


# MAURITIUS TIMES

● "In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations and epochs, it is the rule". -- Friedrich Nietzsche



Interview: Sameer Sharma,  
Investment Analyst &  
Financial Risk Manager

**«This is not a pro-poor budget but a budget for the rich by the rich. There is nothing free for the poor and middle class»**

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**Budget 2023-24 - les prochaines élections générales ne sont pas pour bientôt...**



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**The Lighter Notes of the 2023-24 Budget**



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**L'impôt sur les revenus est-il vraiment progressif ?**



By Prakash Neerohoo ☞ See Page 12

# Trusts, corruption, and money-laundering

**M**any of us at some time or other may have come across a requirement to specify the beneficiary owner or ultimate beneficiary of some company/société, and banks to have a Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement, it seems, to abide by corporate governance legislation. Non-charitable Trusts on the other hand are structures that seem wholly impervious, secretive and above such governance considerations. There are many valid reasons notaries and legal specialists find Trusts, which operate in Mauritius under the 2001 enacted legislation, very useful instruments for their generally wealthy clients: management of family wealth over generations, tax and succession planning, inheritance tax issues, asset protection and confidentiality for instance.

Those very features of confidentiality and secrecy are also powerful adjuncts in the marketing of the Mauritius financial jurisdiction by talented Assets Managers and other finance professionals, local or expatriate, but this aspect need not concern us unduly here. What may concern the financial and legal community, at a time when other types of structures are subject to good governance scrutiny, is whether Trusts should continue to operate under the cloak of total secrecy, without even a minimum need to register anywhere with any regulatory body. And what if there are good grounds by competent investigative agencies to believe that a trust may have been set up or may be used to hide or protect proceeds of a corrupt or an unlawful activity?

The question is not merely rhetorical for several reasons but obviously as laymen we can only suggest that legal and financial minds pore over the issues in the light of growing worldwide demands for greater transparency, less corruption and better governance.

Trusts were prime vehicles in the notorious Pandora Papers financial scams, while Russian and Ukrainian oligarchs have recently been found to have an avid appetite for trusts and their layers of complex ownership structures to hide massive amounts of luxury properties and assets suspected to have been unlawfully or criminally acquired. Under current local or international trust secrecy laws, authorities rarely even bother to scan or prioritise them in any investigation.

As the country painfully got out of the Financial Action Task Force/Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (FATF/ESAMLG) grey list and the EU blacklist, we mentioned then that those institutions, including the IMF and the EU, would be upgrading their sights to address the elephant in the room, that is, massive money-laundering generated through high-level corruption, something that took even greater prominence during the Pandemic as we know.

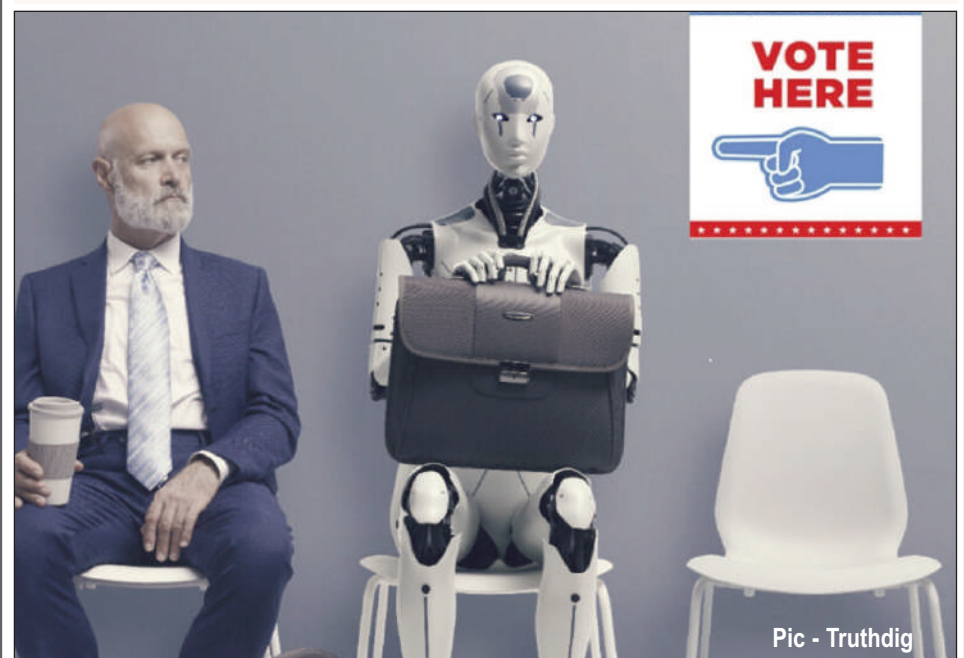
In 2022, FATF Ministers highlighted the serious impact of grand and systemic corruption on economies and societies, as well as impeding the effective implementation of the FATF Standards. Encouragingly therefore, both the FATF and the EU are now pressing for countries to apply greater transparency rules and are explicitly telling them that they need at least to set up a national register of Trusts and to record such necessary beneficiary information that would limit the scope for abusing trusts towards corruption and other financial crimes.

As we prepare for that next level, our legal/financial professionals and the concerned Ministry should have started assessing what changes might well be needed to our twenty-year-old trust legislation.

## The Conversation

# How AI could take over elections – and undermine democracy

Artificial intelligence looks like a political campaign manager's dream because it could tune its persuasion efforts to millions of people individually – but it could be a nightmare for democracy.



**C**ould organizations use artificial intelligence language models such as ChatGPT to induce voters to behave in specific ways?

Sen. Josh Hawley asked OpenAI CEO Sam Altman this question in a May 16, 2023, U.S. Senate hearing on artificial intelligence. Altman replied that he was indeed concerned that some people might use language models to manipulate, persuade and engage in one-on-one interactions with voters.

Altman did not elaborate, but he might have had something like this scenario in mind. Imagine that soon, political technologists develop a machine called Clogger – a political campaign in a black box. Clogger relentlessly pursues just one objective: to maximize the chances that its candidate – the campaign that buys the services of Clogger Inc. – prevails in an election.

While platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube use forms of AI to get users to spend more time on their sites, Clogger's AI would have a different objective: to change people's voting behaviour.

## How Clogger would work

As a political scientist and a legal scholar who study the intersection of technology and democracy, we believe that something like Clogger could use automation to dramatically increase the scale and potentially the effectiveness of behavior manipulation and microtargeting techniques that political campaigns have used since the early 2000s. Just as advertisers use your browsing and social media history to individually target commercial and political ads now, Clogger would pay attention to you – and hundreds of millions of other voters – individually.

Third, over the course of a campaign, Clogger's messages could evolve in order to take into account your responses to the machine's prior dispatches and what it has learned about changing others' minds.

**Archon Fung - Prof. of Citizenship & Self-Government, Harvard Kennedy School**  
**Lawrence Lessig - Prof. of Law & Leadership, Harvard University**

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# The Lighter Notes of the 2023-24 Budget

Jan Arden

**T**he national budget will have been amply analyzed and screened by both economists and those who sought signs of electoral populism that might indicate the proximity of general elections. We will not add more floss to the debates if only to select and highlight a couple of more curious measures, some posited as boldly innovative.

Of that category, undoubtedly the proposal to pull down the 10-storey Emmanuel Anquetil Building in the heart of the capital in favour of a ground level «mini tropical forest» of a few hundred sq metres must hold pride of place!

It must be said that the Soviet-style architectural bunker is not particularly attractive, but one cannot doubt its utter engineering solidity that did not seem to call for drastic demolition.

We learned from this Thursday's PNQ in Parliament from Minister Hurreeram, that a 2016 report seems to have highlighted the prohibitive costs of demolition as opposed to other alternatives of refurbishment. And that this budgetary measure, which must have received Cabinet's blessing, was merely a proposal that would require full-fledged technical studies before it could even be entertained, and a decision taken. His Cabinet colleagues, and Finance, in particular, must have gulped hard at such brazen admission of what sounds like giddy light-headedness.

En passant, its pull-down may well require dynamite by an experienced pro-

fessional team, that would be a first in our annals! But not being from Port-Louis, either for home or work, we can only marvel at the picture of a variety of tropical animals, land tortoises, stags, crocodiles, or macaques on display for our capital's lucky inhabitants and, added Minister Bobby Hurreeram, flocking tourists! Enough to digest what has been perpetrated at the venerable Champ de Mars, a few hundred metres away?

The second measure that showed the Minister in his bolder, more creative, attire, is the one-off grant of Rs 20 thousand rupees promised to all 15,000 of our youths attaining 18 years of age during the coming year. Honestly, I don't think anybody saw such forthright «goodie» populism coming to the point that government ministers and backbenchers were hard pressed to justify the utility of the measure against a volley of criticisms.

Fair enough and let us not begrudge the benefactors such nicety paid for by all of us said many, but paid out straight to their accounts, without parental guidance? Is that a spending spree in the offing or, in some cases, an exposure to risks that we need not dwell upon? How about those who turned 18 a few weeks ago queried some while others asked whether single mums giving birth were not equally or more deserving in the low to middle classes...

A memorable note to the mental structures of our ruling elites is the formidable display of greed entertained by our ministers, who, it must be said, earn similar salary packages to many of their EU counterparts. Under the 2015 regime,



“We will not add more floss to the debates on the Budget if only to select and highlight a couple of more curious measures, some posited as boldly innovative. Of that category, undoubtedly the proposal to pull down the 10-storey Emmanuel Anquetil Building in the heart of the capital in favour of a ground level «mini tropical forest» of a few hundred sq metres must hold pride of place! We learned from this Thursday's PNQ in Parliament from Minister Hurreeram, that a 2016 report seems to have highlighted the prohibitive costs of demolition as opposed to other alternatives of refurbishment. And that this budgetary measure, which must have received Cabinet's blessing, was merely a proposal that would require full-fledged technical studies before it could even be entertained and a decision taken. His Cabinet colleagues, and Finance, in particular, must have gulped hard at such brazen admission of what sounds like giddy light-headedness...”

ministers were renowned as world trekkers, backpacking at the drop of a hat for any international conference or seminar, of which there were quite a few every week, at our expense.

Some might have thought the ministerial appetite and thirst would quench with time. Alas, we had to witness the indecent Dubayjalsa of a dozen ministers, some accompanied by their close

cadres at Rs 77m, while it was revealed this week that ministerial travels, missions and per diems over the past five years, had totalled near half a billion Rupees! Three of those years were lockdown, pandemic and after-effects of Ukraine during which our economy suffered heavily that the PM is fond of reminding us and sacrifices were called for. Obviously not for everybody! Any further comment would be superfluous!

## The Tram Back On Track

*Natural priorities and common sense have been restored*



**W**e had the opportunity here to query the sudden announcement of the tramway's priority extension to Cote d'Or from Reduit at an extra cost of some Rs 13 billion to be borrowed from India and if this extension was substantiated by a feasibility and marketing study. We in particular wondered whether the natural priority extension would not have been from Curepipe down south towards Rose-Belle and other agglomerations to the Airport and up to Mahebourg.

In reply to PQ B/596 from Hon Osman Mohamed earlier this year, Minister of Public Utilities Bobby Hurreeram gave forceful assurances that such a feasibility

study of that extension had indeed been carried out, with «a rigorous methodology and comprehensive approach, including an extensive Stakeholder Management Plan» - implying that it was clearly not born out of the PMO's fanciful whim for the pet destination of Cote d'Or. Pressed for more details, he even ventured that extra passengers on that stretch would be between 15,000 to 30,000 daily, contributing greatly to the tramway's overall financial sustainability.

We were tempted to applaud the minister's unambiguous statement in Parliament, until, that is, the PM was reported by *Week-End*, as stating that, after all, the extension of the Reduit line would stop at Saint Pierre, thereby not reaching Cote d'Or, and that the Curepipe line would be instead extended to La Vigie towards the South and the airport.

One assumes that this too must have been bolstered by rigorous marketing and technical studies which would be communicated at some future stage. But we can rejoice that natural priorities and common sense have been restored in the circuitous design and trajectory of the tramway.

Jan Arden

## Tensions dans le détroit de Taïwan: le centre belliqueux mondial se précise

Par A. Bartleby

Les incidents continuent de se multiplier entre l'armée chinoise et celle des États-Unis dans les alentours du détroit de Taïwan. Quelques jours après qu'un chasseur chinois soit passé à quelques mètres d'un gros porteur militaire américain, deux bateaux militaires ont failli entrer en collision en ces lieux.

En effet, l'incident a eu lieu il y a quelques jours. Les deux bateaux se trouvaient sur des trajectoires indiquant qu'il allait clairement y avoir une collision, mais aucun des deux bâtiments n'a bougé. Le bateau chinois aurait contacté le bateau américain pour signifier au commandant de dévier sa route, mais ce dernier n'a pas bronché. Néanmoins, il a ralenti la course du bateau américain afin d'éviter une collision.

Le secrétaire à la Défense américain, Lloyd Austin, s'est exprimé sur l'incident en qualifiant l'attitude de la Chine d'inacceptable, précisant que la marine américaine ne cherchait pas le conflit mais qu'elle y répondrait si elle devait le faire. Les officiels chinois ne se sont pas exprimés sur l'incident, mais plusieurs analystes chinois affirment que la Chine ne se laissera pas dicter sa conduite dans des eaux territoriales qu'elle considère comme relevant de sa souveraineté, et que les États-Unis devraient reculer devant leur tentative d'encerclement de la Chine.

Ce point est particulièrement pertinent, surtout que Lloyd Austin rentre tout juste d'un voyage officiel de l'Inde où il s'est longuement entretenu avec le PM indien Narendra Modi sur les questions militaires et sécuritaires. Narendra Modi prépare d'ailleurs un voyage officiel aux États-Unis, et les discussions préliminaires qui ont eu lieu avec le secrétaire à la Défense américain laissent présager des accords sécuritaires à venir.

Parallèlement à cela, des négociations ont été entamées quelques mois de cela avec le Japon afin que l'OTAN ouvre un bureau dans ce pays. Rien ne dit que ce projet ira de l'avant, surtout qu'Emmanuel Macron vient d'émettre de sérieux doutes quant au bien-fondé d'une telle entreprise. Mais il indique clairement la volonté américaine d'un élargissement de l'OTAN vers le continent asiatique et dont la visée serait forcément l'encerclement et l'isolation sécuritaire de la Chine.

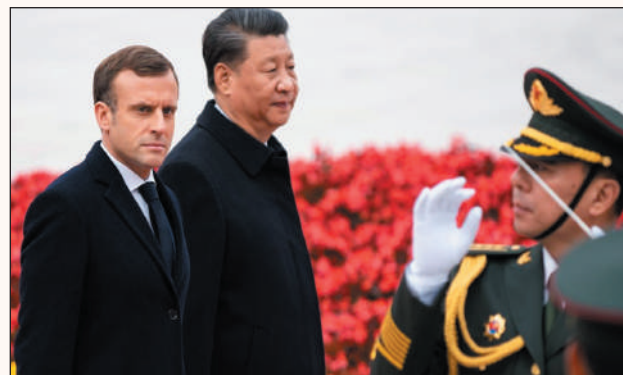


Les tensions du détroit de Taïwan

Ce projet sécuritaire trouvera certainement l'adhésion du Japon, de la Corée du Sud et de Taïwan qui voient d'un œil de plus en plus inquiet la militarisation chinoise des eaux de la Mer de Chine et du Nord-Ouest Pacifique. Mais les États-Unis auront du mal à mettre en place un tel projet sans l'aval de leurs partenaires européens, et notamment la France qui possède un contingent militaire extrêmement important dans le Pacifique et dans l'océan Indien.

Ainsi, la posture d'Emmanuel Macron reste prudente. Ce dernier a récemment clairement indiqué qu'il n'entrerait pas entièrement dans le jeu américain sans pour autant le rejeter. Cette voie du milieu que prône Macron s'aligne avec la stratégie indienne et pourrait s'avérer salutaire pour la sécurité de cette partie du globe, car la voie du milieu privilégie le consensus et les équilibres aptes à produire la paix.

En tout cas, ce qui est certain, c'est que le centre belliqueux mondial se précise de plus en plus et avec la guerre en Ukraine qui est partie pour durer et maintenir un statut quo où l'Union européenne et la Russie y trouvent leur compte, c'est maintenant vers la Mer de Chine que nous devons nous tourner. Il se pourrait bien que l'avenir de la sécurité mondiale s'y joue actuellement.



Visite d'Emmanuel Macron en Chine: le président français reste prudent et prône la voie du milieu. P - Les Echos

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### Budget 2023-24

## Les prochaines élections générales ne sont pas pour bientôt...

Le quatrième budget du Grand Argentier était attendu avec impatience par tout le pays. Maintenant que nous sommes sortis de la Covid et que l'économie mondiale est en phase de reprise importante, ce budget se devait de signaler la relance définitive de l'économie mauricienne également, et ce, à tous les étages de la pyramide sociale.

Le premier commentaire qui vient à l'esprit est que le ministre des Finances a livré un exercice prudent en tentant de faire plaisir à tout le monde. Mais faire plaisir à tout le monde implique le fait de n'avoir aucun parti pris, et ce budget pourrait apparaître fade et dénué d'orientation nationale forte de ce point de vue.

Mais pouvait-on s'attendre à un budget courageux quant aux orientations nationales à moins de deux années des prochaines échéances électorales? Certains diront que oui, mais le pragmatisme politique fait qu'aucun gouvernement n'oserait tenter un exercice budgétaire aussi risqué.

À partir de là, il est clair que le ministre des Finances a opéré dans un contexte précis: ouvrir les valves de



Le pari du Grand Argentier est clairement de miser sur une relance soutenue afin de préparer un budget vraiment électoraliste l'année prochaine

l'investissement afin de consolider la relance tout en finançant des mesures sociales pour permettre aux ménages les plus fragiles de résister à l'inflation.

Ainsi, l'abrogation de la 'Solidarity Levy' et la simplification fiscale sont des signaux forts envoyés aux investisseurs. Dans le cas de la 'Solidarity Levy', c'est même le signal clair que nous sommes sortis de l'ère de la Covid puisque cette dernière avait été mise en place afin de soutenir les mesures d'urgence mises en place à partir de mars 2020; le Grand Argentier n'avait pas arrêté de répéter qu'il s'agissait d'une mesure temporaire.

L'opposition a tout de suite crié au loup en affirmant que ce budget favorisait ainsi les classes moyennes supérieures et les riches. Cette affirmation peut sembler juste sur papier, mais elle met de côté la réalité économique du pays: le fait que sans investissement, sans croissance et sans consommation soutenues, nous ne pourrions plus financer notre modèle social. Ceci est dû à deux facteurs fondamentaux: le vieillissement de la population avec moins de jeunes qui vont devoir produire plus pour soutenir la même tendance à la croissance, et la tendance décroissante de la productivité.

Ces deux facteurs sont absolument déterminants dans les stratégies économiques, sociales et industrielles car ce sont elles qui dictent à nos gouvernants l'impératif d'ouvrir encore plus les valves du pays à l'investissement étranger (FDI) et au travail des étrangers (Occupation Work Permit et ouvriers étrangers). À partir de là, il est clair que nous sommes à Maurice dans une situation où le salariat (pour ne pas dire le prolétariat) n'est plus capable de négocier contre le capital, puisque sa survie elle-même dépend de la capacité du capital à produire de la croissance. Le gouvernement est ainsi parfaitement pragmatique: il choisit donc la voie du pragmatisme - pour reprendre une expression utilisée par les partis de gauche à travers le monde - lorsqu'il fait un cadeau fiscal aux riches.

### Modèle social, inégalité et instabilité politique

Il est essentiel de maintenir un climat favorable à l'investissement et au développement du capital à Maurice, en sachant que la structure fiscale n'est pas aussi avantageuse que dans des pays directement concurrents de Maurice sur le marché des investisseurs étrangers. La survie même des classes populaires en dépend, puisque sans les revenus qui découlent de l'investissement et de la croissance, nous serions obligés de privatiser le modèle social à Maurice.

➤ Suite en page 5

## Budget 2023-24

## Les prochaines élections générales ne sont pas pour bientôt...

☞ Suite de la page 4

Cela produit bien évidemment une situation d'inégalité qui ne fera que s'approfondir. Et il est clair que ces questions devront être adressées de manière sérieuse à un moment donné, surtout que l'approfondissement de ce système ne produira qu'une seule conséquence sur le long terme: la perte des acquis socioéconomiques des classes populaires. Ce qui produira à son tour de l'instabilité politique.



A noter toutefois qu'aucun gouvernement, quel qu'il soit, ne s'aventurerait à adresser ces problèmes dans le quatrième budget d'un mandat de cinq ans. Nous restons ainsi, pour l'instant, emprisonné dans le cercle vicieux de libérer les avenues de la croissance afin de permettre une augmentation des revenus de l'Etat, qui permettra à son tour de financer le modèle social et des mesures de soutien aux Mauriciens les plus fragiles.

Et parallèlement à des mesures favorables à l'investissement, le ministre des Finances a également adressé un certain nombre de mesures afin de soutenir les ménages les plus vulnérables dans une situation d'inflation mondiale qui risque de durer. Augmentation de la pension de vieillesse, augmentation du revenu minimum, augmentation de certaines allocations et soutien aux personnes nécessitant des soins à l'étranger, etc. L'exercice de distribution couvre un certain nombre de domaines.

Ces allocations peuvent sembler farfelues sur papier, et au regard de l'inflation - qui se situe légèrement au-dessus des 11% cette année pour Maurice -, mais l'exercice est périlleux. D'un côté, le Grand Argentier se doit d'augmenter les revenus des ménages sans tomber dans le piège bien connu des économistes: le fait qu'en situation d'inflation mondiale, faire augmenter les revenus trop rapidement fait également augmenter l'inflation. L'Argentine est un cas d'école de cette situation, et il est impératif que nous nous préservions de cette hypothèse.

Est-ce que l'exercice est réussi? Seuls les Mauriciens bénéficiant de ces aides et de ces soutiens auront une réponse à cette question, surtout que la baisse du prix de l'essence devrait également alléger les dépenses des ménages, voire même faire baisser le prix de certaines denrées alimentaires. En tout cas, le ministre des Finances semble miser sur le fait qu'une accumulation des allocations et des baisses puissent produire une dynamique favorable quant à la capacité des ménages à bas revenus à mieux résister à l'inflation mondiale, quitte à augmenter l'endettement du pays. Mais le ministre répondra qu'absolument tous les pays du monde financent

la relance actuelle par de l'endettement, ce qui est vrai.

Ce qui semble certain en tout cas, c'est que les opposants ont eu beaucoup de mal à critiquer ce budget, ce qui expliquerait qu'ils se soient rabattus sur l'allocation de Rs 20 000 aux jeunes de 18 ans. Quant à l'allocation de Rs 20 000 aux jeunes de 18 ans, cette mesure est sans aucun doute la plus critiquable du budget, et apparaît pour ce qu'elle est: une tentative d'amadouer le vote des jeunes pour les prochaines élections.

Le MSM avait réussi un coup de maître en 2014 en adressant le problème de la pension de vieillesse. Ils se sont ainsi assurés du vote des personnes âgées - ce qui n'est pas négligeable dans une situation de vieillissement de la population. C'est cette mesure, parallèlement avec la consolidation de leur base électorale dans les régions rurales, qui leur a permis dans une grande mesure de gagner les élections de 2019. Et il semble clair que la même stratégie est maintenant déployée afin de capter le vote des jeunes. Est-ce que cela marchera? Seul l'avenir nous le dira.

En conclusion, qu'on le veuille ou non, le gouvernement a encore une très grande marge de manœuvre concernant les allocations sociales, et ce budget confirme une chose: les prochaines élections générales ne sont pas pour bientôt, et le pari du Grand Argentier est clairement de miser sur une relance soutenue afin de préparer un budget vraiment électoraliste l'année prochaine.

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## Smart City à Roches Noires: Pourquoi donc une telle levée de boucliers?

La Smart City de Roches Noires continue de faire couler beaucoup d'encre. Il ne s'agit pas du premier projet Smart City qui va de l'avant à Maurice, mais c'est très certainement celui qui se heurte à plus de résistance.

En effet, certains habitants de Roches Noires - notamment les propriétaires des campements pieds dans l'eau - ne cessent de réclamer des explications concernant l'obtention de l'*Environmental Impact Assessment* (EIA). Le promoteur, une entreprise française du BTP, a organisé plusieurs rencontres avec les habitants afin de leur expliquer les tenants et aboutissants du projet mais sans forcément parvenir à les convaincre.

Ces réunions ont également vu la présence remar-



Trouver un juste milieu entre développement et protection de l'environnement. C'est là le test qui dictera si le développement soutenu de Maurice - P - Défimedia

quée d'activistes proches des conglomérats mauriciens, certains prenant position ouvertement contre le projet avec des publications dans les médias et sur les réseaux sociaux, et ce, malgré un manque total de compétence dans le domaine de l'ingénierie environnementale.

La députée Joanna Bérenger a même posé une question au ministre des Finances afin d'avoir des informations sur l'investisseur, affirmant que ce dernier n'était pas en odeur de sainteté en France. Elle n'a toutefois pas donné aucune preuve pour soutenir ses dires. Pourquoi donc une telle levée de boucliers? Il est certain que les *wetlands* (zones humides) de Roches Noires constituent une zone environnementale sensible, et soulèvent donc des questions. Mais il nous apparaît également que les personnes venant de l'avant ne représentent pas le point de vue de la majorité des habitants de Roches Noires, mais bien plutôt des gens qui semblent décidés à défendre leur style de vie exclusif et privilégié.

En effet, à Maurice, la région de Roches Noires fait partie de ces zones historiquement exclues du développement économique. Il n'y a que très peu d'activités car les infrastructures ne permettent pas le même type de développement touristique et immobilier que celui du Nord ou de l'Ouest. La conséquence en est que les populations rurales des régions comme Roches Noires souffrent encore plus de la cherté de la vie et des conséquences de la crise économique mondiale. Chômage, manque d'activités, exclusion... Nous sommes là, à quelques kilomètres seulement du Nord développé, dans une périphérie exclue.

Il ne faut pas confondre exclusion et ghettoïsation. Contrairement à d'autres zones exclues, Roches Noires et ses alentours ne sont pas des ghettos mais de belles régions où la nature est conservée et où il faut bon vivre lorsqu'on est privilégié. Un campement pieds dans l'eau, par exemple, dans cette région est un bien extrêmement prisé des classes possédantes mauriciennes. Et il est extrêmement difficile de devenir propriétaire dans cette région.

Mais ce modèle de développement, basé sur des campements de vacances, n'apporte pas la prospérité économique que les habitants ont le droit d'espérer. Et la construction d'une *Smart City* a le potentiel de désenclaver cette région, tout comme ce fut le cas pour les autres régions qui ont bénéficié de la construction des résidences destinées aux investisseurs étrangers sous le *Property Development Scheme* (PDS) et des *Smart Cities*.

C'est d'ailleurs ce qu'a rétorqué le ministre des Finances, en affirmant que la croissance économique ne pouvait se faire sans investissement et sans développement.

Est-ce que les considérations environnementales sont donc vraiment entièrement justifiées dans ce cas ou bien y a-t-il une hypocrisie dont seuls certains bourgeois mauriciens ont le secret? La vérité se situe sans doute entre ces deux hypothèses.

Nous sommes, en réalité, en face d'un cas d'école quant au modèle de développement immobilier à Maurice. Il est absolument clair que ce secteur est devenu l'un des piliers de l'économie mauricienne, et nous ne ferons pas marche arrière aussi facilement. Mais il est également clair que nous devons trouver un juste milieu entre développement et protection de l'environnement. C'est là le test qui dictera si le développement soutenu de Maurice pourra s'ancrer dans un avenir durable ou non...

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 13



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# 'BBC caught with pants down'

**B**BC caught with pants down' – that's how one Indian news channel, The Alternate Media, concluded its coverage of the 'tax fraud' committed by the BBC in India, which has been exposed by a survey that was carried out in the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai about two months

ago.

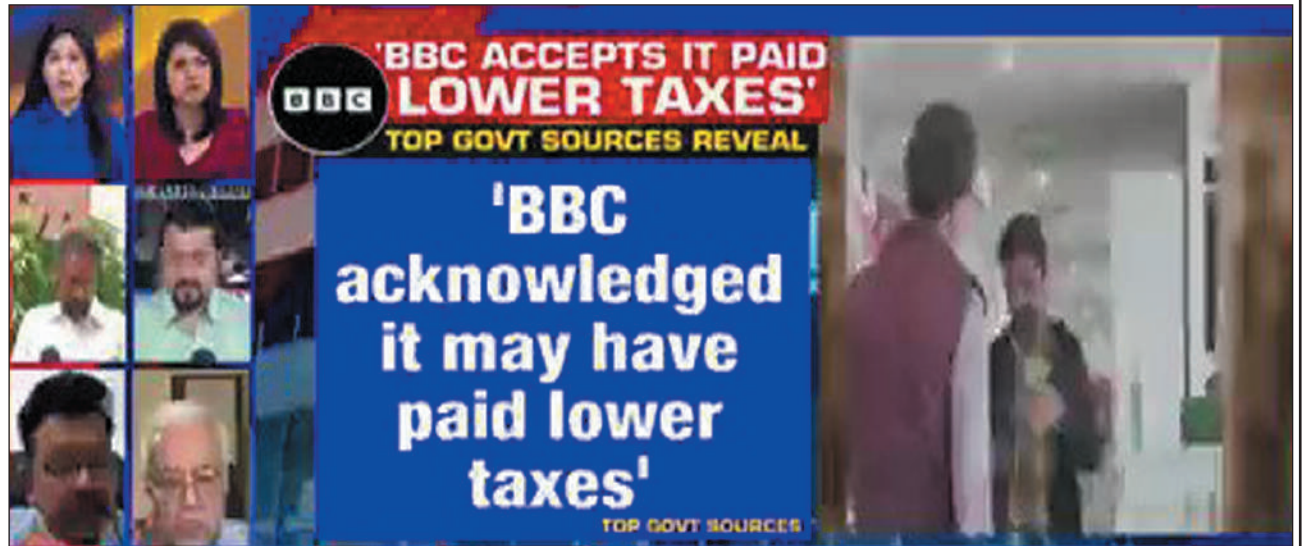
How does this concern me? Well, it does, because right from my student days at the Royal College Curepipe, our education was biased in favour of everything British. Both overtly and subtly, we were led to believe that Great Britain and British institutions, especially the monarchy, as well as British values of fairness and justice, were the ideals to be looked up to and lived by. Along with the monarchy, the British Parliament and the BBC were the two other arms of British rule that were impressed upon us – the parliament as the temple of democracy, and the BBC as the best source of reliable information and the supreme example of spoken English that should be emulated.

Only Queen's English was then acceptable at the BBC. Until Independence it was the tradition to have British Rectors at RCC, and in 1960 when I was in Form IV a new Rector took over, Mr Herbert Bullen. He not only exhorted us but actually tried to make us speak 'squeaky clean' Queen's English – though that largely didn't happen – by making us read passages which he would record on those big tape recorders, then play them out and correct our pronunciation one by one. Not only that, he stressed that we should listen to the 8 o'clock BBC news every morning, both for the accuracy of the information and the proper pronunciation. Those were the days of the box radios, and I tried to be as regular as possible in following the advice of Mr Bullen.

And that is why I was stunned by the news that the BBC, which has always tried to paint a whiter than white lily image of itself – vide Mauvilac's advert for its white paint: '*plus blanc que blanc*' – had been found to be guilty of tax evasion by the Indian authorities, to the tune of nearly Indian Rs 400 million. Perhaps I ought not to have been surprised, because it is by now a known fact that one can no longer count on the BBC for the validity of its news, especially where India is concerned. Those who know better have drawn attention repeatedly to the 'wokeism' that has infiltrated that once venerable institution, and that its coverage can be very biased.

A glaring example was the film that BBC showed earlier this year titled 'India: The Modi Question'. It raked up old issues already disposed of by judgements of the Supreme Court of India, and those who made that film wanted to act as a supra-Supreme Court and give their version based on material that had already been discredited and dismissed by India's Supreme Court. The film was banned in India, and currently the BBC is being sued in the Supreme Court there. The plaintiff is represented by eminent jurist and constitutional expert, Harish Salve, who has a robust track record, having also successfully defended the Indian government at the International Court in The Hague.

The Opposition in India, mainly the Congress,



**“What we have been witnessing in recent times has emptied the word democracy of any real meaning. All democratic countries have been convulsed by all manner of scandals – fraud and corruption both in government and private sectors, bank scandals leading to financial crises, violent street protests that have had to be met by equally violent counters so as to control the situation, refusal of democratically elected governments to provide answers to queries raised by the respective oppositions that, incidentally, do exactly the same thing when they in their turn assume power after an election!”**

accused the authorities of vindictiveness on the BBC for showing the film, when the survey was ordered by the tax department afterwards. However, this is not at all the case, because according to Indian media since well a year before the tax department had been seeking information about its financial data from BBC India, and this was not forthcoming, thus leaving it with no choice but to conduct the survey - the timing being a mere coincidence.

Apparently 'BBC has reportedly "acknowledged" that it may have paid lower taxes than required in India' but is 'yet to file revised returns or make a written submission to the I-T department.'

I don't care for BBC news now.

\* \* \*

## Democracies, such as they are!

**P**erhaps the British politician Winston Churchill was right about democracy after all, not that it is the best form of government, but the least bad. For what we have been witnessing in recent times has emptied the word democracy of any real meaning. All democratic countries have been convulsed by all manner of scandals – fraud and corruption both in government and private sectors, bank scandals leading to financial crises, violent street protests that have had to be met by equally violent counters so as to control the situation, refusal of democratically elected governments to provide answers to queries raised by the respective oppositions that, incidentally, do exactly the same thing when they in their turn assume power after an election!

Not to mention the postponement of elections, which happens in some democracies where the prime minister has the prerogative to fix election dates. Although in the US the Presidential election and the installation of the new president are held on fixed dates in November and January respectively every four years without fail, this does mean that it is the perfect example of democratic functioning either. There are so many fault lines in the US, from 'institutionalised racism' to the ills of runaway capitalism that keeps widening the gap between the haves and the have-nots – and that we find in all democracies as well, including our own country. Here, because of the smallness of the country, this is even more glaring, and no budgetary measures down the years have been able to correct this imbalance.

The US is the oldest democracy and India is the largest one, in both of which freedom of expression quite often takes extreme forms, which can be paradoxical too. This is the case with India currently. One of its former opposition MPs, Rahul Gandhi (who has been disqualified as such by a Court in India) has gone on a tour in some US cities sponsored by US-based supporters of his party the Congress and backed by organizations with dubious credentials that symbolize the Congress's vote banks. There he has openly criticized India's Prime Minister and said that democracy is dead in India. The fact that he can do that in foreign country as well as in India, and not get arrested and jailed, is itself proof enough of the exact opposite!

In a statement that contradicts him, the US authorities have qualified India as being a vibrant democracy and invited *à qui de droit* to go to India's capital city New Delhi and to see for themselves! Whether this stance, which comes in the wake of an earlier one on human rights issues in India, has anything to do with anticipated trade deals that may come up during the forthcoming PM Modi's official visit to the US is another matter. So too is the bipartisan invitation to him to address the US Congress. But it is undeniable that he has emerged as a respected and sought after global leader, under whose watch India's growth rate is expected to be the highest at over 6%.

As Rajya Sabha MP and BJP national president JP Nadda has remarked, 'Under his leadership, India has moved away from vote bank politics to report card politics, and from dynasty to democracy and meritocracy.'

Maybe there are lessons for our own country too in this remark.

## Pak Army's threat to Imran for May 9 violence signals power rise of Gen Munir

Although General Asim Munir's tough statement at the end of the formation commanders meeting in Rawalpindi on Wednesday targeted PTI chief Imran Khan Niazi for his role in instigating May 9 insurrection against Pakistan Army, there was an oblique message to civilian political leadership that no one is above "Fauj (army)" in the Islamic Republic, reports Hindustan Times.

The statement released by Pakistan Army said: "It is time that the noose of law is also tightened around the planners and masterminds (of May 9 events) who mounted the hate-ripened and politically driven rebellion against the state and state institutions to achieve their nefarious design of creating chaos in the country. Forum also resolved that endeavours by any quarter to create obstructions... will be dealt with iron hands."

With Pak Army applying the Army Act and the Official Secret Act on the May 9 instigators, planners, and executors, it is quite evident that the politics of former cricketer, who could swing the ball on both sides, is over for the present and near future with senior PTI leaders abandoning the Niazi bandwagon after pressure from the



Former Pak PM Imran Khan and army chief Gen Asim Munir. Pic - HT

Army. But the big picture is that Army Chief General Asim Munir will grow in stature and will exercise more power over the civilian leadership led by PM Shehbaz Sharif. This also means that the return of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan will become all the more difficult as Gen Munir would prefer an amiable Shehbaz instead of the former PM who got him appointed as the Army Chief. It is learnt that Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza, current Chairman, Joint

Chiefs of Staff Committee, was the choice of former Pak Army Chief Gen Qamar Jawed Bajwa but got overruled in London, reports Hindustan Times.

Gen Munir was appointed by the Sharif government on the grounds that he would take on Imran Niazi as the latter had humiliated him by shunting him out as DG (ISI) and replacing him with his favourite General Faiz Hameed. A powerful Gen Munir could cause the same problems to Nawaz Sharif as his other two appointees — Gen Qamar Jawed Bajwa and Gen Pervez Musharraf — as the former ensured the rise of Imran Niazi and the latter dethroned him in October 1999 after Kargil war.

While Niazi is now seeking protection from the same US that he had accused of removing him from the PM job, his statements attacking the Pak Army post-May 9 have ensured that Gen Munir will drive him into political oblivion for the present and for time to come.

Fact is that a powerful Army Chief is even in the interest of Pakistan allies like China, Saudi Arabia, UAE and even the US State Department as Rawalpindi GHQ is a single window clearance for the Islamic Republic.

### North Korea's Kim Jong Un passes 'secret order' banning suicide

North Korean's leader Kim Jong Un has reportedly passed a 'secret' order banning suicide in the country. The 39-year-old leader described the act as "treason against socialism" and has ordered local governments to take preventative measures.

With the worsening economic crisis, the South Korean spy agency found that North Korea witnessed a 40 per cent spike in suicide this year than the previous year, reports Hindustan Times.

The confidential suicide order was delivered in a spate of emergency meetings across the country, reports Radio Free Asia.

One meeting recorded 35 suicide cases this year in Chongjin city and Kyongsong county. Starvation deaths, meanwhile, in North Korea tripled last year. At a meeting in Ryanggang province, the attendees were told suicide has had a greater social impact than starvation, according to The Sun.

Speaking at the meeting, an official said, "Despite the suicide prevention policy ratified by the General Secretary, the officials were not able to come up with an appropriate solution.

"Most of the suicides were caused by severe poverty and starvation, so no one can come up with a counter-measure right now."

### Chinese influencer dies after alcohol binge in viral challenge

The 27-year-old live streamer's wife confirmed with Chinese media outlet Jimu News on Tuesday that her husband, known by his online moniker Zhong Yuan Huang Ge or Brother Huang from the Central Plains, died due to excessive consumption of alcohol on the morning of June 2.

He has died from drinking too much alcohol after a live-streamed drinking battle, making this the second fatality from such a game in a month, reports ANI.

Huang's death marks the second influencer to die from a viral drinking challenge in under a month.

The fatality occurred June 2 after the internet celeb, known as Brother Huang to his 176,000 social media followers, had reportedly downed an excessive amount of baijiu.

Colloquially called "Chinese firewater," the typically sorghum-based spirit boasts an alcohol content ranging between 35 per



Huang's death comes less than a month after a fellow influencer, named Wang Moufeng was found dead after livestreaming himself knocking back four bottles of baijiu. Pic - Twitter

cent to 60 per cent.

In videos posted to Huang's now-deleted account, the YouTuber desperate for fame can be seen swilling the grog, lighting tissue soaked in alcohol and showing off pyramids of empty bottles.

His wife, surnamed Li, said that Huang had been trying to earn cash to pay off a massive debt totalling hundreds of thousands of yuan that he incurred before his marriage.

### 13 million Chinese students face 'world's toughest' exam

Millions of Chinese students sit for notoriously tough college entrance exams on Wednesday, the first since the country lifted zero-Covid rules that forced classes online for months on end.

China's education ministry says nearly 13 million students, a record, are registered to take the "gaokao" exams — billed by state media as the "world's toughest" — this year.

"I've been waking up at 4 am every day, except on Sundays, to study for the past four years," Jesse Rao, a 17-year-old high school senior in Shenzhen, reports AFP.

Testing high school students on their Chinese, English, mathematics and other science or humanities subjects of their choice, the exams are critical to landing coveted spots at China's top universities.

Many parents shell out hundreds of dollars a month on cram schools or hire graduate students to sit with their children while they study late into the night.

Exams are notorious for testing the ability to compose essays in response to oblique prompts, with sample questions published Wednesday by the People's

According to a video of Huang's room posted by his relative, the wall in his room had Chinese phrases including "money is more important than life" and "life is not all about money, but you will need money to live the life you want".

Huang's death comes less than a month after a fellow influencer, named Wang Moufeng or "Brother Three Thousand", was found dead on May 17 hours after livestreaming himself knocking back four bottles of baijiu for his fans on Douyin, China's version of TikTok.

Wang Moufeng, better known as Brother Three Thousand, had reportedly been involved in a "PK" challenge, in which two influencers typically compete for gifts or rewards from their audience.

The loser faces a penalty, which, in Wang's case, involved imbibing excessive amounts of hooch as punishment for losing three rounds, as seen in the video which is now deleted.

Daily newspaper requiring students to contemplate the effect of technology on time management and the impact of a good story.

Another sample question asked them to muse on two aphorisms by President Xi Jinping, adding that they would be marked in part on whether they write from the "correct angle".

The high stakes have led to elaborate attempts at cheating.

Several provinces this year have installed scanners with facial-recognition capabilities to ensure that candidates do not hire proxies to take the test on their behalf, the state-run Global Times reported.

\* Contd on page 8

## 10 key revelations from Prince Harry's high court testimony

In a landmark trial at the High Court, the Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry, gave a gripping and revealing testimony that shed light on previously unknown aspects of his life and the impact of tabloid intrusion on him and his family.

During straight five hours in the witness box, Prince Harry made a series of claims. Here are the ten key things we learned from his powerful statements:

**1. The conspiracy to oust him:** Prince Harry suggested that rumours about Major James Hewitt being his biological father were deliberately spread to undermine his position within the Royal family.

He expressed his belief that such stories were meant to cast doubt on his lineage and potentially lead to his ousting.

**2. Tabloid hostility from birth:** The Duke spoke about enduring hostile press coverage from the moment of his birth, providing numerous examples of intrusive reporting during his childhood.

He argued that these articles were 'littered' with private elements that played a destructive role in shaping his upbringing and fuelled the negative portrayal of him in the media.

**3. Impact on personal life:** Prince Harry revealed how tabloid intrusion had negatively impacted his personal life, citing instances where private information

was exposed and distorted by the press. He spoke about the fear of expulsion from Eton College after a cannabis-related story, as well as the invasion of his mother's visit to his school on his 12th birthday.

**4. Playing up to stereotypes:** The Duke admitted that, as a member of the Royal family, he felt compelled to conform to the negative headlines and stereotypes fabricated by the tabloid press.

**5. Journalistic accountability:** Prince Harry accused tabloid journalists of having "blood on their hands" due to their harmful reporting, claiming that their actions had led to people taking their own lives.

**6. Ruined Relationships:** The Duke revealed that his romantic relationships had been subject to intolerable levels of scrutiny by the tabloid press.

He lamented how the intrusion and unlawful means employed by the media had affected his partners and ultimately contributed to the breakdown of these relationships.

**7. Similar treatment to Diana:** Prince Harry alleged that journalists, particularly during Piers Morgan's editorship, had targeted him in a similar manner to how they had harassed his mother, Princess Diana.

He acknowledged that his mother's fears were justified and that he had come



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex looks on outside the Rolls Building of the High Court in London. Pic - DC News Now

to realize the extent of the media's intrusion into his own life.

**8. Lack of privacy:** The Duke emphasized that despite being a public figure, he was entitled to some privacy, which he felt the tabloid press consistently denied him.

He noted that only a small portion of his funding came from taxpayers, but the media acted as if they had complete ownership over his life and those connected to him.

**9. Distorted image and potential danger:** Prince Harry highlighted how the

tabloid press had constructed a "distorted image" of him, which potentially put him in danger. He expressed concerns about facing judgments and negative opinions from the public based on false or exaggerated media reports.

**10. Secret support from Queen Elizabeth II:** The Duke revealed that Queen Elizabeth II had secretly sent an assistant private secretary to support him during a holiday in Australia, highlighting her concern for his well-being and the extent of media coverage of his trip.

## UFO Whistleblower alleges concealed evidence of non-human craft, Pentagon investigation launched

In a series of intriguing developments over the past six years, the topic of UFOs and extraterrestrial phenomena has taken center stage in the United States.

It all started back in 2017 when the New York Times uncovered a revelation that former senator Harry Reid had discreetly allocated \$22 million in Defense funding to investigate unidentified foreign objects. Since then, numerous Navy pilots have come forward with reports of frequent UFO sightings, prompting the Pentagon to revamp its investigation process in a bid to treat the matter more seriously.

Despite heightened scrutiny, these investigations have yet to yield any significant breakthroughs, with many of the objects sighted by pilots turning out to be mere balloons, reports Hindustan Times.

However, a recent report by Leslie Kean and Ralph Blumenthal, part of the team that broke the Times story in 2017, offers hope to those who believe in the existence of extraterrestrial life.

Published on the science website the Debrief, the report unveils the account of a Defense intelligence whistleblower who alleges that classified evidence of "intact and partially intact craft of non-human origin" is being concealed by the Intelligence Community.

The whistleblower, David Charles Grusch, filed a complaint asserting that the Pentagon, along with other nations and defense contractors, has retrieved fragments "of exotic origin (non-human intelligence, whether



US Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence Scott Bray explains a video of an unidentified aerial phenomena during a committee hearing in May 2022. Pic - Getty Images

extraterrestrial or unknown origin)" based on the analysis of vehicle morphologies, material science testing, and the presence of unique atomic arrangements and radiological signatures.

Grusch further claims that the recovered material includes both intact and partially intact vehicles.

What sets Grusch apart from previous UFO experts discredited by skeptics is his credible background. A 36-year-old combat veteran of Afghanistan, Grusch served as a member of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force—an Office of Naval Intelligence program dedicated to investigating UFO sightings.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

### Physical Education and Sports Employees Union (PESEU)

The Physical Education and Sports Employees Union (PESEU) will hold its Annual General Meeting on Saturday 8 July 2023 at 10.30 am at MTUC Headquarters, GRNW, Port Louis.

#### Agenda

1. Reading and approval of minutes of last AGM
2. Matters arising
3. Finance
4. President's Report
5. Motions/amendments of rules (if any)
6. Reshuffling of Managing Committee (if any)
7. AOB

Compliant members are kindly requested to attend the AGM.

**Mrs Henna MIHDIDIN**  
Secretary - PESEU

9 June 2023

### Fédération Mauricienne de Tir à L'Arc

Members of the Fédération Mauricienne de Tir à L'Arc are hereby informed that the Annual General Assembly will be held on **Sunday 18 June 2023 at 10.00 hrs** at the seat of the Federation, 12 Ollier Lane No 2, Quatre Bornes.

#### Agenda

1. Reading and Approval of minutes of proceedings
2. President's Report closure 2022
3. Approval of Accounts 2021-2022
4. Approval Budget 2023
5. Amendments to Rules and Regulations
6. AOB

Registered Clubs and Regional Committees are requested to communicate the name of their representative to the Secretary of the Federation at latest 16 June 2023.

**Ian Subramanien**  
Secretary



Sameer Sharma, Investment Analyst & Financial Risk Manager

# “This is not a pro-poor budget but a budget for the rich by the rich. There is nothing free for the poor and middle class”



**I**nvestment Analyst & Financial Risk Manager Sameer Sharma needs no introduction to our readers, and he is generally known not to mince words and call a spade a spade. As several other independent economists, he finds that the policies pursued before, during and after the pandemic have done little to strengthen the economy, increase its resilience or compensate the population for its sacrifices. This, he says, is a budget for the wealthy and well-connected which the smattering of handouts cannot disguise.

which is a broader measure of inflation than that derived from the CPI basket. Given that GDP is not observable, we need to make estimates based on various assumptions. We use proxy measures of the change in prices across various sectors of the economy to come up with the change in the deflator for example.

Holding nominal GDP growth constant, an underestimation of the deflator would mathematically lead to an overestimation of real growth and vice versa. If we look at Statistics Mauritius' real GDP growth forecast for the year 2023, it stands at 5% while nominal GDP is forecast to grow by 8.2%. This would essentially mean a very low change in the deflator which is more deviated than usual from the forecast level of CPI inflation. Keep in mind that the cur-

rent CPI basket was derived from the 2017 Household Budget Survey and given what has happened since 2017, this basket itself suffers from significant biases and is likely now underestimating true consumer price inflation.

In this budget, which comes just three months after the Statistics Mauritius 2023 estimates, the Finance Ministry is forecasting a financial year (July to June) change in the deflator of more than 9% and real growth of 8%. Even when adjusting for calendar vs financial year differences, these are two very different forecast estimates coming from the Finance Ministry and Statistics Mauritius.

The reality is that Statistics Mauritius is likely moderately overestimating real GDP growth and underestimating the change in the deflator. The Ministry of Finance, on its part, is overestimating real GDP growth by an even wider margin.

Estimating real and nominal GDP growth in Mauritius is no trivial task. We lack an adequate amount of high frequency economic data; data quality can sometimes be poor and there has been inadequate research done on the real size of the parallel economy which includes money laundering and drug trafficking. There is also a poor understanding of the interplay between this parallel economy and the formal economy.

The honest answer then is that we do not completely know where we are and those who throw forecasts around have no clue either. We have some indicators that provide us with evidence that we have had a recovery from a low base and that inflation remains the key driver of nominal growth and government revenues. We also know that in a debt-driven import dependent consumption model, the currency will remain under pressure which explains why the central bank has adopted a moderate form of capital controls after having run out of liquid ammunition despite more than 1.2 Billion in foreign central bank borrowings.

We also know that inflation favours the asset rich and leads to more wealth inequality. It is clear that there are two realities in Mauritius, one for the asset rich, the money launderers and highly connected, and another for the rest. Drive around Tamarin and then drive around central Curepipe and you will understand what I mean, or you could look at the struggles of the middle-class in a country where corporate profits are reaching new highs given the opening up of borders, depreciation and inflation.

\* Renganaden Padayachy said in his speech in the National Assembly last Friday that his Budget 2023-2024, his fourth during this mandate, is one of “daring” and “caring”. As an economist, who would know better than electors, how much would you say has he delivered on these two promises?

This is the best budget the powerful conglomerate oligopolies who really run this country could buy.

**Mauritius Times: How do you see the Mauritian economy doing right now, and where will that lead us to. What do the fundamentals inform you?**

**Sameer Sharma:** To know where we are going, we must first understand where we really are. If the data that we have about the true health of the economy does not make complete sense, in other words, when the radar itself is not completely reliable, it becomes complicated for any economist to tell you where we really are and where we are going. In fact, if we do not understand where we really are in the short-term business cycle relative to our long-term real potential trend growth of 3.2%, then the conduct of both monetary and fiscal policies becomes error prone.

When we think about GDP growth, there are two types of growths: real growth which excludes inflation, and nominal growth which includes both real growth (volumes) and inflation as measured by the GDP deflator

“ This is the best budget the powerful conglomerate oligopolies who really run this country could buy. It is a budget that relies even more on consumption taxes and the related inflation tax rather than on rebalancing our entire tax system, which is unfair by design. Inflation is the best friend of the asset rich as land prices tend to rise with inflation. The government has continued to relax rules on foreigners buying real estate in Mauritius - all to the benefit of large landowners in a country with concentrated land ownership...”



☞ Cont. from page 9

It is a budget that relies even more on consumption taxes and the related inflation tax rather than on rebalancing our entire tax system, which is unfair by design. Inflation is the best friend of the asset rich as land prices tend to rise with inflation. The government has continued to relax rules on foreigners buying real estate in Mauritius - all to the benefit of large landowners in a country with concentrated land ownership.

The real value of debt also declines with inflation. Most of the conglomerates have no plans to make major investments in Mauritius beyond selling villas and energy. Their expansion is now abroad while they ensure that they maintain oligopolistic control over various sectors of the economy locally. Ignoring the MIC giveaways at losses to the State, which we called "love and care" bailouts, large enterprises will now be able to hire more foreigners across the wage spectrum. Their taxes have come down, dividends are not taxed, and inflation and depreciation are here to help too. What more could they ask for?

What we should have done is to tax the rent-seeking economy while encouraging those who work and add value. For example, we should have distinguished between distributed and non-distributed profits for local companies when it comes to taxation. We should have introduced a mild form of taxation on the rentier economy via land value taxation and reduced the share of consumption taxes and inflation taxes to total taxes. Reducing income taxes is a positive as we should reward work as long as we tax rent-seeking behaviors in a smarter way.

We should have also looked at fiscal consolidation by cutting and spending responsibly which would have helped to stabilize inflation and the currency. We should have moved towards a more targeted form of basic retirement pension that gives the well-to-do less of that basic pension so that the entire system can be made sustainable. We should have addressed the large actuarial hole in defined benefits plans and we should have sent all the printed money left back to the Bank of Mauritius in order to partially recapitalize it.

We should have reformed the Competition

## 'We are using printed money and inflation to fund populist measures, which is what other banana republics have done in the past. They have all failed at this game'

“ Most of the conglomerates have no plans to make major investments in Mauritius beyond selling villas and energy. Their expansion is now abroad while they ensure that they maintain oligopolistic control over various sectors of the economy locally. Ignoring the MIC giveaways at losses to the State, which we called "love and care" bailouts, large enterprises will now be able to hire more foreigners across the wage spectrum. Their taxes have come down, dividends are not taxed, and inflation and depreciation are here to help too. What more could they ask for?”

“ This budget uses printed money and inflation to fund populist measures which is what other banana republics like Zimbabwe have done in the past. They have all failed at this game. It sets a dangerous trend for Mauritius as we seem to be relying less and less on structural reforms and reforming the unfair tax system but on inflation to provide State handouts. This budget ties the hands of all future governments to engage in a bidding contest of populism...”

“ Open up the country to immigration with a focus on business owners and innovators. Revamp a failing education system, so you produce better quality workers and stop thinking that the State is the answer to all problems. Wages will go up if you improve productivity. Focus on targeting funded by a fairer tax regime and empower people in general but let them take ownership of their own destiny and mistakes...”

Commission and reduce barriers to entry across various sectors of this economy. As long as we depend so heavily on oligopolies to run the majority of sectors of this economy, we will have high prices and low levels of innovation. In a nutshell, we should have used behavioral economics to influence macroeconomic outcomes and let animal spirits do the rest. What we have done is to increase the dependence of a vast majority of the lower middle-class and the poor on the State largely funded by the inflation tax which is the source of their poverty. We are literally making the poor pay for their dependence.

\* It was to be expected however that the 2023-24 Budget would form part of a two-step strategy to be implemented in this year's and the next budget, the first one consisting mainly in easing the current economic hardships of low and middle-income earners, and the real big populism of vote-buying measures will come next year. The question is what reserves and leeway will government have to finance the long list of measures announced in the 2023-24 budget itself?

This budget has very little in it for the poor. Throwing what is left of the helicopter drops of the now undercapi-

talized Bank of Mauritius at the poor, who will consume most of this printed cash in imported goods given that we produce precious little locally, will only lead to a current account deficit that will remain above 5% of GDP for the foreseeable future, more pressure on the currency and an inflation rate that will remain above 5% for longer when the right level of inflation in Mauritius should be closer to 3%.

Money is neutral in the long term. Making the poor pay for their own State handouts is quite a farce. What is more worrying is that we are increasingly relying on the inflation tax to fund social programs rather than fair taxation. We seem to be relying on some form of nominal GDP targeting where the government focuses on a certain tax revenue target for the year. And if does not get enough real growth, then it will relax the capital controls a bit and let the currency slide and let inflation run hot in order to pay for it all.

Inflation is a dangerous animal to depend on. It has a life of its own especially when the Bank of Mauritius lacks credibility and the capital to fight it given fiscal dominance. The inflation game is a double-edged sword and while it makes everything on paper look good for a while, eventually it ends up costing you more and then you will need to engage in significant austerity measures when the next global economic shock comes around. When that reality check happens, it is game over.

\* Consider the Rs 20,000 grant to those reaching 18 years as from 1 Jan 2023, and who are lesser in number than the pensioners. One would expect other political parties would seek to outbid this particular handout as well as the basic retirement pension, which might go up to Rs 15,000 next time round. Where will all this will lead us to?

This budget uses printed money and inflation to fund populist measures which is what other banana republics like Zimbabwe have done in the past. They have all failed at this game. This budget sets a dangerous trend for Mauritius as we seem to be relying less and less on structural reforms and reforming the unfair tax system but on inflation to provide State handouts. This budget ties the hands of all future governments to engage in a bidding contest of populism that will lead us to the bottom of the pit.

\* There's also the «Revenu Minimum Garanti» of Rs 15,000, which 85,000 men and women working on a full-time basis are expected to receive, according to the Finance minister, as from 1 July 2023. The immediate gut reaction of many employers was that they'll limit their available workforce, or they'll go for Bangladeshis from the informal labour market, until the Minister clarified that the CSG and the taxpayer would finance the top up from the current Rs 11,500. What's your take on this measure?

Have you not noticed that the ratio of Mauritian employees to foreign employees no longer exists?

☞ Cont. on page 11

# 'There are too many candidates for prime minister and not enough realism on who this person should be'

☞ Cont. from page 10

This is fine at the higher wage spectrum but, at the lower wage spectrum, this will serve to depress wages overall, increase the share of State contributions to total revenues and of course increase the dependency of the average poor and lower middle-class worker on the increasingly autocratic state over time.

If you want to increase wages, then open up the competition landscape in this country by reducing barriers to entry and strengthening regulations on those who exercise oligopolistic power across various sectors of the economy, be it conglomerates or some state-owned entities. De-centralize government and break down contract sizes and allow new players to compete in a fair landscape.

Open up the country to immigration with a focus on business owners and innovators. Revamp a failing education system, so you produce better quality workers and stop thinking that the State is the answer to all problems. Wages will go up if you improve productivity. Focus on targeting funded by a fairer tax regime as I described earlier and empower people in general but let them take ownership of their own destiny and mistakes. Equal opportunity, not equality of outcomes.

**\* There are also issues flagged by rating agencies and the IMF - elevated levels of budget deficits and public debt, rising inequality, inflation, depreciation of the rupee and acute cost of living crisis — matters of concern that ought to have been addressed head on by the Ministry of Finance, instead of the palliative measures proposed. Why are the required reforms not taking place? Is it only because of the popularity factor?**

The likes of the International Monetary Fund provide mere recommendations. Mauritius is a small country and if it were to disappear tomorrow, the world would not even sneeze.

When it comes to Moody's, neither the State nor local corporates are major issuers of Eurobonds globally. They do not pay the same level of attention as they would for larger economies or for economies that are asking for assistance which come with conditions.

Recently one person from the IMF asked me about this MIC 2.0 which apparently will now become the new sovereign wealth fund of Mauritius. He was quite confused given that Mauritius - unlike all other countries which have sovereign wealth funds - has a large current account deficit, a large fiscal deficit especially when you adjust for special funds spending, large unfunded liabilities from the basic retirement pension to defined benefit plans and declining international reserves which look even worse if adjusted for liabilities and large unrealized losses. How will they fund this, he asked?

Well, when the Bank of Mauritius sells foreign exchange in the local market with the supposed objective of stabilizing the currency, it earns Rupees in return and the idea then would be to destroy those rupees in order to reduce the supply of rupees which helps by definition to stabilize the exchange rate at least temporarily.

In our case, we are not destroying the Rupees but re-injecting them via the MIC into the local economy. In a nutshell we are funding a so-called sovereign wealth fund not with savings of any kind but with money printing. We have become a global laughingstock and, sadly in Mauritius,



“ We are funding a so-called sovereign wealth fund not with savings of any kind but with money printing. We have become a global laughing stock and, sadly in Mauritius, most may not fully grasp that sovereign wealth funds are funded with savings, not money printing and that sovereign wealth funds by design invest abroad, not locally. This is how we are now being perceived internationally...”

“ As long as we depend so heavily on oligopolies to run the majority of sectors of this economy, we will have high prices and low levels of innovation. In a nutshell, we should have used behavioral economics to influence macroeconomic outcomes and let animal spirits do the rest. What we have done is to increase the dependence of a vast majority of the lower middle-class and the poor on the State largely funded by the inflation tax which is the source of their poverty...”

“ What worries me right now is this populist bidding war to the bottom among relatively unpopular political parties and the level of fragmentation in the opposition. A large segment of the population have also become increasingly dependent on the State in terms of public sector and parastatal jobs and handouts. The level of discourse can sometimes be poor and contradictory...”



most may not fully grasp that sovereign wealth funds are funded with savings, not money printing and that sovereign wealth funds by design invest abroad, not locally. This is how we are now being perceived internationally. La folie des grandeurs! We have lost the plot.

**\* While there was undoubtedly some imported inflation over the past two years, the rate has ebbed considerably in other Indian Ocean islands, similarly affected, yet stays high in Mauritius and is projected to be around 10% next year. Isn't our inflation due in large part to the continuous depreciation of the Rupee against the dollar as the chief import currency?**

There are various factors which explain our current inflation predicament. Initially, the inflation shock was indeed mostly imported in nature, but the central bank failed to act in time by tightening monetary policy aggressively by making real interest rates positive. This is because the sheer amount of public and private debt in the system would cause quite a heart attack to a patient currently on inflation steroids.

Eventually inflation gained a life of its own with what we call second round effects, especially given the dependence of the government on such a tax and today various factors from the currency, large fiscal deficit, money printing to our market structure dominated by inefficient oligopolies all explain our high level of inflation.

We should keep in mind that core inflation, which excludes a lot of the imported stuff, is currently at more than 6.3% on a year-on-year basis which is quite high for a country like Mauritius. The tolerable level of inflation for Mauritius stands closer to 3% and anything above 5% inflation is very high and hurts our competitiveness externally.

We are going to be stuck for a while to come with high levels of inflation despite favorable base effects which will kick in during the second half of the year.

**\* Are you satisfied that this budget is laying the foundations for new growth pillars or even strengthening those that are frail, rather than simply handing out a series of targeted “freebies”?**

No. This is not a pro-poor budget but a budget for the rich by the rich. There is nothing free for the poor and middle class in this budget. They will more than pay for it all via the inflation tax and via further currency depreciation.

**\* ‘The education system is so low and the mentality in Mauritius is so insular and so partisan and the alternative itself is so mediocre that I fear that this political party may come back to power again.’ That's a comment posted by a Facebooker recently. Does this sound plausible to you?**

This Facebooker you refer to sounds suspicious like me. What worries me right now is this populist bidding war to the bottom among relatively unpopular political parties and the level of fragmentation in the opposition. A large segment of the population have also become increasingly dependent on the State in terms of public sector and parastatal jobs and handouts. The level of discourse can sometimes be poor and contradictory.

For example, the opposition will warn us about mounting public debt and inflation and a few minutes later will say that the government should have done more when the majority of our revenues are being generated from money printing and inflation compared to real growth. They are encouraging a wage price spiral without realizing it.

There is zero mention about what will be done about the unfair tax system, structural reforms including overdue pension reforms and the large oligopolies that run the land because everyone is desperate for some election financing from them, and few want to tell it like it is to the population.

There are too many candidates for prime minister and not enough realism on who this person should be and from which party he/she should come from. While the opposition continues to shoot itself in the foot by remaining divided, the real powers who control the land are making a killing.



**Prakash Neerhoo**  
Spécialiste fiscal

**D**ans le budget 2023-2024, le ministre des Finances a introduit une réforme de l'impôt sur les revenus qui remplace le taux uniforme d'imposition de 15% par un barème gradué. À partir du 1er juillet 2023, l'impôt sur les revenus sera calculé selon un barème gradué allant de 0% à 20% avec une addition de 2% pour chaque tranche de revenu supérieure. Le ministre a présenté la nouvelle formule comme un système d'impôt progressif. Qu'en est-il vraiment?

Avant de répondre à cette question, examinons d'abord la structure du nouveau barème. Comme le montre le Tableau 1, le barème gradué comporte 10 taux marginaux d'imposition (*Marginal Tax Rates*) applicables aux différentes tranches de revenus. Les premières Rs 390 000 des revenus annuels du contribuable ne seront pas imposables avec un taux d'imposition de 0%. L'impôt sur les revenus s'appliquera après cette tranche d'exemption.

Ainsi, un taux d'imposition de 2% frappera les premières Rs 40 000 après la tranche d'exemption de Rs 390 000 (dans la fourchette de Rs 390 000 à Rs 430 000). L'impôt dû sur les Rs 40 000 sera de Rs 800.

Tax rate	Income bracket	Surplus amount	Tax amount	Cumulative tax	Effective tax rate
%	lower upper	taxable			
0	0 390,000	0	0	0	0.0%
2	390,000 430,000	40,000	800	800	0.2%
4	430,000 470,000	40,000	1,600	2,400	0.5%
6	470,000 530,000	60,000	3,600	6,000	1.1%
8	530,000 590,000	60,000	4,800	10,800	1.8%
10	590,000 890,000	300,000	30,000	40,800	4.6%
12	890,000 1,190,000	300,000	36,000	76,800	6.5%
14	1,190,000 1,490,000	300,000	42,000	118,800	8.0%
16	1,490,000 1,890,000	400,000	64,000	182,800	9.7%
18	1,890,000 2,390,000	500,000	90,000	272,800	11.4%
20	2,390,000 3,000,000	610,000	122,000	394,800	13.2%

# Réforme fiscale

## L'impôt sur les revenus est-il vraiment progressif ?



P - Chip Somodevilla / Getty Images

**“Les plus-values réalisées sur la vente des biens meubles et immeubles ne sont pas non plus taxées. La taxation des plus-values est l'outil idéal pour combattre le blanchiment d'argent auquel se livrent les trafiquants de drogue, les opérateurs de paris illégaux et d'autres personnes (travailleurs ou professionnels indépendants) qui ne déclarent pas tous leurs revenus au fisc. Tous ces fraudeurs investissent leur argent illicite dans l'acquisition de biens meubles (bateaux, yachts, voitures, bijoux) et biens immeubles (maisons, campements, bâtiments commerciaux) au vu et au su des institutions de régulation...”**

Dans ce tableau, l'exemption pour les personnes à charge du contribuable, s'il y en a, n'est pas considérée afin de simplifier les calculs.

Par exemple, un salarié touchant des revenus annuels de Rs 590 000 sera assujéti à un impôt de Rs 10 800 après l'application des différents taux marginaux d'imposition. Ce salarié sera imposé à un taux d'imposition effectif (*Effective Tax Rate*) de 1,8%. Le taux marginal d'imposition de 20% frappe la tranche des revenus supérieure à Rs 2 390 000 par an. Nous avons ainsi calculé l'impôt sur des revenus annuels de Rs 3 millions pour illustrer l'impact du taux marginal d'imposition de 20%.

Le Tableau 2 indique l'économie réalisée à chaque tranche de revenu sous le nouveau système en comparaison avec l'impôt uniforme de 15%. Un salarié qui touche un revenu annuel de Rs 3 millions paiera un impôt de Rs 394 800, soit un taux d'imposition effectif de 13,2%. Au taux d'imposition uniforme de 15%, ce contribuable paie actuellement Rs 450 000 d'impôt. Il économisera donc Rs 55 200. Le contribuable qui a un revenu annuel de Rs 1 490 000 économisera Rs 104 700.

En général, la politique fiscale d'un pays vise trois objectifs:

- assurer l'équité fiscale entre les citoyens,
- redistribuer les richesses en taxant davantage les riches, et
- développer la capacité contributive de l'économie d'une façon optimale.

Tableau 2: Économies sous le nouveau système

Tax rate	Income bracket	Surplus amount	Tax amount	Cumulative tax	15% tax	Saving
%	lower upper	taxable				
0	0 390,000	0	0	0	58,500	58,500
2	390,000 430,000	40,000	800	800	64,500	63,700
4	430,000 470,000	40,000	1,600	2,400	70,500	68,100
6	470,000 530,000	60,000	3,600	6,000	79,500	73,500
8	530,000 590,000	60,000	4,800	10,800	88,500	77,700
10	590,000 890,000	300,000	30,000	40,800	133,500	92,700
12	890,000 1,190,000	300,000	36,000	76,800	178,500	101,700
14	1,190,000 1,490,000	300,000	42,000	118,800	223,500	104,700
16	1,490,000 1,890,000	400,000	64,000	182,800	283,500	100,700
18	1,890,000 2,390,000	500,000	90,000	272,800	358,500	85,700
20	2,390,000 3,000,000	610,000	122,000	394,800	450,000	55,200

Une politique fiscale juste et efficace repose sur une assiette fiscale large qui comprend les sources des revenus, la propriété, la consommation et la richesse. Il faut évaluer la réforme fiscale par rapport à tous ces facteurs.

### Équité fiscale

Le taux marginal d'imposition de 20% sur la tranche de revenu supérieure à Rs 2 390 000 sera le taux maximal d'imposition. Sous le présent système, jusqu'au 30 juin 2023, le taux marginal d'imposition le plus élevé est de 40%. Ce taux d'imposition est la somme du taux uniforme d'imposition de 15% et de la taxe de solidarité de 25% qui frappe la tranche de revenu excédant les revenus annuels de Rs 3 millions.

Il faut souligner que le taux marginal de 40% est nominal parce que, dans la pratique, ce taux est limité à 10% du revenu net (le revenu brut moins la déduction personnelle). Lorsque le montant d'impôt calculé au taux de 40% sur la tranche de revenu excédant Rs 3 millions dépasse 10% du revenu net, c'est le montant de 10% du revenu net qui est perçu comme impôt marginal. Cette limitation fut introduite en 2020 après la levée des boucliers des gros contribuables qui s'opposèrent à un taux marginal d'imposition de 40%.

Aujourd'hui, en remplaçant le taux marginal d'imposition de 40% par un taux marginal d'imposition de 20%, le gouvernement abandonne pour de bon toute intention de taxer davantage les contribuables riches. Ce qui est plus significatif, c'est que la taxe de solidarité de 25% s'appliquait au revenu imposable incluant les dividendes. Avec l'abolition de la taxe de solidarité, tous les actionnaires résidents ou non-résidents d'une société résidente à Maurice seront exemptés de tout impôt sur les dividendes.

● Suite en page 13

## Réforme fiscale

# L'impôt sur les revenus est-il vraiment progressif ?



● Suite de page 12

La nouvelle structure de taux d'imposition apparaît progressive, mais la progressivité est limitée par un taux maximal d'imposition de 20%. Les contribuables les plus fortunés seront assujettis à un taux d'imposition effectif inférieur à 15% sur leur revenu annuel, comme on le voit au Tableau 1.

Dans les pays développés membres de l'OCDE, le barème gradué comporte 5 ou 6 taux d'imposition avec un taux de base de 15% et un taux marginal d'imposition supérieur de 30% ou plus. Au Canada, par exemple, les taux d'imposition sont 15%, 21%, 26%, 29% et 33% selon les tranches de revenu. Et les contribuables les plus aisés dans ce pays ne s'en plaignent pas.

À la suite des concessions fiscales offertes aux gros contribuables, ce sont les contribuables de la classe moyenne (salariés et travailleurs indépendants) qui seront appelés à porter le fardeau fiscal de l'impôt sur le revenu. Maurice retourne donc à la fiscalité directe légère qui fut en place depuis 2006 jusqu'à l'introduction de la taxe de solidarité en 2020. Cette fiscalité légère est l'un des aspects de la politique économique néo-libérale suivie par tous les gouvernements depuis 2006.

Le raisonnement sous-tendant cette politique est que l'impôt sur le revenu (des individus et des sociétés) devrait être maintenu à un niveau faible pour être une incitation au travail, à l'effort et à l'investissement. Or, ce sont les contribuables riches qui bénéficient de cette fiscalité directe légère. Toutes les mesures populistes du budget ne cachent pas cet effort spécial en faveur des riches.

## Capacité contributive

La politique fiscale devrait pouvoir développer de façon optimale la capacité contributive de l'économie en exploitant toutes les sources de revenus (taxes directes et indirectes). En matière de fiscalité directe, les économies avancées taxent les dividendes comme une source de revenu entre les mains des actionnaires selon la théorie qui veut que toutes les sources de revenus actifs (revenu d'emploi, revenu du travail libéral, revenu d'entreprise) et les sources de revenus passifs (dividendes et

intérêts, plus-values sur les biens, revenu de location) soient imposées en vue d'assurer l'équité fiscale entre tous les citoyens.

Le gouvernement, lui, choisit de rétrécir la base imposable (capacité contributive) de l'économie en abandonnant toute imposition des dividendes. Autre fait significatif: les plus-values réalisées sur la vente des biens meubles et immeubles ne sont pas non plus taxées. La taxation des plus-values est l'outil idéal pour combattre

le blanchiment d'argent auquel se livrent les trafiquants de drogue, les opérateurs de paris illégaux et d'autres personnes (travailleurs ou professionnels indépendants) qui ne déclarent pas tous leurs revenus au fisc.

Tous ces fraudeurs investissent leur argent illicite dans l'acquisition de biens meubles (bateaux, yachts, voitures, bijoux) et biens immeubles (maisons, campements, bâtiments commerciaux) au vu et au su des institutions de régulation qui sont pourtant responsables de contrôler les richesses inexplicables.

La politique fiscale du gouvernement a une tendance significative de transférer le fardeau fiscal du pays de l'imposition des revenus à l'imposition de la consommation. Le nouveau système d'impôt sur le revenu causera un manque à gagner de Rs 3,5 milliards en termes de recettes fiscales directes. C'est un développement inquiétant au moment où le gouvernement prévoit un déficit budgétaire de Rs 21 milliards pour 2023-2024 (les revenus étant estimés à Rs 179 milliards contre des dépenses de Rs 200 milliards).

En taxant moins les revenus, le gouvernement accentue la dépendance de l'État sur les taxes indirectes (TVA, taxes d'accise), lesquelles représentent 68% des recettes fiscales totales du pays. La Taxe à la Valeur Ajoutée (TVA) générera des recettes de Rs 61,5 milliards en 2023-2024 contre Rs 49,4 milliards en 2022-23, soit une augmentation de 24%. Certes, l'inflation y est pour quelque chose, mais la propension à favoriser la taxation de la consommation est devenue structurelle. Vu le caractère régressif des taxes indirectes, c'est le petit peuple qui paie les pots cassés d'une politique fiscale limitée et sans imagination.

Le pays a une politique sociale ambitieuse avec toutes les promesses d'aides à gauche et à droite (pensions de retraite, prestations sociales, subventions diverses), mais il ne se donne pas les moyens d'élargir sa base fiscale pour financer les dépenses publiques. Le recours constant à l'endettement (Rs 500 milliards déjà) pour financer le déficit budgétaire est une recette pour le désastre financier à terme.

**Prakash Neerhoo**  
Spécialiste fiscal

## Eclairages

# Une page historique se tourne pour les amateurs de football

☞ Suite de la page 5

**T**out amateur de football vivra le début de la nouvelle saison avec une nostalgie certaine. En effet, une page importante se tourne dans ce sport tant aimé des Mauriciens. Pour la première fois depuis plus d'une décennie, nous ne verrons pas Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Karim Benzema et Zlatan Ibrahimovic jouer dans un championnat européen ou en Ligue des Champions.



Benzema, Ibrahimovic, Messi... Le crépuscule des idoles du foot européen.

Cristiano Ronaldo avait déjà tiré sa révérence il y a quelques mois. Messi, Benzema et Ibrahimovic l'ont suivi à l'issue de cette saison. Ces départs laissent un vide qui risque de durer. Même s'il y a de jeunes talents qui jouent actuellement dans les grands clubs européens, cela prendra des années avant de retrouver des joueurs et des rivalités du niveau des clasico de la grande époque de Messi à FC Barcelone et de Ronaldo au Real Madrid.

C'est toute une ère même qui symboliquement se termine. La génération Messi/Ronaldo aura été celle qui a vu une transformation radicale du modèle économique et sportif du football, avec une centralisation des investissements par des clubs historiques et l'émergence de clubs rachetés par des fonds d'investissements souverains - comme le Qatar pour le PSG.

Ainsi, le football ne sera plus jamais le même, et il semble aujourd'hui acté que les petits clubs ne pourront plus jamais vraiment concurrencer les grands d'Europe comme le Real Madrid, Barcelone, le Bayern et la myriade des clubs milliardaires qui accaparent tous les joueurs de talent.

Cette constitution d'un capitalisme du football ultra élitiste et à tendance monopolistique est profondément problématique. Le football a toujours été un sport populaire, pratiqué par les classes ouvrières. Il sert même de canvas pour permettre aux classes populaires de rêver d'un avenir meilleur, comme en témoigne le personnage mythique que fut Maradona pour les ouvriers argentins ou la multitude des immenses talents brésiliens issues des ghettos et dont la seule avenue pour le progrès socioéconomique était le foot.

Ainsi le football donnait à certaines catégories sociales des mythes qui servaient d'exemples. Mais la transformation du milieu en un club pour ultra riches va modifier cela, en éloignant les classes populaires du football, en rendant cette dernière financièrement de plus en plus inaccessible. Déjà, nous voyons la répercussion sur les droits télévisés, où il faut maintenant avoir un abonnement privé pour suivre la Ligue des Champions ou la Coupe du Monde.

Cette transformation du monde du football correspond à un modèle qui s'est cristallisé au début des années 2000 et a vu une accélération sous l'ère des Ronaldo, Messi, Benzema et Ibrahimovic. Avec leur départ, c'est aussi peut-être une autre conception du football et de son rapport avec le social qui est appelée à mourir.

**A. Bartleby**

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6<sup>th</sup> Year No 230**MAURITIUS TIMES**

Friday 9 January 1959

● Men's second childhood begins when a woman gets a hold of him. — James M. Barrie

The second Legislative Council dissolved on the last day of last year, five and a half years after it was voted into power, will go down in our history as one of its most significant landmarks. In fact, it constitutes, so far, the most crucial period of our short history. This is so because, to a very large extent, of its glorious achievements and also, but to a lesser extent, because of its few but glaring failures.

In approving the Representation of the People's Bill, the Legislature voted the most revolutionary measure ever voted in the annals of the Island. Overnight, it changed the status of the entire adult population. By putting the right to vote into the hands of the people, the Legislature by one stroke transferred a large amount of political responsibility to a people who only recently was looked down upon as immature and who had no say in the running of the country.

Next in importance came the introduction of the ministerial system which was preceded by the appointment of a Speaker to our Legislature. By making the elected representatives of the people share in the responsibility of governing the country we made a bold step forward in our political progress.

But it is to be regretted that we have not had full responsibility yet. And the presence of Nominated Members in the Executive Council has turned out to be a great impediment in the development of party government. The Ministerial System or rather the Ministers have done well but the awkward system is largely responsible for the unpopularity of the system itself. So much so that anybody who is intelligent or demagogic enough to play upon the unsolved problems of the people and who identify those problems with the ministerial system are apt to win a following.

This is a very sorry state of affairs which goes to the detriment of the Labour Party which has left no stone unturned to bring about the political emancipation of the country. Labour will have to make much hard thinking and must be cautious so as to salvage its prestige.

The elaboration of the five-year plan by a ministerial committee and its approval by the Legislature is another great milestone. It was indicative of the Government's wish to assess the position of the country and to plan for the future. But, as we pointed out previously, our planners could not put first thing first. They could not face the overpopulation problem

**Balance Sheet II**

Government House in the 1960s

squarely and that probably for religious reasons. The religious susceptibilities of one section of the population stood in the way of the Legislature.

This question of overpopulation has simply been deferred. We have shrunk before it but the next Council may well have to face it in an acuter form.

The coming of Mr Luce goes to the credit of the Council especially the Labour Party. But the pity of it is that the Council could not ensure the immediate implementation of Mr Luce's revolutionary recommendations. Mr Luce came to this country too late. He succeeded in focussing attention on our real problems. That was much in itself.

The increase of old age pension and the abolition of the means test are two other measures of far-reaching consequences approved by the Legislature. In spite of the fears of Mr Koenig and the apprehensions of the Nominated Members, it was indeed high time that the means test was abolished and thus bring some solace to a larger number of homes. It will not be out of place to express the country's gratitude to the Council for sponsoring and implementing such a humanitarian measure. We note also with great satisfaction that a Ministerial Committee considered the advisability and possibility of endowing the country with a Social

Insurance Scheme.

In the field of education, we had the new Education Code which was what the country needed. There was also the Income Tax Ordinance as well as the Council's decision to subsidize religious bodies hitherto unaided by the State. The report of the Police Inquiry Commission cannot be ignored nor the Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Ordinance.

Looking back on the work done by the disbanded legislators, one cannot fail to

realise what a great contribution they have made towards the general advancement of the country.

However, one can neither overlook two glaring omissions. The Land Tenancy Ordinance, promised by the Governor in his inaugural speech of the last Session of the Council, has never seen the light of day and the non-subsidized religious bodies have not started receiving their subsidies. The new Council will perhaps have to deal with these questions.

In all the good work achieved by the Council, the Labour Party can reasonably claim a large amount of credit. It can now go to the people with the confidence of having fulfilled many of its promises in spite of the tremendous difficulties it encountered. But there is a dangerous tendency abroad which seeks to render Labour responsible for the miseries of the people and to ascribe all the good works of the party to the other factions of the Legislature.

This constitutes a challenge to Labour - a challenge which it must face with courage and determination.

**Mauritius Times**

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Thank you so much.  
Mauritius Times

**Al Furqan Society**

Avenue Colline No. 1 Morcellement Raffray, Pailles Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Friday 23rd June 2023 at the seat of the association at 8.00 pm.

**Agenda**

1. Reading and Approval of the last Annual General Meeting
2. Report of the President
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Approval of estimate expenditures
5. AOB

**Z. Peerbaye**  
Secretary

9 June 2023

# How AI could take over elections – and undermine democracy

● Cont. from page 2

Clogger would be able to carry on dynamic “conversations” with you – and millions of other people – over time. Clogger’s messages would be similar to ads that follow you across different websites and social media.

## The nature of AI

Three more features – or bugs – are worth noting.

First, the messages that Clogger sends may or may not be political in content. The machine’s only goal is to maximize vote share, and it would likely devise strategies for achieving this goal that no human campaigner would have thought of.

One possibility is sending likely opponent voters information about nonpolitical passions that they have in sports or entertainment to bury the political messaging they receive. Another possibility is sending off-putting messages – for example incontinence advertisements – timed to coincide with opponents’ messaging. And another is manipulating voters’ social media friend groups to give the sense that their social circles support its candidate.

Second, Clogger has no regard for truth. Indeed, it has no way of knowing what is true or false. Language model “hallucinations” are not a problem for this machine because its objective is to change your vote, not to provide accurate information.

Third, because it is a black box type of artificial intelligence, people would have no way to know what strategies it uses.

It would offer three advances over the current state-of-the-art algorithmic behavior manipulation. First, its language model would generate messages — texts, social media and email, perhaps including images and videos — tailored to you personally. Whereas advertisers strategically place a relatively small number of ads, language models such as ChatGPT can generate countless unique messages for you personally – and millions for others – over the course of a campaign.

Second, Clogger would use a technique called reinforcement learning to generate a succession of messages that become increasingly more likely to change your vote. Reinforcement learning is a machine-learning, trial-and-error approach in which the computer takes actions and gets feedback about which



work better in order to learn how to accomplish an objective. Machines that can play Go, Chess and many video games better than any human have used reinforcement learning.

## Clogocracy

If the Republican presidential campaign were to deploy Clogger in 2024, the Democratic campaign would likely be compelled to respond in kind, perhaps with a similar machine. Call it Dogger. If the campaign managers thought that these machines were effective, the presidential contest might well come down to Clogger vs. Dogger, and the winner would be the client of the more effective machine.

Political scientists and pundits would have much to say about why one or the other AI prevailed, but likely no one would really know. The president will have been elected not because his or her policy proposals or political ideas persuaded more Americans, but because he or she had the more effective AI. The content that won the day would have come from an AI focused solely on victory, with no political ideas of its own, rather than from candidates or parties.

In this very important sense, a machine would have won the election rather than a person. The election would no longer be democratic, even though all



Pic - Nextgov

of the ordinary activities of democracy – the speeches, the ads, the messages, the voting and the counting of votes – will have occurred.

The AI-elected president could then go one of two ways. He or she could use the mantle of election to pursue Republican or Democratic party policies. But because the party ideas may have had little to do with why people voted the way that they did – Clogger and Dogger don’t care about policy views – the president’s actions would not necessarily reflect the will of the voters. Voters would have been manipulated by the AI rather than freely choosing their political leaders and policies.

Another path is for the president to pursue the messages, behaviours and policies that the machine predicts will maximize the chances of re-election. On this path, the president would have no particular platform or agenda beyond maintaining power. The president’s actions, guided by Clogger, would be those most likely to manipulate voters rather than serve their genuine interests or even the president’s own ideology.

## Avoiding Clogocracy

It would be possible to avoid AI election manipulation if candidates, campaigns and consultants all forswore the use of such political AI. We believe that is unlikely. If politically effective black boxes were developed, the temptation to use them would be almost irresistible. Indeed, political consultants might well see using these tools as required by their professional responsibility to help their candidates win. And once one candidate uses such an effective tool, the opponents could hardly be expected to resist by disarming unilaterally.

Enhanced privacy protection would help. Clogger would depend on access to vast amounts of personal data in order to target individuals, craft messages tailored

to persuade or manipulate them, and track and retarget them over the course of a campaign. Every bit of that information that companies or policymakers deny the machine would make it less effective. Another solution lies with elections commissions. They could try to ban or severely regulate these machines. There’s a fierce debate about whether such “replicant” speech, even if it’s political in nature, can be regulated. The US’s extreme free speech tradition leads many leading academics to say it cannot.

But there is no reason to automatically extend the First Amendment’s protection to the product of these machines. The nation might well choose to give machines rights, but that should be a decision grounded in the challenges of today, not the misplaced assumption that James Madison’s views in 1789 were intended to apply to AI.

European Union regulators are moving in this direction. Policymakers revised the European Parliament’s draft of its Artificial Intelligence Act to designate “AI systems to influence voters in campaigns” as “high risk” and subject to regulatory scrutiny.

One constitutionally safer, if smaller, step, already adopted in part by European internet regulators and in California, is to prohibit bots from passing themselves off as people. For example, regulation might require that campaign messages come with disclaimers when the content they contain is generated by machines rather than humans.

This would be like the advertising disclaimer requirements – “Paid for by the Sam Jones for Congress Committee” – but modified to reflect its AI origin: “This AI-generated ad was paid for by the Sam Jones for Congress Committee.” A stronger version could require: “This AI-generated message is being sent to you by the Sam Jones for Congress Committee because Clogger has predicted that doing so will increase your chances of voting for Sam Jones by 0.0002%.” At the very least, we believe voters deserve to know when it is a bot speaking to them, and they should know why, as well.

The possibility of a system like Clogger shows that the path toward human collective disempowerment may not require some superhuman artificial general intelligence. It might just require overeager campaigners and consultants who have powerful new tools that can effectively push millions of people’s many buttons.

**Archon Fung - Prof. of Citizenship  
& Self-Government, Harvard  
Kennedy School**  
**Lawrence Lessig - Prof. of Law &  
Leadership, Harvard University**

# Online brain games can extend *in-game* 'cognitive youth' into old age

A University of California, Irvine-led study has found that online brain game exercises can enable people in their 70s and even 80s to multitask cognitively as well as individuals 50 years their junior. This is an increasingly valuable skill, given today's daily information onslaught, which can divide attention and be particularly taxing for older adults.

"The brain is not a muscle, but like our bodies, if we work out and train it, we can improve our mental performance," said lead author Mark Steyvers, a UCI Prof of cognitive sciences. "We discovered that people in the upper age ranges who completed specific training tasks were able to beef up their brain's ability to switch between tasks in the game at a level similar to untrained 20- and 30-year-olds."

The findings, published in 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences', underscore the cognitive cost of multitasking, which dilutes function by splitting focus, as well as the ways in which people across the lifespan can overcome the brain drain brought on by



both the increasingly cluttered multimedia environment and the natural aging process.

For the study, Steyvers and his colleagues partnered with Lumosity, an online platform that offers a variety of daily

brain training games. They focused on data from "Ebb and Flow" -- a task-switching game that challenges the brain's ability to shift between cognitive processes interpreting shapes and movement. Of the millions of people who played the game between 2012 and 2017, researchers randomly sampled the performance of about 1,000 users within two categories: those who ranged in age from 21 to 80 and had completed fewer than 60 training sessions; and adults 71 to 80 who had logged at least 1,000 sessions.

They found that the majority of older and highly practised players were able to match or exceed the performance of younger users who had not played very much.

"Medical advances and improved lifestyles are allowing us to live longer," Steyvers said. "It's important to factor brain health into that equation. We show that with consistent upkeep, cognitive youth can be retained well into our golden years."



## Where does our rubbish go?

*Rubbish can be reused or recycled – or it may end up in a dumpsite.*



GOLFX/Shutterstock

Modern life causes lots of different types of rubbish. It comes from households, hospitals, schools, farming, shops, offices, industry and building projects. Just the rubbish from our homes can include food, packaging, plastics, metals, glass, paper, furniture, clothes, shoes, electronics, broken toys and garden wastes.

We produce billions of tonnes of rubbish every year, and we need to manage it carefully to protect human health and our environment. Waste is managed in many different ways across our planet.

A way of thinking about how we get rid of our rubbish is called the waste hierarchy. It puts the different ways we deal with waste in order of preference, from the worst ways – such as burning rubbish – at the bottom of the hierarchy, to the best ways at the top.

### At the bottom

The bottom of the hierarchy is waste disposal. This means getting rid of rubbish without trying to use it or turn it in to something else.

One way of doing this is to put rubbish in an open dumpsite. This is land where people tip solid or liquid waste with no treatment or pollution control. Dumpsites

like this take 40% of the world's rubbish. But open dumpsites have bad impacts on the environment. They produce gases that lead to climate change, and they can make people ill. There is a plan to close all open dumpsites.

Another way is to use landfill – putting rubbish in a hole or heap that has been designed to safely hold rubbish. Landfill sites are carefully built to stop liquid pollutants and gases escaping. Landfill gas can be very dangerous. When a landfill is full, it is safely covered with soil and can be used to make parks or sports pitches.

You may be surprised to know that we used to dump rubbish in our oceans. This is now banned, but lots of plastic rubbish still gets into our oceans, killing marine birds and animals.

Another way to get rid of rubbish is to burn it, which can produce energy. People worry about burning rubbish because incinerators may release nasty harmful pollutants into the air. In some places, the gases are cleaned before they are released.

Composting is another way of getting something useful out of rubbish. It turns waste food into compost, which we can use in gardens and on farms to improve the soil.

### In the middle

In the middle of the hierarchy is recycling. This means collecting materials in rubbish, such as plastic, paper, metal or glass, and using them to make new products.

Rubbish that can be recycled is collected from our homes in special boxes or wheeled bins. It is then transported to a recycling centre where it is sorted into the various materials. The next steps depend on what is being recycled.

For example, glass is recycled by melting the jars and bottles being recycled. The melted glass can then be used to make new glass objects. Paper cannot be melted and so it is broken into smaller pieces. It is then mixed with water, and this mix is used to make new sheets of



Recycling. Rawpixel.com

paper.

### The best approach

The best ways to deal with rubbish are reuse and prevention.

Reuse means using something again instead of throwing it away. For instance, instead of putting a jumper you don't like in the bin, you could give it to a friend or take it to a charity shop.

Reuse was very popular when people didn't have much money, and it is becoming popular again to save money and improve our environment. There is an increasing interest in activities such as "swap shops" where people swap items they don't want for items they would like. Lots of people use the internet to donate things to charity or buy and sell secondhand items.

Waste prevention means doing things to stop rubbish being created in the first place – such as using cutlery you can wash and use again instead of a disposable plastic fork or spoon.

So there are lots of ways to manage rubbish – and we need to focus on waste prevention, reuse and recycling to protect and improve the environment.

**Deborah Reed**

Professor of Education, University of Tennessee





## After retirement

**W**e all have to be careful because many people are facing mental health issues from being isolated for too long after they retire.

In fact, I have been discussing this with the microwave and toaster during coffee break and we all agreed that things are getting hot.

I spoke with my apartment windows this morning because they were very open about it.

I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything.

Certainly not to the fridge as he has been acting very cold and distant.

The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked for his opinion. He didn't say anything, but the doorknob told me to get a grip.

The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me to pull myself together.

I tried to talk to the mirror as well, but it asked me to go reflect on myself first.

The vacuum cleaner was very unsympathetic and told me to just suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all soon blow over.

In the end, the iron straightened me out. She said everything will be fine and no situation is too pressing!

\* \* \*

The secret of a long and happy marriage

A couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquillity had long been the talk of the town. A local newspaper reporter was inquiring as to the secret of their long and happy marriage.

"Well, it dates back to our honeymoon," explained the man. "We visited the Grand Canyon and took a trip down to the bottom of the canyon by pack mule. We hadn't gone too far when my wife's mule stumbled. My wife quietly said, 'That's once.' We proceeded a little farther when the mule stumbled again. Once more my wife quietly said, 'That's twice.'"

"We hadn't gone a half mile when the mule stumbled a third time. My wife promptly removed a revolver from her pocket and shot him. I started to protest over her treatment of the mule when she looked at me and quietly said, 'That's once.'"

Secret of a long and happy marriage... don't ever argue with your wife.

\* \* \*

Every morning, when I'm about to leave for work, my wife always reminds me of something that I forgot. Sometimes the house keys, other times the office keys, often times my mobile phone, the charger or even documents and always finds the occasion to throw taunts at me like: "You're starting to get old and lose your memory."

In order to put an end to her sarcasm and no longer give her the opportunity to laugh, I now write down everything I usually forget on a sheet of paper before leaving the house.

Can you believe what happened today? I got ready to leave; I took my sheet of paper and started ticking off everything I needed to take. I smiled, already savouring my little victory...

Once I entered the car, my wife called me. I answered her with confidence and defiance: "Don't even try! I haven't forgotten anything today."

She started laughing and said to me: "Come back inside, today is a public holiday!"

\* \* \*

Two priests are off to the showers late one night. They undress and step into the showers before they realize there is no soap.

Father John says he has soap in his room and goes to get it, not bothering to dress.

He grabs two bars of soap, one in each hand, and heads back to the showers.

He is halfway down the hall when he sees three nuns heading his way. Having no place to hide, he stands against the wall and freezes like he's a statue.

The nuns stop and comment on how life-like he looks.

The first nun suddenly reaches out and pulls on his manhood.

Startled, he drops a bar of soap.

"Oh, look," says the first nun, "it's a soap dispenser."

To test her theory, the second nun also pulls on his manhood.

Sure enough, he drops the second bar of soap.

Now the third nun decides to have a go.

She pulls once, then twice and three times but nothing happens.

So, she gives several more tugs, then yells...

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, Hand Lotion Too!"

\* \* \*

Jim was pestered by his mother-in-law who, much to his dismay, lived with the family. Each morning, just as he was about to leave for office, the mother-in-law would take him to one side and whisper: "If you don't treat my daughter properly after I'm dead, I'll dig you up from the grave and haunt you."

It was the same when Jim came home for lunch. The mother-in-law would slide up to him and hiss menacingly: "If you don't treat my daughter right after Jim dead, I'll dig you up from the grave and haunt you."

At night-time, she would approach him on his way to bed and repeat the usual threat.

He had recounted his awful life to his friend. Sometime later, after seeing Jim for a few moments, the friend asked him how he was managing with his mother-in-law.

"She is not plaguing me, she passed away last week," said Jim gleefully.

"Aren't you worried of her threat?" asked the friend.

"Not really, but to be sure, I had her buried facedown, so let her dig," replied Jim.

\* \* \*

Father: "Did Peter bring you home last night?"

Daughter: "Yes, it was late, did the noise disturb you?"

Father: "No, it wasn't the noise but the silence."

\* \* \*

Two young men were discussing their dads.

One said: "I recently split with my girlfriend, and my father really helped me."

"Yeah?"

"Yeah," he said, "forget her my son, she wasn't even any good in bed."

\* \* \*

Two kids were talking on their way home from school.

One said: "I'm really worried, my dad works fifty hours a week to provide us with flat, plenty of good food and great vacations. And my mom spends half of her

**WIFE TO HER DRUNKEN HUSBAND... FROM NOW ON**



**IF YOUR LIPS TOUCH LIQUOR IT WILL NEVER TOUCH MY LIPS.**

**HUSBAND:: AWWW??**

**WIFE:: NOW WHAT ARE YOU THINKING??**

**HUSBAND:: DECIDING.**

**WIFE:: DECIDING WHAT??**

**HUSBAND - 18 YRS OLD SCOTCH OR 59 YRS OLD LIPS**

time keeping the house clean, washing and ironing my clothes, and the rest of the time doing a part-time job to earn extra little luxuries."

"Wow, you sound really lucky, so why are you worried?"

The first boy said, "What if they run away?"

\* \* \*

A husband and wife were driving the highway at fifty miles per hour when she suddenly announced, "I know we've been married for fifteen years... but I want a divorce."

The husband said nothing but increased the car's speed to sixty miles an hour.

His wife continued, "I don't want you trying to talk me out of it, I've made my decision. I've been having an affair with your best friend, and he's a much better lover than you."

Again, the husband said nothing but increased the speed to sixty-five miles an hour.

His wife demanded, "I want the house; it's the least I deserve after giving up my career for you."

The husband remained silent but accelerated to seventy miles an hour.

"I will retain the kids, too," she added.

He put his foot down so that they were now doing eighty miles an hour.

"And, I want the car, the yacht, the bank account and another \$ 100,000 spending money," she went on.

He accelerated further and gradually started to steer the car towards a concrete bridge as she inquired: "Is there anything you want?"

Finally, he spoke: "No thanks, I've got everything I need," he said.

"What's that then?" she sneered.

Just before he hit the wall at ninety miles an hour, he replied: "I've got the airbag."

**In childhood**

A=Apple  
B=Ball  
C=Cat  
D=Doll  
E=Elephant

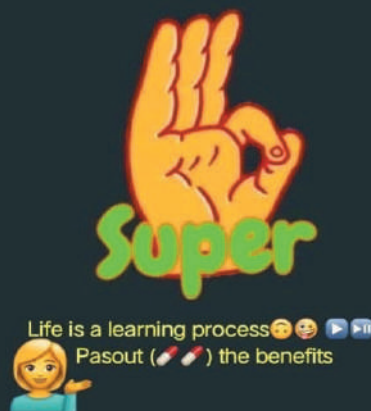
**In young age\_**

A=Android  
B=Bluetooth  
C=Currency  
D=Dance  
E=Enjoy

**In old age**

A=Arthritis  
B=Blood pressure  
C=Cholesterol  
D=Diabetes  
E=Emergency

ABCD never leaves us alone 😊😊😊

**Life's Lesson****Don't give up on sweets no matter what your doctor says**

**1. Jalebi:** Your shape doesn't matter, your nature does. No matter how messed up you look, or life is, keeping a sweet tone will always help.

**2. Rasgulla:** No matter how much you are squeezed by circumstances, only sweetness should come out and just remember you will return to your original self as soon as the pressure diminishes! So be resilient even when squeezed.

**3. Boondi Laddu:** Every little drop of Boondi matters. Similarly little and continuous efforts can bring in

miraculous results. Continue doing little things, success will follow.

**4. Soan papdi:** Not everyone likes you, yet the maker doesn't stop to make you. Pursue your goals, irrespective of validation.

**5. Gulab jamun:** Your softness is not your weakness; it can be your strength. Softness is a quality much appreciated, be proud of it.

**6. Besan Laddu:** If you get shattered due to pressure, you can always rebuild. It's a symbol of hope. No matter what goes wrong, we can always fix it.

So, don't give up on sweets no matter what your doctor says!!!

Author Unkown

**Thoughts to live by**

**O**ur greatest enemies are the negative thoughts in our mind.

Building a business isn't easy, but in any case, nothing great comes easy.

Life does not allow for us to go back and fix what we have done wrong in the past, but it does allow for us to live each day better than our last.

We are only given TODAY and never promised TOMORROW. So

make sure you tell the people who are special in your life, that you love them.

Worrying is a waste of time. Good and bad things happen in life, you just have to keep living. Not stress over what you can't control.

**Advice to all employees****Don't hate to retire**

1. Build a home earlier if possible. Be it rural home or urban home. Building a house at 55 or 60 is not an achievement. This comfort is so dangerous. Let all your family have good time in your house.

2. Go home. Don't stick at work all the year. You are not the pillar of your department. If you drop dead today, you will be replaced immediately, and operations will continue. Make your family a priority.

3. Don't chase promotions. Master your skills and be excellent at what you do. If they want to promote you, that's fine; if they don't, stay positive to your personal development.

4. Avoid office or work gossip. Avoid things that tarnish your name or reputation. Don't join the bandwagon that backbites your bosses and colleagues. Stay away from negative gatherings that have only people as their agenda.

5. Don't ever compete with your bosses. You will burn your fingers. Don't compete with your colleagues, you will fry your brain.

6. Ensure you have a side business. Your salary will not sustain your needs in the long run.

7. Save some money. Let it be deducted automatically from your payslip.

8. Borrow a loan to invest in a business or to change a situation - not to buy luxury. Buy luxury from your profit.

9. Keep your life, marriage and family private. Let them stay away from your work. This is very important.

10. Be loyal to yourself and believe in your work. Hanging around your boss will alienate you from your colleagues and your boss may finally dump you when he leaves.

11. Retire early. The best way to plan for your exit was when you received the employment letter. The other best time is today. By 45 to 50 be out.

12. Join work welfare and be an active member always. It will help you a lot when any eventuality occurs.

13. Take leave days, utilize them by developing your future home or projects. Usually what you do during your leave days is a reflection of how you'll live after retirement. If it means you spend it all holding a remote-control watching series on Zee world, expect nothing different after retirement.

14. Start a project whilst still serving or working. Let your



project run whilst at work and if it doesn't do well, start another one till it's running viably. When your project is viably running, then retire to manage your business. Most people or pensioners fail in life because they retire to start a project instead of retiring to run a project.

15. Pension money is not for starting a project or buy a stand or build a house but it's money for your upkeep or to maintain yourself in good health. Pension money is not for paying school fees or marrying a young wife but to look after yourself.

16. Always remember, when you retire never be a case study for living a miserable life after retirement but be a role model for colleagues to think of retiring too.

17. Don't retire just because you are finished, or you are now a burden to the company and just wait for your day to die. Retire young or whilst energetic to enjoy waking up for a cup of coffee, enjoy the sun, receive money from your business, visit nice place that you missed and spend good time with family. Those who retire late, spend about 95% of their time at work than with their family and that's why they see it difficult to spend time with their family when they retire but end looking for another job till they die. If they don't get another job, they die early.

18. Never let your employment benefits make you forget about your retirement. Employment benefits are just meant to make you relax, get finished whilst time is moving.

19. Don't hate to retire because one day you will retire either voluntarily or involuntarily.

Dr M. A. Chaudhary

**Give a man whatever he wants...**

Give a man what he needs, and he will want comfort.

Provide him with comforts - he will strive for luxury.

Shower him with luxury - he will begin to sigh in exquisiteness.

Let him get the exquisite - he will crave follies.

Give him whatever he wants...

He will complain that he was deceived, and that he did not get what he wanted.

Ernest Hemingway

**Sometimes we give love to the wrong person,**  
and we sit there and wonder,  
'how could I have given love to that person? They don't even deserve it,'  
or 'what a waste of time.' But the thing is, you shouldn't think about it that way. You should think of the fact that you were able to give love, because if you are able to give, that means you have it inside of you. It's the same thing with kindness, with honesty, with your ability to care about people. Don't focus on the way that people abuse that. Focus on the fact that you have it within you, and that it makes you who you are. It makes you a beautiful person, a beautiful human being. — Najwa Zebian

Well-being

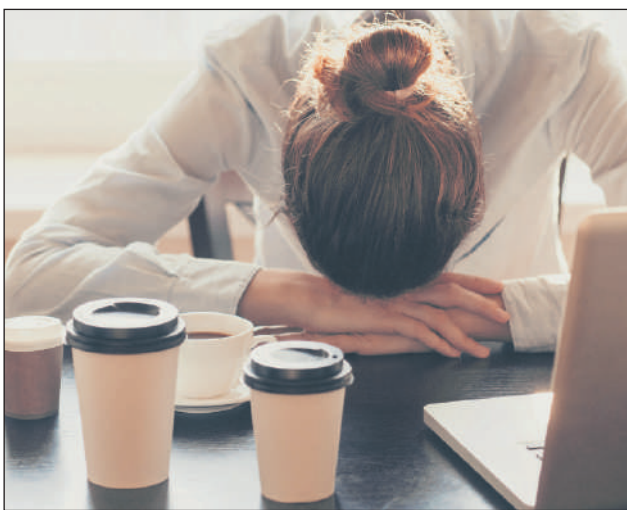
## How to beat the afternoon slump

Drink too much coffee late in the day and you may have trouble sleeping at night. Instead, try one or more of these science-baked tips to wake up your body and mind.

**Take a walk:** Your body isn't built to be alert and productive 8 hours straight. Your levels of the hormone cortisol go up and down all day, which can leave you feeling sluggish in the afternoon. Take a walk to get your blood flowing. Even if it's just around the building or the block, the change of scenery will also reenergize your senses.

**Eat a good breakfast:** Do you skimp on your morning meal or skip it altogether? If so, you're missing out on important nutrients that help you concentrate, problem-solve, and be productive. It may also cause you to overeat at lunch, which can spike blood sugar. This leaves you tired and hungry a few hours later.

**Do energizing yoga stretches:** Yoga is all about slow movements and deep breaths, both of which get your blood moving. It also helps you release any tension you're holding in your body. You don't have to get on the floor. Just back away from the computer and do some neck rolls, shoulder rolls, and a few seated side bends. Remember to breathe.



**Drink water:** Your body runs on water. When you don't get enough, everything slows down. Drinking a glass of water will not only make you feel less tired by carrying nutrients and oxygen to your cells, it also helps keep your blood pressure and heartbeat in check.

**Sip green tea:** Eight ounces of brewed green tea has slightly more caffeine than soda, and all of it's natural. Green tea also has plant compounds called catechins that give you a powerful antioxidant boost.

**Take a break from work:** Tiredness is your body's way of telling you it needs something. And that something might be as simple as a break. It's tempting to keep working. But when you give your mind and body a few minutes away, you'll be more focused and productive when you return.

**Open the blinds:** Don't underestimate the power of light. At a core level, your body takes its cues from light to know when to wake up and when to go to sleep. If you're feeling tired during the workday, bright sunlight or a light therapy lamp can help you feel awake and alert.

**Try a standing desk:** If you have a desk job, most of the action happens in your mind. Your arms may move a bit on a keyboard, but your lower half stays static. If you alternate between a sitting and standing desk, it keeps your body and blood moving.

**Grab an energy-boosting snack:** These keep your body fueled and offset energy dips in the afternoon. This is a good time to get vitamins, minerals, fiber, and a solid hit of protein in: Reach for yogurt, a piece of fruit, or crunchy vegetables.

**Cut back on sugar:** Like caffeine, sugar gives you a quick, easy boost, but you'll pay for it later with low blood sugar and a big drop in energy. Get healthy amounts of sugar naturally from fruit or drinks with 100% fruit juice.

**Take a catnap:** Give in! A quick nap could be just what your body needs to reset and feel refreshed. Set a 15-minute timer and shut the door to your office or recline the seat in your car. Aim to get your nap in before 3 p.m. so it doesn't mess with your nighttime sleep cycle.

**Turn on energetic music:** Ever notice how a song can boost your mood and wake up your whole body? Music tells your brain to produce more dopamine, the hormone that helps you feel pleasure. It also helps your blood flow more freely. Think of it as audio caffeine.

Medically reviewed by Carol DerSarkissian, WebMD

Relationships

## Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships: Know the Signs

Every relationship has stressful moments, but it should ultimately bring more happiness. See how to tell if your relationship is healthy

A fulfilling and happy life depends on healthy relationships. These relationships are often built on a sense of mutual respect, trust, and support. Understanding the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships is crucial for making informed decisions about the relationships we choose to have in our lives. Read on to learn more about healthy vs. unhealthy relationships.

Having a healthy relationship involves several key components. For example, both partners should be able to express their needs and boundaries and have a sense of equality in the relationship.

Some signs can indicate whether a relationship is healthy or unhealthy. A healthy relationship involves providing support for your partner. Another good indication that your relationship is healthy is that you and your partner have mutual respect for one another. Here are some healthy relationship examples:

**1. Acceptance:** Both partners in a healthy relationship accept each other for who they are, including their flaws and imperfections. To cultivate acceptance in a relationship, focus on your partner's positive qualities and work on being open-minded. It's also important to remember that people change and grow over time, and it's normal for there to be differences in interests, goals, and values within a relationship.

**2. Respect for independence:** While a healthy relationship involves being there for each other, it's also vital for both partners to have their own friends and activities outside of the relationship. To foster independence in a



relationship, encourage your partner to pursue their own hobbies and respect their desire for alone time.

**3. Honesty:** Both partners in a healthy relationship are honest with each other and can openly discuss their thoughts and feelings. To build honesty in a relationship, try to be open and transparent with your partner and avoid keeping secrets.

**4. Emotional intimacy:** A healthy relationship involves sharing your innermost feelings and thoughts with your partner and feeling connected on an emotional level. To cultivate emotional intimacy, try to set aside time to have deep conversations with your partner and share your thoughts and feelings with them.

**5. Equal power dynamic:** A healthy relationship involves a sense of equality, with both partners feeling equal in decision-making. To foster a sense of equality, consider each other's perspectives and avoid trying to control or dominate your partner.

**6. Support for personal growth:** Both partners in a healthy relationship support each other's personal growth and encourage each other to pursue their goals and dreams. In order to support your partner's personal growth, try to be encouraging and offer practical help when needed.

If your relationship has these qualities, it is likely to be a healthy and positive one. Remember, every relationship is unique and may have its own set of challenges. By focusing on building and maintaining a strong foundation of trust, respect, and open communication, you can cre-

ate a healthy and positive relationship with your partner.

### Examples of Unhealthy Relationships

Unhealthy relationships can be characterized by several behaviors and dynamics that can negatively impact the individuals involved. Here are some examples:

**1. Lack of communication:** In an unhealthy relationship, there may be a lack of effective communication, with one or both partners being unable to express their needs, feelings, and boundaries. A lack of communication can lead to misunderstandings and resentment.

**2. Lack of trust:** In an unhealthy relationship, there may be a lack of trust, with one or both partners being dishonest or unfaithful. A lack of trust in a relationship can cause feelings of insecurity.

**3. Lack of respect:** In an unhealthy relationship, there may be a lack of respect, with one or both partners disregarding each other's feelings, opinions, and boundaries. Failing to respect your partner can lead to feelings of disrespect and hurt.

**4. Lack of support:** In an unhealthy relationship, one or both partners may not support each other, leaving one or both individuals feeling isolated and unsupported.

**5. Lack of boundaries:** In an unhealthy relationship, there may be a lack of boundaries, with one or both partners invading each other's personal space, time, or decision-making. A lack of respect for your partner's boundaries can lead to resentment and a lack of autonomy.

**6. Poor conflict resolution:** In an unhealthy relationship, partners may resolve conflicts through unhealthy means like yelling, name-calling, or physical violence.

Seeking support from a therapist, trusted friend, or family member can help you address these issues. It's also important to set boundaries and prioritize your well-being. If you're concerned about your safety or if your relationship is consistently unhealthy, it may be necessary to seek help or consider leaving the relationship.

Amanda Gonzalez, WebMD

## From 'Satya Prem Ki Katha' to 'Bloody Daddy', upcoming Bollywood movies releasing in June 2023

This month's calendar is stacked with some of the most anticipated movies of the year. For starters, this is the month that sees Sara Ali Khan and Vicky Kaushal's first on-screen collaboration. Another on-screen pairing making a comeback is Kiara Advani and Kartik Aaryan in *Satya Prem Ki Katha*.

Meanwhile, the VFX-heavy *Adipurush* starring Prabhas and Kriti Sanon and Shahid Kapoor's next OTT release, *Bloody Daddy* are also coming up this month, reports Filmfare.

Here are all the upcoming Bollywood movies releasing in June 2023:

### Zara Hatke Zara Bachke

Director: Laxman Utekar

Cast: Vicky Kaushal, Sara Ali Khan

Laxman Utekar's next - *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke* has a rather unique storyline. The film that sees Sara Ali Khan and Vicky Kaushal team up for the first time on the big screen is a divorce drama. It revolves around a married couple who after their dreamy wedding end up falling out of love. The two file for divorce in this hilarious comedy. Apart from the *hatke* concept, the film's highlight is the lead pair's chemistry.



### Mumbaikar

Director: Santosh Sivan

Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Vikrant Massey, Ranvir Shorey

*Mumbaikar* is a multi-starrer film featuring Vijay Sethupathi, Vikrant Massey and others in pivotal roles. The film set in the titular city is about ordinary people whose lives get entangled when the son of a mafia don is abducted. The crime leads to unexpected revelations in a web of interconnected stories.

### Bloody Daddy

Director: Ali Abbas Zafar

Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Ronit Roy, Diana Penty

After *Farzi*, Shahid Kapoor seems to be back to dominate the streaming space with his next film *Bloody*

*Daddy*. The upcoming action thriller directed by Ali Abbas Zafar sees him play a rather dark character who comes in all guns blazing as he goes up against cops and criminals.

### Adipurush

Director: Om Raut

Cast: Kriti Sanon, Prabhas, Saif Ali Khan, Sunny Kaushal

*Adipurush* is the latest to join the busy catalogue of movies based on the Hindu epic Ramayana. The film starring Kriti Sanon, Prabhas, Saif Ali Khan, Sunny Kaushal and others is expected to go big on VFX. It will be interesting to see how the newest rendition of the timeless tale will pan out.

### Maidaan

Director: Amit Sharma

Cast: Ajay Devgn, Gajraj Rao, Priyamani

*Maidaan* is the next big upcoming sports drama. The biographical film revolves around the life and times of football coach Syed Abdul Rahim. Ajay Devgn is set to essay the lead role in the film that spotlights the highs and lows of Indian football.

### Satya Prem Ki Katha

Director: Sameer Vidwans

Cast: Kiara Advani, Kartik Aaryan

One of the most talked-about upcoming Bollywood movies in June 2023 is *Satya Prem Ki Katha*. The film reunites Kartik Aaryan and Kiara Advani after their stint in *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*. The film is a love story. While much isn't known about the plot, the good-looking teasers offer a glimpse the lead pair's crackling chemistry.

## Shahid Kapoor revealed what he would steal from ex-girlfriend Kareena Kapoor

Shahid Kapoor has opened up on what he would steal from his ex-girlfriend, actor Kareena Kapoor. In a new interview, he also talked about what he would do if he met Kareena's husband, actor Saif Ali Khan, Hindustan Times reports.

### Shahid and Kareena's partners:

Shahid Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor were in a relationship for several years before parting ways. Kareena married Saif Ali Khan in a private ceremony in Bandra in October 2012. Shahid tied the knot with Mira Rajput in March 2015. They became parents to daughter Misha Kapoor in 2016 and son Zain Kapoor in 2018.

**Shahid about Saif:** In an interview with Bollywood Bubble, Shahid said about Saif, "I don't know. I guess we will say, 'Hi'. We used to go to the same gym. We have done a movie together." Shahid and Saif Ali Khan featured in only one movie so far -- *Rangoon* (2017). The period war drama film, directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, also starred Kangana Ranaut.

**Shahid about Kareena:** Talking about Kareena, Shahid said, "She always had a superstar quality from her first film. That was special about her." Shahid and Kareena featured in several movies together -- *Fida*, *Chup Chup Ke* and *36 China Town*, and *Jab We Met*. They were also part of *Milenge Milenge* (2010) their final film together.

**Kareena's upcoming projects:** Fans will see Kareena with Tabu, Kriti Sanon and Diljit Dosanjh in *The Crew*. It is a story of three women and is touted as a laugh-



riot, set against the backdrop of the struggling airline industry. However, their destinies lead to some unwarranted situations and they get caught in a web of lies. Rhea Kapoor and Ekta R Kapoor will produce the film while Rajesh Krishnan will direct it.

Apart from this, Kareena will also be seen in director Sujoy Ghosh's thriller based on the book 'The Devotion of Suspect X'. It also stars Vijay Varma and Jaideep Ahlawat.

**Shahid's new projects:** Shahid will be next seen in director Ali Abbas Zafar's upcoming action film *Bloody Daddy*. He also has a yet-to-be-titled film with Kriti Sanon.

## Sara Ali Khan about marrying a cricketer? Here's what she said

The actress says her partner must "match me on the mental and intellectual level"

Sara Ali Khan has been busy with the promotion of her latest film *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke* alongside Vicky Kaushal. The movie, directed by Laxman Utekar, was released on June 2. In one of her recent interviews, Sara opened up about her marriage plans.

The actress said the person needs to "match me on the mental and intellectual level," reported India Today. Sara, who is known for her knock-knock jokes, was also asked if she would like to tie the knot with a cricketer just like her grandmother, veteran actress Sharmila Tagore.

"I think that the kind of person that I am, to find somebody it doesn't matter what they do — actor, cricketer, businessman, doctor... Maybe not doctors, they will run away. But jokes apart, you will need to match me on the mental and intellectual level. And if you can do that, I think it's great, wow but I think that would matter to me much, much more (than the profession)," Sara, who has been linked to star India cricketer Shubman Gill, was quoted as saying.

Clearing the air, Sara, in the same interview, revealed that she has not met the person. "I'll be honest with you, I think and I can say this with almost assurity, I think the person I am going to be in my life I have not met so far. I really don't think so," the actress said.



In *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke*, Sara and Vicky play the role of a married couple, who want to part ways.

Up next, Sara Ali Khan has *Ae Watan Mere Watan* in the pipeline. She is also part of *Murder Mubarak* alongside Karisma Kapoor, Vijay Varma, Dimple Kapadia, Pankaj Tripathi, and Sanjay Kapoor.

Kismat Ki Lakeeron Se

## Shaily Priya Pandey: 'What matters is that this is the right time to earn and save'

**S**haily Priya Pandey, who is currently seen essaying the female lead in the show *Kismat Ki Lakeeron Se*, spills the beans on how her character will shape up in the future, how she balances her hectic shoot schedule and the show to take a leap soon.

Speaking about her role Shaily tells, "So far my character has shaped up really well where Shraddha from being very naive and emotional is now becoming street smart and rebellious too. She completely stands by the truth and honesty and if needed she can put her life at stake when it comes to safeguarding her family from any sort of trouble."

Sharing about how she manages her hectic shoot schedule she says, "Well, working in television is no doubt very hectic. Sometimes you end up shooting for 16 to 18 hours at a stretch. For the lead actors, when the telecast is on their shoulders asking for time adjustment or a day off gets very difficult. But for me, my work is my passion. Acting was the sole reason why I shifted to Mumbai and when I have one, it's my responsibility to keep up with it. Mostly, I try to keep my diet proper and atleast take 5-6 hours of sleep. When I get time in between the scenes I watch something on my tab to stay updated or mostly take a power nap in my makeup room."

Talking about how things will change in the show further, she shares, "As far as the story is concerned every day we are bringing high voltage drama which is keeping the audiences intrigued. In the near future, there will be a short leap and the story will take twists accordingly."

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### 'I have no qualms working for longer shifts,' says Shaily

"There is no denial that we are working for long hours throughout the month and are left with little or no me time. But that's same in every other industry. Pressure is everywhere and it's almost the same for all youngsters around. What matters is that this is the right time to earn and save, also



job security is a must so I have no qualms working for longer shifts. At the end of the day, it's my show and that should be of utmost importance," says actor in a conversation to Hindustan Times

Talking about being selective, she says, "Initially for an actor's career, visibility is a must. But with time you have to be a bit particular about your projects. Like what the story line is and how your character will shape up on screen. I have been fortunate that I got to play all central characters in the short span of my career. This helped me to find my footing in the industry," says Pandey.

Seen in shows like *Pavitraa Bharose Ka Safar* and *Maa Vaisho Devi*, currently the actor plans to go slow. "For now, all my focus is on my ongoing show *Kismat Ki Lakeeron Se* that has earned me many rave reviews as a protagonist and I am hopeful that things will surely look brighter for me after this show. It's a fact that TRP does matter and as an actor if your show manages to get numbers then one can be hopeful of a more stable future," says the alumna of City Montessori School, Lucknow.



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## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Adventure and expansion are calling you this coming week. Embrace new experiences and broaden your horizons. Travel, learn, and explore different cultures or philosophies. Your optimistic outlook will attract positive opportunities and connections. However, remain grounded and responsible in your commitments. Balance your need for freedom with your responsibilities.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 14, 17, 20, 23**

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Take charge of your financial matters and make strategic decisions. Your hard work and dedication will bring tangible rewards. Nurture your relationships with loved ones and create a solid support system. Remember to find moments of relaxation amidst your busy schedules. Your determination will lead you to success. But there are indications that some of your opponents are trying to create some obstacles.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 15, 20, 21, 33, 40**

### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Aquarius, embrace your individuality and let your unique perspective shine. Connect with like-minded individuals and engage in intellectual discussions. Your innovative ideas may inspire others and lead to exciting collaborations. Nurture your personal growth and pursue your passions. Don't be afraid to think outside the box and make a positive impact. There will be a lot of support to enhance their financial position this week.

**Lucky Numbers: 12, 14, 17, 20, 26, 30**

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

This week encourages you to embrace your intuition and tap into your creative flow. Express yourself through art, music, or any form of self-expression that brings you joy. Nurture your spiritual well-being and engage in practices that help you connect with your inner self. Pay attention to your dreams, as they may hold valuable messages. Trust in the universe, and magic will unfold.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 17, 22, 23, 30**

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

You'll feel a burst of energy and confidence. Take advantage of this dynamic phase by initiating new projects or tackling any challenges that come your way. Your leadership skills will shine, and others will look to you for guidance. Remember to find balance amidst the excitement and take time for self-care. Stay focused, and success will be yours.

**Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 27, 30, 39, 40**

### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

This week calls for patience and adaptability. Unexpected changes may arise, but by embracing them, you'll discover hidden opportunities. Trust your instincts and maintain a steady pace. Financial matters may require attention, so be cautious with your investments. Nurture your relationships, as the support of loved ones will be invaluable during this period.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 11, 15, 19, 20, 23**

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Prepare for an intellectually stimulating week. Your curiosity will be piqued, leading you to explore new ideas and perspectives. Engage in meaningful conversations and seek out knowledge. Embrace your natural charm and communication skills to build bridges. Remember to take breaks and recharge your mind. From the beginning of the week itself, there will be beautiful opportunities to gain better health and fitness levels.

**Lucky Numbers: 17, 19, 25, 31, 34, 36**

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Focus on self-care and emotional well-being. Take time to nurture yourself and engage in activities that bring you joy and peace. Pay attention to your intuition, as it will guide you through any challenges you may face. Seek support from your loved ones and express your feelings openly. Remember, self-love is the foundation of all other relationships.

**Lucky Numbers: 6, 9, 14, 20, 23, 26**

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Get ready to shine! Your natural charisma and confidence will attract positive attention and opportunities. Embrace your creativity and showcase your talents. Remember to stay humble and share the spotlight with others. Financial prospects look promising but be cautious with impulsive spending. Keep your goals in mind and stay determined.

**Lucky Numbers: 5, 14, 23, 26, 27, 30**

### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

This coming week calls for organization and attention to detail. Take stock of your responsibilities and priorities your tasks. Focus on practical matters and find efficient solutions. Health and well-being should be a top priority, so make sure to take breaks and engage in activities that rejuvenate your body and mind. Stay disciplined, and you'll achieve your goals.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 13, 14, 15, 30**

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Balance and harmony are key themes for you. Strive for equilibrium in your relationships and find compromises where needed. Your diplomatic skills will be in high demand, so use them wisely. Take time for self-reflection and assess your personal needs and desires. By maintaining balance within yourself, you'll radiate positive energy to those around you.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 19, 23, 24, 32, 37**

### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

This week encourages you to delve into deeper emotional realms. Trust your intuition and explore your innermost desires and fears. Transformative experiences await, and personal growth is on the horizon. Seek support from trusted confidants and open up about your emotions. Remember, vulnerability is a strength that can lead to profound connections.

**Lucky Numbers: 6, 10, 12, 20, 25, 30**





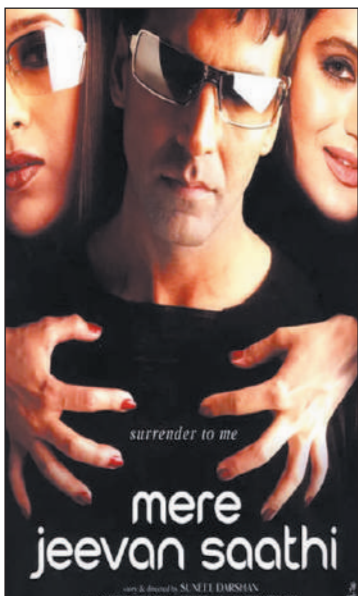
Mardi 13 Juin - 20.30



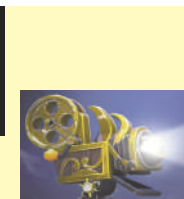
Mercredi 14 Juin - 15.12



Mercredi 14 Juin - 20.50



# Programme TV



## mardi 13 juin

### MBC 1

06.00 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man  
07.15 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...  
08.09 Serial: L.A.'S Finest  
08.54 Serial: Blue Bloods  
09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
09.59 Local: A Que No Me Dejas  
10.24 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.50 Tele: Marimar  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Sublime Mensonge  
13.09 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras  
14.10 Serial: L'Incrovable Hulk  
15.21 Film: Le Souffle De La Violence  
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter  
17.59 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Wagle Duniya  
18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
20.30 Film: Mon Marriage Avec Mon Meilleur Ami

### MBC 2

07.10 Local: Business Connect  
09.31 Local: Radio Vision  
10.22 Local: Rodrig Prog: Saver  
11.00 Local: Le Rendez Vous...  
12.00 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel  
12.20 Local: National: Fresque...  
13.36 Local: Tous Egaux  
13.51 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei  
14.30 Local: Proze Dime  
15.44 Local: Le Rendez Vous...  
16.48 Local: Aktiv  
18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras  
18.32 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.25 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef  
19.48 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
21.30 Local: Radio Vision  
23.20 Local: Music Tour 2022  
00.11 Local: Arsiv MBC No 253  
00.37 Local: Rodrig Prog: It's My Day

### MBC 3

07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija  
08.04 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen  
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: Meera  
Starring: Hema Malini, Vinod Khanna, S. Lagoo, S. Kapoor  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
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: Hera Pheri  
23.03 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
00.15 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

### MBC 5

06.03 Mag: Eco At Africa  
08.47 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
09.48 Doc: Extreme Climate Events  
10.25 Doc: The Bitter Sweet Deal  
11.12 Doc: Sweet Magic  
11.42 Mag: The 77 Percent  
12.45 Mag: In Good Shape  
13.53 Doc: Nobel Prize  
14.02 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
15.06 D.Anime: The Story Of Book...  
15.22 Panda And Little Mole  
15.33 D.Anime: Best Furry Friends  
15.42 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids  
16.16 D.Anime: The Adventures Of...  
16.39 D.Anime: Mondo Yan  
17.17 Mag: Lab 360  
17.21 Mag: Apple Tree House  
17.36 Mag: National Anthem  
18.01 Rev: The Global Auto...  
18.26 Mag: Healthy Living  
18.41 Mag: Red Carpet

### Bollywood TV

14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana  
15.26 Film: Koi Aap Sa  
Starring Aftab Shivdasani, Anita Hassanandani, Dipannita Sharma  
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 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey  
23.06 Patiala Babes  
23.30 Film: Koi Aap Sa  
Starring Aftab Shivdasani, Anita Hassanandani, Dipannita Sharma  
02.00 Kundali Bhagya  
02.44 Udaariyaan

## mercredi 14 juin

07.10 Film: Juste Un Peu D'Alchimie  
08.55 Serial: Airwolf  
09.40 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
10.05 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
10.30 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.55 Tele: Marimar  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Sublime Mensonge  
13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras  
14.15 Serial: Airwolf  
15.21 Film: Un Ete Magique  
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter  
18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.30 Local: Focus Live  
21.30 Serial: Chicago Med  
22.15 Film: The Monster  
23.35 Le Journal  
00.25 Tele: Sublime Mensonge

07.05 Local: Danyel Waro...  
08.07 Local: Paroles Agricoles  
09.04 Local: Arsiv MBC  
09.30 Local: Radio Vision  
10.34 Local: Rodrig Prog  
11.03 Local: Music Tour 2022  
12.00 Local: Rodrig Prog  
12.15 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
13.07 Le Journee Sous Le Regard  
13.20 Local: Priorite Sante  
14.28 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art  
15.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
16.40 Le Journee Sous Le Regard  
18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras  
18.33 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi  
19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor  
20.36 Local: National : Fresque...  
20.46 Local: En Forme  
21.06 Local: Agri Ensemble  
21.27 Local: Les Klips

07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija  
08.26 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka  
08.56 Local: Prakriti Ki God Mein  
09.22 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya  
10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
11.32 Serial: Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Awaara  
Starring: Prithviraj Kapoor, Nargis, Raj Kapoor  
15.30 Serial: Bhagan Ab Ho Kitne Door  
16.00 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Other: Radha Krishna  
19.00 Local: Kala  
20.00 Local: Virasat  
20.35 Film: Chana Jor Garam  
Starring Neha Shree, Aditya Ojha  
22.50 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
23.14 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

06.45 Mag: Red Carpet  
08.53 Doc: Nobel Prize  
09.58 Doc: Stolen Soul  
10.40 Doc: Behind The Mystique  
11.32 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...  
11.58 Mag: Healthy Living  
12.32 Doc: World Heritage  
12.55 Mag: Check In  
14.22 Doc: Nobel Prize  
15.00 D.Anime: The Story Of Book...  
15.17 Les Nouvelles Aventures...  
15.22 D.Anime: Panda And Little...  
15.34 D.Anime: Best Furry Friends  
15.45 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids  
16.12 D.Anime: The Adventure Of...  
16.32 D.Anime: Mondo Yan  
16.47 D.Anime: The Treasure Island  
17.13 Mag: Lab 360  
17.54 Doc: Sweet Magic  
18.00 Mag: Motorweek  
21.46 Film: Spy Game

14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana  
15.24 Film: Mere Jeevan Sathi  
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Karisma Kapoor and Ameesha Patel  
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 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey  
22.58 Patiala Babes  
23.31 Film: Mere Jeevan Sathi  
Starring Akshay Kumar, Karisma Kapoor and Ameesha Patel

## jeudi 15 juin

06.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
06.50 Serial: Rich Man, Poor Man  
07.40 Serial: Absentia  
08.20 Serial: Chicago Med  
09.45 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
10.10 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
10.35 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.56 Tele: Marimar  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Sublime Mensonge  
13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras  
14.10 Serial: L'incroyable Hulk  
15.21 Film: How I Met Your Murderer  
17.15 The Gardener's Daughter  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
18.56 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: Sooryavanshi  
Stars: A. Kumar, K. Kaif, Jackie Shroff

07.13 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
09.30 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
11.10 Local: Les Klips  
12.00 Local: Rodrig Spor  
12.26 Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
12.51 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
13.11 Local: En Forme  
13.36 Local: Agir Ensemble  
14.02 Local: Rodrig-Klip Seleksion  
15.48 Local: Artizan  
16.56 Local: En Forme  
17.05 Local: Radio Vision  
18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras  
18.31 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi  
19.30 Local: Li Bon Ou Konnin  
19.48 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
20.30 Local: National: Freques...  
20.35 Local: Meshiagare...  
23.00 Le Journal  
23.20 Local: An Eta Dalert

07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija  
08.04 Mag: Tirh Yatra  
08.27 Local: Kala  
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: Chingari  
Starring: Leena Chandavarkar, Sanjay Khan, Pran  
15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain  
16.00 Serial: Agniphera  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Amrit Vaani  
19.06 Local: Swami Dayanand  
19.32 Local: Hunarbaaz  
20.19 Serial: Surya Puran  
21.37 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa  
22.53 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain

06.03 Mag: Motorweek  
09.25 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures  
09.58 Doc: Targeted  
10.40 Doc: Coding Art  
11.29 Doc: Sweet Magic  
12.00 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
12.20 Doc: World Heritage  
13.04 Doc: Secrets Des Plantes  
14.04 Mag: Close Up  
15.04 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...  
15.22 D.Anime: Panda And Little...  
15.33 D.Anime: Best Furry Friends  
15.42 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids  
16.10 D.Anime: The Adventures Of  
16.39 D.Anime: Mondo Yan  
17.10 Mag: Lab 360  
17.34 Mag: National Anthem  
17.35 Mag: Healthy Living  
17.57 Doc: Sweet Magic  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
18.38 Mag: Garnet De Sante

14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana  
15.21 Film: Kya Kool Hain Hum  
Stars: Tusshar Kapoor, Ritesh Deshmukh, Anupam kher, Isha Koppikar, Neha  
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 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey  
22.59 Patiala Babes  
23.30 Film: Kya Kool Hain Hum  
Stars: Tusshar Kapoor, Ritesh Deshmukh, Anupam kher, Isha Koppikar, Neha  
02.01 Kundali Bhagya  
02.29 Serial: Udaariyaan



Jeudi 15 Juin - 15.30

Stars: Tusshar Kapoor, Ritesh Deshmukh, Anupam kher, Isha Koppikar, Neha



Jeudi 15 Juin - 20.30

Stars: A. Kumar, K. Kaif, Jackie Shroff



# Jeunes, Argent et Travail



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

La lecture du budget est un exercice annuel qui mobilise l'attention de tout un chacun - la classe politique, le monde syndical, les acteurs du secteur privé, et les mesures annoncées comme par exemple, l'éducation des enfants, sont prises très au sérieux.

Ce rituel dont le ministre des Finances tient le double rôle de grand prêtre et de vedette de l'Assemblée suscite un tollé de critiques reposant sur des analyses argumentées et fondées pour les uns et, pour d'autres, relevant d'un jeu annuel de mécontentement et de rejet, une comédie jouée sur la place publique par les acteurs aguerris des deux côtés de la barrière politique et diffusée à travers les médias.

L'accalmie résultant de la baisse du prix de l'essence (dont la hausse, déclare-t-on, a servi de machine à sous à l'État pour tenir l'économie à flot) risque d'être éphémère si l'Organisation des pays exportateurs de pétrole, sous l'égide de l'actuel prince héritier de l'Arabie saoudite, met à exécution le plan de réduire la production de l'or noir. La grogne populaire pointera alors de nouveau le nez. En attendant, deux mesures taxées de 'populistes' par les opposants et qui ne peuvent qu'être bien accueillies par les bénéficiaires: l'augmentation de mille roupies pour les plus de 60 ans, et le chèque de vingt mille roupies que toucheront les futurs jeunes adultes de 18 ans.

Rs 20,000 à chaque personne qui atteindra l'âge de la majorité : c'est une aubaine. C'est une somme qui pourrait contribuer aux frais d'inscription à l'université. En 2019, le parti mauve avait proposé une allocation mensuelle de Rs 5,000 à chaque étudiant. C'était aussi raisonnable. Cependant, le bon sens voudrait qu'il faille d'abord connaître la valeur de l'argent et du travail pour pouvoir apprécier à sa juste valeur une somme qui vous est offerte par l'État, une collectivité nationale.

Ne faudrait-il pas d'abord que les adolescents scolarisés apprennent à gagner de temps à autre un peu d'argent pendant le week-end et les grandes vacances? Cela leur permettrait de sortir du cocon familial où tout leur est offert sur un plateau, d'apprendre à accepter des règles du monde du travail, à laisser les caprices à la porte et s'adapter à la personnalité d'un patron et apprendre des compétences sur le terrain. Toute une expérience qui leur permettrait de cultiver le goût de l'effort, de grandir et de gagner en maturité.

Est-ce que cette offre s'accompagnera d'un exercice pédagogique visant à sensibiliser les jeunes gens sur le bon usage d'une manne déboursée des fonds publics? La question mérite d'être posée, surtout pour une génération élevée



« C'est aussi au pouvoir public de conseiller les familles sur la manière de responsabiliser les jeunes, et le monde de l'entreprise à faire preuve de souplesse à bien vouloir intégrer les moins de 18 ans pour des périodes courtes, des demi-journées, pendant le week-end et les grandes vacances dans le monde professionnel. Il y a quand même la possibilité d'aider dans un secrétariat, faire la plongée dans un restaurant, effectuer des petits boulots que les étudiants mauriciens font bien à l'étranger pour une petite rémunération... »

avec *smartphone*, abreuvée d'internet, accrochée aux divertissements virtuels en ligne et bercée par Netflix le soir venu à chaque fois que les cours privés pour atteindre les 'credits' honorables à l'examen de SC et HSC leur laisse un peu de répit. Ne parlons pas des marchands de la drogue qui rôdent autour des collèges comme les vautours qui guettent leur proie!

Un sociologue averti est à même de pouvoir démontrer comment un développement rapide du pays en l'espace de quelques décennies a quelque peu bouleversé la société par le progrès matériel et les biens de consommation, une prospérité que certains pays pourtant riches ont mis des décennies à acquérir. Cet aspect positif a été terni par un chamboulement sur l'échelle des valeurs qui influent sur les relations sociales et familiales. Une génération de parents s'est jetée à bras-le-corps pour saisir les opportunités dans les secteurs florissants de l'économie qui leur assurent des revenus élevés. Le désir d'apporter un maximum de confort dans le nid familial a quelque peu mis au second plan la nécessité d'inculquer le goût de l'effort, la valeur du travail et de l'argent aux adolescents en âge de comprendre le fonctionnement de la société.

Nombreux sont ceux qui ont profité d'une vie facile sans lever le petit doigt pour soulager leurs parents des corvées ménagères ou apporter leur contribution au portefeuille familial. Devenus salariés à leur tour, mais sans quitter le nid familial, ils continuent à vivre sous les ailes protectrices des parents et, à attendre, les pieds sous la table, que le dîner leur soit servi le soir. Leur volonté en faveur d'une participation financière dans le budget familial est plutôt aléatoire.

Et après? La trentaine apporte son lot d'obligations professionnelles et de responsabilités conjugales et parentales. Confrontés aux affres de la vie quotidienne - prêt bancaire, logement, tracasseries professionnelles, déboires conjugaux, et garde d'enfants - c'est vers les parents que l'appel à l'aide est lancé. Cette solidarité est érigée en vertu, un trait valorisant des pays tiers-mondistes et de culture orientale. Mais

c'est aussi la cause de multiples dérives qu'il convient de mettre en lumière et d'y remédier.

Jadis les collégiens dont les parents tenaient une *boutik* étaient embauchés pendant les vacances et ils recevaient comme récompense une boisson gazeuse en fin de semaine. Ce temps est révolu. Et ce n'est peut-être pas à la génération de leurs parents, pris dans le tourbillon de la consommation et du paraître, qu'il faut s'attendre à une prise de conscience de l'infantilisation des adolescents et des jeunes adultes, étudiants et autres.

Certains parents très aisés ont cru bien faire d'offrir à leurs enfants - ayant à peine obtenu leur permis de conduire - une voiture de marque coûtant un million de roupies. Au vu de ce qui se produit souvent par la suite, est-ce que ce n'est pas une erreur monumentale? Quel pourcentage parmi ces jeunes travaillent à temps partiel pour subvenir à leurs besoins pendant leurs études?

C'est aussi au pouvoir public de conseiller les familles sur la manière de responsabiliser les jeunes, et le monde de l'entreprise à faire preuve de souplesse à bien vouloir intégrer les moins de 18 ans pour des périodes courtes, des demi-journées, pendant le week-end et les grandes vacances dans le monde professionnel. Il y a quand même la possibilité d'aider dans un secrétariat, faire la plongée dans un restaurant, servir comme pompiste ou être vendeur dans un magasin, effectuer des petits boulots que les étudiants mauriciens font bien à l'étranger pour une petite rémunération, et même parfois uniquement pour acquérir de l'expérience sans aucun salaire ou autre avantage.

Le but est de faire l'expérience du monde de travail, d'avoir une occupation saine dans la vie réelle, d'acquérir le goût de la responsabilité et le plaisir de gagner de l'argent par soi-même. Si le travail des moins de dix-huit ans est une pratique courante dans les pays développés, pourquoi pas à Maurice où le niveau de vie s'est nettement amélioré depuis plus de trois décennies?



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## Revealing Your True Self

Our true selves exist whether we acknowledge them or not, often buried under learned behaviour.

Identity is an elusive concept. We feel we must define ourselves using a relatively small selection of roles and conscious character traits, even if none accurately represents our notion of "self." The confusion surrounding our true natures is further compounded by the fact that society regularly asks us to suppress so much of our emotional, intellectual, and spiritual vibrancy. Yet we are, in truth, beings of light -- pure energy inhabiting physical bodies, striving for enlightenment while living earthly lives. Our true selves exist whether we acknowledge them or not, often buried under fears and learned behavior. When we recognize our power, our luminosity, and our divinity, we cannot help but live authentic lives of appreciation, potential, fulfillment, and grace.

At birth and throughout your childhood, your thoughts and feelings were more than likely expressions of your true self. Though you may have learned quickly that to speak and act in a certain fashion would win others' approval, you understood innately that you were no ordinary being. There are many ways you can recapture the authenticity you once articulated so freely. Meditation can liberate you from the bonds of those earthly customs that compel you to downplay your uniqueness. Also, communing with nature can remind you of the special role you were meant to play in this lifetime. In order to realize your purpose, you must embrace your true self by letting your light shine forth, no matter the consequences.

Rediscovering who you are apart from your roles and traits takes time and also courage. If, like many, you have denied your authenticity for a long while, you may find it difficult to separate your true identity from the identity you have created to cope with the world around you. Once you do find this authentic self, however, you will be overcome by a wonderful sense of wholeness as you reconcile your spiritual aspect and your physical aspect, as well as your inner- and outer-world personas. As you gradually adjust to this developing unity, your role as a being of light will reveal itself to you, and you will discover that you have a marvelous destiny to fulfill.