

MAURITIUS **TIMES**

● "There is no support so strong as the strength that enables one to stand alone." – Ellen Glasgow

Interview: Kugan Parapen

«The country is suffering from a full-blown crisis

And unfortunately, one cannot say that the writings were not on the wall»



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Les négociations avancent-elles vraiment pour une alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD ?



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Managing Law & Order and Maritime Security



Experience clearly suggests that managing lawlessness, criminality, thefts, scams/frauds... are quite demanding in themselves. To expect that the Commissioner of Police should also supervise and monitor activities on our territorial high seas, maritime emergencies may be demanding too much for a single agent of the state

By Jan Arden ☞ See Page 3

Encounter

Dr Shardha Jogee, Professor of Astronomy, University of Texas

«Understanding the past is the pathway to understand our future...



... by observing how galaxies, stars, planets, dark matter, dark energy have evolved over time, astronomers are able to build models that allow us to predict the future evolution of our own galaxy, human civilization...»

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Attacks against the Judiciary

While not so common in Westminster, it has been known in established democracies that a disgruntled politician, generally one who is or has landed in Opposition, may sound off against a particular magistrate or high court judgment with which he or she is unhappy for one reason or another. Of course, as far as we understand such matters, the natural recourse would be to follow the set legal procedures for appeal to a higher court, even if the individual may feel hard done by. It is legitimate in that case to express in civilised tones his surprise, disappointment or disagreement with the judgment, more so as he would know quite well that the targeted officer cannot and will not take the trouble to answer allegations of whatever nature from the body politic.

In the USA, ex-President Trump is being caught up, after his period of legal immunity as head of State, in complex legal cases that are being wheeled out in various state jurisdictions and which will most probably wind their way ultimately to the US Supreme Court. This has not prevented the ex-President from playing the victim card and his party faithful making a stream of raucous innuendos about the judicial machinery being “weaponised” against him.

Of course, the US judicial and political systems are rather unique, but many of us might have taken note these days of the condemnation of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi by a Surat court for criminal defamation of the Modi surname. The sentence of two years in jail will be probably stayed while the Gandhi scion appeals the judgment, but it has created quite a ruckus with a variety of Indian Opposition leaders and Congress party loyalists attacking either the judgment or the Modi government, being assumed that the latter has a hand in every misfortune or inquiry that befalls Rahul Gandhi.

In our more limited democratic experience and space, we too have had cases since 2015 where the leader of the main Opposition party, Navin Ramgoolam, has had to bear the brunt of a dozen judiciary proceedings brought against him. That all of them, except one under appeal to the Privy Council, were struck out or dismissed in courts, he still had to stoically face up to the harassment from the MSM and various

instruments at its disposal without any unbecoming or reckless comment as far as we recall on any particular magistrate, judge, the CP or the DPP.

What is highly unusual since the third week of February is the appearance of concerted attacks against the DPP or the judiciary, by the CP, the PM himself and his retinue on the basis of judgments they obviously disagree with and for which there are possible avenues of appeal that they could avail themselves of. The basis of their discomfiture is the release on bail, under unprecedentedly strict conditions, of Opposition figure Bruneau Laurette, whose drug-related offence is still under an investigation and that may take several months if not years to complete — a deprivation of his liberties, which human rights advocates might consider unjustified. The CP is appealing that ruling and the matter should have been left to the court and judicial proceedings without the reckless hollering we have been forced to witness. Not from Opposition but from an irate government and therein lies the novelty of the situation that has alarmed the Mauritius Bar Council at those attacks against its members and the judiciary.

The terms of the Bar Council’s resolution in its communique issued on 23rd March will undoubtedly receive wider attention and unfortunately do little for our country’s reputation in overseas investor or institutional circles. We quote the unusually damning first paragraph:

“It (the Bar Council) strongly and unreservedly condemns the outrageous, gratuitous and unsubstantiated attacks which the legal profession and some of the institutions within our justice system have been subjected to as of late...”. With the objective to restore serenity amidst the prevailing tensions, the Council has written officially to the President of the Republic and the Chief Justice who both have responsibilities “in the exercise of their Constitutional functions”.

While criticism of a judgment is legitimate, there can be no excuse for insulting remarks against both the magistrate and the holder of the constitutionally protected DPP post. The earlier serenity returns to the affairs of the State, the better for our democratic institutions and for the country.

The Conversation

When Banks Go Bust



When banks go bankrupt. P - Quorum Federal Credit Union

Two bank failures in the US, and the forced takeover of Credit Suisse by UBS in Switzerland, have triggered the worst turmoil in the banking sector since the 2008 financial crisis. There’s talk of a lack of trust, of a collapse in confidence, of contagion and systemic risk

Trust: The whole principle of banking is built on trust. Clients deposit money with banks to receive interest and trust that their deposits will be repaid at maturity. Banks lend money to borrowers, trusting that lenders will pay the interest on borrowed funds and will repay the borrowed capital in accordance with the loan agreements.

Staff members work at banks, trusting the institution’s ability to pay salaries and provide other agreed benefits. Bank supervisors trust that their models and control mechanisms will raise warnings about liquidity, solvency and other risks facing any bank in a timely fashion. This will allow them sufficient time to step in, for instance by appointing a curator for a bank about to get into trouble.

In South Africa, the South African Reserve Bank is responsible for bank supervision. Stakeholders trust that it will do its job and keep their money safe. They trust that the individuals managing the banks will do so in a proper and sound way, thus not putting the economy or the banking system at risk.

Lastly, shareholders in a bank provide the permanent capital for the institution, based on the trust that their investment will grow in value and pay them dividends over time.

Confidence: All this confidence rests on the ability of banking institutions to manage risks appropriately. The very basis on which banks operate is risky. Banks are exposed to various types of risks that can contribute to failure. This is where confidence is important.

Banks are in the business of taking short-term deposits and converting those into long-term borrowing. Loan duration is longer than deposit (also called funding) duration. Therefore, if all depositors are spooked, and lose confidence in the bank’s ability to keep their money safe, they might start demanding repayment of their deposits on the same day. A bank can simply not meet such a demand for simultaneous withdrawals.

Another major potential hurdle is liquidity risk. Liquidity risk emerges when depositors want their deposits back and the bank can’t repay them all at once. It can trigger other problems.

Jannie Rossouw, Visiting Prof at the Business School,
University of the Witwatersrand

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Managing Law & Order and Maritime Security

Experience clearly suggests that managing lawlessness, criminality, thefts, scams/frauds... are quite demanding in themselves. To expect that the Commissioner of Police should also supervise and monitor activities on our territorial high seas, maritime emergencies may be demanding too much for a single agent of the state

Jan Arden

Fifty-five years after independence, the road has been at times rickety but many would feel that thankfully our institutions, the quality of people at their helm, and the inbuilt separation of powers between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary, with an independent media, have stood the test of times and steered us through the tricky patches where our national unity or even our economic development itself could have been unsettled. While this can be a simplistic schematisation, it is the background of the realities that have been evolving constantly over 55 years and that have emerged with particular vigour over the past decade.

On the Indian Ocean front, the realisation of international agreements over maritime economic jurisdictions and the amicable delimitations where there is overlap with the Seychelles or Maldives, for instance, has raised our national profile from that of an island to a maritime state covering some two million square kilometres and extending from Rodrigues through St Brandon to the Chagos, Agalega and up to the Seychelles. We have recognised this millennium that we are a blue ocean maritime state with newer demands to monitor, control and exercise professional naval and legal jurisdiction over a vast territory. Quite apart from the sovereign exploitation of fisheries and any other maritime resources over this vast expanse.

We can certainly rely and benefit from technical assistance from traditional allies with established naval capacities in the region, most notably France and India, which already have a functioning mutual agreement for sharing of facilities in order to maintain free navigation lines and keep piracy at bay. The maintenance of the American Diego base within a new cadre of national sovereignty and the infrastructure being finalised by India in Agalega,

which the PM has assured would be under national control, are other useful adjuncts to monitor maritime traffic, maintaining free navigation and sustain how we develop intelligently our ambitions in the Indian Ocean. But whether we can rely on the actual structures, personnel and reporting lines of the National Coast Guard (NCG) to be a full-fledged and respected partner to keep watch over our high-water expanse, should be open to a strategic rethink.

Wakashio disaster

The Wakashio disaster a few kms away from our beaches at Pointe d'Esny, brought home the point that the NCG, despite its personnel and resources (a fleet of vessels of varying capacities, a flotilla of helicopters and Dornier aircraft, some based at SSR airport, a few minutes' flight from the beaching and ultimate wreckage site), had neither the operational autonomy, nor perhaps fully-trained maritime safety and rescue operators, to prevent an emergency situation from developing, nor a beaching on our coral reefs turning into a pathetic wreckage. We do not know what our network of radars and the radio control operations revealed, as the Court's findings are still held confidential.

While hundreds of Mauritians desperately deployed considerable efforts to tie up artisanal booms to contain the oil spill, we were shocked to read that kilometres of booms were preciously hoarded in the MPA hangars in case of an event in the port area. Obviously, the authorities need to study the Court report, but there is little reason not to make at least its key findings and recommendations public, if only to gain perspective and input from a variety of knowledgeable parties beyond ministries and agencies which have spent more time passing the buck than tackling the issues.

Lack of clear responsibility and authority to prevent and handle such an emergency together with a line of



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reporting through the Commissioner of Police, who has numerous other demands, to the PMO, which may be even busier, has not been of demonstrable value so close to our shores. The authorities and the Opposition could certainly revisit the scope, mandate, authority and professionalism needed if we are to live up to the basic ambitions of safety and security around our island and on the wider expanse of our maritime territory.

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National Maritime Authority

Another evolution that has become all too highly visible in the past ten years is the flourishing of drug trafficking and illicit trade at huge financial scales from and to our neighbouring island states, namely Reunion and Madagascar. The layman might have thought that all our financial sleuths in a variety of institutions (from the FIU to the MRA and the Central Bank) should have detected things amiss far earlier. The information that might have been available from Reunion services but which seems to flow with reticence, is rather damning. As for the authorising institutions for land leases and rave parties, or the vigilance of our field intelligence officers or the supervision of our police force, these different agencies should have had serious grounds for far earlier investigation in the Franklin network saga.

Tragically, ICAC is only concerned with the money-laundering aspects that accompanies illicit trade, of which

drug trafficking and gambling are the two main constituents. We do not know whether the Police have started any concomitant enquiry on the drug trade aspects. We gather that most of ADSU has been now dismantled and replaced by a new unit as recommended three years ago by the Lam Shang Leen report on drugs.

That report also highlighted that the Port and fast boats plying their trade to and from Reunion and Madagascar, landing directly on our west coast by night or discharging their criminal goods into the nearby sea for later pickup by smaller boats, were matters of high concern. It is quite possibly beyond the reach of the NCG to maintain a close monitoring of fast boats capable to ply such illicit traffic that has clearly reached professional levels of criminality. Which might be another reason to entrust a future National Maritime Authority, working in synch with Reunion and other local agencies, namely Police and financial institutions, with the added vital responsibility to monitor and control all such drug traffic through maritime pathways from and to our shores.

Maritime specialists believe that neither a reliable register of skippers and fast boats, nor out of the ordinary fuel purchases, nor mandatory permanent GPS modules aboard such fast boats, nor other monitoring measures should be beyond the reach of a more dedicated maritime surveillance structure.

The Commissioner of Police has an essential constitutional role but experience clearly suggests that managing lawlessness, criminality, thefts, scams/frauds and stamping down the distribution of drugs in villages and townships are quite demanding in themselves. To expect that he should also with equal effectiveness supervise and monitor activities on our territorial high seas, maritime emergencies, and the ruses of drug barons using fast boats for their hugely lucrative trade, may be demanding too much for a single agent of the state, whatever the merits and conveniences such a single locus provided in the past. The country should give serious consideration to novel alternatives for reasons outlined above.

Jan Arden

Les négociations avancent-elles vraiment pour une alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD ?

Par A. Bartleby

Nous apprenons cette semaine que les négociations avancent entre le PTr, le MMM et le PMSD. Le partage des tickets aurait même été évoqué dans les journaux, avec le PTr apparemment acceptant 32 tickets sur les 60, et le MMM et le PMSD se partageant 28 tickets. Navin Ramgoolam a réagi dans l'après-midi même en affirmant qu'un tel accord n'avait pas été discuté, et qu'il s'agissait sans doute d'une 'leak' dont l'objectif était de brouiller les négociations.



32 tickets pour le PTr... un exercice de 'spin'?

Cette hypothèse semblait de toute façon très peu crédible vu qu'elle ne traduisait en rien le statut de locomotive que Navin Ramgoolam confère au PTr dans cette alliance. De ce point de vue, il est difficile d'imaginer Navin Ramgoolam descendre sous la barre des 35 tickets - ce qui serait une barre symbolique à ne pas franchir - mais il doit bien satisfaire ses partenaires actuels s'il souhaite faire avancer les négociations.

En fait, il est facile de se rendre compte que le PTr est en position de force dans cette négociation, et qu'il est capable de dicter certaines choses au MMM et au PMSD. Contrairement à ces deux partis, le PTr a une assise solide sur tout le territoire, et peut très bien faire élire des candidats dans certaines circonscriptions urbaines, alors que le MMM et le PMSD ne peuvent prétendre avoir la moindre influence dans les circonscriptions rurales.

À partir de là, le rapport de force est tout de suite posé. Mais Navin Ramgoolam se doit d'être conciliateur, puisque c'est l'image qu'il souhaite aujourd'hui diffuser, surtout que sa propre situation n'est absolument pas claire. En effet, il a fait une erreur monumentale en désertant la circonscription no 5 (Triolet/Pamplemousses) après les élections de 2014, ce qui le place dans une situation délicate puisqu'il n'est pas élu dans une autre circonscription. Ainsi se pose la question de son retour à la no 5, à moins qu'il désire explorer une autre circonscription.

Quoi qu'il en soit, nous devinons qu'il voudra être entouré de deux colistiers issus du sérail du PTr. Navin Ramgoolam a assez d'expérience politique pour savoir qu'une mésentente entre colistiers pourrait lui coûter une élection.

Cela signifie très certainement qu'il n'accèdera pas à la possible demande de Paul Bérenger d'avoir un candidat MMM dans chaque circonscription car c'est sans doute bien ce que demande actuellement Paul Bérenger, d'où le chiffre des 28 tickets avancé par les médias.

L'illusion d'être un parti national

Le MMM aura à cœur de conserver l'illusion d'être un parti national en alignant au minimum 20 candidats, soit au

moins un candidat par circonscription. Et ce, même si le parti au cœur mauve n'a plus de base solide dans les circonscriptions rurales, comme l'ont démontré les dernières élections générales.

Cette équation rural/urbain est en réalité assez complexe du côté des mauves. Il suffit, par exemple, d'observer la composition du Bureau politique pour se rendre compte que ce parti conserve de nombreux candidats dont l'ambition est de conquérir les circonscriptions rurales, alors même qu'ils n'en ont pas les capacités politiques actuellement.

Mais mettre cette frange de côté afin de favoriser des candidats capables d'être élus dans des circonscriptions urbaines est tout aussi problématique pour Paul Bérenger même si ce serait une posture beaucoup plus réaliste politiquement.

En se rendant compte que la force réelle du MMM se limite aujourd'hui à 5 ou 6 circonscriptions, Paul Bérenger pourrait se donner de réelles chances de consolider des tickets, voire même de consolider des sièges à l'Assemblée nationale. Mais en faisant cela, il enverra également un signal sans ambiguïté quant à la réelle représentativité de son parti aujourd'hui. Est-il prêt à envoyer ce signal? Il est le seul à le savoir, mais nous devinons facilement qu'il sera en face d'un grand dilemme qui déterminera la suite du MMM.

En effet, un MMM présent dans chaque circonscription donnera une certaine substance au parti si l'alliance l'emporte. Le MMM pourra tenter de consolider certaines postures qui permettront au parti de se reconstruire comme un parti vraiment national au cours des prochaines années. Le cas échéant, celui d'un MMM récupérant quelques tickets dans les circonscriptions urbaines, enterrera pour de bon les ambitions du parti, le condamnant à devenir la version bérengiste du PMSD: un parti qui pourra être de toutes les alliances mais qui n'aura aucun poids politique réel.

Cette équation que contemple Paul Bérenger, ils sont plusieurs à la contempler, ce qui pourrait expliquer que certains militants ne souhaiteraient pas entrer dans l'équation d'une énième alliance avec le PTr. Et nous devinons facilement quelle serait la frange du MMM qui trouverait son intérêt ailleurs, et notamment du côté du MSM. Cette frange est déjà surreprésentée au PTr et ces candidats MMM n'auront guère de chances d'être sur le front bench d'une alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD, alors qu'ils pourraient négocier des positions hautement avantageuses avec le MSM, qui souffre d'un défaut de représentativité de ce côté-là de l'électorat.

Navin Ramgoolam est bien évidemment au courant de toutes ces possibilités. Et il avance prudemment, ne dévoilant aucune de ses cartes. La réalité est que l'alliance est très loin d'être négociée. La question de la répartition des tickets est hautement stratégique et démontrera si cette alliance est crédible ou si elle ne sera qu'un château de cartes qui s'effondrera au premier coup de vent.

Attendons voir comment évoluent les rencontres futures, mais cette hypothèse de 32 tickets pour le PTr ressemble bien plus à un exercice de 'spin' dont l'objectif est de mettre la pression sur Navin Ramgoolam en interne afin qu'il se montre plus ferme avec le MMM et le PMSD.

* * *

Rencontre de LPM avec le commissaire électoral

Le parti Linion Pep Morisien (LPM) ne rate jamais une occasion pour démontrer qu'il est une force de proposition dans un paysage politique qui devient de plus en plus médiocre... Sa dernière trouvaille en date, le



Le décompte des voix le jour même des élections - un exercice urgent pour dissiper tout doute

décompte des bulletins de vote le jour même des élections.

Cette proposition flotte depuis un moment déjà et avait été suggérée par tous les partis 'mainstream' au lendemain des élections générales de 2019. La pression était d'ailleurs tellement forte sur le commissaire électoral, que ce dernier avait mis en place un dispositif permettant de faire le décompte des voix le jour même pour les élections villageoises. Cet exercice avait été conduit avec succès, ce qui avait convaincu Irfan Rahman que ses officiers pouvaient le faire pour les élections générales.

Le décompte des voix, dans chacun des centres de vote, le jour même des élections, devient un exercice urgent pour dissiper tout doute que les partis politiques peuvent avoir concernant le 'tampering' des urnes utilisées lors des élections. Et il serait judicieux que le commissaire électoral joue le jeu aux prochaines élections.

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Négociations pour le retour des Chagos

Un mémo du gouvernement britannique publié la semaine dernière a fait état de l'avancée des négociations entre les gouvernements mauricien et britannique sur le dossier des Chagos.



Une résolution rapide du dossier des Chagos enverrait un signal extrêmement positif en faveur du gouvernement britannique

Il est désormais clair que les négociations avancent très bien et qu'une résolution devrait être trouvée assez rapidement si le rythme est maintenu.

Cela constituera une immense victoire pour tout le pays, qui sera enfin unifié un peu plus de 55 ans après son indépendance. Cet événement permettra également aux gouvernements mauricien et britannique de tourner une page de leur histoire commune afin de commencer à en écrire une nouvelle. Il est d'ailleurs clair que c'est exactement ce que souhaite Rishi Sunak.

☞ Suite en page 5

Négociations pour le retour des Chagos

Suite de la page 4

Le Premier ministre britannique est face à un problème extrêmement complexe: donner toutes les chances à son parti de gagner les prochaines élections. Et il y a pour lui un seul moyen d'y arriver: en se tournant vers le monde afin de permettre à la Grande Bretagne de se positionner comme une force économique à travers la négociation de traités commerciaux avantageux pour l'économie britannique.

Il est certain que la région océan Indien représente pour Rishi Sunak un immense potentiel de coopération pour son pays. La Chine, l'Inde et la France sont déjà extrêmement présents, et le Royaume-Uni prend un retard certain. Or, une résolution rapide du dossier des Chagos enverrait un signal extrêmement positif en faveur du gouvernement britannique, et faciliterait indiscutablement certaines négociations qui sont actuellement très compliquées pour le gouvernement de Rishi Sunak.

Ce qui est sûr, c'est que Maurice est actuellement en position de force dans cette négociation et les efforts de certains membres de la diaspora pour faire capoter ces négociations en envoyant des lettres au 10, Downing Street pourraient être perçus comme rien de moins que de la haute trahison.

* * *

Reform Party: 80 propositions pour transformer Maurice

Le Reform Party a arpenté le pays depuis plusieurs mois, a animé des consultations avec certains stakeholders, est allé à la rencontre des Mauriciens avant de venir de l'avant avec son projet de réforme pour Maurice.

Les 80 propositions se lisent comme un condensé de propositions populistes qui n'ont aucune réelle direction idéologique et qui ne répondent à aucun projet de société unifié. Il y a, çà et là, quelques propositions valables, mais dans l'ensemble, c'est une daube dont l'objectif est bien plus d'exciter le peuple sur ses croyances que des réformes vraiment structurelles de l'économie, de la fiscalité, de la fonction publique ou des institutions.

Roshi Badhain aurait pu réaliser un joli coup avec cette approche, notamment grâce à son constat que les autres partis passent leur temps à parler du nombre de tickets dans une alliance et jamais de leurs projets pour Maurice. Mais il ne l'a pas développé avec le sérieux requis. Un projet de société ne se réduira jamais à un pamphlet populiste qu'un gamin pourrait gribouiller pour



80 propositions pour... une alliance avec un parti 'mainstream'

son General Paper, par exemple. De ce point de vue, l'exercice est un échec étant donné qu'il n'adresse aucune des problématiques actuelles à Maurice de manière profonde et sérieuse.

Mais Roshi Badhain n'est pas un abruti non plus. Il a bien vu comment Steven Obeegadoo a réussi à se positionner comme VPM, en formant sa Plateforme Militante et en proposant des politiques de réformes. Steven Obeegadoo s'est d'ailleurs souvent vanté d'avoir réussi à négocier son alliance avec le MSM grâce à ses propositions. Voilà quelque chose qui a sans doute dû inspirer Roshi Badhain: il avoue lui-même qu'il acceptera une alliance avec un parti 'mainstream' qui accueillera favorablement ses propositions.

Pouvons-nous imaginer qu'un parti 'mainstream' puisse mordre à cet hameçon? A priori non, à moins bien sûr que les négociations entre le PTR, le MMM et le PMSD n'aboutissent pas et qu'un de ces partis doive avoir recours à une alliance de dernière minute afin de ne plus avoir à se présenter seul aux élections générales.

* * *

Xi Jinping à Moscou

Le symbole est puissant et ne manquera pas de faire monter la nervosité en Occident: le président chinois Xi Jinping était en déplacement à Moscou pendant trois jours cette semaine-ci afin de s'entretenir avec Vladimir Poutine. Les officiels chinois ont d'ailleurs décrit ce voyage comme capital afin de guider les relations bilatérales, renforcer la stabilité mondiale et faire progresser l'amitié, la coopération et la paix entre la Chine et la Russie.



Xi Jinping à Moscou: le symbole est puissant

À travers ce voyage, Xi Jinping démontre deux choses: premièrement, le fait que l'axe Chine-Russie reste fort et, deuxièmement, que la Chine est devenue une puissance diplomatique incontournable capable de régler les conflits du monde. Cela s'inscrit à la suite du réchauffement diplomatique entre l'Arabie saoudite et l'Iran, où la Chine aura joué le rôle de médiateur. Le président chinois enchaîne donc les démonstrations symboliques mais aussi les démonstrations de force, envoyant des signaux forts au monde.

Il sera question, entre la Chine et la Russie, de plusieurs dossiers brûlants. Le cas ukrainien, forcément, et notamment la coopération militaire entre ces deux pays, mais aussi les dossiers énergétiques et commerciaux, la Chine étant devenue le premier acheteur du pétrole russe et la Russie important la majorité de ses denrées agroalimentaires de la Chine.

Nous assistons ainsi, un peu plus chaque semaine, à une transformation profonde des rapports géopolitiques. Et tout cela alors que les États-Unis s'embourbent un peu plus chaque semaine dans des crises politiques internes.

La dernière en date, une arrestation potentielle de Donald Trump...

* * *

Le Bar Council réagit aux propos du PM

Les propos tenus par le PM lors d'une réunion à Surinam continuent à faire des vagues. Après avoir affiché sa solidarité avec le Commissaire de police dans ses attaques contre le DPP, Pravind Jugnauth en a remis une couche en commentant le ruling de la magistrate dans l'affaire Bruneau Laurette.



Le Bar Council s'est dit profondément inquiet des attaques du groupe Facebook Sun TV à l'encontre du DPP. Nous nous souvenons tous que ce groupe avait posté des images et des vidéos de très mauvais goût, suggérant qu'un lien existerait entre l'office du DPP et Bruneau Laurette, ce qui pourrait découler des propos tenus par le PM quand il avait commenté que certaines institutions étaient infiltrées par les mafias.

Les différents représentants de la profession légale n'ont pas tardé à réagir. Ces derniers ont rappelé au PM qu'il y a des précédents contre les outrages à un magistrat et que la loi est claire à ce sujet. Guy Rozemont avait d'ailleurs écopé d'une peine d'emprisonnement pour des faits similaires alors qu'il était le leader du PTR.

Les avocats du PM ont réagi en affirmant que cette loi, pénalisant les outrages à magistrat, était archaïque et qu'un citoyen devrait pouvoir commenter et critiquer un jugement d'une Cour de justice. Peut-être qu'il faut effectivement moderniser certaines lois, mais il est choquant qu'un PM en exercice se permette de tels commentaires. Il ne s'agit en aucun cas des commentaires d'un citoyen lambda dont les prises de position n'ont aucune influence sur les affaires de l'État, et le PM se doit d'exercer un devoir de réserve ne serait-ce que pour démontrer qu'il respecte la séparation des pouvoirs.

Ce qui devient de plus en plus évident, du moins dans la perception populaire, c'est que le PM adopte là une posture d'autocrate, se permettant de critiquer ouvertement les institutions dont les actions ne correspondent pas à ses intérêts politiques.

Cette méthode est bien connue et a été éprouvée par Donald Trump aux États-Unis. C'est une manière de mobiliser ses partisans et de faire circuler un doute qui peut devenir un soupçon sur le bon fonctionnement des institutions.

Nous ne pouvons que spéculer, mais Pravind Jugnauth devrait avancer avec prudence, surtout en voyant ce qui se passe avec Donald Trump aujourd'hui.

A. Bartleby

The Levellers: Death, Disease and Calamity



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

During my student days at Royal College Curepipe studying poetry, and reciting it when ordered by the class teacher, was an integral part of our learning right from Form I onwards, in both English and French. Some of these poems left a lifelong impact on several of us, even those who took to the science stream, like myself.

One such poem was a 17th century remembrance poem by James Shirley, titled 'Death The Leveller', and the following lines will no doubt strike a chord with many:

Death lays his icy hand on kings:

Sceptre and Crown

Must tumble down,

And in the dust be equal made

With the poor crooked scythe and spade.

As can be seen, the poem is about 'the dismal march of death that tramples down human pride and pomp. It presents a vividly personified picture of death as the ultimate conqueror in whose realm perfect equality prevails,' as much as it portrays the 'transitoriness of mundane glories, the permanence of death and the reality of dying.'

'War, disease and famine' make up the triad that used to affect all countries and decimate populations in all countries before the advent of industrialization and modernity. Wars and famines are less frequent, thought the risk still exists as Ukraine demonstrates.

The major infectious diseases that used to affect all countries equally are now under control with the availability of vaccines and the application of well-known public health measures, though in some lesser developed and developing countries diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis are still endemic.

The democratization of risks

However, in the past couple of decades there has been what one could call a 'democratisation of risks,' that is, both the rich and the poor world - and those in between - are threatened in equal measure by calamities that are regularly occurring on a large scale, as well as by emerging new diseases in epidemic and pandemic proportions on the backdrop of a rising burden of non-communicable diseases or NCDs. Along with death, they have become the new levellers across all countries whatever the level of development.

As regards disease, one could start with HIV-Aids which began in the 1980s and has spread to the whole world. It is far from being under control, has caused millions of deaths, and no vaccine is in sight as yet, although treatment is available to those who can afford it.

The most dramatic recent example of a leveller disease is undoubtedly the Covid-19 pandemic. The rapidity with which it spread from Wuhan in China to the rest of the world not only generated panic, but overwhelmed the health systems in even the richest countries. Besides the gaps in the resources needed for

treatment and for disposal of the mounting dead numbers, it brought the countries to an economic and social standstill that soon became a worldwide phenomenon, including our own country. Even as its impacts are still being felt, it has now become endemic, with variants that are expected to keep surfacing and that will perpetuate the threat. On top of that, there is also the quasi-probability of new pandemics appearing, and most likely caused by a respiratory virus, which spreads more rapidly through air since we all have to breathe.

The story of the global non-communicable diseases epidemic, with diabetes on top, is well-known and need not be dwelt upon, save to add that we are also struggling to control them since they started to surge in the 1980s as industrialization accelerated and we began to adopt a corresponding 'fast' lifestyle with a heavy dose of unhealthy fast foods that continues. Unfortunately, poorer countries which are still reeling under the burden of infectious diseases and are modernizing at the same time suffer from what is known as the double burden of disease, that is infectious disease and NCDs.

Now we come to the calamities which have become a regular occurrence. They are taking place on a scale resembling natural calamities, but in fact they are being associated with climate change as a result of increasing greenhouse gas emissions and consequential atmospheric warming. It is widely accepted that the sum total of human activities is largely if not solely responsible for such warming, and therefore too climate change. To that extent therefore these calamities could be said to be human induced if not manmade. But their impacts are as devastating as natural catastrophes wherever they occur.

The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has just released its Synthesis Report, which confirms that 'humans are unequivocally increasing greenhouse gas emissions to record levels.'

The resulting global warming is responsible for widespread and rapid extreme weather resulting in harm to lives, livelihoods and natural systems which, though they often disproportionately affect vulnerable people in developing countries, impact even the developed countries causing as much damage too. Thus, floods, droughts, heat waves, fires and cyclones are seen on all continents with increasing regularity - but are sudden and unpredictable with, often, two or more hazards occurring simultaneously.

A few examples confirm this. In Europe unprecedented heat waves have caused droughts, forest fires, water shortages in Spain, Portugal, France. In the latter country one summer heat wave saw nearly 20,000 deaths from dehydration and heat exhaustion among the elderly. Floods in Germany and Italy left thousands of people stranded and without power for days on end. Such scenarios were hardly ever witnessed in Europe - and for that matter in Australia, and New Zealand more recently where an earthquake doubled up on extensive



Son of Vijay Raju, who died due to the coronavirus, performs the last rites at a crematorium ground in Giddinahalli village on the outskirts of Bengaluru. Pic - Reuters

“The most dramatic recent example of a leveller disease is undoubtedly the Covid-19 pandemic. The rapidity with which it spread from Wuhan in China to the rest of the world not only generated panic, but overwhelmed the health systems in even the richest countries. Besides the gaps in the resources needed for treatment and for disposal of the mounting dead numbers, it brought the countries to an economic and social standstill that soon became a worldwide phenomenon, including our own country. Even as its impacts are still being felt, it has now become endemic, with variants that are expected to keep surfacing...”

flooding.

Similar phenomena have been affecting the US, paralyzing vast areas of the country such as in California where in the northern and central parts what are called 'atmospheric rivers' have caused havoc, forcing people to abandon whole townships. Earlier, there had been forest fires that destroyed millions of acres of forest. Further, in the past weeks snow and cold waves have affected almost half of the country starting from the east and spreading westwards and southwards.

On the other hand, there were the two tsunamis that unfurled in relatively prosperous Thailand, with a second one hitting Japan later. But these were due to natural geological phenomena.

Our tiny island has not been spared either, as we have been pounded with heavy showers, thunderstorms and lightning almost every day in some part of the island or the other since the beginning of the year. These have been occurring so haphazardly that they have caused severe disruptions in normal life, such that for example last week educational institutions were closed for almost the whole week. That left both young children and their parents in particular in distress, as the latter were at a loss about emergency arrangements that had to be made for the children's care.

This extreme weather has affected the region as well, as the unusual trajectory of cyclone Freddy has shown - said to be a first in regional meteorological history -, ending up in Malawi where it has devastated the country with upwards of 400 deaths and counting.

We need urgent solutions to tackle these new levellers - but it would seem that no country is ever prepared enough - and that is certainly worrisome, for the risks are ever present.

Interview: Kugan Parapen

“The country is suffering from a full-blown crisis

And unfortunately, one cannot say that the writings were not on the wall”

In this week’s interview Kugan Parapen, economist and a member of *Resistans ek Alternativ*, throws light on some aspects of the lucrative drug trafficking business and the stakes involved, namely huge outlays that pitch competing dealers against each other, with help from and the collusion of the high and mighty. He also discusses in some detail the flaws in the usual pattern of forming alliances and makes proposals for its reform so as to have a more representative democratic outcome.

Mauritius Times: I guess you also would have serious concerns about the things that have been happening in the country during these last months, especially those related to law and order: drug trafficking on a scale unknown to the public along the west coast; house cleaning at the level of ADSU and mass transfer of its investigators; allegations of drug planting and arrests of individuals perceived to be opponents of the government, etc. What’s your reading of this rather peculiar situation?

There is an increasing feeling of dysfunctionality about the State of Mauritius. In many ways, it feels as if we are watching the penultimate chapter of a tragedy. And there is a sense of inevitability about it too. Just as you watch certain movies in spite of already knowing how the ending will be.

Unfortunately, for many citizens of this country, seeing is believing. Drug trafficking has been the lynchpin of our society for generations. So, it is rather ironic to see Mauritians being shocked at what is unraveling on the West coast. Mauritius has one of the highest prevalence of opiate consumption worldwide. Surely someone must be supplying these drugs. The Prime



“Many civil employees have also sold their soul to the devil. One common reason being that those in power do not lead by example. Why should a civil servant uphold righteous values when the smell of rot is omnipresent? I strongly believe that people working for our institutions should be rewarded for promoting good governance and efficiency. Aligning their interests with public goals is a necessity...”

“A gram of cannabis is worth some Mur 1,500 at current market prices. Thus, a conservative estimate of the cannabis market in Mauritius comes out to about Mur 4 billion annually. And here we are talking about cannabis only. When you factor in the hard drugs, you come to the conclusion that the market value of drugs consumed in Mauritius is easily above Mur 10 billion. Surely, such a market isn’t the property of one drug lord...”

Minister has made it a point to place the fight against drug trafficking at the top of his electoral manifesto. At a time when the world is advocating a radically different approach to the issue! Is our Prime Minister stuck in a different era or does his

zero-tolerance stance serve other much darker purposes? We would do well to look at the reality behind the perception.

The narcotic business is known to be one of the most lucrative in the world. Invariably, it attracts all kinds of people

from all spheres of society, including the highest. We are talking of billions and billions of rupees here. A United Nations report from 2011 puts at 4% of the population who are regular cannabis users – that’s a population of around 50,000 people. Assuming that they consume one gram of cannabis per week, we reach a market of some 2.6 tons of cannabis per year.

According to media reports, a gram of cannabis is worth some Mur 1,500 at current market prices. Thus, a conservative estimate of the cannabis market in Mauritius comes out to about Mur 4 billion annually. And here we are talking about cannabis only. When you factor in the hard drugs, you come to the conclusion that the market value of drugs consumed in Mauritius is easily above Mur 10 billion.

*** That is one hell of a market...**

Absolutely, and surely, such a market isn’t the property of one drug lord. Drug cartels compete among themselves to increase their market share and they will go to great lengths to ensure that they reach a domineering position. Imagine having an ally who is powerful enough to take many of your rivals out of business. Wouldn’t that be an exciting opportunity?

Across the world, drug lords have long been known to interfere in the political arena to ensure their perennial survival. In Mauritius, it is an accepted fact that drug monies fund political campaigns, especially in the absence of any law surrounding the finance of political parties.

With this in mind, allow me to be doubtful of politicians waging war on drugs. If that was the right approach, it would have been common knowledge by now. The Global Commission on Drug Policy as far back as 2011 has declared that the war on drugs has failed, with devastating consequences for individuals and societies around the world. And here we have a ‘modern’ Prime Minister going on a supposed crusade against drug traffickers. Seriously.

*** We do not know whether what we have seen so far is but the tip of the iceberg, but when the Prime Minister, who is responsible for law and order, has himself alluded to the infiltration of the mafia in our institutions, then there must be something awfully bad that has crept into the system. Is this a case of a disaster that was waiting to happen?**

Resistans ek Alternativ has repeatedly warned against the erosion of our democratic pillars. That the mafia has infiltrated our institutions is not a surprise by any means. We are adamant that the same mafia has infiltrated many of our political mainstream parties over the years and given that each one of these mainstream parties have been in power at some point since independence, it is only logical that the mafia has infiltrated the State.

☞ **Cont. on page 8**

'That the mafia has infiltrated our institutions is not a surprise by any means

We are adamant that the same mafia has infiltrated many of our political mainstream parties'

☞ Cont. from page 7

Many civil employees have also sold their soul to the devil. One common reason being that those in power do not lead by example. Why should a civil servant uphold righteous values when the smell of rot is omnipresent? I strongly believe that people working for our institutions should be rewarded for promoting good governance and efficiency. Aligning their interests with public goals is a necessity.

*** On the other hand, we the anti-corruption agency, ICAC, that has jumped into the fray to inquire into money-laundering aspects of the drug-related cases, and in the process, it seems to have taken over from the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit (ADSU) the task of tracking drug traffickers. Good for its image, but we have yet to know where matters stand as regards its investigations into the CEB's Redevelopment project, the numerous pandemic procurements. What's your take on that?**

The ICAC is a farce which is costing taxpayers a fortune. The political interference is evident. We remember the volte-face of ICAC in the MedPoint case. The impression that we have of this institution is that it serves its mission only when non-high-profile persons are in the limelight. As you correctly mention, many of its investigations are yet to be completed and its track record with respect to convictions is poor to say the least.

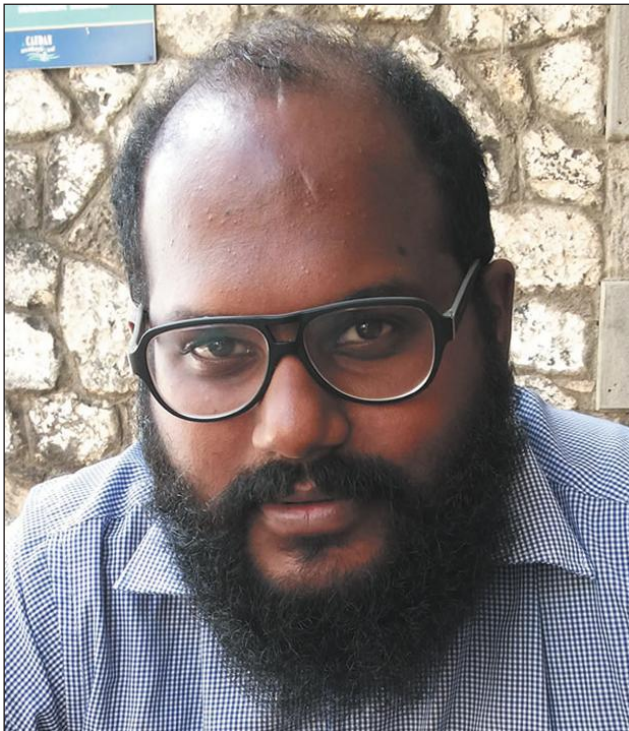
In the current ongoing investigation around Franklin and his network, it beggars belief that the investigation is centred around the money laundering accusations and not the drug trafficking itself. Especially when the person in question has been convicted in neighbouring Reunion Island on drug trafficking grounds. Are Franklin and ICAC the main protagonists of a major smokescreen to divert attention from other ongoing issues in the country? That's a question worth pondering.

*** Similarly, at a time when the people's attention is focused on drug traffickers and their undeclared wealth, nobody except for Resistans ek Alternativ is talking about what's happening to the billions of public money to bail out distressed companies during the pandemic. What does this say about the nexus which seems to bind large donors, political parties and elected officials?**

What we've witnessed over the years is a reluctance of most political parties to be critical of the private sector. And that is totally understandable while being completely unacceptable. Understandable in the sense that the private sector is one of the main contributors of these mainstream political parties and hence you simply do not bite the hand that feeds you. Unacceptable in the sense that these political parties claim to be representatives of the electorate and are hence supposed to work in its best interest. How can you do that when you are being held hostage by the private sector?

Unless the interest of the private sector and the electorate align, one can argue that these political parties which are financed by the private sector are betraying their members and the population at large.

The latest financial results published by the major cor-



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porates show that these companies have never been as profitable as they are now. Especially those involved in the export-oriented sectors. One can think of the private sector's profitability as a zero-sum game. That is for one to be profitable, someone must be on the losing side. In the current state of affairs, I believe that the main loser is the working population. Allow me to elaborate.

One of the main factors contributing to the profitability of the private sector is the significant weakness of the Mauritian rupee. A weak rupee allows export-oriented companies to report inflated revenues owing to more favourable conversion rates. For instance, if the Mauritian rupee depreciated by 10% versus the US dollar, the revenue of local companies trading in US dollars would increase by 10%. Assuming no change in the cost structure of that company, the profitability level would then also go up by 10%. Conversely, a weaker rupee causes the cost of living of the population to increase considerably, especially given the dependence of the consumption sector on imports.

Additionally, it is a fact that the portion of value added in an economy which accrues to labour has been consistently declining over the years. When we combine the weaker currency and the declining labour share of wealth, we can easily see why the working population are at the receiving end of contemporary capitalism. And we haven't yet factored in the fiscal assault which the commoner has to endure to shoulder the fiscal imbalance caused by the low-tax jurisdiction for corporates.

Unfortunately, this reality eludes most. If it didn't, you can be sure things would be a whole lot different around here.

*** To come back to the mafia infiltration allegation, if, as alleged by the Prime Minister, the mafia, whatever this may mean, can infiltrate our institutions concerned with law and order, and if judges have to call on ministers - as alleged by Navin Ramgoolam, what does this say about the current state of governance in the country?**

The country is suffering from a full-blown crisis. And unfortunately, one cannot say that the writings were not on the wall.

Ever since independence, the country has been suffering from the cupidity of its political class and those who gyrate around it. Power is perceived as the holy grail for self-advancement. Its nobility and ability to deliver for the greater good have largely been ignored.

We are currently witnessing the pinnacle of mediocrity and decadence. In this context, it's hard to talk about the state of governance. We should rather talk about the lack of governance. The way the Prime Minister supported the Commissioner of Police when he challenged the Director of Public Prosecutions' decision to grant bail to Mr Laurette is a good example of the mess in which this country finds itself.

*** If somebody were to tell you in light of all that's happening in the country that the system has gone haywire and needs to be fixed, the question that arises is: who can and will do that?**

The answer to our problems has got to be a collective one. I like to say that the country's accession to independence was very much artificial. In reality, we traded an international queen for local kings. With the help of hindsight, we have got to realise that the mindset which brought about our independence was not the optimal one. And this has got to change.

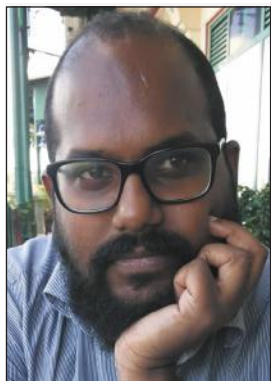
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'Rallying behind a so-called leader in the hope that things will change will be a repeat

of the same merry-go-round that has exasperated so many of us over the years'

☞ **Cont. from page 8**

For real change to happen, there needs to be a collective force driving it. Rallying behind a so-called leader in the hope that things will change will be a repeat of the same merry-go-round that has exasperated so many of us over the years I'm afraid. We cannot keep doing the same mistakes and expect things to change. This time it needs to be different.



“We are currently witnessing the pinnacle of mediocrity and decadence. In this context, it's hard to talk about the state of governance. We should rather talk about the lack of governance. The way the Prime Minister supported the Commissioner of Police

when he challenged the Director of Public Prosecutions' decision to grant bail to Mr Laurette is a good example of the mess in which this country finds itself...”

*** As regards the next elections, political commentators and Opposition parties are anticipating early elections before the Law Lords of the Privy Council deliver their judgement in the belief that the PM would wish to avoid the discomfiture of losing out to Suren Dayal. Do you expect Pravind Jugnauth to confound his detractors and instead decide to face the music?**

Indeed, there a lot of speculation doing the rounds about the imminence of general elections. Even those who are close to the government are evoking the possibility of snap elections. There might be some truth in it after all.

The Prime Minister's decision to announce free primary care for all on the occasion of the Independence Day when traditionally such announcements would have been kept for Budget Day has convinced some that elections are really behind the corner. I believe it is very well possible that elections are held in 2023 and as such, the opposition needs to be ready for any scenario.

*** We are not aware where matters stand as regards Resistans ek Alternativ's proposal to the LP, MMM and PMSD for a 'gouvernement de transition'. But we would like to think that ReA has thought it through carefully and concluded that it's going to be a workable alliance. Do you really think so?**

First of all, let me correct you with respect to the proposal that Resistans ek Alternativ has made. It was never a case of the party proposing a 'gouvernement de transition' to the traditional opposition parties that are LP, MMM and PMSD. Our appeal was an open one and it targeted all opposition forces – be it parliamentary or non-parliamentary; be it mainstream or non-mainstream. In fact, we have met with a wide range of political parties over the last

few months in order to gauge their feeling about the prospect of a broad alliance of opposition forces for the next elections.

Rezistans ek Alternativ decided to make this strategic move after careful consideration of the electoral parameters. The inherent flaws of our electoral system have been a major factor in motivating us to come forward with this proposition for an alliance of opposition forces. 2019 was an eye-opener when it comes to our democracy. The MSM acceded power with only 38% of the votes. Something which is profoundly and unequivocally nondemocratic.

This perspective has nothing to do with partisanship. It has to do with the fundamentals of democracy. One of the major pillars underpinning democracy is the rule of the majority (the so-called 50% plus one). Our current electoral system permits what is simply unacceptable – that is the accession to power with majority rule. It has taken our country more than 50 years of independence to experience such a letdown.

The First Past The Post (FPTP) system doesn't produce a desirable outcome when we do not have a two-cornered electoral battle as it proved the case in 2019. In a multi-party electoral setup, the FPTP cannot guarantee that the elected majority is effectively a reflection of vox populi. When less than 4 electors out of 10 has voted for a party, can this party claim to be the democratic winner of an election? No way!

*** But we may end up with the same outcome in 2019, isn't it?**

Indeed, at the next elections, if opposition forces are split, the likelihood that a similar outcome to 2019 happens is extremely high. Resistans ek Alternativ would not be advocating for a coming together of opposition forces if a proper electoral reform had been implemented. No one in his right mind should tolerate a democratic system that is flawed and produces undemocratic results. And this is why one of the main missions of a 'gouvernement de transition' will be to enact the required electoral reforms to put the country on the path of democratic righteousness.

The current state of rot of our institutions and of our State in general suggest that radical changes need to happen in this country. As such, 'gouvernement de transition' will need to focus on some major reforms to be implemented to ensure that future governments cannot abuse of power like the ones in the past, especially the current Jugnauth regime. To be able to enact wide ranging reforms, you need a strong majority in parliament; otherwise, all the good intention in the world will not result in much real change. There again, a 'gouvernement de transition' should deliver as opposed to a fractured parliament.

That said, Resistans ek Alternativ is not naïve and realise that the population cannot simply issue a blank cheque to any government. We are all too aware of politicians promising the moon to the electorate before elections and failing to deliver on such promises after elections. That is why the traditional alliance should not be trusted. By traditional alliance, we mean an alliance with a majority partner (more than 30 electoral tickets) and a minority partner. We believe that no party should have an absolute majority in an alliance of opposition parties. That

is no party should be entitled to 30 electoral tickets or more.

There are numerous examples from the past where alliances break down after elections only for the majority partner to govern solely and without any counterbalancing force. Such outcomes have been historically very bad for the country.

On the other side, the 30/30 alliance of 2000-2005 between the MSM and MMM is arguably one of the less corrupt governments the country has had. My point is not to praise this alliance but rather to emphasize the benefits of removing a domineering partner in an alliance. When the absolute balance of power is not skewed in favour of one particular party, the abuse of power is naturally contained. And that you will concur is a desirable outcome.

This brings me to the idea of relative majority. Obviously, not all parties have the same electoral support. There is bound to be a party which will be the driving force of any alliance and the Prime Minister will logically emanate from that party. However, gone are the days where that party should feel entitled to more than 50% of the candidates on the ballot papers.

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For example, a leading party can have 25 electoral candidates and still command a majority (relative). Imagine a 3-party alliance with the following distribution: 25/20/15. This is for illustrative purposes only. In such a set-up, no party enjoys absolute power and this ensures that the possibility of abuse of power is somewhat contained. In such a scenario, the driving party cannot pretend to govern on its own and this interdependence ensures that it is in the interest of all parties involved to collaborate and stick to implementing the electoral programme.

The only acceptable winner of the next general elections should be the population. And there is clearly no way in which the welfare of the population is maximised under the rule of an absolutism. The electorate will not give parties the same leeway as they did in the past. It is up to the concerned political parties to innovate and propose a new form of democracy that is in the best interest of the population.



UK will review Indian mission's security - after Delhi's tit-for-tat move

The UK is reviewing security at the Indian high commission in London and will make changes to ensure the safety of the staff, British foreign minister James Cleverly said following another protest outside the mission by pro-Khalistan activists.

Cleverly's comments also came hours after Indian authorities reduced security outside the UK high commission and the envoy's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday in retaliation for the British side failing to prevent the vandalism of the Indian mission in London during a protest on March 19.

The protests in London by pro-Khalistan groups, which began soon after the Punjab police launched a statewide manhunt for pro-Khalistan preacher Amritpal Singh and his followers, have emerged as a fresh irritant in India-UK relations. The external affairs ministry had called in the senior-most British diplomat in New Delhi on Sunday to register a strong protest and to demand action against those involved in the vandalism of the Indian mission, reports Hindustan Times.

Cleverly said late on Wednesday that violence directed at the staff of the Indian high commission in London is "unacceptable" and his government is working with local police to review security at the mission. A police investigation is ongoing and the British side is in close contact with the Indian mission and the government in this regard, he added.

Bilateral ties had also taken a hit recently after the BBC aired a two-part documentary on the sectarian violence in Gujarat in 2002. Indian authorities banned the documentary, with the external affairs ministry describing it as "propaganda" that reflected a colonial mindset.

On March 19, the London police arrived at the Indian mission after a pro-Khalistan activist pulled down the national flag and others tried to enter the premises. Dozens of police personnel, including mounted police, were deployed for Wednesday's protest in Aldwych area by a large group of pro-Khalistan activists.

The protestors shouted anti-India slogans and waved Khalistan flags, while Indian officials and others draped a massive national flag on the roof of the mission. Another large Indian flag was put up outside the building.

The protest went on for several hours and Metropolitan Police prevented the demonstrators from approaching the Indian mission by erecting barricades and conducting marches in the area.

However, the protestors lobbed water bottles and eggs at the building from behind the barricades. Several police vans were deployed near the mission and patrolling of the nearby area was intensified since Sunday.

Macron doubles down on France pension bill, triggers nationwide protests

Hundreds of thousands of people were set to strike and demonstrate in France on yesterday after President Emmanuel Macron vowed to push on with a deeply unpopular pension reform despite escalating anger across the country.

Protests against the legislation -- which lifts the retirement age by two years to 64 -- have drawn huge crowds in rallies organised by unions since January, reports Reuters.

Labour unions said Thursday's ninth nationwide day of action would draw huge crowds against what they described as Macron's "scorn" and "lies."

Macron drew an angry response from unions and opposition parties on Wednesday when he rejected their calls for him to heed growing popular anger.

"The best response we can give the president is that there are millions of people on strike and in the streets," said Philippe Martinez, who leads the hardline CGT union.

Most protests have been peaceful, but anger has mounted since the government pushed the bill through parliament without a vote last week.



Protestors, some of them with posters or flags, gather for a demonstration on Place de la Concorde in Paris. Pic - AFP

The past seven nights have seen spontaneous demonstrations in Paris and other cities with rubbish bins set ablaze and scuffles with police.

Speaking on Wednesday, Macron stuck to his guns saying the new law was necessary and would come into force later this year.

The latest wave of protests represents the most serious challenge to the president's authority since the "Yellow Vest" revolt four years ago. Polls show a wide majority of French opposed to the pension legislation and the government's decision to push it through parliament without a vote.

'No limits friendship': China's Xi Jinping wraps up Russia visit, cements strategic, economic ties

Chinese President Xi Jinping returned to China on Wednesday after his high-profile Moscow state visit where he put on a display of solidarity with Russian President Vladimir Putin over his invasion of Ukraine, jointly calling for a "new world order" but without making any breakthrough to end the conflict in the East European country.

The meetings between Xi and Putin held over Monday and until late Tuesday, with each referring the other as "old friend", further cemented ties between Beijing and Moscow, already united by their anti-West hostility and bound by the "no limits friendship" declared when Putin visited Beijing days before invading Ukraine in February, 2022.

On display during the state visit, under the focus of their respective state media coverage, was the personal rapport between Xi and Putin who have met each other 40 times in the past 10 years, reports Hindustan Times.

For Putin, Xi's visit was a shot in the arm even as he is shunned as a pariah by the West; it helped even more that Xi referred to Putin's "strong leadership".

The leaders issued two joint statements, one focusing on economic cooperation and the other on strengthening their strategic partnership.

Chinese official media said Xi and Putin agreed to "...strengthen



bilateral ties based on principles of good-neighbourliness, friendship and win-win cooperation, as well as to deepen the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era".

The two leaders agreed to cooperate in a number of sectors under the "Pre-2030 Development Plan on Priorities in China-Russia Economic Cooperation".

Importantly, Beijing and Moscow pledged to "significantly increase" bilateral trade by 2030 with Putin calling for the wider use of the Chinese yuan, in a move not only to weaken the \$ but also to work around strict US sanctions.

"We are for the use of the

Chinese yuan in settlements between Russia and Asian countries, Africa, Latin America," Putin said, according to the RIA Novosti news service, adding: "This practice should be further encouraged".

Li Haidong, a professor at the Institute of International Relations at the China Foreign Affairs University, told the state-run Global Times that "the high-level mutual trust and mature relations built between the Chinese and Russian leaders show that bilateral ties can withstand the impacts of the profound changes that the world is experiencing at the moment."

* Contd on page 11

Culture of denial' in Metropolitan Police let predators flourish, damning Casey review finds

A "culture of denial" has allowed predators to flourish in the Metropolitan Police, a damning review triggered by the murder of Sarah Everard has found.

The force was found to be institutionally racist, misogynist and homophobic with scant regard for victims of sexual violence.

Baroness Louise Casey said she could not rule out more offenders like murderer Wayne Couzens and serial rapist David Carrick lurking in Britain's largest force, reports The Independent.

Key findings in the 360-page report included:

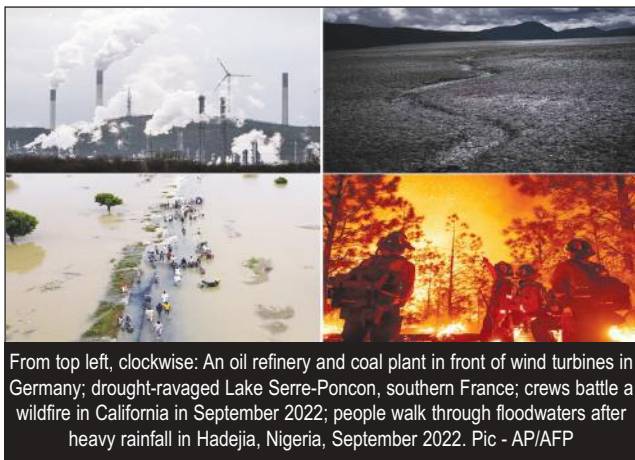
- Two of the best-resourced units, the Specialist Firearms Command and the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Command, had the worst culture



Sarah Everard murder investigation. Pic – The US Sun

- Austerity "disfigured" the Met with cuts between 2010 and 2019 leaving women victims "thrown to one side"
- Fridges containing evidence for rape cases were broken, meaning cases were dropped
- Alleged domestic abusers, including an officer accused of rape, remain in service

World's scientists say 1.5C still achievable but 'humanity on thin ice'



From top left, clockwise: An oil refinery and coal plant in front of wind turbines in Germany; drought-ravaged Lake Serre-Poncon, southern France; crews battle a wildfire in California in September 2022; people walk through floodwaters after heavy rainfall in Hadejia, Nigeria, September 2022. Pic - AP/AFP

After five years of meetings, reports and debate, the world's scientific community has delivered an ultimatum on the climate crisis: "Act now to secure a liveable sustainable future for all."

The so-called "synthesis report" was published on Monday by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body made up of hundreds of international scientists from a dizzying array of disciplines, reports The Independent.

The new report boils down the six previous IPCC reports published since 2018, which pulled together and analysed thousands of scientific papers.

It amounts to the most clear-eyed, up-to-date assessment of the climate crisis: how it's affecting all corners of the world and its systems, and how humanity is faring in its attempts to mitigate disasters and adapt to those that are now unavoidable.

The report is clear that if transformative shifts are made across society to cut planet-heating greenhouse gas emissions this decade, it's still possible to hold the average global temperature to 1.5C. (The world has warmed 1.1C since industrialised countries began burning oil, gas and coal 200 years ago.

Stormy Daniels may soon seal Donald Trump's fate

One busy weekday night in May 2018, a Pittsburgh strip club dancer named Scarlet went to the bar for fries and ran into something unusual: a young man carrying a political non-fiction book conspicuously under his arm.

The book was 'Fire and Fury' by Michael Wolff, about the first year of Donald Trump's presidency, and the man – Isaac – was hoping that one of the other strippers would sign it for him, reports The Independent.

These men were among the hundreds drawn to see porn performer Stormy Daniels as she danced across the country on her "Make America Horny Again" tour, closely followed by a political tempest over her alleged history with the serving president of the United States.

Just 10 minutes after the start of Ms Daniels' first show in Pittsburgh, Mr Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani appeared to admit on Fox News that the mercurial tycoon had indeed authorised a hush money payment of \$130,000 to his alleged ex-lover, contradicting previous denials.

Now Ms Daniels is again at the centre of a national firestorm as New York state prosecutors are reportedly preparing to bring charges against Mr Trump, which would be the first criminal prosecution against a former



Stormy Daniels is again at the centre of a national firestorm as New York state prosecutors are reportedly preparing to bring charges against Donald Trump. Pic – Belfast Telegraph

president in US history.

Mr Trump has long denied an affair with Ms Daniels, and his lawyer has accused her of extortion. In a Truth Social post on 18 March, he described the allegations as "an old and fully debunked fairy tale" being exploited by "corrupt and highly political" Manhattan prosecutors.

He also upped the ante by predicting that he would be arrested on Tuesday (21 March) and calling for mass protests to "TAKE OUR NATION BACK". Manhattan District attorney Alvin Bragg vowed that he would not be intimidated.

Being convicted would not block Mr Trump from pursuing a second term in 2024, but could damage his chances, and would certainly make it harder for him to campaign if he is on trial, or barred from leaving New York state, or even in prison while the election is ongoing.

Rupert Murdoch, 92, to marry for fifth time

News Corp billionaire says fifth marriage 'better be' his last, following 'brutal' divorce from Jerry Hall last year. This will be the 92-year-old's fifth marriage. He was previously married to Hall, Wendi Murdoch, Anna Murdoch Mann, and Patricia Booker.

Murdoch proposed to Smith with an Asscher-cut diamond solitaire ring on St Patrick's Day (Friday 17 March) in New York City, reports The Independent.

He told the publication: "I was very nervous. I dreaded falling in love – but I knew this would be my last. It better be. I'm happy."



Rupert Murdoch, 92, will marry San Francisco police chaplain Ann Lesley Smith, 66. Pic - AFP

The Independent reported that the couple met late last year before making their relationship official last Christmas, when Smith attended a dinner at Murdoch's home in Mayfair. Smith has now confirmed that they met in September at Murdoch's vineyard in Bel Air, California.

Smith, who is 25 years Murdoch's junior, was previously married to country-western musician Chester Smith, who died in 2008 at the age of 78. She told the Post of her impending nuptials: "For us both it's a gift from God. We met last September. I'm a widow [for] 14 years. Like Rupert, my husband was a businessman. Worked for local papers, developed radio and TV stations and helped promote Univision. So I speak Rupert's language. We share the same beliefs.

"In perspective, it's not my first rodeo. Getting near 70 means being in the last half. I waited for the right time. Friends are happy for me."

Murdoch added that the couple are "looking forward to spending the second half of our lives together". The wedding is reportedly set to take place in late summer.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Irrigation Authority Employees Union Plaine des Papayes

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Irrigation Authority Employees Union to be held on Thursday 13 April 2023 at 9.00 am at the Irrigation Authority Office Compound, Plaines des Papayes.

AGENDA

1. Reading and approval of minutes of proceedings of the last AGM
2. Matters Arising
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Amendments to Rules (if any)
5. Motions (if any)
6. Election of Executive members
7. Any other business.

Members who wish bring any motion should write to the Secretary of the Union, latest by Friday 6 April 2023.

S. Bhagooli
Secretary
24 March 2023

Dr Shardha Jogee, Professor of Astronomy, University of Texas



Dr Shardha Jogee, Rex G. Baker, Jr. and McDonald Observatory Centennial Professor in the Dept of Astronomy at the University of Texas at Austin in 2015. (Photo Credit: Brian Birzer, Birzer Photo Inc.)

“Understanding the past is the pathway to understand our future...

... by observing how galaxies, stars, planets, dark matter, dark energy have evolved over time, astronomers are able to build models that allow us to predict the future evolution of our own galaxy, human civilization...”

After over twenty years of planning and 10 billion US dollars in expenses, NASA launched the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) — the most powerful space telescope ever built and launched — in December 2021. The first science data are transforming our views of the Universe, says Dr Shardha Jogee, Professor and holder of the Rex G. Baker, Jr. and McDonald Centennial Professorship on the Department of Astronomy at the University of Texas (UT) at Austin. Her research group in the USA has led some of the early important discoveries with JWST in the last few months. This month the results have been shared with the public by over 60 media outlets (written or TV) all over the USA and in countries across six continents

At UT Austin, Dr Jogee leads a scientific research program to explore how galaxies and their constituent stars, black holes and dark matter grow across cosmic time, and she also teaches undergraduate and PhD students.

Her research uses NASA's space telescopes, McDonald Observatory and other ground telescopes, as well as the Texas Advanced Computing Centre. Dr Jogee is a member of several international science teams, has won over \$3.4 millions in grant funding from NASA, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense and published 190+ papers with over 7,750 citations.

Dr Jogee credits the power of education for enabling her to pursue her dream of becoming an astrophysicist. She is a proud member of Leadership Texas 2014, a public voices fellow with the OpEd Project, and strongly supports a broader participation of women and under-represented groups in STEM and the essential partnership between universities, federal agencies, and philanthropists in advancing society.

*** The wellspring of astronomy and astrophysics is said to be basic human curiosity about the universe, and our place within it. Was it that same curiosity that brought you to the USA and to the world of astronomy and astrophysics?**

Science and the quest to understand the universe have no geographical boundaries. When I was around 15 years old, I fell in love with the field of Physics, its objectivity and elegance, and how it tries to explain the diverse phenomena around us. I was fascinated by how science constantly questions and re-evaluates itself when faced with new facts on new scales. Thanks to the excellent high school education I received in Mauritius and my amazing parents who infused me with the idea that nothing is outside our reach if we work hard and aim high, I won a full scholarship to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Physics at Cambridge University in England, and later a scholarship

to pursue a PhD in Astronomy at Yale University in the USA.

Of all the possible sub-fields of physics, I picked astronomy (also called astrophysics) as it applies the laws of physics on the largest scales to address the most fundamental questions about our universe and our place in it. How did stars, planets, galaxies, black holes, and the chemical elements for life form and evolve? What are the opportunities for life outside our solar system? What is the nature of the dark matter and dark energy that make up most of the universe? What is the ultimate fate of the Universe?

After my PhD, I conducted scientific research at Caltech and the Space Telescope Science Institute, which oversees the scientific operations of NASA's space missions. In 2004, I was honoured to join the faculty in the Department of Astronomy at the University of Texas at

Austin (UT Austin), which is ranked as one of the top programs in space science in the USA.

*** What is the nature of your work as a faculty member in the Department of Astronomy at UT Austin?**

I teach and supervise students at the Bachelor and PhD levels, serve on different national committees, and lead a research program that explores how galaxies and their constituent stars, black holes and dark matter grow across cosmic time. My research program uses NASA's space telescopes such as the Hubble Space Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope, ground-based telescopes, as well as the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC).

While conducting research, I tremendously enjoy simultaneously training the next generation of young scientists. I believe that the journey of science exploration belongs to everyone, and we get the best far-reaching results by having diverse teams. I am passionately committed to advancing inclusive excellence and a broader participation of women and other groups traditionally under-represented in STEM. I also believe it is essential for scientists to tell the public at large what we do, how we do it and why we do it.

*** Billions of US dollars are being spent in space telescopes and other equipment in the US alone for such research programs. Why is it important to understand galaxies? Are they important to our existence?**

Galaxies are the fundamental building blocks of our universe. An individual massive galaxy can contain trillion of stars like our sun, as well as hydrogen gas, and dark matter. Most of the mass of a galaxy is in the form of dark matter, which refers to matter that does not emit light and manifests itself through the force of gravity.

“Astronomers conduct observations to probe how galaxies formed more than thirteen billion years ago evolved to their present-day state, and they use these observations to refine the laws of physics and build better models of galaxies and the universe. These models in turn allow us to predict the future evolution of our own galaxy, and future pathways for human civilization...”

The galaxy where our sun resides is called the Milky Way (“La Voie lactée”), and astronomers have discovered over a billion other galaxies in the universe. Astronomers conduct observations to probe how galaxies formed more than thirteen billion years ago evolved to their present-day state, and they use these observations to refine the laws of physics and build better models of galaxies and the universe. These models in turn allow us to predict the future evolution of our own galaxy, and future pathways for human civilization.

For example, we know that in about 4 to 5 billion years, our Milky Way galaxy will merge with the neighbouring M31 (Andromeda) galaxy. This merger will change the orbits of stars in our galaxy and have other important consequences.

*** We understand that your recent work with the James Webb Space Telescope has attracted a lot of media attention in the USA, especially in space research circles. What are the new discoveries that have been made and do they challenge the existing theoretical model(s) about the universe?**

On December 25, 2021, after two decades of planning, NASA launched the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) — the most power space telescope ever built.

☞ Cont. on page 13

'The journey of science exploration belongs to everyone, and we get the best far-reaching results by having diverse teams'

☞ Cont. from page 12

JWST aims to provide the deepest eyes on the universe and inform the quest to understand our origins.

When the first JWST data started to arrive in summer 2022, I was blown away by the sheer power of the JWST high-resolution infrared images. And I was stunned to see that the JWST images were revealing galaxies with stellar bars at early cosmic epochs.

I immediately redirected my research program to focus on this important discovery. My research group conducted an in-depth quantitative analysis, and we were the first team to report the discovery of barred galaxies like our own Milky Way at early cosmic epochs when the young universe was a mere 20% of its present age.

Our paper, led by my PhD student, was accepted for publication in the high-impact peer reviewed journal *The Astrophysical Journal Letters* in November 2022. Our [JWST image](#), press release and [KXAN/NBC science coverage](#) garnered worldwide interest, receiving over 198 million views in January 2023.

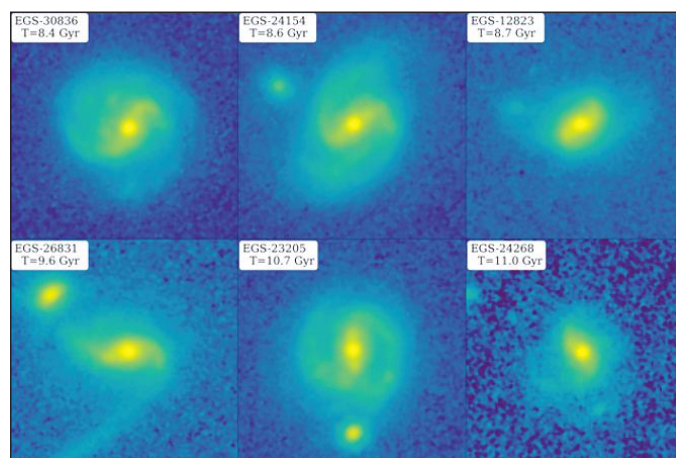


Shardha Jogee (centre) graduating in 1999 with a PhD in Astronomy from Yale University with her mother Vijay Laxmi Jogee (left) and father Satyawan Jogee (right)

“ JWST images of distant galaxies act as time-machines and allow us to look back in time. This happens because the light we are collecting today with JWST from a distant galaxy took several billions of years to travel from that distant galaxy to us, and therefore the JWST images tell us how the galaxy looked like billions of years ago when the Universe was much younger...”

how the Universe, and its constituents evolve. These models in turn allow us to predict the future evolution of our own galaxy, human civilization, and ultimately the universe.

* Is the Big Bang followed by an unlimited expansion, slow cooling and ultimate death of our galaxy and, later, the Universe itself still the accepted model of the Universe?



Montage of JWST images showing six example barred galaxies, two of which represent the highest lookback times quantitatively identified and characterized to date. The labels in the top left of each figure show the lookback time of each galaxy, ranging from 8.4 to 11 billion years ago (Gyr) when the young Universe was a mere 40% to 20% of its present age. (Image Credit: NASA/Guo, Jogee, Finkelstein and CEERS collaboration/University of Texas at Austin)

galaxy into the central regions where the gas is very rapidly converted into new stars. Second, bars also partially help to grow central supermassive black holes in galaxies by driving gas part of the way it needs to go on its journey toward the black hole. Third, observations of young, barred galaxies can effectively stress test and improve theoretical model of galaxy evolution because these models cannot reproduce such barred galaxies unless they correctly model the gas, stars, and dark matter in the galaxy.

Right now, there are several models that cannot reproduce our observations and therefore have to go back to the drawing board and see which aspects of the physics they may be getting wrong.

* A report by Fox News quotes theoretical physicist Dr Michio Kaku explaining the significance of new images provided by NASA's Webb Space Telescope (WST)

saying that JWST allows us to 'look into the past'. Will the understanding of our past enlighten us about how our future will evolve?

As I explain in the KXAN/NBC science coverage, JWST images of distant galaxies act as time-machines and allow us to look back in time. This happens because the light we are collecting today with JWST from a distant galaxy took several billions of years to travel from that distant galaxy to us, and therefore the JWST images tell us how the galaxy looked like billions of years ago when the Universe was much younger.

Yes, understanding the past is the pathway to understand our future. By observing how the constituents of our universe (e.g., galaxies, stars, planets, dark matter, dark energy) have evolved over time, astronomers are able to refine the laws of physics and build models that predict



The core team of researchers that led the 2023 results on barred galaxies with JWST: UT PhD student Yuchen "Kay" Guo, Professor Shardha Jogee, and undergraduate students Eden Wise and Zilei Chen. (Photo Credit: Lara Eakins, University of Texas at Austin)

This result on barred galaxies like our own Milky Way in the young universe is important for several reasons.

First, stellar bars solve the supply chain problem in galaxies by transporting gas from the outer parts of the

“ By observing how the constituents of our universe (e.g., galaxies, stars, planets, dark matter, dark energy) have evolved over time, astronomers are able to refine the laws of physics and build models that predict how the Universe, and its constituents evolve. These models in turn allow us to predict the future evolution of our own galaxy, human civilization, and ultimately the universe...”

Essentially yes, the Big Bang model is still part of the main paradigm of cosmology. The Universe is observed to have an accelerating expansion, which is believed to be caused by dark energy dominating over gravity from matter.

Different theories have been put forward on the nature of dark energy, including a vacuum energy related to Einstein's cosmological constant, a new field called quintessence, and the possible breakdown of the laws of gravity and general relativity on the largest scales in the Universe.

At the moment, no one really knows which of these theories, if any, is correct. Ongoing surveys to shed light on the nature of dark energy could determine the fate of the Universe and confirm or rule out scenarios, such as a Big Rip or Big Freeze.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

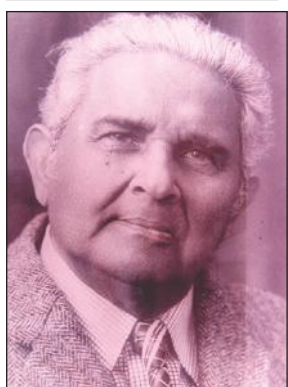
5th Year No 221

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 31st October, 1958

• *Love has no age as it is always renewing itself. -- Blaise Pascal*

Planters and Workers in the Industries



Jay Narain Roy

Planters of the sugar industry have a catalogue of complaints. They do not know whose doors to knock for redress. The organisation set up as an intermediary fails to inspire confidence. The planters have not revolted, as they did in 1937, because prices being fairly stable, they have been left under illusion, gnawing the crumbs.

The planters pay their toll when factories are centralised; when factory canecarriers cannot accommodate their lorries; when they are delayed because of the lack of factory organisation; when they lose in weight in the hands of impressionably young weighers who are not sworn; when a difficult or impossible quota is imposed; when a higher standard than the estate canes is forced upon them; when they did not get anything from the Rehabilitation Fund and for molasses or two-third extraction; when the estates cut their canes and reduce their overdraught one month earlier; when they are compelled to transport their chemicals by railway transport; when they are compelled to sign a kind of unilateral contract; when they are made to pay exorbitant rates of rent; when they are mercilessly evicted from *metayage* lands without compensation; when middlemen do not give them *faisance* and chemicals in time; when they are compelled to go through a broker to sell their sugar; when the millers rule the roost in all organisations set up through cesses on sugar; when they have to pay wages higher than the estates...

Probably the position was somewhat worse. How far has it really improved? Here are some of the obvious signs of improvement: (c) formerly estates were allowing metayers and they were also giving lands for rotation crops (b) weighers at weighbridges were all sworn (e) the canes accepted were of the same standard as that of the estates (d) lorries or carts could deliver their canes anywhere. And a host of other things that have been suppressed. Nobody can justify the facts enumerated in the second paragraph.

What is the position of planters in the tea and tobacco industries? In the tea industry many planters have uprooted their plantations just because they could not make both ends meet. It costs over 30 cents to produce one pound of tea leaf. The planters, according to Government regulation have to share in the profits of the millers. What profits are they likely to show when their accounts have been handled by chartered accountants? The planters had pinned their hope to extricate themselves from the accountancy tangle on two new developments. They thought that the Government tea factory would one of these days turn out to be a cooperative factory of planters. With the coming of Nuwara Eliya Co, that hope has receded in the background. We do not know what the new company will turn out to be. Is it a change for the better for the planters, for the workers, for the country? Let us wait and see.

The tea planters had also expected that the Government will expedite the idea of setting up a Tea

Board. It has been our experience that things move pretty fast with the Government when it hurts against the interest of the common man but it paces down to the speed of snail when it touches the big boss. Take the tenancy legislation. Will the Government ever have the courage to ruffle the real rulers of this country? Governors and Governments come and go but the might of the chimneys has gone on from strength to strength.

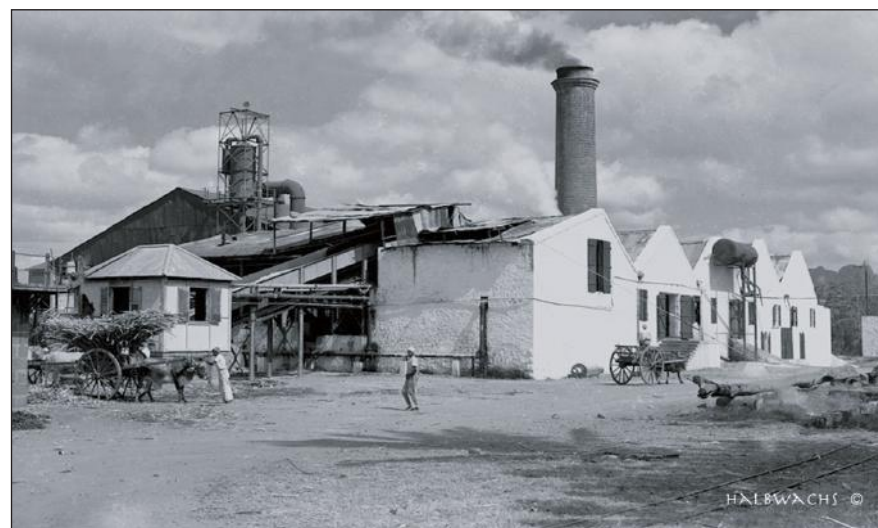
May be the position of the tobacco planters is still worse as they have to reckon with the most overbearing form of monopoly this country has known in its long and chequered annals. Why cannot the Government help the planters to put up a cooperative factory being given that unlike the millers of the sugar and tea industries, the miller is not a producer of raw materials? This particular concern is very powerful and it seems to have influence in Whitehall and Westminster.

Those who till and labour have no facilities that people in similar circumstances have elsewhere. It is more than obvious that behind this purely economic struggle is the obsessing racial consideration, and this is by far the most ungainly feature of our situation. In the tobacco industry, for example, I know of an inspector and teacher of cultivation methods who had to sell his own tobacco lands because he failed in it himself. Another one had to sublet his permit because it was beyond his competence to make a success of it.

I do not think that the Tobacco Board which has been built and set up with the money of the planters employs a son of a planter even as a messenger. The whole outlook everywhere seems to be that the planter is a milch cow and everyone is entitled to help himself with his pitcher. Surely the position would have been quite different if all the planters were of European extraction. The Government cannot plead ignorance to this state of affairs. Nor should it long be allowed to think that the coloured sections are just a heap of congenital nincompoops. Surely not all of them can be fooled.

The increasing difficulties of the artisans have never been sufficiently emphasised. First of all, they have no regular training in any institution. But they are intelligent and quick to grasp. Those who served in the Middle East were highly appreciated as technicians. Some who have gone out to other colonies on contract work have done honour to their country. But the amount of unemployment among artisans has ever been on the increase since the time of the centralisation of factories.

To this has been added three other factors which laid their burden on the lot of the artisans. One was the introduction of labour-saving, automatic machines, and this has gone on increasing during the last decade. Then there is the attempt to give contracts of all works involving the employment of artisans. The contractors are either some big firms or some favourites and they have their own men. Quite a number of good artisans have lost their jobs



because of their trade union activities or activities in connection with the Labour movement. After their discharge they become blacklisted and it obviously become very difficult for them to be employed in the industry. There are hundreds of good, skilled artisans who cannot find employment and they are living an extremely miserable life.

In another article I have already dealt with the rights and obligations of the labourers of the sugar industry. I should like to make some remarks of a general nature, remarks that touch upon questions of principle. The labourers are, by and large, the most important single item of the prosperity of any industrial concern particularly in the sugar industry where both field and factory work depend on them. As a corollary to the preceding point it will be accepted by all knowledgeable people that the recruitment and management of labour is the most difficult work of an administration.

While the salaries, power and privileges of managers and overseers of estates have considerably increased during the last few years, the recruitment, and to a great extent, the management of the bulk of labourers and artisans are now in the hands of job contractors. Fourthly, there is a fearful gap in the treatment meted out to the white and coloured employees of the estates.

Seeing the sinecure nature of highly paid jobs, the shuddering amounts which some people get for doing nothing, and the flotsam of people hanging around as middlemen, suppliers, brokers, job-contractors, etc., and the starving wages paid to those who work and sweat to sustain the industry, it becomes quite manifest that the angle from which purely economic problems are looked at is of rabid racialism. There cannot be any other earthly explanation, and I challenge any one to give one.

Last but not the least is the fact of the industrial organisation by which the manager gets a commission on profits. Can he show savings on machineries for development, on overhead charges, on housing and bonus to the superior staff, on chemical fertilizers, etc?

I cannot finish this article without requesting the readers to think of the role of the Government during the last half a century. It may have produced volumes and volumes of reports but are the workers and the planters in the industries any the better off all this wordy benevolence?

● Cont. from page 2

Liquidity risk can also emerge when the assets of banks drop in value. The assets of a bank are the loans made to the public. Defaults on the repayment of such loans require write-offs. This erosion of asset value can trigger liquidity and solvency risks.

Silicon Valley Bank in the US invested heavily in government bonds. When bond rates increased, the capital value of the bonds held by the bank declined. This resulted in a liquidity shortage and a solvency crisis.

Once sufficient risks are triggered, a bank will run into serious financial difficulty. It might not survive, because trust will be shattered.

Under such circumstances, the authorities appoint a curator to manage the bank's affairs. A curator will either manage a bank back to sound health, or will wind down its business and bring the bank to a closure.

In recent years in South Africa, VBS Bank and African Bank were placed under the control of curators. VBS Bank was completely insolvent and therefore closed. Many depositors suffered large losses.

In the case of African Bank, the curator could split the assets into a "good bank" (performing assets) and a "bad bank" (non-performing assets). These two parts were managed differently, with the good bank and performing assets moved back into private management as African Bank. The non-performing assets were kept apart and managed with the aim of recovering as much as possible from lenders.

Contagion: Contagion happens when a lack of trust in one banking institution spreads to others. This happened in 2008, when so-called sub-prime mortgage bonds were repriced with higher interest rates and borrowers could not afford larger repayments. Problems at some banks resulted in distrust in the

When Banks Go Bust



The 2nd biggest bank failure in American history - Silicon Valley Bank. P - Gettyimages

whole banking industry.

In the past two weeks, there was again a risk of contagion after problems emerged at Silicon Valley Bank and at Credit Suisse in Switzerland. In both instances, the regulators stepped in to contain fears about the banking system. It was agreed that Credit Suisse would be sold to UBS, another Swiss bank. The announcement of this sale contained fears of contagion.

Contagion can spread beyond the banking system. Financial contagion refers to the spread of an economic crisis from one market (for instance the banking sector) or one country to other markets (for instance the insurance industry) or other countries.

Under these conditions, confidence in industries or even in countries can dissipate overnight. This is what happened in 2008, when there was doubt about the continued existence of the international banking system. Under such conditions, people revert to cash and keep their savings in banknotes. This in itself places a liquidity squeeze on the banking system, as cash flows out of the system.

Systemic risk: Systemic risk is linked to contagion. It's the risk of a breakdown

of an entire system rather than the failure of an individual institution. A typical example is where the failure of an individual bank results in the failure of more banks, then the failure of the banking system and then the failure of the entire financial system.

Systemic failure can occur because different financial institutions hold exposures against one another. If bank A has a substantial deposit with bank B or insurer C and any one of the latter two run into financial difficulty, the result can be that bank A also faces financial difficulty.

Confidence in banking is hard-earned and easily shocked. This makes individual banks and the banking sector sus-

ceptible to knock-on effects from other institutions.

What can be done to manage these factors?

Risks in banks are managed at two levels.

The management of the bank is responsible for its sound operation. Management must assess and mitigate risk. In the recent case of SVB in the US, reports suggest that the bank didn't manage its risk portfolio well, putting it at risk from major changes in the market, like sustained higher interest rates.

At the same time, banks are subject to supervision by the authorities. Banks must meet the regulatory requirements of supervisors and manage their affairs accordingly.

In South Africa, legislation makes provision for different types of banks to allow for different levels of sophistication in banking operations.

How vulnerable are banks on the African continent?

Africa is a vast continent of 54 countries. African countries are also at vastly different levels of economic development. It is therefore impossible to pronounce on the soundness of the continent's banking system.

Jannie Rossouw, Visiting Prof at the Business School, University of the Witwatersrand

To Our Readers

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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.

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Schools less important than parents in determining higher education aspirations

A new study shows that the elementary school a child attends has almost no influence on their desire to progress to higher education -- as factors including parental aspirations, academic support from their mother and having a desk to work on are much more important.

The research carried out by Josip Sabic and Boris Jokic at the Centre for Educational Research and Development of the Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, Croatia, was designed to discover the main factors affecting pupils' intention to continue to higher education as they reach the end of elementary school.

In Croatia, children attend elementary schools up to age 14-15, at which point they move on to a secondary school. Here, they can either study for a four-year diploma, after which they have the option of applying for university, or a three-year diploma, which prepares pupils for work but does not permit them to apply for university.

To find out children's aspirations, they asked just over 1,000 pupils at 23 elementary schools in Zagreb to complete three separate questionnaires during their last two

years at elementary school. They were asked whether they would like to continue to higher education, as well as about their parents and home life, their parents' aspirations for them, the level of academic support they received from each of their parents, whether they had their own room, computer and desk, and whether they enjoyed school.

The researchers also obtained information on the pupils' academic grades, as well as on the size of each school and its classes, the grade point average for each school, and property prices in the area around each school as a measure of socioeconomic status. Finally, they performed statistical analyses on these responses to determine which factors were most closely related with a desire to continue on to higher education.

This revealed that none of the school-level factors, including school and class size, grade point average of the school and property prices, had any influence on the desire to continue to higher education.

In contrast, several factors related to parents and



home life, such as parental educational aspirations, maternal academic support and having a desk to work on, did have an influence. As did gender, with girls more likely than boys to want to continue to higher education. And while school-level factors didn't have any influence, performance at school did: high academic grades were the single strongest predictor of a pupil's desire to continue to higher education, while enjoying school was also an important factor.



How does DNA affect our fingerprints and eye colour?

Our DNA contains the information that determines the colour of our eyes.

Solving crimes in real life is not quite like it is on television, but in both settings, evidence is required. Fingerprints and DNA left at a crime scene are both excellent sources of evidence.

Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) has some influence on our fingertips, but what really makes fingerprints unique is the special folding pattern of tiny ridges on our skin. This occurs during fetal development and gives humans the ability to hold and grip objects. No two patterns of ridges are exactly alike.

DNA fingerprinting, on the other hand, is another way of collecting evidence that enables investigators to narrow down the identity of an individual based on unique genetic patterns.

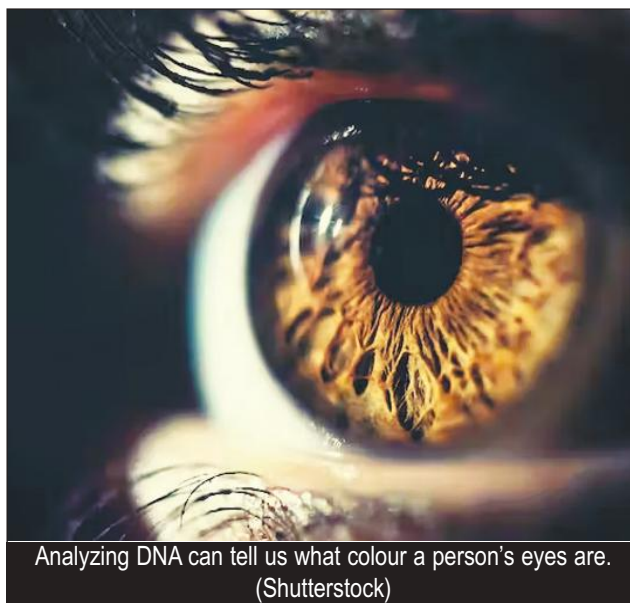
A set of instructions

DNA is the genetic information contained inside each of our cells that makes us who we are. DNA acts like a set of instructions written in a special code using just four letters: A-adenine, T-thymine, C-cytosine, and G-guanine. These letters refer to nucleotides, and it is the specific order of nucleotides within DNA that represents the instructions for all the cells and their functions in our body.

The complete set of DNA instructions is 99.9 per cent similar across every single human on the planet — but the tiny fraction that is different is as unique as the prints on the tips of your fingers.

These unique regions occur at known positions in our DNA in small sections called microsatellites, or tandem repeats. Microsatellites contain short segments of repeating DNA that are typically one to six nucleotides long (for example, GATGATGAT). Everyone has the same microsatellites in the same known positions in our DNA, however, the number of repeats varies from person to person.

You may have "GAT" repeated 10 times, whereas your teacher may have "GAT" repeating 12 times. As a result of these differences in the number of repeats, microsatellites have easily measurable lengths and investigators can use these measurements to generate a match between a suspect's DNA and a crime scene



Analyzing DNA can tell us what colour a person's eyes are. (Shutterstock)

sample.

Determining appearance from DNA

DNA fingerprinting may not always produce a match, or investigators may not have any suspects to compare crime scene DNA to. So how do investigators know who to look for? New methods are using DNA left at a crime scene to teach us about what a suspect looks like.

It might sound like science fiction, but a new technique called forensic DNA phenotyping (FDP) can help generate a suspect profile from the genetic material left at a crime scene. Using FDP, investigators can determine an individual's age, ancestry, hair colour, skin colour and eye colour.

Let's use eye colour as an example. The colour of your eyes is dependent on how much eumelanin you have in the iris. Eumelanin is a dark brownish-black pigment, and it absorbs a large amount of light. Individuals who have a lot of eumelanin in their irises have eye colours that appear dark, such as brown.

There are several genes responsible for controlling eumelanin production in the eye, but one of the most

important genes for eye colour is called OCA2, located on chromosome 15.

Here is where our DNA instruction book comes in handy again. At any given position in our DNA sequence, we have two nucleotides, one on the chromosome inherited from our mother and one on the chromosome from our father. Individuals with two copies of "G" at a specific position near OCA2 (inheriting one "G" from their mother and another "G" from their father) produce less eumelanin and are more likely to have blue eyes.

In contrast, individuals with one or two copies of an "A" at the same position produce more eumelanin and are more likely to have brown eyes. Researchers are working to improve FDP technology every day, as individuals with intermediate eye colours such as green and hazel are very hard to determine.

However, the ability to determine if crime scene DNA came from an individual with blue or brown eyes might be the information an investigator needs to narrow down a group of suspects.

Cristina Abbatangelo

PhD Student, Anthropology, University of Toronto



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Winter and Red Indian

It was autumn, and the Red Indians asked their New Chief if the winter was going to be cold or mild.

Since he was a Red Indian chief in a modern society, he couldn't tell what the weather was going to be.

Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he replied to his tribe that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect wood to be prepared.

But also, being a practical leader, after several days he got an idea. He went to the phone booth, called the National Weather Service and asked:

'Is the coming winter going to be cold?'

'It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold indeed,' the weather man responded.

So the Chief went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood. A week later, he called the National Weather Service again. 'Is it going to be a very cold winter?'

'Yes,' the man at National Weather Service again replied, 'It's definitely going to be a very cold winter.'

The Chief again went back to his people and ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find.

Two weeks later, he called the National Weather Service again.



"I don't want to scare you. But Pop says if I don't get better report cards, someone is going to get a good spanking!"

'Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?' 'Absolutely,' the man replied. 'It's going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the Chief asked.

The weatherman replied, 'The Red Indians are collecting wood like crazy.'

Incidentally this is how stock markets and currencies work.

* * *

Marcel s'arrête, à chaque retour de la chasse, dans le café d'Annie pour prendre un verre. Il a la mauvaise habitude de poser brutalement son fusil contre le bar en tapant la crosse sur le sol.

Annie, la patronne, le réprimande chaque fois. 'Un jour, tu oublieras une cartouche dedans et ce sera la cata.'

Et bien sûr, un jour, le coup partit!

'Voilà,' dit Annie, 'je te l'avais dit! Aujourd'hui, la bonne est de repos et sa chambre est juste au-dessus! Je n'ose pas aller voir. Vas-y toi.'

Marcel monte à l'étage et revient en disant :

'Tout va bien! La bonne était allongée sur le lit, jambes écartées. Le coup est passé entre ses jambes sans l'effleurer!'

'Ouf,' dit Annie ! 'c'est un miracle!'

'En effet,' dit Marcel, 'par contre, ton mari, lui, il n'a plus de tête!'

* * *

Three men were chatting in a bar, complaining about the injustices of the legal system.

One said: 'A friend of mine was taken to court for dropping a chocolate wrapper.'

The other two shook their heads.

The second said: 'A friend of mine has got a criminal record because he overfilled his garbage bin.'

The third one said: 'That's nothing, a friend of mine was prosecuted on account of his beliefs. He believed he could drive after eight pegs.'

* * *

A pickpocket was found guilty and given an option of six months in jail or a \$500 fine.

The defence lawyer, knowing that his client could afford the fine, pleaded with the judge: 'Your honour, my client can only pay \$100, but if you allow him a few minutes in the crowd...'

* * *

Did you hear about the thief who stole from a blood bank?

He was caught red-handed.

Did you hear about the men who were arrested for throwing bombs from their boat?

They dropped the charges.

* * *

The judge looked at the defendant and said: 'So you admit to breaking into the same store on three successive nights?'

'Yes, your honour.'

'And why was that?'

'Because my wife wanted a dress.'

The judge checked his file, and said: 'But it says that you broke in three nights in a row.'

'That's correct, she made me exchange it twice.'

* * *

The Loud Boots

A retired army general moves into a new apartment

after quitting service.

Over the next few weeks, his new neighbours realized that on the weekends he would return to his apartment at 2am very drunk, remove his left boot and slam it on the floor, remove his right boot and slam it on the floor even harder and then go to sleep. Since the force of these thunderous slams was enough to wake up almost everyone around him, and this was a family complex no less, the neighbours decided to go to his house and confront him about this one morning.

"Mr General, Sir, thank you for your service to our country, and we welcome you to our apartment complex."

"Thank you."

"Sir, we realize that serving the country for so long can really take a toll on someone, and we want you to enjoy your retirement..."

"Okay?"

"But, sir, can you please, kindly, not slam your boots down in the middle of the night once you return home on the weekends? It's waking us and our kids up."

"Oh! I didn't know that. I am sorry for waking all of you up like that, how stupid of me, it won't happen again."

"Thank you so much, sir."

The next weekend the General returns home drunk and sits on his bed. He removes his left boot and slams it on the floor. He removes his right boot and... 'Wait a minute... this is what they were talking about, isn't it?' he says to himself in his drunken stupor. He gently places the right boot next to the left one and goes to bed.

An hour or so later the General wakes up to the sounds of the doorbell ringing continuously and heavy knocking on his door. He gets up, waddles over to the door and opens it to find a group of his neighbors standing outside in their nightclothes...

"Sir! Can you please just slam the other boot already so we can all get some sleep!?"

* * *

Will You Walk Me Through the Cemetery?



This young woman ran up to me at the cemetery and said "I need to pass through the cemetery but I'm scared to walk alone. Can you walk with me across?"

"Sure," I said, being the gentleman I am.

As we walked through, she told me that she had tried to ask other guys before me, but no one would do it. What has come of this world, when a man won't give a hand to lovely lady to walk her through a dark place.

"Thank God you're not like that." She smiled at me. "I suppose it's silly, being afraid of cemeteries at my age."

I said "Oh yeah of course. Don't worry, I used to be super scared of cemeteries when I was alive."

Wisdom One-liner Gita

Dr Sashi Tiwari, Chairman (Retired) of Sanskrit Dept, Agra College, drew out the essence of all the 18 chapters of Gita in just 18 sentences. Read on:

- Chapter 1 - Wrong thinking is the only problem in life.
 Chapter 2 - Right knowledge is the ultimate solution to all our problems .
 Chapter 3 - Selflessness is the only way to progress and prosperity .
 Chapter 4 - Every act can be an act of prayer.
 Chapter 5 - Renounce the ego of individuality and rejoice the bliss of infinity .
 Chapter 6 - Connect to the higher consciousness daily.
 Chapter 7 - Live what you learn.
 Chapter 8 - Never give up on yourself.
 Chapter 9 - Value your blessings.
 Chapter 10 - See divinity all around.
 Chapter 11 - Have enough surrender to see the truth as it is.
 Chapter 12 - Absorb your mind in the higher.
 Chapter 13 - Detach from Maya and attach to divine.
 Chapter 14 - Live a lifestyle that matches your vision.
 Chapter 15 - Give priority to Divinity.
 Chapter 16 - Being good is a reward in itself.
 Chapter 17 - Choosing the right over the pleasant is a sign of power.
 Chapter 18 - Let go, let us move to union with God .

You Promise Yourself



To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
 To talk health, happiness, and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel that there is something in them
 To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.

To think only the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best.
 To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
 To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself

Life's Lesson The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom

— Don Miguel Ruiz

Don Miguel Ruiz's book, The Four Agreements was published in 1997. For many, The Four Agreements is a life-changing book, whose ideas come from the ancient Toltec wisdom of the native people of Southern Mexico.

The Toltec were 'people of knowledge' - scientists and artists who created a society to explore and conserve the traditional spiritual knowledge and practices of their ancestors.

The Toltec viewed science and spirit as part of the same entity, believing that all energy - material or ethereal - is derived from and governed by the universe.

The simple ideas of The Four Agreements provide an inspirational code for life, a personal development model, and a template for personal development, behaviour, communications and relationships.

The 4 Agreements

1. Be impeccable with your word – speak with integrity.

Say only what you mean.

Avoid using the word to speak against yourself or to gossip about others.

that you have no time to criticize others.
 To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear,
 and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

To think well of yourself and to proclaim this fact to the world,
 not in loud words but great deeds.
 To live in faith that the whole world is on your side so long as you are true to the best that is in you."

Christian D. Larson

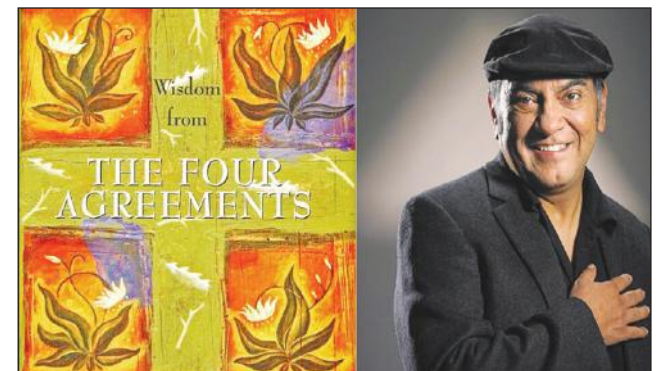
Golden Words, What a Comparison....

1. "If you want to change the world, do it when you are a bachelor. After marriage, you can't even change a TV channel"

2. "Listening to wife is like reading the terms and conditions of website. You understand Nothing, still you agree..."

3. "Chess is the only game in the world, which reflects the status of the husband. The poor King can take only one step at a time...While the mighty Queen can do whatever she likes."

4. "All men are brave. Horror movies don't scare them...But 5 missed calls from wife...surely..."



Use the power of your word in the direction of truth and love.

2. Don't take anything personally – nothing others do is because of you.

What others say and do is a projection of their own reality, their own dream.

When you are immune to the opinions and actions of others, you won't be the victim of needless suffering.

3. Don't make assumptions – find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want.

Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness and drama.

With just this one agreement, you can completely transform your life.

4. Always do your best – your best is going to change from moment to moment; it will be different when you are healthy as opposed to sick.

Under any circumstance, simply do your best, and you will avoid self-judgment, self-abuse and regret.

Quotable Quotes

Music and its beauty

Music expresses that which cannot be put in words.

-- Victor Hugo

Music is the divine way to tell beautiful and poetic things to the heart.

-- Pablo Casals

Music gives a soul to the Universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.

-- Plato

We rarely hear the inward music, but we are all dancing to it nevertheless.

-- Rumi

If I had my life to live over again, I would have ensured to read some poetry and listen to some classical music every day.

-- Anonymous

In the west, classical music is composed by individuals and written down. Indian classical music is based on certain sequences called ragas. When I perform live, 95 % of the music is improvised and it never sounds the same twice.

-- Ravi Shankar

Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.

-- Confucius

If music be the food of love, play on. Give me excess of it, that, surfeiting, the appetite may sicken, and so die. That strain again.

-- Shakespeare

Health

12 Things That Make Dementia More Likely

Age is one consideration, but you're also more likely to develop dementia if you have insomnia, high blood pressure, or any of these other health conditions

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. About a third of people 85 and older show signs of the disease. The genes you get from your parents play a part at this age, but so do things like diet, exercise, your social life, and other illnesses. Dementia isn't a normal part of getting older.

Heart Disease: It could lead to a heart attack or stroke, which makes dementia more likely. Heart disease is usually caused by plaque build-up in arteries around your heart (atherosclerosis). That can slow blood flow to your brain and put you at risk for stroke, making it harder to think well or remember things. And many things that cause heart disease -- tobacco use, diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol -- also can lead to dementia.

Diabetes: Doctors aren't sure exactly why people with diabetes get dementia more often. But they do know that people with diabetes are more likely to have damaged blood vessels. This can slow or block blood flow to the brain, and damage areas of the brain, leading to what's called vascular dementia. Some people may be able to slow brain decline if they keep diabetes under control with medicine, exercise, and a healthy diet.

High Cholesterol: High levels, especially in middle age, are linked to obesity, high blood pressure, and diabetes. All of these boost your risk of dementia, but it's not yet clear if cholesterol by itself adds to the problem. Some research shows that high cholesterol in midlife could be a risk for Alzheimer's disease later in life, but the exact link isn't clear.

High Blood Pressure: Even if you had no other health problems, having high blood pressure makes you more



likely to get vascular dementia and Alzheimer's. That's probably because high blood pressure harms the blood vessels in your brain. It also can lead to other conditions that cause dementia, like stroke. Managing your blood pressure with diet and exercise -- and medication, if needed -- may slow or prevent this from happening.

Depression: If you've ever had this common condition, you may be more likely to get dementia. Scientists aren't yet sure that it's a cause. It may simply be an early symptom or a sign of other causes like Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases. Talk to your doctor or a therapist if you feel down for more than 2 weeks, and right away if you think of harming yourself. Therapy and medication can help treat depression.

Obesity: Having a lot of extra weight in middle age could put you at risk. It also drives up your odds of getting heart disease and diabetes, which are linked to dementia. You can check your BMI (body mass index) online to see if it's in the "obese" range. Your doctor can help you set a weight loss goal that's right for you. A healthy diet and regular exercise could help you turn things around.

Genes: They seem to matter more in some types of dementia than others. But dementia doesn't always run in families. And even risky genes don't mean you'll get it. If you're thinking about genetic testing for Alzheimer's, ask your doctor about the pros and cons -- and about genetic counseling. Doctors don't routinely recommend those tests.

Stroke: The most common kind blocks the flow of blood to areas of the brain. Afterward, damaged blood vessels can make it hard to think, speak, remember, or pay attention (vascular dementia). Things that make a stroke more likely -- like high blood pressure, heart disease, and smoking -- also raise your risk of this type of dementia. Think "FAST" for stroke symptoms: Face drooping, Arm weakness, Speech problems? Time to call 911.

Poor Sleep: Many people have a bad night of sleep now and then.

But if it happens often -- you wake up a lot or don't sleep enough -- you could be more likely to get dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. Set and stick to a smart sleep routine: Avoid alcohol, caffeine, and electronics in evening, and set up a soothing bedtime ritual with regular bedtime hours.

Smoking: It's bad for your blood vessels, and it makes you more likely to have a stroke, which can cause vascular dementia. That might lead to problems with thinking or remembering. Talk to your doctor or a mental health professional if you smoke and want support to quit.

What Helps

Diet: Talk about a win-win. The traditional Mediterranean-style diet that's so good for your heart is also good for your brain. It features whole grains, fruits, vegetables, fish, nuts, olive oil and other healthy fats like avocado (in moderation), and keeps red meat to a minimum.

Exercise: People who are physically active are more likely to stay mentally sharp and less likely to get Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. If you already have early stages of these conditions, being active may help you think more clearly and remember things. You don't have to go to extremes. Just get out for some brisk walking, dancing, gardening, or something similar. Build up to 30 minutes or more on most days of the week.

Medically Reviewed by Melinda Ratini, DO, MS

Well-being

Top 10 Health Questions Answered

Do cell phones cause brain cancer? Is microwaved food unsafe? Are short workouts worth it? See what the science shows.

Should I go gluten-free? Only if you have celiac disease, when gluten (a protein in grains) damages your small intestine. Experts no longer think gluten causes rashes, stomach-aches, or weight gain in people without the disease. It can't hurt to skip gluten-rich foods like cookies and white bread. But don't ditch whole grains unless your doctor says to. They fill you up and are full of healthy nutrients.

Is a daily glass of wine healthy? Not for everyone. Small amounts of alcohol may stave off heart disease, and lower the

odds of stroke and diabetes, too. But heavy drinking ups your chances for liver and heart damage, plus breast, colon, and other cancers. If you don't drink, don't start. If you do, limit yourself to one drink a day if you're a woman, or two if you're a man.

Are short workouts worth it? Yes. Longer is better, but you can get by with quick bouts of activity when that's all you have time for. The CDC suggests 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week (like walking or biking at a medium-fast pace), plus two sessions of muscle-strengthening exercise. Several 10-minute bursts of exercise each day can get you to this goal and help keep you fit.

What about sugar? High amounts of any added sugar can lead to weight gain and problems like high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease.

Does cholesterol in food count? Obesity, inactivity, and a poor diet can do more to raise your cholesterol than an egg. The real bad guys are the unhealthy trans fats and saturated fats found in



meats, dairy, and processed foods. Opt for low-fat dairy and lean meats, read labels, and watch your carbs and portions. If your numbers are high, ask your doctor what foods you should avoid

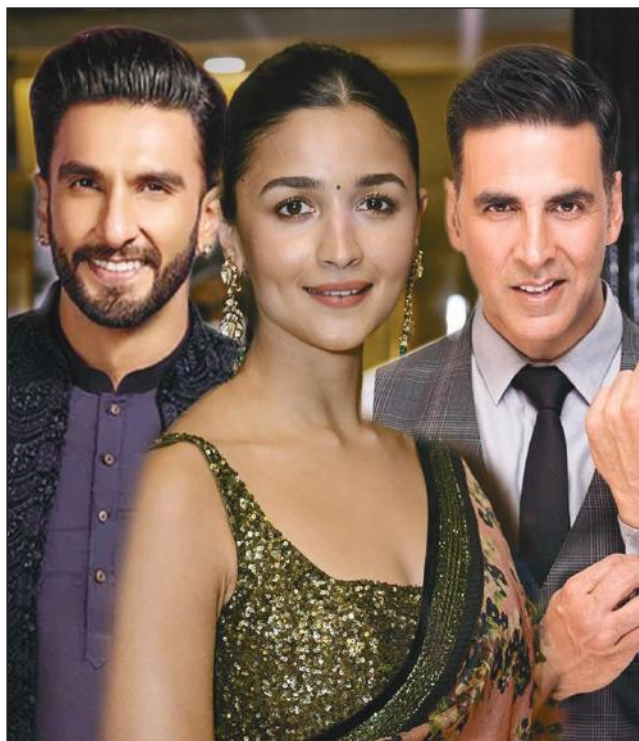
Is microwaved food unsafe? Microwaves don't make food "radioactive." All your microwave does is make the water molecules in food move, which

creates friction that heats it up. Microwaves do create a small magnetic field but a lot of work goes into making sure there's not enough to cause problems. Just don't use one with a damaged door.

Do cell phones cause brain cancer? Most research -- including a study of more than 420,000 people over 20 years -- says there's no connection between brain tumors and cell phone use. A more recent study, though, found a link between a specific type of brain tumor called a glioma and heavy cell phone use. If you're worried, wear a headset, use the speaker, and limit your phone time.

Can I be fat and healthy? Experts aren't sure. One study said heavier people may outlive lighter folks, but most research shows that those who carry extra pounds are more likely to get heart disease, cancer or die before thinner folks. Your best bet: Do what you can to get healthy. Stay active every day and eat a balanced diet. Lose some weight if you need to.

Medically Reviewed by Carol DerSarkissian, MD - WebMD



Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar, Alia Bhatt: Bollywood stars with most brand value

A celebrity brand evaluation list has unveiled the top names who have the most endorsement deals and a host of Bollywood actors have made it to this list, reports TOI. Despite recent professional failures, Ranveer Singh tops the list and is followed by several other Bollywood biggies, take a look:

Ranveer Singh

Recent flops like *'Jayeshbhai Jordaar'*, *'83'* and *'Cirkus'* have failed to shake the strong foundation of Ranveer Singh's popularity. The actor has a huge cola brand endorsement to his name and is also the face for products like toothpaste, chips, cream and much more. According to the brand evaluation list, Ranveer's total brand evaluation stands at \$181.7 million.

Akshay Kumar

In recent times Akshay too has seen a host of flops, but his fan following is huge and thus his brand endorsements stand strong. From food and beverages to personal care and hygiene products, Akshay promotes a whole lot of things and his brand valuation stands at \$153.6 million. Interestingly, he also has a long list of films in the pipeline, like *'Capsule Gill'*, *'OMG 2'* and *'Vedat Marathe Veer Daudle Saat'* among others.

Alia Bhatt

Alia enjoys huge popularity and the same reflects in her endorsements. From food products to bags and watches, Alia is the face of several high end brands. Her estimated brand endorsement value stands at \$102.9 million. After the massive popularity of *'Brahmastra'*, Alia will be seen in *'Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani'* alongside Ranveer Singh and she also has *'Jee Le Zaraa'* with Priyanka Chopra and Katrina Kaif.

Deepika Padukone

With her recent appearance at the Oscars, Deepika Padukone's global popularity has skyrocketed. She is not just the face of multiple products in India but also endorses international luxury brands. According to the list, DP's brand evaluation is \$82.9 million. On the work front, Deepika has *'Project K'* with Amitabh Bachchan in the pipeline and Hindi remake of *'The Intern'*.

Rani Mukerji beats 'Pathaan', 'Raees' at box office with 'Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway'

Rani Mukerji has created a new record in Norway with *'Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway'*. The film earned 745k Norwegian Kroner with 4.8k occupancy within just 3 days on its first weekend. With that, the actress has beaten Shah Rukh Khan's record, reports India Today.

Amongst previous best, Shah Rukh Khan's *'Raees'* had 4.7k occupancy while Salman Khan's *'Sultan'* had 4.4k occupancy on its first weekend. It also managed to surpass the collections of the recent blockbuster, *'Pathaan'*, which had 4.1k occupancy. However, all these films enjoyed an extended weekend of 5 days since these were festival releases.

The story is based on an immigrant mother's battle against a nation to gain custody of her kids, proficiently portrayed by Rani Mukerji. The film has been receiving immense love from around the globe for its heartrending storyline and epic depiction.

Producer Nikkhil Advani of Emmay Entertainment reacted to the happy news and said, "This is a story of might and fight of a mother. I am heartened, to say the least, that the movie has been receiving so much love.



We will continue making movies that inspire and move audiences."

'Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway' is an emotional drama that revolves around a mother who locks horns with an entire nation to win her kids' custody. The film's cast also includes Anirban Bhattacharya and Jim Sarbh.

Underutilised and underestimated!

Bollywood actors who are way more talented than the credit they get

Here is a list of underrated and underutilised actors who need more love and opportunities:

Shahid Kapoor: Be it *Ishq Vishk*, *Fida*, *36 China Town*, or *Jab We Met*, *Kaminey*, *Haider*, *Udta Punjab* or recently-released web series *Farzi*, Shahid Kapoor has always made sure that he brings something new to the big screen.

In fact, Shahid himself agrees that he is an underrated actor. "I agree when others say I am underrated as an actor... When you give super-hit films then only you are considered as a good actor. At least that is how it is there in our industry. I think you need to be successful to be appreciated," Shahid told PTI.

Konkona Sen Sharma: She is not fair-skinned or size zero as Bollywood demands its actresses to be. She doesn't fit into the standards that the industry has set, yet she is a powerhouse performer who weaves magic onscreen and aces every role to perfection. Be it the role of Aisha in *Wake Up Sid* or *Bharti Mandal* in *Ajeeb Daastaans*, she has always proved that her acting skills are par excellence.

Emraan Hashmi: Remember the magic of *Gangster*, *Murder*, *Chocolate*, *Kalyug*, *Aksar*, *The Train*,



Good Boy Bad Boy, *Jannat* and *Once Upon a Time in Mumbaai?*

Emraan Hashmi was a rage back then in the early 2000s, especially after the release of *Asshiq Banaya Aapne*. He had a cult following. Emraan picked up roles that mainstream heroes were skeptical about and made kissing scenes acceptable in Bollywood. He is a kickass actor who hasn't been given good opportunities in a long time. He will next be seen in *Selfiee* along with Akshay Kumar.

Jimmy Shergill: Did you know Jimmy Shergill once urged people with folded hands to watch his movie? From *Mohabbatein* to *Tanu Weds Manu* series, he has given impeccable performances one after the other. While he mostly gets to play 'hero ka dost' in Bollywood movies, in Punjabi movies, he gets to play the lead. In an interview with Mumbai Mirror earlier, Jimmy Shergill said, "There's nothing wrong in being called an 'underrated' actor. I take it as a compliment. As long as they don't call me someone who is desperate for roles and will do any trivial role for money, it should be okay."

Ronit Roy: Did you know Ronit Roy bagged a Hollywood movie

without an audition - simply on merit? He was offered the 2012 movie *Zero Dark Thirty*, directed by Kathryn Bigelow, who is the first woman to win the Academy Award for Best Director. However, he couldn't do the film because of Karan Johar's *Student Of The Year* and he is still upset about it. From movies like *Jaane Tere Naam* to *Udaan*, *Boss*, *2 States*, *Kaabil* and *Ugly* to TV shows like *Kasautii Zindagi Kay*, *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi* and *Sssshhh...Koi Hai* among others, he has proved his talent with every role that has come his way.

Nimrat Kaur: Nimrat Kaur is a fabulous actress yet she remains to be underestimated. Despite receiving critical acclaim at Ritesh Batra's *Lunchbox*, she hasn't bagged many opportunities. Her Bollywood debut was in 2012 with a movie called *Peddlers*, produced by Anurag Kashyap. Her performance in Akshay Kumar-starrer *Airlift* was also appreciated. Do you know she was featured in the music video of Kumar Sanu's *Tera Mera Pyar*, and now she is swiftly making her way in Hollywood?

Abhay Deol: Abhay Deol who recently called Anurag Kashyap a liar and a toxic person is undoubtedly one of the supremely talented actors who lacks recognition and opportunities. He once again proved his mettle in *Trial By Fire*, a web series. He has done some great movies but his performance always gets overshadowed by the film's box office collection. From *Dev D* to *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara*, from *Aisha* to *Socha Na Tha*, all his films made us fall in love with him.

Sanjay Gagnani on quitting Kundali Bhagya: 'I need to look at newer opportunities'

Sanjay Gagnani, who has been playing the role of Prithvi in *Kundali Bhagya* for the last six years, is finally bidding adieu to the show.

Sharing his reasons, Sanjay said, "There has been a lot of speculation about my exiting *Kundali Bhagya* over the past few months. It's true that I had plans to quit the show in December but then I had a change of heart.

"The character Prithvi has gone through ups and downs, and I have exited and entered the show thrice in the past. Every time my character exited the show, I felt that it had scope and there was still more I could contribute to it. However, now that the show is taking a leap, my professional career is also taking a leap. I would now like to



explore web shows and other platforms. I want to be a versatile actor."

Kundali Bhagya is taking a 20-year leap. The lead actor Shakti Arora, who had replaced Dheeraj Dhoopar in the show, is also quitting the show because he does not want to play father to grown-up children. Shraddha Arya, who plays the lead actress will continue to be part of the show.

Avinash Mukherjee on turning naag

'I don't intend to give competition to naagins on TV'

We have seen bizarre tracks and twists being introduced on shows in a bid to increase the rating. The latest one is *Sasural Simar Ka 2*. The fiction show ventured into the supernatural space with the *chudail* track (Kajal Pisal played the *chudail*, Charulata). However, the makers wrapped it up within a month and are introducing a naagin-inspired track on the show. However, this time, the male lead will play the shape-shifting man. It is to be noted that Dipika Kakar played a *makkhi* in the first season of the show and now it is Avinash Mukherjee's turn to turn into a serpent.

Avinash says, "I learnt about the new track around four days ago. I love being in the moment without being concerned about the broader storyline. So, while Radhika (Muthukumar) and Jayati (Bhatia) ma'am started calling me 'Nagarjuna' for a few days, I got to know about it much later. According to the track, a naag's soul enters Aarav's (his character in *SSK2*) body. I have introduced some changes to my body language. It's exciting and nice for both the audience and me, as the hero will turn a *naag* and become negative. He will do bad things to the family. I am enjoying the part, as I can do anything and improvise as a naag



because there is no reference point for it. I believe that if I can't do what is asked of me, it's my drawback as an actor."

Last season, the track in which Dipika turned into a *makkhi*, was subjected to a lot of trolling. Does he fear receiving similar treatment from the audience? "My job is to make people smile, have an emotional experience, and entertain them. Now, if it's trolled, and the audience doesn't like it, I am sure the makers will take a call on it. For now, I am enjoying playing naag," he replies.

With the hero turning into a snake, are the *naagins* on TV in for tough competition? "(Laughs!) I don't think so. I like to create my own space," he signs off.

Shrenu Parikh: Prefer playing lead on TV than side roles in films

Actor Shrenu Parikh feels staying relevant after over a decade in the industry and being offered lead roles gives her a real sense of achievement

Actor Shrenu Parikh feels staying relevant after over a decade in the industry and being offered lead roles gives her a real sense of achievement.

"I must have done something right, opted for good content that I am still getting work as per choice. Then, being offered central characters is an add-on. I consider myself really lucky that work

has never been an issue for me. I have worked on my terms and reaping the result of my unrelenting hard work," says the *Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon Ek Baar Phir* and *Damaged* actor on her visit to Lucknow.

Actor Shrenu Parikh feels staying relevant after over a decade in the industry and being offered lead roles gives her a real sense of achievement.

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YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

If you are aiming at excelling in the competitive sector, put efforts wholeheartedly, you would taste the success. You will gain a significant lead in financial matters from the beginning of the week. A higher degree of bliss and happiness will prevail in the family. You will have a very good harmony in your personal life during the start of this week.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 5, 6, 7, 15, 20

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

There are strong indications towards getting rid of past health problems and regaining stable health. You will achieve great heights in your business and job with your hard work. There will be some sweet and romantic moments in your love life. You would enjoy a great chemistry with your partner during the final phase of the week.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 15, 23, 24, 25, 26

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

For the Aquarians, the coming week would be favourable towards making a statement in the social life and gaining a stronger position. You would be able to earn more from additional incomes. Your academic abilities would also shine in the weekend. But there are negative indications about your health.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 12, 18, 23, 36

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Good news about property related matters are there on the card during the first part of the week. You will be particularly inclined towards religious deeds this week. There are indications that you would be promoted in your service sector soon. You will be able to maintain a deep bonding and affection towards your partner.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 10, 15, 21, 24, 30

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

People under the Aries sign would enjoy a sound health and fitness from the beginning of the week itself. If there are any previous health issues, they would be cured. There will be some sweet and romantic moments in your marital life. There will be a great deal of accomplishments in the business and service sectors.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 14, 15, 25, 31

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

For those born under Taurus zodiac, it will be a favorable time for investments. There would be many opportunities to get an upper hand in the legal matters as well. In regard to health, you might feel a little lethargic during the first phase of this week. You will be able to maintain a deep bonding and affection towards your partner.

Lucky Numbers: 19, 20, 25, 30, 33, 36

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You will be jovial and easy going with your partner. There are chances of getting mixed results in regard to health and many other areas during the middle of the week. During the third phase of the week, you would enjoy more happiness and prosperity. You will be able to enjoy a good level of physical fitness.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 14, 15, 20, 29, 32

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You will be able to maintain a good relationship with your friends and close associates. There are also positive indications regarding your promotion in the service sector. You will find middle of this week to be very profitable for money matters. Your efforts would certainly give you pleasing rewards.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 4, 7, 20, 26, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You will enjoy a higher financial freedom during the third part of the week. Harmony will prevail in your domestic life. You will have a pleasant, enjoyable time with near ones. You would be able to end all the past differences. But the weekend would not be a very good one for you in this regard. It will be a dull weekend in terms of health.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 15, 19, 24, 25, 30

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You will also be successful in gaining a grip in the social matters as well as the government and private areas. A higher degree of comfort and joy will prevail in the family. The efforts made in the past would yield good results. There will be a great deal of success in the business and service sectors.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 13, 18, 20, 22, 30

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

There will be profits in the management and partnerships. There will be some sweet and romantic moments in your love life from the start of the week. Past arguments would be resolved completely. You will be able to enjoy a good level of physical fitness.

Lucky Numbers: 22, 23, 25, 27, 30, 40

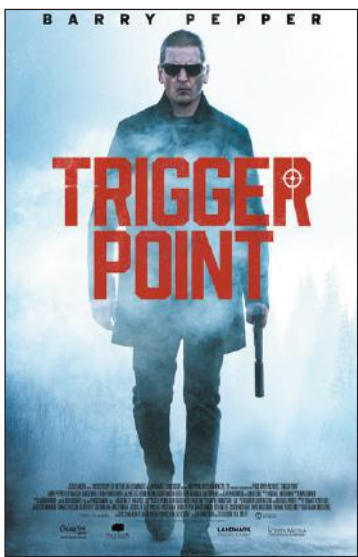
Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You will have a strong emotional bonding and affection with your maternal relatives from the beginning of this week itself. You will enjoy cordial relations with your in-laws as well. There are indications of some troubles related to debt payment. You will be successful in conducting some key religious events this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 5, 17, 23, 26, 27



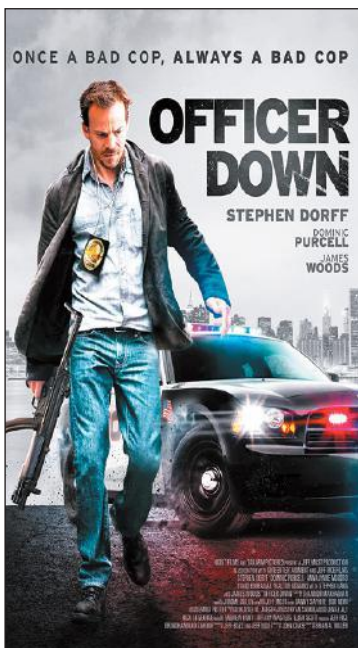
Vendredi 24 mars - 21.15



Samedi 25 mars - 21.00



Dimanche 26 mars - 21.52



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 24 mars

samedi 25 mars

dimanche 26 mars

lundi 27 mars

MBC 1

07.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
08.00 Local: Profil
08.35 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer...
11.10 Tele: Rubi
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Tele: Fierce Angel
13.25 Local: Les Grands Noms...
14.35 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
15.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
15.31 D.Anime: Tempete De Boul...
15.52 D.Anime: The Adventure Of...
16.15 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
17.04 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little
17.25 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Surya Puran
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa...
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.25 Local: Les Grands Noms...
22.10 Serial: Rookie Blue
23.00 Le Journal

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: Rediff Urdu Serial
11.20 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
12.02 Film: Safalta 0Km
13.57 Mag: DDI Mag
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.45 Serial: Bommarillu
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.27 Serial: Rabba Mainu Maaf...
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: High School
20.44 Local: Anjuman
21.15 Local: Namaz-E-Jummah
22.45 DDI Live

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.51 Doc: Paradis Perdue
08.42 Doc: Tokyo Phoenix, The Rise Of Modern Japan
09.25 Mag: Saladeria
12.05 Mag: Shift
14.56 Doc: Saladeria
15.01 Doc: Beneath The Waves
16.59 Mag: Eco India
17.25 Mag: Carnet De Sante
17.45 Doc: Foodland
19.00 Student Support Prog...
20.30 Live: News
20.53 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
21.45 Mag: Sky Eye
22.21 The Forgotten Temple...
23.04 Mag: Face And Voice
23.46 Doc: Foodland
23.50 Doc: Glacier Express
00.32 Mag: World Stories
00.46 Doc: Castless

Cine 12

01.08 Film: Wolves
03.37 Film: Natural Selection
05.18 Tele: Tour De Babel
06.48 Film: Wolves
08.45 Serial: Chicago Pd
09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
09.57 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
10.22 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Elementary
11.46 Film: Natural Selection
13.31 Tele: Tour De Babel
14.45 Film: Wolves
16.35 Serial: Chicago Pd
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: Le Livre Perdu Des...
21.20 Film: Trigger Point

Bollywood TV

06.32 Film: Hindustani Film
10.46 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.17 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
11.47 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
12.19 / 22.00 - Kismat Ki Lakiron
12.44 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.13 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes
14.25 / 23.00 - Highway On My Plate
14.53 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.24 Film: Bumm Bumm Bole
Starring: Darshel Safari, Atul Kulkarni, Rituparna Sengupta, Ziyah Vastani
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.28 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke...
20.04 Sasural Simar Ka 2

06.00 D.Anime: Bricks 'o' Brian
06.59 D.Anime: Gon
09.34 Mag: The World Is Yours
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
11.01 Local: MBC Production
11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Local: Les Grands Noms...
12.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
14.43 Local: Metie
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
15.32 D.Anime: Tempete De...
16.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
17.05 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.25 Local: MBC Production
21.25 Film: Three Doors From...
avec Robert Aloi, John Anantua, Erica Boozer

07.00 Film: Dil Aur Mohabbat
Starring Joy Mukherjee, Sharmila Tagore
09.55 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
10.47 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
11.28 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...
11.56 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare
12.19 Serial: Mooga Manasulu
12.43 Serial: High School
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Bhakti Mein Shakti
Stars: Dara Singh, Satish Kaul, Bharat Bhushan
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: Jamai Raja
Starring Hema Malini, Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit
23.32 DDI Live

06.00 Foodland: Veggie Feasts
06.45 Mag: World Stories
06.57 Mag: Our Voices
07.31 Mag: Euromaxx
07.57 Doc: Innovation On Board
09.23 Doc: Saladeria
10.37 Mag: Face And Voice
12.21 Doc: Castles
12.55 Mag: Euromaxx
13.50 Doc: Expedition Kachgar
17.30 Mag: Sky Eye
18.08 Doc: World Capitals
19.01 Mag: In Good Shape
19.30 Doc: L'Evolution En Marche
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.50 Doc: The Last Of The Sea...
21.48 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into...
22.13 Doc: The Great Meat Debate
23.22 Doc: Be Afraid
00.05 Doc: World Capitals
00.09 Doc: Our Future Cities

01.24 Film: Trigger Point
02.50 Serial: Galactica
03.35 Serial: Blacklist
04.16 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
05.12 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
06.20 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...
07.02 Serial: The Inbetween
08.30 Serial: Madam Secretary
09.11 Serial: Blacklist
10.45 Film: The Bountry Men
12.31 Serial: Galactica
13.30 Serial: Elementary
15.10 Tele: Missing Bride
16.24 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des Sortilèges
17.02 Film: Lake Effects
18.50 L'agence Tous Risques
19.35 Serial: Malory Towers
20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
20.30 Series: Le Livre Perdu Des...
21.15 Film: Dragon, L'Histoire De Bruce Lee

04.04 Radha Krishna
04.19 Anupamaa
05.04 Mere Sai
05.32 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
05.44 Yeh Teri Galiyan
06.13 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: Bewafa Se Wafa
Starring: Vivek Mushran, Juhi Chawla, Nagma, Pran
21.24 Kalari Kids
21.38 Porus
22.00 Naagin Season 5
22.42 Yeh Teri Galiyan

06.00 D.Anime: Bricks 'o' Brian
06.24 D.Anime: Fast And Furious
07.41 Film: Le Cygne Et La Princesse
08.19 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
10.30 Mag: Sand Tales
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
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
15.47 D.Anime: The Adventure Of...
16.15 D.Anime: PAF, Le Chien
16.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
17.11 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Golden Melodies...
19.30 Le Journal
21.25 Film: Officer Down

07.00 Film: Sarkari Mehmaan
11.03 Serial: Azhagu
11.20 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
11.39 Serial: Surya Puran
12.06 Film: Jai Santoshi Maa
14.07 Mag: DDI Mag
15.00 Samachar
15.20 Mooga Manasulu
15.42 Serial: He Mann Baware
16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.30 Local: Yaadein
17.03 Serial: Siya Ke Ram
17.48 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
18.30 Local: Tiba Tiba Nu Avanser
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.05 Serial: Porus
21.15 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.02 Serial: Naagin Season 3

06.00 Doc: Our Future Cities
07.06 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.25 Mag: Check In
09.43 Doc: Skuld
10.33 Doc: Made For Oligarchs...
12.35 Mag: In Good Shape
13.10 Mag: Check In
13.33 Doc: L'Evolution En Marche
14.24 Doc: Books - The Greatest
14.32 Doc: The Last Of The Sea
15.22 Doc: Persons
17.40 Mag: Healthy Living
18.29 Doc: Smoothie Mania
19.06 Doc: World Famous Writers
19.37 Doc: France Terres Sauvage
20.30 Live: News (English)
20.50 Doc: Heritage
21.49 Doc: A Mediterranean...
22.15 Doc: The Languages Of...
23.00 Doc: Town Of Glory
23.39 Doc: World Capitals

02.27 Serial: Killjoys
03.08 Film: Three Doors From Paradise
04.38 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
06.50 Serial: Island Doctor
08.33 Serial: Madam Secretary
09.11 Film: Three Doors From...
10.42 Film: Lake Effects
12.20 Serial: Killjoys
13.30 Serial: Elementary
15.35 Tele: Missing Bride
17.05 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des Sortilèges
17.47 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: Whiteblood
23.34 Tele: Rubi

00.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2
01.56 Udaariyaan
03.50 Anupamaa
05.33 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
08.00 Kalari Kids
08.14 Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi...
10.01 Kundali Bhagya
11.51 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
16.08 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
17.33 Live: Samachar
18.38 Film: Dil Ka Rishta
Starring: Arjun Rampal, Aishwarya Rai, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Isha Koppikar
20.53 Naagin Season 5
21.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
23.33 Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Raahiyo
01.24 Kundali Bhagya
03.46 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se

06.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
07.55 Local: MBC Production
09.00 Doc: The Bitter Sweet Deal
11.00 Doc: World Capitals
11.10 Tele: Rubi
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Fierce Angel
13.17 Local: Nu Rasinn
14.42 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
15.35 D.Anime: Tempete De Boul...
17.35 Doc: Books
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Mere Sai
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
19.30 Le Journal
20.25 MBC Production
21.15 Local: Agir Ensemble
21.40 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
Avec: Don Johnson, Philip Michael

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Kundali Bhagya
12.06 Film: Sankoch
Starring Jeetendra, Sulakshana Pandit
14.11 DDI Magazine
15.00 Samachar
15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.47 Serial: Bommarillu
16.02 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.26 Serial: Rabba Mainu Maaf...
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: Oh My Kadavule
Starring Ashok Selvan, Ritika Singh, Vani Bhojan

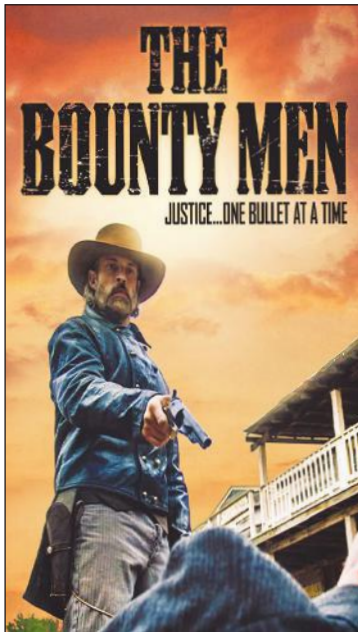
07.00 Mag: The Inside Story
07.55 Doc: France Terres Sauvage
08.55 Doc: Heritages
09.47 Doc: A Mediterranean...
12.02 Mag: Smoothie Mania
14.35 Doc: Books
15.33 Doc: Persons
16.02 The Language Of Whales
18.00 Mag: Eco At Africa
19.00 Doc: World Heritage
19.33 Mag: In Good Shape
20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
20.53 Doc: Les Mysteres Du Nil
22.06 Mag: Tomorrow Today
22.32 Doc: Smoothie Mania
23.00 Doc: Invisibles
23.49 Mag: Eco@Africa
00.15 Mag: The 77 Percent
00.46 Mag: Africa 54
01.14 Mag: In Good Shape
01.40 Doc: Does The Lynx Have...

01.37 Film: Whiteblood
02.59 Serial: Elementary
03.39 Film: Memories Of War
05.25 Tele: Tour De Babel
06.13 Serial: New Amsterdam
07.31 Film: Get Happy!
09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
09.56 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
10.20 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Timeless
11.50 Film: Memories Of War
13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
14.45 Film: Get Happy!
16.40 Serial: New Amsterdam
17.21 Serial: Suits
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.39 Serial: Creeped Out
20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
20.50 Film: All That I Am
22.12 Mag: Red Carpet

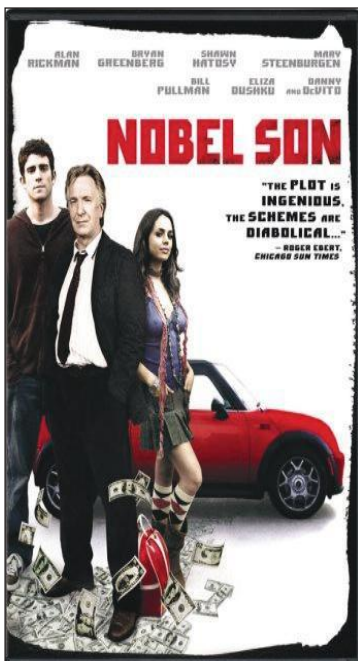
08.00 Taare Zameen Par
11.29 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.00 / 22.00 - Kismat Ki Lakiron
13.31 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.00 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes
14.30 / 23.00 - 100 Years Of Indian Cinema
15.00 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.24 Film: Hello! Hum Lallan Bol Rahe Hain
Starring: Rajpal Yadav, Preeti Mehra, Makarand Anaspure
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



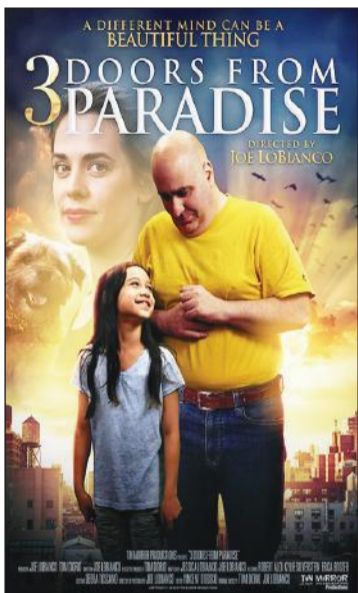
Mardi 28 mars - 21.10



Mercredi 29 mars - 21.15



Jeudi 30 mars - 21.15



Programme TV



mardi 28 mars

MBC 1

- 07.15 Local: Rodrig Prog
- 08.50 Local: Agir Ensemble
- 10.05 Local: Sekirite Larout
- 11.10 Tele: Rubi
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Local: Les Grands Noms...
- 12.30 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 14.12 MBC Production
- 14.40 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.20 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 15.52 D.Anime: The Adventure Of...
- 17.30 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian
- 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: The Bountry Men
With: Dylan Hobbs, Whit Kunschik, Bailey Roberts

MBC 2

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Serial: CID
- 10.50 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 12.00 Film: Rivaaj
- 14.22 DDI Magazine
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.20 Saare Tujhyachsathi
- 15.43 Serial: Bommarillu
- 16.04 Sondha Bandham
- 16.24 Serial: Rabba Mainu Maaf...
- 16.48 Serial: Saaton Vachanewa...
- 17.13 Serial: 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: Rootha Na Karo
Stars: Shashi Kapoor, Nanda, Kumari Naaz

MBC 3

- 06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 07.32 Mag: In Good Shape
- 09.14 Mag: Saladeria
- 09.36 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 11.32 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 15.08 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 15.37 Mag: Washington Forum
- 16.53 Mag: Eco@Africa
- 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
- 18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan
- 19.31 Mag: Check In
- 20.02 Doc: La Route De La Soie
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 21.00 Napoleon, Rise And Fall
- 21.51 Mag: Saladeria
- 22.51 Local: Rodrig-Klip Seleksion
- 23.36 Doc: The Future Of Travel
- 00.48 Mag: Healthy Living
- 01.18 Doc: World Heritage
- 01.23 Mag: Made In Germany

Cine 12

- 01.16 Film: All That I Am
- 02.52 Serial: Timeless
- 05.17 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 05.49 Film: Boyhood
- 08.45 Serial: Chicago PD
- 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 09.56 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
- 10.20 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.00 Serial: Timeless
- 12.00 Serial: Island Doctor
- 13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 14.45 Film: Boyhood
- 16.40 Serial: Chicago PD
- 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 18.26 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.37 Serial: Hank Zipzer
- 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 20.35 Mag: Top 100 Famous...
- 20.50 Film: Rememory

Bollywood TV

- 06.51 Film: Hello! Hum Lallan Bol Rahe Hain
Starring Rajpal Yadav, Preeti Mehra, Makarand Anaspure
- 11.33 / 20.29 - Radha Krishna
- 12.03 / 20.57 - Anupamaa
- 12.32 / 21.27 - Mere Sai
- 13.04 / 22.07 - Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 13.00 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 14.00 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes
- 15.00 / 22.25 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.26 Film: Auzaar
Starring Rishi Kapoor, Neelam Kothari, Chunky Pandey
- 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 29 mars

- 07.00 Local Prod: Profil
- 07.35 Local: Priorite Sante
- 08.01 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 09.05 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne
- 11.10 Tele: Rubi
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 13.15 Local: Les Klips
- 14.07 Local: Priorite Sante
- 14.37 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
- 14.49 D.Anime: Early Learning
- 15.32 D.Anime: Tempete De Boulette
- 17.30 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian
- 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: Whiteblood
With J.R. Villarreal, Ruben Rabasa

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
- 12.00 Film: Resham Ki Dori
Starring Dharmendra, Saira Banu
- 14.14 DDI Magazine
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.32 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 Film: Kaul Manacha
Starring: Sameer Dharmadhikari, Tanvi Kamat, Amruta Patki

- 06.00 Mag: Healthy Living
- 06.37 Doc: World Heritage
- 07.07 Mag: Check In
- 07.33 Doc: La Route De La Soie
- 09.01 Mag: Saladeria
- 10.10 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
- 11.32 Mag: Foodland
- 18.00 Mag: Motorweek
- 18.26 Mag: Japan Video Topics
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.30 Mag: The Inside Story
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 21.22 Mag: Saladeria
- 22.17 Mag: Smoothie Mania
- 22.20 Mag: Focus On Europe
- 22.44 Doc: Mariupol: A Story...
- 23.31 Mag: Motorweek
- 23.57 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 00.25 Doc: World Heritage
- 01.01 Mag: The Inside Story
- 01.27 Doc: Planet Home

- 01.31 Film: Rememory
- 03.19 Serial: Timeless
- 04.00 Film: The Bounty Men
- 05.35 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 06.13 Serial: The Inbetween
- 06.53 Film: Lake Effects
- 08.45 L'Incrovable Hulk
- 10.20 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 11.05 Serial: Timeless
- 12.01 Film: The Bounty Men
- 13.41 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 14.35 Film: Lake Effects
- 16.33 L'Incrovable Hulk
- 17.12 Mag: Red Carpet
- 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.37 Serial: Hank Zipzer
- 20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 20.30 Seiral: Madam Secretary
- 21.15 Film: Nobel Son
Avec: Alan Rickman, Bryan Greenberg

- 06.38 Film: Auzaar
Starring: Sanjay Kapoor, Salman Khan, Shilpa Shetty
- 11.27 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
- 11.31 / 20.26 - Anupamaa
- 12.01 / 20.02 - Mere Sai
- 12.30 / 20.46 - Kismat Ki Lakiron
- 12.56 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 13.25 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
- 14.50 / 22.15 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.24 Film: Tyagi
Starring: Rajinikanth, Jayaprada, Prem Chopra, Shakti Kapoor, Gulshan Grover
- 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 30 mars

- 06.00 Local: Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
- 06.45 Local: Ero Deryer Rido
- 07.20 Local Prod: Elle
- 08.15 Doc: Himalayan Expedition
- 09.50 Local: Son Ladan Mem
- 11.10 Tele: Rubi
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.30 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 14.35 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
- 14.50 D.Anime: Early Learning
- 15.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 15.52 D.Anime: The Adventures Of...
- 16.39 D.Anime: Cleopatra In Space
- 17.00 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little...
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 18.56 Local: Tirth Yatra 2022
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Hum Do Hamare Do
With: Rajkummar Rao, Kriti Sanon, Paresh Rawal, Ratna Pathak Shah

- 07.00 DDI Live
- 09.58 Serial: Agnipheera
- 12.11 Film: Ram Rajya
- 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 Sajina
- 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: Three Doors From Paradise
With Robert Aloï, John Anantua, Erica Boozer

- 06.00 Mag: Motorweek
- 06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 06.57 Mag: Arts.21
- 07.55 Doc: Planet Home
- 11.26 Mag: Motorweek
- 11.38 Local: Vous Et Nous
- 12.37 Doc: World Heritage
- 12.40 Mag: The Inside Story
- 13.06 Doc: Planet Home
- 16.12 Mag: Motorweek
- 17.21 Mag: Arts 21
- 18.00 Mag: Eco India
- 18.35 Local: Talk On Ramadan
- 19.30 Mag: Japan Video Topics
- 20.30 Local: News (English)
- 20.53 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 21.48 Mag: Saladeria
- 22.17 Doc: Smoothie Mania
- 23.48 Doc: Foodland: Veggie...
- 23.51 Doc: Eco India
- 00.09 Mag: Shift

- 01.15 Film: Italian Race
- 03.08 Serial: Timeless
- 03.49 Film: Monster Island
- 05.18 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 06.06 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 06.53 Film: Grace And Goliath
- 08.45 Serial: Chicago PD
- 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 10.21 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 12.00 Film: Monster Island
- 13.40 Tele: Tour De Babel
- 14.46 Film: Grace And Goliath
- 16.30 Serial: Chicago PD
- 17.15 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 19.36 Serial: Hank Zipzer
- 20.05 Tele: L'envers Du Paradis
- 20.30 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 21.15 L'Agence Tous Risques
- 22.02 Serial: Under Pressure

- 06.54 Film: Tyagi
Starring R. Jayaprada, Prem Chopra, S. Kapoor, G. Grover
- 11.32 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna
- 11.45 / 21.01 - Anupamaa
- 12.33 / 21.31 - Mere Sai
- 12.47 / 21.56 - Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 13.21 / 22.20 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 13.50 / 22.52 - Patiala Babes
- 14.25 - Mag: Highway On My...
- 15.00 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.24 Film: Fida
Starring S. Kapoor, K.Kapoor, Fardeen Khan, Kim Sharma
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 18.59 Udaariyaan
- 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..
- 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2



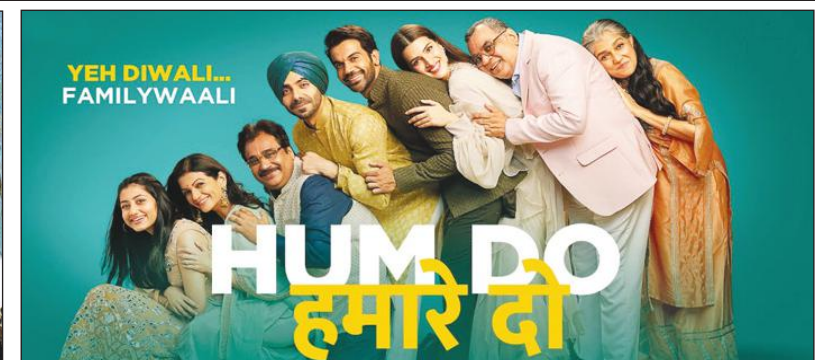
Jeudi 30 mars - 15.30

Stars: S. Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor, Fardeen Khan, Kim Sharma



Jeudi 30 mars - 20.30

Star: Rajkummar Rao, Kriti Sanon, Paresh Rawal, Ratna Pathak Shah



Fewer immigrants are becoming Canadian citizens

Today's immigrants — who mostly come from the Global South — face a system of ever more complex chutes and ladders when it comes to their status in Canada



John Carlaw
Toronto Metropolitan
University

A recent press release from the Institute for Canadian Citizenship that cites Statistics Canada data has highlighted concerns over a 40 per cent reduction in Canada's "naturalization rate" — the rate at which permanent residents are becoming

citizens.

The release, headlined 'Newcomers falling out of love with Canadian citizenship' generated a number of other media headlines.

Concerns over how and whether those living and working in Canada are attaining citizenship and important rights — including to vote and run for office — are of course well placed. But love of country by immigrants is not the primary problem.

Individual choices and sentiments are a relevant factor, but there are observable structural explanations. Beyond Canada's control, not all countries permit dual citizenship. That includes major source countries China and India where many immigrants to Canada are from. It is understandable that some permanent residents prefer not to renounce the citizenship of their country of origin.

But within Canada's control, there are troubling shifts in our overall citizenship and immigration model. Inequalities connected to its colonial nature have left growing numbers of residents without citizenship or even a pathway to it.

Annual immigration levels, for example, only represent those accepted as permanent residents and obscure the number of those admitted to Canada under less secure conditions.

This has occurred thanks to under-discussed but at times controversial shifts from permanent to temporary or multi-step migration.

These shifts can be obscured by focusing primarily on the naturalization process and the sentiments some attach to it rather than the larger settler colonial landscape of migration and immigration and its relationship to citizenship and belonging at each stage.

Hierarchies of belonging persist

"White Canada" immigration policies that favoured European immigrants and largely excluded those from elsewhere were in place until the 1960s.

These entrenched institutional and demographic dominance by white settlers. Europeans immigrating to Canada in earlier periods had ready access to permanent residence and eventual citizenship, unlike many of their contemporary racialized counterparts.



Canada is scaring away its new immigrants. Pic MSN

Institutional racism continues to be felt in the country's immigration system and political life as tiers of citizenship and belonging continue to be practised in old and new forms.

Canada adopted official multiculturalism in 1971, yet two years later it entrenched migrant worker programs, primarily for racialized workers from the Global South. As with past exclusions, these workers still have to navigate programs and realities that prevent or make it difficult for them to access permanent residence and citizenship.

This is particularly the case for those working in what are deemed to be "low skill" positions. Many such workers become "permanently temporary" despite ongoing demands for their labour.

Today, Canada's political institutions are still disproportionately composed of men of primarily European descent. And they continue to set and enforce problematic terms of citizenship and societal membership.

Today's more difficult pathways to citizenship

Today's immigrants — who mostly come from the Global South — face a system of complex chutes and ladders when it comes to their status in Canada. That system leads many migrants to remain stuck in an immigration purgatory, far away from pathways to permanent residence, let alone citizenship.

Even those often characterized as the perfect immigrants — international students who pay vast sums that subsidize our post-secondary education system — face limited and precarious pathways to permanent residence and citizenship.

As economist Armine Yalnizyan recently noted, today for each person granted the security of permanent residence, there are two migrant workers or international students who have uncertain or no access to permanent status.

This could prove an obstacle to attracting and retaining workers. When it comes to citizenship and societal membership, it hinders inclusion by creating an exploitable class of workers who lack full political and social rights.

In the face of these realities, many migrants, students and workers are mobilizing to address these exclusions. This includes protests in several cities demanding "status for all" to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

To return to the later stages of the process of becoming Canadian by adopting citizenship, under the former Conservative government, citizenship became harder to get and easier to lose by design.

Unfortunately, amidst the last decade's battles between more exclusionary Conservative and rhetorically warmer Liberal visions of citizenship, tougher and more expensive procedures than previously existed remain under both.

The costs of applying for citizenship increased significantly under the Conservatives, and have remained prohibitive for many. The Trudeau government has made some positive reforms, such as reversing changes that made it take longer to become a citizen. But it has failed to follow through on its election promises to eliminate citizenship fees.

One recent study argues that it is likely that fee hikes and tougher, often expensive language requirements negatively impact a significant number of applicants.

Even those who have managed to obtain permanent residency and fulfilled their residency requirements face further "boundaries related to management flaws, classed naturalization, and cultural biases." That means many, particularly refugee claimants and family class immigrants, struggle with the citizenship process.

For those who can reach the end of the process, some find it distasteful to continue to have to declare an enforced oath to a colonial figure, a reminder of the structures and hierarchies discussed in this article.

Given this context, the significant decline in Canada's naturalization rate should be less surprising, though no less alarming as Canada continues to foster and even intensify inequalities of societal membership in its citizenship and immigration regime.

Books

Dr Ouma Seebaluck's Bollywood book launched in Mumbai

Dr Ouma Seebaluck's painstakingly researched 'Bollywood and its Global Impact', was launched by eminent filmmaker and producer Mahesh Bhatt and international actor Rahul Vohra in Mumbai on 13th March (the day Indian films made it to the Oscars!) at a simple ceremony in the presence of professionals from different walks of life - from Bollywood to the film airlines industry, the literary and design world as well as officials from the Economic Development Board and MTPA.



The launch ceremony also commemorated the 55th Independence anniversary of Mauritius celebrated the day before as well as International Women's Day, which fell on 8th March.

Mahesh Bhatt shared his experience of being born in a film-making family and his deep insight into the production of movies in India as well as the art of telling stories after an extremely informative introduction to Mauritius, Indian cinema, and aesthetics by Rahul Vohra, who also read excerpts from the book and talked extensively about Mauritian culture.

Mahesh Bhatt described the book as a must-have-reference-book for anyone who would like to study Indian cinema. He also congratulated Dr Seebaluck for the tremendous amount of research that has gone into the production of her book and her attention to detail.