

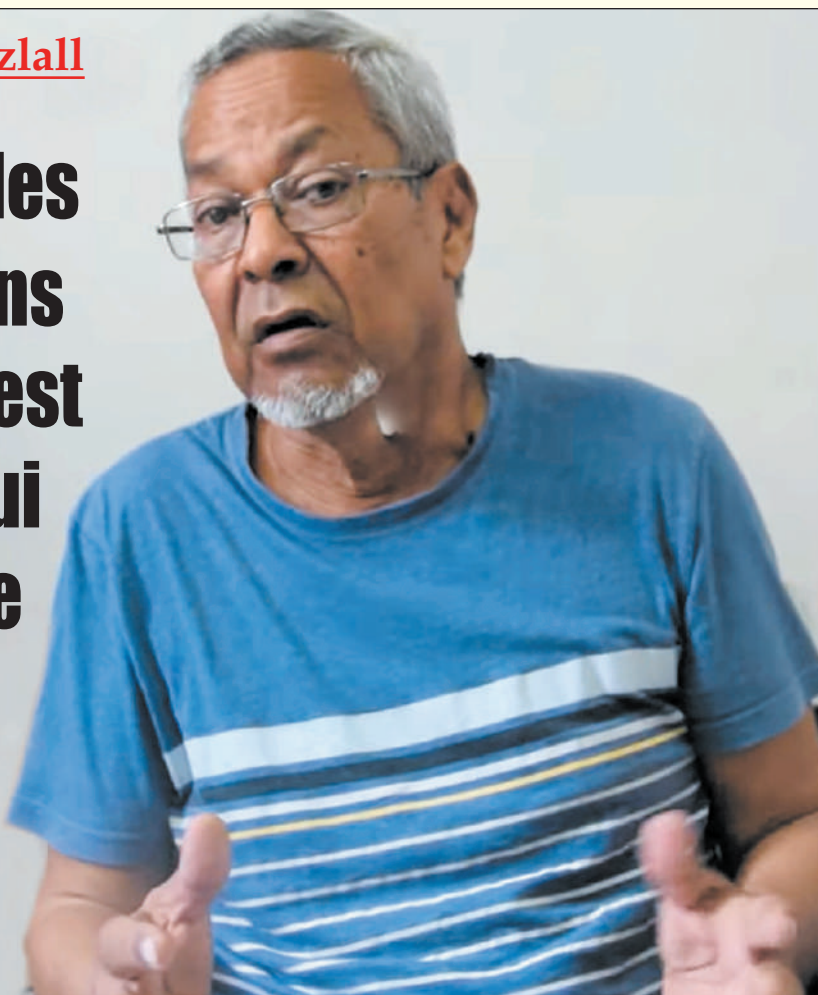
MAURITIUS TIMES

● "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." – John Quincy Adams

Interview : Jack Bizlall

«On installe des dynasties dans notre pays. C'est une honte qui nous affecte depuis des années»

☞ Voir Page 8



Encounter

Suresh Boodhoo, former Director - Mauritius Meteorological Services

«When we commit blunders, we look for culprits to bear the responsibility..»



... climate change and even less, weather forecasting, cannot be the culprit»

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Opinion

Drugs, Politics and the Need for an Augean Stable Clean-up



By Jan Arden ☞ See Page 3

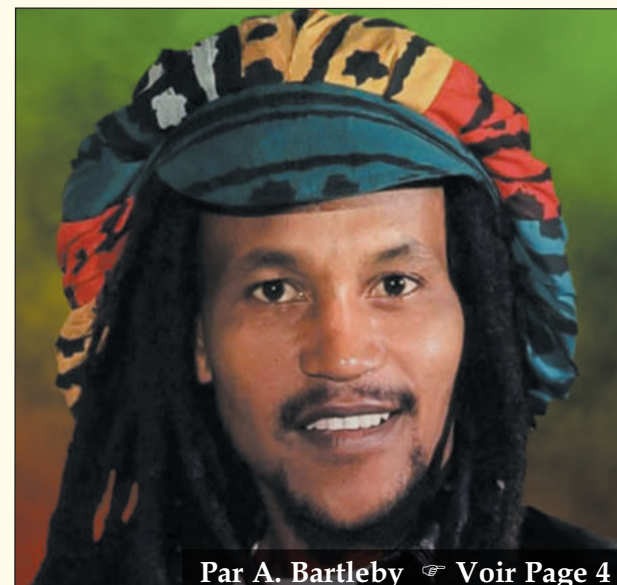
Frightening Freddy

Cyclones and other natural climatic and geological events will continue to affect the planet, and we can never be too prepared

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Kaya, émeutes et exclusion en 2023



Par A. Bartleby ☞ Voir Page 4

Labour's 87th Anniversary

The Mauritius Labour Party is celebrating next Sunday the 87th anniversary of its foundation in 1936. Indisputably, the oldest party in the land was born out of a lofty idea about society. At the root of its philosophy lay the political principle of giving the population decent living conditions through the fair distribution of the fruits of labour and capital and a better future for all. It drew its inspiration from Fabian socialism which sprouted up in Britain during the post-World War period.

The philosophies of other political parties, bent on defending the privileges of the owner-proprietor class, helped foster the mass appeal of Labour as an alternative political force at its beginnings. Its followers – the large mass of the population without distinction of race, religion and communal belonging – adhered to the party because it promised hopes of a better future for everyone.

Labour's struggle for national emancipation resembled closely that of several other societies ranging from Africa to Asia and to Latin America, many of which also drew inspiration from the UK Fabian Society. The persistence of conservative, ultra-liberal politics across diverse societies of the world today – resulting in the most unequal distribution of wealth for large swathes of the world's population – pleads to this day in favour of the type of ideology Labour stood for at its origins. An ideology and a vision espoused by the political leaders of those times who did not join politics to forge a career for themselves but to respond to a higher call of service for the general good.

Sometime later, the poison of communalism - and casteism - was distilled in local politics in the pursuit of divide-and-rule objectives by other forces inimical to the welfare of one and all and leading to micro-partitions of the social construct and kept distorting local politics. There is also the fact that political clientelism has affected most parties not only locally but across the world, resulting in most parties not abiding by the core values for which they were founded.

Another factor which has affected the standing of most parties is excessive power thrust in the hands of party leaders who have the final word in almost everything including the selection of candidates for general elections. Rather than seeking to perpetuate the noble idea on which the party was constructed, this system, coupled to the holy grail that electoral tickets have become, helps the leaders perpetuate themselves instead. When political leaders start

believing that voters have no choice but to stick to them no matter how far they have run the parties down, then the party is set on the way to its perdition - and to the outcome that was obtained in 2014.

However, the Labour Party has a proven track record of notable past achievements and has been the architect of the very transformation of society for the better. The values by which the party has lived need to be preserved. But things cannot go on along the same ruinous trajectory the party has followed. It can build something better from the ruins it has ended up with.

The party which has given the country its Constitution with separation of powers and the necessary checks and balances among the different arms of the state has unfortunately not made a similar check-and-balances constitution for itself. Old hands would vouch that voices of sanity, which used to dominate the earlier Labour's debates to help the party make the right decisions, are not heard anymore. What we hear now is that party members have to keep praising the party leadership if they want to conserve the chance of securing a ticket for elections. Surely, this monopolising trend cannot continue.

The future of the party will forcibly depend on whether it can democratize itself and live up to the collective responsibility for which its original leaders set up the party. Some feel that if this turnaround towards a greater democratisation of the party is convincingly achieved, Labour will then deserve to be given an honest chance to inspire the people to come together behind it. Others that the coming elections will be vital to the general directions of governance and democracy, that rooting out the MSM is a matter of national import and should take precedence over the important and necessary internal course corrections.

Still others that realpolitik should govern leadership choices in a contest that has become increasingly presidentialised, where people vote first and foremost for a leader and what qualities he brings to the table. Both Pravind Jugnauth and Navin Ramgoolam are now known quantities, the first arguing for the status quo and the second for fundamental structural and governance changes to our aging model. The leadership messages at the LP's anniversary function this Sunday may provide some clues where the party is heading.

The Conversation

Five emerging trends that could change our lives



Pic - tophat.com

The way we live our lives online is rapidly changing. Artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality and innovations such as blockchain – a kind of digital record for transactions — are set to transform the online world, affecting everything from social media to how people and businesses make money from their creativity.

If you're feeling confused by the pace of change, here's what you need to know about five trends on the cusp of making a major impact.

1. Generative AI

AI and the more specific field of machine learning (where software improves at a task with experience) are already used to personalise the recommendations we get when we shop online, in digital assistants like Alexa and for automated translation of text. The uses for this technology are only likely to grow. There are some innovative uses of AI by businesses that may point to how people will be using the technology in future.

The AI-powered chatbot ChatGPT is a high-profile example. Microsoft recently invested US\$10 billion (£8.2 billion) investment in the chatbot's parent company showing how seriously these online tools are being taken.

It was seen by some journalists as the start of an "AI war" between Microsoft and Google. The latter company has been incorporating AI into its search engine to improve the answers people get. Jasper.ai is another forward-thinking use of AI. This online service generates written content for blogs, social media posts and letters.

Meanwhile, Meta, the company that owns Facebook, is working on AI-powered software that can generate video from a text prompt, such as "teddy bear painting a portrait". This is regarded as the next step on from online tools that generate images from text, such as DALL-E and Stable Diffusion.

2. The metaverse

The "metaverse" is intended to make the online world more like the real one, through the use of virtual reality (VR) headsets.

Theo Tzanidis, Senior Lecturer in Digital Marketing, University of the West of Scotland

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Drugs, Politics and the Need for an Augean Stable Clean-up

Jan Arden

This Tuesday, Senior magistrate Jade Ngan Chai King at the Moka court ruled in favour of Bruneau Laurette's conditional liberation in the case of some 46 kgs of cannabis drugs found in his car boot at St Pierre four months ago. She stated, not unexpectedly, in her 15-page ruling that what must be carefully assessed is balancing the "need to safeguard the necessary respect for the liberty of the citizen" against the need to "ensure that society and the administration of justice are reasonably protected against serious risks".

The magistrate's reading of case law has it that in a law-abiding country, save for exceptional cases, deprivation of liberty on a provisional charge, when enquiries may drag on for months if not years in a serious case, can only be the exception and not the rule. To the argument that drug-related cases and suspects need to be kept confined, there are many conditions that can be attached by the magistrate to a release on bail order and indeed, in this particular case, the conditions imposed look pretty steep and designed to minimise risks of a possible elopement of the suspect. Two sureties of Rs 1m each, a "reconnaissance de dette" of Rs 50m and a series of physical restraints on his movements, should have adequately catered for any fear of elopement, interfering with witnesses or even evidence tampering.

The judgment was certainly a moral victory for the politico-social activist, his faithful followers and his lawyers as he had repeatedly claimed of having been allegedly "framed" by the Police Headquarters Special Striking Team (SST) and the drugs deliberately "planted" in his car boot. Those are charges that cannot be taken lightly. They are detailed in parallel to the main case in a claim for damages filed in the Supreme Court against the



Pic - www.ppic.org

“The possibility that the West Coast, home to many fast boats that can outrun and outmanoeuvre any National Coast Guard or ground patrols as they ply about the lucrative dirty trade to and from Reunion or even Madagascar, has been allowed over probably many years to turn into a Wild West drug rodeo is mind-numbing. The population can start to wonder whether the statement of the Leader of the Opposition about Mauritius approaching a narco-state is that farfetched...”

head of the SST and a Woman Police Officer.

We have here neither condoned drug trafficking nor assumed that Laurette's claims are vindicated by numerous lapses and inconsistencies in the Police case as reported in the press. Still less can we accept that an accused is guilty without this being satisfactorily demonstrated in a court of law, pending which his prolonged detention for the unknown and unknowable duration of enquiries, is undesirable as the magistrate ruled this Tuesday.

However, that ruling is being appealed to the Supreme Court by the DPP's Office which had resisted the bail application and Bruneau Laurette will

“Most Mauritians are convinced that the lifestyle and visible assets of reported Franklin protagonists through the ICAC investigations, arrests and asset seizures must or should have been known to our Police, National Coast Guard and financial (FIU) or intelligence surveillance (NSS) agencies. Even a casual field officer would have reason to suspect that those acquisitions through a cohort of “prête-noms” could hardly be explained through normal business activities. If negligence in such a vital battle has to be dismissed, disturbing questions are being raised about how long such activities have been going on in our own Wild West...”

have to wait further before he knows whether he can enjoy the limited freedoms defined by the Moka magistrate. It is in nobody's interest that a bail application after four months of deprivation should drag on when every type of rumours and allegations are rife about the continued detention of an uncomfortable political opponent. And to compound matters, the Bruneau Laurette case has suddenly and unexpectedly morphed into the far more disquieting Franklin affair, as revealed by the rather expeditious ICAC enquiries being initiated and conducted with some zeal on the money-laundering aspects of drug trade on the west coast.

We won't speculate why the ICAC, rather remarkably, jumped into action when its mandate does not cover drug-trafficking but only the money-laundering that such illicit trade engineers. But obvious questions are being raised whether it effectively sidelined police drug agencies and if so why. A disturbing aspect of that case has been the various embarrassed official explanations, in particular by the Attorney-General why Franklin, condemned to seven years in Reunion for drug trafficking and demanded by French authorities, was roaming freely around the island for the past two years.

Most Mauritians are convinced that

the lifestyle and visible assets of reported Franklin protagonists through the ICAC investigations, arrests and asset seizures (including fast luxury cars, fast boats, fast food outlets and luxuriously appointed properties), must or should have been known to our Police, National Coast Guard and financial (FIU) or intelligence surveillance (NSS) agencies.

Even a casual field officer would have reason to suspect that those acquisitions through a cohort of “prête-noms” could hardly be explained through normal business activities. If negligence in such a vital battle has to be dismissed, disturbing questions are being raised about how long such activities have been going on in our own Wild West and whether a level of protection or black money has ensured that notorious protagonists have managed to stay away from investigations here and an actual condemnation in Reunion Island.

ICAC's vigorous actions, deliberately or not, are bringing into question the trust of the higher authorities in those drug investigating agencies, a trust we might add that runs counter to the recommendations of the recent Lam Shang Leen (LSL) Report on drug trafficking in the case of ADSU.

Government's assurances of taking the fight to drug barons has long been a mainstay of public declarations even as they balked at one of the key recommendations of LSL Report and assessors, namely the dismantling and reorganisation of ADSU. Whatever credit it may still possess, and there are no doubt numerous competent officers in their rank and file, is fast being eroded in the public perception by the ramifications of the Franklin drug-related affair as ICAC is clearly demonstrating.

Whether the ICAC's actions, revelations and arrests are related to a turf war between competing agencies, the possibility that the West Coast, home to many fast boats that can outrun and outmanoeuvre any National Coast Guard or ground patrols as they ply about the lucrative dirty trade to and from Reunion or even Madagascar, has been allowed over probably many years to turn into a Wild West drug rodeo is mind-numbing. The population can start to wonder whether the statement of the Leader of the Opposition about Mauritius approaching a narco-state is that far-fetched.

Once entrenched with tentacles spreading in many key institutions and monies flowing liberally to buy protection, that hydra-headed monster may require considerable effort for a determined Augean stable clean-up. It is a matter of national interest as the scourge spreads its nefarious influence on countless families, our youths and those already addicted.

● More on page 15

Remise en liberté de Bruneau Laurette: lorsque les internautes se lâchent

Par A. Bartleby



Liberté conditionnelle à Bruneau Laurette contestée par le DPP. P - Top FM

Le tribunal de Moka a accordé la remise en liberté conditionnelle à Bruneau Laurette mardi dernier. Cette remise en liberté conditionnelle est accompagnée de conditions extrêmement strictes, avec notamment deux cautions d'un million de roupies chacune, une autre caution de Rs 50 000, une reconnaissance de dette de Rs 50 millions ainsi que d'une série d'interdits et de règles à respecter. Le bureau du DPP a immédiatement fait appel de cette décision de la magistrature de la cour de Moka.

Cette décision du bureau du DPP a immédiatement été suivie d'invectives et de dénonciations sur les réseaux sociaux. Nous vivons décidément dans un pays où certains Mauriciens – souvent les moins éduqués et les moins qualifiés – pensent qu'ils sont experts en tout. Il semble même y avoir un rapport symétrique entre la bêtise et la certitude du savoir, rapport qui répond à la loi: «plus on est bête, moins la vie nous apparaît comme un mystère».

Ainsi, un bon nombre de nos compatriotes sont allés de leur interprétation de la procédure judiciaire et du rôle du bureau du DPP, certains n'hésitant pas à proposer des réformes au système, alors qu'ils n'y connaissent strictement rien. Mais bon, il s'agit là du prix de la liberté d'expression - qui prend trop souvent la forme des plus grandioses démonstrations de stupidité - sur les réseaux sociaux.

Mais les choses sont devenues profondément malsaines lorsqu'une photo d'une avocate du bureau du DPP a commencé à circuler sur les réseaux sociaux, dans des postes profondément inquiétants. En effet, ces mêmes postes appelaient à des actes de violences physiques et sexuelles sur cette avocate qui, il faut le préciser, n'a fait que son travail en suivant les instructions du bureau du DPP. Ces postes sont absolument intolérables et il est du ressort de la police d'agir au plus vite.

Mais soulevons un autre point ici. Une étude d'un think-tank français démontra, il y a quelques années, que les réseaux sociaux - et le rapport ambigu qu'ils

établissaient avec la Vérité et la véracité des faits - facilitaient la résurgence du fascisme aujourd'hui. Avant d'être une doctrine ou un système politique, le fascisme est une forme de jouissance et de plaisir - individuel ou collectif - ressenti dans la projection d'un sentiment de pouvoir ou de supériorité sur les autres, et où ce sentiment de jouissance appelle à l'écrasement et la domination totale de l'autre, voire même, son élimination totale dans les cas extrêmes.

Au regard des commentaires actuels, il est clair que certains groupies de Bruneau Laurette sont en train de se radicaliser jusqu'aux prémices du fascisme (il faut préciser ici qu'ils ne sont pas les seuls à prendre cette tendance). Est-ce vraiment cela la libération promise par celui que certains comparent à un messie?

* * *

Pèlerinage endeuillé: quelles leçons tirer?

Le drame qui a eu lieu à Grand Bassin la semaine dernière a mis en émoi tout le pays et a relancé le débat sur la dimension et la hauteur de certains kanwars. Comme l'a fait ressortir le politologue Avinaash Munohur, qui fut un témoin de la scène, sur un poste Facebook, avant de condamner il serait plus avisé de comprendre la sociologie derrière le phénomène des grands kanwars.

Comme l'a expliqué le politologue, il s'agit là d'une expression sociale qui dépasse de très loin les limites du calendrier du pèlerinage, certains de ces groupes de kanwartis se réunissant pendant plusieurs mois afin de concevoir et de construire leurs kanwars. Et ceci n'est en effet pas du tout négligeable.

L'effort, la dévotion et la ferveur mis dans la construction de ces kanwars relèvent d'une expression culturelle et artistique certaine, et qui semble appartenir aux jeunes issus des classes ouvrières car c'est là le point important à saisir, nous voyons là en réalité l'expression d'une conscience de classe et de la visibilité qu'elle souhaite acquérir à travers la construction de ces kanwars...

Les politiciens ont parfaitement bien saisi cette dimension, que les classes moyennes supérieures occultent totalement, ce qui explique leurs réticences à



L'effort, la dévotion et la ferveur mis dans la construction de ces kanwars relèvent d'une expression culturelle et artistique... P - Wikipedia

intervenir afin d'imposer des limites. À travers la manifestation religieuse, c'est aussi une manifestation politique qui se joue.

Mais il est clair que des limites se doivent d'être trouvées puisque les risques existent. Et il serait approprié que ces limites tiennent en compte les dangers de la route à Maurice. En effet, le problème des dangers liés aux grands kanwars est intimement lié aux dangers de la route elle-même. N'oublions pas que les routes ont fait 107 morts en 2022, ce qui constitue une moyenne de deux morts par semaine.

Nous avons, à Maurice, une culture de la route qui est elle-même dangereuse, avec des entraves permanentes aux règles de la sécurité routière. Et c'est également là qu'il faut être beaucoup plus sévère et forcer les usagers de la route à être plus disciplinés et plus prudents.

Donc, oui à la régulation des dimensions des kanwars, mais oui aussi à une politique visant à mieux éduquer les usagers de la route quant aux risques qui existent bien au-delà de la semaine de pèlerinage.

* * *



Joseph Reginald Topize, plus connu sous le nom de Kaya, mourut en cellule policière le 21 février 1999

Kaya, émeutes et exclusion en 2023

Le chanteur Kaya mourut en cellule policière le 21 février 1999, à la suite de son arrestation pour possession de marijuana. Le pays bascula dans une semaine angoissante, avec des émeutes qui éclatèrent dans plusieurs régions de l'île. Personne n'a oublié la vitesse de propagation des rumeurs et des fausses informations, ce qui aurait eu des conséquences dramatiques aujourd'hui avec les réseaux sociaux et la logiquedes 'fake news'.

Ces émeutes, qui constituèrent le soulèvement des exclus, marqua symboliquement la fin du XXème siècle à Maurice, et le basculement du pays vers quelque chose d'autre: la diversification économique et la financiarisation de l'économie. Depuis, l'économie mauricienne repose sur trois piliers: le tourisme, l'immobilier de luxe (destiné aux étrangers notamment) et le secteur financier. Le taux d'ouverture de notre économie sur le monde dépasse les 100%, ce qui démontre notre dépendance envers les investissements étrangers, mais aussi notre fragilité à cause d'une mondialisation qui devient de plus en plus instable.

Février 99 avait ainsi été suivi de la mise en place de politiques économiques d'envergure, lesquelles avaient pour objectif un accroissement de la richesse nationale.

☞ Suite en page 5

Kaya, émeutes et exclusion en 2023

☞ Suite de la page 4

La diversification économique permet d'importantes avancées dans le domaine de l'économie et de l'entreprise, avec pour conséquence une fluidification de la mobilité sociale. Mais après un cycle d'un peu plus de 20 ans, nous voyons aujourd'hui les limites de ce modèle de développement fondé sur la croissance par la consommation et trop dépendant des flux d'investissement étrangers.

Ceci signifie tout simplement qu'il faut comprendre comment fonctionne l'exclusion aujourd'hui, et quels liens entretient-elle avec la précarité des classes ouvrières et moyennes.

En effet, l'exclusion actuelle ne prend pas uniquement les formes de la misère, comme c'était le cas à la fin du siècle dernier. L'exclusion actuelle se retrouve dans un ensemble de phénomènes économiques et sociaux – comme les difficultés des jeunes à devenir propriétaires d'un logement, le chômage des jeunes, l'endettement des ménages pour la consommation, etc. – que nous nous devons de comprendre si nous ne souhaitons pas nous retrouver dans une situation similaire aux émeutes de février 99.

* * *



Lancement d'un livre de Sarita Boodhoo
'Geet Gawai Bhojpuri Folk Songs in Mauritius'

'An Ode to Geetharines of Mauritius'

Sarita Boodhoo, la Chairperson de la Bhojpuri Speaking Union, a lancé cette semaine son dernier livre intitulé 'Geet Gawai Bhojpuri Folk Songs in Mauritius: An Ode to Geetharines of Mauritius'. Ce livre est un travail d'archive important pour mieux comprendre la fonction du Geet Gawai dans la constitution d'une conscience identitaire indo-mauricienne. C'est cette conscience qui donnera la matière spirituelle nécessaire à la construction de la conscience politique de la communauté hindoue à Maurice, les baïtkas jouant un rôle essentiel dans la dissémination des savoirs ancestraux.

De ce point de vue, le livre de Sarita Boodhoo - par-

delà l'exercice anthropologique et musicologique qu'il est – vient apporter une compréhension qui dépasse en réalité la simple description des chants et des rituels du Geet Gawai, mais touche à quelque chose de plus fondamental encore: celui du rôle de la culture dans la construction d'un imaginaire et d'une vision politique.

Il y a ainsi, dans cette approche, des liens forts à tisser entre le Geet Gawai et le séga tipik – les deux expressions artistiques majeurs des dominés de l'histoire coloniale mauricienne: les descendants des esclaves affranchis et les descendants des travailleurs engagés.

Ce travail reste à être effectué, mais le livre de Sarita Boodhoo en constitue déjà une pierre importante, surtout que l'auteur met l'accent sur le rôle fondamental des femmes dans le développement de la culture bhojpuri à Maurice. Dans un pays où les femmes sont devenues démographiquement plus nombreuses que les hommes, ceci n'est pas anodin. Le grand poète Louis Aragon avait décidément raison lorsqu'il écrivait «la femme est l'avenir de l'homme»...

Il faudrait rajouter qu'elle en constitue également son passé et son présent.

* * *

Invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie: où en est-on un an plus tard ?

Le 24 février 2022, l'armée russe entrait sur le territoire ukrainien, signifiant par ce fait le début de l'invasion de l'Ukraine. Une série de sanctions ont suivi cette invasion, avec comme objectif principal de faire reculer Vladimir Poutine et surtout de retourner la population russe contre ce dernier. Certains chefs d'État et analystes n'ont pas hésité à déclarer que les sanctions économiques seraient suffisantes pour enrayer la guerre, prévoyant que l'économie russe serait à genoux au bout de quelques semaines.

Il n'en fut rien. Certes, l'économie russe entra dans une phase de récession, mais cette dernière n'a pas eu l'impact espéré. La raison majeure à cela est que la Russie a pu continuer à vendre son pétrole, malgré les interdictions occidentales, à la Chine et à l'Inde notamment – qui ont fait fi de ces interdictions, s'abstenant même de voter les résolutions condamnant l'annexion de quatre régions ukrainiennes au territoire russe.

Parallèlement à cela, la Russie a honoré ses contrats de vente de gaz naturel liquéfié (GNL) à l'Union européenne – même si certaines sanctions ont été mises en place par rapport à l'utilisation du gazoduc Nord Stream 2. Cela a eu pour conséquence de plonger certains pays de l'Union européenne dans une crise énergétique grave, les poussant à reconsidérer aujourd'hui leur décision de sortir de l'énergie nucléaire.

Sur le front, l'invasion – qui se voulait une opération militaire éclair – n'a pas eu le résultat qu'espérait Vladimir Poutine. Les Ukrainiens étaient préparés à une invasion russe, avec notamment le bon fonctionnement des services de renseignement américains qui ont vu clair dans le jeu de Poutine. Ainsi, l'armée russe fut stoppée nette à l'entrée de Kiev et commença à reculer.

Ce recul signifia une autre phase dans la guerre, qui était devenue une guerre qui allait durer... et une guerre qui durera sans doute pendant encore plusieurs années. D'un côté, les Etats-Unis, la France et l'Allemagne ont pu continuellement équiper l'armée ukrai-



Guerre en Ukraine: L'Histoire globale semble s'être remise en ordre de marche. P - The UCSB Current

nienne – sans pour autant s'exposer au risque de devenir des cobelligérants au regard du droit international – et, de l'autre, la Chine qui a récemment signifié son intention d'un soutien en armement et en équipement à la Russie.

Il est clair, une année après le début de la guerre, que nous voyons émerger ce que plusieurs analystes et géopolitistes ne cessent de clamer: un nouvel ordre mondial. Le consensus qui a suivi la Guerre froide est bel et bien terminé, et nous voyons émerger un monde multipolaire où les rapports de forces entre les États évoluent très rapidement. Il est également clair que ces changements de rapports de force sont en train de faire évoluer les certitudes historiques quant à la géopolitique mondiale, d'un côté, et celle de notre région du monde de l'autre – ce que les géopolitistes nomment l'Indo-Pacifique.

Ainsi, l'hégémonie américaine - basée sur l'économie du marché et son modèle social-démocrate - se voit concurrencée de manière de plus en plus sérieuse par d'autres formes de coopérations. Après plusieurs décennies d'un statu quo qui semblait figé, l'Histoire globale semble s'être remise en ordre de marche et nous voyons apparaître des alternatives crédibles à l'hypothèse américaine dans la manière de construire et de faire fonctionner la globalisation. Les projets chinois, notamment la «Belt and Road Initiative», les ambitions de l'Inde (qui sera le pays le plus peuplé du monde à partir du mois d'avril de cette année), le réalignement progressif de l'Arabie saoudite ou encore le refus de plusieurs dirigeants latino-américains de continuer à être la chasse gardée de l'empire américain, tout cela est en train de redessiner la globalisation.

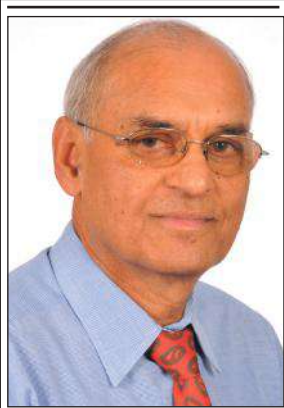
Cette semaine fut marquée par des signes décisifs quant à ces changements, et les positionnements, de part et d'autre, sont en train de démontrer que des blocs sont en train de se constituer. D'un côté, le bloc occidental classique, de l'autre côté, un bloc où la Chine et la Russie constituent les têtes de proue ; et dans une logique un peu différente, le bloc constitué des pays non-alignés qui avancent prudemment avec cette nouvelle donne – comme l'Inde ou le Brésil.

Cela aura un impact immense sur Maurice, qui se trouve pris au milieu d'une zone hautement stratégique pour le commerce mondial et, donc, pour la sécurité du monde. Nous devons, plus que jamais, savoir avancer nos pions de manière cohérente et réfléchie.

A. Bartleby

Frightening Freddy

Cyclones and other natural climatic and geological events will continue to affect the planet, and we can never be too prepared



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

It was said to be the strongest ever cyclone of the century with wind speeds nearing 300 km. Besides, it was a huge cyclone that had travelled at almost record speed to cover the 6000 km from where it had originated, to the north-west of Australia, and reach our vicinity in the Indian Ocean. The satellite images from high above

were indeed impressive: in truth, that monster named Freddy had a certain beauty about it. Massive snow-white clouds swirled around what looked like a black hole – the eye of the cyclone – even as the whole system twirled its way westwards towards the Indian Ocean islands, which it fortunately skirted at a safe distance.

That's why, when a Class 2 warning was issued by the Met Office on Sunday last, one wondered if it was really necessary, but Class 3 followed by Monday early morning and that was it. Stay indoors and don't venture out. Nevertheless, the general impression overall is that there was more wind than rain, much less of the latter than during the two preceding cyclones Batsirai and Cheneso respectively.

There was no major problem to the power grid that could affect large swathes of the population, and in the few areas where there was a breakdown, it was promptly attended to and power restored. Finally, as fast as it had come Freddy left our region to hurtle towards Madagascar which once again had to bear the brunt. Fortunately, though, it had weakened into a tropical cyclone but, given the precariousness of human habitations in inland Madagascar (as was shown when the earlier cyclones hit the island), there is likely to be further damage as the folks there have probably not had the time or the resources to make good after the previous onslaughts.

'Touch wood' is what we can thankfully exclaim when we compare what we have undergone to the devastations and disruptions caused by more violent catastrophes elsewhere, such as the floods followed by the earthquake in New Zealand, and the earthquake in Syria-Turkey. The latest is that another earthquake of magnitude 6.3 has struck the latter anew a few days ago. That, alas for us, is the play of nature.

Being forced to be locked in and passively watch the elements from the window from time to time as a diversion from the TV or a book one is reading takes the mind back to cyclones that one has experienced before. This is spontaneous and memories swim into our ken as it were, in parts of the brain that neurologists call the 'default mode network.' Those that surface had marked us in some specific way(s).

For example, my own first memory of cyclones goes back to 1960, when first Alix struck in January 1960 followed by Carol a few weeks later in February. Our elders recalled the 1945 cyclone that was as destructive, and later when Gervaise came in February 1975, the weather experts used the term '15-year cycle'. That didn't last, for after that till date we have had several cyclones at varying intervals.

Carol in particular scarred us because that was the first time in living memory that the eye of the cyclone passed over Mauritius. The winds and rains had died down after a few harrowing days of battering gusts of wind and rain, and the sun came out. It was absolutely still, and people started to come out to inspect the damage and to try and get some items from the corner shop or simply take a look at the neighbourhood, wrongly thinking that Carol had gone.

And then midmorning the police cars went around exhorting people to get back in quickly as the cyclone was going to hit again with even more violence as the winds changed direction. And that was exactly what happened a couple of hours later.

I can never forget the deathly



The Place d'Armes, Port Louis, following Cyclone Gervaise, February 1975. Pic - Meteo Mauritius

silence that reigned the next morning when we stepped out of our leaking house and looked at the wreckage around us. On the roads people walked about shocked and benumbed, speaking softly, not quite knowing what to say. It would take a long time to get over that unforgettable trauma.

When Gervaise hit I was then staying in the hospital quarters at SSRN Hospital. The reason I particularly remember it is that when Class 3 was declared my wife was on duty in the gynae-obs department. At about 3 am she got a call that a colleague, who had got admitted earlier, had been transferred to the Labour Ward with strong labour pains, and there were some signs of foetal distress, so Sister requested her to come.

I accompanied her up to a tree that had fallen across the road, helped her to step over it into the waiting ambulance which took her to hospital. To cut a long story short, there was what we call a mi-cavity arrest: the foetus was stuck in the birth canal, and her attempts at delivering it with a special forceps were not successful. She talked to the specialist on call who could not come, and advised sedation till he could reach the next day. A Caesarian section was duly carried out. Today that 'Gervaise' child teaches English in a university the UK.

My next recall is that of cyclone Bakoly in December 1983. I was on call at PMOC and had to stay over per our Ministry of Health protocol. Next morning when I reached back home my four-year old son excitedly narrated to me, along with his mother, how they had spent a sleepless night collecting water in a bucket and emptying it several times. There was a leaking joint between two rooms in the house we had moved into in Curepipe the previous year.

And then there's Hollanda in February 1994, probably one of the strongest cyclones we have experienced. It was associated with the mass hysteria that took hold for several days, when people complained about *Touni Minuit*, a mysterious persona that was roaming around houses in the dead of the night and causing widespread panic.

Cyclones and other natural climatic and geological events will continue to affect the planet, and we can never be too prepared. That's the only thing we can do by way of mitigating their impact. The reality is that we will ever be at the receiving end in the face of their overwhelming might, and be left to pick up after they have done their deed and build up our lives again.

Freddy caused more fright than actual damage - *plus de peur que de mal* – for most of us. *Bon courage* and God Bless to those who have had more severe impacts as they start to face the consequences. We keep our fingers crossed...



Cyclone Carol in Port Louis Feb 1960 Paturau. Pic - Vintage Mauritius

“Carol in particular scarred us because that was the first time in living memory that the eye of the cyclone passed over Mauritius. The winds and rains had died down after a few harrowing days of battering gusts of wind and rain, and the sun came out. It was absolutely still, and people started to come out to inspect the damage and to try and get some items from the corner shop or simply take a look at the neighbourhood, wrongly thinking that Carol had gone. And then midmorning the police cars went around exhorting people to get back in quickly as the cyclone was going to hit again with even more violence as the winds changed direction. And that was exactly what happened a couple of hours later...”



Anil Madan

Ukraine: As long as it takes – How long is that?

The war that Vladimir Putin started has been raging for almost a full year. In a few days, the world will mark the grim anniversary of his assault on Ukraine, its people, its cities, its infrastructure, its existence.

One would have thought that after the US invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan, the three great nuclear powers would have learned that in the 21st Century, war is not the path to success in producing sustainable gains. Yet, those US-led wars have not seemingly diminished the thirst for conquest and domination. Russia flexed its muscle in Syria, Georgia, and Crimea. China has all but obliterated Hong Kong and its culture. Now, as the war in Ukraine rages, China threatens Taiwan.

President Biden made an unannounced visit to Kyiv to give Zelensky a wartime hug. The US will support Ukraine "for as long as it takes," he declared. Western leaders at the Munich Security Conference echoed Biden and pledged to support Ukraine "as long as necessary."

Biden followed his Kyiv appearance with a visit to Poland, a nation once in the Soviet bloc but now firmly embracing the West. As he spoke about Putin's miscalculation about the strength and resilience of the Ukrainian people and of Democracy itself, he uttered nary a word about finding a way to end this needless killing and destruction.

“In an interesting bit of irony, the US has reported that although Biden’s visit to Kyiv was planned in secret for months, they did give the Russians a ‘heads up’ that Biden would be visiting Kyiv. So, it seems that, when necessary, they can talk about ensuring the safety of the US President. Alas, when it comes to the survival of Ukraine, lips are sealed...”

President Macron of France sputtered mixed messages. On the one hand, he declared that the “neocolonialist and imperialist” aggression must fail. He declared Putin’s war “catastrophic” and “unjustified.” At the same time, looking to an eventual engagement with Russia, he spoke of the need for “dialogue and re-engagement”. None of us can overcome geography, and given that Russia is on European soil, “we will have to negotiate.”

On the other hand, Macron mused: “How to help the Ukrainians to make on the ground something which will force Russia to come back to the table on the conditions of Ukraine?”

Olaf Scholz, the German Chancellor, offered no words on how to end the war while joining in declarations of support for Ukraine.

The path to peace

There you have it. The leaders on the Western side see continued war and success by Ukraine as the path to peace. They may well be right. Putin has shown no signs of backing down, nor any inclination to do so. In a ranging two-hour long speech, Putin declared that Russia will succeed and accused the West of trying to destroy his country. Without offering any factual support for his baseless



US President Joe Biden makes unannounced visit to Ukraine's Kyiv. Pic - Irish Times

claim, he accused Ukraine of trying to acquire nuclear weapons, and once again, playing the nuclear card, he stated that Russia was suspending its participation in the START treaty and might start testing nuclear weapons.

Western leaders continue to send other confusing signals. Macron added an on-the-third-hand comment to his remarks when he stated: “This is not the time for dialogue.” And he noted that the West must face the fact that although the weeks ahead could be decisive, the war might last longer. Accordingly, Europe and the United States have the critical challenge “to be credible over the long term.”

Existential war for survival

President Biden has contradictions of his own. President Zelensky is asking for aid in the form of F-22 fighter jets, but Biden is said to be reluctant to authorize the transfer of jets for fear of escalating the conflict. One can well imagine that for Zelensky and the Ukrainian people, it is foolish to talk of “escalation” when one is engaged in an existential war for survival. One can hark back to Germany’s resistance to transfer tanks to Ukraine over similar concerns.

Putin also frames the conflict as an existential threat to Russia. Speaking of the US-led NATO alliance, he declared: “They intend to transform a local conflict into a phase of global confrontation. This is exactly how we understand it all and we will react accordingly, because in this case we are talking about the existence of our country.”

Aside from threatening to dismantle the architecture of nuclear arms control unless the West backs off from its support of Ukraine, Putin once again toys with veiled threats of using nuclear power. At the same time, Putin’s spokespersons seek to form a Sino-Russian alliance against the West.

The Biden administration has expressed concern over China’s ongoing non-military support for Russia’s war effort and has charged that Beijing is considering supplying weapons to Russia.

China’s top foreign policy diplomat Wang Yi was in Moscow on Tuesday. He dismissed these concerns and cautioned against any nuclear escalation. At the same time, he reaffirmed a new, wide-ranging alliance with Russia.

What is China’s position here? China’s foreign minis-

ter Qin Gang said that China is “deeply worried” that the Ukraine conflict could spiral out of control. In typical Chinese diplo-speak, he called on “certain countries to stop fuelling the fire,” and that they must “stop hyping up ‘today Ukraine, tomorrow Taiwan’.” This was, of course, a not so veiled reference to the United States.

In response to the Chinese balloon incident, when a Chinese surveillance balloon traversed US territory on an alleged spying mission — China said it was a weather balloon that went astray — US Secretary of State Antony Blinken cancelled a visit to China where he would have had direct talks with Wang Yi. The two met at the Munich Security Conference.

Belligerent tone

The US Department of State issued a readout of the meeting. The tone is belligerent and posturing: “The Secretary directly spoke to the unacceptable violation of US sovereignty and international law by the PRC high-altitude surveillance balloon in US territorial airspace, underscoring that this irresponsible act must never again occur. The Secretary made clear the United States will not stand for any violation of our sovereignty, and that the PRC’s high altitude surveillance balloon program — which has intruded into the air space of over 40 countries across 5 continents — has been exposed to the world.”

“On Russia’s brutal war against Ukraine, the Secretary warned about the implications and consequences if China provides material support to Russia or assistance with systemic sanctions evasion... The Secretary reaffirmed there had been no change to the longstanding US one-China policy, and he underscored the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.”

In what may be an attempt of humour, the readout ends with this: “The Secretary underscored the importance of maintaining diplomatic dialogue and open lines of communication at all times.”

So, where do we stand? Everyone professes to be for peace. Everyone sees continued war as the path to that peace. Does this mean that war over Taiwan is a path to peace there also?

It seems that “for as long as it takes” means for as long as the leaders of the world’s greatest superpowers and their representatives continue to behave like children.

So long as Ukraine and Russia both see the war as a matter of their existential survival, neither will negotiate. So long as the US Secretary of State calls for maintaining diplomatic dialogue and open lines of communication at all times but refuses to go to Beijing to speak with the Chinese, there will be no dialogue.

In an interesting bit of irony, the US has reported that although Biden’s visit to Kyiv was planned in secret for months, they did give the Russians a “heads up” that Biden would be visiting Kyiv. So, it seems that, when necessary, they can talk about ensuring the safety of the US President. Alas, when it comes to the survival of Ukraine, lips are sealed.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Jack Bizlall

“On installe des dynasties dans notre pays. C’est une honte qui nous affecte depuis des années”

Suite au lancement de ‘For a People’s Constitution’, publication qui vise à ouvrir un débat sur la nécessité d’une nouvelle Constitution pour Maurice, nous vous invitons à lire les propos de Jack Bizlall sur toute la question de réforme constitutionnelle. Cette publication comprend des textes de Milan Meetarbhan, Alain Laridon, Jocelyn Chan Low, Ragen Narsinghen et de Jack Bizlall lui-même. Une autre publication sur “Les Malheurs des 60-0” rédigée par Joseph Tsang Man Kin sera lancée ultérieurement. En attendant que des volontaires se mobilisent pour sensibiliser les Mauriciens sur la question, Jack Bizlall nous parle des raisons qui militent en faveur d’une nouvelle Constitution...

Mauritius Times: Il semble que l’idée prônant une nouvelle Constitution pour la République de Maurice commence à prendre forme avec le lancement cette semaine-ci d’une publication visant à ouvrir un débat sur la question. Pourquoi nous faut-il une nouvelle Constitution?

Jack Bizlall: C’est une question qui se pose depuis très longtemps. Certains croient qu’une nouvelle Constitution ne peut venir que d’en haut, c’est-à-dire de nos dirigeants politiques comme ce fut le cas en 1968 après les négociations de Londres en accord avec l’Angleterre ou, en 1992, avec un projet de partage politique entre le MMM et le MSM. Nous avons fort heureusement échappé à l’accord de 2014 pour l’institution d’une République quasi-présidentielle. Ce fut une victoire pour la démocratie et non pas une victoire de la famille Jugnauth.

“ La prochaine Constitution devra être approuvée par le peuple. Politiquement parlant, nous sommes sortis d’une Monarchie Parlementaire avec la Reine Elizabeth II comme Chef de l’Etat pour entrer dans une Monarchie Républicaine sous le règne de la famille Jugnauth. Notre Constitution n’a jamais été approuvée directement par le peuple. Le temps est arrivé pour changer la donne comme ce fut le cas en Inde entre 1947 et 1950...”

Cette fois, l’initiative vient de six personnes, trois anciens parlementaires et trois universitaires et le projet vise à dégager un consensus pour une Nouvelle Constitution et passer ainsi à la Deuxième République. Il sera certainement question d’opposer la suprématie parlementaire à la suprématie constitutionnelle. Pour moi, c’est crucial. Ce sera l’essence même du débat.

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Le temps est arrivé pour changer la donne comme ce fut le cas en Inde entre 1947 et 1950.

* On soutient que la Constitution de 1968 a été conçue en vue d’asseoir l’autorité du Premier ministre d’alors, mais les gouvernements qui se sont

succédé - dont certains disposant d’une majorité absolue - n’ont apporté aucune modification fondamentale dans le système en place pour, entre autres, arrêter les abus. On voit difficilement ces mêmes leaders soutenir quelque démarche visant à affaiblir leur contrôle sur l’appareil d’État du pays, non?

Notre Constitution impose sur nous un Premier ministre qui peut tout faire tant qu’il détient une majorité à l’Assemblée nationale. Il peut même vendre le pays!

Personne ne prend conscience que le parti politique, qui est supposé appliquer une politique respectant la démocratie, agit à travers un leader incontesté. C’est le cas dans presque tous nos partis politiques et, de surcroît, ce fait installe des dynasties dans notre pays. C’est une honte qui nous affecte depuis des années. Le seul Premier ministre qui n’a pas voulu que son fils fasse de la politique fut Seewoosagar Ramgoolam.

Constatons comment les partis politiques fonctionnent et demandons-nous si le pays n’en souffre pas. Rien n’est prévu dans notre Constitution pour les partis politiques. C’est une aberration plus qu’une irrationalité démocratique. Je suis d’accord que ces gens-là ne pourront et ne voudront aucunement changer les choses. C’est là un premier obstacle auquel nous avons à faire face.

Un autre obstacle viendra de ceux qui voudront instaurer une Nouvelle République comme ce fut le cas dans plus que 40 pays après 1924. Le stalinisme et les partis uniques doivent ainsi être opposés. J’ai mis la main à une Constitution poste-républicaine pour une société sans classe quand la notion de majorité n’aura aucun sens ni aucune utilité.

Pour le besoin d’une Deuxième République, j’ai déjà écrit le premier chapitre d’une Nouvelle Constitution avec

“ Personne ne prend conscience que le parti politique, qui est supposé appliquer une politique respectant la démocratie, agit à travers un leader incontesté. C’est le cas dans presque tous nos partis politiques et, de surcroît, ce fait installe des dynasties dans notre pays. C’est une honte qui nous affecte depuis des années. Le seul Premier ministre qui n’a pas voulu que son fils fasse de la politique fut Seewoosagar Ramgoolam...”



pas moins de 50 propositions constitutionnelles déjà en pratique dans plusieurs pays. Cet essai sera en vente et il est puisé d’une autre publication faite en 2012. Je n’ai aucunement l’intention de quitter ce projet. Que ceux qui veulent nous aider se fassent connaître.

*** C’est possible qu’une transformation paradigmatique se soit opérée dans notre société par rapport aux motivations et priorités de nos citoyens, et il n’est donc pas évident de leur faire participer aux débats sur les grandes questions qui devraient intéresser notre pays. Une nouvelle Constitution, cela pourrait être la moindre de leurs préoccupations. Qu’en pensez-vous?**

Si j’avais cette appréhension, je me serais retranché dans mes activités syndicales. Au contraire, depuis voilà cinq ans et plus, je me suis éloigné du journalisme événementiel qui se pratique pour me consacrer grandement à l’écriture pour une nouvelle Constitution.

Il est évident qu’il faudra organiser des conférences dans les universités et aussi dans les régions les plus intéressées par la politique.

☞ Suite en page 9

'Politiquement parlant, nous sommes sortis d'une Monarchie Parlementaire avec la Reine Elizabeth II comme Chef de l'Etat pour entrer dans une Monarchie Républicaine'



☞ Suite de la page 8

Il faudra surtout en parler dans le milieu des travailleurs. Rien ne doit être laissé au hasard. Il y aura donc autour du noyau des initiateurs, des cercles de contributeurs à la rédaction et à la recherche de l'approbation des masses.

Pourquoi ne pourrions-nous pas organiser un vote dans ces régions et lieux sur la forme finale de cette Constitution? Qui nous empêche de procéder de la sorte?

Mon opinion à propos de ce que souhaitent les Mauriciens, les Rodriguais, les Agaléens et les Chagossiens: c'est un changement de leurs intérêts constitutionnels. Pour les Rodriguais, c'est l'indépendance. Pour les Chagossiens, c'est le retour aux Chagos. C'est à nous de transformer ces intérêts en volontés constitutionnelles. Nous sommes tous concernés.

*** Mais, est-ce principalement la culture politique prévalente et les pratiques en cours dans le pays durant cette dernière décennie qui ont motivé et accéléré cette démarche en faveur d'une nouvelle Constitution?**

Il existe plusieurs facteurs. Rien en politique ne reste statique ou de nature réductrice. On ne doit rien simplifier d'une façon abusive ou irrationnelle. En effet, il existe plusieurs motivations existentielles, historiques et philosophiques qui poussent les classes sociales, les catégories sociales, mais surtout des individus qui veulent que les choses changent selon leurs intérêts, leur idéologie et

leur quête du bonheur de vivre en toute liberté.

La plus grande de ces quêtes est certainement la liberté de la personne humaine qui est justement en République supra constitutionnelle.

Je demande donc à vos lecteurs de répondre aux deux questions suivantes:

1. Quand les dirigeants de notre pays ont-ils fait appel à cette liberté pour faire approuver une véritable Constitution républicaine? Si nous ne répondons jamais, c'est que nous ne sommes pas dans une République.
2. Qui symbolise la République dans nos institutions, y compris le judiciaire? Le chapitre 1 décrit Maurice comme «a sovereign democratic state». Lisez la Constitution indienne et vous verrez la grande différence.

*** Ce qui a fait l'objet des critiques ces dernières années, ce sont les dysfonctionnements ou le blocage des institutions publiques clés du pays - l'ICAC, la police, la Commission électo-rale, la Electoral Supervisory Commission... On a aussi beaucoup parlé de 'state capture' ces derniers temps. Ce n'est pas sûr qu'un renforcement des lois ou une nouvelle Constitution va modifier la donne; ce dont le pays a besoin, ce sont des hommes intègres...**

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“ Nommez-moi une personne à la tête du pays et de nos institutions qui n'a pas utilisé l'éducation d'insertion, sa position sociale, ses liens politiques, son appartenance ethnique, son argent, ses relations familiales, son appartenance à des organisations occultes, son individualisme, sa soumission, ou ses aliénations socio-économiques pour occuper ces fonctions étatiques. Ce qu'il faut, ce sont des institutions républicaines qui de par leurs fonctions et leurs attributions se donnent des limites à leurs interventions...”

C'est qui une personne intègre? Elle est supposée être «d'une grande probité», une personne que l'on ne peut corrompre.

Nommez-moi une personne à la tête du pays et de nos institutions qui n'a pas utilisé l'éducation d'insertion, sa position sociale, ses liens politiques, son appartenance ethnique, son argent, ses relations familiales, son appartenance à des organisations occultes, son individualisme, sa soumission, ou ses aliénations socio-économiques pour occuper ces fonctions étatiques.

Ce qu'il faut, ce sont des institutions républicaines qui de par leurs fonctions (non leurs rôles) et leurs attributions (non leur pouvoir) se donnent des limites à leurs interventions (très important) dans notre société. Il y a une bataille sémantique à mener. Il y a une très grande différence entre gouverner et administrer.

Ce que je cherche personnellement de cette nouvelle Constitution, c'est un chapitre élaboré et fondamental. L'essence de la nouvelle Constitution doit se trouver dans son premier chapitre.

Je demande donc à vos lecteurs de se concentrer sur le premier chapitre qui actuellement est constitué de deux phases incomplètes. Il faut passer par l'élaboration complète de ce premier chapitre.

Si nous passons le cap du premier chapitre, le reste devra suivre.

*** Il est possible également que le mal trouve sa source dans "la dérive vers un 'party system' dominé par des partis personnels, et non des partis collectifs et démocratiques," comme le soutient Jocelyn Chan Low, et la corruption politique et le financement illicite des partis. Par exemple, l'affaire Franklin est à l'évidence une source d'embarras pour certains dirigeants politiques, n'est-ce pas?**

Au sein du MPM, nous avons réfléchi sur la question des élections entre le 'First Past The Post' et la 'Party List'. Une publication intitulée 'Le système électoral' pose le problème différemment en proposant une assemblée nationale avec 80 élus dont 40 hommes et 40 femmes qui définit la majorité gouvernementale, et 20 autres élus sur la base du 'Party List' et la proportionnelle, garantissant une autre voix et une autre voie, que l'on appelle tout simplement l'opposition.

Je vous propose par email 9 des 13 publications faites par trois organisations dont je suis membre – le MPM: 5 publications; la Rosa Luxembourg: 2 publications et 2 autres publications en mon nom, pour vous dire et affirmer que ma réflexion ne date pas d'hier.

Je veux ainsi vous dire, qu'il faut persévérer, expliquer, écouter, modifier, pour qu'enfin on puisse satisfaire trois choses: (1) ce qui est nécessaire, (2) ce qui est acceptable, et (3) ce qui est applicable et aussi réalisable.

Je vous le dis très humblement, il nous faut des personnes qui maîtrisent la contradiction positive, c'est-à-dire qui peuvent discuter, et ce, jusqu'à la synthèse. On n'a pas besoin de sectarisme dans la réflexion mais de nivellement. On n'a pas besoin d'opportunisme et d'aventurisme dans le comportement, mais de la détermination, de la conviction dans nos propositions, et le respect et la gentillesse dans nos rapports.

China's Covid-19 epidemic has basically ended: Health authorities



Health authorities in China said on Thursday the country's Covid-19 epidemic has "basically" ended. Pic - NPR

Officials, speaking at a news event with several departments attending, said China's "major decisive victory" over Covid has set an example for populous nations in prevention and control.

Health authorities in China said on Thursday the country's Covid-19 epidemic has "basically" ended, but it is not completely over as it found seven imported cases of the highly-transmissible XBB.1.5 variant since Jan. 8.

Last week, China's top leaders declared a "decisive victory" over Covid, claiming the world's lowest fatality rate, although experts questioned

data as the virus surged across the country recently after largely being kept at bay for three years.

The country strengthened its healthcare system in anticipation of the virus spreading to rural areas. Officials said at the press briefing on Thursday critical care beds had expanded to 404,000 from 198,000.

Health officials and experts were also monitoring the XBB.1.5 sub-variant of Omicron for months. On Jan. 4, data had showed no new variant was found in the country. Officials said on Thursday one local case of the variant was linked with an imported case on Feb. 3.

New drug in US is turning people into 'zombies'

A new drug, called Xylazine or "tranq" has wreaked major havoc in cities across the US by causing deadly symptoms including skin rotting.

This 'zombie drug' has been approved by the country's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for veterinary purpose and, was used for cutting heroin, but most recently it has been discovered in fentanyl and other illicit drugs, reported the New York Post.

A non-opioid, xylazine is not safe for humans as its overdose does not allow one to respond to naloxone, or Narcan-the most common overdose reversal treatment.

The drug has symptoms like excessive sleepiness, respiratory depression, and raw wounds that can become severe and spread rapidly with repeated exposure. If left untreated, the ulcerations can become dead skin called eschar, which requires amputation.

In 2021, Philadelphia reported 90% of the lab-tested dope sample contained xylazine, increasing the risk of overdose when combined with other illicit substances. The high of opioids, such as fentanyl, is extended with the help of "tranq" and this is what gives xylazine its appeal.

"Tranq is basically zombifying people's bodies," 28-year-old Sam told Sky News. "Until nine months ago, I never had wounds. Now, there are holes in my legs and feet."

In 2021, 2,668 people died in New York because of its overdose, stated the New York City Department of Health while experts suggest that xylazine could worsen the ongoing drug epidemic.



Tranq is basically zombifying people's bodies. Pic - Pennsylvania Capital-Star

Majority of world's billionaires have this zodiac sign in common, says study

Most of the world's top billionaires share one zodiac sign - which Western astrology refers to as an astrological sign - in common. According to Cashfloat, a UK-based lender, the zodiac sign 'Libra' appeared to be the most common among the world's richest people.

From the 268 billionaires on Forbes' Billionaires 2022 list, '32' belong to the are 'Libra' zodiac sign accounting for 12% of the total. Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces are the 12 signs of the zodiac. According to astronomy, each sign was named after a constellation that the sun passed through on its annual journey across the sky. Libra is the seventh zodiac sign, assigned to people born between September 22 and October 23.

The survey highlighted 'common zodiac sign' saying that the world's wealthiest have a common sunshine by using the birthdate information of the top billionaires.



Billionaires. Pic - Daily Express

Libra was followed by Pisces, which was shared by 29 people on the Forbes list, making it the 'second-most common zodiac sign' among billionaires. Pisces made up 11% of the total list.

Capricorn was the least successful star sign, with only 5.5% of billionaires belonging to it. In addition, Capricorn is the star sign of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who has topped the rich list for several years in a row.

Zodiac signs of World's top-10 richest people

Bernard Arnault & family (net worth: \$214.9 billion)	-- Pisces
Elon Musk (net worth: \$198.2 billion)	-- Cancer
Jeff Bezos (net worth: \$120.4 billion)	-- Capricorn
Larry Ellison (net worth: \$112.3 billion)	-- Leo
Warren Buffett (net worth: \$107.3 billion)	-- Virgo
Bill Gates (net worth: \$107.0 billion)	-- Scorpio
Carlos Slim Helu & family (net worth: \$90.7 billion)	-- Aquarius
Mukesh Ambani (net worth: \$86.0 billion)	-- Aries
Steve Ballmer (net worth: \$83.1 billion)	-- Aries
Larry Page (net worth: \$82.0 billion)	-- Aries

'Does this look like pornography?': Edward Snowden over wife-baby pic on Twitter

Former US intelligence contractor and whistleblower Edward Snowden slammed Twitter CEO Elon Musk claiming that his wife's account has been locked from the microblogging site. Snowden said Lindsay Mill's account was locked after she uploaded a picture of her holding their naked baby. "Twitter just locked my wife @lsjourneys 's account for an ancient baby photo that even *spineless Instagram* had no problem with. Do parents need to worry? Are baby butts, happy bath



photos, etc. banworthy now?," he tweeted.

In another tweet, he questioned the Twitter boss, and said: "Does this look like pornography to you,

@ElonMusk? If you have a machine handing out bans for pictures that could be on a Hallmark Card, it's time to dial back the algorithm. Just my opinion."

The picture left netizens divided, with some saying they don't see anything "inappropriate" about it, while others opining that it shouldn't have been shared on a public account as it could be misused. One user wrote, "Given those predators sometimes share child abuse materials that include infants, your wife's photo was probably caught in the broader net meant to remove that material. Through manual appeal I am sure she'll be restored. No system is perfect."

Snowden had fled the US after leaking secret National Security Agency files in 2013 and was given asylum in Russia last year. He married Mills in 2017 and the couple has two children.

* Contd on page 11

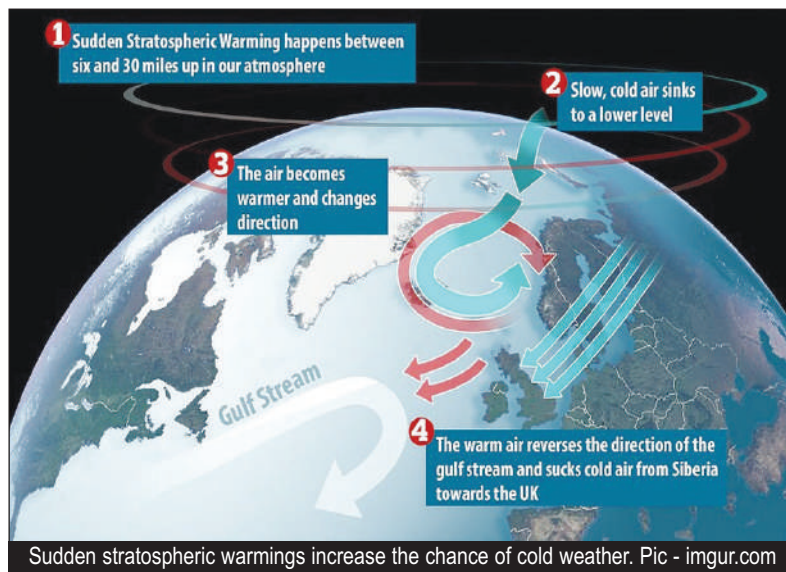
Current mild weather in Britain could come to an end in the first week of March

The current mild weather in Britain could come to an end in the first week of March as a result of a phenomenon known as sudden stratospheric warming, which is currently brewing above the Arctic, the Met Office has warned.

Theoretically, although there is little to indicate it will happen at present, these conditions could bring a new "Beast from the East" to the UK, reminiscent of that bitter winter storm the British Isles experienced in early March 2018, which saw heavy snow, ice and strong winds cause 17 fatalities and bring the country to a standstill.

Forecaster Aidan McGivern said: "We are seeing a major sudden stratospheric warming taking place above the North Pole and what that means is that the winds in the stratosphere surrounding the North Pole are expected to reverse, instead of going from west to east they are going to go from east to west, reports The Independent.

"That can have a drag effect on the jet stream, which can slow the jet stream down, which can, in turn, lead to



higher pressure at the surface, a blocking area of high pressure, blocking wind and rain from the Atlantic and sometimes leading to colder conditions. That's why sudden stratospheric warmings increase the chance of cold weather.

"Not immediately, though, although this is taking place right now, there is a lag effect so we are not expecting an

impact, if any, to take place until the first week of March."

Britain is the (empty) basket case of Europe as supermarkets ration fruit and veg

Britain's biggest supermarket has begun rationing fresh fruit and vegetables as a row erupted over shortages that have left shelves bare, reports The Independent.

Tesco has followed Aldi, Asda and Morrisons in introducing limits on items customers can buy.

A shortage of tomatoes has widened to other fruit and vegetables due to a combination of bad weather and transport problems in Africa and Europe.

But farmers and retailers have pointed the finger at Brexit, with former Sainsbury's chief executive Justin King saying shops had been hurt by the decision to leave the European Union.

He said north Kent previously had the largest greenhouses in Europe "but it's a sector that's been hurt horribly by Brexit".



Zara most popular brand on Instagram

Influencer marketing on social media has become essential for multiple brands in recent years. According to the numbers presented by SafeBettingSites.com, the Spanish fashion brand Zara (besides Instagram itself) was the most popular among Instagram influencers in 2022. Overall, Zara was mentioned by 664,000 Instagram influencers past year.

Generally, fashion and tech brands benefit most from influencer marketing, which is evident from the list of ten brands that received the most exposure on Instagram in 2022.

According to the data available on Statista.com, Instagram received mentions from 85,500 different influencers in 2022. Among external brands, Zara was the most popular, with mentions from 66,400 influencers, reports Fortune Herald.

After Instagram and Zara, fashion brand Shein was most popular on the popular social media platform. 57,200 Instagram influencers mentioned the Chinese fast fashion retailer in 2022.

Famous Swedish clothing company H&M also enjoys strong popularity on social media. 46,100 Instagram influencers mentioned H&M in their posts in 2022. American sportswear giant Nike was just a little behind with mentions from 40,500 influencers on Instagram.

Swedish audio streaming Spotify was the next famous brand on Instagram in 2022. If one doesn't consider Instagram itself, that makes Spotify the most popular non-fashion/clothing brand among Instagram influencers. 35,700 Instagram influencers mentioned Spotify. E-Commerce giant Amazon was just behind Spotify with mentions from 35,000 influencers in 2022.

Besides Spotify and Amazon, the video streaming platform YouTube is another famous tech brand on Instagram. YouTube found mentions from 33,800 influencers in 2022.

US-based popular retailer Target was the next popular brand, with mentions from 31,600 influencers. Popular streaming brand Netflix was the tenth most popular brand with mentions from 28,400 influencers.

Major popularity dip for royal family ahead of King Charles' coronation

The British royal family suffered a major blow this week ahead of King Charles coronation in May as its popularity plummeted on social media. Buckingham Palace's official Instagram handle, which shares updates on King Charles and the royal family's official engagements, saw a dip in followers from 13 million to 12.9 million this week.

The official Instagram handle is currently followed by 12.9 million with 4,148 posts. In the latest post, the palace informed that 12 newly commissioned pieces of



music will be performed at the coronation of the King and the Queen Consort at Westminster Abbey London, displaying musical talent from across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, reports Hindustan Times.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

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SCHOOL OF NURSING EMPLOYEES UNION (SNEU)

CENTRAL SCHOOL OF NURSING - CANDOS

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Members of the School of Nursing Employees Union are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday 16th March 2023 at 13.30 pm at the Central School of Nursing, Orbis Court, Quatre-Bornes.

Agenda:

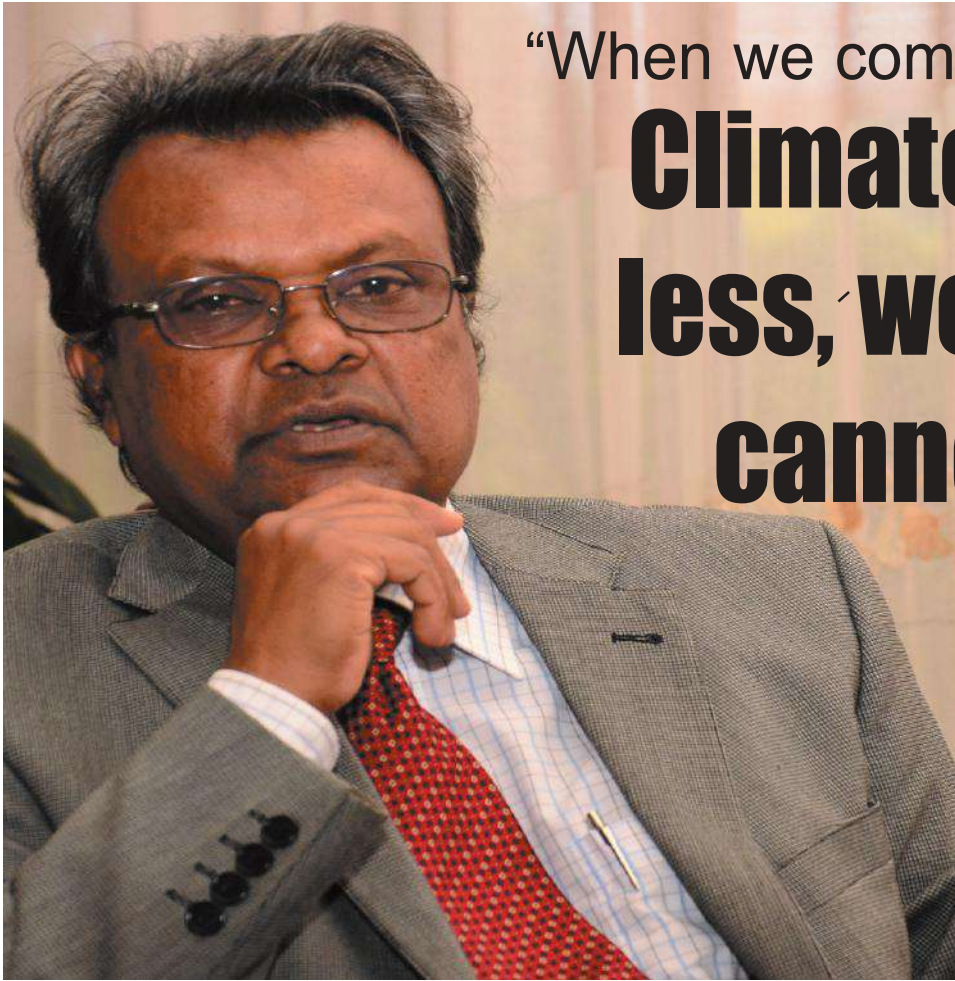
1. Reading and approval of minutes of last AGM
2. President's report
3. Treasurer's report
4. AOB

Please be informed that in the absence of quorum the meeting will be postponed to Thursday 30th March 2023 at the same time, same place with the same agenda.

Mrs S. Bactora
Secretary

24 February 2023

Suresh Boodhoo, Former Director - Mauritius Meteorological Services



“When we commit blunders, we look for culprits...
Climate change and even less, weather forecasting, cannot be the culprit”

Suresh Boodhoo, former Director, Mauritius Meteorological Services, President, WMO Commission for Climatology (1997-2007), and Consultant on Climate Matters takes a critical look at the complex factors that go into making weather forecasts, with cyclone recent Freddy as the starting point of his analysis. Given the complexity of the exercise and the sophisticated armamentarium required for the purpose, he cautions against reliance on amateur lay forecasters. At the same time he points out that climate change cannot bear the brunt of responsibility for the many problems we see with flooding, etc., on the ground, and that planners and developers too must practise due diligence as regards building projects.

* You retired as director of the Mauritius Meteorological Services in 2010 after a 35-year career, but I presume you would still be keeping track of prevailing weather conditions in this part of the world and their impact on Mauritius. Is it possible to do so with weather/climate data available online - without the local Met services' technology or the inputs made available to it by foreign partner agencies?

A meteorologist is always a meteorologist. But it is important to understand that a comprehensive analysis of the weather system involves the availability and analysis of data at grid points of one degree apart over a large horizontal expanse. And this exercise is not limited to the surface only but at different levels high up into the atmosphere.

One needs to understand the dynamics of the atmosphere in its three dimensions and its evolution with/over time. At each grid point indices are derived using complex equations of fluid dynamics. All these va-

lues are then analysed and a proper “meteorological image” is constituted.

As you may imagine, the human mind cannot process such equations nor imagine this image with accuracy. Powerful computers are essential to work out this massive bulk of data. Only some countries in the world dedicate such computers for the benefit of meteorology. The output is then disseminated to Members of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) under a well-defined protocol.

Although satellite imagery is more easily available, its analysis entails a good knowledge of cloud systems and their dynamics. There are numerous features which can be observed on satellite pictures, but we rarely come across them in our weather bulletins. One example of such a feature is a jet stream which can be depicted on satellite pictures but only to the alert eye. Jet streams, although situated at heights of 10km or more, do have their impact on weather pattern at ground level.

So, to answer your question I will only be able to make superfluous conclusions and not as detailed and specific as would the informed meteorologist.

* At this very moment (Sunday 19 Feb), there's the threat posed by the very intense tropical cyclone Freddy, which according to the Met's forecast is set to hit Mauritius Monday night. A cyclone warning class II is currently in force. Would you say it would be possible to make an accurate guess of how it will develop over the next 48 hours?

With data from world centres, it is easier to predict the movements of such cyclones. Besides one can see the predicted track that the cyclone is likely to follow with some minor adjustments now and then. But mind you, the judgement of an experienced meteorologist is still imperative.

Why are cyclones analysed to be stronger over the ocean than near or over landmasses? There is more energy in, and less friction over, the ocean waters. Although the computer model output takes such aspects into consideration, yet the meteorologists have to understand these and other assumptions. Hence the adjustments.

An exact prediction is always a chal-

lenger, as they are known in other countries where they help 'by taking real-time weather observations, alerting officials about severe weather occurring where (they) are, and contributing to research using an app on their phones'?

Weather enthusiasts may take up freely available output of large centres from their websites. But from here to the question of accuracy, one has to walk the extra mile.

You would recall in the past even major world weather centres had very mistakenly predicted that a dangerous tsunami was unfurling towards Mauritius. Fortunately, we had the necessary tools which enabled us to make our own conclusions and there was no tsunami as such.

Under the aegis of WMO there is a formal agreement among members that no one state will embarrass the other by forecasting weather on the latter's behalf unless there are specific requests for same. So, with the advent of technology and the freedom of action, one cannot prevent amateurs from stepping onto the scene. For these latter, it is challenging to be able to excel as a weather forecaster.

Besides, amateurs want to shine in numerous fields. We must all have consul-

“Most of our previously existing drains in agricultural lands have disappeared. We have replaced our permeable soil with tarred roads and concrete. We are not observing our own building regulations of keeping at least 40% of land area free from concrete to allow rainwater to percolate. Our thirst for urban development renders us blind as far as application of drainage principles and methods are concerned. So, runoff becomes so consequent that it results in flooding...”

lence if the land is small where a 20-30 km error east or west may make all the difference. While such allowances are tolerable and considered unavoidable for larger landmasses, for Mauritius it's either a 10/10 or a 0/10.

* There are also weather enthusiasts who somehow manage at times to make reliable forecasts based on online data. Does this mean we should pay heed to local citizen- or backyard-meteorolo-

gists, as they are known in other countries where they help 'by taking real-time weather observations, alerting officials about severe weather occurring where (they) are, and contributing to research using an app on their phones'?

ted or sought guidance from YouTube and other fora and must have come across the heaps of information and advices, often unauthenticated, in different fields. This is how even the more dangerous practice of auto-medication has arisen. This renders the practice of medical doctors complex. The same scenario exists in agriculture, mechanics, electronics, etc.

● Cont. on page 13

Recent floodings: 'Should we blame climate change for that?'

• Cont. from page 12

* Is it the view among Met professionals that 'amateur' weather forecasters, who are not accountable to any authority, may harm the public interest by creating a state of confusion given that their forecasts may not be based on scientific studies?

Very much so. But mind you, as far as the demand for such amateurism exists, the domain will thrive. If suppressed, the danger may come from beyond our shores.

Accountability yields professional output and response, not only in weather forecasting but in all other domains, whereas amateurism may jeopardise human lives.

* Thousands of Mauritians seem to believe that the local amateur weather forecaster Afzal Goodur's forecasts are more dependable than the local Met Services'. How do you react to that?

I will refrain from judging others but in this particular case and with a smile I would suggest that amateurs who feel confident open their own business in this free country. This may give greater impetus to our competent bodies to improve if the need arises. I normally refrain from making forecasts for friends and relatives, always arguing that it's the job of the Meteorological Services.

* The Mauritius Meteorological Services, which is manned by trained meteorologists, and properly equipped, has been criticized recently for some of its forecasts about imminent flood conditions which were not entirely accurate. What could have gone wrong?

Instruments do not lie. They will always provide accurate and reliable data. There have been instances, here and in advanced countries with powerful organisational skills and means, when untimely forecasts outputs have created havoc and even led to the loss of lives. If any wrongdoing is

“Information disseminated is often not taken seriously. Have we not, in the past, heard of hurricane parties or people stranded when they were advised not to venture out? During the passage of Freddy, people were out swimming, surfing or watching the phenomenal waves. We have witnessed lives lost and property damaged. In such complex cases the first move is to find faults with the forecast...”

suspected, a proper mechanism should be set up by the authorities to investigate. Late decisions can be a result of red tape as was the case in at least one occasion when I was in office or due to unavailability of adequate information.

But it needs be underlined that information disseminated is often not taken seriously. Have we not, in the past, heard of hurricane parties or people stranded when they were advised not to venture out? During the passage of Freddy, people were out swimming, surfing or watching the phenomenal waves. We have witnessed lives lost and property damaged. In such complex cases the first move is to find faults with the forecast.

* Would you say that climate change, which is having a tremendous impact on weather conditions all over the world, is making it harder to make forecasting less accurate?

The principle and mechanism of atmospheric processes are the same with or without climate change. But the

“We should not always look for a scapegoat in climate change when we are unable to justify our erroneous actions. We often try to compare cyclones that have impacted us in the past. It should be understood that, as it is very rare to have two identical human beings among the 8 billion or so on earth, it is equally rare for two cyclones to be identical in structure or intensity of movement...”

“Weather enthusiasts may take up freely available output of large centres from their websites. But from here to the question of accuracy, one has to walk the extra mile. You would recall in the past even major world weather centres had very mistakenly predicted that a dangerous tsunami was unfurling towards Mauritius. Fortunately, we had the necessary tools which enabled us to make our own conclusions and there was no tsunami as such...”



intensity and speed of processes are changing. And this is not always easy to assess.

I remember my old days, as president of the WMO Commission for Climatology, when after a lengthy discussion on the impact of climate change, a very learned colleague volunteered in the following words: “The probable impacts of climate change may be so vast and complex, that we should all go back to our university benches. But who is knowledgeable enough to teach us?”

But we should not always look for a scapegoat in climate change when we are unable to justify our erroneous actions. We often try to compare cyclones that have impacted us in the past. It should be understood that, as it is very rare to have two identical human beings among the 8 billion or so on earth, it is equally rare for two cyclones to be identical in structure or intensity of movement.

ving force behind all the other parameters. More energy is stored and available in the oceans and when released, under specific atmospheric conditions, this bulk of energy impacts on the intensity and pattern of rainfall and therefore floods, and certainly on cyclone intensity.

As for droughts, these can be devastating when and where they occur. The horn of Africa is presently suffering from a 3-year drought which has already claimed thousands of human lives and billions worth of property and livestock losses. This could neither have been predicted nor mitigated.

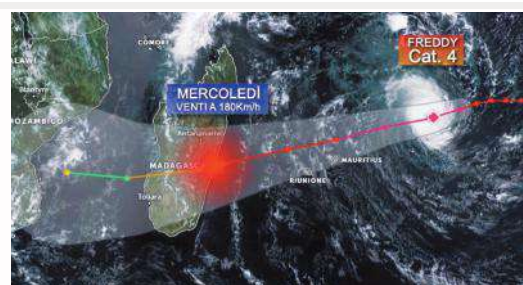
In Mauritius we should re-prioritise our needs. The top of them should be water storage for at least two years instead of banking on the February/March rains of each year to fill our reservoirs. Until January last, we suffered from a prolonged period of drought so much so that all sectors were panic-stricken. And lo! When we have the rains, we cannot contain them.

* There have also been issues of water accumulation and flooding in new morcellements in some specific places and in urban as well as rural areas. Climate change and weather forecasting cannot be held responsible for such hazards, isn't it?

When we commit blunders, we look for culprits to bear the responsibility. Climate change and even less, weather forecasting, cannot be the culprit. It is an undeniable fact that the pattern of rainfall has changed, that the temperature regime is different from what it used to be in the past. But we should very critically look at our own actions.

Most of our previously existing drains in agricultural lands have disappeared. We have replaced our permeable soil with tarred roads and concrete. We are not observing our own building regulations of keeping at least 40% of land area free from concrete to allow rainwater to percolate. Our thirst for urban development renders us blind as far as application of drainage principles and methods are concerned. So, runoff becomes so consequent that it results in flooding.

Decades ago, when knowledge of weather events and climate information were scarce, a school in the East was erected in what proved to be a flood-prone area. And as if sincere to the ostrich principle of hiding its head underground, we committed another similar blunder. I here have in mind the very recent flooding that occurred in a newly developed NHDC residential plot. There are other cases likewise. Should we blame climate change for that?



In the case of Freddy, we heard of wind speed in excess of 300 km/hr near its centre while it was evolving over sea waters where friction is less than near land. Whether this assessment is due to changes in methods of analysis or can in reality be measured remains to be seen. But we should recall that Gervaise in 1975 provoked gusts of 286 km/hr and this was measured. Was it then climate change? There are no systematic occurrences of such impacts that can be attributed to climate change only.

* Do we know at this stage what could be the expected changes in temperature, precipitation, cyclones, floods, and droughts in this part of the world due to climate change?

Most of the parameters mentioned are likely to increase but how and to what extent is not exactly evident. Global temperature is definitely on the rise, and even so, by a larger amount than expected. No climate conference has been able to resolve the issue. And temperature is the dri-

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 219

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 17 October, 1958

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



Jay Narain Roy

Bones for the dogs of politics?

The divorce between politics and finance in Mauritius is becoming too obvious. Behind this divorce looms the terrible farce of our political existence. Concern has been expressed by Peter Ibbotson also. I also know that our MP friends like James Johnson and Fenner Brockway are very

much upset by some new trends. To me it appears to be a very dangerous state of affairs.

Where is the centre of administrative power? Is it in Council, in the Executive Council or in the higher hierarchy? It is in the actual practice that we are edified. With the coming of the ministerial system, this hierarchy has been considerably strengthened, and its pay and privileges have been very favourably enhanced. The Principal Secretaries, an appendage of the Secretariat, appear to fashion things from the angle of the boss who occasionally dole out reforms to quell public passion. The Howes Report became an imperious necessity in the new set-up, and the Working Parties had belatedly to follow to save faces.

What else? Readjustment in the Public Assistance, Old Age Pensions, extension of educational facilities, extension in the services of water and electricity. All these involve public expenditure, more jobs and so on. Millions and millions have been expended, and the country's budget is thrown in jeopardy. But how many of the 600,000 people of this country have benefitted? It may be blaring propaganda to speak of astronomical figures, but what is the general result in the life of the common man?

To increase social services is a tacit confession of guilt. Why should so many thousands of people fall on the charge of Public Assistance and Old Age Pensions? It is because our economic system is too imbecile, too vicious to ensure the people their legitimate rights and their rightful sustenance and prop after a life of fruitful labour. All these propaganda millions may not have profited more than a very small fraction. Education may have profited many but has it not also created such horrifying problems which the government is in no mood to face? Electricity indeed! But these autonomous organizations are new stranglehold on the throat of the country. They have multiplied of late and there seems to be a careful method in this madness.

The Chamber of Agriculture, the Sugar Research Institute, the Board of the College of Agriculture, the Sugar Syndicate, the Tobacco Board, the Rehabilitation Fund, the Cyclone and Drought Fund, the Labour Welfare Fund and the Central Electricity Board are all derived from some form of public funds or cesses but they are, for all practical purposes, under the thumb of some section, and technically, outside the purview of the Government. It is part of a concerted move to keep these important financial concerns outside the control of the Government or Council. Most of the high finance of the country is transacted through these bodies, and they

are sought to be kept outside the control of Government and under the thumb of one section.

While in government high educational qualifications are needed for very small jobs, some of these bodies have jobs with fantastic salaries for which no qualifications are sought and some particular section can dump all manner of its people in what is among the most rabid form of racialism perpetrated in any part of the globe.

This is the position of organisations which should have been directly under the control of Government and governed by the rules and regulations of the Civil Service. They are bodies that derive their force and motive power from public funds or industrial cesses. The higher services of the firms and industries are of course a sealed book to the average coloured man. These industries and firms are run not only with the support and help of the coloured people but the Government often constrain the people to make national sacrifice, because they are supposed to be national industries. This was done through increase of protective tariff, through centralisation, the preventing of strikes and so on.

Not only this. Some of the key Government services from where the race of progress can be accelerated is in the hands of the same fraternity: the Civil Commissioners, the Agricultural Services and the magistrates. It has been found that far too many people of one particular section are recruited in these services than their proportion seems to warrant. The mysterious possession — in every sense of the word — by this section of the Civil Aviation is difficult to understand. Then what remains to the Government to be controlled by Council and Ministers but crumbs and dry bones? And this is precisely the colossal joke of all this political development. How I laughed at Jules Koenig when he quixotically demanded the recall of the Governor because he was supposed to be openly siding with Labour! His smile will get to the other end of his mouth when he reads this.

We hear so much about Mauritanising the services. Why not start it in the bodies listed in the fifth paragraph? What is Mauritanisation? Does it mean recruitment from one section only because it has the means to produce more technicians and professionals than the others? It is said that some people in that section go and do law not because they can earn as lawyers but because they know that they can easily enter as magistrates.

What are the avenues of employment of coloured boys who have such qualifications? Mauritanisation need not only mean jobs for Mauritians but equal opportunities and fair play to all the sections. If the nation sweats and sacrifices, it should legitimately enjoy the fruits.

Let it therefore be clearly understood that this constitutional hoodwink in which bones are sought to be thrown at the political dogs cannot satisfy this country and we shall go on waging a war until the man in the street has, not the shadow, but the substance of liberty and happiness, until all vestiges of racialism, nepotism and favouritism have been wiped out from the land, until the Ministers take responsibilities on the results of the elections and can refashion the economic destiny of this country.

We want a Responsible Government in which there will be a Prime Minister himself holding an important and result-producing portfolio nominating his colleagues upon the mandate of the people prepared to carry out a pre-declared policy and programme on the Socialistic pattern and subordinating the bureaucracy to the expeditious executing of policies and plans. I am afraid that the single constitutional issue of the basis of election had absorbed our interest so much that the vital question of the power and responsibility of Government has not received the attention it deserved. We must therefore make this our declared policy and we should not rest until this political make-believe is torn asunder in the larger interest of the people of this country.



1956 - 2022



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Five emerging trends that could change our lives

● Cont. from page 2

Instead of interacting with a two-dimensional profile on social media, you would don your VR headset to be represented by an avatar in a 3D virtual world. Your avatar would be able to communicate with other ones in a space modelled on the real world. Online shops could take the form of 3D virtual spaces so customers could browse in much the same way they would in their everyday lives.

A new wave of advanced VR headsets could help facilitate the metaverse. These could include advanced features such as eye tracking — which can make interactions with 3D worlds more instant and realistic — and facial expression detection, which would ensure 3D avatars replicate their users' demeanours. Apple and Qualcomm are developing new VR headsets that could launch in 2023, but details of their features are being kept under wraps.

YouTube and Meta are both building libraries of 360-degree video and images, as well as computer-generated objects and backgrounds that can be used to build the 3D environments that your avatar would explore in these virtual worlds.

3. Digital certificates

The owners of 360-degree video and computer-generated landscapes designed for use in the metaverse will want to sell their digital creations. To prevent unauthorised use, a kind of token called an NFT can provide these items of digital content with certificates of authenticity and ownership.

These non-fungible tokens allow the content to be bought and sold with confidence, something that's increasingly happening with the use of cryptocurrency. In 2022, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter all introduced NFTs to their user and advertiser bases. Visa and Mastercard have also made buying NFTs possible with their credit and debit cards.

Despite a recent drop in the NFT market, forecasts by the US stock exchange Nasdaq suggest the tokens could perform well in 2023.

4. Blockchain

A kind of digital record, or ledger, called a blockchain could help underpin private networks of people online, providing a safe space for them free from



trolls, stalkers and fraud. Permission to view information can be restricted to a small number of people and the record of activity provided by blockchain can't be changed. This means any unauthorised activity on the network is instantly traceable.

And because information is stored across a network of computers rather than a single server, it is more difficult to hack. An example of an emerging type of online community that could make use of blockchain is a DAO (decentralised autonomous organisation). These networks have discarded the top-down management used elsewhere in favour of a more democratic form of governance with no central authority.

A social platform called Mastodon shares many aspects with DAOs. It was recently in the news when more than a million users fled Twitter to the platform in the wake of Elon Musk's takeover.

5. 'Workfluencers'

Businesses have taken note of the rise of social media influencers and are adopting their approach to reach target audiences. They are making use of what's called an employee advocate, or "workfluencer". Companies have realised that employees' social media profiles and posts may better convey the brand than corporate accounts.

When crafted thoughtfully, social media posts by employees can seem significantly more authentic to other users than corporate PR. People have grown more honest about day-to-day work life, rather than only producing stories on professional milestones and achievements.

Organisations are likely to build procedures to encourage teams and employees to communicate and distribute material on the company's behalf.

Theo Tzanidis, Senior Lecturer in Digital Marketing, University of the West of Scotland

A value-led manifesto for change

☞ Cont. from page 3

Which leads us to consider whether the union of Opposition forces would present in their joint manifesto a key pledge for a determined stand and a more effective set of structures and policies to dampen if not rid our country of the money-spinning scourge of drug trafficking and its terrible impact throughout all villages and towns.

There is urgency for leaders to avoid the narrow view that our political class are first and foremost locked in behind-the-curtain discussions about the nitty-gritty of alliances and key posts. And this is probably why the LP, which is celebrating its 87th anniversary at the Octave Wiehe auditorium this Sunday, has a welcome opportunity to make its stance on a few of the key national issues clear.

With the benefit of experience that have highlighted shortcomings in many areas after 55 years of independence, one tends to believe that hammering out

a consensus with traditional and some willing change-makers, on seven to ten key values of an Opposition alliance should not be beyond their democratic spaces.

While its fleshing out and other critical discussions take their course, a value-led manifesto for change should be on the cards earlier rather than later. The LP, as recognised locomotive of that putative alliance, has the responsibility to chart a way ahead that unites not only the Opposition forces but also galvanises the population around hopes and aspirations for renewal.

An Opposition, each with its own structures and internal cohesion to factor in, that still needs to marshal the energies and convictions of separate entities and interests across our constituencies, would do well to bank on a full year to project and market itself and its key policies in all households and get the fence-sitters on board.

Jan Arden

SODNAC ISLAMIC SOCIETY - (Reg. 2598)

Bait Ul Mukarram Masjid, 10 Avenue des Mouettes, Sodnac Quatre Bornes

Members of the Sodnac Islamic Society are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 12 March 2023 at 9.00 am at the seat of the Bait-Ul-Mukarram Masjid, 10 Avenue des Mouettes, Sodnac, Quatre Bornes

AGENDA

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the last AGM
2. Matters Arising
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Approval of final accounts for year ended 31st December, 2022.
6. Approval of estimates of Income/Expenditure for

year ending 31st, December, 2023.

7. Motions, if any

8. AOB

9. Election of New Office Bearers

10. Nomination of Auditors.

Motions, if any, should reach the Secretary by Monday 06 March 2023 at latest.

In case there is no quorum, the meeting will be re-scheduled for Sunday 19 March 2023 at the same place, same time and with the same agenda.

Shaad Goonoo
Secretary, SIS

24 February 2023

To Our Readers

Subscribe to the Mauritius Times

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

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

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

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

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Experts review evidence yoga is good for the brain

Scientists have known for decades that aerobic exercise strengthens the brain and contributes to the growth of new neurons, but few studies have examined how yoga affects the brain. A review of the science finds evidence that yoga enhances many of the same brain structures and functions that benefit from aerobic exercise.

The review, published in the journal 'Brain Plasticity', focused on 11 studies of the relationship between yoga practice and brain health. Five of the studies engaged individuals with no background in yoga practice in one or more yoga sessions per week over a period of 10-24 weeks, comparing brain health at the beginning and end of the intervention. The other studies measured brain differences between individuals who regularly practice yoga and those who don't.

Each of the studies used brain-imaging techniques such as MRI, functional MRI or single-photon emission computerized tomography. All involved Hatha yoga, which includes body movements, meditation and breathing exercises.



"From these 11 studies, we identified some brain regions that consistently come up, and they are surprisingly not very different from what we see with

exercise research," said University of Illinois kinesiology and community health Prof Neha Gothe, who led the research with Wayne State University psychology Prof Jessica Damoiseaux.

The hippocampus is involved in memory processing and is known to shrink with age, Gothe said. "It is also the structure that is first affected in dementia and Alzheimer's disease."

Though many of the studies are exploratory and not conclusive, the research points to other important brain changes associated with regular yoga practice, Damoiseaux said. The amygdala, a brain structure that contributes to emotional regulation, tends to be larger in yoga practitioners than in their peers who do not practice yoga. The prefrontal cortex, cingulate cortex and brain networks such as the default mode network also tend to be larger or more efficient in those who regularly practice yoga.

Like the amygdala, the cingulate cortex is part of the limbic system, a circuit of structures that plays a key role in emotional regulation, learning and memory, she said.

The studies also find that the brain changes seen in individuals practicing yoga are associated with better performance on cognitive tests or measures of emotional regulation.

Yoga helps people with or without anxiety disorders manage their stress, Gothe said.



Why do we think there is a possible Planet X?

The Solar System as we know it doesn't really make sense without a ninth planet. So then why can't we find it?



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Our Solar System is a pretty busy place. There are millions of objects moving around – everything from planets, to moons, to comets and asteroids. And each year we're discovering more and more objects (usually small asteroids or speedy comets) that call the Solar System home.

Astronomers had found all eight of the main planets by 1846. But that doesn't stop us from looking for more. In the past 100 years we've found smaller distant bodies we call dwarf planets, which is what we now classify Pluto as.

The discovery of some of these dwarf planets has given us reason to believe something else might be lurking in the outskirts of the Solar System.

Could there be a ninth planet?

There's a good reason astronomers

spend many hundreds of hours trying to locate a ninth planet, or "Planet X". And that's because the Solar System as we know it doesn't really make sense without it.

Every object in our Solar System orbits around the Sun. Some move fast and some slow, but all move abiding by the laws of gravity. Everything with mass has gravity, including you and me. The heavier something is, the more gravity it has.

A planet's gravity is so large it impacts how things move around it. That's what we call its "gravitational pull". Earth's gravitational pull is what keeps everything on the ground.

Also, our Sun has the largest gravitational pull of any object in the Solar System, and this is basically why the planets orbit around it.

It's through our understanding of gravitational pull that we get our biggest clue for a possible Planet X.

Unexpected behaviours

When we look at really distant objects, such as dwarf planets beyond Pluto, we find their orbits are a little unexpected. They move on very large elliptical (oval-shaped) orbits, are grouped together, and exist on an incline compared to the rest of the Solar System.

When astronomers use a computer to model what gravitational forces are needed for these objects to move like this, they find that a planet at least ten times the mass of Earth would have been required to cause this.

It is super-exciting stuff! But then the question is: where is this planet?

The problem we have now is trying to confirm if these predictions and models are correct. The only way to do that is to find Planet X, which is definitely easier said than done.

The hunt continues

Scientists all over the world have been on the hunt for visible evidence of Planet X for many years now.

Based on the computer models, we think Planet X is at least 20 times farther away from the Sun than Neptune. We try to detect it by looking for sunlight it can reflect – just like how the Moon shines from reflected sunlight at night.

However, because Planet X sits so far

away from the Sun, we expect it to be very faint and difficult to spot for even the best telescopes on Earth. Also, we can't just look for it at any time of the year.

We only have small windows of nights where the conditions must be just right. Specifically, we have to wait for a night with no Moon, and on which the location we're observing from is facing the right part of the sky.



The Moon shines at night because it reflects light from the Sun. If there is a Planet X, we're hoping the light it reflects is how we'll find it. Shutterstock

But don't give up hope just yet. In the next decade new telescopes will be built and new surveys of the sky will begin. They might just give us the opportunity to prove or disprove whether Planet X exists.

Sara Webb

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing, Swinburne University of Technology

Laughter is the Best Medicine



Moms are moms...

A 50-year-old lady suddenly started learning how to swim instead of her usual routine which consisted in going to the temple.

Everyone was curious and asked her: "Why the change in your interest to swimming nowadays?"

The lady, with a look of helplessness replied: "Whenever my son and daughter-in-law quarrel, she (daughter-in-law) always asks my son: 'If your mom and I fall in water, whom will you save first?' And because I do not want to put my son in a difficult position, so I am learning how to swim!"

A few days later husband and wife were quarrelling again, and the daughter-in-law unreasonably asked: "Now tell me! If your mom and I fall in water, whom will you save first?"

Husband replied: "I don't have to get down in the water, my mom knows how to swim, she will save you."

Wife refused to relent: "No, you have to jump in the water, and you will have to save one of us..."

Husband replied: "Then you will surely die because I don't know how to swim... and my mom will definitely save me first."

Some things you just can't explain

A farmer was sitting in the neighborhood bar getting drunk.

A man came in and asked the farmer, "Hey, why are you sitting here on this beautiful day, getting drunk?"

The farmer shook his head and replied, "Some things you just can't explain."

"So, what happened that's so horrible?" the man asked as he sat down next to the farmer.

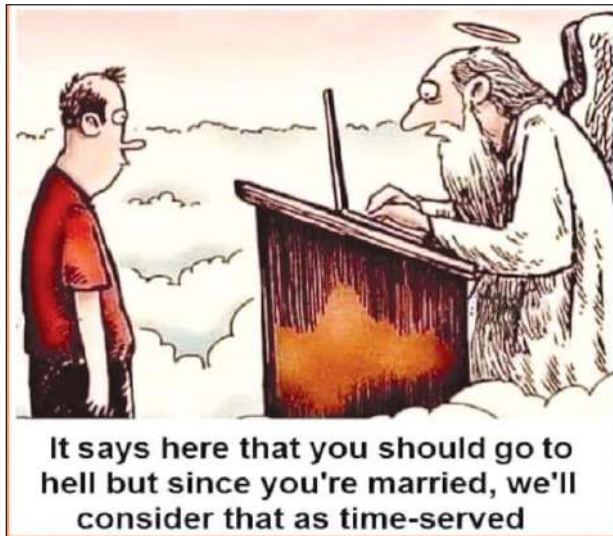
"Well," the farmer said, "Today I was sitting by my cow, milking her. Just as I got the bucket full, she lifted her left leg and kicked over the bucket."

"Okay," said the man, "but that's not so bad."

"Some things you just can't explain," the farmer replied.

"So, what happened then?" the man asked.

The farmer said, "I took her left leg and tied it to the post on the left."



"And then?" the man asked.

"Well, I sat back down and continued to milk her. Just as I got the bucket full, she took her right leg and kicked over the bucket."

The man laughed and said, "Again?"

The farmer replied, "Some things you just can't explain."

"So, what did you do then?" the man asked.

"I took her right leg this time and tied it to the post on the right."

"And then?"

"Well, I sat back down and began milking her again. Just as I got the bucket full, the stupid cow knocked over the bucket with her tail."

"Hmmm," the man said and nodded his head.

"Some things you just can't explain," the farmer said.

"So, what did you do?" the man asked.

"Well," the farmer said, "I didn't have any more rope, so I took off my belt and tied her tail to the rafter. In that moment, my pants fell down and my wife walked in. Some things you just can't explain."

Cancel your credit card before you die...

Now some people are really stupid! Be sure to cancel your credit cards before you die... with customer service being what it is today.

A lady died this past January, and ICX Bank billed her for February and March for their annual service charges on her credit card, and added late fees and interest on the monthly charge. The balance had been Rs.0.00 when she died, but now somewhere around Rs 6000.00. A family member placed a call to ICX Bank.

Here is the exchange:

Family Member: 'I am calling to tell you she died back in January.'

ICX Bank: 'The account was never closed and the late fees and charges still apply.'

Family Member: 'Maybe, you should turn it over to collections.'

ICX Bank: 'Since it is two months past due, it already has been.'

Family Member: 'So, what will they do when they find out she is dead?'

ICX Bank: 'Either report her account to frauds division or report her to the credit bureau, maybe both!'

Family Member: 'Do you think God will be mad at her?'

ICX Bank: 'Excuse me?'

Family Member: 'Did you just get what I was telling you - the part about her being dead?'

ICX Bank: 'Sir, you'll have to speak to my supervisor.'

Supervisor gets on the phone:

Family Member: 'I'm calling to tell you; she died back in January with a Rs.0 balance.'

ICX Bank: 'The account was never closed and late fees and charges still apply.'

Family Member: 'You mean you want to collect from her estate?'

ICX Bank: (Stammer) 'Are you, her lawyer?'

Family Member: 'No, I'm her great nephew.' (Lawyer info was given)

ICX Bank: 'Could you fax us a certificate of death?'

Family Member: 'Sure.' (Fax number was given)

After they got the fax:

ICX Bank: 'Our system just isn't set up for death. I don't know what more I can do to help.'

Family Member: 'Well, if you figure it out, great! If not, you could just keep billing her. She won't care.'

ICX Bank: 'Well, the late fees and charges will still apply.'

Family Member: 'Would you like her new billing address?'

ICX Bank: 'That might help...'

Family Member: 'Odessa Memorial Cemetery, Coimbatore.'

ICX Bank: 'Sir, that's a cemetery!'

Family Member: 'And what do you do with dead people on your planet?'

Two Jewish mothers met up for their regular weekly meetings.

One said: 'I have good news and bad news to tell you.'

'Tell me the bad news,' said the other.

'My Joshua phoned me last night to inform me that he's gay.'

'Oh my god! how terrible... after all that you've done for your son. But you mustn't blame yourself, you have been a wonderful mother. Now tell me the good news.'

'He's marrying a famous doctor.'



Wisdom

Think Again

10 Lessons from the book 'Think Again' by Adam Grant

1. Think like a scientist

A scientist is always in a rethinking loop which enables discovery of new knowledge.

If knowledge is power, knowing what we don't know is wisdom.

2. Develop confident humility

Humility isn't about lack of self-confidence. It's about being grounded.

Knowing that we are both flawed and fallible. Never losing sight of this reality. Confidence is about self-belief.

3. Detaching Opinion from Identity

We should avoid becoming too attached to our ideas and our beliefs. We shouldn't let it become part of our identity. When we let our ideas become part of our identity, we become hostile to the thought of being wrong.

4. Argue about HOW and not WHY

Why conversations often get emotional and ego led, and people become dismissive of the others.

Once you start discussing HOW, people start noticing the gaps in their knowledge and the flaw in their conclu-



sions and become less argumentative.

5. How to win debates and negotiate well.

- Instead of attacking to weakest argument, acknowledge their best one.

Focus on fewer but stronger points.

Ask questions.

6. Changing mindsets through motivational interviewing

We can't motivate people to change. We have a better chance helping them find their own motivation to change.

8 Lessons from 365 days with self-discipline

1. Self-discipline is hard

Self-discipline means living your life the hard way: resisting temptations and instant gratification, in order to receive bigger and better rewards in the future. It's certainly easier to avoid all kinds of discomfort and indulge yourself whenever you want, but in the end, all that you get from that approach is fleeting pleasure now at the expense of your future, which otherwise could have been much better.

2. One decision can set a wrong precedent

It takes only a moment to make the wrong choice and jeopardize your future. What feels like an insignificant decision today can have a great, lasting impact on your future. Each choice sets a precedent — and when you make the same wrong choice several times in a row, it becomes your standard modus operandi.

3. You have the ability to be disciplined

Humans have the capacity to act against their urges in exchange for a better future. Unfortunately, many people live by the principle of "If it feels good, do it, and if it doesn't, don't do it."

Caving into your temptations whenever you feel them emerge is like relinquishing your humanity, in a way. As an intelligent human being, you have an ability — and I daresay an obligation — to make decisions that are based on rational thinking, not on your instincts alone.

4. Be a better human

Strive to be a better human and embrace your humanity by exercising your "willpower muscle," instead of succumbing to your most primal (and least helpful for your long-term goals) part of the brain. Your most primal instincts may provide temporary comfort, but seldom are good for the long term, except when there is a direct threat to your survival.

5. Setup systems for self-discipline

Prepare yourself for difficult situations by putting up roadblocks ahead of time when your resolve isn't being tested. Your self-control system will do some of the heavy

lifting for you, leaving your reserves of self-discipline to be used for the unplanned situations when they arise.

6. It is up to you

While external circumstances can affect you. In the end, whether or not they control your life depends on you. Just like James Allen said, when you achieve self-mastery, no one (and nothing) will have the power to enslave you.

7. Everyone is struggling

Behind the scenes, everyone struggles in some areas of their lives.

8. Make the choice today

The person you'll become in ten years will most likely not be the same person you are today, but it will still be you — and it's in your hands whether, ten years from now, you'll look back and feel glad you extended self-empathy well into the future or find that you decided to be selfish and steal from your future for some fleeting pleasure today.

Lengdung Tungchamma

Quotable Quotes

Funny Chinese proverbs with profound meanings

1. A crisis is an opportunity riding a dangerous wind.
2. It is better to be without a book than to believe a book entirely.
3. A man who cannot tolerate small misfortunes can never accomplish great things.
4. He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever.
5. Better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.
6. Patience is a bitter plant, but its fruit is sweet.
7. Two good talkers are not worth one good listener.
8. A hundred no's are less agonizing than an insincere yes.
9. Better the cottage where one is happy than the palace where one weeps.
10. Distant water does not put out a nearby fire.

Keys:

- Asking open ended questions
- Engage in reflective listening
- Affirming the person's ability

7. Dealing with polarised mindsets

People operate with binary mindsets. Everything is black or white. The solution lies in breaking this oversimplified extreme view by introducing complexity and nuance.

8. Rethinking for kids

The practise of doing multiple drafts instead of just one. Especially in creative projects. More drafts mean more rethinking, reworking, polishing and fine-tuning. Leading eventually to a higher quality output.

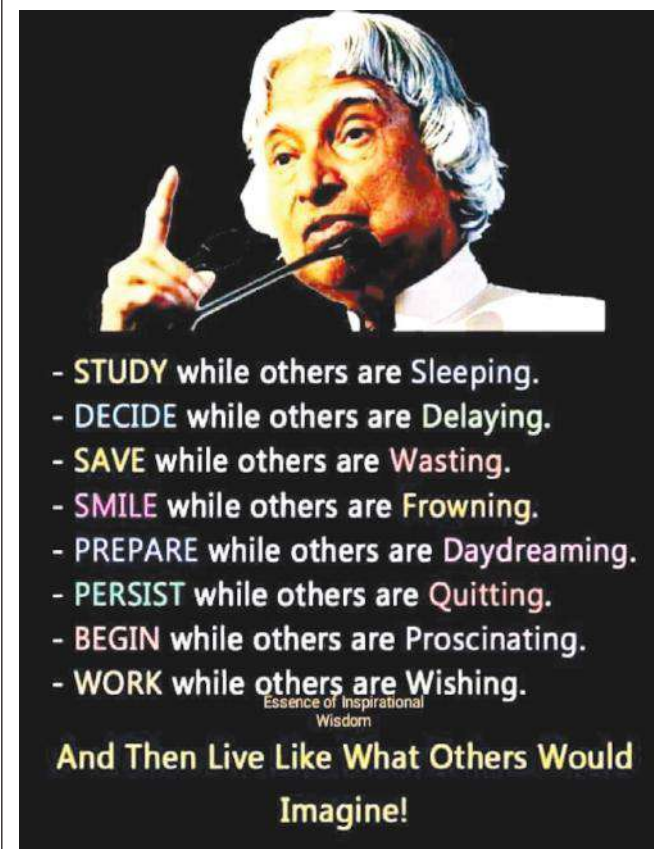
9. Learning organizations

Combining Psychological Safety and Process Accountability to create a learning zone. Develop a culture of questioning by encouraging people to always ask "how do we know".

10. Career planning and identity foreclosure

We need to stop asking kids what they want to do when they grow up. The choice becomes part of their identity. We need to encourage them that careers are actions to take and not identities to claim.

You live your life on auto pilot because you don't know what to do with your life.



Romantic Quotes with a Starry Touch!

I love you to the stars and beyond.

You are the brightest star in my sky.

If you'll be my star, I'll be your sky.

We were written in the stars.

There are many stars in the sky tonight. But only one shines through my heart. And this is You.

Kiss me under the light of a thousand stars.

Your mystical inner beauty attracts me the same way as that of stars.



Old age has been postponed

B Biologically and psychologically, old age now begins at 80, according to Ian Robertson, dean of research at Dublin's Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience.

"These leaves 30 years – roughly age 50 to 80, a period much longer than youth – for which we have to invent a whole new way of living," he told the British Association science festival recently according to a report by Tim Radford of The Guardian.

Robertson began to study the effect of age on the brain in 1984. Then, the average age of stroke victims was 72.

"By 1999, the average age of my patients was around 82. In just 15 short years, I saw with my own eyes how, in many senses of the word, people had become younger by roughly 10 years."

The human brain, he argued, at all ages was plastic: it was shaped by experience, learning, and thinking. Ancient Romans had a life expectancy of 22, while Europeans could look forward to a lifespan of 50 years at the start of the 20th century.

A woman of 60 in Britain now could expect to live on average to 83. The degree to which people retained their faculties after 50 was influenced by what they did.

He listed a seven-point plan to ensure a youthful old age:

*** Aerobic fitness was probably most important.**

The function and structure of the brain were influenced by activity.

*** Mental stimulation was vital.**

People could reduce cognitive decline by mental training.

*** New learning was important.**

"The more you learn, the more you can learn," he said. "It can have profound physiological effects on the brain."

*** Stress is bad.**

High and prolonged stress had negative effects, particular on human memory.

*** A rich social life helped.**

"People who maintain a lot of social interactions maintain mental sharpness for a longer period."

*** Healthy eating.**

A diet rich in fruit and vegetables and fish had profound effects on cognitive decline later in life.

Finally, think young.

Relationship

Say 'I love You' without actually saying it!

Confessing your love to someone needs a lot of courage. It is one of most difficult and nerve-wracking moments when you are about to express your love to someone. Not everyone can just go out there and say the three magical words. Some people just cannot say it out loud, but inside their heart, they are dying to say it. The only way out in this scenario is to share your feeling over texts. But, if you don't want to say directly 'I love you' to them, there are a few ways, as reported by Sushmita Jha of TNN that Koyel Dey, relationship coach, suggests, will be equivalent to saying 'I love You'.

Get your flirt mode on!

Don't just randomly start flirting, take baby steps. Your timing should be right and also the way you go about it. Make them feel nice and appreciated by complimenting them often and show them how much you are into them by dropping hints now and then. This healthy way flirting will eventually make him/her realise what you are trying to say.

Respond with the same energy

If you like someone you need to make them feel that by reciprocating the warmth that they give you. If you don't respond to the emotion in the same way, then it can put off that person. So, make sure you reciprocate the same feeling.

Don't make them wait

No one likes late replies, especially when you are really into that person. Instant replies will make the person realise how interested you are and replying to the



person immediately will him/her feel as a priority

Give them a name

Calling them with a nickname will make them feel that your bond is a personal one. A cute nickname will definitely make them happy.

Share your secrets with them

This will build trust between you two. By telling someone about your past, your secrets or sharing your personal concerns, it gives them an insight into your personal life and brings them closer to you. They will pick up the hint that they are for sure interested in you.

Being Mum & Dad

How to shape your child's mind for a successful future

If you have kids, the one thing that you want for them is to lead a productive, happy and fulfilled life. You want them to be successful both, professionally and personally. You are there for them their entire life, no one will ever be able to impact them more than you can. You are their first friend, teacher and mentor but you cannot expect them to lead such a life if you don't take some steps in building their personality.

Here are a few things you can do that could make your child more disciplined and help them from the beginning to grab opportunities and achieve their goals...

Become less stressed

Children follow their parent's actions. If they see that you are stressed because of your work, they will start thinking that work is a point of stress in life. This will create a barrier in their mind and make them wary of work.

Train them young

If they have been interested in something ever since they were a



child, help them pursue that hobby. Don't stop them from pursuing things because it doesn't seem like a "good" idea.

Provide structure

Follow a routine with them and give their life structure. Creating a good schedule and maintaining that schedule can help your child achieve stability and discipline. It will help them in the long run while they are working towards their goals.

Make them do chores

Giving them responsibilities from a young age. This will not only teach them the value of hard work but also how to work in a collaborative manner. It gives them a sense of responsibility and helps them learn that work has to be done. This makes them a hardworking person who does not see work as a liability.

Set high expectations

By this we don't mean that you

should not appreciate the work that they are doing, it means that you should have expectations from their future. Research showed that parent's expectations predict their child's success in school and shape their future in a goal-oriented manner.

Give them choices

We know that we want the best for your child and sometimes that means that you have to make some tough decisions, but it is important to note that you should give your child the opportunity to choose. They should have a say in things that concern them. This gives them a sense of control over their life and gives them the self-confidence to work for their future. You can give them the choices from a young age, give them the opportunity to choose their clothes or you can give them options between two healthy snacks. This shapes their mind to make fast and good decisions.

Do not pressurize them

It is important to note that you should set expectations but not pressurise them into following those expectations. Give them the opportunity to follow their dreams even if it means that they are different from the ones that you saw for them. Do not pressurise them into following a certain lifestyle and give them the opportunity to grow on their own terms. This gives them control of their life and their career.

Astrologer Mayur Joshi predictions about Sid-Kiara's married life

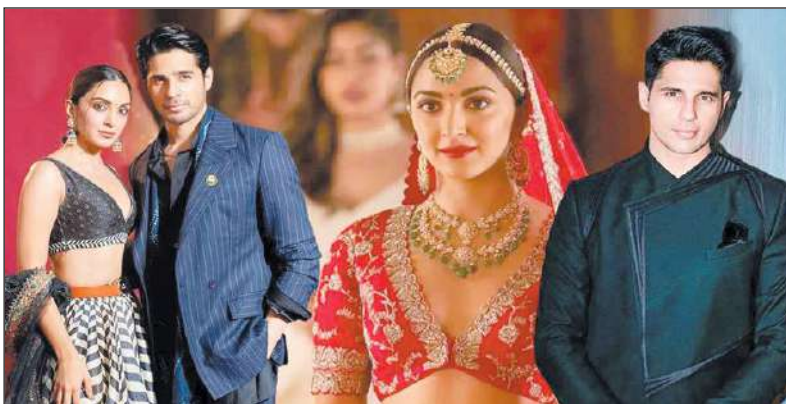
According to astrologer Mayur Joshi's prediction, Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani will have a long-lasting marriage and a flourishing career after marriage. As Kiara has stronger stars, it will help the actor in making a successful career, reports Ahmedabad Mirror.

For Siddharth, Sun is in the ninth house with Jupiter, which will support him in both personal and professional aspects. Also, Siddharth's Venus may be in Aquarius and the 10th house, which will help him to continue his successful acting career. Kiara's Venus Ketu and Mercury are very strong and perfectly positioned for the actress. Luck is with him on both the personal and professional fronts.

Horoscope of Siddharth Malhotra

Sidharth Malhotra, January 16, 1985, 02:00 pm, Place of Birth: Delhi, India

According to the horoscope of Siddharth Malhotra, his



ascendant is Taurus. And Sun is in the ninth house with Jupiter. Moon is in the seventh house with Saturn and Venus is in the tenth house with Mars. And the planet Mercury is in the eighth house. The planets Rahu and Ketu control the first and seventh houses. In his horoscope, the Sun is present in Capricorn and in the ninth house. This makes the person courageous, strong, and self-confident.

Horoscope of Kiara Advani

Kiara was born on 31 July 1992 at 7 am in Mumbai. In the coming times, he is going to get a lot of names due to

his work. Surya Dev will transit in the tenth house of the horoscope, due to which he will get successful in many fields. But due to the Rahu planet, we have to keep working hard. Kiara is going to be very busy this year. He may get a big project in January 2023, on the birthday of Kiara Advani, Jupiter-Chandra Gajakesari Yoga was formed. All the people born in this yoga are very lucky. At the same time, he gets a lot of fame and money in his life.

The married life of Siddharth-Kiara

According to the astrologer, Siddharth and Kiara are a perfect couple. His love is always visible in front of him. Where the initiative of love is from Siddharth's side due to the influence of Capricorn, Kiara may not be initiated by Leo's side, but she is in unbreakable love with Siddharth. Due to their nature and zodiac sign, both have a very good relationship with each other and their bond is unbreakable. These two are considered to be beautiful couple and this is because of their partnership. Capricorns respect the feelings of the other person and Siddharth is like that. On the other hand, Kiara of Leo sign has full faith in Siddharth.

5 times Bollywood movies normalized live-in relationships

In India, the trend of live-in is still not normalized but the fast-paced lifestyle, and the liberation in metropolitan cities, somehow allow couples to explore the effects and side-effects of living together.

Time and again, Bollywood movies have taken on the live-in theme.

Tanvi Gupta of newsbytesapp.com lists down five such movies.



'Salaam Namaste'

When we think of live-in relationships, the movie *Salaam Namaste* comes to mind quite instantly.

This is among the first mainstream Bollywood movies to explore the whole live-in "situation."

The film encircles the lead characters Saif Ali Khan and Preity Zinta, who decide to move-in together, not out-of-love, but rather convenience, and eventually fall for each other. Unplanned pregnancy also brings unsaid challenges.

'Pyaar Ka Punchnama'

Remember the five-minute-long rant of Rajat aka Rajjo played by Kartik Aaryan?

Apart from giving popularity to Aaryan, the whole monologue summed-up the "cons" of living together

under one roof, and the Indian audiences resonated extremely well with the feeling.

Touted as a "close-to-reality" film, Luv Ranjan's directorial *Pyaar Ka Punchnama* was a funny take on relationships, and still enjoys a distinct fan base.



'Luka Chuppi'

This movie served a different perspective on live-in relationships because it was "live-in with family."

The story traces the journey of a couple who claims to be married, but in reality, are not!

The decision to hide reality turns bizarre when the family gets involved and the roller-coaster ride then just never stops! A commercially successful movie, it makes for a perfect weekend watch.

'Cocktail'

It has been 11 years since the release of the Homi Adajania directorial *Cocktail* but the movie is still so fresh in our memories. It's normal for a boy to live-in with a girl, but the twist comes when they are joined by the girl's friend. What happens next - well obviously the sparks start flying for the "other" girl and things become haywire.

'Shuddh Desi Romance'

The luxury of living together in big cities is still normalized, but this concept is heavily frowned upon in smaller cities. *Shuddh Desi Romance* that featured actors Parineeti Chopra and late Sushant Singh Rajput created a solid buzz at the time of its release because of its fresh and realistic take on live-in relationships, and was set against the backdrop of a small city.



Shimmer sarees are the new staple for Bollywood actresses

One of the most popular Indian fashion trends is the saree, or "nine yards of grace." This outfit has our hearts, whether you already possess a ruffled saree or are considering purchasing a shimmering saree. The ideal words to define our affection for ethereal shimmer sarees are useful and enchanting. We love these simple items for all the right reasons. A gorgeous shimmer dress is ideal to glam up your fashion game, whether it is for a formal wedding celebration or a conventional event. Fashion items that turn heads have a special place in our wardrobes, and shimmer sarees are the perfect way to make a bold statement. We have all the style inspo you need, from Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra's reception.

Cinema Sirsa

Castel

Tel Nos - 6867356 / 59119396 / 58249200 / 57069330

MOVIE: SHEHZADA

(featuring Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon)

Friday	24/02/2023 - 13:15 - 20:15
Saturday	25/02/2023 - 10:15 - 13:15 - 16:15 - 20:15
Sunday	26/02/2023 - 10:15 - 16:15 - 20:15
Monday	27/02/2023 - 13:15 - 16:15
Tuesday	28/02/2023 - 13:15 - 20:15

Moon Banerjee replaces Shital Thakkar in 'Sasural Simar Ka 2'

Moon Banerjee will soon be entering *Sasural Simar Ka*. The actor is all set to replace Shital Thakkar, who was playing the character of Sandhya. Moon Banerjee is a well-known actress who was previously seen in projects like *Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi*, *Babul Ki Duwayen Leti Jaa*, and *Muskaan* to name a few, India Forums got in touch with Moon Banerjee to know more about the same,

*** You are going to play a character which is already played by someone, what do you think will be your addition to the character?**

I will try to conceive and portray it as per the brief given to me by the makers and create as



much value as i can as an actor in terms of my sensibility and understanding.

Sasural Simar Ka 2 started with Gitanjali Devi entrusting Simar Bhardwaj with the task of finding an ideal bride for her grandson. Simar's quest ends when she meets her namesake, Simar Narayan, who dreams of making it big as a singer.

Talking to us about the same, he says, "This year, I thought I should quit smoking. It is not easy, but I am trying my best. It's been almost a week now that I haven't smoked. Of course, it's with the help of patches, but it's a good start. I wanted to stop since a long time but it's not easy. I decided to do this for my son as I want to set a good example."

It is not just smoking, the 40-year-old has stopped drinking as well which he explains is his annual detox. Bijlani adds, "I'm not a heavy drinker. I drink occasionally. I do this detox every year and don't drink at all for 3-4 months as I believe that one must detox often."

The *Naagin 3* actor reveals he started smoking over 15 years ago and this step to quit was a big one for his health. "When I get the urge to smoke, I distract myself with other things. Even meditation has helped. Taking a clean break from smoking is the way to go as smoking does take a toll on your health. I am putting in the effort and this is just the beginning. I hope to cross the 28-day milestone as they say if you don't smoke for 28 days at a stretch then you have quit. I'm going to definitely avoid places which might affect my resolve."



Arjun Bijlani: 'I believe that one must detox often'

Arjun Bijlani started the new year with a resolution to quit smoking. He announced the decision with a tweet. He spoke at length with Kavita Awaasthi of Hindustan Times about his decision.

'Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi' Erica Fernandes did not want to play a mom on screen

Not everyone is comfortable playing mother on screen. Erica Fernandes is one of them. The 23-year-old who plays mother to a six-year-old girl in *Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi*, says she's still not convinced about essaying the role, reports Hindustan Times.

"On screen I didn't want to become a mother so soon. So, after the leap, I was not at all convinced about playing one, that too in my first TV show. The news came to me as a shock. But I thought of giving it a try. To tell the truth I am still not really convinced playing a mother. I am taking time to get into my character," says Erica. She hopes that people don't typecast her as a mother and she gets to explore different characters.

Happy with the way the show is garnering good response from the viewers, she says that she is thankful to God, that her debut show has touched



a chord with the audience. The show also stars Shaheer Sheikh.

"After having acted in films down south, I always wanted to work on the small screen but couldn't say yes to everything that was being offered to me. The whole *saas-bahu* drama is very clichéd. I feel there's already too much of that on TV. So, I was waiting for something like *Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi*," adds the actor.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Avoid taking on too much and prioritize important work to remain ahead. Stay positive and keep pushing forward towards success. Your romantic life is in a fairly good place this week. If you're single, you may consider online dating, or a marriage proposal may come your way. If you're in an affair, handle it carefully.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 17, 20, 21, 30, 36

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Expect a challenging time at work with a heavy workload and tight deadlines. Prepare yourself for these difficulties and strive to maintain a positive attitude. The stars are shining bright for your love life. A family gathering may lead to a marriage proposal or reignite feelings in an old flame. Expect a loyal and trustworthy bond.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 12, 17, 25, 30

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Opportunities for growth and recognition are on the horizon, with a potential promotion or appraisal in the near future. Hard work and dedication may pay off, bringing a sense of accomplishment. Romance may need some effort to keep the spark alive, but with the support of your partner, this can be easily maintained.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 17, 20, 24, 26, 31

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

You may feel a bit overwhelmed with your workload, but this could also bring about new opportunities for growth. Consider taking a break from work to recharge. If you're in a relationship, try to be open and understanding with your partner. If you're single, consider exploring new ways to connect with potential partners.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 20, 31, 33, 38, 40

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Aries natives can expect a very good professional outlook. Opportunities for a job change, employment, appraisal, and promotion are high. This week looks promising for your romantic relationships. Unrequited love may turn into feelings of love. Trust in relationships may be important.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 5, 11, 15, 20

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

There may be chances of a job change or promotion following a favourable appraisal. You may get more power, responsibility and also flexibility in your tasks. There may be unrequited love or a conflict in your relationship. Maintaining open communication and building trust and loyalty are advisable for a better relationship. Avoid taking any major decisions in your love life.

Lucky Numbers: 23, 24, 29, 31, 36, 40

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

This is the time to work hard, as new job opportunities, promotions, or appraisals could be on the way. Try to branch out of your comfort zone to get better opportunities. Communication and understanding with your partner are highlighted. Take the time to enjoy each other's company, and don't be afraid to be spontaneous.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 10, 15, 14, 19, 31

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Take the lead, and don't be afraid to take risks – the rewards could be substantial. Trust your abilities, and don't be scared to step out of your comfort zone. Planning special activities such as cooking together, or singing and dancing will bring you and your partner closer. Take a long drive with your significant other and enjoy each other's company.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 11, 19, 20, 33, 39

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Your workload is manageable, but stay focused on your goals. Try to take on new challenges and showcase your abilities. This is a great time to show your dedication and hard work. You may encounter a few difficulties in your love life. Separation may be a possibility for some today. Consider your options and seek guidance from a trusted friend or professional.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 18, 20, 23, 29

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Challenges at the workplace may arise, leading to a stressful environment. Your collaborative efforts will help you achieve your goals. Romance may not be a top priority, but a fair amount of attention towards feelings and emotions may improve relationships. A marriage proposal can bring new beginnings.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 10, 12, 15, 19, 23

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Libra natives may experience a heavy workload. Appraisals and promotions are possible, but avoid taking on too much responsibility at once. Try delegating your work to avoid overworking yourself in the office. You may receive a marriage proposal. Online dating and socializing may bring new opportunities for love.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 15, 21, 26, 30

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

It may be a fairly good day for Scorpio natives' professional lives. Take on new challenges and handle the workload efficiently. It's a good week for romance, with opportunities for dating and marriage proposals in the air. Show appreciation and express your feelings to your partner.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 17, 21, 23, 35



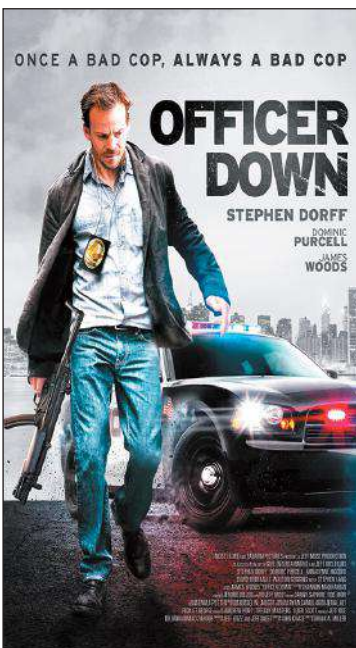
Vendredi 24 février - 21.15



Samedi 25 février - 21.00



Dimanche 26 février - 21.52



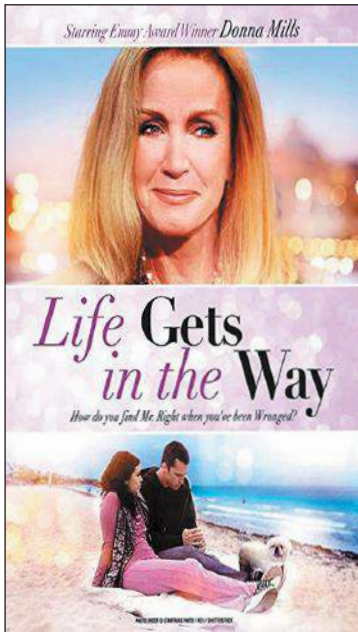
Programme TV



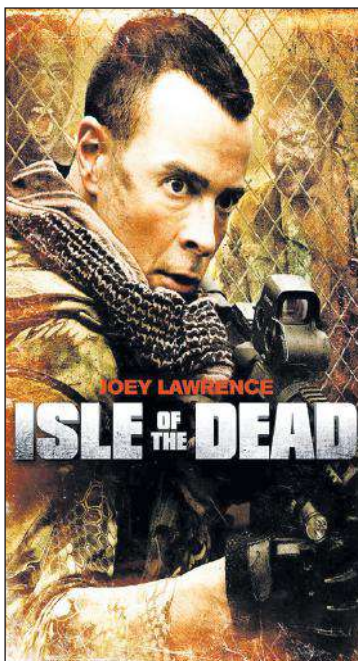
	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 24 février	07.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 08.00 Local: Profil 08.45 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer... 11.00 Doc: World Capitals 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.25 Local: MBC Production 14.35 D.Anime: Cat & Keet 15.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 15.34 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts 15.55 D.Anime: Kids Songs 17.04 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little 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... 21.45 Serial: Rookie Blue 23.00 Le Journal	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin 11.16 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay 12.02 Film: Tu Mari Ass Pas Che 14.18 Mag: DDI Mag 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi 15.45 Serial: Bommarillu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.27 Serial: Rabba Mainu Maff Kareen 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: Arjuman 21.09 Local: Urdu Programme - 22.04 DDI Live	07.00 Mag: Border Crossing 07.51 Doc: Who Killed Neanderthal 08.42 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 09.37 Mag: Saladeria 12.05 Mag: Shift 15.44 Doc: Saladeria 15.49 Doc: The Politics Of Climate 16.23 Doc: MRNA - Hype Of Hope? 17.47 Doc: Japan Video Topics 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: Globalization Where... 23.35 Doc: Foodland 23.38 Doc: Guardians Of The Deset 00.21 Mag: World Stories 00.33 Doc: Castls 01.02 Mag: Euromaxx	01.32 Film: Matriarch 03.55 Film: Off Piste 05.25 Tele: Tour De Babel 06.15 Serial: Madam Secretary 06.55 Film: Matriarch 08.45 Serial: Wanted 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.17 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.00 Serial: Elementary 11.57 Film: Off Piste 13.31 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.45 Film: Matriarch 16.35 Serial: Wanted 17.15 Serial: Madam Secretary 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 18.26 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 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: A Perfect Match	06.39 Film: Poster Boys Starring: Sunny Deol, Bobby Deol, Shreyas Talpade 11.02 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 11.32 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 12.03 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 12.43 / 22.00 - Kismat Ki Lakiron 12.59 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.28 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes 14.25 / 23.00 - Highway On My Plate 14.53 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.23 Film: Jaan Starring: Ajay Devgn, Amrith Puri, Twinkle Khanna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.28 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke...
samedi 25 février	06.00 D.Anime: Akili And Me 06.49 D.Anime: Gon 09.40 Mag: The World Is Yours 10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil 10.30 Mag: Sand Tales 11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: Les Grands Noms... 12.30 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.19 Local: Sur La Piste De La Crecerelle 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 15.32 D.Anime: Darwin And Newts 15.53 D.Anime: Harvey Girls Forever! 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.25 Local: MBC Production 21.25 Film: The Marine 6 avec: Mike 'The Miz' Mizanin...	07.00 Film: Mangal Pandey Starring Shatrughan Sinha, Parveen Babi 09.59 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: Gair Kanooni Stars: Shashi Kapoor, Govinda, Sridevi 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: Ghost Starring Sanaya Irani, Shivam Bhaargava 22.59 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: Globalization Where... 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 20.53 Doc: Volcans Tueurs 21.48 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into... 22.08 Doc: The Answer To Almost 23.22 Doc: The Rocky Road To Tokyo 00.05 Doc: World Capitals 00.28 Doc: Smoothie Mania	01.34 Film: A Perfect Match 02.50 Serial: Gone 03.35 Serial: Blacklist 04.16 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 05.00 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 06.11 Serial: F.B.I 07.02 Serial: The Inbetween 08.30 Serial: Madam Secretary 09.11 Serial: Blacklist 09.53 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 10.45 Film: A Perfect Match 12.10 Serial: Galactica 13.11 Serial: Pine Gap 14.52 Tele: Missing Bride 16.24 Serial: F.B.I 17.07 Film: Liberte Sauvage 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: Intrusion 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: Raabta Starring: Deepika Padukone, Rajkumar Rao, Kriti Sanon 20.53 Kalari Kids 21.08 Porus 21.29 Naagin Season 4 22.13 Yeh Teri Galiyan
dimanche 26 février	06.00 D.Anime: Akili And Me 07.09 D.Anime: Gon 07.33 D.Anime: Fangbone 09.40 Mag: The World Is Yours 10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 11.52 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.05 Local Prod: Elle 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 15.30 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: Officer Down	07.00 Film: Moojrim 11.03 Serial: Azhagu 11.20 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 11.39 Serial: Surya Puran 12.06 Film: Housefull 4 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 Avansar 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: The Rocky Road To... 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 15.37 Doc: Arctic Blue 17.31 Mag: The 77 Percent 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... 22.21 Doc: Will Roots Save The... 23.00 Doc: Craft	01.17 Film: Intrusion 03.31 Film: The Marine 6 05.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 06.15 Serial: F.B.I 06.57 Film: Le Salaire De La Violence 08.33 Serial: Madam Secretary 09.11 Film: Juste Un Peu D'alchimie 10.51 Film: Liberte Sauvage 12.41 Serial: Killjoys 13.30 Serial: Elementary 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: Isle Of The Dead	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 Serial: Welcome Back Starring: Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar, Dimple Kapadia, John Abraham 20.47 Naagin Season 4 21.54 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 23.19 Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 01.34 Kundali Bhagya 03.35 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
lundi 27 février	06.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil 07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 07.55 MBC Production 09.00 Doc: Push 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: Darwin And News 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 Thomas	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Kundali Bhagya 12.06 Film: Vijeta Starring Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon, Paresh Rawal 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: Pei Mama Starring Yogi Babu, Malavika Menon 22.29 DDI Live	07.00 Mag: Salad Area 07.55 Doc: Japan From Above 08.55 Doc: Trust The Guide 09.47 Doc: A Mediterranean... 12.02 Mag: Smoothie Mania 14.38 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 15.36 Doc: A Mediterranean... 16.44 Doc: Craft Chocolate 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: Guinea-Bissau 00.14 Doc: Eco At Africa 00.43 Mag: The 77 Percent 01.14 Mag: Africa 54 01.42 Mag: In Good Shape	01.04 Film: Juste Un Peu D'alchimie 02.50 Serial: Billions 03.45 Film: Assassin's Code 05.21 Tele: Tour De Babel 06.09 Serial: Madam Secretary 06.51 Film: Juste Un Peu D'alchimie 08.45 Serial: Wanted 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 09.56 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.20 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.00 Serial: Elementary 11.55 Film: Assassin's Code 13.40 Tele: Tour De Babel 14.45 Film: Juste Un Peu D'alchimie 16.31 Serial: Wanted 17.15 Serial: Madam Secretary 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: F.B.I 21.15 Film: Las Vegas Parano	08.00 Taare Zameen Par 11.54 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna 12.24 / 21.00 - Anupamaa 12.54 / 21.30 - Mere Sai 13.27 / 22.00 - Kismat Ki Lakiron 13.51 / 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



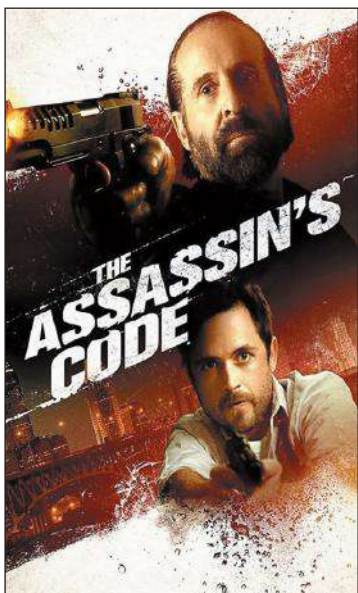
Mardi 28 février - 21.10



Mercredi 1 mars - 21.15



Jeudi 2 mars - 21.15



Programme TV



mardi 28 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: Life Gets In The Way
With: Donna Mills, Julie Sabray

MBC 2

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Serial: CID
- 10.50 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 12.00 Film: Upaasna
- 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: Adhikar
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Tina Munim, Zarina Wahab, Bindu

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: 119 Jours
- 03.22 Film: White Reindeer
- 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: Elementary
- 12.00 Film: White Reindeer
- 13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 14.24 Film: Jerry Maguire
- 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 Serial: The Inbetween
- 21.15 Film: Dark Beginnings Of...

Bollywood TV

- 07.15 Film: Shiva
- 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: Kya Yehi Pyar Hai
Starring: Aftab Shivdasani, Ameesha Patel, Jackie Shroff
- 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 1 mars

- 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
- 11.10 Tele: Rubi
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
- 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: Isle Of The Dead

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
- 12.00 Film: Hindustani Film
- 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
- 20.35 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: Shift
- 18.00 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
- 22.18 Mag: Focus On Europe
- 22.44 Doc: Iran From Above
- 23.52 Doc: Foodland: Veggie...
- 00.21 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 01.14 Mag: Arts.21
- 01.20 Mag: The Inside Story
- 02.12 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures

- 01.37 Film: Life Gets In The Way
- 02.48 Serial: Billions
- 04.14 Film: Dark Beginnings Of...
- 05.39 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 06.27 Serial: The Inbetween
- 07.09 Film: Life Gets In The Way
- 08.45 L'Incroyable Hulk
- 10.22 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.05 Serial: Elementary
- 12.05 Film: Dark Beginnings Of...
- 13.54 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 14.44 Film: Life Get In The Way
- 16.33 L'Incroyable 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 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 21.15 Film: In A Valley Of Violence
Avec: Ethan Hawke, John Travolta

- 07.08 Film: Kya Yehi Pyar Hai
Starring: Aftab Shivdasani, Ameesha Patel, Jackie Shroff
- 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: Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya?
Starring: Salman Khan, Sushmita Sen, Katrina Kaif
- 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 2 mars

- 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: Dus
With: Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty and Abhishek Bachchan

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 09.58 Serial: Agniphera
- 12.11 Film: Apna Bana Lo
- 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: Assassin's Code
With: Justin Chatwin, Peter Stormare, Mark Thompson, Robin Thomas, Yancy Butler

- 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 Doc: La Tour Eiffel Revelee
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.53 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 21.48 Mag: Saladeria
- 22.17 Doc: Smoothie Mania
- 23.31 Doc: Foodland: Veggie...
- 23.34 Doc: Eco India
- 00.00 Mag: Shift

- 01.09 Film: Haunted
- 02.50 Serial: Billions
- 03.50 Film: In A Valley Of Violence
- 05.23 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 06.17 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 06.57 Film: Un Ete Magique
- 08.45 Serial: Wanted
- 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 10.21 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.45 Film: In A Valley Of Violence
- 13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 14.46 Film: Une Ete Magique
- 16.35 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: Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya?
- 11.10 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna
- 11.40 / 21.01 - Anupamaa
- 12.04 / 21.31 - Mere Sai
- 12.33 / 21.56 - Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
- 13.00 / 22.20 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 14.15 / 22.52 - Patiala Babes
- 14.25 - Mag: Highway On My Plate
- 15.00 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.24 Film: Mr Joe B. Carvalho
Starring: Arshad Warsi, Soha Ali Khan, Javed Jaffrey, Vijay Raaz
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 18.59 Udaariyaan
- 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
- 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2



Jeudi 2 mars - 15.30

Stars: Arshad Warsi, Soha Ali Khan, Javed Jaffrey, Vijay Raaz



Jeudi 2 mars - 20.30

Star: Sanjay Dutt, Sunil Shetty and Abhishek Bachchan



The British aristocracy: A story of wealth, heritage and survival in the modern world

How gossip memoirs feed national fascination with privileged elites



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They don't dominate parliament; they don't own Twitter and they don't star in big Hollywood movies. Yet the British aristocracy's capacity to intrigue and enthrall seems boundless.

The continuing popularity of the TV and film series *Downton Abbey*, Evelyn Waugh's upper-crust novel *Brideshead Revisited* and Nancy Mitford's autobiographical *The Pursuit of Love* underscore the popular appetite for all things aristocratic.

In 2016, *Vanity Fair* noted that an enduring fascination with the Mitford sisters was reignited by the publication of their letters.

This has intensified recently with a wave of biographies and memoirs (long predating Prince Harry's royal hand grenade, *Spare*). A notable publishing phenomenon was 91-year-old Lady Glenconner's 2019 autobiography, *A Lady In Waiting* which became a *New York Times* bestseller, and 2020's well-received *Diary of an MP's Wife* by Baroness Sasha Swire.

The memoir of Lady Glenconner – daughter of the fifth Earl of Leicester and the wife of the Third Baron Glenconner – made her a minor celebrity. Appearing on the *Graham Norton Show*, she entertained fellow guests, who, like the audience, listened agog, shocked and amused.

Hailing from Devon gentry, Baroness Swire, wife of former Conservative minister and old Etonian Hugo Swire, made political waves with her memoirs. It included intimate revelations such as Samantha Cameron (David Cameron's wife, whose mother married into the dynastic Astor family) claiming her husband liked Jeremy Hunt (who has since become chancellor) because he sucked up to him.

A different world

It is unlikely nostalgia drives this interest in aristocratic lives. What grabs headlines are the usual gossip standards – shocking indiscretions, sex scandals and marital troubles or spousal abuse.

The attraction is peering inside aristocrats' mysterious world, to feel its privilege and strangeness, its peculiarly gilded yet feudal lifestyle and wealth. Aristocrat biographies reveal the secrets behind the persistence of ancient privilege in modern Britain.

But academic studies and fictional accounts of the

British aristocracy have painted a glummer picture. Whether you read David Cannadine's definitive history *The Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy* or Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, the message remains the same: like their grand estates, aristocrats have fallen into ruin.

Which portrayal is correct? Are aristocrats worthy of popular interest or irrelevant as academic historians suggest? Without doubt, aristocrats hold less power than they once did. They haven't completely fallen, however. For example, former chancellor of the exchequer George Osborne is heir to a baronetcy, and the Duke of Westminster is one of Britain's richest men.

But rather than a tapestry of anecdotes and individual stories, our research, which looks at the status and modern history of British and European elites, relies on an approach that quantifies and compares the aristocracy's power as a whole and over time.

Money, money, money

Historians, the aristocracy's leading chroniclers, build their case on patchworks of individual examples that offer weak foundations for generalisation. Even if a major historian such as F.M.L. Thompson in his *English Landed Society in the Nineteenth Century* identifies the economic or social position of dozens of titles in the early 1900s, thousands of their contemporaries are ignored.

You can count on one hand the times that historians have followed one family through three generations, let alone the several passing between 1850 and 2022. There is no consistency of evidence. An estate sale is quoted here, the diminishing role of the hunt is noted there. While providing fascinating detail about the customs and lifestyles of the aristocracy, general insights elude readers.

In our research, we seek the wood obscured by individual aristocratic trees to reveal the British aristocracy's wealth and status as a whole from the mid-19th century to the present.

Analysing probate records of British peers between 1858 and 2018 we found their mean wealth declined from a high of over £20 million (in today's money?) in the first decades of the 20th century to approximately £5 million after the second world war, before rising to nearly £15 million in the decade following the financial crisis of 2008.

This swing must be placed in context. First of all, probate records underestimate aristocratic fortunes by

excluding wealth held in trusts – a mechanism for transmitting and controlling "family" wealth. Second, their decline was not unique, but part of an "impoverishment of the rich" in the 20th century. Nevertheless, aristocrats' average wealth has kept them firmly in the top 1% of Britain's richest people.

Keeping pace with the "normal" rich is an extraordinary testament to aristocratic tenacity. Aristocrats have a handicap other elites in Britain don't: it's a closed shop with no mobility into it and no mobility out. The title passes from father to son.

If an aristocratic heir squanders a fortune, the family becomes poor but it remains an aristocratic family. For the "ordinary" rich, if a family squanders its wealth in one generation it drops out of the top ranking but is often replaced and replenished by the socially mobile *nouveau riche* in the next, keeping their aggregate wealth high. The aristocracy's ability to stay, on average, in the richest 1% throughout the 20th century is remarkable.

It's a rich man's world

Why so resilient? Contrary to existing accounts, aristocratic wealth does not follow land values, the traditional basis of their social position. To endure and flourish, British aristocrats understood they had to be economically astute like their rich counterparts.

The durability of aristocratic wealth thus hints at a tantalising possibility: upper-class families that rose pre-20th century can persist in modern democratic capitalist societies. But they can only do this by hiding ruthless economic acquisitiveness behind a feudal veneer. Meaning, for example, that they can present as country gentlemen while wheeling and dealing like any other businessman.

But it is their special status and privilege that highlights their advantages and pleasures. For many readers, those pleasures are experienced vicariously through myriad accounts of gilded lives seasoned with riches, decadence and scandal. And as any publisher will tell you, that always makes a good read.

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