions and cleaning every tooth really well.

When teeth are not well cared for, they can develop tooth decay, which could cause pain when it involves that pulp deep inside your teeth. It's important to visit an oral health professional (such as your family dentist or hygienist) regularly. They can tell you how to take good care of your teeth and treat damaged teeth when required.

**Santosh Tadakamadla**

Associate professor and Discipline Lead for Dentistry, La Trobe University





A man was lying dead in the street, surrounded by a small group of people. He was immaculately attired in a top hat, black tail suit, bow tie and a branded leather shoe.

'How did he get there?' asked the police officer who had been called to deal with the grim discovery.

'He threw himself off the roof,' said a bystander.

'Do any of you know him?' asked the officer.

'I do,' said one man in the crowd.

'He was of what religion, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu?' asked the policeman.

'None at all, he was an atheist,' replied the man.

'What a shame! All dressed up and nowhere to go,' commented the cop.

\*\*\*

A priest questioned a small boy in the street: 'Could you tell me where is the post office, please?' The boy gave him directions, and the priest thanked him and told him: 'If you come to my sermon tonight, I will tell you how to get to heaven.'

'I will not come; you don't even know how to get to the post office,' said the kid.

\*\*\*

The teacher noticed that little Peter was wearing one glove.

'Why have you only got one glove?' she asked.

'Well, miss, I was watching the weather forecast on TV last night, and the predictions was that it was to be sunny, but on the other hand it could get quite cold,' explained Peter.

\*\*\*

Teacher: 'Why were you absent yesterday, Tom?'

Tom: 'My grandpa got burnt.'

'I'm sorry to hear that. Was he badly burnt?' asked the teacher.

The doctor asked me to spend at least one hour per day on the treadmill.



'Oh yes, they really know what they're up to in those crematoriums,' said the kid.

\*\*\*

What did one palm tree say to the other?

'Let's have a date.'

\*\*\*

A lady was having an affair.

One rainy day she was in bed with her boyfriend (BF) when she heard her husband's car pull into the driveway.

'OMG - Hurry! Grab your clothes and jump out the window.'

BF: It's raining out there!

Lady: 'If my husband catches us, he'll kill us!'

BF jumps out of the window!

As he ran down the street in rain, he discovered he had run right into the middle of the town's marathon. He started running along with the others - 300 of them.

After a little while a small group of runners who had been watching him with some curiosity, jogged closer.

'Do you always run in the nude?' one asked.

'Oh yes!' he replied. 'It feels so wonderfully free!'



Another runner: 'Do you always run carrying clothes under your arm?'

'Oh, yes,' BF answered. 'That way I can get dressed right at the end of the run and go home!'

Third runner cast his eyes a little lower and asked, 'Do you always wear a condom when you run?'

'Nope... just when it's raining.'

\*\*\*

#### A lady travelling through the train

A lady from the city and her travelling companion were riding the train through Vermont when she noticed some cows.

'What a cute bunch of cows!' she remarked.

'Not a bunch, herd,' her friend replied.

'Heard of what?'

'Herd of cows.'

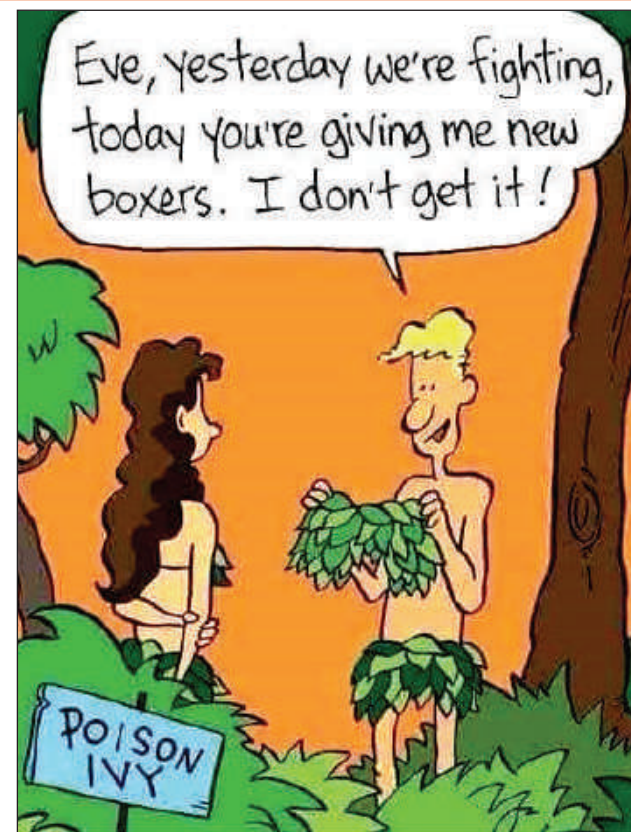
'Of course, I've heard of cows.'

'No, a cow herd.'

'What do I care what a cow heard? I have no secrets to keep from a cow!'

\*\*\*

Paddy goes into a chemist's shop, reaches into his pocket and takes out a small bottle and a teaspoon. He pours some liquid onto the teaspoon and offers it to the



chemist.

'Could you taste this for me, please?'

The chemist takes the teaspoon, puts it in his mouth, swills the liquid around and swallows it.

'Does that taste sweet to you?' asks Paddy.

'No, not at all,' says the chemist.

'Good,' says Paddy. 'The doctor told me to come here and get my urine tested for sugar.'

\*\*\*

Little Johnny's chemistry teacher wanted to teach his class a lesson about the evils of liquor, so he set up an experiment that involved a glass of water, a glass of whiskey, and two worms.

'Now, class. Observe what happens to the two worms,' said the teacher, putting the first worm in the glass of water. The worm in the water moved about, seemingly unharmed.

He then dropped the second worm in the whiskey glass. It writhed in pain for a moment, then quickly sank to the bottom and died.

'Now kids, what lesson can we derive from this experiment?' he asked.

Little Johnny raised his hand and wisely responded, 'Drink whiskey and you won't get worms!'

\*\*\*

A man walks up to a bartender and tells him 'I bet you \$5,000 I can pee into a cup all the way across your bar.'

The bartender, knowing this is impossible, agrees.

They set it up and the man starts peeing all over the place, missing the cup completely.

The bartender begins to cheer because he knows he just won \$5,000.

The man walks over to his friends and comes back to the bartender.

He pays the bartender his money with a grin on his face.

The bartender asks him 'Why are you so happy? You just lost \$5,000.'

The man replies 'I know, but I bet my friends \$10,000 dollars that you would cheer while I pee all over the bar.'



## Life's Lessons 10 top lessons from 'The Alchemist'

A book by Paulo Coelho

### 1. Fear is a bigger obstacle than the obstacle itself

"Tell your heart that the fear of suffering is worse than the suffering itself.

And that no heart has ever suffered when it goes in search of its dreams."

Any new pursuit requires entering uncharted territory -- that's scary. But with any great risk comes great reward.

The experiences you gain in pursuing your dream will make it all worthwhile.

### 2. What is "true" will always endure

"If what one finds is made of pure matter, it will never spoil. And one can always come back.

If what you had found was only a moment of light, like the explosion of a star, you would find nothing on your return."

\* Truth cannot be veiled by smoke and mirrors -- it will always stand firm.

\* When you're searching for the "right" decision, it will be the one that withstands the tests of time and the



weight of scrutiny.

### 3. Break the monotony

"When each day is the same as the next, it's because people fail to recognize the good things that happen in their lives every day that the sun rises."

\* Gratitude is the practice of finding the good in each day.

\* Life can easily become stagnant, mundane, and monotonous, but that changes depending on what we choose to see.

\* There's always a silver lining, if you look for it.

### 4. Embrace the present

"Because I don't live in either my past or my future. I'm interested only in the present.

If you can concentrate always on the present, you'll be a happy man."

\* There's no point dwelling in the past and letting it define you, nor getting lost and anxious about the future. But in the present moment, you're in the field of possibility

\* How you engage with the present moment will direct your life.

### 5. Your success has a ripple-effect

"That's what alchemists do. They show that, when we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better, too."

\* Growth, change, and evolution are weaved into the fabric of reality.

\* Becoming a better version of yourself creates a ripple effect that benefits everything around you: your lifestyle, your family, your friends, your community.

### 6. Make the decision

"When someone makes a decision, he is really diving into a strong current that will carry him to places he has never dreamed of when he

first made the decision."

\* It's easy to get overwhelmed by the unknowns and finer details of your dreams.

\* Actions will flow out of having confidence in your decision; sitting on the fence will get you nowhere.

### 7. Be unrealistic

"I see the world in terms of what I would like to see happen, not what actually does."

\* Some of the greatest inventions would not have happened if people chose to accept the world as it is.

\* Great achievements and innovations begin with a mindset that ignores the impossible.

### 8. Keep getting back up

"The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and to get up eight times."

Because the eighth time could be your breakthrough.

Some of the greatest novels in history were published after receiving hundreds of rejections. Thankfully, those authors never gave up.

### 9. Focus on your own journey

"If someone isn't what others want them to be, the others become angry.

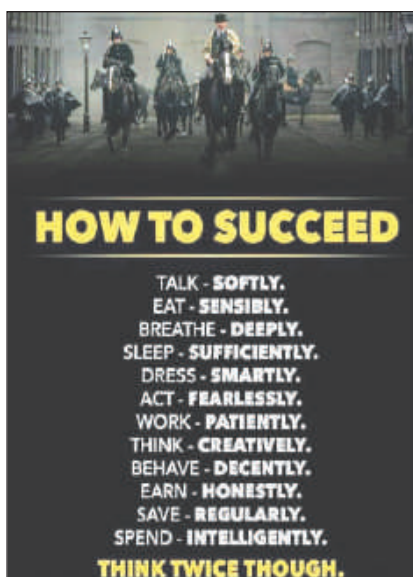
Everyone seems to have a clear idea of how other people should lead their lives, but none about his or her own."

\* It's easy to be influenced by others, but you'll be miserable if you end up living someone else's life.

\* There's nothing wrong with taking advice and learning from others, but make sure it aligns with your desires and passions.

### 10. Always take action

"There is only one way to learn. It's through action."



## Life Stories

### The Ant and the Dove

One day an ant came to the bank of a river to drink water. The river current seemed to be high that afternoon, and ant suddenly slipped and fell into the water. The ant was being swept away by the stream. The ant feared that it might be its last.

Thankfully, a kind dove saw the struggling ant. The dove dropped a leaf into the water so that the ant could

climb onto it. The dove then carefully pulled the leaf out of the stream to the shore. The kind dove saved the ant's life.

After a few days, a fierce hunter came to the forest. The hunter saw the beautiful dove on the tree and aimed to shoot his arrow at it. The ant, which was saved by the kindness of the dove, saw the hunter aiming at his saviour. Before the hunter could release his arrow, the ant bit the hunter's foot. The hunter shouted due to the pain from the ant's bite. The dove was alarmed by the noise created by the hunter and flew to a safer place.

## Life's Stories Clay Balls

A man was exploring caves by a seashore when he found a bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. The balls looked like someone had intentionally rolled the clay and left them out in the sun to bake. Perhaps some children made them while they were at the beach, the man thought. They didn't look much, but they intrigued the man so he took the bag out of the cave with him.

As he strolled along the beach, he threw the clay balls one by one out to the oceans as far as he could. The clay balls would fly and disappear into the ocean. The man threw several clay balls in the ocean until he dropped one of the balls and it cracked open. Inside the clay was a beautiful, precious stone.

This excited the man and he started breaking the remaining clay balls. Each of it contained different types of precious stones. He found thousands of dollars' worth of jewels in around twenty clay balls that was left with him. Then it struck him. He had been on the beach for a long time and he must have thrown away many clay balls with hidden treasure into the sea. He could have had a treasure worth of tens of thousands rather than just thousands if he had not thrown the clay balls away.

**Moral:** Most of the time we look at someone or even ourselves and we see the external clay vessel. The vessel doesn't always look sparkly and nice, so we never bother to look inside it. We tend to see and judge a person and deem them as less important than the ones who are more beautiful, stylish, well known or wealthy. We forget to look inside for the unique treasure that each one of us hold.

May we not come to the end of our lives and realize that we have thrown away a fortune in friendships, love or any relationship because we did not attempt to look for the gems hidden in bits of clay. Let us all relish the treasures each of us hold inside us.

## Food for Thought A Thousand Hearts to all Mothers

Dear Men, remember how beautiful, smooth and sculpted her body was at the beginning of your marriage.



She is still the same beautiful woman with the same spirit that you have always loved.

The difference is that she gave your children life.

The price for that was the loss of the body she once had.

Do not complain about your wife because her fat increased and do not think that she likes it!

A mother's affection makes her turn a blind eye to all of that and her only concern is her children and your happiness.

Remember that this tummy was once the warm home who hugged your children for 9 months with all their pain, fatigue and weight, to seal them until childbirth.



HEALTHY  
LIVING

# Secrets to a Longer Life

*Your friends are a surprisingly strong influence on how long you live. See what else can help give you more healthy years*

**A**s you age, the ends of your chromosomes become shorter. This makes you more likely to get sick. But lifestyle changes can boost an enzyme that makes them longer. Plus, studies show diet and exercise can help protect them. The bottom line: Healthy habits may slow aging at the cellular level.

**Play to win:** An 80-year study found people who are conscientious -- meaning they pay attention to detail, think things through, and try to do what's right -- live longer. They do more for their health and make choices that lead to stronger relationships and better careers.

**Make friends:** Here's another reason to be grateful for your friends: They might help you live longer. Dozens of studies show a clear link between strong social ties and a longer life. So make the time to keep in touch.

**Choose friends wisely:** Your friends' habits rub off on you, so look for buddies with healthy lifestyles. Your chances of becoming obese go up if you have a friend who adds extra pounds. Smoking also spreads through social ties, but quitting is

also contagious.

**Quit smoking:** We know giving up cigarettes can lengthen your life, but by how much may surprise you. A 50-year British study shows that quitting at age 30 could give you an entire decade. Kicking the habit at age 40, 50, or 60 can add 9, 6, or 3 years to your life, respectively.

**Embrace the art of the nap:** A siesta is standard in many parts of the world, and now there's scientific evidence that napping may help you live longer. One study showed that those who had a regular snooze were 37% less likely to die from heart disease than those who rarely steal a few winks. Researchers think naps might help your heart by keeping stress hormones down.



**Follow a Mediterranean Diet:** It's rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, olive oil, and fish. The plan can also put a serious dent in your chances of getting metabolic syndrome -- a mix of obesity, high blood sugar, high blood pressure, and other things that make you more likely to get heart disease and diabetes.

**Eat Like an Okinawan:** The people of Okinawa, Japan, once lived longer than any other group on Earth. The region's traditional diet is why. It's high in green and yellow vegetables and low in calories. Plus, some Okinawans made a habit of eating only 80% of the food on their plate. Younger generations have dropped the old ways and aren't living as long.



**Get Hitched:** Married people tend to outlive their single friends. Researchers say it's due to the social and economic support that wedded bliss provides. While a current union offers the greatest benefit, people who are divorced or widowed have lower death rates than those who've never tied the knot.

**Lose weight:** If you're overweight, slimming down can protect against diabetes, heart disease, and other conditions that take years off your life. Belly fat is bad for you, so focus on deflating that spare tire. Eat more fiber and exercise regularly to whittle your middle.

**Keep moving:** The evidence is clear. People who exercise live longer on average than those who don't. Regular physical activity lowers your chances of getting heart disease, stroke, diabetes, some forms of cancer, and depression. It may even help you stay mentally sharp into old age. Ten-minute spurts are fine, as long as they add up to about 2.5 hours of moderate exercise per week.

**Drink in moderation:** Heart disease is less common in people who drink in moderation than in people who don't drink at all. On the other hand, too much alcohol pads the belly, boosts blood pressure, and can cause a host of other health problems. If you drink alcohol, the limit should be one drink a day for women and one or two for men. But if you don't drink, don't start. There are better ways to protect your heart!

**Get Spiritual:** People who attend religious services tend to live longer than

those who don't. In a 12-year study of people over age 65, those who went more than once a week had higher levels of a key immune system protein than their peers who didn't. The strong social network that develops among people who worship together may boost your health.

**Forgive:** Letting go of grudges has surprising physical health benefits. Chronic anger is linked to heart disease, stroke, poorer lung health, and other problems. Forgiveness will reduce anxiety, lower blood pressure, and help you breathe more easily. The rewards tend to go up as you get older.

**Use safety gear:** Wearing safety gear is an easy way to boost your odds of a long life. Seatbelts reduce the chances of death in a car wreck by 50%. Most fatalities from bike accidents are caused by head injuries, so always wear a helmet.

**Make sleep a priority:** Getting enough quality sleep can lower your risk of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and mood disorders. It'll also help you recover from illness faster. Burning the midnight oil, on the other hand, is bad for you. Snooze for less than 5 hours a night and you might boost your chances of dying early, so make sleep a priority.

**Manage stress:** You'll never completely avoid stress, but you can learn ways to control it. Try yoga, meditation, or deep breathing. Even a few minutes a day can make a difference.

**Keep a sense of purpose:** Hobbies and activities that have meaning for you may lengthen your life. Japanese researchers found men with a strong sense of purpose were less likely to die from stroke, heart disease, or other causes over a 13-year period than those who were less sure of themselves. Being clear about what you're doing and why can also lower your chances of getting Alzheimer's disease.

Reviewed by Melinda Ratini,  
DO, MS - WebMD

## Relationships

# Why people lie even when they don't have to?

**W**e all tell lies in some way or the other in our lifetimes. White lies are acceptable as long as they serve a purpose like wriggling out of a situation but, there are times when people lie even when they do not have to. So here are 5 reasons, as listed by TOI, why people lie, without taking sides. Read with an open mind, try to understand the reasons instead of judging the liar.

### It feels like an inconvenience

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

### They fear disappointing others

A person often lies because he/she does not want to disappoint the other. Some people have many expectations from us and they react aggressively if things are not sounding the way they like it. So, a person who does not want to get into any sort of argument or have bad blood

with the other, tends to lie.

### Lying is important to them

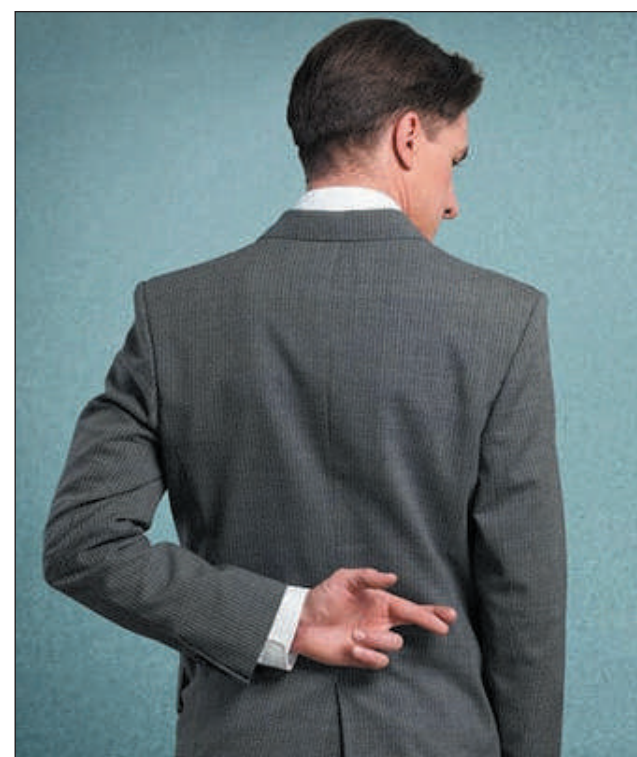
This is one of the main reasons indeed! If someone is telling lies, it is possible that it is important for them to lie. It may not be important for you, but it may be important to them. They could be overthinkers or people who have the tendency to put unnecessary pressure on themselves.

### Pathological liars

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

### They believe in those lies

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





# 'Darlings': Alia Bhatt and Vijay Varma's domestic violence film wows India

Domestic violence is no laughing matter, but a dark comedy streaming on Netflix on the topic is wowing audiences in India, reports Geeta Pandey of BBC News.

Starring Alia Bhatt, Shefali Shah and Vijay Varma in the lead roles, *Darlings* is the story of a young couple in love - and violence and revenge.

The film opens with the lovers - Badrunissa (Bhatt) and Hamza (Varma) - deciding to get married, but theirs is not a happily-ever-after story.

Three years into the marriage, the couple have made a home in a lower middle-class housing tenement, but Badrunissa is sleeping with the enemy.

He's the classic abuser, who batters her every night and says sorry in the morning. His justification for hitting - and her acceptance of it - is love. "Yes I'm a bastard but I hit you only because I love you," he says.

And she is a victim who lives in denial, believing that he'll come around if only she can make him stop drinking or if she has a child to cement their relationship.

But when the savagery continues and he finally crosses a line, rage takes over and halfway through the film, the tables are turned - the abused, with a lot of help from her mother Shamshunissa (played by Shefali Shah), becomes the abuser.

The mother and daughter kidnap the husband, hold him hostage in his own home and start doing to him what



he had done to her.

Director Jasmeet K Reen, who co-wrote the script along with actor Parveez Sheikh, told the BBC that the story came to her as a one-line idea, born out of mother-

daughter banter.

"My idea was about a mother-daughter duo who have dreams, but there is something wrong - the daughter's marriage is off. So, they come up with whacky ideas about fixing her marriage."

The mother is "cynical" and knows from experience that her son-in-law will not change and she doesn't want her daughter to suffer the same fate that she did. She advises the daughter to leave him - or even kill him.

"But it's the daughter's journey - as she travels from tolerance to contemplating revenge to wisdom where she walks away from violence," Ms Reen says.

The film, which began streaming on Netflix globally exactly a week ago, has received mostly positive reviews from critics and wowed audiences.

According to Netflix, it is doing very well not just in India but in many other countries too.

*Darlings* has had "the highest global opening ever for a non-English Indian film" and audiences have spent "more than 10 million hours" watching it in its opening weekend, the streaming platform said in a statement to the BBC.

The film "is currently trending in the top 10 in 16 countries in the Americas, Africa and Asia including in the UAE, Singapore, Malaysia, Kenya and Trinidad and Tobago", it added.

## 'Eternally Confused and Eager for Love' finds a fan in PC

Priyanka Chopra Jonas seems to be loving the Indian comedy-drama streaming series, *'Eternally Confused and Eager for Love'*. The actress had also expressed her sentiment for the show as she recently shared the poster of the show on her social media.



'Eternally Confused and Eager for Love', which is available to stream on Netflix, is raunchy in all the right spots, but with a beating heart at its centre. It stars Vihaan Samat as the protagonist, who plays the role of a guy seeking love and his adventures endured in his path.

Reacting to the appreciation, Vihaan Samat, who was earlier seen in another Netflix drama series *'Mismatched'*, said in a statement, "It's an honour to be mentioned by PC for my work and I'm glad that people are loving the show."

## Dobaaraa scheduled to release worldwide today

The new-age thriller *Dobaaraa* has been in the news for its unique story that digs deep into the world of time travel. It is the Hindi adaptation of Spanish thriller *Mirage*, reports Pinkvilla.

*Dobaaraa* revolves around a woman, who tries to save the life of a boy, who is indirectly involved in a murder, which happened two decades ago. The film is getting positive attention from the masses. Despite being a remake, the director has been constantly approached by multiple film festivals.

Starring award-winning actress Taapsee Pannu, the film is directed by the acclaimed director Anurag Kashyap and produced by Shobha Kapoor and Ekta R Kapoor's Cult Movies, a new wing under Balaji Telefilms and Sunir Kheterpal & Gaurav Bose (Athena).

Meanwhile, makers of the show organised a special screening of the film in the city and it was attended by scores of Bollywood and TV celebs including producer Ekta Kapoor, Sussanne Khan, her boyfriend Arslan Goni, Elli AvrRam, Jatin Sarna and others.

One after the other, Anurag Kashyap has been approached by big international film festivals and the film set its mark at the London film festival and Fantasia International Film Festival when it received a 10-minute



standing ovation.

*Dobaaraa* is scheduled to release worldwide on August 19. The film is a new-age thriller that marks the reunion of Taapsee and Anurag for the third time after the 2018 hit *Manmarziyaan* and the biopic drama *Saand Ki Aankh* (2019).

## Bipasha, Karan announce pregnancy

Bipasha Basu and her actor husband Karan Singh Grover have announced that they are all set to welcome their first bundle of joy.

The 43-year-old actress took to Instagram, where she shared a motley of pictures from her pregnancy shoot. In one picture, Bipasha is seen dressed in a white shirt while her husband Karan is seen lovingly kissing her baby bump.

She captioned the images: "A new time, a new phase, a new light adds another unique shade to our prism of



life. Making us a little more whole than we used to be. We began this life individually and then we met each other and from then we were two."

"Too much love for only two, seemed a little unfair for us to see... so soon, we who once were two will now become three. A creation manifested by our love, our baby will join us soon and add to our glee."

She added: "Thank you all, for your unconditional love, your prayers and good wishes as they are and will always be a part of us. Thank you for being a part of our lives and manifesting with us another beautiful life, our baby Durga Durga."

Bipasha met Karan on the sets of "Alone" in 2015. The two got married in 2016. The actress was earlier dating actor John Abraham.



## Sasural Simar Ka 2: Radhika Muthukumar says she was nervous when she auditioned for Choti Simar



**R**adhika Muthukumar, who was seen in *Kya Haal, Mr Panchaal?* is presently seen in the second edition of Colors' popular show *Sasural Simar Ka* playing the role of Choti Simar. Radhika revealed that she was a bit nervous when she auditioned for the role of Choti Simar.

The actress was quoted by Tellychakkar as

saying, "I always wanted to do a daily soap. I have loved watching serials and I wished that at least once in my lifetime, I would do a daily soap. When I first auditioned for Choti Simar, I was a bit nervous and wished that I would be selected for the role. I was very happy to be selected."

Although SSK is a popular show, it was trolled for its bizarre tracks. Dipika Kakar, who played the role of Simar in the first edition, was seen as 'makkhi', reports Filmibeat.

When asked about the same, Radhika said that she takes things positively. She said, "Well, some people in my circle also said that 'Aree yeh toh makkhi wala show hai na', but I take this very positively. It would be exciting to portray something in a different way and the shoot would be much more exciting!"

"People loved Dipika Kakar as Simar and she got an amazing response. So far, I can see the excitement levels rising high. My role of Choti Simar is somewhere more inclined professionally as she is passionate about singing. Though she has some similarities with Simar, she has her inclination towards her passion."

## Team Udaariyaan to jet off to London to film a special sequence

**C**olors' show *Udaariyaan* has been keeping audiences hooked to their television sets ever since its beginning. What has worked big time in the favour of the show is its gripping storyline and riveting performances from the whole cast.

The writing team also deserves praise for always coming up with interesting plot twists that never fail to attract audiences' attention. While fans have been waiting to see more twists and turns in upcoming episodes, we have an exciting update.

The makers are trying everything possible to make the show interesting. And if sources are to be believed, the cast and crew of the show will soon be heading off to London for the shoot. A source informs an entertainment publication that a major high point will take place post Holi sequence



and the chunk part will be shot in London, reports bollywoodmdb.com.

Produced by Sargun Mehta and Ravi Dubey under the banners of Dreamiyata Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. & Devirosh Films, *Udaariyaan* stars Ankit Gupta, Isha Malviya, Priyanka Choudhary and Karan Grover in important roles.

## Ankit Gupta elated to see how well his character has shaped up

**P**opular television star Ankit Gupta is busy receiving overwhelming response for his performance in *Udaariyaan*. Produced by Ravi Dubey and Sargun Mehta, the soap opera has been keeping fans totally hooked for several months now.

Gupta plays the male lead in *Udaariyaan* and the audience has grown very fond of his character lately. In fact, after the last few episodes, fans have gone on

to say that his character is the only reason they are watching the show.

*Udaariyaan* star Ankit Gupta is ecstatic to see how well his character has evolved over the months, making the audience fall in love with Fateh. "I am enjoying the current track; there is so much to do, so much to perform. After a very, very long time, I have gotten to do something like this," he says.

Reacting to fans' response, he adds, "Yes, I have been seeing on social media how people are saying that my character is the only reason they are watching the show, but I do not think it is like that. The audience says whatever they like. They love to watch their favourite characters grow and that's what is happening with Fateh's character and they are enjoying it more and hence all that love."

### YOUR STARS

#### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You should utilize all of your optimism, perseverance, and self-confidence to improve your professional prospects and help you succeed. Although you generally have robust health, you will have to deal with some small illnesses. You should be upfront and honest with your partner if you have a conflict.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 7, 13, 27, 31, 33

#### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Marketing experts should be on the lookout for some fresh business projects. This will enable you to hone your entrepreneurial abilities, which will ultimately improve your employment possibilities. To keep your relationship loving and peaceful, try to avoid arguing. To keep love in your life, examine your inner feelings. You can express your feelings and thoughts to your lover.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 17, 18, 23, 31, 40

#### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Avoid making significant investments right now. You should view every situation you come across as a teaching opportunity and make use of it to help you become more knowledgeable in your line of work. It is high time you discovered your new talents and put them to good use. In order to keep your love, try to focus and comprehend your partner's sentiments.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 9, 15, 21, 29, 32

#### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Protect yourself from speculation-schemes. Be direct and assertive when you express yourself during personal challenge. Be prepared to address these issues in a direct, non-confrontational way or to deflect the conflict if the atmosphere becomes too heated. The love in your life will have a profound effect on your personality and will intensify your relationship.

**Lucky Numbers:** 9, 12, 10, 25, 31, 40

#### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

You might receive an unexpected source of income. To prevent some financial stress in the near future, take this money and deposit it safely in the bank right away. Using it all up won't help! The coming week will enable you to reignite the romance and repair your relationship with your sweetheart. Yes, it will make your relationship stronger.

**Lucky Numbers:** 7, 11, 19, 21, 33, 36

#### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

If you have been considering buying or selling real estate, now is the time to act. When moving forward is recommended on this day, do so. To maintain your excellent health, don't become complacent. You might sense your romantic partner turning irritable or hostile. To make sure that everything is okay, you must make an effort to speak with them.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 9, 11, 12, 14, 20

#### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Partnering with someone from outside is the best way to gain money. You can currently get rich contracts from overseas parties and markets. You will be able to win your loved one over with your diplomatic skills. The finest treatment toward your mate is empathy and affection. It ought to imply that your companion is secure.

**Lucky Numbers:** 8, 14, 17, 18, 20, 27

#### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Till your finances are in order again, try to make the best use of your money. Just try to get by today; this impediment will soon be gone. There are chances you might indulge in an argument with your partner that may arise from any misunderstanding. The argument can cause challenges in your love life. You must be careful and compassionate enough to understand your partner's sentiments.

**Lucky Numbers:** 7, 3, 15, 18, 30, 32

#### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

To fully profit from a healthy lifestyle, keep up your nourishing food and leisure activities. Your realization that you have fallen madly in love for the first time in your life could change everything. There is a good probability that your relationship will develop and improve. Prepare yourself for a fresh outlook on life when everything appears to be blooming and fascinating.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 17, 21, 33, 39, 40

#### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You may be thinking about making a long-term investment in real estate. It is suggested that property and assets be acquired. Enjoy the love that family and friends provide to you and strive to return it. You could overcome even the most challenging issues on the professional front thanks to your curious intellect and desire to comprehend any complex situation.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 3, 15, 18, 20, 32

#### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

It's possible that you can sell a property quickly and reap a healthy profit. Property is also your greatest chance for any future investments as it will guarantee rewards. You will encounter the wonderful sensation of love for the first time in your life. You may experience the feelings that go along with it. Your romantic relationship with your partner will be at its peak.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 7, 11, 19, 20, 23

#### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Continue making an effort to finish your task on schedule since doing so will greatly impress your seniors and put you in the running for future promotions and raises. Maintain the positive fitness-related practices, and your health will continue to be at an extremely high level. It is advised that you find original and inventive ways to maintain harmony in your life and in your relationships.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 14, 19, 20, 30, 36



CINE 2

Vendredi 19 août - 21.15



CINE 2

Samedi 20 août - 21.00



CINE 2

Dimanche 21 août - 21.52



# Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 19 août

samedi 20 août

dimanche 21 août

lundi 22 août

## MBC 1

07.19 D.Anime: Sabrina  
08.00 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
09.00 Film: The Boathouse Detectives  
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous...  
11.10 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.56 MBC Production  
14.45 D.Anime: Gon  
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...  
15.34 Film: The Jungle Book  
16.59 D.Anime: Cleopatra In Space  
17.30 Serial: Superstore  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Surya Puran  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: Les Grands Noms...  
21.25 Local: Radio Vision  
22.20 Serial: Pine Gap  
23.20 Le Journal

## MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: Sila  
11.33 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai  
12.16 Film: Shubham Karoti Kalyanam  
14.57 Filler: Radha Krishna  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu  
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.28 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay  
16.51 Serial: Bhaag Na Banche...  
17.11 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.30 Serial: Chhanchhan  
18.01 Serial: The Demi-Gods...  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.00 Serial: Dil Ruba  
20.44 Local: Anjuman  
21.10 Local: Urdu Programme -  
22.05 DDI Live

## MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing  
07.51 Doc: Hotels  
08.41 Doc: Castles  
09.45 Doc: Craft Chocolate  
11.50 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
13.57 Doc: Forces Of Nature  
15.39 Doc: The Internet Of Every...  
16.25 Mag: Eco India  
17.06 Mag: Border Crossing  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
20.30 Live: News  
20.45 Doc: World Heritage  
21.42 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait...  
22.50 Doc: The Virgin Of The Rock  
23.30 The Language Of Whales  
00.27 Doc: World Famous Writers  
00.30 Mag: Our Voices  
00.56 Mag: Euromaxx  
01.22 Expedition Kachgar  
02.14 Doc: World Heritage  
02.19 Doc: Lost Edens

## Cine 12

01.32 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive...  
03.43 Film: Baby Driver  
05.34 Tele: Marimar  
05.56 Tele: Rubi  
06.59 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive...  
09.00 Serial: Dynasty 2  
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: Elementary  
12.00 Film: Baby Driver  
13.59 Tele: Rubi  
14.45 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive...  
16.30 Serial: Dynasty 2  
17.21 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.34 Serial: Malory Towers  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Timeless  
21.15 Film: His Fatal Fixation  
22.59 Tele: Rubi

## Bollywood TV

05.47 Film: Meera  
Starring: Hema Malini, Vinod Khanna, Shreeram Lagoo...  
10.05 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna  
10.33 / 21.00 - Anupamaa  
11.02 / 21.30 - Mere Sai  
11.26 / 22.00 - Agnihera  
11.46 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
12.17 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes  
14.25 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.25 Film: Raghuvver  
Starring: Sunil Shetty, Shilpa Shirodkar, Suresh Oberoi  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.28 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...  
19.54 Sasural Simar Ka 2

06.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids  
07.02 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts  
09.10 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare  
09.30 D.Anime: Kids' Planet  
10.00 Local: Zanaf Nou Zil  
10.30 Serial: Oh Yuck!  
11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Local: Les Grands Noms...  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.35 Film: Sam Le Pompier  
16.35 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien  
16.43 D.Anime: All Hail Kng Julien  
17.06 Doc: World Capitals  
17.15 Mag: Human Nature  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
21.25 Film: Faith Under Fire  
23.00 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Jiyo To Aise Jiyo  
Starring Arun Govil, Debashree Roy, Jayshree Gadkar, Ram Mohan  
10.29 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
11.23 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo  
12.11 Serial: Nanda Saukhyia Bhare  
12.25 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
12.54 Serial: High School  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.25 Film: Ammaa Ki Boli  
Stars: Sanjay Mishra, Hrishitaa Bhatt, Zakir Hussain  
17.19 Mag: DDI Mag  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha  
20.30 Local: Indian Idol  
21.00 Film: Batla House  
Starring John Abraham, Nora Fatehi, Mrunal Thakur

06.00 The Language Of Whales  
06.42 Mag: World Stories  
06.57 Mag: Our Vocies  
07.25 Mag: Euromaxx  
07.56 Doc: Expedition Yangtze  
09.45 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait...  
11.39 The Language Of Whales  
12.48 Mag: Euromaxx  
13.16 Doc: Expedition Yangtze  
17.30 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait  
18.08 Doc: Sweet Magic  
18.25 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
19.33 Doc: Au Royaume De Meroe  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: World Heritage  
20.50 Doc: Cuisine Sauvage  
21.42 Doc: Skuld  
22.08 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
22.26 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail  
23.08 Doc: Thank You For The Rain  
23.51 Doc: Sweet Magic

01.31 Film: His Fatal Fixation  
03.16 Serial: Pure Genius  
03.57 Serial: Under Pressure  
04.44 Serial: Gone  
05.24 Tele: Tanto Amor  
06.02 Serial: Timeless  
06.45 Serial: The Baker And The Beauty  
08.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
09.11 Serial: Under Pressure  
10.40 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe  
12.15 Serial: Pure Genius  
13.40 Serial: Elementary  
15.00 Tele: Muneca Brava  
16.20 Serial: Timeless  
17.03 Film: Flowers And Honey  
18.30 Serial: Knight Rider  
19.35 Serial: Malory Towers  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Series: Timeless  
21.15 Film: Dragon, L'Histoire De...  
22.45 Tele: I Forgot I Love You

04.02 Radha Krishna  
04.33 Anupamaa  
05.03 Mere Sai  
04.59 Agnihera  
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan  
05.50 Patiala Babes  
08.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan  
10.30 Motu Patlu  
10.41 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
12.47 Serial: Udaariyaan  
14.41 Serial: Anupamaa  
16.29 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Film: Thappad  
Starring Taapsee Pannu  
20.46 Serial: Namah  
21.08 Serial: Naagin Season 3  
21.53 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

06.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids  
07.25 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget  
07.46 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien  
08.00 D.Anime: Kid Lucky  
10.00 Local: Zanaf Nou Zil  
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.36 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.16 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
15.21 D.Anime: Les Blagues De To...  
15.35 Film: Fish School  
16.35 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien  
17.15 Mag: Human Nature  
17.45 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.20 Local Production: Les Klips  
21.25 Film: Le Second Souffle  
23.05 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Piya Ka Ghar  
11.03 Serial: Azhagu  
11.20 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi  
11.39 Serial: Surya Puran  
12.06 Film: Hum Tum Aur  
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  
20.05 Serial: Porus  
21.26 Serial: CID  
21.07 Serial: Naagin Season 3  
Starring: Mouni Roy, Arjun Bijlani, Adaa Khan, Karanvir Bohra

06.00 Doc: Sweet Magic  
06.57 Mag: The 77 Percent  
07.26 Mag: Check In  
09.44 Doc: Skuld  
10.28 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail  
11.56 Doc: Sweet Magic  
12.00 Doc: Snapshots  
12.31 Mag: In Good Shape  
12.57 Mag: Salad Area  
13.55 Doc: Au Royaume De Meroe  
14.47 Doc: World Heritage  
15.47 Doc: Skuld  
16.07 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
17.13 Doc: Thank You For The...  
19.06 Mag: The Inside Story  
19.37 Mag: Japan Video Topics  
20.30 Live: News (English)  
20.50 Doc: World Heritage  
22.02 Mag: Sky Eye  
22.51 Doc: Be Afraid  
23.32 Doc: Sweet Magic

01.37 Film: Dragon, L'Histoire...  
03.07 Serial: Absentia  
03.45 Film: Faith Under Fire  
05.10 Tele: Tanto Amor  
05.54 Serial: Timeless  
08.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
09.11 Film: Faith Under Fire  
10.40 Film: Flowers And Honey  
12.16 Serial: Absentia  
13.30 Serial: Elementary  
15.35 Tele: Muneca Brava  
17.00 Serial: Timeless  
17.45 Serial: Absentia  
18.30 Serial: Galactica  
19.36 Serial: Malory Towers  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor  
21.15 Serial: Scorpion  
22.00 Film: Squadron  
23.30 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You

00.05 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2  
02.15 Udaariyaan  
04.04 Anupamaa  
06.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...  
08.12 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
10.01 Kundali Bhagya  
12.01 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
14.00 Agnihera  
16.08 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
17.00 Punar Vivaah  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Film: Jabariya Jodi  
Starring: Sidharth Malhotra, Parineeti Chopra, Javed Jeffrey  
20.46 Naagin Season 3  
21.27 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
23.12 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
00.52 Kundali Bhagya  
03.00 Agnihera

06.00 Local: Zanaf Nou Zil  
07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
07.55 Local: Music Tour 2022  
09.00 Doc: The Future Of Travel  
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous...  
11.10 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.55 Local: Nu Rasinn  
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive  
15.35 D.Anime: Panda And Little...  
17.10 Serial: Superstore  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Mere Sai  
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.25 MBC Production  
21.35 Local: La Societe  
22.30 Film: Alvarez Kelly  
Star: William Holden, Richard Widmark

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Kundali Bhagya  
12.06 Film: Khote Sikkay  
Starring Feroz Khan, Danny Denzongpa, Ranjeet  
15.00 Samachar  
15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.47 Serial: Bommarillu  
16.02 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.26 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay  
16.46 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe...  
17.04 Serial: Kullfi Kumarr...  
17.30 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi  
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: Solo Brathuke So Better  
Starring: Sai TejNabha Natesh

07.00 Mag: Salad Area  
07.58 Doc: Paradis Perdus  
08.47 Doc: Eden, Au Coeur Du...  
09.41 Doc: Sky Eye  
12.24 Mag: The Inside Story  
14.02 Doc: World Heritage  
14.59 Doc: Sky Eye  
16.17 Doc: Be Afriad  
18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
19.00 Doc: Persons  
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  
22.58 Doc: High Velocity  
23.40 Mag: Eco@Africa  
00.06 Mag: The 77 Percent  
00.35 Mag: Africa 54  
01.03 Mag: In Good Shape  
01.29 Doc: Castles

01.55 Film: Squadron  
04.04 Film: Le Second Souffle  
05.46 Tele: Rubi  
06.34 Serial: The Good Doctor  
07.15 Serial: Scorpion  
08.07 Film: Squadron 303  
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.12 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: Elementary  
11.45 Film: Le Second Souffle  
13.30 Tele: Rubi  
14.23 Mag: Red Carpet  
14.45 Film: Squadron 303  
16.35 Serial: The Good Doctor  
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.39 Serial: Malory Towers  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: The Baker And The...  
21.15 Film: The Marine 5

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  
14.06 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes  
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maik Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.19 Film: Hello  
Starring: Salman Khan, Sharman Joshi, Sohail Khan  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...  
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.30 Radha Krishna  
21.06 Anupamaa

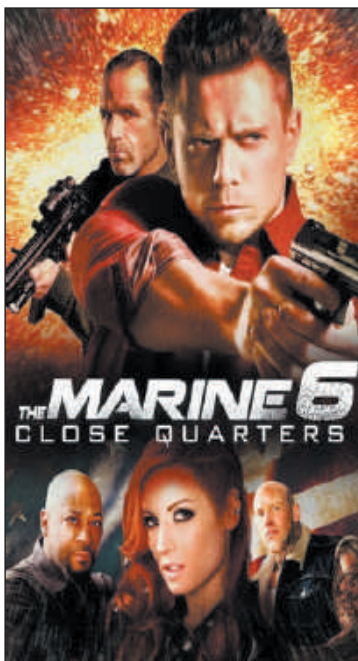




Mardi 23 août - 21.10



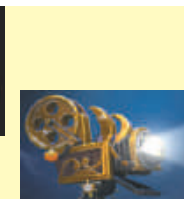
Mercredi 24 août - 21.15



Jeudi 25 août - 21.15



# Programme TV



mardi 23 août

## MBC 1

06.00 Local: Rodrig  
07.27 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
08.50 Doc: Himalayan Expedition  
10.16 Local Prod: La Societe  
11.10 Doc: Books  
11.11 Les Trois Visages D'Ana  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.55 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
14.47 D.Anime: Gon  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive  
15.35 D.Anime: Panda And Little...  
17.30 Serial: Superstore  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.20 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
22.15 Film: What Doesn't Kill You  
With: Ethan Hawke, Mark Ruffalo, Brian Goodman

## MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: CID  
12.00 Film: Bahurani  
Starring: Rekha, Rakesh Roshan, Utpal Dutt  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.43 Bommarillu  
16.26 Meer Abru  
16.50 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi  
17.08 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam  
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...  
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Local: Tamil Programme  
20.30 Film: Haseena Maan Jayegi  
23.08 DDI Live

## MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
07.24 Mag: In Good Shape  
07.53 Doc: Castles  
09.46 Mag: Washington Forum  
11.00 Doc: Cool & Clever  
13.40 Doc: Global Drinks  
15.02 Mag: Washington Forum  
16.36 Mag: Eco@Africa  
18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...  
18.45 Mag: Red Carpet  
19.03 Doc: Persons  
19.34 Doc: Archipel De Feu  
20.30 Live: News  
20.45 Doc: Tree Stories  
21.54 Mag: Euromaxx  
22.34 Local Prod: Rodrig  
22.36 Local: Rodrig-Klip Seleksion  
23.58 Mag: The Global Auto...  
00.10 Mag: Healthy Living  
00.40 Doc: Persons  
00.57 Mag: Check In

## Cine 12

01.34 Film: The Marine 5  
02.59 Serial: Elementary  
03.38 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive...  
05.22 Tele: Rubi  
06.10 Serial: The Baker And The...  
07.00 Film: Alvarez Kelly  
09.47 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: Elementary  
12.00 Film: Signed, Sealed, Delive...  
13.39 Tele: Rubi  
14.19 Mag: Close Up  
14.45 Film: Alvarez Kelly  
16.40 Serial: Dynasty 2  
17.20 Serial: The Baker And The...  
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.33 Serial: Malory Towers  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Seiral: The Baker And The...  
21.15 Film: His Fatal Fixation

## Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Hello  
Stars: Salman Khan, Sharman Joshi, Sohail Khan  
11.34 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna  
12.03 / 20.57 - Anupamaa  
12.32 / 21.27 - Mere Sai  
13.03 / 22.07 - Agniphera  
13.30 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
14.01 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes  
14.25 / 21.59 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 22.25 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.27 Film: Prince  
Star: Vivek Oberoi, Isaiah, Aruna Shields  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya  
19.04 Udaariyaan  
19.34 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..  
20.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2

mercredi 24 août

07.00 Local Prod: Profil  
07.40 Local: Priorite Sante  
08.09 Local: Rodrig  
09.00 Doc: Sanpshots  
10.00 Local: Morisien Konn Ou La...  
11.10 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.55 Local Production: Les Klips  
14.47 D.Anime: Gon  
15.20 D.Anime: The Hive  
15.35 D.Anime: Panda And Little...  
15.57 D.Anime: Akili And Me  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Magazine  
19.00 Local: Planet Bollywood  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.30 MBC Production  
22.20 Film: The Marine 6  
Star: Mike 'The Miz' Mizanin, Maryse Mizanin

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki  
12.00 Film: Ustadon Ke Ustad  
Starring: Mithun Chakraborty, Jackie Shroff, Madhoo, Vineetha, Mohan Joshi  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.49 Bommarillu  
16.07 Sondha Bandham  
16.29 Serial: Meer Abru  
16.53 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi  
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.31 Serial: Kulvadhu  
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods...  
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Programme In Marathi  
21.00 Film: Justice Bao  
22.31 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...  
06.41 Mag: Person  
07.02 Mag: Check In  
08.31 Doc: Castles  
09.29 Mag: Euromaxx  
14.40 Doc: Tree Stories  
17.49 Mag: Japan Video  
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  
21.05 Doc: Tresors Oublies  
21.57 Mag: Focus On Europe  
23.32 Mag: Motorweek  
23.58 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
00.26 Doc: Persons  
00.39 Mag: Arts.21  
01.05 Mag: The Inside Story  
01.31 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into...  
01.54 Doc: Castles

01.28 Film: His Fatal Fixation  
03.57 Film: Rememory  
05.41 Serial: Rubi  
07.19 Film: What Doesn't Kill You  
09.00 Serial: Galactica  
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.40 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.10 Serial: Elementary  
11.45 Film: Rememory  
13.30 Tele: Rubi  
14.45 Film: What Doesn't Kill You  
16.40 Serial: Galactica  
17.22 Serial: The Baker And The...  
18.09 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
18.31 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.37 Serial: Malory Towers  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
21.15 Film: Le Second Souffle  
22.53 Tele: Rubi

07.08 Film: Prince  
11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna  
12.01 / 20.26 - Anupamaa  
12.32 / 20.02 - Mere Sai  
13.02 / 20.46 - Agniphera  
13.36 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
14.07 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes  
14.15 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
14.44 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.10 Film: Aa Ab Laut Chalen  
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Akshaye Khanna, Aishwarya Rai  
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

jeudi 25 août

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion  
06.45 Local: Coin Jardin  
06.59 Mag: Rodrig Mo Pei  
07.16 Local: Itinerer Rodrig  
08.14 Local: Elle  
09.09 The School In The Cloud  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.51 Local: Music Tour 2022  
14.45 D.Anime: Gon  
15.21 D.Anime: The Hive  
15.40 D.Anime: Panda And Little...  
17.03 Mag: National Anthem  
17.10 Serial: Superstore  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.20 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
20.30 Film: The Zoya Factor  
Starring Sonam Kapoor, Dulquer Salmaan, Sanjay Kapoor

07.00 DDI Live  
10.16 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha  
10.59 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...  
12.00 Film: Shiv Ganga  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu  
16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.26 Serial: Meer Abru  
16.45 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi  
17.04 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.40 Local: Bhajan Sandhya  
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...  
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
20.59 Local: Profil  
21.14 Film: Brigsby Bear  
With Kyle Mooney, Jorge Lendeborg Jr

06.00 Mag: Motorweek  
06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
06.52 Mag: Arts.21  
08.17 Doc: Castles  
10.20 Doc: Screen Generation  
11.31 Local: Vous Et Nous  
12.39 Mag: The Inside Story  
13.19 Doc: Castles  
15.26 Doc: Screen Generation  
16.11 Mag: Motorweek  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
18.29 Mag: Shift  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.34 Doc: Hotels  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.48 Doc: Castles  
21.40 Doc: The Forgotten Temple  
22.28 Doc: Treasures In The Sand  
23.37 Mag: Shift  
23.49 Mag: Carnet De Sante

01.41 Film: Le Second Souffle  
03.19 Serial: Elementary  
04.00 Film: Bull Shark  
05.20 Tele: Rubi  
06.07 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
06.51 Film: Le Second Souffle  
09.00 Serial: Dynasty 2  
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.37 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: Elementary  
12.00 Film: Bull Shark  
13.35 Tele: Rubi  
14.45 Film: Le Second Souffle  
16.35 Serial: Dynasty 2  
17.21 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.34 Serial: Malory Towers  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Burden Of Truth  
21.15 Serial: Knight Rider

07.00 Film: Aa Ab Laut Chalen  
12.00 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna  
12.31 / 20.28 - Anupamaa  
13.02 / 20.32 - Mere Sai  
13.33 / 21.09 - Agniphera  
13.59 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
14.29 / 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: Fool N Final  
Starring Shahid Kapoor, Ayesha Takia, Vivek Oberoi, Sunny Deol  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.59 Udaariyaan  
19.34 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..  
20.02 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.27 Serial: Radha Krishna



Jeudi 25 août - 15.30

Stars: Shahid Kapoor, Ayesha Takia, Vivek Oberoi, Sunny Deol



Jeudi 25 août - 20.20

Star: Sonam Kapoor, Dulquer Salmaan, Sanjay Kapoor







Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Life is not only about the sole pursuit of material comfort, and the reasons we cherish the works of artists, singers, writers, intellectuals and spiritual leaders is because we can relate to them. They respond to a deep human quest, a need to understand the purpose of life itself, to come to grips with the world around us, to appreciate the beauty of paintings and sculpture, and make us joyful with music and songs. Writers are not loners who live cloistered among books, and scribble notes randomly to build up strange characters who come to life in eccentric stories, just for the sake of entertaining readers.

Deeply committed writers are highly gifted to decipher and depict the ground realities in a country, the institutions, the society and people without compromising on the truth. Far from representing an individual expression, they are often the spokespersons of one country or many countries, the voice of the people, the embodiment of their expectations, their fears and hopes.

However free expression of thoughts and ideas in storytelling has gone through many ups and downs in modern history. Writers have thus had to have recourse to different techniques, allegories, satires, parodies to bypass censorship and convey their messages. Writing is just 'art for art's sake', said Oscar Wilde, who in the early 20th century claimed to have no message at all. Yet he ended up in prison for being too outspoken on the issue of homosexuality. Before being awarded the Nobel Prize in the 1950s, William Golding had a short stay in prison for his novel 'Lord of the Flies', a story about innocent choir boys who get stranded on a remote island and turn into savage killers - one too shocking to English society.

Besides being an erudite, Indian-born writer Salman Rushdie hails from a family of intellectuals. He is well-versed in the intricacies of different cultures, and gifted in varying his style with poetic prose, drama and comedy. With Rushdie, writing is 'art for art's sake', but that also subtly conveys with messages for politicians and obscurantists. One of his writings reads like an Arabian Nights entertainment story full of childish gaiety and, imaginative freedom with delightful and frightening creatures underlying a passionate plea for imaginative freedom.

'Haroun and the Sea of Stories' is an allegory of corrupt politics and oppressive religion. Haroun accompanies his father Rashid Khalifa, the Shah of Blah, to a political meeting where the storyteller has to tell stories non-stop, a bit like Sherazad. Readers of Indian origin with some knowledge of Hindi and Urdu are more likely to grasp the cultural references and hilarious mix of disparate characters. Not the right time for Rashid whose wife ran away with

# Lands of Silence



Salman Rushdie. Pic - The Economic Times

Sen Gupta who had the insolence to tell Rashid that 'storytelling is a waste of time, and life is a serious business'. Valley of K where they are heading to in a boat, Rashid explains to his son, is the short name for the former Kosh-mar, a in word the ancient tongue of Franj, meaning nightmare. The Valley where not everyone is happy is 'the work of some miscreant'.

Haroun has real nightmares at night. The Water Genie joins in the narrative and takes up a story Rashid related some time back. The story of 'Khattam-Shud', the end of everything. Who is Khattam-Shud? 'He is the Arch-Enemy of all Stories, even of Language itself. He is the Prince of Silence and the Foe of Speech.'

And the place where he lives is 'the Land of Chup and its people the Chupwalas', Haroun has plenty of questions to ask : Why do the Chupwalas live in Permanent Night? Who is Bezaban?

Princess Batcheat is kidnapped by Chupwala soldiers along with other ladies she was walking with in the garden and taken to the tents of Chup. Her lips are stitched up, she is renamed the Dumb Princess, Princess Khamosh, Prince Bolo is furious, King Chattergie sinks into depression. A Bombay cinema scenario ensues with Bolo up in arms with his attendants to rescue the princess.

To an impatient Haroun, Rashid relates how the Land of Chup has fallen under the power of the 'Mystery of Bezaban', 'a Cult of Dumbness or Muteness, whose followers swear vows of lifelong silence to show their devotion'. The Cultmaster, Khattam-Shud, 'preached hatred only towards stories and fancies and dreams ; but now he has become more severe, and opposes Speech for any reason at all.' Schools and law-courts and theatres are all closed now, 'unable to operate because of the Silence Laws'. Besides, wild devotees of the Mystery work themselves up into great frenzies... sacrificing themselves for the love of Bezaban.

'But who and what is Bezaban?' Haroun bursts out.

'Bezaban is a gigantic idol,' Rashid tells his son. 'It is a colossus carved out of black

ice, and stands at the heart of Khattam-Shud fortress-palace, the Citadel of Chup.' Chupwala soldiers wear long cloaks through whose swirlings you sometimes catch a glimpse of a cruel, dully glinting dagger blade.

The allusions and implicit references are quite obvious for anyone who cares to see what the narrator is getting at, which countries and political regimes are criticized in no uncertain terms.

In another story the narrator relates the story of a hair which gets stranded in a river in Kashmir. Word spreads that the hair is holy. Men rush to save it, and work themselves up in a frenzy, chasing the hair that gets carried away by the water. A push here, a scuffle there, and a riot breaks out.

It is hilarious and entertaining while underlining the whole insanity behind such mass behaviour.

There should be no compromise on the rights of intellectuals, writers, artists and singers

to express themselves freely. No one has any obligation to appreciate their paintings, songs and books, and may fully disagree with them. There is a lot of trash in Rap songs which can hardly be called artistic, paintings we are indifferent to, and books that we put aside after flipping through a few pages. Conversely, there are great writers and thinkers who contribute significantly to raise awareness on various issues at the global level. Narratives with powerful messages can be confronted with free expression of counter arguments instead of hatred and violence.

Barring France, England and one right-wing politician from the Netherlands, other political leaders and mainstream media hardly condemned the attack on Salman Rushdie. India's silence is quite disappointing, a land where protection for artistic creativity is an old tradition. Russia and China might feel embarrassed to lecture others. The U.S President took two days to issue a statement. CNN, India Today and others kept mum on the topic ; unsurprisingly, it was a non-event for Al Jazeera.

More Lands of Silence is not what the world needs today and in the future.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## Life Transitions

Sometimes a part of us must die before another part can come to life.

Sometimes a part of us must die before another part can come to life. Even though this is a natural and necessary part of our growth, it is often painful or, if we don't realize what's happening, confusing and disorienting. In fact, confusion and disorientation are often the messengers that tell us a shift is taking place within us. These shifts happen throughout the lives of all humans, as we move from infancy to childhood to adolescence and beyond. With each transition from one phase to another, we find ourselves saying goodbye to an old friend, the identity that we formed in order to move through that particular time.



Sometimes we form these identities in relationships or jobs, and when we shift those areas of our life become unsettled. Usually, if we take the time to look into the changing surface of things, we will find that a shift is taking place within us. For example, we may go through one whole chapter of our lives creating a protective shell around ourselves because we need it in order to heal from some early trauma. One day, though, we may find ourselves feeling confined and restless, wanting to move outside the shelter we needed for so long; the new part of ourselves cannot be born within the confines of the shell our old self needed to survive.

We may feel a strange mixture of exhilaration and sadness as we say goodbye to a part of ourselves that is dying and make way for a whole new identity to emerge in its place. We may find inspiration in working with the image of an animal who molts or sheds in order to make way for new skin, fur, or feathers to emerge. For example, keeping a duck feather, or some other symbol of transformation, can remind us that death and rebirth are simply nature's way of evolving. We can surrender to this process, letting go of our past self with great love and gratitude, and welcoming the new with an open mind and heart, ready for our next phase of life.