

MAURITIUS TIMES

● "There is a debt of service due from every man to his country, proportioned to the bounties which nature and fortune have measured to him." —Thomas Jefferson



Interview: Kugan Parapen, Economist

"Ousting Jugnauth is necessary but not sufficient."

The current system also needs to be ousted"

● 'People do not see a future in Mauritius for themselves nor for their children. They have serious concerns. Worry we should'

● 'The electorate is hungry for a real change and I do not see how a PTr-MMM-PMSD alliance actually delivers the profound change desired'

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Marketing The LP-MMM-PMSD Alliance

The Labour Party-MMM-PMSD alliance has been long in the making - almost three years since the time when rumours were afloat about a proposal to bring together these three parties in the wake of their debacle at the 2019 elections. What gave some substance to that rumour was the proposal made as early as 2020 by the leader of the Labour Party, who had canvassed the idea of a common boycott of the Presidential Address and the parliamentary debates on the Government Programme by the opposition parties in Parliament. A common stand could not be reached due to the divergent views of the MMM and the PMSD on that proposal. Nevertheless, the idea of a reunion of the three traditional Opposition parties did make some headway during further consultations with a common front floated during 2022 for the municipal elections that were later to be postponed again by government. But a common agreement towards the general elections made slow progress, leaving the door open to a number of Opposition voices, parliamentary and extra-parliamentary, to air their own agendas and ambitions.

The issue of whether or not to induct those other newly-formed parties, especially Roshni Bhadain's Reform Party and Nando Bodha's Rassemblement Mauricien, came in the way of the formation of the Alliance, and it has now been formally set up once the leadership of that alliance by Navin Ramgoolam has been resolved to the LP leader's satisfaction. Ramgoolam took the time that it required - almost three years - to get the MMM and the PMSD, two diminished parties relative to their early years, to accept ground reality of the LP's strength said some, to bend to his diktat said others. This also means that his leadership of the alliance and his eventual prime ministership for a full five-year term in case of electoral victory, already recognised during 2022 by MMM figureheads as an internal LP matter, would have also been confirmed.

Even if there might be broad consensus on the proposition that anything else would be better than the current dispensation in light of its misgovernance of the affairs of the country, what remains unknown in the absence of credible opinion surveys is whether the LP-MMM-PMSD brand is a selling proposition, or whether

another LP-PMSD might be a better option. Or, even whether Navin Ramgoolam himself represents a winning brand for the Labour Party. Marketing gurus contend that sometimes a brand can recover from a disaster, sometimes not, but that's for the LP to ponder. We'll get a better reading of the current *rapport de force* on the political chessboard this afternoon from the LP-MMM-PMSD first joint regional congress at Mare d'Albert.

A vibrant democracy requires a credible opposition. This has been lacking since the coming to power of the current government. The circumstances demanded that this lacuna be filled; this has now been done. Nothing else in terms of common programme - even in its broad terms -, the constitution of its front bench (which usually weighs heavily in electoral outcomes), the *'répartition des tickets'*... — all these remain unknown to this day, and will be taken care of in good time, it would seem, although snippets may be gleaned from that first of a series of regional gatherings. The leaders of the LP, MMM and PMSD would surely not want their alliance to be perceived as one that is only in line with their own political ambitions, but one that will and can make a difference in the lives of their countrymen and that it will do things differently if elected - and not viewed as more of the same.

In the meantime, a lot of water will certainly flow under the bridge until the next elections, but it would not do any harm if the LP, MMM and PMSD could also start with rebuilding and reinventing themselves through internal reordering and democratization. By taking such a call they will be ensuring their future relevance on the political landscape. All Mauritian parliamentary parties have at some time or other been in political alliance, and it stands to reason that the population, despite growing discontent with the way things are being currently run, may take some time to be wooed that this is an alliance that is credible in offering a radical program going some way to meet popular pent-up demand for change in governance practices. This gathering marks therefore an important first litmus test for the three parties as it begins the roll-out process and will be keenly watched by the ruling party and extra-parliamentary forces and, we dare say, by much of the population.

The Conversation

Oppenheimer's warning lives on: international laws and treaties are failing to stop a new arms race

Lack of effective regulation means the risk of nuclear war is greater than at any time since the end of the Cold War. Other potentially existential military threats remain similarly uncontrolled



Robert Oppenheimer – the great nuclear physicist, “father of the atomic bomb”, and now subject of a blockbuster biopic – always despaired about the nuclear arms race triggered by his creation.

So the approaching 78th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing invites us to ask how far we've come – or haven't come – since his death in 1967.

The Cold War represented all that Oppenheimer had feared. But at its end, then-US president George H.W. Bush spoke of a “peace dividend” that would see money saved from reduced defence budgets transferred into more socially productive enterprises.

Long-term benefits and rises in gross domestic product could have been substantial, according to modelling by the International Monetary Fund, especially for developing nations. Given the cost of global sustainable development – currently estimated at US\$5 trillion to \$7 trillion annually – this made perfect sense.

Unfortunately, that peace dividend is disappearing. The world is now spending at least \$2.2 trillion annually on weapons and defence. Estimates are far from perfectly accurate, but it appears overall defence spending increased by 3.7% in real terms in 2022.

The US alone spent \$877 billion on defence in 2022 – 39% of the world total. With Russia (\$86.4 billion) and China (\$292 billion), the top three spenders account for 56% of global defence spending.

Military expenditure in Europe saw its steepest annual increase in at least 30 years. NATO countries and partners are all accelerating towards, or are already past, the 2% of GDP military spending target. The global arms bazaar is busier than ever.

Aside from the opportunity cost represented by these alarming figures, weak international law in crucial areas means current military spending is largely immune to effective regulation.

Alexander Gillespie, Professor of Law, University of Waikato

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Fault lines exposed in Manipur

Jan Arden

On 3rd May violent riots broke out in the northeast Indian state of Manipur, bordering Myanmar (former Burma), in what to outsiders was a relatively quiescent, mountainous state of 3.5 million, mostly tribal and we have since been fed continuous coverage both of some shocking episodes, a BJP-run state lethargic reaction to stem such violence and a raucous storm from Opposition forces in New Delhi Parliament, demanding a full debate and querying PM Modi's stance.

It would seem that several fault lines that were always simmering between different ethnicities had suddenly erupted through the impact of separate measures that affected minority, generally poorer hill tribes in a predominantly Meiti-run state and policing authorities. Valley-dwelling Meitis form 53% of the total population and occupy 10% of the lands. Hill tribals Nagas and Kukis constitute some 40% of the population and control 90% of the hilly and mountainous regions, with remote access and minimal facilities, but to which they are deeply attached.

The Central government is reported to have acted swiftly. On 4th May, the Central government, invoking Article 355 of the Constitution, took over the security situation of Manipur and almost immediately deployed 10,000 army, para-military and airlifted 5 companies of the Rapid Action Force to the region. By 5 May, about 20,000 Kuki and other hill people had been relocated to safer locations under military supervision. As of 14 May, the total military build-up in Manipur stood at 126 army columns and 62 companies of paramilitary forces.

An internet blackout and curfew was imposed to avoid disinformation-fuelled violence (such as reports of shocking women molestations), yet episodic violence and mobs continued for a while and Manipur is still simmering in an uneasy truce, despite a visit by Home Minister Amit Shah and his as yet unsuccessful attempt to stage a multi-tribal peace forum.

By 25th May the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk had issued a statement that the violence in Manipur "revealed the underlying tensions between different ethnic and indigenous groups", urging the authorities to "respond to the situation quickly, including by investigating and addressing root causes of the violence in line with their international human rights obligations".

There did not seem a manifest lack of vigorous action by the Central Government to stem the horrors and violence but clearly there was some ground to be mystified why the reasons for rising discontent of hills tribes were not picked up earlier and prevented from degenerating into outright violence. The root factors and their combined impact are now generally known and have to be addressed by New Delhi working closely with the BJP-run state government.

Among those factors of fear and resentment of the 1 million or so hill tribes are land, ethnic differences in government posts and resources in majority allocated to the Meitis, a long border with Myanmar (former Burma) with regular infiltrations increasing the fear of hillsmen being alienated by immigrants, and the ever-present poppy cultivation and trade in the hilly regions placed at risk. Matters came to a head with the Meiti request for



Manipur Riots. What went wrong. Pic - CNN

“The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk had issued a statement that the violence in Manipur “revealed the underlying tensions between different ethnic and indigenous groups”, urging the authorities to “respond to the situation quickly, including by investigating and addressing root causes of the violence in line with their international human rights obligations”. There did not seem a manifest lack of vigorous action by the Central Government to stem the horrors and violence but clearly there was some reason to be mystified why the reasons for rising discontent of hills tribes were not picked up earlier...”

similar Scheduled Tribe status as the hill tribes (which would be unfounded and illogical), approved by a single-judge local high court at the end of March but, as per previous Indian Supreme Court rulings, such a status and its privileges can only be granted by the Centre and Parliament.

Another major friction point came when hill tribe protesters gathered to hold a rally against “encroachment

of tribal land in the name of reserved forests, protected forests and wildlife sanctuary”. This raised fears of hill lands being acquired by non-tribesmen and a potential threat to the poppy cultivation activities in the region's mountainous lands.

Unequal societies and simmering resentment

There may be no direct relevance of such tragic events as happened in Manipur for the Mauritian polity to dwell on, but we should bear in mind that multi-ethnic situations with perceived disparities inside un-equal societies can be a recipe for simmering resentment.

Hate and venom disinformation and personal attacks spewed by manipulative forces abusing the Internet have to be clamped down rapidly and without fear that many of them emanate regularly from different channels including those that espouse government policies. Neither can unchecked policing resort to unacceptable tactics in what may look like a targeting approach that could turn ugly to smear opponents and harass their activities and even their families.

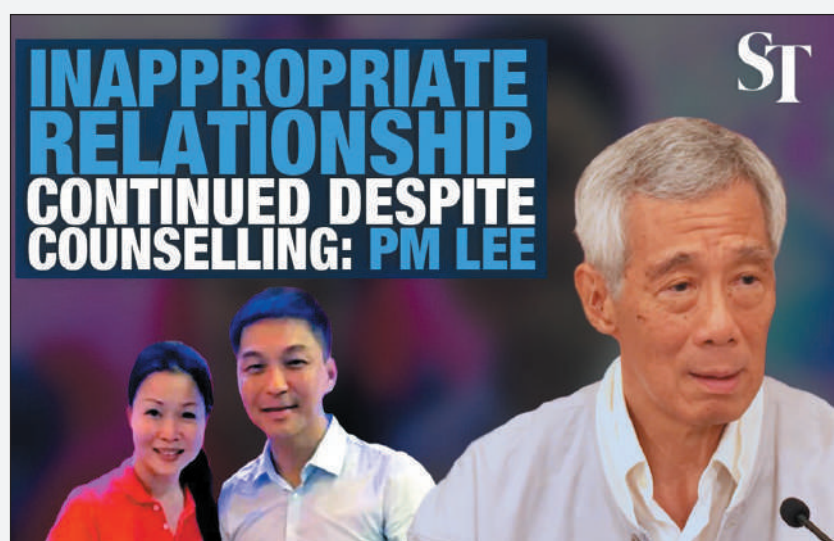
Mauritius has, we believe, evolved to a stage of maturity and tolerance that should normally preclude its peace and harmony being put at risk by well-connected apprentice fire-breathers, particularly as electoral times dawn closer.

Dubai and Singapore

Poster boys of reference for our development narratives

Most old-timers would recall that our previous multi-cultural poster boy of reference for our development narratives used to be Singapore, the city state that gained independence and with similar GDP/ head as ourselves. It still ranks today as one of the cleanest, least corrupt and re-solutely transparent administrations with one of the most reputed world passports. It has however over the recent past been largely overshadowed by glitzy Dubai, its gilded tower properties, its thriving gold and jewellery markets and its secretive banks.

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Singapore Speaker of Parliament and MP resign amidst relationship scandal. Pic - ST

Point sur la situation politique

Les choses ne sont pas encore totalement en place, que ce soit du côté de la nouvelle alliance de l'opposition ou du côté du MSM

Par A. Bartleby



Une synergie positive du côté des leaders est primordiale à la mise en place d'une dynamique positive du côté des partisans

Deux semaines après l'annonce de la finalisation de l'alliance PTR-MMM-PMSD, ces derniers organisent leur premier congrès en commun ce vendredi 28 juillet.

Ce premier congrès sera intéressant pour tâter la température de cette alliance. Pas tant du côté des partisans, que l'on imagine mobilisés, mais plutôt du côté de la capacité des différents leaders et des têtes d'affiche de ces partis à présenter un front unifié et aligné.

Bataille des foules à l'intérieur de l'alliance

En effet, une synergie positive du côté des leaders est primordiale à la mise en place d'une dynamique positive du côté des partisans. De ce point de vue, ce premier congrès devrait bien se passer puisque cette alliance a besoin d'un acte fondateur à partir duquel le travail de terrain, et la finalisation des conditions et des modalités de l'alliance peuvent avoir lieu.

En effet, il semble évident que rien n'est encore vraiment décidé. Nous avons juste appris que l'alliance a été conclue quelques jours après l'audience du Privy Council. Mais nous ne savons encore rien de la répartition des tickets, de la composition du front bench et du programme électoral pour la prochaine mandature.

Est-ce que ce vide est une stratégie de l'alliance de ne pas dévoiler ses cartes ? Ou bien est-ce la démonstration qu'il n'y a non seulement aucun accord sur ces sujets, mais que l'audience du Privy Council a forcé les trois leaders à annoncer une alliance dans la précipitation en vue de faire du 'damage control' ?

On n'en sait rien à ce stade, et il faudra attendre pour savoir réellement où ils en sont.

Ce qui est certain, c'est que l'alliance se doit de démontrer qu'elle est crédible. Et sans programme commun annoncé à ce stade, elle se doit de montrer qu'elle est capable de mobiliser une foule conséquente, ce qui ne devrait pas être difficile. Deux des plus grands partis politiques du pays et le PMSD devraient pouvoir rameuter une bonne foule. Mais il faudra interpréter

cette foule et comprendre ce qu'elle signifie.

En effet, nous devinons facilement que chacun des trois partis soit en train de se mobiliser afin de démontrer sa force individuelle. Ainsi, il se pourrait bien que nous assistions à une bataille des foules à l'intérieur même de l'alliance, avec un MMM et un PMSD qui auraient pour impératif de montrer qu'ils sont capables de rameuter autant de partisans que le PTR.

- Une foule trop rouge et pas assez mauve ou bleue poserait problème et ce serait un embarras pour les deux wagons que sont les mauves et les bleus en face de la locomotive rouge.
- Bien plus même, une foule constituée de bien plus de mauves que de bleus, ou de bien plus de bleus que de mauves, pourrait également envoyer un signal fort à Navin Ramgoolam quant à la distribution des tickets et la composition d'un 'front bench'.

C'est en fait le rapport de force entre les trois partis eux-mêmes qui sera testé ce vendredi, dans une région de l'île où le MMM et le PMSD n'ont aucune assise électorale réelle. Cela signifie que les artisans de ces deux partis viendront surtout des autres régions de l'île, et leur mobilisation sera un enjeu crucial pour les deux leaders qui n'auront que très peu de marge de manœuvre en face de Navin Ramgoolam s'ils ne réussissent pas à démontrer qu'ils représentent encore des forces politiques nationales.

De son côté, le MSM et ses alliés sont particulièrement tranquilles depuis quelques semaines. Tout semble même s'être tassé concernant les récents scandales et nous percevons un temps mort qui risque de perdurer. En fait, il semble de plus en plus certain que l'audience du Privy Council a changé la dynamique politique à l'île Maurice.

D'un côté, le PTR, le MMM et le PMSD ont annoncé leur alliance juste après.

De l'autre côté, les scandales qui gangrènent le gouvernement ont pris un certain recul dans les médias et dans les conversations.

Ce calme avant la tempête peut s'expliquer par le fait que le verdict du Privy Council, attendu d'ici septembre, pourrait signifier le début de la course électorale.

Il semble donc que nous soyons dans un entre-deux où chaque parti jauge ses forces et ses faiblesses, et peaufine sa stratégie.

C'est exactement ce que semble faire le MSM depuis quelques semaines du reste. Il semble que les agents orange ont été extrêmement présents sur le terrain depuis quelques temps, et notamment celui des circonscriptions rurales. Les retours seraient mi-figue mi-raisin, avec un glissement certain pour l'alliance au pouvoir.

L'accumulation des scandales et le problème de la cherté de la vie s'additionnent pour produire une situation complexe pour l'alliance gouvernementale. Le récent budget aurait semblé-t-il réussi à atténuer un peu cette situation, mais il n'a pas suffi pour faire taire les mécontents.

Est-ce que ce glissement se poursuivra pendant les prochains mois ou bien est-ce que le MSM réussira à renverser la tendance ? Seul l'avenir nous le dira. Ce qui semble clair pour l'instant, c'est que ce glissement n'est pas en train de se faire au profit de l'opposition. Mais cette situation pourrait changer et les prochains mois seront déterminants pour le MSM.

Tout comme Navin Ramgoolam qui met en place sa stratégie pour les prochaines élections, Pravind

Jugnauth semble aussi avoir également une stratégie clairement définie en place. Et les sondages de terrain effectués récemment serviront à peaufiner cette stratégie.

Ce qui est sûr, c'est que les choses ne sont pas encore totalement en place, que ce soit du côté de la nouvelle alliance de l'opposition ou du côté du MSM. Et il faudra observer leurs différents positionnements dans les mois à venir afin d'avoir une meilleure indication des rapports de force qui s'affronteront lors des prochaines élections générales.

Ce qui est certain, c'est que le round d'observation a bel et bien commencé, et que les choses risquent d'aller très vite à partir de là.

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Sommet Russie-Afrique Vers un nouveau partenariat entre le continent et Moscou ?

49 pays et 17 chefs d'État africains seront présents à Saint-Petersbourg en fin de semaine pour un sommet important qui devrait conduire à une reconfiguration des relations entre la Russie et un certain nombre de pays du continent africain.



La Russie en Afrique, des liens toujours plus étroits.
P - Courrier International

C'est la première fois qu'un tel sommet est organisé depuis le début de l'invasion de l'Ukraine par les forces armées russes, ce qui témoigne du fait que les relations internationales et diplomatiques se normalisent autour de la Russie. Et puis, ceci était particulièrement visible lors du dernier sommet de l'OTAN, où, malgré le fait de devoir condamner l'attaque russe, les pays membres de l'OTAN ont été extrêmement prudents, au grand désarroi de Volodymyr Zelensky, à ne pas franchir la ligne rouge, ce qui aurait démontré qu'un dialogue avec Vladimir Poutine était devenu impossible...

L'objectif principal de ce deuxième sommet Russie-Afrique sera ainsi de faire un bilan des accomplissements de ces dernières années. Un porte-parole de Moscou a d'ailleurs précisé que ce sommet sera l'occasion de redéfinir le cadre de travail entre la Russie et ses partenaires africains au sortir de ces trois dernières années qui ont vu de grands bouleversements mondiaux.

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P - Carol Valade / AFP

Sommet Russie-Afrique Vers un nouveau partenariat entre le continent et Moscou?

☞ Suite de la page 4

Il semble ainsi clair que la Russie souhaite redéfinir ses objectifs de coopération avec le continent africain, ce qui est particulièrement pertinent actuellement. En effet, les autorités russes ont récemment affirmé que la milice Wagner allait être redéployée sur le continent africain, terrain où ils s'étaient fait connaître du reste.

Le dossier qui risque toutefois de se trouver au cœur de ce sommet est la conséquence du non-renouvellement de l'accord sur les céréales entre la Russie et l'Ukraine. Cette situation plonge potentiellement plusieurs pays de l'Afrique de l'Est, soit à peu près 60 millions de personnes, dans une situation d'insécurité alimentaire.

L'annonce de la non-reconduction de cet accord a d'ailleurs immédiatement fait grimper le prix des céréales de près de 25% sur le marché international. Vladimir Poutine a tenu néanmoins à rassurer certains partenaires de la Russie que cette dernière assurera les livraisons de céréales.

Ce sommet Russie-Afrique aura ainsi lieu dans un contexte extrêmement favorable à la Russie, qui se trouve dans une capacité de négociation puissante en face de plusieurs pays africains. Il faudra suivre de près les décisions prises lors de ce sommet, car elles risquent d'avoir des ramifications importantes quant aux jeux de pouvoirs de la géopolitique régionale.

* * *

Israël : amendement constitutionnel

Après plusieurs mois de débats et de protestations, le parlement israélien vient de passer une loi qui permettra un amendement de la Constitution israélienne. Des amendements qui devraient permettre au gouvernement d'obtenir une plus grande autonomie d'action au prix de l'élimination de certains garde-fous.

La population israélienne est profondément divisée sur ce texte de loi avec, d'un côté, les nationalistes qui soutiennent l'amendement et, de l'autre côté, les pro-

gressistes qui y voient un danger pour l'avenir de la démocratie israélienne.

Ainsi Israël, un pays où les institutions démocratiques ont toujours été extrêmement fortes, s'approche un peu plus vers un régime autocratique. Ce phénomène n'est pas isolé, loin de là même, puisque plusieurs pays à régime démocratique sont sur une pente similaire.

Cet amendement, qui consolidera l'assise du Likoud (le parti conservateur mené par Benjamin Netanyahu), n'annonce rien de bon pour l'avenir d'Israël et la stabilité de la région.

Mais par-delà les implications politiques et géopolitiques, il est curieux de constater que cette tendance de certaines démocraties vers l'autocratie devient de plus en plus commune. Ainsi il est important de tenter de comprendre les raisons de cette tendance qui se profile, en réalité, depuis la fin de la Guerre froide.

Maurice, par exemple, n'est absolument pas exempt de ce phénomène comme l'affirme le V-Dem Institute, qui étudie les démocraties dans le monde.

Un tel questionnement doit reposer sur une analyse précise et fine des phénomènes politiques actuels. Mais il est intéressant de noter ici que les textes d'Alexis de Tocqueville peuvent s'avérer extrêmement instructifs pour les lecteurs curieux et avides de réponses à ces questions.



Israël, un pays où les institutions démocratiques ont toujours été extrêmement fortes, s'approche un peu plus vers un régime autocratique. P - Le Temps

Tocqueville a analysé l'avènement de la démocratie au sortir des révolutions qui ont bouleversé le 18ème siècle. Son constat est simple. Le temps de régime démocratique était arrivé et ce même régime démocratique allait non seulement se généraliser mais allait également produire des formes diverses et variées de régimes politiques, allant du progressisme au conservatisme.

Or, c'est exactement cela qui semble aujourd'hui évoluer et il nous importe de nous poser une autre question que celle de Tocqueville : est-ce que le temps du régime démocratique est révolu et, si oui, vers quel autre régime de pouvoir nous dirigeons-nous?

* * *

L'Inde bloque l'exportation du riz blanc

Le gouvernement indien a bloqué cette semaine l'exportation du riz blanc (non-basmati) jusqu'à nouvel ordre. Cette décision fait suite aux inondations qui ont plongé plusieurs régions du pays dans une situation d'urgence sanitaire et a pour objectif d'aider à stabiliser le prix du riz sur le marché local, prix qui se sont envolés à cause de l'inflation et des spécula-



Réaction en chaîne dans le monde, avec une augmentation immédiate du prix du riz blanc indien sur les marchés mondiaux. P - IndiaPosts

tions qui ont suivi les intempéries.

Cette décision a tout de suite provoqué une réaction en chaîne dans le monde, avec une augmentation immédiate du prix du riz blanc indien sur les marchés mondiaux. Il s'agit là d'un mécanisme naturel de la loi de l'offre et de la demande. Lorsque l'offre diminue et que la demande reste identique ou augmente, alors le prix d'une marchandise augmente.

Par-delà l'inflation et l'augmentation des prix, cette interdiction à l'exportation pourrait produire une situation de pénurie sur différents marchés, augmentant encore plus l'insécurité alimentaire dans certains pays.

Il est clair que la priorité du gouvernement indien est de s'assurer que le stock et le prix du riz blanc restent accessibles et abordables pour le marché intérieur. Mais ce même gouvernement doit faire attention à ne pas produire une situation où les pays importateurs du riz blanc indien se tournent vers d'autres sources d'approvisionnement. Néanmoins, cela semble peu probable car le Vietnam et la Thaïlande, les deux autres plus grands producteurs du riz blanc au monde, se trouvent également en posture délicate avec une augmentation du prix de leur riz.

En tout cas, le FMI a appelé le gouvernement indien à lever ce blocus le plus rapidement possible afin de ne pas créer un vent de panique qui pourrait avoir des conséquences dramatiques sur le marché mondial du riz. Qui plus est, certains pays, comme le Canada, se sont mis à acheter le maximum de riz afin de constituer des réserves au cas où l'Inde ne débloque pas la situation rapidement.

Nous sommes dans une situation dont on pouvait se passer à Maurice, au moment où les prix semblaient se stabiliser pour la panier de la ménagère. Est-ce que le prix du riz augmentera à Maurice à la suite de cette décision du gouvernement indien?

Difficile à dire pour l'instant car nous ne savons pas si la fourniture en sera affectée. Il faut donc observer cette situation de près car il est clair que ce genre de déséquilibre est capable de produire des effets extrêmement néfastes sur le pouvoir d'achat des Mauriciens.

Nous devons également nous préparer à ce que d'autres denrées puissent se raréfier dans les semaines à venir, encore une fois à cause des inondations en Inde qui ont touché de grandes parties des terres agricoles.

A. Bartleby



Arvind Saxena

Path to Riches

So you want to be rich? A few years back this would have been viewed as a stupid question. Not so today - and it is not as difficult as you might imagine

So you want to be rich? A few years back this would have been viewed as a stupid question.

You could want to be a doctor, engineer, teacher, scientist, professor, agriculturist, politician, film star, singer, musician, or a businessman, but getting rich was never a vocation. Not so today - and it is not as difficult as you might imagine.

The world has changed and the laws governing business are no longer written by your elected representatives, they are written by the super-rich themselves. It is big money which boosts the nation's GDP and gives our leaders a place at the high tables of international relations, while also creating a semblance of development for domestic consumption. The path to getting rich has therefore already been laid out over the last two to three decades for aspirational people like you.

'Ease of doing business', 'too big to fail', 'trickle-down theory', 'liberalisation', 'globalised economy', 'private public partnership', 'disinvestment', 'right-sizing', etc., are all concepts created for you, which we have been made to believe are the bedrock of economic progress. Of course, the wealth you accumulate might not be rightfully yours, but then who cares. All you need to do is to stay focussed on exploiting the system to your advantage.

The first thing you need to understand is that education has no relevance in the world of the super-rich. I would not like to name people here but do take a couple of minutes to Google for the top five to ten richest men and women in the world. The results are unambiguous -- practically all of the richest people are school or college dropouts. Higher education is for employees you will be hiring to work for you. In any case, once you are rich you can set up endowments at Colleges and Universities and buy all the qualifications you want...

The second thing to remember is that you must either know or work hard to cultivate friendship with a few powerful politicians. The higher they are placed the better. These friendships will be purely transactional, the 'take some give some' type. You need them to get off the block - to secure seed capital for your dream. With the right political backing, technical feasibility, economic viability, and due diligence can all be managed. No need to be anxious here. The few people who get caught up in scams, etc., are those who either did not have political backing or had run afoul of the powers that be. Choose your friends carefully and, if possible, in more than one

“You must either know or work hard to cultivate friendship with a few powerful politicians. These friendships will be purely transactional, the 'take some give some' type. You need them to get off the block - to secure seed capital for your dream...The few people who get caught up in scams, etc., are those who either did not have political backing or had run afoul of the powers that be...”

camp.

You also need to relocate some brothers, sisters, cousins, etc., in a few countries where they can set up shell companies to siphon out the wealth you will be making in your country. This is where you need to cultivate some tax officials also. After all you don't want regulatory authorities making things difficult for you.

The third thing is to forget everything you might have

“Do take a couple of minutes to Google for the top five to ten richest men and women in the world. The results are unambiguous - practically all of the richest people are school or college dropouts. Higher education is for employees you will be hiring to work for you. In any case, once you are rich you can set up endowments at Colleges and Universities and buy all the qualifications you want...”



Pic - Briefly News

been taught about ethics, morality, honesty, and other similar high-sounding words, which will no longer belong to your new world. Let naive people debate about the importance of such values for a fair society, you are here to corner wealth.

Wealth and tax regimes

Let us start by understanding the financial ecosystem you aspire to be a part of. According to the 2023 World Inequality Report, the poorest 50% of the population own just 2% of the total net wealth, while the richest 10% own 76%. Of these top 10%, the top-most 1% have cornered more than 40% of the wealth. The remaining is shared amongst the middle 40%. Your aim is to part company with the hapless people who inhabit the bottom half of the population and move into the top 10%, and if possible, the top 1%.

Several studies have repeatedly shown that the wealthier a household, the lesser the income reported by it, relative to its wealth. In simple terms, typically, billionaires pay a tiny amount of tax relative to their wealth. Most taxpayers are workers and salaried persons, whose taxes are paid out of their wages and salaries. Now this should really fire you up to set the right course.

Learn some other things like, in most countries the tax regime applicable to capital income does not require the unrealised capital gains to be taxed, or to be reported in the tax returns. This is your incentive to avoid realising capital gains and thereby reduce your tax liability. You must remain invested in equity capital and its by-pro-

ducts. If you want to be wealthy your realised capital gains should remain a tiny fraction of the returns from the capital held by you.

Again, you must minimise the dividend payouts and thus minimise the distribution of profits among the stockholders. Profits distributed as dividends have to be reported as personal income and hence invite tax liability for the recipient. In contrast, reinvested profits reduce the tax obligation and raise the value of equity, resulting in hefty tax-free capital gains. You could also arrange for a part of the dividend income to be received indirectly in the accounts of financial intermediaries like limited liability partnerships and keep them away from individual accounts. Do you see the opportunities which have been created for you in modern taxation systems? These are there for you to exploit.

Do not be worried about failure, in fact it might be worth your while to let your company go down under. The system will take care of it. Every year banks write off billions of dollars as non-recoverable bad loans. This is justified as a bookkeeping exercise to clean up the accounts

of the banks but eventually only a small portion is ever recovered. The remaining gets made good from low returns on deposits, public money, or tax recoverable from banks. This should reassure you.

Also at this stage, quickly identify an accounting company which can audit your books and produce your annual reports just the way you want them to be done. Your tax consultants and auditors, if they are worth their fees, should be able to show you many more well-established options. After all you pay them well, just as you pay well to your top CEOs and financial officers, for keeping your secrets and doing some creative accounting for you. To sum up, the world has been reconstructed for you since the early 1990s.

The richest in the world had learnt about these facts early on in life and instead of wasting their time on education, they quickly moved on to cash in. You should too!

How to move ahead

All right, now let us look at how to move ahead. Let us start with manufacturing, infrastructure, and international trade. First draw up a super ambitious business plan. Whether it is practical or not is immaterial, it should involve large numbers and massive capital investments in land, plant, and machinery. It should also promise job opportunities for a large number of unemployed. The key word is promise, whether we realise, or even intend to realise, the promise or not is not important.

● Cont. on page 7

Path to Riches



Pic - CEOWORLD magazine

“Invest in some good PR and image make-over companies to build a super shiny image for yourself. Of course, it need not be the truth. They will give you a brand-new personal history bringing out your brilliance from early childhood to how you have worked hard for social causes, poverty alleviation, environment... They will build a persona showing you as a caring employer, philanthropist and whatever else are the top selling traits of the times...”

● Cont. from page 6

The word here is 'big ticket' investment.

Now get your political friends to arm-twist some banks or financial institutions to extend huge loans to you, ostensibly for economic progress of the nation. Also, see if you can get some state institution to acquire a big piece of land or other property, not for you, but for the country's economic development. Get them to build roads, provide electricity and in general develop the area at public cost so that you can contribute in industrializing the state. Go ahead and buy plants and machinery from third countries at bargain prices, do look at reconditioned or scrapped equipment also.

Ask your cousin in a tax haven-type country to become the supplier for the plant and machinery, and other raw material, which should be sold to your brand-new company at hugely inflated prices. See how beautifully it works. Huge amounts of money have been paid out to shell companies which make massive profits, which can be legally kept out of your country. Buy some swanky office space and a few luxury cars, so that the loan is well consumed.

Meanwhile, get the enterprise going. Your products and services should be targeted at the government as the lead consumer or buyer. Set up things in a manner that your products and services should reach the masses, but the expenditure should be from the public exchequer. Things like free utilities, infrastructure, insurance, health, and education come to mind. Is the product deleterious to human health or is the service you sell destroying human society is none of your concern. Go ahead, sell them fast food, untested drugs, overpriced imports, or social media services which will destabilize societies and promote discord. Not your concern.

Invest in some good PR and image make-over companies to build a super shiny image for yourself. Of

course, it need not be the truth. They will give you a brand-new personal history bringing out your brilliance from early childhood to how you have worked hard for social causes, poverty alleviation, environment, wildlife conservation, protecting heritage, etc. They will build a persona showing you as a caring employer, philanthropist and whatever else are the top selling traits of the times. It is a good investment. Sometime in the future you might also consider buying up a few media houses, or at least get them to do your bidding for advertising revenue, or outright payouts. Self-projection and building a Santa Claus like image will serve you well.

Now that you have a going company manned by a few qualified men and women and lots of contractual workers, look at listing your company on the stock exchange. Come up with a public offering, where you can manipulate your share price and escalate the value by pumping in money from your offshore shell investors and market players who will help you for a price. Some jealous people call it 'round-tripping of money'; just ignore them. Now use the artificially inflated share value to raise new loans from banks and keep playing the game to raise the book value of your assets - and your personal worth.

Try to buy up land and natural resources, infrastructure, etc. Create monopolies by buying out or destroying competitors. Use your personal wealth stashed abroad to buy up high end properties and stake in safe conglomerates. Notice we have not talked about blatantly illegal practices like money laundering, trafficking in drugs and

“There are several countries which sell their citizenship. If things get hot at home, relocate yourself and operate from a safe haven. You can continue with your predatory practices in your motherland, while enjoying the privileges of an honoured citizen abroad. In fact, if you work with foresight, the same tycoons, whose hands you shake at elite global forum conferences, can also help you get some high-sounding national awards, which can establish your credentials in your new country of residence...”

other contraband, fictitious trade or trade in spurious goods and of course the age-old smuggling of anything in short supply.

Acquire a foreign citizenship

At some point in time, consider acquiring a foreign citizenship also. There are several countries which sell their citizenship. If things get hot at home, relocate yourself and operate from a safe haven. You can continue with your predatory practices in your motherland, while enjoying the privileges of an honoured citizen abroad. In fact, if you work with foresight, the same tycoons, whose hands you shake at elite global forum conferences, can also help you get some high-sounding national awards, which can establish your credentials in your new country of residence. The ecosystem is now the same in most countries. The leadership is beholden to their top businessmen, who can easily bend rules to help their friends - transactional of course - the same 'give some, take some' type.

Do you feel this scale is too big for you? No problem, there are many other routes. Look at real estate development, league sports, higher education, tertiary health care, minerals, and many other areas. You can scale down even further and start with some 'services aggregation', or 'retail sales' Apps. These Apps will damage the real physical economy, kill jobs, suppress wages, and force the working class into inhuman working conditions. This need not bother you - go ahead, there is quick money here.

Once again, make a super promising business plan and use your political connections to get some big loans. Tie up with PR firms, advertising executives and data thieves to build your real revenue model. There are kick-backs in all transactions, whether you are selling space for advertisers or selling your own advertisements. All transactions can get you money and, handled smartly, can make your business look lucrative. Keep salting away money as you go ahead.

Two things can happen - your business might eventually fail, or you might have actually built something that works. In the first case, just walk away after shutting shop. With right connections you might not be chased by the lenders. You have made money and are now set to start another venture. Don't worry, the same tricks will work again. On the other hand, if your business is profitable, chose the right time and sell it to the highest bidder. Remember the cardinal rule, there is money to be made in every transaction. Keep doing this till you start knocking at the doors of the elite clubs.

Greed is the prime mover of modern economies. It is no longer a dirty word and will take you to where you want to be. There is so much calling you out to get rich that if you still don't take the plunge, you have only yourself to blame. Buckle up, the system beckons.

Arvind Saxena is former Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, India

BUILDING & LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

Notice for Permission for Land Use

Take notice that I, **Doordarshinee Gajadur** will apply to the District Council of Rivière Du Rempart for a Building and Land Use Permit for a proposed Kindergarten/Preschool/Child Day Care and Nursery at Lot 44, Morcellement VRS, Mont Choisy.

Any person feeling aggrieved by the proposal may lodge an objection in writing to the above-named Council within 15 days as from the date of this publication.

Date: 26 July 2023

'Europe heat wave likely to worsen global food crisis'



Mauro Nuvolone of agricultural company Fonio assesses the effects of drought in a maize field in Sozzago, northern Italy on 11 July. P - AFP

A European summer with record-breaking temperatures has roiled cereal crops in the continent, which is likely to worsen a global food crisis, according to several recent reports. India's ban on rice export has already caused a rally in prices.

The World Meteorological Organisation has forecast that the current heat wave in the continent will linger and southern European locations this past week experienced record temperatures, such as Malaga in Spain, which hit 44.2°C on July 19.

Cereal production in southern Europe is expected to fall by up to 60% over last year in the wake of the

Charon heat wave currently gripping the continent, the Grocer website said in a report this week, quoting European farming organisation Copa Cogeca. Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis warned this week that "the hard times are clearly not over yet", reports Hindustan Times.

On Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said it had urged India to lift its restriction on rice exports. Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, IMF's chief economist, said the restrictions were likely to exacerbate volatility in food prices in the rest of the world.

Also, global wheat prices jumped after Russia withdrew from the Black Sea grain deal on July 17, under which it allowed Ukraine, a major breadbasket, to ship food and fertilisers.

Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's 'honeymoon in America' is over - Royal commentator

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's decision to step away from the royal family and settle in the United States seemed like the start of a new chapter in their lives. However, recent speculations suggest that their American dream might not be going as smoothly as anticipated.

Royal commentator Duncan Larscombe weighed in on the couple's journey during a talk with TalkTV's Vanessa Feltz. Larscombe believes that the initial "honeymoon in America" for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle is now over. He expressed doubts about their ability to build a successful future without resorting to negative discussions about the royal family.

While Meghan Markle appears to be living the dream she once had as an aspiring actor, becoming "the queen of the city she was once rather anonymous in," Prince Harry seems to be facing the opposite experience, longing for privacy, reports Hindustan Times..

Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's professional personas take hit in US

The couple's professional personas have taken a hit in the United States as well. They were harshly portrayed in a South Park episode, depicted as a spoiled couple. Additionally, they were not nominated for an Emmy for their Netflix docuseries, and their names were absent from the guest list for Barack Obama's 60th birthday celebration, raising eyebrows in the celebrity circle.

Furthermore, a report claims that some high-profile celebrities who once praised Harry and Meghan now fear getting too close to the couple. There are concerns that private conversations and secrets could find their way into a potential second documentary, potentially damaging relationships with other members of the royal family.



Meghan Markle, and her husband Prince Harry. P - The Mirror



NIGER PRESIDENT OVERTHROWN IN MILITARY COUP

Niger army takes over West African nation citing "deteriorating security & bad governance". P - YouTube

Niger military detains President, overthrows govt as 'coup' declared

Soldiers claim to have overthrown Niger's government following an apparent coup in the West African nation on Wednesday when members of the Presidential Guard detained President Mohamed Bazoum.

Members of the elite guard sealed off access to the president's residence and offices in the capital Niamey, and after talks broke down, "refused to release" him, a presidential source said.

The soldiers said "all institutions" in the country would be suspended, borders were closed and a curfew imposed "until further notice" from 10 pm to 5 am, reports AFP.

Regional and global leaders have called for the release of Bazoum, who entered office two years ago in Niger's first peaceful transition of power since independence from France in 1960.

The president of neighbouring Benin, Patrice Talon, will head to Niamey for mediation efforts,

the head of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) said.

One of a dwindling group of pro-Western leaders in the Sahel, Bazoum was elected in April 2021, taking the helm of a country burdened by poverty and jihadist insurgencies.

In a message on Twitter, which is being rebranded as X, the president's office said "elements of the Presidential Guard (PG) had a fit of temper... (and) tried unsuccessfully to gain the support of the national armed forces and the national guard".

Hours after his detention, Bazoum's supporters had tried to approach the official complex, but were dispersed by members of the Presidential Guard who fired warning shots, an AFP reporter saw.

The parties of Niger's ruling coalition in Niamey denounced "a suicidal and anti-republican madness" in a statement, saying that "certain elements of the presidential guard sequestered the President" and his family, as well as the interior minister.

Condemnation also poured in from beyond the nation's borders.

ECOWAS and the African Union both decried what they called an "attempted coup d'etat".

The European Union said it "associates itself" with the ECOWAS statement and attacked "any attempt to destabilise democracy and threaten the stability" of Niger.

Poverty and jihadism

The nation of 22 million is two-thirds desert and frequently ranks at the bottom of the UN's Human Development Index, a benchmark of prosperity.

Niger is struggling with two jihadist campaigns — one in the southwest, which swept in from Mali in 2015, and the other in the south-east, involving jihadists from northeastern Nigeria.

Israel's top court to hear petitions against controversial law curbing its power

Israel's highest court said Wednesday that it would hear petitions in September against a divisive law weakening its power that the country's parliament passed earlier this week.

Israeli civil society groups and others have filed petitions asking the Supreme Court to strike down the law enacted Monday — the first major piece of legislation in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's broader program to overhaul Israel's judiciary, reports AP.

The far-right government's plans to limit judicial power have plunged Israel into its worst domestic crisis in years, unleashing widespread unrest and exposing the country's deep social fissures.

'Blow to democracy'

Critics of the overhaul describe it as a blow to democracy, arguing that Israel's judiciary represents the primary check on the powers of the par-



A protester against the Israeli government's judicial overhaul walks by the Israeli parliament, or Knesset, in Jerusalem, during a march from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem on July 22, 2023. P - Xinhua

liament and prime minister. Netanyahu's supporters say the law will prevent liberal, unelected judges from interfering with the decisions of elected lawmakers.

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have poured into the streets to protest against the plan for the past seven months. While protests

continue, opponents are also taking their fight to the Supreme Court — the very target of Netanyahu's overhaul plans — hoping that justices will intervene.

The law passed Monday specifically strips the Supreme Court of its power to block government actions and appointments on the basis that they are "unreasonable."

US hiding information on alien craft, says ex intelligence officer

We are not alone — and American authorities are covering up the evidence, a former US intelligence officer told a congressional committee on Wednesday.

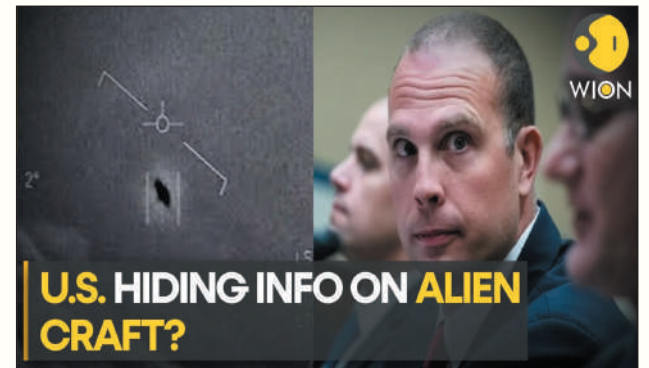
David Grusch testified that he “absolutely” believes the government is in possession of unidentified anomalous phenomenon, or UAPs — which has replaced UFO in official parlance — as well as remains of their operators.

Pressed for details in the course of the hearing, Grusch said the US government is hiding information on UAPs not only from the public but from Congress, and that he “personally interviewed” people with direct knowledge of non-human craft.

US Representative Tim Burchett supported the idea that the government was concealing information, saying at the opening of the hearing — which also featured testimony from two former Navy officers who said they witnessed UAPs — that “we’re going to uncover the cover-up.”

But the head of the Pentagon office set up to identify UAPs that pose a potential threat told lawmakers earlier this year it had not identified signs of alien activity.

The All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office “has found no credible evidence thus far of extraterrestrial activity, off-world technology, or objects that defy the known laws of physics,” Sean Kirkpatrick testified in April.



U.S. HIDING INFO ON ALIEN CRAFT?

David Grusch testifies during a congressional hearing on unidentified anomalous phenomena, or UAPs. P - AFP

The US government has however begun taking the issue of UAPs more seriously in recent years.

NASA held its first public meeting on UAPs in May, calling for a more rigorous scientific approach to clarify the origin of hundreds of mysterious sightings.

The Pentagon also began paying closer attention after a slew of inexplicable sightings from US Navy and Air Force pilots.

After President Xi Jinping removed Qin Gang from the post of State Councillor and Foreign Minister on Tuesday, Wang Yi is now the most powerful diplomat in China with powerful brief spread across the party as Director, Central Foreign Affairs Commission as well as the government as State Councillor, Special Representative for India-China boundary talks and Foreign Minister of the Middle-Kingdom.

Since the removal of Qin, there has been a series of speculations surrounding his ouster including his serious foreign policy differences with Wang Yi and some salacious gossip about his extra-marital affairs. Some experts attribute Qin’s removal to his “wolf warrior” diplomacy with the US.

After talking to diplomats based in Beijing, New Delhi and the US, the Hindustan Times has learnt that no one

really has any idea why the once trusted aide of President Xi Jinping was removed. And whether he will be rehabilitated or sent to the dog house permanently.

What is known that Qin has been replaced by Wang, who can be both a charmer and blunt talker when he wants to be, with special interest in India, Japan and Asia. Qin on the other hand had served as China’s ambassador to US for two years and

Mystery surrounds removal of Qin Gang, Foreign Minister Wang Yi is China’s most powerful diplomat



Fallen star Qin Gang, emperor Xi Jinping and rising star Wang Yi. P - SCMP

stoutly defended Chinese aggressive policies in Xinjiang region and against Taiwan.

Despite Qin being absent from public engagements since early July, neither India or any western power has any firm idea about the politics behind his removal. While the secret of Qin’s removal is now locked up in the vaults of Communist Party of China, one can only marvel at the opaqueness of the system as no one really has any real answer to Qin’s removal with only considered speculations doing the media rounds.

Singapore to hang two drug convicts, including first woman in 20 years



Singapore to execute 45-year-old woman for drug trafficking. P - New Telegraph

Singapore is set to hang two drug convicts this week, including the first woman to be sent to the gallows in nearly 20 years, rights groups said Tuesday, while urging the executions be halted.

Local rights organisation Transformative Justice Collective (TJC) said a 56-year-old man convicted of trafficking 50 grams (1.76 ounces) of heroin is scheduled to be hanged on Wednesday at the Southeast Asian city-state’s Changi Prison, reports AFP.

A 45-year-old woman convict who TJC identified as Saridewi Djamani is also set to be sent to the gallows on Friday. She was sentenced to death in 2018 for trafficking around 30 grams of heroin.

If carried out, she would be the first woman to be executed in Singapore since 2004 when 36-year-old hairdresser Yen May Woen was hanged for drug trafficking, said TJC activist Kokila Annamalai.

Singapore imposes the death penalty for certain crimes, including murder and some forms of kidnapping.

It also has some of the world’s toughest anti-drug laws: trafficking more than 500 grams of cannabis and 15 grams of heroin can result in the death penalty.

At least 13 people have been hanged so far since the government resumed executions following a two-year hiatus in place during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rights watchdog Amnesty International on Tuesday urged Singapore to halt the impending executions.

Singapore insists that the death penalty is an effective crime deterrent.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Interview: Kugan Parapen, Economist

“Ousting Jugnauth is necessary but not sufficient.

The current system also needs to be ousted”



Kugan Parapen is forthcoming as usual in sharing his views concerning both the economic state of the country and the political necessity for change from an MSM government. The former should give real cause for worry as the electoral war-chest spending in the next budget is likely to leave the country high and dry with depleted reserves, persistent inflation and few new economic pillars. As for the necessity of political change at the next general elections, Resistans ek Alternativ has pleaded for a unified Opposition front and a real program of reform of the economy.

Mauritius Times: What’s more disquieting about the situation prevailing in the country presently? Is it politics and its habitual villains, or is it about the mis/management of the economy?

Kugan Parapen: In view of what is happening in the country, one would have to say both. In any case, both are intertwined and, to some extent, interdependent. However, while the political arm is hurting opposing forces, the

failing economy is hurting everyone, both pro-government and pro-opposition camps. All in all, each and every citizen of our country has something to worry about at the moment and that certainly does not add up to a feel-good factor.

*** More precisely, how do you see the Mauritian economy doing right now, and where will that lead us to?**

If, as the Minister of Finance and his acolytes, we take a short-term view of the economy, then there are definitely a few reasons to be positive. Granted that Mauritius has had one of the strongest economic growth periods in its history, is that a sufficient reason for the Minister to indulge in such a pathetic self-glorifying act? Would a boxer who has been knocked out be ecstatic about the fact that he has been able to stand back on his feet? Or would he have been relieved?

By all accounts, Mauritius is slowly but surely getting back on its feet. It’s a relief, not an accomplishment! The strong economic rebound witnessed in recent months has to do with the recovery the country has experienced, especially since the tourism industry has reopened. Do you know that the country has still not fully recovered from the Covid-19 related shock? Indeed, the economic output in real terms (i.e., adjusted for inflation) is still below the peak we were at the beginning of 2020.

As per the June 2023 edition of the World Economic Prospects by the World Bank, global economic growth stood at 6.0% in 2021, and halved to 3.1% in 2022. The

“If, as the Minister of Finance, we take a short-term view of the economy, then there are definitely a few reasons to be positive. Granted that Mauritius has had one of the strongest economic growth periods in its history, is that a sufficient reason for the Minister to indulge in such a pathetic self-glorifying act? Would a boxer who has been knocked out be ecstatic about the fact that he has been able to stand back on his feet? Or would he have been relieved?”

forecast for 2023 is only 2.1%. This clearly shows that the post-Covid-19 recovery growth rate is unsustainable. One might argue that the growth rate for Mauritius for 2022 was much higher than the global one and hence Mauritius might be going through some miraculous exceptionalism. The long-awaited economic miracle may be? Unfortunately, that is simply not going to be the case. We need to remember that social restrictions, especially the closure of the country’s aerial space, were in place for significantly longer in Mauritius than in most countries. As such, the economic recovery in Mauritius was unsynchronised and delayed.

Which brings us to the budget and Padayachy’s whimsical forecasts. While most international institutions forecast a return to trend growth as from the second half of 2023, the Minister of Finance is predicting the same rate of annual economic growth for the financial year 23/24. Could he be right?

We had warned that the MSM was building a political war chest when they raided the coffers of the Bank of Mauritius post-Covid 19. And that has indeed proven to be the case. A significant chunk of the funds transferred from the Central Bank to the central government have not yet been used and have now been earmarked in the last budget to be deployed for significant infrastructural undertakings by the government in the next twelve months. Interestingly, these funds are being deployed as we close in on the end of the mandate of the incumbent government.

While we do not expect the economic growth for the forthcoming year to be anywhere close to the projected rate by the Minister of Finance, we do see a case for growth to remain above trend in the next twelve months if the government manages to execute its projects in time. But the more interesting and pertinent question on our mind remains unanswered - what happens when the political war chest of the MSM is emptied?

While the 2014-2019 budgetary largesses of the MSM were financed by foreign countries, mostly India, the 2019-2024 ones have the footprint of the Bank of Mauritius all over it.

☞ Cont. on page 11

'People do not see a future in Mauritius for themselves nor for their children.

They have serious concerns. Worry we should'

☞ Cont. from page 10

What will be the immediate and long-term consequences, keeping in mind that Agalega and the renegation of the DTAA with India were the price the Republic paid for the 2014-2019 extravagance?

*** What about the inflationary outlook? And what does it tell us about the future?**

The inflationary outlook for Mauritius is less benign than the rest of the world. In other words, given the recent actions from both the Central Bank and the government, the country could have a long-term inflation overshoot and that is not good news at all. The thing about inflation is that once it becomes unanchored, it is very difficult to bring it back under control. And unfortunately, given the current respective monetary and fiscal stance adopted by the authorities, we see that the risks for inflationary overshoot are very much real.

From a monetary standpoint, we note that the Bank of Mauritius is adopting a rather nonchalant approach to inflation. While most central banks around the world have become very aggressive in their fight against inflation, the

BoM seems to be taking a more relaxed approach. Granted the central bank has hiked interest rates in recent years, but this has been nowhere close to what other central banks have been doing, especially in the developing world.

The prevailing real interest rate in Mauritius is still deeply negative when economic theories posit that the real interest rate should be positive in inflationary times. Under the current situation, the value of all savings in the economy is being eroded and this, consequently, is fueling further economic activity. Is that how you bring inflation under control? No, unless you are a disciple of Erdoganomics.

The Bank of Mauritius views inflationary pressures as being mostly imported and while this is partially true, it should not completely overlook the domestic side of things. If the economy overheats, you can be sure that inflationary pressures will radiate from domestic activities as well.

Talking of overheating, we certainly cannot overlook the role of the central government. The government is going all out when it comes to government spending. As we approach the end of the current governmental mandate, Padayachy has taken out his monetary bazookas - the funds usurped from the Bank of Mauritius. As the MSM splurges helicopter money in a bid to get re-elected, the monetisation of the BoM reserves will surely spur inflation even higher than most realise.

They are hosing the flames of inflation with helicopter money and negative interest rates. How do you think this is going to end?

*** The rate of inflation has ebbed considerably in other Indian ocean islands, yet stays high in Mauritius. Isn't our inflation also due in large part to the continuous depreciation of the Rupee against the dollar as chief import currency?**

The depreciation of the Rupee has obviously played an important part in stoking inflationary pressures. However, while this was particularly true in the aftermath of the pandemic, when the Mauritian Rupee depreciated significantly over a short period of time, the same cannot be said over recent times.

The Rupee has somewhat stabilised, albeit at very low levels. As such, the base effect of the depreciation is behind us, and the depreciation of the Rupee has currently not much to do with inflationary trends. Should the Rupee depreciate further over coming months/years, then obviously it will contribute to a further erosion in the purchasing power of the local economy.

*** Given the high rate of our currency depreciation, how does our economy rate in real terms when that depreciation is accounted for?**

The economic growth numbers put forward

“While we do not expect the economic growth for the forthcoming year to be anywhere close to the projected rate by the Minister of Finance, we do see a case for growth to remain above trend in the next twelve months if the government manages to execute its projects in time. But the more interesting and pertinent question on our mind remains unanswered - what happens when the political war chest of the MSM is emptied?”

by economists are usually always quoted in real terms, that is after adjusting for inflation. The impact of the currency depreciation is also already accounted for. For example, when the Rupee depreciates, the revenue of exploring companies operating in the Mauritian jurisdiction will be positively impacted as these companies earn in foreign currencies. A weaker local currency will hence boost revenue for these exporters as we should not forget that these companies report in local currency terms.

It has typically been implied that a weaker currency helps our economy - while this might have been valid in the past when sugar exports made up the bulk of our exports and our trade balance was positive, this is not the case anymore.

Given that we inevitably import more goods than we export (resulting in a recurrent current account deficit), it follows that a weaker currency has a net negative impact on the economy. However, the burden is far from shared. On the one hand, the exporters reap the benefits of increased revenues in local currency terms, while the consumers, who generally do not own any capital, are made worse off as the cost of imported products increases.

In the absence of local substitutes for many of the imported products/services, the expected rebalancing of the trade imbalance does not materialise and the trade deficit is, at best, unchanged. However, for a country like Mauritius, the terms of trade have significantly deteriorated over time and hence the trade deficit has ballooned, resulting in further erosion of the purchasing power.

One eye-opening exercise is to actually calculate the real growth rate of the Mauritian economy in a hard currency, for example in US Dollars or the Pound Sterling. Having done such an exercise, we have seen that the long-term growth rate of the country when measured in such terms is only around half of what it comes out to when measured in Mauritian Rupees. The notion of a Mauritian miracle gets very flimsy.

*** There are also the issues of the liberalisation of the labour market, and the ongoing gentrification amid Smart Cities. What are your thoughts on those issues?**

The so-called 'Smart Cities' were never mentioned in any political manifesto. Some may argue that they are private-led enterprises and that, as such, they did not need any popular ratification.

“While the 2014-2019 budgetary largesses of the MSM were financed by foreign countries, mostly India, the 2019-2024 ones have the footprint of the Bank of Mauritius all over it. What will be the immediate and long-term consequences, keeping in mind that Agalega and the renegation of the DTAA with India were the price the Republic paid for the 2014-2019 extravagance?”



☞ Cont. on page 12

'The electorate is hungry for a real change and I do not see how a PTr-MMM-PMSD alliance actually delivers the profound change desired'

☞ Cont. from page 11

That may be partly true, but let's not forget that these new burgeoning cities are underpinned by major fiscal concessions and an increasingly lax immigration policy. Surely, in any democratic society, the people should have a say on the fiscal and immigration system they desire.

Many say the Budget Speech is only the trailer and that the real deal is the Finance Bill. This assertion has been proven right again. In a budget qualified as of socialist nature by the government, we are left with a very capitalist aftertaste after a careful assessment of the Finance Bill.

Padayachy should explain the socialist rationale behind the liberalisation of the labour market which will allow employers to recruit as many foreign workers as they wish at cut-throat prices because we fail to see how this is in the interest of the general population.

It would also be forthcoming for him to explain the lowered thresholds with respect to the allocation of residence and occupation permits. With respect to the occupation permit, the threshold has gone from USD 250,000 to USD 18,000. At this rate, it is only a matter of time before anyone can come and work or reside in Mauritius.

Let us not forget that Pravind Jugnauth wanted to commodify the citizenship of the Republic in the recent past. While his plan was thwarted after broad disapproval, the underlying philosophy behind the sale of the Mauritian passport is slowly and surely becoming a reality.

The country is undergoing one of its most important transformations. The medium- to long-term ramifications are multiple and will eventually run very deep. Invariably, it will be at the expense of the majority of Mauritians who will increasingly be priced out of the housing market and will experience a more and more onerous life under the tropics. Feel-good factor?

*** There's is increasing concern voiced by different commentators about the issue of "mass" emigration of our youth. There may not be available fairly reliable emigration statistics, but it's certainly on the rise. Do we know the real reasons as to why more young people are going away? And should we be worried about that?**

The youth are queuing up to leave the country. Agreed that many Mauritians consider themselves, as their forefathers, to have migration in their blood but the trend has accelerated in recent months.

The reasons mentioned are not necessarily the same when gathered first-hand but upon a more profound analysis, we find out that they do stem from the same cell. People do not see a future in Mauritius for themselves nor for their children. They have serious concerns about the path upon which the country has embarked - citing the breakdown of democratic fundamentals, the poor state of the economy and the increasingly fractured society. Worry we should. The writings are on the wall.

*** As regards politics, we have a number of politicians who are under a cloud these days: there's one**



measured in Mauritian Rupees. The notion of a Mauritian miracle gets very flimsy..."

"In a budget qualified as of socialist nature by the government, we are left with a very capitalist aftertaste after a careful assessment of the Finance Bill. Padayachy should explain the socialist rationale behind the liberalisation of the labour market which will allow employers to recruit as many foreign workers as they wish at cut-throat prices because we fail to see how this is in the interest of the general population..."

"People do not see a future in Mauritius for themselves nor for their children. They have serious concerns about the path upon which the country has embarked - citing the breakdown of democratic fundamentals, the poor state of the economy and the increasingly fractured society. Worry we should. The writings are on the wall..."

"I do not necessarily think that the fact that these two politicians (P. Jugnauth & N. Ramgoolam) stand for elections as prospective prime ministerial candidates is necessarily disquieting. What I do find peculiar though is that significant sections of the population will support these two candidates in their quest to become the next Prime Minister no matter what. And this is where the real issue is...."



awaiting a judgement of the Privy Council in the matter of an election appeal challenging his election

"One eye-opening exercise is to actually calculate the real growth rate of the Mauritian economy in a hard currency, for example in US Dollars or the Pound Sterling. Having done such an exercise, we have seen that the long-term growth rate of the country when measured in such terms is only around half of what it comes out to when

in 2019 for alleged unlawful election promises, and the other who will have to go back for a retrial of his alleged money-laundering case before the Financial Crimes Division. That these two politicians should also be prospective prime ministerial candidates should be very disquieting, isn't it?

Anyone should be allowed to stand as a candidate at an election as long as they are eligible to do so. So, I do not necessarily think that the fact that these two politicians stand for elections as prospective prime ministerial candidates is necessarily disquieting.

What I do find peculiar though is that significant sections of the population will support these two candidates in their quest to become the next Prime Minister no matter what. And this is where the real issue is. Achieving real change in such circumstances is quite a challenge.

*** There's more: there are also the cases of a former and a sitting minister as well as a PPS - the first allegedly involved in "forgery of private writing", and the other one together with a PPS subjected to a private prosecution in relation to whatever happened at a Black Label Stag Party. Both are presumed innocent, but what we are being given to witness in various instances is far removed from what governance indicators by international agencies tell us about how we are doing. What do you think?**

Taken separately, each case has its particularities and intricacies. But taken collectively, they bear testimony to one of the worst, if not the worst, governments that have ever ruled independent Mauritius. It highlights the dangers of giving absolute power to one political party without appropriate checks and balances.

If we assess the different governments over the last twenty to thirty years, we will see that most of them were led by one dominant party - especially in terms of seats at the National Assembly. Such occurrences seem to provide a fertile breeding ground for all sorts of excesses by majority members. It is high time to rethink the balance of power.

*** What's your take on the new opposition alliance that has brought to date the Labour Party, the MMM and the PMSD together? Will that be sufficient to win the next elections?**

Such an alliance would likely have walked over any election in the past, but my gut feel is that it will not garner enough adhesion as it stands this time around. The electorate is hungry for a real change and I do not see how a PTr-MMM-PMSD alliance actually delivers the profound change desired. It remains to be seen what they have to offer in terms of policy making but the electorate is today so divided that it is near impossible for this alliance to rally behind it the kind of support it would have done in the past.

This is why Rezistans ek Alternativ has called for a unified opposition front for the upcoming elections. The reasoning behind this proposal is two-fold. First and foremost, to oust Jugnauth and its MSM from power. And second, to deliver the profound democratic changes sought by the electorate. Ousting Jugnauth is necessary but not sufficient. The current system also needs to be ousted.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 234

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 6 February, 1959

• *There are nowadays professors of philosophy, but not philosophers. — Henry David Thoreau*

The Black Man's Burden?

By Humanist

Under the caption, 'We don't want another Mauritius here', the *Sunday Post* of Nairobi of the 25th of January, carried an article in reply to Mr Jamal Din's, by Mr A.J. Simpson, a European farmer, in which he argues, in a most indecent, vitriolic, and vituperative language, that the Asians' claim for land for their growing population should not be granted. His arguments can be summed up as follows:



Indian trader's family in Bagamoyo, German East Africa.
Pic - BArchBot| wikimedia commons

The migration of South-Asians to Africa happened well over a century ago. Hailing from the Indian subcontinent and providing the muscle for implementing colonial infrastructure such as the railroads, majority of these groups settled in modern day Kenya and Uganda and were as ethnically diverse as the regions they moved into.

-- Annie May Byrne-Noonan

(a) Asians were only allowed to come to Kenya and should now either go back to their homeland or cut down their population by means of birth control — Mr Simpson had observed "over the many years in the past" the "enormous hordes of children in schools and playgrounds and the "innumerable indications of many more on the way." The Asians "are about to suffer for their folly, and, on the pretext that land cultivation is the main occupation that this country has to offer them, they think that the solution to the problem of their daily increasing numbers and of their excess population is to seek some method of sneaking into and encroaching upon the 'European Land Reserves', well-knowing that these reserves will be fully required by the steadily increasing European population who have been tending them for years past."

(b) Asians would lower the living standard as they have done in Mauritius where they are now driving out the Europeans. — "If Asians were allowed into the 'European Reserve' or grazing area, it would reduce Kenya to the same sorry state as Mauritius. There the British Government, not realising the great danger not

only granted the Asian unrestricted immigration but gave him full rights in the land and in the Government."

"It would appear that Mauritius is on the verge of utter poverty, squalor and disease — if the Asian were given rights in the European Land Reserve in Kenya, in a short space of time the same conditions would be produced with falling living standards and gradual decadence, so that they would be a liability to the state."

Asians were not "allowed" to go to Kenya. Rather, they allowed themselves to provide **cheap labour** for the Europeans who have made money and grown fat at their expense — at the expense of their blood, tears, toil and sweat. Now that the Asian, through **his own human efforts**, has made a position for himself, he is told to go back home. Why should he? If he has to go, so has the European got to go back to Europe! What right has he to stay there as in any other places in the whole world where he is known to have gone, and **always as a master, never as a manual worker**. Might is no longer Right — not in this enlightened world of the 20th century. There is no more jungle law whereby the "survival of the fittest" is apathetically tolerated: **there are human rights**. But let us quote a great European in Africa who understood the problem clearly and correctly: "**It is not the vices of the Indians (Asians) that Europeans in this country fear but their virtues.**"

But Mr Simpson proceeds further to say that he too wants his land for his **steadily growing population**. So where is the harm in an Asiatic wanting space? Is a European more human, and must he have **more human rights** than the Asiatic? Well, one should mind one's glass house, don't you agree?

Let us turn to the Asians in this tiny little island of ours. We must inform Mr Simpson that no European has as yet been driven out of

Mauritius. How can Asians do so when Mr Simpson's kind own all the big sugar factories and almost all the land, the banks and all the big business of the island? Asians are the jackals slaving for the lions here. We admit that there is poverty and disease — Asians are not intransigent, but tolerant and humble enough to admit — **but these are the direct outcome of oppression through cheap labour for which the British government is responsible.**

This island, as Mr Simpson ought to know, is a **British colony**. And where else can jackals live but in squalor! Doesn't the lion inhabit the cleaner parts of the forest and isn't he always so conscious of his superiority? Mr Simpson, unwittingly - or is it deliberately? — , lets it out that **he believes in the superiority of his race** in saying that the British Government here gave full rights to the Asian both "in land and in the government". He definitely thinks he has to have more rights, perhaps because he is a white man, and **less burden**, much as he would like to show (to the black or brown man, of course) that he shares the "white man's burden".

Opinion

Dubai and Singapore Poster boys of reference for our development narratives

• Cont. from page 3



Transport Minister S. Iswaran is assisting in a CPIB investigation and has also been instructed to take a leave of absence by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. P - onecms-res.cloudinary.com

It's now the in-place where world Expos or other Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) events will attract a full posse of our Ministers unabashedly riding there in first-class Emirati flights, generous per-diems and posh hotels we pay for in every ounce of VAT extracted from even the poorest at gas stations and supermarkets.

One wonders what our ruling political class and our Attorney-General would make of news emerging from the city-state where a senior minister, Subramaniam Iswaran, Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry, was forced to resign after being arrested and charged last week in a corruption probe, the first in four decades to be implicated in such an investigation. And, heaven forbid, that on this Monday, two lawmakers - one of them once tipped as a potential prime minister and current Speaker of Parliament Tan Chuan-Jin, 54, and fellow lawmaker Cheng Li Hui, 47, resigned from the party and the legislature over their "inappropriate relationship" after it was revealed they were involved in an extramarital affair!

"We will be upfront and transparent," Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong responded quickly. "We will not sweep anything under the carpet, even if they are potentially embarrassing or damaging." The island is scheduled to hold a general election by 2025, though polls could be held earlier. Dr Michael Barr, an Australia-based international relations professor who has written several books on Singapore's politics pointed out to the BBC: "Without extraordinary levels of public trust, the Singaporean government must rely on one of two things to win elections: either repression and other measures that subvert democracy, or a high level of performance-based legitimacy. Their record in recent years is such that we can forget about performance legitimacy."

As possible co-participants in some future international event, maybe PM Pravin Kumar Jugnauth could share some valuable snippets with Singaporean PM Lee Hsien Loong on how to tackle that tricky election or for that matter, how his MSM government treats blatant corruption, nepotism, incompetence, governance under our shores...

Jan Arden

Merci à Clifford Ng Kwet Chan le poète qui n'est plus

By Sister Cécile Leung

First I would like to offer my sympathy to Nicolas, Chloé and to all those grieving the loss of a brother, a brother-in-law, an uncle, a friend, a colleague, the poet, the long time contributor to *Mauritius Times*, the engaged citizen who cared enough to share in black and white relentlessly ideas and hopes.

In the late 1950s, more than sixty decades ago a young Father Henri Souchon launched the movement of 'L'Entité mauricienne' calling to unite the diverse ethnic communities of the island. Clifford Ng Kwet Chan, then a young professional, was invited to voice the concerns and hopes of the Chinese community on the podium where representatives of all communities were given the opportunity to share ideas.

This is how I came to know Clifford as one of those driven by the altruistic ambition of making the world a better place. I left Mauritius in the early sixties and missed the opportunity to follow more closely Clifford's subsequent interventions and engagement on social issues. Clifford became known not only as "l'homme engagé" but also as a poet.

Only some French terms can express my perception of Clifford the poet: c'est "l'homme au cœur pur" ; his vision of any given event takes him to its "essence" which he would then succinctly put into words. For



Clifford Ng Kwet Chan – 1932-2023

example, when Nicolas came into the life of Clifford and Thérèse his spouse, he wrote about the "point" which made possible the formation of the triangle. Thanks to Clifford I came to understand that poetry is not a play with words but rather a distillation of the meaning of life. It takes a certain asceticism and purity of the mind and heart to touch this core.

On Saturday July 1st, barely a month before he left us, I had the privilege of paying Clifford a visit, he was seated and received me with his usual kindness. As I had voiced some concerns in our conversation, his last words in Hakka were conciliatory, in translation: 'Don't worry, I will see to it.' He was still the visionary looking "beyond" with a steady gaze.

Clifford, you are now reunited with Thérèse, the other point of the triangle, you will surely watch over the point left behind. Rest In Peace "en contemplant l'Absolu, l'Essence de toute vie dont tu as essayé d'en saisir et de nous partager quelques bribes durant ta longue vie de poète". Merci de nous avoir entraînés dans ton

sillage, aujourd'hui le cœur endolori il nous reste à regarder plus haut et te voir dans l'étoile de la nuit en faisant notre deuil."

Sister Cécile Leung, Associate Professor Emerita
Chicago, USA

Remembrance

Clifford Ng Kwet Chan – 1932-2023

Kwet Chan! A name that will shine forever!
Teacher, philosopher, and gentleman,
A true person all respect and admire!
A confirmed patriot that did his share
And a lot more, with his heart, mind, and pen
For the independence of this country!

We had at Neptune Club in Chinatown
A jolly band of hopeful young fellows
That dreamt of rebuilding the world.
We looked to him the teacher and poet,
Steeped in the lore, values and traditions
Of Hakkas in Meixian, to show the way!

Man of duty! Man of Honour! We thank

Heaven and Earth that brought you in our lives!

Joseph Tsang Mang Kin
Floreale

Mauritius Times joins Sister Cécile Leung and Joseph Tsang Man Kin to express our deepest condolences to Nicolas, son of Clifford Ng Kwet Chan, and other relatives during this time of grief.

Educator and poet, Clifford had been a long-time contributor to this paper, and he was particularly well known for his usually short and succinct poems which were published in our columns as from the early 1960s. Societal issues, education, Chinese culture and traditions, life in Mauritius were the subjects he wrote about quite often to the delight of so many of our readers.

Wilhelm von Humboldt said that the aim of existence is a distillation of the widest possible experience of life into wisdom. There's only one summit in life - to have taken the measure in feeling of everything human.

Thank you, Clifford for having taken the full measure of human experience and for passing on the wisdom to us through your poems.

Opinion

Whither Meritocracy & Honesty in Civil Service?

By Harry Booluck

In a recent newspaper interview, former Senior Chief Executive Asha Burrenchobay talks about the extent to which nepotism, sinecure, over-manning, waste and corruption have become rampant and have contributed to balloon the 2023/24 budget to some Rs 200B. Given the prevailing situation, couldn't the administration be run with a 25% budget reduction without compromising the quality of services? Many think it is possible to do so.

To run the colonial administration, the British had recourse to UK-trained locals. (In India, the East India Company recruited top graduates from a select few British universities to run the administration.) Later, they set up Royal Colleges and other universities manned by qualified British citizens to inculcate European standards among the native recruits. They succeeded in creating in the Indian sub-continent a level of service they copied from Britain. Mauritius too had mandarins of the calibre of Simpson and other foreign-trained local talents who excelled during the transition from colonial rule to independent Mauritius.

However, a few decades after independence, the rot started to penetrate the service. With regime change in 1982 the country started witnessing a backsliding of meritocracy in favour of nepotism where merit was thrown out by the window. Many with top qualifications and who had passed the competitive entry exams with flying colours were side-lined or fired in alleged public interest to be replaced by others for political or ideological reasons.

When meritocracy is thrown out of the window, isn't 'honesty' the logical collateral victim? It's no wonder that reports of fraud and corruption have become commonplace today, and perhaps reaching its zenith during the Covid-19 pandemic which turned out to be a godsend for a few, as evidenced by the subsequent scandals and dilapidation of public funds (Pack & Blister and Molnupiravir scandals).

Downscaling meritocracy is frustrating, counter-productive and against the public interest. In Singapore ever since Lee Kwan Yew's time, emphasis has been laid on meritocracy irrespective of ethnicity. This, coupled with rewards and punishments, has made Singapore the envy of the rest of the world. In Mauritius, the scourge of corruption has become so frustrating that many of the younger generation are seeking greener pastures overseas.

After the departure of the SSR government in 1982 and the ensuing state capture of institutions that followed, the service has been in decline; witness the squandering of scarce public resources with impunity despite recurrent Audit Reports. Salvation lies in the promotion of accountability, efficiency, meritocracy and honesty if we want to raise the standard of the service and put a stop to the recurrent waste of resources. Non-disclosure of information in Parliament would suggest that the authorities do not want to let the cat out of bag.

Oppenheimer's warning lives on: international laws and treaties are failing to stop a new arms race

● Cont. from page 2

The new nuclear arms race

Although the world's nuclear powers agree "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought", there are still about 12,500 nuclear warheads on the planet. This number is growing, and the power of those bombs is infinitely greater than the ones dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

According to the United Nations' disarmament chief, the risk of nuclear war is greater than at any time since the end of the Cold War. The nine nuclear-armed states (Britain, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel, as well as the big three) all appear to be modernising their arsenals. Several deployed new nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapons systems in 2022.



The US is upgrading its "triad" of ground, air and submarine launched nukes, while Russia is reportedly working on submarine delivery of "doomsday" nuclear torpedoes capable of causing destructive tidal waves.

While Russia and the US possess about 90% of the world's nuclear weapons, other countries are expanding quickly. China's arsenal is projected to grow from 410 warheads in 2023 to maybe 1,000 by the end of this decade.

Only Russia and the US were subject to bilateral controls over the buildup of such weapons, but Russian president Vladimir Putin suspended the arrangement. Beyond the promise of non-proliferation, the other nuclear-armed countries are not subject to any other international controls, including relatively simple measures to prevent accidental nuclear war.

Other nations – those with hostile, belligerent and nuclear-armed neighbours showing no signs of disarming – must increasingly wonder why they should continue to show restraint and not develop their own nuclear deterrent capacities.

The threat of autonomous weaponry

Meanwhile, other potential military threats are also emerging – arguably with even less scrutiny or regulation than the world's nuclear arsenals. In particular, artificial intelligence (AI) is sounding alarm bells.

AI is not without its benefits, but it also presents many risks when applied to weapons systems. There have been numerous warnings from developers about the unforeseeable consequences and potential existential threat posed by true digital intelligence. As the Centre for AI Safety put it:

Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war.

More than 90 countries have called for a legally binding instrument to regulate AI technology, a position supported by the UN Secretary General, the International Committee of the Red Cross and many non-governmental organisations.

But despite at least a decade of negotiation and expert input, a treaty governing the development of "lethal autonomous weapons systems" remains elusive.

Plagues and pathogens

Similarly, there is a fundamental lack of regulation governing the growing number of laboratories capable of holding or making (accidentally or intentionally) harmful

or fatal biological materials.

There are 51 known biosafety level-4 (BSL-4) labs in 27 countries – double the number that existed a decade ago. Another 18 BSL-4 labs are due to open in the next few years.

While these labs, and those at the next level down, generally maintain high safety standards, there is no mandatory obligation that they meet international standards or allow routine compliance inspections.

Finally, there are fears the World Health Organization's new pandemic preparedness treaty, based on lessons from the COVID-19 disaster, is being watered down.

As with every potential future threat, it seems, international law and regulation are left scrambling to catch up with the march of technology – to govern what Oppenheimer called "the relations between science and common sense".

*Alexander Gillespie, Professor of Law,
University of Waikato*

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

Novel school improvement program can raise teaching quality while reducing inequality

A multi-national European study, looking at over 5,500 students, has found that a novel school intervention program can not only improve the mathematics scores of primary school children from disadvantaged areas, but can also lessen the achievement gap caused by socioeconomic status.

Known as the Dynamic Approach to School Improvement (DASI), the program is based on the latest findings in educational research.

Rather than a one-size-fits-all, top-down approach, DASI works by first assessing a school to identify the specific teaching areas that could be improved and then implementing targeted measures to improve them. This process involves all members of the school community, including teachers, pupils and parents, with support from a specialized Advisory and Research Team.

Several studies have already shown that DASI can improve student learning progress and academic outcomes, but this latest study, published in 'Educational Research', is the first to have been conducted on schools in disadvantaged areas.

Furthermore, DASI was specifically designed to enhance both academic quality and equity, by countering non-



Raise teaching. Pic - Poverty Action Lab

school factors that can influence pupils' academic outcomes, including socioeconomic status, gender and ethnicity.

The effectiveness of this aspect of DASI had also not been tested before until this new study, led by a team of researchers from Cyprus and the Netherlands, led by Prof Leonidas Kyriakides at the University of Cyprus.

After enrolling 72 primary schools, including some 5,560 pupils from disadvantaged areas in four countries -- Cyprus, Greece, England and Ireland -- the researchers randomly assigned the

schools to experimental and control groups. Those in the experimental group made use of DASI for an entire school year, while those in the control groups were offered support to develop their own improvement programs.

Pupils aged between nine and 12 at the schools were given mathematics tests at both the start of the school year and the end to assess the effect of DASI over that time. The researchers chose to assess mathematical ability because previous studies have shown that mathematics tends to respond better than any other

subject to school improvement programs. The researchers also recorded the socioeconomic status, gender and ethnicity of the pupils.

At the beginning of the year, all the pupils in the 72 schools achieved a similar range of scores on the mathematics tests, and showed similar achievement gaps based on socioeconomic status, gender and ethnicity. In contrast, at the end of the year, pupils in the schools that received DASI achieved better results on the mathematics test than those in the control group, and this was seen in all four countries.

Furthermore, the achievement gap based on socioeconomic status reduced in the schools that received DASI but stayed the same in the control group, although DASI didn't have any effect on the achievement gap based on gender or ethnicity.

However, despite the fall in the achievement gap for socioeconomic status, the authors admit that DASI appears to be more effective at enhancing quality than equity. They suggest that more research needs to be done to identify policies and actions that address equity in a more comprehensive way, so that DASI can lessen the achievement gap based on gender and ethnicity as well.



What happens when you flush a toilet on a plane?

Unlike our toilets at home, plane toilets have to 'suck' the waste with a vacuum system. But don't worry, it doesn't get released into the air.

Like this is a great question! It doesn't work like your toilet at home, which uses gravity to remove waste from our toilets into the sewer system. An aeroplane toilet uses a vacuum system along with a blue chemical that cleans and removes odours every time you flush.

A smelly tank

The waste and blue cleaning fluid ends up in a storage tank under the floor, in the very back of the cargo hold of the aeroplane. With so many people on the plane using the toilets, you can imagine how big the storage tank is!

The system is designed very much like the vacuum cleaners we use around the house to remove dirt and dust from our floors. This dirt and dust ends up in a container that we empty into a garbage bin. Similarly, the aeroplane's toilets need the vacuum pressure system to move all the waste from the toilet into the plumbing pipe that connects the toilet to the storage tank, and finally into the tank.

There is a valve on the storage tank that opens when a toilet is flushed and closes when the toilet is not in use – to prevent odours from leaving the tank. This helps to keep the smell down from so many people using the toilet during a flight. The blue chemical helps to keep the smell down as well.

Where does it go once the plane lands?

A special truck comes to the aircraft after it lands and connects a hose to remove the waste and blue cleaning chemical into a storage tank on the truck. The truck plugs



AirP72/Shutterstock

a hose into the airplane's waste tank valve and removes all of the waste into the tank on the back of the truck.

The truck then takes the waste to a special area at the airport reserved for the waste from all aeroplanes, and the toilet waste is emptied into the sewer system for that airport. The training to operate the truck takes three days.

Watch out for blue ice

It has also been reported that sometimes, particularly on older planes, the valve where the waste truck

connects to the aeroplane can leak a small amount of the waste and blue chemical. This turns to ice as the temperature at normal cruising altitude of 30,000 feet is normally around -56°C and the chemical turns to "blue ice". This blue ice remains attached to the plane as long as the temperature remains below freezing.

Once the aeroplane begins to descend to land at the destination airport, the blue ice begins to thaw and may even fall off. There have been several occasions reported in the news where people have witnessed this flying pool!

In case you were wondering, the captain of the plane doesn't have a button to release the waste from the storage tank while the plane is flying. Any waste that might leak out of the plane would be totally accidental.

Some people do think aeroplane contrails (the white lines planes sometimes leave in the sky) are either a special mind-control chemical or toilet waste. This is not true! What you are actually seeing are water vapours coming from the engine becoming ice crystals – like a thin cloud in the sky.

Doug Drury

Professor/Head of Aviation, CQUniversity Australia



A blonde wanted to try out ice fishing

She went out and purchased all the gear she would need and headed to a local spot to try to catch some fish.

She went out onto the ice with her gear and after getting comfy on the stool, she started to cut a circular hole in the ice as she had seen on the internet. As she was cutting, she heard a voice from heaven speak out, saying:

"There are no fish under the ice."

The blonde was startled. She stood up and looked around but saw no one. Cautiously, she moved a little further out onto the ice and set up in a different spot. She sipped some hot chocolate from her thermos and then started cutting another hole.

Again, the voice called out, seemingly from all around her:

"There are no fish under the ice!"

Now feeling quite scared and starting to get a bit frustrated, she moved all the way to the far end of the ice and laid out all her gear, sat upon her stool and started cutting another hole.

Right away, the heavenly voice boomed out, this time louder than ever:

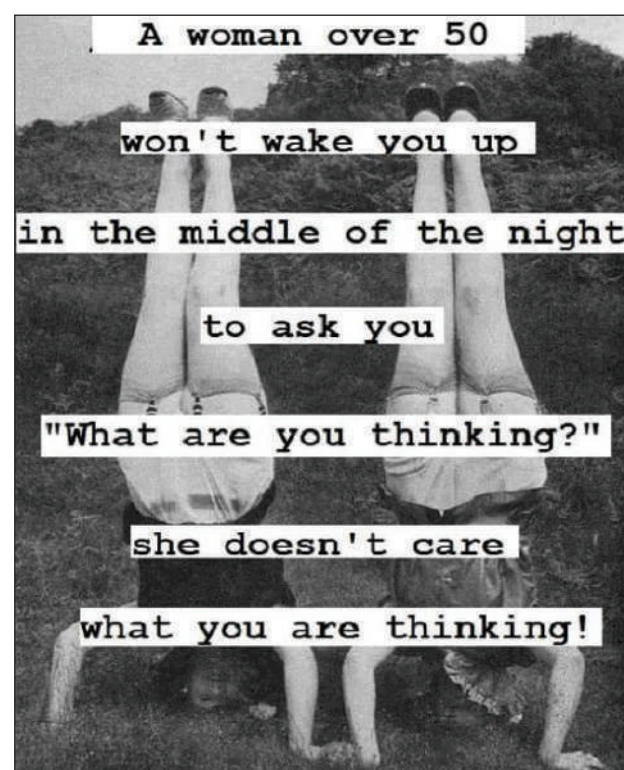
"There are no fish under the ice!"

She jumped off her stool and looked all around her. She shouted to heaven, "Is that you, Lord?"

The voice answered: "No. This is the manager of the ice-skating rink. There are no fish under the ice!"

A 50 year-old lady suddenly started learning how to swim instead of her usual routine work of going to church!

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



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

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

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

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

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

Two women are chatting in an office.

Woman 1: "We made love last night, did you?"

Woman 2: "Yes."

Woman 1: "Was it good?"

Woman 2: "No, it was a disaster... My husband came home, ate his dinner in three minutes, got on top of me, finished off in five minutes, rolled over and fell asleep in two minutes. How was yours?"

Woman 1: "Oh, it was amazing! My husband came home and took me out to a romantic dinner. After dinner we walked for an hour. When we came home, he lit the candles around the house, and we had an hour of foreplay. We then had an hour-long session of fantastic love-making and afterwards talked for an hour. It was like a fairytale!"

At the same time, their husbands are talking at work.

Husband 1: "You wanted sex last night, how was it?"

Husband 2: "Great. I came home, dinner was on the table, I ate, had sex with my wife and fell asleep. It was great! What about you?"

Husband 1: "It was horrible. I came home, there's no dinner because they cut the electricity because I hadn't paid the bill; so, I had to take my wife out to dinner which was so expensive that I didn't have money left for a cab. We had to walk home which took an hour - and when we got home, I remembered there was no electricity, so I had to light candles all over the house! I was so angry that I couldn't get it up for an hour and then I couldn't climax for another hour. After I finally did, I was so aggravated that I couldn't fall asleep, and my wife was jabbering away for another hour!"

A married man was visiting his girlfriend when she suggested that he shave his beard.

"OK Ken. I like your beard, but I would really love to see your handsome face."

Ken replied, "My wife loves this beard. There is no way I could shave it. She would kill me!"

"Oh, please!" the girlfriend asked again in a sexy little voice.

Ken sighed and finally gave in and shaved his face smooth.

That night, Ken crawled into bed with his wife while she was sleeping.

His wife woke up, reached over, and felt his face and said, "Oh Tony! You shouldn't be here; my husband will be home soon!"

A young thug with his pants hanging half off his ass walked into the local welfare office to pick up his check. He marched up to the counter and said, "Hi. You know,



I just hate drawing welfare. I'd really rather have a job. I don't like taking advantage of the system, getting something for nothing."

The social worker behind the counter said "Your timing is excellent. We just got a job opening from a very wealthy old man who wants a chauffeur and bodyguard for his beautiful daughter. You'll have to drive around in his 2020 Mercedes-Benz CL, and he will supply all of your clothes."

"Because of the long hours, meals will be provided. You'll also be expected to escort the daughter on her overseas holiday trips. This is rather awkward to say... but you will also have, as part of your job, the assignment to satisfy her sexual urges as the daughter is in her mid-20s and has a rather strong sex drive."

The guy, just plain wide-eyed, said, "You're bullshittin' me!"

The social worker said, "Yeah, well... you started it..."

Lawyers should never ask a Georgia grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realise you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs Jones, do you know the defence attorney?"

She again replied, "Why yes, I do. I've known Mr Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him."

The defence attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counsellors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, "If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair."

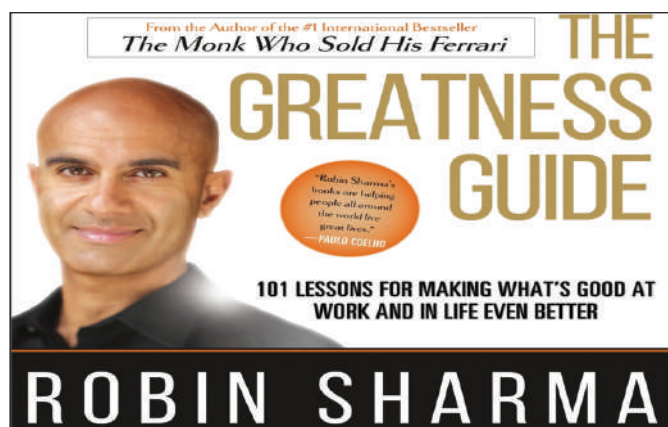
Lessons from 'The Greatness Guide'

By Robin Sharma

1. Window of opportunity

Fear makes us lose small opportunities. You must learn to run towards your fears.

Do the things that make you uncomfortable. Visit the places that scare you. Talk to people, even if you fear them. Make friends.



2. Nothing fails like success

The more you stop doing what took you up to the number one position, that is the moment you crumble.

Organizations that remain successful are humble, efficient, play faster, devoted, and add value to their clients.

3. Be a rock star at work

Be passionate about what you do. Work puts meaning into our lives.

Working hard makes you a gift to yourself and the organization. You will be happier and richer and live a fulfilling life.

4. Your days define your life

You create your future by what you do today. Nothing is small.

The smallest choices you make now have consequences.

5. Be a lifetime learner

A leader who reads profusely will encounter situations in which he may rely on the experience gained from a book to solve such problems.

Reading remains the best discipline anyone can cultivate.

6. Get some skin in the game

Albert Einstein describes insanity as doing the same thing repeatedly and expecting the same result.

You must learn to take risks in life to avoid staying in one position. Taking more risks in pursuing your dreams is rewarding.

7. Make time to think

"Five percent of the people think; ten percent of the people think they think; and the other eighty-five percent would rather die than think." —Thomas A. Edison

8. Leadership begins on the extra mile

The greatness guide teaches that leadership and success begin with the extra mile. Ordinary people do not spend time on the extra mile.

Who says you are ordinary?

9. Reference point

Ultimately, success is about consistency in what you do.

You should pick positive reference points that will help you see alternative ways of doing things.

10. Life Lessons

Be the eternal optimist — get more joy from life and see the best in every situation.

Value people — put people first, respect your friends. They will never fail you.

Be decisive!

Love the person for what he/she is from inside

A man married a beautiful girl. He loved her very much.

One day she developed a skin disease. Slowly she started to lose her beauty.

It so happened that one day her husband left for a tour.

While returning he met with an accident and lost his eyesight.

However, their married life continued as usual. But as days passed, she lost her beauty gradually. The blind husband did not know this and there was not any difference in their married life. He continued to love her, and she also loved him very much.

One day she died. Her death brought him great sorrow.

He finished all her last rites and wanted to leave that town.

A man from behind called and said, "Now how will you be able to walk all alone? All these days your wife used to help you."

He replied, "I am not blind. I was acting because if she knew I could see her skin condition due to a



disease, it would have pained her more than her disease. I didn't love her for her beauty alone, but I fell in love with her caring and loving nature. So, I pretended to be blind. I only wanted to keep her happy."

Moral: When you truly love someone, you will go to any extent to keep your loved one happy and sometimes it is good for us to act blind and ignore one another's shortcomings in order to be happy. Beauty will fade with time, but heart and soul will always be the same. Love the person for what he/she is from inside, not from outside.

Author Unknown - HR Diary

Life's Lesson

The Wisdom of Listening!

Once upon a time, in a small village nestled in the lush green mountains, there lived a young boy named Kavi. The ladi was known for his insatiable curiosity and his love for stories. He would often wander around the village, eagerly listening to the tales told by the elderly villagers.

One day, Kavi heard about a wise old hermit who lived deep in the heart of the forest. The hermit was renowned for his wisdom and was said to possess a wealth of knowledge that surpassed anyone in the village. Intrigued, Kavi set out to find the hermit and learn from his wisdom.

After a long journey through the dense forest, Kavi finally arrived at the hermit's humble abode. The hermit welcomed him warmly and offered him a seat. Kavi was amazed by the serene surroundings of the hermit's dwelling, and he eagerly shared his quest for knowledge.

The hermit listened attentively to Kavi's words, and then he said, "Young one, true wisdom lies in the art of listening. It is not about the knowledge we accumulate, but how well we listen to others and learn from their stories." Kavi was taken aback by the hermit's simple yet profound words.

The hermit then shared a challenge with Kavi. He asked him to spend the next three days in complete silence, observing and listening to everything around him. Kavi was initially puzzled but agreed to take on the challenge.

For the next three days, Kavi wandered around the forest in silence, keenly observing nature and the animals that lived there. He listened to the rustling of leaves, the chirping of birds, and the gurgling of the stream. He watched the ants as they worked tirelessly and observed the wisdom of nature in action.

On the third day, as Kavi returned to the hermit's hut, he felt a sense of calm and clarity within him. The hermit welcomed him with a smile and asked, "What have you learned, young one?"

Kavi took a deep breath and spoke, "I have learned that listening is not just about hearing words, but it's about

observing and understanding the world around us. Nature holds immense wisdom, and by listening to it, we can learn valuable lessons about life."

The hermit nodded in approval and said, "Indeed, young one. The wisdom of listening goes beyond mere words. It is about being present, attentive, and receptive to the world around us. Now, go back to your village and share this wisdom with others."

Grateful for the hermit's teachings, Kavi bid farewell and returned to his village. He shared his experience with the villagers and encouraged them to truly listen to each other and the world around them. His words inspired many, and soon the village became a harmonious community where everyone listened to one another with empathy and understanding.

And so, Kavi realized that the greatest wisdom he had gained was not from books or lectures, but from the simple act of listening. He continued to cherish the art of listening throughout his life and became known as a wise and compassionate leader in his village. The wisdom of listening spread far and wide, bringing harmony and understanding to many lives, all thanks to the lessons learned from the hermit in the forest.

English For Career



Questions to ask yourself before breaking up with your partner

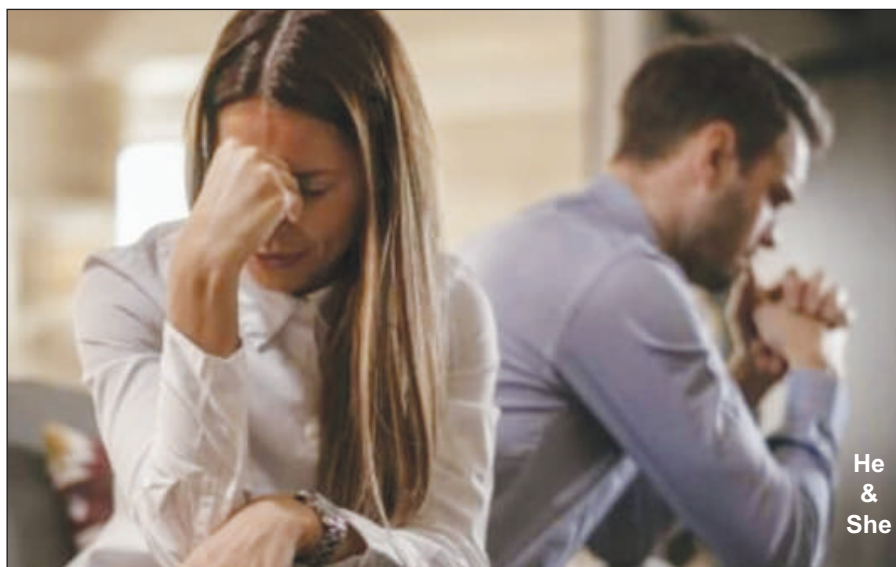
Though being in a romantic relationship is a great place to be, not everyone succeeds in winning over all its ups and downs. This results in the couple falling apart, with both the individuals hurt and broken. Undoubtedly, there is no point in being in a relationship that is not right for you. But if you feel there is a glimmer of hope left, do consider giving your partner one last chance. Additionally, do ask yourself the following questions before considering breaking up with your partner.

What initially attracted me to my partner?"

Think back to when you first met your partner, and reflect on why you were first drawn to them. It is very natural for everyone to grow as an individual while in a relationship. Sometimes, we are so fixated on how they were when we met them, that we fail to see the person they are today. And this is a very big point of dissatisfaction among couples.

What are my priorities?"

Although you don't have to share exactly the same goals as your partner, it's important to have at least similar visions for the future you want to share together. This can help you figure out whether your current partner



is right for you or not.

"Do I feel loved?"

If you don't feel loved by your partner, that can take a serious toll on the relationship. You don't need to have the same love language as your partner, but you both need to know how you two prefer to express and receive love.

"Do we have communication problems?"

No matter how much you love your partner, if you have very conflicting views on how best to communicate your problems, it might salvage your relationship. If you

and your partner can't get on the same page about communicating your problems, it might be best to part ways.

"Do I need to work on myself?"

Even if your partner has done nothing wrong, sometimes you might consider a break-up because you feel you need to spend some time alone. There is nothing wrong with taking time to be single and work on other aspects of your life. It will make you more confident and more aware of what to look for in your next partner.

"Am I happy?"

Most importantly, before breaking up with someone, ask yourself if you are truly happy, or if you are yearning for more from a new relationship.

"What do I stand to lose?"

Think about what is at stake after you break-up with your partner. If there is a lot to lose in terms of love, companionship, and emotional connect, you can think of giving your relationship one last try. However, if it comes at the cost of your mental health and self-respect, there is no point in being in the relationship.



Well-being 10 Ways to Stop Stress Now

How you handle stress can have a big impact on how you feel. Use these calming strategies to ease your stress.

Break Out the Bubble Gum

Next time you're at the end of your rope, unwrap a stick of gum. According to studies, chewing gum lowers anxiety and eases stress. Some researchers think the rhythmic act of chewing may improve blood flow to your brain, while others believe the smell and taste help you relax.

Get Outside

Spending time outdoors, even close to home, is linked to better well-being. You're in a natural setting, and you're usually doing something active, like walking or hiking. Even a few minutes can make a difference in how you feel.

Smile Like You Mean It: Don't roll

your eyes the next time someone advises you to "grin and bear it." In times of tension, keeping a smile on your face – especially a genuine smile that's formed by the muscles around your eyes as well as your mouth – reduces your body's stress responses, even if you don't feel happy. Smiling also helps lower heart rates faster once your stressful situation ends.

Sniff Some Lavender: Certain scents like lavender may soothe. In one study, nurses who pinned small vials of lavender oil to their clothes felt their stress ease, while nurses who didn't felt more stressed. Lavender may intensify the effect of some painkillers and anti-anxiety medications, so if you're taking either, check with your doctor before use.

Tune In: Heading into a stressful

situation? Music can help you calm down. In one study, people had lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol when they listened to a recording of relaxing music before doing something stressful (like doing math out loud or giving a speech) than when they listened to a recording of rippling water.

Reboot Your Breath: Feeling less stressed is as close as your next breath. Focusing on your breath curbs your body's "fight or flight" reaction to pressure or fear, and it pulls your attention away from negative thoughts. Sit comfortably in a quiet place. Breathe in slowly through your nose, letting your chest and lower belly rise and your abdomen expand. Breathe out just as slowly, repeating a word or phrase that helps you relax. To reap the most benefit, repeat for at least

10 minutes.

Be Kind to Yourself:

We all have a constant stream of thoughts running through our heads, and sometimes what we tell ourselves isn't so nice. Staying positive and using compassionate self-talk will help you calm down and get a better grip on the situation. Talk to yourself in the same gentle, encouraging way you'd help a friend in need. "Everything will be OK," for instance, or "I'll figure out how to handle this."

Write Your Stress Away: Jotting down your thoughts can be a great emotional outlet. Once they're on paper, you can start working out a plan to resolve them. It doesn't matter whether you prefer pen and notebook, a phone app, or a file on your laptop. The important thing is that you're honest about your feelings.

Tell a Friend: When you're feeling overwhelmed, seek out the company of a friend or loved one. Have a friend who's dealing with the same worries as you? Even more reason to open up. You'll both feel less alone.

Get Moving: When you work up a sweat, you improve your mood, clear your head, and take a break from whatever is stressing you out. Whether you like a long walk or an intense workout at the gym, you'll feel uplifted afterward.

Reviewed by Smitha Bhandari, MD - WebMD



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**Ideal for
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**Parking Spaces &
Alarm System Available**

From Aishwarya Rai to Kareena Kapoor

AI imagines Bollywood actors as Barbies

In place of Margot Robbie, who plays Barbie in the Greta Gerwig movie, it features the likes of Aishwarya Rai, Alia Bhatt, and Katrina Kaif, reports ABP News Bureau.

'Barbie', a film by Greta Gerwig that premiered recently, has since broken numerous worldwide box office records. At the box office, the movie clashed with Christopher Nolan's 'Oppenheimer' but has since outperformed it worldwide. An AI version of Indian actors dressed as Barbies has surfaced online as the Margot Robbie-starring movie captures people's attention.

With the tagline "What if Barbie was made in Bollywood," the video was posted on a Reddit page. In place of Margot Robbie, who plays Barbie in the newly released Greta Gerwig movie, it features the likes of Aishwarya Rai, Alia Bhatt, Katrina Kaif, Rashmika



Mandanna, and Kareena Kapoor.

Aishwarya Rai appears to be the clear favourite for the role of Barbie, based on responses on Reddit. They

journey after going through an existential crisis.

appear to have settled on Alia Bhatt as a second choice. The most deemed unsuitable actor for the role of Barbie is Kareena Kapoor, as per the comments on the post.

The film is outpacing Oppenheimer in terms of box office revenue worldwide. According to Ramesh Bala, a film trade analyst, 'Barbie' had earned over \$500 million as of Wednesday. 'Oppenheimer', on the other hand, has grossed more than \$250 million at the global box office.

The two main protagonists of the film are Barbie (Margot Robbie) and Ken (Ryan Gosling). They set out on a self-discovery



'Kindness is sexy', says Aditya Roy Kapur amid Ananya Panday dating rumours

Aditya Roy Kapur has said it's cool to be kind and kindness is sexy and will always be. He is reportedly dating actor Ananya Panday.

Aditya Roy Kapur and Ananya Panday recently painted the town red as pictures of the actors from their European vacation surfaced online. Just before his recent holiday pictures with Ananya went viral, Aditya had talked about dating and relationships. The actor recently returned from Europe along with Ananya, although they were spotted separately in paparazzi videos upon their arrival at Mumbai airport.

Aditya Roy Kapur on kindness in relationships

Aditya stressed on the importance of being empathetic and kind. He said, "I think the heart of everything is being good to people around you and being good to people you are in a romantic relationship with".

"I think kindness can never go out of style. It's one of the intrinsic things about being able to survive in society – the ability to get along with other people, be it in a romantic relationship or friendship or any other, and at its core, you need to be kind to everyone, especially in romantic relationships," he said.

He added that kindness is attractive and important and said, "Now more than ever, it's cool to be kind! And I think kindness is sexy and will always be."

Aditya Roy Kapur's show and films

Aditya recently returned with Part 2 of his web series, *The Night Manager*. It also stars Anil Kapoor, Sobhita Dhulipala, Tillotama Shome, Ravi Behl and Saswata Chatterjee. In the film *Gumraah*, Aditya featured alongside Mrunal Thakur and Ronit Roy.

He will next be seen in Anurag Basu's *Metro... In Dino*. The film also stars Sara Ali Khan, Anupam Kher, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Neena Gupta and Ali Fazal.

The new pillars of Bollywood: Ranbir Kapoor, Kartik Aaryan, Ranveer Singh

Bollywood, as an industry, has evolved. In every era, there have been a few names that stood out the most. And while some names from the last era continue to rule even today, a handful of names from the younger generation have been slowly and steadily stepping up the ladder and making their mark, be it with their performances or box office collections — so much so that they can be seen as the future of Bollywood. A report by Hindustan Times:

Let's look at the three theatrical blue-eyed boys from the current generation who have managed to pave their way to being the most watched, loved and talked about young superstars with a wide range of roles and genres, along with the strongest performances given in many superhits. But most importantly, they have a powerful box-office pull, making them the industry's shining future.

Ranveer Singh

He made his debut in 2010 with *Band Baaja Baarat*, which became an unexpected hit. But Ranveer's surprising debut was just the beginning. The actor went on to do some experimental roles in films like *Lootera*. The turning point for him was when he met his mentor, filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali, who tapped his potential time and again, making him a box-office ruler. Their association in *Ram-Leela*, *Bajirao Mastani* and *Padmaavat* is historic.

Other hits in his wide filmography include *Dil Dhadakne Do* and *Gully Boy*. Next, he has *Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani* with director Karan Johar, expected to be a grand-scale romantic comedy and releases on July 28.

Kartik Aaryan

This fan-made star is currently revelling in the success of his film, *Satyaprem Ki Katha*, which is his performance of the year and continues to earn

impressive numbers. The outsider made his debut back in 2011 with *Pyaar Ka Punchnama*, where his iconic monologue became a key factor in its sleeper hit status. His journey ahead included a lot of new directors as he went on to deliver hits.

Since then, the star has been on a winning streak with projects such as *Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety*, *Luka Chuppi* and *Pati Patni Aur Woh*. The same year, Kartik struck gold with the blockbuster success of *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2*, making him the hero of the masses and the saviour of Bollywood. Kartik is the only actor who's given two hits in the post-pandemic era. Up next on the horizon for this most-wanted bachelor is his collaboration with director Kabir Khan in *Chandu Champion*, scheduled to release next June.

Ranbir Kapoor

From his debut in 2007 with *Saawariya* until his latest, *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar*, Ranbir has given a string of hit films, including *Ajab Prem Ki*



Ghazab Kahani, *Rockstar*, *Barfi*, *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* and *Sanju*. Initially, he played the chocolate-boy roles with aplomb and got the audience rooting for him. As he graduated in the film industry, his roles became meatier and his performances got stronger, making him one of the finest actors.

He is next to be seen collaborating with director Sandeep Reddy Vanga in *Animal*. The film, which will see Ranbir in an absolutely new avatar, is said to be made on a budget of 100 crore, and is set to release on December 1.

Shrenu Parikh on dating Akshay Mhatre

'We will tie the knot when we feel we are ready'

Shrenu Parikh, who is currently playing the lead role in *Maitree*, is happy that the show has got an extension. The show, which premiered in February, was all set to go off air in the last week of July. Shrenu tells us, "I was not on the set when I got this news (of extension), but our team celebrated the moment. I am glad because a show going off air during the rainy season can be tough, especially for the crew. Now, the show has got an extension of two or three weeks and if the ratings stabilise, hopefully it will be extended further." In a chat with Times of India, the actress talks about handling the pressure of being the face of a daily show, dating her *Ghar Ek Mandir– Kripa Agrasen Maharaj Ki* co-star Akshay Mhatre and more.

'I have thoroughly enjoyed my role in Maitree'

Being the face of a show (*Maitree*) isn't easy, more so when it's telecast on all days of the week and people expect you around throughout the episode. There are a lot of expectations, but I have thoroughly enjoyed my role in the show.

'I am a difficult person, but Akshay handles my tantrums well'

Shrenu, who made her relationship with Akshay public earlier this year, is all praise for him. She says, "Akshay is just the kind of guy you would like to introduce to your parents. We are very similar in many ways. He grew up in a joint family set-up and I love the way he takes care of everyone in the family. I am a difficult person, but he handles my tantrums well. He is a very sensi-



tive and understanding guy. Our families have met and while there's nothing to announce right now, we have received the green signal from our elders. We are heading towards it (marriage) and whenever Akshay and I feel ready, we will take the giant leap."

'There is no formula for success on TV'

I feel TV still has a mixed audience. There are people who love typical *saas-bahu* dramas, while others prefer romantic stories or progressive shows. The medium is trying to experiment but there is no formula for success. TV is my comfort zone, but I am open to doing good work on OTT in both Hindi and Gujarati."

Shrenu's on-screen pairing with Zain Imam (*Ek Bhrm...Sarvagun Sampanna*) and Kunal Jaisingh (*Ishqbaaz*) was loved by the audiences. Asked about why hit jodis are rarely cast again on Indian television, except for rare instances like Nakuul Mehta and Disha Parmar reuniting for the third season of *Bade Achhe Lagte Hain*, she shares, "While I would love to work with my previous co-stars because they are exceptional performers, I feel makers are sceptical about repeating jodis."

Anita Hassanandani to play Jay Bhanushali's ex in 'Hum Rahe Na Rahe Hum'

A new entry is lined up on Siddharth Kumar Tewary's *Hum Rahein Na Rahein Hum*. The makers have roped in Anita Hassanandani to play male lead Jay Bhanushali's ex Roshni. Talking about the upcoming track, a source associated with the show informs, "Shiv (Jay Bhanushali) was once in love with Roshni (Anita Hassanandani). However, unsure of being able to convince his mother, Damyanti (Kitu Gidwani), he chose to sacrifice his relationship. Despite having moved on in life, circumstances bring Shiv and Roshni face to face, which will lead to a major twist in the story."

Anita says, "It's an exciting and meaty role. I play Jay's ex. Now, whether I will make his life hell, or have a great equation with everything falling into place, only time will tell. All I can say at this point is that it's a great part."

The actress has risen above the challenges of making a place for herself while joining a show midway. "The character I am playing matters to me the most. In fact, it's an advantage, as the show is already set and thus, there will be fewer teething issues," she says.

Anita has been part of various shows, including *Kabhii Sautan Kabhii Saheli*, *Kasautii Zindagii Kay*, *Kkavyanjali*, *Kayamath*, *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*, *Kasamh Se*, *Teri Meri Love*



Stories and *Sajan Re Jhooth Mat Bolo*. She has also featured in the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth seasons of the supernatural thriller, *Naagin*.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Accept the unknown and follow your curiosity. You never know where your trip will take you. This is an excellent time to experiment with new ideas and experiences. Keep in mind that your ability to adjust to new situations is a strength. Take advantage of this opportunity to broaden your horizons.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 12, 16, 20, 28, 40

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your dedication and determination will lead to success. Maintain your concentration on your objectives, and you will conquer any difficulties in your road. Your practical and disciplined temperament will assist you in remaining on track. This is an excellent moment to make long-term plans and create new goals. Remember that your perseverance is a strength.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 7, 10, 33, 36, 38

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

It's possible that you'll find yourself participating in a project or contributing to a cause that you feel deeply about. During the middle of the week, you can find yourself connecting with others who share your values. These contacts have the potential to result in productive partnerships in the future. Make sure you give yourself sometime over the weekend to focus on your interests.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 12, 16, 31, 33

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Remember that your kindness can make a huge difference. Your intuitive and sensitive nature will guide you in your efforts to assist others. This is an excellent moment to engage with others on a more personal level. Remember that understanding and empathizing with others is a strength. Take advantage of this opportunity to spread kindness and compassion.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 14, 16, 30, 33

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Your ardent spirit is eager to take on new challenges. Do not be afraid of obstacles; they are opportunities for progress. This is an excellent moment to begin that project you've been considering. Your inherent leadership abilities will shine through, and people will look to you for direction. Remember that it is acceptable to seek assistance when necessary. Your power resides in your capacity to inspire others; capitalize on this.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 11, 15, 19, 23, 40

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Keep your feet on the ground and remember that wonderful things come to those who wait. You are recognized for your practicality and dependability, which will serve you well. You may be put in situations where you must remain calm and composed. Your capacity to see things through to completion will be your most valuable asset. Remember that your steady personality is what distinguishes you.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 15, 18, 20, 33, 34

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Your words will have power over you, so use them wisely. A previously avoided dialogue may have unexpected benefits. You are a rapid learner due to your innate curiosity and adaptability. These characteristics will come in helpful this week as you navigate through challenging situations. You can find yourself in the position of mediator, using your communication talents to bring about peace.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 14, 17, 21, 26, 30

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

This week, your concentration is on home and family. You might find solace in familiar surroundings. Spend time nurturing your connections and yourself. Your intuitive nature will assist you in making the greatest decisions for you and your loved ones. You may be drawn to hobbies that provide you with inner serenity and comfort. Remember, it's okay to prioritize your own needs.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 15, 19, 20, 23

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Don't be frightened to show the world your true self. Your self-assurance and charisma will draw favourable energy to you. You can find yourself in the limelight, and your natural leadership abilities will shine through. This is an excellent time to pursue your interests and express your creativity. Remember that your greatest power is your capacity to inspire people.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 9, 19, 21, 26

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

You might come across something that others have missed. To solve difficulties, use your analytical talents. Your thorough and practical attitude will be valued in both your personal and professional life. This is an excellent time to organize and make plans for the future. Remember that your ability to see the smallest things distinguishes you.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 26, 30, 31, 40

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You can find yourself juggling a number of obligations. Remember to take care of yourself in the midst of the craziness. Your diplomatic skills will aid you in navigating challenging situations. This is an excellent moment to strive for balance in all parts of your life. Remember that seeing both sides of a problem is a strength. Make the most of this time to rebalance your life.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 11, 17, 25, 27

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Your intuition is powerful, and you may discover previously unknown truths. Your inquisitive nature will lead you to fresh discoveries and insights. This is an excellent opportunity to explore deeper into your interests and passions. Keep in mind that your capacity to look past the surface is a strength. Use this moment to venture into the unknown.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 12, 13, 20, 24



Vendredi 28 Juillet - 20.30



Samedi 29 Juillet - 20.30



Dimanche 30 Juillet - 20.30



Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV	
vendredi 28 juillet	06.01 Serial: Rookie Blue 07.00 Film: Le Pic De Dante 08.50 Serial: Suits 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.06 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: Marimar 11.15 Serial: Blacklist 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.25 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: Burden Of Truth 15.21 Film: Men In Black 17.33 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.35 Film: Chocolat 22.36 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 23.30 Le Journal Tevise 00.15 The Gardener's Daughter	06.19 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 08.21 Local: An Eta Dalert 10.38 Local: J'ai Faim 11.02 Local: Groov'in 12.02 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 12.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 13.20 MBC Prod 15.05 Local: An Eta Dalert 15.12 Local: Generations J 15.42 Local: Groov'in 17.03 Local: La Societe 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.28 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.30 Local: Rodrig Prog 20.04 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 22.00 Local: La Societe 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 00.12 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 00.25 Local: Rodrig Prog	07.00 Serial: Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.00 Shrawan Maas Sandesh 10.19 Serial: Agniphera 11.43 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Rangilo Rasiklal Starring: Yamini Joshi, Samarth Sharma 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhava 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 16.21 Serial: Bhakharwadi 17.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 19.02 Local: Khel Khiladi 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 20.54 Film: Kismet Ka Khel 23.20 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.41 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.03 Doc: Eye On Sadc 06.58 D.Anime: Les Blagues De... 07.47 D.Anime: Yo Yo 08.02 D.Anime: Kids Songs 08.10 Serial: Hi Opie! 09.14 Film: Christophe Colomb 10.35 Serial: My Perfect Landing 10.57 Serial: Apple Tree House 11.35 Mag: Eco India 12.43 Mag: Shift 13.00 Mag: Human Nature 13.30 Film: Shelly 15.00 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.10 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.11 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.25 D.Anime: Word Party 16.10 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.31 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 16.46 Serial: Rainow Rangers 17.03 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.38 Serial: Espoirs Secrets	14.25 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Kyo Kil... Main Jhuth Nahin Bolta Starring: Govinda, Sushmita Sen, Rambha 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.01 Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.01 Anupamaa 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.59 Patiala Babes 23.29 Film: Kyo Kil... Main Jhuth Nahin Bolta Stars : Govinda, Sushmita Sen, Rambha	
	samedi 29 juillet	02.05 Film: Chocolat 04.06 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 04.52 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 06.11 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 06.40 Le Livre Perdu Des sortileges 07.25 Serial: Newton's Law 08.25 Serial: Blue Bloods 09.10 Serial: Wanted 09.55 Serial: Deux Flics à Miami 10.45 Serial: Kojak 11.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme 13.15 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 15.21 Film: Three Doors From Paradise 16.50 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 20.30 Film: Revolt 21.53 Serial: Chicago PD 22.34 Tele: Rubi	06.14 Local: Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 08.26 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 10.30 Local: Rodrig: Nou La Ter 12.02 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 12.38 Local: Lir Ekirir Kreol 13.18 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 14.12 Local: Zanford Nou Pei 15.03 Local: La Societe 17.05 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.00 Serial: The Bionic Woman 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Magazine De L'emploi 20.10 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.35 Local: Glwar Dantan 22.10 Local: Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.23 Local: Rodrig: Lavi Fam 23.54 Local: Rodrig - Saver Kil Tirel 00.08 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante 00.41 Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art	07.00 Film: Mahayoddha Vir 08.26 Shrawan Maas Sandesh 10.30 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 11.34 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.07 Local: Mati Ke Mol 12.32 Local: Khel Khiladi 13.10 Excerpts From Gala Show 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Film: Barah Aana Starring: Naseeruddin Shah, Vijay Raaz, Arjun Mathur, Tannishtha Chatterjee 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Satrangi 19.22 Local: Khoobsurat 19.37 Local: Hindi Sahitya 20.00 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani 21.10 Film: Qayamat Starring: Ajay Devgn, Sunil Shetty, Sanjay Kapoor, Arbaaz Khan	06.37 D.Anime: Les Blagues De... 06.59 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 09.29 Film: Kids Of Wuzhumuquin Town 10.55 Serial: N*Gen 11.20 Serial: Apple Tree House 13.00 Mag: Human Nature 15.01 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.04 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.18 D.Anime: Word Party 15.30 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.07 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.28 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 16.41 Serial: Rainow Rangers 17.04 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.28 Mag: D.I.Y. 18.00 Mag: National Anthem 20.01 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 20.30 Live: News 21.40 Film: Save Me From Everything 23.30 Doc: Persons	08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 10.00 Kalari Kids 10.14 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.12 Udaariyaan 14.05 Anupamaa 16.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...  18.31 Film: Sholay Starring: Dharmendra, Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjeev Kumar, Hema Malini, Jaya Badhuri, Amjad Khan 21.48 Serial: Kalari Kids 22.03 Serial: Porus 22.25 Naagin Season 05 23.08 Serial: Kabhi Kabhie
		dimanche 30 juillet	02.22 Film: Revolt 05.13 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 06.45 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 07.10 Film: Revolt 08.34 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des Sortilèges 09.16 Film: Three Doors From Paradise 10.41 Serial: Under Pressure 11.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Film: Fool's Parade 14.15 Serial: The Good Doctor 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: The Escape Room 16.55 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 19.16 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Frozen In Love	06.00 Rodrig: D'Jam 06.26 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou 06.45 Local: En Forme 07.35 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante 09.00 Local: Les Petits Genies 10.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.30 Local: Les Petits Genies 13.01 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Elle 15.45 Local: Sur Prise 17.00 Local: Kot Nou 18.00 Serial: The Bionic Woman 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Local: Inspiration 20.45 Local: Les Klips 21.37 Local: Extraits DU Festival... 23.20 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 00.37 Local: Nu Lakwizin 00.52 Local: Nu Rasinn	07.00 Film: Vir Ka Insaaf 09.30 Live From Tranquebar, Port Louis - Bahukundiya Yajna 12.02 Film: Housefull 1 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.40 Mag: DDI Mag 15.58 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 17.00 Local: Ekta 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.29 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashhi 19.30 Local: Tohar Farmaish 20.10 Local: Yaadein 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.02 Serial: Naagin Season 3 21.44 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.27 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin 23.11 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 00.26 Local: Planet Bollywood 00.53 Local: Tohar Rashhi	06.28 D.Anime: Les Blagues De... 06.51 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 07.13 D.Anime: Cleopatra In Space 09.19 Film: Zorro, La Legende Continue 10.46 Serial: N*GEN 11.12 Serial: Apple Tree House 11.45 Mag: Healthy Living 12.06 Doc: France Terres Sauvages 13.30 Film: Boonie Bears 2 15.04 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.06 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.18 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.54 D.Anime: Miraculous 16.32 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 17.03 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 18.10 Doc: World Capitals 18.39 Doc: Foodland 19.08 Doc: World Famous Writers 20.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 21.42 Film: Don't Breathe
lundi 31 juillet			06.15 Serial: Rookie Blue 07.15 Film: The Dark Beginnings Of Sherlock Holmes 08.45 Serial: The Bionic Woman 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 09.55 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.26 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: The Bionic Woman 15.30 Film: Ghost In The Family 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 19.30 Le Journal 20.25 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des Sortilèges 21.15 Serial: Newton's Law 22.07 Serial: Blue Bloods	07.09 Local: Inspiration 09.07 Local: Retrovizer 09.47 Local: Elle 11.00 Local: Les Klips 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.51 Rodrig: Extraits Du Festival 13.10 Extraits Du Festival Lamisik 13.54 Local: Elle 14.52 Local: Inspiration 15.20 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance 16.04 Local: Les Klips 17.15 Local: Radio Vision 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.30 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Bricolo Ecolo 21.20 Local: Radio Vision 22.14 Local: Lir - Ekirir Kreol 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol	07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 09.40 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin 10.30 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 12.02 Film: Judaai 14.13 Mag: DDI Mag 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.21 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man... 15.40 Kundali Bhagya 17.31 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.36 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen 19.00 Local: Ayush 19.30 Local: Excerpts From Shiv... 20.10 Local: Vaad Vivaad 20.30 Film: Raaz 22.55 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.25 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 00.19 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen 00.44 Local: Ayush 01.14 Local: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 01.54 Local: Vaad Vivaad	06.00 Doc: Eye On SADC 08.00 Doc: Hi Opie! 09.03 Film: Boonie Bears 5 10.32 Serial: My Perfect Landing 10.54 Serial: Apple Tree House 11.30 Doc: La Route De La Soie 11.56 Doc: Hotels 12.48 Mag: Japan Video Topics 13.30 Film: Paroles De Champion 15.02 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.05 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.35 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.14 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.31 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 16.44 D.Anime: Rainow Rangers 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.02 Student Support Programme 19.32 Mag: In Good Shape 21.36 Film: Dark Beginnings Of Sherlock Holmes



Mardi 1 Août - 20.30



Mercredi 2 Août - 15.12



Mercredi 2 Août - 20.50



Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
06.00 Serial: Rookie Blue 07.15 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des... 08.09 Serial: Newton's Law 08.47 Serial: Blue Bloods 09.40 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Local: 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 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.10 Serial: Galactica 15.21 Film: The Dark Beginnings Of Sherlock Holmes 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: A Perfect Match Avec: Emily Alatalo, Chad Connell	07.38 Local: Fam Model 09.30 Local: Radio Vision 12.03 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 12.31 Local: Bricolo Ecolo 13.01 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.07 Eclairage Economique 14.49 Local: Lir - Ekrire Kreol 15.10 Local: Rodrig Prog 15.30 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal 17.02 Local: Radio Vision 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.27 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 19.44 Local: Son Ladan Mem 19.59 Le Cri De La Crecerelle 21.30 Local: Radio Vision 22.30 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.47 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Music Tour 2022	07.00 Serial: Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.04 Shrawan Maas Sandesh 08.30 Local: Ayush 08.56 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 09.40 Local: Vaad Vivaad 10.11 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Film: Ujala Hi Ujala Starring: Vinod Mehra, Yogeeta Bali 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 15.59 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: Ghar Ek Mandir 23.11 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 00.11 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.03 Mag: Eco At Africa 09.00 Mag: Recipes For Kids 09.03 Film: Chasseur De Monstres 10.53 Serial: My Perfect Landing 12.33 Mag: Eco At Africa 13.02 Mag: Human Nature 13.30 Film: Le Dernier Des Dinosaures 15.02 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.25 D.Anime: Word Party 15.37 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.12 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.33 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 16.49 Serial: Rainbow Rangers 17.12 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.36 Mag: D.I.Y. Discover Your... 17.41 MAG: N*Gen 18.07 Mag: National Anthem 18.41 Mag: Healthy Living 19.30 Mag: Check In 20.01 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.25 Film: Muskurahat Starring Jay Mehta, Revathi, Amrish Puri 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: Muskurahat Starring: Jay Mehta, Revathi, Amrish Puri 02.14 Kundali Bhagya
07.10 Film: Three Doors From Paradise 08.40 Serial: The Bionic Woman 09.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.55 Tele: Marimar 11.15 Serial: Blacklist 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: The Bionic Woman 15.21 Film: A Perfect Match 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 Serial: Chicago Med 21.15 Film: The Beguiled 22.44 Tele: Sublime Mensonge	07.41 Local: Priorite Sante 09.00 Prod: Neness Dime 09.30 Local: Radio Vision 11.00 Local: Music Tour 2022 12.03 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.33 Le Cri De La Crecerelle 13.05 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 Local: Rodrig Prog 14.56 Prod: Nu Rasinn 15.53 Local: Glwar Dantan 17.12 Local: Music Tour 2022 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.32 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 21.27 Local: Les Kliips 22.19 Local: Proze Dime 22.47 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.07 Local: Come On Let's Dance 23.59 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La	07.00 Serial: Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.30 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 08.56 Prakriti Ki God Mein 09.26 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 11.32 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Humse Na Jeeta Koi Starring: Randhir Kapoor, Ranjeeta Kaur 15.30 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.01 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Other: Radha Krishna 19.39 Local: Anjoria 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.35 Film: Shaadi Karke Phas Gaya Yaar 22.40 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.03 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.30 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian 07.43 D.Anime: Yo Yo 09.00 Mag: Recipes For Kids 09.03 Film: Jurassic Planet 10.33 Serial: My Perfect Landing 10.54 Serial: Apple Tree House 11.32 Doc: Global Food 12.59 Mag: Human Nature 13.30 Film: Le Royaume De Dawn 15.04 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.08 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.19 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.40 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.15 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.36 D.Anime: Kika et Bob 16.51 Serial: Rainbow Rangers 17.42 Mag: N*Gen 18.09 Mag: National Anthem 18.59 Student Support Programme 19.30 Mag: The Inside Story 20.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.13 Film: Khel: No Ordinary... Starring: Sunny Deol, Sunil Shetty, Celina Jaitley 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 23.20 Film: Khel: No Ordinary Game Starring: Sunny Deol, Sunil Shetty, Celina Jaitley 02.09 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
06.01 Serial: Rookie Blue 07.15 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des Sortilèges 08.00 Serial: Chicago Med 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 09.55 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 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: Galactica 15.22 Film: Fool's Parade 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: Firangi Stars: Kapil Sharma, Ishita Dutta	07.09 Local: Toc Toc Doc 09.01 Local: Proze Dime 11.00 Local: Les Kliips 12.03 Local: Rodrig Spor 12.30 Local: Saver Kiltirel 13.05 Local: Toc Toc Doc 13.20 Local: En Forme 13.42 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.09 Rodrig: Klip Seleccion 15.50 Local: Come On Let's Dance 17.05 Local: Radio Vision 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.31 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.20 Le Mag De L'Emploi 19.41 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 19.48 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.42 Local: Mots & Ecrits 21.00 Local: Radio Vision 23.00 Le Journal 23.20 Local: Groov'in	07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.04 Local: Shrawan Maas Sandesh 08.31 Local: Talk With Swami Omanand 09.05 Local: Anjoria 09.35 Local: Virasat 09.50 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.06 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 11.27 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Humkadam 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 16.00 Serial: Agniphera 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Other: Radha Krishna 19.26 Swami Dayanand Saraswati 19.18 Satguru Kabir Ke Gyan 20.03 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.30 Serial: Surya Puran 21.36 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa 23.36 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain	06.03 Mag: Motorweek 09.00 Film: The Queen Of The Swallows 10.39 Serial: N*Gen 10.59 Serial: Apple Tree House 11.56 Doc: Tree Stories 12.28 Mag: Motorweek 13.00 Mag: Human Nature 13.30 Film: Max Et Moi 14.51 D.Anime: Early Learning 14.54 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.33 D.Anime: Miraculous 15.54 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.16 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 16.52 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.50 Doc: Sweet Magic 18.35 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 20.50 Film: Cowboy	14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.20 Film: Phir Milenge Stars: Salman Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Shilpa Shetty 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: Phir Milenge Stars: Salman Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Shilpa Shetty 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Serial: Udaariyaan

BTV Jeudi 3 août - 15.30

Stars: Salman Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Shilpa Shetty



Jeudi 3 août - 20.30 Stars: Kapil Sharma, Ishita Dutta





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Sur une note d'hiver

Le doux hiver couvre l'île - tantôt d'un manteau gris troué d'averses tantôt inondant la végétation. C'est une aubaine quand les foyers et le bon peuple sont bercés des rayons de soleil chaleureux.

Loin d'être une nouveauté, la fraîcheur ou le froid, qui est au rendez-vous depuis l'an dernier, suscite le souvenir du temps jadis où il y avait un réel changement de saison: avril apportait une accalmie après quelques mois de soleil de plomb et de chaleur, et juin obligeait à sortir pyjamas en flanelle et tricots en laine que les doigts de fée des mères confectionnaient à l'avance.

Cette saison d'hiver s'est mise en hibernation pendant de nombreuses années laissant le champ libre au soleil d'été pour jouer la prolongation. Ce cycle a tiré sa révérence, et nous assistons à un retour à la normale des saisons.

Les uns et les autres en profitent pour s'adonner à diverses tâches que la chaleur n'aurait pas permises. Aussi longtemps que le froid nous préserve de la paresse, entité qui a déjà fait son nid douillet dans l'esprit de certains, l'énergie qui nous habite dispose d'une large avenue pour se déployer à bon escient. Il faudrait presque un John Keats pour célébrer «An Ode to Winter» tropical!

Réjouissons-nous donc de ce temps clément sous le ciel d'un bleu magnifique dès que les nuages épars s'éloignent lentement et que le soleil au zénith calme ses ardeurs éblouissantes. Oublions aussi que toute bonne chose a une fin... Et qu'il est trop tôt pour laisser une crise existentielle s'emparer des esprits alors que les eaux montantes de l'océan menacent de tout engloutir au fil du temps sous le regard indifférent du firmament au-dessus de nos têtes.

Entre-temps, chacun vaque à ses occupations. Le mécontentement ne connaît ni l'hiver ni l'été, surfe au-dessus des eaux déchaînées en Asie et traverse la puissance

du feu en Europe et plonge cent millions d'Américains dans une vague de chaleur. Et c'est la folie qui atteint le zénith au-dessus de la Maison Blanche qui risque de pousser la Russie de Poutine à rendre l'air de ses voisins irrespirable et d'en étendre le soufre infernal à Londres et à Paris. La santé mentale d'un Joe Biden figure comme la métaphore d'une folie de la toute-puissance, celle qui fait perdre les esprits.

Ici, cette fin de mois de juillet évoque le début d'une ère de manifestations de rue qui, en fin de compte, fait figure d'une caricature de ce que devrait être une véritable protestation fondée sur une cause valable et authentique.

Il y a trois ans l'auteure de ces lignes profita d'un séjour prolongé dans le pays (à cause de la Covid-19) pour faire connaissance avec les radios locales. Et c'est un 28 juillet qu'une radio privée donna la voix à un personnage qui déclara à peu près ceci : «Je n'ai pas peur de mourir. J'ai déjà été là-bas, j'ai frôlé la mort.»

J'avais une idée vague de ce qui se tramait alors et de ce que les médias annonçaient comme un grand événement. Ces paroles avaient toute la tonalité et l'accent d'un discours de Martin Luther King, pasteur baptiste, leader iconique de la lutte pour les droits civiques des Noirs aux États-Unis.

L'effet de cette intervention à la radio était plutôt comique et me fit sourire. Qui était donc ce personnage qui se prend pour ML King? Le leader noir était pétri de culture biblique et son discours avait tout l'accent du Sermon sur la Colline: «I have been up on the hill. I have seen it all...», etc.

L'intervenant a été à l'origine du mouvement BLD, un slogan qui traduit toute la vulgarité qui sévit dans la société. C'est un homme en tee-shirt noir et au poing levé et menaçant aux Casernes Centrales que le public découvrit plus tard à la télévision.

Caricatural, par l'opportunisme d'autres qui profitèrent pour s'arracher les faveurs du dit personnage. Le petit peuple fut mis à contribution pour gonfler la foule des autobus et des rues au son du tam-tam. Le Wakashio aidant, les bungalows affligés par la marée noire, c'est le peuple arc-en-ciel, toutes couleurs confondues, qui se joignit pour une cause commune, nous fit-on croire. D'autres se joignirent à la foule par effet de contagion et de mode, comme on se rend au nouveau Mac Do ou le dernier resto de malbouffe pour suivre le troupeau.

En passant, le «faire-semblant» était à son plus fort dans les médias. Excitée comme une puce, l'animatrice d'une radio libre annonça avec joie la reprise du jeu par l'équipe Bayern de Munich en Allemagne. Avais-je raté une évolution dans la passion que la gente féminine aurait pour le football international? Que nenni! Renseignement pris auprès de braves gens, cette effervescence ne reflète rien de profond, il s'agit du «faire semblant», de se donner des airs, de faire comme les autres par mimétisme.



Tree of Knowledge

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Flying Home



We take flight mentally and experience new insights when we rise above our habitual ways of thinking.

As earthbound beings, humans have always had a fascination with winged creatures of all kinds. The idea of being able to spontaneously lift off from the earth and fly is so compelling to us that we invented airplanes and helicopters and myriad other flying machines in order to provide ourselves with the many gifts of being airborne. Flying high in the sky, we look down on the earth that is our home and see things from an entirely different perspective. We can see more, and we can see farther than we can when we're on the ground. As if all this weren't enough, the out-of-this-world feeling of freedom that comes with groundlessness inspires us to want to take flight again and again.

Metaphorically, we take flight whenever we break free of the gravity that holds us to a particular way of thinking or feeling or being. We take flight mentally when we rise above our habitual ways of thinking about things and experience new insights. This is what it means to open our minds. Emotionally, we take flight when the strength of our passion exceeds the strength of our blockages; the floodgates open and we are free to feel fully. Spiritually we take flight when we locate that part of ourselves that is beyond the constraint of linear time and the world of form. It is in this place that we experience the essential boundlessness that defines the experience of flight.

Taking flight is always about freeing ourselves from form, if only temporarily. When we literally fly, in a plane or on a hang glider, we free ourselves from the strength of gravity's pull. As we open our minds and our hearts, we free ourselves from habitual patterns of thought and emotional blockages. As we remember our true nature, we free ourselves from identification with the temporary state of our physical forms. The more we stretch our wings, the clearer it becomes that taking flight is a state of grace that simply reminds us of who we really are.