

MAURITIUS TIMES

• "For everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labour in freedom." -- Albert Einstein



Interview : Dr Avinaash Munohur, Politologue

«Le scénario de la rupture est posé depuis un moment...

... c'est à la volonté du peuple de faire exploser le plafond de verre maintenant»

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For A New Social Contract



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'From higher up'

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Independence and Constitutional Reform

The formal process that led to the adoption of the Constitution of Mauritius started exactly on August 22, 1967, which means that we now have the benefit of almost half a century of constitutional practice and case law. It is therefore opportune, 55 years down the line, for us to review whether the guiding principles that went into the drafting of our Constitution are still valid or if there is a case today for a full-fledged review of our Constitution or whether it simply needs to be updated to reflect modern trends specially in the area of protection of fundamental rights.

There is no argument about the fact that the harmony, relative peace as also progress that Mauritius has known during the past 55 years are in a large measure due to the fundamental guiding principles enshrined in our Constitution and the adherence by the different stakeholders to the values and respect for such principles as regards the rule of law and other constitutional protections like freedom of association, of religion, etc.

In support of these principles, the Constitution of Mauritius does provide for some form of protection to those officials operating in specific areas of public life/administration – law and order, justice, etc — with a view to empowering them to exercise their powers in the public interest, without fear or favour. Instances where these powers seem to be usurped by the Executive – such as a sitting Minister publicly threatening a politician and getting away with it –, or where those who are allowed to use them (for example the Commissioner of Police) failing to do so for fear of reprisal by the Executive may be examples of, as pointed out by Milan Mehtarbhan in an earlier interview to this paper, ‘major areas where the empirical evidence of the last 55 years suggests that serious consideration must be given to perfecting our democracy.’

Areas where such ‘perfection of democracy’ may need to be looked at relate, among others, to the conduct and organisation of elections (with proper compilation and updates of electoral registers), their supervision, the hearing of election petitions by the Supreme Court as well as the resolution of complaints arising before and during polling. It does not make sense that unreturned candidates should be waiting for three or four years for their petitions to be determined when the next elections are almost round the corner.

We have also witnessed during the past recent years and in particular throughout the Covid pandemic, a number of outrageous aberrations happening in the procurement processes of government agencies because of arbitrary discretion exerted by those who are in a position to take or influence decisions. In most cases where questionable dealings are suspected, there are two common factors: a compliant bureaucracy and the absence of transparency. This is a practice that successive governments have been

bequeathing to each other for a long enough time without redressing the situation.

The St Louis Gate scandal might not have surfaced at all, if it had not been for the African Development Bank’s communiqué published in June 2020, wherein its Office of Integrity and Anti-Corruption concluded that Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor (BWSC) had financially rewarded members of the Mauritian administration and others, for providing access to confidential tender-related information. It is unfortunate that the anti-corruption agency, ICAC, has not in this case demonstrated the same zeal that is going into its current investigation of the Franklin affair.

Scandals usually come to the surface following whistleblower tip-offs – which in the case of the St Louis project led to the investigation by BWSC into allegations of misconduct. Potential scandals would otherwise be swept under the carpet, and the public kept in the dark. For a long time, we have been promised a Freedom of Information Act, which could have acted as an important deterrent against abuse. Why is it not materialising?

On the other hand, in its present form and content it does not appear that the Constitution provides the possibility and the right to any concerned citizen – unless the latter can demonstrate his *locus standi* in the matter – to question the application of the law, or unjust administrative action. There is a case here for the establishment of a specialised Constitutional Bench, as suggested by M. Mehtarbhan, so that ‘our compatriots can seek constitutional redress in a wider range of cases than the present relatively restrictive rules would allow them to do.’

As we reflect on those failures that have allowed our democracy to flounder and wilt, while ingrained Constitutional checks and balances have failed to play their role, we cannot ignore the repeated attempts of political authorities to browbeat political opponents, the free media and even the social media networks over the past ten years. Even the constitutionally independent DPP Office was not spared relentless attacks on its independence. We may not all agree with the rating of our democracy by the Swedish agency V-Dem, which has downgraded and lumped us to the levels of Salvador, Afghanistan or Poland, but clearly this is no rejoicing matter as we look back over whatever happened to the former poster boy of sub-Saharan Africa.

Fifty-five years after independence, and after numerous twiddles along the way, there is no doubt there is considerable accumulated experience of what is no longer acceptable in a modern democratic state. It is time for experienced observers, NGOs, legal and constitutional minds, and our body politic within or outside Parliament, create the think-tank or platform for a Constitutional renewal the population seems to aspire to.

The Conversation

Politicians’ health problems are important information for voters

Health struggles are part of the human condition, but politicians often resist revealing full medical records



Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman, right, with his wife, Gisele Barreto Fetterman. Pic - Getty Images

Most people expect that their health is a private matter. And for a politician or office seeker, such disclosures can be used as political weapons by their opponents. But when someone voluntarily enters the sphere of public service and elective office, do they have an obligation to inform their constituents about how well they can actually execute the job they’re asking to be elected to?

Pennsylvania Democratic Sen. John Fetterman had a near-fatal stroke in May 2022. One reporter interviewed him during the 2022 Senate campaign and gave a firsthand account of how Fetterman seemed to have trouble coping with his post-stroke problems. She was attacked by other reporters for suggesting that he was struggling to have a basic conversation. Throughout the 2022 US Senate campaign, Fetterman’s staff gave conflicting and confusing accounts of his health.

In any other job interview in the US, it would indeed be forbidden – from a social and legal perspective – to ask about the applicant’s health. And it does not serve the public interest to pry too much into politicians’ lives.

But candidates who won’t disclose their medical records can put the voters at a disadvantage. Before citizens cast their ballots, they should know pertinent information about health problems. Just as voters should know a candidate’s positions on issues, voters should know about politicians’ ability to advocate for those positions and to fully represent their constituents.

As *The Philadelphia Inquirer* editorial board wrote in October 2022, “It’s fair to question John Fetterman’s fitness after his stroke. Communication is part of being a senator. It’s perfectly reasonable for Pennsylvanians to ask about how well he is able to listen, speak, focus, and understand.”

David E. Clementson, University of Georgia

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Sada Reddi

For A New Social Contract

One would not suggest the overhauling of the whole system right away, but the poor must be lifted out of poverty and the young must be given hope and encouragement to work and live in the country

During her visit to Mauritius in 1956 Princess Margaret travelled in an open vehicle. This was rather risky as the crowd tried to get a closer view of the princess. Malcolm

de Chazal then wrote an open letter to the Governor suggesting that better security measures be taken to protect important visitors. The governor was furious that a civil servant had dared write to him an open letter and consequently it fell to the Colonial Secretary to formally instruct Malcolm de Chazal to retire six years prior to his normal retirement age. There is no better example of the authoritarian nature of the colonial state.

After independence the successor state was meant to be at least liberal, let alone democratic. But today the liberal regime suffers from a number of aberrations and one major explanation of these aberrations is the elitist control of our society and its pernicious influence thereon. Since it is the lower and working classes that bear the brunt of the various malpractices, they should seek and negotiate a new social contract with the elite to safeguard their interests and work together for a better society.

In seeking to explain why our democratisation process has been so slow, the blame is more often laid at the door of the political class. This explanation is too simplistic for it overlooks the fact that while the political class has its share of blame in the way our society evolves, it must be recognized that the political system has also had to adapt to the social structure dominated by an elitist system which controls most of the levers of power in our society.

At the Lancaster Conference 1965, our political representatives did their best to craft a democratic state adapted to a plural society. But all they could achieve by consensus was simply a liberal state. A number of proposals were put forward; some were rejected, but on the whole consensus was reached on the establishment of a liberal state for Mauritius. After independence it has been extremely difficult to even implement a liberal regime successfully.

Elitist domination of our society

In trying to understand our political traditions, we should remember that our political system was not founded in 1968 after we had been given a new Constitution. It had evolved over a long period of time going back to at least the nineteenth century, and was marked by the ascendancy of the White elite, as well as contestation by the rising Coloured elite which was joined by the Indian elite in the first half of the twentieth century.

The political system, formalized by the Constitution in 1968, is an organic one, which evolved from our own past political experience, which the discussions at the Lancaster Conference referred to and comprised our laws, institutions, social and economic structure and other conventions and values. For example, some of our fundamental rights already existed during colonial times, and a few of them were suspended with the outbreak of war in 1939.

It is also well known that our judicial system has evolved from the time of the French rule and has been adapted during British rule. All said and done, the colonial



“The old elite prevails in the private sector where it has intensified its oligopolistic control over the economy and worked closely or accommodated itself with the new elite, which has expanded since independence. For example, the only difference between the old and the new elites is that the latter is not based on the productive resources of the country; it relies solely on the State for its survival, for jobs, resources, security, honour and status...”

system remained authoritarian with powers vested in the hands of one person — the governor right up to 1967—, apart from the fact that in the British colonial system the colonies were administered by Ordinances and Orders in Council.

In 1968, we inherited all the major features of a liberal state — representative government, cabinet rule, a civil service, the judiciary, rule of law, an electoral system, a mixed economy and even an independent Commissioner of Police and a Director of Public Prosecutions. At the same time, what we also inherited was a centralized system of government where the powers were distributed among various institutions under the control of an elite but also in fundamental ways under the control of the Prime Minister. By elite, we mean the politicians, the civil servants, the professionals who staff all our institutions or parastatal bodies, as well as the entrepreneurs, businessmen and managers in the corporate sector - both public and private.

This elitist domination of our society - under the control of and with excessive powers held by the Prime Minister - is not a post-independent phenomenon and can be traced back to the type of colonial society prevalent in Mauritius. Business interests were represented in the Council of Government from 1831 onwards, and from that time they dominated colonial politics and were represented in all our institutions.

What is therefore new after independence?

All the institutions inherited from the past have been retained and consolidated. The old elite prevails in the private sector where it has intensified its oligopolistic control over the economy and worked closely or accommodated itself with the new elite, which has expanded since independence. For example, the only difference between the old and the new elites is that the latter is not based on the productive resources of the country; it relies solely on

the State for its survival, for jobs, resources, security, honour and status.

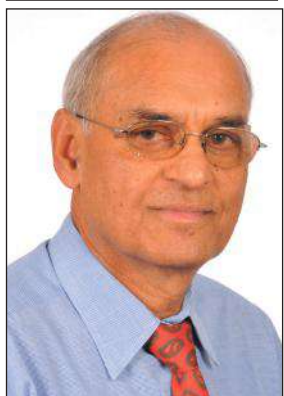
However, both the new and the old elites are organically linked by monetary interests for they are interdependent and rely on the State to survive. One section of the new elite relies on political control of the State for resources, jobs, promotion, and security. The business entrepreneurs of the new elite share with the old elite government contracts for they are the ones to procure goods and services to the State. Contractors, big and small, often arrange among themselves to bid for contracts at the highest prices in order to make excessive profits to the detriment of the State and the public.

The old elite, despite being invisible in politics, prefers to pull the strings from behind the curtain. While politicians may buy votes, the business elite buys governments. They are powerful enough to wring concessions from the government and these concessions are made available annually in the budgets or in various projects that require government support.

In the 1950s, a dry cleaning and steam plant would not have been set up without the guarantee of a contract for the washing of hospital linen. Similarly, in the 1960s, a pharmaceutical venture would not have been successful as an import-substitution industry without a contract to supply medicines to government hospitals.

Today these kinds of financial concessions have gone to the extreme - inflated and juicy contracts, writing off of debts, *ad hoc* legislation to sell land to foreigners, and to exempt property developers from environmental control while the middle and poorer classes are impoverished by the effects of inflation and unemployment; on the other hand, insecurity and despair have gripped an increasing number of young people, who now believe their future lies in emigration.

☞ **Cont. on page 6**



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

'From higher up'

'From higher up' pressures will never cease but there are robust exit strategies that preserve both dignity of office and defence of the public interest

There is no country in the world where pressure 'from higher up' is not brought to bear on those lower down. This takes place at the State level, in government in the public or civil service, in private sector organizations of all kinds including businesses, corporates and companies, societies, in religions – in fact across the board in society at large. In governments there are formal bureaucracies, and in the private spheres there are hierarchies of one sort or another.

Such pressure arises because of the power equation whereby those at the top have more power than those at the lower levels. Correspondingly, the higher one is the more the responsibility one has to shoulder, and hence the greater accountability demanded and expected of those who are at higher rungs. The private sector is accountable to their shareholders and is thus shielded from public scrutiny unless there is a scandal involving it. On the other hand, the public sector is more open to exposure because it is the population of the country at large that votes in the government that wields political power – which in modern societies is the ultimate form of power. Though it draws from the people, they have little or no say in how that power is wielded or exploited once they have voted a government in, and have to wait for the next election if they are not satisfied.

There are any number of cases around the world of public figures in high positions having had to bend to the political will, to resign or be forced out in ignominy and into oblivion, in extreme cases even to commit suicide because of being hounded by the powers that be. And this is where there is an outcry about politicians not respecting the autonomy of institutions, or of individuals occupying key positions who are perceived to be compliant to political directives in their decision making on certain matters. Currently this appears to be playing out in the case of the Commissioner of Police v DPP, and the issue of procurements during the Covid pandemic is in the public domain.

Granted that the nurtured image of the private sector is one of more efficiency and more autonomy to staff in certain positions. Still, one cannot rule out that the phenomenon of 'from higher up' is altogether unknown there, and I know about some cases where this took place.

As usual criticism is the easiest thing to do, especially from those ignorant of the nuances of decision making at levels where balancing technicalities, administrative processes, political interventionism, legal aspects and more critically the ethical dimension is so critical in arriving at just and fair outcomes for all parties concerned, and in particular the larger public interest is safeguarded.

As regards the public sector, 'from higher up' can happen at different levels, and has been around at all times. There are ways of handling

such attempts at forcing individuals to comply, and those I am more familiar with belong to the medical and health sector where I have spent my career, and have heard and learnt valuable lessons from senior colleagues.

One of them was a junior doctor at Victoria Hospital in the mid-1960s, on duty in Casualty when there was 'brought in dead' – a patient who had already died when he was brought in. According to the procedure, the doctor referred the case to the Police Medical Officer since a diagnosis of the cause of death was not known. But the relatives were insisting that the body be delivered to them. Upon his refusal they left saying they would be back soon. A short while later, the doctor received a call: from the Attorney-General, who requested him to issue the death certificate, and was explained why that could not be done. Whereupon the doctor was told: *'Je suis le Procureur Général avec 22 ans d'expérience dans la loi, et je vous dis que vous pouvez livrer le corps!'*

Quietly but firmly he answered, *'Moi je n'ai que six mois d'expérience comme médecin, Mais si vous me dites que vous êtes le Procureur Général, alors rendez-moi le service de me faire parvenir une lettre signée par vous sur papier officiel avec votre tampon et je vais livrer le corps tout de suite!'* The letter never came.

Once there was an investigation that was initiated by the Medical Council (MC) relating to a doctor who had advertised himself in the press, something which was unethical. He had already presented once with his lawyer at the MC, and was due for another call.



“There are any number of cases around the world of public figures in high positions having had to bend to the political will, to resign or be forced out in ignominy and into oblivion, in extreme cases even to commit suicide because of being hounded by the powers that be. And this is where there is an outcry about politicians not respecting the autonomy of institutions, or of individuals occupying key positions who are perceived to be compliant to political directives in their decision making on certain matters...”

The Minister of Health called the Registrar and said he had received a 'complaint' from higher up that the MC was victimizing the doctor under investigation. He wasn't satisfied with the explanations of the Registrar that this was not so, and the Minister pressed for more details as he too had to answer 'higher up'. The Registrar told him that he was not mandated to go beyond what he had already said, and advised the Minister to contact the President of the MC. 'Who is that?' asked the Minister – and no comments!! (It's the equivalent of the PM not knowing who is the Attorney General!)

When he heard the name of the President, his response was, 'Oh my God! Then you go ahead with the investigation!' Isn't it said that it is the man who makes the institution?

As a practising doctor in the public service, only infrequently did I face such situations. The very first one was in 1972 when I had been a few months in employ at the SSRHN Hospital, and received a call one morning from Sir Harold Walter, who was the then Minister of Health. But I must say he was polite, and spoke in perfect English, and I replied in kind.

However, things were different when I became Chief Medical Officer (later Director General Health Services) based at what I call the 'Head-Quarters'. For your head can literally be quartered there. Except when it can't be.

This was the case when intense pressure was being applied to authorize renal transplantations in the private sector. I was then Chairman of the Organ Transplant Board, and the Board had made it clear that this was not possible, if at all, until the Organ & Tissue Transplant Act was amended. I had discussed with the desk officer at the WHO headquarters in Geneva on the sidelines of a World Health Assembly meeting, as also with the President of the World Kidney Transplant Association.

An expert of the French Agence de Biomedicine, reputed as the gold standard for the regulatory framework for organ transplants, was sent over and we reviewed our legislation and she submitted her report and recommendations. No question of kidney transplants in the private sector in a small country like Mauritius, was one such, and provisions were spelt out for cadaveric transplantations.

Bureaucratism took over, but the Board maintained its position, despite further attempts from higher up. Eventually, there was no option but to amend the Act.

In another instance, there was repeated pressure from higher up to procure one strain of measles vaccine when the annual requirements were being prepared. That strain had less efficacy, and all developed countries had stopped using it, substituting another more efficacious strain, which was also recommended by WHO. Again the technical team held its ground and 'higher up' had to relent in light of the overwhelming evidence presented.

When it comes to protecting the health of citizens, there cannot be any compromise. As regards other public sector departments, there surely are similar 'from higher up' pressures, but each responsible officer must assume their responsibility and do what is best in the public interest. Of course, 'from higher up' pressures will never cease but, as pointed out above, at least at certain levels there are robust exit strategies that preserve both dignity of office and defence of the public interest.

The above are but a few examples and obviously there are many more, but those cited give the gist of the larger problem

Exercice militaire dans l'océan Indien

Par A. Bartleby



Exercice Cutlass Express: l'exercice militaire naval regroupe 14 pays et est le plus important à avoir lieu dans l'océan Indien. P - Naval Today

Une nouvelle est passée presque inaperçue à cause d'une actualité locale surchargée, mais les Etats-Unis ont annoncé le début du «Exercice Cutlass Express» le 6 mars dernier. Cet exercice militaire naval regroupe 14 pays, dont la République de Maurice qui est représentée par 65 membres du personnel policier et militaire. C'est l'exercice le plus important à avoir lieu dans l'océan Indien.

L'objectif de cet exercice est de renforcer la coopération régionale en matière de lutte contre le terrorisme, la piraterie et les trafics en tous genres, à travers des scénarios d'interventions alliant différentes puissances militaires présentes dans notre région, regroupant les contingents des Seychelles, du Canada, des Comores, de Djibouti, de la Géorgie, de la France, du Kenya, de Madagascar, du Mozambique, de la Somalie, de la Tanzanie, du Royaume-Uni et, bien évidemment, des Etats-Unis.

Henry Jardine, le nouvel ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Maurice et aux Seychelles, a qualifié cet exercice de «growing security partnership between our two countries, an important step in a strong relationship rooted in our common values and heritage as democratic and pluralist societies. As Ambassador, I hope to focus my efforts to further strengthen our relationship in the important arena of maritime security».

Cette déclaration, claire et concise, ne laisse aucun doute quant aux objectifs états-uniens de renforcement de la coopération militaire pour mieux faire face au bloc émergent mené par la Chine, dans l'océan Indien. Suggest-il également que la coopération avec Maurice passera par une résolution sur les Chagos, et en particulier, par un deal entre Maurice et les Etats-Unis sur la

base militaire de Diego Garcia? L'avenir nous le dira.

* * *

Bruneau Laurette rejoint la plateforme de Sherry Singh

À peine quelques jours après sa libération conditionnelle, Bruneau Laurette en a surpris plus d'un en rejoignant la plateforme de Sherry Singh. Alors qu'il surfait sur une vague de sympathie et de soutien populaire certain, qui le faisait presque émerger comme un messie, Bruneau Laurette a fait exactement ce qu'il ne fallait pas faire : s'afficher avec un ancien de *La Kwizinn* dont les casseroles pourraient être aussi problématiques que louches.

Ce genre de revirement de situation relève de l'art, voire même, du génie dans l'aveuglement et la capacité à ne rien comprendre d'une situation en prenant la décision la plus inadéquante qui soit. Mais Bruneau Laurette n'a eu de cesse de démontrer son immense talent de girouette qui suit les vents les plus variés.

Cette inconsistance se doit d'être questionnée, surtout que l'homme prétend porter un projet pour renverser «le système». Non seulement n'a-t-il jamais expliqué ce qu'était «le système» qu'il voulait renverser, mais il n'a également jamais exposé son projet politique pour Maurice. Sur ce point, il y a une grande ressemblance avec Sherry Singh: du moins selon la perception générale, c'est que les deux brassent du vent et utilisent des termes abstraits qui ne veulent rien dire, et dont la seule fonction est de cacher leur manque de maîtrise de la chose politique.

Mais dans le cas de Bruneau Laurette, il faut avouer que sa capacité à retourner sa veste, à démissionner des différents partis dans lesquels il s'était engagé, démontre quelque chose de troublant: le fait que ce soit un homme qui n'a aucune direction idéologique, et son action est en réalité guidée par le vide et la confusion la plus absolue. C'est du moins ce que nous pourrions conclure en voyant ses positionnements et ses choix politiques.

À moins, bien sûr, que ses intérêts soient ailleurs, et qu'il serait piloté par des gens qui savent exactement ce qu'ils font... et à cette hypothèse, il faudrait ajouter une seule question: qui est le grand gagnant du phénomène Laurette sur l'échiquier politique?

Chacun ira de sa petite idée quant à la réponse à



Bruneau Laurette n'est pas politiquement assez fort pour se faire élire... il est assez fort pour faire perdre le MMM et le PMSD... P - YouTube

cette question, mais nous devinons en tout cas que Paul Bérenger et Xavier Duval doivent être très nerveux actuellement, parce qu'ils savent pertinemment bien que le positionnement de Laurette auprès de Sherry Singh renforce encore plus un scénario qui devrait les faire trembler: celui du fractionnement de leurs bassins électoraux respectifs, qui se réduit en peau de chagrin à chaque élection générale.

Non, Bruneau Laurette n'est pas politiquement assez fort pour se faire élire. Oui, Bruneau Laurette est assez fort pour faire perdre le MMM et le PMSD dans les quelques circonscriptions où il leur reste des bases électorales. Et cela, Navin Ramgoolam le sait parfaitement bien. Comment va-t-il donc gérer la négociation d'alliance qu'il essaye de construire actuellement, surtout que nous connaissons le jeu des gourmands du MMM et du PMSD en matière de tickets? Les 5 sous risquent de se vendre très cher.

* * *



C'est par l'éducation que l'on peut combattre le racisme, ce qui rend encore plus odieuse cette vidéo des élèves du RCC

Collège Royal de Curepipe: la chance aux chansons

Une vidéo d'un chant de guerre fait le buzz depuis un moment sur les réseaux sociaux. Nous y voyons des élèves du Royal College of Curepipe chanter un hymne vulgaire et raciste à la gloire des lauréats. L'indignation justifiée n'a pas tardé à se mobiliser sur les réseaux sociaux. Plusieurs personnalités ont pris position en appelant à des excuses publiques, ce que le recteur du RCC a fait dans un communiqué. La formulation des excuses peut bien évidemment être questionnée mais l'acte semble sincère.

Il est clair que cette vidéo montre un comportement hautement condamnable et un racisme à combattre. Et il est parfaitement légitime de demander des excuses et de réprimander ces comportements. Cet incident vient également démystifier, encore un peu plus, cette culture dite des élites et des 'star schools' dont le niveau – face aux écoles privées où les véritables élites du pays envoient leurs enfants – semble plus bas que jamais.

Avouons-le, le système des lauréats est devenu un moyen pour beaucoup de fuir le pays aux frais du contribuable, et doit sérieusement être remis en question, surtout que ce système produit clairement une culture toxique autour des performances scolaires et inculque un esprit de compétition malveillant à la jeunesse.

☞ Suite en page 6

Collège Royal de Curepipe: la chance aux chansons

☞ Suite de la page 5

Mais il faudrait aller plus loin. Le racisme à Maurice se trouve au fondement même des rapports de pouvoir qui animent l'espace social et politique. Ce racisme trouve sa source dans le colonialisme, et notamment dans la barrière de couleur, qui était l'instrument juridique par lequel une division raciale servant à justifier l'esclavage pouvait opérer. Et ce racisme colonial ne s'est jamais complètement atténué, refaisant surface de temps en temps. Ainsi, l'on pourrait faire l'énumération des dérapages plus ou moins récents, allant du «met razwar dan lamé zako» au «bato langouti», en passant par les «démons» de différents dirigeants politiques dans le passé. Et personne n'a oublié le récent dérapage de Joanna Bérenger...

La vidéo du RCC vient ainsi s'ajouter à une liste malheureusement trop longue. Et cette liste continuera à s'allonger tant que le racisme colonial restera un débris omniprésent dans le cœur même de la société mauricienne. Nous avons, en face de cette abomination, le devoir de connaître notre Histoire et d'en comprendre les ressorts qui opèrent toujours aujourd'hui. C'est par l'éducation que l'on peut combattre le racisme, ce qui rend encore plus odieuse cette vidéo des élèves d'un établissement qui fut jadis prestigieux.

* * *

Mauritius Telecom se lance dans l'intelligence artificielle



Est-ce le début d'une nouvelle stratégie de MT de se défaire de ses liens avec Huawei? Seul l'avenir nous le dira

L'annonce d'un partenariat entre Mauritius Telecom et la firme Aprecomm, basée à Bangalore en Inde, est passée presque inaperçue en ce début de semaine. Et pourtant, il s'agit d'une annonce très importante.

La coopération entre les deux compagnies de télécommunication aura pour objectif d'utiliser l'intelligence des réseaux et l'intelligence artificielle afin de réduire le temps nécessaire pour résoudre les problèmes du réseau haut débit, tout en diminuant les frais de maintenance. Il s'agit donc d'une coopération permettant à Mauritius Telecom d'améliorer son service et son temps de réaction aux crises potentielles des réseaux. Mais par-delà l'aspect du service, il s'agit surtout d'une co-opération intéressante puisqu'elle voit Mauritius Telecom se tourner vers d'autres fournisseurs de service que le géant chinois des télécommunications Huawei.

Il semblerait ainsi que la page écrite par l'ancien CEO de MT (reconverti depuis dans l'animation de plateformes socio-politiques) commence à se tourner avec des ramifications qui seront importantes pour l'avenir de MT.

Huawei fait l'objet de sérieux soupçons depuis quelques années. Donald Trump n'avait pas hésité à initier une guerre commerciale ouverte avec la Chine lorsqu'il était président des Etats-Unis. Plus récemment, le géant Tik-Tok – très présent aussi à Maurice – est sous le feu des accusations, notamment pour espionnage.

Il est indéniable que les motivations géopolitiques se trouvent au cœur de ces affaires, et bien loin de nous de porter des jugements sur ce que nous ne maîtrisons pas. Mais il est également clair que nous devons faire extrêmement attention, car nous sommes là dans un domaine qui pourrait se révéler d'une sensibilité hautement stratégique pour notre sécurité nationale – comme l'avait souligné le PM pendant l'affaire du 'sniffing', dont nous ne connaissons toujours pas la nature.

Voyons-nous ainsi le début d'une nouvelle stratégie de MT de se défaire de ses liens avec Huawei? Seul l'avenir nous le dira, mais le deal signé avec Aprecomm nous donne déjà des indications concrètes à propos de l'avenir de cette entreprise nationale.

A. Bartleby

For A New Social Contract



☞ Cont. from page 3

High prices of petrol are today maintained to fill the coffers of the State and to compensate for low economic output and wastage of resources. The elite has betrayed the country on matters concerning the environment and has remained indifferent to the utilisation of high doses of pesticides in the cultivation of local vegetables, likely resulting in various types of cancer. Every family must have heard about a relative or friend suffering from cancer. Unfortunately no research seems to have been undertaken to find the roots of the problem. And one does not expect the private sector-financed environmental NGOs to rake up such issues.

“All is not lost thanks to the activism of various public-spirited individuals in different social and political organisations, the public service, the legal profession and the press. Additionally, a section of the elite, though not entirely innocent as regards past lapses, has come to realize the shocking state of our country where corruption and nepotism have fallen to unprecedented level for the sake of filthy lucre, and is determined to reverse the process of decline...”

In the past, it was expected that the new elite would be progressive enough to work for the welfare of the lower classes and incorporate the interests of the latter in public policies for the betterment of society.

This is how some major successes have been achieved thanks to progressive legislations and the establishment and maintenance of the welfare state. But it is increasingly felt that the interests of the lower classes are given short shrift. Their aspirations remain unfulfilled, and they are the ones who swell the number of the unemployed and have become the 'precarariat' – those who live a precarious existence. They realize that their progress is being blocked by the elite but have found no means to articulate or redress their grievances.

In addition to their precarious living, people are plagued by all kinds of problems – traffic congestion, noise pollution, minimum wages and pensions being gnawed by inflation, short-term employment contracts, voluntary retirement schemes, disciplinary committees, bureaucratic inertia, contaminated bottled water, school dropouts, and loss of livelihoods. Consequently, all our citizens have to bear the consequences of all these problems, which remain unattended.

The elite, initially constituted of kinship groups, has other dimensions which are ethnic, profes-

sional, or even religious, and has over the course of time evolved into other types of associations. These range from masonic lodges to service groups and organisations to protect and advance their material interests and are today responsible in a large measure for the destruction of almost all our institutions. The recent conflicts among our various institutions notably the Police and the judiciary is a symptom of a deeper malaise which is undermining the democratic order.

Reversing the decline

All is not lost thanks to the activism of various public-spirited individuals in different social and political organisations, the public service, the legal profession and the press. Additionally, a section of the elite, though not entirely innocent as regards past lapses, has come to realize the shocking state of our country where corruption and nepotism have fallen to unprecedented level for the sake of filthy lucre, and is determined to reverse the process of decline.

Therein lies an opportunity for the lower and working classes to come together for a new contract – with social, economic and constitutional measures. One would not suggest the overhauling of the whole system right away, but certainly a new socio-economic order must be worked out, the poor must be lifted out of poverty and the young must be given hope and encouragement to work and live in the country.

Equally important is the restoration of our democracy. This is an enormous task, and a detailed programme must be worked out with the population. It should not only spell out important projects but also specific and sometimes mundane measures which the public has been demanding for some time.

A few which come to mind are the possibility of limiting an MLA to a maximum of 4 mandates – two as an MLA and an additional two as Cabinet minister (if appointed by the PM) at the end of the second mandate –, a Freedom of Information Act, eligibility of a certain category of civil servants and staff of parastatal bodies to stand as candidates, reactivation of the Domains Book which lists all Crown Lands and subsequent changes. Also, no less important, such as having a woman attendant in an ambulance and so many others, some of which may appear mundane to those at the top.

A judicious combination of competent, experienced, and young politicians dedicated to public service should be able to mobilize our people and rise to these daunting challenges. This is our hope on the eve of our Independence and Republic Day celebrations.

Sada Reddi

Tropical cyclone Freddy on track to become record-breaking storm

Tropical Cyclone Freddy - which is threatening communities in Madagascar and Mozambique for a second time in as many weeks - could become the longest-lasting storm of its kind on record, the World Meteorological Office (WMO) said on Tuesday 7 March.

WMO continues to monitor the "remarkable" tropical storm, which has cut a destructive path across the two countries since it first developed a month ago.

At least 21 people have been killed, and thousands more displaced, with the latest deaths reported in Madagascar on Monday, reports AllAfrica.

Major impact

"Freddy is having a major socio-economic and humanitarian impact on affected communities. The death toll has been limited by accurate forecasts and early warnings, and coordinated disaster risk reduction action on the ground - although even one casualty is one too many," said Dr Johan Stander, WMO Services Director.

Cyclone Freddy developed off the North Australian coast, becoming a named storm on 6 February. It then crossed the entire South Indian Ocean before slamming



4 people have died in Madagascar due to the latest rains, bringing the overall death toll there to 11. Pic- News Ghana

into Madagascar on 21 February, and then Mozambique three days later.

The storm brought heavy rains and flooding over several days before looping back towards the Mozambique Channel, picking up energy from the warm waters along the way, and then moving towards the southwestern coast of Madagascar.

Death, displacement, destruction

Freddy is now moving away from the area but is expected to intensify as it again heads towards Mozambique, according to the latest trajectory, which

warns of heavy rains. The storm could make landfall at the end of the week, although the forecast is still too uncertain.

The UN's humanitarian affairs office, OCHA, on Monday reported that four people have died in Madagascar due to the latest rains, bringing the overall death toll there to 11. More than 3,100 people have been displaced and over 3,300 houses were flooded or destroyed.

Meanwhile, 10 deaths have been reported in Mozambique, which was already experiencing flooding from heavy seasonal rains prior to the storm. The authorities estimate some 1.75 million people have been affected and over 8,000 displaced.

A humanitarian operation is currently underway in the region, with further challenges expected once Freddy makes landfall again.

'Remarkable' and 'rare'

Freddy has set the record for having the highest accumulated cyclone energy (ACE) of any southern hemisphere storm in history, according to the US space agency NASA, referring to the index to measure the total amount of wind energy associated with a tropical cyclone over its lifetime.

WMO continues to keep an eye on whether the storm will become the world's longest lasting tropical cyclone. The current record holder, Hurricane/Typhoon John in the Central Pacific, lasted 31 days in 1994.

Man ordered to pay Rs 10 million to ex-wife for 'unpaid domestic work' in Spain



Ivana Moral's husband was ordered to pay her 204,624.86 euros - in a record divorce settlement which was made public on Thursday. Pic- Daily Mail

A man was ordered by a court in Spain to pay his former wife an amount of 204,624.86 euros (around Rs 10,137,000) as compensation for her two decades of 'unpaid domestic labour' during the time they were married. The hefty divorce settlement was calculated on the basis of the annual minimum wage over the period of the couple's marriage.

The settlement, calculated by judge Laura Ruiz Alaminos, was awarded to the wife Ivana Moral for her 25 years of service in the marriage. The couple got divorced in 2020. The court has also ordered the man to pay a monthly maintenance to the wife, and to the couple's two daughters, aged 20 and 14, reports Hindustan Times.

Sharing her struggles, Moral said she and their daughters were "left with nothing" when the couple

divorced, as quoted by the report. "Clearly this was a case of abuse to be completely excluded financially (by her ex-husband) with nothing left after my marriage ended," Moral said adding that despite giving all her "time, energy, and love" in the family, she and their daughters were left with "nothing".

While getting married, she was asked to sign a 'separation of goods agreement' - allowing the husband to keep his wealth and split their common possessions, she added.

The husband, not named in the suit, reportedly owns a successful gym business and has several luxurious possessions, valued at \$6.4 million as revealed in the court hearing in southern Spain's Velez-Malaga.

Mental health test for US politicians over 75? Ridiculous, says Joe Biden's wife

US first lady Jill Biden responded to Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley's proposal for a mandatory "mental competency test" for politicians over 75 years old. Jill Biden said Nikki Haley's proposal was "ridiculous", reports CNN.

When Jill Biden was asked if her husband Joe Biden, who would turn 82 at his inauguration if he's reelected, would take a mental health test, she said, "We would never even discuss something like that."

Jill Biden said that Joe Biden's recent travel schedule as reflective of his stamina. "How many 30-year-olds could travel to Poland, get on the train? Go nine more hours, go to Ukraine, meet with President (Volodymyr) Zelensky?" Jill Biden said.

Nikki Haley had earlier called for a mental health test for future American presidential candidates. "We'll have term limits for Congress, and mandatory mental competency test for politicians over 75-year-

old," reports Hindustan Times.

US Senator Bernie Sanders also slammed Nikki Haley's proposal saying that it is "absurd" and ageist.

"We are fighting racism, we're fighting sexism, we're fighting homophobia, I think we should also be fighting ageism. Trust people, look at people and say, you know, this person is competent, this person is not competent. There are a lot of 40-year-olds out there who ain't particularly competent," Bernie Sanders said.

Ram Chandra Paudel wins Nepal's Presidential election

Ram Chandra Poudel of Nepali Congress was on Thursday elected as the third president of Nepal.

Poudel, a common candidate of eight-party alliance that included Nepali Congress and the CPN (Maoist Center), received the vote of 214 lawmakers of parliament and 352 provincial assembly members, reports PTI.

"Hearty congratulations to my friend Ram Chandra Poudelji for being elected as the President," Nepali Congress chief Sher Bahadur Deuba tweeted.

The total number of voters for the election of the President is 882, consisting of 332 Members of the Parliament and 550 members of the provincial assemblies of the seven provinces.



Ram Chandra Paudel elected as the new Nepal president. Pic - Siasat

Shaligram, the spokesperson of the Election Commission, said 518 Provincial Assembly members and 313 Members of the Federal Parliament cast their votes in the presidential election.

This is the third presidential election in Nepal since the country became a republic in 2008.

* Contd on page 8



Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Pic - Twitter

'If you come to UK illegally...': Rishi Sunak unveils law to stop Channel migrants

British prime Minister Rishi Sunak Tuesday announced a new plan to put a halt on tens of thousands of migrants reaching the country in small boats across the English Channel - an arm of the Atlantic Ocean that separates Southern England from northern France. Issuing a warning, he said that those who enter UK illegally will not be allowed to claim asylum.

"If you come here illegally, you can't claim asylum. You can't benefit from our modern slavery protections. You can't make spurious human rights claims and you can't stay," Sunak said in a tweet.

"We will detain those who come here illegally and then remove them in weeks, either to their own country if it is safe to do so. Or to a Safe Third Country like Rwanda and once you are removed, you will be banned as you are in America and Australia from ever re-entering our country," he added.

The bill calls for people arriving by boat to be detained for 28 days and then deported, with exceptions only for children, those medically unfit to fly and people at risk of serious harm, and with limited grounds for appeal. Migrants who are victims of human trafficking would be barred from using Britain's modern slavery laws to prevent deportation, reports Hindustan Times.

Britain receives fewer asylum-seekers than some European nations such as Italy, Germany or France. But thousands of migrants from around the world travel to northern France each year in hopes of reaching the U.K., drawn by family ties, the English language or the perceived ease of getting a job.

More than 45,000 people arrived in Britain by boat in 2022, up from 28,000 in 2021 and 8,500 in 2020, news agency AP reported.

China's Xi Jinping says better use of defence resources needed 'to win wars'

China needs to improve its use of defence resources such as technology, supply chain and national reserves "to strengthen its army and win wars", President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday.

Xi is commander-in-chief of China's armed forces and is due to be formally re-elected as president later this week.

Consolidating and improving "integrated strategic capabilities" is a new requirement set by the ruling Communist Party, Xi told representatives of the People's Liberation Army and the military police during the annual session of parliament, reports Reuters.

Wearing a Chinese suit in army green colour, he

5 women with risky pregnancies sue Texas over state's abortion ban

Texas was sued by a group of women with high-risk pregnancies who claim the state's sweeping abortion ban denies them potentially life-saving medical care.

After the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last year, Texas prohibited abortions, except in cases where a woman's life is in jeopardy or there is a risk of "substantial impairment of a major bodily function." But the lawsuit filed Monday night claims doctors often refuse to perform abortions under any circumstance for fear of being second-guessed and subject to career-destroying penalties.

"Abortion bans are hindering or delaying necessary obstetrical care," the lawsuit states. "And, contrary to their stated purpose of furthering life, the bans are exposing pregnant people to risks of death, injury, and illness."

The five women behind the lawsuit are all Texas residents who say they were thrilled to be pregnant but subsequently learned that their fetuses would not survive outside the womb. They describe being turned away from doctors' offices in the state and being forced to travel out



Performing an illegal abortion is a first-degree felony under Texas law. Pic - HT

of state for abortions, despite risks to their own health from delaying care, reports Bloomberg.

Performing an illegal abortion is a first-degree felony under Texas law. Doctors would also face fines of at least \$100,000 and could have their medical license revoked. They could also be subject to civil lawsuits under a state law known as Senate Bill 8, which allows any individual to sue someone for aiding and abetting an illegal abortion. Successful litigants can claim \$10,000 or more in damages.

In Taliban's Afghanistan, broadcaster airs rare all-female panel on Women's Day

Afghan broadcaster Tolo News on Wednesday aired an all-female panel in its studio with an audience of women to mark International Women's Day, a rare broadcast since the Taliban took over and many female journalists left the profession or started working off-air.

A survey by Reporters Without Borders last year found that more than 75% of female journalists had lost their jobs since the Taliban took over as foreign forces withdrew in August 2021, reports Reuters.

With surgical masks covering their faces, the panel of three women and one female moderator on Wednesday evening discussed the topic of the position of women in Islam.

"A woman has rights from an Islamic point of view ... it is her right



A female presenter for Tolo News, Khaterah Ahmadi, works in a newsroom at Tolo TV station in Kabul. Pic - Al Jazeera

to be able to work, to be educated," said journalist Asma Khogyani during the panel.

The Taliban last year restricted most girls from high school, women from university and stopped most Afghan female NGO workers.

Another panelist, former university professor Zakira Nabil said women

would continue to find ways to learn and work.

Due to growing restrictions as well as the country's severe economic crisis, the International Labour Organisation said female employment had fallen 25% last year since mid-2021. It added that more women were turning to self-employed work such as tailoring at home.

The Taliban have said they respect women's rights in accordance with their interpretation of Islamic law and Afghan culture and that authorities have set up a committee to examine perceived issues in order to work towards re-opening girls' schools.



People hold their mobile phones and Chinese flags as military aircraft fly in formation during the military parade marking the 70th founding anniversary of People's Republic of China. Pic - Reuters

reminded the military that it must be led by the party. Xi secured a precedent-breaking third term as party chief last year.

He asked national laboratories to accelerate their research in defence technology so that China would not have to rely on foreign countries.

He also said that industry supply chains must be more resilient and called for more infrastructure building and the setting-up of national reserves for defence purposes.

China is taking an increasingly assertive stance towards the United States and other countries and has never renounced the use of force to take back Taiwan, which rejects Beijing's sovereignty claim over it.

Dr Avinaash Munohur, Politologue

“Le scénario de la rupture est posé depuis un moment... ... c'est à la volonté du peuple de faire exploser le plafond de verre maintenant”



A lors que nous célébrons cette semaine les 55 années de l'indépendance de notre pays, nous avons rencontré le Dr Avinaash Munohur, politologue, pour discuter de l'état actuel de l'économie et de la société mauricienne. Un entretien un peu éloigné de l'actualité mais qui touche à des thèmes profonds, qui animeront les prochaines années à Maurice.

Mauritius Times: On célébrera dans quelques jours le 55e anniversaire de l'indépendance du pays. Ces commentaires proviennent d'un auteur anonyme: 'Nous vivons dans un pays merveilleux où nous pouvons jouir de nombreuses opportunités et libertés, envers lesquelles nous manquons souvent d'égards...'. L'auteur résume en quelques mots son appréciation du vécu à Maurice. On pourrait ajouter à cela le fait que le 'vivre ensemble' n'est pas menacé jusqu'ici. Le vrai miracle se trouve là, n'est-ce pas?

Avinaash Munohur: Je vous rejoins sur un point: nous avons trop souvent tendance à penser que tout va mal à Maurice et que l'herbe est plus verte ailleurs. Pour avoir vécu 15 ans à l'étranger et pour travailler dans le domaine du conseil en stratégies politiques de plusieurs pays de la région, je peux vous assurer que les choses ne sont pas aussi compliquées qu'elles auraient pu l'être en réalité... sur papier du moins.

N'oublions pas que nous sommes au milieu d'une crise mondiale où la pandémie a produit un arrêt brusque de l'économie mondiale, ce qui a mis plusieurs pays à genou. Nous avons plutôt bien traversé cette crise et nos différents secteurs d'activité reprennent avec force et vigueur.

Mais ne sous-estimons pas non plus que l'inflation mondiale et l'incertitude actuelle dans un certain nombre de domaines font que les choses sont très compliquées pour beaucoup de Mauriciens. Et à part les statistiques de la reprise économique, qui sont très encourageants, nous

devons également regarder la réalité sociale qui n'est pas du tout simple pour les ménages des classes ouvrières et des classes moyennes. Le problème de la cherté de la vie n'est d'ailleurs qu'un aspect des crises plus élargies et plus profondes de la vie quotidienne.

Après 55 ans d'indépendance, il faut regarder la réalité en face et voir que le contrat social qui a conduit les affaires du pays depuis 1968 et qui est articulé autour d'un consensus entre l'État et le secteur privé — où le premier est chargé d'ouvrir les horizons de capitalisations pour le second qui, à son tour, est taxé afin de financer notre modèle social — est aujourd'hui essoufflé.

J'entends souvent les gens faire des commentaires du type «Qu'a-t-on fait depuis plus de 50 ans?» ou pire encore «C'était mieux avant l'indépendance!» Les gens qui pensent cela sont ou bien de mauvaise foi, ou bien atteint d'une forme de folie que seul Sigmund Freud pourrait analyser, surtout pour ceux qui pensent que le système colo-

“J'entends souvent les gens faire des commentaires du type «Qu'a-t-on fait depuis plus de 50 ans?» ou pire encore «C'était mieux avant l'indépendance!» Les gens qui pensent cela sont ou bien de mauvaise foi, ou bien atteint d'une forme de folie que seul Sigmund Freud pourrait analyser...”

nial offrait plus d'opportunités pour les Mauriciens que le système postindépendance.

* «C'est bien mieux après l'indépendance», dites-vous?

Les acquis socio-économiques de Maurice depuis 55 ans sont absolument fabuleux au regard de la situation très compliquée de la fin des années 60. Et ce que les générations précédentes ont construit depuis ces cinq décennies a défié toutes les prédictions de l'époque de l'indépendance — à commencer par celles du Prix Nobel d'économie James Edward Mead. On prédisait que Maurice deviendrait un «overcrowded barracoon»; nous sommes devenus une puissance économique régionale.

Et c'est à la force du travail, du sacrifice, de l'abnégation, de l'épargne, du respect des autres et de la compassion collective que nous avons réussi à déjouer tous les pronostics de l'époque. Ces valeurs sont le cœur même de la réussite mauricienne et ce sont elles que nous devons célébrer et valoriser aujourd'hui.

Il faudrait rajouter que les gouvernements qui se sont succédé depuis 1968 ont aussi compris une chose fondamentale: la paix sociale à Maurice se trouve dans le progrès économique pour tous.

C'est le partage équitable de la croissance économique qui permet à notre vivre-ensemble de prospérer et de perdurer, malgré les épreuves.

C'est la croissance économique qui a permis les grands acquis sociaux comme l'éducation gratuite, la santé universelle gratuite et le système de la pension universelle.

C'est elle qui a sorti la majorité des Mauriciens de la misère noire pour en faire une classe moyenne puissante, laquelle a présidé au destin national ces dernières décennies.

Or, c'est peut-être justement cela aujourd'hui qu'il faut remettre en question. Il est clair que le monde a changé. La mondialisation est dans une phase d'intenses transformations, et les certitudes économiques du passé qui ont permis un développement soutenu de notre pays se sont transformées en questionnements incertains quant à l'avenir.

Nous voyons apparaître d'autres formes d'inégalités, d'autres formes d'exclusions aussi, en plus de celles qui sont historiquement structurelles. Et cette incertitude en l'avenir se retrouve dans ce qu'il conviendrait de nommer la crise des institutions et aussi dans les inégalités économiques actuelles, qui résultent en réalité tout autant d'un affaiblissement des compétences et des visions politico-économiques, que de l'impossibilité de faire évoluer notre modèle de développement et notre modèle social.

* Justement, l'autre face de la médaille, c'est l'appauvrissement croissant de nos concitoyens au bas de l'échelle et de la classe moyenne qui se poursuit depuis quelques années déjà - même un 'Senior Counsel' disait récemment ressentir les effets de la cherté de la vie. De l'autre côté, il y a les profits records des grosses entreprises pendant et dans le sillage de la pandémie. Contraste terrible?

Comme je l'ai indiqué tout à l'heure, le lien organique entre l'État et le secteur privé — entre les institutions et l'économie — qui a présidé à 55 années de croissance constante s'essouffle et s'érode. Ce fait est indéniable aujourd'hui et ne date pas d'hier en réalité. Cela fait un moment déjà que les fondamentaux de notre économie ne servent plus les fonctions sociales qui doivent être les leurs.

Il y a plusieurs raisons à cela, à commencer par le fait que nous soyons beaucoup trop dépendants de l'investissement et des flux de capitaux étrangers. Aujourd'hui, les FDI sont le sérum qui permet à l'économie mauricienne de tenir le cap, et à l'État de continuer à financer le modèle social.

☞ Suite en page 10

«Si l'on étudie l'histoire des mafias, nous constatons que la mafia a toujours besoin de l'État pour exister, et elle procède par infiltration tentaculaire»



«Aujourd'hui, les FDI sont le sérum qui permet à l'économie mauricienne de tenir le cap, et à l'État de continuer à financer le modèle social. Les trois piliers de notre économie – le tourisme, l'immobilier et le secteur financier – sont aujourd'hui entièrement dépendants des flux de capitaux étrangers et sont en train de redessiner une carte des gagnants et des perdants du jeu économique...»

☞ Suite de la page 9

Les trois piliers de notre économie – le tourisme, l'immobilier et le secteur financier – sont aujourd'hui entièrement dépendants des flux de capitaux étrangers et sont en train de redessiner une carte des gagnants et des perdants du jeu économique qui n'annonce rien de bon pour la majorité des Mauriciens.

D'une certaine manière, l'inflation actuelle n'est presque pas le problème majeur du moment. Je ne sous-estime en aucun cas l'impact de l'inflation mondiale sur le pouvoir d'achat des ménages: nous sommes dans une situation qui est en train de faire basculer énormément de Mauriciens dans une précarité inquiétante.

Cela étant dit, nous sortirons de cette inflation petit à petit, et la reprise économique permettra une stabilisation économique mais à quel prix pour les classes ouvrières et les classes moyennes? Ce sont elles qui sont aujourd'hui les premières victimes d'un système économique où la distance entre les gagnants et les perdants continuera de grandir.

*** Les questions politiques fondamentales à se poser donc: quelles politiques économiques permettront de corriger cet écart? Quelles politiques sociales permettront à la mobilité sociale de fonctionner de manière différente et sur de nouvelles bases? Votre opinion?**

Les réponses à ces questions ne sont pas simples du tout en réalité. Renverser la tendance actuelle demande une créativité et un courage que nos responsables politiques n'ont pas encore démontré à ce jour.

«Les responsables politiques préfèrent ouvrir les portes de l'immigration au travail à des étrangers et caser un maximum de Mauriciens dans la fonction publique... Ce qui à son tour crée d'autres problèmes, comme celui de l'alourdissement de la bureaucratie, ce qui freine la productivité et le fait d'utiliser la fonction publique comme un outil politique pour sécuriser des votes...»

Par exemple, c'est l'éducation qui a historiquement été le moteur de la mobilité sociale à Maurice. Or il suffit de lire les audits de la Higher Education Commission pour se rendre compte que les choses ne sont pas radieuses au niveau de nos institutions tertiaires et que le problème du «mismatch» entre les formations dispensées et la demande réelle des industries et des entreprises ne fait que croître, ce qui force les entreprises à recourir à la main-d'œuvre étrangère.

Rajoutez à cela le problème de la fuite des cerveaux et du vieillissement de la population, vous vous rendez compte rapidement que l'équation est extrêmement complexe. C'est tellement complexe en réalité que les responsables politiques préfèrent ouvrir les portes de l'immigration au travail à

des étrangers et caser un maximum de Mauriciens dans la fonction publique... Ce qui à son tour crée d'autres problèmes, comme celui de l'alourdissement de la bureaucratie, ce qui freine la productivité et le fait d'utiliser la fonction publique comme un outil politique pour sécuriser des votes. Comment parler de méritocratie et de démocratisation de l'économie dans ce cas de figure?

*** Par ailleurs, il y a aussi la question du financement politique par des lobbies puissants opérant dans le monde des affaires, ce qui est connu et même toléré par les politiques. Sommes-nous aujourd'hui arrivés au point où ces lobbies sont tellement puissants qu'ils sont capables de dicter aux politiciens les politiques économiques à mettre en place afin de sauvegarder leurs intérêts ?**

Comme je le disais plus tôt, il existe un lien organique entre les acteurs politiques et les acteurs de l'économie. Ceci n'est pas propre à Maurice, puisque les politiques – à travers le monde – ont besoin des industries et des entreprises pour répondre aux attentes ou «deliver» sur leurs promesses de croissance, de plein emploi, de financement du modèle social, etc.

Et en retour, les grosses entreprises ont besoin des politiques pour négocier l'ouverture d'autres horizons de capitalisation ou pour venir les sauver en renflouant leurs caisses avec l'argent des contribuables – comme c'est le cas avec la Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC).

Ce lien organique est l'essence même du modèle économique actuel. Mais la réalité c'est que, sans croissance économique, il n'est pas possible de financer le progrès social. Les marxistes vous diront que c'est là le cercle vicieux du capitalisme et que nous devons le briser afin d'émanciper les ouvriers et permettre une égalité économique de fait pour toute la société. Sur le papier c'est beau, mais l'histoire politique démontre abondamment ce qu'ont produit les économies planifiées: la famine et les goulags. En d'autres termes: la misère et le totalitarisme.

Maurice est née dans le libéralisme économique. Donc, la liberté d'entreprendre fait partie de l'ADN des Mauriciens. À partir de là, il me semble que les problèmes politiques s'articulent fondamentalement autour de l'accès

à l'économie. Et c'est là qu'il y a tout un ensemble de questions à se poser, à commencer par le sens à donner aujourd'hui à la notion de mobilité sociale.

*** Les citoyens et la société tireront-ils profit d'une telle redéfinition?**

Pour moi, la mobilité sociale, c'est une certaine manière de faire fonctionner l'économie afin que chaque citoyen mauricien puisse avoir des chances plus ou moins égales d'entrer dans le jeu économique. Je dis bien «plus ou moins égales» parce que je suis réaliste et je sais pertinemment qu'un enfant issu d'un milieu ouvrier n'aura pas les mêmes opportunités qu'un enfant issu de la classe moyenne supérieure.

Mais, justement, c'est là que l'État se doit de pouvoir faire fonctionner les mécanismes de la rectification des injustices de départ. Ces mesures de rectification, elles, doivent permettre la création d'opportunités pour tous. L'école a un rôle immense à jouer pour atteindre cet objectif de la production de l'égalité des chances, et la production de la cohésion sociale.

«Il faut comprendre comment sont réparties les parts du gâteau politico-économique à Maurice. Nous parlons volontiers des dynasties politiques qui ont un monopole sur l'espace politique, mais nous ne parlons jamais des dynasties de l'économie qui ont, elles, un monopole sur l'espace économique. Comment donc empêcher cette tendance aux monopoles – politiques et économiques d'ailleurs —? Il y a là tout un domaine de réflexion à produire...»

Cependant le système éducatif doit être réformée. Les nouvelles technologies et l'évolution des savoir-faire sont en train de transformer la notion même de travail, avec l'émergence de nouveaux métiers. Il est impératif que l'école s'adapte à ces nouvelles données.

Mais cela ne suffit pas. Il faut également comprendre comment sont réparties les parts du gâteau politico-économique à Maurice. Nous parlons volontiers des dynasties politiques qui ont un monopole sur l'espace politique, mais nous ne parlons jamais des dynasties de l'économie qui ont, elles, un monopole sur l'espace économique. Comment donc empêcher cette tendance aux monopoles – politiques et économiques d'ailleurs —? Il y a là tout un domaine de réflexion à produire, et des réflexions qui sont essentielles si nous voulons vraiment redonner du sens aux notions de démocratisation de l'économie, de mobilité sociale et d'égalité des chances.

*** Comment interprétez-vous, dans le contexte de ce que vous décrivez, l'émergence de plus en plus visible et claire d'une économie parallèle? Certains n'ont pas hésité à utiliser le terme de 'narco-state' pour décrire la situation actuelle... Ce n'est sans doute pas le cas dans les faits, non?**

Le terme de narco-État est effectivement tiré par les cheveux, mais il décrit une tendance. Et le Premier ministre affirme lui-même que cette tendance est vraie: celle de l'infiltration des institutions par les intérêts des mafias.

☞ Suite en page 11

'Au cas où une alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD-Autres remporte les élections, il ne faudra pas sous-estimer à quel point les problèmes seront compliqués à gérer'

☞ Suite de la page 10

Est-ce que nous sommes dans une situation où l'appareil d'État a été capturé et orienté vers les intérêts financiers des mafias? Non, nous ne sommes pas dans l'hypothèse d'un État dans l'État, comme ce qu'ont pu construire la Cosa Nostra en Italie, Pablo Escobar en Colombie ou El Chapo au Mexique.

Cela étant dit, est-ce que la tendance de vouloir capter les appareils de l'État pour les détourner dans le sens des intérêts de la mafia est néanmoins présente? Oui, à en croire le PM.

* Cependant avec une différence de degré?

En fait, nous ne parlons pas ici de différence de degré, mais de différence de nature. Si l'on étudie l'histoire des mafias, nous constatons deux choses : la première c'est que la mafia a toujours besoin de l'État pour exister, et la seconde c'est que la mafia procède par infiltration tentaculaire, c'est d'ailleurs pour cela qu'on la nomme «la pieuvre».

En effet, le propre de la mafia est justement d'opérer dans une sphère parallèle de la sphère officielle de l'État. Mais elle a besoin de l'État pour pouvoir faire cela. Ou bien plutôt, elle a besoin d'infiltrer certaines institutions afin de s'assurer que l'on ne s'intéresse pas à ses activités. Cette infiltration se fait généralement par la corruption et les jeux d'influence.

Pour parler d'un cas précis qui est d'actualité en ce moment, dans le cas de Franklin, il me semble que nous sommes dans une situation qui rappelle bien plus le personnage de Frank Lucas – qui a d'ailleurs été immortalisé par l'acteur Denzel Washington dans le film «American Gangster» — que celui de Pablo Escobar. Ce dernier avait une emprise très particulière sur l'État colombien, venant le concurrencer directement dans des formes d'occupation territoriale qui mettaient à mal la souveraineté même du territoire colombien. Ainsi, Escobar avait des milices pouvant concurrencer la force de frappe de la police – ce qui explique d'ailleurs que ce soit l'armée et non la police qui a réussi à le défaire.

Frank Lucas est un personnage différent, il opérait par infiltration justement. Les choses se passaient à des niveaux parfois microscopiques, et la corruption allait du policier de quartier jusqu'aux élus de la ville de New York. Tout était fait pour permettre l'émergence d'une économie et d'un marché parallèles afin que Lucas puisse développer son business ou ses affaires.

Cette différence n'est pas du tout anodine. Dans le cas d'Escobar, c'est vraiment une situation de narco-État qui concurrence la souveraineté de l'État colombien lui-même. Dans le cas de Frank Lucas, c'est bien plutôt une

“Si l'on étudie l'histoire des mafias, nous constatons deux choses: la première c'est que la mafia a toujours besoin de l'État pour exister, et la seconde c'est que la mafia procède par infiltration tentaculaire... Le propre de la mafia est justement d'opérer dans une sphère parallèle de la sphère officielle de l'État. Mais elle a besoin d'infiltrer certaines institutions afin de s'assurer que l'on ne s'intéresse pas à ses activités. Cette infiltration se fait généralement par la corruption et les jeux d'influence...”



“Le Premier ministre affirme lui-même que cette tendance est vraie: celle de l'infiltration des institutions par les intérêts des mafias. Est-ce que nous sommes dans une situation où l'appareil d'État a été capturé et orienté vers les intérêts financiers des mafias? Non, nous ne sommes pas dans l'hypothèse d'un État dans l'État, comme ce qu'ont pu construire la Cosa Nostra en Italie, Pablo Escobar en Colombie ou El Chapo au Mexique...”

économie parallèle à l'économie légitime où la visée est uniquement celle de faire du business.

C'est extrêmement intéressant de lire les historiens sur Frank Lucas. Cela nous ramène à ce dont on parlait précédemment car ces derniers affirment la chose suivante – je paraphrase: Frank Lucas est le résultat direct de l'exclusion et de la ségrégation des noirs dans l'Amérique des années 60; où ces derniers n'avaient d'autre choix que d'entrer dans l'économie parallèle afin de pouvoir accéder à la richesse puisque toutes les avenues de l'économie légitime étaient bloquées pour eux.

* Connaissons-nous le même problème à Maurice pour expliquer l'émergence de tels trafics illicites ou des mafias? Ou est-ce que ce serait tout simplement une question d'argent facile?

Loin de moi de justifier les actions du personnage en question – je suis même pour la sévérité pénale la plus absolue lorsqu'il s'agit du trafic des narcotiques. Mais il faut se poser ces questions – en brisant les tabous – si nous voulons mieux combattre ces phénomènes. Peut-être que le cas de Franklin démontre justement qu'il y a un immense problème de mobilité sociale pour les Mauriciens issues des classes ouvrières et ceux qui sont en situation d'exclusion. Peut-être que le cas Franklin démontre la direction dans laquelle beaucoup de jeunes risquent de s'engouffrer si rien n'est fait politiquement pour promouvoir l'égalité des chances à Maurice, en démocratisant l'économie.

Soyons honnêtes, nous vivons dans la société du «bling-bling» où l'accumulation de l'argent – quelles qu'en soient les méthodes utilisées – est devenue le symbole de la réussite et du statut social. L'argent permet, symboliquement, de franchir les barrières sociales, et c'est justement ce qui devrait profondément nous interpeller.

Je suis extrêmement prudent ici et j'insiste sur le «peut-être» dans mon analogie entre Franklin et Frank

Lucas. En tout cas, il faut se poser cette question et ne surtout pas mettre de côté la dimension sociologique des problèmes qui favorisent l'émergence des mafias à Maurice.

Il y a des raisons sociales et économiques, tout autant que des raisons politiques, à cette émergence et je laisse aux lecteurs le soin d'approfondir et de nuancer la réflexion sur ce sujet.

* On devine que le chantier est immense. Où commencer et comment s'y prendre? Mais surtout, comment réunir les conditions politiques nécessaire afin de faire bouger les lignes? Il nous semble évident que cela doit passer par des élections. Comment voyez-vous les choses évoluer sur ce front?

À deux ans des élections, l'espace politique devient très intéressant. La tendance à la fragmentation des votes que l'on a pu constater en 2019 continue de croître, et il se pourrait bien que le prochain gouvernement soit élu avec moins de 30% des suffrages. Nous observons ici la logique intrinsèque au système du 'First-Past-The-Post', qui risque d'être poussé à sa limite lors des prochaines élections.

Cette fragmentation est bien évidemment due à la multiplication des nouveaux partis qui grattent dans les bases électorales des partis traditionnels. Toutefois, il y a aussi une autre question à se poser: y a-t-il aujourd'hui une majorité électorale à Maurice? Eh bien, j'avance une hypothèse : la majorité électorale, c'est l'agrégat composé de l'abstention, du vote blanc, du vote «contre» et des indécis. Ce sont eux qui sont aujourd'hui majoritaires, et ils se reconnaissent difficilement dans les projets politiques actuels.

Mais une élection se gagne par les votes, et à partir de là, il me semble que nous sommes en face de deux scénarios qui deviennent de plus en plus clairs, et qui pourraient s'articuler comme suit.

“Y a-t-il aujourd'hui une majorité électorale à Maurice? Eh bien, j'avance une hypothèse: la majorité électorale, c'est l'agrégat composé de l'abstention, du vote blanc, du vote «contre» et des indécis. Ce sont eux qui sont aujourd'hui majoritaires, et ils se reconnaissent difficilement dans les projets politiques actuels...”

- Premièrement, le MSM revient au pouvoir...

Dans ce cas de figure, il me semble que le PTr et le MMM seraient plongés dans une crise totale, pour ne pas dire un effondrement de leurs appareils politiques. Dans le cas du PTr, ce sera la fin de Navin Ramgoolam, mais cette fin ouvrira une lutte intestinale entre les différentes factions du parti. Cette lutte risque de durer très longtemps, ce qui éloignera le PTr de la possibilité de gagner une élection pendant un moment.

Dans le cas du MMM, il sera clair que Paul Bérenger cédera sa place de leader, et il est également clair qu'il n'y a actuellement personne capable d'occuper cet espace dans le Bureau Politique du parti. Steven Obeegadoo a d'ailleurs parfaitement bien senti l'opportunité qui se présente à lui dans ce cas de figure, et c'est pour cela qu'il se positionne avec son rassemblement des anciens du MMM.

☞ Suite en page 12

'Si le MSM revenait au pouvoir, il me semble que le PTr et le MMM seraient plongés dans une crise totale...'

☞ Suite de la page 11

Le point important à saisir ici, c'est que cet effondrement du PTr et du MMM va ouvrir un espace politique extrêmement intéressant, un vacuum même, qui risque de sérieusement éroder le MSM si des gens compétents et sérieux savent se saisir de cette opportunité.

- Deuxièmement, une alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD-Autres remporte les élections...

Il ne faudra pas sous-estimer à quel point les problèmes seront compliqués à gérer pour une telle alliance. La pression de la relance économique et de l'assainissement des institutions sera énorme, et ce gouvernement sera assis sur une «caraille» extrêmement chaude, pour ne pas dire un volcan explosif... De plus, vous ne m'enlèverez pas de l'esprit que Navin Ramgoolam sera tenté de succomber au sentiment de revanche et de destruction du MSM qui doit l'animer depuis son arrestation en 2015 – il n'a du moins donné pour l'instant aucune garantie quant à cette question qu'il est légitime de se poser.

Tout cela se combinera pour produire une instabilité qu'il sera extrêmement difficile de gérer au sein de l'alliance, avec un risque d'implosion au bout de quelques mois. Une telle implosion sera dévastatrice pour la légitimité et le sérieux des partis composant l'alliance ouvrant,



“ Au cas où une alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD-Autres remporte les élections... il ne faudra pas sous-estimer à quel point les problèmes seront compliqués à gérer pour une telle alliance. La pression de la relance économique et de l'assainissement des institutions sera énorme, et ce gouvernement sera assis sur une «caraille» extrêmement chaude...”

encore une fois, un espace politique très intéressant que d'autres devront savoir exploiter.

Ce qui m'interpelle dans les deux scénarios, c'est que le vacuum qui est déjà constitué va être exacerbé. Je ne dis pas que ce vacuum fera naturellement évoluer le système, mais il en porte le potentiel. Et ce sera, encore une fois, à d'autres de savoir l'exploiter et de convaincre les Mauriciens de la validité et du bienfondé de leur projet pour le pays.

Le chantier est immense, mais c'est dans cet espace que tout ce dont nous avons parlé depuis le début de cet

entretien pourra se déployer dans des propositions concrètes et réalisables... surtout que la majorité électorale, telle que je la définis, pourrait bien être rassemblée par cet espace justement, du moment que le projet qui sera proposé tienne la route et réponde aux revendications de progrès, de réformes, d'égalité, de justice et d'équité qui dessinent actuellement les ambitions politiques de l'avenir mauricien.

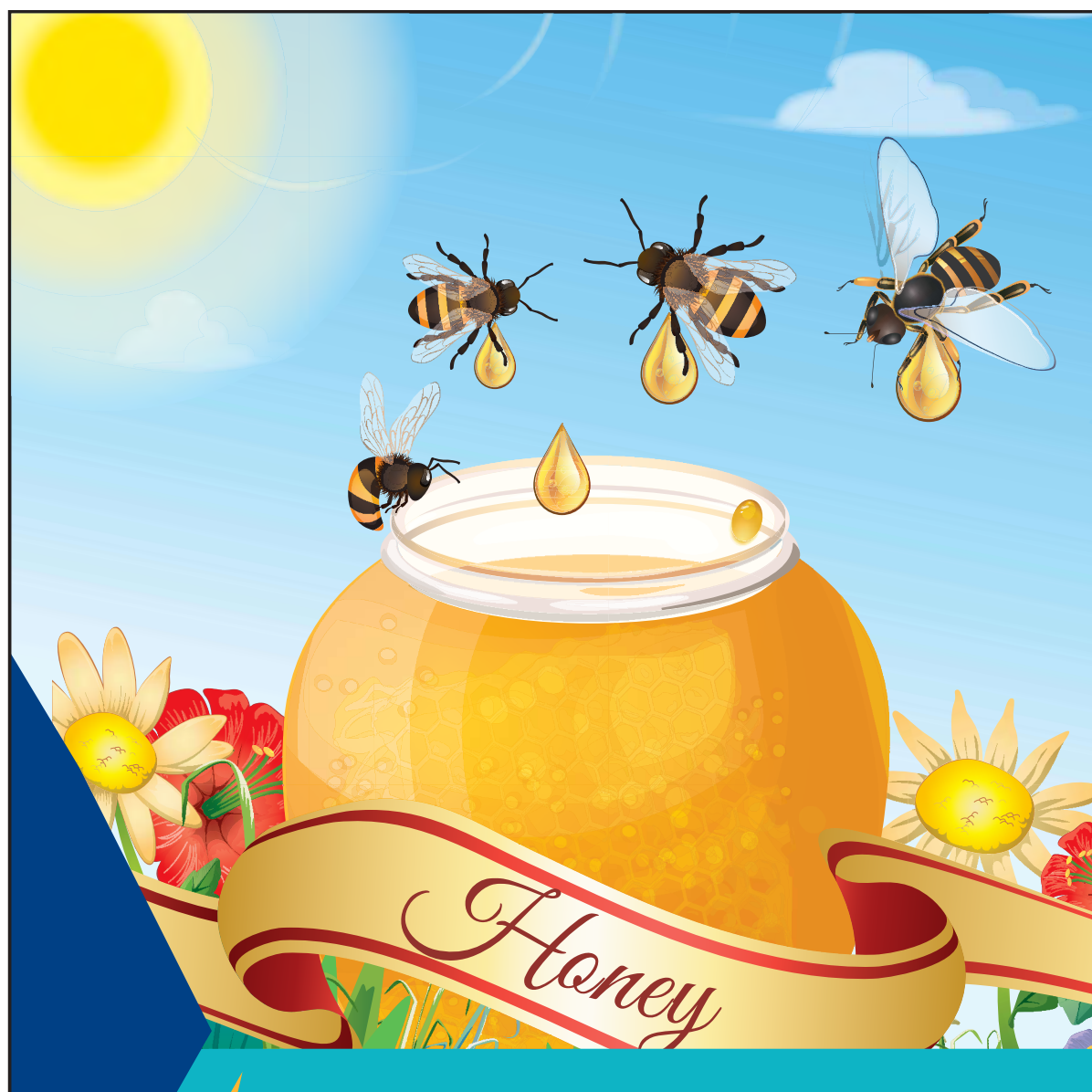
* Après 55 ans d'indépendance nous arrivons donc, enfin, à un point de rupture selon vous?

Le scénario de la rupture est posé depuis un moment, et nous nous acheminons lentement mais sûrement vers elle. C'est aux forces de l'Histoire et à la volonté du peuple de faire exploser le plafond de verre maintenant.

La jeunesse mauricienne doit se rendre compte que le progrès social et économique n'est pas offert sur un plateau, il se conquiert à la force de la lutte politique. Les jeunes doivent également se rendre compte qu'il est indispensable de transformer leurs angoisses, leur anxiété, leur désarroi et leur manque de croyance en leur pays et en leur avenir en une force positive, en un réveil citoyen.

Comment faire cela? En s'engageant pour les autres, en identifiant les problèmes actuels, en s'éduquant sur les transformations du monde et en tentant des propositions politiques. C'est comme cela que l'on développera l'intelligence collective dont nous avons besoin pour faire face aux défis de notre siècle.

Nos aînés ont su le faire dans les années 60 et 70, ce qui a ouvert la séquence des années 80 et 90. C'est maintenant à nous de nous saisir de notre présent. La manière dont nous le ferons écrira les 55 prochaines années de l'Histoire de notre pays.



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• 'Method is the very hinge of business, and there is no method without punctuality.' — Richard Cecil



Jay Narain Roy

The Sugar Industry and The Government

The entire nation is made to sacrifice for the need of the industry, but the nation does not derive corresponding benefits. The lion's share flow into the pockets of the few.

Moreover, Government's readiness to appreciate the point of view of the employer is too patent. When the Government makes the case for a loan or for protective duties or of breaking strikes, it is totally blind to the other side of the picture.

The industry was given a new lease of life under the first English Governor. The series of dinner-parties following the princely compensation for the abolition of slavery shot up production. The connivance of officials at the infringement of slave and immigrant laws and the shabby treatment meted out to labour champions like Jeremie, De Plevitz, Manilal Doctor and Anquetil are part of the history of this land. It is also a known fact that constitutional reforms in this century have come in the wake of labour unrests and that the Constitution of 1948 was only spurred on by the unrests of 1937 and 1943, unrests which claimed human lives including those of a pregnant woman and children as their toll.

While constitutional reforms were being talked of, facilities were being accorded to the industry to strengthen its might and to spread its tentacles deep and wide into the economic life of the country and ultimately to become an all-swallowing ogre. The move for the centralisation of factories and consequential measures were encouraged by the Government on the plea that it was the national industry and that our financial stability and prosperity depended on it.

The same plea was found to be plausible when the need arose to make substantial loans or to set up the Agricultural Bank which provided considerable credit facilities for development. Wishing to ensure the diversified development in the industry, the Imperial Government set up the Rehabilitation, Price Stabilisation and Welfare Funds through a levy on sugar. It was with considerable difficulty that the planters were able to obtain a small fraction of the first fund. The third fund meant exclusively for the welfare of workers have also passed under the thumb of the industry with the result that the bulk has been used either as easy loans for the building of houses of workers on the estates or for the building of housing schemes in places to make labour plentiful to certain estates.

The boom period has also coincided with the establishment of the Cyclone and Drought Insurance, the introduction of new varieties of canes with higher sucrose content, technological progress in agriculture and processing and a long period of respite from serious cyclones. It has naturally also coincided with a long period of stable prices of sugar, guaranteed quotas and market, with the expansion of the Chamber of Agriculture, the Sugar Syndicate, and other paraphernalia of the industry financed through a sugar levy, and which are run practically as private con-



Ox Cart Carrying Sugar Cane in Mauritius - P - vintagemauritius.org

cerns for all purposes. These organisations form the citadel of the industry, and a senior politician is generally selected to be the Syndicate's representative of the industry in London. He keeps his ears close to Whitehall and Westminster for the needs of the magnates.

The industry is a state within a state. It is highly improbable that even a Governor can muster sufficient courage to visit the estates without permission. Such permissions are sought weeks in advance and hundreds of people are employed to tidy up things to appear ideal, and the Governor or any other official are shown what the authorities wish to show. Here is the veritable Iron Curtain about which we often hear so wildly. I have, in an earlier article, dealt with the conditions under which the workers are made to live on the estates. The officers of Government too, like the estate workers, are under the dread of the chimneys. They generally think that they should not touch the estates if they must remain in the good books of their superior officers who may belong to the same section. Quite a few classes of officers do not seem to decline annual presents offered by the estates. So that the law simply does not operate on the estates. Any visit without notice will reveal dozens of contraventions but who, from top to bottom grade of officers, can muster sufficient pluck to bell the cat?

At the top, in the industry, there is an imposing band of lawyers, chartered accountants, secretaries, managers and senior overseers enjoying special privileges. They run the legal, financial and technological aspects of the business, prepare their figures for official consumption and so keep the shareholders humoured. Naturally they have to be kept humoured in turn and that is why the industrial organisation is irrationally too top-heavy. And that is not all. There are far too many blue-eyed boys and girls in sinecure offices, and to this must be added the fearfully staggering lot of middlemen, contractors, brokers and what not that hang round the fringes of the industry, like veritable leeches, sucking and sucking, obviously without any reason but just because they belong to the fraternity.

Take the income of an estate manager: his fat salary plus commission on the total profit plus bonus at the end of the year plus a lump sum at the retirement plus house, furniture, servants, water, electricity, cars, campement, petrol, drivers, vegetable garden, palmiste, camarons, etc. It cannot be an economic income, surely not on the scale of things in Mauritius. All told, he gets more than twice the pay

of the Governor. Compare their qualifications, responsibilities, experience and all that. There is surely something behind it. What is it? In the same industry where the upper categories of emoluments are immorally too high, the lower categories are immorally inhuman.

The Central Board is supposed to adjudicate on the complaints of planters. The miller invariably has an upper hand as they do not only have the entire band of senior technicians from their selection, but they are also said to succeed in influencing the appointment on the board of some planters who are too handy to them. Some such members belonging to no visible organisation are mysteriously appointed year in and year out. It is because the planters have no confidence that they had to import a technician of their own.

What facilities that technician will get and what will the Government do about it, we can easily conjecture basing ourselves on the two hundred years of the history of this country. Nothing has changed, and nothing is likely to change, and I am alarmed to see that advisers of the industry who should know better are gradually bringing things to such a pass that friction and strife must result. How so-called intelligent guys cannot see beyond the tip of their nose or how they are lunatically puffed up in an airy pride is obviously the greatest calamity that history will record.

What conclusions do we draw from the above?

1. That the State has little or no *de facto* jurisdiction over the estates of the sugar industry, and that feudalism has continued in the industry that employs most of the people.
2. That far from having control, the State officials have come to nurture some dread just because of the influence and ramifications of the industry in the services.
3. That the entire nation has been compelled by the Government to sacrifice but the benefits have gone to a few families.
4. That the entire angle of the industrial organisation is to save as much as possible on the back of the workers and planters.
5. That the machinery for adjudication of complaints either of planters or workers is by the very nature of things bound to be ineffective and cannot enlist the confidence of people it is meant to protect.
6. That the organisations and bodies set up from a levy on sugar and weighing upon both planters and workers have virtually become like private concerns to the industry.
7. That the higher stratum of employees and its appendages get not an economic salary but are made to share in the distribution of profits that should otherwise have gone to the Government and the workers.
8. That between the Government of Mauritius and the sugar industry, it is the latter, in conjunction with its banking, commercial and allied operation that really holds the key of the finances of the country.
9. That reduced to this position, the Government of Mauritius has become a spineless, superficial and totally ineffective organisation.

These are indeed the lines of an economic enquiry from abroad if Mauritius can at all claim to be advancing. Otherwise, we should tug the Secretary to Place d'Armes and stop talking of progress.

Health for All - and SSR

1960s: The Premier Dr Seewoosagur Ramgoolam welcomed with pride the arrival of a new batch of young doctors freshly qualified mainly from East and West Europe, and India; he appreciated their willingness to take up immediate employment with the Ministry of Health but was concerned about their reluctance to be posted to the district hospitals serving the rural areas. It was against their own publicly stated resolution "to serve the country" so often expressed by themselves prior to their departure for higher studies, some of them on State Scholarships.

The government's program for an overall upgrading of the health sector through service decentralisation at both general practitioner and specialist levels was jeopardized. The long dangerous drive from town outwards, the lack of appropriate logistics to meet their qualifications, light workload in the outstations, family commitments were issues brought up by the doctors to justify their reluctance. Indeed, many had already migrated from "la campagne" to "la ville". The Ministry maintained its decision and as incentive granted them the ease to bring about the necessary adjustments at their respective sites of work with the prospect of a promotion at administrative level. Again refusal.

The intransigence of the then Minister of Health did not help. Threats to paralyse the health sector through strikes and resignations were made by the doctors. The Premier was anxious, and he established a direct line of communication with the doctors through the Private Parliamentary Secretary (PPS) of the Ministry of Health. The latter was requested to make a discreet survey of the current health situation in the whole island and to report directly to him. It turned out that many of the doctors were doing private practice against payment both at home and in private clinics during their official working hours.

A high percentage of their patients were from the rural low-income group who "were sick because they were poor, became poorer because they were sick and sought treatment". Quality care in private practice differed from that in public sector. Waiting time and waiting list in the MOH were longer than that in the private sector by same practitioners. The rural areas voiced their



Dr Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam

concern about the lack of equity; renewed their request for the long-awaited corrective measures in this essential service. With the support of the PPS, a campaign was initiated to lobby for change.

At the next meeting with the health professionals, SSR asked them:

"Kifair dimoune dans villaz pa bizin gagne specialist dans zotte l'endroit?"

("Why shouldn't villagers not have access to the same specialist care as made available by the government in the urban areas?")

Doctors' reply "Fine apprane dan gran pays grand l'université avec autant difficultés gagne kalifications pa pou travaille dans banne ti l'endroit, ena l'hospital dans dan bois, plitot ferme l'hospital la"

(Doctors' response: "It would be demeaning for us to be working in remote villages after so many years of medical training in prestigious universities in the advanced countries... Better close down that hospital!")

SSR in his soft but firm style reminded them of the Hippocratic Oath and added: *"To bizin donne l'occasion dimoune dans village aussi cone to compétence..."*

(You should be making your competence available

to the village folks as well.")

No challenge to that. The PPS, present at the meeting, said "Goal!" in a low tone and nearly clapped.

The MOH then set up certain rules and regulations for all doctors to abide with among which: all doctors irrespective of their grades, residential address, family status should be posted both in central, in district hospitals and annexed care points on a 2-year rotation basis. Rodrigues and the Outer Islands also had a health coverage program. The privilege of private practice outside normal working hours was officially granted to specialists in scarcity areas.

All health care points from remote dispensaries to main hospitals were upgraded. The "ti lopital dans dans bois" which many wanted to close down was, at the insistence of the PPS and approved by SSR, converted into a national hospital.

Dr Mala Modun-Bissessur
Rose-Hill

Celebrating Independence Day

Ireside in Australia and have been trying to campaign to change the way that Australia observes its national day. Instead of it just being a celebration of Australia, I'm proposing that the morning be set aside for reflection and discussion of the mistakes that Australia has made over the years, and the afternoon a celebration of the positive things that Australia has done as a country.

I believe that this could be a model for how all countries observe their national days. All countries have made mistakes as well as had successes. This would be a more nuanced way of observing the national day and would be a form of insurance against repeating past mistakes.

With Mauritius just about to celebrate its Independence day, I invite the people of the Mauritius to consider this idea for how this day is observed.

Adrian Dow
Australia

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Politicians' health problems are important information for voters

Health struggles are part of the human condition, but politicians often resist revealing full medical records

● Cont. from page 2

There are consequences when politicians – and the media that cover them – aren't transparent.

Precedent for secrecy

History is full of examples of the media covering up politicians' medical problems. That, in turn, exacerbates a common perception that reporters are complicit with politicians in concealing important information from the public.

Traditionally, reporters hate cover-ups but seem to make an exception for health concerns. The media apparently consider it within the bounds of campaign job interviews to ask a politician whom he is having sex with, what type of underwear he wears, how many ex-girlfriends' abortions he paid for and precisely how gay he is.

But reporters practically become snooty, high-brow puritans at the thought of asking a politician whether their health will allow them to show up to work.

Reporters in cahoots

Campaigns and sitting politicians notoriously dodge health questions, as I have documented in my research. Journalists long acted as co-conspirators in allowing politicians to deceive the public about their health.

For example, it had long been an open secret among Capitol Hill reporters that Sen. Dianne Feinstein, now 89 years old, has lost much of her mental sharpness and her memory. Sen. Strom Thurmond did not retire until he was 100 years old, and reporters largely kept his cognitive ailments hidden. Thurmond regularly asked people to repeat themselves, and often spoke in unintelligible sequences of words.

Experiments I have conducted that test the effects of a politician deceptively dodging questions indicate that evasion may backfire, causing voters to focus even more on what a candidate is hiding. Coming clean about health problems may actually bolster the public's confidence more than claiming to have a clean bill of health and then being unable to do the job.

An extreme example of this problem is provided by serial liar Rep. George Santos. Unlike most politicians who lie about their health to sound as if they are impervious to maladies, the New York lawmaker took the opposite approach while campaigning for Congress. Santos listed all sorts of health problems he suffers from: acute chronic bronchitis, a brain tumour, an immunodeficiency, and susceptibility to cancer.

Most of Santos' claims about his life



Despite fact-checking many of Rep. George Santos' assertions, the press didn't check out his claims about his health. David Becker - The Washington Post via Getty Images

other than his health have been fact-checked. After he was elected, the media thoroughly investigated and dispelled his claims ranging from saying he was Jewish to saying he had played college volleyball. But Santos' statements about his own mental or physical abilities seem to have gone unquestioned. Santos was either lying or telling the truth about being unwell.

Either way, the public should have known.

Fit for office

When Fetterman had a stroke in the middle of the hotly contested Pennsylvania race for US Senate, the media seemed to minimize it in their coverage. Vox called it an "asset" because he would bring more attention to disabilities in Congress, and *Slate* said the health struggle was beneficial in helping him raise campaign money. That soft-peddling echoed the Fetterman campaign's own tendency to hide details or release partial truths.

Strokes are common, though, and the public should be educated about them, not given the impression that a stroke is a rare and unmentionable event. Two other sitting US senators had strokes in 2022. It would save lives if the public talked more, not less, about common health conditions such as strokes.

It's also possible that by concealing a health condition from the public, the public – if and when it finds out – will get the message that the condition was hidden because it is a disabling one, when that may not actually be the case.

Fetterman's current hospitalization at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center is for depression, which his chief of staff said Fetterman has experienced "off

and on throughout his life." The announcement of his hospitalization sparked an outpouring of support from colleagues and others. A fellow Democrat, Rep. Susan Wild of Pennsylvania, called him "a courageous leader in sharing the circumstances of his hospitalization with the public."

But because Fetterman did not reveal

his full medical record during the campaign, voters were unaware of the condition that has now landed him in the hospital. Given the support shown after he checked into Walter Reed, it's possible that revealing his depression would not have caused him a loss of voter support on Election Day.

Struggling with mental and physical ailments is part of the human condition. Someone who has depression can still be an effective legislator, but someone who needs to be hospitalized may be restricted from conducting essential functions of their work such as participating in committee hearings and voting on legislation.

It may be time to consider a political candidate's health – their literal, physical fitness for the office – to be fair game for campaign disclosure. Asking politicians whether they have the ability to serve in office should not be off-limits, nor considered evidence of "ableism."

If civil discussions of mental and physical health impairments can be held – rather than treated like stigmas that must be hidden – democracy would be healthier. Voters would have the facts they need to make well-informed decisions about who can best represent them, not just by sharing their views and values, but by actually performing the work associated with holding public office and serving their constituents.

David E. Clementson, University of Georgia

To Our Readers

Subscribe to the Mauritius Times

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

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

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

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

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Reducing total calories may be more effective for weight loss than intermittent fasting

The frequency and size of meals was a stronger determinant of weight loss or gain than the time between first and last meal, according to new research published in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

According to the senior study author Wendy L. Bennett, M.D., an associate professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, although 'time-restricted eating patterns' -- known as intermittent fasting -- are popular, rigorously designed studies have not yet determined whether limiting the total eating window during the day helps to control weight.

This study evaluated the association between time from the first meal to last meal with weight change. Nearly 550 adults (18 years old or older) from three health systems in Maryland and Pennsylvania with electronic health records were enrolled in the study. Participants

had at least one weight and height measurement registered in the two years prior to the study's enrollment period (Feb.-July 2019).

The data analysis found:

Meal timing was not associated with weight change during the six-year follow-up period. This includes the interval from first to last meal, from waking up to eating a first meal, from eating the last meal to going to sleep and total sleep duration.

Total daily number of large meals (estimated at more than 1,000 calories) and medium meals (estimated at 500-1,000 calories) were each associated with increased weight over the six-year follow up, while fewer small meals (estimated at less than 500 calories) was associated with decreasing weight.

The average time from first to last meal was 11.5



hours; average time from wake up to first meal measured 1.6 hours; average time from last meal to sleep was 4 hours; and average sleep duration was calculated at 7.5 hours.

The study did not detect an association meal timing and weight change in a population with a wide range of body weight.

Following healthy lifestyle may reduce risk of long Covid

Women who followed most aspects of a healthy lifestyle, including healthy body weight, not smoking, regular exercise, adequate sleep, high quality diet, and moderate alcohol consumption, had about half the risk of long Covid compared with women without any healthy lifestyle factors, according to a study led by

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

The study appears online February 6, 2023, in JAMA Internal Medicine.

It's estimated that 8-23 million Americans suffer from long Covid, which is defined as having Covid -19 symptoms four weeks or more after initial SARS-CoV-2 infection. Symptoms can include fatigue, fever, and a variety of respiratory, heart, neurological, and digestive symptoms.

The researchers analyzed data from more than 32,000 female nurses in the

Nurses' Health Study II, who reported on lifestyle in 2015 and 2017 and reported history of SARS-CoV-2 infection from April 2020 to November 2021.

During that time, more than 1,900 participants contracted Covid-19. Among these, 44% developed long Covid. Compared to women without any healthy lifestyle factors, those with five or six had 49% lower risk of long Covid. Among the six lifestyle factors, maintaining a healthy body weight and getting adequate sleep (seven to nine hours daily) were the ones most strongly associated with lower risk of

long Covid. The results also showed that, even among women who developed long Covid, those with a healthier pre-infection lifestyle had 30% lower risk of having symptoms that interfered with their daily life.

The authors noted that one possible explanation for the associations they observed is that, based on prior research, an unhealthy lifestyle is associated with increased risk of chronic inflammation and immune dysregulation, which have been linked with increased risk of long Covid.



Will we eventually have to send our trash into space if we run out of room on Earth?

Humans generate a lot of trash, but there are cheaper and safer ways to handle it than loading it on rockets.

Our planet holds a lot of trash. Since the Industrial Revolution, we humans have produced 30 trillion tons of stuff -- from skyscrapers and bridges to clothes and plastic bags. Much of it is still with us in the form of waste.

Globally, people add 350 million tons to this total every day. What's worse, much of the world's garbage is mismanaged -- dumped on land, in waterways and in open dumps in cities and towns. This exposes people to serious health risks. It harms plants and soil, and a lot of waste finds its way into the oceans. Thinking about what a mess we're making can be pretty overwhelming.

Waste in space?

Sending trash into space isn't as off the wall as it might sound. After all, there's a lot of room out there, with no one -- as far as we know today -- to claim it.

Some researchers have suggested sending waste into space. They're mainly thinking about used radioactive fuel rods from nuclear power plants. It's true that nuclear waste will remain extremely hazardous for tens of thousands of years, and humans have done a lousy job so far of disposing of it safely on Earth.



A trash compactor rolls over an active dump site at Pioneer Crossing Landfill in Birdsboro, Pa. Natalie Kolb/MediaNews Group/Reading Eagle via Getty Images

These proposals, though, have never moved forward, for many reasons. One is the risk: What if a rocket carrying tons of highly radioactive waste exploded on takeoff? Another is the cost, which would be vastly higher than the already high price of storing it safely on Earth.

There is also a lot of "space junk" already orbiting the planet, including broken satellites and meteor debris. NASA estimates there are over half a million pieces the size of a marble or larger in Earth's orbit. They travel at high speeds, so they can really damage spacecraft in a collision. It wouldn't be smart to add to this problem.

Here's a much better strategy: Reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfills, incinerators, open dumps on land and

the oceans. Part of that job is up to governments, which set rules on issues like whether to allow single-use plastic bags. But there are many things people can do to reduce waste in their daily lives.

Many Rs

You might be familiar with the "3 Rs of trash": reduce, reuse, recycle. Each step means less waste at the end of the day.

If you want to reduce waste in your life, choose reusable mugs, cutlery or grocery bags instead of single-use plastic items. Many towns and cities have made this the rule.

Some communities also collect organic wastes, like food scraps and yard trimmings, and turn them into compost -- a soil-like material that gardeners and landscapers use as fertilizer. And many gardeners do their own composting at home.

You can reuse by buying secondhand goods and clothes and donating your unwanted but still usable stuff. Freecycle networks make it easy to give away usable items that you don't need and get

different goods in return.

Recycling paper, plastics, glass and aluminum keeps them out of landfills. It also helps to slow climate change, since it can take less energy to make new products from recycled materials. In 2018, nearly one-third of municipal solid waste in the U.S. was either recycled or composted.

Some items, like plastic bags and straws, can be hard to recycle. But aluminum cans, paper, cardboard and certain kinds of plastic are successfully recycled at much higher rates. Knowing what can be recycled where you live, and how to do it, is important -- the rules vary a lot from place to place.

There are more than 3 Rs to act on. You can repair, reclaim and reimagine how you buy and use things.

There's growing discussion about the right to repair -- giving consumers access to information and parts so they can repair their own goods, from electronics to cars. Companies would rather have you buy new replacements, but many people are pushing for rules that make it easier to fix your own stuff.

There are many options for reducing waste before space is the only place left to put it. Once you try some, you'll find it's easier than you think.

Kate O'Neill

Professor of Global Environmental Politics, University of California, Berkeley



Inheritance Money

A woman answered the door of her brothel to find a distinguished looking man in his early fifties standing there.

'How can help you?' she asked.

'I am looking for Annie,' he replied.

'Sir, I have to inform you that Annie is one of the most expensive ladies perhaps you would choose another lady,' said the woman.

But the guy was adamant, 'No, I must see Annie.'

So Annie was summoned and she told the man her fee. Without hesitation, he took out ten \$ 100 notes and gave them to Annie and they went upstairs. After her allotted hour he left.

The next night, the guy was back and again insisted on Annie. The woman was amazed and explained that nobody ever came back for Annie two nights in a row because she was simply too expensive. When Annie appeared, she reminded the man of her fee and no discounts. Again he pulled ten \$ 100 notes from his wallet, handed the money to Annie and followed her upstairs. An hour later he left.

The following night the man was there again, demanding Annie. Nobody at the brothel could believe that he was back for a third successive night but, as before he paid Annie the thousand dollars cash and they went upstairs.

After their session was over, Annie said to him: 'Nobody has ever been with me three nights in a row; where are you from?'

The man replied, 'Houston.'

'Really, I have family in Houston.'

'I know, your dad passed away last month, and I am your sister's attorney. She asked me to give you \$3000 inheritance,' said the guy.



The Timing Issue

A few decades ago, three prisoners were sitting in a Soviet gulag.

One of them asks the two others: "So, what did you do to be put in here?"

The first one answers: "Well, I arrived late at the factory, and so they accused me of slowing down the Revolution and the victory of the Proletariat."

The second one answers: "Well, I arrived early at the factory, and so they accused me of trying to be show up my comrades."

Then they turn to the one who asked the question: "How about you, then?"

"Well, I arrived at the factory right on time, so they accused me of having a watch from the West."

A sex worker was brought into hospital emergency department to undergo surgery for acute appendicitis. The young woman had a green Mohican hairstyle and when she was undressed on the operating table, the theatre staff discovered that she had a tattoo down there reading: 'Keep off the grass.'

After the operation was successfully completed, the surgeon added a small note in the dressing which read: 'Sorry... had to mow the lawn.'



The Politician, the Oil Baron and the Pilot

A politician, an oil baron and their pilot crash in the middle of the ocean. They eventually end up on an island, and the three decide to split up and meet back at the beach at sunset.

When they meet back up, the politician returned with 4 fish, the oil baron found what he needed to build an open fire, and the pilot found a mysteriously sealed bottle. With each man getting their one fish, the politician was going to grab the last fish when the oil baron slapped his hand.

They got into an argument, with the politician believing since he spent all day catching fish, he deserved his extra. The oil baron disagreed and said that he supplied the material needed to cook the fish and so it should be his. The conflict escalated, and as they were about to start a fist fight, the pilot sat back and was nervously rubbing his bottle.

All of a sudden, the bottle's cork flew off, and a huge green genie appeared in front of them, muscular arms crossed in front of him. "You have freed me, weary traveller!" he booms at the pilot. "I was dropped in the middle of the ocean centuries ago, and now, to thank you, I shall give you three wishes, as is custom."

The pilot stopped the genie and asked if instead of giving him three wishes if he could give each of them one, with which the genie generously agreed.

The pilot has thought about this before, and he was going to say his wish, but out of fury, the politician pointed at the oil baron and spit out, "I wish all greedy people like him would disappear!"

The genie laughed, and was going to grant the wish, until the oil baron said, "Well I wish all power-hungry people like HIM disappeared!"

The genie looked concerned, and so asked the pilot for his wish. Thinking for a few minutes, the pilot then tells the genie "I'd like my plane fixed, good as new."

All three look at the pilot, confused by his modest wish. "You can ask for ANYTHING. Why would you only wish for that?" says an astonished politician.

"Well, I was going to wish for world peace," said the pilot, "but you two seemed to have taken care of that."

Who Has the Fastest Dad?

Three kids are talking about their fathers and comparing them.

First kid says: "My dad is the fastest. He's a drag racer and can do a quarter mile in 9.6 seconds."

Second kid says: "That's nothing! My dad is a fighter pilot and regularly breaks the speed of sound."

Third kid says: "My dad is faster than both your dads! He's a Congressman. He finishes work at 4 o'clock but is always home by lunchtime."

The Postcard

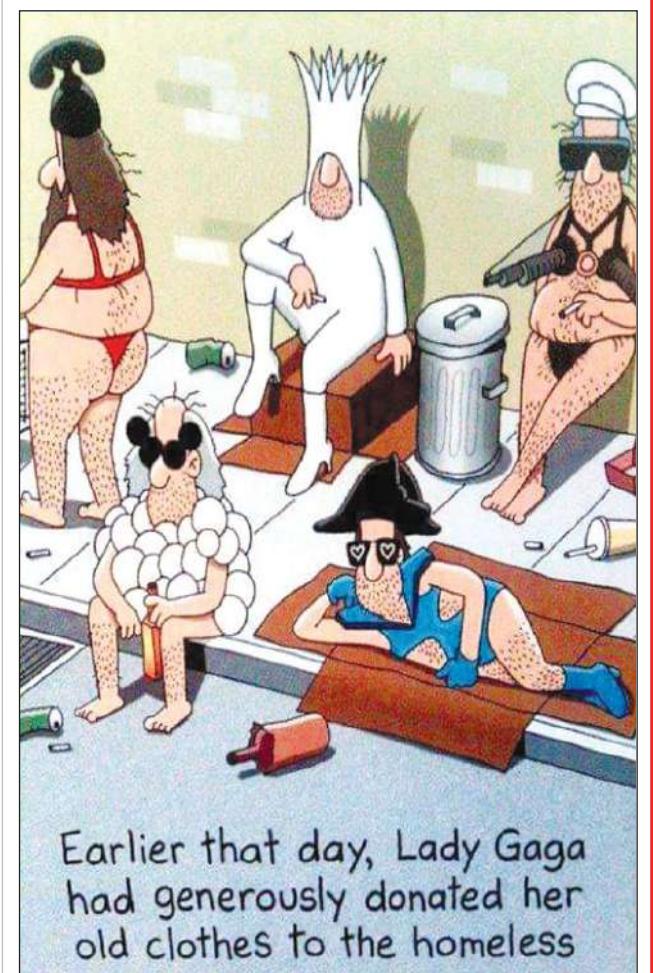
A long time ago, a wealthy man was having an affair with an Italian woman. One night, during one of their rendezvous, she confided in him that she was pregnant.

Not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, he paid her a large sum of money if she would go to Italy to have the child. If she stayed in Italy, he would also provide child support until the child turned 18.

She agreed, though she wondered how he would know when the baby was born. To keep it discrete, he told her to mail him a postcard, and write "Spaghetti" on the back. He would then arrange for child support.

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

"Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later," he said. The wife handed the card over and watched as her husband read the card... then promptly turned white and fainted. Alarmed, she picked up the card on the floor and read aloud: "Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti. Two with meatballs, one without."



Earlier that day, Lady Gaga had generously donated her old clothes to the homeless

10 Tips for Happy Seniors

1. Early in the morning if you are woken up by alarm clock, mobile phone, birds chirping or other noises, be happy and count yourself lucky. It means you still own this world.

2. After waking up, drink some water, text people you know, love and care. Greeting them "Good Morning" means you can think clearly and you are healthy. You can begin a new and beautiful day.

3. You received text messages and calls from friends inviting you to have meals together, play cards and spend times with friends. It means you are friendly and have good relationship with people. Your friends are still thinking of you.

4. Occasionally, some people may speak ill of you or gossip behind your back. It means that you are still a very important person in their heart. They are certainly not doing as well as you in life. You should feel happy and lucky.

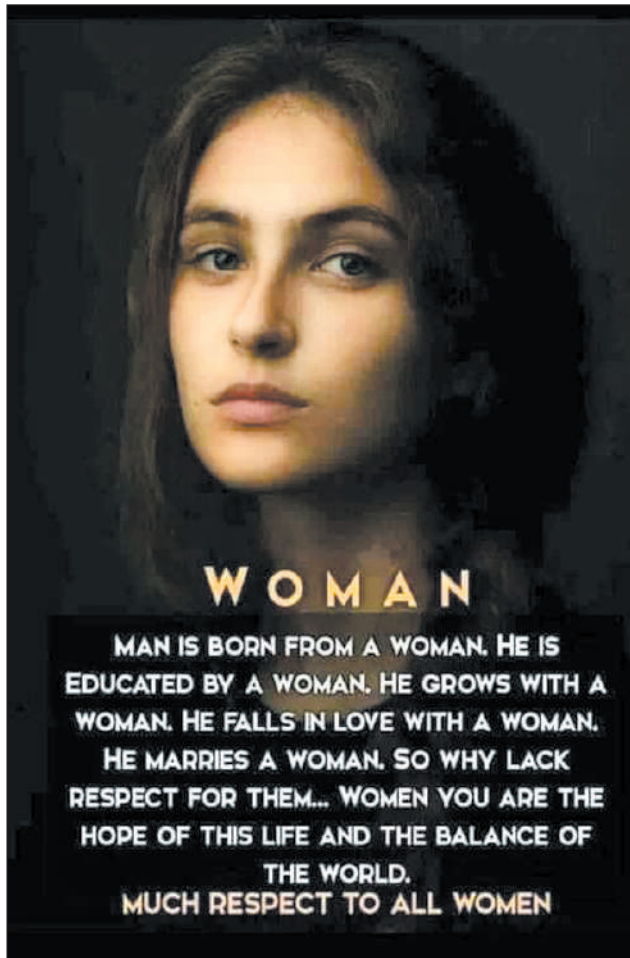
5. If you worry about being overweight, you are eating very well and your meals are sumptuous and full of nutrients. Don't worry. All health talks on healthy living, long life, strong immunity are based on food. Just exercise control and do everything in moderation.

6. If you often go out with friends, eating, chit chatting, travelling, seeing places and have a change in your environment, it proves that you have some standards in your way of life.

7. If you have feelings when looking or talking with opposite sex, don't feel ashamed. It means you are young at heart and you are very healthy.

8. If you have passed 65, be happy and be contented. According to world survey, only 8 out of 100 people live past 65 years old.

9. If you can go out and buy ingredients and cook; you see well; hear well; know how to use mobile phone to



send text messages; write about your memories; write a story; count yourself very lucky. You have a very successful life.

10. If you are reading this text with a smile on your face, you are a very happy, fulfilled and contented person.

That's Life The Elderly

We were born in the 40-50-60s.

We grew up in the 50-60-70s.

We studied in the 60-70-80s.

We were dating in the 70-80-90s.

We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90s.

We venture into the 80-90s.

We stabilize in the 2000s.

We got wiser in the 2010s.

And we are going firmly through 2020.

Turns out we've lived through eight different decades...

Two different centuries...

Two different millennia...

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world, we have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, from handwritten letters to email and WhatsApp.

From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, and then to HD TV.

We went to the video club and now we watch Netflix.

We got to know the first computers, punched cards, diskettes and now we have gigabytes and megabytes in hand on our cell phones or iPad.

We wear shorts throughout our childhood and then long pants, Bermuda shorts, etc.

We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, H1N1 flu and now Covid-19.

We rode skates, tricycles, invented cars, bicycles, mopeds, gasoline or diesel cars and now we ride hybrids or 100% electric.

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had!

They could describe us as 'exennials'; people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analogue childhood and a digital adulthood.

Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life.

It is our generation that has literally adapted to change.

A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be unique.

Time does not stop

Life is a task that we brought ourselves to do at home.

When you look... it's already six in the afternoon; when you look... it's already Friday; when one looks... the month is over, when one looks... the year is over; when one looks... 50, 60 and 70 years have passed!

When you look... we no longer know where our friends are.

When you look... we lost the

love of our life and now, it's too late to go back.

Do not stop doing something you like due to lack of time. Do not stop having someone by your side, because your children will soon not be yours, and you will have to do something with that remaining time, where the only thing that we are going to miss will be the space that can only be enjoyed with the usual friends. That time that, unfortunately, never returns...

The day is today!

We are no longer at an age to postpone anything.

Mon père me disait toujours...

La sincérité d'un mari est connue pendant la maladie de sa femme.

Celle d'une femme est connue lors des difficultés financières du mari.

Le véritable amour des enfants est connu pendant la vieillesse des parents.

La vraie nature des frères et sœurs est connue lors de la distribution de l'héritage.

La sincérité des amis est connue dans les moments difficiles.

Les vrais parents sont connus quand on est loin de son pays, seul ou malade.

Le véritable amour est connu lorsqu'il n'y a aucun moyen d'en tirer profit et un vrai croyant est connu pendant les périodes de difficultés.

En tout, la vie est l'enseignant lui-même. Puisse-nous grandir en sagesse, compréhension et patience.

1. Faites attention à ne pas détester une personne adorable à cause d'une sale rumeur que vous avez entendue à son sujet et qui a été créée par jalousie et envie.

2. Essayez d'apprécier ceux qui bavardent sur vous, ce n'est pas facile pour quelqu'un de laisser ses problèmes et de porter les vôtres sur sa tête.

3. Pardonnez les trahisons, mais soyez prudent avec eux, car la prochaine fois, ils pourraient ne pas vous épargner la vie.

4. Même si vous vous tuez pour certaines personnes, elles continueront de se plaindre que vous n'êtes pas mort de manière appropriée. Faites de votre mieux et laissez le reste, vous ne pouvez pas satisfaire l'être humain.

5. Si vous vous inquiétez toujours de ce que les autres disent de vous, vous ne serez jamais heureux.

6. Lorsque vos bénédictions se rapprochent, vos attaques deviennent plus importantes.

Ne regardez pas la tempête, Dieu est le contrôleur de toutes les choses qu'il a créées, et est à vos côtés, vous êtes un vainqueur.

7. Tout le monde ne peut pas vous aimer, ne perdez pas votre paix face à ceux qui vous détestent.

Ceux qui ont convaincu les gens de vous haïr ne peuvent pas convaincre votre créateur de vous haïr.

Bonne méditation
Hermann Dimitri

Dad with Daughter



Dad with Son



Health

Simple habits to Improve your health right now

You don't have to train for a marathon to reboot your body. These simple habits can make a big difference in your mental and physical well-being.

Eat slowly: This gives your brain the chance to get the signal that you're full, so you're less likely to overeat. And if you take it slow, you're more likely to think about what you're eating and make sensible, healthy choices.

Socialize: It's not about how many people you know or how often you see them. What matters is a real connection with others. It can make you happier, more productive, and less likely to have health problems. So call up a friend, or join a team or club to make some new ones.

Ditch the juice, eat the fruit: If you like orange juice, have an orange instead. Even 100% pure juice loses nutrition when you process it, and it can put a lot of hidden sugar in your diet. On the other



hand, actual fruits are good sources of vitamin C, potassium, fiber, and folic acid. And they're low in fat, sodium, and calories.

Take time off: It's a time when you can bond with family and friends, which is good for your mental and physical health. People who take more vacations live longer and are less likely to have heart disease and other health problems.

Watch the fat: It's not as clear-cut as it sounds. You definitely want to keep an eye on trans fats, which are added to some foods (like frozen pizza and baked goods) to keep them fresh. They've been linked to heart disease. But some fat -- from dairy, whole eggs, fish, avocado, or nuts, for example -- is good for you as part of a balanced diet. And high-fat dairy may even help you lose weight better than low fat. This may be because the fat satisfies your hunger better than other calories.

Manage your stress: We all have stress in our lives. It makes your muscles tense and your heart race. If this happens a lot -- during your daily commute, for example -- and you don't handle it well, it can cause serious health problems, including high blood pressure, ulcers, and heart disease. So take time to breathe, do something that calms you, and try to accept what you cannot change -- like rush-hour traffic.

Cut back on sugar: Most of us get way more of it than we need. It's not just the added calories and the lack of nutritional value: It also can make your blood sugar spike and then crash, and that leaves you tired, hungry, and irritable -- "hangry."

Be active: Exercise is a proven way to improve your health, your mental well-

being, and even your libido. You don't have to sign up for the New York Marathon -- just get your heart rate up for 30 minutes or so a few times a week. Gardening works, and so does a walk around the block. If you can't make it a habit on your own, try to make it social: Join a local sports league or plan regular runs with a friend.

Eat your greens: Kale, spinach, collards, Romaine, arugula, bok choy, broccolini -- make sure you get plenty of these leafy green vegetables. They're chock full of nutrients, low in calories, and have loads of fiber, which fills you up and satisfies your hunger.

Dance: It keeps your mind sharp because it's a skill that involves body movement, and that's especially good for your brain. It's also social and can be lots of fun, which bring health benefits of their own. And you might not even notice that you're exercising!

Get your ZZZs: A lack of sleep can lead to diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and depression. If that's not enough reason to get your ZZZs, it also causes car crashes and other accidents. Adults should get 7 to 9 hours each night.

Reviewed by Melinda Ratini, DO, MS - WebMD

Wellbeing

Making regular lifestyle changes enables you to stay in charge

Living in a fast-paced world exposes us to new daily developments. Each new day ushers in a new fad, some new technology, some advancements, all of which are cumulatively impacting our lives. Considering the sheer amount of influence these new developments hold on our lives and daily activities, it will be foolish to lead a life without making adequate modifications to your lifestyle.

Why is a lifestyle change significant?

A lifestyle change is a simple audit of how you live daily based on the results that you wish to produce in your life. It involves observing the sources that feed your life and making up your daily influences. Additionally, It also consists of checking if these sources' impact gives you desired results.

What areas are the most important for lifestyle changes?

Our goals and aspirations for life are different, and making lifestyle changes has to be in line with the personal results that we desire to achieve. Despite these differences, some crucial areas impact all of our lives irrespective of our desired results. Making modifications to these areas according to the results that you desire will help you keep all other facets of your life in-tune with the goals you have set for them.

Here are some important areas that require lifestyle:

Your Health

Being mindful of your health is very important for improving your results. What do you eat? What do you drink? Are you eating healthy? What physical activities do you engage in to keep your fitness levels up? How long



do you sleep? How about the time you spend on the computer or phone?

Your Money

Yes, you love yourself, but how much more impulsive spending can you attempt before you go broke? Are you spending money on things that serve a purpose or push you more towards your desired results? Money is a tool, and it should never control your life. You must always endeavor to keep your use of money strictly under your control.

Your Relationships

Who do you share your daily experiences with? Are they positively impacting you to achieve your desired results? Or are they taking you farther away from your results? No man can indeed survive on their own, but you must deliberate about the people you allow into your life.

Easy ways to implement lifestyle changes

Checking your lifestyle and making adjustments to push you further towards your goals is a vital skill. For most of us, it is not that we do not know that some aspects of our lifestyle affect our results. However, we ignore them because we are creatures of habit; we fail to implement the changes to improve our lifestyle.

Here are some tips to easily implement lifestyle changes:

Start small

Your life will not turn around when you automatically decide to implement lifestyle changes. What is important is setting yourself on the right path and taking one step at a time. As you go closer to the results that you desire, you'll always have the chance to look back and measure your progress.

Find a community

You need a support system, i.e., people who will encourage you to stick with achieving your results. The truth is making adjustments to your lifestyle may not seem popular. Still, the people you have in your community will keep you going despite the odds.

Set out smaller goals

Yes, you have a big goal, but the only way to achieve it without getting weary is by breaking it down into smaller achievable goals. You can make daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly goals. However, every smaller goal must directly contribute to your bigger goal.



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Ranveer Singh confesses it's Deepika Padukone who keeps him grounded

"She has seen more ups & downs"

Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone are one of the most popular and bankable couples in Bollywood right now. Their fan following is massive and the couple never misses an opportunity to give relationship goals to their fans through social media PDA. Here's a throwback to the time when Ranveer opened up in an interview with Sunil Chhetri and spoke at length about how Deepika is his guide in the industry while also being his pillar of strength.

Ranveer has had a handful of releases in the last two years including *83*, *Jayeshbhai Jordaar* and *Cirkus*. All these big releases couldn't perform at the box office as expected which was a bummer for all the fans out there. But through thick and thin, his wife Deepika has been his biggest cheerleader and has supported him with everything.

In 2020, during an interview with footballer Sunil Chhetri, Ranveer Singh had an insightful discussion about his Bollywood career and his wife Deepika Padukone. "She is dare I say, a more evolved and mature person than I am. She has seen more ups and downs in her career—she is a great guide, pillar for me, she keeps me on track, and I would not have been able to achieve in my career, had it not been for her. It is my 10th year and I met her three years into showbiz, and I have been with her since. Main bhatak jaata. Sometimes I feel that would not be able to cope with the celebrity status had it not been for her. She worries for me, only on account of the fact that I will go to any extent to achieve the desired goal."

Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security Services Staff Union (MAIFSSSU)

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of MAIFSSSU which has been scheduled on 30 March 2023 at 12 hr at the seat of Government Teachers Centre, Quatre Bornes.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome address by the President.
2. Reading and Approval of Minutes of proceeding.
3. Matters Arising.
4. President's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. AOB.

Secretary
10 March 2023

Zeenat Aman: The 1970s Bollywood diva winning Gen Z hearts online

Actor. Mother. Maverick. That's how Zeenat Aman, who captivated Indians in the 1970s with her trailblazing style and unconventional Bollywood roles, described herself on Instagram earlier this month, when she made her debut there.

The 71-year-old has only posted about a dozen times so far - mostly photos of herself with musings on ageing, her eventful career and her pet dog Lily - but her presence has captured people's attention and imagination, reports Zoya Mateen of BBC.

Her first couple of posts were photos shot of her by a young woman photographer in the "comfort of [her] home". Wearing comfortable linen overalls and perched on a stool near a patch of sunlight, Aman ruminated in her caption about how dominant the male gaze was in films and fashion during the 1970s.

"Over the course of my career I have been photographed and filmed by many talented men. A woman's gaze though, is different... No lights, no makeup artist, no hairdresser, no stylist, no assistants. Just a lovely sunny afternoon together," she wrote.

The post has since been shared thousands of times across social media platforms, with Aman being praised for sparking a meaningful conversation in the simplest of ways.

But the most remarkable part about her Instagram debut is that an actor whose most memorable performances occurred four decades ago has managed to connect with a much younger audience almost instantly. Even millennials - who would usually prefer memes, hyperbole and Reels - say they are enjoying her deep, thoughtful captions.

Of course, Aman is no stranger to fame and attention, both good and bad.

She was already a successful model when she started her career in Bollywood in 1971 with small role in a film called *Hulchul*.

That same year, she catapulted to dizzying fame with her performance in the hit film *Hare Rama Hare Krishna*, where she played a naïve, young flower child who is a drug addict.

From blowing smoke rings in crowded, dingy rooms to dancing in scanty tie-dye dresses with hippies, Aman - and the film - transformed women's fashion in the film industry. In the coming years, Aman would continue to be a trendsetter, experimenting with roles far ahead of their



time.

She was not a traditional Bollywood heroine - her unconventional beauty, bold fashion choices and outspoken ways stood out too much. But audiences loved her.

Aman worked with several top actors such as superstar Dev Anand

She was also very self-aware. "In the world of commercial Hindi cinema it is very easy to get stuck with labels. Mind you, women have a very set thing to do - sing songs, look pretty," she told the BBC in 2013.

"Gradually even I got absorbed into the mainstream but towards the second half of my career I did films that had different roles."

She truly did. From Sheetal in *Roti Kapda aur Makaan* (1974), who chooses a suave, rich man over her unemployed boyfriend, to Bharti, a rape survivor on a quest for justice in *Insaf Ka Tarasu* (1980), Aman constantly pushed the boundaries of cinema and also inspired many women to do the same in their lives.

Her most controversial role was in 1978 - *Satyam Shivam Sundaram* sparked a flurry of controversies because of the scanty outfits worn by Aman's character Roopa and an intimate scene between her and the actor Shashi Kapoor.

In one of her Instagram posts, Aman revisited the controversy as she shared a photograph of herself taken during a camera test for the film.

"I was always quite amused by the accusations of obscenity as I did not and do not find anything obscene about the human body... Rupa's sensuality was not the crux of the plot, but a part of it," she wrote.

UNION OF EMPLOYEES OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHER MINISTRIES Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the association which has been scheduled for 7 April 2023 at 12.00 hr at the seat of Government Teachers Centre, Quatre Bornes.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome address by the President.
2. Reading and approval of the last minutes of proceeding.
3. Matters arising.
4. President's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Election of Executive Members and Auditors.
7. AOB.

Note: Members who wish to stand as candidate as Executive Members, are kindly requested to submit **registered letter addressed to the Secretary UEMA C/o Mrs C. Deenoo, Tout Court II Lane, Camp Fouquereaux** at latest 27 March 2023.

Secretary
10 March 2023

Riviere-Du-Rempart District Council Employees Union Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Riviere-Du-Rempart District Council Employees Union will be held on Tuesday 28 March 2023 at 2.00 p.m. at Morc. St Andre Community Centre.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of notes of meeting of last AGM.
2. Matters arising.
3. Finance- Approval of Budget Estimates 2023-2025.
4. President's Report.
5. Amendments to Rules (if any) & Motions.
6. Election/ selection/ reshuffling of office-bearers (if any).
7. AOB.

Yashwant Rai BAHADOOR
Secretary
10 March 2023

Anupamaa**Rupali Ganguly feels her dad's presence on the sets**

Popular television actress Rupali Ganguly recently while interacting with the media revealed that she feels her late father's presence on the sets of the show.

Popular television actress Rupali Ganguly who plays the role of *Anupamaa* in *Anupamaa* show, which has become a household name now, recently revealed to the media that when she walks on the sets she feels her late father's presence. Rupali who lost her father in 2016, said that the *Anupamaa* sets feel like her home as she spends at least 12 hours there. She even said that she loves being there and also thanked everyone, reports Bollywood Life.

The gorgeous actress Rupali called *Anupamaa*'s producer Rajan Shahi a magician, and she feels happy when people recognize her by



her character's name instead of her actual name.

Earlier, in an interview with News18, Rupali Ganguly revealed the secret of how she balances her personal and professional life. She credited her husband and said that he had taken early retirement to take care of their son as she was away for a shoot.

Rupali was even spotted praying at the ancient Mahakaal temple and looked happy as she poured milk on the Shivling.

How Mouni Roy keeps her physical and mental health in check

'It is important to make sure you're available to face life, both physically and mentally'

From television to films, Mouni Roy is a name to reckon with as someone who has carved her niche as an impeccable actor, head-turning fashionista, and relatable social media personality. In her career spanning almost two decades, Mouni has become a household name with her memorable appearances in shows such as *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*, *Devon Ke Dev... Mahadev*, *Naagin*, and, most recently, in the highly acclaimed film, *Brahmastra*.

In a recent interaction with Shreya Agrawal of indianexpress.com, the 37-year-old opened up about her love for travelling, books, fitness, food and more. She also shared how she approaches social media to keep her mental health in check.

We spot you travelling at every next opportunity. Tell us something about your love for travel.

Travel is one of my greatest passions. I love exploring new places, experiencing different cultures and cuisines, and creating memories with my closest friends and family. There is something incredibly liberating about being on the road, and I always feel recharged and rejuvenated after a trip. We're planning to go to Italy this summer and I honestly can't wait; I really do love pizzas!

Talking about love, you recently celebrated your first wedding anniversary. How would you describe the year that went by?

The past year of my marriage with Suraj has been one of the most magical and transformative periods of my life. I am grateful for his love, support, and companionship every day. I feel truly blessed to have Suraj and our two lovely puppies – Theo and Arthur by my side.

Wherever you go, we often notice you carrying your books along. Who are your favourite authors?

Haruki Murakami, Amitav Ghosh, Jane Austen, DH Lawrence, Sylvia Plath, Charles Dickens, the Romantics. They teleport me into their own world.



How would you describe your personal style?

My sense of style is constantly evolving, and I like to experiment with different looks and trends. I believe in dressing up for the occasion and expressing my individuality through my fashion choices. I have a love for traditional Indian wear and love to mix it up with contemporary pieces to create a fusion look.

At the same time, I am not afraid to push boundaries and try new and bold styles. My fashion sense is an extension of my personality and I always strive to look my best and feel confident in what I wear.

Fitness, for me, is to be able to enjoy life to the fullest. It is super important to make sure you're available to face life, both physically and mentally. A good night, meditating, and playing with my dogs are things that keep me sorted. With regard to my workouts, I do some functional training along with some yoga. Nothing beats dancing though.

What does your daily diet look like?

I'm a simple Bengali girl. I love my khichdi and baigunbhaja with some south Indian papadam. I can eat this at any time of the day or night.

Considering how social media has seeped into every aspect of our being, how do you approach it?

I try to keep the phone out of reach – whether it's while eating with my husband, reading a book or watching a movie. It's a simple trick to help keep away from the constant scrolling. I do however admit that I could do better.

YOUR STARS**Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21**

Your boss might have some news for you this week. Performing teamwork with your co-workers might help you attain your professional goals. Avoid talking about opposing opinions and views with your partner, as that might not lead to something good. You might want to spend quality time with them, but try to make sure you don't say controversial statements.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9 12, 16, 30, 32

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your professional prospects might have a strain on them Try to talk peacefully and resolve things with respect and diplomacy. However, try to make sure all your work is up to date. Your romantic prospects appear to be very promising. If you have plans to take things to the next level, doing so today might be opportune.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 5, 20, 29, 30

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Try not to be rude to your co-workers, as it might not end well. If your business is stretching itself thin to run, try resolving the problem as a team, and make the best of what you have gotten. You might experience some normalcy in your love life this week. If you have any unresolved, now is the time to discuss them.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 12, 19, 20, 36, 40

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your business is likely to outperform itself, and you'll witness increased sales. Talking peacefully to your co-workers will help. You might face strains in your love life. Make sure you don't talk rudely to your partner. Try to talk calmly and understand their needs, as this might help you become closer to them.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 12, 19, 20, 24, 30

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

You might get to see a change in the sales and income of your business. Completing your tasks on time might be beneficial for you in the long run. The romantic prospects of Aries appear to be promising. Your partner might be the reason for your happiness and contentment this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 10, 12, 14, 18, 23

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You might get to show your professional excellence in front of your colleagues this week. Work dynamics in your startup might be positive, but try to ensure that your team feels valued and appreciated, as it might boost productivity. Your significant other might have some very wholesome news for you today.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Working diligently and being punctual might inch you closer to an appraisal. You might experience a rough patch in your love life. It is advised that you don't bring up conversations revolving around controversial topics and bad memories. Instead, try to cherish your partner and offer them your love and respect.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 20, 23, 26, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You might experience stability at work. You might also get some news regarding an appraisal if you have been expecting it. Your romantic prospects appear to be very promising. Making sure that your partner feels loved might be good for the future of your relationship.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 11, 15, 17, 22, 23

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

If you have a meeting, try speaking about your team and their hard work, as it might be beneficial for you and your colleagues. Your business might do well, so try to guide your employees positively. Your lover might be harbouring a surprise for you.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 9, 17, 23, 40

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Your business might experience a bump in sales and clientele. Merger and related news might get light shed if you're a partner at your firm. Your romantic prospects appear to be ideal this week. Your partner might crave your affection, so try to spend some quality time with them.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 19, 20, 21, 26, 33

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You might be able to connect on a deeper level with your colleagues. Try to motivate your employees if your business doesn't perform as well as it does usually. You might have luck on your side if you want to ask out your crush for a date this week.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 25, 29, 30, 33

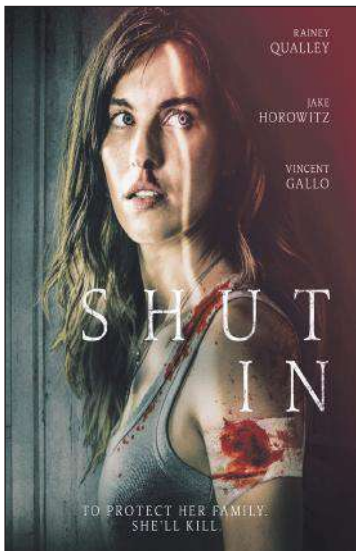
Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You might be able to see new clientele in your business. Talking peacefully to your coworkers might increase friendliness. You might face strains in your love life. Make sure you don't talk rudely to your partner today, as it might not lead in a positive direction. Try to talk calmly and understand their needs.

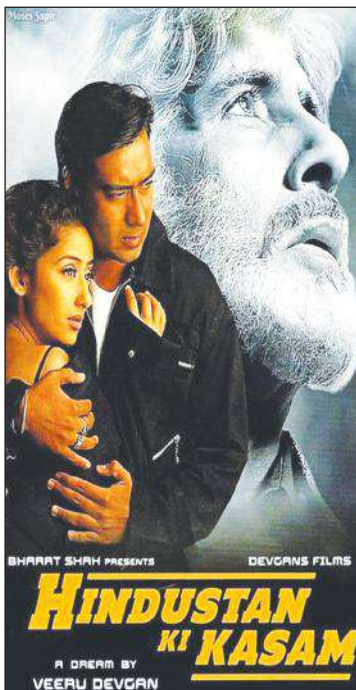
Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 15, 24, 25, 30



Vendredi 10 mars - 21.15



Samedi 11 mars - 21.00



Dimanche 12 mars - 21.52



Programme TV



vendredi 10 mars

MBC 1

07.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
08.00 Local: Profil
08.45 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.10 Tele: Rubi
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Tele: Fierce Angel
13.25 Local: MBC Production
14.35 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
15.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
15.31 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule...
15.52 D.Anime: The Adventure Of...
16.15 D.Anime: Llama Llama
17.04 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little
17.28 Serial: Creeped Out
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Surya Pura
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: Wafa Lazim To Nahin
11.11 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay
12.02 Film: Billa Pandi
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: Mushk
20.44 Local: Anjuman
21.09 Local: Urdu Programme -
22.04 DDI Live

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.51 Doc: Paradis Perdus
08.42 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
09.37 Mag: Saladeria
12.05 Mag: Shift
15.14 Doc: Saladeria
15.19 Doc: Troubled Treasures
17.12 Mag: Eco India
17.38 Mag: Shift
17.52 Doc: Foodland
19.00 Student Support Prog...
20.30 Live: News
20.53 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
21.45 Mag: Sky Eye
22.11 Doc: Nature's Survivors
22.54 Doc: Girls For Future
23.37 Doc: Foodland
23.50 Doc: Will Roots Save the World?
00.22 Mag: World Stories
00.46 Doc: Castless

Cine 12

00.38 Film: Bull Shark
02.51 Film: Torpedo
04.33 Tele: Tour De Babel
06.03 Film: Boyhood
08.45 Serial: Wanted
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: Torpedo
13.31 Tele: Tour De Babel
14.45 Film: Extortion
16.35 Serial: Wanted
17.15 Serial: Madam Secretary
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
18.26 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.34 Serial: Creeped Out
20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
20.30 Serial: F.B.I
21.20 Film: Shut In

Bollywood TV

06.32 Film: Alag
Starring: Akshay Kapoor, Dia Mirza
10.46 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
11.17 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
11.47 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
12.19 / 22.00 - Kismet 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
15.13 Film: Amar Akhbar Anthony
Starring: Vinod Khanna, Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.28 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke...
20.04 Sasural Simar Ka 2

samedi 11 mars

06.00 D.Anime: Akili And Me
06.49 D.Anime: Gon
09.34 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
10.00 Local: Cinema D'Ici
11.01 Local: MBC Production
11.55 Local: 12 Mars: Armoirie
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Local: Les Grands Noms...
12.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
14.55 Local: 12 Mars
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
15.32 D.Anime: Tempete De...
16.29 D.Anime: Trolls: En Avant La...
17.05 D.Anime: Splash And Bubble
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.25 Local: Chantons La Liberte
21.25 Film: Driving By Braille
avec: Tammin Sursok, Ryan Eggold, Steven Bauer

07.00 Film: Saath Saath
Starring: Farooq Shaikh, Deepti Naval, Rakesh Bedi
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: Fool N Final
Stars: Shahid Kapoor, Ayesha Takia, Vivek Oberoi, S. Deol
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: Hindustan Ki Kasam
Starring: Manisha Koirala, Farida Jalal, Prem Chopra
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
09.37 Doc: Nature's Survivors
10.32 Doc: Treasures In The Sand
12.16 Doc: Castles
12.50 Mag: Euromaxx
14.09 Doc: Nature Always Wins
17.30 Mag: Sky Eye
18.08 Doc: World Capitals
18.24 Mag: In Good Shape
19.30 Mag: Check In
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
21.48 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into...
22.13 Doc: The Great Meat Debate
23.22 Doc: A Postcard From...
00.05 Doc: World Capitals
00.09 Doc: The Trillion Tree Plan

01.18 Film: Shut In
02.50 Serial: Billions
03.44 Serial: Blacklist
04.24 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami
05.12 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
06.20 Serial: F.B.I
07.02 Serial: The Inbetween
08.30 Serial: Madam Secretary
09.11 Serial: Blacklist
10.45 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe
12.31 Serial: Galactica
13.30 Serial: Elementary
15.10 Tele: Missing Bride
16.24 Serial: F.B.I
17.02 Film: Liberté Sauvage
18.50 L'agence Tous Risques
19.35 Serial: Creeped Out
20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
20.30 Series: F.B.I
21.15 Film: A Tail Of Love
22.45 Tele: Rubi

04.04 Radha Krishna
04.19 Anupamaa
05.04 Mere Sai
05.32 Kismet 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: Dhol
Starring: Tusshar Kapoor, Sharman Joshi and Kunal Khemu
21.03 Kalari Kids
21.16 Porus
21.39 Naagin Season 4
22.21 Yeh Teri Galiyan

dimanche 12 mars

06.00 D.Anime: Akili And Me
06.24 D.Anime: Fast And Furious
07.41 D.Anime: The Adventures Of Puss In Boots
08.05 Film: Boonie Bears
10.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
10.30 Local: Nu Rasinn
11.30 Live From The State House
12.20 Le Journal
13.00 Tele: Tour De Babel
14.05 Local Prod: Elle
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.35 D.Anime: Denis Et Moi
15.47 D.Anime: The Adventure Of...
16.10 Film: The Boathouse Detectives
17.30 Viv Moris Viv Lindepandans
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Film: 1968

07.00 Film: Karishmaa
11.03 Serial: Azhagu
11.20 Jag Jaanani Maa
Vaishnodevi
11.39 Serial: Surya Pura
12.06 Film: Ekkees Tareekh Shubh Muhurat
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: Tita Tita 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: The Trillion Tree Plan
07.06 Mag: The 77 Percent
07.25 Mag: Check In
09.15 Doc: Skuld
10.52 Doc: A Postcard From...
12.35 Mag: The 77 Percent
13.10 Mag: Check In
13.26 Doc: Volcano Stories
13.52 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
15.03 Doc: Skuld
15.17 Doc: The Great Meat Debate
17.31 Mag: In Good Shape
18.29 Doc: Smoothie Mania
19.06 Mag: Salad Area
19.37 Doc: Fregates Fleuron...
20.30 Live: News (English)
20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
21.49 Doc: A Mediterranean...
22.15 Doc: Happy - Dictatorship
23.00 Doc: A Passion For Helping
23.27 Doc: World Capitals

00.23 Serial: F.B.I
01.18 Film: A Tail Of Love
03.43 Film: Bull Shark
05.05 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana
06.15 Serial: F.B.I
06.57 Serial: Island Doctor
08.33 Serial: Madam Secretary
09.11 Film: Driving By Braille
10.51 Film: Liberté Sauvage
12.45 Serial: Killjoys
13.30 Serial: Elementary
15.35 Tele: Missing Bride
17.05 Serial: F.B.I
17.47 Serial: Killjoys
18.45 Serial: L'incroyable Hulk
19.36 Serial: Creeped Out
20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
20.30 Serial: New Amsterdam
21.15 Serial: Suits
22.00 Film: Get Happy!
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 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
16.08 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
17.33 Live: Samachar
18.38 Film: Firangi
Starring: Kapil Sharma, Ishita Dutta
20.53 Naagin Season 4
21.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
00.09 Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo
02.09 Kundali Bhagya
04.11 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se

lundi 13 mars

06.00 Local: Zafan Nou Zil
07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
07.55 Local: Chantons La Liberte
09.00 Doc: Extreme Climate Events
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 Serial: Creeped Out
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: Trishna
Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Sanjeev Kumar, Rakhee...
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 Manapenne
Starring: Harish Kalyan, Priya Bhavani Shankar

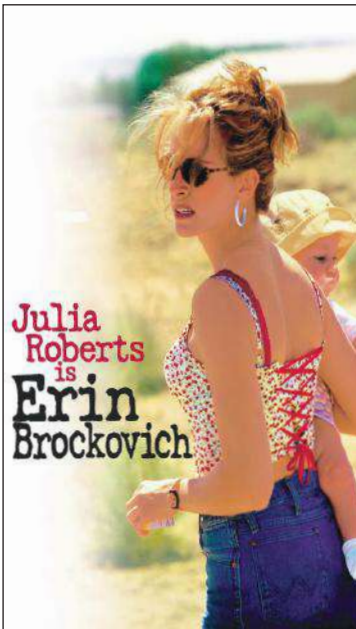
07.00 Mag: Salad Area
07.55 Doc: L'île De Pont De Re
08.55 Doc: Heritages
09.47 Doc: A Mediterranean...
12.02 Mag: Smoothie Mania
14.12 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
15.15 Doc: A Mediterranean...
16.23 Doc: A Passion For Helping
18.00 Mag: Eco At Africa
19.00 Doc: World Heritage
19.33 Mag: In Good Shape
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: Shaking Up The Art...
00.17 Mag: Eco@Africa
00.43 Mag: The 77 Percent
01.14 Mag: Africa 54
01.37 Mag: In Good Shape
02.03 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures

01.24 Film: Open Grave
03.01 Serial: Elementary
03.42 Film: Get Happy!
05.19 Tele: Tour De Babel
06.07 Serial: New Amsterdam
07.31 Film: Breakdown
09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
09.56 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
10.20 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Elementary
11.50 Film: Get Happy!
13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
14.45 Film: Breakdown
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
20.30 Serial: The Inbetween
21.15 Film: The Final Scream

08.00 Taare Zameen Par
11.50 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna
12.20 / 21.00 - Anupamaa
12.50 / 21.30 - Mere Sai
13.22 / 22.00 - Kismet Ki Lakiron
13.46 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.16 / 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: Awara Paagal Deewana
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Sunil Shetty, Aftab Shivdasani
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



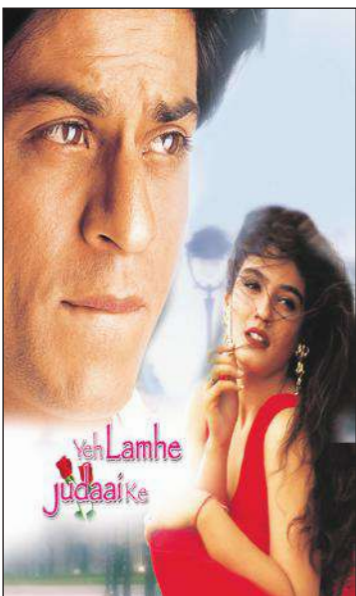
Mardi 14 mars - 21.10



Mercredi 15 mars - 21.15



Jeudi 16 mars - 21.15



Programme TV



mardi 14 mars

MBC 1

07.26 Local: Rodrig Prog
09.15 Local: Agir Ensemble
10.05 Local: Sekirite Larout
11.10 Tele: Rubi
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna...
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 Serial: Creeped Out
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: Erin Brockovich
With: Julia Roberts, Albert Finney, Aaron Eckhart

MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Serial: CID
10.50 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
12.00 Film: Andaz
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: Aap Aye Bahaar Aye
Starring: Rajendra Kumar, Sadhana, Prem Chopra

MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa
07.32 Mag: In Good Shape
08.54 Mag: Saladeria
09.15 Mag: Tomorrow Today
11.16 Mag: Eco@Africa
14.20 Mag: Tomorrow Today
14.49 Mag: Washington Forum
16.46 Mag: Eco@Africa
18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
18.50 Doc: World Heritage
19.31 Mag: Check In
20.02 Doc: La Route De La Soie
20.30 Live: News
20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
20.53 Doc: Cuisine Sauvage
21.46 Mag: Saladeria
22.47 Local: Rodrig-Klip Seleksion
23.52 Mag: The Global Auto...
00.18 Mag: Healthy Living
00.48 Doc: World Heritage
00.53 Mag: Made In Germany

Cine 12

01.37 Film: The Final Scream
03.49 Serial: Island Doctor
05.17 Tele: Tour De Babel
05.59 Serial: The Inbetween
06.47 Film: The Challenger
08.45 Serial: Wanted
09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
10.20 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.00 Serial: Elementary
12.00 Serial: Island Doctor
13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
14.45 Film: The Challenger
16.40 Serial: Wanted
17.20 Serial: The Inbetween
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
18.26 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.37 Serial: Malory Towers
20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
20.30 Seiral: The Inbetween
21.15 Film: The Snowman

Bollywood TV

07.18 Film: Awara Paagal Deewana
12.14 / 20.29 - Radha Krishna
12.44 / 20.57 - Anupamaa
13.14 / 21.27 - Mere Sai
13.46 / 22.07 - Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
14.13 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.42 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes
15.00 / 22.25 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.26 Film: Achanak
Starring Govinda, Manisha Koirala, Farha Naaz, Rahul Roy
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 15 mars

07.00 Local Prod: Profil
07.30 Local: Priorite Sante
08.01 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
09.30 Local: Tous Egaux
10.05 Local: La Societe
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 Serial: Creeped Out
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: Driving By Braille

07.00 DDI Live
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki
12.00 Film: Dil Ne Pukara
14.14 DDI Magazine
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.49 Bommarillu
16.15 Sondha Bandham
16.26 Serial: Rabba Mainu Maaf...
16.53 Saaton Vachanwa Saath...
17.18 Bhakharwadi
17.31 Serial: Kulvadhu
18.00 Serial: Oh! My Sweet Liar!
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
19.59 Programme In Marathi
20.35 Film: Barayan - Marathi Film
Starring Kushal Badrike, Prarthana Behere, Om Bhutkar

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...
06.29 Mag: Healthy Living
07.34 Mag: Check In
08.00 Doc: La Route De La Soie
09.27 Mag: Saladeria
09.58 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
17.57 Mag: Foodland
18.00 Mag: Motorweek
18.26 Mag: Vous Et Nous
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.30 Mag: The Inside Story
20.30 Local: News (English)
20.50 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
21.38 Mag: Saladeria
22.25 Mag: Smoothie Mania
22.18 Mag: Focus On Europe
22.44 Doc: Iran From Above
23.52 Doc: Foodland: Veggie...
00.27 Mag: Vous Et Nous
00.55 Doc: World Heritage
01.26 Mag: The Inside Story
01.52 Doc: Planet Home

00.45 Film: The Snowman
02.48 Serial: Elementary
03.19 Film: Erin Brockovich
05.25 Tele: Tour De Babel
06.13 Serial: The Inbetween
06.55 Film: Encounter
08.30 L'Incrovable Hulk
10.02 Tele: Fierce Angel
11.05 Serial: Elementary
11.30 Film: Erin Brockovich
13.35 Tele: Tour De Babel
14.44 Film: Encounter
16.33 L'Incrovable Hulk
17.15 Serial: The Inbetween
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel
19.37 Serial: Malory Towers
20.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
20.30 Seiral: Madam Secretary
21.15 Film: Repesailles En Arizon
Avec: Audie Murphy, Michael Dante, Ben Cooper, Buster Crabbe

07.41 Film: Achanak
Starring: Govinda, Manisha Koirala, Farha Naaz...
11.27 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna
12.00 / 20.26 - Anupamaa
12.30 / 20.02 - Mere Sai
13.01 / 20.46 - Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
13.26 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
14.01 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes
14.50 / 22.15 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.24 Film: Yeh Lamhe Judaai Ke
Starring: Shah Rukh Khan, Raveena Tandon, Mohnish...
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 16 mars

06.00 Local: Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
06.45 Local: Coin Jardin
07.40 Local: Entrepreneuriat Au...
08.10 Local Prod: Elle
09.55 Mag: National Anthem
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...
16.15 D. Anime: Llama Llama
17.15 Serial: Creeped Out
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
18.56 Local: Tirth Yatra
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Film: Flight
With: Mohit Chaddal, Shita Sharma, Pawan Malhotra

07.00 DDI Live
09.58 Serial: Agnipheera
12.11 Film: Ustadon Ke Ustad
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi
15.45 Serial: Bommarillu
16.02 Serial: Sondha Bandham
16.26 Serial: Rabba Mainu Maaf...
16.41 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna
17.09 Bhakharwadi
17.35 Local: Amrit Vaani
17.45 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
18.00 Serial: Oh! My Sweet Liar!
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
20.59 Film: English Film
22.35 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Motorweek
06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous
06.57 Mag: Arts.21
07.55 Doc: Planet Home
11.26 Mag: Motorweek
12.09 Local: Vous Et Nous
12.37 Doc: World Heritage
12.58 Mag: The Inside Story
13.40 Doc: Planet Home
16.12 Mag: Focus On Europe
17.21 Mag: Motorweek
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.42 Mag: Carnet De Sante
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
00.17 Mag: Shift

01.18 Film: Driving By Braille
03.08 Serial: Elementary
03.49 Film: Repesailles En Arizon
05.23 Tele: Tour De Babel
06.11 Serial: Madam Secretary
06.53 Film: Driving by Braille
08.45 Serial: Chicago PD
09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
10.21 Tele: Fierce Angel
12.00 Film: Repesailles En Arizon
13.30 Tele: Tour De Babel
14.46 Film: Driving By Braille
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: Malory Towers
20.05 Tele: L'envers Du Paradis
20.30 Serial: Madam Secretary
21.15 L'Agence Tous Risques
22.02 Serial: Reef Doctors

06.47 Film: Yeh Lamhe Judaai...
Starring Shah Rukh Khan, Raveena Tandon, Mohnish...
11.14 / 20.26 - Radha Krishna
11.45 / 21.01 - Anupamaa
12.15 / 21.31 - Mere Sai
12.47 / 21.56 - Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
12.43 / 22.20 - Yeh Teri Galiyan
13.13 / 22.52 - Patiala Babes
14.25 - Mag: Highway On My...
15.00 / 21.46 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.24 Film: Teesri Aankh
Starring Sunny Deol, Ameesha Patel, Neha Dhupia
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
18.59 Udaariyaan
19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2



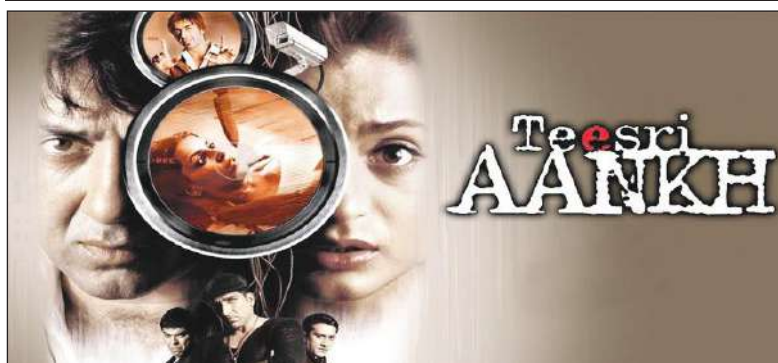
Jeudi 16 mars - 15.30

Stars: Sunny Deol, Ameesha Patel, Neha Dhupia



Jeudi 16 mars - 20.30

Star: Mohit Chaddal, Shita Sharma, Pawan Malhotra



Women in Politics & Independence



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Independence Day in March is a key event at national level, and Women's International Day is undoubtedly of paramount importance to assess the emancipation of women from the shackles of underdevelopment and male overlordship.

Feminists and pen-pushers in the Mauritian press hint at gender-based violence as one of the main scourges undermining society, and for reasons best known to themselves in recent years, browse the internet and pick on mediatized cases in India to illustrate their points on crimes against women. True enough, the biggest democracy in the world does not get hysterical over the dark side of its 'image' projected by feminists and journalists in small countries, and is far too tolerant and mature to utter threats to all and sundry.

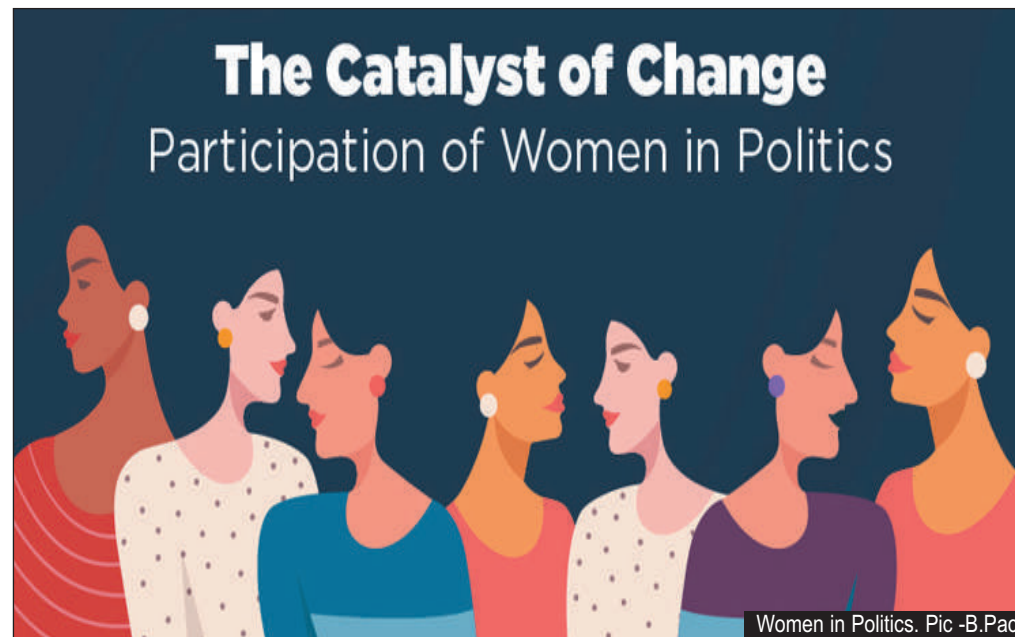
As things stand, several young women lost their lives in horrendous circumstances in crimes committed by husbands and male partners during the last year in Mauritius. Plenty of subject matter to ponder on and assess the causes, an in-depth time-consuming analysis which sociologists and specialists in the behavioural pattern of male-female relationships are certainly working upon.

We should not focus on half-full glasses, should we? Women are doing remarkably well in several areas ranging from aeronautics and medicine to the highest spheres of international finance. A female scientist from an Eastern European country played a pivotal role in the development of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine in the US two years ago. Right now, an Indian-origin woman is posted at the top of the IMF and decides which bankrupt failed state can be bailed out or not in South Asia.

Women in politics

Undeniably, there are too few of them in a highly male-dominated sphere of power struggle across the world. The Prime Ministers of New Zealand and South Korea were lauded for the management of the Covid pandemic in 2020. Rightly so, to some extent, so was the Mauritian government's handling of Covid, by the way. However, the South Korean PM was accused of being involved in a corruption scam. In the long run, the Kiwi PM resigned because on her own admission she felt that she had no more by way of ideas to tackle the various issues facing the country. Breast-feeding in Parliament and the hugging and kissing at tragic events may reap positive image in the media, but it requires much more competence and backbone to lead a country.

The point is that the public should be equally demanding as regards the leader-



ship qualities of both women and men in the efficient and responsible governance of a country's affairs. The core issue cannot be a matter of gender or woke-inspired choice of minorities and all to please populist politicians of all hues and noisy voices rising from the populace on social media. Rishi Sunak was not chosen by his peers because of his handsome face or his foreign origin; he was chosen because he was the only one who could handle the steering wheel of the UK at that time and save the seats of the Tories in the process.

We certainly do not need a doll-like politician like Liz Truss to head the government of Mauritius, only to be finally told off that you do not rule a country with fairy tales or friendly smiles, or media-fabricated close-to-the-people image. We certainly need female politicians like Suella Braverman (though we may not agree with her admiration for the British Empire!), Priti Patel and like-minded counterparts in Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, to name a few, women with a backbone and strong ideas for conducting policies.

Adding female mediocrity to male mediocrity just enhances general mediocracy in Parliament. Giving 30-year-old inexperienced men and women MPs brand new cars with personified plate numbers and drivers is totally insane, indecent and irresponsible. It is an insult to the intelligence of the public and the struggles of more than half of the population to live decently. Some MPs half-listen to whoever is holding the floor, one female MP was seen consulting her mobile phone all the time while the Assembly was in session.

Are we looking at the half-full glass? There were and there still are bright politicians who have been holding key posts in successive governments alongside their less gifted peers. A fairly smart female politician in the pre-2014 team was assigned to secretarial duties and an overall insignificant part by her leader. Conversely, a few years back, a female minister had the backbone to carry out reforms in the field of education,

which former ministers kept dithering about.

All in all, the doom and gloom predicted by a British economist and V.S. Naipaul did not happen. Mauritius is still overcrowded, but had the highest literacy rate at the time of Independence compared to all of Africa. Amid despair, folks harboured hope for the future. Despite being rich in natural resources, post-colonial African countries lagged behind for many reasons: foreign intervention and lobbies in controlling African resources, puppet dictators propped up by former colonial powers, corrupt leaders and low motivation to work for the general welfare of the population.

Lofty ambitions

Progressive post-colonial countries have been led by patriotic leaders with long-term vision for their country and lofty ambitions for the general upliftment of the population. Alas some of them helped themselves along the way with kickbacks and hefty 'commissions' which they thought they deserved as reward for paving the way to economic progress.

Where does Mauritius stand? Should we rather compare with smart islands like Singapore and Hong Kong?

Over several decades Mauritius has changed beyond recognition. The 1999 social unrest led to a more inclusive policy to bring marginalized sections of the public into the mainstream economy. Living conditions have greatly improved for the population. Despite the Covid pandemic and Ukraine war, which have significantly impacted negatively the economy, tourism is now back on the right track and the export industry is picking up.

However the issue of talented young adults in technology, science and engineering not obtaining the right jobs locally appears to be of scant interest to political parties and the media. They are much more engaged in a permanent political campaign, speculating and betting on future political alliances.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Balance

A balanced lifestyle is simply a state of being, in which one has time and energy for obligations and pleasures.

Like pieces of a puzzle, the many different aspects of your being come together to form the person that you are. You work and play, rest and expend energy, commune with your body and soul, exalt in joy, and feel sorrow. Balance is the state that you achieve when all of the aspects of your life and self are in harmony. Your life force flows in a state of equilibrium because nothing feels out of sync. While balance is necessary to have a satisfying, energetic, and joyful life, only you can determine what balance means to you.

Achieving balance requires that you assess what is important to you. The many demands of modern life can push us to make choices that can put us off balance and have a detrimental effect on our habits, relationships, health, and career. In creating a balanced lifestyle, you must ascertain how much time and energy you are willing to devote to the different areas of your life. To do so, imagine that your life is a house made up of many rooms.

Draw this house, give each part of your life its own room, and size each room according to the amount of importance you assign to that aspect of your life. You can include family, solitude, activities that benefit others, healthy eating, indulgences, exercise and working on self. You may discover that certain elements of your life take up an inordinate amount of time, energy, or effort and leave you with few resources to nurture the other aspects of your life. You may want to spend less time on these activities and more on the ones that fulfill you.

A balanced lifestyle is simply a state of being in which one has time and energy for obligations and pleasures, as well as time to live well and in a gratifying way. With its many nuances, balance can be a difficult concept to integrate into your life. Living a balanced existence, however, can help you attain a greater sense of happiness, health, and fulfillment.