68th Year -- No. 3821 Friday, August 4, 2023 24 Pages - ePaper www.mauritiustimes.com facebook.com/mauritius.times URITIUS • "Men are more often bribed by their loyalties and ambitions than by money." – Robert H. Jackson Interview : Rabin Bhujun, Journaliste "L'écrasante majorité de ces indécis ne voteront pas par adhésion en faveur du gouvernement ou de l'opposition... ils rejetteront plutôt ce. qu'incarnent Jugnauth et/ou Ramgoolam' Opinion **Revisiting our Garden of Democracy** By Jan Arden P 3

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'Le trio Ramgoolam-Bérenger-Duval doit dire à qui ils entendent déléguer les rênes du pouvoir quand ils quitteront la scène politique'

The Trump Indictment – The Right to Lie is not the Right to Deceive

Will the trial of Donald Trump save American democracy? Hardly. The only thing that can and will save American democracy is the good sense and judgment of the American people

Breakfast With Bwana





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The Malta Files

Corruption, Impunity and Murder...

political and institutional crisis in Malta ensued the uncovering of alleged links between government officials and the 2017 assassination of investigative journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia. According to press reports, Caruana Galizia had led the Panama Papers investigation into corruption in Malta. A blogger whose posts often attracted more readers than the combined circulation of the country's newspapers, she had been described before her death by the Politico website as a "one-woman WikiLeaks". Her assassination, the Caruana Galizia family said, was "a direct result of the collapse of the rule of law and the impunity that the state provided to the corrupt network she was reporting on".

The European Parliament stepped in to condemn the murder. At a plenary session last October, members of the Parliament expressed their concern that, one year after the publication of an inquiry conducted by one serving judge and two retired judges, the implementation of its recommendations is "deficient', and said they are appalled by the lack of progress in prosecuting the high-level corruption and money laundering that Caruana Galizia had been investigating, and are alarmed by the "institutional failure of law enforcement and justice".

Caruana Galizia was killed by a car bomb as she drove away from her home on 16 October 2017. According to The Guardian, prosecutors were of the view that businessman Yorgen Fenech, who had close ties with senior government officials, masterminded the murder. The report of the inquiry, which was made public by the current Prime Minister Robert Abela, concluded that a culture of impunity was created by the highest echelons of power within the government of the time. "The tentacles of impunity then spread to other regulatory bodies and the police, leading to a collapse in the rule of law". It was clear, the inquiry board said, that the assassination was either intrinsically or directly linked to Caruana Galizia's investigative work.

The former prime minister Joseph Muscat resigned in December 2019 after Yorgen Fenech's arrest. He has never been accused of any wrongdoing. Media later also revealed close links between Fenech, ministers and senior police officers. Opposition leader, Bernard Grech, said in a statement that "Daphne Caruana Galizia's murder was enabled by the collective inaction of Joseph Muscat's cabinet, many of whom still hold public office." In their report, the judges attributed indirect responsibility to Muscat for the circumstances leading to the murder, citing his failure to act against his chief of staff, Keith Schembri, and the former Energy Minister Konrad Mizzi over their secret companies, revealed in the Panama Papers, and their alleged links to 17 Black, a secret company owned by Fenech. Decisions by Muscat had strengthened the culture of impunity in which the people Caruana Galizia wrote about operated. The judges called for immediate action to rein in and regulate the links between politicians and big business.

Do the Maltese journalist's murder and the circumstances that led to it strike a chord? In terms of high-level corruption and the immunity from prosecution of high-ranking officials of the ruling regime, it certainly echoes the feelings expressed in the US State Department of State Report 2022 on Human Rights Practices. The Executive Summary had stated then: "The government did not always take steps to prosecute and punish officials who committed abuses or engaged in corruption, whether in the security services or elsewhere in the government. Enforcement of prosecution and punishment was inconsistent and sometimes politically influenced, resulting in impunity."

Both the culture of impunity and the gross abuses during the pandemic to fuel cronies through corrupt procurement have been largely commented upon in the local media without eliciting appropriate action by investigative agencies of which we have a plateful: the ICAC for anti-corruption and moneylaundering, the MCIT and the CCID for major crimes and frauds, the FSC/FIU for financial crimes. The judicial inquiry into the suspicious death of the MSM chief agent in Constituency No 8, blasted the police for incompetent handling but it seems neither its recommendations nor the DPP's for further lines of investigation have seen the light of day.

As for crony capitalism, the local media have reported at some length the questions raised about the proximity of large past (and perhaps future) campaign fund donors with the highest echelons of the Executive, to the extent that their pet projects find easy permits and financing loans.

The circumstances of impunity, crony capitalism and high-level corruption leading to the murder of the Maltese investigative crusader Caruana Galizia may not evoke a definitive parallel in our local shores, but there are worrying similitudes and substantial fears of a collapse of public trust in the impartial rule of law and justice.

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The Conversation

Hiroshima attack marks its 78th anniversary

Remembering Aug. 6, 1945, is painful. But the best way to honour history is not to repeat it



t was 8:15 on a Monday morning, Aug. 6, 1945. World War II was raging in Japan.

An American B-29 bomber dropped the world's first atomic bomb over Hiroshima, Japan – an important military center with a civilian population close to 300,000 people.

The US wanted to end the war, and Japan was unwilling to surrender unconditionally.

The bomber plane was called the Enola Gay, named for Enola Gay Tibbets, the mother of the pilot.

Its passenger was "Little Boy" – an atomic bomb that quickly killed 80,000 people in Hiroshima. Tens of thousands more would later die of the excruciating effects of radiation exposure.

Three days later, US soldiers in a second B-29 bomber plane dropped another atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing an estimated 40,000 people.

It was the first – and so far, only – time atomic bombs were used against civilians. But US scientists were confident it would work, because they had tested one just like it in New Mexico a month before. This was part of the Manhattan Project, a secret, federally funded science effort that produced the first nuclear weapons.

What might have been a single year of nuclear weapons development ushered in decades and decades of nuclear proliferation – a challenge across countries and professions.

Having worked on nuclear weapons both as a journalist covering the Pentagon and then as a White House special assistant on the National Security Council and undersecretary of state for public diplomacy, I understand how critical it is to educate and inform citizens about the dangers of nuclear war and how to control the development of nuclear weapons.

The man who started it all

Nobel Prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein warned then-President Franklin Roosevelt in 1939 that the Nazis might be developing nuclear weapons. Einstein urged the US to stockpile uranium and begin developing an atomic bomb – a warning he would later regret.

Einstein wrote a letter to Newsweek, published in 1947, headlined "The Man Who Started It All." In it, he made a confession. "Had I known that the Germans would not succeed in producing an atomic bomb, I would never have lifted a finger," Einstein wrote.

Einstein repeated his regret in 1954, writing that the letter to Roosevelt was his "one great mistake in life."

But by then it was too late.

The Soviet Union began its own bomb development program in the late 1940s, partly in response to Hiroshima and Nagasaki but also as a response to the Nazi invasion of their country in the 1940s.

Tara Sonenshine, Edward R. Murrow Professor of Practice in Public Diplomacy, Tufts University

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Revisiting our Garden of Democracy

Jan Arden

The interval of this statement from international organisations since the nineties: "Mauritius is proving/has proven to be a stable and viable democracy with a thriving market economy"? And, overall, as the "viable, functional democracy" weathered well the political transitions, abrupt as they were, in 1982, 1995, 2000 and 2005, we and external observers were entitled to believe that, whether under difficult or thriving economic circumstances, our polity, our democratic fabric and values were indeed resilient.

The majority of us may even have taken those values for granted, ignoring the fact that much of this resilience might be due to statesmen figures like Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, Sir Gaetan Duval, Sir Satcam Boolell and Paul Berenger, who had developed and honed their democratic values and political stature in the complex and fragile sociological realities of post-independence Mauritius. They were perhaps bolstered by a generation of top civil servants doing their best to serve the general interest, or by a free press keeping them on their toes, and by an apolitical police force and an independent judiciary. Or again by the hegemonic land-owning private sector in making sure the land we share was neither rocked nor derocked, or even by the legitimist and democratic thread in the socalled Hindu belt that perhaps avoided riotings not infrequent in several other multiethnic island states.

We will leave the analysis to historians and sociologists, but we might have grown accustomed to the notion that our garden of democracy would not be plagued by uncouth gnomes waiting to destabilise our civilised "way of doing things" or much

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worse grab away our freedoms, gnaw at our democratic space, harass political opponents, lawyers and media outlets and impose on subservient civil servants, fatly rewarded political lackeys, incompetent nominees and ineffectual institutions, a clannish rule. At least, that's the glue and narrative that Opposition leaders of the three traditional parties, Navin Ramgoolam, Paul Berenger and Xavier Duval, have evoked to bring them together in a historic platform to oust the MSM regime in power. That the birthing of such a reunion of three different sociological and political sensibilities, each with its own unique history and contributions to Mauritian society and its development, each with its own figureheads, took time was natural and they may still have some fine-tuning to continue doina.

Credibility issues and the branding of a unified Mauritius

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here were certainly credibility issues raised by the MSM loyalists that had to be tackled and most importantly. how the electorate, come end 2024 or earlier, the agents, activists and the general population would buy into the brand of a unified Mauritius. The fact that the MSM clearly had neither the confidence nor the stamina to run the gauntlet in postponed municipal elections (subject of a constitutional challenge), depriving in the process half of the electorate of its democratic rights, may have pushed the three leaders to hold their first public test of a regional congress last Friday right smack in the middle of rural Mare d'Albert. With alternating rural and urban ones for their future mobilisations announced. But the turn-out, tempo and enthusiasm at Mare d'Albert was keenly watched by all observers, political parties and probably some friendly powers, but with some trepidation by the MSM and its own security and information services, for the rural hinterland of constituencies 4-14 and Hindu-belt Mauritius was assumed to be their only residual backbone.

That it was held without much fanfare

and the briani-rum and beach-bussing of past MSM events, in a localised, difficult to access setting and against attempts, we hear, to derail the gathering through various means, made the regional congress of Friday 28th in these wintry evenings all the more significant as a first test of the tripartite political dispensation led by the LP and Navin Ramgoolam. That it was a remarkable success to the extent that Kohinoor Hall was swamped and a few thousands were treated to giant screens outside, as all YouTube and media coverage testified, was best evidenced by the tremors that shook the Sun Trust and its masterminds, calling for some hasty MSM Comité Central the very next day. After the abandon of the urban electorate, the perspectives of the rural electorate, shaking off the pressures and threats, flocking back to their LP roots and leadership in this tripartite alliance was worrying enough for that response even if matters may be far from settled at this stage.

Indeed, the MSM may feel that it has enough of a narrative in infrastructure around the Metro Express for instance and a package of goodies that have been handed out to some socio-economic groups (parents of children to age 3, adolescents attaining age 18) with another budget expected in the pipeline next year, to face this unified Opposition. It can be expected to make the choice of suitable venues difficult. And now that there will be increased vigilance about voting and counting, it will undoubtedly use every other lever at its disposal, including the national broadcaster MBC and its formidable war-chest to avoid a defeat at the next general elections.

The LP-MMM-PMSD's Key Value Statement

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ransforming that first successful test into a round-the-island mobilisation, with minimal finances, will be the second necessary phase although the population needs to grasp the fundamental tenets of the proposed LP-MMM-PMSD governance. My personal view is that a Key Value Statement (KVS) declined into a set of Key Implementation Measures (KIMs) should establish the horizon, lay out the essential reforms needed and list some of the key measures that would exemplify the Opposition approach to the country's governance. A Key Value Statement does not require working out the nitty-gritty and minutiae of individual measures, however important these might be for individual sections of the electorate. Human short-term memory extends to some 6 or 7 individual elements and such a Key Value statement should not exceed that grasping ability.

Besides, with the governance shortcomings and failings highlighted by the MSM government, such a KVS should not stretch the agreement capacities of the three traditional parties. Roll-out of this simple conceptual and political framework over the next couple of months would allow the three teams to agree on Key Implementation Measures to be included under each heading, absolving the parties from the distracting task of preparing 200-page manifestos that nobody reads and ends up picking dust on shelves. However, we are well aware that all three parties have their own traditional approach, trusted lieutenants but some consensus would be required on such matters. The chantier of reforms is so wide-ranging that we beg to believe that a bottoms-up approach of ideas and suggestions would not fit the necessities of the times and could be counter-productive without the top-down overall framework.

Apart perhaps from the Office of the DPP and the functionings of the judiciary, it has become quite apparent that most of our institutions badly require reforms to avoid their ever being prey to the subservience of a ruling dispensation. From the police force, the autocratic and dishevelled Parliament, the investigative institutions, the functioning of State-Owned Enterprises unanswerable to Parliament, the curtailment of excessive privileges, perks and benefits of polity and the top-notch civil servants are but some of the more meaty reforms awaiting a new government.

These are far from being exhaustive as much-needed economic reforms, including the inordinate powers of the Ministry of Finance, straddling virtually all domains, have not even been mentioned here. Éclairages

Mauritius Times



Cinq ans après les premières révélations de viols et d'agressions sexuelles concernant le producteur Harvey Weinstein, qui ont conduit à l'émergence du mouvement #MeToo, Kevin Spacey est poursuivi pour quatre chefs d'agressions sexuelles contre trois hommes. P - AFP

Acquittement de l'acteur Kevin Spacey Un coup dur pour la Cancel Culture et le mouvement #MeToo?

Par A. Bartleby

'acteur Kevin Spacey vient d'être acquitté par un jury de toutes les charges de harcèlement sexuel portées contre lui. Pour rappel, ce dernier avait été accusé par une trentaine d'individus de comportement inapproprié, avec pour conséquence directe le fait d'être renvoyé de la série 'House of Cards' et de ne plus travailler à Hollywood.

La chute spectaculaire de Kevin Spacey, l'un des acteurs américains les plus cotés, s'est inscrite dans l'émergence des mouvement #MeToo et la Cancel Culture.

Dans le premier cas, les individus victimes de harcèlement étaient encouragés à dénoncer leurs bourreaux sur les réseaux sociaux, et ce, sans devoir forcément fournir de preuves.

Dans le cas de la Cancel Culture, il s'agit du fait de tout simplement arrêter d'aller voir les films d'un acteur ou d'un producteur, d'arrêter de consommer les produits d'une marque ou encore d'arrêter d'écouter ou d'aller à des concerts d'artistes considérés comme sulfureux et devant être annulés.

Ces deux mouvements font ainsi un usage politique des réseaux sociaux, sous la forme de dénonciations publiques d'un côté, et sous la forme de circulation de messages de boycott, de l'autre. Dans le premier cas, c'est toute la procédure de l'initiation d'une enquête policière qui était contournée. Dans le second cas, c'est la loi du marché qui joue avec des réductions drastiques de la demande qui font que, par exemple, les producteurs de films n'emploient plus un acteur qui risquent de plomber la popularité et les revenus d'un film.

Ces deux mouvements ont eu un succès certain permettant, par exemple, à des victimes réelles de venir de l'avant avec des dénonciations et des preuves à charge contre des agresseurs qui sont actuellement ou bien en instance de procès, ou bien ont déjà été condamnés. Mais cette pratique n'est pas sans ses failles et ses limites.

Dans le cas de la #MeToo, il y a eu plusieurs cas de faux témoignages, notamment de femmes s'attaquant à la réputation d'hommes publics et/ou riches. Ce fut le cas du footballeur Benjamin Mendy. Ce dernier fut accusé de viol alors qu'il était un joueur de Manchester City et de l'Equipe de France. Il fut limogé par son club et perdit sa place en Équipe de France. Dans son cas, il fut arrêté et un procès fut intenté. Comme dans le cas de Kevin Spacey, Benjamin Mendy fut exonéré des accusations contre lui et fut prouvé innocent. Mais sa carrière de footballeur de très haut niveau semble bel et bien terminée aujourd'hui. *The damage is done*.

Dans le cas de la Cancel Culture, les choses vont encore plus loin avec des appels à littéralement effacer des mémoires des pans entiers de l'histoire de certains pays. C'est le cas aux États-Unis, par exemple, où des groupes de pression demandent que des statues d'hommes politiques ayant participé à la traite des esclaves soient enlevés des lieux publics afin d'en effacer leur mémoire.

Un nouvel avatar de la gauche libérale américaine

Nous voyons là en fait un nouvel avatar de la gauche libérale américaine, l'idée étant de faire basculer le pays dans ce que certains journalistes nomment la *postracial culture*, où toutes les différences de couleur et de race seraient effacées comme par enchantement du jour au lendemain, sans réel affrontement avec l'histoire et sans réelles solutions aux problèmes structuraux qui découlent de cette histoire.

Nous voyons un excellent exemple de cela avec la série 'La Chronique des Bridgerton', qui se situe à la fin du 18eme siècle. Cette série montre une société bourgeoise anglaise post-raciale, où les considérations raciales n'ont aucun lieu d'être. Il s'agit bien évidemment d'une fiction et intéressante à cause du parti pris. Mais cette fiction montre un fantasme qui efface ce qui faisait le cœur même de la stratégie coloniale: le racisme. Et en ne montrant pas comment le racisme structure les différences sociales et les rapports de pouvoir, la série fait tabula rasa sur le nerf même de la guerre contre les discriminations.

D'ailleurs, Barack Obama a lui-même exprimé son inquiétude par rapport à la Cancel Culture. Il considère que cette manière d'affronter l'histoire et le passé ne sert qu'à faire du politiquement correct et ne permet pas de rectifier les injustices actuelles, en affrontant les sources et les origines. Il y voit un grand danger pour l'avenir même de la démocratie américaine, et il faut avouer qu'il pourrait bien avoir raison.

Un même mouvement existe à Maurice, par exemple, avec la demande de faire retirer la statue d'Adrien d'Epinay du Jardin de la Compagnie. Pour rappel, Adrien d'Epinay fut le représentant des colons français propriétaires d'esclaves à Maurice quand les Britanniques prirent possession de l'île. D'Epinay avait pour objectif de négocier la non-application de l'abolition de l'esclavage dans la colonie de Maurice avec l'administration britannique. Cette négociation aboutit au fait que les esclaves furent libérés contre un paiement des Britanniques. Cet argent, qui devait être distribué en partie aux esclaves affranchis, fut conservé par les colons de l'époque et servit à la fondation d'une banque extrêmement populaire aujourd'hui.

Posons-nous donc la question : est-ce que le *cancelling* d'Adrien d'Epinay implique également le *cancelling* de cette banque? Et en quoi est-ce que le *cancelling* de ces choses permettra la réparation des injustices venues des heures les plus sombres de notre histoire? Toute cette démarche pseudo-politique peut se résumer à ces deux questions.

Le réchauffement climatique est-il bénéfique pour l'industrie touristique mauricienne?

ette question peut sembler un peu folle au regard de l'impact de la montée des océans sur nos littoraux, mais elle reste posée. Et elle se pose même de manière très sérieuse alors que le continent européen fait face à des vagues de chaleur inédites.



Les canicules en Europe, ici à Naples, en Italie, ont poussé les vacanciers et les habitants à l'inventivité pour se rafraîchir. P - Reuters

En effet, les destinations européennes populaires connaissent actuellement des températures dépassant parfois les 40 degrés dans les régions de la Méditerranée, et notamment en Espagne, en Italie et en Grèce.

Paradoxalement, une récente étude de la 'Climate Impact and Adaptation Policy' de la Commission européenne indique un modèle de changement où les destinations du nord bénéficieront du réchauffement climatique alors que les destinations du sud feront face à un déclin soutenu.

Jean-Pierre Mas, le président de l'association 'Entreprises du Voyage', réfute cette hypothèse. Ce dernier ne prévoit pas de grand déclin dramatique mais bien plutôt des changements sur le long terme.

Par exemple, Mas affirme que certains touristes européens préféreront passer leurs vacances d'été dans des destinations du sud, où c'est l'hiver, à cause justement des températures élevées des régions méditerranéennes. D'ailleurs, Mas prend Maurice en exemple pour soutenir sa thèse qu'un changement de comportement touristique est en marche, rappelant au passage que ce pays est devenue la 9eme destination préférée des Français.

Il est intéressant de corroborer les affirmations de Mas avec les statistiques locales de l'industrie touristique.

Le réchauffement climatique est-il bénéfique pour l'industrie touristique mauricienne?

Suite de la page 4

Alors que l'année 2022 avait vu un total de 997,290 touristes, l'année 2023 est bien partie pour dépasser ce chiffre avec 596,466 arrivées enregistrées entre le 1er janvier et le 30 juin. Mieux même, les recettes générées par le secteur sont également en hausse avec un revenu mensuel de Rs 6,9 milliards, enregistrées pour le mois de mai. Lorsque l'on constate que les recettes touristiques du mois de mai étaient supérieures à celles de février ou d'avril, nous constatons aisément que la thèse de Mas semble se confirmer.

Une conversation informelle avec les opérateurs du secteur démontre également l'existence de ce changement de comportement du marché, avec la destination Maurice devenant de plus en plus prisée pour les mois de l'hiver européen, même si ces mêmes opérateurs disent être déjà à 80% remplis pour la saison estivale à venir.

D'ailleurs, ils déclarent également leur inquiétude quant au manque de travailleurs, ce qui pourrait freiner la croissance du secteur. L'AHRIM déclarait récemment, par exemple, que le secteur hôtelier était en demande de main d'œuvre, avec plus de 3,500 emplois à pourvoir.

Mais revenons au point soulevé. Est-ce que le réchauffement climatique est bénéfique pour l'industrie touristique à Maurice? Nous sommes forcés de constater que les données sont favorables pour Maurice, ce qui est une excellente nouvelle. Toutefois, il ne faut pas non plus se leurrer quant au fait que le réchauffement climatique présente également des dangers pour notre secteur touristique.

De ce point de vue, il est clair que le comportement du marché évolue, et Maurice semble bien positionner pour encore plus consolider son secteur touristique. Toutefois, il est également impératif de développer rapidement des politiques permettant au secteur d'évoluer et de s'adapter aux défis liés au réchauffement climatique.





Lancement de la 5G par Emtel. Un outil extrêmement important pour l'essor des nouvelles technologies de l'information, et celles qui sont liées à l'intelligence artificielle. P - IONNews

Lancement de la 5G mobile par Emtel

mtel, l'un des géants des télécommunications à Maurice, vient de lancer la 5G mobile. Ceci fait suite au lancement de l'internet 5G à la fin de l'année dernière, et témoigne de l'avancée rapide des installations techniques permettant la diffusion du réseau 5G dans la majeure partie de l'île.

Emtel se positionne ainsi comme un précurseur avant-gardiste et acquiert clairement une position hautement avantageuse dans le domaine des nouvelles technologies. La 5G est effectivement extrêmement importante pour l'essor des nouvelles technologies de l'information, et notamment celles qui sont liées à l'intelligence artificielle (IA).

Ainsi, il ne s'agit pas uniquement d'une question de rapidité des réseaux, mais de la capacité de ces réseaux à accueillir les transformations rapides dans le domaine de l'IA et des télécoms.

La vitesse de déploiement du réseau 5G dans la région et sur le continent africain témoigne d'ailleurs de l'importance que revêt ces avancées. Maurice fait désormais partie de la liste grandissante des pays opérant comme l'Afrique du Sud, le Botswana, l'Égypte, le Kenya, le Lesotho, le Nigéria, le Sénégal, les Seychelles, la Réunion, Madagascar ou encore l'Uganda.

Il y a bien évidemment une dimension géopolitique extrêmement importante à la 5G. Nous nous souvenons tous des rapports extrêmement tendus que le Président des États-Unis Donald Trump entretenait avec la Chine et le géant chinois des télécoms Huawei. Cette situation avait même conduit l'ancien président américain à déclarer une guerre commerciale à la Chine. La 5G n'était pas la seule raison de cette déclaration de guerre commerciale, mais elle en était un élément extrêmement important.

En effet, le développement de la 5G par la Chine a constitué un bond en avant phénoménal de la puissance chinoise dans le domaine des technologies lui permettant de devancer les États-Unis, qui était à l'époque à la traîne dans le domaine. Mais la guerre commerciale menée par le président Trump n'a pas eu les effets espérés du côté américain car la Chine a su jouer la carte du 'Belt and Road Initiative' en rajoutant un élément technologique aux grands travaux d'infrastructures. Ainsi, un nombre important de partenaires de la Chine ont fait le grand plongeon vers la 5G, ce qui devrait ouvrir pour ces pays des possibilités de développement économique importantes.

Il était donc essentiel que la 5G arrive également à Maurice. La connectivité du pays au reste du monde est un élément essentiel pour notre modèle de développement, ce qui signifie que la construction d'infrastructures digitales est toute aussi importante que la construction d'infrastructures routières, portuaires et aéroportuaires. Plus même, avec la Covid-19 et le développement soutenu du télétravail, la 5G positionnera Maurice comme un lieu idéal pour l'installation de diverses entreprises pouvant travailler à distance avec les pays de la région.

Friday, August 4, 2023

La 5G vient ainsi s'inscrire dans un effort de faire entrer Maurice encore un peu plus dans la mondialisation et donnera des possibilités et des facilités accrues aux entreprises locales tout autant que celles qui s'implantent ici. Emtel a ouvert la voie et détient pour l'instant le monopole, mais d'autres opérateurs devraient suivre et notamment Mauritius Telecom qui a du retard à rattraper dans ce domaine.

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Mohamed Bazoum, le président démocratiquement élu du Niger, a été remplacé par Omar Tchiani, qui a pris la tête du 'Conseil national pour la sauvegarde de la patrie'. P - YouTube

Coup d'Etat au Niger: la politique africaine de la France s'effondre

'armée du Niger a annoncé le 26 juillet dernier avoir séquestré Mohamed Bazoum, le président démocratiquement élu du Niger. Ce dernier a été remplacé par Omar Tchiani, qui a pris la tête du 'Conseil national pour la sauvegarde de la patrie', une junte militaire.

Des manifestations pro-Bazoum ont éclaté à la suite de ce coup, mais ces manifestations ont tout de suite donné lieu à une contre-manifestation d'envergure en faveur du coup d'État dimanche dernier. Des milliers de personnes se sont en effet réunies dans les rues de Niamey afin de manifester leur soutien au coup et à l'expulsion de Bazoum du pouvoir. Cette foule s'est même dirigée vers l'ambassade française et a même tenté d'entrer dans l'enceinte de l'ambassade en scandant des slogans anti-France.

Le Niger est une ancienne colonie française de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, tout comme le Mali et le Burkina Faso. Ces deux pays ont d'ailleurs également connu des coups d'État récemment et sont plongés dans une instabilité politique durable. Le point commun de ces coups d'État: le sentiment anti-français qu'utilisent les putschistes pour justifier le renversement des régimes et des gouvernements considérés comme des pantins de la France.

Suite en page 7

The Trump Indictment - The Right to Lie is not the Right to Deceive



Anil Madan

Will the trial of Donald Trump save American democracy? Hardly. The only thing that can and will save American democracy is the good sense and judgment of the American people

Grand Jury convened by Special Counsel Jack Smith issued an indictment charging former President Donald Trump with crimes relating to his attempts to

overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election which he lost.

The ink on the indictment hardly had a chance to dry before a Republican chorus erupted with chants of "witch-hunt," "politically motivated," "chills free speech," and even that Trump should not be prosecuted for relying on the advice of lawyers. These are spurious claims, easily debunked. Nothing in our Constitution sanctions the use of unlawful means to overturn an election. As for free speech, there is a fine line between falsehood and deceit. And, as we have seen, there has always been a thin line between Donald Trump and deceit or chicanery.

One of the opening paragraphs of the indictment states: "The Defendant had a right, like every American, to speak publicly about the election and even to claim, falsely, that there had been outcome-determinative fraud during the election and that he had won. He was also entitled to formally challenge the results of the election through lawful and appropriate means, such as by seeking recounts or audits of the popular vote in states or filing lawsuits challenging ballots and procedures. Indeed, in many cases, the Defendant did pursue these methods of contesting the election results. His efforts to change the outcome in any state through recounts, audits, or legal challenges were uniformly unsuccessful."

The indictment charges that Trump, in addition to his repeated false assertions and his use of lawful means to test the validity of the election, pursued unlawful means of discounting legitimate votes and subverting the election results. In doing so, the indictment charges that Trump perpetrated three criminal conspiracies:

- **a**. A conspiracy to defraud the United States by attempting to impair, obstruct and defeat the lawful federal function of collecting, counting and certifying the election result,
- A conspiracy to obstruct the January 6 Congressional proceeding in which election results are certified, and
- **c.** A conspiracy against the right to vote and the right to have one's vote counted.

A cautionary tale for a nation that came perilously close to losing its democracy

Aside from its unprecedented nature as the indictment of a former President, the indictment is remarkable in two respects. First, it lists five unnamed — but easily identifiable — attorneys as co-conspirators who amplified and spread Trump's false claims and lies about the election. These are Rudy Giuliani, John Eastman, Sydney Powell, Jeffrey Clark, and Kenneth Chesebro. A sixth co-conspirator is described as a consultant who



Solution of a contrast of a former President, the indictment is remarkable in two respects. First, it lists five unnamed — but easily identifiable — attorneys as co-conspirators who amplified and spread Trump's false claims and lies about the election. Second, the indictment is a deftly crafted document that synthesizes the bits and pieces of evidence we have been hearing over the past 30 months. It is a cautionary tale for a nation that came perilously close to losing its democracy..."

helped implement a plan to submit fraudulent slates of electors to obstruct the certification proceeding. Second, the indictment is a deftly crafted document that synthesizes the bits and pieces of evidence we have been hearing over the past 30 months. It is a cautionary tale for a nation that came perilously close to losing its democracy.

False claims and conspiracy

The purpose of the conspiracy was, of course, to keep Donald Trump in power by overturning the legitimate result of the 2020 presidential election. The first count charges Trump with using knowingly false claims to obstruct the congressional certification of the results. The second and third counts charge him with (i) conspiracy to obstruct, and (ii) actual obstruction of a congressional proceeding. The final count is for a conspiracy to interfere with the right to vote.

Trump is charged with making baseless fraud claims and using them as a pretext to push officials in certain states to ignore the popular vote; disenfranchise millions of voters; dismiss legitimate electors; and ultimately, cause the ascertainment of and voting by illegitimate electors in favour Trump. In seven different states, Trump and his co-conspirators organized slates of fraudulent electors who had never been selected in the election and had them sign false certifications that they

were the legitimate electors.

They caused a letter to be sent falsely stating that the Department of Justice had identified problems with electors in some states. They tried to convince Vice President Pence to reject legitimate electors, accept fake electors, and even send legitimate electors back to states for review by their legislatures. When all this failed, Trump and his co-conspirators falsely told his supporters that Pence had the right to, and might, alter the election results and Trump directed them to march to the Capitol to pressure Pence to do so.

The indictment details the steps that Trump and his co-conspirators took in states such as Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, to overturn the results of the election and have himself falsely declared the winner.

A more detailed recitation of all the unlawful and fraudulent activities that Trump channeled would add pages to this summary. We should not, however, overlook that Trump lied to Pence and told him that the Justice Department had found major infractions. And when Pence refused to accede to Trump's berating, or to join in a lawsuit seeking a declaration that he could change the outcome of the election, Trump told the VP, "You're too honest."

n Indictment The

The Trump Indictment - The Right to Lie is not the Right to Deceive

• Cont. from page 6

That Trump was trying to have himself declared the winner is unmistakable. The indictment cites a Trump tweet sent at 1:00 AM on January 6: ",If Vice President @Mike Pence comes through for us, we will win the Presidency. Many States want to decertify the mistake they made in certifying incorrect & even fraudulent numbers in a process NOT approved by their State Legislatures (which it must be). Mike can send it back!"

Trump is also alleged to have contacted a Senator to ask him to hand-deliver documents to Pence. These were false certifications as to fake alternate electors. A Pence staffer refused to accept these documents from the Senator's office.

The Freedom of Speech Defense

As mentioned above, one of the "defenses" being floated is that this prosecution violates Trump's right to free speech, that is, he was entitled to make false statements. The indictment concedes the point that Trump had the right to speak publicly and claim, even falsely, that there had been fraud in the election and that he was the actual winner.

Shouldn't that then be the end of the case? Trump is acquitted and we move on? Well, not quite.

The problem with the argument is that it is deflection wrapped in sophistry. Whether or not Trump really believed he was the rightful winner of the election, his **only** recourse was to use **lawful** means to challenge the results. These include asking for a recount, an examination of ballots for validity, and any other challenge that an election supervisory body or a court might review for compliance with regulations and law. But **nothing** in our Constitution or laws permits a person to go beyond the lawful processes available to challenge an election or to use unlawful, false, or fraudulent means to do so. The use of slates of fake electors is a case in point. Trump and his co-conspirators knew that the electors had not been appointed by the lawful procedures to be followed in the states at issue. They knew that the certifications they asked the fake electors to sign were false.

The point is that Trump is not being charged for his false belief that he won the election or his false claims that the election was stolen. He is charged with using **false statements and methods of intimidation quite separate from his false beliefs** to overturn the election results by unlawful means. And he is charged for personally, and through his co-conspirators, pressuring, and berating Pence to perform an illegal and unauthorized act.

The defense is as bogus as a defense gets.

The advice of counsel "defense" is no defense at all. For example, the indictment alleges that

- co-conspirator 2 (John Eastman) on January 4 acknowledged to Trump's Senior Advisor that "no court would support his proposal."
- co-conspirator 1 (Rudy Giuliani) when challenged to produce evidence of fraud in Arizona stated: "We don't have the evidence, but we have lots of theories."
- Senior White House attorneys selected by Trump to provide him candid advice informed Trump that there was no evidence of outcome-determinative election fraud and told him that his presidency would end on Inauguration Day in 2021.
- The Director of the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency signed an official multi-agency statement that there was no evidence any voting system had been compromised and declared the 2020 election the most secure in American history. Trump's response was to fire the Director.

The point is that there is simply no way for Trump to credibly assert that he reasonably relied on the advice of counsel.

It should also not be lost on us that this defense of



CNN annotated text copy of Trump's third indictment. Pic - CNN

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reliance on counsel is, in essence, a statement by Trump that says: "Okay, so I lied, so what?"

Will Trump prevail in the trial? There is always the danger that even one holdout on a jury can produce a hung jury and no verdict. It beggars belief that a jury listening to Trump's own words would buy either the free speech or reliance on counsel arguments.

Will the trial of Donald Trump save American democracy? Hardly. The only thing that can and will save American democracy is the good sense and judgment of the American people. In 2020, they rejected the craziness that Trump had built in his four White House years.

Will Trump be successful in playing the victim card? He certainly is trying. If a strong judge holds his feet to the fire and schedules an early trial, the overwhelming evidence of his chicanery, mendacity, and lack of respect for the law and the American constitutional system, does not augur well for Trump.

> Cheerz... Bwana

Éclairages Coup d'Etat au Niger: la politique africaine de la France s'effondre

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Présence obscure de la Russie

Autre point commun de ces coups d'État : l'influence et la présence obscure de la Russie.

En effet, la foule de dimanche qui soutenait les putschistes s'est affichée avec un nombre important de drapeaux russes. Ils ont même brandi ces drapeaux russes devant l'ambassade de France, envoyant un message clair au monde : c'est désormais la Russie qui sera le partenaire privilégié du Niger en matière de coopération internationale.

Ceci a tout de suite fait réagir les commentateurs français. "Notre politique africaine s'effondre sur nous." C'est ainsi que l'éminent diplomate français Gérard Arnaud a qualifié la situation en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Ce sentiment anti-français vient de très loin et s'appuie sur les ressentis toujours vivides des injustices coloniales, incarnées aujourd'hui par le fameux concept de la France-Afrique et le Franc CFA. Cela fait plusieurs années que la diplomatie russe tente de s'engouffrer dans la brèche laissée ouverte par la France dans cette région du monde, et cela porte aujourd'hui ses fruits.

C'est d'ailleurs sur ce terrain que la milice Wagner est



Mali, Burkina Faso et coup d'État au Niger: Le point commun de ces coups d'État : le sentiment anti-français qu'utilisent les putschistes pour justifier le renversement des gouvernements considérés comme des pantins de la France. P - Midi Libre. EPA

apparu, il y a quelques années. Evgueni Prigojine, le patron du groupe Wagner, a réagi au coup en saluant l'opération et en offrant ses services à Omar Tchiani. Il est encore trop tôt pour savoir si le groupe Wagner a été déployé sur le terrain du Niger, et si les déclarations de Prigojine s'inscrivent dans la stratégie de Vladimir Poutine (surtout après que les deux hommes se sont récemment affrontés ouvertement). Mais il est certain que la Russie avance ses cartes dans cette région du monde. Et ce n'est ni anodin, ni un hasard.

Il semble de plus en plus clair que l'opération spéciale russe en Ukraine deviendra un bourbier qui va durer des années. Ce faisant, Poutine a obtenu ce qu'il voulait vraiment : immobiliser l'Europe de l'Ouest sur le front de l'est. En déployant la milice Wagner en Afrique, il semble clair que Vladimir Poutine veut affronter les puissances européennes, et la France en particulier, sur un autre terrain, et ainsi étendre le conflit qu'il a engagé contre ce qu'il appelle lui-même l'impérialisme occidental.

Si c'est vraiment le cas, il est clair que Poutine conserve des coups d'avance sur les Occidentaux qui peinent à anticiper et à réagir à la stratégie de la Russie.

Reste la réaction des pays limitrophes du Niger, et notamment des membres du bloc ECOWAS qui réclament le rétablissement immédiat de Bazoum sous peine de sanctions économiques importantes. Est-ce que ces menaces seront efficaces? Nous pouvons seulement affirmer que nous avons vu à quel point les sanctions contre la Russie n'ont pas fonctionné, et cela fera bientôt deux ans.

Friday, August 4, 2023

6 additional hours of Princess Diana's interview about royal family discovered

A royal commentator has claimed that six additional hours of revealing interview tapes of Princess Diana have been found, as many as 26 years after her death. The tapes are from interviews Diana gave to biographer Andrew Morton, which eventually became part of the book 'Diana: Her True Story.' Diana died after a car carrying her and Dodi al-Fayed crashed in Paris's Pont de L'Alma tunnel on August 31, 1997.

Royal commentator Kinsley Schofield spoke to Talk TV's Cristo Foufas about the new tapes being discovered. In these tapes, Diana opened up more about her life as a royal family member, reports Hindustan Times.

Talking about Diana's revelations, Kinsley likened them to Prince Harry speaking up against the royal family. Harry and his wife Meghan Markle stepped down as working members of the family in 2020. They now live with their children Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet in California. The two made several allegations against the



royal family, and attacked them on various occasions. 'Getting to the truth is a really exciting thought'

Kinsley noted that Diana's character should remain sacred, but there is such a lot of mystery surrounding it. "To the point that people have created this character that might not necessarily be the truth. Getting to the truth is a really exciting thought," she said.

Kinsley added that the information gathered from the newly-revealed tapes should not be released now. "I would not be releasing it right now," she stated. "I don't feel it is the appropriate time with the Harry chaos." She added, "It is also the beginning of the king's new reign. Allow King Charles to show us what he's capable of doing."



US President Donald Trump. Pic - NewsLooks

Donald Trump's political committee has spent over \$40 million on lawyers' fees

Former President Donald Trump 's mounting legal woes are growing more expensive, leading his campaign to request a refund from a supportive super PAC and launch a new legal defense fund to help cover costs.

His political action committee, Save America, is expected to disclose Monday that it spent more than \$40 million on legal fees during the first half of the year for costs related to defending the former president, his aides and other allies, according to a person familiar with the filing who spoke on the condition of anonymity before the deadline, reports AP.

At the same time, Trump's allies are creating a new

legal defense fund that will help pay the soaring legal fees as Trump faces dozens of criminal charges stemming from indictments in New York and Florida, with more expected as soon as this week. The Patriot Legal Defense Fund, as it is called, is intended to raise money to defray costs for those "defending against legal actions arising from an individual or group's participation in the political process," according to a filing made last month with the IRS.

Smith is the special counsel leading the federal investigations of Trump. His team has expressed interest in the payment of legal fees for Trump-aligned witnesses in the investigations and has sought information about it, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to discuss ongoing criminal probes.

Trump launched his PAC, Save America, in the days after the 2020 election, which he

lost to President Joe Biden. For weeks, the group bombarded supporters with a nonstop stream of text messages and emails that purported to raise money for an "election defense fund" that would be used to contest the election's outcome.

But the \$170 million that the effort raised in less than a month was not used to contest the election, records show. Instead, it was used to pay down campaign debt and replenish the coffers of the Republican National Com- mittee, with Trump also stockpiling another large chunk for his future political endeavors. Last year, the Justice Department issued a round of grand jury subpoenas that sought information about the political action committee's fundraising practices.

Since then, Save America has served as a different sort of "defense fund," covering the legal expenses for Trump operatives, allies and employees who have been ensnared in the Justice Department's ongoing investigation.

Some of Save America's money has been used to boost other candidates, though it's a pittance compared to how much Trump has spent on ballooning legal costs.

Taiwan amends laws on sexual harassment after recent #MeToo wave

Taiwan amended three laws governing sexual harassment in a special session of the legislature, after a wave of #MeToo accusations hit the island in June.

The changes approved on Monday include higher penalties and longer periods for victims to come forward and report an incident to authorities. The changes are an attempt to address the issues raised by the recent accusations of sexual violence in Taiwan.

Taiwan has three laws governing sexual harassment: one for the workplace, one for schools and one that covers spheres outside those two domains, reports PTI.

Under the workplace law, employers can now be fined up to 1 million New Taiwan Dollars (USD 31,680) if they fail to address sexual harassment complaints. Employers are also required to report cases to the local division of their labour department.

The education law, amended last Friday, explicitly makes it illegal for educators to have a romantic relationship with students under the age of 18. Further, principals and teachers who fail to report to the Ministry of Education a sexual harassment allegation within 24 hours can be fined.

Legislators also extended the penalty for sexual harassment to three years in jail under the Sexual Harassment Prevention Act, and raised the heaviest fine to USD 19,000.

Taiwan's #MeToo movement was reignited in May when a young woman who worked for the ruling Democratic Progressive Party accused film director Hsueh Chao-hui of groping her and making unwanted sexual advances.

Chen Chien-jou, who identified herself publicly while making the accusation, wrote that she did not just want to let it go, quoting a line from a Taiwanese TV show called 'Wavemakers'. More accusations of sexual harassment followed from other Taiwanese women against politicians, before spreading to other areas including entertainment, music and schools.

* More on page 9

Kallymaye Sabha

Reg No. 1363 - Ruisseau Rose - Long Mountain

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association which has been scheduled for Sunday 20 August 2023 at 10.00 am at the seat of the Sabha.

AGENDA:

- 1. Welcome address by the President.
- 2. Secretary's Report of the last AGM.
- Treasurer's Report Income & Expenditure of the last AGM 2022 and its approval.
- 4. An estimate budget for the year 2023 and its approval.
- 5. Election of 9 (nine) Executive Members.
- 6. AOB.

Note: Members who wish to stand as candidates as Executive Members, are kindly requested to send their letter of application to the Secretary, Kallymaye Sabha, Ruisseau Rose, Long Mountain by registered post latest by 4 pm on 16 August 2023.

Compliant members should not be in arrears with their membership fees for more than three months. Late applicants will not be entertained. In the absence of quorum, the meeting will re-scheduled for Thursday 31 August at 5 pm at the same place.

Darmanan Auchoybur Secretary

04 August 2023

Singapore executes third prisoner in 2 weeks for drug trafficking, 5th this year

Singapore executed a 39-year-old man who was convicted of trafficking heroin, the city-state's fifth hanging this year and the third in just over a week, authorities said on Thursday.

Mohamed Shalleh Adul Latiff was sentenced to death for possessing around 55 grams of heroin "for the purpose of trafficking" in 2019. His punishment was carried out on Thursday, the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), reports AFP.

According to court documents, Mohamed Shalleh worked as a delivery driver before his arrest in 2016.

No more executions N

Friday, August 4, 2023

During his trial, he claimed to have believed he was delivering contraband cigarettes for a friend to whom he owed money.

He became the 16th prisoner sent to the gallows since the government resumed executions in March 2022 after a two-year pause during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The execution comes less than a week after Singapore executed the first woman in nearly 20 years for drug trafficking despite condemnation from rights groups. Saridewi Binte Djamani, a 45-year-old Singaporean, was executed on Friday for trafficking around 30 grams of heroin.

A local man, Mohd Aziz bin Hussain, 57, had been hanged two days earlier for trafficking about 50 grams of heroin.

The United Nations last week denounced the hangings and called for Singapore to impose a moratorium on the death penalty.

"intense listening", reports AP.

The response by Portugal's bishops to

the expert report's findings, however, in

some ways added to the problem. Prior to

the report, Portuguese church officials had insisted there were only a handful of child sex abuse cases. After the docu-

ment's release, the bishops initially refused to remove named abusers from

ministry and said they would only

China may limit children's smartphone time: Maximum 2 hours a day, please



The CAC did not specify which internet services would be allowed exemptions. Pic - CNBC

China's internet watchdog has laid out regulations to curb the amount of time children spend on their smartphones, in the latest blow to firms such as Tencent and ByteDance, which run social media platforms and online games.

The Cyberspace Administration of China on Wednesday published the draft guidelines on its site, stating that minors would not be allowed to use most internet services on mobile devices from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., and that children between the ages of 16 and 18 would only be able to use the internet for two hours a day.

Children between the ages of 8 and 15 would be allowed only an hour a day, while those under 8 would only be allowed 40 minutes, reports AP.

Only certain services, such as apps or platforms that are deemed suitable to the

physical and mental development of minors, will be exempted. The CAC did not specify which internet services would be allowed exemptions.

The restrictions are Beijing's latest efforts to attempt to limit internet addiction, a problem it views as widespread among its youth. In 2019, Beijing limited children's daily online game time to 90 minutes a day and tightened those restrictions in 2021, allowing children only an hour a day of online game play on Fridays, weekends and public holidays.

Short-video and online video platforms like Douyin, Bilibili and Kuaishou have offered youth modes that restrict the type of content shown to minors and the length of time they can use the service. Children are also pushed educational content, such as science experiments.

Pope Francis blasts 'scandal' of clergy sex abuse in Portugal, meets with survivors

Pope Francis met with survivors of clergy sexual abuse in Portugal on Wednesday and blasted members of the country's Catholic hierarchy for their response to the longignored scandal, which he said had marred the Catholic Church and helped drive the faithful away.

Francis dove head-on into the crisis roiling the Portuguese church on the first day of a five-day visit to Lisbon for the Catholic Church's World Youth Day festival. His trip comes at a delicate moment for the Portuguese church; a panel

of experts hired by Portugal's bishops reported in February that priests and other church personnel may have abuse at least 4,815 boys and girls since 1950.

The Vatican said Francis met with 13 abuse victims for more than an hour at the Vatican Embassy and characterized the pope's role in the meeting as one of



the Jeronimos Monastery during his apostolic journey to Portugal. Pic - Reuters

compensate victims if courts ordered them to.

The meeting with victims came after Francis presided over a vigil service for Portuguese clergy and nuns at the capital's iconic Jeronimos Monastery, where in February hundreds of people had gathered after the report was released to pray for victims.

US slaps sanctions on ISIS, al-Qaeda supporters in Maldives

The US has imposed sanctions on 20 individuals and 29 companies for providing financial support to operations of ISIS and al-Qaeda terrorist groups in the Maldives.

State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday that the aim of these designations is to deter and disrupt financial and other forms of support for



The targeted individuals and entities have been linked to Mohamad Ameen, a key ISIS-K recruiter who was previously designated by the United States in 2019. Pic - HT

terrorist activities within the Maldives.

Among those named in the sanctions are 18 ISIS and ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) facilitators and two al-Qaeda operatives, along with 29 associated companies, reports PTI.

The targeted individuals and entities have been linked to Mohamad Ameen, a key ISIS-K recruiter who was previously designated by the United States in 2019.

Some of the designated individuals have been involved in planning and executing attacks against journalists and local authorities.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

9

Interview

Mauritius Times

Interview : Rabin Bhujun, Journaliste

"L'écrasante majorité de ces indécis ne voteront pas par adhésion en faveur du gouvernement ou de l'opposition... ...ils rejetteront plutôt ce qu'incarnent Jugnauth et/ou Ramgoolam"



Mauritius Times: Il semble que selon l'opinion générale, suite au premier congrès de l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD à Mare d'Albertvendredi dernier, il existe aujourd'hui une opposition forte et potentiellement capable de renverser la vapeur. C'est probablement le message que ses dirigeants ont voulu faire passer à l'électorat en général. Ont-ils réussi leur pari, selon vous?

Rabin Bhujun: Navin Ramgoolam, Paul Bérenger et surtout Xavier Duval n'avaient pas trop le choix. Il fallait qu'ils concluent l'alliance dès maintenant, car la volonté du leader du PMSD de s'allier avec les rouges et les mauves faisait l'objet de trop de spéculations dans l'oppo-

66 Le climat entre Duval et Bérenger n'était pas au beau fixe; d'ailleurs, il demeure parfois encore tendu. Ramgoolam a assumé ses responsabilités. Il a joué au pacificateur et a presque forcé la concrétisation de l'alliance. Par la même occasion, il a envoyé un signal clair au grand public et surtout au MSM: Duval ne cherche pas – ou plus – à voir si l'herbe est plus verte de l'autre côté de la barrière... "

près de nombreux débats et délibérations à propos des partis qui doivent se joindre ou non au train de l'Opposition, le premier congrès de l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD a donné le ton. Sachant que la masse silencieuse réserve son jugement sur les groupes politiques jusqu'au moment du scrutin et des votes, plus personne n'ose se prononcer sur l'issue des élections. Rabin Bhujun livre ses sentiments à propos de ce qui se joue au niveau politique et aussi à propos de stratégies qui pourraient être employées pour attirer les masses quelques mois avant les élections.

sition aussi bien qu'au gouvernement. Le climat entre Duval et Bérenger n'était pas au beau fixe; d'ailleurs, il demeure parfois encore tendu. Ramgoolam a assumé ses responsabilités. Il a joué au pacificateur et a presque forcé la concrétisation de l'alliance. Par la même occasion, il a envoyé un signal clair au grand public et surtout au MSM: Duval ne cherche pas – ou plus – à voir si l'herbe est plus verte de l'autre côté de la barrière.

L'alliance conclue, il était devenu essentiel de se projeter sur le terrain en battant immédiatement la campagne. Choisir de commencer à Mare d'Albert était une bonne décision. Organiser un congrès dans une région moins névralgique et symbolique que St-Pierre, Flacq, Triolet ou Vacoas, par exemple, cela a permis aux trois partis de mettre au point leurs moyens logistiques et donner à leur fantassins l'occasion de travailler ensemble.

La première mobilisation est réussie: les partisans des trois formations se sont rassemblés dans une ambiance joviale d'où transpirait une volonté certaine de bouter PravindJugnauthhors du pouvoir.

* C'est probablement un succès qui en appelle d'autres, et qui devrait assurer la pérennité de cette alliance, d'autant plus que et le PTr et le MMM n'ont vraiment pas d'autres options que de maintenir leur alliance jusqu'au bout, n'est-ce pas?

L'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD est potentiellement à un an, voire presque 18 mois, des prochaines législatives. Vu qu'il était urgent de conclure l'alliance, quelques éléments importants n'ont pas fait l'objet d'un arbitrage final. Les éléphants des trois partis ne font pas grand cas de ces «détails» lors de leurs sorties médiatiques, mais les éléments qu'ils escamotent sont loin d'être anodins.

Ainsi, selon que vous parlez aux uns ou aux autres, le *front bench* de cette alliance est composé de Ramgoolam, Bérenger, Duval puis au choix d'ArvinBoolell, Shakeel Mohamed ou Reza Uteem. De même, il n'y a eu aucune indication précise sur le nombre de tickets attribués à chaque formation politique. D'ordinaire, dans notre tradition politique, c'est une des premières informations essentielles qu'on communique lors de la conclusion d'une alliance. J'entends aussi les adversaires du trio dire qu'ils ont conclu une alliance sans avoir discuté d'un programme. Ce type de commentaire est assez insipide, puisqu'on sait que les alliances publient habituellement leurs manifestes électoraux à seulement quelques jours du scrutin.

En parlant de programme, Ramgoolam puise déjà

allègrement dans les propositions électorales de l'Alliance Nationale (PTr-PMSD) de 2019. Ce bloc proposait déjà, par exemple, l'audition des candidats à des postes importants par un comité parlementaire, le vote d'une *Freedom of Information Act* ou encore une révision des lois actuelles afin de promouvoir et protéger la liberté d'expression, notamment dans le champ du numérique.

En attendant que le Parlement soit dissout par Jugnauth et que la date des législatives soit connue, l'alliance de l'opposition n'a d'autre choix que de continuer sa mobilisation en organisant des meetings et des congrès dans les lieux que j'ai cités auparavant. Face à un MSM qui ne montre pas vraiment de signe de fébrilité, le trio PTr-MMM-PMSD veut démontrer que les Mauriciens se mobilisent à ses cotés dans tous les coins du pays. Les Mauriciens – faut-il encore le rappeler – sont toutefois aussi peureux qu'opportunistes. Il n'est pas dit que les non *die hards* se rendront à ces rassemblements, par peur d'y être vus ou tout simplement parce qu'ils n'adhèrent pas à l'offre politique rouge/mauve/bleu. Attentistes, une bonne partie des Mauriciens se décident, en effet, pour quel camp voter à une semaine, voire à la veille des scrutins.

* Les circonscriptions urbaines sont plus ou moins acquises pour l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD, et les élections seront de toute évidence gagnées ou perdues dans les circonscriptions 4 à 14. La bataille promet d'être rude et méchante, avec une diabolisation, déjà en marche, du leader du PTr lors des prochains mois. Les dés sont, et resteraient donc pipés pour l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD, parait-il?

Utilisons les mots consacrés, vous parlez du *«greater Hindu belt»,* cette ceinture de 11 circonscriptions qui votent prétendument comme un seul homme. Les résultats du *greater Hindu belt* ont effectivement tendance à s'aligner en faveur du bloc politique victorieux. Ce n'est pas pour cela qu'on devrait se hasarder à affirmer que les électeurs de ces circonscriptions sont de dociles moutons qui pratiquent uniquement un vote suiviste et ethnique.

Voici les statistiques: cette ceinture a produit neuf 3-0 lors des législatives de 1987 et 2010; huit 3-0 en 1991, 2014 et 2019 ; sept 3-0 en 2000 et 2005. A l'exception des deux 60-0 de notre histoire politique, quelques unes de ces circonscriptions ont même permis au PTr de *kas piso* lors des raz-de-marée MSM-MMM de 1991 et 2000. Gagner confortablement dans 4 ou 5 des circonscriptions du *greater Hindu belt* ne veut donc pas dire qu'on remportera la même victoire dans toutes les autres.

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Interview | Mauritius Times

'Le trio Ramgoolam-Bérenger-Duval doit dire à qui ils entendent déléguer les rênes du pouvoir quand ils quitteront la scène politique'

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En dehors des 60-0, où l'usure du pouvoir est le facteur le plus déterminant, cette greater Hindu belt récompense essentiellement deux traits chez le leader de l'alliance victorieuse: la Respectabilité et la Prévisibilité. Ramgoolam et Jugnauth se positionneront fortement sur ces deux indicateurs. Depuis des années, l'actuel Premier ministre se construit une image d'homme de famille tenant ses promesses, notamment à l'égard des personnes âgées ; tout en diabolisant à outrance Ramgoolam.

En 2023 et 2024, le même *pitch* sera ressassé; vu les actuels partenaires de Ramgoolam, cet argumentaire sera d'ailleurs saupoudré de considérations ethniques en petits comités. En effet, dans certains cercles, on ne se prive pas pour affirmer que face à un Ramgoolam diminué, ce sont Bérenger et Duval qui vont mener la danse. La narration «*pouvwar pe sap dan lame*» est induite. C'est mal connaître le leader des rouges, qui a une irrépressible propension à vouloir tout contrôler.

Ramgoolam doit néanmoins mesurer la responsabilité qui pèse sur ses épaules et procéder avec doigté. S'il fait le paon en donnant l'impression qu'il dirige tout et décide de tout au sein de son alliance, il froissera les bases du MMM et du PMSD. S'il parait leur accorder trop de latitude, il inquiètera ses propres partisans. Il a été victime de cette équation compliquée à résoudre en 2014.De même, Ramgoolam doit pouvoir rassurer les Mauriciens en leur donnant des signes clairs sur sa succession et le renouvellement des têtes au sein de l'alliance qu'il dirige.



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Le trio Ramgoolam (76 ans), Bérenger (78 ans) et Duval (65 ans) n'incarne pas, valeur du jour, un leadership politique qui puisse présider au destin du pays durant les 10-15 ans à venir. Le trio Ramgoolam-Bérenger-Duval doit dire à qui ils entendent déléguer les rênes du pouvoir quand ils quitteront la scène politique.

* Jean-Claude de l'Estraca lancé cette formule dans ses commentaires sur le congrès de Mare d'Albert: "Ils peuvent difficilement gagner mais Jugnauth peut perdre..." Est-ce envisageable?

Dans une dizaine de circonscriptions, quelques centaines – voire quelques douzaines dans certains cas – de votes séparent le 3 élus du 4e candidat. En étant très conservateur et en admettant que des 2-1 de 2019 en faveur du MSM basculent en des 1-2 en faveur des l'opposition, ou encore que des 1-2 en faveur de l'opposition se transforment en 3-0 clair en sa faveur, on arrive déjà à une courte victoire du trio PTr-MMM-PMSD. Mais c'est là une approche très arithmétique de notre échiquier politique. Or, je fais partie de ceux qui ont appris leur leçon des calculs simplistes de 2014. L'analyse de la situation et de son évolution doit être plus nuancée.

Je pense que nous aborderons la question plus tard, mais il y a déjà la possibilité que d'autres groupuscules de l'opposition jouent au trouble-fête. Ensuite, et je ne le répéterai jamais assez: nous ne sommes pas à la veille des élections générales et plus ou moins un Mauricien sur deux n'a pas encore arrêté son choix. L'écrasante majorité de ces indécis ne voteront pas par adhésion en faveur du gouvernement ou de l'opposition. Ils rejetteront plutôt ce qu'incarnent Jugnauth et/ou Ramgoolam. Celui des deux qui sera le moins sanctionné gagnera les prochaines législatives.

* Les conditions politiques sont-elles propices pour des élections vers la fin de cette année-ci ou voyez-vous Pravind Jugnauth aller jusqu'au bout du mandat Qu'est-ce qui va être l'élément déterminant

GRamgoolam doit néanmoins mesurer la responsabilité qui pèse sur ses épaules et procéder avec doigté. S'il fait le paon en donnant l'impression qu'il dirige tout et décide de tout au sein de son alliance, il froissera les bases du MMM et du PMSD. S'il parait leur accorder trop de latitude, il inquiètera ses propres partisans. Il a été victime de cette équation compliquée à résoudre en 2014. De même, Ramgoolam doit pouvoir rassurer les Mauriciens en leur donnant des signes clairs sur sa succession..."

dans ses calculs politiques, selon vous?

Jugnauth et son entourage donnent de plus en plus d'indications de leur volonté d'aller jusqu'au bout du mandat du gouvernement. Seule la combinaison de deux facteurs aurait pu conduire le chef du MSM à tendre une embuscade électorale à l'opposition dès cette fin d'année. Comme beaucoup de personnes ayant regardé récemment les plaidoiries et l'attitude des Law Lords du *Judicial Committee of the Privy Council* dans l'affaire Dayal, l'issue de l'affaire me semble plutôt évidente.

Si Duval devenait la cerise sur le gâteau de Jugnauth en s'alliant à lui, je pense que le Premier ministre aurait alors pu tenter de pousser une alliance PTr-MMM aux abois en tablant sur les mêmes ressorts de narration qu'en décembre 2014. Mais voilà, Duval perdrait beaucoup en crédibilité s'il décide de déserter l'alliance fraichement conclue.

Face à cette donne, Jugnauth a tout intérêt à gagner du temps en tablant sur une stabilisation des marchés mondiaux et de la roupie. Il y a probablement une, potentiellement deux, baisses du prix du carburant à prévoir d'ici fin 2024. Des annonces budgétaires populistes de grande ampleur sont aussi en réserve, surtout si l'accord financier portant sur la location de Diego Garcia est conclu entre Maurice et le Royaume-Uni.

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D'une part, Jugnauth tablera sur ses efforts pour améliorer le pouvoir d'achat des Mauriciens et, d'autre part, il défendra son bilan en matière d'infrastructures et chantiers publics. Il lui faut du temps pour cela.

* Il existe cependant un sentiment anti-gouvernement très fort sur les réseaux sociaux et dans certains titres de presse, mais il est difficile et complexe de saisir et de comprendre le 'mood' réel de l'électorat, surtout rural, à ce stade vis-à-vis du gouvernement. C'est bien cela la clé du problème, n'est-ce pas?

On vote dans le secret de l'isoloir; pas dans les émissions call-in à la radio; ni dans les colonnes des journaux et des sites web; encore moins sur Facebook! Penser que l'échantillon dont vous parlez est représentatif de l'ensemble de la population serait une erreur capitale. Prenons un exemple précis.

Le bilan de Jugnauth en matière de gouvernance est catastrophique, je ne vois aucun autre qualificatif pour le décrire. Une grande partie des leaders d'opinion, notamment dans la presse, estiment que la dilapidation des réserves de la Banque de Maurice, les tensions entre le Directeur des Poursuites publiques et le Commissaire de Police, le licenciement d'une syndicaliste d'Air Mauritius, ou encore les feuilletons Kistnen, *Stag Party, Planting,* etc., préoccupent quotidiennement l'ensemble des Mauriciens, dont ceux de la si importante «*ceinture*» dont nous parlions plus tôt.

'Le MSM avait obtenu 38 sièges en 2019. Le parti soleil et ses satellites peuvent rééditer ce même résultat; le bloc PTr-MMM-PMSD aussi'

6 Une grande partie des leaders d'opinion, notamment dans la presse, estiment que la dilapidation des réserves de la Banque de Maurice, les tensions entre le Directeur des Poursuites publiques et le Commissaire de Police, le licenciement d'une syndicaliste d'Air Mauritius, ou encore les feuilletons Kistnen, *Stag Party, Planting,* etc., préoccupent quotidiennement l'ensemble des Mauriciens, dont ceux de la si importante «*ceinture*» dont nous parlions plus tôt. Ils se trompent... "

Suite de la page 11

Ils se trompent. Ils confondent ce qu'ils entendent et ce qui se dit entre *like-minded* people avec les préoccupations réelles de la population, notamment une frange plus rurale et conservatrice de l'électorat.

Hier, comme aujourd'hui, c'est sur le terrain du pouvoir d'achat et du niveau de vie qu'une bonne partie de la majorité dite «*silencieuse*» se prononcera. Ces électeurs se demanderont qui a le plus fait en la matière et qui promet de bien – ou mieux – faire à l'avenir. C'est sur cette base qu'on sanctionnera l'un ou on censurera l'autre.

* Si les activistes sur le terrain ou sur les réseaux sociaux sont d'avis que l'actuel gouvernement doit débarrasser le plancher au plus vite, il est également probable qu'un nombre conséquent d'électeurs soit d'un avis différent, et cela pour diverses raisons, non? 2019, celles qui n'ont pas été jugées contraires aux lois du pays, pourraient être utilisées lors des prochaines législatives. Ce risque existe-t-il toujours, à votre avis?

Il est dommage que l'équipe légale de Suren Dayal n'aie pas exploité l'utilisation outrancière de la MBC en 2019 devant le Privy Council. Peut-être que c'était un argumentaire intelligible – dans toute sa vulgarité – uniquement dans le contexte local et qu'un *King's Counsel* aurait eu du mal à expliquer à des Law Lords dans quels bas-fonds la radiotélévision nationale sombre afin de flatter et servir son maître du jour.

Si on s'appuie sur le raisonnement purement juridique par rapport au délit de *«bribery and treating»* prévu dans la *Representation of the People Act*, il semble qu'il est permis au Premier ministre de faire des promesses électo-



Si on se fie à ce qui se dit sur les réseaux sociaux ou dans les médias pour déterminer le *mood* réel de l'ensemble de la population, on se condamne à regarder le pays par le petit bout de la lorgnette. Si on s'était fié au *mood* sur les réseaux sociaux en 2019 pour prédire l'issue des dernières législatives, on aurait pu penser que le MSM aurait pris une sévère raclée dans les urnes. Il n'en a rien été..."

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Tristement, le débat politique dans le pays ressemble à une chambre d'écho. Les médias relatent ce qui est le *flavour of the day* sur les réseaux sociaux. Puis les réseaux sociaux s'emparent de la couverture médiatique et l'amplifient. Cela devient alors un phénomène que les médias rapportent à leur tour. L'un nourrit l'autre, *ad nauseam*.

Nous nous retrouvons ainsi dans des situations invraisemblables où la couverture de certains évènements est tournée en ridicule spectacle ; polarisée à outrance. La MBC mérite, à juste titre, beaucoup de critiques. Mais à voir certaines postures intellectuelles de journalistes et éditorialistes, on finit par se demander si les employés de la MBC sont au PMO ce que des journalistes de la presse dite *«indépendante et libre»* sont à l'opposition: d'obéissants relais dépourvus d'esprit critique!

* Un des effets indirects du jugement de la Cour suprême dans l'affaire SurenDayalv/s Pravind Jugnauth, c'est que les mêmes méthodes utilisées en rales les plus alambiquées, dès lors que celles-ci profitent à l'ensemble des électeurs, peu importe leur choix dans l'isoloir. Mais le problème se situe ailleurs en fait.

Etant le maître du calendrier électoral, le Premier ministre sait quand il dissoudra le Parlement. En amont de la dissolution, il peut donc faire organiser de grands rassemblements aux frais du contribuable, y effectuer des annonces populaires tout en disposant de la généreuse couverture de la radiotélévision nationale sans pour autant enfreindre, *stricto sensu*, notre loi électorale.

Jugnauth l'a fait en 2019, il le refera à l'approche des prochaines législatives. C'est un pouvoir qu'il faut être capable d'encadrer, préférablement complètement réformer, afin de consolider le jeu démocratique dans le pays. Ne soyons pas dupes toutefois, tous les Premiers ministres aiment disposer de ce joker.

* Qu'en est-il du poids des partis extraparlementaires? On ne sait pas à ce stade si certains de ces partis ou de ses leaders seront pris 'on board' de l'alliance de l'opposition ou non, mais à qui profitera ce multipartisme?

Lors des législatives de 2019, les candidats de formations politiques plus modestes comme Roshi Bhadain ou Patrick Belcourt mais aussi des dissidents comme Sudesh Rughoobur ou Raj Pentiah avaient nuit à la capacité de mobilisation des partis de l'opposition. Si de nombreux dissidents sont rentrés au bercail ou ont carrément changé de camp, les partis traditionnels de l'opposition regardent néanmoins les nouvelles formations avec défiance.

Dans l'idéal et afin de consolider les chances de victoire de l'opposition, il aurait fallu que tout le monde – de Valayden à Belcourt en passant Subron, Bodha, Bhadain, Sunnasy et Laurette – puisse se ranger dans un seul camp. Ce n'est bien évidemment pas possible, ne seraitce parce qu'il faudrait alors que cette grande alliance dispose de 90 investitures à distribuer ! Des arrangements spécifiques sont toutefois possibles dans certaines circonscriptions. Par exemple, ne nous étonnons pas de retrouver un candidat d'une formation politique alternative sur un ticket travailliste, à Belle-Rose/Quatre-Bornes. Cela s'envisage ...

Il faut aussi préciser que les égos assez boursouflés, comme ceux de Bruneau Laurette ou Roshi Bhadain, se retrouvent plutôt dans des circonscriptions où l'opposition *mainstream* a déjà d'excellentes chances de briller. Ailleurs, notamment dans la *greater Hindu belt*, les plus jeunes formations politiques n'ont ni l'assise, ni les profils susceptibles de fédérer suffisamment de soutiens pour nuire à la capacité de mobilisation de l'opposition et ainsi profiter aux candidats du MSM.

* Si le PTr parvient à consolider sa base et se donne la possibilité de rassembler au-delà de ses 30% de soutien électoral, les choses pourraient évoluer à l'approche des élections. Dans ce cas, le risque d'un 'repeat' de 2019 sera éloigné. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Avec 37% des suffrages, le MSM avait obtenu 38 sièges en 2019. Le parti soleil et ses satellites peuvent rééditer ce même résultat; le bloc PTr-MMM-PMSD aussi. Selon les estimations variables, le MSM et le PTr disposent chacun d'un socle incompressible d'environ 20% de l'électorat national. Pour prétendre remporter une législative, l'un ou l'autre doit arriver à mobiliser 10% d'électeurs supplémentaires essentiellement dans le bassin électoral du *greater Hindu belt*. C'est sur la base de cette *realpolitik* ethnique, que le PTr et le MSM courtisent chacun cette base et ses sous-composantes.

D'ailleurs, avec ses grands sabots, la MBC a récemment diffusé les serments d'allégeance d'une section de la communauté majoritaire à l'égard du Premier ministre. Si les génies de la MBC et leurs maitres du Prime Minister's Office pensent qu'ils ont bien fait, il faudrait aussi leur rappeler que pour chaque action, il y a une réaction égale et opposée. Montrer de manière trop ostentatoire certains soutiens peut en faire fuir d'autres...

Etant le maître du calendrier électoral, le Premier ministre sait quand il dissoudra le Parlement. En amont de la dissolution, il peut donc faire organiser de grands rassemblements aux frais du contribuable, y effectuer des annonces populaires tout en disposant de la généreuse couverture de la radiotélévision nationale sans pour autant enfreindre, *stricto sensu*, notre loi électorale. Jugnauth l'a fait en 2019, il le refera à l'approche des prochaines législatives..."

History

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From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 27 February 1959

• A religion or a philosophy lies at the base of every revolution. — Giuseppe Mazzini

My Mauritius, My England

By L. Seetanah

In Egypt, Libya, Cyprus and England, and have been on short visits to places like Denmark and France and several others at which the ships I travelled in had called on their way, and about which I wrote very briefly in my last article. During those ten years, I have had the chance of coming back home twice, but I could not honestly say that the country showed signs of progress; I went away rather disappointed with the general conditions here.

In England I learnt much more about Mauritius than what I was taught at school about it; and it is not surprising that I could not sleep a wink on the last night at sea, being much too excited to catch even the first faint glimpse of this "paradise island set in the shimmering waters of the Indian Ocean." I had heard the crew referring to Mauritius as "une très belle île", and in fact both the crew and the passengers were excited. Indeed, what a gorgeous and enchanting sight! None of the other countries I had visited so enthralled me at the first sight. The dark blue masses of finely-hewn and huge rocks arouse the artist in one. The rising sun playing from behind the thin clouds seem to throw out, in varying colours and shapes, the magnificent views that caught the eyes as one surveys the whole picture from one end to the other.

The deck is crowded with Mauritians. After the first flush of amazement and sights, there is silence. One feels so elated, so elevated and so charged with patriotic emotions. These suddenly burst out in music and one starts singing. "Oh island in the sun, yield to me by my father's hand"!

The feeling wears out somehow and everyone gets busy dressing and dolling up to land... Though it was a bright and hot morning. I noticed that almost all Mauritians had worn, winter clothes, i.e.,woollen ones, with ties "to look more respectable". It was obvious that we dressed not for comfort but for show here. This is the first impression I had. Dressing up is considered to give dignity to one, and most of us seem to judge people by their looks. It seems to be an epidemic here, for the intellectuals and even that class we call the élite, seem to be affected by his affectation of "dignity." I remember how one reporter, who was sent to Mauritius to cover the visit of PrincessMargaret, ridiculed Mauritians for dressing up too loudly: one lady had gone so far as to wear a fur coat on an obviously very warm day!

Many have asked me: "How does it feel to be at home after all these years?" Well, there are things one gets reacclimatized to pretty quickly, and others that one does not feel satisfied with. One easily fits into the pattern of life. There is, indeed, a general feeling of relief, a sense of security and freedom. At least one is not continually being interfered with. When you hire a flat, you are not pestered by continual "visits" of the landlord. You are free to do as you like. You feel you have a home and not a hotel to go to after work. You throw open all your doors and windows as and when you like. You feel you have space enough to move about in. There are no more inhibitions. You express yourself freely. Society does not make so many demands on you. You don't feel stinted and isolated. People are more tolerant, more sympathetic and less selfish socially. One is pleased to note a few new buildings in Port Louis and elsewhere and also an improvement in some of the main roads. Physically a gradual change is perceptible, but mentally and morally we have lagged behind.

One cannot understand the sometime inhuman behaviour of a certain class towards another. You feel very distinctly the class discrimination. The so-called educated and cultured too are infected with the disease. At Barclavs Bank. I noticed the haughty manners of some petty clerks who would throw your cheque book and your passport at you instead of politely - as one expects educated people to behave — handing these to the owners. If you happen to be a white man, you are served first, and you don't queue up. "Last in, first served' seems to be the guiding principle in such cases. People go by your polished outside just as children would go for cheap and colourful toys. In fact, they dress and doll up to impress their friends. If you spoke in Creole, you are considered low, as if that language is not a vehicle through which you express yourself, as you do through any other languages.

Some civil servants and some policemen obviously seem to think that they are occupying such positions to work *against*the public instead of *for* them, *who are actually and virtually their employer*. They show all the indications that they would, if they were allowed to, sooner write "your master by right" instead of "your obedient servant " which is normally appended in correspondence with the public — Drivers have often complained to me that they get pinched by the police for excess speed in 30 mph. areas, remarking that there seem to be two separate sets of laws about driving in these areas. The other, applicable to *whites only*, whereby policemen seem to wink at those contravening such laws.

Away abroad, I had kept in touch with the "Mother" through correspondence, newspapers and official and other reports. These last gave me the impression that we had no problems at all. There were illustrations in them of new buildings, new houses for labourers in the sugar estates, new colleges, etc. But to my disappointment, shacks and hovels unfit for human habitation are still to be seen in the villages. One wonders why our reports do not show our "backwardness" and poverty in illustrations as well which would at least present the problems we yet have to solve as they are to people overseas.

It pains me to see Port Louis so frightfully dirty, so neglected and so pathetically in need of re-construction. I am aware that the public has to take its share of the blame, but then how else can an uneducated public behave when civics is not taught at school and when there is no compulsory education? There are so many old houses in Port Louis that would have long been pulled down in England, being too dangerous to be lived in. Public conveniences are in an appalling condition, and are too few and far between, anyway, to be kept clean. The stench exuding from the canal near the harbour is really horrible and unhealthy. We cannot expect tourists to visit a country whose Capital is unclean and repulsive. The first impression of Mauritius on the visitor is bound psychologically to have a bad effect on his stay in the island. For tourism to flourish, the "window dressing" of the capital is of paramount importance.

That apart, the capital in any country is supposed to have the pick of all that can be had. Here our new Director of Medical Services has a difficult task before him, but there is no doubt that those who want to be proud of their Capital — and they are many — will give him their wholehearted support.

I must now come to the people of Mauritius generally. Perhaps many will disagree with me, but we have to be frank with ourselves in our introspection. We are on the whole a snobbish lot. The English are known to be snobbish, but I think we beat them hollow here - to our own detriment. It is obvious that we are a people without any palpable character. This is not surprising when we have left every one of our problems in the hands of people who have no attachment and no feeling for the country. We have not *bothered to stop and question* what we have so long and so far, been made to do. We are inclined to let life run its easy course — a course thrust on and apathetically accepted by us. We just have to take stock of our beliefs and conceptions to realise on what unsteady ground we are treading.

We have a *false conception* of the civilization which we so anxiously want to *show and haunt* in order to be recognized as civilized and educated people. We don't want to be *civilized: we want to show that we are civilized* without much understanding what civilization is or should be.

We play a game of self-deception. We want to dress gaudily, to imitate blindly the actors and actresses in the films we have seen, without much realising that there is a vast gulf between fiction and real life. Many of us believe that travelling in a car of our own; being able to speak French and English; knowing and using a more difficult word instead of a common one understood by all; carrying an attaché case instead of a shopping bag; having degrees and diplomas; being rich; having a sedentary job instead of a menial one and the rest of a serious of what I call "demonstrabilities", are tantamount to being civilized and great. We also believe that in being masters of men and slavedrivers, we are "great". We have so long been grooved into the belief that these are the hallmarks and criteria of civilization that we cannot get out of it. Because our parents and elder believed in them, we conclude that they are good for us too. In our day, because of this misconception, we have young people who would sooner take a sedentary job for less than a labourer's salary than be seen doing some other jobs "below their dignity".

It is this canker of misconception in our society that has given rise to so many of our problems and especially to the conceit we so often see in one young brothers and sisters freshly out of colleges and universities with a certificate or degree which they wave at those further down the ladder, as testimony to their intellectuality and "greatness". They come out to us, those whom we call the élite, with all their dependent beliefs- those they have taken, perhaps without questioning, in the course of their studies from their professors, and those also which have been passed down to them by their parents and which they have never questioned, and impose themselves on what we, in derogation to human dignity, call the masses. For, is there any society of independent and free thinkers who are ready to dissociate themselves with the small groups in which they were born and brought up, and think of themselves just as plain human with no attachment to or affinity with any creed here? I don't know of any of the erudite elite having formed such schools of independent thoughts here.

And these are the masters, the example, with all its defects, that the younger generations and the class that goes by it, have to copy. The mould cannot but turn out a replica of the folds within it. And so, we are driven to pose the question: "Wither wilt thou lead us, Mother?"

Mauritius Times

Choosing the right undergraduate degree



n my last article I wrote about pursing an undergraduate degree in the Netherlands, Finland, and Japan. In this article I would like to write about how to choose the right undergraduate degree.

Once you have your secondary school results in hand, the next step will be to head to university; you may have already started the process if you know that you'll get good results. Whilst you may have an idea of what it is

you want to do, you will be getting advice from different quarters, especially from your parents. Advice is not a bad thing, but are the suggestions in line with what you would like? Some of you might not even be sure of what it is you want to do next and that is also fine.

So how do you choose what it is you want to do? Even if you are getting pressure, advice, solicited and otherwise from everywhere, you must take time off from everyone and take an introspective look at yourself. Ask yourself what is it that gets me going? And can this be turned into a career? This is a starting point, because if you purse an undergraduate degree in a subject matter that you enjoy, this can lead to a career that you will also enjoy.

Let us say you love airplanes; in that case you can think about becoming a pilot or aeronautical engineer. But what happens if maths and physics are not your forte? It doesn't mean you should not look into getting an aviation related career. There are a multitude of different career paths that will lead you towards an aviation related career, such as aviation management, airport handling, becoming an air traffic controller, ground operations, logistics and so on. And for these careers you can pursue an undergra-



Pic - Which School Advisor

duate degree in logistics, operations management, airline management, human resources and so on. In certain countries you can pursue an undergraduate degree that specialises in Airport and Aviation Management. There are options available, you need to find them.

How do you find your area of interest? Research and lots of it. The internet is your friend, search for those areas you are interested in. What do those who have studied and worked in the field have to say about it. You should also cast your net closer to home, are there family members, friends, and acquaintances who are in the line of study you are interested in and can advise you on what it's like? If you have questions, you can also reach out to the university departments that teach this subject for feedback. For example, you are interested in pursuing a BA in Creole, and would like to become a teacher in that language, but you are not sure if this is the right path. To find out more you can speak to folks at the University of Mauritius about the program and ask your former teachers about what it's like to teach. If the area you are interested in is not found in Mauritius, and can be found in a foreign university, you can always reach out to the concerned department with your questions. With the current competition for international students, they will be more than

The Mauritius Telugu Association UK

A celebration of Rambhajan puja – a

very auspicious one amongst Telugu-Hindus

happy to answer your questions.

Unless you are pursuing an undergraduate degree in a specialised field such as medicine or nursing, you must keep a certain flexibility in mind when it comes to your undergraduate degree and your career. You may find yourself in a career that is completely different from your field of study, for example you pursue an undergraduate degree in English and a few years after graduation you may find yourself working as a salesperson for an international hotel. What I am trying to say is that you should avoid pigeonholing your career based on your undergraduate degree. Your undergraduate degree is a stepping stone in your career path. It does not necessarily define your whole career.

If you are still unsure, you can always take a break from studying altogether and come back at a later date. In the UK thousands of students take a gap year after their A-levels to travel and work, many of these students aim to use this time to figure out what it is they would like to do at university. You could do the same if you have the means and your parents are understanding.

However, the only way to really know if you are in the right university program is to get started. Once you have gone through your first semester, you will have a better idea of whether this is what you would like to do. If it's not your thing, you can always change.

Pooben Narayanen has a BA in Economics and a BA with Honours in Political Science from McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada. He also holds a Master's in Media Practice from the University of Sydney, Australia. He returned to Mauritius in 2008, and since then he has been working in various sectors in the country. As he teaches part-time at the University of Mauritius, he has an active in interest in tertiary education and career paths for Mauritians in a rapidly changing world.

Diaspora



Kishore Teelanah

continues with a trail of success stories. This article gives an overview of Mauritius Telugu Association (MTA) in London run by a group of dedicated British-Mauritians who live in and around London. The MTA was founded in

he accounts of the

diaspora in the UK

1989 to serve and help fellow Mauritians promote their culture. At that time, when state support was not available, many Mauritians who were settling in and around Lon-

don, took it upon themselves to do something about it. The MTA started to get involved in philanthropy activities - more precisely in seva (serving) and giving back to the communities. The association's members have to this day played a major role in promoting cultural activities, organising religious celebrations and are visibly proud of their history.

Some of the founding members of the MTA have sadly passed away since the early 1990s, but younger ones have held on and modernised the association. As a democratically run association, elections are held regularly for the appointment of office bearers, all of whom play no small part in the different activities of this charitable organisation, including the preparation and distribution of Maha Prasadam, the organisation of religious ceremonies and other events. Most importantly, the Mauritius Telugu Association has

also made sure that its women members are and remain at the forefront of the organisation.

Regular social activities are also organised by the MTA for its members, namely visits to other mandirs such as Venkateshwara Temples in Birmingham, Hare Krishna Temple in Watford and seaside trips.

Just like millions of people in today's globalized world who must reconcile two or more different cultures from which they derive their overall identity, the second-generation British-Mauritians living in the UK are also proud about the 'parcours' of their parents - from Mauritius to the UK and their sacrifice and hard work for a better life. Their stories of success will hopefully inspire other fellow Mauritians back home and those in the UK.

The MTA is also doing its best to immerse the younger generations in Hindu/Telugu culture. We are all happy to see that despite their hard-pressed lives, lots of the Britishborn children participate in the rituals and have embraced the cultural traditions of their parents and grand-parents.

Kishore Teelanah is an experienced Science Lecturer, having worked mostly in Further and Higher education. He taught Biological and Chemical Sciences, with responsibilities as a Manager and Head of Science in his recent job. Together with Science and Industry, he is very keen to write on the Mauritian Diaspora.

Hiroshima attack marks its 78th anniversary

Cont. from page 2

The Soviet Union secretly conducted its first atomic weapons test in 1949.

The US responded by testing more advanced nuclear weapons in November 1952. The result was a hydrogen bomb explosion with approximately 700 times the power of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

A nuclear arms race had begun.

Arms control

The US atomic bomb attacks on Japan remain the only military use of nuclear weapons.

But today there are nine countries that have nuclear weapons – the US, Russia, France, China, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Israel and North Korea. The US and Russia jointly have about 90% of the nuclear warheads in the world.

There has been progress over the past few decades in reducing the global stockpile of nuclear weapons while preventing the development of new ones. But that momentum has been uneven and oftentimes rocky.

The US and the Soviet Union first agreed to limit their respective countries' nuclear weapons stockpile and to prevent further development of new weapons in 1986.

And in 1991 the US and the Soviet Union signed on to another legally binding international treaty that required the countries to destroy 2,693 nuclear and conventional groundlaunched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of about 300 to more than 3,400 miles (500-5,500 kilometers).

The two countries signed another well-known international agreement called START I in 1994, not long after the fall of the Soviet Union.

That treaty is considered by experts one of the most successful arms control agreements. It resulted in the US and Russia's dismantling 80% of all the world's strategic nuclear weapons by 2001.

Russia and the US signed on to a new START treaty in 2011, restricting the countries to each keep 1,550 nuclear weapons.

START II, as it is known, will expire in February 2026. There are no current plans for the countries to renew the deal, and it is not clear what comes next.

Complicating factors

Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine – and Russian President Vladimir Putin's repeated threats to strike Ukraine and Western countries with nuclear weapons – has complicated plans to renew the new START deal.

Although Putin has not formally ended Russian adherence to the START II agreement, Russia has stopped participating in the nuclear inspection checks that the deal requires. This lack of transparency makes diplomacy over the deal more difficult.

Another complicating factor is that China has made it clear that it is not interested in an arms control agreement until it has the same number of nuclear weapons that the US and Russia have.

Indeed, since 2019, China has increased the size, readi-

Building and Land Use Permit Application

Notice for Permission for Land Use

Take notice that City Chicks Co Ltd will apply to the District Council of Flacq for a Building and Land Use Permit for a proposed construction of two Poultry Pens at La Laura, Caroline, Bel-Air Rivière Sèche.

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. *4 August 2023* ness, accuracy and diversity of its nuclear arsenal.

The US Department of Defense reported in 2022 that China was on course to have 1,500 nuclear weapons within the next decade – roughly matching the stockpile that the US and Russia each have. In 2015, China had an estimated 260 nuclear warheads, and by 2023 that number rose to more than 400.

At the same time, North Korea continues testing its ballistic nuclear missiles.

Iran is enriching uranium to near-weapons-grade levels. Some observers have voiced concern that Iran could soon reach 90% enrichment levels, meaning it would then just be a few months before Iran develops a nuclear bomb.

In a world of potential nuclear terrorism and conflicts that risk the unthinkable use of nuclear weapons, I think that the need to control proliferation and double down on arms control is a useful starting point.

So, what else can be done to contain the real threat of nuclear war?

Diplomacy is the way forward

Diplomacy matters, as was clear in the early years of US

-Soviet agreements.

In my view, a formal agreement between the US and Iran to slow down its nuclear development would be valuable. Creating a better relationship between the US and China might reduce the chances of a confrontation over Taiwan with the potential for a nuclear conflagration.

The US can also use public diplomacy tools – everything from official speeches to international educational exchanges – to warn the world of the escalating dangers of unchecked nuclear weapons use. This is one way to get ordinary citizens to put pressure on their governments to work on disarmament, similar to how young activists have moved public opinion on climate change.

The US could potentially use its global podium to underscore the horrific nature of threats that come with the use of nuclear weapons and make clear such use is inadmissible.

Remembering Aug. 6, 1945, is painful. But the best way to honour history is not to repeat it.

Tara Sonenshine, Edward R. Murrow Professor of Practice in Public Diplomacy, Tufts University

<u>Mauritius Times</u>

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Thank you so much.

Mauritius Times

Mauritius Times

Warning to adults: Children notice everything

Adults are really good at paying attention only to what you tell them to -- but children don't ignore anything. That difference can actually help children do better than adults in some learning situations, a new study suggests.

Researchers surprised adults and 4- and 5-year-old children participating in the study by making information that was irrelevant at the beginning of the experiment suddenly important for a task they had to complete.

"Adults had a hard time readjusting because they didn't learn the information they thought wouldn't be important," said Vladimir Sloutsky, co-author of the study and Prof of psychology together with Nathaniel Blanco, a postdoctoral researcher in psychology, at The Ohio State University.

"Children, on the other hand, recovered quickly to the new circumstances because they weren't ignoring



anything. I'm sure a lot of parents will recognize that tendency of children to notice everything, even when you wish they wouldn't."

Sloutsky conducted the study with Nathaniel Blanco,

a postdoctoral researcher in psychology at Ohio State.

The results show that children tend to distribute their attention broadly, while adults use selective attention to focus on information they believe is most important, Sloutsky said.

"Distributing attention may be adaptive for young children. By being attentive to everything, they gather more information which helps them learn more," Blanco said.

Sloutsky emphasized that adults have no problem distributing attention broadly if necessary. But in many tasks that adults do every day, selective attention is helpful.

"It is clear that for optimal performance at most jobs, selective attention is necessary. But distributed attention might be useful when you're learning something new and need to see everything that is going on."

Sleep is essential for business leaders seeking next successful venture

Jeff Bezos and Arianna Huffington came up with brilliant ideas that turned into companies that are now household names -- Amazon and HuffPost. The secret ingredient for coming up with these ideas may be something we can all tap into -- a good night's sleep.

According to a new study, sleep plays an especially important role in not only identifying a good business idea, but in evaluating it and believing it is viable.

"Entrepreneurs who consistently choose hustle over sleep, thinking that sleep comes after success, may be subverting their efforts to succeed," says Jeff Gish, an assistant business Prof at the University of Central Florida. "Everyone needs a good night of sleep, but it is especially important for entrepreneurs."

Several studies have found a connection between sleep and job performance. Bezos and Huffington have both indicated they get plenty of sleep in various media interviews. But the new study found a link between sleep and the cognitive skills needed to identify and evaluate an idea. Entrepreneurs use experience and business knowledge to evaluate ideas that could turn into successful business



about the commercial potential of a new venture idea. Pic - Outreach Magazine

ventures. But sleep appears to be an important factor as well.

The study surveyed more than 700 entrepreneurs from around the world. The surveys asked about sleep patterns, hours of sleep and types of sleep.

"The evidence suggests that less sleep leads to less accurate beliefs about the commercial potential of a new venture idea," Gish says. "Since we compared individual performance over multiple days, we can say that these results are consistent even for entrepreneurs who don't sleep as much on average as the general population."



Why is February shorter than every other month?

The answer comes from how the Romans measured the year.

The reason February is shorter than other months comes down to the history of how we measure and divide the year.

We know that the Earth takes 365 days and just under six hours to go around the Sun. The division of those days into twelve months is a human invention to measure time. But it hasn't always been divided that way.

In the first surviving ancient Roman calendar, there were ten months. The calendar was shaped by the agricultural year, so began in spring with March and ended 304 days later in December. There was no work to be done in the fields during the two months of winter, and the rest of days in the year were simply not counted in the calendar.

In 731BC Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome, decided to line the calendar up with the phases of the moon. There are 12 cycles of the moon each year, so the calendar was divided into twelve months. January and February were added and the new calendar year lasted 355 days.

The Romans believed that even numbers were unlucky, so the length of the months in Pompilius' calendar alter-



nated between 29 or 31 days. However, the length of the calendar year meant that the final month – February – was left with only 28.

In Rome, February was linked with rituals of purification, or februum – giving it its name. During the festival of Lupercalia purification ceremonies took place to prepare buildings and people for the feasts and sacrifices of the festival. During the festival of Feralia food and gifts were brought to cemeteries, to honour the dead and keep them happy so they would not rise and haunt the living.

However, a calendar year lasting 355 days created its own problems. Because the Earth takes longer than this to go

round the Sun, as years went by the months and the seasons started to fall out of alignment. So an extra month called Mercedonius was added to the calendar before the start of March.

Mercedonius was not used every year. It was added whenever it was necessary to re-align the months and the seasons. It had either 27 or 28 days, creating a year that lasted for either 377 or 378 days.

But this had unfortunate consequences for February. Mercedonius started on 24th February, cutting four days from a month that was already the shortest in the calendar. And although Mercedonius helped to link the months with the seasons, its use was unpredictable. People living far from Rome might not realise that the extra month had been added to the calendar.

Another calendar

Another new calendar tried to fix this problem. In the Julian Calendar, named after Julius Caesar and dating from 45 BCE, a year lasted 365 days.

None of the extra ten days were added to February. There were twelve months, each of which were the same length as in our calendar. To keep the calendar accurate, an extra day was added to February once every four years - a leap year.

However, an extra day each four years is actually a bit too much to correct the difference between a 365-day year and the 365 and just under a quarter days in which the Earth orbits the Sun. By the middle of the sixteenth century, the Julian calendar was out of alignment with the seasons and cycles of the year by ten days.

This led to the creation of another calendar. The Gregorian Calendar was introduced in 1582, named after Pope Gregory XIII, and is still in use today. In the Gregorian calendar, no century year can be a leap year unless it is exactly divisible by 400 - so 2000 was a leap year, with an extra day in February, but not 1900. This prevents the problems caused by the Julian calendar.

This sounds simple enough, but that ten-day error in the Julian calendar still needed to be corrected. In 1582, ten days were taken out of the calendar in countries that adopted the Gregorian calendar. This meant that the day after 4 October was 15 October - and the dates in between never existed.

> **Helen Parish** Professor in History, University of Reading

Unwind | Mauritius Times

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A woman goes on holiday to Jamaica. Upon arriving, she meets a black man, and after a night of passionate love making, she asks him, 'What is your name?'

'I can't tell you,' the man says.

Every night they meet and every night she asks him again what his name is, and he always responds the same, he can't tell her.

On her last night there, she asks again 'Can you please tell me your name?'

'I can't tell you my name because you will laugh at me,' says the black man.

'There is no reason for me to laugh at you,' the lady says.

'Fine, my name is Snow!' the black man replies. And the lady bursts into laughter, and the black man gets mad and says, 'I knew you would make fun of it.'

The lady replied, 'I'm not making fun of your name. I'm thinking of my husband who won't believe me when I tell him that I had 10 inches of Snow every day in Jamaica.'

* * * A Dog named Sex

Folks generally aren't very creative in choosing names for their dogs.

That's why there are so many named Rover and Spot.

But have you heard the plight of the bloke who thought he'd be cute and named his dog Sex?

It goes like this:

"One day Sex and I took a walk, and he ran away from me. I spent hours looking for that dog. A policeman came by and asked what I was doing in this alley at midnight? I told him I was looking for Sex... My case comes up next Tuesday."

He continued: "But, that isn't the worst part. One day, I went to the town hall to get a dog license for Sex. The

Working from home...



clerk asked me what I wanted. I told him I wanted a license for Sex. He said,'I'd like to have one, too.' Then, I said, 'You don't understand. She's a dog.' He said he didn't care how she looked. When I told him I'd had Sex since I was 5, he said, "You must have been an early bloomer."

"When I decided to get married, I told the minister I wanted to have Sex at the wedding. He told me I'd have to wait until after the wedding. When I protested that Sex had played a big part in my life and that my whole life revolved around Sex, he said he didn't want to hear about my personal life."

"After my wife and I were married, I took the dog with us on the honeymoon. When I checked into the hotel, I told the clerk I wanted a room for my wife and wanted one for Sex.

She said. 'Every room in the hotel was for sex.'

I said, 'You don't understand. Sex keeps me awake at night.'

The clerk said, 'Me, too.' "

"When my wife and I separated, we went to court to fight for custody of the dog. When I told the judge I had Sex before I was married, he grinned and said, "Me too."

"Now that I've been thrown in jail, married, divorced and had more trouble with that dog than I ever imagined, I'm in counselling. My psychiatrist asked me what my problem was. I said 'Sex has died and left my life. It's like losing a best friend and I'm so lonely,' I told him.

He said, "Look, you and I both know that sex isn't a man's best friend. Get yourself a dog."

A married couple went to the hospital to have their baby delivered.

Upon their arrival, the doctor said he had invented a new machine that would transfer a portion of the mother's pain to the baby's father.

He asked if they were willing to try it out. They were both very much in favour of it.

The doctor set the pain transfer to 10%, for starters, explaining that even 10% was probably more pain the father had ever experienced before.

However, as the labour progressed, the husband felt fine and asked the doctor to go ahead and "Kick it up a notch."

The doctor then adjusted the machine to 20% pain transfer.

The husband was still feeling fine.

The doctor checked the husband's blood pressure and was amazed at how well he was doing at this point, they decided to try for 50%. The husband continued to feel quite well.

Since the pain transfer was obviously helping out the wife considerably, the husband encouraged the doctor to transfer all the pain to him.

The wife delivered a healthy baby boy with virtually no pain.

She and her husband were ecstatic.

When they got home, the mail man was dead on the porch.

A man worked in a post office. His job was to process all mail that had illegible addresses. One day a letter came to his desk, addressed in shaky handwriting to God.

He thought, "I better open this one and see what it's all about." So, he opened it and it read: "Dear God, I am an 83-year-old widow living on a very small pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had £50 in it which was all the money I had until my next pension



cheque."

"Next Sunday is Mother's Day, and I had invited my last two friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with. I have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope. Can you please help me?"

The postal worker was touched and went around showing the letter to all the others. Each of them dug into his wallet and came up with a few pounds. By the time he made the rounds, he had collected £46 which they put into an envelope and sent over to her.

The rest of the day, all the workers felt a warm glow thinking of the nice thing they had done. Mother's Day came and went, and a few days later came another letter from the old lady to God. All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened. It read, "Dear God, how can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me?"

"Because of your generosity, I was able to fix a lovely dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day, and I told my friends of your wonderful gift. By the way, there was £4 missing. No doubt those thieving bastards at the post office had nicked it!"

Fed up with her husband's snoring, a woman called on her family doctor to ask him if there was anything he

"Well, there is one operation I can perform that will cure your husband, but it really is rather expensive, it will cost £ 2000, followed by payments of £ 1500 every month for 48 months," said the doctor.

"What is it?"

"A new sports car."

could do to relieve her suffering.

"A new sports car! How will that help cure the snoring?"

"Well, he won't be able to sleep at night worrying about how he's going to pay for it."

* *

A couple's marriage nearly broke because of the presence in their household of old aunt Jessie. For seventeen long years, she stayed with them, always bad-tempered, always demanding, then finally she passed away.

On the way back from the cemetery, the husband confessed to his wife: "Love, if I did not love you so much, I don't think I could have put up with your auntie in the house all those years."

His wife looked at him aghast. "My aunt Jessie?" she cried "I thought she was your aunt Jessie."

Unwind Mauritius Times

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The Three Types of People in your Life

It's not all the people you meet or are your friends that will stay with you

1. The Leaf people

2. The Branch people

Living Better How to get on track when OFF track

A fter I deliver a leadership keynote at a conference, usually a fair number of people come up to me afterwards and say something like this:

"Robin, I try really hard to practise excellent work and life habits so I can be a great leader, but I often get off track and then give up."

How to get on track when you've fallen off the track is a smart question to ponder. There are 3 Primary Principles that I'll offer to you today:

Principle 1. A great human life balances personal consistency with human frailty

By this truth, I'm simply saying that to reach for the heavens of your highest habits is a wonderful move. It shows the depth of your hope, the respect you have for the realization of your genius and the greatness of your ambition. How wonderful!

Yet, to err is (very) human. No one is consistent 100% of the time (no matter what they try to show you through their curated social media feeds).

So cut yourself some slack. Just do your best, each and every day. And rather than trying to transform your life too quickly and setting yourself up to fail, grow in increments—understanding that daily micro-goals that get done eventually turn into deep lifetime habits.

Principle 2. Growth is never a linear process (but a very messy one)

Please remember one of my top brain tattoos: "All change is hard at first, messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end."

If mastering a new habit to the point where it becomes automatic and, therefore, easier to do than not to do was super easy, the change you're trying to make wouldn't be valuable change.

All brilliant transformations are hard. They force you to reach deep into your gifts and talents and push past fear, doubt and resistance. And as you do this, you build greater self-awareness, about how strong you truly are.

3. The Root people

Leaf people: These are people who come into your life just for a season. You can't depend on them because they are weak. They only come to take what they want, but if the wind comes, they will leave. You need to be careful of these people because they love you when things are okay, but when the wind comes, they will leave you.

Branch people: They are strong, but you need to be careful with them too. They break away when life becomes tough, and they can't handle too much weight. They may stay with you in some seasons, but they will go when it becomes harder.

Root people: These people are very important because they don't do things to be seen. They are supportive even if you go through a difficult time, they will water you and they are not moved by your position; they just love you like that ...

Only the root type of people will stay no matter the season.

Author Unknown - HR Diary

My main point right here though is that growth is never a straight line. It's more like "stumbling your way to excellence."

Think about what I call in my teachings "The Stumbling Child Metaphor." A little kid doesn't wake up one day and run a marathon.

Nope. They try to walk and fall and get back up and stumble and then try again and get bruised and then keep going until they are experts at walking.

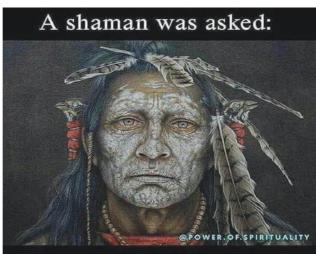
They walk and then they run and then they win.

Principle 3: Remember that a fresh day is a new start

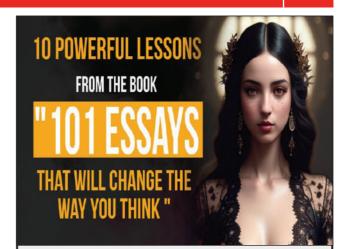
Just because you failed to find victory around a new habit yesterday doesn't mean you can't do it today. You're one day more experienced!

And the universe has seen fit to grant you the good fortune of a fresh day. This is, essentially, a clean slate and beautiful opportunity to write a new story. What happened yesterday is history. The present moment brings magic with it. To get this inspiring habit that's richly challenging you done.

> Robin Sharma Humanitarian &Leadership Missionary



What is Poison? - Anything beyond what we need is poison. It can be power, laziness, food, ego, ambition, vanity, fear, anger or whatever.



1. More is not better

Happiness is not about experiencing more of something.

It's about experiencing what you love in new and interesting ways.

2. Embrace fear

You assume happiness is good, and fear is bad.

Fear is an indicator that you're doing something worthwhile.

Change your story around fear. Bad feelings are not always bad.

3. Seek new experiences

It's difficult to change your beliefs through thought alone.

Seek new and novel experiences that make new beliefs real to you.

4. Problems are pathways

You view problems as roadblocks to your success. Truth is, they're pathways.

"What stands in the way becomes the way." -- Marcus Aurelius

5. Your past does not define you

We believe the past is set in stone, but in reality, your perception of the past changes as you do.

Change your future, change your past.

6. Tame your mind

An untamed mind is a minefield.

Impulsive sub-conscious thinking is disastrous in the long term.

Learn to let your conscious mind make decisions.

7. Avoid fear with routines

Habits and routine turn off your "fight or flight system" by making the unknown known.

This is why people with strong, healthy habits experience so much joy.

8. Emotional intelligence

You can't control your emotions, but you can control your reaction to them.

Gain control of your life by being aware of your emotions.

9. Choose your thoughts

Recognize that social conditioning forms your thoughts. Reflect on your beliefs to figure out if they're your own.

Let go of any thoughts that no longer serve you.

10. Validate feelings, not idea's

Build stronger relationships by validating their feelings.

Everyone's feelings deserve to be felt, seen, and respected.

-- TongsaGuy

It's more common than you think

The Truth About Women's Hair Loss

See the most common hair loss triggers and what you can do about them

For most women hair is way more than a bundle of fibres. It's an expression of your style and personality. But if you start to lose your hair, it can really freak you out.

Whether it's short- or long-term, women lose hair the same way men do. It might thin all over, or your centre part could get wider and wider. You might even get a bald spot at the crown of your head. One thing women rarely have: a receding front hairline.

How much hair loss is normal? Most people shed about 50-100 strands every day. Don't worry if you find a few in your hairbrush or on your clothes. But if it starts to fall out in clumps or if you notice it getting thinner over time, check with your doctor.

What are the roots of hair loss? There's no single cause. Triggers range from medical conditions -- as many as 30 -- to stress and lifestyle factors, like what you eat. Your genes play a role, too. Sometimes doctors can't find a specific reason. As a starting point, hair loss experts suggest you get tested for thyroid problems and hormone imbalances. Hair often grows back once the cause is addressed.

Hair Loss Triggers

Thyroid problems: This butterfly-shaped gland at the front of your neck pumps out chemicals that keep your body humming along. If it makes too much or too little thyroid hormone, your hair growth cycle might take a hit.



But thinner locks are rarely the only sign of a thyroid problem. You might lose or gain weight, become sensitive to cold or heat, or notice changes in your heart rate.

PCOS: If you have polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), your hormones are always out of whack. Your body makes more male hormones, or androgen, than it should. This can cause extra hair to sprout on your face and body while the hair on your head thins out. PCOS can also lead to ovulation problems, acne, and weight gain. But sometimes thinning hair is the only obvious sign.

Alopecia areata causes hair to fall out in big patches. The culprit is your own immune system, which attacks healthy hair follicles by mistake. In most cases, the damage isn't permanent. The missing locks should grow back in 6 months to a year. Some people lose all the hair on their scalp and body, but that's rare.

Child birth: You might notice your hair seems fuller during pregnancy. That's because high hormone levels keep resting hairs from falling out. But after the baby comes, things go back to normal and those strands will fall out quickly. You could lose a lot of hair at once. It could take up to 2 years for your locks to return to normal.

The Pill: The hormones that suppress ovulation could cause your hair to thin. It's more likely if you have a family history of hair loss. It might happen when you stop taking the pill. Other drugs linked to hair loss include blood thinners and medicines that treat high blood pres-

sure, heart disease, arthritis, and depression.

Crash Diets: You may lose more than weight with a fad diet. And if you drop 15 pounds or more, you might also shed some hair a few months down the road. Don't worry too much -- it'll return when you're back on a healthy diet. Be prepared to shed some locks if you're getting too much vitamin A or not enough protein.

Cancer Treatment: Chemoand radiation therapy, two of the most widely used therapies, can take a toll on your hair. In their quest to kill cancer cells, both can harm hair follicles and trigger dramatic hair loss. But the damage is almost always short-lived. Once your treatment is finished, hair usually grows back.

Extreme Stress: High-level physical or emotional stress can cause you to suddenly shed huge amounts of hair. Examples include: serious illness or major surgery, trauma involving blood loss, and severe emotional distress. The process may last 6 to 8 months.

Treating Hair Loss

Medicine: Minoxidil (Rogaine) is approved by the FDA for female pattern hair loss. It can slow or stop it in most women and may help hair grow back. But the benefits go away when you stop using it. Corticosteroids can help regrow hair for women with alopecia areata. And if the cause is an underlying medical problem or poor nutrition, your locks should grow back on their own once things are under control.

Hair Transplants: Follicles are harvested for a hair transplant to treat baldness in a technique called

follicular unit extraction (FUE). Hair is shaved in an area on the head and then 1 to 4 hairs are removed. Those units and then are implanted into the bald area of the head. Results should begin to show within 6 to 9 months.

Medically reviewed by Stephanie S. Gardner, MD - WebMD

How to Get Over a Crush

A crush can crush you -- but only if you let it. Find out why crushes happen, how to get over one...

Crushes are defined as temporary but powerful feelings of attraction that often incite a fair amount of yearning. When you're attracted to someone, your brain releases oxytocin, dopamine, and other feel-good hormones that make you feel excited, flustered, and eager to form a bond.

When developing a crush, people often project their values and sensibilities onto the person they find attractive. You're more likely to view your crush positively and to believe they have a personality similar to your own, whether or not that's true. That's how you're able to feel so romantically connected to that barista with the great hair who always remembers your exact drink order, even though you've never had a real conversation.

Although they're often associated with teenagers, it's possible for people of any age to form crushes. This is because, for better or worse, humans don't outgrow the ability to imagine an attractive person is their perfect match regardless of actual compatibility. And even if you know it won't



work out, overcoming a crush can be tough.

Getting Over a Crush

There are a few common reasons you might want to get over a crush, and your reason will determine your recourse.

Reason: You're in a committed relationship. Someone strikes your fancy when you're involved with someone else. This doesn't make you a bad person or partner — in fact, it's quite common and unlikely to jeopardize your relationship. One study found that nearly half of committed adults reported having at least one crush during their relationship.

Recourse: Evaluate your relationship. A crush doesn't necessarily indicate that anything is wrong with your relationship, but it can mean you're not as invested as you once were. Maybe you hope your crush can offer things missing from your current relationship. If that's the case, try to identify areas where you feel dissatisfied within your relationship and clearly communicate your needs to your partner.

Reason: Your crush is an unsuitable match. Maybe you have a crush on your married boss, or your therapist, etc. For personal or professional reasons, sometimes you just can't go there.

Recourse: Set boundaries for yourself. If you know you can't act on your crush, remind yourself that a crush is harmless until acted upon. If you have to see the person frequently, keep the conversation light and try not to flirt. Do your best to maintain a healthy distance from your crush and take comfort in the knowledge that this too shall pass.

Reason: Your crush doesn't return your feelings. This one stings, but you're not alone. One survey found that 8 out of 10 people have experienced unrequited attraction at least once before turning 20 years old.

Recourse: Don't take it personally. Once you've established that your crush doesn't feel the same way, your first step is to accept this fact. Unrequited love is not a reflection of your worth.

How to stay friends with someone you love

If your crush is impacting your ability to behave normally around your friend, consider confiding in them. Confessing your crush can be nerve-racking, but it's possible to stay friends afterward.

You'll have the most luck in this department if:

- You had a solid, long-term friendship before the crush developed.
- Both you and your crush accept your feelings and value the friendship.
- You're able to resume your regular friendship patterns and tone down any flirting.
- You're OK with hearing about your crush's romantic interests.

Once you've shared your feelings and heard their thoughts, focus on moving forward. That means dropping the issue, staying in touch, and not awkwardly avoiding them at parties.

How long does it take to get over a crush?

Mild crushes can fade within a few weeks. Serious crushes are generally limited to the early stages of a relationship, or two years if no relationship develops.

If your crush lingers for longer than two years, it's technically classified as limerence. Limerence is defined as an involuntary, acute state of longing accompanied by obsessive feelings, intense idealization, and a dependency on the object of your affection.

Chelsea Bishop. Medically Reviewed by Jabeen Begum, MD - WebMD

Upcoming Bollywood movies releasing in August 2023: Gadar 2. OMG 2 and more

fter a successful month of July for Bollywood films, After a succession month of August promises to be just as exciting with a lineup of highly anticipated movies. This month, we can look forward to the patriotic Sunny Deol returning with Gadar 2, Akshay Kumar portraying Lord Shiva in OMG 2, Ayushmann Khurrana leading Dream Girl 2, and several other exciting releases.

Here are the upcoming Bollywood films releasing this month

Gadar 2

Cast: Sunny Deol, Ameesha Patel, Utkarsh Sharma, Simrat Kaur, Manish Wadhwa, and Gaurav Chopra

Director: Anil Sharma

If you are a fan of Sunny Deol's iconic handpump scene from Gadar: Ek Prem Katha, your wait is finally over as Tara Singh is back with his Sakeena and Jeete. Directed by Anil Sharma, Gadar 2 is set in 1971 amidst the Crush India movement and follows Tara Singh as he travels to Lahore, Pakistan to bring back his son.

Release Date: August 11

Kiara Advani to Tiger Shroff, Bollywood celebs who changed their names...

The Hindi film industry has been one of the most sought-after domains in India. From its very inception, people have been keenly drawn towards it and have also established an exceptional connection with it. However, did you know that some of the most known faces in the film industry use a different name than what they were born with? Well then, check out some of the popular Bollywood celebs who changed their names before entering films, as reported by Bollywood Shaadis.

1. Kiara Advani's real name is Aliya Advani

One of the most sought-after actresses in tinsel town currently, Kiara Advani has made a name for herself with films like Kabir Singh, Shershaah, Jug Jug Jeeyo, Bhool Bhulaiyya 2 among others. Interestingly, Kiara's real name is Aliya Advani. She was advised by Salman Khan to change her name to Kiara since there is already her namesake actress, Alia Bhatt in the film industry.

2. Ajay Devgn's real name is Vishal Veeru Devan

Ajay Devgn is known to be a man of few words. He has been credited for an impeccable filmography, which includes some mega hits like Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, Singham, Golmaal, Gangaajal among so many others. Ajay's birth name happens to be Vishal Veeru Devgn, and it was in his belief in numerology that the actor changed his name.



OMG 2

Cast: Akshay Kumar, Pankaj Tripathi, Yami Gautam, Arun Covil

Director: Amit Rai

For fans of OMG: Oh My God!, where Akshay Kumar played Lord Krishna and transformed Paresh Rawal's atheist character Kajilal into a believer in God, the actor is returning as Lord Shiva to assist one of his devotees.

Release Date: August 11

Akelli

Cast: Nushrratt Bharuccha, Tsahi Halevi, Amir Boutrous and Nishant Dahiya

Director: Pranay Meshram

3. Preity Zinta's real name is

The bubbly dimple girl of Bollywood,

Preity Zinta has been loved by millions of

audiences worldwide. She has made her

impeccable presence in the film industry,

and has worked in a plethora of films.

Hailing from Himachal Pradesh, Preity's

4. Salman Khan's real name is

Salman Khan has been a heartthrob

for fans. From his acting skills, dance

moves to a brilliant host, Salman has been

winning hearts always. His name, Salman

is a shorter version of Abdul Rashid Salim

5. Katrina Kaif's real name is Katrina

One of the highest-paid actresses of

her generation, Katrina Kaif is a queen of

hearts. Despite hailing from British origin,

she has made a name for herself in the

Hindi film industry and has even opened

her own cosmetic brand. For the

unversed, Katrina's real name is Katrina

6. Saif Ali Khan's real name is Sajib

actual name is Preetam Singh Zinta.

Abdul Rashid Salim Salman Khan

Preetam Singh Zinta

Salman Khan.

Turquotte

Turquotte.

Ali Khan

Starring Nushrratt as the main lead, Akelli is a

For the unversed, Saif is the current Nawab of the estate of Pataudi in Haryana. The actor manages to swoon hearts with his handsome looks. Saif's real name, according to his birth certificate is Sajib Ali Khan.

7. Shilpa Shetty's real name is Ashwini Shetty

Ageing like a fine wine, Shilpa Shetty is known for her perfectly enviable physique and much talked-about personality. She has nailed her finesse in acting by acing all kinds of roles from

romantic to thrillers. Many do not know that at the time of her birth, she was named as Ashwini Shetty. However, her mother, Sunanda Shetty later changed it to Shilpa, based on numerology.

8. Akshay Kumar's real name is Rajiv Hari Om Bhatia

The OG khiladi of Bollywood, Akshay Kumar is loved by his massive fan base, who never leaves a moment to know more about him. Interestingly, his real name is not Akshay and is actually Rajiv Hari Om Bhatia. According to the actor, he was the one who wished to change his name and shorten it up a bit.

9. Sunny Leone's real name is Karenjit Kaur Vohra

Sunny Leone grabbed eyeballs with her beauty and suave dance moves. Be it her fashion sense or just her true real self, she is bound to create an instant sensation amidst her fans. Sunny, who is an Indian born in Canada has her real name as Karenjit Kaur Vohra.

10. John Abraham's real name is Farhan Abraham

Known for his macho-like physique, dimple smile and love for bikes, John has always made his female fans go weak in

poignant story of a girl who becomes ensnared in a perilous world due to her circumstances, and her subsequent struggle to break free.

Release Date: August 18

Ghoomer

Cast: Saiyami Kher, Abhishek Bachchan, Angad Bedi and Shabana Azmi

Director: R. Balki

Ghoomer is a unique cricket film, inspired by the late Hungarian right-hand shooter Karoly Takacs, who won two Olympic gold medals with his left hand after his other hand was severely injured. The film features Saiyami as a paraplegic sportsperson while Abhishek Bachchan plays the role of a strict and tough cricket coach.

Release Date: August 18

Dream Girl 2

Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana, Ananya Panday Annu Kapoor, Seema Pahwa, Vijay Raaz and Rajpal Yadav

Director: Raaj Shaandilyaa

The highly anticipated sequel to the 2019 hit movie Dream Girl is finally here, with Ayushmann Khurrana reprising his role as everyone's favourite telecaller, Pooja, who is set to win the hearts of lonely men once again. Joining him is Ananya Panday as Pari, Karam's (Ayushmann) love interest.

Release Date: August 25

their knees. Not many know that the actor's real name is Farhan Abraham, which has been registered even on his hirth certificate

11. Rekha's real name is Bhanurekha Ganesan

Yesteryear legendary actress, Rekha continues to win hearts with her gorgeous personality and unmissable beauty. It is her rustic, old-world beauty that has made people go gaga over her. She was initially named as Bhanurekha Ganesan by her father, Gemini Ganesan. However, she later shortened it to just Rekha.

12. Sunny Deol's real name is Ajay Singh Deol

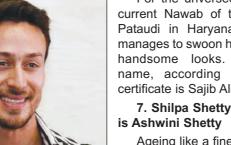
Son of legendary actor, Dharmendra, Sunny has carved his own niche and fame in films. Popularly known as the 'Angry Man' of Bollywood, Sunny's real name is Ajay Singh Deol. However, the actor uses a shorter name Sunny for himself.

13. Madhubala's real name was Begum Mumtaz Jahan Dehelvi

Madhubala's dreamy beauty and exemplary acting mettle was highly praised back in the 70s. and continues to set inspiration for the new generation of actors. Interestingly, much like her royal aura, she too had a royal-like real name. For the unversed, Madhubala's actual name was Begum Mumtaz Jahan Dehelvi.

14. Tiger Shroff's real name is Jai **Hemant Shroff**

Tiger Shroff's chiselled jawline, perfectly sculpted abs and charming personality have made women go weaker in their knees for him. His real name is Jai Hemant Shroff. It has been his father, Jackie Shroff, who used to call him 'Tiger' out of affection. And so, he became unanimously referred to as Tiger Shroff itself



TellyBytes Mauritius Times

<u>'Anupmanaa' actress</u> <u>Madalsa Sharma</u> **'Ever since I was a little** girl, I wanted to be an actress'

Growing up, most of us go through several career choices that keep changing till we find our calling. This process is fun, tiring and time taking. But the end result is always a fulfilling experience. *Anupamaa* actor Madalsa Sharma talks to Times of India about how confused she was as a teenager, what made her take up acting and her experiences till now.

"Well, ever since I was a little girl, I think maybe I was like two or three years old, I decided I wanted to be an actress. My mom (Sheela Sharma) is an actress herself, my father is a filmmaker, director, producer and a writer. We also have our own production houses. So I have seen this happening all my life. I've been on film sets as a child, be it with my father or my mom. I used to go to see mom shoot and give her company. Sometimes, I used to travel with her. So this is all I have seen all my growing years. Slowly, I also developed passion for this art form and after I grew up, I said one day I'm gonna be exactly like my mother, become an actress like her, because I've seen her devotion, dedication, hard work, and the magic she creates on screen is something that has always inspired me. And my parents, obviously, encouraged me as well as groomed me accordingly," she says.

So, coming into this profession was an easy choice for Madalsa. "As I said, my parents have always been very supportive and encouraging because they saw that spark in me. It was not like I had some kind of pressure from my parents to follow their path or something. This career choice was very easy for me to make. In fact, in school, I used to take part in every drama competition and always came first in fancy dress contests. I did well



in elocution, singing and even dancing. So, my parents accepted my decision very gracefully," she adds.

During the initial stage of his career, the right opportunities matter a lot. Agreeing, Madalsa also emphasises on making the right choices because that's the base of one's career.

"Obviously in the initial days everybody wants to come with a bang and everything. But you need to know how and where you want to start off with. I was in my 10th grade, barely 16 years old, when I did my acting course from Kishore Namit Kapoor. I used to go to school in the morning, come back home in the afternoon, go for tuitions and then go for my acting course. That was my entire schedule. And I had a plan. I mean, I knew that I'm going to start acting and I already had a platform," she adds.

Madalsa wanted to start off with the South Indian film industry. "I was almost 17 or 18 when I starred in my first Telugu film, *Fitting Master*, followed by another titled *Aalasyam Amrutam*. I've worked down south and have also worked with the best of the production houses, actors, technicians, and everything. And I'm not seeing that I got lucky, but I was focused since my growing years, and it was difficult both as a student and professional. Thankfully my focus, discipline and dedication helped me move ahead," she says.

Karan Sharma joins the cast of 'Wagle Ki Duniya' as the charming tenant Pulkit

In an exciting development, talented actor Karan Sharma has joined the cast of Wagle Ki Duniya. He enters the show as Pulkit, a young divorcee, who brings out the jealous side of Rajesh Wagle (played by Sumeet Raghavan) and his friends. Pulkit impresses the women of Sai Darshan society with his charm while Rajesh Wagle and the other male members try to uncover the truth about his intentions and the reasons for his divorce.

Talking about his character Karan Sharma said, "Pulkit's charming and friendly nature will resonate with viewers. He is a man who has his way with the women, and this brings about a lot of misunderstandings among the couples in Sai Darshan. I am excited to bring a series of twists in the story while spotlighting an important message about the social stigma surrounding divorce. Being a part of a show like Wagle Ki Duniya is an honour, and I look forward to entertaining the audiences in



the upcoming episodes."

Wagle Ki Duniya – Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey, slice-of-life family drama offers viewers a keen insight into the life of a common man and their daily problems. With relatable characters and situations, "Wagle Ki Duniya" leaves viewers with learning along with a heartwarming feel with each story.

Talking about Karan, he has been a part of many shows in the past, such as *Sasural Simar Ka* 2, Pavitra Bhagya, Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai, Dastaan-E-Mohabbat Salim Anarkali, Pavitra Rishta, Ekk Nayi Pehchaan and many more.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

This week is all about discipline and duty. You may have a desire to take on extra tasks, whether at work or at home. This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate your dependability and demonstrate your capacity to handle whatever is thrown your way. This is also a good time to consider your long-term goals and devise a strategy to achieve them. *Lucky Numbers: 4, 12, 18, 20, 23, 24*

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your expertise in the professional field would be highly praised by your associate officers. There will be a prosperous time during the second phase of the week with respect to your financial position. There will be a high degree of affection in your personal relationships. If there are any conflicts or arguments, they would be surely resolved this week.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 9, 16, 30, 32 Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You may feel compelled to try new things and think outside the box. This is an excellent time to embrace your own thoughts and share them with others. You may also discover that you are more self-sufficient than usual. Utilize your independence to forge your own path and do things your way. This is also a good time to socialize. *Lucky Numbers: 7, 15, 20, 33, 36, 40*

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

This is an excellent moment to reconnect with your inner self and investigate your own views. You may also notice yourself being more empathic than normal. Use empathy to connect with others and comprehend their emotions. This is also a period for innovation. Consider using art, music, or writing to express oneself.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 5, 14, 30, 31

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Your vitality and your excitement are contagious. Use this momentum to complete any outstanding jobs or projects. You can also be lured to new experiences and opportunities. Embrace the unknown and trust your instincts. This is a period of development and exploration for you. Don't be afraid of problems; rather, view them as chances to learn and grow.

Lucky Numbers: 16, 20, 21, 24, 30, 36 Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You might feel drawn to nature and quiet times of reflection. Take advantage of this opportunity to reconnect with your inner self and re-evaluate your aspirations. What you originally desired may have shifted, and that's okay. Accept the modification and alter your course accordingly. You might discover that a slower pace is exactly what you require right now.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 12, 14, 30, 32

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You can meet new people in both your personal and business life. These relationships may lead to great opportunities, so have an open mind. Follow your curiosity since it may lead to useful discoveries and growth. Your communication abilities will be especially strong, making it an ideal time for significant conversations and agreements. *Lucky Numbers: 3, 11, 12, 10, 25, 31*

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You may find yourself concentrating on home and family. This could include spending more time at home or focusing on your relationships with your family. In any case, this is a time for nurturing and caring for those you care about. This is also a good time to focus on yourself. Take care of your physical health, but also consider your mental and emotional well-being.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 4, 7, 19, 20, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Allow your creativity to flow and express yourself in whichever way feels right at this time. You may also notice that you are more self-assured than usual. Use your self-assurance to pursue your goals and to advocate for what you believe in. This is also a time for enjoyment. Make time to play and enjoy yourself. *Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 12, 20, 23, 39*

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

This is an excellent time to begin any jobs or projects that demand close attention to detail. You may also find yourself being more analytical than normal. Solve problems and make decisions with this analytical mind. This is also a good opportunity to work on yourself. Make a list of the abilities or knowledge you wish to gain and a plan to learn them. *Lucky Numbers: 8, 14, 15, 20, 33, 36*

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You might desire to establish a more tranquil and harmonious environment, whether at home or at work. This is an excellent moment to prioritize your relationships and address any issues that have been causing tension. You may also find yourself being more diplomatic than normal. Use this diplomacy to resolve disagreements and bring people together.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 30

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You may feel compelled to make substantial changes in your life, whether in your personal or professional life. This is an excellent time to think on personal development and what changes you need to make to become the person you want to be. Trust your instincts and follow them.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 9, 12, 25, 36, 37

What's On

Mauritius Times



What's On

Mauritius Times





Mauritius Times



Stewart Prest Lecturer, Political Science, Simon Fraser University

Justin Trudeau's Marital Breakdown

Many Canadians likely have a great deal of empathy for what Justin Trudeau and Sophie Grégoire Trudeau are going through right now — which is why opposition politicians should too

anadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, have announced they're separating after 18 years of marriage. The surprise announcement has stunned Canadians who have watched the couple's three

children grow up in the public eye but also in a seemingly harmonious home environment.

"Sophie and I would like to share the fact that after many meaningful and difficult conversations, we have made the decision to separate," Trudeau wrote in a message posted to his Instagram account.

With an event like this, thoughts inevitably move along two tracks — the personal and political. A separation is a difficult process for any family, and the humane among us wish for the best for everyone involved.

But breakups are especially difficult to go through for high-profile politicians, when every aspect must be stage-managed. The temptation to use the split for political purposes might be tempting to Trudeau's political opponents, but any attacks risk sounding tone-deaf at best and cruel at worst.

A black and white photo shows an older man and a young woman swinging smiling boy between them.

Pierre Trudeau's adage that the state has no place in the bedrooms of the nation remains as true today for politicians as for any other citizen — including for his eldest son and the country's current prime minister.

Indeed, Pierre Trudeau's marriage to Justin Trudeau's mother, Margaret Trudeau, fell apart while he was serving as prime minister in his own high-profile breakup.

Lines blurring

There is a longstanding tradition in Canada, still more often observed than

not, that the private family lives of politicians are not subject to political scrutiny and criticism in the way that they are in the United States — unless the personal becomes publicly scandalous.

Admittedly, the wall between public and private life has eroded somewhat during the Justin Trudeau era.

There are several reasons for this. First, the Trudeaus themselves have chosen to involve the family in political imagery at times.

At the same time, the increasingly polarized political culture in Canada has left fewer topics off limits to criticism — particularly online and on the political margins.

It is quite likely, and unfortunate, that there will be unsavoury attacks from those online fringes, including some operating independently of any factual content. That's already apparent when reading the comments on both Trudeau's and Grégoire Trudeau's Instagram post on the breakup and cutting remarks on other social media platforms.

What impact the separation will have on Trudeau's political career remains to be seen. It represents a challenge, but also an opportunity for both the prime minister and his wife.

If cracks in the public image of a conscious and mutual uncoupling begin to show, it will inevitably affect



Justin Trudeau and Sophie Grégoire Trudeau arrive at Westminster Abbey prior to the coronation ceremony of King Charles in London in May 2023. Pic - Flipboard

perceptions of Trudeau, given how much he has invested in developing the image of a devoted husband and father.

Empathy from most Canadians

At the same time, there is opportunity.

Many of us, myself included, have had our marriages end in separation or divorce and are co-parenting our children with our former spouses.

> As a result, many of us likely have a great deal of empathy for what the Trudeaus are going through right now — which is why opposition politicians would be unwise to make any political hay out of the breakup. And while marital breakdowns are painful and difficult, they can lead to better things for everyone involved.

> After nearly 10 years in office, some Canadians have tired of the very carefully cultivated public persona that Trudeau presents. It's possible that the Trudeaus are just as tired of it.

> If they emerge from this moment better able to live authentic lives, it may prove the beginning of a new chapter both publicly and personally, rather than the end of the story.



Justin Trudeau and wife Sophie Grégoire Trudeau are joined by their children Ella-Grace, Xavier and Hadrien, as they arrive to 2022 Canada Day celebrations in Ottawa. Pic - The Canadian Press



I f you're feeling stuck in life and are ready for change, take time to declare to the Universe that you're ready.

There comes a point in most of our lives when we feel ready to experience a change we've had trouble carrying out. Maybe we've been stuck in a home, a relationship, job, or a town that hasn't felt right for a long time, but we've been unable to shift our circumstances in the direction we want to go. At times like this,

Declaring Our Intentions

it can help to declare to the universe that we are ready for a change. Think of it as informing a helpful friend that you need her assistance to move to the next level in your life. If the time is right, the universe will respond with opportunities and offers designed to help you create the change you wish to see.

You can begin the process of making your declaration by getting clear within yourself about what exactly you want to change. Whenever we ask anyone for help, they can assist us that much better if we are specific. The universe also appreciates our clarity and has an easier time answering a direct communication than a vague yearning. When you are clear on what you want, write your declaration on a piece of paper and place it on your altar, if you have one. If you don't, you can also place it under your pillow or in a box on your nightstand. Set aside a period of time every day to be silent with your wishes for change, repeating your declaration like a mantra. This lets the universe know that you are ready to change and will be receptive to its efforts.

Feel free to continue to refine and

redefine your declaration and remember to be open to the many different ways in which the change you seek might come to be. Remember also to be active in vour own efforts, taking opportunities that come your way, watching for signs, and always taking responsibility for your intentions. If things don't happen quickly, try not to be discouraged; it might take time to free up energy that has been blocked and possibly serving a purpose beyond what we can understand. If you continue your conversation with the universe, declaring yourself clearly and openly, you cannot help but experience the magic of changing and being changed.

Elsewhere