

# MAURITIUS TIMES

● "The Spirit that prevails among Men of all degrees, all ages and sexes is the Spirit of Liberty." — Abigail Adams, 1775

Interview: Jyoti Jeetun, CEO - Mont Choisy Group

## "Wherever you go, up and down the country, you hear, and you feel, a very compelling cry for change..."

People want change... They want to see meritocracy, they want to see honesty, they want to see authenticity"

● 'Loss of values is a major problem in our society. Values of hard work, values of integrity, values of trust'



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# MK: A Continuing Debacle

In an editorial comment we carried in this paper last year, we had echoed the sentiment felt by most stakeholders in the airline industry locally, including the small shareholders of Air Mauritius, that the appointment in December last of the Croatian national Kesimir Kucko as CEO of our national airline, a professional with more than 30 years of experience in international aviation, would hopefully help turn the company around after the colossal losses it registered for a number of years. The hope that things would change for the better has come crashing down with the announcement, last Friday, by the Board of Air Mauritius of the immediate suspension of Kesimir Kucko after less than one year in office as well as that of MK's Chief Finance Officer, Jean Laval Ah-Chip - both for reasons of alleged ethical misconduct/managerial wrongdoings.

National airlines do sometimes fail for different reasons, and Air Mauritius has also been through several storms in the course of its existence. Open skies policy and the resulting competition forced it to take the cue not to take things for granted. But it was the quality of service for most of its existence which helped sustain the business. It overcame poor mismanagement decisions on occasion, such as when it landed into catastrophic hedging contracts for its fuel oil. It had to watch out for inexperienced political busybodies and/or their advisors dragging it to service various airports with little traffic or even change its Singapore hub to Kuala Lumpur at great costs with little benefits.

But things changed for the worse with a succession of scandals, financial or managerial, hitting the company and costing many of its past CEOs their jobs and in some cases their credibility. It came crashing down in the wake of the Covid pandemic, but the conditions for its failure had been set much earlier, through a host of ill-advised decisions, including the ill-timed purchase of brand new Airbus airliners the company could not afford and had to lease out at considerable losses. All this has been happening under different governments with their appointees on the board of Air Mauritius and in different management capacities - much like what obtains in other State Owned Enterprises.

The poor performance of these erstwhile profitable State enterprises might send the signal that public enterprises eventually are bound to fail, thereby demolishing the strategic political decision taken in earlier decades which sought

to free them from bureaucratic shackles in a business environment or to break the hold of monopolies on the local economy through the setting up of state enterprises in certain strategic areas of activity. The state enterprise, it was thought at the time of their inception, would serve the 'public interest'.

It is deplorable that most of these institutions have been unable to live up to their mission - either due to political interference in their running, uploading of political agents in various capacities they are unfit for. As a result, there has been a clear failure on their part to fulfil their duty of protecting the national interest as it ought to have been done under the vigilance of wakeful Boards and their political masters. It may be worthwhile here to recall that some of the prized SOEs (like MK or MT) have outside shareholders and often their business representatives on Board, which should have given their Boards on paper greater acumen, but it seems to little avail.

It has cost the public exchequer a budgetary layout of Rs 9 million in 2020 and, the following year a massive Rs 25 billion, injected by the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) to save the company. This bonanza did not prevent the national carrier doing its business with the least of concerns for transparency in its operations and accountability for its decisions to the Mauritian taxpayers and population. For instance, some time back, MK's 5 or more slots at the preferred Heathrow International Airport hub was ditched in favour for Gatwick, with two extra weekly slots. Was this decision, which may be irreversible in future years, researched at some depth would be anybody's guess.

The hasty fire sale of 5-6 Airbus carriers from its fleet for some Rs 500 million (less than the cost of the engines!) in the wake of the ICU it found itself dragged into, has now forced MK to costly lease of older generation Airbuses to serve post-Covid rise in demand. Were there other more sensible alternatives the population wonders. It is worth noting that the reorganisation of the company's various activities under Air Holdings Ltd, has edged out all other airlines as shareholders and delisted the Company. Given the level of public funds injected, we have to keep asking whether the hundreds of millions forked out to consultants and bedside doctors have been of value and whether decisions are being taken in the national interest.

## The Conversation

### The Nobel Peace Prize often reveals how contentious peace can be

*Peace can become political when advocates oppose or try to reform governments and societies pursuing hostile foreign relations — or when these societies perpetuate injustice and oppression at home*



Nobel peace laureate Muhammad Yunus. Pic - AP

Leading up to the announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize, there is widespread speculation about who will win.

There are 351 nominees for the 2023 prize, 259 individuals and 92 organizations. Although the list is confidential, there is widespread speculation about who's on it, including favourites and long shots, repeat and first-time nominees.

This global moment of interest in peace is important, but it doesn't tell us much other than that peace is elusive.

Looking at the longer history of the Nobel Peace Prize tells us that peace takes many forms, including ending armed conflicts, resisting racial discrimination, standing up for the oppressed and caring for the vulnerable. Peace can also be political and controversial.

#### Taking a stand against war

The early recipients were usually prominent men from Europe and the United States, and their peace work took the form of preventing or ending wars.

The first Nobel Peace Prize was jointly awarded in 1901 to Frédéric Passy, a French economist and politician who founded the French Peace Society and organized a peace congress in 1878. American president

Theodore Roosevelt received the 1906 prize for "his role in bringing to an end the bloody war recently waged between two of the world's great powers, Japan and Russia."

Over time, the list of laureates has expanded to include women and non-elites from all over the world.

Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan did clerical work in Belfast and became peace activists after the death of three children in an IRA-related incident.

Corrigan was aunt to the children; Williams witnessed their deaths. They shared the 1976 prize for launching a peace movement to end sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.

#### Protecting people, defending human rights

Humanitarian work that supports people who are in danger or vulnerable has informed the selection of peace laureates from the start of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Henri Dunant, a Swiss businessman who had established the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1863 to assist wounded soldiers, shared the 1901 prize with Passy. Dunant was selected because of "his humanitarian efforts to help wounded soldiers."

Francine McKenzie, Professor of History, Western University

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Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy

Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis  
Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313

mtimes@intnet.mu



www.mauritiustimes.com



facebook.com/mauritius.times



# Grilling the CEB

*Would it not have been simpler to clarify the situation properly, as the CEB, which is under strained financials, can ill afford to enter into possible costly litigations*

Jan Arden

**O**n this Saturday 16th September, MMM MP Joanna Berenger, backed by information she had gathered, formulated publicly an accusation that the Central Electricity Board (CEB) would have allegedly allocated a contract for renewable energy supply worth Rs 5 billion to a non-responsive bidder, Corex Solar.

The bone of contention seems to have been the condition that all bidders should furnish proof of their title deed or lease agreement to the land on which they proposed to build their solar power farm. It seems that changes in proposed land venue from bidders could be

entertained before the tender closure, but the controversy is whether Corex Solar, having won the contract in February 2023, could then inform the CEB that its proposed land was not available and was therefore seeking an alternative venue. Was that not exposing the CEB to legal complications and challenges, she asked?

The CEB issued a communique, which stated the chronology surrounding this contract but did not really address the specific issue raised, while its Officer in Charge registered a complaint for defamatory declaration against MP Joanna Berenger at the Police. Later the Minister of Public Utilities Joe Lesjongard, with overview of the CEB, also filed a similar complaint. The controversy took on more complicated turns as the media have reported that the CEB's Renewable Committee had expressed reservations about this exercise and that a Senior Counsel, asked to advise the CEB, had recommended that the tender be cancelled and a new one launched.

If such an advice did indeed exist, why did the CEB feel the need to press for another (and different) advisory opinion either from outside or from its own in-house and relatively junior legal advisor?

We understand that MP Joanna keeps ruffling government feathers, but rather than rushing to the police, would it

not have been simpler to clarify the situation properly, as the CEB, which is under strained financials, can ill afford to enter into possible costly litigations.

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## More on the Eco-Deer Park land lease controversy

**T**he PM has these days robustly defended his Attorney General (AG) in the 700-acre land lease for the Eco-Deer Park chassé near Grand Bassin. Two whistle-blowers had alleged at ICAC headquarters that they had to pay some key intermediaries Rs 3.5 million to secure the signature of the lease. There were also allegations that the AG had been invited to a stag BBQ party at the chassé sometime on September 20th. These have been aired publicly yesterday by Me Sanjiv Teeluckdharry with an online interview that has gone viral of one star whistleblower, Mr Ketwaroo.

Meantime, the Hindu priest, and social worker Mr Vivek Pursun, who had entered a private prosecution against PPS Rajana Dhaliyah and Maneesh Gobin, saw the DPP intervene to ask for discontinuance of the private prosecution on grounds of insufficient evidence of legal standards. Nevertheless, its office pointed out that this does not mean the case against the duo Gobin-Dhaliyah is being ruled out: "The DPP will be able to take such an informed decision following the referral of the case to him by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in pursuance of Section 47(6) of the Prevention Against Corruption Act. The DPP endorses the legitimate expectation of citizens that offenders are brought before justice without delay."

For their part, counsels for Mr Pursun have applied to the Supreme Court to summon ICAC so that it may be questioned regarding progress of the enquiry since the case hit the media several months ago. If the AG has not yet been called in for questioning by ICAC, it may well be that there is no money trail to him, but apart from ICAC and the PM, few of us know with confidence the state of the current ICAC enquiry. *Affaire à suivre.*



According to MMM MP Joanna Berenger, the Central Electricity Board would have allegedly allocated a contract for renewable energy supply worth Rs 5 billion to a non-responsive bidder...

## Historic Women's Reservation Bill in India

**F**rom the memories of the 75 years of the building housing the old Indian Parliament, Indian polity moved on the auspicious day of Ganesh Chaturthi, to the brand-new and far more spacious Parliament building for its first historic session. And the first Act that passed the floor was the proposal to have 33% of seats reserved for women, which, after the twenty seven years of failed attempts, is indeed unquestionably a historic day for celebrations.

There was virtual agreement in principle with the BJP proposal from all Opposition parties, with 454 votes against 2, although inevitably vote bank politics found their way in their narratives, as they balked at conceding history graciously to the BJP when they had themselves failed in all previous at-

tempts. In any case, the provisions will only apply once a national census (delayed by Covid) and the delimitation



Women's Reservation Bill - twenty seven years in the making. Pic - Vajiram & Ravi

of constituencies are completed, suggesting that the legal minimum would only apply for the 2029 general elections.

Beyond those legal provisions, major parties have some time to adjust their mental, psychological and political structures to the upcoming realities. India was already late on the issue internationally

and has some necessary catch-up to do.

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## Trudeau and the K-factor

**A**fter the G20 summit in New Delhi, where Canadian PM Trudeau was visibly isolated, snubbed and ignored, did he return in a foul mood to Ottawa or was he facing the ire of the K-party (K - Khalistan) sympathisers of the New Democratic Party (NDP), under the leadership of Jagmeet Singh, that prop up his minority Liberal government? It is otherwise difficult to understand his shocking and immature posturing when he opened up in Parliament about «allegations» which he deemed «credible» of «potential involvement» of Indian nationals in the murder of a known Khalistani terrorist Nijar at a Vancouver Gurudwala.

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L'indépendantisme sikh empoisonne les relations entre Ottawa et New Delhi - P - Le Monde

## Relations Inde et Canada: une amitié qui devient tendue

Par A. Bartleby

**L'**un des faits marquants du sommet du G20 à New Delhi était la situation ubuesque dans laquelle Justin Trudeau, le Premier ministre canadien, s'est retrouvé.

Il a tout d'abord créé la surprise en descendant de l'avion accompagné de son fils à New Delhi. Cette situation pourrait paraître normale ici à Maurice, mais elle ne l'est pas dans les pays développés. D'ailleurs, la presse canadienne a immédiatement réagi en rappelant que le Canada n'était pas un pays où les "fils de" arrivaient naturellement aux affaires publiques, même si cela avait été le cas pour Justin Trudeau.

Justin Trudeau n'a jamais vraiment brillé sur la scène internationale, n'arrivant jamais à s'imposer comme une figure forte avec laquelle les autres leaders mondiaux doivent discuter et entretenir des relations privilégiées. La presse canadienne se délecte même d'images et de vidéos où le Premier ministre canadien se met clairement dans des situations où les autres leaders l'ignorent tout simplement lorsqu'ils le croisent lors des sommets internationaux.

La situation la plus ridicule était cette fameuse conversation, entièrement filmée, avec Xi Jinping où Trudeau s'était fait remonter les bretelles comme un petit écolier incapable de donner la réplique. Mais le dernier sommet du G20 n'a pas été avare en situations humiliantes pour Trudeau, à commencer par le refus de Modi de lui accorder une audience privée et une conversation extrêmement tendue avec Joe Biden.

Il faut avouer que la situation du Canada est particulière. Même si ce pays est un membre du G20 et qu'il possède un territoire immense, avec des ressources capables d'en faire un jour une puissance mondiale, le pays n'est pas perçu comme une puissance par les autres pays-membres du G20. Sa petite démographie et son incapacité à pouvoir réellement peser sur les grands enjeux sécuritaires, énergétiques, économiques et aussi au niveau des institutions mondiales font que le Canada apparaît comme ce que nous pouvons appeler un "petit grand pays" - à l'opposé de Singapour, du Qatar ou des Emirats arabes unis qui sont, eux, de "grands petits pays".

### Un feu follet entre l'Inde et le Canada

Mais par delà cette perception, le dernier sommet du G20 semble avoir surtout allumé une mèche qui pourrait

devenir un feu follet entre l'Inde et le Canada.

Les relations sont tendues entre les deux pays depuis quelque temps déjà à cause de la situation des indépendantistes sikhs qui réclament un référendum pour la création d'un État indépendant du Kalistan au Punjab. Le reproche de l'Inde est que le gouvernement canadien tolère des groupuscules radicalisés classés comme des organisations terroristes sur son sol. En effet, certains radicaux kalisthannistes sont même allés jusqu'à appeler ouvertement à des attaques sur des diplomates indiens basés sur le sol canadien sans que le gouvernement canadien ne trouve quoi que ce soit à redire.

Ainsi cette tolérance envers ce que l'Inde considère comme étant des terroristes dangereux passe extrêmement mal à New Delhi. Cette situation est compréhensible au regard des précédents entre ces deux pays, et en particulier au regard de l'attentat contre le vol 182 d'Air India en juin 1985 qui avait fait 329 victimes. C'était un groupe terroriste nommé Babar Khalsa qui était à l'origine de cet attentat et l'enquête avait conclu à un laxisme de l'administration et de la police canadienne: le groupe terroriste avait pu introduire une bombe dans la soute du vol 182.

Aujourd'hui, il apparaît que le gouvernement de Justin Trudeau démontre ce même laxisme car il n'y a eu aucune réaction officielle envers les menaces contre les diplomates indiens au Canada.

### La politique et les cinq sous de Jagmeet Singh

Mais pourquoi donc cette posture de Trudeau? Qu'a-t-il réellement à gagner à faire l'autruche dans cette situation, antagonisant un partenaire commercial clé pour le Canada afin de protéger des extrémistes et des radicaux au nom d'une supposée liberté d'expression? Comme souvent dans de telles situations, la réponse est à chercher du côté de la politique.

Les dernières élections générales au Canada avaient eu lieu en 2019 et avaient été extrêmement contestées. À l'arrivée, les Libéraux de Justin Trudeau ont obtenu le plus de sièges, soit 158 sièges sur un total de 338, sans avoir une majorité confortable pour former un gouvernement. Ils ont ainsi été obligés de faire une alliance avec le New Democratic Party dont le leader est un certain Jagmeet Singh, un Canadien originaire du Punjab et de religion sikh.

Jagmeet Singh n'a jamais caché ses affinités avec les revendications kalisthannistes, même s'il n'a jamais ouvertement pris position sur la création d'un État kalisthanniste au Punjab. Mais l'assise de Jagmeet Singh auprès des minorités notamment fait que les 25 sièges que le New Democratic Party a ramenés aux Libéraux lui donne une sacrée influence sur la scène politique. En d'autres termes, le New Democratic Party apporte les cinq sous qui permettent aux Libéraux de constituer la Roupie, (tout comme un parti connu du paysage politique mauricien, toutes proportions gardées).

Ainsi, ce parti qui ne représente que la quatrième force politique au Canada réussit généralement à bien positionner ses objectifs et ses intérêts. Et depuis que Jagmeet Singh en est devenu le leader, il est certain que les intérêts de la communauté sikh, résidant majoritairement en Ontario, sont devenus sensibles.

Est-ce que Trudeau est-il ainsi pris à la gorge par son allié dont il ne peut pas se passer? Sans doute. Mais est-ce que cela cautionne la dégradation rapide et dangereuse des relations avec l'Inde? Les Canadiens décideront de cela aux prochaines élections en 2024, en espérant que la situation n'atteint pas un point de

non-retour d'ici là.

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## Contrats publics et la culture du soupçon Serait-il enfin temps de revoir le mode d'attribution des contrats publics?

**L**a députée Joanna Bérenger a fait parler d'elle cette semaine suite à une conférence de presse où elle a dénoncé ce qui serait, selon elle, des irrégularités dans l'attribution d'un contrat du CEB à une firme étrangère pour un projet de ferme solaire.

Cette affaire risque de faire un certain bruit puisque le CEB a tout de suite répliqué en déposant une plainte contre la députée mauve auprès des autorités. Joe Lesjongard, le ministre des Énergies, en a également fait de même. Maintenant, Joanna Bérenger va devoir soutenir et prouver ses dires, ce qui risque de prendre un certain temps.



Tout un ensemble de dispositions peut être pris pour s'assurer que les appels d'offres et l'attribution des contrats publics soient plus neutres et plus objectifs. P - Actu Juridique

Cette affaire vient, avec des dizaines d'autres, augmenter le soupçon du public sur l'attribution des contrats de l'État et des entreprises paraétatiques. Les procédures de "tendering" sont bien établies, avec des appels à soumission qui sont lancés et qui sont publiés dans les journaux. Mais le processus d'attribution reste invisible au grand public, et certains choix ne sont ni expliqués, ni justifiés par les décideurs.

Cela peut produire des situations comme celle où se trouve actuellement le CEB en face des allégations d'une députée.

Ne serait-il donc pas grand temps que le gouvernement songe à moderniser le système d'attribution des contrats publics en rendant visibles non seulement les "tenders" qui sont lancés et les résultats de ces "tenders", mais également les processus d'attribution et les différentes étapes de la chaîne décisionnelle.

- Il n'est pas difficile d'imaginer, par exemple, un système digitalisé, comme un portail en ligne, où tous les "tenders" seraient visibles au grand public et où chaque personne pourrait consulter l'évolution de la chaîne de décision concernant chacun de ces "tenders".

☞ Suite en page 5

## Contrats publics et la culture du soupçon Serait-il enfin temps de revoir le mode d'attribution des contrats publics?

☞ Suite de la page 4

- Un système à coefficient peut également être introduit où chaque appel d'offres aurait des critères clairement définis avec différents coefficients attribués à chaque critère.



P - lesaffaires.com

Ainsi toutes les propositions seront évaluées selon des critères définis dans la transparence et une note sera attribuée pour chaque critère, et à la fin, c'est la proposition qui aura obtenu le coefficient ou la note la plus élevée qui remportera logiquement le contrat.

Encore une fois, cela peut se faire de manière entièrement transparente et objective, dans un système où l'on peut imaginer que les entreprises qui n'auront pas obtenu le contrat pourraient également faire appel auprès d'un comité dont la fonction serait de "review" ou d'examiner de nouveau les dossiers afin de s'assurer de la validité et de la neutralité de la procédure.

Il s'agit là uniquement de propositions simples. Tout un ensemble de dispositions peut être pris pour s'assurer que les appels d'offres et l'attribution des contrats publics soient plus neutres et plus objectifs, en donnant de la sorte plus de visibilité au grand public.

Cette réforme devient urgente afin de combattre la culture du soupçon permanent qui s'installe autour des pratiques des institutions publiques.

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## 64% des chômeurs à Maurice sont des femmes

**N**ous avons pour habitude de parler du chômage des jeunes, à juste titre car 51% des chômeurs sont âgés entre 16 et 29 ans. Mais nous avons moins tendance à parler du fait que les femmes souffrent plus de ce phénomène que les hommes.

En effet, sur les 19175 chômeurs recensés cette année, 12 242 sont des femmes, soit 64%. Pire même, dans la tranche critique des 30 à 39 ans, les femmes représentent 72% des chômeurs, soit presque trois chô-

meurs sur quatre.

Comment expliquer cette différence? En réalité, plusieurs facteurs sont en jeu: la nature du travail, le secteur d'activité, la géographie, etc. Il ne faut pas également sous-estimer l'augmentation de l'effectif féminin sur le marché du travail, notamment dû au fait que les femmes constituent la majorité de la population mauricienne aujourd'hui.

Il est intéressant d'observer les tendances ailleurs si nous souhaitons mieux saisir le problème à Maurice. Une étude sérieuse conduite en Grande Bretagne et en France a démontré que la tendance à l'égalisation était bel et bien réelle, surtout avec le développement des secteurs des services et l'augmentation du niveau d'éducation des filles.

Ainsi, le processus d'égalisation des taux de chômage remonte à plus de 30 ans. Dès la fin des années 80, l'écart s'est réduit. Il est de deux points au détriment des femmes au début des années 2000 mais les courbes se rencontrent pour la première fois fin 2009. Ce rapprochement sur une longue période reflète de manière structurelle l'élévation du niveau d'éducation des filles, un phénomène qui s'amorce en réalité dès les années 50.

À partir du début des années 2000, la part des titulaires d'un diplôme supérieur parmi les femmes en emploi devient supérieure à celui des hommes. Ce rapprochement est aussi le résultat du déclin de l'industrie, secteur très majoritairement masculin, et du développement des services, beaucoup plus féminisé.

Or, ces phénomènes sont également présents à Maurice. Aujourd'hui, le niveau d'éducation et de qualification des filles est en nette augmentation et dépasse même celui des garçons selon les récentes statistiques de Mauritius Statistics. Les secteurs des services sont également en plein essor dans une économie mauricienne qui devient de plus en plus dépendante des secteurs touristiques et financiers.

L'on pourrait ainsi penser que la disparité entre le chômage des femmes et celui des hommes aurait une certaine tendance à l'égalisation. Mais cela ne semble pas être le cas.

Comment donc expliquer de telles différences entre le chômage des femmes et le chômage des hommes? Il est indéniable que le sexisme et une certaine culture du monde du travail ne jouent pas en faveur de l'emploi des femmes.

Mais est-ce que cette donnée n'est pas aujourd'hui en train d'évoluer à Maurice? Il est difficile de répondre à cette question, et il serait important que le gouverne-



Sur les 19175 chômeurs recensés cette année, 12 242 sont des femmes, soit 64%. Dans la tranche critique des 30 à 39 ans, les femmes représentent 72% des chômeurs. P - lepress.mu

ment se penche sérieusement sur le sujet afin de mieux comprendre les solutions qui doivent être mises en place afin de tendre vers l'égalité dans ce contexte.

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## BARRAGE DE LA RENAISSANCE LA TENSION MONTE

Le barrage de la Renaissance a pour objectif de détourner les eaux du Nil bleu - qui se trouvent en amont de la partie du Nil en Égypte. C'est la première fois dans l'Histoire humaine qu'un projet aura ainsi un impact sur les flux du Nil. P - RFI

## Tensions autour du barrage de la Renaissance Les BRICS sont désormais les médiateurs privilégiés dans ce conflit entre l'Égypte et l'Éthiopie

**L**orsque l'élargissement des BRICS à six pays a été annoncé le mois dernier en Afrique du Sud, certains observateurs se sont posé la question à propos de la manière dont l'inclusion de l'Arabie saoudite, les Emirats arabes unis et l'Iran pourrait fonctionner au vu des profonds antagonismes historiques entre les deux premiers pays et l'Iran.

Très peu de ces commentateurs se sont attardés sur le cas particulier de l'Égypte et de l'Éthiopie. Ces pays font également partie des nouveaux membres des BRICS+; et il se trouve qu'un des plus grands conflits du continent africain - qui risque de structurer les rapports de pouvoir dans la région pendant les décennies à venir - est en train de couvrir entre ces deux pays.

En effet, cela fait maintenant plusieurs années que l'Égypte et l'Éthiopie entretiennent des relations tendues à cause du barrage de la Renaissance. Ce dernier est un immense projet d'infrastructure qui a pour objectif de permettre à l'Éthiopie de faire croître son secteur agricole tout en adressant le problème de l'insuffisance énergétique dont souffre le pays.

En réalité, cela fait des décennies qu'un tel barrage est envisagé. Lors d'une étude conduite entre 1956 et 1964, les États-Unis avaient même déterminé avec précision l'emplacement du barrage, avant que le projet actuel ne prenne forme en 2010, et que la première pierre ne soit posée le 2 avril 2011 par le Premier ministre éthiopien d'alors, Meles Zenawi.

Ce barrage serait le plus grand du continent africain avec une capacité de 79km<sup>3</sup> pour une production électrique de près de 5,150 MW. Autant dire que nous sommes en face d'un projet pharaonique. Et ce terme n'est absolument pas anodin dans ce cas de figure.

Le barrage de la Renaissance a pour objectif de détourner les eaux du Nil bleu - qui se trouvent en amont de la partie du Nil en Égypte.

☞ Suite en page 7

# Can the Geopolitical Order be Saved?



Anil Madan

*Unless the world's leaders can focus on the need for a stabilized international order, the churn toward more and more destructive behaviour is destined to continue*

The Geopolitical Order is creaking and showing signs of fracture. That may be the understatement of the year, indeed of the last ten years. Certainly, even as the US has withdrawn forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, Russia's engagement in Syria, and its violations of the sovereignty of Georgia and Crimea, China's ever-burgeoning hostilities and threats towards Taiwan and India, and its hostile economic and military threats in the Pacific against Australia, the Philippines and Vietnam, Iran's unstoppable move to acquire a nuclear weapons capability, and North Korea's belligerence about its nuclear program and ongoing missile development suggest that using the word "order" when referring to today's world is simply out of order.

Is there any hope that cooperation among the world's nations, particularly the nuclear superpowers and those engaged in military skirmishes and wars can be wrought? Is it possible that sanity and reason might rescue us from the mess that has been created?

Whereas pointing fingers and assigning blame is generally not productive, one must understand where the fault lies, not necessarily to castigate one nation or another, but to sharpen our focus on where behavior needs to be changed. Even if we can intelligently discern and assess who is responsible, we still have the problem that there is really no enforcement mechanism to bring nations around other than enlightened self-interest and the understanding that barring change, the world is hopelessly careening into unredeemable chaos.

## America's China policy: An abject failure

Let me start with President Richard Nixon's overture to establish relations with the People's Republic as the sole legitimate representative of the nation we all accept as China. Until then, Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang had claimed China's seat at the UN and in the Security Council. It has often been written that the imperative to recognize the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) included at least the practical reality that one could not ignore a nation of 800 million people for long. And, of course, the lure of exploiting the potential that a market of 800 million people left capitalists salivating. As President Nixon then said: "Taking the long view, we simply cannot afford to leave China forever outside of the family of nations...The world cannot be safe until China changes. Thus, our aim – to the extent we can, we must influence events. Our goal should be to induce change."

American policy began with an abject failure. Instead of insisting that Taiwan should be admitted immediately to UN membership as an independent nation, America fumbled and crumbled into the fiction that there was only one China and somehow, Taiwan was not independent. To be fair, the Taiwanese themselves pre-

ached the mantra that they were the legitimate representatives of China, never mind that the rest of the world had laid that claim to rest.

The next US gaffe was when China was admitted to membership in the WTO. The US and its allies seem to have taken it for granted that China would somehow agree to comport its business practices with the norms and rules accepted by the "civilized world." China had other ideas. And we have seen how American manufacturing found its way to China. To be fair, China invested hundreds of millions of dollars in building facilities and training of its work force to make this happen, but America's corporate executives were blind to their own eventual loss of control over their supply chains.

Let us look at China. There has been little question of late that China's GDP will exceed that of the US soon enough. The sheer size of its population and the inroads it has made in global manufacturing and trade have given China enormous leverage as its balance of payments turned positive and has remained so for decades. There is no end in sight.

Yet, China seems hell bent on maintaining an aggressive take-no-prisoners attitude with its unyielding domestic policies in Tibet, Hong Kong, against the Uyghurs, indeed against its own people writ large, and its unyielding push to control the South China Sea. One wonders what the hurry is since China will get there in due course without much effort.

But China is not content. Its conflict with India continues apace as its recent release of a map claiming Indian territory as its own is an unnecessary provocation. China doesn't seem to care much about provocation because its map also claims a part of Russia's territory notwithstanding the seeming rapprochement between President Xi and President Putin that has been well publicized.

After an early stumble when US Secretary of State Blinken and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan started an early Biden administration meeting with China with an aggressive and belligerent posture quickly rebuffed by China, the US now seems to be working towards a better working relationship with its major adversary. Visits to China by Treasury Secretary Yellen, Secretary of State Blinken, Secretary of Defense Austin, and Commerce Secretary Raimondo, reflect an attempt

on the part of the US to defuse tensions.

Is China reciprocating? Only in the sense that it has agreed to resume talks on addressing climate change with the US. China remains noncommittal about maintaining open communications with the US on avoiding military misunderstandings. Its encroachment on India's and Russia's territory is an object lesson.

China's President Xi was notably absent from the G20 meeting in India and notably absent from the UN General Assembly meeting. These absences may just as easily reflect a disdain for the world order as the



Pic - Luminae+Group

**“Whereas pointing fingers and assigning blame is generally not productive, one must understand where the fault lies, not necessarily to castigate one nation or another, but to sharpen our focus on where behavior needs to be changed. Even if we can intelligently discern and assess who is responsible, we still have the problem that there is really no enforcement mechanism to bring nations around other than enlightened self-interest and the understanding that barring change, the world is hopelessly careening into unredeemable chaos...”**

pressures of a faltering economy making President Xi vulnerable to a coup in his homeland.

## Is there any hope?

Turkiye's President Erdogan seems more intent on gaining brownie points for getting a grain export deal going than on ending the Ukraine war. The world stands by as that carnage continues. To be sure, the US and European nations continue to support Ukraine, but as I wrote many moons ago, in the long run, a war of attrition will decimate Ukraine's valiant people.

Meanwhile Iran redoubles its repressive policies and appears headed to developing nuclear weapons despite the denials of its Ayatollahs. Just today, its President Ebrahim Raisi, on the heels of a prisoner swap plus \$6 billion, promised vengeance for the killing of General Qasem Suleimani. Iran's repression at home continues apace.

North Korea's President Kim Jong Nuke engages with Russia's Vladimir Putin in the hopes of exchanging arms for missile technology. The Korean Peninsula and Japan remain under constant threat from an unpredictable and seemingly irrational dictator armed with nuclear weapons and missiles capable of delivering them.

● Cont. on page 7

# Can the Geopolitical Order be Saved?

● Cont. from page 6

India's presidency of the G20 gave

way to Brazil's. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva may well have a

point when he says that the world's workings are outdated but he is delusional in thinking that Brazil is the new leader of the Global South. Indian PM Modi's claim to that mantle seems to have dissipated with the end of the G20 summit in India.

Is there any hope? The UN has proved to be unworkable. The Security Council with veto power in the hands of each Permanent Member is a farce. The General Assembly is powerless even if it could pass a resolution without a veto. More resolutions have been ignored when nations have found it convenient to ignore them.

The G20 may promise the beginning of a replacement for the UN. It's 18 or 19 members — yes, really, the Group of 20 was not quite that—went from somewhat more than 20 when all the EU countries were counted to somewhat more than the G75 with the admission of the African Union comprising 55 African states.

The world is in a mess. The US, China, and Russia cannot agree on a common agenda. Other nations pay no heed to any semblance of civilized rules of conduct, each doing whatever it per-

ceives to be in its own best interests.

Wars and coups in Africa, Asia, Latin America, seem to be the norm.

As one looks around the world, there is no one leader that can speak to the people of all nations with inspiration.

The closest we come is the routine lamentations of the Pope about the need for peace which are generally ignored by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Then there are the plaintive warnings of UN Secretary General António Guterres, a well-meaning soul who sits atop an ineffective and mostly useless organization.

There does not seem to be much hope. Unless the world's leaders can focus on the need for a stabilized international order, the churn toward more and more destructive behavior is destined to continue.

On a positive note, there is the prospect of a Saudi-Israeli handshake. If those two countries can transcend ancient hatreds and hostilities, perhaps the rest of the world can too. Let us hope.

*Cheerz...*  
**Bwana**



Pic - FT montage-Getty-Dreamstime

“The world is in a mess. The US, China, and Russia cannot agree on a common agenda. Other nations pay no heed to any semblance of civilized rules of conduct, each doing whatever it perceives to be in its own best interests. Wars and coups in Africa, Asia, Latin America, seem to be the norm. As one looks around the world, there is no one leader that can speak to the people of all nations with inspiration. The closest we come is the routine lamentations of the Pope about the need for peace which are generally ignored by Catholics and non-Catholics alike...”

Tensions autour du barrage de la Renaissance

## Les BRICS sont désormais les médiateurs privilégiés dans ce conflit entre l'Égypte et l'Éthiopie

☞ Suite de la page 5

C'est la première fois dans l'Histoire humaine qu'un projet aura ainsi un impact sur les flux du Nil, fleuve dont le cours et les rythmes se trouvaient au cœur de la civilisation égyptienne depuis plus de 4,000 ans...

Il est ainsi facile d'imaginer qu'un tel projet fasse sourciller le gouvernement égyptien. Il est essentiel pour l'Éthiopie de capter une partie des capacités du Nil pour son développement, mais il est également essentiel pour l'Égypte que les flux du Nil ne soient pas bousculés.

Ainsi, des tensions existent entre les deux pays depuis les années 1970, l'Égypte ayant même menacé l'Éthiopie de représailles militaires si le projet allait de l'avant. Il n'est ainsi pas surprenant que le gouvernement éthiopien ait attendu 2011 pour démarrer le projet. À l'époque, les mouvements révolutionnaires du Printemps Arabe venaient de toucher le Caire ; et le pays était plongé dans une crise politique sans précédent, n'ayant ainsi pas forcément les capacités politiques et sécuritaires pour empêcher le voisin éthiopien d'aller de l'avant avec son projet.

Douze ans plus tard, en 2023, le barrage de la Renaissance est enfin complété et le gouvernement éthiopien vient d'annoncer que le barrage est finalement rempli. Parallèlement, sachant qu'un tel barrage pourrait poser de sérieux problèmes à son approvisionnement en eau et donc à son économie, le gouverne-

ment égyptien a investi, par exemple, dans des projets lui permettant de combler son déficit en eau si l'Éthiopie venait à réduire l'alimentation du Nil au sortir du barrage.

C'est bien là la source du problème. Avec ce barrage, l'Éthiopie s'est doté un

outil de contrôle du flux des eaux du Nil qui se déversent vers l'Égypte, exposant ce dernier à souffrir des pénuries d'eau si l'Éthiopie venait à devoir en limiter le flux. Ce scénario relève d'une réelle possibilité, non pas à cause de la volonté politique de le faire, mais plutôt à cause des pénuries d'eau.

Ainsi, la peur des Égyptiens est que l'Éthiopie fasse diminuer les flux d'eau se déversant dans la partie égyptienne du Nil dans des situations de sécheresse et de pénuries d'eau. Cette situation serait désastreuse pour le peuple et l'économie égyptienne, et nous devinons qu'un tel scénario pourrait immédiatement entraîner une réaction militaire d'envergure de la part du gouvernement égyptien.

Ainsi intégrant l'Égypte et l'Éthiopie, les BRICS+ se positionnent comme des architectes de la géopolitique de cette région du monde. Les puissances occidentales s'étaient bien gardées de ne pas intervenir activement dans ce dossier, y voyant un potentiel belliqueux important. Est-ce que les BRICS+ se positionneront comme médiateurs dans un conflit potentiel entre l'Égypte et l'Éthiopie ? Nous ne pouvons pas encore le savoir, mais il est certain qu'en intégrant ces deux pays, les BRICS+ sont également devenus les dépositaires de ce conflit latent dont les ramifications pourraient être dramatiques pour le nord-est africain.

**A. Bartleby**



Vue aérienne du Grand barrage de la Renaissance, en avril 2017 Capture écran vidéo Youtube Studio Pietrangeli - Auteur : Studio Pietrangeli - Licence : DR - P - notre-planete.info

Demande ex parte**Gare à l'abus de procédures légales!****Prakash Neerohoo**

**T**out le monde est déjà au courant de la pratique abusive de charges provisoires dans notre système de justice, lesquelles charges ont pour objet de faire arrêter et incarcérer des suspects, parmi lesquels on trouve souvent des militants des droits humains ou des opposants politiques. Heureusement, les Cours de justice ont rayé ces charges dans certains cas.

Le risque d'abus de procédures légales existe toujours si le judiciaire n'est pas vigilant. La semaine dernière, nous avons eu un exemple de la mauvaise utilisation d'une autre

procédure légale, notamment la demande *ex parte* pour geler les avoirs d'une personne soupçonnée d'être impliquée dans quelque commerce illicite ou perçue d'être de l'autre côté du bord politique.

D'abord, qu'est-ce qu'une demande *ex parte*?

En matière de lutte contre la fraude, la corruption et le blanchiment d'argent, la demande *ex parte* est une procédure utilisée par un organisme de régulation, une autorité fiscale ou une agence d'investigation, pour demander à un juge de lui donner l'autorisation, entre autres :

- (a) d'accéder aux comptes bancaires d'une personne soupçonnée d'avoir sous-déclaré ses revenus ou de ne pas les avoir déclarés au fisc ;
- (b) de geler les avoirs d'une personne soupçonnée d'avoir accumulé des fonds illicites ou de pratiquer le blanchiment d'argent, et ce, en attendant la fin d'une enquête.

En principe, une demande *ex parte* est déposée devant un juge par une partie (requérante) en l'absence de la partie suspecte comme une mesure d'urgence pour obtenir des informations d'une tierce partie (par exemple, une banque) sur la partie suspecte ou pour geler les avoirs de la partie suspecte.

La partie requérante doit exercer une diligence raisonnable avant de faire une telle demande, c'est-à-dire elle doit exercer le degré de prudence et d'attention auquel on peut à bon droit s'attendre de la part d'une personne raisonnable et prudente dans une situation donnée.

Ce devoir de diligence exige que la partie requérante divulgue toutes les informations pertinentes et détaillées au juge afin de lui permettre de prendre une décision juste. En général, un juge sourcilieux, pointilleux acceptera une demande *ex parte* dans des circonstances exceptionnelles, et non pas pour des raisons frivoles, parce que des droits humains fondamentaux sont en jeu, tels que le droit de la personne de vivre de ses ressources financières ou le droit d'investir ses ressources comme bon lui semble.

Le 5 avril 2023, M. Danesh Ellayah, l'unique actionnaire de DNS International Ltd, une compagnie enregistrée aux Emirats arabes unis, avait fait une demande auprès d'un juge pour qu'un ordre de gel de ses avoirs, émis le 28 mars 2023 par la Cour suprême, soit annulé.

Dans un jugement qui a valeur de jurisprudence, la juge Karuna Gunesh-Balaghee de la Cour suprême a révoqué le 12 septembre 2023 l'ordre de gel des avoirs de M. Danesh Ellayah. Ce dernier avait obtenu un contrat pour fournir des équipements et matériels de sécurité au Bureau du Premier ministre.

Au moment de faire une demande *ex parte* pour le gel des avoirs du propriétaire-actionnaire sous l'article 27 de l'Asset Recovery Act 2011, la Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) n'avait pas

divulgué le fait que le Bureau du Premier ministre avait fait des paiements de 15 millions de dollars américains (Rs 685 millions) à la compagnie, ce qui équivaut à la non-divulgation d'informations pertinentes à l'appui de la demande *ex parte*.

«*I am of the considered view that the FIU had an obligation to make a full and fair disclosure while making the Ex-Parte application under section 27. I am accordingly of the view that the information regarding the different payments effected by the Security Division of the Prime Minister's Office should have been disclosed by the FIU at the time of making the Ex-Parte application*», a fait ressortir la juge dans les attendus du jugement.



Selon la juge, les fonds de la compagnie provenaient de sources légitimes. Elle a noté: «*Notwithstanding the fact that no copy of any contract awarded to DNS International was produced, there is Prima Facie evidence adduced by the applicants before me which would tend to show that applicants' respective property is from legitimate sources*».

Dans ce cas, la FIU a été désavouée clairement par la juge. Il faut rappeler que depuis janvier 2016, à la suite d'un amendement apporté à l'Asset Recovery Act 2011, la FIU est l'autorité centrale (*enforcement authority*) chargée d'appliquer le gel des avoirs des personnes dont les fonds proviennent de crimes, dont celui du blanchiment d'argent.

Auparavant, c'était le Bureau du Directeur des Poursuites Publiques qui avait cette responsabilité sous l'article 4 de la loi. Lorsque cette responsabilité avait été transférée à la FIU, on n'en comprenait pas trop les raisons. A posteriori, on comprend mieux ce développement vu les attaques soutenues contre l'indépendance du Bureau du DPP.

Au-delà du jugement, toute cette affaire soulève des questions troublantes.

1. Comment le contrat de fourniture d'équipements a-t-il été accordé à la compagnie – est-ce un contrat à source unique (*sole-source contract*)?
2. Comment la valeur du contrat a-t-elle été déterminée?
3. Quels sont les équipements fournis – équipement et logiciel d'espionnage?
4. Ces équipements proviennent-ils de l'Etat sioniste d'Israël vu que la compagnie n'est pas un fabricant?
5. Qui a autorisé les paiements versés à un compte bancaire aux Emirats arabes unis?
6. Pourquoi la FIU a-t-elle décidé d'enquêter sur un fournisseur du Bureau du PM?
7. Pourquoi la FIU n'a-t-elle pas divulgué toutes les informations pertinentes en Cour suprême?
8. Y avait-il des relations de proximité entre le propriétaire-actionnaire et le pouvoir?

**Trudeau and the K-factor**

☞ **Cont. from page 3**

Rarely had a head of State with his head on his shoulders cobbled such a vague assertion into a public statement in Parliament, nor rushed to seek support for those Khaistani allegations he was peddling from fellow Anglo-Saxon world rulers (USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand). This was Diplomacy 101 in any respectable university.

It was a serious matter for a country that hosts a large contingent of established Indian-origin nationals, a large majority of whom do not share or espouse those extremist views, that welcomes an annual inflow of Indian students to Canadian universities and potentially damages export prospects of Saskatchewan Canadian farmers and other sectors to India.

None of the other four major Anglo-Saxon players PM Trudeau cuddled up to, provided much comfort to those allegations, demanding evidence rather than hunches. In Canada itself the PM was mocked and blasted in several quarters including the rising Conservative Party of Pierre Poilievre.

India was quick to bash a leader who had never cooperated over decades with the Indian authorities for the extradition of the most violent of those Khalistani elements, nor had they even provided basic mandatory security to Indian consulates and diplomatic staff in recent Khalistani violence. Others recalled that Trudeau's profession for "free speech" didn't prevent him quashing a trucker demonstration late last year. A rare feat therefore to claim some moral high ground when he is visibly on a political leash from the Khalistani-friendly NDP.

Matters have now reached another damaging level as India has decided not to take Trudeau's attack lying down. After a strongly worded travel advisory to its citizens and students to be careful about their movements around terror-infested Canadian areas, we learn this Thursday that all visa services to India from Canada have been suspended for "operational reasons" and this may lead to difficulties for several thousands. Where will the unfortunate actions initiated by the unfettered opportunistic leadership of PM Trudeau take India-Canada relations next?

**Jan Arden**





The previous government just days before the end of its term announced that the elections could take place only after a new census was completed and new constituency boundaries were drawn. Pic - Rediff

## Pakistan's general elections to be held in last week of January 2024: Election Commission

Pakistan's election commission on Thursday announced that the general elections in the country will take place in the last week of January 2024.

In a statement, the electoral body said that it reviewed work on delimiting constituencies and the initial list for the delimitation of constituencies would be published on September 27. It added that the final list would be issued on November 30 after hearing objections and suggestions regarding the list, reports PTI.

General elections are scheduled to be held in Pakistan within 90 days after the dissolution of the National Assembly, which was prematurely dissolved on August 9. The previous government just days before the end of its term announced that the elections could take place only after a new census was completed and new constituency boundaries were drawn. The move triggered fears that the polls meant to be held within 90 days may be delayed till next year as the delimitation process would take about four months to complete.

The decision to shorten the timeframe of the delimitation comes amid mounting pressure on the ECP from several political parties that pressed for timely elections.

## Saudi Arabia getting 'closer' to Israel normalization to obtain nuclear weapon

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman says in an interview with Fox News airing Wednesday that ongoing negotiations over Israel means the prospects of normalized relations between both countries "get closer" every day but that treatment of Palestinians remains a "very important" issue to be resolved.

Saudi Arabia is discussing a major agreement with the United States in which it would normalize relations with Israel in exchange for a U.S. defense pact and aid in developing its own civilian nuclear program. The Saudis have said any deal would require major progress toward the creation of a Palestinian state, which is a hard sell for the most religious and nationalist government in Israel's history, reports AP.

Widely known as MBS, Saudi Arabia's de facto leader was asked during an interview on "Special Report with Bret Baier" what it would take to normalize relations with

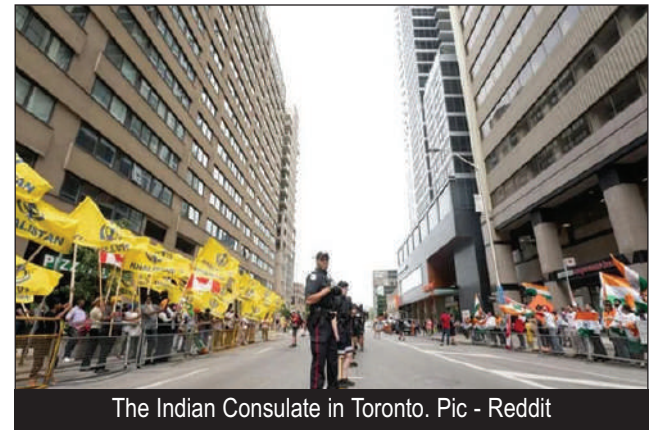
## India suspends visa services for Canadians amid heightened tensions

New Delhi has suspended visa services for Canadian nationals indefinitely amid heightened tensions between the two countries even as Ottawa said it was temporarily adjusting staff presence in India to ensure the safety of diplomats following threats received on social media.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation of Indian involvement in Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing heightened the tensions and triggered a diplomatic row, and tit-for-tat expulsions of senior diplomats this week, reports Hindustan Times.

No formal announcement of the suspension of visa services was made even as BLS International, which runs the visa application centres in Canada, posted a message on its Canadian website in this regard. "Important notice from the Indian Mission: Due to operational reasons, with effect from 21st September 2023 [Thursday], Indian visa services have been suspended till further notice."

An Indian official confirmed the suspension but refused to comment further. "The language is clear and it says what it is intended to say." This is the first time India has suspended visas since the Covid-19 pandemic.



The Indian Consulate in Toronto. Pic - Reddit

The Indian high commission's website could not be accessed late on Wednesday for confirmation as it appeared to be down.

The suspension followed India's advisory on Wednesday asking its citizens in Canada to exercise utmost caution due to growing anti-India activities and "politically-condoned hate crimes". Indian students have particularly been advised to exercise extreme caution and remain vigilant.

Nijjar was gunned down in the parking lot of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara that he headed in the town of Surrey in the province of British Columbia. He was the principal figure of the secessionist outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) in the province. SFJ has blamed India for the assassination.

## 'Come clean with...': Canada's opposition leader jabs Trudeau on India allegations

Taking a jibe at Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for his allegations on India for its involvement in the alleged killing of the Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Canada's opposition leader Pierre Poilievre has said that he should come out clean with all the facts in order to make judgements.

Poilievre's remarks came in response to a media query that asked what more should be done as an Indian diplomat was expelled by

Canada, reports ANI.

"The Prime minister hasn't provided any facts. He provided a statement. And I will just emphasize that he didn't tell me any more in private than he told Canadians in public. So we want to see more information," Poilievre said.

He stated that the allegations could be found untrue or unbelievable if more information is not provided.

"We need to have the evidence that drew that allowed the prime

minister to come to the conclusions he made yesterday," he said.

"I would have to have more evidence to make a judgment on that. I do find it interesting that he knew about vast foreign interference by Beijing for many years, at the same time as Beijing had kept two Canadian citizens hostage. And he said nothing. And he did nothing. Just very interesting that that was the approach he took in that case," he added.

Israel and answered that the Biden administration supports that happening.

The prince denied reports that the talks had been suspended, saying "every day, we get closer."

The interview was airing shortly after President Joe Biden met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu while both were in New York for the meeting of the U.N. General Assembly. Biden raised concerns about the far-right Israeli government's treatment of the Palestinians, urging Netanyahu to take steps to improve conditions in the West Bank at a time of heightened violence in the occupied territory.

Netanyahu's office said afterward that the meeting "mostly dealt with ways to establish an historic peace agreement between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which could greatly advance an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and facilitate the establishment of an economic corridor to link Asia, the Middle East and Europe."

Bin Salman has given very few interviews to Western media outlets, particularly since the 2018 killing of Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi dissident and Washington Post



columnist, in an operation by Saudi agents that U.S. intelligence says was likely approved by the prince. The prince has denied any involvement.

In the five years since then, the kingdom has shed whatever pariah status it had as focus has shifted to major diplomatic initiatives and progress on Vision 2030, the prince's wide-ranging plan for overhauling the economy, providing jobs for young people and weaning the kingdom off oil revenues.

Bin Salman was asked if he was worried that Iran could eventually build a nuclear weapon and said that "we are concerned of any country getting a nuclear weapon."

Saudi Arabia has made major progress in winding down its devastating war with Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, this week hosting a rebel delegation in the capital, Riyadh. It spearheaded the return of Syria to the Arab League, and in March agreed to a Chinese-brokered deal to restore diplomatic relations with Iran, its main regional rival.

\* Contd on page 10



Philip Paxson with his wife. Pic – Law &amp; Crime

## Google sued after its Maps leads driver to death on a collapsed bridge

The family of an individual who tragically lost his life while following Google Maps and driving off a collapsed bridge has filed a lawsuit against the tech company, alleging negligence. They claim that Google knew the bridge had been washed out for five years but did not update their navigation system, reports Hindustan Times.

According to a lawsuit filed on Tuesday, Philip Paxson, a father of two and a medical device salesman, tragically drowned in September of last year when his Jeep Gladiator plunged into Snow Creek in Hickory, North Carolina. While returning home from his daughter's ninth birthday celebration, he was navigating through an unfamiliar area when, as per the lawsuit, Google Maps purportedly instructed him to cross the collapsed bridge.

Police who discovered Paxton's body in his flipped and partly submerged truck said there were no signs or barriers along the damaged road.

According to the North Carolina State Patrol, the bridge was not under the maintenance jurisdiction of local or state authorities, and the company belonging to the original developer had ceased to exist.

The lawsuit alleges that Google Maps had received multiple notifications about the collapse in the years before Paxson's death and had been urged to update its route information, but failed to do so.

The court filing incorporates email correspondences from a different Hickory resident who, in September 2020, utilized the map's "suggest an edit" function to alert the company about its route directing drivers over the collapsed bridge.

A November 2020 email confirmation from Google confirms the company received her report and was reviewing the suggested change, but the lawsuit claims Google took no further action.



High cost of living leading to 'shoplifting epidemic'. Pic - Indonewyork

## UK retailers on shoplifting 'epidemic': Almost 1 billion pounds a year stolen

A coalition of British retail industry groups and shopworkers union USDAW has written to police leaders in England and Wales calling on them to back a plan to counter a "torrent of theft".

The British Retail Consortium estimates the cost of theft in the sector has reached 1 billion pounds a year and local convenience stores are reporting the highest levels of shop theft recorded in the last decade.

Last week the John Lewis Partnership, owner of department stores and Waitrose supermarkets, said Britain was seeing an "epidemic" of shoplifting, with its own "shrinkage", mainly theft, up by 12 million pounds in its first half, reports Reuters.

Similarly, clothing chain Primark said its profit margins had been hit by increased theft, while supermarket Tesco said rising store crime had led it to offer its staff body-cams.

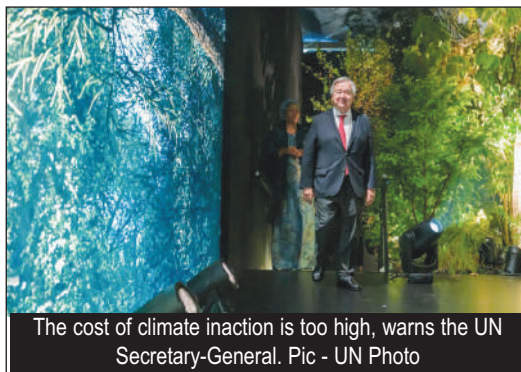
"Shop theft is far from a minor crime, it is the primary trigger for violence and abuse of shopworkers and often committed by prolific offenders or organised crime gangs," the letter, also signed by the Association of Convenience Stores, the British Independent Retail Association, the Federation of Small Businesses and the National Federation of Retail Newsagents, read.

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' lead for business and retail, Sussex PCC Katy Bourne, said she understood the retail sector's frustration and is working with the police to improve their response.

## 'Climate crisis has opened the gates to hell': UN warns

The world is heading towards 2.8 degree Celsius warming if global leaders do not act now, UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres said on Wednesday at the UN Climate Ambition Summit, where major emitters such as the United States, China, and India were notably absent.

"Our focus here is on climate solutions – and our task is urgent. Humanity has opened the gates to hell. Horrendous heat is having horrendous effects. Distraught farmers watching crops carried away by floods; sweltering temperatures spawning disease; and thousands fleeing in fear as historic fires rage. Climate action is dwarfed by the scale of the challenge. If nothing changes we are heading towards a 2.8 degree (Celsius) temperature



The cost of climate inaction is too high, warns the UN Secretary-General. Pic - UN Photo

rise – towards a dangerous and unstable world," Guterres said on Wednesday, urging world leaders to take action, reports Hindustan Times.

On September 16 the UN secretary-general had written to member states, calling for expressions of interest in presenting on how the nations will update their efforts to

deal with the climate crisis.

In his letter, Guterres called on "first movers and doers" to present updated pre-2030 nationally determined contributions (NDCs) as agreed to in the Glasgow climate summit in 2021. This included updated net-zero targets; energy transition plans with commitments to no new coal, oil and gas; fossil fuel phase-out plans; more ambitious renewable energy targets; and pledges to the green climate fund.

After receiving more than 100 applications to take part, the UN finally released a list on Tuesday night of 41 speakers that did not include China, the US, the

## Meghan Markle's dad calls her 'cruel' for not letting him see Archie and Lilibet

Meghan Markle's father Thomas Markle has sent a public message to his daughter, making a new plea over her children Prince Archie and Princess Lilibet. Of Meghan, he said that she is "not the person I knew as a daughter", reports Hindustan Times.

"I'm heartbroken. I am very upset. This is a cruel thing to do to a grandparent - to deny the right to see a grandchild," Thomas said. "In California, I can actually sue to see them but I don't want to do that. The other thing is I've done nothing wrong. There's nothing that points to say I'm a bad guy. I'm a really loving father and she knows that, and there's no excuse for treating me this way - no excuse to treat grandparents that way."



Meghan and Thomas Markle were once close, but their relationship soured after she married prince Harry in 2018. Pic – Perez Hilton

Thomas went on to say that being able to see his grandchildren would give him peace. "I am always here for her, I still love her - I'll love her forever," he told ITV. "That will never change but I want her to reach out to me and let me see my grandkids and let me have a little peace. People go to prison for five years and they're forgiven - I didn't do anything. So forgive me I guess. I would always apologise for anything I've done wrong. I'm sorry if I have."

Meghan and Thomas were once close, but their relationship soured after she married prince Harry in 2018. Thomas underwent a heart surgery shortly after, claiming his cardiac issues were caused by stress from the strained relationship with his daughter.

Interview: Jyoti Jeetun, CEO - Mont Choisy Group

# “Wherever you go, up and down the country, you hear, and you feel, a very compelling cry for change...”

People want change... They want to see meritocracy, they want to see honesty, they want to see authenticity”

**M**rs Jyoti Jeetun had a successful record of setting up and piloting the SIT to become the largest shareholder company in the sugar sector before she had to find her living overseas for several years. She is now back in Mauritius as CEO of the Mont Choisy Group, involved in development of smart cities. She credits her achievements to the strong values that were inculcated in the family and social environment where she was raised, namely the village of Triolet where hard work was the order of the day for anyone who wanted to go up the social ladder. She shares her views on the current problems facing the country and youth such as drugs, lack of opportunities, etc., which are making talent flee from the country. She hopes for better days to come. She would like to build a society where there is integrity, meritocracy, and fairness and no left-behinds.

**Mauritius Times:** You started off from humble origins in a Bhojpuri-speaking environment in Triolet and went on to head the Sugar Investment Trust as its founding CEO. You are now involved, as the CEO of the Mont Choisy Group, with the development of a Smart City. Tell us about your journey and how you made it happen?

**Jyoti Jeetun:** My life is the story of countless people of my generation who grew up in poverty around the independence era. I grew up in Triolet at a time when the standard of living was quite basic, people lived off very little and almost everything in the village was centered around sugarcane cultivation. Yet the whole village was like a small community of diverse ethnic groups and religions, a bit like a miniature Mauritius. We only spoke Bhojpuri at home. When I started primary school, I did not speak a word of Kreol, let alone English and French.

It was also the time when few girls progressed beyond primary education, and I was inevitably predestined to stay at home helping mum with house chores. Had it not been for the fight of my elder brothers, I would never have gone to college.

I had, and still have, a deep hunger for learning and knowledge. In fact, the story of my life is built on Education, Education and Education. Every step of my journey has been shaped by investment in education. Thus, free education in 1977 was a game changer for me and for thousands of young people of my time, especially girls, as often parents had to make a choice about who to send to college, and boys would always win the battle. It was my first step on the social mobility escalator.

I think what growing up in that environment provided me with was a culture of hard work, determination and resilience. Our parents and all the people in our neighbourhood were very hardworking people, toiling in the fields to feed their families. There was a sense of discipline and rigour that was ingrained in our way of life. We went to afternoon classes in the *baïtka* which enriched us not just with



knowledge of Hindi but also with cultural values - “*sanskar*” - and humility.

And I continued investing myself in learning throughout this journey combining studies with work and raising a family. This led to my MBA and a PhD. I started my career as a Government Civil Servant and this journey took me to the Sugar Investment Trust (SIT), then to the City in London, to Brussels and now back to Mont Choisy Group. There were lots of challenges, struggles and adversities on the way. But I would like to believe that all these are valuable experiences in life that shape the person you become.

I have come a long way on that social mobility escalator but to be quite honest, deep down, I remain *ene zenfant vil-laz* and I am very proud of my humble background.

\* Besides personal merit and a lot of hard work,

“A friend recently reminded me that “*une hiron-delle ne fait pas le printemps*”, and he is indeed right. There are few organisations that are going for the best talent at the CEO level. But much remains to be done. And more importantly the pipeline for a more inclusive and diverse pool of talent at senior executive level needs to be built. Not just in terms of gender but also in terms of race and ethnic diversity...”

were such things like meeting the right people, being there at the right time, obtaining some form of patronage, especially political — which many people now believe is necessary for career advancement or even for obtaining a breakthrough in the first place — important considerations when you started off or even along the way?

Absolutely and unequivocally not. There is no shortcut to achieving long-term success other than hard work coupled with the right attitude and values. When you are passionate about something, whether it is a personal venture or your work, you put 200% of yourself into it. You do not chase success; success comes your way as a result or as an outcome of your work.

Yes, there have been many people in my life who have held my hand - my brothers, my teachers, my husband, my chairmen and my friends, some of whom stood by me during our dark days.

To me, the most important value that I have retained in my life is that of integrity. You have to believe in what is right and stand up for what is right. Patronage does not fit in my vocabulary. Political patronage can only take you so far.

Let us take the example of the SIT. When I was recruited as its first employee, few believed in it, including perhaps those who had conceived it. And yet, we made an absolute success story of it, with three rounds of successive equity raising and building a model of economic democratisation vehicle with 55,000 planters and workers of the sugar industry making it the largest shareholder-based company on the island.

We made history with almost one in every four households in the country becoming a shareholder. It required a lot of determination and hard work with strong beliefs as there was much adversity. It required hundreds of meetings, going from village to village and from one sugar factory to another to convince people that something historical was happening.

Although many politicians criticised the SIT initiative, the truth of the matter is that from Rama Sithanen and Sir Anerood Jugnauth (who were the founding fathers) to all the successive governments, be it Labour, MSM or MMM, they all contributed to its success. Every Prime Minister, every Finance minister and every Minister of Agriculture supported it despite the fact that the government did not own a single share, nor did it control the Board at that time. The then captains of the sugar industry contributed enormously to its success through their commitment to the concept.

My philosophy has always been to keep your head down, work hard and bring results.

\* Your own appointment as CEO of the Mont Choisy Group on the basis of your personal merit could be credited to the Group’s employment policy with respect to the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Do you find these two considerations are gradually making their way in the corporate sector?

It is hard to believe that a conservative family company like Mont Choisy Group took such a bold and audacious decision to recruit someone who is not from the family, who is not from the community and who is a woman and that also a woman of colour.

☞ Cont. on page 12

# 'Loss of values is a major problem in our society. Values of hard work, values of integrity, values of trust'

☞ Cont. from page 11

There are several drivers of the success of Mont Choisy Group, and I would like to believe that meritocracy-based recruitment at all levels is one of them. We have a very skilled and hardworking team of people who are transforming and shaping the landscape of the North today.

Is this a trend in the corporate world? A friend recently reminded me that *"une hirondelle ne fait pas le printemps"*, and he is indeed right. There are few organisations that are going for the best talent at the CEO level. But much remains to be done. And more importantly the pipeline for a more inclusive and diverse pool of talent at senior executive level needs to be built. Not just in terms of gender but also in terms of race and ethnic diversity.

I hope that we are setting a trend for the rest of the corporate world that putting the right people at the top is the right thing to do. Having the right people steering the ship during the turbulent times is a recipe for success in an increasingly turbulent world.

But why stop at the corporate sector only? Why not also have a more diverse representation of the population in the public sector? Why should meritocracy not apply to public sector organisations?

There is a real *remise en question* to be done at the national level of how we build a fairer and more equitable society.

**\* It would seem that the Mont Choisy Group owes much of its success from the transformation of "a century old family-owned company" into a "sustainable corporate model" to effective governance structures. Is that correct?**

Our governance model is quite unique. A tightly owned family company, a board of directors comprising ten family members and one executive who is not from the family, a totally independent executive and a workforce recruited purely on merit; corporate governance structures in place for executives to be accountable for results and performance. Sounds obvious? Sounds easy? We, as executives, focus on bringing results, Covid or not, storm or not. It is not always easy to navigate in stormy waters. It takes a lot of drive and energy. It takes a lot of skills and competencies.

I must hasten to add that the government and many authorities like the Economic Development Board have been extremely instrumental in terms of being *à l'écoute* to help us steer the ship out of the storm. Often people criticise the public sector organisations, but my personal experience with each public sector organisation that I have dealt with is that there are many very hardworking people out there - the unsung heroes I would say.

Success is never a one-man, or one-woman show.

And succeeding in the real estate sector is even trickier as the line between success and failure is very fine - such are the risks. Like a *chef d'orchestre* you have to permanently aim to put all the puzzles in the right place at the right time or else you run the risk of going underwater, very quickly.

**\* Would you therefore say that if such "effective governance structures" and other considerations like leadership, corporate ambition, etc., were present at the SIT and other government-run business entities like Mauritius Telecom and in particular Air Mauritius, things would have been different?**

Let me rectify something at the onset. That has always been a perception that SIT was a government owned or government run organisation. In fact, the Government does not own a single share in the company and until a few years

ago, 6 out of 9 directors were elected by the shareholders who were planters and employees of the industry. What is true is that it is a strange corporate animal as it was set up under an Act of Parliament but is actually regulated under the Companies Act.

During my time, there was never ever any political interference in its management, nor would I have allowed this to happen. What is true is that all the governments and respective ministers during my eleven-year tenure supported the initiative and often helped advance certain projects.

You know people often criticise politicians for the poor performance of state-owned and state-controlled organisations. I do not know about other entities but let me share with you my personal experience. Besides being CEO of the Sugar Investment Trust, I was the founding chairperson of the New Co-operative Bank in which the Government had a 90% shareholding and SIT had a 10% shareholding.

We later pushed for the merger with the Post Office Savings Bank to scale up and the bank became the Mauritius Post and Cooperative Bank. I had on my Board the Financial Secretary and several senior public servants. But let me tell you this, we never had any interference from politicians or Government ministers, be it for recruitment or for loans. People would sometimes use the names of politicians, but I always pushed back. We were the fifth largest bank making healthy profits and no non-performing loans.

But in all fairness to your question, we also know what happened when I was fired and where the institution is

“You know people often criticise politicians for the poor performance of state-owned and state-controlled organisations. I do not know about other entities but let me share with you my personal experience. Besides being CEO of the Sugar Investment Trust, I was the founding chairperson of the New Co-operative Bank... I had on my Board the Financial Secretary and several senior public servants. We never had any interference from politicians or Government ministers, be it for recruitment or for loans...”

“The success of an organisation, whether it is public or private, rests with the people at the top. It does not help politicians' agenda to have incompetent people at the helm as they will inevitably run into trouble sooner rather than later. As regards companies like Air Mauritius, airline is a complex business with many inherent risks, many of which may be outside their control. What we know for sure is that the Air Mauritius situation was decades in the making and Covid-19 was only *la dernière goutte d'eau*...”

“The Illovo deal was perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime deal for Mauritius. It also allowed land democratisation through the 7,000 arpents that we acquired in SIT, some of which were sold to individual shareholders through parcelling... Mauritius has a fairly free market economic model where the private sector and the public sector each have their roles. State intervention in land ownership will only scare investors – see what happened in Zimbabwe. Having said that, admittedly land ownership is highly concentrated and creates the perception of an unfair society...”



today.

Let's make no mistake, the success of an organisation, whether it is public or private, rests with the people at the top. It does not help politicians' agenda to have incompetent people at the helm as they will inevitably run into trouble sooner rather than later. As regards companies like Air Mauritius, airline is a complex business with many inherent risks, many of which may be outside their control. What we know for sure is that the Air Mauritius situation was decades in the making and Covid-19 was only *la dernière goutte d'eau*.

**\* Your involvement in the property development sector started with the SIT where you were tasked with, amongst others, democratising land access and facilitating the participation of sugar cane planters and employees of the sugar industry in the equity of sugar milling companies as well as power generating companies. How much success has been achieved on those counts?**

I must admit that I have put a mental block on the past and not followed SIT's advancement.

More generally speaking, land ownership and democratisation is a multi-layered and complex matter. Parcelling has unintended consequences such as abandonment of agricultural usage as small plots are economically not viable. So, on the one scale, there is concentration of land ownership but which land is put to productive use and, on the other scale, there is parcelling of land which gives access to land ownership but then abandoned as economically not viable. Which parameter do you use to measure success?

**\* You are now leading the Mont Choisy Group with the mandate of converting agricultural lands into a Smart City for a high-end clientele. Even if there is no denying that Smart Cities have brought to the country their fair share of FDI, boosted the construction industry and created jobs, directly and indirectly, land prices have as a consequence gone up to the extent of crowding out the less well-off from the land market. What's your take on that?**

In addition to the benefits you have mentioned, it is important to emphasise the urban master planning that goes into the creation of smart cities and the investment in large infrastructure works that would otherwise have been done by the Government.

☞ Cont. on page 13

# 'We are exporting our best brains, our best and brightest business and political leaders of the future.

**This is certainly one thing we should not be proud of'**

☞ Cont. from page 12

Unfortunately, our villages and our towns are growing in an unplanned and ad-hoc manner that is not sustainable. In my view, with social mobility and economic development, people will start moving out towards these planned developments in the quest for a better lifestyle and this is not good for our towns and villages which need better planning and regeneration.

Land price inflation is not a new phenomenon and is probably caused by demand and supply. With decades of restrictions on land conversion due to the Sugar Protocol, land supply has been restricted. We are a small country and a nation that has a culture of land ownership. We must not forget that home ownership is very high in Mauritius. There is a group of people who live in precarious conditions but that requires social initiative.

Where we do have to be cautious in policy making is not to allow foreigners to buy just anywhere on the island, that can push locals out of the market.

**\* Access to land especially for housing and for agricultural production has and is likely going to remain a highly sensitive issue in a land-constrained country like Mauritius - and it's unlikely we'll have another Illovo deal any time soon. Does your experience in this sector inform you that we might have reached a point which can only be resolved through the State's intervention?**

Indeed, the Illovo deal was perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime deal for Mauritius. It also allowed land democratisation through the 7,000 arpents that we acquired in SIT, some of which were sold to individual shareholders through parcelling. But I do wonder about the productivity of the land before the Illovo deal and after.

Mauritius has a fairly free market economic model where the private sector and the public sector each have their roles. State intervention in land ownership will only scare investors – see what happened in Zimbabwe. Having said that, admittedly land ownership is highly concentrated and creates the perception of an unfair society.

**\* On the other hand, you would know that lots of young people, many highly qualified, are demotivated by lack of career opportunities - be in the public or private sector - and are looking towards Canada for better opportunities. This issue may or may not be tied up with politics, but it's getting worrying. But the question is what can be done about it? Or does it require a political solution?**

Emigration has always been a fact of life in Mauritius and, in fact, I was reminded recently that in the 1980s we even had a Ministry of Emigration. Having said that, year after year, starting with the laureate system, we now see a trend which is more widespread - we are exporting our best brains, our best and brightest business and political leaders of the future. This is certainly one thing we should not be proud of.

Our students go abroad to study at the best universities and do not come back. Every household you meet today – either their children are abroad or aspire to emigrate for a better future. Our professionals are leaving for better opportunities and a better future for their children. I think it is a good thing for the country that our people get exposure to



**“Wherever you go, up and down the country, in the villages and in the towns, you hear, and you feel, a very compelling cry for change. Half a century after independence, it is legitimate that people want change in the political class – in the government and in the opposition – they want to see a younger breed of politicians, they want to see more women, they want to see credible new faces with track record and values. They want to see meritocracy, they want to see honesty, they want to see authenticity...”**

the world as let's admit it, we are a very small island in the middle of the ocean.

In a highly connected global environment where countries are competing for the best talents, the opportunities are many and they are not difficult to find. Years ago, I myself searched the internet and three months later I was on a plane with my family, emigrating to the UK. Post Covid-19, there is tremendous demand for skills globally and it is only legitimate for people to look for better opportunities.

The challenge for the country is two-fold. First, how do we retain talent? Second, how do we attract the talent that has left to come back? It is not a simple exercise, although over the past few years several thousands have come back under the Diaspora Scheme. It requires understanding the core issues behind this phenomenon – is this frustration with the country and the perceived lack of opportunities in the private sector or the perceived lack of meritocracy in the public sector? Is this just an individual need for a better future in terms of better education for the children, better quality of life and better opportunities? Is this because of the political climate where locals and those abroad have become disillusioned with what future Mauritius may hold for them?

**\* The discerning reader going through your dif-**

**ferent press interviews would sense a certain measure of disappointment with the way things have been going in the country, and that politics is failing us. If that's correct, what would do you think it would take to change course and do things better?**

Loss of values is a major problem in our society. Values of hard work, values of integrity, values of trust.

Drugs are killing our youth and destroying families. Skills training is another major issue, our children are taught how to pass exams, not how to think critically and they do not get real life experiences.

Wherever you go, there is a crying need for change in the country. 55 years after independence, the country and its people have come a long way. We are living in an era where people are demanding, and rightly so, transparency and accountability. We must be able to restore trust in public life.

But my take is that rather than criticising politicians and political leaders, should we not start with ourselves first? For me, our destiny, our tomorrow, is in our hands. Too often, politicians are promising more and more and giving the impression that the State can perform miracles. But, as we all know, there is no such thing as free lunch.

There is also a paradox. When one travels abroad, you realise the pains out there and you say how lucky we are in Mauritius. On the other hand, foreigners want to come and live in Mauritius. But we see problems everywhere and we complain. I think many of the issues that affect peoples' lives, and the complaints are legitimate. The problem I often have with these complaints is that we are always looking for someone else to blame. We need to get up and do something about it and not expect politicians to resolve everything. We need to get back to our core values.

**\* If we go by general elections results, few women candidates have made it at the polls. But if you do decide to take the plunge, you would surely want to be in the right party, but you'll also will have to overcome the barriers to entry, much like what obtains in the private sector. It would appear that's still a tall order. What's your view in this regard?**

This is a difficult one... the political terrain can be ruthless, and you need very thick skin to enter and to survive.

What I will say is that wherever you go, up and down the country, in the villages and in the towns, you hear, and you feel, a very compelling cry for change. Half a century after independence, it is legitimate that people want change in the political class – in the government and in the opposition – they want to see a younger breed of politicians, they want to see more women, they want to see credible new faces with track record and values. They want to see meritocracy, they want to see honesty, they want to see authenticity. There is a mood of an end of era at the moment with veteran politicians who have been in the forefront of our political lives for the past five decades and more.

There is a void in the democratic space, and many see this as a window of opportunity. However, anyone wanting to join politics will have to listen to the peoples' voices. Politics is not about doing what we want, it is not about our own personal ambition, it is about listening to the grassroots and delivering on people's aspirations. I hope it is not going to be yet another episode focusing on the art of persuasion with promises and more promises, that is, more of the same.

If I do decide to take the plunge, as you say, my philosophy will be to build a society where there is integrity, meritocracy, and fairness. We will work for the well-being of everybody irrespective of class, colour and ethnic community. Hard work would be the motto and the national cake would be shared on the basis of meritocracy and equality. There would be no left behinds.

But for now, I live a day at a time... we shall see what tomorrow is made of.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 249

**MAURITIUS TIMES**

Friday 22 May, 1959

• *She laughs at everything you say. Why? Because she has fine teeth.* — Benjamin Franklin

# Labour and Trade-unionism

In their struggles for better wages and decent conditions of work, workers throughout the world have had recourse to a two-pronged movement made up of trade associations and a political party upholding an ideology likely to promote workers' interests. It is no secret how this worldwide movement has been successful; so much so that recently in Great Britain great employers of labour were complaining of what they termed the "excessive powers" of the workers.

Here also the working class has greatly benefitted from the joint action of the trade union movement and the Labour Party. These two workers' organisations had been working hand in hand till recently when some blackleg unions were put up by the employers. Since then, the whole atmosphere within the trade union movement has been vitiated with the inevitable result that in many parts of the island the workers have either lost confidence in the movement or have sided with anti-labour forces.

This is by all means an unhappy situation which must cause alarm to the Labour Party. And, by the way, what does it propose to do? Is it not time to go out in the field and organize the workers — especially the workers of the sugar industry? Is it not time to start an island-wide movement of educating the workers in trade unionism at least to give them the faith they have lost in the movement? We feel these to be very important matters which have to be studied and something done. The Labour Party must also bear in mind that the Parti Mauricien and its ally, the IFB, are infiltrating the movement and that some so-called trade union leaders are pulling strings from the cosy pockets of employers. Such a tendency, if left unchecked, will become dangerous.

All this apart, there is a new but no less dangerous idea being introduced into the country. It is being held



(and the idea is being propagated) that trade union organisations should have nothing to do with politics or rather they should not affiliate to any political party. And, in the present context of affairs, there seems to be a deliberate and underground attempt to drive a wedge between the Labour Party and the trade union movement. This too is very dangerous and is bound to have a nefarious influence upon the working-class movement in general. It may be recalled that is what exactly happened in British Guiana where reactionary elements succeeded in driving a wedge between Dr Jagan and his colleague Mr S. D. Burnham. We have to see to it that any similar movement in this country is nipped in the bud.

We do agree that trade union matters should not be mixed up with political affairs. For the proper functioning of both the trade union and political movement, it is absolutely necessary that they should not get mixed up. But it is downright silly to suggest that trade unionism should be divorced from politics. Only those who have an axe to grind would dare make such a ridiculous suggestion.

On this very page we publish a letter from the MTUC - a letter which glaringly reflects the short-sighted policy

of at least part of the trade union movement. It confirms our doubts and fears. We are indeed surprised to learn that the Mauritius Trade Union Congress (MTUC) wholeheartedly supports the Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers Association (MALA) in that it is against the establishment of a Wages Board. We fail to understand why the MTUC, a strong ally of the Labour Party, should support, without even consulting the Party, the MALA which is the sheet anchor of the Independent Forward Bloc, the strongest opponent of the working class? And on what grounds does the MTUC support the demands of the MALA? May we ever know?

This journal together with the Mauritius Agricultural Workers Union has been the strong advocate of a Wages Board and our reasons have been repeated *ad nauseam*. But it appears that our plea for the establishment of a Wages Board must be restated - perhaps for the information and guidance of Mr Barrett. Our reasons are:

- an organisation which represents only one tenth of the labour force cannot be allowed to negotiate on behalf of the total labour force.
- the MALA has so far doggedly refused to state on what basis were the wages it previously accepted were computed.
- a Minimum Wages Board will have to establish the needs of workers before fixing wages - something which has never been done before in the sugar industry.

The letter we refer to lets out a rather important piece of news, namely that Mr Barrett is against the establishment of a Wages Board. We cannot appreciate Mr Barrett's interference in a rather local and controversial matter. It is best that he keeps aloof. Otherwise, he runs the risk of getting too much involved in matters obviously outside his purview. What happened in British Guiana may not necessarily happen here.

It will be interesting to know what our friends in Brussels think of this matter.

## Promotions & Appointments in the Civil Service

The following promotions in and appointments to the Public Service during the week ended 21st May 1959, are released from the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Dr B. Teelock, Schools Medical Officer, promoted Senior Schools Medical Officer.

Messrs A.G.A. Raman and I.P. Auleebux, Examiners of Accounts Grade I promoted Auditors.

Messrs C. Ramdin, S. Gaya and L.E.F. Perdreau, Examiners of Account Grade I promoted Senior Examiners of Accounts.

Mr I.P.E. Lesage, Examiner of Accounts Grade II promoted Senior Examiner of Accounts.

Messrs J. R. Colin and M.E. Cangy, Customs & Excise Officers Grade I, promoted Senior Examiners.

Mr M. G. M. Atchia, Clerical Officer, promoted Higher Clerical Officer.

Messrs S. Gebert and J. H. Malliate, Customs & Excise Officers Grade II, promoted Customs & Excise Officers Grade I.

### APPOINTMENTS

Mr C. L. Nairac, Education Officer, appointed Rector Royal College, Port-Louis.

Misses M. A. M. Ernest, and A. B. Dassaye appointed Nurses.

Messrs A. B. Bangari, T. Raghoober, J. S. Joson, C. Bhunjun, A.H. Yadally, S.I. J. Jhugroo and C. Jugroop appointed Dressers Grade II.

Messrs H. C. Chasle, M. Ramdoe, I. Nujoo, E. Lutchmaya, S. Lallsing. I.M. Ismael, H. Rosun, E. Reid, D. Hazareesingh, appointed Customs &

Excise Officers Grade II.

Miss G. Begue, appointed Temporary Typist.

Mr J. Thacoer, appointed Technical Assistant Grade II, Telecommunications Department.

Messrs R. Marjolin and M. A. Ghoorun, appointed Messengers.

Mr A. Sawmy, appointed Observer.

Mrs F. Desveaux employed as Temporary Education Officer.

Mr J. L. Davy, Clerical Officer appointed Senior Officer Cadet, Prisons & Industrial School Department.

Mr N. Periathamby, appointed Temporary Prison Officer.

Mr M. Ramdin, employed as Temporary Telephone Operator.

Mr G.M.C. Karroo, employed as Temporary Messenger.

### ACTING APPOINTMENTS

Mr R. Valadon, Principal Probation Officer, to act as Social Welfare Commissioner.

Mr H. Perrier, Assistant Police Superintendent, to act as Superintendent.

Mr C.R. Bosquet, Chief Police Inspector, to act as Assistant Superintendent.

Mr F. L'Aiguille, Compiler, Central Statistical Office, to act as Office Superintendent.

# The Nobel Peace Prize often reveals how contentious peace can be

● Cont. from page 2

Fridtjof Nansen, the League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, received the award in 1922 for his work to repatriate prisoners of war after the First World War and for creating the Nansen passport for refugees. Mother Teresa won in 1979 for caring for people who were terminally ill, abandoned and destitute.

In 1992, Rigoberta Menchú Tum of Guatemala was recognized for her advocacy of Indigenous rights, social justice and "ethno-cultural reconciliation."

Human rights activists have also figured prominently as laureates since the 1960s, starting with Martin Luther King Jr. in 1964 for "his non-violent struggle for civil rights for the Afro-American population."

Other human rights laureates include René Cassin (1968), a drafter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Aung San Suu Kyi (1991) for her efforts to establish democracy and human rights in Myanmar, and Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov (2021) for their defence of freedom of expression.

## International co-operation

The prize has also recognized efforts to create internationalist attitudes and improve standards of living as essential contributions to establishing peace among nations and ensuring people live in security and with dignity.

American peace activist and social reformer Jane Addams received the 1931 prize, at the height of the Great Depression, for her efforts to "rekindle the spirit of peace" in the United States and "the whole of mankind."

U.S. President Barack Obama was selected in 2009 for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and co-operation between people," while Muhammad Yunus, a South Asian economist, won in 2006 for setting up a bank to provide small long-term loans to people living in poverty so that they could become financially independent.

## Politicizing peace

But peace can become political when its advocates oppose or try to reform governments and societies that are pursuing hostile foreign relations or promote and perpetuate injustice and oppression at home.

Between the two world wars, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to politicians, diplomats and officials who made substantial efforts to avoid future conflict, even though they were ultimately unsuccessful.

That included those who supported the League of Nations or negotiated agreements, like the 1925 Locarno Treaties, that were supposed to guarantee the borders between Germany and France and Germany and Belgium, and the Kellogg-Briand Pact of 1928 renouncing war as an instrument of state policy.

The 1964 prize to King, four years before his assassination, was a timely intervention in the American civil rights movement. The 1983 award to Lech Walesa, leader of the



Henry Kissinger with President Richard Nixon in the Oval Office. Pic - Lawrence Journal

trade union Solidarity in Poland, made an anti-communism statement.

## Controversial laureates

The selection of laureates can be controversial, and several have been criticized for acts and beliefs that are inconsistent with peace.

There was an outcry when Henry Kissinger, the US secretary of state, received the prize for his part in negotiating a ceasefire in Vietnam.

Mother Teresa was also criticized for denying people in her care pain relief.

As Myanmar's leader, Suu Kyi was denounced internationally for denying the genocide of Rohingya Muslims. The Nobel Committee explained that her prize could not be withdrawn after the fact.

## Peace can threaten the powerful

The pursuit of peace itself provokes opposition because it demands change.

Abolishing war limits the way governments promote national security. Authority and privilege are challenged in the face of calls to eliminate racism, empower Indigenous Peoples, respect freedom of expression and achieve socio-economic equality.

Even though peace might seem unobjectionable, the history of peace is a story of resistance, contesting the status quo and precarious advances.

*Francine McKenzie, Professor of History, Western University*

## Mauritius Times

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## Avocados, as a substitution for carbohydrates, can suppress hunger without adding calories

**A** new study released by the Center for Nutrition Research at Illinois Institute of Technology suggests that meals that include fresh avocado as a substitute for refined carbohydrates can significantly suppress hunger and increase meal satisfaction in overweight and obese adults.

As rates of obesity in the United States continue to rise, the findings from Illinois Tech suggest that simple dietary changes can have an important impact on managing hunger and aiding metabolic control.

The new research, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Nutrients*, assessed the underlying physiological effects of including whole and half fresh Hass avocados on hunger, fullness, and how satisfied subjects felt over a six-hour period. Researchers evaluated these effects in 31 overweight and obese adults in a randomized three-



arm crossover clinical trial. These dietary changes were also shown to limit insulin and blood glucose excursions, further reducing the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease by adding healthy fats and fibers into a regular daily diet.

"For years, fats have been targeted as the main cause of obesity, and now carbohydrates have come under scrutiny for their role in appetite regulation and weight control," said Britt Burton-Freeman, Ph.D., director of the Center for Nutrition Research at Illinois Tech. "There is no 'one size fits all' solution when it comes to optimal meal composition for managing appetite. However, understanding the relationship between food chemistry and its physiological effects in different populations can reveal opportunities for addressing appetite control and reducing rates of obesity, putting us a step closer to personalized dietary recommendations."

The research found that meals including avocado not only resulted in a significant reduction in hunger and an increase in how satisfied participants felt, but also found that an intestinal hormone called PYY was an important messenger of the physiological response.

## Intelligence can link to health and aging

**F**or over 100 years, scientists have sought to understand what links a person's general intelligence, health and aging. In a new study, a University of Missouri scientist suggests a model where mitochondria, or small energy producing parts of cells, could form the basis of this link. This insight could provide valuable information to researchers studying



various genetic and environmental influences and alternative therapies for age-related diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease.

"There are a lot of hypotheses on what this link is, but no model to link them all together," said David Geary, Curators Distinguished Prof of Psychological Sciences in the MU College of Arts and Science. "Mitochondria produce cellular energy in the human body, and energy availability is the lowest common denominator needed for the functioning of all biological systems. My model shows mitochondrial function might help explain the link between general intelligence, health and aging."

Geary's insight came as he was working on a way to better understand gender-specific vulnerabilities related to language and spatial abilities with certain prenatal and other stressors, which may also involve mitochondrial functioning. Mitochondria produce ATP, or cellular energy. They also respond to their environment, so Geary said habits such as regular exercise and a diet with fruits and vegetables, can promote healthy mitochondria.

Geary said chronic stress can also damage mitochondria that can affect the whole body -- such as the brain and the heart -- simultaneously.



## Why do babies cry when they come out of their mum?

*Crying triggers changes in how a newborn baby gets their oxygen. But not all newborn babies cry, and it's not always a problem.*

**W**hen babies are born, they all seem to cry. We see this a lot on TV.

But not all newborn babies cry straight away. Here's what's going on.

### What happens at birth?

When a baby is born, they move from their mum's warm body, and out of their dark, watery world into a much cooler, drier and brighter one.

It's a bit of a squeeze. As the baby comes out from their mum, the cooler air hits their wet skin.

The cooler air makes them gasp. They also gasp when the midwife or doctor touches their body to help them come into the world.

That gasp is their first breath, which usually comes with a cry. And when this happens the gasp or cry triggers an amazing change in how the baby gets oxygen and moves it around their body.

### What changes?

In the womb, babies depend on their mum for oxygen – via the placenta and umbilical cord.

The placenta looks a bit like a pancake and filters oxygen-rich blood from the mum. The umbilical cord then pumps that to the unborn baby.

But once babies are born, their first breath or cry triggers a whole range of changes to the way their heart moves blood around their body. So, rather than breathing

fluid from the womb, they can now breathe air and get oxygen into their lungs just like we do.

The process of being born also squeezes water out of the baby's lungs, allowing them to work properly.

A newborn baby crying is a sound parents and health workers are very happy to hear. That's because it usually means the baby is well and won't need any extra help to breathe.

But not all newborn babies cry. And it's not always something to be worried about.

### Why don't all babies cry?

Sometimes this switch to moving oxygen around the body just like us does not happen smoothly.

There might be problems with the baby's heart, or there may have been a difficult birth. For instance, the baby might have been very short of oxygen in the womb and need some help to start breathing when they are born.

Sometimes there's a delay in babies crying.

Babies born by caesarean section – when doctors operate on the mum to lift the baby out of her womb – might be slower to breathe and cry. That's because they don't have the fluid squeezed from the lungs like they do when born through the vagina.

Sometimes newborn babies don't cry at all.

Babies born in water (known as a waterbirth) may



have lots of warm water around them and not even realise they are born. That's because they don't feel cold air as they come into the world; they are often in their mother's arms in the water. So they tend to just breathe quietly, and turn pink (showing they are getting enough oxygen), without crying.

### Hannah Dahlen

Professor of Midwifery, Associate Dean Research and HDR, Midwifery Discipline Leader, Western Sydney University





## Sisters of Mercy

Oh, it's been a strange morning indeed. A friend from America who is visiting Ireland, for the first time, was touring Co Kerry when he noticed a sign saying 'SE\*X at Sisters of Mercy Convent -10 Kms'.

'Oh wow - Oh no... I must have read that wrong,' he thinks to himself. But then he spotted another sign which says 'SE\*X at Sisters of Mercy Convent - 5 Kms'. Hmm? Probably a joke he thinks... but when he drives past a third sign saying 'SE\*X at Sisters of Mercy Convent Turn RIGHT'. His curiosity got the better of him.

On the far side of the driveway there was a sombre stone building with a sign above the door reading 'Sisters of Mercy'. He rang the bell. The door was answered by a nun in a long black habit who asks, "What may we do for you, my son?"

He smiled. "I saw your signs along the highway and was interested in your offer."

The elderly nun simply nodded, "Very well, my son. Please follow me." And with that she led him through some winding passages and then stopped at a closed door, saying "Please just knock on this door."

My friend did as he was told. The door was answered by another nun in an old fashioned long black habit who was holding an Offering Basket. She said, "Please place €50 in the basket, and you may then go through that large wooden door at the end of this hallway."

Curious and excited by now, my friend took €50 out of his wallet and placed it in the basket, before trotting eagerly down the hall, and then out through the large wooden door, which immediately shut behind him.

He found himself back outside facing another small sign: 'Go in Peace. You have been successfully screwed by the Sisters of Mercy'.

\* \* \*

A little boy and his grandfather are raking leaves in the yard. The little boy sees an earthworm trying to get back into its hole. He says, "Grandpa, I bet I can put that worm back in that hole." The grandfather replies, "I'll bet you five dollars you can't. It's too wiggly and limp to put back in that little hole."

The little boy runs into the house and comes back out with a can of hair spray. He sprays the worm until it is straight and stiff as a board. The boy then proceeds to put the worm back into the hole. The grandfather hands the little boy five dollars, grabs the hair spray and runs into the house.

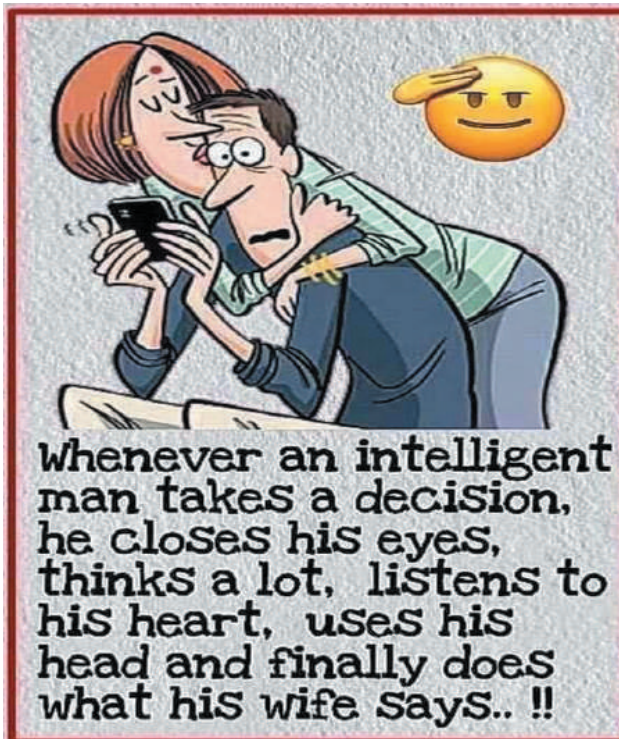
Thirty minutes later the grandfather comes back out and hands the boy another five dollars. The little boy says, "Grandpa, you already gave me five dollars."

The grandfather replies, "I know. That's from your grandma."

\* \* \*

Out with some colleagues in Manchester's China Town a few years ago, the conversation at dinner was getting heavy. The conversation got around to Jews and anti-semitism. As we were in a Chinese restaurant, one of my colleagues said he wondered if there were many Jews in China.

Another colleague asked the waitress: "Do you get Chinese Jews?"



Back came the reply: "No we got Orange juice, pineapple juice or grapefruit juice."

\* \* \*

I pulled into the crowded parking lot at the local shopping centre and rolled down the car windows to make sure my Labrador Retriever Pup had fresh air.

She was stretched full-out on the back seat, and I wanted to impress upon her that she must remain there.

I walked to the curb backward, pointing my finger at the car and saying emphatically,

"Now you stay. Do you hear me? Stay! Stay!"

The driver of a nearby car, a pretty young blonde, gave me a strange look and said, "Why don't you just put the handbrake on?"

\* \* \*

A beautiful woman went to the gynaecologist... The doctor took one look at the woman and all his professionalism flew out the window. He immediately told her to get undressed.

After she disrobed, the doctor began to stroke her thigh. While doing so he asked her, "Do you know what I am doing?"

"Yes," she replied, "You are checking for abrasions or dermatological abnormalities."

"That's right," said the doctor. He then began to fondle her breasts. "Do you know what I am doing now?" he asked.

"Yes," she said, "You are checking for lumps which might indicate breast cancer."

"Correct," replied the shady doctor. Finally, he mounted his patient and he asked, "Do you know what I am doing now?"

"Yes," she said, "You're getting syphilis, which is why I came here in the first place."

\* \* \*

One night a blonde nun was praying in her room when God appeared before her.

"My daughter, you have pleased me greatly. Your heart is full of love for your fellow creatures and your actions and prayers are always for the benefit of others. I have come to you, not only to thank and commend you, but to grant you anything you wish," said God.

"Dear Heavenly Father, I am perfectly happy and am doing what I love. I lack nothing. I feel content in all ways," said the nun.

"There must be something you would have of me," said God.

"Well, there is one thing," she said.

"Just name it," said God.

"It's those blond jokes. They are so demeaning to blondes everywhere, not just to me. I would like for blond jokes to stop."

"Consider it done," said God. "Blonde jokes shall be stricken from the minds of humans everywhere. But surely there is something that I could do just for you."

"There is one thing. But it's really small, and not worth your time," said the nun.

"Name it. Please," said God. "It's the M&M's," said the nun. "They're so hard to peel."

\* \* \*

A family decided to try a nudist camping resort for a cheap vacation.

On their first day there their young son went off to explore the site. Sometime later he came back to the tent and said, "Wow, Mom! You should see some of those girls. They've got these huge..."

"Yes, well," his mother snaps, "the larger they are, the dumber the woman."

Next day the boy comes back to the tent again.

"Mom, You wouldn't believe some of the guys out there. They've got these huge..."

"Yes, well, like I said, the bigger they are, the dumber the man," says his mother.

"Really?" the boy said, frowning and looking puzzled. "Well it looks like we might be in trouble then, Mom."

"Why, honey?" asks his mom.

"Because Dad's out there talking to a really stupid girl, and he's getting dumber by the minute."

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"Why, honey?" asks his mom.

"Because Dad's out there talking to a really stupid girl, and he's getting dumber by the minute."

## TWO GOLDEN RULES FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE:



1. The wife is always right.

2. When you feel she is wrong, slap yourself and read rule Number 1 again.

## That's Life

# Women are simply amazing creatures



1. Women are wired for connection. Women need to feel connected to others in order to feel happy and fulfilled. This means having close relationships with friends, family, and romantic partners.
2. Women are relational. Women see the world through relationships. They are constantly thinking about how their actions will affect others,
3. Women are emotional. Women are more likely to experience emotions than men. They are also more likely to express their emotions, both positive and negative.
4. Women are intuitive. Women have a strong gut instinct. They often know things without having to be told.
5. Women are multi-taskers. Women are able to juggle multiple tasks at once. They are also able to switch gears quickly and easily.
6. Women are survivors. Women have a natural ability to overcome obstacles. They are also resilient and resourceful.
7. Women are nurturers. Women have a natural instinct to care for others. They are also good at creating a nurturing environment.
8. Women are powerful. Women have the power to change the world. They are also strong and independent.
9. Women are beautiful. Women come in all shapes and sizes, and they are all beautiful in their own way.
10. Women are amazing. Women are simply amazing creatures. They are strong, resilient, compassionate, and intelligent.

**Shaunti Feldhahn**  
From 'For Women Only'

## Thoughts to Live by

## The love of your fate

Nietzsche was the one who did the job for me. At a certain moment in his life, the idea came to him of what he called 'the love of your fate.' Whatever your fate is, whatever the hell happens, you say, 'This is what I need.' It may look like a wreck but go at it as though it were an opportunity, a challenge. If you bring love to that moment — not discouragement — you will find the strength is there.

Any disaster you can survive is an improvement in your character, your stature, and your life. What a privilege! This is when the spontaneity of your own nature will have a chance to flow.

Then, when looking back at your life, you will see that the moments which seemed to be great failures followed by the wreckage were the incidents that shaped the life you have now. You'll see that this is really true.

Nothing can happen to you that is not positive. Even though it looks and feels at the moment like a negative crisis, it is not. The crisis throws you back, and when you are required to exhibit strength, it comes.

**Joseph Campbell**  
From 'Reflections on the Art of Living'



## You have to love

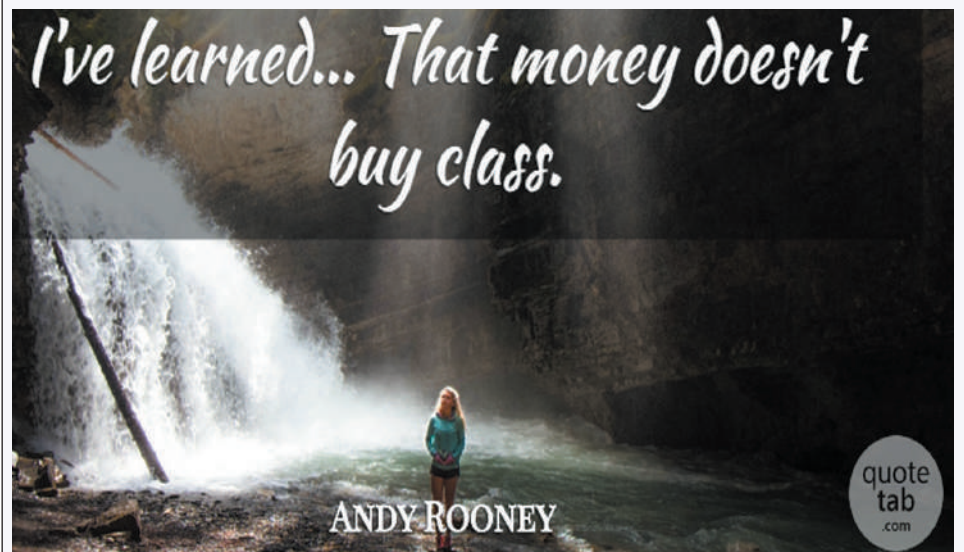
Life will break you. Nobody can protect you from that, and being alone won't either, for solitude will also break you with its yearning.

You have to love. You have to feel. It is the reason you are here on earth. You have to risk your heart. You are here to be swallowed up.

And when it happens that you are broken, or betrayed, or left, or hurt, or death brushes too near, let yourself sit by an apple tree and listen to the apples falling all around you in heaps, wasting their sweetness.

Tell yourself that you tasted as many as you could.

**Louise Erdrich**  
From 'The Painted Drum'



I've learned...  
That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned...  
That when you harbour bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned...  
That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned...  
That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned...  
That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned...  
That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned...  
That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned...  
That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned...  
That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

I've learned...  
That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned...  
That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned...  
That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned...  
That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned...  
That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned...  
That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned...  
That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned...  
That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned...  
That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned...  
That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned...  
That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned...  
That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned...  
That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned...  
That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you missed.

I've learned...  
That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've learned...  
That one should keep his words both soft and tender because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned...  
That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned...  
That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, you're hooked for life.

I've learned...  
That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned...  
That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

**Andy Rooney**

Men's Health**Skin care tips for men that require little effort**

Here's what to use instead of soap to cleanse your face, plus which type of aftershave to avoid. See how these and other easy swaps and changes can improve the look and feel of your skin.

On a cool morning, nothing feels better than steaming hot water. But turning the temp down just a bit can help keep your skin from getting flaky, dry, scaly, and itchy. The hotter the water (and the longer you stay in the shower), the more natural oils get stripped away. If you can't stand anything less than a scalding scrub, stay in the shower less than five minutes.

**Moisturize!**

Men's faces tend to be oilier than women's, but to help avoid wrinkles, it's still smart to use a daily moisturizer. Men with normal to oily skin can get enough moisture from a light lotion or hydrating gel. If you have drier skin, try a heavier cream.

**Face Facts: cleanser, not soap**

If your face is sensitive or flaky, use a cleanser that doesn't have sodium lauryl sulfate, which makes things foamy but can



Skin care tips for men. Pic - OnlyMyHealth

dry your skin. Also look for ingredients like ceramides, glycerin, sunflower or soybean oils, or petrolatum, which moisturize. If your skin is oily, try a cleanser with natural bacteria-fighters like citrus, tea tree oil, or eucalyptus. Typical deodorant soaps are just too drying for the thinner skin on your face.

**Soften up before you shave**

For an easier shave, keep things moist. That's why it's smart to do it when you're fresh out of the shower and coarse beard hairs are wet and more flexible. And if you're prone to razor burn, try a shaving gel rather than a foam. The newest gels soften hairs even more, so you're less likely to have redness, razor bumps, or ingrown hairs afterward. Other ways to avoid ingrowns: Always shave in the direction of hair growth and use as few

strokes as possible.

**Skip aftershaves with alcohol**

Shaving scrapes away the top layers of skin cells. That's good for clearing up breakouts and dryness, but it can irritate your face. A moisturizer will soothe the sting. Avoid alcohol-based aftershaves, which can make it worse. Traditional aftershaves were meant to kill germs and prevent infection from nicks. But with today's razors, cutting yourself is less common, and less a risk than razor burn.

**Pat, don't rub**

After washing up, pat dry -- especially the thinner, more delicate skin on your face. Rubbing too hard with a towel can irritate and dry it out.

**Read labels before you buy**

Skin care product labels can seem confusing at first, so to simplify things, just look for a few helpful key words: "Noncomedogenic" means a cream or lotion won't cause zits; "alcohol-free" means it's likely to be gentle and won't dry you out; a cleanser or lotion with "antioxidants" or vitamins A, C, or E may help skin repair itself from everyday damage.

**Skip the scents**

Fragrances in skin care products are usually man-made chemicals, which can irritate and dry. So if you have sensitive skin, it's best to go for unscented lotions and cleansers. Some men do better with a

scent that comes from natural ingredients like citrus or lavender.

**Tame crow's feet**

If you have little lines around your eyes or mouth that bother you, try a moisturizer that contains hyaluronic acid, which smoothes skin. For deeper wrinkles like crow's feet, look for an anti-aging eye cream with retinol or glycolic acid. These natural ingredients can strip off the outer layers of dead, dry skin, helping to soften lines.

**Dab on a little sunscreen**

One of the main causes of age spots and wrinkles is sun damage. Even if you get only five minutes of sun each day, it adds up and can age your skin. Add sunscreen -- or a moisturizer that contains at least SPF 30 -- to your morning routine. Make sure the product says its sunscreen is "broad-spectrum," meaning it protects from both burning rays and the skin-aging rays.

**Fix up your feet**

As you get older, the skin on your feet thickens and can crack. To fix it, start by getting a cheap drugstore pumice stone, and scrub your soles in the shower daily. Then rub on a thick cream or ointment -- many are made especially for the feet, but any intense moisturizer will help. If the cracks are really bad, swipe on a thick layer of cream before bed, then put on socks to lock in the moisture overnight.

Medically reviewed by Debra Jaliman, MD - WebMD

Health & Sex**How sex drive changes through the years**

Hormones, health problems, and the business of life can affect your sex drive. See which changes you can expect as you move through your 30s, 40s, 50s, and beyond.

It seems like a simple question, but scientists still can't agree on exactly what makes up sex drive or how to measure it in men or women. While hormones play a role, it's not always clear how much of a difference they make. But other factors -- psychological, social, and physical -- also work together to create your libido.

**Men - Your 20s:** Testosterone, a hormone men need for sexual arousal, is typically high in your 20s, and so is your sex drive. But it's also a time when you could be anxious about sex because of inexperience. That might be part of why 8%, and possibly more, of men in their 20s report erectile dysfunction (ED). The condition can happen because of a medical or mental health issue or even be a sign that you're at risk for heart disease. Talk to your doctor about your symptoms.

**Women - Your 20s:** You're likely to be more fertile from your teens to late 20s than you are in the years that follow. This may make you choosier about if and when you have sex, though it's not clear exactly why. In fact, scientists think that female desire might go up just as fertility starts to decline toward the end of your 20s.

**Men - 30s and Early 40s:** Many men continue to have a strong sex drive through these years, though testosterone starts to slowly decrease around age 35. It typically



Scientists still can't agree on exactly what makes up sex drive or how to measure it in men or women. Pic - Time

goes down by about 1% per year, but it could be faster for some men. This could have some effect on your sex drive. Plus, for many men, the stress of work, family, and other commitments can affect how interested you are in sex.

**Women - 30s and Early 40s:** This time of life may be when your sex drive is strongest. One study showed that women between 27 and 45 had more frequent and more intense sexual fantasies than younger or older women. They also had more sex and were more likely to have it sooner in a relationship.

**Women - Having Kids:** At any age, pregnancy and childbirth have a big impact on your sex life, but it's different for everyone. Your body and hormones change throughout pregnancy. That may mean a boost in libido at times, especially during the second trimester, and a lack of desire at others. You also may be anxious about whether it's safe to have sex while you're pregnant. (It usually is but ask your doctor if you're unsure.) Breastfeeding, raising kids, and other work can also affect the time, energy, and

interest you have in sex.

**Men: 50s and Beyond** - If you're in good physical and mental health, there's no reason you shouldn't continue to enjoy your sex life as you get older. ED does become more common as you age. Your erections may happen less often and may be less firm. But it's not age itself that causes the problem as much as health problems that become more common with age, like heart disease, diabetes, high cholesterol, and obesity, and the drugs that treat them. Your doctor can talk to you about your options for treating ED.

**Women - 50s and Beyond:** Around age 50, an "empty nest" or less worry about getting pregnant might make some women more interested in sex. But as you head toward menopause, estrogen levels drop, which might cool your libido down a bit. Hot flashes, anxiety, weight gain, and sleep problems also can make you less in the mood. Ask your doctor about medicines, hormones, and other treatment.

**Men: It's not just Testosterone** - You need some testosterone to get aroused, but it's not clear how much. It may vary from person to person. And though it's true your levels decline with age; scientists don't know exactly how this affects sex drive. Some men with "low" testosterone show normal sex drive, while others with high levels have sexual problems. Other medical issues, physical fitness, and mental health could be more important factors.

**Your doctor can help** - Talk to your doctor about any issues with your sex drive, as they could be a sign of a medical condition. If your physical response is the problem, your doctor may prescribe hormones that can increase overall sex drive, or drugs that boost sexual arousal.

Reviewed by Nayana Ambardekar, MD, WebMD

## Kareena Kapoor: 'I don't want to be 20. I'm having the time of my life, and I'm still the 'hot padosan'

**K**areena Kapoor, who turned 43 on September 21, 2023, says she is embracing her age, and celebrating the fact that she has contributed to Bollywood redefining its idea of who is desirable and who isn't. She also adds that she loves the 'hot padosan' tag that was given to her via her new film, *Jaane Jaan*, reports Indian Express.

In an interview with Film Companion, she said, "It's a great time, I have two children, I'm a proud wife, proud homemaker and mother. I also love my glamorous side, which I know my fans connect to. And they've been so loyal. It doesn't matter that I've been married and have two children. Age is just a number. I'm turning 43. It's a great time to be in the movies. And 'hot padosan'? I think it's a great compliment."

Asked about being in a 'notoriously ageist film industry', Kareena said that she has become wiser with age. "Having seen so many failures and successes in the industry, films happen and don't happen, it makes you a strong person. For me, everything happened at the right time. I got married, I had children. I decided to work. I'm at peace with the work I'm getting, that also relaxes you."

She said that she has 'never run away' from the fact that she is growing



older. "I'm not trying to photoshop my images too much. Sometimes people say, 'No, no, you should'. I'm like, 'Some days I'm going to look tired, because I'm human, and my fans should know that.' We're not always going to be 20, and thank god for that; I don't want to be 20. I'm having the time of my life, and I'm still the 'hot padosan'."

## Vicky Kaushal reveals wife Katrina Kaif has a specific preference for his appearance

**W**hen Vicky Kaushal announced his marriage to Katrina Kaif, it left many hearts broken. While the Bollywood actor is often praised for his good looks, his wife has a preference for his appearance, particularly when it comes to his beard. In a recent interview, the *Uri* actor shared insights into his relationship with Katrina and how they complement each other. A report by Indian Express:

As he promotes his upcoming film, *The Great Indian Family*, Vicky is sporting a longer beard. When asked about his wife's opinion on his current look, Vicky told Bollywood Bubble, "My wife. My family and I are all clear that I should at least have a stubble on my face. I don't like myself clean shaven, that's a occupational hazard. Katrina likes me with beard. Last whole year I was clean shaven because I was shooting for *Sam Bahadur*, so this year, she isn't getting into how much beard there is. She is happy that there is a beard."

Vicky went on to elaborate on their relationship, saying, "We are a great match because our temperament come together very beautifully. Like Katrina said in her previous interview, she has a tendency to overthink and panic, I have to calm her down. Similarly, I have those reactions some days and she is there for me. She fills in my gaps which I lack. I love it when we come to a conclusion together. It's a blessing that she is a partner."

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif tied the knot in 2021, after keeping their rela-



tionship private for several years.

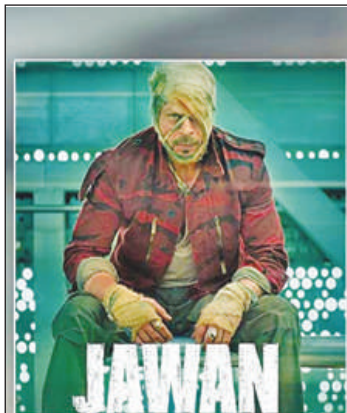
On the professional front, Vicky Kaushal's last appearance was in the blockbuster film *Zara Hatke Zara Bachke*. He is set to star in *The Great Indian Family* alongside Manushi Chhillar, scheduled for a theatrical release on September 22. Additionally, he has the film *Sam Bahadur*, directed by Meghna Gulzar, in the pipeline.

## Nayanthara quits Bollywood because of Deepika Padukone?

**N**ayanthara is reportedly upset with Atlee because he gave more importance to Deepika Padukone's character in the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer, reports Siasta

South's lady superstar Nayanthara has been creating waves with her Bollywood debut in *Jawan* opposite Shah Rukh Khan, earning praise for her chemistry and performance on-screen. However, recent reports hint at a potential halt to Nayanthara's Hindi film endeavours. Speculations are rife that she may not return to Bollywood.

Despite the positive reception of her debut, Nayanthara is reportedly not actively considering any new Bollywood scripts at the moment. The reason behind this shift



might be attributed to concerns surrounding her role in *Jawan* and her experiences with the director Atlee and co-star Deepika Padukone.

A report in HT states that Nayanthara is upset with Atlee for editing down her role in *Jawan* while seemingly giving more prominence to Deepika Padukone's character in the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer.

"It was not a cameo at all. *Jawan* was almost made to look like an SRK-Deepika film. Nayanthara is the leading actor down south, and hence, she was not happy with the treatment of *Jawan*. And that can never well be the reason why we might not see her in a Bollywood project, at least not anytime soon," the source further added.

## Divyanka Tripathi wanted to adopt a child after her breakup with Sharad Malhotra

«If I hadn't found Vivek at the time, I would have adopted a baby»

**D**ivyanka Tripathi was formerly in a relationship with Sharad Malhotra before marrying Vivek Dahiya. The two fell in love while working on the TV show *Banoon Main Teri Dulhan*, but their romance didn't work out, and they split up. In a recent interview with a news portal, Divyanka discussed her break-up with Sharad, and how she was dealing with it. She also said that she bought herself an engagement ring as a symbol of self-love.

### Divyanka felt love was an alien concept post breakup

Divyanka was then asked whether loving again was difficult for her after the breakup, she shared, "It was very a conscious choice on my part. My mother was living with me at that time when I had a fracture, and I was working on *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein*. I was working every day, along with many other assignments. I had taken on a lot of work because I wanted to keep myself distracted. But my mother made me realize that I need to love myself and that was an alien concept for me."

### Divyanka wanted to adopt a baby as she wanted love and companion

Divyanka further revealed that she had almost adopted a baby after her breakup, "My mother asked me, 'Why are you searching for love out-



side? Love yourself.' I was in a wheelchair at the time, me and my mother both went to a jewellery store and bought an engagement ring and I got engaged to myself. It happened after my break-up. I also posted about it on Instagram. If I hadn't found Vivek at the time, I would have adopted a baby because I wanted love and a companion. And it's not important for companionship to be of one type. Things changed for me when Vivek entered my life."

Divyanka and Vivek met on the sets of *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein*, through a common friend and soon they started dating. The duo shortly decided to get hitched and they tied the knot on July 8, 2016. Since then, Divyanka and Vivek has been one of the most adored couples from the Telly town.

## Karanvir Sharma on fan love for Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani: **'When it went off air, I was heartbroken'**

**K**aranvir Sharma aka Shaurya from 'Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani' spoke to Zoom Digital about the show being special to him, the love it continues to get all this time after going off-air, and how it did affect him when the makers decided to pull it off-air. Read his conversation with Sanchita Jhunjunwala of Zoom Digital...

*Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani* on Star Plus featured Karanvir Sharma and Debattama Saha in the lead roles. The show won hearts over its due course of time and when it went off-air, fans were rather sad and kept hoping for it to get an extension. While they wish for a season 2, the show's fan following continues to get stronger for it makes multiple trends time and again.

We got in touch with Karanvir about how the show has been quite the milestone on Indian TV and also, his career, since the show has won him immense love from the audiences.

The actor tells Zoom Digital, "It is really overwhelming to see a show which went off air still is in the news and has gathered a huge fan base. Hands down Shaurya and Anokhi will be two iconic characters in Indian Television to have made path breaking statements. Be it equality of the sex, marital issues or the right to education for women."

The actor further added, "To be honest, when the show went off air, I was heartbroken. This comes from an actor who has struggled for over a



decade and failure and dejection had become part of the drill. Yet, when the show did its time and the makers didn't want to prolong the show to become yet another *saas-bahu* drama, I was shattered because as an artist, you invest so dearly in all the character attributes and start living and breathing such a wonderful role."

He added how the makers told him something like this wouldn't come by soon for the actor. He said, "I was lost as I knew this was my career's finest portrayal thus far. The makers did mention to me that KV, do not expect a role like Shaurya to come by anytime soon. Such layered characters are hardly made on TV and even if you do search for similarities. It will never match up. So, have realistic expectations."

The actor mentioned how his character of Shaurya has raised the bar as the characters that he needs to portray on screen, and he feels that might be the reason he is choosy and it has been difficult for him to say yes to any and every role.

He concluded, "I would like to thank the people, the viewers, makers and cast and crew for a magical journey that is 'Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani'. If you haven't watched it yet, I bet 2 episodes down the line, you will get addicted to it."

## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Your health and business situation will be better than before. Whatever you need in life, it will be easy for you to get it. Luckily, some work will get done at the end of next week. Your money inflow will increase. But do not lend money to anyone and control your tongue.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 10, 18, 20, 30**

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your condition is already improving. There will be chances of your business success. Your health condition will be much better than before. Good luck will increase in your life. New sources of income will also be created. Also, boyfriend and girlfriend may meet in the middle of next week. The ongoing problems with your spouse will be resolved.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 15, 20, 23, 24**

### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

It will be an auspicious time for you from a business point of view. There will be an increase in your ancestral property, but do not take any decision due to emotions, otherwise you may suffer a big loss. Your pending money will be returned. You will also benefit from travelling.

**Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 17, 20, 21, 30**

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

There will be auspiciousness in your life. There is a possibility of you getting a victory in a court case in the middle of the week. You will progress in daily employment. Your financial matters will be resolved at the end of the week. Your pending work will start.

**Lucky Numbers: 15, 17, 19, 23, 36, 40**

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

You will progress in daily employment. In the middle of the week, your material wealth will increase, but your domestic happiness will remain disrupted. At the end of the week, do not make any decision due to emotions, otherwise, you will suffer loss.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 14, 19, 21, 23, 24**

### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Your money inflow will increase at the beginning of the coming week but keep investments on hold for now. There will be positive energy in your life in the middle of the week. There will be chances of your business success. At the end of the week, your material wealth will increase, but your domestic happiness will remain disrupted.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 17, 25, 28, 30, 32**

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You will benefit from travelling. You will progress in daily employment. Due to this your financial condition will be strengthened. At the end of the week, you may get injured. You should not take any risk.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 11, 25, 30, 33**

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

At the beginning of the week, do not take any decision due to emotions. Otherwise, you may suffer a big loss. Enemies will try to create trouble in the middle of the week, but victory will be yours. Your social stature will increase. At the end of the week, you will progress in your employment. Your financial condition will be stronger than before.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 3, 13, 15, 20, 27**

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Ganesha says This week your condition will be better than before. You will get New sources of income will be created for you. You will receive good news. Don't make any decisions based on emotions. Otherwise, you may suffer a big loss. At the end of the week, you will prevail over your enemies.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 15, 19, 20, 22, 36**

### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Your mind will remain troubled due to excess expenditure. You will progress in daily employment. There will be an increase in your material wealth in the middle of the week, but discord will be created for you. There is a possibility of discord in love at the end of the week.

**Lucky Numbers: 20, 25, 26, 27, 31, 40**

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

It will be a pleasant time for you from a business point of view. The situation of your love and children will be better than before. Your money inflow will increase. Due to this your financial condition will become stronger than before, but keep investments on hold for now.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 4, 17, 20, 29, 31**

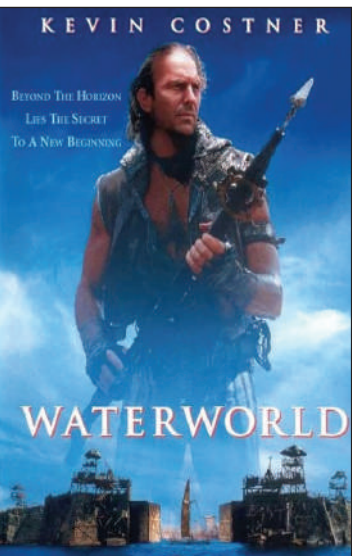
### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Your decision-making ability will improve. You will get the full support of your love and children. Your money inflow will increase but do not invest money in gambling, betting, and lottery. Whatever you need will be easily available to you.

**Lucky Numbers: 14, 20, 23, 29, 34, 35**



Vendredi 22 septembre - 20.30



Samedi 23 septembre - 20.30



Dimanche 24 septembre - 20.30



# Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 22 septembre</b>	05.32 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 06.01 Serial: New Amsterdam 07.15 Film: Lust For Gold 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.06 Tele: Amour Secret 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter 10.55 Tele: Marimar 11.05 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Barbarita 13.25 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.50 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: Burden Of Truth 15.25 Film: Hero Dog 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.35 Film: Waterworld 22.44 Tele: Barbartia 23.30 Le Journal Tevise 00.15 The Gardener's Daughter	06.19 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 08.26 Local: An Eta Dalert 09.08 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou Rises 11.06 Local: Groov'in 12.02 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 12.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 13.24 Local: MBC Prod 14.14 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 15.31 Local: Generations J 15.58 Local: Groov'in 16.43 Local: En Forme: Zumba 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.28 Tele: Amour Secret 19.30 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 20.04 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 22.00 Local: La Societe 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 00.12 Local: Itinerer Rodrig	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 08.00 Local: Amrit Vaani 10.00 Serial: Agniphera 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Gunahon Ka Devta Starring: Jeetendra, Rajshree 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 16.21 Serial: Bhakharwadi 17.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 19.02 Local: Khel Khiladi 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 20.54 Film: Garda Garda Kaile Badu 23.30 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain	06.03 Doc: Smoothie Mania 06.45 Mag: Carnet De Sante 07.28 Mag: Tomorrow Today 08.24 Doc: Craft Chocolate... 08.57 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 10.03 Doc: Glacier Express 11.05 Doc: Smoothie Mania 11.46 Mag: Carnet De Sante 12.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.00 Doc: A Mediterranean... 13.30 Doc: Craft Chocolate 14.11 Mag: Healthy Living 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours 14.51 Serial: Hi Opie! 15.06 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.20 D.Anime: Trolls 15.42 D.Anime: Stan Lee's... 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.28 D.Anime: Harvey Girls Forever! 16.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids	14.25 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Rangoon Starring: Saif Ali Khan, Shahid Kapoor, Kangana Ranaut 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.01 Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.00 Anupamaa 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.59 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Rangoon Stars : Saif Ali Khan, Shahid Kapoor, Kangana
<b>samedi 23 septembre</b>	04.26 Serial: S.W.A.T 05.07 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 06.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 07.00 Le Livre Perdu Des sortileges 07.45 Serial: Seal Team 08.31 Serial: Hooten & The Lady 09.15 Serial: Riviera 09.59 Serial: S.W.A.T 10.45 Serial: The Inbetween 11.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Queens Of Mystery 13.20 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 15.21 Film: Timecrafters 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Dance India Dance Little Masters 20.30 Film: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner 22.20 Serial: Chiago PD 23.05 Tele: Missing Bride	06.14 Local: Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 08.30 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 10.29 Local: Rodrig: It's My Day 12.02 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 12.31 Local: Les Grands Noms... 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.02 Local: Zanfan Nou Pei 15.09 Local: La Societe 17.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.00 Serial: The Equalizer 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Magazine De L'emploi 21.02 Local: The Magic Flute 22.31 Local: Glwar Dantan 23.26 Local: Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.23 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 23.48 Local: Rodrig - Saver Kil Tirel 00.12 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 00.45 Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 08.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol 10.55 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 12.02 Serial: Dikri Vahaino Dariyo 12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 11.59 Local: Khel Khiladi 14.14 Taare Zameen Par 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Film: Love Marriage Starring: Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi Sheshadri, Govardhan Asrani, Master Bhagwan, 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.36 Local: Satrangi 18.52 Duniya Mein Is Saptah 19.07 Local: Khoobsurat 19.37 Local Production 20.00 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani 20.50 Film: Baaz Starring: Jackie Shroff, Suniel Shetty, Karishma Kapoor	06.31 D.Anime: Fast And Furious 06.54 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 10.06 Mag: Recipes For Kids 10.36 Serial: Malory Towers 11.05 Doc: Smoothie Mania 13.30 Doc: Heritage 14.52 Serial: Hi Opie! 15.06 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.08 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 15.19 D.Anime: Trolls 15.42 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super... 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.29 Harvey Girls Forever 16.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids 16.54 Mag: Sand Tales 17.15 Doc: World Capitals 17.30 Mag: Eco At Africa 20.01 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: 100 Streets	08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 10.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 10.18 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.15 Udaariyaan 14.05 Anupamaa 16.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...  18.31 Film: Namak Halaal Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Parveen Babi, Shashi Kapoor 21.23 Gadget Guru Ganesha 21.34 Serial: Porus 21.57 Naagin Seasn 05 22.37 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
<b>samedi 24 septembre</b>	02.34 Film: 100 Streets 04.35 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 06.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 06.30 Film: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner 08.25 Serial: Imposters 09.10 Film: Timecrafters 10.45 Serial: Falling Water 11.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Film: Lust For Gold 14.15 Serial: Scorpion 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Blithe Spirit 17.00 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 19.16 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Spy Game With Robert Redford, Brad Pitt...	06.00 Rodrig: D'Jam 06.26 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou 06.45 Local: En Forme 07.35 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante 09.13 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 10.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.26 Local: Kot Nou 13.30 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local Prod: Elle 17.01 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Serial: The Equalizer 19.00 Zournal Kreol 20.00 Local: Tiba Tiba Nu Avance 20.45 Local: Mauritius Police Band Musical Show 2023 22.27 Local: Clin D'oeil 22.42 Le Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 00.45 Local: Nu Lakwizin	07.10 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 09.00 Duniya Mein Is Saptah 12.02 Film: Prem Rog 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.22 Other: Radha Krishna 15.51 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah 17.00 Local: Ekta 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.29 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi 19.13 Local: Tohar Farmaish 20.00 Live From Central Flacq - Ram Katha organised by the global Healing Meditation - Spiritual Discourse by his Holiness Shree Sooraj Beeharry 23.03 Serial: Bahubali 23.43 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi	06.34 D.Anime: Fast And Furious 06.56 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 07.16 D.Anime: Nina's World 09.23 D.Anime: Miraculous 10.13 Serial: Malory Towers 10.46 Doc: Foodland 11.41 Doc: Our Drinking Water 12.27 Doc: Nature Always Wins 13.52 Doc: Step Aside Panda! 15.09 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 15.19 D.Anime: Trolls 15.42 Stan Lee's Superhero 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.27 Harvey Girls Forever! 16.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids 18.00 Doc: World Captials 18.26 Foodland: Veggie Feasts 18.35 Doc: La Naissance Des... 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 21.42 Film: Blanche Neige	00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 02.05 Udaariyaan 04.00 Anupamaa 06.06 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise... 08.00 Tenali Rama 08.12 Patiala Babes 10.16 Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 13.46 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 15.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.32 Film: Haathi Mere Saathi Starring Rajesh Khanna, Tanuja 21.21 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.34 Serial: Naagin Season 22.24 SBade Acche Lagte Hai 2 23.33 Serial: Patiala Babes 01.47 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
<b>dimanche 25 septembre</b>	06.07 Serial: Imperio De Mentiras 07.15 Film: Memories Of War 09.02 Serial: The Equalizer 09.44 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.00 Tele: Amour Secret 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.48 Tele: Marimar 11.16 Serial: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita, Les Couleurs.. 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: The Equalizer 15.20 Film: Spy Game 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 19.30 Le Journal 20.25 Le Livre Perdu Des Sortileges 21.15 Serial: Seal Team 21.55 Serial: Hooten & The Lady	07.12 Local: Tiba Tiba Nu Avance 09.32 Local: Elle 10.44 Local: Le Challenge 11.05 Local: Mauritius Police Band Musical Show 2023 12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.54 La Journee Sous Le... 13.25 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 13.25 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 13.58 Local: Elle 15.16 Local: Tiba Tiba Nu Avance 16.42 Local: Le Challenge 17.11 Local: Radio Vision 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Bricolo Ecolo 21.16 Local: Radio Vision 22.14 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 08.04 Local: Planet Bollywood 08.47 Local: Tohar Farmaish 09.31 Other: Radha Krishna 10.00 Serial: Bahubali 10.43 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 11.36 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Abhimanyu Starring : Anil Kapoor, Kimi Katkar, Poonam Dhillon 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.35 Ved Ki Shikshayen 19.04 Local: Ganesh Tatva 19.34 Local: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.15 Local: Charcha 21.01 Film: Bombay To Goa 23.07 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.29 Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.02 Doc: Eye On SADC 08.00 Doc: Squeezed Out 09.23 Doc: Multi Tasking 10.12 Doc: Naples Under The Volcanic Threat 11.18 Doc: World Capitals 11.51 Doc: Foodland: Veggie Feast 13.13 Doc: Squeezed Out 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours 14.51 D.Anime: L'heure Du Conte 15.05 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.08 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 15.19 D.Anime: Trolls 15.42 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Superhero Kindergarten 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.29 Harvey Girls Forever! 16.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.02 Student Support Programme 19.32 Mag: In Good Shape 21.41 Film: Band Aid	14.25 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar... 15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: I Am 24 Starring: Rajat Kapoor, Ranvir Shorey, Neha Dhupia 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.08 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.28 Radha Krishna 21.06 Anupamaa 21.32 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: I Am 24 Starring: Rajat Kapoor, Ranvir Shorey, Neha Dhupia



Mardi 26 septembre - 20.30



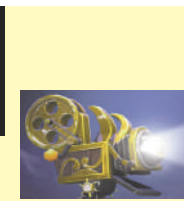
Mercredi 27 septembre - 21.15



Mercredi 27 septembre - 15.30



# Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 26 septembre</b>	04.45 Tele: Amour Secret 05.08 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 07.18 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des Sortileges 08.09 Serial: Seal Team 08.45 Serial: Hooten & The Lady 09.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: Marimar 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.10 Serial: The Magicians 15.25 Film: Lake Effects 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.30 Film: Fear Of Rain	07.14 Eclairage Economique 09.28 Local: Radio Vision 10.25 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal 11.07 Local: Le Rendez Vous 12.07 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 13.01 Eclairage Economique 13.40 Local: Tous Egaux 13.59 Rodrig Mo Pei 14.39 Local: Lir - Ekkrir Kreol 14.57 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif 16.51 Local: En Forme 17.09 Local: Radio Vision 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.34 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 19.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 21.31 Local: Radio Vision 22.28 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 09.34 Local: Charcha 10.03 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 12.02 Film: Doosri Dulhan 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.30 Badki Malkaain 16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 17.28 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.36 Local: Tark Vitark 19.00 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 19.30 Local: Prakriti Ki God Mein 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.38 Film: Sunghursh 22.21 Serial: Jijai Chhat Par Hain 22.44 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 23.32 Local: Tark Vitark 23.58 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 00.28 Prakriti Ki God Mein 00.54 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya	06.03 Mag: Eco At Africa 08.53 Mag: Tomorrow Today 09.22 Mag: Washington Forum 10.34 Doc: Opaque Worlds 11.22 Mag: Eco At Africa 13.22 Doc: L'Evolution En Marche 14.14 Mag: Shift 14.52 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.06 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.20 D.Anime: Trolls 15.43 Stan Lee's Superhero... 16.08 D.Anime: Gon 16.31 D.Anime: Harvey Girls... 16.54 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.16 Doc: World Capitals 17.25 Mag: Japan Video Topics 17.30 Mag: Eco At Africa 18.05 Mag: Rev 18.31 Mag: Healthy Living 19.31 Mag: Global US 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.30 Film: Rajaji Starring Govinda, Raveena Tandon, Shakti Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.38 Radha Krishna 21.08 Anupama 21.37 Mere Sai 22.08 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 23.30 Film: Rajaji Starring Govinda, Raveena Tandon, Shakti Kapoor 01.58 Kundali Bhagya
<b>mercredi 27 septembre</b>	05.36 Tele: Amour Secret 06.01 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 08.55 Serial: The Equalizer 09.40 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.28 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: Marimar 11.10 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: The Equalizer 15.21 Film: Fear Of Rain 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 Serial: Under Pressure 21.15 Film: Les Cents Et Une Nuit De Simon Cinema	07.35 Local: Priorite Sante 09.02 Local: Profil 09.39 Local: Radio Vision 11.00 Local: Music Tour 2022 12.03 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.30 Local: Generations J 14.45 Local: Priorite Sante 15.33 Prod: Nu Rasinn 16.19 Local: Glwar Dantan 17.08 Local: Music Tour 2022 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.37 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.30 Messe Du Tourismisme Enregistree A L'Eglise De St Croix 22.18 Local: Agir Ensemble 22.45 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Come On Let's Dance 00.12 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 08.26 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 08.56 Prakriti Ki God Mein 09.21 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 11.29 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Chatpati Starring: Smita Patil, Raj Kiran, Reema Lagoo 15.30 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.01 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.39 Local: Tirth Yatra 19.37 Local: Anjoria 20.02 Local: Virasat 20.44 Film: Haq Ke Ladai 00.11 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 00.32 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.30 Mag: Healthy Living 08.00 Doc: Expedition Yangtze 09.20 Mag: Euromaxx 11.18 Doc: Smoothie Mania 11.47 Mag: Healthy Living 12.35 Mag: Global US 13.00 Doc: Expedition Yangtze 13.58 Mag: Initiative Africa 14.51 D.Anime: L'heure Du Conte 15.04 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 16.06 D.Anime: Gon 16.51 Mag: Recipes For Kids 16.54 Mag: Sand Tales 17.13 Doc: World Capitals 17.30 Mag: Rev 18.00 Doc: Smoothie Mania 18.29 Mag: Vous Et Vous 18.58 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 19.30 Mag: The Inside Story 20.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Doc: Archipel De Feu	14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.30 Film: Door Ke Darshan Starring: Mahie Gill, Manu Rishi 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.06 Anupama 21.36 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie ittefaq Sey 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.26 Film: Door Ke Darshan Starring: Mahie Gill, Manu Rishi 02.09 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
<b>jeudi 28 septembre</b>	05.10 Tele: Amour Secret 05.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 07.18 Serial: Imposters 08.09 Serial: Under Pressure 08.45 Serial: Riviera 09.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: Marimar 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.10 Serial: The Magicians 15.25 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe 17.15 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.30 Film: Rashmi Rocket Stars: Taapsee Pannu, Priyanshu Painyuli, Abhishek Banerjee	07.12 Local: Agir Ensemble 09.01 Local: Proze Dime 11.00 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi La 12.03 Local: Rodrig Spor 12.31 Local: Toc Toc Doc 13.08 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.44 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 13.42 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.25 Local: Proze Dime 15.56 Rodrig: Komanter 16.27 Local: Radio Vision 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.31 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.20 Le Mag De L'Emploi 19.41 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 19.48 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Mots & Ecrits 21.00 Local: Radio Vision 23.00 Le Journal 23.20 Local: Groov'in	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 07.31 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi 08.04 Local: Tirth Yatra 08.31 Local: Anjoria 09.44 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.00 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 11.26 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Aashirwad 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 16.00 Serial: Agnipthera 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Radha Krishna 18.45 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.04 Local: Swami Dayanand Saraswati 19.56 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.45 Serial: Surya Puran 22.00 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 23.38 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.03 Doc: Smoothie Mania 07.31 Mag: Tomorrow Today 10.44 Doc: Our Future Cities 11.17 Mag: Eco India 11.43 Mag: Shift 12.43 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.13 Doc: A Mediterranean... 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours 14.51 Serial: L'heure Du Contre 15.06 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.20 D.Anime: Trolls: En Avant La 15.43 Stan Lee's Superhero 16.08 D.Anime: Gon 16.31 D.Anime: Harvey Girls... 16.54 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.30 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 21.42 Film: Guess Who's Coming...	14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.28 Film: Parwana Stars: Ajay Devgan, Amisha Patel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.02 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.59 Patiala Babes 23.30 Film: Parwana Stars: Ajay Devgan, Amisha Patel 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Serial: Udaariyaan

**BTV** Jeudi 28 septembre - 15.28 Stars: Ajay Devgan, Amisha Patel

**MBC 1** Jeudi 28 septembre - 20.30 Stars: Taapsee Pannu, Priyanshu Painyuli, Abhishek Banerjee



# Corporate Governance: How effective has been the national code?



Geeanduth Gopee

**T**he government envisages to revise the national code of corporate governance. The Code was first published in 2003 and revised in 2016. This revision exercise aims to incorporate 'environmental' and 'social' aspects (ESG) to the current Code. The process for the appointment of a consultant has started. It is expected that the new code will be effective in about one year.

## Objectives

2016 code aimed for stakeholders to ensure that it is applied and explained every year in an

annual report and website.

The code aimed "to encourage high-quality corporate governance". It intended "to advance corporate governance reforms in both the public and private sectors in Mauritius by creating a corporate governance framework of principles for business leaders to apply".

It intended to "encourage positive change amongst the Mauritian business community by focusing on improving the effectiveness of governance practices".

It also aimed "to provide maximum flexibility through a focus on principles rather than mandatory regulations and rules".

The Code espouses the concept of maximum flexibility and avoids the rigidity of a rules-based approach.

Auditors now have the added responsibility to assess and report explanations given by companies for non-compliance with any requirement of the Code.

The Financial Reporting Council has the responsibility "to monitor the application and reporting of the Code regularly" [p.13 The National Code of Corporate Governance for Mauritius (2016)].

I believe it is time now to make some (or many) steps towards a rules-based system, as this will require companies and organisations to raise their standard of corporate governance practices. Giving companies and organisations too much flexibility in the application and/or explanation of corporate governance principles has weakened the role and power of regulators, enforcement agencies and auditors. Companies and organisations keep flouting or escaping with lame explanations for non-compliance or cosmetic compliance.

## The public joke!

It is public knowledge that too many organisations, companies and institutions of the public sector have been gagged. A large number of boards have been, as before, crippled with political interference and incompetent directors and top executives. This is not mere perception but also the reality. This has been the case irrespective of the presence of enforcement agencies and auditors. The other stakeholders (trade unions, employees, suppliers, funding bodies, etc.) have been silenced and relegated to being mere helpless spectators in a climate of fear of retaliation and victimisation.

Private sector companies too cannot escape from reproach: inequality in income, the continued harming of the environment, and the focus for maximisation of wealth, the greedy tendency for quick returns, the excesses of certain executives, and the inability of the board and its directors to break new grounds for leaping into a higher standard of cor-

porate governance practices beyond minimal compliance to principles of the Code.

Many companies have ever since the colonial empires of hundreds of years ago prospered on slavery and poverty, exploited child labour and workers with meagre wages, destroyed forests, looted natural resources, killed animals, sold unethical products, and breached human rights. They have created more poverty and added more financial, material, and human costs to other significant segments of society.

Of course, not all companies have engaged in poor and shameful corporate governance practices. Some have been exemplary in balancing their corporate needs of making adequate revenue and profits with the wider needs of the public and other stakeholders.



## The wider implications

The practice of better corporate governance in Mauritius and in other countries has not stopped furthering the concentration of economic power into fewer hands. Nor has it been able to reduce economic inequalities as the gap between the dominant haves and the have-nots has kept increasing. Despite all the good talk about the promotion of principles of transparency, accountability and probity, corrupt practices are widespread. Discrimination of all ilk is prevalent and stays unchecked or unpunished. One can even argue that the above failures have enabled some firms to flourish in the past and become dominant today.

If codes of corporate governance continue to be ineffective in halting the above-mentioned ill-inspired and illicit influences and practices, then resorting to a legislative approach should be seriously envisaged. The firm enforcement of new rules and tougher laws will become inevitable.

It will be an illusion to rely only on a revision of the Code, incorporating the now trendy ESG, to raise the standard of corporate governance. Other avenues of reforms are warranted outside and beyond the Code. More concrete reform actions are necessary at policymaking, regulatory and advocacy levels besides upgrading continuously the competency, engagement, and performance levels of board directors.

My forthcoming book "Corporate Governance – The Unfinished Revolution" makes the case and urges for a total overhaul of the corporate governance system.

Already, the evolution of corporate governance seems to have halted in recent years and has gone into an era of somnolence. Mere cosmetic and palliative changes in the national code of corporate governance will only satisfy the need for certain stakeholders to be 'politically and economically correct'. The other remaining stakeholders will stay lamenting and watching the rot (or the riot) helplessly.

## Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor



## Your Life's Work: Defining Your Direction

Each of us has been blessed with a purpose that makes our heart sing

**M**any people are committed to professions and personal endeavors they never consciously planned to pursue. They attribute the shape of their lives to circumstance, taking on roles they feel are tolerable. Each of us, however, has been blessed with a purpose. Your life's work is the assemblage of activities that allows you to express your intelligence and creativity, live in accordance with your values, and experience the profound joy of simply being yourself. Unlike traditional work, which may demand more of you than you are willing to give, life's work demands nothing but your intent and passion for that work. Yet no one is born with an understanding of the scope of their purpose. If you have drifted through life, you may feel directionless. Striving to discover your life's work can help you realize your true potential and live a more authentic, driven life.

To make this discovery, you must consider your interests in the present and the passions that moved you in the past. You may have felt attracted to a certain discipline or profession throughout your young life only to have steered away from your aspirations upon reaching adulthood. Or you may be harboring an interest as of yet unexplored. Consider what calls to you and then narrow it down. If you want to work with your hands, ask yourself what work will allow you to do so. You may be able to refine your life's work within the context of your current occupations. If you want to change the world, consider whether your skills and talents lend themselves to philanthropic work. Taking stock of your strengths, passions, beliefs, and values can help you refine your search for purpose if you don't know where to begin. Additionally, in your daily meditation, ask the universe to clarify your life's work by providing signs and be sure to pay attention.

Since life's journey is one of evolution, you may need to redefine your direction on multiple occasions throughout your lifetime. For instance, being an amazing parent can be your life's work strongly for 18 years, then perhaps you have different work to do. Your life's work may not be something you are recognized or financially compensated for, such as parenting, a beloved hobby, or a variety of other activities typically deemed inconsequential. Your love for a pursuit, however, gives it meaning. You'll know you have discovered your life's work when you wake eager to face each day and you feel good about not only what you do but also who you are.