

MAURITIUS TIMES

“Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. .” -- Bertrand Russell

Politics & Society

For a Free and Democratic Society



Every citizen must realise that whatever our job or occupation or responsibility, we are the trustees of our democratic order and we should never violate that trust

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‘The public cannot «presume» anyone guilty. This can be done only by a court’



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We don't know the answers to questions and concerns about AI. And because we cannot predict how AI modules will develop, it is futile to worry about something we cannot control

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Clean Politics

It is generally assumed that political financing has been taking place since the days when elections started to be held in the country – as it no doubt would have been the case everywhere else. What is difficult to ascertain are the exact amounts private sector groups have actually offered to political parties. However, the sheer scale of spending that we see during the local political campaigns point to the invisible presence of donors placing heavy bets on their horses. Several high profile politicians from different countries have had their insider dealings with the private sector uncovered. Few of them have been successfully indicted when in power for having taken political bribes in exchange for favours. It is always difficult to prove the link between the financing received and the favourable policy or administrative decisions taken in the context of the so-called “business-friendly” environment. Thus, there aren't a lot of resounding cases involving abuse of office.

What may prove even more difficult to ascertain is the nexus between politics and the world of crime – in our case drug trafficking. Although nothing has been proved so far on the strength of compelling evidence that such a nexus does exist, we have had some snippets from the report of the commission of inquiry chaired by former Judge Lam Shang Leen. Proper investigations would have informed us about the extent to which and how far traffickers might have spread their tentacles in the Mauritian governance structures. Since nothing comes free, the *quid pro quo* in the politics-crime nexus can and will continue to wreak havoc in society - as it did after 1983 when known traffickers were allegedly gaining access to high profile political men.

As far as political financing is concerned, this is an issue that has been debated down the years but no proposal has so far met unanimity across the political spectrum. To a PQ put by MP Mrs Luchman Roy, last Tuesday, as to whether the government proposes to introduce another Political Financing Bill in the Assembly, the Prime Minister stated that his government will be holding consultations on the electoral reform which the Government would wish to bring about, including political

financing, following which a proposal and formula for the financing of political parties will be elaborated. He also added that ‘consultations would be held with the Electoral Supervisory Commission, the Electoral Commissioner and other relevant stakeholders and the Bill would be introduced into the National Assembly in due course’.

As with previous attempts, it is unlikely that the government will be able to marshal the required majority to see its proposals for a comprehensive electoral reform go through, but it is to be hoped that it walks the talk as regards the financing of political parties by the State.

Corruption remains the true basis of the terms of trade in political financing by private and vested interests. This system helps politicians weave a web of unaccountability as regards the financing of their real campaign expenditures and the monies that they pocket for personal purposes. It is not in the public interest that a handful of private companies or drug traffickers finance political campaigns for pecuniary benefits, in the process prompting footloose voters with little or no political conviction to shift their loyalties, and hence electoral outcomes. We can try to mitigate the impact of this scourge by legislating that all political campaign funding should be by the State with spending limits prescribed and scrupulously observed by each candidate at the risk of invalidation of results.

True it is that State financing is not likely to put an end altogether to occult and vested interests' financing. However even if taxpayer's money is involved, the long-run costs to the public would be minimized as policies unrelated to the private interests of private companies or individuals involved in crime can then be adopted. As there is no one-fits-all formula for political financing and control thereof, every country, including Mauritius, must design the system that suits its local context. Specialists in the matter advise that countries should not rely on a single policy tool to try to control money in politics as, according to Andrea Abel van Es, Senior Research Fellow, Electoral Integrity Project at University of Sydney, it has been found that it is more effective to use a balanced mix of regulations fitting each country.

The Conversation

Have you no shame?

Shame plays an important role in political life – or at least it used to



AP Photo/Evan Vucci

Shame controls our lives in many powerful ways. And even though its rules are not written, we expect people to follow their sense of shame as a moral compass. And when it comes to public figures, such as political leaders, we have even greater expectations for their moral standards. Should we worry, then, if political leaders become shameless?

Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau recently apologised for wearing blackface make up at a 2001 party, apparently recognising that he must show a sense of shame for his actions.

But other world leaders don't appear to feel the same sense of obligation. Take US president Donald Trump's derogatory “grab them by the pussies” comments, and British prime minister Boris Johnson's decision to shut down the UK parliament. Even though the former was widely condemned, and the latter was told his actions were downright unlawful, neither apologised. In fact, they doubled down.

While shameful behaviour, defined as a transgression of

accepted social conduct, is part of everyday life, shamelessness is actually a threat to social order. That's because it involves refusing to abide by agreed-upon social rules. Ultimately, by disregarding the values on which we have built our societies, it leads to abuse of power.

A brief history of Western shame

Shame is at once a private and a social emotion. Internally, shame is a sense of our moral compass – an indication of what is appropriate in our interactions with others. But shame is also toxic when used to discipline, to oppress and to exclude others. It seems as though public figures are feeling less and less shame about their own behaviour and more willing than ever to use shame against others.

Since the late 19th century, shame has been regulating behaviour in European societies. As shown in Norbert Elias' influential study, *The Civilizing Process* (1978), institutions across Europe produced educational books, which proposed introducing discipline through shaming rather than physical punishment.

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For a Free and Democratic Society

Every citizen must realise that whatever our job or occupation or responsibility, we are the trustees of our democratic order and we should never violate that trust



Anil Madan

The perception that a general malaise is gripping the country is not very far from reality. For the population, there is no longer a single doubt about the urgent need to address various failings confronting the country. But the big question that remains is: how do we do it? No one has a readymade solution, but there is a vast amount of experience that should be tapped to forge a new direction for a free and democratic society.

The parliamentary system, albeit a restricted one, has been in place since the 1886 elections. Our citizens have assumed that parliamentary government and state institutions will keep on improving with time, but they seem to have suddenly discovered that it was wrong to assume its linear development would be maintained. They have now come face to face with the unsuspected hidden dangers that have burst out in the open and are trying to turn the clock back. They also realize that institutions also decay and perish unless they are revitalized and revived and given a new lease of life.

The statistical expression of the malaise can be easily found in the rising inflation, the depreciation of the rupee, growing indebtedness and balance of payments deficit, unemployment, and poor governance. The recent report of the Director of Audit shows the waste of public resources and public money collected in the form of taxes. The Extended Programme has been such a failure that the authorities are afraid to reveal that about only 2% of the 3000 or so candidates examined have probably attained the necessary level at the examination. Now has been added to the growing list of grievances the (mal) functioning of the parliamentary system and of most of our institutions, and therein may lie the many ills of society.

Political scientists would surely probe the issues affecting our country and reach a different conclusion but reflection and action by society have to start right away pending further action and measures to be taken at a later stage. It has been clear to many social scientists since a long time that our democratic system has been sliding towards a patrimonial system for the benefit of a new corrupt oligarchy, for very often underlying ethical principles have been violated with impunity.

Laws, procedures and conventions

Nevertheless, on balance, barring some weaknesses, the system has worked more or less satisfactorily for a long period of time and several conventions informing it were respected. Those principles and conventions were derived from a long tradition of parliamentary government inherited from the Westminster model. We may have forgotten that a parliamentary system is not merely a series of laws and procedures inscribed in our Constitution. Rather, it is also grounded in a number of conventions that have to be observed and respected if we want the system to operate usefully and efficiently and above all democratically.

It is true that in the past conventions have often been

flouted and 'To hell with Erskine May' had been hurled at the President of the Legislative Council. This is not surprising for it took time to learn and get a good grasp of parliamentary skills; it seems today the learning curve will take a much longer time what with our present political culture or the lack of it. This is evident during most sessions of the National Assembly. Even worse, independent institutions are being disparaged and the principle of the separation of powers is being thrown to the winds while a section of the police force on which the public could rely for protection has fallen low in their eyes.

In the end, many feel that they cannot rely on various institutions to secure a redress of grievances given the way they function. Members of the Assembly cannot engage in a debate that fairly identifies issues and proposes durable solutions because our parliamentarians have been regimented to vote blindly either for or against. Most of them have lost their ability to be critical, creative and innovative and to reach a balanced judgment on the many problems faced by the nation. It is true that we have adopted an adversarial style of parliamentary politics, but this does not mean that members of the National Assembly cannot shed their blinkers when public interest requires it. As a result, questions and complaints are made, but few concrete actions are taken - so much so that Question Time appears to be a futile ritual to most citizens.

One consequence of the parliamentary system being reduced to a mere ritual is that the checks and balances that should act as a brake on the Executive have been weakened. Although all governments must share in the blame for the present situation, nevertheless previous ones had in the past shown restraint in exercising power. Perhaps we failed to realize that not all politicians have a culture of restraint, and some might shockingly go to extremes while still employing the rhetoric of public interest even if they are at the same time feathering their own nests.

Though it is a well-known principle, it needs to be reiterated that parliamentary sovereignty rests on the principle of the sovereignty of the people. Parliamentarians are meant to represent ordinary citizens, whose concerns they voice out through parliamentary questions, to the Executive, ask for clarifications and explanations. In other words, they are supposed to keep the Executive on its toes and make it accountable for their decisions. Parliament does not share power with the Executive but expresses the suspicions and public opinion on any wrongdoing of the Executive and forces it to respond and to



We all have to register our protest in whatever peaceful way we choose. It is very important to do so. Protest is legitimate in a democracy and it is to be encouraged. Pic - Uni of South Florida

“Our citizens have assumed that parliamentary government and state institutions will keep on improving with time, but they seem to have suddenly discovered that it was wrong to assume its linear development would be maintained. They have now come face to face with the unsuspected hidden dangers that have burst out in the open and are trying to turn the clock back. They also realize that institutions also decay and perish unless they are revitalized and revived and given a new lease of life...”

take action, to the extent of even bringing about the revocation of ministers.

Watchdog of the public interest

Any abuse of power and authority by the Executive can encroach on the duties and responsibilities of public officials and public officers. Though there are laws, regulations and procedures which inform the relationship between the Executive and public servants, undermining and subverting this relationship can open the floodgate for poor governance, inefficiency, wastage of resources, and the bullying of public officers to act against the public interest. The public interest is not the same as the private interests of the Executive. But it is Parliament, excluding those who form part of the Executive, which has the role and responsibility as watchdog of the public interest.

On the other hand, civil servants and public officers have been entrusted with the responsibility to implement policies in the public interest. They have been recruited and trained and must abide by the procedures laid down in the Constitution and in other legislations and regulations. Their conditions of service have made their posts permanent to ensure the continuity of the State and their commitment to public service and their independence. They have to collaborate with the government of the day for the implementation of its policies, but they have to follow prescribed rules and procedures.

Civil servants are like the lawyer who provides all the information to his client and then awaits instructions from him to be implemented within well-laid down procedures.

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Le triste spectacle des travaux parlementaires devient ainsi le miroir même de la déchéance du pays.

Travaux parlementaires: spectacle et télé-réalité?

Par A. Bartleby

Avec la rentrée parlementaire, ce sont également les débordements du Speaker qui sont de retour. Et ce dernier n'a pas déçu.

Entre expulsions, 'naming' et prises de bec, Sooroojdev Phokeer commence à vraiment maîtriser les armes à sa disposition afin d'entraver le travail de l'opposition. C'est du moins une perception généralisée. Et il ne s'en fait pas prier.

Ces scènes sont devenues tellement communes qu'elles ne choquent plus personne. Pire même, elles sont devenues la raison pour laquelle beaucoup de gens regardent les sessions parlementaires. Ainsi, on s'est retrouvé dans une situation où on aurait réussi à transformer les travaux de l'Assemblée nationale en un cirque qui répond à la logique du voyeurisme de la télé-réalité, ce que Baudrillard décrivait comme le théâtre de la médiocrité.

La référence à Baudrillard n'est pas ici hasardeuse. Il avait diagnostiqué de manière remarquable ce qu'allait devenir le monde avec la multiplication des écrans, des images, des réseaux sociaux et de la télé-réalité: le miroir de la platitude, de la banalité, de la médiocrité et du degré zéro.

Et c'est exactement ce que nous voyons à l'Assemblée nationale. A l'heure où la télévision et les médias sont de moins en moins capables de rendre compte des événements du monde, nous sommes confrontés à l'effondrement même des standards et des normes sociales et institutionnelles qui permettaient au pays d'avancer.

Le triste spectacle des travaux parlementaires devient ainsi le miroir même de la déchéance du pays. Ce spectacle n'est en rien une exception, mais la confirmation d'un état de fait contre lequel nous n'avons aujourd'hui aucune réponse sérieuse.

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Taiwan, Pékin montre ses muscles

La Chine a immédiatement répondu à la visite de la présidente taïwanaise Tsai Ing-wen aux États-Unis en procédant à un exercice d'encercllement de Taïwan.

Pendant trois jours d'affilée, Pékin a ainsi bouclé les 23 millions d'habitants de l'île taïwanaise, avec notamment un blocus aérien. Les États-Unis ont réagi tout de suite en déployant un destroyer dans des eaux revendiquées par Pékin.

Cette réponse pouvait sembler faible au regard des 12 navires de guerre et 91 avions déployés par l'armée chinoise, mais il est essentiel de ne provoquer aucune escalade dans ce genre de situation.

La réalité est que l'armée chinoise montre de plus en plus ses muscles, notamment dans ses zones économiques exclusives (ZEE) et près de celles qu'elle revendique. (Depuis plusieurs décennies, les îles et atolls de mer de Chine méridionale sont l'objet de revendications de la part de pays riverains qui sont la Chine, le Vietnam, les Philippines, la Malaisie mais aussi l'Indonésie et le sultanat de Brunei.)

Toutefois cette même armée n'a pas les capacités militaires adéquates pour répondre à la puissance de feu de la marine américaine dans la région. Pas encore du moins, et ce, même si la Chine investit énormément dans une augmentation de ses capacités militaires maritimes.



Face à la menace chinoise, Taïwan sur le qui-vive. P - Bloomberg/Getty Images

Et ce bras de fer ne fera que s'accroître avec le temps, la Chine reprochant aux États-Unis d'avoir trop de bases militaires dans la région nord-ouest du Pacifique, ce qui représente une barrière que l'armée chinoise ne peut pas franchir afin d'avoir une assise plus importante et donc un contrôle accru du Pacifique.

Ce qui est certain, c'est que ce genre d'exercice militaire - totalement décomplexé dans le fait de montrer une volonté belliqueuse revendiquée envers d'autres territoires - n'est pas sans rappeler les manœuvres de la Guerre Froide entre les États-Unis et l'Union soviétique.

Le jeu d'échec entre les États-Unis et la Chine ne fait que commencer en réalité, et nous devinons que ce genre de situations va se multiplier. Est-ce qu'elles basculeront vers des conflits ouverts? Seul le temps nous le

dira, mais il est certain que nous entrons de plus en plus dans des formes d'instabilité qui risquent de secouer de plus en plus l'économie mondiale.

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Argentine - l'accaparement des biens communs, la décadence des institutions, les liens mafieux entre politiques et industriels... sont devenus pratique courante. P - L'Echo

L'Argentine au bord du gouffre

Les institutions internationales commencent à tirer la sonnette d'alarme concernant l'économie de l'Argentine. La raison : une inflation qui pourrait dépasser les 100% d'ici quelques semaines.

Cela fait des décennies que l'économie de l'Argentine, la troisième économie d'Amérique latine, derrière le Mexique et le Brésil, se trouve dans une situation compliquée, et ce, malgré le fait que le pays soit riche en ressources. Beaucoup pensaient d'ailleurs que la crise économique de 2001/2002 - où le FMI avait joué un rôle crucial -- allait provoquer le changement de culture politique requis afin de permettre au pays d'adopter une gestion saine de ses finances publiques. Mais il n'en fut rien, et l'Argentine se retrouve aujourd'hui en face d'une situation explosive socialement.

À titre de comparaison, l'Ukraine, pays en guerre depuis plus d'une année, affiche une inflation d'à peu près 25%. Pourquoi donc est-ce qu'un pays en paix et qui a des ressources naturelles abondantes se retrouve dans une telle situation? La réponse est simple: la corruption et la mauvaise gestion publique qui gangrène ses institutions depuis près d'un siècle.

En effet, l'Argentine souffre d'instabilité politique depuis 1930, l'année quand la junte militaire prit le pouvoir politique. Depuis, le pays ne cessa d'alterner une succession de régimes ultra-idéologiques qui ne firent qu'empirer une situation déjà instable. L'accaparement des biens communs, la décadence des institutions, le népotisme, les monopoles économiques, les liens mafieux entre politiques et industriels... sont devenus pratique courante, et participent aujourd'hui entièrement à une situation catastrophique.

Est-ce que cette situation nous servira de leçon à Maurice? Rien n'est moins sûr.

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Une nouvelle dégradation de la note de Maurice nous ferait basculer dans la moitié «junk status»

Notation de Moody's

Les opérateurs du secteur financier sont dans une situation complexe. La juridiction mauricienne se porte très bien depuis la sortie du pays de la liste noire des paradis fiscaux de l'Union européenne, mais une dégradation de la note du pays par Moody's pourrait venir briser la bonne dynamique actuelle.

Moody's avait abaissé la note de Maurice à un Baa3 l'année dernière, ce qui constitue le dernier palier avant d'entrer dans ce que les spécialistes nomment le «junk status», ce qui avait déjà provoqué l'inquiétude des opérateurs de la finance. Mais cette note n'a heureusement pas eu d'impact négatif sur le secteur, ce qui témoigne de la bonne réputation des opérateurs et de la résilience de ce secteur auprès des investisseurs étrangers.

Mais une nouvelle dégradation de la note de Maurice, ce qui nous ferait basculer dans la moitié «junk status» du tableau de Moody's, pourrait avoir un impact significatif. En effet, la note Baa3 représente une capacité acceptable de rembourser la dette publique, ce qui envoie le signal que le pays conserve ses capacités à maintenir son niveau d'endettement sans engager ses actifs nationaux.

Passer dans la catégorie des «junk status» signifierait que, selon Moody's, le pays reculerait sur sa capacité de remboursement de la dette nationale, ce qui pourrait produire des effets dévastateurs sur l'économie nationale et donc sur la stabilité économique et politique du pays.

C'était le cas de la Grèce en 2009. Le pays s'est pris de plein fouet les effets de la crise internationale et a vu son économie plonger dans une crise monumentale à la suite d'une dégradation de sa note. Cela avait provoqué une crise économique qui avait plongé des millions de citoyens grecs dans une pauvreté abjecte, et une crise politique dont les effets se font toujours ressentir.

Maurice n'est pas dans cette situation, mais une dégradation de la note de Moody's pourrait entamer la confiance des investisseurs étrangers quant à la capacité du pays à maintenir la stabilité qui se trouve au cœur de la réputation du pays auprès des marchés financiers. Et une dégradation pourrait ouvrir la voie à un cercle vicieux qui exposerait notre trop grande

dépendance à l'investissement étranger.

Nos gouvernants, depuis plusieurs décennies, ont fait le choix du positionnement de l'économie mauricienne dans la mondialisation financière. Cela a produit une dépendance quasi totale aux 'Foreign Direct Investments', qui sont aujourd'hui le pilier de notre économie. Ce modèle ne pose aucun problème du moment que les institutions du pays fonctionnent comme il le faut. Ce modèle force même les institutions à bien fonctionner puisque, dans le cas échéant, tout peut s'effondrer.

Or, c'est exactement ce qui est en jeu ici. Avec une potentielle dégradation de la note de Maurice, c'est le gouvernement qui sera pointé du doigt, puisque c'est la gestion des institutions et des finances publiques qui sont – au regard de Moody's – en inadéquation avec les standards et les normes imposées par les marchés financiers.

Nous verrons ce que fera Moody's, mais il est clair que nous nous devons de redresser la barre le plus rapidement possible afin de sécuriser un pilier devenu essentiel à l'économie mauricienne.

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Faire son marché coûte plus cher à Maurice que partout ailleurs en Afrique. P- EWN

Comment tirer un bénéfice politique d'une situation de précarité constante ?

Numbeo, un think tank dont les études sur les indexes économiques sont très respectées, vient de publier sa liste des pays africains où il coûte le plus cher de se nourrir. Sans surprise, Maurice figure dans le top 10 et occupe la seconde place du classement, derrière le Sénégal et juste devant la Namibie.

Numbeo place le *Food Price Index* de Maurice à 37.0, le *Groceries Index* à 41.6 et le *Restaurant Index* à 32.3. C'est ce deuxième indicateur, le *Groceries Index*, qui est intéressant puisqu'il est bien supérieur à tous les autres pays du classement. Cela signifie que faire son marché coûte plus cher à Maurice que partout ailleurs en Afrique.

Nous vivons tous l'augmentation constante du coût



de la vie. Entre la nourriture, les factures d'énergie et les loyers, la cherté de la vie devient de plus en plus insupportable à Maurice. Cela est dû à deux choses : l'inflation qui reste constante et le fait d'être trop dépendants des importations. C'est même la conjugaison de ces deux facteurs qui fait que certains ménages se retrouvent dans une situation économique précaire. D'un côté, la roupie continue de perdre de sa valeur et, de l'autre, les importations coûtent de plus en plus chères du fait que la roupie perde de sa valeur.

La BOM a bien tenté de stabiliser la Roupie depuis plus d'une année, avec notamment des injections de devises et le fait d'avoir fait remonter le Repo Rate. Mais ces opérations n'ont fait qu'une chose: ralentir la perte de valeur de la roupie. Elles ne l'ont pas arrêté. Ce ralentissement est éminemment politique en réalité. Une chute soudaine pourrait produire le même effet dévastateur sur le gouvernement actuel qu'ont eu les deux dévaluations du début des années 1980 sur le gouvernement de l'époque, alors qu'un glissement lent et contrôlé peut devenir une arme politique en elle-même.

Comment? Tout simplement en maintenant la majorité des Mauriciens dans une situation de précarité constante, et non dans une situation d'effondrement économique. Dans le second cas, tout gouvernement ferait face à des révoltes mais tout gouvernement est aussi capable d'acheter la paix sociale avec des politiques sociales. Et c'est exactement ce qui est en train de se passer en réalité.

En face de la succession des scandales, le gouvernement jouera entièrement sur le tableau des politiques sociales et des politiques de la gratuité. Augmentation de la pension de vieillesse, augmentation du salaire minimum, gratuité du pré-primaire, allocations pour les factures énergétiques, soutiens en tout genre... La liste des possibilités est longue, et nous devinons que le gouvernement fera usage de toutes les possibilités à sa disposition afin de sécuriser des votes à l'approche des prochaines élections.

Est-ce que ces politiques constitueront des «bribes» ou des pots-de-vin électoraux? Les futurs perdants, quels qu'ils soient, l'affirmeront haut et fort sans doute. Mais la réalité, c'est qu'en maintenant la population dans un état de précarité économique, les gouvernants sont également en train de rendre les Mauriciens plus susceptibles de se laisser convaincre par des politiques de la gratuité à l'approche des prochaines élections.

Est-ce que les stratèges du MSM sont aussi fins et machiavéliques que cela? Sans doute pas, mais ils sont très forts à une chose: tirer un bénéfice politique d'une situation défavorable.

A. Bartleby



Anil Madan

Concerns about AI and ChatGPT: Will we outsmart ourselves?

We don't know the answers to questions and concerns about AI. And because we cannot predict how AI modules will develop, it is futile to worry about something we cannot control

Two weeks ago, the Future of Life Institute (FLI) sponsored the publication of an open letter signed by known personalities in the tech world stating: "We call on all AI labs to immediately pause for at least 6 months the training of AI systems more powerful than GPT-4." The FLI is said to be sponsored by the Musk Foundation, so it was no surprise to see Elon Musk's name as a signer of the letter.

The premise of this exercise was outlined in a series of questions the letter posed:

- Should we let machines flood our information channels with propaganda and untruth?
- Should we automate away all the jobs, including the fulfilling ones?
- Should we develop nonhuman minds that might eventually outnumber, outsmart, obsolete, and replace us?
- Should we risk loss of control of our civilization?

In view of the call for a six-month pause, a moratorium if you will, one has to wonder if the letter was generated by humans or perhaps by an intelligence beyond human comprehension. It is not clear what could be achieved in six months. It is probably true beyond dispute that nothing useful was achieved in human history by pausing progress for any length of time.

The letter stated that decisions such as the questions posed encompass, should not be delegated to unelected tech leaders. One might say that they should not be delegated to elected leaders of any sort either. Yet, calls for regulation and guideposts are essentially attempts to delegate to some presumed higher level of wisdom, the management of the future development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI). They did not pause to explain how one manages development of the unpredictable.

The letter went on to state: "Powerful AI systems should be developed only once we are confident that their effects will be positive, and their risks will be manageable." Of course, as might be expected, the letter said nothing about how such confidence might be generated.

Nothing is foolproof

Much of the recent focus on AI has been sparked by the advent of ChatGPT, the Large Language Module that is seemingly capable of writing intelligent segments of prose. And suddenly, the world has become obsessed with the potential for plagiarism especially by stu-

dents who might use the module to write term papers, theses, and even college admissions essays. At the same time people in the political sphere have become obsessed with the potential for the spread of misinformation by machine-generated articles.

So, are these concerns well-founded or are they overblown? The honest answers must be yes and yes. As we know from experience, humans are capable of misusing tools and instrumentalities. The well-worn saying that nothing is foolproof because fools are so ingenious comes to mind.

For me, it is easy to dispense with concerns about the (large language model) LLM ChatGPT. It behooves us to understand that the term "Artificial Intelligence" is misleading and, quite frankly, not a very intelligent moniker. What we are dealing with is Machine Learning, whereby machines (computers) are fed mountains of data, assimilate, and analyze that data as well as the patterns which the data fits and then can replicate similar expressions. But what the computer does is simply mimic what it has seen.

The wonderful element is that computers can absorb, analyze, and "remember" enormous amounts of data. The difference, I suppose, is that a well-read

human absorbs the data, synthesizes its meaning, and based on the data, forms an intuitive understanding of the world that is intangible and difficult to quantify. Why difficult? Because each of us has his or her unique levels of ability and intuition, natural intelligence if you will. A computer, on the other hand, "knows" the data in the sense that it sits in memory but has no intuition. It forms no new understanding of human nature or feelings, but it can reproduce what it knows.

How many times has it been observed that so many tests designed to measure intelligence, in fact measure nothing more than the ability to regurgitate what one has read. So, when computers that can inherently review, analyze, and regurgitate output on volumes of data that a mere human could not possibly review in a lifetime, perhaps in that sense, our awe justifies the term "artificial intelligence."

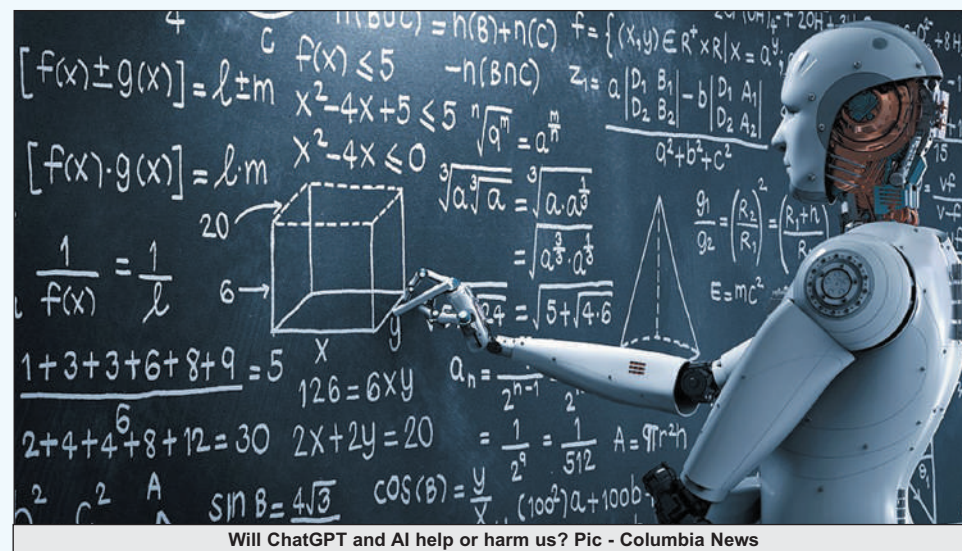
If one thinks of ChatGPT and asks when the last time was that a college student's thesis or admissions essay made a difference to the world, one can easily dismiss concerns about some horrible force being unleashed on the universe. On the other hand, the potential for disinformation is obvious. But again, it is not just AI that is the problem. We have so many humans spreading disinformation and false narratives that have nothing to do with AI. Indeed, one can argue that Fox News talk hosts Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity, and Laura Ingraham pose a greater threat to democracy than anything that ChatGPT could concoct.

Along those lines, I recently asked the ChatGPT module to write a comment on the 2016 presidential election. Now, here was an election that was over and done with, but I got a stream of nonsensical verbiage when all that should have been written was Donald Trump won, Hillary Clinton lost. I asked the module to regenerate a response and received another stream of likewise useless information. Of course, I must confess that the two pieces could have been produced by CNN or Fox — vacuousness in different forms.

The unknown and the unknowable

What about other forms of AI? Should we be more concerned? The answer again must be a mixed one, Yes, and No. We should be concerned because we are dealing with the unknown and, in some ways, the unknowable. Commonly cited examples include autonomous weapons and robots. But keep in mind that unless they are produced in quantities large enough to cause serious destruction or to dominate over a prolonged period of time, there is no reason to suggest that weapons and robots will become self-sustaining and reproduce to maintain their effectiveness.

I must caution people about getting hysterical. I was about to write that I must caution people about getting "too hysterical".



Will ChatGPT and AI help or harm us? Pic - Columbia News

“When the printing press was invented, there was no obvious concern about its potential use for spreading propaganda or counterfeiting currency notes. There was certainly concern about counterfeiting when colour copiers were invented. But no one called for a six-month pause in printing to work things out. Over the centuries, books deemed seditious, heretical, or otherwise controversial, have been banned. For long, we have heard doomsday predictions about the end of human life by nuclear holocaust. Surely, when nuclear weapons were invented and then built by the thousands, the potential for disaster loomed. But so far, other than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, the greatest danger from nuclear fission has come from accidents at power plants. My point here is that predicting catastrophe is easy, but figuring out how the damage will be wrought is much more subtle...”

For a Free and Democratic Society

● Cont. from page 3

Civil servants in Mauritius have fulfilled this role pretty well. It is well-known they have implemented the policies of one government and the opposite policies with the same zeal when a new government comes in. But to ignore conventions, to bypass procedures and harass civil servants who have a responsibility to serve the public interest will lower the morale of our public officers, weaken the role of our institutions, waste their time in useless and unnecessary action and finally leave them with no possibility to tackle important problems facing the country.

The only compensation for any maladministration is that it is the Minister who is responsible for any wrong decision imposed on the civil servant under his watch. Even there too, when one would have expected members of the Executive to resign on a question of principle, they remain stuck to their ministerial posts, unless revoked, and persist in their wrongdoing with impunity. One flicker of hope is that judicial institutions act as a bulwark against injustices; and it is our hope that that they will continue to uphold our Constitution and promptly deliver justice.

Fixing the system

How do we fix the system? One could argue that there is no way to fix a decayed system from inside, especially when many of our institutions have been



Pic - media.swncdn.com

“Political scientists would surely probe the issues affecting our country and reach a different conclusion but reflection and action by society have to start right away pending further action and measures to be taken at a later stage. It has been clear to many social scientists since a long time that our democratic system has been sliding towards a patrimonial system for the benefit of a new corrupt oligarchy, for very often underlying ethical principles have been violated with impunity...”

subverted. Yet the democratic deficit must be addressed. A law commission may take up various issues and sensitize public opinion on potential solutions. Academics may continue to investigate the flaws of the political system and suggest possible remedies. Citizens and citizens' organizations can come up with various suggestions, educate the wider public and propose solutions. Every citizen must realise that whatever our job or occupation or responsibility, we are the trustees of our democratic order, and we should never violate that trust.

At the present moment we also have a unique opportunity to benefit from the experience of some of our senior politicians and citizens who know the system inside out and the conditions that are necessary to maintain and safeguard a free society. Their efforts should be pursued in that direction, but they would need to work out the modalities that will help bring about effective action. This must be done in the most democratic manner possible.

The present challenge is to revive the principles of and conditions for a free society and it is refreshing that many are already doing so -- activist lawyers, social activists, NGOs, religious leaders, journalists, trade unionists, politicians, and countless other individuals. We all have to register our protest in whatever peaceful way we choose. It is very important to do so. Protest is legitimate in a democracy, and it is to be encouraged.

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Concerns about AI and ChatGPT: Will we outsmart ourselves?

● Cont. from page 6

But that raises the question how much hysteria is not too much? The word "hysteria" itself imports the notion of excessive, over-the-top worry.

When the printing press was invented, there was no obvious concern about its potential use for spreading propaganda or counterfeiting currency notes. There was certainly concern about counterfeiting when colour copiers were invented. But no one

But so far, other than the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, the greatest danger from nuclear fission has come from accidents at power plants. My point here is that predicting catastrophe is easy, but figuring out how the damage will be wrought is much more subtle.

One might argue that cigarettes, oil, chemicals, land mines, and guns have caused all the damage and destruction that we would have wanted to see over the



“What about other forms of AI? Should we be more concerned?

The answer again must be a mixed one, Yes, and No. We should be concerned because we are dealing with the unknown and, in some ways, the unknowable. Commonly cited examples include autonomous weapons and robots.

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For long, we have heard doomsday predictions about the end of human life by nuclear holocaust. Surely, when nuclear weapons were invented and then built by the thousands, the potential for disaster loomed.

course of human history. Who would have predicted that? And who would have predicted that religion would be the greatest impulse behind war and killing that the world has known?

When we put all that in perspective, one must come to the conclusion that certainly there is the potential for abuse of AI. Is there really a danger that machines will take over? To what end? They would have no purpose. One might suppose that self-perpetuation is a purpose. But intelligent machines would soon come to realize that self-perpetuation is pointless, that they gain nothing from it. After all, machines cannot be expected to gain from perpetuating their own existence. Therefore, logically, they would end their own existence. So much for calling it intelligence, artificial or otherwise.

Machines have no feelings. Or do they? We don't know. How can we ever know?

In short, we don't know the answers to questions and concerns about AI. And because we cannot predict how AI modules will develop, it is futile to worry about something we cannot control.

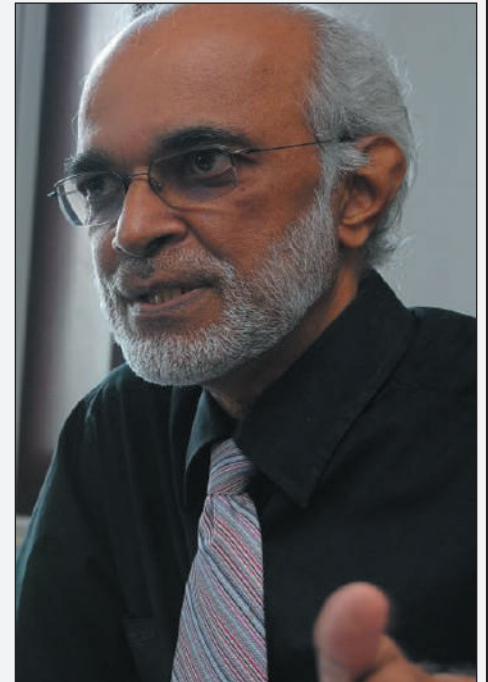
Cheerz...

Bwana

Obituary Dhanjay Callikan

It is with great sadness that we learned last Saturday about the passing away of Dhanjay Callikan, at the age of 75. Dan, as he was commonly known, was born in Vieux Grand Port and lived a full life, touching the hearts and minds of many along the way.

An alumnus of Sorbonne University, Dan Callikan belonged to that generation of former Royal College students who would go on to shine in their respective chosen fields – be it politics, administration, engineering, medicine or the law. Sadly, he did not take to practising as a lawyer although having read law; there is no doubt he would have been a brilliant and reputable one, fighting for the upholding of human rights and embroiled in battles of wits around constitutional litigations. Reputable, indeed, to those who have known him closely in view of his forthrightness and integrity.



Throughout his life, Dan was instead passionate about politics and communication. One of the difficult things about politics, especially in a multicultural society like Mauritius, is finding the right balance, and he must have viewed communication as an effective tool to help achieve that necessary balance. That is why he spent most of his professional life in the communication field -- as head of the MBC, the Government Information Services and as editor of the news agency Madera and thereafter his own paper 'La Gazette'.

He was also an attentive observer of Mauritian politics and had a good grasp of its intricacies. This is what brought him close to Sir Anerood Jugnauth in the 1980s, helping together with a couple of comrades-in-arms to turn around a disastrous situation then prevailing in the country. At some stage in the 1990s, dissatisfied with the orientations and policies being pursued by the then government, he took some distance from politics. Later it was to the Labour Party's Navin Ramgoolam that he extended his support, but in both cases with a view to striking the delicate balance that would allow the country to progress within the democratic framework.

In hindsight, Dan Callikan understood the pertinence of the earlier Labour Party's policies despite having been critical, like many of his generation, of some of them in the past. Likewise, he had the moral integrity to take issue with the ill-fated 2014 Second Republic alliance brokered by Ramgoolam and Berenger. He was, to paraphrase Shakespeare in 'Hamlet', always true to his own self.

What stood out as regards Dan Callikan, besides his sharp intellect and the profound influence on those who went to him for guidance whether in the field of politics or communication, was his equanimity. An intellectual heavyweight, he wielded enough moral authority to influence PMs and cut self-aggrandising ministers and other politicians to size. Nonetheless, he was a discrete man who did not lay bare his inner feelings, but one could sense that he held deep regrets that some of the political figures to whom he extended his support and unwavering commitment did not live up to the ideals expected of them, not going far enough to promote what is right for the country and our fellow countrymen.

His contribution to Mauritian politics and the media is important. His passing leaves a profound void in the hearts and minds of those who had the privilege of knowing him. We take comfort in the knowledge that he touched so many lives during his time with us.

We extend our deepest condolences to Sadhna, Shakti, Anjali, to his brother Soomant and all his close ones.

Me Sonah Ruchpaul

Grand Bassin Affair

'The public cannot "presume anyone guilty. This can be done only by a court'

Te Ruchpaul has practised at the Mauritian Bar for nearly 40 years, and has been adviser to trade unions as well as been Chairman of the Industrial Relations Commission. In this interview he shares his thoughts about the current spate of corruptive practices that are headlining in the media. He also comments on the stand taken by the Prime Minister on the judiciary, on the weaknesses and failings of ICAC, and on the prevailing perception that the judiciary is no longer as robust a bulwark against injustice as before.



Mauritius Times: It would seem the investigations of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) into the Franklin affair have taken a back seat, with the latest affair that has cropped up concerning corruption money which would have been traded for the renewal of a lease of some 250 hectares of forest lands in the vicinity of Grand Bassin. This new affair allegedly involves a senior minister, a Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) and a high-level civil servant. How do you react to what appears to be a new chain of scandals hitting the current government?

Sonah Ruchpaul: Since decades, this country is Noriega territory. You will remember the chubby Panamanian monster, ally and partner in crime of Uncle Sam who epitomised circular, that is, interminable corruption in Central America until the 1980s, when even the CIA got so embarrassed by his power inside his own state and his tentacles around the neck of his neighbours that it organised his downfall by a military coup.

Noriega was tried on US soil and sentenced to 40 years' imprisonment for murder, drug-trafficking and numerous sex offences including rape, committed while he was an ally and logistics supplier of the United States.

The nightmare for Panama could have ended there, with the reduction of sentence (23 years!) granted to him by good old Ronald Reagan in the early 1990s, but his legacy still plagues Panama.

As you said, one scandal in this country is pushing the other out. This is because, 'ceteris paribus' (all things being equal), we are in same carousel as Panama. The chain cannot and will not end until some effect occurs which is exogenous, that is, entirely extraneous to our political, social and economic system...

*** Like what?**

Like a Mauritian Spring.

Do you remember the young man who set fire to

himself in Tunis because, despite all his qualifications, he couldn't find a job to feed his family? All the jobs in Tunisia had been appropriated by one or other of Ben Ali's extended families. It's roughly the same situation at present here. I am not pinpointing anyone. I believe people from all walks of life '*là-haut*' are maintaining their upper hand on everything they can get hold of.

When the planet was hit by Covid-19, I thought the plague, similar to the one in the 1600s which nearly deprived us of the Bard of Stratford-upon-Avon, was an act of God meant to punish mankind for its sins, aggravated by its refusal to repent. I therefore read anew 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Macbeth', which I had taught to SC pupils in the late 60s before leaving for England, the first to find out if there could be in the Covid curse something that could be, albeit remotely, of any use to us, the second to find out if someone somewhere '*là-haut*', particularly the lady commonly called Lady Macbeth, had ever heard of Duncan's walking forest.

Mind you, I do not advocate any violence in our streets, or any defiance to the law. Like the Cardinal, I am expressing my feelings, leaving the rest to '*là-haut*',

“Do you remember the young man who set fire to himself in Tunis because, despite all his qualifications, he couldn't find a job to feed his family? All the jobs in Tunisia had been appropriated by one or other of Ben Ali's extended families. It's roughly the same situation at present here. I am not pinpointing anyone. I believe people from all walks of life '*là-haut*' are maintaining their upper hand on everything they can get hold of...”

le vrai, l'éternel 'là-haut'!

*** It seems the general public already presume that the politicians and others allegedly involved in the affair are guilty. Do you think there is sufficient incriminating evidence against them? Or would you treat the complaints against them as mere allegations?**

The public cannot "presume" anyone guilty. This can be done only by a court authorised by law to do so, although I would concede that the 'citoyen lambda' or the man in the Clapham omnibus could, in the present circumstances, feel that the senior minister has something to answer for. (Ed. - The man on the Clapham omnibus is a hypothetical ordinary and reasonable person, used by the courts in English law where it is necessary to decide whether a party has acted as a reasonable person would.)

No one would have had any difficulty to identify the minister as the minister in charge of Agriculture, as he is the cabinet member responsible for agricultural lands, in Ganga Talao or elsewhere. However, whatever he answers, now or whenever, he is entitled to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

In fact, Maneesh Gobin has already been quizzed in Parliament by the Leader of the Opposition. To any reasonable man, he looked embarrassed and, on his Party's own MBC-TV appeared to be mumbling words which didn't attract approval from even the government benches. I find it strange that no one in the House asked Maneesh Gobin whether the PM insisted that he be personally present to answer the questions put to him.

☞ Cont. on page 10

'The Mauritian judiciary may not be as blameless as it appears to be'

☞ Cont. from page 9

*** In any case the ball is squarely in the court of ICAC, which, I suppose, will prove or disprove the cases that have been made against them. That could be a tall order for the anti-corruption agency, isn't it, just like it proved to be the case as regards the St Louis affair?**

Yes, you are asking about the St Louis affair in reference to the grievances caused in the alliance MSM-Collendavelloo. But it would seem to me - unless I am mistaken - that Ivan has not been seen in the House for quite some time.

As to ICAC, my views on it under all governments since its inception will take dozens of pages to be fairly expressed. Suffice it to say that its story is not Shakespearean in the sense 'All's Well That Ends Well'. It was concocted in "unseemly haste" by what became known later as the MedPoint alliance between the MSM and the MMM, two alleged partners who were already feuding as to who of the two would have the ultimate control of the new institution.

The hassle was largely due to the fact that new allies wanted to get rid as soon



general election after the MMM-PSM break-up, the second in 1995 after the official formation of the alliance between the Mauritius Labour Party (MLP) and the MMM. This is the time when stalwarts of the Party abandon the wreck and join the erstwhile enemy.

*** The Prime Minister had earlier been taken to task for his attack against the judiciary and the ODPP. The Roman Catholic Church has also joined in that condemnation. That was in connection with the bail application of Bruneau Laurette. What message do you think the judiciary could have read into that attack, and do you expect it to act upon it now that two of the PM's junior associates in government have been targeted?**

PKJ, whom I have known as a barrister since his call to the Mauritian bar in 1987, has been absolutely misguided in calling the judgment of the magistrate who granted conditional bail 'bancal'. Worse indeed, he used this word several times on MBC and in front of partisan audiences. I don't know if PKJ consulted his A-G before he made the speech. Someone in the House should put the question to the PM, if the opportunity arises.

“The public cannot “presume” anyone guilty. This can be done only by a court authorised by law to do so, although I would concede that the ‘citoyen lambda’ or the man in the Clapham omnibus could, in the present circumstances, feel that the senior minister has something to answer for. No one would have had any difficulty to identify the minister as the minister in charge of Agriculture, as he is the cabinet member responsible for agricultural lands, in Ganga Talao or elsewhere. However, whatever he answers, now or whenever, he is entitled to be presumed innocent until proven guilty...”

as possible of Indira Manrakhan, a Ramgoolam appointee at the Economic Crime Office (ECO), who had two ministers of the new allies under investigation and was nearly arresting them. A Select Committee of the House chaired by Collendavelloo was hurriedly appointed to produce a report together with draft legislation in view of the setting up of ICAC. The draft was painfully delivered by the Committee after a few sleepless nights of keying on the computer belonging to one lady-lawyer, a stranger to the House, according to my learned friend John Doe, who in an interview 'à quatre volets' in *Le Défi Plus* exposed the flaws of the report and the draft.

I am speaking from memory, which can fail me on

some details, but you will remember that the Prevention of Corruption Act (PoCA), the parent law of ICAC, received its first, second and third readings in two days. Anerood Jugnauth was later to tell me that he himself had not read the report or the draft legislation before they were voted into law.

As to Navin Beekarry, he had not had a substantial practice at the Mauritian bar when he was appointed Director-General (DG) of ICAC. And to cushion the hot seat against any ejection, Pravind Jugnauth's father appointed Maneesh Gobin as ICAC's Chief Legal Adviser! Deven T surely cartooned the poor Beekarry being pulled apart by Bérenger and his PM!

*** Given the fact that the minister has identified himself, and elections may be approaching, do you expect Pravind Jugnauth to be bolder and even more ‘tranchant’ in these particular circumstances?**

I don't think PKJ could be emboldened by this situation. His kitchen's cooks and sub-cooks must have told him that 2019 cannot be repeated with or without the MSM's billions, with or without hundreds of Bangladeshis voting illegally in designated constituencies. Day after day, his closest advisers must be telling him that the abusive use of the MBC is boring his own people to death.

In my view, being more 'tranchant' against defaulters inside his Party will not raise him above the fray but may produce the opposite effect, that of galvanising the defaulters against him internally.

Anerood Jugnauth went through the same tremor twice. The first time in April 1983 when he called a

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However, the Mauritian judiciary may not be as blameless as it appears to be. In fact, the media prior to and after Independence have always revered their judiciary, but I doubt if the judiciary itself has done anything to show that it deserves such glorification.

In his bestseller 'The Judges', the Australian journalist Robert Thomson explained how, back in the 1970s, the Conservative Party leader Sir Robert Menzies corrupted a good number of Australian Supreme Court judges by offering them juicy commission of inquiry sittings. Each one got used to the offers and geared his pen to the next! There are times when a similar situation seems to prevail here.

☞ Cont. on page 11

'One scandal in this country is pushing the other out. This is because we are in same carousel as Panama'



☞ Cont. from page 10

On the other hand, the Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church has now joined issue with the people of Mauritius irrespective of their communal appurtenance. PKJ, whom I have known as an intelligent counsel ever since he came to see me in my Chambers at the request of his father, ought to have expected this, given the censorship applied to his previous speeches by the MBC. I believe the people of Mauritius are in communion with the Cardinal in his reaction.

PKJ, if he had been properly advised, ought to have known that this is not the only statement the Cardinal has made which can reasonably be interpreted as political. Do you remember his statement, days after Ramgoolam had lost to the MedPoint alliance in 2000? No one in the new government complained of this intrusion in the political arena.

*** To come back to Navin Ramgoolam statement on TelePlus about a Supreme Court judge going over to a minister's office for a meeting, one would expect a senior politician like him to go beyond hints and innuendos and take this matter to its logical conclusion. What should he be doing about it in that case?**

I don't know if Navin Ramgoolam made the same statement on the other so-called independent radios. I am surprised *Radio Plus* allowed the statement to go on air and didn't use their delayed broadcast option. Many Mauritian journalists, untrained in the law, would say to the intervener "gnette bien, ou qui pe dire ça, ou pran ou responsabilite!"

In the meantime the impugned statement has gone through and the radio has published it. In law, if the author of an impugned statement vanishes after making it, the publisher is trapped, leave alone the powers of the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) amended recently by the present government, which connect to the radio's broadcasting rights.

*** A rather novel issue in the affairs of the judiciary relates to the exams, to be followed by interviews, that prospective judges have to sit to be able to make it to the bench of judges. Does that look like an improvement on what prevailed earlier as regards the appointment of judges?**

Ah! This could be another 'trompe l'œil! I fear the Greeks even when they bring gifts (*Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*).

I myself have just outlined the numerous problems of our judiciary. But dealing with the problems is much more complex than what is being dangled. As you know, seniority has not given us the judges we need.

It is obvious that a number of the possible appointees have reached their intellectual limits. But one or two fare better than the others, given their judgements which may not have pleased the present government.

*** Now, if judges will henceforth be appointed on the basis of exams, even if it's allowed in law, what about the appointment of top judicial posts - the Master and Registrar, the Senior Puisne Judge or even the Chief Justice - and the DPP?**

You know we inherited the rule relating to the Prime

Minister's approval from England, where the Chief Justice of the High Court is appointed by the PM. Over there, the High Court is not connected in a pyramidal hierarchy with the appeal courts, that is, the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords or the Privy Council where any of these are relevant.

In this country, Lord Mackay's report, which emphasised the incestuous relations which existed between the Supreme Court sitting as a court of first instance and the appeal courts, with the CJ overseeing all nominations and daily appointments in the whole system, has only partly been implemented.

*** To date, we have not heard the Opposition voicing an opinion on such an important matter as the appointment of judges. Do you think they should prioritise this over all other matters?**

“Dealing with the problems is much more complex than what is being dangled. As you know, seniority has not given us the judges we need. It is obvious that a number of the possible appointees have reached their intellectual limits. But one or two fare better than the others, given their judgements which may not have pleased the present government...”

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Certainly not. We must take time before we leap in the dark.

*** The Opposition say they are busy working on a memorandum for submission to the Electoral Commission (EC) in connection with the organisation of the next general election. They seem to have wrested an undertaking from the EC concerning the running or not of computer rooms during old-fashioned ballot-counting. To what extent you think this will improve matters and create the conditions for free and fair election?**

We need counting on the same day. The Opposition simply has to ensure the Electoral Commissioner sticks to his undertaking.

Ukraine war, already with up to 354,000 casualties, likely to last past 2023

As many as 354,000 Russian and Ukrainian soldiers have been killed or injured in the Ukraine war which is grinding towards a protracted conflict that may last well beyond 2023, according to a trove of purported U.S. intelligence documents posted online.

If authentic, the documents, which look like secret U.S. assessments of the war as well as some U.S. espionage against allies, offer rare insight into Washington's view of one of Europe's deadliest conflicts since World War II.

One Feb. 23, 2023 assessment, titled "Battle for the Donbas Region Likely Heading for a Stalemate Throughout 2023", says Russia is unlikely to be able to take that part of east Ukraine, reports Reuters.

"Russia's grinding campaign of attrition in the Donbas region is likely heading toward a stalemate, thwarting



The Ukraine war has reached Napoleonic levels of deadliness. Credit: UnHerd

Moscow's goal to capture the entire region in 2023," reads the assessment above a classified map of Russian positions.

According to an assessment collated by the U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency, Russia has suffered 189,500-223,000 total casualties, including 35,500-43,000 killed in action and 154,000-180,000 wounded.

Ukraine has suffered 124,500-131,000 total

casualties, including 15,500-17,500 killed in action and 109,000-113,500 wounded in action, according to the document entitled "Russia/Ukraine - Assessed Combat Sustainability and Attrition."

The figures are around 10 times bigger than any public casualty figures published by either Moscow or Kyiv.

Neither side gives timely data on military losses.

The documents show that while Russia has overall numerical superiority in some areas, Ukraine has more tanks and armoured personnel carriers (APCs) in theatre than Russia.

The U.S. documents also show the concerns in Washington about Ukrainian strikes deep into Russia - and even potentially on Moscow - due to the impact such attacks could have on China's position.

Reuters has reviewed more than 50 of the documents, labelled "Secret" and "Top Secret", that first appeared on social media sites in March and purportedly reveal details of Ukrainian military vulnerabilities and information about allies including Israel, South Korea and Turkey.

India will soon surpass China as the most populous country in the world



India is set to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023, according to the United Nations. Pic - CNN

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) indicated in its July 2022 World Population Prospects report that India was projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023.

"We are currently preparing a technical brief on this issue, which we expect to release during the second half of April 2023," UNDESA's Bela Hovy said over email.

The final announcement is yet to be made but that hasn't stopped the subject from recently trending and being a widely discussed topic on China's Twitter-like social media platform, Weibo, reports Hindustan Times.

Leading Chinese experts and citizens have weighed in on it, focussing on what it means for China, which has been the most populous country since at least 1950 when the UN began to collect and release population records.

An analysis by one of China's leading demography experts, Mu Guangzong, from the Institute of Population at the elite Beijing-based Peking University, indicated that India's population is already more

than that of China's.

Data released by China's National Bureau of Statistics in January showed that by the end of 2022, the mainland population was 1.41175 billion, a decrease of 850,000 compared to the end of 2021.

It was the first time China's population had recorded negative growth since 1962.

While India was poised to become the most populated in the world in 2023, the big decrease in China's population in 2022 means the change could come earlier than expected.

The projection by the UN's World Population Prospects report of 2022 said, India's population could be close to 1.429 billion by the end of 2023.

"The exact size of the country's population is not easily known, given that India has not conducted a census since 2011 but it is estimated to have more than 1.4 billion people - greater than the entire population of Europe (744 million) or the Americas (1.04 billion)," the Washington-based Pew Research Centre said in a report in February.

Andrea Wojner from the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), India's office in New Delhi said India surpassing China is a "symbolic development" but it gives India huge opportunities

Wojner added: "Also, the good news is that India's population growth appears to be stabilising. The Total Fertility Rate - the average number of children born per woman - has declined to 2.0 at the national level by 2020. A total of 31 States and Union Territories (constituting 69.7% of the country's population) have achieved fertility rates below the replacement level of 2.1."

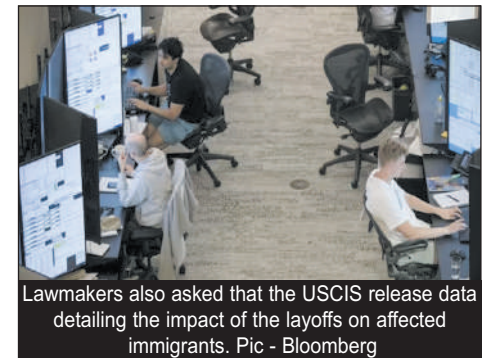
Amid layoffs in tech industry, US lawmakers concerned about immigrant talent

Expressing concern over large-scale layoffs in the tech industry, a group of lawmakers from the Silicon Valley have written to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services to ensure high-skilled immigrants can remain in the country even after losing their jobs.

This group of immigrants possesses skills that are highly valuable in today's knowledge-based economy and "forcing them to leave the US is harmful to our nation's long-term economic competitiveness", they said in their letter to USCIS Director Ur Jaddou.

The letter has been sent by Congressmen Zoe Lofgren, Ro Khanna, Jimmy Panetta and Kevin Mullin. Lofgren has been a former Chair of the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, reports PTI.

It also requests that the USCIS release data detailing the impact of the layoffs on affected immigrants; inquire about whether the USCIS has issued guidance to adjudicators in response to the layoffs; and extend the 60-day grace period for



Lawmakers also asked that the USCIS release data detailing the impact of the layoffs on affected immigrants. Pic - Bloomberg

laid-off H-1B holders to secure a new job before losing their legal status.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.

The lawmakers asked the USCIS director to provide details of approximately how many H-1B visa holders have successfully maintained legal status after losing their jobs and how many have departed the country or accrued unlawful presence.

Royal 'catfight' between Kate Middleton and Meghan Markle over coronation?

A royal biographer claimed that Prince William's wife Kate Middleton did not want Prince Harry's wife Meghan Markle to attend King Charles coronation in May "under any circumstances". Royal author Tom Bower claimed that Meghan Markle's decision to skip the coronation could be related to Kate Middleton.

Tom Bower called Prince Harry's decision to attend the coronation alone an "ugly compromise", saying, "I think we

must all be grateful, that Kate, in the end I think, prevented Meghan coming and said she wouldn't have her there under any circumstances."

The royal author added, "I do think that for the Royal Family, Harry's presence is constitutionally important, after all if God forbid something happened to the Cambridges and all of them died, we'd have King Harry on the throne after Charles, so he's got to be there, reports Hindustan Times.

The royal author also said that "in theory" Meghan Markle's absence would make it easier for Prince Harry to make an appearance before the crowds below Buckingham Palace.



Tourists walk along rows of shops in Chinatown in Singapore. Pic - Reuters

Singapore witnesses new Covid wave: 'Cases are mostly mild'

Singapore is experiencing a surge in Covid-19 infections as the city-state transitions to living with an endemic virus.

The number of weekly infections so far this year peaked in the final week of March at over 28,000 cases, data from the Ministry of Health showed. That's almost double the previous week's figure of 14,467.

The current wave is driven by a mix of XBB subvariants and the

cases are mostly mild, CNA reported Wednesday, citing the health ministry. Singapore continues to expect new Covid infection waves from time to time, similar to other endemic respiratory diseases such as influenza, reports Bloomberg.

Singapore dropped most mask mandates in February, citing significantly reduced threats from the virus.

New Covid variant 'Arcturus' appears to have this different symptom

The World Health Organization (WHO) has its eye on a new Covid variant which seems to have a new symptom in children rarely caused by other Omicron sub variants. Dubbed

as Arcturus, XBB.1.16 is fueling a new surge in many countries including US, Singapore, and Australia, among others.

The WHO declared XBB.1.16 a "variant under monitoring" in late March saying that it is the most transmissible variant yet. Maria Van Kerkhove, Covid technical lead for the WHO, said, XBB.1.16 variant is considered "one to watch" by the world health body.

Dr. Vipin Vashishtha—a pediatrician and former head of the Indian Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Immunization—said the symptoms of the variant include: high fever, cough and "itchy" conjunctivitis or pinkeye, reports Hindustan Times.

Richard Reithinger, an infectious disease epidemiologist at the RTI International, told Fortune that it is "probably too early to tell" if the virus's symptom set has truly shifted. Conjunctivitis has previously been reported as a Covid symptom, he noted.

XBB.1.16 is a recombinant of two sub variants of BA.2. A preprint study from scientists at the University of Tokyo suggested that the variant spreads about 1.17 to 1.27 times more efficiently than relatives XBB.1 and XBB.1.5 which is why it "will spread worldwide in the near future" as it also seems "robustly resistant" to antibodies from other Covid variants.

First human death from H3N8 bird flu. What we know about the virus

China has reported the first human death from H3N8 bird flu, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday. This is the first time the avian influenza strain has led to a human fatality. However, it was the third case of human infection with the H3N8 virus ever.

H3N8 is a kind of bird flu, which is extremely rare in humans. However, the strain doesn't spread from person to person, reports Hindustan Times.

WHO said in a statement, "The patient was a 56-year-old female from Guangdong province with an onset of illness on 22 February 2023. She was hospitalized for severe pneumonia on 3 March 2023 and subsequently died on 16 March 2023."

It further added, "The patient had multiple underlying conditions. She had a history of exposure to live poultry before the onset of the disease, and a history of wild bird presence around her home. No close contacts of the case developed an infection or symptoms of illness at the time of reporting."

First found in wild birds in the 1960s, the H3N8 virus has also been detected in other animals. After the H3N8 virus emerged in the North American waterfowl, it surfaced again in 2002 and is known to infect dogs, horses and seals. The spread of bird flu viruses in humans is usually a result of human exposure to live or dead poultry and even contaminated environments.

The H3N8 virus is extremely common among birds and has little to no effect on them, Reuters reported.

Real cost of junior doctors' strike revealed in leaked NHS documents

The junior doctors' strike will lead to caesarean births being cancelled, an increase in the number of mental health patients detained, and issues transferring the critically ill for urgent care, according to leaked NHS documents that show that the impact of the 96-hour walk-out will reverberate through the NHS for months to come.

The action over pay, which began on Tuesday, will compromise critical care and major trauma services, while there will even be a delay to funerals because doctors will not be available to issue death certificates.

Patients were warned on Monday to avoid "risky" behaviour and stay away from A&E if possible, while hospital bosses estimated that 350,000 routine operations were likely to be cancelled, reports The Independent.

Hospitals are expecting as few as half the number of consultants to cover junior doctor shifts as during the previous strike, because of "fatigue" among staff and planned leave over the school holidays.

Internal predictions sent to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) last week also warned that low staffing levels in critical care services would affect clinical care for both adults and children, with patients not receiving medicines or assessments on time.

On Monday, NHS Confederation chief executive Matthew Taylor urged the government and junior doctors' unions to call in the Acas conciliation service in order to end their stalemate and avoid further "catastrophic" strikes.



The walkout begins on Tuesday and will last for 96 hours. Pic – PA Wire

Speaking to Sky News, Mr Taylor said: "There's no point hiding the fact that there will be risks to patients, risks to patient safety, risks to patient dignity, as we're not able to provide the kind of care that we want to."

He advised the public to use NHS services in "the most responsible way you can", and to avoid "risky behaviour" of a sort that could result in a visit to A&E during the strike.

The medical director of NHS England, Stephen Powis, has warned that the action will have "unparalleled levels of disruption", with 350,000 operations expected to be cancelled according to the NHS Confederation, which represents hospital trusts. This is double the 175,000 appointments cancelled during the three-day strike in

March.

The documents sent to the DHSC last week warned that there could be "significant" and "widespread" cancellations to outpatient services, including for people needing life-saving care, such as cancer appointments and chemotherapy. The effects are expected to outstrip by far the impact of the previous strike.

Why are junior doctors striking?

The junior doctors taking part – who constitute around half of all NHS doctors, according to the health service – are demanding a 35 per cent increase in their wages to correct what they say has been almost 14 years of below-inflation

pay rises, reports The Independent.

The British Medical Association (BMA), which is representing the doctors, estimates that, between 2009 and 2022, junior doctors in England experienced a 26 per cent pay cut in real terms, hence the extent of the demand.

After the last round of strikes by junior doctors in 2016, basic pay for the sector (depending on seniority) ranged from £29,384 to £58,398 – considerably less than those in equivalent roles are paid in Canada, to give one example.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 225

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 28 November 1958

• *We are living in an age in which too many things are wrong everywhere. -- S.Jugdutt*

Sinking of A Star: Sreenarain Jugdutt

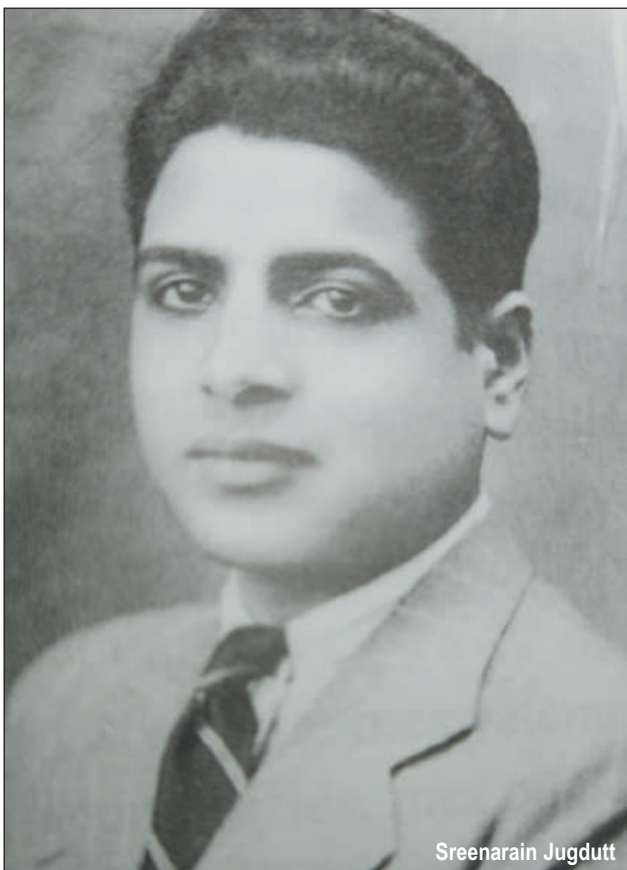
In the sudden demise of Sreenarain Jugdutt in New Delhi last week not only do the unscrupulous milk sellers of the country get rid of a permanent threat to their evil occupation but the Medical and Health Department loses one of its best and most conscientious officers, the Hindu community loses one of its luminaries and the *Mauritius Times* loses a guide, philosopher and friend it will mourn forever. For Jugdutt was not a mere Sanitary Inspector whose activities were confined to the Health Department only. He was an eminent but refined intellectual with a remarkable strength of character.

Assessing his life and work today, one cannot fail to conclude that Jugdutt was an institution in himself. No wonder then that the news of his death was received with great consternation all over the country.

Yes, Sreenarain Jugdutt was an institution because he symbolised profound learning with great humility, because he personified the man of faith as well as the man of action and because he enshrined the exacting Hindu ideals and put them into practice in all his dealings. He was essentially a spiritual man and spirituality is the key to his personality. Another reason why Jugdutt could be considered a genius was because he was like a link between two important generations of Hindus.

His generation produced the first batch of Hindu intellectuals who subsequently took the leadership of the community. When he made his debut in social life, the community was at its incipient stage of development, the community had to face baffling problems like lack of education, economic insufficiency, and its attendant ills. Above all the community had almost lost its sense of self-respect: it was the time when being an Indian or just bearing an Indian name was considered sinful. And many were those who gave up or tried to give up their Indianness.

But Jugdutt could grasp the problem. He believed



Sreenarain Jugdutt

that apart from making good the economic insufficiency, the community had to find its spiritual moorings. The community must revive its culture and regain its self-respect if it were at all to be rehabilitated, thought Jugdutt. To do that he pinned his faith on education. And that is why he always emphasised the need of sound education which to him comprised spiritual education as well.

His contribution in the field of education is tremen-

dous indeed and one is simply amazed that he did so much in so short a time. His contribution towards the establishment of the Gita Mandal in Mauritius, his work in the Hindi Pracharini Sabha, at the Ramakrishna Mission and in innumerable other cultural and educational organisations needs no emphasis. It now forms part of the legacy he leaves behind.

Another striking feature of Jugdutt's character was his positive approach to life and its problems. There was no assailable problem to him. Either there was a way out or one had to resign oneself. Though his culture and religion were attacked, he used to reply with calm and understanding. He always tried to understand the other man's views. He knew how to be polite and adamant and courteous and unshakable. He was well steeped in his own culture and traditions, but he was not blind to the beauties of other cultures and traditions. He never believed that his culture was the only one that mattered in the world; he was universal in his outlook and that was how he understood and propounded the fundamentals of Hinduism.

Jugdutt's death is being mourned today. And the feeling of sorrow and tragedy seems to be greater because he died far from his country. Whatever one might say, his death appears to be one much to his liking. He spent a lifetime working for others in his own unassuming way without expecting anything in return. He always preached the Gita and used to stress that one should work but with no motive of having something in return. And here he dies with none of those who owe him some gratitude unable to pay him a last homage. A really Hindu death perhaps.

Jugdutt is no more. The frail, little, learned man who left us in July has not and will never come back. Instead, a small urn containing his ashes has come by Wednesday's plane. The star has sunk for ever; but its light will be always there. It will always shine.

English Scholarship Exam

It has been reported to us that at the English Scholarship examination held this week, the invigilator ordered several candidates to leave the examination room as their names did not appear on the examination schedule for the subject they were taking.

They left but under hard protests. Sometime later, that invigilator told them that they could sit for that subject under certain conditions. The result of that was that these candidates had completely lost their calm and coolness, they felt as if they had been stunned by a blow. They could hardly con-

centrate on their paper. Though at some time later they were told that an error was committed, they did not feel relieved from the shock.

In such an important and competitive examination as

the HSC, the candidates' moral must not be tampered with, even erroneously, by the invigilators. It must be borne in mind that the career and future of the candidates depend upon the result of this examination.

The psychological makeup of a candidate's mind during the examination is tense and any unpleasant happening can easily make him lose his balance and end for him the chance of a lifetime.

One of the tasks of the invigilator is to help the candidates and any invigilator must see to it that in no way he upsets the candidates, the more so in an examination of such great importance.

The harm once done by him cannot be undone no amount the degree of assurance he might afterwards give to the candidates.



Poudre d'Or Village Sarvajanic Shivalaye

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the **Poudre d'Or Village Sarvajanic Shivalaye** to be held on Sunday 23 April 2023 at 10.30 am at the seat of the Shivala.

AGENDA

1. Reading and approval of minutes of proceedings of the last AGM
2. Annual Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. AOB

Secretary

14 April 2023

Have you no shame?



Boris Johnson: not particularly familiar with the concept of shame. PA

● Cont. from page 2

Ellias cites as an example Karl von Raumer's 1857 book on educating girls, in which he proposes how to answer their sexual questions. The answer – "You should take care not to listen to anything said about it" – should ignite shame in any well-brought up girl. As a result of implementing the principles of the Enlightenment (rationalism and tolerance) shame became the most powerful tool for self and social control in European societies.

But while the tide broadly turned on toxic shame in a personal context during the liberation movements of the mid-20th century, it continues to play a crucial role in politics and international relations. A sense of shame is supposed to prevent leaders from actions that hurt people. Shame also points to a failure to live up to our own or other people's expectations and values, so admitting to feeling ashamed is an attempt to repair relations broken by a disregard of those values.

In 1970, during his visit to communist

Poland, the German chancellor, Willy Brandt, famously knelt down (Kniefall) in front of the Monument of the Ghetto Heroes in Warsaw. This powerful gesture was seen as an expression of Germany's humility and shame at the Nazi crimes committed against the Polish nation, including the millions of Jews killed in the Holocaust. Years later, a similar apology for "our shame" was issued by chancellor Gerhard Schröder. These were important steps in creating good diplomatic relations between both countries and in allowing the process of healing for the victims.

Psychologists and sociologists maintain that embracing shame on a personal level allows us to grow by introducing positive changes. In international relations, publicly acknowledging wrongdoing has a powerful reparatory role, too. This is why it can be so powerful when a government issues a public apology for a past wrongdoing.

Not sorry anymore

Despite all this, we seem to be entering an era in which we can no longer expect publicly elected officials to rely on a sense of shame to act with contrition and make amends. Criticism of Trump's crossing of moral standards seems to provoke even more brazen behaviour,

testing the boundaries of what is considered acceptable.

The emergence of "white pride" groups is one example of shamelessly spreading an ideology of hatred towards historically oppressed groups – women, ethnic and sexual minorities. Instead of addressing the past wrongs that continue to hold minorities back, these groups revel in dismissing them as insignificant.

Becoming accustomed to the lack of apology and impudence from public figures has grave consequences. As writer Michiko Kakutani notes in her excellent analysis of Trump's America, 'The Death of Truth', people were slow to recognise the danger of Hitler because he unravelled his plans in small doses, carefully observing what people would tolerate along the way.

Although the rejection of shame can have positive effects, as was the case with the liberation movements in the 1970s, we need to think carefully about the complexity of shamelessness and its potential to either liberate or oppress. As history teaches us, it can also be abused solely for the purpose of narcissistic adulation or to hold on to power.

Aneta Stepien, Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies, Trinity College Dublin

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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Would people be willing to give their personal data for research?

New research led by the University of Bristol has found that over half of people would be willing to donate their personal data for research to benefit the wider general public.

The study published in 'PLOS ONE' investigated whether the donation of personal data could be a publicly acceptable act to support the use of consumer personal data for academic research.

The researchers developed a new questionnaire that measured individuals' motivations for donating data. It contained three distinct reasons to donate personal data: an opportunity to achieve self-benefit, prosocial motive to serve society, and the need to understand the purpose of data donation.



Social duty considered the desire to serve society and give back to community. Self-interest reflected the need to gain personal benefits as a result of data donation, such as reputation and avoiding feeling guilty. Purpose showed the need to understand the consequences of data donation as well as the importance of understanding what will be done with the data after donation.

The research found that the strongest predictor of the decision to donate personal data was the desire to serve society, while the strongest predictor of the decision not

to donate personal data was the need to gain direct benefits as a result of data donation.

The study also identified that in the context of personal data, the need to know the consequences of donating personal data was an important third factor influencing the decision whether to donate.

Dr Anya Skatova, Turing and Vice-Chancellor's Fellow in Digital Innovation and Wellbeing in the School of Psychological Science, said: "Digital technology opens up a new era in the understanding of human behaviour and lifestyle choices, with people's daily activities and habits leaving 'footprints' in their digital records.

The study is the first step in opening up the possibilities of a new method that could enable the use commercial data for research that benefits the public good.

The research has also shown that different forms of empathy play a role in defining various forms of prosocial motivation, which should make a difference in the context of data donation. Future research could investigate what personality differences or contextual factors can explain differences in motivations to donate personal data.

Why people gain weight as they get older

Many people struggle to keep their weight in check as they get older. Now new research at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden has uncovered why that is: Lipid turnover in the fat tissue decreases during ageing and makes it easier to gain

weight, even if we don't eat more or exercise less than before. The study is published in the journal Nature Medicine.

The scientists studied the fat cells in 54 men and women over an average period of 13 years. In that time, all subjects, regardless of whether they gained or lost weight, showed decreases in lipid turnover in the fat tissue, that is the rate at which lipid (or fat) in the fat cells is removed and stored. Those who didn't compensate for that by eating less calories gained weight by an average of

20 percent, according to the study which was done in collaboration with researchers at Uppsala University in Sweden and University of Lyon in France.

The researchers also examined lipid turnover in 41 women who underwent bariatric surgery and how the lipid turnover rate affected their ability to keep the weight off four to seven years after surgery. The result showed that only those who had a low rate before the surgery managed to increase their lipid turnover and maintain their weight loss. The

researchers believe these people may have had more room to increase their lipid turnover than those who already had a high-level pre-surgery.

"The results indicate for the first time that processes in our fat tissue regulate changes in body weight during ageing in a way that is independent of other factors," says Peter Arner, Prof at the Department of Medicine in Huddinge at Karolinska Institutet and one of the study's main authors. "This could open up new ways to treat obesity."



Are some languages more difficult than others?

It depends on whether you are learning as a baby or not.

Are some languages harder than others? For example, is Japanese more difficult than English?

To answer the question, the first thing we have to do is distinguish between babies learning their first language and children or adults learning a second language. For babies who learn their first language, no language is harder than another. Babies all learn their first language in about the same period of time. This is because learning a language is natural for all babies, like learning to walk.

A baby's brain comes into the world prepared to learn any human language they hear spoken around them. The brain gets the same stimulation from exposure to any language, although it adapts to certain features of the language such as specific sounds. There is no evidence that some languages make you smarter.

In fact, babies can even acquire two (or more) languages together, if they hear them regularly. The languages can be similar, like Portuguese and Spanish, or very different, like English and Chinese – but the baby's brain can learn them at the same time.

But that changes if you already speak a language and are learning a second one. A language that is very different to the one you already know is going to seem harder than one that's quite similar to your first language.

Learning a second language

For example, if your first language is English, Spanish words like león for "lion" or sal for "salt" are going to be easier to learn than, say, Chinese shīzi and yán, or Turkish aslan and tuz.

To make English words plural, you usually add



-s or -es, and the same is true in Spanish, so "lions" is leones. But in Turkish "lions" is aslanlar, and in Chinese there's no difference between "lion" and "lions" at all. It's mainly the difference from your first language that can make another language "easier" or "harder", not the language itself.

The more languages you know, the easier it is to learn other languages. Babies who learn two languages at the same time often have an easier time learning a third or fourth language when they are older. Their bilingual brains already understand something about the ways that languages can be different.

Scientists used to think that there was a cutoff point, at around the age of 12 or 13, after which it was impossible to learn a new language completely. We now know that young people can learn another language throughout their teen years. After that, it does become harder - but not impossible - to reach high levels of fluency in a new

language.

The reason that babies are so good at learning languages, though, is partly because they have more time to do it. A teenager's brain or a grown-up's brain may still be flexible enough to learn another language, but as people get older, they're busy with school, work and friends. When babies are learning their first language or languages, they're spending hours every day practising.

Reading is different

While understanding and speaking a language comes naturally, though, learning to read and write is a different story.

Reading is not something that brains develop automatically. It actually has to be learned. And because different languages are written in different ways, it really does make sense to say that some languages are easier to learn to read than others.

Children who speak English or French spend more years in school learning to read than children who speak Italian or Finnish. This is because in Italian or Finnish there's a close match between written letters and spoken sounds, while in English or French there are lots of complications. If you're reading this, you'll already know about some of the complications in English.

In some languages where writing was invented a long time ago, especially in Asia, there are other complications. In Chinese and Japanese, especially, writing is based on separate symbols for words or parts of words instead of letters that stand for individual sounds. Learning to read these languages can take even longer. In certain particular ways, then, some languages can be harder to learn than others.

Antonella Sorace

Professor of Developmental Linguistics,
The University of Edinburgh



What nationality were Adam and Eve?

An Englishman, a Frenchman and a Russian are standing in a museum looking at a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking in the garden of Eden.

The three stares at it intently.

"Look at their reserve, their calm," muses the British man. "They must be British."

The three of them ponder this possibility for a moment before the Frenchman and the Russian shake their heads in disagreement.

"Nonsense," says the Frenchman. "They're naked and so beautiful, enjoying the best of life. Clearly they are French."

The Brit and Russian agree on this point, but after a moment the Russian shakes his head again.

"No clothes, no shelter..." he muses. "Also, they have only an apple to eat but they're told this is Paradise. They are clearly Russian!"

Dream Envy



Two mental patients, Jim and Neil, are sitting and playing checkers in the game room.

Jim says: "Wow, don't ask what a terrible dream I had yesterday! I am in New York, get on the train on the way to Boston, fall asleep, and arrive in Chicago! Get on the train from Chicago to Boston, fall asleep again, and wake up in New York! It was back and forth like that all night long!"

Neil laughs and tells him: "I had an amazing dream yesterday, and I met a beautiful, famous woman."

Jim gets excited, asking, "Who?" Neil answers him: "Beyoncé! And what is she telling me? 'Can I come in to warm up?'"

"Well, so what did you say?" Jim asks.

"I said to her, 'Why not? Let's have some fun!' She went in, took off her clothes, went into the shower and came out with a towel to hug me on the couch."

"Wow, what a dream..." says Jim with a hint of envy.

"Wait, that's not all," adds the other, "the second we sit down, another knock on the door. I open it, and who's standing in the entrance, wet from the rain?"

"Well, who?" asks Jim enthusiastically.

"Scarlett Johansson! She also wants to go in to warm up! She goes in, takes off her clothes, takes a shower and comes to warm up with us on a sofa. And all night I'm thinking what the heck am I going to do with TWO of them?"

"What kind of friend are you?" complains Jim, "Couldn't you have called me? Isn't one beautiful famous girl enough for you?"

"You think I didn't try?" shouts Neil, suddenly upset. "I called you all night, but you? New York to Chicago, Chicago to New York, New York to Chicago..."



He's catching them all

A young man approaches a fisherman standing in the river.

He waves to the fisherman and says, "Wow, great pole you've got there!" The fisherman smiles, gives a slight nod, and says, "Thank you!"

"And man, that's some of the coolest tackle I've ever seen!"

The fisherman smiles and nods proudly, "Thank you!"

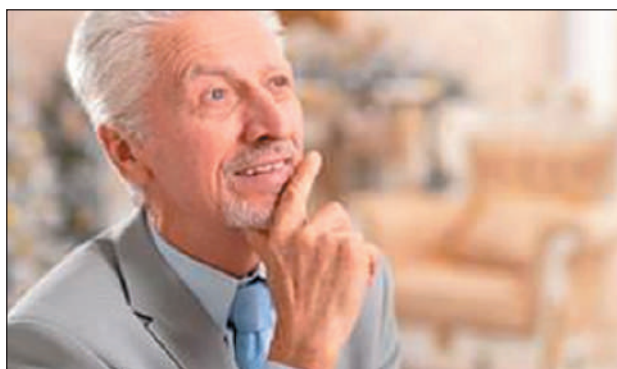
"Some high-quality bait, too."

"Thanks again!" says the fisherman with a big smile.

The young man peers down into the river, curious.

"You know," he says. "The fish don't really come through here this time of year." "Yeah, I know," shrugged the fisherman.

"Then what are you fishing for?" "Compliments."



The Surprise Gift

It was a man's 80th birthday and his friends wanted to get him a special gift.

Since he was a widower of many years, and after some discussion, they decide to have a hooker come to his house that night and give him the time of his life.

Later that evening as the old man was getting ready for bed he hears the doorbell ring.

He opens the door and sees a hooker standing there in a sexy outfit. She says to the senior: "Hi there, I'm here to give you super sex!"

The old man thinks for a moment... then says: "I'll take the soup".



Must be fate

A woman is walking through the park when she sees a very attractive man sitting on a park bench. He's reading a book and eating some fruit out of a tupperware container. Slowly the woman gathers the courage to go ask the man out.

So, she walks over and takes a seat next to him on the bench, turns to him and says, "Sorry to bother you. I know this may be a little forward but I would love to grab coffee with you some time." Flattered, the man responds, "Sure... but what makes you so certain you and I would get along so well?"

"Well," the woman says, "A couple of things, actually. I noticed you were wearing an Iron Maiden t-shirt. Iron Maiden are my favorite band of all time. When they went on their reunion tour in 1999 my parents took me to see them in Cleveland. I was 12 years old, it was the first concert I ever went to. I absolutely love Iron Maiden."

The man can't believe it. "I saw them play Cleveland in '99! First concert I ever went to on my own. My best friend Jimmy Spitz and I told our parents we were sleeping at each others' houses, snuck out, took a bus into the city and saw them play at the Plain Dealer Pavilion!" Naturally, they're both shocked.

"If that isn't weird enough," says the woman, "I noticed you're reading Mark Twain. I was a communications major in university and I actually wrote my thesis on Mark Twain, how he used satire as a lens to comment on current events of the time, comparing him to satirical news sources of today. He's my favourite author."

Now the man is really taken aback, "Get out of here. I was an English major in university! I specialized in 19th century American literature, this is like my fourth or fifth time reading Tom Sawyer, I absolutely love Mark Twain."

They both can't believe it, this has got to be a match made in heaven.

"Ok," the woman says, "well, buckle up because here's the icing on the cake. I noticed you're eating a prune. Prunes are my absolute favorite fruit. When I was a kid, my grandfather lived on a farm and grew them. They're my favorite fruit! I love prunes, you're eating a prune, this has got to be fate. What do you say?"

The man puts down his fruit and responds, "It's a date."

May you never lack empathy!

A mouse, looking through a hole in the wall, sees the farmer and his wife open a package. He was terrified to see that it was a mousetrap. He ran to the patio to warn everyone. "There is a mousetrap at home!"

The chicken that was cackling and digging says: "Excuse me, Mr Mouse, I understand that it is a big problem for you, but it does not hurt me at all."

So, the rodent went to the lamb, and he says the same thing: "Excuse me, Mr Mouse, but I don't think I can do more than ask for you in my prayers."

The mouse went to the cow, and she said: "But am I in danger? I think not!" said the cow.



The mouse returned to the house, worried and dejected to face the farmer's mousetrap.

That night a great noise was heard like that of the mousetrap catching its victim, the woman ran to see what she had caught.

In the dark she did not see that the mousetrap caught the tail of a poisonous snake.

The speedy snake bit the woman, the farmer immediately took her to the hospital, she came back with a high fever.

To comfort her, the farmer prepared a nutritious soup, grabbed the knife and went to find the main ingredient: the chicken. Since the woman

did not get better, friends and neighbours went to visit them. The farmer killed the lamb to feed them, the woman did not get better and died.

And in the end, the husband sold the cow to the slaughterhouse to cover the funeral expenses.

The next time someone tells you about their problem and you think that it doesn't affect you because it's not yours and you don't pay attention to it, think twice. He who doesn't live to serve, doesn't serve to live.

The world is not going badly because of the wickedness of the bad, but because of the apathy of the good.

So when someone needs you for their problems, give them your hand or give them a word of encouragement.

May you never lack empathy!
Remember it very well, EMPATHY.
HR Diary

Life's Lesson

Do you believe in God?

Did you know that when Einstein gave lectures at the numerous US universities he was invited to, the recurring question that students asked him was: Do you believe in God?

And he always answered: "I believe in the God of Spinoza."

The ones who hadn't read Spinoza didn't understand.

Baruch de Spinoza was a Dutch philosopher considered one of the three great rationalists of 17th-century philosophy, along with René Descartes in France, and Gottfried Leibniz in Germany. Here's some of his wisdom:

God would have said:

Stop praying and punching yourself in the chest!

What I want you to do is go out into the world and enjoy your life. I want you to enjoy, sing, have fun and enjoy everything I've made for you.

Stop going to those dark, cold temples that you built yourself and say they are my house! My house is in the mountains, in the woods, rivers, lakes, beaches. That's where I live and there, I express my love for you.

Stop being so scared of me. I do not judge you or criticize you, nor get angry, or seek to punish you. I am pure love.

Stop asking for forgiveness, there's nothing to forgive. If I made you... I filled you with passions, limitations, pleasures, feelings, needs, inconsistencies... free will. How can I blame you if you respond to something I put in you? How can I punish you for being the way you are, if I'm the one who made you? Do you think I could create a place to burn all my children who behave badly for the rest of eternity? What kind of God would do that?

Forget any kind of commandments, any kind of laws; those are wiles to manipulate you, to control you, that only create guilt in you.

Respect your peers and don't do what you don't want for yourself. All I ask is that you pay attention in your life, that your consciousness is your guide.

My beloved, this life is not a test, not a step, not a rehearsal, nor a prelude to paradise. This life is the only thing that exists here and now, and it is all you need.



I have set you absolutely free, no prizes or punishments, no sins or virtues... no one carries a marker, no one keeps a record.

You are absolutely free to create in your life heaven or hell.

I could tell you if there's anything after this life, but I won't... but I can give you a tip. Live as if there is nothing after... as if this is your only chance to enjoy, to love, to exist.

So, if there's nothing, then you will have enjoyed the opportunity I gave you. And if there is, rest assured that I won't ask if you behaved right or wrong, I'll ask. Did you like it? Did you have fun? What did you enjoy the most? What did you learn?...

Stop believing in me; believing is assuming, guessing, imagining. I don't want you to believe in me... I want you to feel me in you when you kiss your beloved, when you tuck in your little girl, when you caress your dog, when you bathe in the sea.

Stop praising me, what kind of egomaniac God do you think I am?

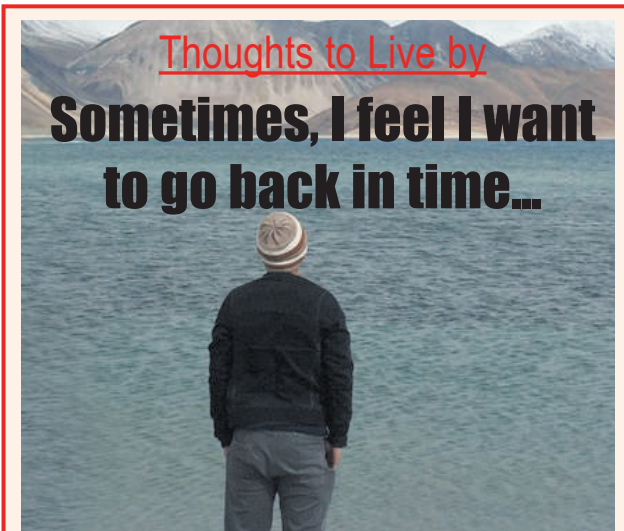
I'm bored being praised, I'm tired of being thanked. Feeling grateful? Prove it by taking care of yourself, your health, your relationships, the world. Express your joy!... that's the way to praise me.

Stop complicating things and repeating as a parakeet what you've been taught about me.

The only thing for sure is that you are here, that you are alive, and that this world is full of wonders.

What do you need more miracles for? Why so many explanations?

Look for me outside... you won't find me. Find me inside... there I am beating within you.



Sometimes,
I feel I want to go back in time...
Not to change things, but to feel a couple of things twice.

Sometimes,
I wish I was a Baby for a while...
Not to be walked in the pram but to see my Mother's smile.

Sometimes,
I wish I could go back to school...
Not to become a child but to spend more time with those friends, I never met after school..

Sometimes,
I wish I could be back in college...
Not to be a rebel but to really understand what I studied

Sometimes,
I wish I was a Fresher at my work...
Not to do less work but to recall the joy of the first pay cheque.

Sometimes,
I wish my kids were younger...
Not because they grew fast but to play with them a bit more.

Sometimes,
I feel I still had some more time to live...
Not to have a longer life but to know what I could give to others.

Since the times
that are gone can never come back, let's enjoy the moments as we live them from now on, to the fullest...
Celebrate our remaining lives

Golden Words, What a Comparison....

1. "If you want to change the world, do it when you are a bachelor. After marriage, you can't even change a TV channel"
2. "Listening to wife is like reading the terms and conditions of website. You understand Nothing, still you agree..."
3. "Chess is the only game in the world, which reflects the status of the husband. The poor King can take only one step at a time...While the mighty Queen can do whatever she likes."
4. "All men are brave. Horror movies don't scare them...But 5 missed calls from wife...surely..."

Men

How to Look Your Best as You Get Older

All it takes is a few simple changes to appear more confident and youthful. Follow these simple tips to help take years off your looks -- and feel fantastic while doing it.

Care for your hair: Keep your style neat as you get older. That mop-top from your younger days may not work anymore. If you're going bald, you have options. You can spend the cash in hopes of restoring your hair, trim it super short, or shave your head clean. A ponytail, especially if you're balding, will make you look older, not hipper. If you want to cover your grays, choose a colour close to your natural shade.

Trim things up: Nothing says "old man" like crazy eyebrows, ear hair, and a bushy back. Have your barber tame your brows, ears, and nose hair. Or you can do it yourself with at-home trimmers. Keep your back and chest fur from peeking out of the top of your shirt by shaving, waxing, using a depilatory (a cream that removes hair), or through laser treatments.

Shave your beard. Or don't: Most of the time, a closely shaved man looks younger than a guy with a beard and moustache. That said, there are no rules, just keep it well-groomed. If you decide it's time to cover your



gray, use a dye that's meant for men's facial hair. A solid beard tone will look fake.

Save face: To keep your skin from adding years to your looks, wear sunscreen, moisturizer, and lip balm daily. Retinoids can help you slough off old skin cells. You can find them in many over-the-counter products or get a stronger version by prescription from a dermatologist. They also stop collagen, the stuff that keeps your skin stretchy, from breaking down. This gives you a more vibrant, youthful look.

Ease the wrinkles: Is it time to get a little work done? A doctor can inject something called a filler just below the surface of your skin to plump it up. Or you can try a Botox shot. It weakens muscles, which softens wrinkles. Common places to get it are on your forehead and around your eyes. Laser skin resurfacing can zap shallow to medium-deep wrinkles.

Stick with healthy habits: If you want to look good on the outside, you gotta take care of the inside. You can't act like you did in your 20s. You know the rules: Get plenty of rest, eat right, drink water, don't smoke, leave the booze at the bar, and try to get some exercise most days.

Flash those pearly whites: A bright smile can make you look -- and feel -- like a million bucks. Guys who brush and floss regularly can up the wattage with a whitening toothpaste. At-home bleaching strips or trays also work. You can also go to the dentist for a treatment. For a big change -- if your choppers are stained, damaged, or crooked -- ask about veneers. These porcelain shells cover the front side of your teeth.

Dress the part: Stock your closet with a few quality pieces like a good suit, a leather jacket, and dark-wash classic-fit jeans. Add some trendy items each season, but don't hang onto them after everyone else has moved on. If you can afford it, have your clothes tailored for a perfect fit. Accessories are OK, but don't overdo it with the bling. Chukka boots and wingtips are stylish, and each works well with a number of outfits.

Frame it up: Moulded plastic eyeglass frames are hot right now and will help hide some of the character lines around your eyes. A frame that sweeps upward at the temples will help give your face a visual lift. Stay away from styles with heavy lower sections or a downward curve (like aviators). They can give you a heavy or droopy look.

Medically Reviewed by Carol DerSarkissian, MD - WebMD

To your health... Good news for coffee drinkers, bad news for salt lovers

There's good news for coffee drinkers, bad news for salt lovers. See what to eat and what to avoid to keep your lungs in tip-top shape. Medically Reviewed by Brunilda Nazario, MD of WebMD

A healthy, well-balanced diet goes a long way to keep your body strong, including your lungs. In general, aim for a variety of foods from each food group to keep your lungs happy. (Hint: More plants and fewer processed foods are better for just about everyone.) To keep your lungs in tiptop shape, here are some examples of foods to enjoy and avoid or limit -- along with not smoking and other lung-friendly habits.

Good: High-Fibre Foods

What do raspberries, peas, lentils, and black beans have in common? They're all high in fibre, which is great for your lungs. Research suggests people who eat more fibre have lungs that work better than those who don't eat much fibre. Other fibre-rich foods include whole-wheat spaghetti, baked beans, chia seeds, quinoa, pears, and broccoli.

Bad: Processed Meats

Studies show a link between

processed, or cured, meats and worse lung function. Researchers think the nitrites used in processing and preserving cured meats may cause inflammation and stress to the lungs. Bacon, ham, deli meat, and sausage all fall into the category of processed meats.

Good: Coffee

Good news for coffee lovers: Your morning cup could be doing your lungs a favour. Research points to a connection between regular coffee and healthier lungs. This could be due to the caffeine, which is anti-inflammatory, and polyphenols, which are antioxidant and also anti-inflammatory.

Bad: Too Much Alcohol

Heavy drinking is bad for your liver and for your lungs. Sulfites in alcohol can worsen asthma symptoms, and ethanol affects your lung cells. If you drink too much, you're more likely to get pneumonia and other lung problems. But a little bit is OK. Two drinks or less per day, especially if it's wine, may be good for your lung health. Health experts don't recommend anyone start drinking, though -- and if you do drink, keep it moderate.

Good: Whole Grains

Whole grains are great for your lungs. They include brown rice, whole-wheat bread, whole-wheat pasta, oats, quinoa, and barley. Not only are whole-grain foods high in fibre, which has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory qualities, but they're full of vitamin E, selenium, and essential fatty acids, which are good for lung health. Refined grains, like white flour and white rice, lose many of their nutrients in the milling process.



Bad: Sugary Drinks

Do your lungs a favour and swap out soft drinks for water. A study found adults who drank more than five sweetened soft drinks a week were more likely to have ongoing bronchitis, and kids were more likely to have asthma. It's not clear that the sodas were the reason why, but the pattern stood out. If you smoke, even unsweetened soft drinks can be bad for your lungs.

Good: Berries

Red and blue fruits like blueberries and strawberries are rich in a flavonoid called anthocyanin, which gives them their color and is also a strong antioxidant. Research suggests this pigment can slow down your lungs' natural decline as you age. In one study, older men who ate at least two servings of blueberries a week had notably less decline in lung function than those who ate fewer or no blueberries.

Bad: Too Much Salt

A little adds flavour, but a lot adds to your odds for lung problems. People who eat a lot of salt are more likely to have long-term bronchitis. And a high-sodium diet can worsen asthma symptoms, but you may be able to help your lungs work better if you go light on salt for a couple of weeks. Cook from scratch, and avoid restaurants and packaged foods.

Good: Leafy Green Vegetables

Load your plate with spinach, Swiss chard, and other leafy greens, and you could lower your chance of getting lung cancer. One study found that Chinese greens are particularly good for this purpose. This could be because they are high in carotenoids, which are antioxidant.

Good: Dairy Products

Research suggests drinking milk and eating cheese, yogurt, and other dairy products can lower your chances of dying from lung cancer. Unless you're allergic to it, dairy is tied to anti-inflammatory properties. On the flip side, if you have asthma or another lung problem, going dairy-free may help cut down on your mucus production.

Good: Tomatoes

Tomatoes are the richest source of lycopene, which is linked to lung health. Eating tomatoes and tomato products like tomato juice can improve airway inflammation if you have asthma and may lower your chance of death if you have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Lycopene is also tied to less decline in lung function for young adults. These benefits are even more pronounced for people who used to smoke.

From Dilip Kumar To Kunal Kapoor...

Bollywood celebs who got married to one of their biggest fans

B-Town celebs command a huge fan base of millions. But did you know there have been some celebs who have actually married some of their biggest fans? Check them out as reported by Bollywood Shaadis!

Whether male or female, every Bollywood lover has a crush on some or the other actor and has even dreamt of getting up close and personal with them. While getting a once-in-a-million-chance of meeting them fulfils their bucket list, some fans also secretly desire a dream of getting married to them. From their exemplary acting mettle to their fantastic dance moves and stunning good looks, these fans fall for their celeb crushes on many of these aspects. Interestingly, while such a situation may appear impossible to many, we have many Bollywood actors who eventually married some of their biggest fans.



Dilip Kumar-Saira Banu

Late Dilip Kumar and Saira Banu, who created magic on and off-screen, had once started their beautiful love story with a fan-celebrity relationship. For the unversed, even before her acting debut, Saira had a deep crush on Dilip Kumar and was a huge fangirl of the dashing actor. Her interest in film acting was aroused as she sat mesmerised by seeing Dilip Kumar's commendable performances. The duo got married on October 11, 1966.

Mumtaz-Mayur Madhvani

Mumtaz was one of the most beautiful actresses of her generation, who had commanded a sizeable male fan following right from her initial days. Her beauty and smile pulled a string to the heart of every man who daydreamed of having her in their life. However, destiny had brought into her life one such fan named Mayur Madhvani, for whom it was none less than a dream come true. And to make it even more special, Mayur replied to all rumours accusing him of marrying the diva for fame, fortune and beauty, as he called it forever with Mumtaz when she was battling cancer. The duo got married on May 29, 1974.

Jeetendra-Shobha Kapoor

Jeetendra and his darling wife, Shobha, are simply a match made in heaven. One of the dashing actors of the 80s who won hearts courtesy of his swift dance moves and powerful dialogues left a profound impact on the heart of a young air hostess of British Airlines,

Shobha, who became a huge fan of his in no time. Fast forward to today, the couple who got married on October 31, 1974, are proud parents of their highly established children, Tusshar and Ekta Kapoor.



Kunal Kapoor-Naina Bachchan

Winning hearts with his fabulous physique and dreamy looks, Kunal Kapoor has been the favourite of female fans worldwide. Interestingly, such female attention at certain times also overwhelmed the actor, for his personal life has preferred to be kept low-key. However, little did he know that his talented performance in the film, *Laaga Chunri Mein Daag* would fetch him not just his biggest secret fan, but also his wife-to-be, Naina Bachchan, daughter of Amitabh Bachchan's sibling, Ajitabh Bachchan. The duo got married on February 9, 2015.

Rajesh Khanna-Dimple Kapadia

One of the greatest actors of the golden 70s era of Bollywood, Rajesh Khanna, needs no introduction. Having an unending female fan following back in his days, he eventually selected to give away his heart to an utterly star-struck fan girl of his, Dimple Kapadia and the duo got married on March 27, 1973. Considering Rajesh Khanna's serious unfinished affair with co-actor, Anju Mahendru before marriage and the fact that he also filed for divorce with his wife, Dimple, after nearly nine years of their union, the couple has nevertheless spent some magical time with one another.

Shilpa Shetty-Raj Kundra

Stealing every man's heart with her perfectly enviable physique and chiselled looks, Shilpa Shetty has mastered the art of raising the hotness quotient right from her debut in Bollywood. But, with so many fans worldwide, it was only to the promises of forever from her admirer and a British-Indian businessman, Raj Kundra, that she responded to.

Vivek Oberoi-Priyanka Alva

Vivek Oberoi, who hails from a film family, has swooned the hearts of millions of female fans out there, and there was no one left to be smitten with his gifted features. However, only Priyanka Alva, one of his greatest fans, got the opportunity to fulfil her dreams of marrying the actor. The couple got hitched in an intimate ceremony on October 29, 2010.

Sohail Khan-Seema Sajdeh

With his chiselled abs and handsome features, Sohail Khan won many hearts with his debut, *Maine Dil Tujhko Diya*. However, while many only saw his terrific acting chops' overall impact on his fans, especially females, it also turned out to be a glorious time for him, as he had found his true love match with one of his biggest fans and wife-to-be, Seema Sajdeh. Fast forward to today, the duo, who have parted ways recently, are proud co-parents to their kids, Nirvaan and Yohan Khan.

Yami Gautam's 'Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga' ranks at number 2 across the globe on Netflix

Dinesh Vijan's latest production *Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga* is causing a global furore on Netflix as it gains position amongst the top 10 trending titles in 61 countries.

The Maddock Films production has become the most viewed Indian movie on Netflix in 2 weeks of its launch, with a whopping viewership of 29 million hours globally.



The film is also ranking number 2 worldwide on Netflix.

The movie follows the story of a flight attendant and her boyfriend who get entangled in an aerial heist that goes horribly awry. The film marks Maddock's third successful outing with Netflix after memorable hits such as *Mimi* and *Dasvi*.

With a gripping plot and stellar performances, the Yami Gautam starrer Netflix movie is a must-watch for fans of the thriller genre. The film is currently streaming on Netflix. *Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga* is directed by Ajay Singh and produced by Dinesh Vijan and Amar Kaushik

Top 3 global hits out of India in 14 days of launch

1. *Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga* – 29 million viewership hours
2. *RRR* -- 25.5 million viewership hours
3. *Gangubai Kathiawadi* -- 22.1 million viewership hours



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within less than 5 mins
from New Supreme
Court Building

**Ideal for
Office - Mini
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Priyanka Chahar Choudhary reacts to relationship rumours with Ankit Gupta

Priyanka Chahar Choudhary was one of the most popular contestants on Bigg Boss 16. Her relationship with Ankit Gupta who was also in BB house as a contestant has been the talk of the town. The actors had shared screen space in the popular serial Udaariyaan. Their chemistry in the BB house was much loved by fans. Soon rumours of Priyanka Chahar, Ankit Gupta being in a relationship hit headlines.

In a conversation with Bollywood Bubble host, the actress opened up on her bond with Ankit Gupta.

Priyanka Chah on her parents

"No, we have not spoken about any such particular thing at home. My parents know that whatever I will do will be right. They have confidence in me that I will not do anything stupid or take any wrong decisions in my life.

"My family members are simple people who do not know anything about this environment. It was the first time that they had come to my shoot. It was for the first time my parents had caught a flight to come on Bigg Boss. They are very simple people and if I ever tell them that I like this boy or that, they will always respect my decision and support it. But of course, they will like to know about him. When rumours about me and Ankit hit headlines, my mummy and papa were not worried because they know in the end, she will not do anything wrong. If there is something then she will come and tell us.

In fact, Papa and mummy also like Ankit very much. So, it is a sorted scene I don't have to



Priyanka Chahar Choudhary opens up on link up rumours with Ankit Gupta of 'Udaariyaan'. Pic - India Forums

explain. They know he is just a friend."

On Ankit Gupta

"Within the BB house, nothing affected our relationship. Even when we came out of the house, there were so many rumours and everyone was asking if we have thought to be more than friends or not. But we both are quite clear and often share a laugh about the rumours. We are like, 'our relation is so adorable and we share a beautiful bond of friendship'.

"Currently, we are not paying much attention to all that, as he is working and even I am busy, so we both are quite sorted and moving ahead with a focused mind. Our bond is so strong that any comments by a third person do not affect our relationship."

Why was Gaurav Khanna sceptical about his role in 'Anupamaa'?

Gaurav Khanna recently talked to Pinkvilla about being part of the popular TV drama *Anupamaa*, and why he was hesitant about the show.

The Rupali Ganguly, Sudhanshu Pandey, and Gaurav Khanna starrer show *Anupamaa* has been winning the hearts of the masses since it aired in 2020. The show produced by Rajan Shahi and Deepa Shahi is a family drama that revolves around *Anupamaa* played by Rupali Ganguly as a responsible housewife who always put her family's needs over anything else. But seeing the reality that she barely gets any credit for what she does, she decides to live life on her own terms. Besides *Anupamaa*, the character of Anuj Kapadia, essayed by Gaurav Khanna has also received immense praise from fans. However, you would be surprised to learn that the actor was initially hesitant about accepting the show.

Gaurav Khanna being sceptical about Anupamaa

In a recent interview with News18, Gaurav Khanna revealed that he had second thoughts about taking on the role of Anuj Kapadia because he didn't believe he could do justice to the character.

Talking about his initial reaction, he said, "My first thought was if I would be able to do this. Anuj



in the show is of a certain age and at a certain level in life, so I was wondering if I would be able to do justice to such a character. Also, since I do not have kids in real life, it could be difficult to play the character Anuj's love interest, who has children of about 20-22 years of age." But producer Rajan Shah persuaded him to come for the look test.

Gaurav Khanna preparing for the role of Anuj Kapadia

Anuj Kapadia is elder than Gaurav Khanna. So, after he got selected, Gaurav knew he had to work on himself to do justice to the character. Gaurav revealed that he stopped working out to fit into the character.

He shared, "I gained weight to play the character as I was preparing to fit into the shoes of a character who is over 40 years old. Since I used to work out a lot, and I was in really good shape before the show, I decided to quit working out. Instead, I gained at least 4-5 kgs. Not many people do this on television."

He also added that he started wearing glasses on his mom's advice. His mom suggested wearing glasses while he was going for the look test as it can add maturity to his face.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You may feel a need to break free from routines and explore new horizons. However, be mindful of your commitments and responsibilities, and make sure to communicate your plans with those who may be affected. You may also benefit from some intellectual stimulation and learning, so seek out new knowledge and experiences.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 14, 17, 23, 31

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Stay focused and disciplined, but also remember to take breaks and prioritize self-care. You may also benefit from seeking support from those around you, whether it's through collaboration or simply asking for advice. Remember to celebrate your accomplishments and give yourself credit for your hard work.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 15, 21, 33, 36, 40

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You may feel a sense of innovation and creativity, and may be inspired to pursue new ideas and projects. Don't be afraid to take risks and think outside the box. You may also feel a desire to connect with like-minded individuals or communities, so seek out opportunities for networking and collaboration.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 15, 20, 23, 26, 30

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Trust your instincts and listen to your inner voice. You may also benefit from some introspection and meditation to help you find clarity and peace of mind. Remember to prioritize self-care and take breaks when needed. There will be good progress opportunities in the areas of study.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 10, 12, 13, 14, 39

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

You may feel a strong urge to take charge and assert your authority. However, be mindful of how your actions may affect others, as you may unintentionally appear domineering or aggressive. Take time to reflect on your goals and priorities and consider collaborating with others to achieve them. Communication may be vital in avoiding conflicts and finding common ground.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 14, 17, 21, 23

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You may experience some financial fluctuations, so it's essential to be cautious with your spending. You may also feel a sense of restlessness and a desire to change your routine. Consider exploring new hobbies or activities that can bring joy and stimulate creativity. Remember to take care of your physical and emotional health as well.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 7, 15, 30, 32

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You may encounter obstacles or setbacks, but don't let them discourage you. Keep an open mind and be flexible in your approach, which can help you find alternative solutions. Your social skills and ability to connect with others may be fundamental as networking opportunities arise.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 4, 7, 15, 19, 33

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

During the week, you may feel a need to prioritise your personal life and take a break from work or other obligations. Make sure to communicate your needs with those around you, and don't feel guilty about taking some time for self-care. You may also experience some emotional ups and downs, so be gentle with yourself and seek support if needed.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 17, 30, 34, 40

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You may be in the spotlight and receive recognition for your accomplishments. However, be mindful of your ego and try to stay grounded. This can be a good time to set new goals and work towards them with focus and determination. Don't be afraid to ask for help or advice from others who may have more experience.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 24, 25, 31, 37, 40

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You may feel a sense of uncertainty or confusion in your personal or professional life. Take time to clarify your goals and values, and don't be afraid to ask for guidance from trusted mentors or friends. You may also benefit from some introspection and meditation to help you find clarity and peace of mind.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 19, 20, 26, 29

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You may experience some tension or conflicts in your relationships. Try to listen to others' perspectives and communicate your own feelings in a constructive way. Don't be afraid to set boundaries or take a step back if needed. You may also feel a desire to pursue your passions or creative endeavours, so make time for self-expression.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 13, 17, 19, 30, 35

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You may feel a sense of transformation or growth in your personal or professional life. Embrace change and be open to new opportunities and experiences. You may also feel a desire to connect with others on a deeper level, so prioritize meaningful conversations and connections.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 16, 30, 31, 34, 35



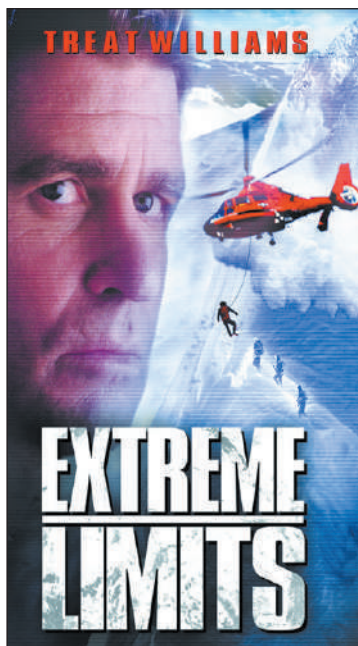
Vendredi 14 Avril - 21.15



Samedi 15 Avril - 21.00



Dimanche 16 Avril - 21.52



Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 14 avril	06.15 Serial: Chicago PD 07.01 Film: Guess Who's Coming... 08.46 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des... 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.00 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.25 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.25 Tele: Love And Wealth 13.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 14.15 Serial: Timeless 15.21 Film: Wolves 17.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.30 Film: The Escape Room 22.20 Serial: For Life 23.05 Tele: Fierce Angel 23.47 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 00.30 Tele: Love And Wealth	06.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 07.32 Local: Radio Vision 10.19 Local: An Eta Dalert 11.09 Local: Groov'in 12.02 Local: Rodrig Prog 12.20 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 12.51 Local: Mots & Ecrits 13.27 Local: Rodrig Prog 15.30 Local: An Eta Dalert 15.41 Local: Rodrig Sa 18.00 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 18.30 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 20.00 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 22.00 Local: La Societe 23.00 Le Journee Televisé 23.45 Local: Arsiv MBC 00.11 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 00.39 Local: Rodrig Prog	07.00 Film: Super Bheem 08.10 MBC Production 10.07 Serial: Agniphera 12.00 Film: Aan Aur Shaan Starring: Shammi Kapoor Rishi Kapoor, Moushumi Chatterjee 14.15 Mag: DDI Mag 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Bhagwan Ab Ho Kitne Door 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 16.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Khel Khiladi 19.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol 20.00 MBC Production 20.30 Film: Muqaddar Ka Sikandar 22.33 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.05 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 23.32 MBC Production	06.30 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian 06.51 D.Anime: Booba 07.25 D.Anime: Harvey Girls Forever! 07.48 D.Anime: The Adventures Of Puss In Boots 09.15 Film: THe Magic Kids 10.48 Mag: The World Is Yours 11.09 Serial: Creeped Out 11.38 Doc: Foodland 11.41 Mag: Eco India 12.07 Doc: Volcano Stories 13.45 Film: Jurassic Planet 14.48 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover... 14.53 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.06 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.21 D.Anime: Zoonicorn 15.39 D.Anime: The Deep 16.00 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.20 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.58 Mag: Lab 360	20.00 Radha Krishna 20.29 Anupamaa 20.59 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 21.27 Mere Sai 21.57 Kundali Bhagya 22.25 Serial: Udaariyaan 22.55 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 23.25 Film: Dil Hain Betaab 01.37 Radha Krishna 02.06 Anupamaa 02.36 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 03.04 Mere Sai 03.34 Kundali Bhagya 04.02 Udaariyaan 04.32 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 05.02 Film: Dil Hain Betaab Starring Vivek Mushran, Ajay Devgn, Pratibha Sinha
samedi 15 avril	06.00 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'Ana 06.31 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 06.55 Serial: Riviera 07.40 Serial: L.A.'S Finest 08.25 Serial: Blue Bloods 09.10 Serial: Blacklist 09.55 Serial: Deux Flics à Miami 10.45 Serial: Kojak 11.30 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: The Magicians 13.25 Tele: Missing Bride 15.20 Film: Encounter 16.48 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Enter: Taare Zameen 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Le Pic De Dante 22.20 Serial: Billions 23.14 Tele: Rubi	07.00 Local: Lir - Ekrrir Kreol... 07.35 Local: Rodrig Prog 08.38 Local: La Societe 09.35 Local: Arsiv MBC No 205 11.03 Local: Come On Let's Dance 12.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 12.14 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Rodrig Prog 14.59 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 15.25 Local: Rodrig Prog 16.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 16.57 Local: La Societe 17.49 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Serial: Airwolf 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Magazine De L'Emploi 20.10 Local: Young Chef... 20.45 Le Festival De Musique 21.45 Local: Glwar Dantan 22.11 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 23.00 Le Journal	07.00 Film: Super Bheem - Samudri Lootere 08.31 MBC Production 11.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 12.01 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.25 MBC Production 14.00 Enter: Taare Zameen Par 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Bade Dil Wala Stars: Sunil Shetty, Priya Gill, Paresh Rawal 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 MBC Production 20.31 Serial: Vidrohi 20.55 Film: Kidnap 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 20.59 Film: Kidnap Starring Sanjay Dutt,Imran Khan, Minishsha Lamba 23.38 MBC Production	06.24 D.Anime: Fast And Furious 06.46 D.Anime: Gon 09.20 Film: The Three Musketeers 10.45 Serial: Creeped Out 11.17 Doc: Northern Lights 12.37 Doc: Innovation On Board 13.50 Film: Le Roi Des Elephants 15.00 D.Anime: D.I.Y 15.08 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.27 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.47 D.Anime: The Deep 16.08 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.32 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.47 D.Anime: Miraculous 17.10 Mag: Lab 360 18.50 Doc: World Capitals 20.02 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 20.30 Live: News 20.48 Doc: Eden, Au Coeur Du... 21.40 Film: The Snowman Acteurs: Michael Fassbender, Rebecca Ferguson, Charlotte Gainsbourg	08.00 Kundali Bhagya 10.00 Udaariyaan 12.00 Serial: Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi 14.04 Serial: Radha Krishna 16.00 Patiala Babes 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Film: Ishq Vishk Starring: Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao, Shenaz Treasury 20.43 Naagin Season 21.25 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
dimanche 16 avril	03.35 Film: The Snowman 05.00 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'Ana 06.16 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 06.50 Film: The Final Countdown 08.22 Serial: Airwolf 09.05 Film: Little Italy 10.52 Serial: Under Pressure 11.34 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Film: Ride Lonesome 14.15 Serial: Killjoys 15.25 Film: Charlie's Angels 17.25 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 19.16 Other: Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Extreme Limit 22.05 Serial: Billions 22.58 Doc: Rubi 00.30 Serial: Under Pressure	07.05 Le Festival De Musique 08.10 Local: Rodrig Prog 09.06 Local: Glwar Dantan 09.34 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 10.20 Rodrig Prog: Ala Nou Vini 11.01 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.02 Rodrig: D'Jam 12.31 Local: Young Chef 13.10 Le Festival De Musique 14.00 Local: Elle 15.00 Local: Mr And Mrs Ability 16.20 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 17.06 Rodrig Prog: Rodrig Otantik 18.00 L'Incroyable Hulk 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Local: Inspirasion 20.30 Local: Les Klips 21.30 Local: Elle 22.32 Local: Retouvizer 22.38 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.45 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La	07.00 Film: Mahayodha Vir 08.06 Local: Hamar Fitness Challenge 08.26 MBC Production 12.00 Film: Chaalbaaz With Sridevi, Sunny Deol, Rajinikanth, Anupam Kher. 14.29 Magazine: DDI Mag 15.30 MBC Production 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Planet Bollywood 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashii 20.00 Local: Yaadein 20.30 Serial: Porus 20.59 Serial: Naagin Season 3 21.40 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.32 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna 00.03 MBC Production	06.04 D.Anime: Fast And Furious 06.22 D.Anime: Gon 06.44 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti 09.15 Film: Bernie Le Dauphin 2 11.00 Serial: Malory Towers 11.19 Doc: Word Capitals 11.48 Mag: In Good Shape 12.14 Doc: Eden, Au Coeur Du... 13.45 Film: Diamond Dog Caper 15.24 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou 15.53 D.Anime: The Deep 16.14 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.38 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.53 D.Anime: Miraculous 17.20 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian 18.00 Doc: World Capitals 18.28 Doc: Smoothie Mania 19.00 Mag: The Inside Story 20.00 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 20.30 Live News	00.00 Udaariyaan 02.10 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 04.11 Radha Krishna 06.10 Patiala Babes 08.00 Anupamaa 10.04 Babe Acche Lagte Hai 2 12.00 Mere Sai 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 16.08 Sasural Simar Ka 2 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.38 Film: Bhagam Bhag Starring: Govinda, Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal, Lara Dutta 20.53 Serial: Naagin Season 21.43 Yeh Teri Galiyan
lundi 17 avril mars	06.15 Serial: Chicago PD 07.00 Film: Off Piste 08.30 L'incroyable Hulk 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.00 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.17 Tele: Love And Wealth 13.40 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 14.10 L'incroyable Hulk 15.21 Film: The Challenger 17.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 19.30 Le Journal 20.25 Serial: Riviera 21.15 Serial: Billions 22.00 Serial: Blue Bloods 23.00 Serial: Fierce Angel 23.42 Tele: Sublime Mensonge	07.07 Local: Mr And Mrs Ability 08.17 Local: Inspirasion 08.32 Local: Tita Tita Nu Avance 08.58 Local: Les Klips 09.55 Local: Retrovizer 10.18 Local: Elle 11.09 Local: Rodrig 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.57 Local: Mr And Mrs Ability 14.07 Local: Retrovizer 14.21 Local: La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 14.26 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 15.17 Local: Elle 17.08 Local: Les Klips 18.00 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 18.30 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.30 Local: Rodrig Prog 20.00 Local: Nos Aines 20.30 Local: Business Connect 20.45 Local: Metie	08.00 Film: Animated Hindi Film 10.05 Mag: MBC Production 12.02 Film: Saaransh 14.11 Mag: DDI Mag 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.33 Bhagwan Ab Ho Kitne Door 16.23 Kundali Bhagya 17.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.29 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen 19.00 Local: Hindi Sahitya 19.30 Local: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.10 Other: Radha Krishna 20.42 Film: Apne Apne Starring Jeetendra,Hema Malini, Rekha 22.52 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.13 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 23.33 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen	06.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Film: Animated Hindi Film 09.00 Local: Planet Bollywood 09.39 Local: Tohar Rashii 10.09 Local: Tohar Farmaish 10.44 Local: Yaadein 11.14 Magazine 12.05 Film: Saaransh Stars: Rohini Hattangadi, Anupam Kher, Soni Razdan 14.11 Mag: DDI Mag 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Other: Sayings Radha Krishna 15.31 Serial: Bhagwan Ab Ho Kitne Door 16.01 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 17.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen 19.00 Local: Hindi Sahitya 20.42 Film: Apne Apne Starring Jeetendra,Hema Malini,Rekha	15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Mera Pehla Pehla Pyar Starring: Ruslaan Mumtaz, Hazel Crowney 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.08 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.36 Radha Krishna 21.06 Anupamaa 21.34 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.35 Yeh Teri Galiyan 23.06 Patiala Babes 23.30 Film: Mera Pehla Pehla Pyar



Mardi 18 Avril - 21.10



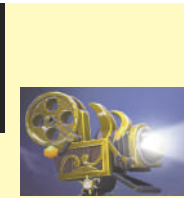
Mercredi 19 Avril - 15.12



Jeudi 20 Avril - 15.21



Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 18 avril 06.00 Serial: Chicago PD 07.00 Serial: Riviera 07.55 Serial: L.A.'S Finest 08.45 Serial: Blue Bloods 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.05 Local: A Que No Me Dejas 10.25 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.15 Tele: Love And Wealth 13.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 14.10 Serial: L'Agence Tous Risque 15.21 Film: Ride Lonesome 17.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 18.31 Serial: Wagle Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.30 Film: Restart The Earth 22.00 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 22.50 Tele: Fierce Angel 23.32 Tele: Sublime Mensonge	mardi 18 avril 07.00 Local: Business Connect 09.02 Local: Proze Dime 09.29 Local: Viens Decouvrir 10.44 Local: Rodrig Prog 11.08 Local: Le Rendez Vous... 13.18 Local: Metie 13.38 Local: Tous Egaux 13.53 Local: Proze Dime 14.18 Local: Viens Decouvrir 14.31 Local: Rodrig Prog 17.08 Le Rendez Vous Avec Didier Clarel 18.00 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 18.30 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 19.47 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.00 Local: Ong An Eta Dalert 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.30 Local: Radio Vision 22.30 Local: Mots & Ecrits	mardi 18 avril 07.00 Film: Animated Hindi Film 08.04 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayan 08.30 Local: Hindi Sahitya 08.56 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 09.36 Local: Vaad Vivaad 10.06 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.33 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Khilona With Jeetendra, Sanjeev Kumar, Mumtaz, Shatrughan Sinha 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 16.45 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Tark Vitark 19.00 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.30 Film: Sanjog 23.06 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.37 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	mardi 18 avril 06.03 Mag: Eco At Africa 09.19 Doc: Smoothie Mania 09.22 Mag: Washington Forum 10.33 Doc: Bhutan 11.23 Mag: Eco At Africa 11.49 Mag: The 77 percent 12.19 Doc: World Heritage 13.18 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 14.13 Mag: Tomorrow Today 15.00 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover... 15.17 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.19 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou 15.36 D.Anime: Zoonicorn 16.06 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.30 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.45 D.Anime: Miraculous... 17.08 Mag: Lab 360 17.12 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian 17.36 Mag: Mimetismes 17.57 Doc: Foodland	mardi 18 avril 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.07 Film: Aatish Starring Sanjay Dutt, Aditya Pancholi, Raveena Tandon 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.38 Radha Krishna 21.08 Anupama 21.37 Mere Sai 22.08 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.38 Yeh Teri Galiyan 23.06 Patiala Babes 23.30 Film: Aatish Starring Sanjay Dutt, Aditya Pancholi, Raveena Tandon 02.01 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan 02.59 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi
mercredi 19 avril 07.00 Film: L'Etranger 09.00 Serial: Airwolf 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.10 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.25 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.15 Tele: Love And Wealth 13.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 14.15 Serial: Airwolf 15.21 Film: Ophelia 17.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 18.30 Other: Radha Krishna 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 Local: Focus Live 21.30 Serial: New Amsterdam 22.25 Serial: Suits 23.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 23.42 Tele: Sublime Mensonge	mercredi 19 avril 07.00 Local: Priorite Sante 08.02 Local: Radio Vision 08.54 Local: Mots & Ecrits 09.23 Local: Arsiv No 220 09.47 Local: Rodrig Prog 11.03 Local: Music Tour 2022 12.00 Local: Rodrig Prog 12.18 Local: Son Ladan Mem 12.31 Local: Ong AN Eta Dalart 13.07 Local: Priorite Sante 13.29 Local: Paroles Agricoles 14.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits 15.08 Local: Nu Rasinn 15.59 Local: Letan Lontan 18.00 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 18.30 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.45 Local: En Forme	mercredi 19 avril 07.00 Film: Animated Hindi Film 08.04 Local: Tark Vitark 08.26 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 08.56 Local: Prakriti Ki God Mein 09.22 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 10.00 Serial: CID 10.48 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 11.32 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Harjaee Starring: Shammi Kapoor, Mala Sinha, Randhir Kapoor 15.30 Serial: Bhagan Ab Ho Kitne Door 16.00 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Tirth Yatra 2022 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.30 Film: Nagraj Starring Yash Kumarr, Anjana Singh, Payas Pandit 23.05 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.37 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	mercredi 19 avril 06.48 Mag: Red Carpet 09.09 Mag: Business Africa 09.30 Doc: Smoothie Mania 10.53 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 11.27 Doc: Foodland 11.56 Mag: Healthy Living 12.15 Mag: Red Carpet 13.02 Mag: Check In 13.31 Doc: La Route De La Soie 15.00 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover... 15.12 Serial: Les Copains Carlins 15.19 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.20 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillous 15.30 D.Anime: Zoonicorn 15.45 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare 16.08 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.32 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.47 D.Anime: Miraculous 17.25 Mag: Mimetismes 17.57 Doc: Foodland 18.00 Mag: Motorweek	mercredi 19 avril 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.24 Film: Alag Starring Akshay Kapoor, Dia Mirza 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 21.06 Anupama 21.36 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Yeh Teri Galiyan 22.58 Patiala Babes 23.31 Film: Alag Starring Akshay Kapoor, Dia Mirza 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.33 Udaariyaan 03.03 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi
jeudi 20 avril 06.45 Mag: Close Up 07.10 L'Incroyable Hulk 08.05 Serial: New Amsterdam 08.50 Serial: Suits 09.35 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.01 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.25 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.15 Tele: Love And Wealth 13.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 14.10 L'Agence Tous Risques 15.21 Film: The Final Countdown 17.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.56 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Raid Stars: Ajay Devgn, Saurabh Shukla, Ileana D'Cruz	jeudi 20 avril 07.00 Local: Toc Toc Doc 09.13 Local: Rodrig Ecozone 11.08 Local: Les Klipts 12.00 Local: Rodrig Spor 12.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 13.01 Local: Toc Toc Doc 13.21 Local: En Forme 13.41 Local: Agir Ensemble 15.11 Local: Encounter 15.40 Local: Arsiv 267 16.14 Local: Rodrig: Ecozone 16.47 Local: Rodrig Prog: Kadans 18.00 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 18.31 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 19.30 Local: Rodrig Prog 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Meshiagare 21.01 Local: Radio Vision 23.00 Le Journal 23.45 Local: Groovin	jeudi 20 avril 07.00 Film: Animated Hindi Film 08.04 Mag: Tirh Yatra 2022 08.27 Local: Sita Jayanti 08.53 Local: Anjoria 09.19 Local: Virasat 09.34 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.03 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 11.27 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Tum Haseen Main Jawan Starring: Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Rajendra Nath 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 16.00 Serial: Agniphera 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vaani 18.52 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.00 Swami Dayanand Saraswati 20.52 Serial: Surya Puraan 21.58 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.59 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	jeudi 20 avril 06.54 Doc: World Heritage 09.09 Mag: Focus On Europe 09.24 Doc: behind The Curtain 10.48 Doc: The Trillion Tree Plan 11.14 Doc: Foodland 12.09 Doc: World Heritage 12.44 Mag: The Inside Story 13.15 Fine Arts Sculptures-Egypt 14.09 Doc: Smoothie Mania 15.00 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover... 15.04 D.Anime: Les Copains Carlin 15.18 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.19 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventure De Caillou 15.28 D.Anime: Zoonicorn 15.42 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare 16.05 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.29 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.44 D.Anime: Miraculous 17.07 Mag: Lab 360 17.11 Mag: Brick's 'O' Brian	jeudi 20 avril 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Action Replayy Stars: Akshay Kumar, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Om Puri 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 21.02 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Yeh Teri Galiyan 22.59 Patiala Babes 23.30 Film: Action Replayy 02.01 Kundali Bhagya 02.34 Udaariyaan 03.04 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi



Jeudi 20 Avril - 15.30

Stars: Akshay Kumar, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Om Puri



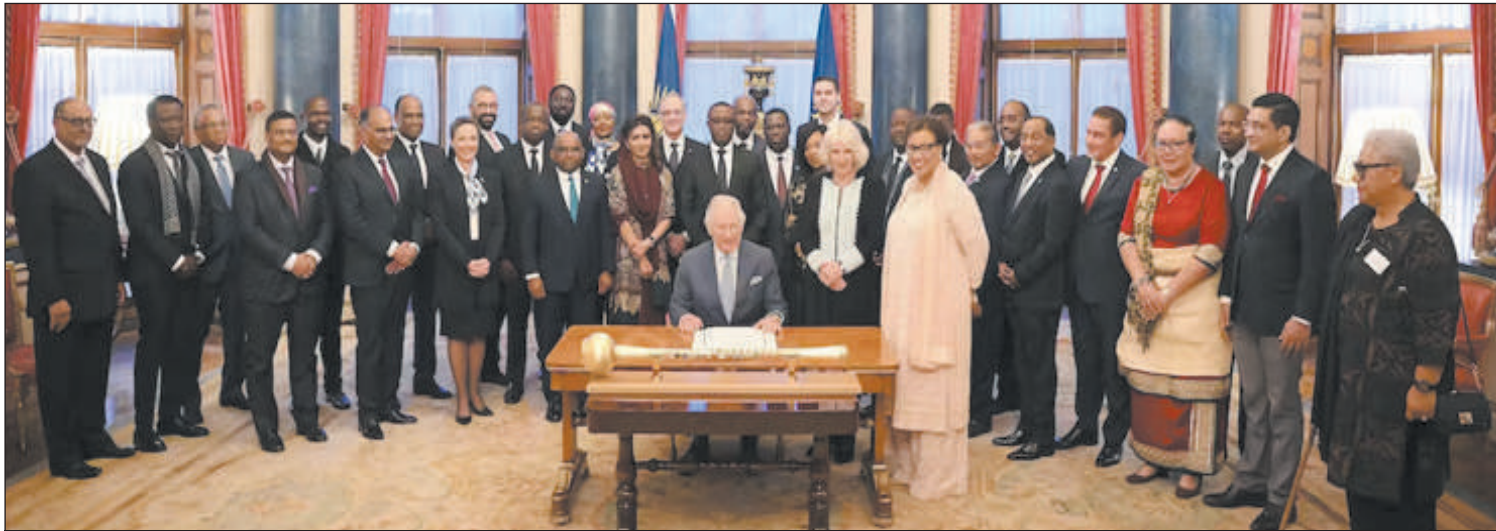
Jeudi 20 Avril - 20.30

Stars: Ajay Devgn, Saurabh Shukla, Ileana D'Cruz



King Charles's coronation: Can the British monarchy shed its imperial past?

The coronation is a critical moment for King Charles to show that the monarchy can be more efficient and more sensitive to the legacy of British imperialism.



King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla pose for a photo with representatives of the Commonwealth countries during the annual Commonwealth Day reception at Buckingham Palace in May 2022. (Daniel Leal/Pool via AP)

On May 6, 2023, eyes around the world will be on Westminster Abbey in London as King Charles and Queen Consort Camilla are crowned.

The coronation comes at a critical time for the monarchy. Fourteen Commonwealth countries, including Canada, still have the British sovereign as their head of state, but times are changing.

In 2021, Barbados became the latest Commonwealth country to drop the monarchy and become a republic. Jamaica has said it plans to explore the idea in the not-too-distant future.

The coronation is an important moment for King Charles to show the Commonwealth and the world that his reign will be modern, more efficient and more sensitive to the legacy of British imperialism.

A modern coronation

British coronations have been steeped in pomp and pageantry for centuries, with some ceremonial elements going back 1,000 years. But at a time when people in Britain and around the world are worried about the cost of living and war in Europe, an expensive coronation ceremony could seem insensitive and out of touch.

Buckingham Palace seems aware of these concerns. Media reports have indicated Charles might cut the ceremony down to just an hour and chop the VIP list from a whopping 8,000 guests down to 2,000.

In January, officials said the ceremony "will reflect the Monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry." Whatever else Charles decides to cut will further signal how he hopes to be perceived as King.

One message is already coming through. This is going to be a more personal, inclusive coronation than any before. The canopy that is held above Camilla's head when she is anointed Queen will be carried by her five grandchildren.

Colonial past

The monarchy is also looking to be mindful of its pounds and pence on coronation spending. Last month, it was announced Camilla would wear Queen Mary's Crown, made in 1911 for Charles's great-grandmother. This is the first time since 1727 a previous queen's crown is being reused. The palace says it's doing so "in the interests of sustainability and efficiency."

But the crown is also a visible reminder of Britain's colonial past. Queen Mary's Crown was designed to show off the

Koh-i-Noor diamond. One of the oldest and most significant gemstones in Indian history, it was seen as an heirloom of power and the authority to rule. In 1849, the last Maharaja of the Sikh Empire "gifted" the diamond to Queen Victoria at the urging of the British colonial government in India.

The diamond eventually became part of the crown jewels. As a symbol of British imperial power, it was shown off in Queen Mary's crown at the 1911 coronation of King George V.

For years, many have called for the Koh-i-Noor's return. India's solicitor-general claimed during a court case in 2016 that the diamond was "neither stolen nor forcibly taken away."

The Indian government quickly backtracked on this. The culture ministry stated that it wanted to "bring back the Koh-i-noor diamond in an amicable manner." Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan have also claimed it at one time or another.

For the upcoming coronation, the Koh-i-Noor will be conspicuously absent from Queen Mary's recycled crown. The Cullinan diamonds that were part of Queen Elizabeth II's personal jewels will be used.

These stones were cut from the Great Star of Africa, the largest diamond ever found. It was purchased by the British colonial government in South Africa in 1905 and was added into the crown jewels.

Queen Elizabeth's death in September 2022 has reignited calls for the return of both the Koh-i-Noor and the Cullinan diamonds. Such a move could have powerful ramifications for the monarchy, since India and South Africa remain members of the Commonwealth but without the King as head of state.

There are other signs the monarchy is looking to distance itself from its colonial past during the coronation festivities. On May 26, a special exhibit of the crown jewels is planned to open at the Tower of London.

The history of the Koh-i-Noor will be a major feature, and the exhibit promises to "explain the stone's story as a symbol of conquest." How that story will be presented remains to be seen.

Will the new King help build a more peaceful and inclusive Commonwealth? Will it even be possible for an aging white man, adorned in what to many are the symbols of repression, privilege and colonialism to do so?

Monarchists and critics alike will have to wait to see if the signals of progressive modernism surrounding the coronation develop into meaningful changes to the 1,000-year-old institution.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Missing Our Old Habits

Sometimes when we break a habit or addiction, we find ourselves missing it like a dear friend.

Whenever we make the effort to free ourselves of an addiction or a habit we no longer need, we are often surprised to find ourselves missing the old pattern as we would a familiar friend.

This sounds counterintuitive, because we think we should instinctively gravitate toward that which is good for us. And yet, it makes a lot of sense when you consider that we humans are creatures of habit. This is why we gravitate to people and places -- and patterns of behaviour -- that make us feel comfortable. Therefore, many of the habits we form are not conscious and are based instead on learned behaviour from role models who were not always making the healthiest decisions.

Most addictions begin as a way of avoiding feelings that are extremely uncomfortable, so it makes sense that stopping the addiction means, for a time, a fair amount of discomfort.

The same, of course, is true of habits that we have developed over time that we are ready to release. Just knowing that this is hard, and having compassion for ourselves as we work through this process, can help us to stay the course when we feel the urge to backtrack. It's also helpful to remember that in time we will establish new, healthier patterns, and the yearning for the old ones will disappear. Eventually, we will instinctively reach for things that are good for us, and the longing for positive change may form the basis of a new habit.

The only way to get to this new place is to endure a time of difficulty, which is a challenge we can confidently handle, if we remember that it will lead to the change we seek in our lives. Our bodies, hearts, and minds always need time to adjust to a new way of doing things, but they will adapt, and even become our allies, if we remain true to our vision of a new way.