

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "You are free to make any decision you desire, but you aren't free from the consequences of those decisions" -- Lord Shiva



Interview : Jocelyn Chan Low

« Jugnauth ira certainement au bout de son mandat

Je vois mal ses lieutenants le désertier. Ils ne l'ont pas fait pendant l'affaire de sniffing; ils sont silencieux sur l'affaire Franklin »

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Whether there is a deliberate ploy by powerful forces in some international quarters to destabilise India's economic and financial clout at this particular juncture remains a matter for keen India-watchers

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Tragedy at Grand Bassin

The tragic accident that happened at Mare Longue along the Grand Bassin annual pilgrimage of Maha Shivaratree has claimed the lives of two or more pilgrims and left a number of others badly injured. It is quite possibly a horrific accident that could have been avoided. But as we share the grief of stricken families during this major spiritual event, as many do their best to express their solidarity with those who have to cope with such tragic losses and scars, now is not the time to apportion blame and point fingers. Nevertheless, and with these thoughts in mind, this tragedy calls for a few comments.

There is no denying that the organisation of the Maha Shivaratree religious and spiritual festival, which sees the participation of more than half of the local population and pilgrims as well as foreign tourists every year, has tremendously improved over the years thanks to the input of different socio-cultural associations, the State-sponsored Task Force, local and central authorities in terms of infrastructure upgradation, health and police logistics. Notwithstanding the riot of loud music, large crowds and traffic resulting in disturbances and jams that obtain on certain days, it is the remarkable week-long solidarity and hospitality that is extended round the clock to Maha Shivaratree pilgrims all the way to Grand Bassin and back all over the island that gives a special and perhaps unique cachet to the festival both in the Hindu fraternity and in Mauritius.

What is deplorable however is the unacceptable politicking that has quietly encroached into the religious sphere by ruling parties of the day down the years. One would recall the incident involving the Mangal Mahadev Shakti Swarooopa Assosiation - perceived to be close to an Opposition party in recent years, which saw the tent it had put up to conduct prayers pulled down on the ground that permission had not been sought from the Task Force. When the State is allowed or prodded to interfere into the religious field in this manner, that would open the way for the appropriation of the festival and its organisation by the powers that be.

Government's intervention should be limited to, among others, providing welfare and to protecting citizens by ensuring that the rules governing society are adhered to. When the rules are not respected in business, the consumer may be fleeced; on the streets, accidents happen - like the one that yesterday took the lives of the pilgrims carrying oversized kanwars. The devotion, time and funds that go into the making of kanwars over several months is remarkable and many might say that's a laudable way to harness the energies of the youths rather than loitering by shopping malls, but rules, in particular traffic and other rules, have to be enforced.

On the other hand, one has to go back to history when the pilgrimage was started and during years when the downtrodden were firmly under the thumb of numerous injustices of colonial administration, it gained its deep-rooted legitimacy as a unifying force, blending the internal and spiritual meanings with solidarities born of common hardships. While in India other popular religious festivals gathered and united the faithful against the colonial oppressor (the Ganesh festival for instance in Maharashtra), the great night of Shiva has retained its austere and spiritual flavour of fasting, prayers and devotion, across most of that continent. Little did the visionary Mauritian Hindu forebears doubt that one day Ganga Talao and its annual procession followed by temple prayers would become such a quintessential part of being Mauritian across cultures and beliefs.

It is time to better manage the impressive success of the Maha Shivaratree and more particularly its 'débordements'. We trust the various associations of the community, beyond the immediate period of grief, can get together for a *cahier des charges* of the spiritual, religious and solidarity levels of meaning that should meet consensus and where politicking and fawning on human idols stay in check. Numerous factors have to be thought through and new approaches (like those pioneered by Ecroignard youths perhaps) forged that better respect and share our lively traditions.

The Conversation

Why populism has an enduring and ominous appeal

Populism has been unleashed. We're beyond the stop-gap measures of small-step reform or pragmatic centrist liberalism. What's next? We're about to find out.



Protesters, supporters of Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro, storm the National Congress building in Brasilia on Jan. 8, 2023. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres, File)

Populism Won? The War On Liberal Democracy, these populist shock-and-awe tactics are a brazen attempt to personalize authority under the cliché of "po-wer to the people." They also cause citizens to lose sight of what's important as they bicker over the newest scandal.

Conspiracy theories, lies

Polarization is not a side effect of populism, but rather its mainspring.

Max Weber, the founder of modern sociology, once argued that charismatic politicians are seen by their followers as saviours and heroes.

But they are just as likely to be charlatans and swindlers.

Whether you blame social media or inequality, contemporary citizens seem to want political horse races and big personalities — at least that's the conventional wisdom. Engage your disgruntled followers with big ideas on TikTok!

It would be bad enough if culture war clashes were just so much entertainment. But politicians that include former British prime minister Boris Johnson in the UK and American Sen. Josh Hawley appeal to the working classes — the masses of people without much money who turn out to vote.

Their alpha male leadership styles are built on audacious attacks on the legitimacy of free, open and equitable societies.

The public watches in amazement as these leaders espouse terrible beliefs about immigrants, refugees and sexual minorities that only bigots used to say in private.

As we examine in our book Has

Populists know that in highly polarized societies, a photo finish is still a win. So candidates fight like hell, using every tool at their disposal to win — conspiracy theories, outright lies and of course, obscene amounts of money.

Disenchanted voters support populists because conservatives have thrown off the shackles of modern political messaging. Extremism cuts through the noise of the news cycle and connects with the base.

Pierre Poilievre, Canada's newly elected Conservative leader, is an example. He's riding the wave of the so-called Freedom Convoy, anti-vaxxers and the far-right wing of his party and following the template that has worked so well for populist governments across the globe.

But his free speech persona, like every other authoritarian, is carefully constructed.

Italy's Giorgia Meloni is an instructive example of this careful construction.

Daniel Drache, York University, Canada; Marc D. Froese, Burman University

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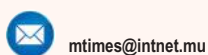
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Happy Maha Shivratri

On the auspicious day of
Maha Shivratri
may the Lord answer all your prayers
and bless you with a happy life

Mauritius Times



India Inc: Hit Jobs & Destabilisation

Whether there is a deliberate ploy by powerful forces in some international quarters to destabilise India's economic and financial clout at this particular juncture remains a matter for keen India-watchers

Jan Arden

Last week's opinion piece was centred on the short-selling attack by Hindenburg on Gautam Adani and his powerful financial Group. While some in the Indian Opposition and, in particular, the Indian National Congress (INC), have come out all guns blazing against the Adani Group, suspected to have helped and benefited from India's infrastructure and manufacturing push over the Modi years, there has been no evidence adduced that such corporate growth has been achieved by cutting corners or playing fast and loose with the laws of the land.

Raucous demands from Rahul Gandhi for a fishing expedition to investigate the rise of the Adani Group on the basis of highly speculative innuendos and allegations from inside the Lok Sabha, have received short shrift from a generally placid Speaker, ordering him to provide before the 15th of February any evidence substantiating his allegations, failing which disciplinary actions, such as expunging large parts of the querulous rants in his speech on the budget, could not be excluded. As usual, unfortunately for an Opposition that prefers noise to substance, it gives the impression of giving preference to very dubious overseas reports or media attacks over the country's own institutions, be they the army fighting hostile forces and losing valiant soldiers to ensure national security, or financial and fraud investigation agencies doing their job. The fact that the Directorate of Enforcement (equivalent of our ICAC) has been probing and taking the Gandhi family to court in the *National Herald* case may be just part of the broader narrative that is emerging.

The release of the wide-ranging 'Mood of the Nation' January 2023 (*India Today*) survey has confirmed PM Modi's commanding stature in Indian minds and hearts, weathering out the Ambani-Rafale allegations, the pandemic distress and the associated economic turmoil, the demonetisation difficulties, the border threats from China or cross-border terror infiltration from Pakistan. Nine years of BJP rule at the Centre and in several states, has not dented the PM's popularity (72% or close to pre-pandemic levels) nor the prospects of another sweeping BJP triumph (284 seats against 191 to the INC) should general elections be held today.

Anti-Modi rants

Some analysts feel that the perspective of another six to seven years of economic development trajectory and steadfast nationalism that the BJP has espoused, have worried many quarters inimical or overtly hostile to India's strategic interests, far more than PM Modi's presidency of the G20 or its economic clout as the world's fifth largest economy with a buoyant rate of growth forecast for this and coming few years. These quarters find a welcoming abode in the *Wall Street Journal*, part of Rupert Murdoch's media empire, or in the paternalism of some press agencies in the UK replete with anti-Modi rants from disgruntled INC agents or "shoddy journalism", as alleged by British Tory MP Robert Blackman as



Tax-evasion investigation on BBC. Pic- WION

he slammed the BBC pseudo-documentary on PM Modi. The latest twist has the Indian tax authorities landing at BBC offices in Mumbai and Delhi for alleged violations of some taxation provisions that have been unsatisfactorily answered to over the past year.

We recall in a similar vein, that the high and mighty of moral values and principles like Amnesty and Greenpeace, raised their haughty nose and packed out of India when similarly queried for tax information on their operations inside India. In 2021, the Indian authorities attracted attention by calling on social media platforms operating in India to follow the law of the land: the government wanted certain handles blocked for spreading incendiary communal content. "We respect criticism... you can criticise even the Prime Minister," said Minister of IT and Communications Ravi Shankar Prasad, "but if social media is used to propagate hate, then action will be taken." The usual motley crowd of rattled Indian observers had painted this as another assault on democracy.

BBC tax investigation

In the BBC tax investigation, without even waiting for any report on financial misdemeanours which the BBC seems to have acknowledged, the Congress leader has termed this as nothing less than an "undeclared emergency". The BJP had the easy task to remind Indians

"It is reported that the Adani Group has entrusted a respected US legal powerhouse to investigate Hindenburg's report and the immense casualties it has caused to millions of investors and to Adani Group itself for potential damages. There are nagging questions as to who were really behind the short-seller, discredited and banned from US and UK stock exchanges. Some insider reports have it that one or more large US banks and several major Indian companies were primed and poised to pounce on tumbling Adani shares shortly after the Hindenburg high-profile release. Answers to these questions may take time to be resolved and although they may not budge the Indian electorate, they might have been intended to hurt the country's growth trajectory..."

that Indra Gandhi had kicked the Beeb out of India for two years during the seventies and brand as anti-national the current version of the grand old party led by the Gandhi family. Allegations, images and questions were rapidly raised about the secret MOU that Rahul Gandhi, on behalf of the INC, signed with the Chinese Communist Party under the gaze of Sonia Gandhi and then CCP Deputy Chief Xi Ping. There have also been unproven allegations that international anti-Indian media and journos receive secret CCP funding and/or the overseas Pakistani diaspora who looted that country's riches.

Whether there is a deliberate ploy by powerful forces in some international quarters to destabilise India's economic and financial clout at this particular juncture or the prospect of another unhindered BJP and Modi-Shah rule remains a matter for keen India-watchers, but neutral observers cannot be entirely happy that standard international flag-bearers may have a sly or open but consistent anti-India or anti-Modi slant or by deliberate hit-jobs against the powerhouses of India's economic drive forward.

One year away from general elections, the Indian electorate in its diverse democratic set-up, has learnt to live with such disinformation and if the 'Mood of the Nation' survey is correctly reflected in the 140,000 interviewees across all strata and regions of India, they merely shrug off the stir raised in the Anglophile Indian press and New Delhi circles (like New Delhi TV) fretting at their inability to dent the Modi image or unsettle the BJP electoral caravan as 2024 approaches.



Pic - assets.telegraphindia.com

Hindenburg's casualties

Returning to the Adani narrative, it is reported that the Group has entrusted a respected US legal powerhouse to investigate Hindenburg's report and the immense casualties it has caused to millions of investors and to Adani Group itself for potential damages. There are nagging questions as to who were really behind the short-seller, discredited and banned from US and UK stock exchanges. Some insider reports have it that one or more large US banks and several major Indian companies were primed and poised to pounce on tumbling Adani shares shortly after the Hindenburg high-profile release.

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Trafic de drogue et financement des partis politiques

Par A. Bartleby

L'affaire Franklin ne cesse de livrer son lot de questions et d'interrogations. Et plus nous avançons, plus nous semblons nous diriger vers l'ouverture d'une boîte de Pandore qu'aucun parti politique ne voudrait voir ouverte: celle du financement des campagnes électorales.

En effet, comment est-ce qu'un politicien ou un parti politique est aujourd'hui capable de donner la garantie que chaque Roupie qu'il reçoit provient de sources claires et parfaitement légales? Au vu de la multitude des sources de financement et du manque de contrôle sur le financement des élections, il serait ridicule de penser que cette garantie pourrait être donnée de manière sérieuse.



Il faut arrêter de se leurrer sur ce problème du financement des partis politiques. Les élections coûtent extrêmement chères à Maurice

Il faut arrêter de se leurrer sur ce problème du financement des partis politiques. Les élections coûtent extrêmement chères à Maurice. Il y a plusieurs raisons à cela: les tracts, les billboards, les oriflammes, la logistique des transports, la cantine pour ravitailler les agents, etc., coûtent extrêmement cher. Si nous rajoutons à cela les équipes pour le management des réseaux sociaux, l'organisation des meetings ou encore la location des salles pour les rassemblements, nous nous retrouvons rapidement avec des budgets colossaux.

Il y a également une autre raison à la cherté des élections à Maurice: les sollicitations constantes des électeurs, nombre d'entre eux voyant dans les élections le moyen de se remplir un peu les poches. Cela produit un cercle vicieux qu'il faut au plus vite briser. D'un côté, l'électeur a compris que son vote était comme une marchandise qui pouvait être vendue une fois tous les 5 ans, et de l'autre certains politiciens n'hésitent pas à entrer dans les négociations d'achat de ces votes. À partir de là, il est facile de deviner comment la logique des surenchères peut se mettre en place.

Des partis sans existence juridique

Comment donc briser ce cercle vicieux? À travers une série de mesures qu'il devient urgent de mettre en place, à commencer par un cadre juridique pour la régulation des partis politiques. En effet, comment se fait-il que les partis politiques n'aient pas d'existence juridique? Dans notre système actuel, un parti politique n'existe littéralement pas – ou plutôt il existe uniquement pendant le temps de la campagne électorale lorsqu'il est enregistré auprès de la commission électorale.

Or, si un parti politique n'existe pas, comment peut-il

être contrôlé par les institutions de régulation financière? Comment est-ce que l'exécutif d'un parti politique peut avoir accès aux comptes en banque du parti? Sans existence juridique, il ne faudrait pas s'étonner à ce que l'on retrouve des coffres-forts chez certains leaders politiques, et il ne faudrait pas s'étonner à ce que les personnes qui détiennent les coffres-forts soient – de facto – les propriétaires des partis.

Ainsi, l'existence juridique des partis politiques relève de la démocratisation même du système, le manque de cadre juridique étant la raison principale de la privatisation des partis politiques – que ces partis politiques aient des Constitutions ou non, d'ailleurs.

Mais revenons au financement des élections. Nous sommes, en fait, en face d'une réalité comptable implacable. Les politiciens ont besoin d'argent pour les campagnes électorales. Ils ont même besoin de beaucoup d'argent au vu de l'attente de très nombreux électeurs, dit-on. Comment donc s'attendre à ce qu'ils refusent du financement? Miser sur la moralité ne suffit pas – pas dans un pays où *'moralité pas rempli ventre'* comme le disait l'autre. Il faut un système qui puisse briser la cherté des élections, et ce système existe dans un certain nombre de pays - et notamment les pays très développés.

On pourrait, par exemple, s'inspirer du modèle français où l'État finance les dépenses électorales entièrement. Cela permettrait d'imposer des limites et des plafonds clairs aux dépenses, avec des pénalités graves – comme une disqualification totale du parti pour les élections – aux partis qui entraveraient ces règles. Mais une telle réforme appelle également à une réforme de la Commission électorale, qui doit devenir absolument indépendante, à commencer par avoir l'indépendance de décider de la date des élections. Il faudrait également mettre en place l'équivalent d'un cours des comptes indépendant, dont la fonction serait d'auditer le financement des partis politiques – avec le pouvoir de la poursuite pénale s'il le faut.

Sans des mesures aussi drastiques et sévères, le lien entre politique et financement occulte ne sera pas brisé. Ce lien est devenu organique aujourd'hui au regard des logiques électorales à Maurice, et c'est uniquement par des décisions courageuses et tranchantes que nous pourrions défaire les noces entre politiques et mafieux.

* * *

Pèlerinage endeuillé

Le fait marquant de cette semaine aura été le drame qui s'est déroulé aux alentours de Grand Bassin jeudi après-midi.

Il est maintenant absolument essentiel qu'un tel drame ne se reproduise plus en arrêtant la surenchère des kanwars et en imposant des normes et des limites précises.

Comme tout véhicule qui emprunte les routes, des limites de hauteurs et de largeurs se doivent d'être imposées. Plusieurs formules peuvent être trouvées, avec la possibilité que les autorités émettent des permis pour les grands kanwars qui utilisent des roues pour se déplacer.



Ce sera aux autorités de définir et de délimiter les normes, en espérant la coopération de tous les groupes socioculturels.

Aux familles endeuillées, nos plus sincères condoléances.

* * *

Lauréats: système élitiste ?

La cuvée des lauréats de cette année n'aura pas manqué de faire parler. C'est d'ailleurs devenu une tradition de nos jours, où les réseaux sociaux sont tout aussi la scène des félicitations que celle des questionnements par rapport à un système qui semble être devenu désuet.

Après tout, il est permis au 'taxpayer' de se demander s'il y a un retour réel sur son investissement par rapport à ce qu'il dépense pour ses boursiers? Cette question est légitime et une réponse se doit d'être donnée. Est-il aujourd'hui rationnel et raisonnable que les Mauriciens financent des étudiants qui ont la liberté de ne pas rentrer au pays, et ainsi participer à la fuite des cerveaux?



Le système des lauréats et l'exode des cerveaux

Répondre à cette question impliquerait de pouvoir répondre à des questions plus vastes. Quel est l'impact des lauréats sur la croissance économique du pays? À combien évalue-t-on le nombre de points de croissance que les lauréats ramènent à Maurice? Quelle est leur influence sur la culture et la société mauricienne? Deviennent-ils, dans le long terme, des leaders nationaux et des 'drivers' de l'innovation et du changement? Est-ce que ce système, que certains décrivent comme "élitiste", sert vraiment les intérêts de Maurice en matière de développement économique et social, ou bien permet-il tout simplement à certains individus de fuir le pays sur le compte du 'taxpayer'?

Consciente de ce problème, la ministre de l'Éducation a exhorté les lauréats à revenir au pays après leurs études. C'est bien de parler, mais c'est mieux d'agir. Ainsi, elle aurait bien mieux fait de proposer une réforme du système qui obligerait les boursiers à rentrer travailler pour le pays pour une durée déterminée - comme c'est le cas dans d'autres pays.

Il s'agit là de questions valables mais qui doivent aussi s'accompagner d'un autre questionnement. En effet, il est ici également intéressant et pertinent de questionner ce que nous qualifions d'élite à Maurice, et se demander si le système des lauréats est aussi élitiste et représentatif de la bonne santé de l'ascenseur social qu'on le croit.

En effet, il est aujourd'hui aisé de constater que la véritable élite du pays - l'élite économique, entrepreneuriale et sociale - n'est pas issue du système des lauréats... Cette élite n'est d'ailleurs même pas issue du système des écoles publiques ou confessionnelles. Cette élite occupe un territoire socio-économique dont l'accès semble même être devenu impossible pour le Mauricien lambda.

Elle habite des mondes clos, envoie ses enfants dans des écoles privées et dans les universités les plus chères du monde, se déplace dans des voitures ultra-luxueuses,

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Lauréats: système élitiste ?

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voyage exclusivement en classe affaires, se soigne dans les cliniques privées, fait son marché dans les épiceries fines, parle notre supposée langue maternelle uniquement avec son personnel, a des passions et des loisirs complètement inaccessibles à l'immense majorité, possède de l'immobilier et des investissements dans des pays étrangers, et socialise avec les élites mondiales.

L'élite mauricienne est devenue une élite entièrement globalisée aujourd'hui, des citoyens du monde même. Et c'est aussi en face de cette réalité sociale que nous devons nous demander ce que vaut vraiment le système des lauréats. Est-il apte à faire boussuler l'ordre social? Est-il capable de produire des individus qui peuvent porter un projet de transformation sociale pour Maurice? Est-il vraiment le signe de la réussite nationale et le symbole que l'ascenseur social se porte bien?

Rien n'est moins sûr.

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L'âge de la retraite en France – comme la pension de vieillesse et les congés payés — est le résultat de grandes luttes syndicales historiques

Réforme des retraites en France et bombe à retardement

Cela fait plusieurs semaines maintenant que les grèves et les appels à la mobilisation se succèdent en France. La raison à cela: les réformes des retraites que souhaite faire passer Emmanuel Macron et sa Première ministre Elisabeth Borne. Il s'agit là d'un projet phare de Macron qui a promis qu'il ira jusqu'au bout de cette réforme, même si des amendements conséquents au projet initial ont déjà été mis en place.

L'âge de la retraite en France – comme la pension de vieillesse et les congés payés — est le résultat de grandes luttes syndicales historiques. Et ces acquis sont ce qui donne aux divers syndicats français une voix prépondérante dans l'espace politique alors qu'ils ne représentent que 8% des salariés.

Cette réforme des retraites vient d'un constat simple: la population française vieillit alors que le taux de natalité n'augmente pas – plafonnant aux alentours de 11% à 12%. Il est donc essentiel de travailler plus longtemps afin de contrer les effets économiques du vieillissement de la population sur le coût des retraites et de la Sécurité sociale; d'autant plus que les progrès des systèmes de santé et de solidarité ont fait que l'espérance de vie a grandement augmenté ces dernières décennies, atteignant 85 ans pour les femmes et 79 ans pour les hommes aujourd'hui.

La problématique du vieillissement de la population va peser de plus en plus lourd dans la gestion des politiques et des institutions publiques. Les effets concernent tout autant les problèmes de financement des retraites et de la santé que les problèmes de main-d'œuvre et de producti-

tivité. Et Maurice ne sera absolument pas épargné par ces problèmes.

En effet, selon les données de Statistics Mauritius, 237 200 Mauriciens étaient âgés de plus de 60 ans en 2021, ce qui constituait 18,7% de la population. Et la tendance est posée, avec une logique implacable selon une étude de la très sérieuse United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs qui démontre que la population mauricienne commencera à être en décroissance à partir de 2035.

Nous sommes ainsi assis sur une bombe à retardement. Le problème démographique structurera d'importants changements dans nos politiques publiques et nous devons absolument nous y préparer. Financement des retraites, financement du système de santé, une jeunesse qui va devoir produire plus pour pouvoir financer tout cela, une politique migratoire clairement définie, des investissements dans l'automatisation du travail, le développement d'industries de loisirs pour les seniors, etc... Le chantier est immense et doit se préparer dès aujourd'hui.

* * *

Rapport de la Human Rights Watch sur les Chagos

La Human Rights Watch vient de publier un rapport accablant pour le Royaume-Uni. En effet, ce rapport accuse la Grande-Bretagne et les États-Unis de crime contre l'humanité dans la déportation forcée de la population chagossienne, qui a plongé cette dernière dans une situation d'exclusion et de misère atroce. De plus, l'ONG considère que le Royaume-Uni a commis deux autres crimes contre l'humanité en empêchant le retour des Chagossiens – et ce, malgré le verdict de la Cour internationale de Justice de la Hague – et les persécutions raciales contre ces derniers.

Le rapport fait également deux recommandations importantes: que les Chagossiens qui ont souffert de la déportation forcée touchent des dommages et intérêts et que certains individus soient poursuivis par une cour pénale pour crime contre l'humanité.

Il s'agit, bien évidemment, d'un rapport d'une ONG qui n'a aucune force de loi. Mais ses conclusions sont extrêmement dommageables pour le Royaume-Uni, et viennent certainement renforcer la posture mauricienne dans la négociation qui est actuellement engagée. D'ailleurs, le PMO a immédiatement émis un communiqué remerciant la Human Rights Watch et soulignant que le gouvernement mauricien «will carefully consider its recommendations».

Nous pouvons d'ailleurs deviner que ce rapport a dû être au centre de la conversation téléphonique que Pravind Jugnauth a tenue avec son homologue britannique Rishi Sunak mercredi dernier. Nous ne savons pas grand-chose des négociations qui sont actuellement en cours.



Human Rights Watch accuse la Grande-Bretagne et les États-Unis de crime contre l'humanité dans la déportation forcée de la population chagossienne

Nous savons seulement qu'elles avancent rapidement et que les deux gouvernements, mauricien et britannique, souhaitent trouver une solution le plus rapidement possible.

Il est fou de penser que les Américains accepteraient de quitter Diego Garcia, cette base étant devenue encore plus importante pour sécuriser ses intérêts régionaux, notamment dans le contexte de plus en plus affirmé d'une guerre froide avec la Chine. À partir de là, une seule solution existe vraiment pour nous si nous souhaitons faire aboutir la négociation: accepter la solution américaine que la rente soit reversée à l'État mauricien.

Accepter cette solution pourrait effectivement accélérer les négociations et si ces dernières aboutissent, cela constituerait un immense booste pour notre économie. Et il est facile de deviner que ce booste économique pourrait bien être le joker de l'actuel gouvernement pour les prochaines législatives, lui donnant d'immenses moyens financiers pour la mise en place de tout un ensemble de politiques sociales et économiques.

Si c'est vraiment le cas, alors il se pourrait alors que ce soit la négociation pour le retour des Chagos qui dicte le calendrier électoral.

Affaire à suivre.

* * *



Commande record d'avions de ligne à Airbus et à Boeing

L'art du non-alignement géopolitique: Commande historique d'Air India

Nous avons appris cette semaine qu'Air India avait passé une commande record d'avions de ligne à Airbus et à Boeing. Le constructeur européen devance légèrement l'Américain avec 250 avions contre 220, pour une commande totale atteignant près de \$34 milliards. La Maison Blanche a même annoncé que le deal incluait une option pour 70 avions supplémentaires si Air India décidait d'étendre sa commande.

L'Inde deviendra le pays le plus peuplé du monde en avril de cette année, avec une puissante classe moyenne qui émerge, et dont le pouvoir d'achat constitue un potentiel économique pharaonique. Le marché intérieur indien est ainsi en pleine expansion, et Air India change de fusil d'épaule en affichant sa volonté de devancer son concurrent Indigo pour les lignes intérieures.

Nous voyons là, en fait, encore une fois, l'application directe du changement de politique internationale du gouvernement de Modi - changement évoqué dans ces mêmes colonnes la semaine dernière.

En effet, l'Inde devient maître dans l'art du non-alignement géopolitique, défendant uniquement ses intérêts propres avec le pragmatisme le plus absolu.

Ainsi, cette commande vient non seulement permettre l'expansion des activités d'Air India, mais elle vient également rassurer les États-Unis et l'Union européenne - à la suite des importants achats de pétrole russe - sur les intentions de coopération de la Grande Péninsule envers ses alliés occidentaux.

A. Bartleby

European civil war, Provocative incidents, Belligerence...

World War III has already begun

TP Saran

Under the title 'The new European civil war' in the online publication *Social Europe* of 6th February 2023 Guido Montani, professor of international political economy at the University of Pavia and former president of the European Federalist Movement in Italy, almost admonishes the powers that be with his opening remarks:

'The first and second world wars have been considered by many intellectuals and politicians "European civil wars". The process of European unification was based on a widespread sentiment: no more wars in Europe.

'Russia's invasion of Ukraine has reopened those wounds. The Russo-Ukrainian war is becoming chronic and the spectre of a world war can be glimpsed on the horizon: the west against Russia, China and other allies. The Nobel Peace Prize recognition awarded to the European Union in 2012, for having transformed a continent of war into a continent of peace, seems unjustified today.'

As if oblivious of the billions living below the poverty line and the devastating impacts being wrought by the many natural catastrophes that keep occurring all over the world – the latest being the earthquake in Turkey with almost 33,000 deaths and over 80,000 injured (till Tuesday last) – geopolitical power plays have not stopped. Ukraine has morphed from flashpoint into a bitterly fought theatre of civil war, but there are other hotspots that threaten to scale up to war proportions by deliberate design.

Take the case of the 3-bus size large Chinese balloon that was shot down off the south-east coast of the US after floating for nearly a week over US territory starting from Alaska. The Chinese have maintained that it was a scientific weather balloon, not a spy one as was being averred by the US. Suspicions strengthened about the real purpose of the balloon when it was revealed that another balloon starting from China had followed a route to South America. In the ensuing days, four



'The spectre of a world war can be glimpsed on the horizon'. Pic - Alternative History

“World War III has already begun, according to one of France's leading intellectuals, Emmanuel Todd, an anthropologist, sociologist, and historian who currently works in France's National Institute of Demographic Studies. In his view, 'It is evident that the conflict, initially a limited territorial war, has evolved into a global economic confrontation between the whole West on one side, and Russia, backed by China, on the other. It has become a world war'...”

more UFOs have been shot down on the order of the US and Canada. Without admitting that theirs was a spy balloon, the Chinese have reacted further by accusing the US too of sending spy balloons over China, without mentioning whether they have too shot anyone down.

As the saying goes though, there is nothing new under the sun. Thus, many will recall the U2 Gary Powers incident, as Wikipedia notes: On 1 May 1960, a United States U-2 spy plane was shot down by the Soviet Air Defence Forces while conducting photographic aerial reconnaissance deep inside Soviet territory. The single-seat aircraft, flown by American pilot Francis Gary Powers, had taken off from Peshawar, Pakistan, and crashed near Sverdlovsk (present-day Yekaterinburg), after being hit by an S-75 Dvina (SA-2 Guideline) surface-to-air missile. Powers parachuted to the ground safely and was captured.

“What is of great concern when there are so many flashpoints is that there is no predicting when a spark will explode into a conflagration that drags the whole world down the hellhole of war. It may not be like the spark that set off World War I, which 'came on June 28, 1914, when a young Serbian patriot shot and killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire (Austria), in the city of Sarajevo. Within a month the Austrian army invaded Serbia. As a result of the military alliances that had formed throughout Europe, the entire continent was soon engulfed in war...'”

'Initially, American authorities acknowledged the incident as the loss of a civilian weather research aircraft operated by NASA, but were forced to admit the mission's true purpose a few days later after the Soviet government produced the captured pilot and parts of the U-2's surveillance equipment, including photographs of Soviet military bases.'

Spying on each other by the world's powers is old game. Nowadays they have more sophisticated tools at their disposal, and these are constantly being refined so as to outdo those of the adversary – clearly a never-ending endeavour. Now that one game is up, between the US and China, how and where it will end is anybody's guess. But one thing is certain: it sets back the hope of world peace, if ever that is at all possible.

The prospect will recede further as long as there are countries that do not want to live at peace with their neighbours. In addition to the other endemic conflict zones in the Middle East (Yemen, Syria), the chronic Palestinian-Israeli antagonism is a live volcano that erupts frequently. Chinese belligerence has quashed Hong Kong's aspirations, and the new hot points are Taiwan and the South China Sea.

On the other hand, China and Pakistan seem to have allied to bleed

India by a thousand cuts – with incessant cross-border terrorism on the western side in Kashmir by the latter, and incursions on the Eastern side by the former, in Ladakh and Arunachal respectively.

What is of great concern when there are so many flashpoints is that there is no predicting when a spark will explode into a conflagration that drags the whole world down the hellhole of war. It may not be like the spark that set off World War I, which 'came on June 28, 1914, when a young Serbian patriot shot and killed Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire (Austria), in the city of Sarajevo. The assassin was a supporter of the Kingdom of Serbia, and within a month the Austrian army invaded Serbia. As a result of the military alliances that had formed throughout Europe, the entire continent was soon engulfed in war. Because European nations had numerous colonies around the world, the war soon became a global conflict.'

Guido Montani feels that 'as long as the war in Europe continues, the world arms race will intensify, including in nuclear weapons,' with disastrous consequences on the global front.

However, World War III has already begun, according to one of France's leading intellectuals, Emmanuel Todd, an anthropologist, sociologist, and historian who currently works in France's National Institute of Demographic Studies. In his view, 'It is evident that the conflict, initially a limited territorial war, has evolved into a global economic confrontation between the whole West on one side, and Russia, backed by China, on the other. It has become a world war.'

It is noteworthy that Todd had 'predicted the fall of the Soviet Union in 1976' and had 'previously warned of the collapse of American hegemony in his 2001 book 'After the Empire: The Breakdown of the American Order' and has said that the Russian economy's resistance to sanctions was pushing "the American imperial system" toward the precipice.'

Further, he has 'also claimed that both Russia and the US see no real exit from the conflict due to the stakes involved' and 'this is why we are now in an endless war, in a confrontation whose outcome must be the collapse of one or the other.'

We are certainly living in most perilous times. Whether things will get worse before they get better is impossible to say. What we must ardently hope for is that greater realism prevails among the warring powers, for their own sake and that of the world's people. But do they, indeed, care?



US President Joe Biden delivers his State of the Union address. Pic - Jacaranda FM

Joe Biden to undergo medical checkup ahead of 2024 presidential bid

US president Joe Biden will complete a routine medical checkup, the White House informed promising to release the health report by the 80-year-old president's doctor. The report was also released in 2021 after Joe Biden's previous health check-up.

The health check-up comes ahead of Joe Biden's expected bid for reelection in 2024. He is the oldest-ever US president. The report will also be scrutinized closely as the Republican 2024 campaign has already kicked off.

Joe Biden had earlier suggested that he intends to run for the position again amid poor poll ratings, potentially face off his predecessor Donald Trump again who has already announced his candidacy, reports Hindustan Times.

Last medical checkup

Joe Biden's last checkup was on November 19, 2021 during which he underwent a complete examination, including a colonoscopy under general anesthesia. During the checkup, he transferred his powers for one hour and 25 minutes to US vice president Kamala Harris, making her the first woman in US history to hold the presidential prerogative.

Joe Biden's doctor, Kevin O'Connor, had then said that Joe Biden is fit to carry out his presidential duties but also pointed to his stiffer gait, mild nerve condition affecting his feet and a frequent cough caused by gastroesophageal reflux.

Now spy balloons used by Russia? Ukraine says 'objects' flying over Kyiv

Russian "spy balloons" have been shot down over Kyiv, Ukrainian officials have said. Six balloons, which could have been carrying reconnaissance equipment, were spotted over the capital, Ukraine's military administration said on Telegram as per Sky News.

However it did not specify when the spy balloons flew over Kyiv, although air alerts were issued in the city. Ukrainian air force spokesperson Yuriy Ihnat confirmed that air raid sirens had sounded in the capital due to balloons flying overhead, reports Hindustan Times.

This comes as so-called spy balloons have made headlines in recent days after the US accused China of running a "high-altitude balloon programme" for intelligence gathering. On February 4, an American fighter jet shot down what it described as a Chinese spy balloon. China said the balloon was an unmanned weather airship that was accidentally blown off course and that the US overreacted by using an F-22 jet to bring down the object.

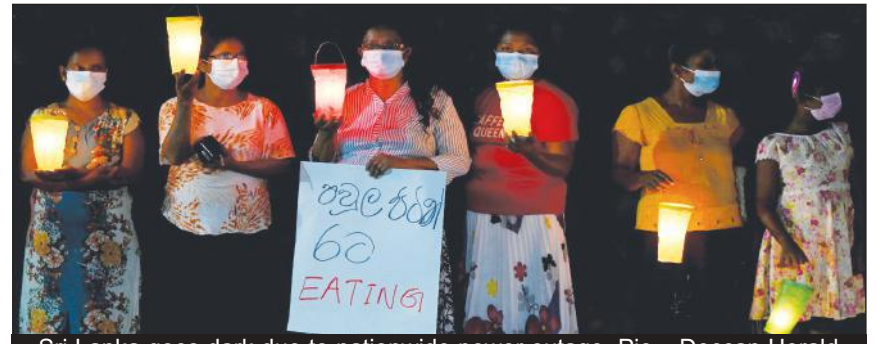
Sri Lanka hikes power prices by 66% in a bid to gain IMF support

Sri Lanka raised electricity prices by 66% on Thursday, in a move the government hopes will persuade the International Monetary Fund to provide a bailout for its crisis stricken economy.

The increase, announced by Power and Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera, comes after the government raised electricity prices by 75 percent last year, and adds to the pain of Sri Lankans already struggling with inflation above 54% year-on-year in January and income taxes as high as 36% percent, reports Reuters.

An official at the monopoly Ceylon Electricity Board confirmed the scale of the price increase.

The IMF agreed to loan Sri Lanka \$2.9 billion in September to overcome its worst financial crisis in



Sri Lanka goes dark due to nationwide power outage. Pic - Deccan Herald

seven decades, but the deal comes with conditions that include raising taxes, removing subsidies and cutting public sector debt.

The government of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who took over after mass protests against economic mismanagement ousted his predecessor last year, desperately needs the funds and has been

courting multilateral agencies for support since taking office in July.

Wijesekera said the price increase would help the power ministry offset the gap caused by the cessation of government subsidies from January, and also help better manage long-term fuel contracts.

Inflation hit a record 73.7 percent in September last year.

Imran Khan says Pakistan is at the same place where Sri Lanka was

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan addressed the nation amid the ongoing economic crisis in the country.

Attacking the Shehbaz Sharif government over inflation, Imran Khan said that the situation in Pakistan is like treating cancer with disprin as the country is in the same place as Sri Lanka was before the recent civil unrest, reports Hindustan Times.

"Pakistan's situation is like this - cancer is being treated with disprin. Pakistan is plunging into more chaos and is at the same place where Sri Lanka was," Imran Khan said, warning, "The situation will become more fragile."

On inflation, Imran Khan said, "The inflation marchers have increased the price of flour, ghee, dal, chicken and



Pakistan economic crisis. Pic - Dhaka Tribune

other essential items many folds. We all have to fight together as one nation for true freedom because the chains of slavery never fall automatically. The chains have to be broken."

Pakistan has increased the price of petrol to a record high of PKR 272 per litre, while diesel price has been hiked by PKR 17.20 to PKR 280 per litre, Geo TV reported.



A missile trace is seen in the sky above Kyiv Wednesday. Pic - Reuters

Indian-American Nikki Haley formally launches her 2024 presidential bid

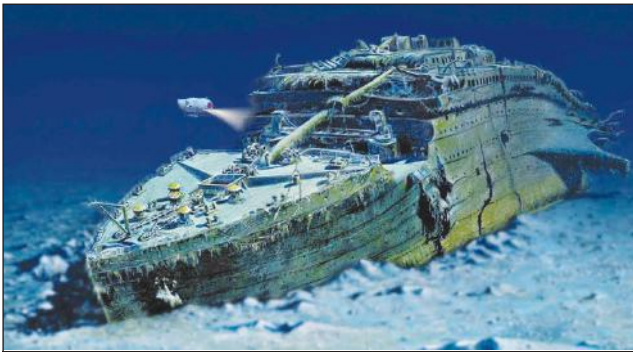
Indian-origin Republican leader Nikki Haley formally launched her 2024 presidential bid on Wednesday, casting herself as a younger, fresher alternative to her one-time boss and former US President Donald Trump.

Haley, 51, is the two-term Governor of South Carolina and the former US Ambassador to the United Nations.

Addressing her enthusiastic supporters at an event here in South Carolina, she declared: "For a strong America... For a proud America... I am running for President of the United States of America!"

Before entering the presidential ballot, Haley has to win the Republican Party's presidential primary which will start in January next year. The next US presidential election is scheduled to be held on November 5, 2024.

* Contd on page 8



Titanic bow is seen during a dive at the resting place of the Titanic's wreck, July, 1986. Pic – The Express Tribune

Rare footage of 'Titanic' wreckage in Atlantic ocean released

A rare video of the wreckage of the 'Titanic', a huge ocean liner that sank in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1912 was released by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) on Wednesday. The video shows the remains of this British passenger liner lying on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean, approximately 3 km below the ocean's surface. It was reportedly shot in 1986, just

months after the wreckage was discovered and the majority of it had not previously been made public. On September 1, 1985, the WHOI team, in collaboration with the French National Institute of Oceanography, discovered the ship's final resting place in 3,780 metres of water using a towed underwater camera.

The unveiling of the footage has been timed with the re-release of director James Cameron's 1997 film 'Titanic' on its 25th anniversary. The film received 11 Academy Awards, including best picture, reports Hindustan Times.

Since the Titanic's discovery, footage of the wreckage has been shown in several documentaries. Some brief clips from the original dives have aired, but this new release is an 80-minute video of uncut footage that was on WHOI's YouTube channel. The video shows the liner's bow and railings along one of its decks, and also other aspects of the famous passenger ship.

The Titanic was the largest ocean liner in service at the time, and it was thought to be nearly impregnable when it was built. On April 14, 1912, it collided with an iceberg in the Atlantic on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to New York. More than 1,500 people were killed in the sinking, which shocked the world and sparked outrage over the lack of lifeboats on board.

North Korea bans girls from having same name as Kim Jong Un's daughter

North Korea is reportedly forcing girls and women who share the same name as Kim Jong Un's daughter to change it to something else, Fox News reported. Kim Jong Un's daughter's name is Ju Ae and she is said to be around ten years old.

The report which quotes Radio Free Asia cited two anonymous sources from North Korea - one living in North Pyongyang and the other living in South Pyongyang who said that the local governments have issued orders for women named Ju-ae to change their birth certificates, reports Hindustan Times.

Kim Jong Un's daughter Ju-ae was recently seen, wearing a white puffer jacket and red shoes while walking in front of a giant black-and-white missile, during North Korea's military parade, leading to reports saying that she was being groomed to succeed him. She was also spotted at a lavish banquet at a military barrack ahead of the parade and was first seen in public last year in November.

Ju-ae is the only one of Kim Jong Un's three children who has been seen in the public.

Al Qaeda's new leader Adel has \$10 million bounty on his head

Seif al-Adel, a former Egyptian special forces officer who is a high-ranking member of al Qaeda with a \$10 million U.S. bounty on his head, is now the "uncontested" leader of the militant group, according to a new U.N. report on the organisation.

Al Qaeda has not formally named a successor for Ayman al-Zawahiri, who was believed to have been killed in a U.S. missile strike in Kabul last year, dealing a blow to the organisation since its founder Osama bin Laden was killed in 2011, reports Reuters.

Although a U.S. intelligence official said in January that Zawahiri's succession remained unclear, the United Nations report assessing risks from the group said: "In discussions in November and December, many Member States took the view that Seif al-Adel is already operating as the de facto and uncontested leader of the group."

Zawahiri's death piled pressure on the group to choose a strategic leader who can carefully plan deadly operations and run a jihadi network, experts on al Qaeda



Seif al-Adel is likely to be the new Al-Qaeda leader. Pic – Daily Post

say.

Unlike his slain predecessors who maintained a high profile with fiery videos broadcast around the globe threatening the United States, the experts say Adel planned attacks from the shadows as he helped turn al Qaeda into the world's deadliest militant group.

Adel was indicted and charged in November 1998 by a U.S. federal grand jury for his role in the bomb attacks on the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya that killed 224 civilians and wounded more than 5,000 others.

There are few photos of him, aside from three pictures - including a very serious black and white image of him on the FBI most wanted list.

Beyond the operations in Africa, his training camps and link to the killing of U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl in Pakistan in 2002, according to U.S. investigators, little else is known about Adel.

The U.S. State Department says Adel is based in Iran.

The FBI identifies Adel as one of its most wanted terrorists and accuses him of conspiring to kill U.S. nationals, to murder and destroy buildings of the United States.

Adel gained more jihadi credentials after he joined other Arab militants fighting Soviet occupation troops in Afghanistan, where he eventually headed a training camp

UK food prices: English breakfast - eggs, sausages, more - costs over Rs 1500

The price of a full English breakfast has soared to a record high even as the UK's overall rate of inflation slows.

The average cost of ingredients to make a traditional fry-up jumped by more than 22% from a year earlier in January. That's the biggest increase since Bloomberg started the Breakfast Index in June.

The index crunches data from Britain's Office for National Statistics, looking at the prices of sausage, bacon, eggs, bread, butter, tomatoes, mushrooms, milk, tea and coffee. It shows that there's no respite for households struggling with higher food



A full English breakfast with eggs, baked beans, bacon, sausage and gravy sauce is served on a table. Pic - Leicester Mercury

prices, reports Bloomberg.

Using product sizes provided by the ONS, the total cost has risen by more than £5 from a year earlier to £34.30.

In a sign of how inflation is affecting the most basic ingredients, milk posted the biggest price increase with a 50% jump from a year earlier. Eggs and butter followed, and every ingredient rose in price. On a monthly basis, coffee and tea climbed the most with sausages actually dropping in price.

UN launches humanitarian appeal of \$397 million for quake survivors in Syria

The United Nations chief launched a USD 397 million appeal Tuesday to help nearly 5 million survivors of last week's devastating earthquake in rebel-held northwest Syria who have received very little assistance because of deep divisions exacerbated by the country's 12-year war.

Guterres said the devastation from the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that ravaged southern Turkiye and northwestern Syria on February 6 "is one of the worst in recent memory," and "we all know that life saving aid has not been getting in at the speed and scale needed."

He said the USD 397 million will provide "desperately needed, life-saving relief for nearly 5 million Syrians — including shelter, health care, food and



protection" for three months.

Guterres said the UN is in the final stages of preparing an emergency appeal for quake-ravaged southern Turkiye. UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the appeal will be launched "probably in the coming days."

The secretary-general said aid to Syria must get through by all routes to all areas without restrictions.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Jocelyn Chan Low



“Jugnauth ira certainement au bout de son mandat”

Je vois mal ses lieutenants le désert. Ils ne l'ont pas fait pendant l'affaire de sniffing; ils sont silencieux sur l'affaire Franklin”

L'historien et observateur politique, Jocelyn Chan Low, s'intéresse au trafic de drogue et aux répercussions sur notre pays et sa population, plus spécifiquement les jeunes. De nombreux facteurs ont contribué pour arriver à une situation si explosive aujourd'hui. En outre, sachant que les informations circulent à un rythme endiablé sur les réseaux sociaux, l'image du pays en souffre beaucoup. Y a-t-il de l'espoir pour que les citoyens mauriciens retrouvent leur paradis d'antan 55 ans après l'indépendance? La classe politique va-t-elle procéder à une auto-évaluation pour corriger ses défauts et ses dérives?

Mauritius Times: C'est l'affaire Franklin et ses ramifications qui dominent l'actualité ces jours-ci. Les activités du 'Roi de l'Ouest' soulèvent des interrogations importantes quant à la façon dont cette affaire a été traitée par les autorités compétentes. Quels sont les éléments les plus troublants dans cette affaire, selon vous?

Jocelyn Chan Low: L'élément le plus troublant dans toute l'affaire, d'un point de vue institutionnel, du fonctionnement de notre régime démocratique, du respect du 'rule of law' et de nos engagements internationaux, c'est sans conteste la non-transmission du rapport de la commission rogatoire concernant deux prévenus vers les autorités réunionnaises de la République de France.

Il faut ajouter à cela le silence troublant, face aux interrogations légitimes du public mauricien, des autorités locales qui se réfugient derrière la confidentialité des échanges entre les autorités des deux pays alors que le procès a été déjà été instruit et les deux personnes jugées et condamnées.

Shakeel Mohamed a parfaitement raison de réclamer l'institution d'une commission d'enquête présidée par un juge du Commonwealth pour faire la lumière sur la question car on ne sait jusqu'ici à qui incombe la faute - au judiciaire ou au bureau de l'Attorney General ou encore à une autre institution, le ministre des Affaires étrangères s'étant dédouané dans sa conférence de presse.

*** Des révélations plus détaillées sur des personnalités du pays devraient sortir tôt ou tard, dit-on, et seraient plus explosives que tout ce qui a été rendu public jusqu'à présent. Ce sont certes des rumeurs véhiculées sur les réseaux sociaux, mais ce trafiquant présumé a dû bénéficier de protection en haut lieu - institutionnel ou politique - pour qu'il ne soit pas inquiété, non?**

D'abord, d'un point de vue historique, le trafic de stupéfiants d'aujourd'hui ressemble étrangement à la traite illégale d'esclaves vers l'île Maurice de 1810 à 1825 quand environ 75,000 esclaves furent introduits frauduleusement

dans l'île. La topographie de l'île, avec ses nombreux mouillages, notamment à la côte ouest ou sud-est où des navires négriers pouvaient accoster et transférer leur cargaison humaine sur les pirogues de pêcheurs complices avait certes facilité ces transactions interdites.

Mais comme le soulignaient les observateurs de l'époque et comme l'ont montré les historiens depuis, des infractions à la loi de cette ampleur n'auraient pu être commises sans la complicité et la connivence d'officiers véreux se trouvant dans un grand nombre d'institutions, des commissaires civils aux autorités policières, voire des membres du judiciaire de l'époque.

D'ailleurs, le Général John Gage Hill alla jusqu'à suspendre Georges Smith, le chef juge de l'époque. Mais certains historiens à l'instar de Deryck Scarr et de Anthony Barker n'hésitent pas à pointer du doigt le gouverneur d'alors, Sir Robert Farquhar lui-même et ses associés pour avoir non seulement toléré mais aussi bénéficié financièrement de cette traite négrière illégale, ayant acquis des propriétés dans l'île, à travers des prête-noms et utilisant ainsi la main-d'œuvre servile illégalement importée.

Dans la présente affaire de trafic de drogue, il y a évidemment des rumeurs dans la place publique, amplifiées par les réseaux sociaux. Cela dit, des rumeurs de collusion entre des membres de la classe politique et la mafia de la drogue ne datent pas d'aujourd'hui. On connaît l'affaire des 'Amsterdam Boys' de 1985. Ensuite, un député connu à l'époque fut cité dans le rapport Rault sur la drogue. De même, d'autres députés ou candidats à la députation eurent à défendre leur honneur et leur réputation devant les cours de justice suite la publication du rapport Lam Shang Leen. On comprend alors les doutes et les

“ D'un point de vue historique, le trafic de stupéfiants d'aujourd'hui ressemble étrangement à la traite illégale d'esclaves vers l'île Maurice de 1810 à 1825 quand environ 75,000 esclaves furent introduits frauduleusement dans l'île. La topographie de l'île, avec ses nombreux mouillages, notamment à la côte ouest ou sud-est où des navires négriers pouvaient accoster et transférer leur cargaison humaine sur les pirogues de pêcheurs complices avait certes facilité ces transactions interdites... ”

souçons du public en général bien que rien de concret n'ait été établi jusqu'ici.

Néanmoins, l'existence même de ces doutes, soupçons et rumeurs révèle surtout que notre classe politique est grandement discréditée et dévalorisée aux yeux d'une grande partie de l'électorat. Des membres du public croient que parmi cette classe politique se trouvent des éléments dénués de tout sens moral à tel point qu'ils sont prêts à s'associer avec des marchands de la mort pour des gains pécuniaires, pour s'enrichir. A la veille du 55ème anniversaire de l'indépendance de Maurice, c'est un constat lamentable sur la perception de la classe politique par une partie de la population mauricienne.

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*** En fait, on a l'impression qu'au regard de tout ce battage médiatique autour de cette affaire, la cible principale n'est pas vraiment M. Franklin, mais bien certains puissants du jour. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

Cette impression découle des éléments troublants entourant toute cette affaire qui, du point de vue médiatique, débute avec un clip posté sur les réseaux sociaux alléguant que Bruno Laurette a été piégé et croupit en prison parce qu'il avait évoqué, au cours de son dernier rassemblement, les relations soi-disant 'troubles' entre Franklin, décrit comme 'le roi de l'ouest' et le patron de la SST.

De là s'ensuivit la fameuse conférence de presse de Franklin et ses accusations contre l'activiste social et les conséquences et rebondissement que l'on connaît, notamment la divulgation que Franklin et un de ses complices allégués avaient été condamnés par la justice réunionnaise le 21 juillet 2021 à 7 ans de prison pour trafic de Zamal mais qu'il n'y avait jamais eu d'extradition et peut-être que ce jugement ne lui a même pas été communiqué!

☞ Suite en page 10

'Un observateur politique impartial ne peut que constater l'impopularité grandissante du gouvernement... il est aussi vrai que l'opposition a un déficit de crédibilité'

☞ Suite de la page 9

En outre, non seulement il est toujours en liberté bien qu'ayant fait l'objet, selon la presse, d'un mandat d'arrêt international, son passeport a été renouvelé en décembre 2022 et il a pu voyager vers Madagascar et, à son retour, il n'a pas été arrêté à sa descente d'avion bien qu'il faisait l'objet d'un mandat d'arrêt de la cour de Bambous!

Ajoutez à cela l'affaire de la commission rogatoire le concernant, nous sommes évidemment devant une série d'incohérences administratives qui devient encore plus intrigant avec les actions jugées tardives de l'ICAC contre cet individu - qui dit ne pas savoir lire mais qui comprend le contenu des SMS - et qui a pu selon l'ICAC accumuler autant de richesses en si peu de temps. Où étaient les autorités responsables de faire respecter les lois ou qui avaient à charge d'enquêter sur des suspects, signalés par des autorités étrangères - dans un état dirigé par un Premier ministre qui affirme avoir déclaré la guerre aux trafiquants de drogue au point d'avoir salué la création d'une deuxième unité au sein de la Police, la SST, pour épauler l'ADSU?

Évidemment, au vu de ces incohérences, il est du devoir du journaliste de creuser au fond de cette affaire pour vérifier si, derrière tout cela, en reliant les points entre eux (connecting the dots), il n'existe pas un système très rodé qui dépasse le cadre de la côte ouest du pays.

*** C'est l'ICAC qui mène les enquêtes ces jours-ci; l'objectif principal serait de déterminer s'il y a eu blanchiment d'argent. Mais au regard de ses antécédents, d'aucuns pensent que c'est à craindre que la commission anti-corruption s'occupe de cette affaire. Votre opinion?**

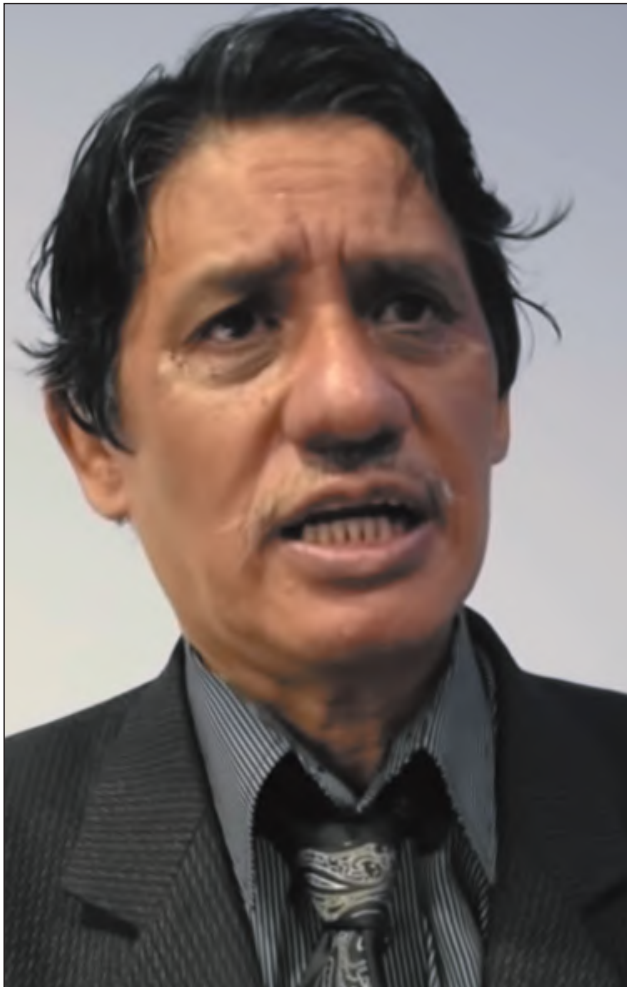
Il est vrai que vu le nombre de cas non élucidés et de dossiers qui traînent dans les tiroirs, comme l'affaire Angus Road, la perception que l'ICAC serait qu'une blanchisseuse pour les suspects dans certains cas de blanchiment d'argent ou autre crimes de même acabit a fait son chemin dans la population, surtout que le directeur de l'institution est dorénavant nommé directement par le Premier ministre, la loi ayant été amendée à cet effet.

Mais il faut souligner que les délits de blanchiment d'argent avec des sociétés fictives et nombre de prête-noms ne sont pas si simples à élucider. Je suis loin d'un spécialiste de 'forensic accounting' mais c'est un domaine où la coopération de nombre d'institutions est primordiale, d'où les lenteurs et les délais. Il ne faudrait surtout pas mettre en doute la compétence et l'intégrité de tous les officiers de l'ICAC. A mon avis, il faut leur donner le temps qu'il faut pour compléter l'enquête et ne pas faire des jugements hâtifs.

*** On ne connaît pas encore l'éventail complet des ramifications perverses du trafic de drogue dans le pays ces temps-ci, mais on parle déjà de Maurice en termes de 'narco-state'. C'est un peu fort quand même, n'est-ce pas?**

C'est quoi un État narco? En fait c'est un terme journalistique qui n'a pas de définition précise. Pour certains, un "narco state" est défini par rapport au poids prépondérant que joue le business de stupéfiants dans l'économie du pays.

Une autre définition a trait au 'state capture' par des



narco trafiquants qui, de ce fait, exercent un contrôle sur la quasi-totalité des institutions, le gouvernement, les partis politiques, la police, le judiciaire, l'administration, etc.

Qu'en est-il de Maurice? Les dernières saisies de drogue évaluées, non en millions mais en milliards de roupies, à l'instar de l'affaire de la tractopelle, ou des bonbonnes de gaz trafiquées nous donne une idée des sommes en jeu. D'où proviennent ces sommes et qu'en est-il de leur blanchiment? Dans un talk show sur Top FM, Rajen Valayden a évalué le poids de cette économie parallèle à 200 milliards de roupies. Et je suis certain que de nombreux Mauriciens se posent beaucoup de questions sur ces signes ostentatoires de richesse dans le pays qui ne cadrent pas avec le PIB déclaré de Maurice.

Quant à la deuxième définition du "narco state" qui se réfère aux institutions politiques et administratives, il y a

“ Nous sommes évidemment devant une série d'incohérences administratives qui devient encore plus intrigant avec les actions jugées tardives de l'ICAC contre cet individu (Franklin) - qui dit ne pas savoir lire mais qui comprend le contenu des SMS - et qui a pu selon l'ICAC accumuler autant de richesses en si peu de temps. Où étaient les autorités responsables de faire respecter les lois ou qui avaient à charge d'enquêter sur des suspects, signalés par des autorités étrangères - dans un état dirigé par un Premier ministre qui affirme avoir déclaré la guerre aux trafiquants de drogue... ”

plusieurs éléments troublants par rapport à des cas non élucidés jusqu'ici à tel point que beaucoup de Mauriciens, à tort ou à raison, partagent le point de vue du leader de l'opposition sur la question, à savoir que nous sommes sur le point d'en devenir un.

*** Les questions clés qu'on doit se poser, c'est de savoir s'il faut considérer la lutte contre la prolifération des drogues comme étant perdue d'avance si elle a de nouveau réussi à s'infiltrer à ce point dans le système. Si certains partis politiques ont également bénéficié de dons pervers de ce trafic illicite, contribueront-ils d'une quelconque manière à l'arrêter?**

Aucune lutte n'est perdue d'avance bien qu'à travers le monde les cartels de drogue sont tellement puissants qu'ils ont toujours une longueur d'avance sur les autorités. Même les méthodes radicales et ultra violentes du l'ex-président des Philippines, R. Duterte, n'a pu mettre un terme à leurs agissements dans son pays.

“ Les dernières saisies de drogue évaluées, non en millions mais en milliards de roupies, à l'instar de l'affaire de la tractopelle, ou des bonbonnes de gaz trafiquées nous donne une idée des sommes en jeu. D'où proviennent ces sommes et qu'en est-il de leur blanchiment? Dans un talk show sur Top FM, Rajen Valayden a évalué le poids de cette économie parallèle à 200 milliards de roupies. Et je suis certain que de nombreux Mauriciens se posent beaucoup de questions sur ces signes ostentatoires de richesse dans le pays... ”

Et, une fois installés, c'est extrêmement difficile de les éradiquer. Dans ce contexte, certains prônent la dépénalisation du gandia - qui est une plante locale - pour réduire la demande de drogues synthétiques ou de drogues dures et, ainsi, rendre leur trafic moins profitable. Je ne pourrais me prononcer à ce propos.

Il y a d'autres instruments de lutte, notamment par rapport à la lutte contre le blanchiment d'argent. Des institutions et des lois cadres existent déjà mais il faut une volonté politique à toute épreuve avec la coopération active du public et des ONGs.

La dimension régionale et internationale de cette grande criminalité mérite d'être soulignée. Ces drogues dures ne sont pas produites localement. Ainsi les parrains locaux sont sans doute des maillons dans un réseau plus élargi. Maurice est-elle une plaque tournante dans un réseau de trafic de drogue régional, voire international?

Dans ce contexte, la coopération des autorités des divers pays de la zone est primordiale, d'où les interrogations sur cette phrase complètement 'damning' dans le jugement de la cour correctionnelle de Saint Denis déplorant le manque de coopération et la mauvaise foi des autorités mauriciennes dans le cas de trafic de zamal entre Maurice et la Réunion impliquant Franklin et Nono.

Quant au financement des partis politiques par les parrains locaux, elle suscite en elle-même une autre question: Comment cet argent sale, bâti sur la souffrance, la zombification, voire la mort de milliers de Mauriciens a pu se retrouver dans les caisses des partis politiques?

☞ Suite en page 11

'Que veut-on offrir comme "role model" aux jeunes? Angelo Mars de Résidence Barkly, devenu lauréat, ou un petit caïd de drogue'

☞ Suite de la page 10

Sans doute cela est dû à l'absence d'un cadre légal régissant les partis politiques, plus particulièrement leur financement. Mais il est aussi question de bonne gouvernance et de transparence à l'intérieur de ces mêmes partis. Comment font-ils pour s'assurer que les fonds qu'ils reçoivent ne sont pas toxiques? Nous sommes complètement dans le noir sur le sujet.

“ Quant au financement des partis politiques par les parrains locaux, elle suscite en elle-même une autre question: Comment cet argent sale, bâti sur la souffrance, la zombification, voire la mort de milliers de Mauriciens a pu se retrouver dans les caisses des partis politiques? Sans doute cela est dû à l'absence d'un cadre légal régissant les partis politiques, plus particulièrement leur financement... Comment font-ils pour s'assurer que les fonds qu'ils reçoivent ne sont pas toxiques? ”



Comment voulez-vous après que ces mêmes partis appliquent les règles de bonne gouvernance et de transparence dans la gestion du pays? 'Charity should start at home...'

* Il existe aussi un sérieux déficit de confiance dans beaucoup de nos institutions clés du pays, et l'Opposition nous dira que la solution à ce problème réside dans un changement de régime. Voyez-vous les choses sous cet angle?

Un changement de régime ne pourra tout au plus qu'apporter une volonté politique d'en découdre avec la mafia de la drogue avec plus de fermeté et à travers ce que l'opposition décrit comme un nettoyage au karcher des institutions.

Mais vu l'ampleur que semble avoir pris le problème, c'est tout le système qui est à revoir. Jusqu'ici, l'opposition n'a pas dévoilé son plan de lutte contre le trafic de drogue. Faut-il déclarer la guerre à la mafia de la drogue? Faut-il, du fait que ces derniers utilisent les failles dans les lois pour échapper au filet, décréter un état d'exception régi par une 'justice transitionnelle' concernant de tels délits, pour les mater et prévenir l'émergence d'un "narco state" à Maurice? C'est une question capitale pour l'avenir du pays.

Que veut-on offrir comme "role model" aux jeunes du pays? Angelo Mars de Résidence Barkly qui, grâce à sa persévérance, est devenu lauréat ou un petit caïd roulant dans un raptor acheté avec des revenus d'un trafic de produits entraînant la zombification de milliers de jeunes et de moins jeunes au point qu'ils ne peuvent plus travailler et qu'on doit faire appel de plus en plus à la main-d'œuvre étrangère pour des secteurs clés de l'économie?

* Quant à la chose politique, il y a sur les réseaux sociaux et dans certains titres de presse un sentiment anti-gouvernement très fort. Toutefois, il est difficile de saisir le 'mood' réel de la majorité de l'électorat à ce stade que ce soit vis-à-vis du gouvernement ou de l'opposition. Anticipez-vous une mauvaise surprise?

Un observateur politique impartial ne peut que consta-

ter l'impopularité grandissante d'un gouvernement issu d'une élection générale contestée et qui a été fragilisé durant ces dernières années par un grand nombre de 'scandales'.

Néanmoins, il est aussi vrai que l'opposition, parlementaire et extra parlementaire, a un déficit de crédibilité. Cela explique la part majoritaire des indécis dans les sondages d'opinion. Tout se jouera donc quand on connaîtra l'identité des protagonistes, c'est-à-dire quand les alliances pré-électorales seront finalisées et quand la campagne électorale sera enclenchée. D'ici-là, un grand nombre d'événements imprévisibles pourraient bouleverser la donne. 'A week is long in politics.'

* Voyez-vous Pravind Jugnauth dans ces conditions aller jusqu'au bout du mandat, ou voudra-t-il aller vite aux élections générales avant que la situation sur le plan économique n'empire ou le jugement du Privy Council ne l'embarrasse?

Jugnauth ira certainement au bout de son mandat car il dispose d'une majorité solide au Parlement. Je vois mal ses lieutenants, aussi embarrassés soient-ils, le désert. Ils ne l'ont pas fait pendant l'affaire de sniffing; ils sont silencieux sur l'affaire Franklin...

Il est vrai cependant qu'au niveau international, la récession s'annonce. Et avec la guerre en Ukraine qui s'enlise et la détérioration accélérée des relations entre la Chine et les États-Unis, on peut s'attendre à de moments très difficiles dans les mois à venir, étant donné que notre économie est axée principalement vers l'extérieur.

* Du côté de l'opposition 'mainstream', il paraît qu'un éventuel 'prime ministership' de Navin Ramgoolam ne souffre plus d'aucune contestation que ce soit du MMM ou du PMSD - sauf de la part de quelques seconds couteaux au sein du PTr, et de Nando Bodha (qui s'est fait rattraper cette semaine par la commission rogatoire sur Franklin). Voyez-vous Ramgoolam capable de 'lever' les 30% ou légèrement plus de soutien électoral de son parti en vue d'obtenir une victoire lors des prochaines législatives?

C'est le chiffre que le PTr avait obtenu en 1982 au moment du raz de marée des 60-0. Ce qui dénote la résilience extraordinaire du travaillisme. La question est surtout de savoir si Navin Ramgoolam à lui seul peut incarner ce travaillisme ou faut-il faire appel à quelqu'un d'autre, quitte à faire un partage à l'israélienne avec ce dernier afin de remporter la victoire à un moment si crucial dans l'histoire du pays? C'est une question qui, à mon avis, mérite d'être étudiée à tête reposée, loin de toute considération d'ego de part et d'autre.

* Qu'en est-il du poids des partis extraparlamentaires? Si les prochaines élections seront plus multipartites, à qui profitera ce multipartisme?

Les partis extraparlamentaires ont toujours existé à Maurice tout comme l'idée d'une troisième force. Ils font partie du folklore politique du pays mais leur poids électoral a toujours été 'inversely proportional' à leurs ambitions. Excepté que cette fois-ci, le nombre d'indécis est très élevé et qu'ils disposent des réseaux sociaux pour vendre leur produit.

Cela va-t-il changer la donne? Difficile de dire car certains spécialistes postulent que dans un système de 'First Past The Post', l'électeur vote surtout utile... en faveur des partis qui ont le plus de chances de remporter les élections.

* Une question reste posée, même si elle n'aura

probablement pas d'impact sur les élections. C'est l'émergence des 'partis personnels', c'est-à-dire des partis dirigés par un individu, donc moins démocratiques et où la bonne gouvernance fout le camp. Pas seulement les grands partis, mais c'est aussi le cas également chez les nouveaux partis dirigés par les Bodha, Bhadain, Laurette... Votre opinion?

Une des grandes tragédies de l'histoire politique de l'île Maurice indépendante est la dérive vers un 'party system' dominé par des partis personnels et non des partis collectifs et démocratiques.

Le bon fonctionnement d'une démocratie dépend surtout de l'existence d'un 'healthy party system'. Les autorités coloniales l'avaient compris dans les années 1950 et avaient favorisé ainsi la transformation du Ralliement Mauricien en un parti moderne capable de rivaliser avec un PTr doté de solides structures.

Ensuite le MMM est venu. Se présentant comme un mouvement, ses structures étaient foncièrement démocratiques et les décisions étaient prises collectivement. Mais aujourd'hui peut-on en dire autant? En fait, les partis 'mainstream' ont dérivé. Ils tournent aujourd'hui plus ou moins autour d'une personne, et certains finissent par y installer une dynastie. Dans une démocratie, ces partis personnels sont des aberrations et leur fonctionnement contribue à pervertir les institutions.

Par exemple, théoriquement dans le 'Cabinet system', le Premier ministre n'est que 'primus inter pares' - 'first among equals'. Ainsi, si le parti le lâche, il est contraint de démissionner (comme l'a fait Boris Johnson) et le parti choisit son successeur. Mais, à Maurice, vu que nous sommes dans un régime de parti personnel, cela ne peut arriver, d'où les dérives de toutes sortes.

“ La question est surtout de savoir si Navin Ramgoolam à lui seul peut incarner ce travaillisme ou faut-il faire appel à quelqu'un d'autre, quitte à faire un partage à l'israélienne avec ce dernier afin de remporter la victoire à un moment si crucial dans l'histoire du pays? C'est une question qui, à mon avis, mérite d'être étudiée à tête reposée, loin de toute considération d'ego de part et d'autre... ”



De même, si le leader perd une élection, ou se trouve face à un procès, il démissionne et les membres certifiés du parti choisissent son remplaçant. A Maurice, puisque le parti semble leur appartenir, ils s'accrochent, pervertissant de ce fait le jeu des alliances et de l'alternance.

Malheureusement, les nouveaux partis semblent enclins à répéter le même schéma. Dès leur début, ils se présentent comme des partis personnels créés avant tout pour assouvir leurs ambitions premier ministérielles... A la veille de nos 55 ans d'indépendance, comment sortir de ce 'party system' dominé par des partis personnels? Comment démocratiser nos partis politiques? C'est un enjeu majeur de notre démocratie. Faut-il légiférer dans ce sens dans le cadre d'une loi sur le financement des partis politiques par l'État? La question mérite une réflexion sérieuse.

Credibility and the Corporate Sectors

Not only will we have to repent for the sins of bad people, we will also have to repent for the appalling silence of good people. -- Martin Luther King Jr.



Arvind Saxena
Former Chairman,
Union Public Service
Commission, India

A friend, who is a top businessman and corporate leader in his country, recently sent me four questions. These, he said, had been bothering him for many years and being a conscientious person, he was greatly troubled by the disrepute some corporate giants were

bringing to his community.

His questions were simple enough:

1. Why do common citizens resent successful businesses so much,?
2. Do you see this as a problem for advancement of the role of the private sector as a driver of growth?
3. Who do you think is responsible for this increasingly negative perception?
4. How can this trust deficit be bridged?

Let us start with two incontrovertible facts:

1. All businessmen and corporate entities do not generate resentment among the people, and
2. The private sector is an indispensable partner in the economic development of a nation.

Even as profit making as an objective of business is perfectly fine, the question is how much and how it is shared? Sharing cannot be just with the shareholders and the government; it also has to be with the employees and the community at large. There is no problem if the profits are ploughed back into expanding the business or investing in the domestic economy for modernising industry and creating more jobs. The workers' share is not just wages, but also investment in better housing for them, skill upgradation, health benefits and education for their children. A business doing well must provide a sense of security to its employees, who should be viewed as partners and an integral part of the business. Wholesome organisations with a vision to partner in nation building must build structures of social security, for during and after the working lives of their employees. Contract employment is an obvious anathema to such a viewpoint. Keeping employees under stress of uncertainty might sound like good policy to extract maximum work and enforce discipline but this approach is, without exception, counterproductive. Leave alone human beings, it does not work even for beasts of burden. Rewards and punishment might work for a dog but eventually even the dog will bite back if we keep him hungry and anxious, under stress of uncertainty. Employees carry impressions about their employers into the community and the resentment spreads.



Inequality and concentration of wealth with a handful of people is perhaps the most important cause for popular resentment against the business community. If an enterprise is making huge profits, there is something wrong going on. Either the cost of raw material and national resources is being suppressed in connivance with the representatives of the people, fair compensation is being denied to employees and intermediaries, the end consumer is being overcharged, or to top it all the accounts are being fudged.

Something sinister like money laundering, flight of capital or round tripping of money takes place under the cover of laws written to benefit the criminals. Every regulatory authority, enforcement agency, audit company, policy formulator and head of institutional investors has to be held to account. If they can't do their jobs, they should go. If someone is shielding them then the bureaucracy and the judiciary have to use all their constitutional powers to arrest and throw such interlopers into jail, howsoever mighty they be. That the mighty represent the people becomes meaningless when they are found conniving with corrupt business houses.

It is true that it is difficult for the common man to relate to figures running into Millions and Billions of currency units and those who can comprehend the magnitude are either insiders, or have been co-opted into the corporate shenanigans. The top honchos successfully safeguard their turfs by influencing elected leaders and buying out the opinion makers. Thus, they control policy making and perception management. The co-opted cannot see beyond their narrow personal interests and choose to lead a make-believe life of saturation level entertainment and conspicuous consumption inside gated communities. That leaves the bulk of the employees and perhaps eighty percent of the population who, as mentioned above, are not equipped to understand the scale of the con games. The windfall profits and illegally accumulated wealth, an outcome of monopolization and cronyism, is shared with the elected representatives who use it to silence the eighty percent with free food

and other subsidies.

A poor, hungry, sick and uneducated people cannot sense any distress or discomfort other than their hunger and need for survival. A leadership which keeps them provided with subsistence is viewed as God's own gift - the Messiah who keeps them fed and alive. Those who are not co-opted and understand the game and the scale of corruption, turn out to be a minority whose numerical clout is insignificant and thus their opinion dispensable. The vehicles of communication available to these informed people have been taken over by big money and the channels choked of real news and information. The media is reduced to tools of propaganda and perception management. Social media, which is on sale to the highest bidder, is perhaps the single biggest weapon used to keep people misinformed. While truth does have this nasty strength of coming out with time, it becomes meaningless for a people beholden to big money and its cohorts for their 'miserable' survival.

So, what can be done to correct this false and potentially dystopic economic model, propagated so vigorously by some of the most celebrated universities, business schools and think tanks, not to speak of the 'wise economists', who are brainwashed into believing that there can be no development without letting the corporates get unhindered access to the nation's wealth. This mindset must change. Utopian? I am sure not completely.

The resentment among the people will spread, slower in poor countries and faster in countries with better education and standards of living, and people will challenge the present economic model based on corruption, opacity, and falsehoods. Nature and the environment will step in at some stage to raise red flags and destroy projects and institutions of greed. Before the masses rise and the rich are hauled up before the people's courts, they must act. The actions are simple and will not make them or their progeny poor. All that needs to be focussed on are simple laws of nature.

Nature abhors disequilibrium. Imbalances in distribution of wealth must be tackled on a war footing. The haves cannot forever exploit the working people, who dirty their hands. They have to be given their legitimate share of the returns. Public money has to be held in trust - and treated as such. It has been entrusted to the large businesses for maximizing returns and bringing development, not for the promoters but for the people - the educated and well fed as well as the illiterate and hungry masses. They own the nation and its resources as equals.

If corporates want free markets and minimal oversight, they have to stop creating monopolies and buying political support. Create a firewall between big money and the people's representatives, if necessary, but the nexus needs to be broken. Business houses cannot be allowed to be a part of policy formulation, beyond a legitimate role of making concrete suggestions for the same. All accounts of corporate entities should be transparent and accessible to the common people, public regulators and statutory auditing bodies. Any resistance to this is a sure indicator of institutionalized corruption.

In short, corporates must, by law, take lifelong care of their employees, investing in their health, shelter and education, be sensitive to nature and the environment, and work to strengthen compliance. There is no need for corporate philanthropy if their account books are transparent. To use a cliché, an enlightened corporate leadership alone can save the corporate world, from the corporate world. The present fake development model cannot sustain itself for ever. The tax havens cannot provide cover forever and whatever be the social system in a country, there is no place for ostentatious lifestyles and conspicuous consumption in a civilised world. A warning is in order for the fat cats - shun your glad rags and glitzy lifestyles, and stop stealing what belongs to the people, before the people come for you.

Back to the four questions. Bob Dylan sang it best: "The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind. The answer is blowing in the wind."



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5th Year No 219

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 17 October, 1958

• 'One must be somebody to have an enemy.' — Sophie Swetchine

The Way to Unity

Doojendranath Napal

“This is a tiny Island — whether we like it or not, we are each of us dependent on the others who share the island with us for our livelihood, and for our happiness.”

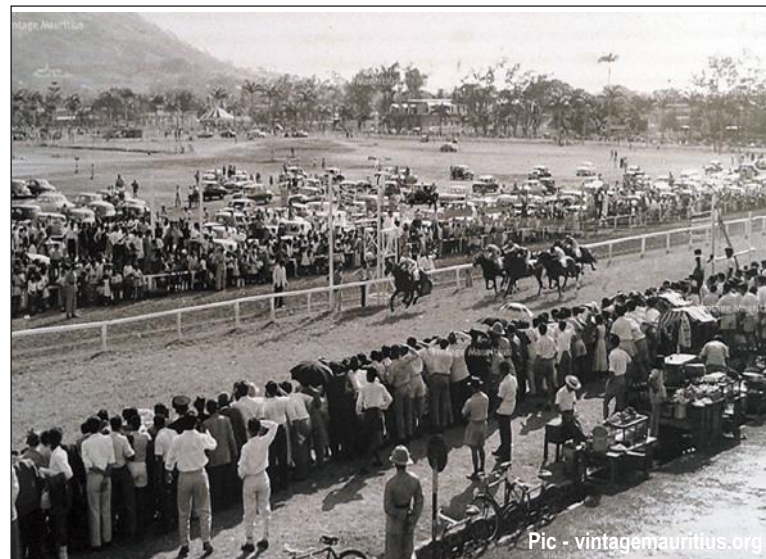
These are words of realism. Communal feelings are rife in our country and every thinking man agrees that it is high time we got ourselves ready to face the disaster towards which we are fast heading. If we are to survive, it is imperative that we bury our communal differences and pull ourselves together in a common effort to solve our common problems. I believe never before so clear a picture of our problems was put before us as on Monday last by Mr Wilson, Financial Secretary, while he was delivering a speech announcing the formal establishment of the Stella Clavisque Club. It was he who uttered the words I quote above. He also said that those Mauricians who are now the members of the Provisional Committee of the club were not long ago students in Europe where they had completely forgotten their petty racial taboos and “shared a common bond with Mauritius, a bond which depended for its existence on one fact — that they are all Mauricians.” These Mauricians were throughout their stay in Europe conscious of one thing that - their common bond would dissolve “and each one of them would return to the enclosure of his own community here.”

One of these Mauricians showed a genuine earnestness to prevent this cleavage, to break the communal barriers and to meet on a footing of social equality. He is Dr Rahman, the psychiatrist of Brown Sequad Hospital. I met him the other day. He spoke to me with hopeful fervour about the future of the Stella Clavisque Club which he qualified as an interracial club whose purpose was to allow intelligent people of all communities to meet together as citizens of a common nation and

forge ties of brotherhood. Dr Rahman is the architect of the movement. He told me that when he was studying medicine in Guy's Hospital and later in Maudsley's Hospital, he had a group of fellow students from the West Indies who used to speak to him of their inter-racial clubs. “I felt sorry,” he said, “that I could not boast of any such organization in my own country. And it was then that the idea sprang up in me that we should have an inter-racial club in our own small island. “But, doctor,” I put in, “did you ever have any opportunity to see such a club function?” His eyes brightened with memories of the good old days and he told me how when lately he was on his way to the International Conference at Bakaluru in the Belgian Congo, he had to stay for some time at Nairobi where he visited such a club. In this club the Europeans and the Africans rubbed shoulders with each other and felt quite at ease in each other's company.

Dr Rahman soon grouped around him some other young men whom he won over to his ideas. Dr Wiehé, Dr Mansoor, Dr Paratian and Mr Naudeer were a few of these. These often met at Dr Rahman's place. The Stella Clavisque Club had been started.

On Monday last Dr Rahman's dream came to be realised when an inaugural cocktail party was given to launch the club. The party was a roaring success. The invitees were all enthusiastic about the idea of a club where the élite of the different communities can meet and discuss problems common to them all as Mauricians. The success of the party was testified by the applause with which Mr Wilson's ideas were greeted. Mr Wilson was realistic throughout. He said that he “was aware that the divisions which exist between the communities, and even more so within each community, are



Pic - vintagemauritius.org

deep-seated and tenacious.” The club would not envisage the impossible task of breaking natural and inevitable barriers. What it would aim at would be to prevent these barriers to be “twisted into a justification for artificial and unnecessary obstacles to the free interchange of opinions and ideas.”

He seemed to be inspired when he said, while concluding his speech: “Our ancestors have taught us for thousands of years that we should love our neighbour. And we should not hate those who do not love their neighbours. We should rather pity them.”

He then appealed to the audience to work for the success of the Stella Clavisque Club, for that “little oasis where for once the stresses and taboos of communal divisions can disappear, so that minds and manners can draw benefit from an influx of new thoughts and ideas.”

As was apparent to those who attended Monday's cocktail party at the Salle des Fêtes, the enthusiastic people who are behind the Stella Clavisque Club are inspired by a great ideal — to break communal barriers in our small island. Such an ideal is indeed laudable. Let us wish Godspeed to the initiators of the organization and hope that the Club prospers.

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Geet Gawai

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Dr. Sarita Boodhoo

Geet Gawai

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Geet Gawai

Authored by Dr Sarita Boodhoo,
 Chairperson of Bhojpuri Speaking Union
Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 14:30 pm, at IGCIC, Phoenix
 Guest of Honour: The President of the Republic of Mauritius
 Prithvirajsing Roopun G.C.S.K
 Yvan Martial, historian and eminent media personality, will give a keynote address.

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Why populism has an enduring and ominous appeal

● Cont. from page 2

Voters were seduced by her charisma. That's because the crucial element in creating a popular far-right movement is constantly reminding citizens that they are the tribe of the true nation — and Meloni has mastered the discipline of a communications maestro.

Collective wrath is a proxy for belonging to the tribe and that feeling of belonging became the basis for her authoritarian fantasy of the popular will.



In this Nov. 4, 2020, photo, protesters representing Black Lives Matter and Protect the Results march in Seattle. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warren)

Anger is a prime motivator

Despite his defeat, voters turned out in large numbers to vote for Donald Trump in 2020 and barely rejected Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro in 2022.

Do high-profile losses mean the worst is over? No, because the contempt for democracy at the heart of populism has not yet been defeated. Today populism is still growing, metastasizing and reaching into every corner of modern politics. It is coming from many directions at once.

At first it was easy to write off populism's appeal to ignorance. Now the key elements radicalizing voters are crystal-clear: anger against hyper-globalization, a reserve army of economic losers, ideological true believers, charismatic leaders weaponizing the big lie and the ultimate prize, money and organization to win the commanding heights of political office.

Social psychologists have shown that anger is a prime motivator in politics. In times of peril, the most vulnerable pin their hopes on the authoritarian leader with emotionally charged messaging and grandiose promises.

Of course, the anger is a distraction from the true work of the populist — disinformation. In a post-truth age, the populist is a narcissist like India's Narendra Modi, who uses sly innuendo and outright chicanery to consolidate power.

Many reasonable people in advanced democracies tolerate populist temper tantrums because anger and bullshit are better than apathy, aren't they?

Populist turmoil, however, can't be measured in units of patriotism. Patriotism requires genuine care for one's country and all the people in it.

In the hands of masters of manipulation, anger coarsens discourse, diminishes the possibility of compromise and normalizes extreme rhetoric. Even so, anger in politics isn't always a power move.

Outrage can motivate people to speak up and utter uncomfortable truths. Compassionate anger can be a powerful force for justice, as we witnessed in the Black Lives Matter movement. How can we tell the difference between rage farming and righteous anger? It's difficult but doable.

The cynicism of contempt

The difference between political success and failure in such a polarized society is always a matter of voter turnout.

In the United States, the Republicans bet that dialling up the anger to an 11 would squeeze a few more votes from an exhausted electorate, but they didn't deliver a red tsunami — this time.

Is it fair to decry the normalization of strong emotions in politics as a conservative problem? Don't both sides use intense feeling for political gain? They do.

Emotional messaging is too potent a tool in modern democracy to be ignored by any party that wants to win power. But today, conservatives lean hard on strong negative emotions and eschew hope — and their outrage too often carries a distinct threat of vindictive violence.

When analyzing affective political messaging, we always need to figure out if the anger we're witnessing is calculated to prolong endless wars of polarization or whether it seeks to reconcile division and rebuild community.

For example, Black mothers in Memphis are demanding the police stop killing their sons. Their demands are grounded in reality, and more than anything else they want a future of peace and safety for their children.

Today populism is defined by rhetorical violence and the authoritarian supposed strongmen. Democracies die and civil wars start with right-wing leaders who use their anger to degrade democracy and tighten their grip on power.

Make no mistake. We are far beyond the stop-gap measures of small-step reform or pragmatic centrist liberalism. What lies beyond the careful compromises of the post-Second World War order? We're about to find out.

Daniel Drache, York University, Canada & Marc D. Froese, Burman University

India Inc: Hit Jobs & Destabilisation

☞ Cont. from page 3

Answers to these questions may take time to be resolved and although they may not budge the Indian electorate, they might have been intended to hurt the country's growth trajectory.

If so, the latest letter of intent from Tata Sons, the new owners of Air India, of an unprecedented mammoth package (worth about US\$ 100m) to purchase 250 Airbuses from the European consortium Airbus and 220 from its US rival Boeing is a tribute to India Inc's formidable resilience today. Tata is consolidating its aviation business which includes Air Asia, Air India Express and Vistara while at a Modi-Macron and Tata video conferencing launch of the Airbus acquisition, PM Modi evoked a Make in India option would be studied as the country is poised to become the 3rd biggest aviation market in the near future.

In geo-strategic terms, although Tata/Air India is now a purely private venture, India and PM Modi may not have been averse to send an undoubtedly strong signal of its autonomous decision-making and economic or financial clout to its US allies. It also considerably raises the profile of the India-France strategic partnership which looks likely to extend into other areas of sensitive defence technologies.

As the Defence Aero show 2023 in Bengaluru concludes, India is rapidly



Air India places orders for 470 planes with Airbus, Boeing; deals estimated to be worth USD 100 bn. Pic - KSHVID

moving from consumer of Western armament industries to that of indigenous manufacturer and exporter of warplanes, light or advanced helicopters and associated missile systems. On the foundations of its vibrant industrial and military powerhouses, the expansion into the huge commercial aircraft market was but a matter of time, even if Boeing may feel somewhat peeved not to have won the whole Tata contract. But a savvy Indian ruling polity looks constantly engaged in a delicate balancing act to ensure the country's strategic autonomy and regional interests are safeguarded while eyeing a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, continuing its economic growth and engaging the rest of the world on international challenges facing the planet.

Jan Arden

To Our Readers

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

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.

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Ravina Ramlugun

Mahashivratri - A time to impart the stories of Shiva

During the festival of Mahashivratri, millions of Hindus flock to temples and sacred rivers. Numerous Shaivite temples are to be found across Asia, from Pashupatinath (Nepal) to Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu). These temples open their doors all night long during Mahashivratri for all devotees, some walking hundreds of kilometres to arrive. There is a similar ambiance in Mauritius - thousands of pilgrims walk to *Ganga Talao*, pray, sing bhajans and chant *mantras* in the *Shivalayas*.

Another indispensable part of Hindu festivals is indisputably the *katha*, which is listening to the glorious acts of the Divine Beings like Shiva, Shakti, Vishnu and others as well. No holy day is complete without spiritual tales. Mahashivratri is dedicated entirely to Shiva and his *parivaar* - we can hear various meaningful stories of Shiva, Parvati and Ganesha in temples. There may be some new unknown stories while some may already be known but the joy of listening to them again never fades.

What is the importance of *kathas*?

Storytelling is as old as humanity. In *Satyuga*, Prahlad used to tell stories of Lord Vishnu to his friends. Stories of noble men were told to Rama by Rishi Vishwamitra in the *Tretayuga*. King Yudhistira was all ears to the moral stories of Bhishma in the *Dwaparyuga*. Often, we would fall asleep listening to stories from our parents and grandparents. Even during adulthood, stories are still very much part of our lives - we read them in newspapers, magazines, and social media or hear them through conversations with our friends.

A nice story captures the heart and lingers in the mind for long. Not just children but even adults are fascinated by stories. In Hindu literature (especially the *Puranas*), there are innumerable mystical stories. Although they date from very long back, we can gather a lot of knowledge from them to inspire us in our modern life. Lord Shiva has multiple such stories to his name. One of the many is that of a devotee who was blessed with three boons by Shiva. Along with being interesting, this narrative has a deep spiritual implication.

The story of the man with three boons

Once there lived a man who performed great *tapasya* to please Lord Shiva. For years and years, he engaged in rigorous prayers. One day his determination bore success: the all-powerful Shiva appeared before him. "I am touched by your ardent devotion. Ask for any three gifts or boons that you wish to possess," Shiva declared. With the smile

gone from his face, the man became thoughtful...

He did not know what to ask for. It dawned on him that he had forgotten the reason why he had started calling out to Shiva - such a long time had passed by. He tried his best to remember but in vain. He frowned his face in frustration and requested Lord Shiva, "Kindly wait for a moment. Let me think."

He brooded over the matter for a while. But now it seemed to him that although he still could not remember his first craving, it did not make any difference. The Lord of Gods, Shiva, stood before him - obviously, he could ask for anything in the whole world! But without realising, he blurted out, "Kill my wife!" His wife had been irritating him so much that he no longer wanted her in his life or at least at that time. But the second she dropped dead, he realised that he had asked for something wrong. Arguments are common in every couple and this did not mean that he genuinely wished for her to die. He still loved her very much.

"O Lord Shiva, what a blunder I have committed! I pray to you - make her alive once more," the man pleaded. Two wishes were wasted, leaving only one, for which man needed enough time to think. There would be no fourth wish if any mistake was made this time. So, he requested Lord Shiva to come back later. Surely, he would have made up his mind by then.

"Ask for your third boon now." Every year was the same. Lord Shiva would utter those words and the man would not know what to answer. Beautiful, precious and bewitching things had come to his mind. But he knew that all of them would wither away sooner or later. He definitely did not want to misuse this last opportunity to ask for something transient.

So he went out to consult friends, neighbours, and even revered seers. Every one of them urged him to seek different things, each more tempting than the other. But none of these suggestions could please the man. Now tired and bereft of any idea of what to ask for, the man humbly requested:

"You are the wisest of all, Shiva. So, I think that there would be none better than You to tell me which gift would be the most worthwhile to a man!"

Finally, he got a reply which settled the issue, "Absence of any desire. Is there anything else of better value? As soon as you would have asked me for something, the next moment you might have regretted it. You would go on thinking about all the possibilities that were



available to you and, yet choose that which would no longer seem pleasing to you. So, what can be better for you than to ask for a state where you are no longer driven by a turbulent mind but where you are all calm and composed?"

* * *

What does Lord Shiva mean by "absence of any desire"?

A desireless state to most people would indicate a zero-motivation attitude or laziness, whereas seeking the most pleasurable outcomes out of everything is more common. However, if we take a look at the prominent seers of the past who gave up their desires, they were far from being slack. Instead, they were very focused and had a clear vision of their life path and purpose. Unlike us, they were not constantly disturbed by what life threw at them.

So, what exactly is a desireless state then? Is it actually about adopting a life of renunciation and inaction?

Most of us desire to look for greener horizons, to be someone else, to own something more, in short to make life somehow better. Desires control us in a way nothing else does - we pine, we cry, and we are not at peace until we get what we want. If we ever try to tame these innumerable wishes floating around in our minds, will we not be freed from needless painful yearning? Being desire-free is a state of mind where our thoughts no longer control us. There is no way it prevents us from continuing to live our lives. It does change our perspective of

life but not our duty and purpose. When we are freed from any tension about what to acquire next, we just focus on being.

Not another hour, not another place - we cherish the gift of here and now. We live in the present moment, flowing as freely as a river. We are open to growth and happiness as we learn from daily life lessons. We feel grateful for the ones in our lives, and contented with how merciful and beautiful life has been so far. But more than anything else, it is the doorway to our spiritual journey. It is only when the ceaseless murmur inside our heads is silenced that we can listen to our soul's voice. Our pathway to Lord Shiva, thus, starts from within.

* * *

There are several other stories of Lord Shiva narrated in the *Puranas* (*Shiva Purana*, *Linga Purana*, *Skanda Purana*, etc.) that carry with them powerful lessons. To delve into them during the Mahashivratri period is considered most auspicious along with eight other devotional deeds mentioned in the *Shiva Purana* namely:

- Singing devotional songs in His praise
- Remembering His glory and deeds
- Serving others
- Living in humility
- Worship with proper customs
- Offering obeisance
- Friendliness to all
- Surrendering to Shiva

Om Namaha Shivaya

Whether direct or indirect, parental alienation harms families

In one particular form of family violence, a parent tries to damage a child's relationship with the other parent. The outcome of these behaviours is called parental alienation, and it can result in a child's ultimate rejection of a parent for untrue, illogical or exaggerated reasons.

Jennifer Harman, a Colorado State University social psychologist who studies parental alienation and its consequences, has published new research showing that mothers and fathers use slightly different tactics when engaging in these destructive behaviours.

Harman's latest analysis, published in the 'Journal of Family Violence', examined gender differences in many types of alienating behaviours. She and co-authors found that mothers used significantly more alienating strategies the researchers label as "indirect," while fathers used similar levels of both "indirect" and "direct" strategies. A substantial portion of parents in the researchers' samples -- 13.79% of fathers, and 19.61% of mothers -- used nearly equal amounts of both forms of aggression.

The study included data from interviews with parents who reported being targets of alienating behaviours, as



well as a database of family law appellate court rulings in which parental alienation was found to have occurred. Their samples did not include same-sex couples; Harman hopes to increase representation of same-sex couples in future studies.

Examples of direct aggressions can include when the alienating parent hits the targeted parent at child exchange time; alienating parent blocks parenting time with the child; alienating parent sends hostile emails and texts to the targeted parent; alienating parent blocks or changes phone numbers so the targeted parent cannot reach the child; and alienating parent makes unilateral

decisions about the child, in violation of court orders.

By contrast, indirect aggressions can include when the alienating parent badmouths the targeted parent to the child; alienating parent calls the police to get the targeted parent arrested based on a false claim; alienating parent turns friends and family against the targeted parent; alienating parent tells children false stories from the past about the targeted parent; alienating parent tells children details about the court proceedings; alienating parent yells at the targeted parent in front of the children; and alienating parent lists stepparent as the biological parent on school records.

Why are gender differences important when assessing alienating behaviours?

Harman also noted that if mothers and fathers tend to alienate differently, gender biases in custody cases can result; for example, indirect aggressions like spreading false rumours, perpetrated by a mother, might go unrecognized by a lawyer or judge.

When such behaviours are successful and the child's relationship with the targeted parent is damaged, they can create what social psychologists call an "enmeshed identity" with the alienator, resulting in the child essentially acting as a proxy for the perpetrator. The researchers thus considered alienated children's acting out on behalf of the perpetrator as another form of direct aggression against the targeted parent.



Why do kids have to go to school?

The core principle of education is to enable students to become kind, giving and contributing members of their community and the world.

Kids go to school for many reasons. Where and when depends on their age, location, parental preference and local policies. Parents send their kids to school to expose them to experiences that are different from their own at home and in their communities. Schools are designed to provide spaces for exploration, self-awareness and connection with other kids. Teachers encourage kids to strengthen the skills they have and help them gain new ones as they advance from grade to grade.

I have spent the last 20 years studying and working with children from birth to 21 years of age in a variety of settings. I often think about how to create the best learning environment for children, beginning with preschool. To me, that means ensuring that all children have the opportunity to be in a school that can fulfill their learning needs as well as their physical, social and emotional well-being at all stages of their lives.

Preschool

Around 61% of 3-to-5-year-olds in the U.S. are enrolled in some type of preschool. Because these are critical years for brain development, attending a high-quality learning program is essential.

What makes a good program for young children? Since children learn through play, it's important for play to be the focus of most activities. It's also essential for teachers to interact with their young students and respond to each child's needs.

During this important developmental stage, children also form a sense of self. For example, they might start to think of themselves as a big brother or sister if there's another child at home. They also begin to connect more deeply with others, learn to communicate their feelings, practice sharing and more. When schools include children's identity, cultural norms and traditions in the classroom, students feel a sense of belonging and inclusion. This helps children form associations that are important for learning.

Elementary school

Children entering kindergarten at age 5 or 6 can have

many different feelings, including nervousness and excitement for this new experience. Perhaps kids have heard adults say that starting kindergarten is the start of "real learning." But this isn't the case; kids learn from the day they are born.

With the transition to kindergarten, kids begin to work on personal and social skills, like managing their behaviors and reactions, problem-solving and logical thinking. Kids' early experiences expand their ideas of how the world works. And as they mature they become better able to understand more complex thought processes, like reversibility, or water turning to ice and then back to water. Another concept they may start to explore is how matter takes the shape of the space it occupies, like sand filling a star-shaped container, and why that happens.

As students advance through elementary school, their reading and comprehension skills improve and they are able to use different resources – from reading books and watching documentaries to taking trips to the museum – to help them understand ideas they encounter inside and outside of the classroom. The education students receive in school further builds on these experiences.

Middle school

During the middle school years, when students are typically between 10 and 13 years old, kids and parents are both starting to interact with school in different ways. Teachers increasingly give more responsibilities to students, and they try their best to personalize what happens in the classroom to students' talents and strengths.

As students become increasingly independent, parents often pass on more school-related responsibilities to them. Students feel capable and competent when their environment supports who they are and encourages them to apply their existing skills at all levels, but especially in middle school.

Understanding all of the challenges kids are going through – like fitting in, maintaining friendships, puberty



It's important to spend time outside, all year round. Prostock-studio/Shutterstock

and others – can be overwhelming. But middle school also offers opportunities for students to sharpen their skills and talents. Some schools may offer band, theater or robotics and other new opportunities to learn, play and grow alongside their daily studies.

High school

High school is an exciting time for most students because it's the final gateway to adulthood. Students may take on a heavier academic and extracurricular load as a way to prepare for higher education. In high school, students are able to choose from a range of courses that may include journalism, biology, an advanced foreign language class or world history. At the same time, students may begin taking part in specialized activities like volunteering or trips abroad that could expose them to fields they'd like to study if they choose to continue to college.

The core principle of education is to enable students to become kind, giving and contributing members of their community and the world. While not all students have the opportunity to attend great schools because of unequal circumstances, it is critical all children are afforded education, at home or at school, public or private. Schools are a tried-and-true place where kids gain new skills and knowledge that they continue to use and build on for the rest of their lives.

Hawani Negussie

Chair and Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education, UMass Global, University of Massachusetts



The Cows from Minsk

The only cow in a small town in Poland stopped giving milk, the inhabitants did some research and found that they could purchase a cow from Moscow for two thousand roubles or one from Minsk for half the sum. Being frugal, they decided to buy the cow from Minsk.

The cow was wonderful, it gave lots of milk, and the people were happy that they decided to purchase a bull to mate with the cow and so produce more cows. Then they would never have to worry about their milk supply again.

So they bought a bull and left in the pasture close to the cow. The cow would keep away from the bull. No matter what approach the bull tried, the cow did not show any interest.

The people were upset and decided to consult the rabbi for his advice. They told the rabbi of their problem of getting the cow and the bull together.

The rabbi thought about the problem for a while and asked: 'Did you buy the cow from Minsk?'

The people were amazed, because they had never told the rabbi where the cow came from. 'You are truly a wise rabbi, how did you guess that the cow came from Minsk?' they said.

The rabbi replied sadly: 'My wife is from Minsk.'

A woman phoned her local newspaper to find out if she could place a notice in the obituary column.

'Certainly, ma'am,' said the operator.

'How much do funeral notices cost?' asked the lady.

'Five dollars per word.'

'Good, can you take this down: 'Smith died.'

'Sorry ma'am, I forgot to tell you, there's a five-word minimum.'

She thought for a moment and then said: 'Print this "Smith died, Cadillac for sale".'

'She is not my wife!'

A woman came home and told her husband



'Remember those headaches I've been having for all these years, Well, they're finally gone.'

'That's fantastic, how did you manage to get rid of them?'

She replied, 'My friend suggested I visit a hypnotist. The hypnotist gave me really good advice; he told me to stand in front of a mirror, stare at myself and repeat 'I do not have a headache' and the headaches are all gone.'

'That's amazing, I'm really pleased for you,' said the husband.

The wife continued: 'I don't want to be unkind, but you haven't been great in the bedroom these last few years, why don't you go to the hypnotist and see if he can be of help to you.'

Reluctantly the husband agreed to try it.

After his appointment with the hypnotist, the husband arrived home, carried his wife into the bedroom, put her on the bed, ripped her clothes saying: 'Don't move I'll be right back.'

He then went into the bathroom and when he came back, he had passionate sex with his wife. After a few minutes, the husband again said, 'Don't move, I will be right back.'

Again, he went to the bathroom for a couple of minutes before returning to make passionate love once more.

By now curiosity was biting her. Whatever the hypnotist had said to her husband had obviously done the trick, so much so that for a third time he told her, 'Don't move, I'll be right back.'

This time when he proceeded to the bathroom, she

quietly followed him, she saw him standing there in front of the mirror, repeating, 'She is not my wife, she is not my wife!'...

Seeing her husband going through the contents of a shoe box, his wife asked him: 'what are you looking for?'

'Nothing,' he replied

'Nothing, you've been reading our marriage certificate for half an hour'

'if you want to know, I was just trying to find out the expiry date.'

Before marriage

Him: 'Yes, it was so hard to wait.'

Her: 'Do you want to leave me?'

Him: 'No, don't even think about it.'

Her: 'Do you love me?'

Him: 'Of course, over and over.'

Her: 'Have you ever cheated on me?'

Him: 'No, why are you even asking?'

Her: 'Will you hit me?'

Hm: 'Are you mad?' I'm not that type.'

Her: 'Can I trust you?'

Him: 'Yes.'

Her: 'Darling!'

After marriage, simply read the text in reverse.



Love isn't all hearts and flowers

Sometimes, love is asking if you've remembered to take your vitamins or drunk enough water.

Love is a friend who checks in on you, even when you say you're fine.

Love is a family member who worries you're making the wrong choices, and that can often feel like anything but love, but the truth is, they live in fear of you getting hurt because they feel every inch of your pain along with you.

Love can come in all shapes and sizes but never does unconditional love look like an expensive gift or a romantic weekend away. That's just frosting.

What is Love?

Love is when two people touch each other's soul.

Love is honesty and trust.

Love is helping one another.

Love is mutual respect.

Love means that differences can be worked out.

Love is reaching your dreams together.

Love is the connection of two hearts,

...yours and mine!



You're more likely to find it in a cup of tea, made just for you.

Love is real and ugly and shouty sometimes.

Lots of tears and lots of pain as the people involved break and bond and grow together as humans.

Valentines Day should be about counting all the love you have in your world and giving gratitude for it - that may not look like a steak dinner for two... and that's ok.

If you are loved my friend, at all, you are blessed. And if you have found some love for yourself along the way, then you are really winning at life.

That's worth celebrating.

Donna Ashworth

That's Life

Dogs are family

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead.

He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years. He wondered where the road was leading them.

After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight.

When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side.

When he was close enough, he called out, 'Excuse me, where are we?'

'This is Heaven, sir,' the man answered.

'Would you happen to have some water?' the man asked.

'Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up.' The man gestured, and the gate began to open.

'Can my friend,' gesturing toward his dog, 'come in, too?' the traveller asked.



Artist: T. C. Chiu

'I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets.'

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog.

After another long walk, and at the top of another long

hill, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence. As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

'Excuse me!' he called to the man. 'Do you have any water?'

'Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in.'

'How about my friend here?' the traveller gestured to the dog.

'There should be a bowl by the pump.'

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it. The traveller filled the water bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog.

When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree.

'What do you call this place?' the traveller asked.

'This is Heaven,' he answered.

'Well, that's confusing,' the traveller said. 'The man down the road said that was Heaven, too.'

'Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's hell.'

'Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?'

'No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind.'

Earl Hamner Jr.

Quotes on the Brain

The brain is like a muscle. When it is in use, we feel very good. Understanding is joyous.

-- Carl Sagan

Fill your brain with giant dreams so that it has no space for petty pursuits.

-- Robin Sharma

Humour is by far the most important activity of the human brain.

-- Edward de Bono

We are now connected by Internet, like neurons in a giant brain.

-- Stephen Hawking

Follow your heart but take your brain with you.

-- Anonymous

There is an astounding similarity between the neuron structure in the brain and the large-scale structure in the Universe!

-- Anonymous

The human brain is the most complicated organisation of matter that we know.

-- Isaac Asimov

The human brain has hundreds of billion neurons, each neuron connected to thousands of other neurons. Sitting on your shoulders is the most complicated object in the known Universe!

-- Michio Kaku

Your brain works like a Supercomputer. So, make sure you're the only one programming it!

-- Anonymous

Consciousness, subconsciousness, supraconsciousness etc. are concepts which the Brain has created! We do not have proofs they exist, but we know the Brain exists!

-- Anonymous

The Human Brain is like a Microcosmic Universe similar (but may be more complicated and mysterious) as the Macrocosmic Universe we seem to know more.

-- Anonymous

Not everything in life is meant to be a beautiful story

It took me a long time to realize that not everything in life is meant to be a beautiful story.

Not every person we feel something deep and moving with is meant to make a home within us, is meant to be a forever.

Sometimes, people come into our lives to teach us how to love; and sometimes, people come into our lives to teach us how not to love. How not to settle, how not to shrink ourselves ever again.

Yes, sometimes people leave — but that's okay, because their lessons always stay, and that is what matters. That is what remains.

— Bianca Sparacino, *The Strength In Our Scars*

SIX IMPORTANT GUIDELINES IN LIFE.

1. When you are Alone, Mind your Thoughts.

2. When you are with Friends, Mind your Tongue.

3. When you are Angry, Mind your Temper.

4. When you are with a Group, Mind your Behavior.

5. When you are in Trouble, Mind your Emotions.

6. When God starts blessing you, Mind your Ego.

Quotes on Intuition

Intuition can be thought of as the voice of our souls communicating to us. Whenever you feel drawn towards something or someone, you can be sure that this is your soul trying to guide you.

-- Aletheia Luna

Everything in the Universe is within you. Ask all from yourself.

-- Rumi

The power of intuitive understanding will protect you from harm until the end of your days.

-- Lao Tzu

People such as inventors searching for new materials, make their discoveries in a state of self-forgetfulness. It is in a condition of deep intellectual concentration that this forgetfulness of the ego arises and the invention is revealed. This is a way of developing intuition.

-- Ramana Maharishi

Intelligence is helpless when it comes to inventions. There is a leap of consciousness - you can call it intuition or something else - and when the decision comes, you do not know how or why.

-- Albert Einstein

Intuition is the whisper of the soul.

-- Jiddu Krishnamurti

Intuition is the source of scientific knowledge.

-- Aristotle

Intuition arises when our consciousness interacts with a higher dimensional field like the Akashic field or Supraconscious mind, to be inspired and guided in the decision we want to take.

-- Anonymous

If we ever feel the need to follow something, let it be our own Divine intuition.

-- Victor Hugo

Healthy Living

How to fall asleep faster: Science-backed methods to get better sleep

Clocking in 7-8 hours of sleep is crucial for every individual. Proper sleep helps you recharge, be fresh, keep hormones in check and even lose weight. However, falling asleep is easier said than done. Blame it on the distractions in front of you, poor sleep hygiene, sleeping positions, there could be countless reasons why one fails to sleep well, or rather faces a hard time falling asleep. In fact, even the mere act of trying to sleep can sometimes turn into an anxiety-driving cycle that keeps your mind busy and unable to go to sleep.

The result? Sleep deprivation, tiredness, groggy eyes and countless other problems.

To get proper restful sleep, it's important that both your mind and body are in sync. Sleep hygiene is equally important. There are also some science-backed tips and tricks you can follow to enter the sleep mode and rest, as much as you can.

TOI lists some of the strategies below. Remember, they may not be fool-proof, but definitely worth a try if you have been struggling to get a good sleep of late:

What we are trying to say here might sound questionable, but according to science, there are a lot of hacks and ways to fall asleep in as little as one or two minutes!

Remember, if you are a beginner, it might take you a little more time for these methods to work.

The military method of falling asleep

One of the most popular ways to do so is by following the Military method. The sleep hack was first designed by the US

Navy Pre-Flight school to help pilots fall asleep in less than 2 minutes twice, no matter what distractions are present. It is also said to help put people to sleep even if they are sitting up!

To fall asleep the military way, focus on relaxing your facial muscles. Drop your shoulders and release the tension, dropping your hands to the side. Now, deep exhale, relaxing your chest. Relax your thighs, legs and calves. Imagine a real calming visual imagery and with time, you will find yourself asleep! The more times you practice, the better you get at this and would be able to fall asleep faster.

The 4-7-8 method

This popular method of falling asleep focuses on muscle relaxation primarily and sleep faster. It's also referred to as a breathing method that combines the power of meditation and visualization.

To do so, start by placing the tip of your tongue against the roof of your mouth. Purse your lips and the tongue should remain so. Now, gently part lips and begin to exhale through the mouth. Close your lips, inhaling through the mouth. Count to 4 and hold your breath for 7 seconds. Exhale again, doing so for a good 8 seconds.

The aim is to try to be mindful of your actions and not remain too 'alert'. Complete this 4-7-8 cycle for at least four full breaths. You will find your body enter a relaxed, calmer state of mind and willing to go to sleep.

Note, if you have an underlying respiratory condition, check with your doctor beforehand to try this, since this could



increase the severity of some of your symptoms.

Progressive Muscle Relaxation (PMR)

Here's another science-backed strategy to help you go to sleep easy. This hack focuses on easing and relaxing the tension in your muscles, which would then promote an aura of relaxation through the body. It also often is recommended to people suffering from insomnia.

To try this, arch your eyebrows as high as possible for at least 5 seconds. This will create some tension in your forehead. Relax the muscles immediately and wait for at least 10 seconds. Similarly, create some tension in your cheeks by smiling widely. Hold for a few seconds. Now pause. In the same manner, start progressing down downwards and create a tensing-relaxing measure all over your body. This routine would release all stress and let your body fall asleep naturally.

Paradoxical intention

The aim of this experiment is to help your body unwind, by forcing the body to do just the exact opposite. Basically,

paradoxical intention focuses on telling your body to stay awake intentionally to fall asleep faster. It may be an untraditional method of falling asleep, but science says that this method can help you sleep faster than any other method, and is in fact, more effective than other methods.

What else could you do?

Besides these scientific methodologies, you can do a lot more to promote better sleep and fall asleep faster.

If you can, stop using stimulants and triggers like caffeine a few hours before retiring for bed. They negatively impact your sleep. Avoiding eating heavy food at night may also be a good way to rest your digestive system and sleep better. Instead, go for soothing teas and concoctions which help you relieve stress, anxiety and feel better.

You can also try visualizing a calm place or a scene to clear your thoughts. For a lot of people, visualization, or imagery distraction works a lot easier than traditional methods like counting.

There are also methods like acupuncture, holistic healing which can be given a try. Of course, they need to be done regularly under the expertise of a trained professional.

Try and also maintain proper sleep hygiene in the room that you sleep often. From clearing away the clutter, keeping the room cool, freeing away gadgets and screens from the bed or using aromatherapy, there are a lot of hacks that could potentially help you sleep better. Taking a warm, soothing bath, or even wearing socks to sleep can also help.

10 most searched Ayurvedic herbs on Google

From diabetes to high blood pressure, these Ayurvedic herbs have been used throughout the years for various ailments

In Ayurveda, herbs have been considered a panacea for many diseases. Since Corona, the use of domestic herbs has increased worldwide. In such a situation, some herbs were searched on Google for a long time. So, let us tell you about 10 such Ayurvedic herbs which have been Google searched the most.

1. Cinnamon

Cinnamon was the most searched on Google. Cinnamon is used in many problems ranging from weight loss to skin problems. Also, it is advised to drink cinnamon tea for diabetes.

2. Neem

Neem is considered in India a panacea for many problems. While grinding neem leaves and drinking them kills stomach worms, consumption of these leaves helps in reducing rash and itching on the body. Also, you can



grind these leaves and apply them to your face.

3. Matcha green tea leaves

Matcha green tea or say green tea leaves have always been considered effective for weight loss. Actually, drinking matcha green tea detoxifies the body. At the same time, its antibacterial property helps in removing many skin problems.

4. Turmeric

Turmeric has always been considered a panacea for many diseases. Turmeric has antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties that boost immunity and protect the body from many diseases. You can also use it to avoid colds and bone problems.

5. Fennel

Although fennel is considered a mouth freshener, it is used to remove bad breath and many stomach problems. You can drink fennel water for weight loss, you can also

chew fennel in nausea.

6. Giloy

Giloy has been used by people for many problems. Giloy has antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties that can reduce the problem of pain and swelling in bones. Apart from this, it is also an immunity booster that has been used for colds and flu.

7. Chamomile

People use chamomile in many things like decoction and tea. Its special thing is that it is rich in anti-oxidants which reduce stress and reduce anxiety.

8. Tulsi

Tulsi has been used in many things from eating to applying on the body. The special thing about Tulsi is that these leaves have antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and antifungal properties. All these three help in reducing skin problems along with increasing the immunity of the body.

9. Honey

Honey is rich in anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. Both these things are effective in reducing many skin problems along with weight loss. You can mix it with water and take it on an empty stomach in the morning. Also, for the problem of acne, you can apply it to your face as well.

10. Drumstick-Moringa

Grinding a drumstick or grinding its leaves works effectively in diabetes. Along with this, you can also take moringa tea for weight loss.

Kartik Aaryan - The new Shehzada (the prince) of Bollywood

An interesting tale of a show-down in filmistan and a rising superstar who is vying for the attention he deserves. Is it a signal of a new order of stardom in Bollywood?

First, the trailer of Bollywood's blue-eyed boy Ranbir Kapoor's forthcoming romcom *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar* dropped some time ago. Ranbir is a major star and Bollywood's most sought-after heartthrob. Obviously, the conversation should have been about him. Instead, social media was abuzz with how Ranbir Kapoor is trying too hard to act like Kartik Aaryan. Ouch!

Yes, the way Ranbir is presented in the trailer definitely gives a vibe as if the romcom was written keeping actor Kartik Aaryan in mind. Ranbir Kapoor and his fans would not be happy at this comparison but it speaks volumes about the rising stardom of Kartik Aaryan.

Secondly, the trailer of Kartik Aaryan's film *Shehzada* has crossed 100 million views to become one of the most viewed trailers in the recent times in Bollywood, even leaving behind Shah Rukh Khan's *Pathaan* trailer. Releasing soon, *Shehzada* is the official Hindi remake of the Telugu blockbuster *Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo* (2020) which starred Allu Arjun. The 32-year-old Bollywood star, Kartik Aaryan, is stepping into the mass entertainer zone, the action-comedy-romantic avatar. If *Shehzada* becomes a success, Kartik would be in a different league altogether.

Now, he is not regarded as one of the best actors around. Critics say he may not carry off larger-than-life roles like some of the other big stars. Then what makes Kartik Aaryan the 'game changer' in Bollywood? What attracts Gen Z towards him? And most importantly, why is his success unique as compared to big stars like Ranbir Kapoor and Ranveer Singh? It's difficult to decipher stardom with logic but Kartik Aaryan's mega popularity could be ascribed to his talent, of course, but also to the events that transpired in Bollywood in the last few years. Let's try to connect the dots.

The success story began 12 years ago when Kartik Tiwari, an affable engineering student from Gwalior, and a rank outsider in Bollywood, made his debut as Kartik Aaryan in director Luv Ranjan's *Pyaar ka Punchnama* (2011). His viral 5-minute-long monologue became a



legend in contemporary pop culture. The film was a sleeper hit. He did some forgettable movies till he tasted success again with *Pyaar Ka Punchnama 2* (2015). Bollywood was still more focused on Ranbir, Ranveer, Varun and Ayushmann. No one was really thinking of Kartik Aaryan as a future superstar.

But things began to change with the big triumph of *Sonu Ke Teetu Ki Sweety* (2018). All three initial hits were directed by Luv Ranjan. Kartik Aaryan's winning juggernaut continued with two back-to-back hits in the following year (2019) — *Luka Chuppi* and *Pati Patni Aur Woh*.

The remarkable feat was Kartik Aaryan came from nowhere and became a major movie star without the support of the biggest studios of Bollywood. Without a proverbial godfather or huge marketing & PR campaigns or even prominent co-stars. Compare this to Ranbir and Ranveer's career graphs who gave huge hits but mainly with influential banners, big budget movies, and major-league co-actors.

Though the media was celebrating Kartik's success, he wasn't projected as a top league star within Bollywood despite back-to-back hits. In fact, when his *Love Aaj Kal* (2020) tanked, his previous successes were disregarded. Stardom is also a perception game and Aaryan badly

needed a turnaround.

2020 was a watershed year for the Hindi film industry. Actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death had sparked intense emotions among his fans and nepotism debates on prime time. There was also a sustained political campaign against Bollywood.

Around the same time, Kartik Aaryan was cast by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions in the comedy sequel *Dostana 2*. He even shot for nearly 20 days for the film. Then out-of-the-blue he was 'fired' from the film citing 'unprofessional reasons'. Karan Johar unfollowed the star on social media. Kartik maintained a dignified silence but his fans perhaps felt his humiliation. Citing Sushant and Kartik's example, they accused Karan Johar of favouring star kids over the talented outsiders. Kartik Aaryan began garnering huge support on social media.

The tide was finally turning in favour of the proverbial 'outsider'.

In 2022, Bollywood was going through one of its worst phases with big films and bigger stars collapsing at the box office. Kartik Aaryan stepped into Akshay Kumar's shoes in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* and surprised everyone with his performance. *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* was a mighty blockbuster, a ray of hope in the dark times of Bollywood. Something that Bollywood and its studios couldn't ignore. It finally cemented Kartik Aaryan's position in Bollywood's A-list.

Previous hit films of Kartik mainly catered to the Gen Z or the youth, but *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2* was loved by all age groups including the family audience. He had crossed a crucial barrier of being a big star — the acceptability factor. His next film *Freddy* was released on an OTT platform. His intense performance as a dentist who turns into a killer at night got a lot of critical acclaim.

If you notice in the last few years, Bollywood has been more interested in telling the stories set in small towns. The Hindi speaking Gwalior boy Kartik is tailor made for them. A young, small-town hero with an X factor charming his way into people's hearts.

I asked some Gen Z college students as well as film trade experts in different Indian cities about what makes Kartik Aaryan special. These are the phrases I got in their replies: 'Charming and cool';

'He's got an honest, disarming smile'; 'He looks familiar as if you know him personally'; 'He looks like someone I know, one of us'.

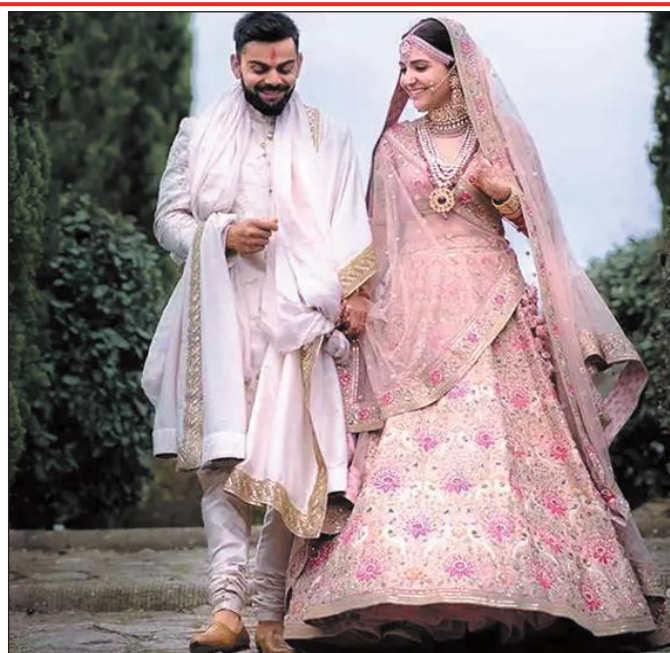
Yes, these are generic phrases that could be used for any 'big star'. But then it also means Kartik Aaryan is a big star. Stardom is like love. It's impossible to decode or explain it with logic. You can only feel it. In his case it is manifesting through the collections of his films and the landscape of Bollywood changing for him, finally. The coming Friday is the big test that will finally decide if Kartik Aaryan is indeed the new shehzada (the prince) of Bollywood.

Yasser Usman of Khaleej Times

Bollywood brides and their love for pastel pink

Any bride will find choosing a great wedding lehenga colour to be a very stressful process, especially if she wants to avoid the traditional red colour. Playful, poised, passionate pink lies somewhere between sensual red and chaste white, and what a colour it is on a bride. Especially in recent years, Bollywood brides have been seen to favour this colour.

Numerous celebrities who used the colour for their weddings have approved of the trousseau trend, which is pervasive across the board. A few of our Indian celebrities have also worn this versatile colour as part of their wedding attire. Anushka Sharma is seen wearing a pastel pink lehenga on the occasion of her wedding to Virat Kohli. Pic courtesy - Filmfare.



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MOVIE SHEHZADA

(featuring Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon)

Friday	17 Feb 2023	- 13:15/20:15
Saturday	18 Feb to	
Sunday	19 Feb 2023	- 13:15/16:15/20:15
Monday	20 Feb 2023 to	
Thursday	23 Feb 2023	- 13:15/20:15

[Nakuul Mehta quits 'Bade Achhe LH' and pens heartfelt note...](#)

"Ram Kapoor taught me to accept my imperfections"

Nakuul Mehta who is loved for his role of Ram Kapoor in *Bade Achhe Lagte Hain 2* penned a heartfelt note as he shot for his last episode of the show. In his note, Nakuul thanked Ekta Kapoor for giving him the character of a man who was not shy to express his emotions, something which is not so common on Indian television. He also mentioned how the character of Ram Kapoor taught him many lessons.

Nakuul began his note by addressing his character, "Dear Ram Kapoor from Bandra." He continued, "There are some roles you play and then there are roles which play themselves and you are just a vessel which has been entrusted with this responsibility and all you really do is show up with all your heart & being, every single day. RK, you were that guy for me. For someone who had just experienced fatherhood right before he met you, I recall experiencing a tectonic shift in the person I was and that translated into the life I brought to you every single day."

Nakuul shared that the character of Ram Kapoor taught him to accept his imperfections. He also added, "You let me breathe life into a beautiful bumbling fragile emotional mess of a human which was far from your gelled hair prototype television hero."

Further, he expressed his gratitude towards Ekta Kapoor. He wrote, "To me Indian Television is synonymous with @ektarkapoor! It took me a decade in the industry to earn my stripes and spend the most beautiful 18 months playing a character which could only have been birthed by her. Thank you for your trust & collaboration. This will remain a cherished memory."

Avinash Mukherjee: 'This industry isn't for the faint-hearted'

Avinash Mukherjee started his acting journey as a child artiste in *Ramayan* (2008) and did a few shows thereafter. But he became popular as the young Jagya in *Balika Vadhu*. And a few years later, he returned to the small screen as a grown-up actor. Currently, he is seen in *Sasural Simar Ka 2* and is happy that he has managed to pursue acting, something he loves doing.

But the actor is realistic about things and admits that being in this profession is not easy, reports Hasti Doshi of TNN. He says, "This industry isn't for the faint-hearted as there might be days when one has work and some days when one doesn't have work. Hence, people should have an alternative source of income. I feel we actors should not be dependent just on acting." Sharing about his alternate income, the actor says, "I have partnerships in tech based startup's which is my second source of income and helps me on days when I am not working on any TV show."

Avinash, who loves travelling, says, "I make it



Nakuul Mehta also thanked his co-actor Disha Parmar, who played his wife Priya on the show. Disha too has quit the show. He wrote, "As I set out to film my last day on the *Bade* set, none of this would have been what it is if it weren't for.. The best Priya my Ram could ever have and a friend I'm so fortunate to collaborate with over two beautiful shows, DeePee!"

The actor concluded, "Whilst I step away to go and find 'myself' again.. It almost feels like retiring my jersey whilst also knowing that 'some of you' will always be a part of 'some of me'." Nakuul also shared his love for the new actors who will be joining the show soon.

Ekta Kapoor, Disha Parmar and his co-stars showered love on Nakuul Mehta as he penned the well-meaning note. Ekta commented on his post, "It was heartening to see India accept a man with zero or minimal toxic masculinity!! Flawed lonely insecure complexed seeking love in the wrong places and finding it in the right however sceptical place. Ram is and will always be love!!!!"

Disha commented, "Mr Kapoor! It has been a routine to work with you everyday & I'll miss that! All the best for future endeavours! You did Fab! Let's work together again!"



a point to travel when I am not shooting. I usually don't take days off while I am shooting. Whenever I get a break between two shows, I take that time to explore the world. It really helps me personally and professionally. I feel that each one should travel to unwind or do whatever else helps them to feel rejuvenated."

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

situations. You may have to work hard and exercise patience to save your relationship. You can think of switching jobs as the dates favour you with growth and opportunities. Any lined-up interviews are likely to go as planned. Your love life may have to go through some difficult

Lucky Numbers: 20, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Things are going to be executed as per your plan. You may encounter a life changing opportunity today as you make some right connections. You may get in touch with a different side of your partner as they reveal their fun side. It's a good time to take a break and go out with them to enjoy some summery evenings together.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 12, 15, 20, 23

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

If you own a business, you might see a ride in sales, and the happiness of your employees. If you are a partner at your company, you might be presented with some profitable proposal. Your partner might want to spend time with you together, talk to them. This week might be a good time to have a deep conversation with your significant other.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 14, 20, 25, 27, 30

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your career seems to be on a very professional track. You may have to think about leveraging your skillset to attract lucrative opportunities. Your love life is likely to sail through quite peacefully. You can think of doing some bonding activities if you feel disconnected.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 20, 21, 25, 29

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Those wanting to become an entrepreneur can start thinking about it. People in startups can expect growth and opportunities. You can expect a regular day in your love life as things take a smooth course of action. You may have to slice things up and think of ways to recreate that lost spark.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 10, 12, 15, 17

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Enjoy the mastery that you have achieved in your domain and make the most out of it. Your love life may have to go through some hardships this week as you struggle to communicate your feelings. You can expect passive aggressive behaviour from your partner as they misunderstand your intentions.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 23, 28, 33, 37, 40

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You can expect some problems at work. Maintaining a calm disposition is advised. Your love life is likely to become a little dull as you get busy with other aspects of your life. You can think of going somewhere with your partner to ensure that your relationship is on the right track.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 20, 23, 26, 29

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You may have to take a decision regarding your career progression this week. Your love life is filled with passion and ecstasy. You may meet your partner after a long time and finally say the things you've wanted to express. Those looking for love may end up getting lucky.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 15, 20, 21, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You may have a major project on schedule and get a lot of credit for it. Some of you may get a pay raise and/or promotion at work. You'll be feeling romantic, so do something extra for your loved one. Make an effort to maintain your composure and self-assurance when engaging in a social encounter with a potential interest.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 7, 9, 14, 28, 29

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You're sailing in quite comfortably, Virgo natives! This may be an extremely convenient time for you as you reach a point of comfort at your work. It's a good time to express what you're feeling. If you're coming out of a serious relationship then someone new may enter your life.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 6, 10, 25, 31

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

The stars have blessed you with many career opportunities. You may get ample opportunities coming your way. You may receive a grand gesture of love that may rekindle a feeling of romance within you. Listening to your heart is the solution to all your troubles today.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 12, 15, 27, 33, 40

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

It's full of opportunities and new beginnings this coming week! It's time to reap the fruits of your labour as you shine through like a star. Your love life may be the best part of your personal life. You may have to think about going for a pampering session with your special one.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 12, 17, 19, 20, 27



Vendredi 17 février - 21.15



Samedi 18 février - 21.00



Dimanche 19 février - 21.52



Programme TV



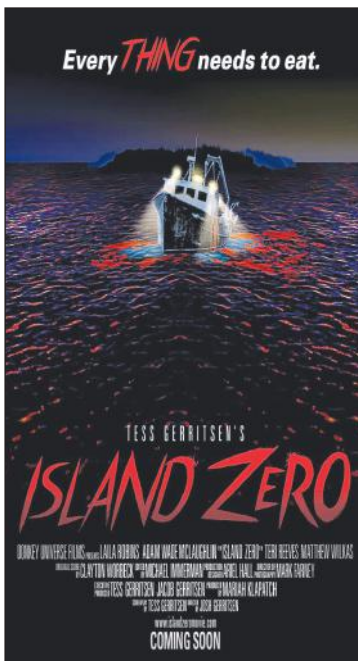
	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 17 février	07.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 08.00 Local: Profil 08.45 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer... 11.00 Doc: World Capitals 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.25 Local: MBC Production 14.35 D.Anime: Cat & Keet 15.21 D.Anime: Pet Alien 15.34 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts 15.55 D.Anime: Kids Songs 17.04 D.Anime: Fast And Furious 17.28 Serial: Backstage 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Surya Puran 18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa... 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.25 Local: Les Grands Noms... 22.10 Serial: Rookie Blue 23.00 Le Journal	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin 11.11 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay 12.02 Film: Pushpak Vimaan 13.57 Mag: DDI Mag 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.45 Serial: Bommarillu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.27 Serial: Ishq Zahe Naseeb 16.44 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa... 17.11 Serial: Bhakharwadi 17.30 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron... 18.01 Serial: Oh! My Sweet Liar! 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.00 Serial: Mushk 20.44 Local: Anjuman 21.09 Local: Urdu Programme - 22.04 DDI Live	07.00 Mag: Border Crossing 07.51 Doc: Les Ailes De Patagonie 08.42 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 09.37 Mag: Saladeria 12.05 Mag: Shift 15.14 Doc: Saladeria 15.19 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor... 16.30 Doc: Putin's Witness 17.39 Mag: Shift 17.52 Doc: Foodland 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.30 Live: News 20.53 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 21.53 Mag: Sky Eye 22.21 Doc: Naples Under The Volcanic 23.04 Doc: The Healing Power... 23.47 Doc: Foodland 23.50 Doc: Guardians Of The... 01.14 Mag: Euromaxx 01.40 Doc: Lost Edens	01.17 Film: Le Chateau De Carte 03.49 Film: Les Douze Coups De Minuit 05.19 Tele: Tour De Babel 06.15 Serial: Madam Secretary 06.49 Film: Le Chateau De Carte... 08.45 Serial: Wanted 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.17 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.00 Serial: Pine Gap 11.57 Film: Les Douze Coups De... 13.31 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.45 Film: Le Chateau De Carte 16.35 Serial: Wanted 17.15 Serial: Madam Secretary 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 19.34 Serial: Malory Towers 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 20.30 Serial: F.B.I 21.20 Film: The Little Stranger	07.07 Film: Pukaar Starring: Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Namrata Shirodkar 11.46 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 12.17 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 12.47 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 13.19 / 22.00 - Kismat Ki Lakiron 13.47 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.17 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes 14.25 / 23.00 - Highway On My Plate 14.53 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.23 Film: Teri Meherbaniyan Starring: Brownie, Amrith Puri, Jackie Shroff, Poonam Dhillon 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.28 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke...
samedi 18 février	06.00 D.Anime: Akili And Me 06.49 D.Anime: Gon 09.40 Serial: Monster Hunt 10.00 Local: Dukesbridge Musical... 10.15 Local: Jinghui Symphony... 11.55 Local: Les Grands Noms... 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: Les Grands Noms... 12.30 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.19 Local: Palette 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 D.Anime: Pet Alien 15.32 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts 16.18 Film: Dive Olly Dive And The Octopus Rescue 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.25 Local: MBC Production 21.25 Film: Le Second Souffle avec: Hilary Swank, Emmy Rossum, Josh Duhamel	07.00 Film: Har Har Gange Starring Neera, Ashish Kumar, Anjana Mumtaz 09.55 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 10.47 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 11.28 Serial: The Demi-Gods And... 11.56 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare 12.19 Serial: Mooga Manasulu 12.43 Serial: High School 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Har Har Mahadev Stars: Dara Singh 17.45 Mag: DDI Mag 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.00 Serial: Vidrohi 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.00 Film: Bhagan Bhag Starring Govinda, Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, Lara Dutta 23.32 DDI Live	06.00 Foodland: Veggie Feasts 06.45 Mag: World Stories 06.57 Mag: Our Vocies 07.31 Mag: Euromaxx 07.56 Doc: Lost Edens 09.46 Mag: Saladeria 10.22 Doc: Naples Under The Vol... 12.49 Doc: Castles 13.25 Mag: Euromaxx 17.30 Mag: Sky Eye 18.08 Doc: World Capitals 18.24 Mag: In Good Shape 19.30 Mag: Check In 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 21.48 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into... 22.08 Doc: Hiss Boom Bang! 23.22 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail 00.05 Doc: World Capitals 00.28 Doc: Smoothie Mania	01.34 Film: Gun Fury 02.50 Serial: Gone 03.35 Serial: Blacklist 04.16 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man 05.00 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 06.11 Serial: F.B.I 07.02 Serial: Riviera 08.30 Serial: Madam Secretary 09.11 Serial: Blacklist 10.45 Film: The Little Stranger 12.31 The Baker And The Beauty 13.30 Serial: Pine Gap 15.10 Tele: Missing Bride 16.24 Serial: F.B.I 17.22 Film: The Perfect Pairing 18.50 Serial: Kojak 19.35 Serial: Malory Towers 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 20.30 Series: F.B.I 21.15 Film: Outsource 22.45 Tele: Rubi	04.04 Radha Krishna 04.35 Anupamaa 05.04 Mere Sai 05.32 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan 06.33 Patiala Babes 08.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan 10.00 Kalari Kids 10.13 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.00 Serial: Udaariyaan 14.04 Serial: Anupamaa 16.15 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Superstar Starring: Kunal Khemu, Tulip Joshi, Zafar Karachiwala, Sanjay Dutt 20.53 Kalari Kids 21.08 Porus 21.29 Naagin Season 4 22.13 Yeh Teri Galiyan
dimanche 19 février	06.00 D.Anime: Akili And Me 07.09 D.Anime: Gon 07.33 D.Anime: Fangbone 09.40 Serial: Monster Hunt 10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 11.55 Local: Les Grands Noms... 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.05 Local Prod: Elle 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 D.Anime: Pet Alien 15.43 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts 16.17 D.Anime: Adventures In Duckport 17.18 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Golden Memories Of... 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Local Production: Les Klips 21.25 Film: Frozen In Love	07.00 Film: Zaalim 11.03 Serial: Azhagu 11.20 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 11.39 Serial: Surya Puran 12.06 Film: Meri Nimmo 15.00 Samachar 15.20 Mooga Manasulu 15.42 Serial: He Mann Baware 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham Starring: Bharathi, Badekilla, Pradeep, Naresh Eswar 16.30 Local: Yaadein 17.03 Serial: Siya Ke Ram 17.48 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 18.30 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avanser 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.05 Serial: Porus 21.15 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.02 Serial: Naagin Season 3	06.00 Doc: Snapshots 07.06 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.25 Mag: Check In 09.15 Doc: Skuld 10.52 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail 12.35 Mag: Salad Area 12.38 Mag: The 77 Percent 13.10 Mag: Check In 13.40 Doc: Volcano Stories 14.06 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 15.03 Doc: Skuld 15.48 Doc: Multi Tasking 17.31 Mag: In Good Shape 18.29 Doc: Smoothie Mania 19.06 Mag: Salad Area 19.37 Doc: Japan From Above 20.30 Live: News (English) 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 21.49 Doc: A Mediterranean... 22.15 Doc: The Miracle Of Hearing 23.00 Doc: Blue Girl	01.17 Film: Outsource 02.57 Film: Barabbas 05.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 06.15 Serial: F.B.I 06.57 Film: Outsource 08.33 Serial: Madam Secretary 09.11 Film: Le Second Souffle 10.51 Film: The Perfect Pairing 12.15 Serial: Killjoys 13.30 Serial: Pine Gap 15.51 Tele: Missing Bride 17.20 Serial: F.B.I 18.02 Serial: Killjoys 18.45 Serial: L'incroyable Hulk 19.36 Serial: Malory Towers 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 20.30 Serial: New Amsterdam 21.15 Serial: Suits 22.00 Film: Dollar For The Dead 23.34 Tele: Rubi	00.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2 01.56 Udaariyaan 03.50 Anupamaa 06.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 08.00 Kalari Kids 08.14 Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi... 10.01 Kundali Bhagya 12.01 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 16.08 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 17.33 Live: Samachar 18.30 Film: Piku Starring: A.Bachchan, Deepika Padukone, Irrfan Khan 20.47 Naagin Season 4 21.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 23.19 Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 01.21 Kundali Bhagya 03.35 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
lundi 20 février	06.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil 07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 07.55 MBC Production 09.00 Doc: Glacier Express 11.00 Doc: World Capitals 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.17 Local: Nu Rasinn 14.35 D.Anime: Cat & Keet 15.35 D.Anime: Pet Alien 17.35 Serial: Backstage 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Mere Sai 18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 19.30 Le Journal 20.25 MBC Production 21.15 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.40 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami Avec: Don Johnson, Philip Michael	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Kundali Bhagya 12.06 Film: Paise Yeh Paise Starring Jackie Shroff, Meenakshi Seshadri 15.00 Samachar 15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.47 Serial: Bommarillu 16.02 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.26 Serial: Ishq Zahe Naseeb 16.48 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa... 17.08 Serial: Bhakharwadi 17.30 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi 18.00 Serial: Oh! My Sweet Liar! 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.00 Programme In Telugu 20.30 Film: Pressure Cooker Starring Sai Ronak, Preethi Asrani 22.29 DDI Live	07.00 Mag: Salad Area 07.55 Doc: Japan From Above 08.55 Doc: Diy Kings 09.47 Doc: A Mediterranean... 12.02 Mag: Smoothie Mania 14.38 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 15.36 Doc: A Mediterranean... 16.44 Doc: Blue Girl 18.00 Mag: Eco At Africa 19.00 Doc: World Heritage 19.33 Mag: In Good Shape 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 20.53 Doc: Archipel De Feu 22.06 Mag: Tomorrow Today 22.32 Doc: Smoothie Mania 23.00 Doc: Shattering The Glass... 00.14 Doc: Foodland 00.17 Mag: Eco@Africa 00.43 Mag: The 77 Percent 01.14 Mag: Africa 54 01.42 Mag: In Good Shape	01.49 Film: Dollar For The Dead 03.23 Serial: Gone 04.03 Film: La Charge Des Tunique 05.37 Tele: Tour De Babel 06.38 Serial: New Amsterdam 08.02 Film: Frozen In Love 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 09.56 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.20 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.00 Serial: Pine Gap 11.46 Film: La Charge Des Tunique 13.40 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.51 Film: Frozen In Love 16.40 Serial: New Amsterdam 17.21 Serial: Suits 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 19.39 Serial: Malory Towers 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 20.30 Serial: The Inbetween 21.15 Film: The Marine 6	08.00 Taare Zameen Par 11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 13.00 / 22.00 - Kismat Ki Lakiron 13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.59 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes 14.30 / 23.00 - 100 Years Of Indian Cinema 15.00 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.19 Film: Tezaab Starring: Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, A. Kher 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.06 Anupamaa



Mardi 21 février - 21.10



Mercredi 22 février - 21.15



Jeudi 23 février - 21.15



Programme TV



mardi 21 février

MBC 1

- 07.26 Local: Rodrig Prog
- 09.15 Local: Agir Ensemble
- 10.15 Local: Morisien Konn Ou...
- 11.10 Tele: Rubi
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Local: Les Grands Noms...
- 12.30 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 14.07 MBC Production
- 14.40 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.20 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 15.56 D.Anime: Harvey Girls Forever
- 17.30 Serial: Backstage
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 18.55 Magazine
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.20 Local: Priorite Sante
- 22.15 Film: Stan The Man

With: Steven Chase Anne Leighton

MBC 2

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Serial: CID
- 10.50 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 12.00 Film: Rafoo Chakkar
- 14.00 DDI Magazine
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.20 Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.43 Bommarillu
- 16.04 Sondha Bandham
- 16.24 Serial: Rabba Mainu Maaf...
- 16.48 Serial: Saaton Vachanewa...
- 17.13 Bhakharwadi
- 17.35 Serial: Premabhishekam
- 18.00 Serial: Oh! My Sweet Liar!
- 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 20.06 Local: Tamil Programme
- 20.30 Film: Teen Deviyani

Starring: Dev Anand, Nanda and Kalpana

MBC 3

- 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 07.32 Mag: In Good Shape
- 08.54 Mag: Saladeria
- 09.15 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 11.07 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 14.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 14.49 Mag: Washington Forum
- 16.05 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
- 18.56 Doc: World Heritage
- 19.31 Mag: Check In
- 20.02 Doc: La Route De La Soie
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 20.53 Doc: Cuisine Sauvage
- 21.46 Mag: Saladeria
- 22.47 Local: Rodrig-Klip Seleksion
- 00.17 Mag: The Global Auto...
- 00.43 Mag: Healthy Living
- 01.13 Doc: World Heritage
- 02.10 Doc: La Route De La Soie

Cine 12

- 01.29 Film: The Marine 6
- 03.22 Film: 3 Secondes
- 05.35 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 06.23 Serial: The Inbetween
- 06.52 Film: Le Salaire De La Violence
- 08.45 Serial: Wanted
- 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 10.20 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.00 Serial: Pulse
- 12.00 Film: Le Salaire De La Viol...
- 13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 14.24 Film: 3 Secondes
- 16.40 Serial: Wanted
- 17.20 Serial: The Inbetween
- 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.37 Serial: Malory Towers
- 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 20.30 Seiral: The Inbetween
- 21.15 Film: Dark Beginnings Of...

Bollywood TV

- 07.15 Film: Tezaan
- 11.30 / 20.29 - Radha Krishna
- 12.01 / 20.57 - Anupamaa
- 12.29 / 21.27 - Mere Sai
- 13.01 / 22.07 - Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
- 13.36 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 13.59 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes
- 14.25 / 21.59 - 100 Years Of Indian Cinema
- 15.00 / 22.25 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.26 Film: Ilzaam
- Starring Shashi Kapoor, Shatrughan Sinha, Raj Kiran,
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.03 Udaariyaan
- 19.33 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise
- 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2

mercredi 22 février

- 07.00 Local Prod: Profil
- 07.30 Local: Priorite Sante
- 08.00 Local Prod: Rodrig
- 09.30 Local: Tous Egaux
- 10.05 Local: La Societe
- 11.35 Tele: Rubi
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Local: Les Grands Noms...
- 12.30 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 13.20 Local: Les Klips
- 14.07 Local: Priorite Sante
- 14.37 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
- 14.49 D.Anime: Denis Et Moi
- 15.32 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts
- 17.30 Serial: Backstage
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Other: Radha Krishna
- 19.00 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.30 MBC Production
- 21.25 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 22.20 Film: Island Zero

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
- 12.00 Film: Shiva Ka Insaaf
- 14.30 DDI Magazine
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.49 Bommarillu
- 16.15 Sondha Bandham
- 16.26 Serial: Rabba Mainu Maaf...
- 16.53 Saaton Vachanwa Saath...
- 17.18 Bhakharwadi
- 17.31 Serial: Kulvadhu
- 18.00 Serial: Oh! My Sweet Liar!
- 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 19.59 Programme In Marathi
- 20.26 Chinese Local Prod
- 20.52 Film: Chinese Film
- 23.00 DDI Live

- 06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...
- 06.29 Mag: Healthy Living
- 07.31 Mag: Check In
- 08.00 Doc: La Route De La Soie
- 09.27 Mag: Saladeria
- 10.24 Local: Rodrig - Klip....
- 17.48 Mag: Japan Video Topics
- 17.56 Mag: Motorweek
- 18.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.30 Mag: The Inside Story
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 21.38 Mag: Saladeria
- 22.25 Mag: Smoothie Mania
- 22.38 Mag: Focus On Europe
- 23.46 Doc: Troubled
- 00.41 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 01.14 Mag: Arts.21
- 01.40 Mag: The Inside Story
- 02.32 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures

- 01.27 Film: Stan The Man
- 02.57 Serial: Gone
- 03.51 Film: Dark Beginnings Of...
- 05.15 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 06.17 Serial: The Inbetween
- 06.46 Film: Stan The Man
- 08.45 L'Incrovable Hulk
- 10.22 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.05 Serial: Pulse
- 12.05 Film: Dark Beginnings Of...
- 13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 14.44 Film: Stand The Man
- 16.33 L'Incrovable Hulk
- 17.15 Serial: The Inbetween
- 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.37 Serial: Malory Towers
- 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 20.30 Seiral: Madam Secretary
- 21.15 Film: Haunted

Avec: Roberto D'Antona, Michael Segal, David Whi

- 07.08 Film: Ilzaam
- Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Shatrughan Sinha, Raj Kiran, Govinda Neelam
- 11.35 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
- 12.00 / 20.26 - Anupamaa
- 12.29 / 20.02 - Mere Sai
- 13.02 / 20.46 - Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
- 13.37 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 14.00 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
- 14.50 / 22.15 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.13 Film: Maidan-E-Jung
- Starring: Akshay Kumar, Karisma Kapoor, M. Kumar...
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..
- 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 20.30 Radha Krishna

jeudi 23 février

- 06.00 Local: Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
- 07.00 Local: Rodrig Prog
- 07.40 Local: Ero Deryer Rido
- 08.10 Local Prod: Elle
- 09.55 Mag: National Anthem
- 11.04 Doc: World Capitals
- 11.10 Tele: Rubi
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.30 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 14.35 D.Anime: Cat & Keet
- 14.50 D.Anime: Denis Et Moi
- 15.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 15.32 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts
- 16.06 D. Anime: Harvey Girls...
- 17.25 Serial: Backstage
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 18.56 Local: Tirth Yatra
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Laxmii

With: Akshay Kumar, Kiara Advani

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 09.58 Serial: Agniphera
- 12.00 Film: Taj Mahal
- 14.24 Mag: DDI Mag
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.45 Serial: Bommarillu
- 16.02 Serial: Sondha Bandham
- 16.26 Serial: Rabba Mainu Maaf...
- 16.41 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna
- 17.09 Bhakharwadi
- 17.35 Local: Amrit Vaani
- 17.45 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
- 18.00 Serial: Oh! My Sweet Liar!
- 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
- 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 20.59 Film: Off Piste

With: Nathan Bevan-Stewart, Lily Caines

- 06.00 Mag: Motorweek
- 06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 06.57 Mag: Arts.21
- 07.55 Doc: Planet Home
- 11.29 Mag: Motorweek
- 12.09 Local: Vous Et Nous
- 12.37 Doc: World Heritage
- 12.58 Mag: The Inside Story
- 13.24 Doc: Planet Home
- 15.04 Mag: Focus On Europe
- 16.16 Mag: Motorweek
- 18.00 Mag: Eco India
- 18.42 Mag: Carnet De Sante
- 19.30 Who Killed Neanderthal
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.53 Doc: Guardians Of Nature
- 21.48 Mag: Saladeria
- 22.17 Doc: Smoothie Mania
- 23.00 Doc: Putin's Witness
- 23.50 Doc: Eco India
- 00.16 Mag: Shift

- 01.32 Film: Haunted
- 02.50 Serial: Gone
- 03.36 Film: Outsource
- 05.23 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 06.11 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 06.57 Film: The Little Stranger
- 08.45 Serial: Wanted
- 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 10.21 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.45 Film: Outsource
- 13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 14.22 Film: The Little Stranger
- 16.30 Serial: Wanted
- 17.15 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.36 Serial: Malory Towers
- 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 20.30 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 21.15 Serial: Kojak
- 22.02 Serial: Reef Doctors

- 07.00 Film: Maidan
- 11.46 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna
- 12.17 / 21.01 - Anupamaa
- 12.47 / 21.31 - Mere Sai
- 13.19 / 21.56 - Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
- 13.46 / 22.20 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 14.15 / 22.52 - Patiala Babes
- 14.25 - Mag 100 Year Of Indian Cinema
- 15.00 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.24 Film: Poster Boys
- Starring Sunny Deol, Bobby Deol, Shreyas Talpade
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 18.59 Udaariyaan
- 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
- 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2



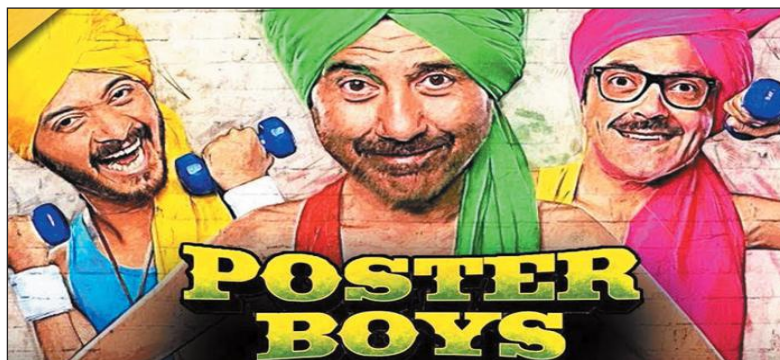
Jeudi 23 février - 15.30

Stars: Sunny Deol, Bobby Deol, Shreyas Talpade



Jeudi 23 février - 20.30

Star: Akshay Kumar, Kiara Advani



Why the love story of Radha and Krishna has been told for centuries

A scholar of South Asian religions tells the story of the divine love of Radha and Krishna and the lessons in it for our world today



Jeffery D. Long
Professor of Religion
and Asian Studies,
Elizabethtown College

Although it originated as a Christian holiday in honor of St. Valentine, Valentine's Day has become a global celebration of romantic love, observed by people of many religions and of no religion.

Other religions have long had their own myths centered on love. I have observed, in my work as a scholar of Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism, that in Hindu traditions, there are many stories of divine couples: deities who embody the ideal of love, and whose stories often

contain lessons for the rest of us. One couple that has especially captured the imagination of Hindu devotees for centuries is Radha and Krishna.

Who is Krishna?

The story of Radha and Krishna is first found in the Bhagavata Purana, a text dated by scholars as somewhere between the fifth and 10th centuries. Their story is further elaborated in the Sanskrit devotional poem "Gitagovinda," authored by Jayadeva, who lived in the 12th century in Eastern India.

Krishna, a highly popular and beloved Hindu deity, is regarded, depending on which textual tradition you read, either as an avatar or incarnation of the deity Vishnu, or as the Supreme Being himself. In Hindu belief, Vishnu preserves the order of the cosmos, often through taking on an earthly form to right some wrong and to set the world back on the correct course when chaos threatens to overwhelm it.

The life story of Krishna is an exciting one, full of adventure as well as tragedy. When Krishna is born, his evil uncle, a king named Kamsa, orders all of the male children of the kingdom who are born on that night killed, not unlike King Herod in the New Testament. This was due to a prophecy that one of those children would put an end to his reign. Krishna's parents, however, are warned of this impending calamity, and the baby is spirited away to safety.

Krishna, therefore, who is born to royalty, has a humble upbringing, growing up amid the cowherds and cowherdresses, or gopis, of the bucolic region of Vrindavan. Stories of Krishna's teenage years, in particular, are greatly beloved by his devotees. This was a relatively carefree time in Krishna's life, when he engaged in all kinds of playful mischief with the gopis, and wandered the forests of Vrindavan playing his flute. All of the gopis fell in love with Krishna, and he with them, but the one with whom he fell in love the most deeply was named Radha.

The story of the love of Radha and Krishna is overshadowed by an air of tragedy. The two cannot be together, as Radha is already married and Krishna has a great destiny ahead of him. When the time comes, Krishna must leave Vrindavan and overthrow his wicked uncle, and also play a key role in the fight between two groups of warring brothers, the Pandavas and the Kauravas.

Divine love

This tragic story is dear to devotees not only because of the very real human feelings it evokes, but also because of its deep theological significance in the Vaishnava tradition – the Hindu tradition in which this story features most prominently.

To some, the love between Radha and Krishna might appear to be adulterous or scandalous, given that she is married. The focus of the tradition, though, is not so much on



Siddi children performing Dance Dhamaal in Ahmedabad in Gujarat, India.
Courtesy Sayan Dey, CC BY-SA

this scandal, but on the deep, spontaneous, genuine love that it illustrates. Radha's love for Krishna is so strong that it is willing to fly in the face of social conventions. She is willing to risk the disapproval of her community for this love. And according to Vaishnava theology, this is how individuals' love for God should be. True love for God – called bhakti, or devotion – should be characterized by wild abandon. It should be spontaneous and free.

In Vaishnava theology, the gopis represent the many jivas, or souls, that dwell in the universe, while Krishna is Ishvara, the Lord, the Supreme Being. A very popular and beautiful artistic depiction of the relationship between Krishna and the gopis is called the "Ras Lila." It depicts the gopis dancing in a circle. Each of them has Krishna for a partner. He has used his divine power to multiply himself so he can dance with each gopi individually.

When Krishna finally has to leave Vrindavan, the pain of separation Radha feels is almost unbearable. When she asks Krishna why she has to feel such pain, he tells her that she must learn to see him in all beings, for he dwells in the hearts of all. The individual soul's sense of separation from God is similarly painful, and is believed to be a particularly powerful manifestation of bhakti. But that separation can be overcome by seeing God in all beings and in one another.

As Krishna also says in the Bhagavad Gita, "I am never lost to one who sees all beings in me and who sees me in all beings, nor is that person ever lost to me."

The story of Radha and Krishna can therefore be enjoyed on Valentine's Day on two levels: as a sad and poignant tale of a past youthful love, remembered fondly but left behind by the call of adulthood, but also as an invitation to be open to love in all its forms.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Common Fears

Choosing A New Response

Our minds are powerful, and moving into fear is a common experience that we can each look at and change.

Everyone has fears -- it is a natural part of being human. Fear can protect us from harm by sending a rush of adrenaline to help us physically deal with potential danger. But there are times when fear may keep us from participating fully in life. Once we realize that fear is a state of mind, we can choose to face our fears, change our minds, and create the life we want to live.

Our minds are powerful tools to be used by our higher selves; like computers, storing and using data to make certain connections between thought and response. We have the ability to observe these and choose differently. No matter where the fear came from, we can create new connections by choosing new thoughts. When our souls and minds are in alignment, we create a new experience of reality. This journey requires many small steps, as well as patience and courage through the process. Here's an example: You decide to overcome your fear of driving on the freeway. Your plan of action starts with examining your thoughts and finding a new way of seeing the situation. When you're ready, you enlist a calm companion to support you as you take the first step of merging into the slow lane and using the first exit. Your heart may be racing, but your confidence will be boosted by the accomplishment.

Repeat this until you are comfortable, with or without help, and then drive one exit further. When you are ready, you can try driving in the middle lane, for longer periods each time, until you find yourself going where you want to go. This gradual process is similar for conquering any fear, but if you find it overwhelming, you can always seek the help of a professional.

You may think that you are the only one with a particular fear, that nobody else could possibly be scared of ordinary things such as water, heights, public speaking, or flying. These types of fears are very common, and you can have great success overcoming them. Remember, it is not the absence of the fear but the courage to take action anyway that determines success. When we learn to face our fears, we learn to observe our thoughts and feelings but not be ruled by them. Instead we choose how to shape the lives we want.