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24 Pages - ePaper

AURITIUS

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning." - Albert Einstein

Interview : Dr Avinaash Munohur, Politologue

«Trop de Mauriciens ont encore peur du changement

et s'accrochent à des certitudes qui rassurent...»

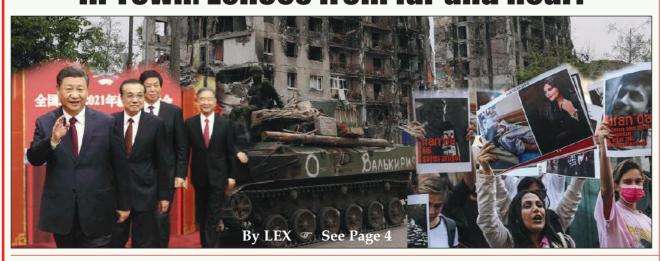
* 'La souveraineté énergétique de Maurice pourrait bien être une porte d'entrée extrêmement pertinente pour la transformation de notre pays'

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Diaspora indienne et langues

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Mauritius Times

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Edit Page

Rishi Sunak

Rishi Sunak has been nominated Britain's prime minister after a chaotic few weeks that saw Liz Truss resign after 45 days in office marked by financial turbulence and multiple reversals on tax policy, and a last ditch effort by Boris Johnson to make a fresh bid for the post he was forced to vacate in early July. Mr Sunak's appointment, the third in the space of four months, has been done without going through the due electoral process, thus giving rise to questions about the legitimacy of this appointment and to calls for an early election, which is quite unlikely to take place in view of the Conservative Party's current poor ratings.

This brings us back to Pravind Jugnauth's appointment as Prime Minister in January 2017, after he took over from the leader of the 2014 'Alliance Lepep'. The circumstances surrounding his nomination had been widely criticised as constituting an unwarranted change of Prime Minister as it was not mandated by a plebiscite at the polls - although from a constitutional point of view, it could have been viewed as perfectly in order. However Pravind Jugnauth took office some 11 months before the holding of the by-election in Constituency No. 18, which the then Opposition held up as a test for the electors of the constituency to express their opinion on the performance of the MSM-led government and on the controverted change at the helm of government. The MSM chose to be absent from the byelection, and missed an opportunity to seek the stamp of popular approval that would have given legitimacy to the nomination of Pravind Jugnauth as PM. But he was thereafter elected, after winning the 2019 general elections though contested through electoral petitions by the Opposition, as Prime Minister, a post which goes to whoever is the leader of the party which commands a majority in Parliament.

No such cloud hangs over Rishi Sunak's appointment as Britain's first non-White Prime Minister. His Asian descent has not come in the way of his appointment since his track record as Chancellor of the Exchequer during the Covid pandemic has been seen by the Conservative Party as 'a safe pair of hands' to stabilize an economy sliding toward recession. His task, some commentators have suggested, is to fix the British economy - and 'take the blame for anything that goes wrong'. But the real test of the changing British political mores will come in two years' time when the choice of Rishi Surnak as leader of the Conservative Party into the next general elections will have to be confirmed. Mr Sunak's performance as Prime Minister will hopefully weigh in that decision - not his ethnic origin or caste.

Pravind Jugnauth's MSM had good reasons for keeping away from the 2017 byelection in Constituency No. 18, given the baggage that it had inherited in terms of poor governance, the sway of party cronies and a coterie over key institutions and state companies, the mishandling of the BAI affair and the STC-Betamax litigation both of which have cost the public exchequer billions of rupees, the first to redress the BAI/Bramer debacle and the second in terms of liability to Betamax confirmed at the Law Lords of the Privy Council. But more instances of dysfunctions have sullied his government's image since with a succession of embarrassments and scandals that have kept the current government on its toes to this day to effect damage control.

But the issues this current political regime have brought to the fore run far deeper than mismanagement at the economic level and treasury management, however important in their own right. Misgovernance has again been a consistent feature, appointment of often incompetent cronies from an inner circle of loyalists a gnawing cancer, attempted debauchery of opponents and cynical operations of key institutions toeing political lines have corroded public confidence in the state. The blatant sub-standard police handling of some affairs like the unresolved Kistnen murder case is one such recent example but the public knows there are too many others to list here.

It is attributed to John Locke that governments exist because citizens allow them to exist - until they decide that the incumbent's time is up and a credible alternative is available. History may be an unmerciful judge if parliamentary and extraparliamentary forces fail to put aside their individual and party agendas to provide such a credible alternative at such a critical juncture in our history.

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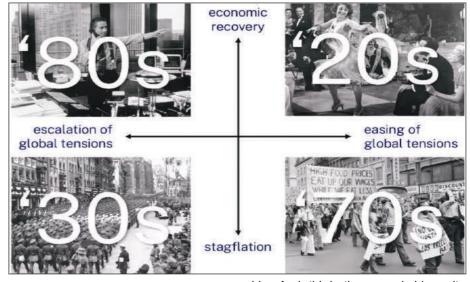
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The Conversation

Four Scenarios For a World in Disorder

How the crises in geopolitics and the world economy could affect us over the next two to five years



We are living in a moment of deep geopolitical rifts and extraordinary economic uncertainty, epitomised by Xi's pronouncements. The world is clearly not reverting to some pre-Covid status quo. Instead, a combination of underlying forces has upended the previous world order and ushered in a period of profound disorder.

I want to look at four of these forces – the deterioration in US-China relations, Russia's war in Ukraine, populism and inflation – to construct some politicaleconomic scenarios for the next two to five years. Any list of destabilising global forces is necessarily incomplete. I won't consider climate change or biodiversity loss (arguably the greatest challenges facing humanity), a possible Covid resurgence, the impact of artificial intelligence and other disruptive technologies, or the role of rogue regimes from Iran to North Korea.

Instead, I'm focusing on the areas that I believe will have the greatest impact on global business over the next several years – particularly because of their expected interaction.

1. Russia's war in Ukraine

Not only did Russian troops fail to subdue Kyiv quickly as both the Kremlin and many western observers had assumed, Russia looks increasingly likely to lose the war – the mobilisation of reservists and nuclear sabre-rattling notwithstanding.

There are three reasons for this. First, the extraordinary poise and courage of the Ukrainian people, armed forces and leaders.

Second, utter chaos on the Russian

side. And third, the remarkable unity across the west that has provided Ukraine's troops with sophisticated weapons, training and intelligence while slowly crippling Russia's economy via boycotts and sanctions. Western businesses made important contributions as hundreds pulled out of Russia, stranding assets and foregoing profits.

Western unity faces its greatest test this winter if gas supplies in Europe run low and sky-high energy prices accelerate an expected slide into recession. Individual European governments may well waver over Ukraine if confronted by angry and cold voters.

Of course, Europe's dependence on Russian gas is self-inflicted. As recently as 2014, only about 20% of EU gas was Russian. By early 2022, it was almost 40%. Despite loud warnings from Washington, Germany, the continent's largest economy, actually increased its dependence after Putin's illegal annexation of Crimea.

Berlin viewed Russian gas as cheaper and more sustainable than alternatives. Greater reliance also fitted a German foreign policy doctrine vis-a-vis the Soviet Union/Russia dating back five decades called wandel durch handel: change through trade. While dangerously naive in hindsight, a similar philosophy informed US policy toward China until recently, creating dependencies that are not vastly different.

David Bach, Professor of Strategy and Political Economy, International Institute for Management Development

Cont. on page 14

Opinion

Apropos the Morality Police to the New PM in Town: Echoes from far and near!



Jan Arden

A few events on the world scene happening more or less coincidentally deserve some mention.

The ongoing eight-month long war in Ukraine between invading Russian troops and bravely resisting Ukrainians has not unfortunately been pregnant with hope for an early resolution if it were not for the first phone conversation between the US and Russian military leaders last week, a token gesture which could pave the way for a diplomatic rather than a purely military end to a destructive crisis that even held the folly of nuclear overtones.

The planetary economic costs, more directly to Europe's gas and fuel supply, the US-led sanctions policy and the food, fuel and logistics costs to the rest of the world which have neither reason to applaud nor to condemn NATO's belligerent stance, have been sobering just as the worldwide pandemic was receding and hopes for economic recovery rising. When will common sense and international diplomacy prevail over geopolitical and military considerations to bring this confrontation to an end?

* * *

The morality police strikes again

For eight long weeks in Iran, challenge to the imposition by a theocracy of retro-

This 20th CCP meeting was a turning point say some China observers: Deng Xiaoping's 1979 reforms eventually moved nearly 700 million Chinese from countryside to city, replacing the rural economy of traditional China with an economy dominated by state-owned enterprises. But these in turn are now judged insufficiently efficient or proactive to lead Xi's orientation to a digitized industrial economy for the Middle Kingdom and are in fact obstacles that had to be

swept aside...»

grade rulers of a repressive regime has been fuelled by continuous demonstrations by brave women, students and sympathisers, fed up with daily harassment by Iran's Revolutionary Guards (RGs) and a "morality police" that sounds more like legalised street perverts, all exacerbated by the death in police custody of young Mahsa Amini.

The 83-year-old Al Khameini has dismissed the street protests as scattered "minor incidents", while the RGs are busy attributing the challenges to external agents (the usual...) or even the brazen morality-corrupting Internet. But, says a *Guardian* article, when the average age of the protesters is about 20, some clerics say soul searching is required about how they lost a large strata of the nation's youth and a large majority of Iranian womenfolk.

Despite being inheritors of an ancient civilisation that has contributed such imposing figures as the temporal ruler Kourosh (Cyrus the Great) or the spiritual leader Zarathrusta, the mollahs that were welcomed to rid the Shah's decadent regime may not be ready yet to return political power to normal democratic processes but the brave protests have touched sympathy chords around the world.

In the Middle Kingdom

The Congress gathering every five years of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) beginning on 16th October has been closely watched by neighbours, wary of the emerging Chinese superpower, the USA keeping similar tabs and in particular its meaning for the ongoing tussles for Taiwan and free navigation in the South China Sea and the rest of the world observing the Chinese system at work first-hand.

Current two-term President Xi Jinping, heading all three powers of the Party as Secretary General, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Presidency, has had far-reaching impact, eliminating rival Despite being inheritors of an ancient civilisation that has contributed such imposing figures as the temporal ruler Kourosh (Cyrus the Great) or the spiritual leader Zarathrusta, the mollahs that were welcomed to rid the Shah's decadent regime may not be ready yet to return political power to normal democratic processes but the brave protests have touched sympathy chords around the world...»

factions ruthlessly and pitching an aggressive external policy, has been elected for an unprecedented third fiveyear term with a new concomitant purge of his own previous henchmen, bringing in a cohort of powerful new generation of administrators, chief of whom will be his new Number 2, the Shanghai party head Li Qiang as the country's PM.

Li Qiang is a tech-savvy supporter of high-tech entrepreneurship (Jack Ma, Huawei, etc) who believes that China's future lies in the digital economy, has supported technological entrepreneurship as the leading edge of China's development and brought, for instance, Elon Musk to invest in a large capacity electric car manufacturing unit in Shangai.

This 20th CCP meeting was a turning point say some China observers: Deng Xiaoping's 1979 reforms eventually moved nearly 700 million Chinese from countryside to city, replacing the rural economy of traditional China with an economy dominated by state-owned enterprises. But these in turn are now judged insufficiently efficient or proactive to lead Xi's orientation to a digitized industrial economy for the Middle Kingdom and are in fact obstacles that had to be swept aside. Neatly done...

The new PM in town

. . . .

Elsewhere, much as we might have wished otherwise, it was not possible to stay away from the psycho-dramas that have driven the UK Tories these past weeks in a suicidal downward spiral. Until they finally decided to avoid the shellshocks of a Boris Johnson return, the economic and financial illiteracy and experimentations of Liz Truss, the other even more distant Tory prospects and selected their brightest star, Rishi Sunak as leader of the party and PM appointed by King Charles on this Tuesday.

Public Interest and Forced Retirement «Former ASP Roshan Kokil may well invoke the public interest to reveal whatever he knows»

In the wake of the mediatised cases of police brutality, the retirement of ASP Roshan Kokil, on grounds of "public interest" has raised some issues regarding whether there is any bellwether legal standard for such action by the CP and the Disciplined Forces Service Commission. Lex shares his views and clarifies the related questions on this topic.

LEX

* It's rare for civil servants to be retired from the service on the ground of public interest. It's usually on medical grounds, on account of criminal offences or in the interest of the public service that the services of civil servants are terminated. Opinions differ about what constitutes public interest or not. What to your mind constitutes the public interest in matters of governance and the civil service?

Any civil servant must function having in mind the conditions of his appointment and the public he serves. If a point has been reached where he cannot live up to this standard, he either leaves or is made to leave.

Anything can fall under the public interest as the term is not defined in law. The public interest in the civil service would entail serving. It requires high standards of honesty, integrity, loyalty, impartiality, and objectivity. The public interest has to do with the welfare or wellbeing of the general public and society and the department where the civil servant functions.

The device used to terminate the services of the former Permanent Secretaries was introduced through a constitutional amendment, and it would have been difficult to undo that amendment. Anyway, on what grounds could that amendment have been challenged? What constitutional rights would a civil servant invoke when his service is being terminated? Let's wait for a test case to know more. No government would want to do away with such a formidable weapon...»

A civil servant should put the interests of the public and the public service ahead of his own personal interests and help maintain the public's trust and confidence in the public service.

* The Disciplined Forces Service Commission Regulations, 1997, refers to the public interest in cases where the service of one member of the disciplined forces should be terminated "on grounds which cannot be suitably dealt with under any other provisions of these regulations". On the other hand, the Public Service Commission Regulations do not make mention of "public interest" but instead speaks of the "interest of the public service" when it comes to retire a civil servant. Why could have been the rationale behind that distinction?

Under both Regulations power is given to the Commissions to deal with defaulting officers. Where an offence has been committed, the matter is investigated and a report is submitted to the DPP. Where no prosecution has been advised, the DPP may advise that disciplinary action be taken against the officer.

At times a report or complaints against a police officer do not disclose an offence or grounds for disciplinary action. Then the public interest retirement comes into play. It is a blanket power given to the Commissioner of Police and the Disciplined Forces Service Commission to rid the force of an element who is not an asset to the force.

* The amendment brought to the Constitution in 1982 to retire a number of top civil servants, perceived by the then MMM-PSM government to be too close to the Labour Party and PMSD, has not been struck off to date. There could be good reasons other than political ones why successive governments have not done so. What do you think?

This is a powerful weapon to enable a government to get rid of civil servants who are considered to have been too close to the outgoing regime with the result that they might not show the same loyalty to the new incoming government.

No government would want to do away with such a formidable weapon. When the MMM-PSM government came up with that amendment, they probably thought they would rule forever little realising that it could be used against their own nominees.

* The device used to terminate the services of the former Permanent Secretaries does not seem to have been challenged in Court. Does it mean there might be no solid ground to do that?

That was introduced through a constitutional amendment, and it would have been difficult to undo that amendment. Anyway, on what grounds could that amendment have been challenged? What constitutional rights would a civil servant invoke when his service is being terminated? Let's wait for a test case to know more.

* Assistant Superintendent of Police Roshan Kokil has been retired in the "public interest". This after the Disciplined Forces Services Commission upheld the decision of the Commissioner of Police to retire him following the conclusions of an internal investigation in connection with acts of police brutality by a few officers



What former ASP Roshan Kokil knows or possibly knows and might reveal would probably have to do with the reasons why a proper investigation was not carried out promptly in the case of torture of suspects by the CID officers. But all this is already in the public domain. What else would he reveal? That he had to comply with the orders or instructions of his hierarchy»

of the CID of Terre-Rouge. All the facts of the case are not known, except for Mr Kokil's earlier defence that "ce n'est pas légal pour la police d'enquêter sur la police" (the police cannot inquire on the police). What's your take on that?

What the officer may probably have in mind is the power granted to the Independent Police Complaints Commission that is mandated to investigate into any complaint made by any person or on his behalf against any act, conduct or omission of a police officer in the discharge of his duties.

Apropos the Morality Police to the New PM in Town: Echoes from far and near!

*Contd from page 3

The first element of the current UK crisis stems from Brexit which the Tories pushed for, fearful of Nigel Farage's UKIP stoking British fears of pervasive immigrants from a variety of EU countries. That has floundered two previous PMs, David Cameron and Teresa May, which flamboyant Boris Johnson turned around in 2019 elections despite which, Brexit has corroded the party's cohesion, credibility and public standing, leaving it in an internal rancorous mess.

The symbolism of Rishi Sunak's accession as the youngest PM, one of British Asian descent, proudly Hindu (his swearing in oath in Parliament was on the Bhagavad Gita) and wedded to the wealthy daughter of one of India's distinguished business tycoons Narayana Murthy, founder of Infosys, has been amply commented upon in British, Indian and international press. But we cannot obviate the dramatic plight of the UK economy suffering under a triple plight: Brexit, the pandemic and now, the ongoing Ukraine war.

Will PM Sunak have the *doigté*, in this historic position, to constitute a unifying Cabinet and, time running short before the 2024 contests, reverse UK's fortunes when so much remains out of his direct



control?

The Rs 77m Picnic to Dubai

Former UK PM, in the Westminster tradition which our AG said he espouses, Boris Johnson, resigned on grounds of shocking impropriety, partying full swing at various events when most of UK citizens were coping with severe pandemic constraints. His resignation may have brought the Tories into a swirling frenzied headache to appoint a credible leader and has left him beached as a hugely divisive potential challenger to Rishi Sunak for the PM post.

In our own modest abodes of Westminster inspiration, a cohort of government ministers, smarting out of Covid restrictions and sacrifices ordinary Mauritians were facing, grabbed the nearest flight to visit an EDB stand at the Dubai Expo and, accessorily, saunter around the eclectic environment of the UAE, turning Dubai into a destination of choice for our President and 12 or 13 Ministers, each taking along a bunch of civil servants in tow.

There is no saying what our ruling elites might invent next to showcase our island at taxpayer costs of some Rs 77 million (an apparently paltry investment during the pandemic) for the expected returns of investors, visitors and tourists flocking to Mauritius from the Middle East.

The written answer to a PQ has revealed 11 Ministers -- Tourism minister Steven Obeegadoo, Foreign Affairs minister Alan Ganoo, Finance minister Renganaden Padayachy (twice?), Energy minister Joe Lesjongard, Social Security minister Fazila Jeewa-Daureeawoo, Cooperatives and SMEs minister Sunil Bholah, Financial Services minister Mahen Seeruttun, ITC minister Deepak Balgobin, Commerce minister Soodesh Callichurn, Arts minister Avinash Teeluck, and Gender Issues minister Kalpana Koonjoo-Shah and, naturally, the President of the Republic. The media await the EDB's report with bated breath.

Jan Arden

'The device used to terminate the services of Permanent Secretaries is a formidable weapon no government would want to do away with'

* Contd from page 4

* Mr Kokil has allegedly stated to the press in the wake of his forced retirement that he would reveal the inside story relating to the pen drive containing images of police brutality by the CID officers as well as some other investigations relating to a few high-profile cases including the Wakashio shipwreck. Wouldn't he fall foul of the Official Secrets Act, were he to come out publicly with his denunciations, if any?

Not necessarily. It must be established that what he would reveal would cause any prejudice to the interest of Mauritius. What the officer knows or possibly knows and might reveal would probably have to do with the reasons why a proper investigation was not carried out promptly in the case of torture of suspects by the CID officers. But all this is already in the public domain.

What else would he reveal? That he had to comply with the orders or instructions of his hierarchy? Or that he was instructed by his hierarchy on how to proceed? Or that the police cannot usurp the powers of the Police Complaints Commission?

At the end of the day, however, he



may well invoke the public interest to reveal whatever he knows.

* There are no reports of other police officers being taken to task in what publicly available video clips suggested might involve more than one officer. Is Mr Kokil being scapegoated and made to wear the cap of wider infringements?

No. Did he not himself admit that he had been remitted with the USB? Did he act on that?

It's not sufficient to say that the police cannot investigate themselves; he would

have been well advised to refer the matter to the Police Complaints Commission though the proper channel.

* Can the police continue to rely on provisional charges or admissions of guilt by suspects who may have been brutalised or interrogated without cameras or CCTVs? Is it a problem of professional training, expediency or kow-towing to their hierarchy?

In 2016, the DPP Satyajit Boolell explained that "the purpose of a provisional charge (information) is to bring the

arrest and detention of a person under judicial supervision and control. It is in conformity with section 5 of our Constitution (right to liberty), which requires an arrestor to bring a detainee suspected of crime before a Magistrate within the least possible delay. Given its distinctive feature, no detainee pleads to a provisional charge and no trial takes place on the basis of a provisional charge."

It is a means of letting the arrestee know the reason of his arrest and allow the courts to have a supervisory control on arrests.

* Are magistrates tempted to give credence to the versions of police officers over any evidence that may contradict their views and should they exercise greater vigilance?

It is well known that magistrates are more inclined to believe the words of police officers than those of an accused. This is why it is important that police interviews should be recorded and that arrestees must be medically examined the moment they are arrested. There should also be periodic checks on their welfare if they are on remand.

Politics Mauritius Times

Is it legitimate for the Conservatives to continue in government without an election?

A constitutional scholar explains



Bangor University

f It is only right to explain why I'm standing here as your new prime minister.' These were

These were some of the first words spoken by Rishi Sunak as he made a speech outside Downing Street shortly after coming to office.

Sunak is the fifth prime minister since 2016 and the third since the last election. So his assessment that his presence needs an explanation is correct. Recent polling shows many people feel he should call an early election.

The last election was held in 2019 and although Boris Johnson secured a large parliamentary majority back then, he resigned in disgrace in the summer of 2022. Even before his departure, the Conservative majority had been eroded by multiple by-election losses and the Tories were plummeting in the polls. Their popularity hit rock bottom during Truss's tenure.

Yet the party now presumes to be in the position to appoint another prime minister without seeking the views of the voting public.

In truth, they are legally permitted to govern for a further two years without calling a public vote. Sunak indicated in his speech that he sees the Conservatives' 2019 manifesto as his mandate and explicitly stated that the electoral mandate secured that year under Johnson "is not the sole property of one individual".

Nevertheless, the Conservative Party presided over economic chaos during Liz Truss's short tenure. They may have the legal right to govern without an election – but does that mean they should?

What is a 'legitimate' government?

The UK does not have a written constitution so it's difficult to say definitively when a government does or doesn't have legitimacy.

Rather than being codified, the British constitution rests on the Westminster model of government, whereby the party that commands a majority in the House of Commons forms the government. The prime minister is not directly elected by the people. The job simply goes to whoever is the leader of the party of government. That's why neither Truss nor Sunak had to hold a public vote to secure the top job and why Sunak referred to the 2019 mandate in his speech.

In legal terms, the constitution rests on political principles, which the law protects.



These include democratic accountability and scrutiny, freedom of the press and freedom of information. There are also seven specific moral principles of government (known as the Nolan principles) which include things like honesty, integrity and selflessness.

Political thinkers, however, have long proposed that a government is only legitimate when it has the popular and implicit consent of the governed. In other words a government can only exist when citizens freely allow it to, and have given their popular consent (via a vote) in favour of it.

American political scientist Seymour Martin Lipset said legitimacy "involves the capacity of a political system to … maintain the belief that existing political institutions are the most appropriate and proper ones for the society."

Legitimacy also has a moral meaning. It is linked to the belief that a government's actions should be appropriate and legally constituted.

So, even though Sunak can claim to have a legal right to be prime minister, can he claim to have political (democratic) and moral legitimacy to continue?

In respect of Lipset's test, time will tell. Sunak's ability to unite his party and end the political and economic uncertainty the UK has experienced over the past month will be the deciding factor on whether he is the appropriate person to govern.

In relation to the Nolan principles of integrity, openness and honesty, it is also important to note that Sunak does not represent an entirely fresh start from the Johnson administration. He served under Johnson and was fined for breaking lockdown rules alongside him.

Nor should it be forgotten that Sunak

lost to Truss in a vote among party members just a few months ago. Even though he stood unopposed this time, he in fact only had just over half the total number of Tory MPs publicly backing his nomination. He will therefore need to stabilise his party in these conditions to achieve moral legitimacy to continue to serve as prime minister. These are, after all, the mechanisms via which a leader comes to power within the Westminster system.

If Sunak cannot give evidence of his legitimacy to govern early on in his tenure, it will add to calls for a general election before 2025.

But will he call an election?

The constitution does allow Sunak to call an early election since, under Johnson, parliament reinstated the previous constitutional position in respect of general elections. He can use prerogative powers to advise the monarch to dissolve parliament in order to call an election.

But current polling would make it unlikely for the new PM to want to do this. Nor are his MPs likely to vote to hold one.

That said, given how much has changed since 2019 and the unprecedented political events of the last couple of months, calling an early election could be the most effective way to restore a sense of political and moral legitimacy at the heart of the system. It's a huge gamble for the Conservatives but it would at least produce a new (or renewed) mandate for Sunak.

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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.

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

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

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6

Spotlights

Mauritius Times

Friday, October 28, 2022

7 million families have gone without things like heating, toiletries or showers this year

Elena Gheorghe had never eaten at a food bank until Ethis year. But like millions of people in the UK, she has watched her daily expenses eat up more and more of her income, and she ran out of corners to cut.

So, for the third time in recent weeks the 35-year-old mother and nursery school administrator is getting a hot meal at a London charity called Dads House. "It's nice because people around you are the same like you," she said while sharing a table with a former chef and entrepreneur. "Normal people."

As they've watched double-digit inflation degrade their paychecks, millions of people in the UK have for the first time found themselves in a similar position to Gheorghe. Over the last nine months, the share of UK households with little or no discretionary income has doubled from 20% to 40%, according to Asda Income Tracker data.

Many have gone into debt paying for things other than food and housing. Others are cutting back on essentials, reports Bloomberg

One study from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation



Rishi Sunak will not live in the official residence of UK PM

K's new Prime minister Rishi Sunak and his family will be living in a flat above No 10, Downing Street. Rishi Sunak, along with his wife and two daughters had stayed in the flat when he was chancellor to former UK PM Boris Johnson.

Asked why Rishi Sunak opted for No 10 instead, a Downing Street spokeswoman said: "They were very happy there."

During the leadership contest against Liz Truss - who lived in the flat after Boris Johnson - Rishi Sunak had said that his family would "probably just move back into the flat where we used to live, to be honest" if elected.

"We have already decorated it and it's lovely," Rishi Sunak had then said.

The No.10 flat has been the official residence of the UK's prime minister and several predecessors including Boris Johnson have lived in the four-bedroom flat. Boris Johnson also got into hot water over an expensive refurbishment of his prime ministerial flat which was overseen by his wife Carrie, reports Hindustan Times.

The details of expensive rolls of wallpaper, hyperfashionable soft furnishings and deep-pocketed donors were quite damaging to the former prime minister's reputation when he was in office.

The flat above No.10 - where Rishi Sunak will live has been officially designated for the chancellor but many PMs have chosen to live in it as it is a larger flat.



found that 7 million families have gone without things like heating, toiletries or showers this year. Gheorghe, for her part, sometimes eats just one meal a day.

The 20% of earners who sit in the second lowest income bracket have been hit hardest. For more than a decade that group has enjoyed having at least some extra spending money, according to the Centre for Economics and Business Research, which releases the Asda tracker. That group's gross income was £407

Elon Musk's SpaceX partners with Philippine tycoon on satellite service

illionaire Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Corp (SpaceX) is expanding into the Philippines by offering satellite broadband service to businesses and the government, his local partner said on Thursday.

Data Lake Inc, a Philippine-based firm partly owned by tycoon Henry Sy Jr, said it signed a deal to be the first partner of SpaceX's Starlink in Southeast Asia, reports Reuters.

"The Philippines is an archipelago, and connecting our country to the wider world often requires extensive infrastructure," Data Lake Chairman Anthony Almeda said in a statement.

The Philippines is made up of more than 7,600 islands, many of them isolated and with mountainous terrain, making broadband coverage difficult for companies. Around 20 tropical storms also typically hit the country every year, often damaging infrastructure and cutting

Chinese authorities are asking newlyweds: 'When's the baby arriving?'

newly-married woman in China was rung up by the Alocal authorities to ask her if she was pregnant. As she shared the experience online, tens of thousands of other commented saying that they had experienced similar calls, reports Reuters. The post was subsequently removed by the authorities.

A user named 'lost shuyushou' described a colleague's experience in which the colleague answered a call from the Nanjing city government's women's health service on Weibo, a Twitter-like platform, the report said.

The official told the woman that the government "wants newlyweds to be pregnant within a year and their target is to make a phone call every quarter."

One person who posted in the comment section said she got married in August last year and had since been rung up by her local government twice, reports Hindustan Times

(\$473) a week in September. But after paying for taxes and essentials, which includes housing, heating and food, they had £2.66 a week of discretionary funds left. down from a high of £55 last year. That just about covers one cup of coffee.

And as for the poorest families, whose gross income was just £189 per week in September, they don't even have enough to cover essentials: They're behind by about £63 pounds each week - the biggest deficit that group has seen in 15 years.

This is but a slice of the cost-of-living crisis that the UK's new Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, will have to contend with as he takes office. Britons across income levels face a foreboding combination of energy, mortgage, and pension crises. More than half of UK adults were finding keeping up with their bills a heavy burden this spring, according to the Financial Conduct Authority. Mortgage payments are already rising and the number of people either behind or struggling to pay rent has spiked by 45% since April, according to housing charity Shelter.

But the economic pain hasn't hit all equally. Poorer people have disproportionately seen their spending power evaporate. That's partly because those groups tend to lay out a bigger share of their income for essentials, such as food, whose prices have sky-rocketed. Wage growth has also been slower in lower-paid occupations.



communication links between islands and provinces.

SpaceX's Starlink uses a network of thousands of satellites to provide internet access to far-flung regions or when communications are disrupted during natural disasters.

In the Philippines, only seven out of every 100 people have fixed broadband subscriptions, lagging behind regional peers like Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, data from the World Bank show.



China's president Xi Jinping declaring at the Communist party's meeting last week that the country would establish a policy to boost birth rates and improve the country's population development strategy. China has acknowledged its population is on the brink of shrinking.

Spotlights Mauritius Times



Devotees celebrate Diwali at the Gursikh Sabha Canada gurdwara in Ontario, on Oct. 24. Pic - CBC

Canada's immigrant population share hits 23% record

2³ per cent of Canada's population is, or has been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident of the country, a new report showed. The report, titled "Portrait of Immigration to Canada", shows that Canada has a total of 8.3 million immigrants, making it the largest immigrant share of Canada's population ever.

Statistics Canada forecasts that Canada's immigrant population will continue to rise, as high as 34% by 2041. Between 2016 and 2021, over 1.3 million new permanent residents settled in Canada and over half of these arrived under the economic class, reports Hindustan Times.

Of these, over one-third lived in Canada before gaining permanent residence. Between 2016 and 2021, immigrants accounted for about 80% of Canada's labour force growth, the data showed.

Asia has been the top source of immigrants to Canada, the report showed.

Some 62% of the recent immigrant arrivals were born in Asia, with 18.6% coming from India alone while the Philippines accounts for 11.4% of newcomers, followed by China at 8.9%.

As more than one in five Canadians are near the age of retirement, about 10.9% of the new immigrants that arrived in Canada between 2016 and 2021 were young aged 15 to 24. The vast majority were core-aged workers who were between 25 to 54 years old. Children below 15 represented 17.1% of newcomer arrivals.

In 2022, Canada is looking to welcome some 432,000 new immigrants in the country.

UOM in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2023

he University of Mauritius is L now in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023. The University of Mauritius is ranked 1001-1200 out of 2,325 universities (1799 ranked; the remaining 526 listed as 'reporter' universities as they did not meet THE's ranking eligibility criteria).

This is the first time in its history that UoM has been ranked in THE. UoM is among the few African universities ranked for the first time; it is ranked among the first 55 universities in Africa by



THE.

Friday, October 28, 2022

The assessment is based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

The ranking and recognition definitely enhances the reputation and visibility of the country as a higher education destination and comes at an opportune time as Mauritius is being promoted as a regional knowledge hub.

These are 5 'most' and 'least' secure countries on **Gallup's law and order index**

allup's Law and Order Index J2022 - a report by global analytics firm Gallup -- has positioned Taliban-captured Afghanistan as the least secure country for the third year. Region-wise, the report has declared East Asia as the most secure while Southeast Asia came second to it. Gallup's survey which takes into consideration four questions to gauge "people's sense of personal security and their personal experiences with crime and law enforcement" said it has interviewed about 127,000 people in over 120 countries to compile the list.

The Five Most Secure Countries

-	Singapore	96
-	Tajikistan	95
_	Norway	03

	Norway	00
-	Switzerland	92

Indonesia 92

The Five Least Secure Countries

-	Sierra Leone	59
-	DR Congo	58

- Venezuela 55
- Gabon
- Afghanistan

India scored 80 points on the table, below its neighbours Pakistan and Sri Lanka with a marginal differ-



ence in points but was placed above the United Kingdom and Bangladesh. As per the reports, Southeast Asia was home to the largest gains in confidence - due to contributions from Singapore and Indonesia's improved police services.

Afghanistan which maintained the lowest score in the last two surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019 too (survey was not conducted in 2020 due to pandemic) - improved its score relatively due to a drop in violence following the end of the Taliban's insurgency as it had completed the takeover from US troops. The report also said that North America and Western Europe have lost ground mainly due to people's falling confidence in the police, especially after the high-profile police shootings including the killing of George Floyd which sparked a racial injustice movement.

Prince Harry's new book release date revealed. Title is a dig at royal family

54

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Prince Harry's memoir which was supposed to be released this year, will now be released on January 10, 2023. Titled 'SPARE', the Duke of Sussex' book title appears to be reference to the phrase 'heir and a spare' a dig at the royal family.

The book will include details of the funeral of Princess Diana - Harry's mother - as the publishers said, "SPARE takes readers immediately back to one of the most searing images of the twentieth century: two young boys, two princes, walking behind their mother's coffin as the world watched in sorrow - and horror."

Prince Harry's long anticipated memoir's release was postponed as he got "cold feet" following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, reports Hindustan Times.

"Prince Harry has gotten cold feet about the memoir's



This image shows the cover of "Spare". Pic - s.yimg.com

contents at various points. The project has been shrouded in rumours, delays and secrecy," the New York Times said in a report.

The delay is thought to have allowed Prince Harry to write additional chapters about his grandmother's death, reports said.

The book is expected to include details from his childhood, life as a working Royal, time in the military, marriage to Meghan and experience of fatherhood.

"I'm writing this not as the prince I was born but as the man I have become," Prince Harry had earlier said about the book.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

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Interview

Interview : Dr Avinaash Munohur, Politologue «Trop de Mauriciens ont encore peur du changement et s'accrochent à des certitudes qui rassurent...»



Mauritius Times: Nous vivons des évènements mondiaux importants depuis quelques semaines. Le congrès du Parti communiste chinois avec le troisième mandat de Xi Jinping et le renouvellement du Bureau politique, ou encore l'arrivée de Rishi Sunak à 10 Downing Street. Estce que ces évènements sont importants pour nous ?

Avinaash Munohur: Très important même ! Tout d'abord, le congrès du Parti communiste chinois (PCC) — qui a malheureusement été très peu commenté dans les médias locaux — vient de donner un troisième mandat de cinq ans à Xi Jinping. C'est la première fois qu'un dirigeant chinois obtient un troisième mandat depuis Mao Zedong, ce qui démontre le pouvoir de Xi Jinping sur l'appareil du PCC.

Ce pouvoir n'est d'ailleurs absolument pas anodin puisqu'il s'appuie sur la vision d'une mondialisation à la chinoise que Xi Jinping a su transformer en projets concrets avec la 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) comme fer de lance. Mais, à y regarder de plus près, les choses sont plus complexes que cela et la Chine se trouve dans un moment charnière de son histoire contemporaine.

La Covid et la politique du zéro Covid vont produire un ralentissement de la croissance chinoise, qui ne devrait pas dépasser les 5,5% cette année, avec un taux de chômage important chez les jeunes — près de 20%. Parallèlement à cela, certains projets de la BRI sont au ralenti. La bulle immobilière produite par Evergrande a

Nous passons notre temps à parler de politique mais jamais sous le mode du débat d'idées et de l'avenir de notre pays, de son économie, de ses institutions, etc. La discussion politique à Maurice se limite en général à des analogies qui ressemblent à une discussion sur le football, ce qui ne correspond pas au genre de débat que le citoyen conscient du fait politique se doit de pouvoir avoir dans une démocratie moderne...» L'effritement de la confiance dans la classe politique : un phénomène qui dure depuis plusieurs années et personne ne sait comment résoudre ce problème épineux. Pire encore, il semblerait que les jeunes ne portent plus aucun intérêt à la chose politique car ils sont déçus de l'absence de vision des partis actuels. Pourtant certains pays comme la Chine travaillent dur pour se réinventer et se distinguer des autres dans un monde en constante mutation. Étant donné que les Mauriciens ont peu de compétences politiques, étant donné les nouveaux problèmes climatiques, économiques, énergétiques et numériques qui surgissent de temps à temps, quelles sont les chances de survie de notre pays dans le moyen terme ? Nous avons invité Avinaash Munohur, politologue, pour nous en parler.

également un impact négatif sur l'économie chinoise, même si les autorités chinoises restent très timides sur cette question.

Le dernier congrès du PCC a également inscrit le refus de l'indépendance de Taiwan dans sa charte, ce qui ouvre encore plus la porte à une escalade guerrière en Mer de Chine.

Enfin, la Chine fait déjà face à un problème démographique qui va s'amplifier avec le vieillissement de sa population et les effets de la politique de l'enfant unique sur les capacités de la production chinoise – capacités où la main-d'œuvre joue un rôle central.

Tout cela dépeint une cartographie politique complexe que Xi Jinping devra savoir gérer. De ce point de vue, il était intéressant de constater qu'il a constamment mis l'accent sur la vision à long terme de la Chine et de la place de celle-ci dans le monde multipolaire qui émerge — vision et place qui se traduit également par un rajeunissement des dirigeants entourant Xi Jinping, il faut le préciser.

En tout cas, il est clair que la Chine continuera d'être pour nous un partenaire hautement stratégique, tout comme le sont l'Inde, la France, le Royaume-Uni, les pays de la SADEC, etc.

* Il y a aussi eu la nomination de Rishi Sunak au poste de Premier ministre, le troisième en l'espace de quatre mois, et qui prend les rênes du pays après le court mandat de Liz Truss, marqué par les turbulences financières et de multiples revirements sur la politique fiscale...

Il était clair que la position de Liz Truss était devenue intenable après le fiasco du mini-budget. Un sondage récent démontre que l'immense majorité des Britanniques souhaitaient des élections générales anticipées et un autre sondage démontre que les Tories se feraient balayer si ces élections avaient lieu aujourd'hui.

Ceci explique le fait que les différentes franges du Parti conservateur ont préféré trouver un candidat qui pouvait colmater les brèches en espérant une amélioration de la situation économique. Et personne d'autre que Rishi Sunak occupe actuellement cette position.

Est-ce que cet événement est important pour nous? Je pense que la seule question qui devrait nous interpeller en tant que Mauriciens est la suivante : est-ce que Rishi Sunak honorera le vote des Nations-Unies pour un retour des Chagos à Maurice ?

* Rishi Sunak pourrait représenter un Premier ministre de transition, et on saura davantage sur le 'mindset' du Parti conservateur britannique lorsqu'il devra présenter son candidat au poste de Premier ministre lors des prochaines élections générales. On saura surtout s'il y a effectivement eu évolution des mœurs politiques britanniques sur la question de race. Qu'en pensez-vous?

N'oublions pas que Rishi Sunak est devenu PM à travers une élection interne des parlementaires de la majorité dans le contexte d'une situation politique

désastreuse ; il n'a pas gagné une élection générale en étant présenté comme PM. Cela change entièrement la donne et le met de facto dans une position de faiblesse politique. Et, il est clair que sa marge de manœuvre sera extrêmement réduite.

La condition absolument nécessaire qui pourrait faire que le Parti conservateur et les électeurs britanniques reconduisent Rishi Sunak au 10, Downing Street lors des prochaines élections générales, ce serait deux années de redressement spectaculaire de l'économie par le duo Sunak/Hunt.

Sans cela, je n'arrive pas à imaginer les Britanniques - qui sont un peuple extrêmement conservateur et dont la perception de son identité nationale reste profondément ancrée dans son histoire de la domination coloniale et raciale - plébisciter Rishi Sunak aux prochaines élections générales, surtout que ce dernier va devoir gérer une inflation galopante et une crise énergétique qui promet un hiver extrêmement rude au Royaume-Uni... 'This could really be the winter of the people's discontent' pour paraphraser Shakespeare !

Trop de Mauriciens ont peur du changement. Il est d'ailleurs intéressant de constater que nous vivons vraiment dans une société à deux vitesses de ce point de vue : d'un côté, des progressistes qui souhaitent faire bouger certaines lignes et, de l'autre côté, un conservatisme qui semble parfois se renforcer, pour ne pas dire se radicaliser. Et la réalité actuelle est que le conservatisme reste majoritaire...»

* Les Facebookers ne sont pas restés insensibles à ce développement majeur dans la politique britannique. Deux points soulevés par les internautes locaux: le renouvellement de la classe politique et aussi au sommet de l'Etat en Angleterre, contrairement à ce qui se passe à Maurice depuis ces 54 dernières années, et l'autre humoristiquement: le fait que Rishi Sunak soit aussi un "Premier ministre-l'imposte"... Vos commentaires?

Les Britanniques ont une longue tradition démocratique et sont profondément attachés au bon fonctionnement de la puissance publique qui s'inscrit dans une longue tradition philosophique sur les formes et fonction de l'État et du politique. C'est d'ailleurs eux qui ont le mieux réalisé l'alliance entre le libéralisme politique et les mécanismes de l'économie de marché, alliance qui est constitutive de notre monde moderne. w Mauritius Times

'Les priorités politiques des Britanniques ne se trouvent pas dans la reproduction et la reconduction des dynasties politiques...

Les choses sont différentes à Maurice'

* Suite de la page 9

De ce fait, les priorités politiques des Britanniques ne se trouvent pas dans la reproduction et la reconduction des dynasties politiques mais dans la recherche des compétences et de la capacité des gouvernants à appliquer un programme politique et social, et à assurer la performance économique du pays, ou du moins, c'est ce qui fut historiquement le cas. Lorsque l'on voit la crise des compétences actuelles au sein de la majorité parlementaire - crise de compétences incarnée par le mini-budget de Liz Truss et de Kwazi Kwarteng - on a de quoi se poser des questions.

Les choses sont différentes à Maurice. Nous ne sommes pas, en tant que Nation, ralliés derrière une idée directrice et précise de ce que doit être notre pays. Pour en avoir fait l'expérience sur le terrain politique, je peux vous affirmer qu'une très grande partie de nos compatriotes n'ont pas l'ombre d'une idée de ce que doit devenir ce pays et de ce que nous devons, en tant que communauté politique, mettre en œuvre pour atteindre nos objectifs communs. Je me désole d'ailleurs toujours de constater à quel point l'éducation politique des Mauriciens reste aussi pauvre.

Tous les pays qui se positionnent pour être les leaders de demain ont tous des plans de transformation de leur économie, à commencer par la Chine. Ne comparons pas ici l'incomparable, mais rien ne nous empêche de développer des projets d'avenir du moment qu'ils sont à notre échelle, selon nos besoins et selon nos capacités. Il faut juste de la vision et un plan bien pensé...»

Certes, nous passons notre temps à parler de politique mais jamais sous le mode du débat d'idées et de l'avenir de notre pays, de son économie, de ses institutions, etc. La discussion politique à Maurice se limite en général à des analogies qui ressemblent à une discussion sur le football, ce qui ne correspond pas au genre de débat que le citoyen conscient du fait politique se doit de pouvoir avoir dans une démocratie moderne.

Je pense que c'est là le résultat d'un système d'éducation qui est un échec absolu dans sa mission première: celle de produire des citoyens informés et ayant un regard critique sur les transformations de notre monde.

* D'autre part, il paraît qu'il y a un sentiment qui prend de l'ampleur par rapport à ce qui se passe dans le pays depuis ces derniers temps, surtout depuis les dernières révélations sur les différentes affaires qui ont dominé l'actualité: ça ne peut plus durer. Sentiment aussi de désespoir au vu de l'absence jusqu'ici d'une alternative crédible en termes d'alliances ou en mode 'stand-alone'. Ça viendra ou ça ne viendra pas?

Ça viendra uniquement si les Mauriciens le veulent en réalité, et je ne suis absolument pas sûr que ce soit ce qu'ils veulent au fond.

Nous constatons depuis quelques années une



certaine ébullition dans l'arène politique. Il y a de nouvelles têtes qui intègrent les partis traditionnels et plusieurs nouveaux partis ont été créés. La plupart de ces personnes ont le mérite d'essayer de porter un autre discours et de défendre une autre approche mais ils sont balayés de côté lorsqu'une élection arrive.

Au fond, je pense que nous sommes dans une situation où encore trop de Mauriciens ont peur du changement. Il est d'ailleurs intéressant de constater que nous vivons vraiment dans une société à deux vitesses de ce point de vue : d'un côté, des progressistes qui souhaitent faire bouger certaines lignes et, de l'autre côté, un conservatisme qui semble parfois se renforcer, pour ne pas dire se radicaliser.

Et la réalité actuelle est que le conservatisme reste majoritaire, et cette notion de majorité ne relève ici absolument pas de la dimension ethnique que nous lui donnons normalement lorsque nous parlons de politique à Maurice. Encore une fois, trop de Mauriciens ont encore peur du changement et s'accrochent à des certitudes qui rassurent alors que le monde bouge à une vitesse grand V. Mais par-delà ce fait, je trouve personnellement navrant que nous n'arrivons pas à pousser un projet de transformation de notre pays et de notre économie.

Certes, au sortir de la Covid et avec la reprise, il est essentiel de relancer les secteurs qui ont fait leurs preuves et d'assurer leur pérennité. Mais nous devons également faire preuve de courage et d'audace pour trouver notre place dans la région et dans le monde.

Il me semble évident que ce genre d'effort ne trouvera pas l'adhésion des électeurs – pour tout un ensemble de raisons, à commencer par ce que je disais plus tôt concernant le manque de compréhension sérieuse de la chose politique.

Les partis politiques sérieux qui sont ou qui souhaitent être au pouvoir se doivent de proposer et de construire un tel projet. Ce n'est pas chose simple, surtout que nous manquons cruellement de compétences aussi à cause de la fuite des cerveaux vers l'étranger, mais il faut tout de même s'y atteler.

* Autre sujet d'actualité: le conseil des ministres vient d'entériner la décision d'aller de l'avant avec le projet de Gaz Naturel Liquéfié (GNL) avec, notamment, la construction d'une centrale près du port. Est-ce une décision judicieuse selon vous ?

Tout dépend de ce qui sera construit comme stratégie énergétique pour le long terme à partir de ce projet. Le gouvernement a fixé comme objectif une réduction drastique des émissions de gaz à effet de serre, en s'alignant sur les objectifs de la COP26. Il s'agit là d'un impératif mondial et malgré le fait que les émissions de notre économie s'élèvent aux alentours de 0,1% des émissions mondiales, il est important que nous donnions l'exemple – surtout que beaucoup d'institutions internationales considèrent ces critères dans la capacité d'un pays à emprunter.

À partir de là, il est clair que nous avons besoin d'une énergie de transition afin de pouvoir aller vers le toutrenouvelable d'ici quelques décennies. Est-ce que le GNL constitue cette énergie de transition, le gouvernement semble le penser en tout cas. Ce qui est certain, c'est qu'il s'agit là d'un choix qui aura des conséquences profondes pour l'avenir puisqu'il va dicter la manière dont nous allons construire notre stratégie et notre sécurité énergétiques pour les décennies à venir, et il y a – à partir de là - plusieurs questions à poser.

Premièrement, la question de l'approvisionnement est essentielle. Nous voyons tous l'utilisation géopolitique que fait la Russie du GNL dans le contexte de la guerre en Ukraine. Trop de dépendance à l'égard de cette ressource – comme toute ressource énergétique d'ailleurs – peut nous mettre en situation d'insécurité énergétique. Nous savons que le Mozambique possède quelques-unes des plus grandes réserves mondiales en GNL, et que le groupe Total en est le premier exploitant, avec une projection dans le courant de 2023 pour les premières exportations.

Serons-nous capables de garantir des contrats solides et dans l'avantage des consommateurs mauriciens auprès du gouvernement du Mozambique et du groupe Total ? Il est en tout cas intéressant de constater que nous avons un ambassadeur dont l'expérience politique est avérée au Mozambique et que les relations diplomatiques avec la France sont actuellement au beau fixe... un début de réponse à cette question peut-être.

Interview

Mauritius Times

'La souveraineté énergétique de Maurice pourrait bien être une porte d'entrée extrêmement pertinente pour la transformation de notre pays'

* Suite de la page 10

Deuxièmement, le coût de la conversion des moteurs des centrales de la CEB pour aller vers le GNL est également une question cruciale. Il faut comprendre comment le GNL est manipulé pour mieux comprendre les investissements qui sont requis ici. Le GNL arrive dans des méthaniers sous forme liquide. Il faut gazéifier le produit afin de l'extraire du méthanier. Une fois extraite du méthanier, le GNL doit être à nouveau condensé en forme liquide afin d'être acheminé vers les points de stockage via des pipelines. Enfin, il est à nouveau converti en forme gazeuse pour être brûlé dans les moteurs qui produisent de l'électricité. Toute cette logistique coûte extrêmement chère, et ne parlons pas de la conversion des moteurs des centrales du CEB pour l'utilisation du GNL.

Du coup, la question de la viabilité économique de cette option se pose très sérieusement, et peut-être qu'il serait judicieux que le gouvernement considère le GNL comme une composante pour son projet de 'bunkering'. Ceci permettrait à Maurice de devenir un centre de stockage du GNL pour la région, permettant au marché extérieur de financer une partie des investissements requis pour le marché intérieur.

Enfin, et c'est là mon dernier point sur la question du GNL, il doit s'agir d'une énergie de transition vers la souveraineté énergétique de Maurice, pas une fin en soi. Liée à nos ambitions pour construire l'avenir, cette question de la souveraineté énergétique de Maurice pourrait bien être une porte d'entrée extrêmement pertinente pour la transformation de notre pays, du moment qu'elle s'inscrit dans un 'roadmap' et un plan de transformation de l'économie mauricienne.

Ce 'roadmap' doit avoir des objectifs, une temporalité et des impératifs budgétaires clairement définis, et mis en place en concertation avec tous les 'stakeholders'.

* Pour revenir à la question de la souveraineté énergétique de Maurice, pensez-vous vraiment que c'est une possibilité au vu de notre dépendance actuelle sur les énergies fossiles et les technologies du renouvelable qui ne sont pas aussi développées que cela?

En un mot : oui ! Et je dirai qu'il s'agit là d'un impératif même, pas juste d'une utopie. Mais encore une fois, ce n'est pas quelque chose qui va se construire du jour au lendemain. Nous sommes là dans le temps très long des grands investissements et des grands travaux de l'État. Mais l'indépendance ou la souveraineté énergétique doit être l'un des piliers de la transformation de l'économie mauricienne. Et c'est possible. Il faut pour cela un plan bien défini quant aux transitions qui sont requises pour y arriver.

Le GNL peut s'inscrire dans ce plan comme l'énergie de transition justement. Ce plan doit également comporter une vraie stratégie pour le développement de la biomasse à Maurice. Nous savons que la surface de notre territoire ne nous permettra pas de faire de la biomasse à très grande échelle, mais dans l'état actuel des choses, nous sous-exploitons ce potentiel qui peut devenir une industrie d'avenir pour les petits planteurs, par exemple.

Il faut pour cela revoir nos priorités en matière d'aménagement du territoire et développer une politique de conversion de certaines régions, en sachant qu'il y a certains types de biomasse dont l'efficacité productive et l'efficience énergétique peuvent aider à un rendement supérieur des terres arides et peu productives, sans qu'il y ait un besoin important en ressources humaines et en eau. Il faut déjà assurer ces bases – GNL et biomasse – qui permettront à leur tour d'assurer les besoins en consommation, avec une gestion du 'base load' et des 'peaks' qui reste problématique pour le CEB. Il faut également s'assurer que le coût de revient de la production électrique ne soit pas punitif pour le consommateur.

Ce n'est qu'à partir de là que des investissements sérieux dans le tout-renouvelable et le décarboné peuvent être considérés. Il y a là tout un monde industriel qui est en train de se créer et les technologies avancent très rapidement, et pourraient

bien être extrêmement efficaces d'ici quelques années, voire une décennie. Il faut donc rapidement préparer le terrain pour ces transformations.

De plus, nous faisons trop souvent l'erreur de croire que le tout-renouvelable et le décarboné relèvent uniquement des technologies. Il est évident qu'un tel projet repose sur les avancées technologiques. Mais ces nouvelles manières de produire de l'électricité impliquent également le fait de revoir les modalités de la production énergétique. Ce que je veux dire, c'est que l'indépendance énergétique de Maurice aura lieu selon un autre modèle de la production et de la distribution de l'énergie.

Pour se faire, le rôle et la fonction du CEB doivent évoluer afin d'être un gros producteur – avec les IPPs – mais afin surtout d'être le gestionnaire d'un réseau de distribution modernisé. À partir de là, il faut mettre en place une politique de décentralisation de la production où chaque maison peut devenir un petit producteur qui produit de l'énergie pour sa propre consommation et qui reverse le surplus de production sur le réseau national.

Nous sommes là dans le modèle de la démocratie participative et des coopératives énergétiques de Jeremy Rifkin en fait, avec un investissement massif dans la digitalisation ou la numérisation du réseau national, et une gestion de l'énergie qui opère selon un modèle « centralisation-décentralisation » où les gros et les petits producteurs contribuent au réseau tout autant qu'ils en bénéficient.

La base de départ est là avec un réseau de distribution du CEB qui constitue un véritable bien commun pour tous les Mauriciens, mais il faut aller plus loin. Rifkin va d'ailleurs jusqu'à affirmer que cette nouvelle manière de concevoir les réseaux et la production énergétique est l'avenir même de la démocratie... Il se pourrait bien qu'il ait raison sur ce point.

Ce qui est certain, c'est que l'ambition de l'indépendance énergétique de Maurice doit devenir une ambition politique réelle et concrète car c'est l'infrastructure à partir de laquelle le renouvellement de notre démocratie et la régénération de notre économie et de notre société deviendra possible. C'est la voie de l'autonomie collective et de la liberté individuelle.

* Ce dont vous parlez implique des investissements massifs. Avec un niveau d'endettement national comme le nôtre, n'est-il pas utopiste de penser que de tels projets peuvent aller de l'avant à Maurice ?

Il est évident que nous sommes là dans des ordres de grandeurs pharaoniques, et il faudrait pouvoir chiffrer sérieusement un tel plan de transformation. Et oui, vous avez raison, nous sommes déjà très endettés. Je ne suis pas en train de dire que nous devons nous lancer corps et âme dans des projets qui n'auront pas de bénéfices



économiques et sociales rapides pour le pays.

Mais je me rends compte également que les problèmes que vont nous poser le réchauffement climatique, la révolution digitale et l'opposition mondiale entre les USA et la Chine lors des prochaines décennies feront que nous devons absolument consolider notre indépendance, notre souveraineté et notre liberté. Et cette consolidation passe par une politique énergétique bien implémentée ayant pour objectif l'indépendance et l'efficacité énergétique.

Encore une fois, il est crucial d'avoir une stratégie claire sur le financement –

qui existe via plusieurs options – et une 'roadmap' précise et chiffrée, qui s'appuie sur des technologies qui ont fait leurs preuves et qui posent les différents paliers à atteindre dans le long terme.

Concernant l'endettement, ne tombons pas dans le piège de croire que nous ne pouvons plus nous endetter. Le problème de l'endettement est mal compris en réalité. Il y a deux types d'endettements : un endettement à la consommation et un endettement pour les investissements en capitaux.

Le problème que nous avons actuellement, c'est que nous nous endettons pour soutenir notre dépendance aux importations, et donc, pour soutenir le modèle d'une croissance économique fondée dans le modèle de la consommation. Ce modèle n'est absolument pas soutenable, et tant que nous ne reculerons pas sur ce choix de société, nous resterons prisonniers des FDI puisque ce sont eux qui nous permettent de nous endetter encore plus.

Les investissements en capitaux sont, en revanche, absolument essentiels si nous voulons redynamiser l'économie réelle et répondre aux défis qui sont les nôtres. Et les investissements en capitaux prennent aujourd'hui la forme des investissements dans des infrastructures énergétiques et numériques. Ce sont les deux dispositifs qui - en venant s'ajouter aux infrastructures en bâtiments, en travaux publiques et en aménagements portuaires - nous permettront d'investir dans l'avenir de notre pays, dans l'automatisation du travail et dans l'industrialisation verte de notre économie.

Alors oui, cela requiert de gros investissements et de l'endettement. Mais il ne s'agit pas ici d'investir dans des projets qui ne rapportent rien, mais bien plutôt d'investir dans un projet national qui deviendra un bien commun pour les générations à venir. Ce projet national nous permettra d'augmenter notre capacité énergétique, ce qui permettra en retour d'augmenter le potentiel industriel et nous donnera les moyens d'entrer pleinement dans la quatrième révolution industrielle avec le développement de secteurs de pointe et d'industries vertes.

Le retour sur investissement se fera sur le reste du siècle et au delà, mais il permettra à notre pays de redevenir maître de son destin. Vous remarquerez d'ailleurs que tous les pays qui se positionnent pour être les leaders de demain ont tous des plans de transformation de leur économie, à commencer par la Chine. Ne comparons pas ici l'incomparable, mais rien ne nous empêche de développer des projets d'avenir du moment qu'ils sont à notre échelle, selon nos besoins et selon nos capacités. Il faut juste de la vision et un plan bien pensé.

* Suite en page 12

Diaspora

Friday, October 28, 2022 12

Rishi Sunak - UK's first Prime Minister of Indian descent

Sunak's grandparents were born in India before travelling to East Africa, where his parents were born



Aston University

Following his uncontested run at the top job, Rishi Sunak acquires the less-than-coveted title of second successive unelected British prime minister to take office in 2022. However, coming from Punjabi heritage, he also takes on the more esteemed title of the nation's first British Asian leader.

Sunak was born in the southern English port city of Southampton in 1980. His

father, Yashvir, was a family doctor and his mother, Usha, a pharmacist. They were born and brought up in presentday Kenya and Tanzania, respectively, before moving to the UK. Sunak's grandparents on both sides were from India and had migrated to East Africa.

Indians share a long history with African traders in the Indian Ocean region – links that were strengthened in the 19th century. During the time of the British empire, and especially following the creation of the East African Protectorate (also known as British East Africa) in 1885, many Indians migrated to the region, which was then under British control. The Indian population grew rapidly and prospered economically.

Many Indian immigrants and their descendants remain in East Africa today, but significant numbers left in the second half of the 20th century. In the 1960s, the region became a less hospitable place for Indians, most infamously evidenced by the expulsion of the Indian minority from Uganda under the orders of then-president Idi Amin. It was at this time that a significant proportion of the Indian diaspora left Kenya and Tanzania. Instead of returning to India, many settled in the US, Canada and the UK.

Sunak's parents may have been born in East Africa, but his cultural affinity lies with his Indian roots. He is a practising Hindu and does not, for example, eat beef. As he said in a 2015 interview: 'British Indian is what I tick on the census, we have a category for it. I am thoroughly British, this is my home and my country, but my religious and cultural heritage is Indian, my wife is Indian.'

A dream - for some

The Sunaks' personal family history could be read as a testament to the British dream: the idea that the UK is a land of opportunity where, no matter where you come from, if you work hard, you can make it right to the top. The formula for success is simple hard work and determination.

Both his parents studied in the UK – his father, medicine at the University of Liverpool, his mother, pharmacy at my own institution, Aston University. Sunak has spoken about the sacrifices his parents made to give him "opportunities they could only dream of. But it was Britain, our country that gave them, and millions like them, the chance of a better future."

Not all immigrants, of course, get to afford for their children the best education that money can buy – no matter how strong their work ethic. Privately educated at Winchester, one of England's oldest and most expensive public boarding schools, Sunak's upbringing was undoubtedly privileged. He followed the well-worn path of many in the British political elite, studying politics, philo-



sophy and economics at Oxford. After graduating he entered the world of investment banking, landing a job with Goldman Sachs before going to Stanford University in the US to complete an MBA.

He married into wealth. His wife, Akshata Murty, is the daughter of an Indian billionaire, NR Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys. Her shares in her father's company make her one of the richest women in the UK. The couple have a combined wealth of £730 million. Sunak can thereby allegedly lay claim to another title – the richest man to ever sit in the House of Commons.

A scandal over his wife's non-domiciled tax status threatened to end Sunak's career less than a year ago but he somehow managed to recover.

Acutely aware of the potential for his fortune to jar with the experiences of the public, Sunak ensures that his image is carefully curated (with the help of a PR company). Choreographed snaps and videos more akin to a social media influencer than a politician have characterised his every move since becoming a cabinet minister in Boris Johnson's government in 2020.

This is nevertheless a big moment. Whatever the mixed feelings are around his perso-nal fortune, becoming the first non-white leader of the country is important. In some ways, the Conservative party has a lot to be proud of when it comes to promoting ethnic minority colleagues. In Liz Truss's admi-nistration, ethnic minority politicians held three of the key posts: chancellor of the exchequer, home secretary and foreign secretary – albeit only for a short while.

However, they were all also, like Rishi Sunak, privately educated. There is certainly room for a specific kind of diversity in the Conservative Party.

Interestingly, Sunak was not popular with the party's membership when he first ran for the leadership in the summer of 2022. A possible explanation – and one which certainly warrants further research – is that the membership is less comfortable with an ethnic minority leader than it lets on. In a now infamous radio show, a caller professing to be a Tory Party member stated that he, "along with most people", didn't think that Sunak was British. While this was the view of one caller on a radio show, such views are a reminder that some people still don't accept British Asian identity to be truly British.

The prime minister of India, Narendra Modi, was quick to congratulate Sunak, referring to him as "the 'living bridge' of UK Indians". In the difficult waters of British and indeed international politics, all eyes will be watching to see how well the bridge stands.

«Trop de Mauriciens ont encore peur du changement

et s'accrochent à des certitudes qui

rassurent...»

* Suite de la page 11

* Vous parlez plus haut de « plan de transformation de l'économie mauricienne » et vous venez de parler du rôle hautement stratégique de Maurice dans les relations entre les acteurs du continent africain et les géants asiatiques. Pouvez-vous élaborer un peu plus sur ce sujet ? Pensez-vous vraiment que nous sommes dans une conjoncture où nous devons tout revoir ?

Il est clair que des investissements comme nous faisons ici mention redessinentla cartographie sociale et économique de Maurice. Il est également clair que ces investissements ne suffiront pas à eux-seuls. Nous devons également nous assurer d'avoir les moyens du commerce et des échanges mondialisés



avec un maximum de pays amis et voisins. De ce fait, les accords commerciaux passés avec l'Inde et la Chine sont très positifs, il faut maintenant les faire fonctionner. Tout comme il faut revivifier nos relations commerciales, diplomatiques et culturelles avec nos partenaires africains, à commencer par les pays de la SADEC.

Pour vous répondre plus directement : non, il ne faut pas tout revoir. Encore une fois, il faut consolider nos acquis et réparer ce qui doit être réparé, mais il nous faut également avoir de l'audace et de la vision pour positionner notre pays comme le cœur de l'océan Indien, c'est-à-dire le point de passage obligé des flux de capitaux, de marchandises, des personnes et des savoirs entre le continent africain et les puissances asiatiques...

Chose qui est parfaitement bien décrite dans l'expression « The Star and the Key of the Indian Ocean », d'ailleurs. Comme quoi, nous sommes destinés à cela, mais nous devons réactiver cette ambition et la recons-truire dans les conditions de notre monde actuel.

* Mais un tel projet, qui est vraiment un projet de société dont la visée est le long terme, requiert d'avoir une classe de gouvernants qui pensent comme cela. Une classe de gouvernants qui comprennent ces enjeux, qui sachent trouver des solutions aux problèmes actuels et qui arrivent à voir plus loin que les prochaines échéances électorales, n'est-ce pas?

Un tel projet requiert un peuple qui croit en sa capacité de faire, de construire et de grandir ensemble. Un tel projet requiert une mobilisation nationale totale de la part de tout un chacun, allant des responsables politiques aux acteurs industriels et en passant par les travailleurs. Un tel projet requiert de mettre de côté sa peur du changement et de regarder la réalité du monde en face.

Un tel projet requiert de l'audace, de la compétence, du courage et un esprit de conquête qu'il est grand temps de réveiller, surtout chez nos jeunes. Il faut leur montrer qu'une autre île Maurice est possible mais qu'il faut s'engager et travailler d'arrache-pied pour qu'elle se réalise. Ce n'est qu'à ce moment-là que nous pourrons parler d'un rêve mauricien... Rêve qui est actuellement justement cela, un rêve. Il n'appartient qu'aux Mauriciens d'en faire une réalité.

History

Mauritius Times

Friday, October 28, 2022 13

Friday 8th August, 1958

5th Year No 209

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago MAURITIUS TIMES

'Integrity gains strength by use.' -- John Tillotson

By Peter Ibbotson

t was on May 5, 1832, that the Secretary of State considered (and of course a 'consideration' by such an august personage is tantamount to a directive) that all official correspondence emanating from departments in Mauritius should be conducted in English. That being so, one would have expected that sufficient time had by now elapsed for all conversations in all departments to be conducted also in English; but one can often hear Government functionaries carrying on conversations, even about official business, in French. It is the rule in many English boarding schools that there is one table where the pupils must speak nothing but French; the pupils circulate to this table so that all of them have a chance to practise and perfect through usage their oral French. May I suggest that Government departments institute a similar rule, that during office hours inside the Departments, officers speak nothing but English, especially if they are discussing between themselves official business.

Perhaps Government officers who use French for conversations use it because their English is "rusty". May I remind them of the words of Sir Cavendish Boyle, Governor from 1904 to 1911, who at a prize-giving in October 1905 said: "Do not despise the language of Britain and the greater Britain because in your house-life that of France is in common use." He went on to urge the pupils listening to him to perfect both their French and their English; he looked forward to a bilingual Mauritius. Le Mauricien approved of Sir Cavendish's words on that occasion, for it reprinted them in a *manchette* under the heading 'Mots Justes' on March 8 1934 A week earlier, Mr Gabriel Martial had written in the same paper (28 Feb 34), referring to the teaching of English at the Royal College, "Notez que nous approvons entièrement le Recteur de vouloir "épurer" le langage des éléves. Disons même que nous l'approuverions d'inviter les élèves dans leur propre intérêt, à s'habituer à parler l'anglais autant que possible."

About the same time, *Le Mauricien* was anxious to have the standard of English raised. Referring on March 17, 1934, to the weakness of many pupils in English, as revealed by the School Certificate results, the paper commented, "On ne saurait donc qu'approuver les autorités scolaires de vouloir mieux faire connaître la langue anglaise aux jeunes Mauriciens." Yet when the Education Department announced that the use of English as the medium of instruction

Teaching of English



would start a year earlier, it was in the pages of *Le Mauricien* that the most vehement denunciations of the Department were found.

This problem of teaching where there are many different mother tongues in use among the pupils is a common one. In the Belgian Congo, for example, the problem is whether to use the Congolese vernaculars or the language of the colonial power, Belgium, which means of course the French language. Unesco has recently published a bibliography of books on education in the Belgian Congo, and a number of books and articles cited refer to this question of the language of instruction.

A Jesuit priest, Pere Charles, is cited as concluding (in a paper presented to the 26th session of the *Institut international des civilisations différentes* in 1951 that a language belongs to those who use it; the advice of the Indigenous peoples themselves should be sought before deciding a linguistic policy; and the linguistic policy should not be coloured by Europeans who fear seeing the 'native' rising to the European level.

If we relate the reverend father's conclusions to the conditions now prevailing in Mauritius, we have an advocate for the various communities in the island being asked by the Education Department what language of Instruction they want to see used in School. We have an advocate against the Department's policy being allowed to be affected by Francomaniacs who fear that if English became the common language of Mauritius, then Indo-Mauritians would be able to compete on equal linguistic terms with them instead of being, as now, on a linguistically inferior plane.

Another contribution to the language problem comes from M.L. Dekoster who in *'Problèmes d'Afrique Centrale'*, a Brussels periodical, argued that bilingualism was essential. One should perfect one's own language as well as master the language of the colonial power; and in the absence of an acceptable common vernacular, the study of French should be undertaken as a civilising instrument. Belgium is a French-speaking country of course, hence the author suggests the study of French; if he had been an English writer, he would have suggested that English be studied as a civilising influence in the absence of an acceptable common vernacular.

There is no common acceptable language in Mauritius (there are no vernaculars, which are properly the languages of indigenous peoples, of which Mauritius has none), so we can argue that the language of the colonial power (as M. Dekoster does) should be adopted.

Another writer, in the journal '*Nouvelle Revue Pédagogique'*, urges that children become used to school only through using their natural, spontaneous means of expression — their mother tongue. He (R. P. Delanaye) recommends that primary schools use first the mother tongue, then if possible a language in wider use that has an affinity with the mother

tongue. Yet another recommendation that the vernacular be used comes from M.J. Larochette, also in the periodical 'Problèmes d'Afrique Centrale', who considers that there are two solutions to the problem of which language to use in teaching and in education. He wants to see more widespread use of English. His solution to the problem is to teach the foreign language in primary schools, and but that presupposes a larger provision of secondary schools than at present exists in either Mauritius or the Belgian Congo. Without a widespread provision of secondary schools, only the small minority who attend them can learn adequately the use of the foreign language, so that a linguistic elite emerges.

The answer to the problems appears to lie in this last suggestion — that there be a larger provision of secondary schools, so that having learned English well in their primary schools, the pupils can learn in English at their secondary schools.

We cannot have *une entité mauricienne* unless we get rid of the linguistic elite which the present system has thrown up. At present, with French a compulsory subject at the secondary schools entrance exam, the children of the French-speaking section of the population have an advantage when it comes being selected for a secondary, school.

At the early age of 11, a child is labelled one of the elite or one of the *hoi polloi;* simply because, in many cases, of

what language he learned at his mother's knee. Make English the language of instruction throughout all primary and secondary schools — that way, all would start at the same level, linguistically, and we would have a good chance of seeing the *entité mauricienne*.

188th Anniversary Celebrations of Indentured Immigrants Arrival

2 November 1834 - 2 November 2022 The Aapravasi Ghat Indian Indentured Immigrants Arrival Celebration

Committee is solemnly inviting you to be present at the

Annual Yaj Ceremony

to pay tribute to the Girmitias - Indian Indentured Immigrants.

Aapravasi Ghat Wednesday 2nd November 2022 From 8.00 am to 8.45 am

The programme will comprise Yaj, Prayers, Tribute, Lighting of Lamp and Shradhanjali with offering of flowers. Please bring along garlands, flowers, bouquets for the Shradhanjali.

> Dr Mrs Sarita Boodhoo - President Rita Ramlallah - Secretary

Friday, October 28, 2022

Four Scenarios For a World in Disorder

How the crises in geopolitics and the world economy could affect us over the next two to five years

* Contd from page 2

2. US-China relations

For four decades following then US president Richard Nixon's groundbreaking trip to China in 1972, the US sought better relations with Beijing via closer economic integration. Things began to change during Barack Obama's second term, in response to Xi Jinping's muscular posture at home and abroad, before subsequently rupturing with Donald Trump's trade war.

If anything, the Biden administration has accelerated the switch from cooperation to confrontation via beefed up security alliances in the region with countries like Australia, export controls for advanced technologies such as microprocessors, and de facto defence commitments to Taiwan.

A day after Xi's speech at the Party Congress, the US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, told an audience at Stanford University that in relation to strategically important Taiwan, Beijing was now "determined to pursue reunification on a much faster timeline" than previously.

Over the past several months, I have spoken with hundreds of mainly European senior executives about the current geopolitical panorama. Many described the difficult decision to withdraw from Russia. Yet, for most, Russia represents less than 5% of their business. When asked what they would do if the Taiwan situation escalates, the silence was deafening. With massive dependence on – and exposure to – both the American and Chinese markets, leaders from industries including automobiles and consumer and luxury goods readily admit they have no playbook.

3. Populism

One reason why US policy toward Beijing is unlikely to soften is that China is one of few things the highly polarised US electorate agrees on. In 2011, only 36% of Americans viewed China unfavourably, with 51% having a favourable view. By 2022, a stunning 82% were unfavourable – a level only exceeded in Sweden, Japan and Australia.

Voters across western democracies also increasingly distrust globalisation. Fuelled by growing economic inequality, a majority across 28 leading economies told research firm Edelman in 2017 that "globalisation is taking us in the wrong direction".

Alarmingly, Edelman found in 2019 that only 18% of respondents across developed economies affirmed that "the system is working for me", with 34% being unsure and 48% outright declaring the system is failing them.

Support for democracy has weakened



in parallel, especially among the young. Political scientists YaschaMounk and Roberto Stefan Foa, respectively of John Hopkins and Cambridge universities, found in 2017 that whereas 75% of Americans born in the 1930s agreed it is "essential to live in a democracy", the figure was just 28% among millennials.

Similar trends can be observed in many other countries. This has helped into power populists from Hungary's Viktor Orban and Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro to Donald Trump and, most recently, GiorgiaMeloni – Italy's most right-wing leader since Mussolini. Note that Italy had the world's second-highest dissatisfaction rates with democracy in a 2021 survey, topped only by Greece.

4. Inflation

This deep discontent with the prevailing political-economic order was before inflation reached levels not seen in four decades. By hiking benchmark interest rates in response, the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank accept they may trigger a recession. Most analysts now expect one on both sides of the Atlantic in 2023.

Meanwhile, China's zero-Covid policy continues to weaken the world's secondlargest economy while its struggling property sector threatens to engulf the global financial system. Pierre Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF's chief economist, did not mince words about the world economy at the organisation's annual meeting in early October, warning that the "darkest hours" are still ahead and calling the outlook "very painful".

But an even greater fear is stagflation – interest rate hikes that crush growth, send unemployment soaring and fail to meaningfully reduce inflation. The interaction of such economic dynamics with antiestablishment populism would surely be profoundly destabilising for an already shaky global order.

Four scenarios

Drawing on the forces described above, I have been urging business leaders from across sectors to contemplate four scenarios. Scenarios are not about predicting the future. They are about preparing for the future amidst uncertainty.

I locate the possibilities along two dimensions – one economic and one geopolitical. On the economic dimension, the best case is that central banks and policymakers quickly bring inflation under control, recessions in major markets are short lived, and a global economic recovery

begins in the second half of 2023 and accelerates in 2024. At the other extreme, aggressive interest rate hikes might surface and exacerbate structural weaknesses in the global economy, leading to a period of prolonged stagflation.

Similarly with geopolitics, Vladimir Putin might discover a face-saving retreat from Ukraine while Xi, with his third term secured, could dial back his rhetoric regarding Taiwan. Or more pessimistically, Ukraine could worsen sharply, for example, if Putin chooses to use tactical nuclear weapons or Nato is directly drawn into the conflict. Meanwhile, nationalist fervour might lead Xi to issue Taiwan an ultimatum, or an accidental use of force by either side could trigger a broader conflict.

By combining these different possibilities, I create my four scenarios. For illustrative purpose, I associate each with a decade of the 20th century – not because history will repeat itself, but to crystallise what is at stake and how much the possible futures differ.

Four scenarios

When the pandemic's end seemed in sight, several observers predicted a return of the "roaring twenties". The original roaring twenties occurred after the first world war when the League of Nations ushered in a short period of international cooperation, global trade resumed and economies recovered. A latter-day equivalent certainly remains possible if global tensions ease and the economy recovers quickly.

Alternatively, we can imagine an economic recovery without easing global tensions. The early 1980s come to mind, when decisive action by the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, Paul Volcker, reduced inflation and after a short recession, growth resumed and the stock market boomed. Internationally, however, things were less rosy. The US-Soviet 1970s detente came to an end with respective boycotts of the 1980 and 1984 Olympics, a proxy war in Afghanistan and a renewed nuclear arms race.

The 1970s are my third scenario. They

are frequently invoked as the exemplar of stagflation, with soaring prices, stubbornly high unemployment and plenty of labour strife. However, global tensions had eased, at least between the superpowers. The Spy Who Loved Me captured the zeitgeist as James Bond teamed up with a Soviet agent to save the world.

Compare this to the 1930s, another decade in the 20th century characterised by high unemployment, low growth and economic turmoil. Fascism swept away nascent democracies, global tensions escalated and the world experienced a catastrophe that remains singular in human history.

The world today is very different from the decades in these scenarios. Technology has ushered in unprecedented connectedness, stakeholders have become far more powerful, and global supply chains and financial systems have vastly increased economic interdependence. One hopes the horrors of the 20th century combined with the unimaginable destructiveness of modern weaponry limit potential conflict escalation.

Yet the contrast between the decades highlights how changes in just two variables might distinguish a scenario that is great from one that is good, one that is bad, and one that is truly terrible. Asking which is the most likely is the wrong question. It is more important for business leaders, governments and individuals to recognise that the previous world order is gone.

The most resilient organisations will be the ones that make decisions on the basis of a clear sense of purpose and strong values, not rigid strategies or action plans. Globalisation will not suddenly end, but firms will increasingly make decisions that go beyond looking for the cheapest supplier or the biggest new market.

The next few years are probably also not the best time for businesses to strive for maximum efficiency. Cash will be king, slack good and flexibility vital. Also, it will be critical for business leaders to proactively convey what they stand for – ideally before they get asked about the future of their China business, how they might handle labour unrest, or whether they believe in free and fair elections.

This period of disorder could be short or long, and the impact on organisations and societies could range from minor to dramatic, with considerable variation across industries and regions. Zeroing in on the underlying dynamics and contemplating their potential impact on business, government and society is something we should all do to effectively navigate the rapids ahead.

David Bach

Professor of Strategy and Political Economy, International Institute for Management Development

Wellness

Mauritius Times

Social media use and poor wellbeing feed into each other in a vicious cycle

How you feel and how you use social media both affect each other – but one impacts the other more.



University

We often hear about the negative impacts of social media on our wellbeing, but we don't usually think of it the other way round – whereby how we feel may impact how we use social media.

In a recent study, my colleagues and I investigated the relationship between social media use and wellbeing in more than 7,000 adults across four years, using survey responses from

the longitudinal New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study.

We found social media use and wellbeing impact each other. Poorer wellbeing – specifically higher psychological distress and lower life satisfaction – predicted higher social media use one year later, and higher social media use predicted poorer wellbeing one year later.

A vicious cycle

Interestingly, wellbeing impacted social media use more than the other way round.

Going from having "no distress" to being distressed "some of the time", or "some of the time" to "most of the time", was associated with an extra 27 minutes of daily social media use one year later. These findings were the same for men and women across all age groups.

This suggests people who have poor wellbeing might be turning to social media more, perhaps as a coping mechanism – but this doesn't seem to be helping. Unfortunately, and paradoxically, turning to social media may worsen the very feelings and symptoms someone is hoping to escape.

Our study found higher social media use results in poorer wellbeing, which in turn increases social media use, exacerbating the existing negative feelings, and so on. This creates a vicious cycle in which people seem to



get trapped.

If you think this might describe your relationship with social media, there are some strategies you can use to try to get out of this vicious cycle.

Reflect on how and why you use social media

Social media aren't inherently bad, but how and why we use them is really important – even more than how much time we spend on social media. For example, using social media to interact with others or for entertainment has been linked to improved wellbeing, whereas engaging in comparisons on social media can be detrimental to wellbeing.

So chat to your friends and watch funny dog videos to your heart's content, but just watch out for those comparisons.

What we look at online is important too. One experimental study found just ten minutes of exposure to "fitspiration" images (such as slim/toned people posing in exercise clothing or engaging in fitness) led to significantly poorer mood and body image in women than exposure to travel images.

And mindless scrolling can also be harmful. Research suggests this passive use of social media is more damaging to wellbeing than active use (such as talking or interacting with friends).

So be mindful about how and why you use social media, and how it makes you feel! If most of your use falls under the "harmful" category, that's a sign to change or cut down your use, or even take a break. One 2015 experiment with more than 1,000 participants found taking a break from Facebook for just one week increased life satisfaction.

Don't let social media displace other activities

Life is all about balance, so make sure you're still doing important activities away from your phone that support your wellbeing. Research suggests time spent outdoors, on hobbies or crafts, and engaging in physical activity can help improve your wellbeing.

So put your phone down and organise a picnic with friends, join a new class, or find an enjoyable way to move your body.

Address your poor wellbeing

According to our findings, it may be useful to think of your own habitual social media use as a symptom of how you're feeling. If your use suggests you aren't in a good place, perhaps you need to identify and address what's getting you down.

The first, very crucial step is getting help. A great place to start is talking to a health professional such as your general practitioner or a therapist.



Unhealthy and unhappy: Mental toll of troubled relationships

Some forms of domestic violence double victims' risk of depression and anxiety disorders later in life, according to University of Queensland research.

The UQ School of Public Health study found many victims of intimate partner violence at 21 showed signs of mental illness at the age of 30, with women more likely to develop depression and men varying anxiety disorders.

Intimate partner violence classifies physical abuse as pushing, shoving and smacking.

UQ researcher Emeritus Prof Jake Najman said the team also found equal levels of abuse by men and women.

"People generally don't end up in the hospital or a shelter, but there is a serious mental burden from this type of abuse," Prof Najman said.

The research showed defacto couples and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds were more likely to be involved in these types of abusive relationships.

Emotional abuse involves comments that make the person feel worthless. Then there is harassment -- a constant and distressing nagging that may have long-term consequences for those on the receiving end.

"It also raises the question, to what extent is this type of violent behaviour not just a characteristic of the relationship the couple has with each other, but with other people around them and possibly their children," Prof Najman said.



Bilingual children are strong, creative storytellers

Bilingual children use as many words as monolingual children when telling a story, and demonstrate high levels of cognitive flexibility, according to new research by University of Alberta scientists.

"We found that the number of words that bilingual children use in their stories is highly correlated with their cognitive flexibility -- the ability to switch between thinking about different concepts," said Elena Nicoladis, lead author and Prof in the Department of Psychology in the Faculty of Science. "This suggests that bilinguals are adept at using the medium of storytelling."

Vocabulary is a strong predictor of school achievement, and so is storytelling. "These results suggest that



parents of bilingual children do not need to be concerned about long-term school achievement, said Nicoladis. "In a storytelling context, bilingual kids are able to use this flexibility to convey stories in creative ways."

The research examined a group of French-English

bilingual children who have been taught two languages since birth, rather than learning a second language later in life. Results show that bilingual children used just as many words to tell a story in English as monolingual children. Participants also used just as many words in French as they did in English when telling a story.

Previous research has shown that bilingual children score lower than monolingual children on traditional vocabulary tests, meaning this results are changing our understanding of multiple languages and cognition in children.

"The past research is not surprising," added Nicoladis. "Learning a word is related to how much time you spend in each language.

For bilingual children, time is split between languages. So, unsurprisingly, they tend to have lower vocabularies in each of their languages. However, this research shows that as a function of storytelling, bilingual children are equally strong as monolingual children."

in the dark.

Like cats, the lemur, a small primate, and its close relative, the bush baby – also known as a "night monkey" – also have a superreflective tapetum made with riboflavin.

Even though a lot of animals have eyeshine, some small domesticated dogs lack this trait. Most animals with blue eyes and white or light-colored coats have also lost this trait.

So don't be alarmed if your dog's or cat's eyes don't glow. The list of other species without a tapetum lucidum includes pigs, birds, reptiles and most rodents and primates – including humans.

Unfortunately, animals with a tapetum lucidum sacrifice some visual acuity for their ability to see in dim light.

That's because all that light bouncing around as it reflects off the tapetum can make what they see a little fuzzier. So, a cat needs to be seven times closer to an object to see it as sharply as a person would in a brightly lit place.

But don't worry, I'm sure your cat would rather see clearly at night than read a book.

Braidee Foote

Clinical Assistant Professor of Veterinary Ophthalmology, University of Tennessee

Why do cats' eyes glow in the dark?

Kids A veterinary ophthalmologist explains what's going on.

Cats and many other animals, including most dogs, can reflect light from their eyes. That's why cats' eyes will usually shine brightly in photos taken in a dimly lit room or glow when illuminated in the dark by a flashlight or a car's headlights.

Species whose eyes glow have evolved to see better in low light because they either forage or need to look out for predators throughout the night, or they do most of their hunting at dawn and dusk. In fact, domesticated cats can see in conditions that are only 16% as bright as what people require.

Cats accomplish this because their pupils – the openings that appear black in the middle of their eyes that widen and narrow in response to light conditions – are special. Pupils operate like windows, with bigger ones letting more light into the eye. And a cat's pupils can become up to 50% larger than human pupils in dim light. They also have a higher number of a specific type of light-sensing cell in the back of their eyes than we do. These cells, called rods, catch low-level light.

In addition to having large pupils and

lots of rods, cats have something people don't: a tapetum lucidum, a Latin medical term that translates to "bright or shining tapestry." The tapetum lucidum is also known as "eyeshine."

It's located in the back of the eye behind the retina – a thin layer of tissue that receives light, converts the light to an electrical signal and sends this signal to the brain to interpret the image.

A cat's tapetum lucidum is made up of cells with crystals that, like a mirror, reflect light back to the retina. This gives the retina a second chance to absorb more light.

The feline tapetum lucidum is special because its reflective compound is riboflavin, a type of vitamin B. Riboflavin has unique properties that amplify light to a specific wavelength that cats can see well, which greatly increases the sensitivity of the retina to low light.

In cats, the tapetum most often glows yellow-green or yellow-orange, but the color varies, just like their irises – the colorful part of their eye, which can be green, yellow, blue or golden. Variation in



tapetum color is not unique to cats and can be found in lots of species.

Many other animals that need to see at night have a tapetum lucidum. That includes predators and prey alike, everything from wild foxes to farmed sheep and goats.

The tapetum lucidum is also useful to fish, dolphins and other aquatic animals, because it helps them see better in murky, dark water.

In land animals, the tapetum is found in the top half of the eye behind the retina, because they need to see what is on the ground best. But in aquatic animals the tapetum takes up most of the eye, because they need to see all around them

Like c and its clo

Unwind **Mauritius Times**





Squirrels in the Church

The Presbyterian church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there, and they should not interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church, the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons met and decided to put a water-slide on the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves.

The squirrels liked the slide and, unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim, so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

That will be \$1000. Chasing birds is not a reasonable excuse to be outside



The Lutheran church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist church. Two weeks later, the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water-slide.

The Episcopalians tried a much more unique path by setting out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

But the Catholic church came up with a more creative strategy! They baptized all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

Noah, we have a problem...

Some years ago, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in the United States, and said, "Once again the earth has become wicked and overpopulated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans, thy sons and their wives."

He gave Noah the blueprints, saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard -- but no Ark.

"Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?'

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed a building permit. I've been arguing with the inspector about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I've violated the neighbourhood zoning laws by building the Ark in my yard and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Development Appeal Board for a decision.

Then the Department of Transportation demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it...

"So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 100 years for me to finish this Ark." Suddenly the skies



cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "Does this sign mean you're not going to destroy the world, oh Lord?". "No," said the Lord. "The government beat me to it." * * *

The Shocking Postcard

A long time ago, a wealthy man was having an affair with an Italian woman. One night, during one of their rendezvous, she confided in him that she was pregnant.

Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, he paid her a large sum of money if she would go to Italy to have the child. If she stayed in Italy, he would also provide child support until the child turned 18. She agreed, though she wondered how he would know when the baby was born.

To keep it discrete, he told her to mail him a postcard, and write "Spaghetti" on the back. He would then arrange for child support.

One day, about 9 months later, he came home to his confused wife. "Honey," she said, "you received a very strange postcard today."

"Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later," he said.

The wife handed the card over and watched as her husband read the card... then promptly turned white and fainted. Alarmed, she picked up the card on the floor and read aloud: "Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti. Two with meatballs, one without."

Life's Lesson

LIFE is like a double-edged sword

- ADULT has 5 letters, so does 1. YOUTH.
- 2. PERMANENT has 9 letters, so does TEMPORARY.
- 3. GOOD has 4 letters, so does EVIL. 4. BLACK has 5 letters, so does WHITE.
- 6. LIFE has 4 letters, so does DEAD.
- HATE has 4 letters, so does LOVE. 7.
- 9 ENEMIES has 7 letters, so does FRIENDS.
- 10. LYING has 5 letters, so does TRUTH.

- 11. HURT has 4 letters, so does HEAL.
- 12. NEGATIVE has 8 letters, so does POSITIVE.
- 13. FAILURE has 7 letters, so does SUCCESS.
- 14. BELOW has 5 letters, so does ABOVE
- 15. CRY has 3 letters, so does JOY.
- 16. ANGER has 5 letters, so does HAPPY.
- 17. RIGHT has 5 letters, so does WRONG.
- 18. RICH has 4 letters, so does POOR. 19. FAIL has 4 letters, so does PASS.
- 20. KNOWLEDGE has 9 letters, so
- does IGNORANCE. Are they all by coincidence?

This means LIFE is like a doubleedged sword but the choice we make determines our future.

I Gave You Life

I gave you life,

I carried you with swollen feet and heartburn. ate healthy to help you grow big and strong,

laughed one second and cried the next,

and ran to the restroom 50 times a day with restless sleep, until you were ready to come into this world,

Because I was your home. And then time froze,

as you were placed into my arms, my eyes heavy with exhaustion and love,

and I held your little body and fed you until you gave a little smile and fell asleep on my chest.



But you gave me purpose to want to be better.

And right now, you need me in a way that you will never again,

to carry you in my arms until I can't because you're too heavy, to dress you until the day you can put your pants on

yourself, and to be your everything.

And you gave me Strenth to keep aoina when everything screams, I can't.

Because, really, you gave me my life. So, my mind and heart revolve around you, and always will.

Unwind Mauritius Times

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Wisdom Chinese Zodiac Explained

A delegation of Chinese representatives was attending a reception in Europe and many of the attendees were European aristocrats.

At the end of the banquet after much drinking, a German aristocrat stood up and said:

"You Chinese people use the common animals like pig, dog, mouse as zodiac signs! Unlike us, we take after the stars like Taurus, Leo, Virgo... I do not know how your ancestors think!"

Many among the Europeans laughed and smirked.

An insult to one's ancestors had to be rebutted but all those Chinese guests did not say anything, perhaps they were unable to respond.

Then one of the Chinese guests stood up and said in a soft tone, "Yes, the ancestors of the Chinese people are down to earth in choosing common animals, and our 12 zodiac animals are paired in duality, reflecting the six realms of reincarnation, and is a reflection of our ancestors' expectations and demands on us."

At this time, the atmosphere slowly settled down.

The Chinese man then said: "The first pairing comprises rats and cattle. Mice represent wisdom and cattle, hard work. Wisdom and hard work must be coupled together. With wisdom alone, and absence of hard work, it becomes valueless wit; and hard work solely, without the use of the brains, denotes a simpleton. The two strengths must be combined. This is the ancestors' expectations and requirements on the first and the most important group."



"The second group is tigers and rabbits. The tiger represents bravery, while the rabbit manifests caution. Courage and prudence must be coupled together to be bold and cautious. Being brave alone without caution, one becomes reckless; without courage, one becomes timid. This group is also very important."

The Chinese guest looked at these aristocrats, smiled politely and remarked: "When we Chinese people show restraint, please do not think that the Chinese people are not courageous."

Seeing that everyone was in deep thought, the Chinese continued:

"The third group is the dragon and snake - the dragon represents ferocity, while the snake represents flexibility. We all know that hard cast iron is not malleable and can be broken easily; however being flexible alone makes one easy to lose one's assertiveness. So the message from the ancients to us, is to balance both of these qualities."

"Next is the horse and sheep. Horses represent the courage to go forward, the sheep depict their natural docile nature of going with the flow. If a person only sets

Life's Lesson Always tell the truth

A woman walks into a butchery shop just before closing time and asks, "Do you still have chicken?"

The butcher opens his deep freezer, takes out his only chicken left and puts it on the weighing scale. It weighs 1.5 kg.

The woman looks at the chicken and at the scale and asked, "Do you have one that's a bit bigger than this one?"

The butcher puts his only chicken back into the freezer, and then takes it out again. But this time when he puts it on the scale, he craftily keeps his thumb on the scale pan.

- And the scale now shows 2 kg.
- "That's wonderful," said the woman.
- "I'll take both of them, please!"

Until now the butcher has his head inside the big deep freezer, looking for the first chicken.

In a situation like this, you realize at once that your integrity and reputation are firmly on the line. Your wisdom becomes foolishness, and your cunningness becomes stupidity. Remember:

- 1. Always tell the truth, and you will be free !!!
- 2. A good name is better than riches.
- 3. Live to express yourself, and not to impress others.

Quotable Quotes Jiddu Krishnamurti

K was a philosopher, speaker and writer. His interests included psychological revolution, deconceptualization, the nature of the mind,

meditation, holistic inquiry, human relationships, and bringing about radical change in society. He stressed the need for a revolution in the psyche of every human being and emphasised that such a revolution cannot be brought about by an external entity, be it religious, political social.

- 1. Freedom from the desire for an answer is essential to the understanding of the problem.
- 2. We all want to be famous people and the moment we want to be something, we are no longer free.
- 3. It is very easy to conform to what your society or your parents and your teachers tell you. That is a safe and easy way of existing; but that is not living ... To live is to find out for yourself what is true.
- 4. One is not afraid of the unknown; one is afraid of the known coming to an end.
- 5. The ability to observe without evaluating is the highest form of intelligence.
- In oneself lies the whole world and if you know how to look and learn, the door is there and the key is in your hand. Nobody on Earth can give you either the key or door to open, except yourself.
- Have you noticed that love is silence? It may be that while holding the hand of another, or looking lovingly at a child, or taking in the beauty of an evening. Love has

his sights on his own targets without regard for the surrounding environment, without taking the landmarks into consideration, he will inevitably continue to bounce around randomly, and may not even be able to achieve the goals eventually. Therefore, the mettle of courage to step forward and lead, must be coupled with the ability to work in harmony with the crowd. Both characteristics must be married tightly together... this is our ancestors' expectations on the fourth group."

"Then there are monkeys and roosters. Monkeys represent adaptability, while all roosters crow regularly on time, representing consistency. Adaptability and consistency must be bound tightly and strategically together. If you are constantly changing goals and objectives, no matter how good the policy, the benefits cannot be reaped. On the one hand, stability, harmony and order are needed to maintain on course, but on the other hand, one needs to change and adapt to circumstances in order to remain relevant and advance further ahead. This is the most fundamental concept of how to thrust forward for the future."

"Finally, dogs and pigs. Dogs represent fierce loyalty, pigs represent the easy-going nature. If a person is too loyal, and does not know how to be easy-going, the tendency would be to exclude others. In turn, a person who is too easy-going, has no loyalty, and this person will lose his principles & ideals. Whether it is a nation's loyalty or loyalty to their ideals, both ideas must be closely combined, so it is easy to keep the balance of the heart."

"In the end, I would like to know the significance and qualities behind your constellations of Aquarius, Sagittarius, Capricorn and other stars, and how they reflect the hope and expectations of your ancestors on you," the Chinese diplomat asked.

The audience remained silent.

The young man who spoke then was Zhou Enlai, the former Chinese premier.

no past or future, and so it is with this extraordinary state of silence.

- Die to everything of yesterday so that your mind is always fresh, always young, innocent, full of vigor and passion.
- 9. If you begin to understand what you are without trying to change it, then what you are undergoes a transformation.
- It is beautiful to be alone. To be alone does not mean to be lonely. It means the mind is not influenced and contaminated by society.

Don't break a bird's wings and then tell it to fly.

Don't break a heart and then tell it to love. Don't break a soul and then tell it to be happy. Don't see the worst in a person and expect them to see the best in you. Don't judge people and expect them to stand by your side. Don't play with fire and expect to stay perfectly

safe. Life is about giving and taking. You cannot expect to give bad and receive good. You cannot expect to give good and receive bad.

No lady will appear

Mauritius Times

on your doorstep gift-wrapped

This is how to keep a conversation going on with a woman in person

pproaching a woman in person is not an easy thing A for many. Quite a few men also think twice before approaching a girl in person because they know they'll have no time to think about what to say once they've made their first move. It's true it gets a little tricky to be sharp-minded and quick if you want to impress a woman. She will note if you blush or get your tongue twisted. And so, you have to be your best self if you want to get everything right the first time. Here's how you can do that.

Your own approval will make you confident

Confidence is everything - it doesn't matter if you're new at approaching women in person or a pro at flirting. Don't have any preconceived notions that you have to look or sound a particular way to get the woman's attention. You need to show her that you believe in yourself and she'll follow. Don't allow your insecurities to take the best of you and ruin your chance of happiness.

The opportunity doesn't arise, you have to take risks

No lady will appear on your doorstep gift-wrapped. You won't magically learn how to keep a conversation going with a girl or how to make her fall in love with you. You have to take risks, whether you like it or not. You will

Respiratory Health

Can you learn to breathe better?

When you breathe at a balanced tempo, you maintain healthy levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in your blood. You can pace your inhales and exhales to relax and manage anxiety too.

Why better breathing matters: It's an involuntary action, but you can still get better at breathing. When you breathe at a balanced tempo, you maintain healthy levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in your blood. You can learn how to pace your inhales and exhales to relax and manage anxiety too.

Breathe through your nose: Tiny hairs and mucus, otherwise known as snot, inside your nose help catch and filter out dust that could irritate your lungs. Your nasal passages also warm and moisten the air you breathe in before it gets to your lungs.

Deep breathing exercises: You can learn new ways to breathe. The simple practice of focused breathing can help you lower stress. Just a few minutes of deep, steady inhaling and exhaling trains your vagus nerve, which manages functions like your heart rate. Training it with slow, deliberate breathing may help you relax and reduce anxiety

Switch sides: Use your thumb to close one nostril while you breathe through the other, then switch. Close the other nostril with your index finger and breathe again. In between each cycle, briefly squeeze both sides shut. Do this for 5 minutes. This exercise, along with deep breathing, may have healthy effects on blood pressure and heart rate.

Help from a nifty gadget: If you want to train your breathing, try a pacer. These handheld devices use vibra-



fail, but you will also learn from those failed attempts.

Don't wait for the right moment to start the conversation

because that moment will never come. Just go for it.

When you see a girl you like, act on it immediately. Even

If you fail to plan, you're planning to fail

neous. Even though this sounds great in theory, things

don't always go as planned in reality. Sometimes, you

need to have a plan before you approach a woman, espe-

cially if you're a beginner who is still learning how to make

a conversation. This doesn't mean you need to have

some pick-up lines and conversation topics in hand. It just

means you need to picture the conversation in your head

first. Of course, you can't predict every little thing or reply,

but you certainly can make a general plan. Plan ahead in

order to reduce the possibility of failing. You need a

Yes, we did tell you to follow your gut and be sponta-

if you fail, you'll know you tried.

help you calm down. There are pacer apps for smartphones too.

Sleep right to breathe better: Your position in bed could help ease shortness of breath. Lie on your side with one pillow propping up your head and another between your legs. If you prefer to sleep on your back, place one pillow under your head and the other under your bent knees.

Say ommmm: Meditation involves deep, focused breathing to help you sweep out stressful or distracting thoughts. Just close your eyes and practice inhaling slowly so that the air expands your belly. This type of breathing encourages the full exchange of incoming oxygen for outgoing carbon dioxide. It can slow the heartbeat and lower or stabilize blood pressure.

Belt out your favourite tune: Singing may be healthy for your lungs and breathing, even if you have a chronic respiratory illness like COPD or asthma. It can help reduce anxiety too. A trained instructor can teach you

framework of your strategy before you start acting on it.

It's the question that enlightens, not the answer

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Since you're the one taking the initiative, it's your job to keep the conversation alive. Hence, you need to ask her some questions that will inspire her to talk about herself. Always ask open-ended questions. These are the type of questions one cannot answer with a simple yes or no. Your question can also be a flirty one that sounds interesting and not creepv.

Your aim is to get to know the woman, but that doesn't mean you're allowed to forget how to flirt with her.

When you spend a little more time talking to the girl, it's time to take things to the next level. Ask her something on the deeper side. She should be able to notice how intelligent, open-minded, interesting and wise you are. You can ask her about her personal life, wait for her to answer and then she can ask you a question too.

He & She

Keep the conversation going on, no matter how random it gets

Once you both get into talking about things, you need to keep the conversation from dying out. Crack a random joke, keep asking her questions, comment on the place, compliment her, listen to her carefully and pick on the details. You're in charge here and you have to get things to roll. Talk about your hobbies or something that you're passionate about. Talk about something that's currently happening in your life. Basically, keep it interesting.

how to control your breathing and develop the right posture to improve it.

Improve indoor air quality: An air purifier in your home can help clean particles from your surroundings to help you breathe better. These small appliances, also called HEPA air filters, are especially helpful if you have asthma. Airborne dust and allergens can worsen your symptoms. But anyone who lives in a big city with pollution may benefit from an air purifier too.

Lose Weight: If you're overweight, losing a few extra pounds can help you breathe better. People who are obese may have shortness of breath. Excess belly fat can reduce the amount of air your lungs can hold when you inhale. Losing weight makes it easier to breathe and move. It can also improve your symptoms if you have asthma.

Get Moving: Exercise helps keep your lungs healthy. Any type will do as long as it's at least 30 minutes of moderate activity 5 days a week. Regular physical activities like walking or biking can expand your lung capacity, so you can take deeper, fuller breaths.

Namaste: Gentle flexibility exercises, like yoga or tai chi, can improve your lung capacity and health. Both of these ancient Asian practices involve learning breathing techniques that improve your strength and well-being. If you're just starting either practice, don't do any moves at first that require you to restrict your breathing.

Laugh Out Loud: Here's a fun way to exercise your lungs so they stay healthy: Laugh! Lots of belly laughing builds up your lung capacity and works your tummy muscles. A good bout of guffawing also clears stale air out of your lungs and lets fresh air in.

Drink Water: Stay hydrated to breathe better too. Drinking plenty of water or other fluids throughout the day keeps the mucus membranes that line the insides of your lungs healthy. If the lining is moist and thin, you'll breathe easier.

> Medically Reviewed by Hansa D. Bhargava, MD - WebMD

Mauritius Times

BollyBytes



Akshay Kumar-starrer 'Ram Setu' earns Rs 150M on Day 1

ollywood actor Akshay Kumar's latest release 'Ram Setu' has raked in Rs 150M on its opening day.

The Abhishek Sharma directorial also stars Satyadev, Jacqueline Fernandez and Nushrratt Bharuccha.

The story of 'Ram Setu' revolves around an atheist archaeologist turned believer, Dr Aryan Kulshrestha (Akshay Kumar), who must race against time to prove the true existence of the legendary Ram Setu before evil forces destroy the pillar of India's heritage.

'Ram Setu' is presented by Prime Video in association with Cape of Good Films and Lyca Productions and is an Abundantia Entertainment Production.

The film is produced by Aruna Bhatia (Cape of Good Films), Vikram Malhotra (Abundantia Entertainment), Subaskaran, Mahaveer Jain, and Aashish Singh (Lyca Productions) and Prime Video with Dr Chandraprakash Dwivedi as the Creative Producer.



Arjun shares Parineeti's 'Uunchai' first look

Parineeti Chopra is over-the-moon as her closest friend Arjun Kapoor shared the first look of her upcoming film 'Uunchai'. The actress said that a gesture

Lakshmi'

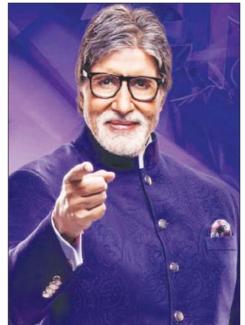
Kaif and his family. The actor took to his Instagram to share a picture of himself in the company of Katrina.

facing the camera as they pull off ethnic wear with panache. But what made everyone go 'awww' was Vicky's cute caption for Katrina.

Captioning the picture, the 'Uri' actor wrote, "Ghar ki Lakshmi ke saath Lakshmi pooja ho gayi. Aap sabhi ko humaari taraf se shubh Diwali (Done with the customary Lakshmi Pooja with the Lakshmi of our house. Wishing everyone a very happy Diwali).

plethora of comments from the fans and his industry friends

While both Nimrat Kaur and casting director Mukesh Chhabra put up heart emojis under the picture, fans flooded the post with their comments, with many of them calling Vicky "a perfect husband material" much like the English title of his 2018 release 'Manmarziyaan' which



like this in an "insecure" world makes her

Parineeti took to her Instagram story, where she thanked Arjun in her own

"Arjun launching my first look from

Uunchai is one of those 'moments' in our

friendship and in my life. In this insecure

world people don't do that. This is a core

memory that I will cherish forever.

Sometimes in this crazy career, a gesture

like this can make you smile, really smile

from within. Love you baba. You are the

Arjun on Sunday morning had shared

best (Baaki sab phone pe)," she added.

the first look poster of the film and cap-

tioned it: "She was my first co-star; she

was my first heroine and this is her first

#Rajshri film. This is to all the beautiful

features Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam

Kher, Boman Irani, Parineeti Chopra,

Danny Denzongpa, Neena Gupta and

Directed by Sooraj Barjatya, the film

firsts. This one is for you Pari!

really smile from within.

sweet way.

Sarika.

Vicky calls Katrina 'Ghar ki

✓aushal celebrated his first Diwali with wife Katrina In the picture, the two can be seen with their back

After he uploaded the picture, Vicky received a



also starred Taapsee Pannu and Abhishek Bachchan.

On the work front, while Katrina is gearing up for her upcoming horror-comedy 'Phone Bhoot', Vicky has an array of films in the pipeline.

When Big B crossed a ditch to see his crush!

mitabh Bachchan recounted an interesting anecdote from his school Alife on the sets of popular game show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 14'.

In conversation with contestant Sahil Shinde, a 3rd year Electrical Engineering student from Amravati, Maharashtra, Big B told him about his crush during school days.

Big B tells the contestant that when he was staying in a hostel in his school, he used to travel to a nearby area because the girl he liked was in the sister school located there.

"Our sister school was located at a nearby area and I used to cross a ditch to reach the girl's school to look for the girl I liked during those days,' said Big B.

Later, he asked Sahil if he liked someone and he replied: 'No'.

But afterwards in a video played during the show for him brings out his truth. As his friends inform Bachchan that since his school days he has liked a girl.

To this the host said: "You cannot tell a lie on the show and now when we know you like someone, tell us about her." The promo ends here.

Hrithik celebrates first Diwali with girlfriend Saba Azad

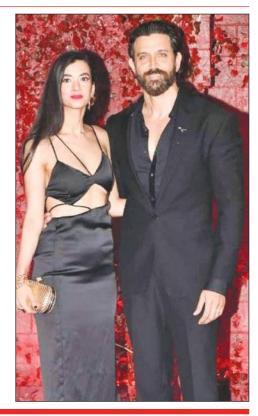
ollywood star Hrithik Roshan celebra-Dted his first Diwali with his girlfriend Saba Azad.

Saba took to Instagram Story, where she posted a picture of herself along with Hrithik. The two can be seen twinning in white Indian outfits.

She wrote: "Happy Diwali" as the caption for the loved-up image.

Hrithik and Saba were first spotted together in February when the two stepped out for dinner. Putting all rumours to rest, the two were seen holding hands as they walked into Karan Johar's 50th birthday party.

On the work front, Hrithik's latest release is 'Vikram Vedha'. He will next be seen in 'Fighter', which also stars Anil Kapoor and Deepika Padukone.



Friday, October 28, 2022

Mauritius Times

Apara Mehta: 'No attitude, no tantrums, and I do my own hair and makeup'

A para Mehta, a renowned name in the entertainment industry, has kick-started the second innings in her career by delving into the digital world. The actress is doing some amazing projects online and is excited to learn new things. In an exclusive free-wheeling interview with ETimes TV, Apara Mehta spoke about her 25 years in the industry, always being on-air, staying low-key, *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*, and much more.

On foraying into the digital platform

After last year's lockdown opened, I have come across work that is so different, so new and soulsatisfying for me. I am also doing an English web series, I'm reading an audio book, which is a soulsatisfying job for me. Of course, in between, I kept doing cameos in daily serials after this year's lockdown opened but yes, it has been a new start.

Memories associated with Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi

Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi and *Kaun Banega Crorepati* went on air on the same date July 3, 2000, and since then we have been having our anniversaries together.

Kyunkii... changed the history of Indian television. It made TV what it is today. Now, when I hear newcomers talking about, 'Yeh toh aise hota hai, yeh toh waise hota hai.' I say that they have no idea how TV has grown and what Kyunkii... did for GECs. I did Ek Mahal Ho Sapnon Ka, the first show on satellite, so, that was the first of its kind. With digital, I am starting the new phase of my career. I think I am enjoying this so much more that if people keep on offering me, I'll keep on doing work

On completing 25 years in the industry

25 years and to always be on-air is not a joke. Up to last year, March 16, I was still shooting for my Gujarati plays every day, and suddenly, the lockdown happened. So, it's not a joke. And, as soon as the lockdown opened last year by November, I was back. I think God has been very kind. I never had to look for work, it has just fallen onto my lap with new things. This new phase of my career, I am going to enjoy it even more.

On being in touch with Kyunki Saas ... team

We all are friends for life because it was the most intelligent set of females, most cultured, having seen the world, which does not happen on TV now for the past many years. So, it was a different kind of vibe in that whole cast of *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi.* We are very much in touch, and we'll remain friends for life.

Youngsters' reactions on seeing her perform

They are all in awe of me and scared of me and later, they realise that I'm the funniest, happiest, and coolest person around. I do my own hair and makeup and don't throw any tantrums that I want it in a certain way or that way. I pin my own saree and that's how I am.

When I see youngsters throwing attitude, it shows on my face. My mouth falls open and I just look at them. There are so many friends of mine, who are of my type and they ask me to change my expression. Attitude for what? This is your job, you are supposed to do it, and you are supposed to perform in the best possible ability of yours.

On handling fame and staying grounded Mentally, I am a very middle-class person. I



don't want to show off anything. There are so many young people who tell me that I can buy this and that, drive in this luxurious car, stay in that posh building...but for what? I am supposed to show it to whom? And then I am supposed to maintain it for the rest of my life.

I have worked with the same production houses for a very long time and have worked repeatedly with them. It is because of the kind of person that I am, apart from what I bring in as a professional actor. So, what happens is, I will never ask for money, I will never go after them and behave badly for those things. Whatever time they have to take, I let them take, I will never be after anybody.

There are so many times, when I like a role and I am very comfortable with this particular production house, I will say, "Chalo, what do you want to pay me?" I let them decide. I will never utter a word about it. So, all these things made me a very humble and grounded person and that's what is a very simple and normal person.

On receiving love internationally

You won't believe, the Prime Minister (late Shree Atal Bihari Vajpayee) invited me for dinner. Narendra bhai (Modi) has been coming and watching all my plays throughout his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Even when I travel abroad for my Gujarati plays, White people, Black people, Chinese people recognise me. People from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Philippines, even they recognised me. Many a times, my mouth falls open thinking 'I must have done something right' and I become more humble as a person because this is not what I had gone out to get. It just happened to me, and I have to be very thankful about it.

When a Prime Minister invites you... Atal ji's hand-written note for inviting you over for dinner at his house, that is not normal, right? It does not happen to everybody. So, these are things that have happened to me, and I am completely humbled by it. That's why I say, I am a normal person on whom God has been very kind.

YOUR STARS Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

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Sagittarius natives may feel healthy and full of life. While success in terms of money may make you happy, you should expect some tense moments in your expert life. You can explore possible careers but tread carefully. If you're currently single, you might just meet the one. Don't be afraid to show your affection for one another.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 20, 26, 30, 31

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Making wise financial choices could increase your professional standing. Even though things at home may be trying, you should try to spread joy whenever possible. You've always had a bold spirit; this may reflect positively on your decisions. When it comes to things like declaring your love, express it wholeheartedly.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 19, 22, 33, 36

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Aquarius natives' personal financial situation may mirror their professional success. You tend to be very ambitious, but you need to be more reasonable. Your romantic life is likely to be rather routine. Aquarius individuals' health and family life may both be exemplary. Thus, you need not be concerned.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 20, 21, 23, 30, 36 Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces may feel fantastic today and decide to revamp their workout routine. Gains and prosperity are also in store for your financial situation. At work, you'll find things to be going in your favour. Never be shy about telling the one you love how you feel. Quit putting things off because of second-guessing. Instead, make it a memorable day by hosting a dinner. *Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 18, 19, 20, 23*

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

A positive outlook on life may boost Aries natives' health. While you can expect to have a comfortable financial situation, your professional life may fall short of your expectations. On the home front, you may have good fortune. The people closest to you are likely to always be there for you.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 19, 24, 25, 30, 31

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

From today onwards, the professional front may look favourable. Nonetheless, careful financial management is required. You can expect a favourable outcome in an inheritance dispute involving an older piece of property. Keeping your cool and thinking realistically are both highly recommended in this situation.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 14, 25, 38, 40 Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Gemini natives can expect a period of relative calm. You need not fret over any potential health problems. Considering the extra measures you've taken, your financial situation may remain fine. Purchasing personal property from a relative can yield financial gains with careful planning and documentation.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 7, 25, 30, 32

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Cancer natives may remain popular for their originality and ability to come up with novel solutions to problems. Your professional and personal health are both likely to improve significantly. The stars are aligned for you to make crucial choices in both love and money. Cancerians are known to surprise their partners with thoughtful gestures and enjoyable experiences.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 7, 19, 25, 26, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

In order to avoid financial trouble, you should prioritize saving money. Your career is going to do fantastically. Purchasing a piece of real estate from a family member can be a good investment. Leo natives have every reason to be happy about their romantic prospects. It would be best if you did not wait any longer to say what's on your mind. *Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 20*

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You've been very watchful regarding your health, and the results of that care may become apparent today. Finances may be thriving, encouraging you to put more money into investments. Love may surround Virgo natives. But, don't wait for the stars to align before you spend quality time with your spouse or significant other.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 13, 16, 20, 24, 25

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Today, Libra natives' careers and finances may keep them satisfied and content. Libra individuals who intend to invest in movable property will almost certainly make a profit. Your romantic life might look a little complicated right now, but it's not. Maintain your composure and wait for the time to act.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 12, 19, 23, 30

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

In order to bring the family even closer together, someone needs to plan a small gathering. If you've been putting in the time and effort, you should start hearing some good professional news soon. Money-wise, things may improve as well. Your significant other might propose marriage to you.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 20, 21, 22, 29, 33

What's On

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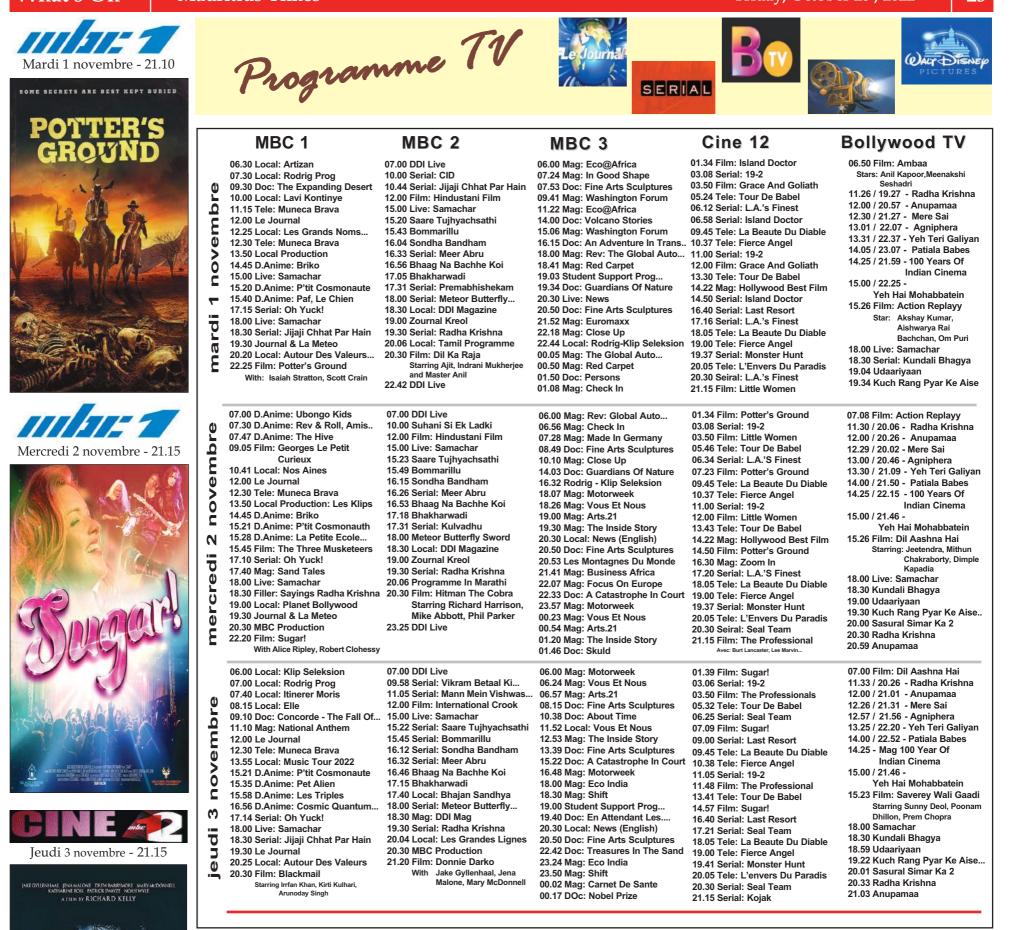


What's On

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Nita Chicooree-

Mercier

Tree of Knowledge Madisyn Taylor

Starting New A Moment Of Choice

We can choose to start over in this very moment, there is no need to wait for a new year or a new month or a new week.

There are times in our lives that lend themselves to starting something new. The beginning of a new year, finishing school, leaving a job, or changing homes -- these all are times that turn our minds to fresh starts. Their advantage is that they bring with them the energy of that event, creating a tide of change around them that we can ride to our next shoreline. But we can choose to start anew anytime. In any moment we can decide that a bad day or a relationship that's gotten off on the wrong foot can be started again. It is a mental shift that allows us to clean the slate and approach anything with fresh eves, and we can make that choice at any time.

Starting new is most powerful when we focus our attention to what we are choosing to create. Giving all of our attention to the unwanted aspects of our lives allows what we resist to persist. We need to remember to leave enough room in the process of new beginnings to be kind to ourselves, because it takes time to become accustomed to anything new, no matter how much we like it. There is no need to get down on ourselves if we don't reach our new goals instantly. Instead, we acknowledge the forward motion and choose to reset and start again, knowing that with each choice we learn, grow, and move forward.

Making the choice to start anew has its own energy -- it's a promise made to you. The forward momentum creates a sort of vacuum behind it, pulling toward you all you need to help you continue moving in your chosen direction. Once the journey has begun, it may take unexpected turns, but it never really ends. Like cycles in nature, there are periods of obvious growth and periods of dormancy that signal a time of waiting for the right moment to burst forth. Each time we choose to start anew we dedicate ourselves to becoming the best we are able to be.

En ce temps de commémoration des identités et cultures, la créolité est d'actualité, et l'héritage indien diversité dans sa ethnique et religieuse s'annonce comme chaque année. Les deux termes qui identifient les descendants depuis des siècles trouvent leur origine

dans la langue des navigateurs et colons portugais. Des termes étrangers au vocabulaire des principaux concernés qui ont perpétué, malgré eux, une définition identitaire importée.

Du Brésil aux Antilles aux îles de l'océan Indien, le concept de créolité a gagné du terrain pour inclure une vaste diaspora issue d'une rencontre forcée et tragique entre colons européens et ceux arrachés du continent africain. C'est en toute légitimité que les générations d'aujourd'hui se penchent sur un héritage commun qui a vu naître langues, chants, danses et coutumes engendrés par ces mélange et cohabitation ethniques et culturels. L'empreinte culturelle de l'héritage colonial est restée tenace et intacte au cours des siècles.

C'est un fait que les descendants, qui revendiquent une nouvelle identité, parlent avec les mots, suivent la religion et le code vestimentaire de leurs anciens maîtres jusqu'aujourd'hui. C'est dire la puissance de l'assimilation et de la domination sur les peuples colonisés. Au fil du temps, le discours universitaire émanant des pays colonisateurs, suivi par les chantres de la créolité dans les îles, s'est autorisé à incorporer toutes les composantes de la population sous la bannière de la 'créolité', selon la définition du dictionnaire.

Cette approche a plutôt bien réussi dans les sociétés où l'assimilation s'est imposée par le biais de l'éducation et des médias consentants, notamment dans les territoires français d'outre-mer.

Si la force de l'assimilation n'a laissé aucune marge de manœuvre aux anciens colonisés, tant étaient-ils coupés de leur pays d'origine en Afrique, la tentative de calquer le même discours de la définition identitaire aux autres ethnies et cultures a échoué, d'autant plus que le lien avec l'Inde, notamment, a toujours été soigneusement entretenu. Ces groupes entendent bien s'arroger le droit de se définir selon leur propre logique interne tout en reconnaissant le dynamisme d'une langue créole qui s'est imposée par sa vitalité et nouveauté, comme une langue commune.

Cependant, une vision romantique du kreol comme étant une langue riche, promue dans un certain discours, est loin d'être partagée par tout le monde. C'est aller vite en besogne car l'évolution d'une langue se



fait dans le temps, comme chacun le sait.

Diaspora indienne et langues

Une sensibilisation à la réalité sociale et politique est d'une importance capitale pour la diaspora.

Et cela, sans attendre un défi, une menace

Une langue, étant la colonne vertébrale d'une culture, ceux issus de l'immigration indienne devraient impérativement s'interroger sur l'avenir de l'apport de leur langue d'origine dans l'héritage culturel que leurs ancêtres ont perpétué dans les pays d'adoption. Quelle est la valeur d'une culture vidée de sa langue ? Cette question concerne aussi bien les groupes d'origine tamoule et gujarati fortement assimilés par la langue française dans les îles françaises que ceux qui vivent aux Antilles anglaises et aux Seychelles et à Maurice.

L'avenir du gujarati dans la jeune génération dans le milieu commerçant est incertain, à la Réunion, par exemple. L'enseignement de la langue tamoule est limité à une minorité pour prétendre l'élever au statut d'une langue vivante pratiquée par ses membres au bout de plus de deux siècles d'assimilation bientôt. De même, le hakka est à peine parlé par la jeune génération des gens d'origine chinoise. La survie de la langue 'arabe' des pays d'Afrique du Nord en Europe est en partie due à ses 40 à 50 ans d'existence.

Maurice est un exemple unique d'un pays indépendant avec une forte représentation des politiciens d'origine indienne qui a conservé l'enseignement des langues indiennes dans le système scolaire, mais où le kreol a fait reculer le bhojpuri, le tamoul et le hakka sans qu'aucune autorité interne à la communauté n'ait jugé utile de soulever les bonnes questions.

- 1. Quel avenir pour toutes les langues indiennes enseignées dans les établissements scolaires ?
- Suffit-il de comprendre ces langues grâce aux cours, aux films en hindi et aux cérémonies religieuses ?
- 3. Le bhojpuri parlé et compris aussi par les Musulmans, les Télégous et les

Marathis survivra-t-il longtemps s'il n'y a pas de véritable volonté de la rendre vivante et plus répandue

Actuellement, c'est grâce à la présence des travailleurs du Bangladesh et de l'Inde que certains Mauriciens ont l'occasion de pratiquer le hindi.

Aucune autorité extérieure au pays n'impose l'abandon des langues indiennes, le bhojpuri, le tamoul et le hindi, à la population. Cet abandon est dû à une absence de vision à long terme et une politique linguistique des autorités culturelles et politiques. C'est une situation assez grotesque dans une société en pleine mutation vers une modernité mal comprise où

les valeurs sont inversées. Et on parle ici des langues très riches issues d'une civilisation millénaire.

Récemment, après une cérémonie dans un hall de l'Arya Samaj, on abordait la question des langues dans la rue.

 Ma petite-fille de dix-huit ans me répond toujours en kréol lorsque je lui parle en bhojpuri, fait remarquer une dame, alors qu'elle comprend très bien le bhojpuri.

Et elle rajouta :

 C'est pour ça que le monde va mal. Tout est à l'envers.

Qu'en est-il à Fidji, en Guyane et au Trinidad ? Ici, on sait que c'est le théâtre de l'absurde où la conscience de la valeur de sa culture n'est pas profondément ancrée dans les esprits. Il a fallu une immense tragédie pour que les Juifs fassent revivre l'hébreu des cendres de l'oubli en se réunissant pour créer une nation avec une langue millénaire comme pilier de leur vieille culture.

Compte tenu du délitement, du degré de violence, de la criminalité et des substances illicites qui rongent la société mauricienne, il y a eu un sursaut qui a remis sur table la mise en place de *baitkas* pour enseigner la culture ces derniers temps.

Avec l'émergence de l'Inde, la matrice et source principale de l'héritage culturel, sur la scène mondiale, il faut espérer qu'il y a une prise de conscience au sein de la diaspora du rôle que ses membres entendent jouer de par leur contribution économique, culturelle et politique.

Dans un monde qui change vite et où les signaux ne sont pas trompeurs, une sensibilisation à la réalité sociale et politique est d'une importance capitale pour la diaspora. Et cela, sans attendre un choc, un défi, une menace et encore moins une tragédie pour réagir...