

MAURITIUS **TIMES**

● "The most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great in whatever they want to do." – Kobe Bryant



Interview: Cader Sayed-Hossen, Former Minister of Industry

"If there exists a sentiment of 'fear' among the population, fear of speaking out...

then something is rotten in our society"

'The Supreme Court may consider the setting up of a Constitutional Division as a priority... If it does not, implying that this is not a priority, then it is frightfully disquieting'

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Dayal vs Jugnauth's Political Fallout

There has been a lot of speculation about the political fallout of the Privy Council's judgement due to be promulgated on Monday 16th October, but the real debate will intensify once the ruling of the Law Lords is made public. One question that has occupied much of the speculation is whether the MSM leader and Prime Minister would still be eligible to stand as candidate at the next elections should the Privy Council rule in favour of Suren Dayal. The MSM seems to believe that such a denouement would be unlikely, and preparations are already underway to celebrate in a grand way the expected victory of Pravind Jugnauth in the streets of the Capital in the hours following the judgement. The Opposition has taken a more cautious approach, in view probably of what might have appeared to be a not-so-satisfactory case argued before the Law Lords.

It will be recalled that the main arguments put forward by Suren Dayal in his petition relate to alleged electoral bribery/corruption and the undue influence of electors in Constituency No 8. Invited in an earlier issue of this paper to comment on the legal aspects of the Suren Dayal appeal to the Privy Council, our contributor Lex had drawn the necessary distinction to be made between this as a civil case rather than a criminal offence. 'An electoral petition is a civil matter governed by civil rules of procedure. This has been held time and again by the courts. A candidate whose election is invalidated on account of bribery, treating or undue influence is not convicted following the invalidation. The Privy Council itself held in the case of Ashock Jugnauth that an election petition is unquestionably a civil proceeding.' Following the invalidation of his election, Ashock Jugnauth stood as a candidate at a subsequent by-election, but he was defeated by Pravind Jugnauth who then had the support of the Labour Party.

This would suggest that if the Privy Council were to invalidate the election on grounds of bribery and treating, it would be up to the Director of Public Prosecutions to advise prosecution after a proper police investigation. A complaint will however have to be lodged with the police. To which Lex cautioned: Even if a complaint is made, some may be of the view, rightly or wrongly, that the police which is perceived to be remote-controlled by the present regime, will take all the time they would want to until the next elections are over. Thus, the likelihood that a prosecution may not take place until after the next elections - if at all that were to happen.

What all this means is that even if it would be morally and politically more difficult for an invalidated candidate to campaign for re-election, nothing in law would disqualify that candidate to stand as candidate unless he is convicted after due process. On the other hand, one could expect that a victory for Pravind Jugnauth would provide a tremendous electoral boost and in the same breath would demolish the claims made by the Opposition about the alleged impropriety of the 2019 elections.

Two questions arise. Would the current MSM-led regime consider a potential favourable Law Lords ruling as a sufficient plank to ride into early "snap" elections and secondly, would this strong card in the Jugnauth deck, be a deciding factor in the electorate mind once the dust settles in the run-up to 2024? A lot may indeed depend on other more mundane factors, like escalating cost of living or any populism in the electoral pledges made on either side of the fence or even ethno-communal factors in a largely two-alliance contest, with all due respect to smaller parties.

The Conversation

The Israel-Hamas War and Oil Prices

50 years ago when the Middle East was at war, oil prices skyrocketed. But it probably won't happen this time

The Israel-Hamas war has had little effect on the price of oil so far because neither Israel nor the Gaza Strip produces much oil. If oil exporters got involved, things might change

Global oil prices jumped after Israel declared war on Hamas in response to its unexpected attack on Israel on Saturday, the eve of the 50th anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli War.

Back then, between late 1973 and early 1974, the world oil price almost quadrupled after the United States offered financial support to Israel in the Arab-Israeli War. The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries cut off oil exports to nations including the US, the United Kingdom, Canada and Japan.

Could it happen again? Although it has been said that history doesn't repeat, but it rhymes, the answer is almost certainly no.

While there are uncanny similarities between the events of 1973 and today, there are more important differences.

This time it's different

The 1973 war pitted Israel against two oil-producing nations: Egypt and Syria.

When the US offered support to Israel, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries instituted an oil embargo, followed by a series of production cuts that pushed up world price of oil.

This 2023 war pits Israel against Hamas, the Islamist group that controls the tiny Gaza Strip, hemmed in by Israel, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea.

Neither Gaza nor Israel produces much oil.

The price increase has been short-lived

It is possible that the oil-rich nation of Iran could become involved in the conflict. It is rumoured to have helped plan the Hamas attack, although its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has denied Iran's involvement.

It is also possible that petroleum-exporting nations might cut supplies in a show of support for Hamas.

But there is no current reason to believe this will happen, and there has been relatively little movement in the petroleum price.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, the price of Brent crude jumped 15% from around US\$95 per barrel to US\$110.

Russia had been the world's third-biggest oil producer, pumping out about 10% of the world's supply.



The threat posed by rising oil prices. Pic - The Business Standard

In contrast, the Brent crude price closed on Friday (before the Hamas attack) at around US\$84. It climbed to US\$88 on Monday, then fell back to US\$86 - well below even last month's peak of US\$94.

Why was there an increase at all?

Not every spike in oil prices is due to a shortage of supply.

My research shows how jumps in demand can also play a role. These can be further categorised as "precautionary demand" and "speculative demand".

Precautionary demand is the demand for extra oil to hold in reserve, in case supply tightens. Speculative demand comes from investors expecting to profit from further price rises. Both push up the oil price.

The good news is that both effects should be relatively short-lived, unless the unexpected happens. In this case, the effects so far have been small.

What would happen if prices did take off?

As a relatively small and open economy, Australia would suffer from higher import prices if the price of oil surged.

But research suggests the type of price hikes we've seen so far would have only a small impact, even if the price rises were sustained.

The Hamas-Israel war pushed up oil prices by less than 5%, for about a day.

If the 5% increase had been sustained, the research suggests Australia's inflation rate would have been (at most) 0.3 percentage points higher, Australia's GDP would have been about 1% lower and Australia's real exchange rate would have been 2% lower.

This means Australia's Reserve Bank will be watching oil prices closely, but if the price remains stable (or at least no more unstable than it has been) the war is unlikely to prompt the bank to move interest rates.

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UK Labour promises corruption crackdown

We can understand the UK's anger and resentment... Public procurement scandals, there as here, have often hogged the headlines

Jan Arden

At the Manchester Tory Conference (October 1-4, 2023), PM Rishi Sunak, had a tough job on his hands. It required of him to be innovative, reformist and to restore hope to the population after 13 years of his party's incumbency and a succession of failed prime ministerships, some with doubtful integrity during the Covid pandemic and a botched Brexit deal to boot. His personal and wealthy family image did not help in a Britain that looks bleak with food banks, impoverishment, inability to curb illegal migrants, massive underfunding in public infrastructure, housing, health, and education services, and with unemployment and inflation biting large sections of the population. That's quite a mouthful on his plate, despite some well-heeled financiers, media, and City support.

The Labour Conference that followed in Liverpool (Oct 8 to 10, 2023) had its own problems for Sir Keir Starmer, after some notoriously divisive issues (green policies, antisemitism in its ranks, dithering on Brexit and general lack of credibility on the economic management front) failed the party badly in previous electoral jousts. In the recurrent tussles between its working-class or trade-union credentials and disconnect with the middle classes, the Labour Party, since Tony Blair or perhaps earlier, knew it could not aspire to win the electorate without moving to a more social-democratic position, greater business credibility and firmer leadership reins.

“Mismanagement, errors, and mistakes are regularly reported by the Audit Office whichever government has been in place, but the pandemic here, as in UK or other resilient places, have opened the door wide open to corrupt contracts, procedures and practices that UK's Labour Party is proposing to tackle on the Thatcherite tone of ‘We want our money back!’...”

After winning the Labour leadership in 2020 following the party's four successive electoral defeats in a row, Starmer - a former DPP - knew and faced some difficult internal challenges: taking over the party machinery and sidelining the left without capsizing the boat. He also had to establish a plank of economically credible proposals on the back of what many believe have been a disastrous spell of prolonged Tory rule. Not very charismatic, was Starmer the leader to re-ignite hope with party workers, activists and the disillusioned electorate across the country that «New Labour», as the old saying goes, is primed for office? While the City or some media and financiers will continue to find grounds to grumble, he seems to have largely achieved those objectives.

Incumbency was coming at a high cost for the Tories, running 20% behind Labour and with almost 9 of every 10 Britons today believing that the country deserves a fresh team of leaders, according to a late September IPSOS poll monitor. Marc Carney, the former Governor of the Bank of England from 2013 to 2020 has endorsed the Labour Party in a major coup for Keir Starmer and his shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves. In a well-received speech, as policy driver of that new

Labour credibility, she had to attack the wealthy, the privileges, the cronies and the corrupt, and promised Labour would “wage a war against fraud, waste and inefficiency”, by cracking down on “Tory ministers' private jet habit”, by slashing government consultancy spending and by going after “those who profited from the carnival of waste during the pandemic”.

Much of the UK population had been aghast at Tory bunglings, cronyism, fraud, corruption and mismanagement with emergency procurement procedures and other unethical goings-on including partygates during pandemic lockdowns and sufferings for millions of ordinary folk. “The cost to the taxpayer of Covid fraud is estimated at £7.2 billion with every one of those cheques signed by Rishi Sunak as Chancellor and yet just 2 per cent of fraudulent Covid grants have been recovered,” Reeves said, adding, “we will appoint a Covid Corruption Commissioner equipped with the powers they need and the mandate to do what it takes to chase those who have ripped off the taxpayer, taking them to court and clawing back every penny of taxpayers' money that they can.”



A Labour government would recover billions of pounds lost to Covid fraud as part of its mission to “rebuild Britain”, shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves said at Labour Conference. Taxpayers had lost £7.2bn during the pandemic, with “every single one of those cheques signed by Rishi Sunak as chancellor”. “And yet just 2% of all fraudulent Covid grants have been recovered,” she said. Pic - Sky News

Corrupt procedures and people

On the home front, we may not compare in many ways with the Westminster model of democracy, either through the functionings and dysfunctionings of our Parliament or our variety of costly «institutions» to tackle high-level fraud, scams, and corruption. Yet we can understand the UK's anger and resentment at princely salaries, perks and lifestyles of its governing political leadership, its fawning cronies, and its appetite for signing mega-projects funded by taxes, devaluation and public debts, when the common man, the small entrepreneur or the elderly and invalids are hard hit by soaring pharma products, food and fuel-pump prices. Public procurement

scandals, there as here, have often hogged the headlines.

Press reports this week have it that the Metro Express, whose extension to the airport had been dropped in favour of the costly Redit to St Pierre, Moka Smart City and the white elephant at Core d'Or has now been dropped too. A minor matter of some Rs 10 billion saved from the contract signing and spending spree.

Need we recall that in a similar management mess made by cronies and nominees, Air Mauritius forked out hundreds of millions in various consultancies, selling off brand new planes for spares and peanuts during the pandemic and resorts nowadays to leasing some

older aircraft to meet post-Covid travel demand.

Need we also recall procurement procedures, even without the Emergency qualifiers, are being side-stepped at the Central Electricity Board, where its unresolved St Louis corruption episode is still hanging mid-air. Or that a stable, forecastable long-term fuel supply agreement with Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited was ditched seven years ago in favour of spot bids and tenders with agents, brokers and commission buyers allegedly making merry and hot-footing it to the bank at taxpayer expense.

Jan Arden

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Alors que nous entrons dans la dernière année du mandat du gouvernement, le verdict du Privy Council donnera de la visibilité quant au "build-up" pour les prochaines élections.

Le Privy Council rend enfin son verdict!

Par A. Bartleby

La nouvelle est tombée dans l'après-midi de mardi. Le Privy Council rendra son verdict dans le cas opposant Suren Dayal à Pravind Jugnauth et ses deux colistiers lundi après-midi.

Ce verdict est très attendu depuis quelques semaines car il permettra aux partis politiques mais aussi aux Mauriciens d'être fixés sur le calendrier électoral et sur la situation politique pour l'année à venir.

En effet, alors que nous entrons dans la dernière année du mandat du gouvernement, le verdict du Privy Council donnera de la visibilité quant au "build-up" pour les prochaines élections, permettant aux différents partis politiques d'affiner leurs armes et leurs stratégies pour les prochaines échéances électorales.

Deux scénarios se mettront en place à partir de lundi.

Dans le premier scénario, Suren Dayal remporte le cas, ce qui invalidera de facto l'élection de 2019 à la circonscription numéro 8. La conséquence directe sera que le PM ne sera plus un élu, et devra immédiatement quitter le PMO. Il aura alors deux options : se faire remplacer par un membre de son parti en attendant l'organisation d'une partielle où il pourrait se représenter (la circonscription no. 7, Piton/Rivière-du-Rempart, a été évoquée à plusieurs reprises) ou il dissoudra directement l'Assemblée nationale et nous nous dirigerons vers des élections générales anticipées.

Ce cas de figure est ce que souhaite l'alliance de l'opposition. Elle a actuellement un peu de vent dans ses ailes. Et un verdict favorable en sa faveur pourrait consolider son assise électorale et lui donner de réelles chances de succès pour les prochaines joutes. Et cela renforcera surtout l'impératif que le PTR, le MMM et le PMSD auront de faire aboutir les négociations et leur programme électoral le plus rapidement possible. Le "hearing" au Privy Council les avait poussés à annoncer la finalisation de l'alliance alors qu'il n'y avait aucun accord réel. Si Dayal gagne son cas, cela les forcera à concrétiser tous les points qui sont actuellement en suspens.

Le second scénario est celui d'une défaite de Suren Dayal, ce qui signifiera de facto une victoire de Pravind Jugnauth et de ses colistiers. Nous devinons que le gouvernement maintiendra son calendrier dans ce cas de figure, et qu'il ne sera absolument pas pressé d'appeler les Mauriciens aux urnes.

Néanmoins, il faudra considérer que le PM pourrait choisir de rester prudent. La crise géopolitique qui s'est

ouverte au Moyen-Orient aura un impact négatif certain sur l'économie mondiale, ce qui aura pour conséquence de plonger l'économie mauricienne dans une instabilité qui pourrait se retourner contre le gouvernement. Ainsi, la fenêtre de tir n'est pas aussi large que certains proches du PMO peuvent le penser, et l'inflation mondiale et son impact pourraient jouer un grand rôle dans l'annonce de la date des élections.

Cela étant dit, une victoire de Pravind Jugnauth aura surtout des ramifications importantes pour l'opposition.

Suren Dayal devra déjà s'acquitter de tous les frais du procès, devant même régler la note pour les avocats des parties adverses. Le montant qu'il devra déboursier en sera un à 7 chiffres. Mais, de manière plus sérieuse, le PM restera le maître du temps politique, ce qui signifie que l'opposition se retrouvera dans une situation extrêmement inconfortable.

Tout d'abord, ce sera du pain béni pour les propagandistes du MSM qui vont tout faire pour essayer de démolir l'argumentaire qui a été déployé depuis les élections de 2019 sur le "trucage" des dernières élections. La crédibilité des différents leaders de l'alliance en prendra un sacré coup auprès de cette partie de l'électorat qui vote par raison et non par idéologie.

Nous devinons facilement les reproches et les critiques à venir (qui restent pour l'instant en interne) et qui pourraient faire surface dans l'espace public, sans doute pendant une conférence de presse bimensuelle. Il s'agira alors que d'une question de temps avant que les cartes ne soient redistribuées au sein de cette alliance.

C'est du moins ce que souhaiterait le MSM, qui restera en embuscade, se préparant à une alliance rapidement ficelée avec l'un de ces trois partis et des "snap élections" ne laissant pas le temps aux deux autres partis d'accorder leurs violons. Il les forcera même à aller chacun seul aux prochaines élections, afin d'éviter de reproduire le schéma de 1995 et de 2014.

Nous ne pouvons que rester dans le domaine de l'hypothèse et envisager des scénarios pour l'instant. Mais ces spéculations deviendront bel et bien réelles à partir de lundi, d'un côté ou de l'autre. Aussi, il sera intéressant d'écouter la teneur du discours de Navin Ramgoolam au congrès à la rue Magon ce vendredi, un retour donc sur les lieux où il avait tenu malencontreusement un certain discours sur les "katoris", ce qui lui avait causé bien des désagréments...

* * *

Le Hamas rallume la mèche de la guerre au Moyen-Orient

Le samedi 7 octobre dernier, le Hamas a lancé une attaque massive contre Israël depuis la bande de Gaza. Cette attaque a fait usage de plusieurs milliers de roquettes, près de 5,000 selon les sources du Hamas, et il y a eu l'infiltration de militants sur le territoire israélien, notamment les villes et les kibboutz se trouvant près de la frontière avec Gaza.

Cette opération a fait usage de tous les moyens que possédaient le Hamas, avec des tentatives par la terre, la mer et l'air grâce à l'utilisation de deltaplanes motorisés notamment. La marine israélienne a su anéantir les efforts venant de la mer et le système de défense antimissile "Dôme de Fer" a arrêté près de 90% des roquettes tirées, mais cela n'a pas empêché le Hamas d'entrer sur le territoire israélien et d'en contrôler quelques portions pendant plusieurs heures.

En effet, les forces de sécurité israéliennes ont mis un

certain temps avant de réagir, temps précieux pendant lequel les forces du Hamas ont réussi à prendre le contrôle de plusieurs régions, faisant des centaines de morts et prenant également des otages. Le bilan des trois premiers jours de combat portait le nombre de morts à plus de 900 morts du côté israélien, en en faisant l'attaque la plus meurtrière en Israël depuis 75 ans. Le nombre de morts en trois jours dépasse même le total des morts de ces 20 dernières années en Israël.

Comment une telle attaque a-t-elle pu être possible sans que les services de renseignement israéliens aient réussi à anticiper quoi que ce soit? Cette question, tout comme celle qui avait été posée à la CIA et à la NSA après les attaques du 11 septembre 2001, risque de provoquer de sérieux remous politiques lorsque les choses seront revenues à une certaine forme de normalité. Ce qui est certain, c'est que les responsables politiques auront des comptes à rendre à la population.



L'attaque du Hamas a ouvert une séquence qui risque d'être extrêmement violente et une spirale qui pourrait aller très loin. Les Israéliens parlent déjà de ces événements comme étant leur 11 septembre à eux... P - Mahmud Hams/AFP/Getty Images

Comme l'a fait ressortir un historien du monde arabe, Israël vient de subir la plus grande humiliation de son histoire militaire alors qu'elle dispose de l'un des gouvernements les plus sécuritaires qui soit. Benjamin Netanyahu, l'actuel Premier ministre, a même axé sa dernière campagne électorale sur le fait que l'opposition israélienne avait été trop tendre avec les organisations terroristes palestiniennes. Il avait promis de gérer la sécurité du pays d'une main de fer.

La rhétorique de Netanyahu à genoux

Les événements de ces derniers jours ont mis toute la rhétorique de Netanyahu à genoux. Et les intellectuels du pays commencent déjà à pointer du doigt l'accumulation des fautes et le manque de discernement du Premier ministre.

En effet, le gouvernement de Netanyahu a initié depuis quelques mois des réformes majeures, et notamment des réformes constitutionnelles, qui ont entraîné un affaiblissement des institutions et de la sécurité intérieure du pays.

Avec la proposition d'une loi pour la réforme de la Cour suprême qui allait grandement affaiblir la séparation des pouvoirs entre l'exécutif et le judiciaire, Netanyahu a même provoqué une scission profonde au sein de la population israélienne.

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Le Hamas rallume la mèche de la guerre au Moyen-Orient

☞ Suite de la page 4

D'ailleurs, des centaines de milliers d'Israéliens se sont mobilisés afin de tenter de bloquer ce projet de loi à travers des manifestations monstres dans les rues de Tel Aviv.

Cette situation a d'ailleurs provoqué de grandes tensions entre Netanyahu et Yoav Gallant, le ministre de la Défense, ce dernier mettant régulièrement le Premier ministre en garde contre les dangers qui risquent de découler d'une situation d'affaiblissement intérieur.

Parallèlement à cela, le gouvernement israélien travaillait d'arrache-pied à la normalisation des relations diplomatiques entre Israël et certains pays du monde arabe. Les accords d'Abraham, sous l'impulsion de l'administration Trump, avaient normalisé les relations entre Israël, les Émirats arabes unis et le Bahreïn en 2020.



Nous sommes devant un point de bascule qui pourrait entraîner le Moyen-Orient dans une spirale infernale avec des ramifications réelles pour nous, notamment une explosion du prix des énergies et des matières premières, une hausse rapide de l'inflation mondiale. P - AP

Ces accords avaient même été présentés comme la première pierre d'une série d'accords qui allaient enfin permettre à Israël de stabiliser ses relations avec tous ses voisins. D'ailleurs, les gouvernements israéliens et saoudiens étaient extrêmement proches d'un accord pour le réchauffement des relations bilatérales entre ces deux pays. Il ne s'agissait qu'une question de jours, voire de quelques semaines, avant que l'accord ne soit signé.

Mais tout ceci semble désormais éloigné.

L'attaque du Hamas le 7 octobre a replongé le Moyen-Orient dans une spirale de la violence dont nous ne pouvons pas deviner l'issue pour l'instant. Le moment choisi semble d'ailleurs particulièrement pertinent au regard des négociations qui étaient en jeu entre Israël et l'Arabie saoudite. Un tel rapprochement aurait causé de sérieux préjudices à d'autres pays de la région, et il semble crédible que des forces extérieures à la Palestine soient impliquées dans la préparation de ces attaques.

Nous savons, par exemple, que l'Iran et le Qatar sont deux des plus grands financiers du Hamas à Gaza et du Hezbollah au Liban. Pour l'instant, l'Iran a rejeté toute implication dans la préparation des attaques, même si le porte-parole du Hamas a directement impliqué le pays. Les forces de sécurité israéliennes redoutent d'ailleurs l'ouverture d'un nouveau front au nord, à la frontière entre Israël et le Liban,

ce qui pourraient sérieusement submerger l'armée israélienne.

Du reste, il y a eu des tentatives d'incursion de la part des milices du Hezbollah via la frontière libanaise mais l'armée israélienne a réussi à les stopper. Néanmoins, la concentration des efforts de guerre dans le sud pourrait rendre le nord extrêmement vulnérable, ce qui ouvrirait la voie à une attaque du Hezbollah.

Lorsque nous voyons ce que le Hamas - avec des moyens militaires quasiment archaïques mais disposant d'une organisation bien rodée - a réussi à faire, nous devinons que la situation d'une attaque massive du Hezbollah, bien mieux armé et organisé que le Hamas, pourrait faire basculer pas mal de choses. C'est d'ailleurs pour cela que le gouvernement israélien a fait appel à plus de 350,000 réservistes et que les États-Unis ont positionné leur plus grand porte-avion, le Gerald Ford, dans la Méditerranée de l'est à distance d'intervention d'Israël, du Liban et de l'Iran.

Le 11 septembre des Israéliens

L'attaque du Hamas a ainsi ouvert une séquence qui risque d'être extrêmement violente et une spirale qui pourrait aller très loin. Les Israéliens parlent déjà de ces événements comme étant leur 11 septembre à eux, suggérant qu'une réponse forte suivra. D'ailleurs, Benjamin Netanyahu a insisté sur le fait qu'Israël n'était pas dans la situation d'une opération spéciale mais que le pays était bel et bien en guerre.

La priorité actuelle pour l'armée israélienne sera de sécuriser ses frontières du sud avec Gaza, tout en tentant des opérations au sol afin de libérer les civils retenus en otage par le Hamas. Nous devinons que ces opérations seront extrêmement meurtrières pour les civils palestiniens, qui serviront de boucliers aux terroristes du Hamas.

L'aviation israélienne bombarde d'ailleurs des cibles du Hamas à Gaza depuis quelques jours, faisant des centaines de morts du côté des civils palestiniens. Mais nous devinons qu'Israël ne s'arrêtera pas là.

La destruction du Hamas risque d'être insuffisante si Netanyahu veut se donner une chance de garder la main sur l'échiquier politique. Nous pouvons ainsi deviner que des frappes sur les installations militaires iraniennes et sur le Hezbollah au Liban ne sont pas à être écartées. Une telle situation sera explosive pour la paix mondiale, dans une situation où l'économie mondiale peine déjà à se remettre de l'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie.

Ne nous faisons aucune illusion, nous sommes devant un point de bascule qui pourrait entraîner le Moyen-Orient dans une spirale infernale avec des ramifications réelles pour nous, notamment une explosion du prix des énergies et des matières premières, une hausse rapide de l'inflation mondiale et un affaiblissement rapide des ménages mauriciens, qui souffrent déjà trop de la cherté de la vie.

Nous ne sommes pas encore dans ce scénario, mais les vecteurs sont posés. Beaucoup de choses se jouera sur la capacité des Nations Unies, du Conseil de Sécurité, des alliés d'Israël et des pays arabes à opérer des médiations permettant un apaisement rapide.

Nous ne sommes, pour le moment, pas encore dans cette situation malheureusement.

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Les Maldives élisent un gouvernement pro-chinois à la tête du pays

Les élections présidentielles aux Maldives se sont tenues au mois de septembre. Il y a tout d'abord eu le premier tour le 9 septembre, puis le second tour le 30 septembre, opposant le Président sortant Ibrahim



Présidentielle aux Maldives: nette victoire du candidat pro-chinois, Mohamed Muizzu. P - Yenifafak

Mohamed Solih du Parti démocratique des Maldives (Maldivian Democratic Party - MDP) au challenger Mohamed Muizzu du People's National Congress (PNC).

Mohamed Muizzu n'était pas le candidat principal choisi par le PNC pour ces élections, faisant office de second couteau à Abdulla Yameen. Mais la condamnation de ce dernier à 11 ans de prison a mené à son retrait de la course laissant la place à Muizzu. Ce dernier a remporté ces présidentielles avec 54% des suffrages au second tour.

Mohamed Muizzu n'est pas un nouveau venu sur la scène politique maldivienne. Il a longtemps occupé le ministère de la Logement avant de devenir le maire de la ville de Malé, la capitale des Maldives.

Malgré la petite taille du territoire des Maldives, ces élections furent suivies de près car elles étaient extrêmement importantes sur le plan géopolitique. En effet, la victoire de Mohamed Muizzu représente un changement de cap majeur pour les Maldives puisqu'il a été élu avec le soutien de la Chine, contre Solih qui avait, lui, le soutien de l'Inde.

Guerre d'influence entre les deux superpuissances asiatiques

Ainsi, nous voyons se jouer sur le petit territoire des Maldives une guerre d'influence entre les deux superpuissances asiatiques. L'enjeu principal est le contrôle et l'accès aux voies maritimes allant de l'Asie vers le continent africain, mais c'est surtout le contrôle de l'océan Indien qui est en jeu.

Cette situation n'est d'ailleurs pas sans rappeler celle du Sri Lanka. Pour rappel, la Chine et l'Inde se sont livrés une bataille politique d'envergure à travers les luttes pour le pouvoir opposant le clan des frères Rajapaksa et Maithripala Sirisena.

La Chine avait réussi à positionner Mahinda Rajapaksa à la présidence du Sri Lanka de 2005 à 2015. Ce dernier avait été remplacé par Maithripala Sirisena de 2015 à 2019, avant que Gotabaya Rajapaksa (le frère de Mahinda) ne devienne à son tour président de 2019 à 2022.

Les Rajapaksa, avec le soutien de la Chine, ont mis en place un immense plan de développement du Sri Lanka, notamment avec la construction d'immenses projets d'infrastructures. Le plus connu, et le plus sulfureux, restera le cas du port d'Hambanthota. Ce port, situé dans le sud du pays, a été développé à coup de plusieurs dizaines de milliards de roupies sri-lankaises, et notamment un endettement contracté auprès d'institutions chinoises. Hambanthota devait devenir l'un des fleurons du projet "String of Pearls", le réseau de ports reliant la Chine au continent africain et représentant la partie maritime de la "Belt and Road Initiative".

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 8



Anil Madan

Hamas and Israel – The Madness of Incivility to Civilians

A nation whose people survived a holocaust is in grave danger of committing genocide. This madness must stop

In Israel:

The bloodstains of the dead.
The silence of throats sliced.
The bodies of babies decapitated.
The anguish of a nation at another atrocity against Jews.

In Gaza:

The bloodstains of bodies blown up.
The silence of the dead.
The skeletons of buildings destroyed.
The anguish of Palestine at another atrocity against civilians.

In Israel and Gaza:

Death and destruction.
The unanswered calls of parents for their missing children.
The cries of children, orphaned, hungry, helpless.
The promise of a future with more death and destruction.
The unheard cries for justice.
The unheeded pleas to stop the madness.

In Israel: A massacre. An atrocity. Music at a festival interrupted by the staccato of gunfire and crumbling lives of young people shot to death. A massacre at a village – people shot to death in cold blood.

In Gaza: A siege. No power. No water. No food. Life itself interrupted by the staccato of bombs and crumbling buildings. Precision guided bombs causing imprecise and wanton damage. Is that killing in cold blood, or are we forbidden to suggest such a thing when a nation attacked is entitled to retaliate. When does entitlement to retaliate against the perpetrators become justification for destroying innocent civilians who have no say in where Hamas entrenches itself?

On Saturday, news came of the horrific terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel. Hundreds of Israeli civilians were slaughtered. The death toll would eventually rise to well over 1,000 Israelis and thousands injured and wounded. The death toll will surely rise. And Hamas holds hostages. In days to come, surely many more dead will be counted.

On Saturday, two friends generally sympathetic to the Palestinian cause (however that may be defined) sent me messages, the gist of which was that Israel's ongoing oppression of the Palestinians is the justification for the actions taken by Hamas. Let me pause to say unequivocally that using the word "justification" in the same sentence as Hamas, is an affront to decency. This is a barbaric, terrorist organization whose sole purpose is to destroy Israel and kill Jews.

I responded with a question and an observation. My question: Are you trying to legitimize the atrocity that

ever seen.

My friends engaged and asked me to explain further. I wrote: Bibi has no choice but to make the politicians' response which is to wreak mayhem on the "enemy" which is Hamas, and worse, Israel has pretty much carte blanche to target whatever it designates as Hamas strongholds or

areas from which it is conducting operations whether that be true or not. Hamas has allowed Bibi to put all issues of morality and proportionality aside and go on a destructive rampage.

Netanyahu's government is now charged with the greatest intelligence and security failure. Right under the noses of the Mossad, Hamas amassed thousands of rockets and right in the face of the IDF, Hamas has been able to launch more than 2,500 rockets in one day and some 2,000 more since. You cannot have an event that is the second biggest killing of Jews since the Holocaust and expect Israel not to respond. You cannot expect Netanyahu to deflect from the intelligence and security failure with deflection and in a way designed to send a loud and clear message of deterrence – *Do Not Mess With Israel*.

Futility and helplessness

Let me pose to my readers the question I posed to another friend whose support for Hamas wavered somewhat in the face of its barbaric atrocities committed

last Saturday. I asked: When we get to Wednesday or Thursday next week (and we are now at that point) and Israel has had a chance to mount a response, I'll want to take you back to Friday last week and let you decide, if you were the leader of Hamas and knew what was going to happen, would you have carried out this attack?

When I told one of my Jewish friends about this, his response was: Darn right. He said: "I want to see a forceful response by Israel. I want to see Hamas wiped off the face of the earth." I asked him: When we get to Wednesday or Thursday next week and Israel has had a chance to regroup and respond, you will undoubtedly cheer on Netanyahu's promise to cripple Hamas' ability to govern Gaza and to destroy forever its ability to threaten Israel, but will you be proud of the death of civilians and the rubble left? He asked: "What rubble?" I told him that I expect Netanyahu to unleash the equivalent of carpet bombing.

When those in power choose to use the power at their disposal for death and destruction, whether it is by the atrocities they commit against innocent civilians, or the deployment of weapons, missiles and bombs, the rest of the world watches with a sense of futility and helplessness.

● Cont. on page 7



Israel prepares for ground offensive in Hamas-ruled Gaza as death tolls on both sides surpass 1,200. Pic - Foreign Policy

“When those in power choose to use the power at their disposal for death and destruction, whether it is by the atrocities they commit against innocent civilians, or the deployment of weapons, missiles and bombs, the rest of the world watches with a sense of futility and helplessness. The dilemma for Israel is that Hamas is embedded with the civilian population and airstrikes will produce collateral damage. In an area as densely packed as Gaza, the only way to avoid killing innocent civilians is to find a way other than airstrikes and bombs. Netanyahu chose to make the dramatic statement reminiscent of George W. Bush's 'shock and awe'...”

Hamas has committed? My observation: Hamas has made a **huge** mistake. Whatever justifications you may conjure up for what I see as atrocities, you have no idea what is about to be unleashed. You haven't seen anything yet. My friends messaged back saying that I made no sense and to explain. I wrote back: Hamas has made a colossally stupid mistake. This is going to provoke a response that will be horrific and like nothing you have



Pic - CBS News

Hamas and Israel – The Madness of Incivility to Civilians

● Cont. from page 6

The dilemma for Israel is that Hamas is embedded with the civilian population and airstrikes will produce collateral damage. In an area as densely packed as Gaza, the only way to avoid killing innocent civilians is to find a way other than airstrikes and bombs. Netanyahu chose to make the dramatic statement reminiscent of George W. Bush's "shock and awe."

It cannot be lost on any human that we are all destined to end our short sojourn on this planet by returning to dust. Recorded history has no account of anyone who has lived forever. Whether it is great tyrants like Genghis Khan, Adolph Hitler, or Stalin, or great men like Plato, Einstein, Beethoven, or Mozart, they are all gone. Yet, for some reason, since time immemorial, man has been unable to make the journey to the predicted end hand-in-hand and in peace with his fellow man. Instead, we spend our time finding new ways to hasten the arrival of the other to that end. Whether it is over land, religion, minerals, oil, wealth, or just the difference in the way the other looks, we are unable to contain ourselves.

It is the greatest irony that we human beings recognize that sometimes, we can go too far but are unable to stop ourselves. So, for example, instead of agreeing on rules to prevent war altogether, we find a way to agree on rules for treating prisoners of war. Whereas it is okay to kill the other guy as he is trying to kill you on the battlefield, once you have captured him, you must treat him with respect and dignity. Ah, the Geneva Conventions show how *civilized* we are. Or, as Israel says, it respects the rules of war and that excessive civilian casualties are to be avoided. Others say that a response must be proportionate. But how many civilian casualties are excessive, and when does proportion end? When just one innocent civilian is killed? Or are

we willing to tolerate the death of 100 civilians. 1,000? More? Are we willing to tolerate the displacement of 250,000 Gazans and to have the bombing continue? And are we willing to tolerate the ongoing launching of rockets by Hamas into Israel's civilians?

What is excessive?

The American response has been President Biden's unequivocal support of Israel. He is reported to have told Netanyahu during a telephone conversation that Israel must be careful not to cause excessive civilian casualties. Not that Netanyahu will pay any heed.

Someone asked me if America's support for Israel is because of the Jewish lobby. Of course, this reveals his bias. Maybe the answer is simpler. It's not just that 14 Americans are among those killed and many remain hostages in Hamas' hands. Perhaps it is nothing more complicated than as between Israel and Hamas, there is no choice. America cannot equivocate in the face of the barbarism and cruel savagery of Hamas.

Israel has promised a siege of Gaza cutting off power, water and food. Trapped in a piece of land with no exit, where do the people go? Nobody has any answers.

Hamas promises to execute one of the hostages for every building bombed without warning. Israel promised not to turn on the power, and not to allow supplies of water, fuel, or food until all the hostages have been released. A deadly impasse. Will Hamas yield as the humanitarian crisis its actions have perpetrated goes beyond its already desperate state? Will Netanyahu yield when Israelis shed more tears at every additional killing? Remember we are dealing with savages and barbarians in Hamas and with a politician obsessed with holding on to power in Netanyahu. There is little hope.

Ayatollah Khamenei, the slime of a cleric, supposedly a man of God said: "We kiss the hands of those who planned the attack on the Zionist regime," as he wore a Palestinian scarf, in his first televised speech since the attack. He added: "The Zionist regime's own actions are to blame for this disaster." Khamenei denied any Iranian involvement, but Hamas' representative in Lebanon stated that Hamas was in active coordination with Iran before, during and after the attack against Israel.

China issued a muted response and as might be expected, Vladimir Putin blamed the US and its "failed policies in the Middle East."

Unquestionably, Hamas went too far. It now seems that Netanyahu's political instincts have led Israel also to go too far. A ground invasion of Gaza and taking the time to root out Hamas and disable its offensive capability would be tedious, time consuming, and expensive in terms of Israeli casualties. Far easier, it is, to pass that burden on to the Palestinian civilians. If there is nothing left to rule, Hamas' ability to govern is perforce destroyed. And the need to deflect called for something

more immediate than a long, drawn-out solution.

At the geopolitical level, there is greater danger lurking. Khamenei has called Israel an evil cancer that must be destroyed. Iran is on the verge of getting a nuclear weapon. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman recently said in an interview with Fox News that if Iran gets a nuclear weapon, Saudi Arabia will be obliged to get its own nuclear weapons. Saudi Arabia understands that its recent rapprochement with Iran is no cause for complacency when it comes to facing a nuclear armed regime led by mad clerics. But what if Iran decides to unleash a nuclear weapon on Israel?

“Instead of agreeing on rules to prevent war altogether, we find a way to agree on rules for treating prisoners of war. Whereas it is okay to kill the other guy as he is trying to kill you on the battlefield, once you have captured him, you must treat him with respect and dignity. Ah, the Geneva Conventions show how *civilized* we are. Or, as Israel says, it respects the rules of war and that excessive civilian casualties are to be avoided. Others say that a response must be proportionate. But how many civilian casualties are excessive, and when does proportion end? When just one innocent civilian is killed? Or are we willing to tolerate the death of 100 civilians. 1,000? More?”

Unthinkable? Think again. Once Hamas is crippled, surely Israel will turn to disabling Iran's ability to destroy the Jewish homeland as it has promised to do. The Saudi news agency reported that MBS called Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to discuss the Hamas attack on Israel. Aside from the obligatory statement about maintaining Islamic unity and condemning the US "green light" for Israel, the agency reported that MBS stressed the "necessity of adhering to the principles of international humanitarian law and expressed deep concern for the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza and its impact on civilians."

The Saudi crown prince also said the kingdom was exerting "maximum effort to engage with all international and regional parties to halt the ongoing escalation." The call, highly unusual for MBS to have made, may have been a not-so-subtle signal to Iran to stay on the sidelines and not expand the situation into a regional conflict. Else, there was no reason for MBS to discuss anything with Raisi.

Israel faces a delicate task here. Taking out Hamas' operational and offensive capabilities is imperative. But rather than carpet bombing Gaza, Israel should have gone about this task the hard way. In due course, the world will come to condemn Netanyahu's over the top response and Israel will be the worse off for it as the task of rebuilding Gaza and restoring a sense of humanity for the Palestinians will ultimately fall to Israel. That is, if any Palestinians survive this humanitarian crisis of a people confined without food, water, fuel, and hope, as Israel continues to rain bombs down on them.

Let us once again go back to last Friday. If you had the choice of today's outcome or no attack by Hamas, what would you have counseled Hamas to do? Or not to do? With at least 2,000 dead in Israel, 2,000 or more dead in Gaza, and 250,000 Gazans displaced, and their homes reduced to rubble, in hindsight, it seems obvious, doesn't it?

A nation whose people survived a holocaust is in grave danger of committing genocide. This madness must stop.

Cheerz...
Bwana



Pic - Al Jazeera

“It cannot be lost on any human that we are all destined to end our short sojourn on this planet by returning to dust. Recorded history has no account of anyone who has lived forever. Whether it is great tyrants like Genghis Khan, Adolph Hitler, or Stalin, or great men like Plato, Einstein, Beethoven, or Mozart, they are all gone. Yet, for some reason, since time immemorial, man has been unable to make the journey to the predicted end hand-in-hand and in peace with his fellow man. Instead, we spend our time finding new ways to hasten the arrival of the other to that end. Whether it is over land, religion, minerals, oil, wealth, or just the difference in the way the other looks, we are unable to contain ourselves...”

Deux conflits: quelle équivalence morale?



Prakash Neerhoo

Les États-Unis soutiennent inconditionnellement l'Ukraine contre la Russie dans un conflit bilatéral et l'Israël contre les Palestiniens dans un conflit historique qui dure depuis 75 ans. Dans une déclaration le 10 octobre 2023, le président américain Joe Biden a réaffirmé ce soutien économique et militaire à Israël et à l'Ukraine, deux alliés stratégiques dans la géopolitique américaine. Pour lui, dans les deux cas, un pays a été victime d'agression et la

sécurité d'un peuple est en jeu.

La question qui se pose est de savoir si la position américaine, et partant celle de l'Occident tout entier, par rapport au conflit russo-ukrainien et au conflit israélo-palestinien est fondée sur une équivalence morale. D'abord, il faut souligner que, dans les deux cas, il y a un conflit territorial. Dans un cas, la Russie et l'Ukraine se disputent le contrôle de certains territoires dits russophones. Dans l'autre cas, Israël a conquis ou annexé illégalement 90% du territoire de la Palestine depuis 1948, laissant au peuple palestinien deux enclaves (Gaza et West Bank) qui sont littéralement des prisons à ciel ouvert. La carte ci-dessous montre comment le territoire palestinien d'origine s'est rétréci depuis 1948 comme une peau de chagrin.

Dans le conflit russo-ukrainien, l'Occident invoque le principe de l'intégrité territoriale d'un pays (Ukraine) et le droit de ce pays de choisir ses amis (l'Europe et l'Amérique du Nord, en particulier) ainsi que ses partenaires militaires (notamment l'OTAN). Toutefois, l'Occident refuse d'invoquer le même principe dans le contexte du conflit israélo-palestinien. Les pays occidentaux nient le droit à l'auto-



« Le 30 décembre 2022, l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU a voté une résolution demandant à la Cour internationale de justice (CIJ) de statuer sur le caractère légal ou illégal de l'occupation israélienne de territoires palestiniens. Les Etats-Unis, Israël et 24 autres pays (pour la plupart occidentaux) ont voté contre la résolution. L'avis de la CIJ permettra de déterminer le droit à l'auto-détermination du peuple palestinien. Pourquoi l'Occident a-t-il peur d'un avis légal de la CIJ ? Il semble que les pays occidentaux ne voudraient pas que l'avis légal de la CIJ en faveur de la rétrocession de l'Archipel des Chagos à Maurice serve de précédent car la même question de décolonisation se pose dans le cas palestinien... »

détermination du peuple palestinien en refusant de mettre en œuvre la solution de deux États indépendants (Palestine et Israël) au Proche-Orient conformément aux résolutions de l'ONU sur la décolonisation et les droits du peuple palestinien.

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D'une part, l'Occident soutient le droit de l'Ukraine de récupérer des pans de son territoire passés sous le contrôle des Russes, dont la péninsule de Crimée qui fut annexée par la Russie en mars 2014. D'autre part, il refuse au peuple palestinien le droit de recouvrer le territoire qui lui appartenait dans les frontières existant en 1967. Le plus grave, c'est qu'il permet l'occupation illégale du territoire palestinien et tolère la politique d'annexion expansionniste d'Israël par l'établissement d'implantations juives dans les endroits appartenant aux Palestiniens.

La question de l'équivalence morale des positions politiques par rapport aux deux conflits se poserait si l'on appliquait les mêmes principes dans les deux cas. Ces principes sont le droit à l'auto-détermination d'un peuple, l'intégrité territoriale d'un pays, le droit de récupérer des pans de territoire conquis ou annexés illégalement par un

autre pays et la souveraineté nationale. Or, l'Occident pratique une politique de deux poids et deux mesures en matière de droits humains, de démocratie et de droit international. Son approche démocratique à géométrie variable n'inspire plus de respect dans le monde. C'est la raison pour laquelle beaucoup de pays du Tiers Monde, dont la Chine et l'Inde, refusent de s'aligner sur la position occidentale par rapport au conflit russo-ukrainien. Ils gardent une neutralité politique.

Les Maldives élisent un gouvernement pro-chinois à la tête du pays

Suite de la page 5

Un tel projet aurait eu pour conséquence d'augmenter drastiquement les flux de marchandises transitant via le Sri Lanka, représentant un immense potentiel de développement pour le pays. Mais les choses ne se sont pas passées de cette manière. La gestion catastrophique des finances publiques par les Rajapaksa, la gourmandise pour les grands projets inutiles et la corruption ont vite eu raison de l'économie du pays, qui le plongea dans une crise sans précédent en 2019.

Cette crise, alimentée par ce que les experts de la finance mondiale nomment le "Chinese Debt Trap", a plongé une immense partie de la population sri-lankaise dans une misère dont ils commencent à peine à se remettre. Parallèlement à cela, la Chine a exercé son droit de saisir le port d'Hambanthota, arrivant à un accord pour un bail de 99 ans avec le gouvernement sri-lankais, contrôlant ainsi de facto un point

hautement stratégique dans la partie nord de l'océan Indien.

Évidemment, c'est exactement cela qui est en jeu: le contrôle de l'océan Indien.

Un couteau à double tranchant

La Chine n'a eu de cesse de négocier avec les pays riverains de notre océan afin d'avoir des accès privilégiés pour le développement et la monopolisation des voies maritimes. Les initiatives, comme les "Belt and Road Initiative" et "String of Pearls", s'inscrivent directement dans cet effort. Mais la Chine va également bien plus loin que cela, particulièrement avec les pays politiquement récalcitrants, en pratiquant une politique de financement qui apparaît rapidement comme un couteau à double tranchant.

Ainsi, le cas du Sri Lanka est un cas d'école de la méthode chinoise. Et c'est un exemple qui fait réfléchir plusieurs pays impliqués dans la "Belt and Road Initiative".



Le chef de l'Etat sortant, Mohamed Solih (photo), qui a oeuvré au renforcement des liens avec l'Inde, allié traditionnel de l'archipel, battu par le candidat pro-chinois Mohamed Muizzu. P - AFP

Ces derniers comprennent désormais qu'ils doivent être extrêmement prudents quand ils contractent une dette chinoise.

Parallèlement, l'Inde est également concernée par un effort de contrôle de l'océan Indien, mais pas de la même manière que la Chine. Le projet chinois reste fondamentalement commercial alors que le projet indien est avant tout sécuritaire.

Comme nous l'avons souvent mentionné dans ces mêmes colonnes, les

accords du Quad et l'émergence de la zone de l'Indo-Pacifique sont en train de restructurer les coopérations sécuritaires dans notre partie du monde. Et il est clair que l'Inde deviendra la première puissance maritime de l'océan Indien, avec la visée d'un contrôle des voies maritimes, mais également avec la visée de devenir le gendarme régional.

Ainsi, il est clair à quel point nous sommes pris dans un étau entre ces deux superpuissances, qui sont en voie de devenir les moteurs des développements géopolitiques du 21^e siècle.

Le basculement des Maldives vers la sphère d'influence chinoise représente un danger pour la sécurité de l'Inde, et un tel basculement sera vécu à New Delhi comme un échec flagrant de la diplomatie indienne. Nous pouvons deviner que les jeux de pouvoir qui ont opposé les Indiens aux Chinois au Sri Lanka vont se reproduire aux Maldives, et ce ne serait que le début...

A. Bartleby

Israeli envoy urges China to talk with Iran, stop escalation

Israel's ambassador to China called on Beijing to leverage its close relationship with Iran to rein in Hamas, saying the Asian giant needed to be engaged in talks around the conflict.

Ben-Abba's remarks come as China's willingness to entangle itself in some of the region's most intractable conflicts has come under scrutiny. A US senator confronted President Xi Jinping this week about his government's failure to condemn the surprise Oct. 7 strike by Hamas on Israel that killed hundreds of civilians, reports Bloomberg.

While China's Foreign Ministry later said it was "saddened" by the casualties, Beijing hasn't criticized Hamas in its statements only saying that the Asian country is a "friend to both" sides of the conflict.

While Tehran is a known backer of Hamas, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has denied his country was involved in the strike.

China until recently didn't have a record of negotiating peace deals. That changed when in March it helped broker a tentative detente between Iran and Saudi



Smoke plumes billow during Israeli air strikes in Gaza City. Pic - AFP

Arabia, after years of diplomatic deadlock between the historic rivals. The deal marked a departure from Beijing's long-stated reluctance to involve itself in foreign disputes.

First Contact

Zhai Jun, Beijing's special envoy on Middle East issues, was expected to speak to Israeli officials on Thursday, according to Ben-Abba. That will mark China's first public contact with the Israelis since the conflict broke out.

The Chinese official on Wednesday pushed for a cease-fire in a phone call with a foreign affairs official

from the Palestinian Authority, according to a statement from the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

That meeting followed a call between Zhai and an Egyptian counterpart on Tuesday, during which he called for humanitarian support for the Palestinian people.

China's complex history with the Israel-Palestine conflict dates back decades. During Communist Party founder Mao Zedong's rule, China recognized the Israeli state, but was more sympathetic toward the Palestinians as Mao saw them as victims of imperialism.

Beijing's relations with Israel remained tense through the Cold War, as the latter emerged as a key US ally. That began to change, though, as China opened up and showed economic interests in Israel's developments in technology and defense. Now bilateral trade with Israel totals some \$22.1 billion, according to 2022 statistics from the International Monetary Fund.

More than half of Israel's exports to China are electric components including microchips, according to a June paper by Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies.

Canada allows entry of Sikh man who housed and fed Khalistani militants in India: Report



Khalistan supporters stage a protest outside the Indian High Commission in London, UK. Pic - India Narrative

A Canadian immigration tribunal has ruled that a Sikh man who provided shelter and sustenance to Khalistani militants in India for over a decade should be permitted to enter Canada. This decision was reached because it was primarily out of necessity and fear of retaliation that he offered assistance, as reported by the National Post newspaper.

Heidi Worsfold, a member of the Immigration and Refugee Board tribunal, said in a recent ruling that the Canadian government lacked sufficient grounds to label Kamaljit Ram, an Indian citizen, as inadmissible for entry into Canada on the grounds that he had offered a "safe house" and "logistical support" to Khalistani militants.

The tribunal's verdict affirms that this Sikh individual, who sheltered and provided sustenance to armed Khalistani

militants in India for over a decade, should be permitted entry to Canada due to his primary motivation being necessity and a fear of retaliation, according to the newspaper.

The original decision to bar Ram from entering Canada was made by the federal government after he disclosed to Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) officers during an interview that he had intermittently harboured and fed armed Sikh militants at his farm in India between 1982 and 1992.

He also told officers that he supported the ideas promoted by followers of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a Sikh militant and leading figure of the Khalistani movement, for a separate Khalistan state and "other social issues," according to the report.

Worsfold concluded that the government's evaluation of Ram's support for the armed militants at that time was overly harsh, failing to acknowledge that he repeatedly stated that he agreed to host these armed individuals because he "feared the consequences" of being on the opposing side of the group.

This ruling comes amidst a diplomatic standoff between India and Canada, sparked by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's unsubstantiated allegations of "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18 in British Columbia. India has vehemently rejected these claims as "absurd" and "motivated."

News Brief

UKRAINE

Russia develops a missile designed to carry nuclear weapons with unlimited range. Called the Burevestnik, it is powered by a small nuclear reactor which can give it unlimited range and is designed to fly at a lower altitude than other missiles, making it more difficult to detect.

UK warns of Russia laying 'sea mines' to deter Black Sea cargo ships. The UK's Foreign Office said that intelligence assessments indicated that Russia was considering the use of sea mines to deter civilian ships travelling through a 'humanitarian corridor' established by Ukraine to facilitate grain exports from the Black Sea ports.

Ukraine expects record number of drone attacks. Ukraine's air force expects a record number of Russian drone attacks on its soil this winter as Kyiv prepares for a second winter of mass bombardment of its energy facilities.

* * *

POLITICS

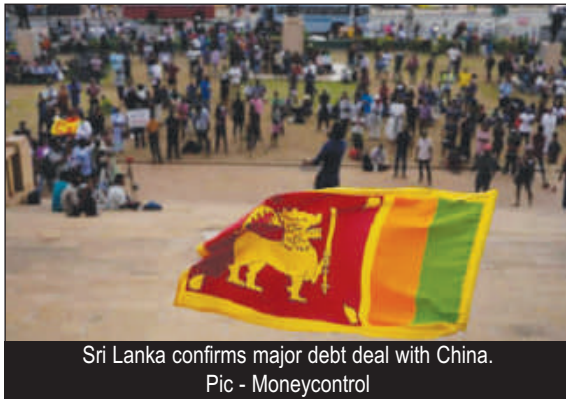
Venezuela issues arrest warrant against opposition leader Juan Guaidó. The government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has issued an arrest warrant against opposition leader Juan Guaidó and has requested an Interpol red alert, accusing the politician of using state oil money for his own benefit.

Indian police raid journalists over claims NewsClick received funds from China. NewsClick, founded in 2009, is known as an Indian news outlet that is critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A number of other news organisations have been investigated for financial impropriety under Mr. Modi's Hindu nationalist government.

France's Sarkozy investigated for suspected witness tampering in Libya funds case. Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy was placed under formal investigation for suspected witness tampering and fraud, as part of a probe into whether he received illegal Libyan funding for his successful 2007 election campaign.

Kosovo-Serbia tensions threaten the Balkan path to EU integration. Advancement of discussions between the Western Balkan countries and the EU Enlargement Commission to join the EU are being hampered by tensions in the Balkans and the lack of readiness of their national institutions.

* Contd on page 10



Sri Lanka confirms major debt deal with China.
Pic - Moneycontrol

Sri Lanka, China agree to restructure \$4.2 billion of debt

Sri Lanka said on Thursday it has reached an agreement with the Export-Import Bank of China to cover about \$4.2 billion of the island nation's outstanding debt while talks with other official creditors stall.

Sri Lanka is struggling with its worst financial crisis in more than seven decades after its foreign exchange dwindled to record lows, forcing the country to default on its foreign debt last May.

China is Sri Lanka's largest bilateral creditor, owed about \$7 billion, reports Reuters.

The agreement with China EXIM Bank

will assist Sri Lanka in getting past the first review of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) program in the coming weeks and in securing the release of a second IMF tranche of about \$334 million, its finance ministry said in a statement.

A debt rework deal between Sri Lanka and countries including Japan, India and France was also expected this week. But those countries and the IMF were surprised on Tuesday when Sri Lanka struck a deal with China. The three nations request comparability of debt treatment with China.

Sri Lanka's creditors are struggling to reach consensus on the nation's debt and finding an agreement during this week's IMF and World Bank meetings could be difficult, a senior Japanese official said on Wednesday.

Members of the creditor committee now need to see details of the agreement Sri Lanka reached separately with China - its largest single creditor - before finalizing their proposal, said a source with direct knowledge, who asked not to be named because the talks are private.

Sri Lanka started negotiating with its bondholders and key bilateral creditors including China, Japan and India last September, parallel to moving forward on a \$2.9 billion bailout from the IMF.

\$1.7billion jackpot! What will you buy with this money?

The excitement of a massive lottery jackpot win has once again swept across the United States, as a lucky lottery player in California has claimed the second-largest jackpot in Powerball and US lottery history: a staggering \$1.73 billion prize!



A Powerball lottery ticket is shown, Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023, in Surfside, Fla. (AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)(AP)

This is not the first time that a massive Powerball jackpot has found its way to California. In November 2022, a lucky individual claimed a historic \$2.04 billion Powerball jackpot, setting the stage for yet another astonishing win in the same state, reports Hindustan Times.

Wednesday night's drawing marked the 36th in this incredible jackpot run. Plus, it was the first time in Powerball's history that back-to-back cycles generated billion-dollar grand prizes, further cementing the game's status as a symbol of astronomical wealth and dreams come true.

The Powerball drawing on a Wednesday night marked the end of a prolonged jackpot run.

The winning numbers that forever altered the course of one individual's life were 22, 24, 40, 52, 64, with the Powerball number being 10.

This record-breaking Powerball jackpot had been steadily growing over weeks of drawings without a jackpot winner.

The anticipation and buzz around the enormous prize drove ticket sales, allowing the California Lottery to raise nearly \$110 million for public education.

Gambling winnings in the United States are subject to mandatory federal withholding taxes. Plus, some states impose state taxes on these winnings, with rates varying from 2.5 percent in Arizona to as high as 10.9 percent in New York.

News Brief

CONFLICT

More than 100 dead in attack on Syrian military academy. An attack on a military academy in Syria, with weaponised drones bombing the site minutes after Syria's defence minister left a graduation ceremony there, has left over 100 dead.

Turkey has caught 2,554 fugitives since Ankara bomb attack. Turkish authorities have captured 2,554 fugitives as part of a nationwide counter-terrorism operation launched after Kurdish militants detonated a bomb near government buildings in Ankara a week ago.

UN Security Council approves international force to aid Haiti amid gang violence. A multinational force led by Kenya will be sent to assist in Haiti as the Caribbean nation contends with widespread gang violence. Having requested international assistance over a year ago, Haiti has welcomed the decision.

Sudan conflict creates world's fastest-growing displacement crisis. A UN aid official in Sudan, states that the past six months have forced more than 5.4 million people in Sudan from their homes and half of the country's population now requires humanitarian assistance and protection. Conflict, displacement and disease outbreaks now threaten the entire country.

* * *

ECONOMICS

Bangladesh gets first uranium shipment from Russia for nuclear power plant. Russia is financing 90% of \$12.65 billion project to build the country's first nuclear power plant in Rooppur. The country is building the first of two nuclear power plants in collaboration with Russian state-owned atomic company Rosatom.



violence, continual issues that Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

China-EU relationship is at a crossroads. This is some of the sharpest wording to come from European officials and follows data that showed the EU logging a trade deficit of almost 400 billion euros with China in 2022. This comes as a reaction to the more aggressive US decoupling and the EU's awareness of being China is a critical trading partner.

WTO slashes growth forecast for global goods trade by more than 50%. The WTO halved its forecast for global trade growth this year in response to rising interest rates that have dented consumer spending power worldwide. The expected slowdown of trade could depress the living standards of people around the world, particularly in poor countries.

* * *

DEVELOPMENT

Pakistan issues ultimatum to illegal aliens to leave the country by November 1st. Government estimates suggest there are about 1.7 million undocumented Afghan refugees are in the country, which would

be facing a threat of deportation.

EU considering proposal to make phone apps less addictive. One of the most addictive design features in apps is called the 'infinite scroll' and the 'pull-to-refresh' page reload, which can trigger a quick rush of dopamine in the hopes of finding something remarkable every time you reload the page. These are a couple of the features that would be modified with EU regulation.

Dengue will 'take off' in southern Europe, US, Africa this decade. Dengue fever will become a major threat in the southern US, southern Europe and new parts of Africa this decade, according to WHO's chief scientist, as warmer temperatures create the conditions for the mosquitoes carrying the infection to spread.

US issues first ever fine for space junk to Dish Network. The Federal Communications Commission fined Dish Network \$150,000 for failing to move an old satellite far enough away from others in use. Space junk is made up of bits of tech that are in orbit around the Earth but are no longer in use, and risk collisions.

Footprints found in US National Park being the oldest sign of humans in the Americas. New research has indicated fossil human footprints in New Mexico are likely the oldest direct evidence of human presence in the Americas. They are likely to be 23,000 years old and up-ends what many archaeologists thought they knew about civilisation in the region.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

Interview: Cader Sayed-Hossen, Former Minister of Industry

“If there exists a sentiment of ‘fear’ among the population, fear of speaking out, fear of being caught on the ‘wrong’ side of the political line... then something is rotten in our society”

Cader Sayed-Hossen, LP candidate at the 2019 elections withdrew earlier this month his electoral petition which sought to challenge the election of MP Gilbert Bablee in constituency no. 15 (La Caverne/Phoenix). The case, lodged in November 2019, had still not been resolved four years down the line, and was to start anew in view of the fact that the lead judge had gone into retirement, and two other Judges were appointed by the Supreme Court to hear the matter. Mr Sayed-Hossen said he did not want to be “a party to this mockery of justice”. He speaks, in this week's interview, about his disappointment with the manner in which the case has been delayed and the hurdles that came in the way of a timely resolution of his petition due to the Electoral Commission's numerous objections raised during the trial. He goes on to suggest the setting up of a Constitutional Division at the level of the Supreme Court with a view to expediting electoral matters which constitute one of the fundamentals of a democratic system. He also talks about the state of democracy in Mauritius, and the disquieting economic situation prevailing in the country presently.

Mauritius Times: You mentioned in a public statement shortly after taking the decision not to proceed with the electoral petition contesting the election of Gilbert Bablee in Constituency No. 15 that you did not want to be “a party to this mockery of justice”. Didn't you see that coming since much earlier?

Cader Sayed-Hossen: It has been quite obvious for a while that all the Respondents, I mean all, not only Gilbert Bablee, were using all the means within the law to delay as much as possible the proceedings in this case. It is interesting to look at the chronology of events in this matter.

I lodged my petition on 28 November 2019, 20 days after the counting date for the 2019 general elections - the law allows 21 days. The year 2020, as from May, was literally wasted because of Covid and confinement. Things started moving again before the Supreme Court in early February 2021. By early September 2021, that is 7 months later, all ‘preliminaries’ (Demand of Particulars, pleas and amended pleas of Respondents, replies and amended replies to pleas by myself) had been completed. If it had not been for the numerous hurdles that the Respondents brought up from early September onwards, this matter would have been resolved much earlier - in one direction or another.

Then started that long period during which the Respondents presented motion after motion to the Court, all of which were rejected in 5 interlocutory judgments by the Court. On 29 March 2022 I moved to call 2 Respondents (the Electoral Commissioner and the Returning Officer of Constituency No. 15) for personal answers - for them to be interrogated by my lawyer, Senior Counsel Gavin Glover, in open court. This motion of mine was allowed by the Court on the same day. This is precisely when the circus started.

As from then Respondents presented motion after motion to avoid appearing for personal answers - including a motion on 8 February 2023 for special leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council regarding an interlocutory judgement delivered on 11 January 2023 to the effect that my petition be heard on Merits and that the Electoral Commissioner and the Returning Officer of Constituency No. 15 be heard on personal answers - which motion was also disallowed on 4 July 2023 and the petition Merits was fixed for 3, 4 and 5 October 2023 upon a letter dated 12 July 2023 sent by my attorney, Senior Attorney Raju Sewraj.

By then, it had been 4 years minus 56 days since I had lodged my election petition. And in the meantime, the lead Judge in the case had retired and two other Judges were appointed by the Supreme Court to hear the matter.

Then came the acid icing on that messy thing: the decision of the Court, following the request of the Respondents and following a circular from the Office of the Chief Justice, that the whole petition be heard anew - starting from zero all

over again. After nearly 4 years of squabble and delaying tactics that I call dishonourable, nothing had happened, the hearing had not even started.

I did not believe, not even for a nanosecond, that if 4 years of proceedings had led to that - the decision to start all over again - another 1 year or so which is left before the next elections would result in anything at all. This is when I notified my legal team that I would not proceed with my petition, adding that I was not willing to be a party to a process which I consider to be a mockery of justice.

Had I seen that coming much earlier? Actually, no. We had all reconciled ourselves with the delaying tactics and the multiple hurdles, but we were not expecting that one year or so before the next general elections the Court would decide that the process had to start anew. At least I did not.

As from mid-2022 I had realised that the Electoral Commissioner would do his utmost to avoid being called for personal answers and would therefore try to have the process dragged on. My legal team and myself were ready and willing to confront that sort of delaying tactics (to which we had by then got used), but we were certainly not expecting that denouement.

*** It would seem that it's the Electoral Commission which through its numerous objections raised during the trial would have probably delayed the resolution of this case. What do you make out of its position in this, and other electoral petitions lodged by unreturned candidates since 2019?**

It must be pointed out ever since 29 March 2022, when the Court allowed a motion presented on that same day by my legal counsel that the Electoral Commissioner and the Returning Officers be called on personal answers, the Electoral Commissioner seemed to be the only Respondent in the matter. I was baffled by the swarms of counsels and attorneys from the Attorney General's Office, counsels for the Electoral Commission, present in Court at each sitting.

Indeed, the Electoral Commissioner raised numerous objections, presented several motions, including one to ask for special leave to appeal to the Judicial Committee of the

“I think that there should exist a sense of priorities in the administration of justice and that an electoral matter should be expedited within a short period. Otherwise, even so-called democratic practices become a joke because failing to expedite a case, any case, linked to elections shows non-concern for one of the fundamentals of a democratic system...”



Privy Council regarding the Court interlocutory judgement that he be called, together with the Returning Officer, on their personal answers. Note that all said motions were disallowed by the Court.

Let us put all this in context.

Among its stated aims and objectives, the Electoral Commission is to ‘provide a level playing field to all stakeholders so that elections are seen to be free and fair’. I contend that the results of general elections in Constituency No. 15 were not free and fair, and I sought remedy from the Court, as prescribed by section 45 of the Representation of the People Act 1958 [as amended].

Thence I lodged an electoral petition in which I stated, among others ‘that to ensure that the will of the electorate has not been frustrated as a result of the irregularities, shortcomings, mistake or miscount as particularised in the present electoral petition that a partial recount of the ballot papers be ordered in respect of the Petitioner [myself] and the Respondent No. 1 [Gilbert Bablee] at the General Elections of Constituency No. 15 held on 7th of November 2019...’

That was a very simple request.

As the office of the Electoral Commissioner is the institution which organises, runs and manages elections and as, in my petition, I mentioned ‘irregularities, shortcomings, mistake or miscount’ basic logic tells you that if there is no irregularities, shortcomings, mistakes or miscount, nothing untoward, then there is nothing to hide, so you just open your books and be transparent so that said elections be seen by one and all to have been free and fair.

I contend that, as the institution organising, running, and managing elections, the Electoral Commission should remain above the fray, maintain a neutral position and allow a process provided by law to be carried through, and even cooperate to ensure that it be carried through in a timely manner - thereby causing that elections be indeed seen as free and fair. But this has most unfortunately not been the case.

● Cont. on page 12

'The Electoral Commission should remain above the fray, maintain a neutral position and allow a process provided by law to be carried through... But this has most unfortunately not been the case'



“If there exists a sentiment of ‘fear’ among the population, fear of arbitrary and unchecked treatment by the Police including its CCID, its SST and its notorious ‘provisional’ charge where any citizen may be provisionally charged by virtue of a ‘reasonable suspicion’ against him or her, fear of arbitrary treatment by dictatorial institutions, fear of speaking out when speaking out should be the norm, fear of being caught on the ‘wrong’ side of the political line, then it shows that something is rotten in our society...”

● Cont. from page 11

So, why that single-minded and steadfast obstinacy of the Electoral Commissioner to resist being called for personal answers, knowing full well that his each and every move would delay the matter further?

*** Beyond the issue of speedy justice especially with regard to electoral petitions, the fact of the matter is that most if not all electoral petitions lodged since 2019 have been dismissed for failure by petitioners to bring “coherent evidence and material facts to prove on a balance of probabilities that there have been mistakes committed” in the conduct of those elections. What do the judgements tell you about the attitude or approach of our Supreme Court towards electoral petitions?**

It is not totally accurate to say that most if not all of these petitions have been dismissed. Actually, quite a few were withdrawn because the Respondents obtained from the Court that important, salient and relevant paragraphs from these petitions be deleted, thereby considerably weakening the argumentation contained therein.

I have had the opportunity to read a few of the electoral petitions lodged in the wake of the 2019 general elections. Some of these petitions contained allegations that seemed substantiated to me: of course, I am not a Judge of the Supreme Court, and it is the responsibility of the Judges to carefully and fairly consider and adjudicate.

The ‘administration of justice’, often equated with the ‘application of the law’ can be a tricky thing. I personally believe that the end objective of the administration of justice should simply be that Right be done. Can we really argue that, in most of the cases we are referring to, Right has been done?

There are a few normative issues of high general national importance which any authority in a democratic State has to particularly uphold in order to ensure that the type of society in which we have, by consensus, decided as a Nation to live in be maintained and upgraded. These include the safeguarding and strengthening of the rule of law, of the promotion and of the institutionalisation of rule-based decisions, of democracy as an ethos and of democratic institutions as an incarnation of that ethos, of civil liberties, of caring for the under-privileged among us and of efficiently running the public affairs of society, its economy, its health system and its educational system, among others.

And whether we realise it or not, the safeguarding and

strengthening of democracy as an ethos and of democratic institutions as an incarnation of that ethos is probably the most important of all those issues - because it is from the proper functioning of the democratic system that everything else flows - and ensuring that elections are free and fair and perceived as such is a very high priority on the list and has to be looked into with utter seriousness.

I will not comment on the attitude or approach of our Supreme Court towards electoral petitions, but I will insist on the fact that the time factor is an essential one to take into consideration.

*** Very precisely. One would have expected that the electoral petitions lodged within the time**

limit, that is 21 days after the proclamation of elections results, would have been fast-tracked despite delaying tactics, if any. Isn’t that an instance of the checks and balances in our system not operating as they should?

It is not only an instance of the checks and balances in our system not operating as they should, it is a dismal failure of one of the fundamentals of the democracy that we claim to be.

Free and fair elections, and perceived as such by all stakeholders, constitute the most important foundation of a democracy and whenever the freeness and fairness of elections are doubted, this matter should receive the highest and most immediate attention by the judicial authorities.

Without trying at all to minimise the importance of any other case that a citizen of this country brings to Court to be decided upon by a Magistrate or a Judge, I think that there should exist a sense of priorities in the administration of justice and that an electoral matter should be expedited within a short period. Otherwise, even so-called democratic practices become a joke because failing to expedite a case, any case, linked to elections shows non-concern for one of the fundamentals of a democratic system.

However, notwithstanding all the above, the question of time availability for the Court remains one of fundamental relevance and it is an issue related to the organisational structure of our judicial system. There does not exist a Constitutional Court or an Electoral Court in Mauritius, although the term ‘Electoral Court’ is sometimes used, for the sake of convenience I suppose. The very same Judges who are appointed to hear a matter having to do with elections or alleged breaches of the Constitution also hear a number of other criminal or civil cases which are in totally different domains

“It is true that we are no longer in the 1960s or the 1970s when the memories of the struggles by the Labour Party and, later, those of the MMM were still alive and vivid in our national imagination. Generations have passed and concerns change with it. But democracy and the freedom that goes with it have become a constant in the life of our fellow citizens and I will not say that they do not care about it...”

and have to rummage through their schedule to find a slot for a matter which should normally be treated as a matter of priority.

We probably do not really need an Electoral or a Constitutional Court as such. The Supreme Court has had a Commercial Division for quite a while and, more recently, set up a Family Division and a Land Division. There could well be set up a Constitutional Division of the Supreme Court dedicated exclusively to hear cases relating to electoral and constitutional disputes.

We all, in our day-to-day life, address what we consider to be priorities first. The Supreme Court may consider the setting up of a Constitutional Division as a priority and act accordingly. I am convinced that would substantially speed up the whole process. If it does not, implying that this is not a priority, then it is frightfully disquieting.

*** Would you say that equating the repeated failures of electoral petitioners to make their cases before the Supreme Court for whatever reasons with the “semblance of democracy” that is said to prevail here as contended by Opposition parties here, in and outside Parliament, would be absurd?**

No, I do not think it would be at all absurd to link the two features.

Democracy is a whole and cannot be considered piecemeal. Democracy is not simply a state of things, but also a feeling.

If, for example, there exists a sentiment of ‘fear’ among the population, fear of arbitrary and unchecked treatment by the Police including its CCID, its SST and its notorious ‘provisional’ charge where any citizen may be provisionally charged by virtue of a ‘reasonable suspicion’ against him or her, fear of arbitrary treatment by dictatorial institutions, fear of speaking out when speaking out should be the norm, fear of being caught on the ‘wrong’ side of the political line, then it shows that something is rotten in our society.

As for the functioning, rather the dysfunctioning of Parliament, the holy of holies of our democratic heritage, it is simply *‘une innommable honte’*.

*** There are some well-grounded concerns and objections to the manner in which the law-and-order situation has been handled in recent years, the never-ending investigations of the ICAC, and not the least is what is perceived as the tyranny the Opposition is subjected to in Parliament that has made the Assembly almost dysfunctional. All these do not speak well for the state of democracy here. What’s your assessment of the state of our democracy?**

As for my assessment of the state of our democracy, I certainly do not see it as a shining star.

I think that under our genteel cover we are, as a people, not only resilient in the face of adversities, but also quite argumentative and we do not really like to be bullied around. And our interpretation of our democracy includes our attachment to some sense of freedom, the freedom not to be harassed without cause and the sense of freedom that you feel when you perceive the authorities as the guardians and guarantors of that freedom.

Recent studies and surveys carried out here have shown that the population feels less and less free in spite of the existence of would-be democratic institutions. If you combine a sense of fear, however undefinable it may be, and a sense of your freedom narrowing down, then you have a problem.

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'The Supreme Court may consider the setting up of a Constitutional Division as a priority... If it does not, implying that this is not a priority, then it is frightfully disquieting'

● Cont. from page 12

Parliament has been converted into a boxing ring where the only one allowed to hit is an unelected Speaker who uses his considerable weight to kick elected members of the Opposition around and out of Parliament. Municipal elections have been postponed sine die.

When two of the most important pillars of our democratic system - Parliament and local democratic representation - are paralysed we cannot even talk of a 'semblance of democracy'. It is simply a wilful and systematic perversion of our most sacred institutions, a hijacking of the State by the present government.

*** Do you think the common people care about the state of our democracy, about whether the Police, ICAC, or the FIU are doing what they are mandated for, or are they more concerned about the cost of living, and what recently has made the headlines: petrol prices, for instance?**

I would say that the two are not mutually exclusive. It is true that we are no longer in the 1960s or the 1970s when the memories of the struggles by the Labour Party for democracy, for voting rights, for workers' rights, for independence and for nation-building and, later, those of the MMM for more workers' rights and for the broadening of the democratic space were still alive and vivid in our national imagination.

Generations have passed and concerns change with it. But democracy and the freedom that goes with it have become a constant in the life of our fellow citizens and I will not say that they do not care about it. But it is nonetheless true that they are, as a matter of priority, very much concerned about the rapidly rising cost of living.

Petrol prices? The Government's and STC's management of this dossier is an absolute scandal. Let us just have a look at the details around the price increase of Mogas and Diesel on 1 October 2023.

On 1 October 2023, the selling price of Mogas per litre was increased from Rs 69.00 to Rs 72.10n (+4.5%) and that of Diesel from Rs 54.55 to Rs 60.00 (+10%).

The main factors leading to this increase were the increase in the price of crude (ref Brent barrel) from USD 74.84 on 1 June 2023 to USD 92.09 on 29 September 2023 [+ 23%], the USD-Rupee exchange rate and very heavy Government Taxes. The MUR has depreciated by more than 40% since January 2015. This is a direct consequence of an ineffective and amateurish economic policy resulting in a dra-



“Politics constitute a constant and unavoidable component of our national cultural concerns. But, definitely the most disquieting aspect of the country is the utter mismanagement of the economy since 2015, of which the soaring cost of living is

only the palpable end. Imputing the cause of inflation to external factors only, as goes the narrative from the Minister of Finance, (Ukraine war, supply chain disruptions, hike in fuel prices, Covid-19, etc.) would be an oversimplification of the real picture...”

matic decrease of our exports relative to our import needs and our actual imports.

Furthermore, Mogas and Diesel are hit by very heavy Excise Duties: Rs 12.20 per litre for Mogas and Rs 4.70 per litre for Diesel as well as by 15% VAT. VAT amounts to Rs 9.40 per litre for Mogas and to Rs 7.83 per litre for Diesel. Total Government Tax represents on Mogas Rs 20.02 per litre (27.8% of retail price) and on Diesel, Rs 12.53 per litre (21% of retail price).

It is clear that, given the dire economic situation of consumers, we can argue for the reduction or elimination of Excise Duties on Mogas and Diesel as an interim measure to combat the rising cost of living and to slow down the systematic “appauvrissement” of the population. Furthermore, I share the views of Navin Ramgoolam that Mogas and Diesel should be considered as basic needs and hence should not be VATable.

The utter lack of transparency in the STC Price Structure should be strongly highlighted. Prior to this government terminating the supply agreement we had with Mangalore Refineries, we used to purchase 7 different types of fuel from that Government of India entity.

With Mangalore (MRPL), we were guaranteed the best prices on the market and, most importantly, transparency prevailed: Brent value was known (published figures) and the Premium (the compounded figures of all supplementary costs leading to final price) used to be negotiated between STC and MRPL twice a year.

Furthermore, the contract with Betamax gave us stable, pre-negotiated and predictable transport costs. We were thus guaranteed to have the best sourcing prices (crude price being beyond our control) and the best transport costs under reliable conditions.

At present, the STC Price Structure lumps together under the heading “Reference Price” all costs (FOB, Transport, Insurance, etc.) thus hiding probably high costs of sourcing because they buy from traders and “middlemen”, as well as high costs of transport.

In the Price Structure published by the STC on 1 October 2023, we find that the Premium paid by the STC for Mogas is USD 38 per barrel, that is 41% of the cost of a barrel of Brent on that day. This is a very high cost to pay and the only plausible explanation, excluding any other sombre causes, is the amateurism and the utter inefficiency of the STC's purchasing strategy.

And then a week later, on 7 October 2023, fuel prices changed again.

The price of Mogas is brought down from Rs 72.10 to its previous level of Rs 69.00 per litre, whilst the price of Diesel is increased again from Rs 60.00 to Rs 63.95. This has been presented as a positive measure to benefit car owners - you hardly have diesel-powered cars on our roads anymore.

But the devil is in the details: this operation was done at no cost to the STC and indeed resulted in an increase in its revenue.

The current consumption of Mogas in 2023 is estimated to be 298 million litres and that of Diesel to be 270 million litres. So, by ‘reducing’ the retail price of Mogas by Rs 3.10, the STC forfeits a revenue of Rs 925 million for 2023 on average. And by increasing the price of Diesel, the STC increased its revenue by Rs 1,067 million.

Actually, the 7 October 2023 price changes resulted in a net increase of Rs 142 million for the STC. So, it was no favour done to consumers.



“Prior to this government terminating the supply agreement we had with Mangalore Refineries, we used to purchase 7 different types of fuel from that Government of India entity. With Mangalore (MRPL), we were guaranteed the best prices on the market and, most importantly, transparency prevailed: Brent value was known (published figures) and the Premium (the compounded figures of all supplementary costs leading to final price) used to be negotiated between STC and MRPL twice a year. The contract with Betamax gave us stable, pre-negotiated and predictable transport costs...”

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

Politics constitute a constant and unavoidable component of our national cultural concerns. But, definitely the most disquieting aspect of the country is the utter mismanagement of the economy since 2015, of which the soaring cost of living is only the palpable end. Imputing the cause of inflation to external factors only, as goes the narrative from the Minister of Finance, (Ukraine war, supply chain disruptions, hike in fuel prices, Covid-19, etc.) would be an oversimplification of the real picture.

Actually, the economic situation is grim due to mismanagement and irresponsible decisions. The external value of the local currency plays a determinant role on the local price level in a small open economy like Mauritius, heavily dependent on imports. The Rupee exchange rate is a mirror of the underlying economic fundamentals, including fiscal and monetary policies as well as the political determination to support the value of the currency.

A comparison between the periods 2005-2014 and thereafter highlights the sharp drift in the external value of MUR vis-à-vis USD.

In 2014, when the Labour Party left government, the USD was worth Rs 30.62, against Rs 29.50 in 2005 when the LP was voted into office. The USD was worth Rs 44.18 in 2022. So, while the external value of the Rupee was stable over the 10-year period 2005-2014 (with a slight depreciation of 3.8% over 10 years), the picture has drastically changed with a substantial depreciation of 44.3% from 2015 to 2022.

To better gauge the adverse impact of inflation and value of the Rupee on the standard of living of the population, it is worth noting that in real terms our current average living standard is roughly the same as in 2014 when measured in USD, which is a relevant standard being given that most of our consumption is imported and paid in USD, and our GDP per capita in USD has shrunk from USD 10,366 in 2014 to USD 10,216 in 2022.

Moreover, due to the depreciation of the Rupee, it would take Mauritius several years to migrate from Middle to High Income country as per the computation of the World Bank. In 2022 the Gross National Income [GNI] per Capita was USD 10,760, nearly 30% behind the benchmark of USD 13,845.

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From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 252

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 12 June, 1959

• *Nobody is as sophisticated as a boy of nineteen who is just recovering from a baby-grand passion.* — Helen Rowland

Land and Wealth

Old time colonial governments have always resisted the intervention of the ruled in the economic affairs of their territories. This has been typical of the Government of Mauritius of the past.

A group of experts appointed a few years ago by the United Nations to inquire into the economic development of under-developed countries made the following statement:

“In our judgment there is a member of under-developed countries where the concentration of economic and political power in the hands of a small nucleus class, whose main interest is the preservation of its own wealth and privileges, rules out the prospect of much economic progress until a social revolution has affected a shift in the distribution of income and power.

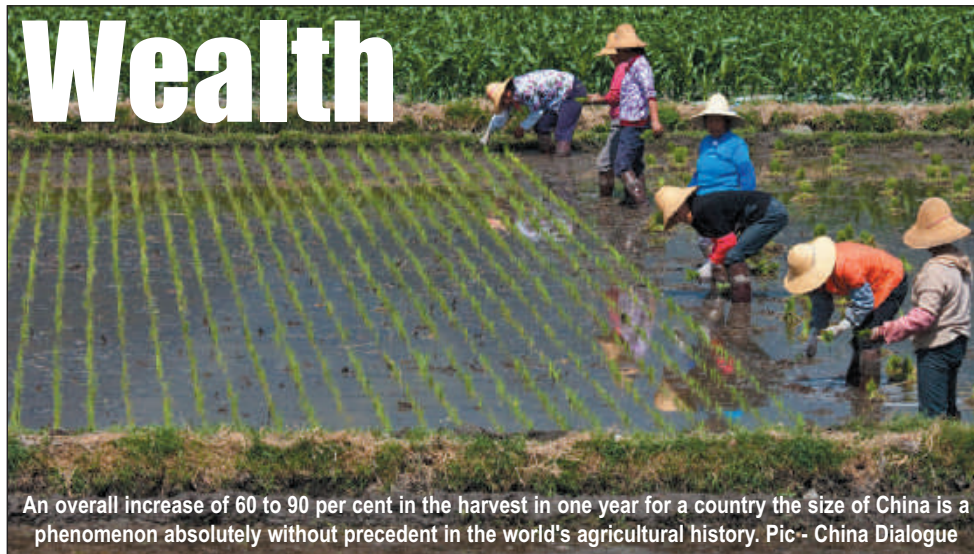
“There cannot be rapid economic progress unless the leaders of a country at all levels - politicians, teachers, engineers, business leaders, trade unionists, journalists, priests — desire economic progress for the country, and are willing to pay its price, which is the creation of a society from which economic, political and social privileges have been eliminated.

“On the other hand, given leadership and the public will to advance, all problems of economic development are soluble. We wish to emphasize that the masses of the people take their cue from those who are in authority over them. If the leaders are reactionary, selfish and corrupt, the masses in turn are dispirited, and seem to lack initiative. But if the leaders win the confidence of the country and prove themselves to be vigorous in eradicating privilege and gross inequalities, they can inspire the masses with an enthusiasm for progress which carries all before it.”

The group of experts made certain recommendations to provide the preconditions and institutional framework of economic development. In their opinion the government of an underdeveloped country should:

- Make clear to its people its willingness to take vigorous action to remove the obstacles to free and equal opportunity which blunt the incentives and discourage the efforts of its people. Under this head is included land reform, abolition of privileges based on race, colour, caste or creed, the establishment of taxation upon a progressive basis, and a programme of mass education;
- Survey the ways in which production, distribution and finance are organised in each of the major sectors of the economy and the measures to improve their efficiency;
- Survey the prospects of creating new productive employment by industrialization, by bringing more land under cultivation, by developing mineral resources, or by other means; and announce its programmes for expanding employment;
- Survey the possibilities of increasing agricultural yields and announce the measures it proposes to adopt in order to effect rapid improvement of yields.

A programme of putting a ceiling on the amount of land a family of five persons should hold is being put into operation by the Government of India. The acreage of land the family is allowed to hold is approximately 30 acres. The ceilings are fixed on the basis that they will enable the family to get an income of Rs



An overall increase of 60 to 90 per cent in the harvest in one year for a country the size of China is a phenomenon absolutely without precedent in the world's agricultural history. Pic - China Dialogue

3,600 or Rs 4,500.

The programme of ceiling is thought in terms of social justice, of giving land to landless people and of higher production. Those who have more than a certain quantum should give that to the State and be compensated.

The Americans, who are in no way wedded to socialism, brought about this far-reaching land reform in Japan during their occupation. That was the only way for them to get out of a certain feudal and semi-feudal set up which prevented growth.

According to various non-communist and independent observers, what is happening in China is the most impressive agricultural advance of human history. The Chinese harvest of 1958 is considered the greatest event of the year as the Sputnik was of 1957. China now has at her disposal about half a ton of grain per head. Compared to 627 lb in 1957, she has thus gone beyond Europe in grain.

The 1958 crop of grain is estimated to yield between 300 and 350 tons i.e., an increase of more than 300% on the 1957 crop. Production of raw cotton will be doubled; Peanut production has risen by 124 per cent; wheat 70%; Rice 40 %.

An overall increase of 60 to 90 per cent in the harvest in one year for a country the size of China is a phenomenon absolutely without precedent in the world's agricultural history. How was this increase of 60 to 90% attained?

The first and decisive factor is unquestionably irrigation.

In 1949 China had 53 million acres of irrigated land. In 1956 the irrigated area rose to 66 million acres. In 1957 it rose by another 19.7 million acres. In 1958 the area under irrigation is reported to have been further extended by over 74 million acres. It would appear that 56% or 160 million acres of the 286.5 million acres now under cultivation are in fact irrigated.

The second factor was the extensive use of fertilizer. The third factor is investment of labour.

In many parts of the country the Chinese peasant works more than 300 days: in the country there are only two days' rest a month. This high rate of investment of labour was facilitated by the framework of cooperatives which do not pay wages but whose members receive remuneration based on the number of "work-days", which are proportionate to the crop harvested.

The Chinese peasants' enthusiasm and sacrifice is prompted by the thought that he is labouring for himself, for his family and for his country. The wealth of the country is his now and not the landlords for whom he was compelled to sweat for a pittance. This is a revolution which has no parallel. It has a lot to teach Mauritius.

Opinion

Corrupt procedures and people

• Cont. from page 3

Or again at the STC, where government-imposed levels of excise duties, VAT and various added «contributions» that all commuters, drivers including old-age pensioners, small and medium businesses pay to central government coffers, are felt as exorbitant, raking in more than Rs 35 per litre of fuel at the pump to fund both its social dish-outs, interest on its public debt mountain and the government's unabated spending spree.

Mismanagement, errors, and mistakes are regularly reported by the Audit Office whichever government has been in place, but the pandemic here, as in UK or other resilient places, have opened the door wide open to corrupt contracts, procedures and practices that UK's Labour Party is proposing to tackle on the Thatcherite tone of «We want our money back!»

Collective shame and a sense of disgust with the powerful, wealthy, and corrupt elites is perceptible in the UK public and they reflect in the Labour Shadow Chancellor's pledge. It will be intriguing to see what legal form her proposed Corruption Commission might take there and what lessons our own legal and constitutional minds make of it.

Jan Arden

Navratri Shri Durga Pooja

Aum Shri Ganeshaya Namaha

The President & Members of Vacoas Clairfonds Hindu Progressive Assn

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invite you all devotees to attend

Navratri Shri Durga Pooja

**Sunday 15 to Monday 23
October 2023**

at Shiv Mandir Premises,
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Interview: Cader Sayed-Hossen, Former Minister of Industry



“The current consumption of Mogas in 2023 is estimated to be 298 million litres and that of Diesel to be 270 million litres. So, by ‘reducing’ the retail price of Mogas by Rs 3.10, the STC forfeits a revenue of Rs 925 million for 2023 on average. And by increasing the price of Diesel, the STC increased its revenue by Rs 1,067 million. Actually, the 7 October 2023 price changes resulted in a net increase of Rs 142 million for the STC. So, it was no favour done to consumers...”

● Cont. from page 15

The real causes for the weak Rupee lie in the structural weaknesses of the local economy which still remain unaddressed:

1. Bad governance and institutional failures hindering economic growth capacity and lowering the attractiveness of Mauritius as an investment and business destination.
2. Unbalanced GDP structure with growth propelled primarily by consumption.
3. Low level of private investment (16% of GDP in 2022, and mostly aimed at real estate development).
4. Foreign Direct Investment being still mainly confined to the real estate sector (which attracted around 55% of FDI in 2022).
5. Deindustrialization – the share of the manufacturing sector in GDP stood at 13% in 2022 against 19% in 2014.
6. Lack of new growth poles.
7. Low or stalling organic growth of existing sectors (except tourism and global business).
8. Downturn in the Export Oriented Sector with net exports dropping from MUR 20 billion in 2014 to MUR 16 billion in 2022.
9. Insufficient diversification of our export markets.
10. Huge balance of trade and current account deficits of MUR 190 billion (33% of GDP) and MUR 65 billion (11% of GDP) respectively in 2022.
11. Public debt which has exceeded 80% of GDP, standing at MUR 514 billion at the end of first semester 2023 (excluding adjustments made by the Ministry of Finance to which the IMF does not subscribe).
12. Underutilisation of human capital (according to CSO there was a significant underutilization of the labour

The challenge of the next government will be to sanitise our institutions'

force to the tune of 113,600 in 2022).

In addition to the above factors, the lack of independence of the Bank of Mauritius in the conduct of the monetary policy has exacerbated the downward pressure on the Rupee. Over the last years the Central Bank had made an 'impasse' over the necessity to protect the value of the Rupee. The lack of confidence in the monetary policy is clearly reflected in the reluctance of local operators involved in the export sector to convert their foreign currencies into Rupee.

In spite of the revival of the tourist industry with gross earnings of Rs 65 billion in 2022 there is still a supply shortage of foreign currencies on the local market. It is also important to put a halt to the 'print and spend' policy of the government. Since 2020 Rs 158 billion of new money has been printed (including Rs 80 billion made available to the MIC without the scrutiny of Parliament).

*** And where will all that lead us to according to you?**

To days of trouble, certainly. But we do not have the right to allow hope to fade away and we also need to realise that hope without determination and hard work is a

worthless futility.

The structural weaknesses in our economy which I have listed a few minutes ago just cannot all be corrected in the short term and most of them will require sustained action over a certain number of years. Rebuilding an industrial base, for example, requires a business-friendly environment, institutions that inspire trust, investment, infrastructure, a trained workforce, probably a regulatory framework to meet international standards, markets, adequate logistics and trained management.

You cannot build that up overnight, just like you cannot correct all the weaknesses I have mentioned in the short term. But it has to be done and it can be done with the right type of political determination and the proper operation of required institutions.

It has taken the present government nine years to operate a deep capture of the State and of its main institutions and the negative results of this onslaught are now glaring. No economy can develop and flourish without a conducive environment, which is now non-existent. The challenge of the next government will be to sanitise our institutions so that the said conducive environment may emerge.

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

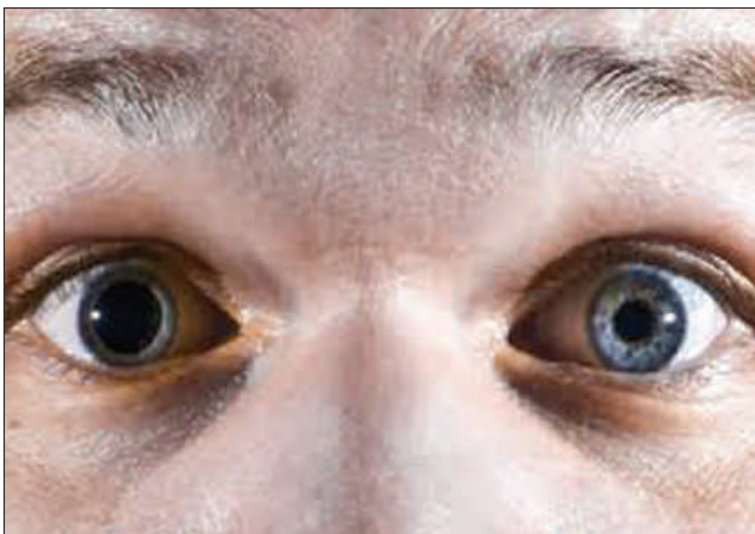
The Eyes are a Window into the Deciding Mind

Researchers worldwide are seeking visible indicators of what is going on inside our minds as we think about issues and take decisions. They are searching for the ability to probe the invisible workings of the mind by monitoring subtle signals from the body.

New insights from experiments at Tohoku University have revealed a link between eye movements and certain types of decision-making, reports Asia Research News. Kazumichi Matsumiya and Shota Furukawa at the university's Graduate School of Information Sciences reported their findings in the journal 'Communications Biology'.

"Eye movements that are not related to the visual requirements for decision-making are nevertheless affected by the process of making decisions," says Matsumiya.

Previous research in the field has analyzed how eye and hand movements affect decision-making, but did not look at the issue from the other direction to investigate if decision-making affects eye and hand movements.



The new research was conducted to assess the validity of the previous general assumption that motor movements, such as by the eyes or hand, will not be affected by decision-making activities in situations where the movements are not directly related to making the decision.

The Tohoku University researchers instructed participants to move their eyes and right hand towards targets that were not relevant to an ongoing perceptual decision-making task. Participants were first given a separate task where they were asked to decide and report on the direction of movement of a visual stimulus that was briefly presented on the display. This was defined as a perceptual decision-making task. The participants then performed the task in which their eye and hand motor movements were irrelevant to their decision-making. Comparing the results of the two tasks allowed the research team to identify and measure any effects of decision-making on eye and hand movements that were irrelevant to the decisions.

"We found that perceptual decision-making interfered with unrelated eye movements but not hand movements," Matsumiya says. "This demonstrates that nerve signals involved in making decisions continuously flow into the oculomotor eye-movement system, even when multiple motor actions are irrelevant to the decision-making," he adds.



How do trees die?

Even in death, a tree helps others live.



Eventually weather, pests and disease will take their toll, but the story doesn't end there.
Emanuel David / 500px via Getty Images

Trees can die suddenly or quite slowly.

Fire, flood or wind can cause a quick death by severely damaging a tree's ability to transport water and nutrients up and down its trunk.

Sometimes a serious insect attack or disease can kill a tree. This kind of death usually takes from a few months to a couple of years. Again, a tree loses its ability to move water and nutrients, but does so in stages, more slowly.

A tree can also die of what you might call old age.

I am a scientist who studies trees and the web of living things that surround them. The death of a tree is not exactly what it seems, because it directly leads to new life.

Different trees, different life spans

Trees can live an incredibly long time, depending on what kind they are. Some bristlecone pines, for instance, are among the oldest known trees and are more than 4,000 years old. Others, like lodgepoles or poplars, will have much shorter life spans, from 20 to 200 years. The biggest trees in your neighborhood or town are probably somewhere in that range.

You've probably noticed that different living things have different life spans – a hamster is generally not going to live as long as a cat, which isn't going to live as long as a person. Trees are no different. Their life spans are determined by their DNA, which you can think of as the operating system embedded in their genes. Trees that are programmed to grow very quickly will be less strong – and shorter lived – than ones that grow very slowly.

But even a tough old tree will eventually die. The years and years of damage done by insects and microscopic critters, combined with abuse

from the weather, will slowly end its life. The death process may start with a single branch but will eventually spread to the entire tree. It may take a while for an observer to realize a tree has finally died.

You might think of death as a passive process. But, in the case of trees, it's surprisingly active.

The underground network

Roots do more than anchor a tree to the ground. They are the place where microscopic fungi attach and act like a second root system for a tree.

Fungi form long, superfine threads called hyphae. Fungal hyphae can reach much farther than a tree's roots can. They gather nutrients from the soil that a tree needs. In exchange, the tree repays fungi with sugars it makes out of sunlight in a process known as photosynthesis.

You might have heard that fungi can also pass nutrients from one tree to another. This is a topic that scientists are still working out. Some trees are likely connected to other trees by a complex underground network of fungi, sometimes called the "wood wide web."

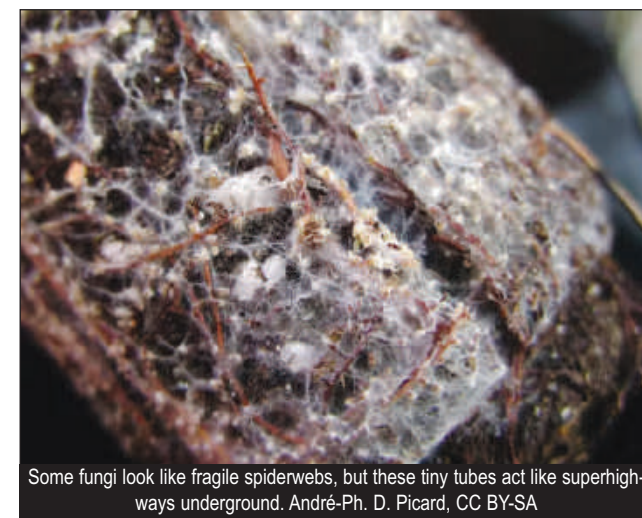
How the wood wide web functions in a forest is still not

well understood, but scientists do know that the fungi forming these networks are important for keeping trees healthy.

Afterlife of a tree

Before it topples over, a dead tree can stand for many years, providing a safe home for bees, squirrels, owls and many more animals. Once it falls and becomes a log, it can host other living things, like badgers, moles and reptiles.

Logs also host a different kind of fungi and bacteria, called decomposers. These tiny organisms help break down big dead trees to the point where you would never know they had existed. Depending on the conditions, this process can take from a few years to a century or more. As wood breaks down, its nutrients return to the soil and become available for other living things, including nearby trees and fungal networks.



Some fungi look like fragile spiderwebs, but these tiny tubes act like superhighways underground. André-Ph. D. Picard, CC BY-SA

A tree leaves a legacy. While alive, it provides shade, home for many animals and a lifeline to fungi and other trees. When it dies, it continues to play an important role. It gives a boost to new trees ready to take its place, shelter to a different set of animals and, eventually, nourishment for the next generation of living things.

It's almost as if a tree never truly dies but just passes its life on to others.

Camille Stevens-Rumann

Assistant Professor of Forest & Rangeland Stewardship,
Colorado State University



The boss dialled his employee's home phone number



The boss wondered why one of his most valued employees wasn't in and had not phoned in sick one day.

Having an urgent problem with one of the main computers, he dialled the employee's home phone number and was greeted with a child's whisper:

"Hello?"

"Is your daddy home?" he asked.

"Yes," whispered the small voice.

"May I have a word with him?"

The child whispered: "No."

Surprised and wanting to talk with an adult, the boss asked. "Is your Mommy there?"

"Yes."

"May I talk with her?"

Again, the small voice whispered: "No."

Hoping there was somebody with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked.

"Is anybody else there?"

"Yes," whispered the child, "a policeman."

Wondering what a cop would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked.

"May I speak with the policeman?"

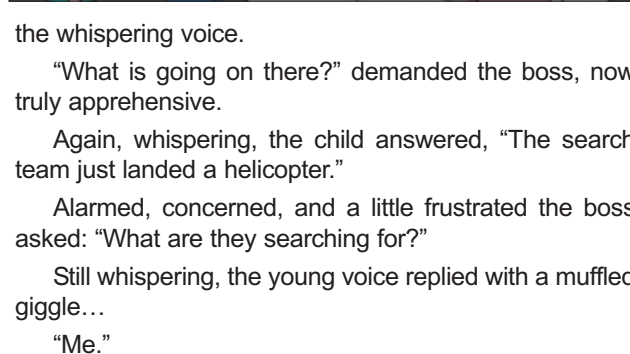
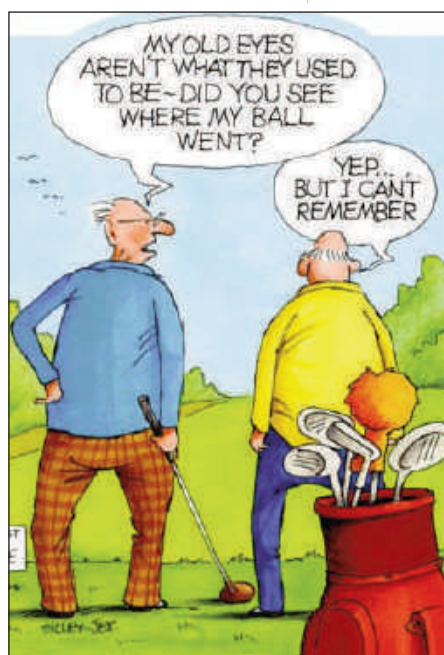
"No, he's busy," whispered the child.

"Busy doing what?"

"Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the fireman."

Growing more worried as he heard a loud noise in the background through the ear-piece on the phone, the boss asked: "What is that noise?"

"A helicopter," answered



the whispering voice.

"What is going on there?" demanded the boss, now truly apprehensive.

Again, whispering, the child answered, "The search team just landed a helicopter."

Alarmed, concerned, and a little frustrated the boss asked: "What are they searching for?"

Still whispering, the young voice replied with a muffled giggle...

"Me."

* * *

A little girl runs out to the backyard where her father is working, and asks him, "Daddy, what's sex?"

"OK," he thinks, "this day was bound to come, and I'm not going to let my little princess learn about sex from the streets."

So, he sits her down, and tells her all about the birds and the bees.

He tells her about conception, sexual intercourse, sperms, and eggs. He tells her about puberty, menstruation, erections, and wet dreams.

Then she asks, "Daddy, what is 'a couple'?"

And he carries on, "A couple are the two people involved in sex, but this can also be two males or two females which we call homosexual," and he goes on to describe masturbation, oral sex, group sex, pornography, bondage and rape, paedophilia, etc...

The father finally asks, "So why did you want to know about 'a couple' and 'sex'?"

"Oh, mummy said lunch would be ready in a couple of secs..."



Overheard my granddaughter Holly arguing with her friend about whose grandpa was better.

"My grandpa doesn't need a walking stick," Holly boasted.

"Yeah, well my grandpa can still drive," her friend replied.

"Oh yeah?" Holly said as she puffed out her chest. "Well, my grandpa doesn't even use glasses!"

Her friend shook her head and replied: "That's not true!"

"Yes, it is!" Holly yelled back, "he drinks straight from the bottle!"

* * *

The mother-in-law knocked on our door the other day.

I opened it, and she said: "Can I stay here for a couple of weeks?"

I said, "You can stay there as long as you want" and closed the door on her.

* * *

So, in the shoe shop I knelt in front of this really attractive woman in a short skirt, as I gently placed her elegant foot into a size 4 high heel, she seductively licked her lips and slightly parted her legs, then said, "I bet you only work here to look up girls skirts."

"Madam that's a ridiculous assumption, and not even true."

"What, that you look up girls' skirts?"

"No, that I actually work here."

* * *

Three Italian nuns die and go to heaven... At the Pearly Gates, they are met by St. Peter. He says, "Sisters, you all led such exemplary lives that the Lord is granting you six months to go back to earth and be anyone you wish to be."

The first nun says, "I want to be Sophia Loren." And *poof* she's gone.

The second says, "I want to be Madonna," and *poof* she's gone.

The third says, "I want to be Sara Pipalini."

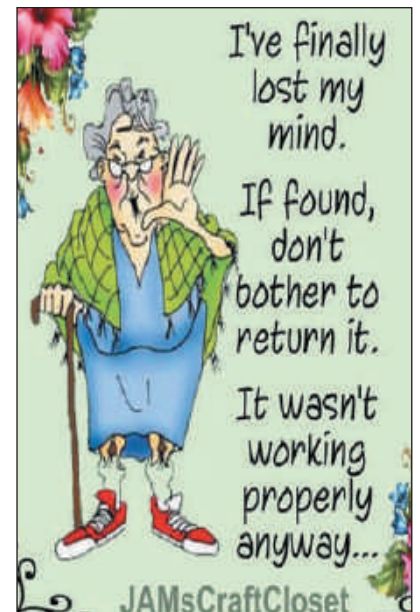
St. Peter looks perplexed. "Who?" he asks.

"Sara Pipalini," replies the nun.

St. Peter shakes his head and says, "I'm sorry, but that name just doesn't ring a bell."

The nun then takes a newspaper out of her habit and hands it to St. Peter.

St. Peter reads the paper and starts laughing. He hands it back to her and says, "No sister, the paper says it was the 'Sahara Pipeline' that was laid by 1,400 men in 6 months."



Life is long if you know how to use it

By Seneca

- Life is long if you know how to use it. This is the central message of Seneca's essay. He argues that we have all the time we need to live a fulfilling life, but we waste it on things that are not important. We spend our days worrying about things that are out of our control, and we neglect the present moment.
- We waste a lot of time on things that are not important. We spend our days watching TV, scrolling through social media, and gossiping about our friends and neighbours. We spend hours in traffic, waiting in line, and doing other things that are not productive or meaningful. We need to learn to be more selective about how we spend our time.
- We are preoccupied with the future and the past, and we neglect the present moment. We are always thinking about the future, and we worry about what might happen. We are also often hung up on the past,

and we regret things that we have done or said. We need to learn to focus on the present moment and enjoy the here and now.

- We put things off until tomorrow, and then tomorrow never comes. We have all been guilty of this at one time or another. We say we will start working on a project tomorrow, or we will start exercising tomorrow, or we will start eating healthier tomorrow. But tomorrow never comes. We need to learn to stop procrastinating and start living in the present moment.
- We are afraid of death, but it is inevitable. Death is a natural part of life, but we are often afraid of it. We fear the unknown, and we worry about what will happen to us after we die. But we need to remember that death is nothing to be afraid of. It is simply the end of one chapter in our lives, and the beginning of another.



- We should live each day as if it were our last. This is a powerful reminder to live our lives to the fullest. We should not take anything for granted, and we should make the most of every day. We should spend time with our loved ones, do the things we love, and make a difference in the world.
- We should focus on what is important and let go of the things that are not. We have all got too much on our plates. We are constantly bombarded with information and distractions. We need to learn to focus on what is important and let go of the things that are not. We need to prioritize our time and ener-

gy, and we need to learn to say no to things that are not a good use of our time.

- We should be grateful for what we have, and not envious of others. It is easy to get caught up in comparing ourselves to others. We see people who have more money, more possessions, and more success than we do, and we start to feel envious. But this is a recipe for unhappiness. We need to learn to be grateful for what we have, and to appreciate the good things in our lives.
- We should live in the moment and enjoy the present. The past is gone, and the future is uncertain. The only thing we have is the present moment. We need to learn to live in the moment and enjoy the present. We need to savour the good times, and we need to learn to deal with the bad times.
- We should strive to live a life of virtue and purpose. We should be kind, compassionate, and helpful to others. We should live our lives in accordance with our values. We should find something that we are passionate about and devote our lives to it.

The above lessons from Seneca's essay "On the Shortness of Life" will help you to live a more fulfilling and meaningful life.

Thoughts to Live by

You're attached to people who have been on and off with you for an extended period of time.

You pay attention to people who only make time for you when it's convenient for them.

You're too caring to people who could care less about you.

You give attention to people who take you for granted and put you on the backburner because they think no matter what they do, you will never leave.

Do me a favour and accept people for who they are and leave them where they belong.

Cody Bret

The highly sensitive tend to be philosophical or spiritual in their orientation, rather than materialistic or hedonistic. They dislike small talk. They often describe themselves as creative or intuitive. They dream vividly and can often recall their dreams the next day. They love music, nature, art, physical beauty. They feel exceptionally strong emotions — sometimes acute bouts of joy, but also sorrow, melancholy, and fear.

Highly sensitive people also process information about their environments — both physical and emotional — unusually deeply. They tend to notice subtleties that others miss — another person's shift in mood, say, or a light bulb burning a touch too brightly.

Susan Cain

From 'Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking'

The way people view you

Sometimes I think about the different characters I play in everybody's story.

I'm a terrible person in some people's narratives and a Godsend in others.

And none of it has anything to do with the person I truly am.

The lens that others view you through is coloured by

Do you want to know why you're sad...

Do you want to know... sad

their upbringing, beliefs, and individual experiences.

Some people see your bright personality as endearing and others see it as annoying.

Some people think you're weak and emotional and others feel safe to be themselves around you.

WHEN I'M GONE

When I come to the end of my journey
And I travel my last weary mile,
Just forget if you can, that I ever frowned
And remember only the smile.

Forget unkind words I have spoken;
Remember some good I have done,
Forget that I ever had a headache
And remember I've had loads of fun.

Forget that I have stumbled and blundered
And sometimes fell by the way.
Remember I have fought
Some hard battles and won,
Ere the close of the day.

Then forget to grieve for my going,
I would not have you sad for a day,
But in summer just gather some flowers
And remember the place where I lay.

And come in the evening
When the sun paints the sky in the west,
Stand for a few moments beside me
And remember only my best.

HOW TO MAKE A MAN HAPPY

1. Feed him
2. Sleep with him
3. Leave him with peace
4. Don't check his phone (Msgs)
5. Don't bother him with his movements

So what's so hard about that?!

HOW TO MAKE A WOMAN HAPPY

It's really not too difficult but... To make a woman happy, a man only needs to be:

1. a friend
2. a companion
3. a lover
4. a brother
5. a father
6. a master
7. a chef
8. an electrician
9. a plumber
10. a mechanic
11. a carpenter
12. a decorator
13. a stylist
14. a sexologist
15. a gynecologist
16. a psychologist
17. a pest exterminator
18. a psychiatrist
19. a healer
20. a good listener
21. an organizer
22. a good father
23. very clean
24. sympathetic
25. athletic
26. warm
27. attentive
28. gallant
29. intelligent

30. funny
31. creative
32. tender
33. strong
34. understanding
35. tolerant
36. prudent
37. ambitious
38. capable
39. courageous
40. determined
41. true
42. dependable
43. passionate

WITHOUT FORGETTING TO:

44. give her compliments regularly
45. Go shopping with her
46. be honest
47. be very rich
48. not stress her out
49. not look at other girls

AND AT THE SAME TIME, YOU MUST ALSO:

50. give her lots of attention
51. give her lots of time, especially time for herself
52. give her lots of space, never worrying about where she goes.

BUT MOST OF ALL IT IS VERY IMPORTANT

53. never forget
 - *birthdays
 - *anniversaries
 - *valentine
 - *arrangements she makes.

@EDSSONPAVO

Some people think you're rude and selfish and others respect the way you stand up for yourself.

Some people admire the way you take pride in the way you look, and others think you're conceited.

And none of it has to do with who you truly are as a person.

What you have to understand is that you have no authority over how people view you so never try to control the way others see you because the only thing that truly matters when the dust settles down at the end of the day is what you genuinely see in yourself.

Cody Bret

Health & Parenting Guide

Things You Should Never Buy Used

You can save good money buying things second-hand. But never buy used tires, helmets...

You might save some money upfront, but buying used can come with hidden costs. From bed bugs to product recalls, things can go sideways sometimes.

That doesn't mean you shouldn't buy anything second-hand. But know what to watch out for and which things you should never buy used as recommended by Carol DerSarkissian, MD.

Be careful with kids' stuff

When it comes to toys and children's furniture, always check for safety recalls and make sure there's no lead paint involved. If you can't find out for sure, move on. You also should stay away from anything with missing or broken parts, or that's wobbly when it should be stable.

Sniff out third hand smoke

This is what smoking leaves behind in clothes, furniture, curtains, and pretty much everything else. It builds up over time and can last for weeks. Stay away from items you know came from the home of someone who smoked. Since you don't always know for sure, it's best to give everything you buy used a thorough cleaning.

Check strollers and high chairs

Make sure the safety straps are in good working order and that no sharp parts, like screws, jut out from



anywhere. Fold and unfold strollers to see if they're sturdy. Test that high chairs aren't wobbly and trays snap firmly into place. Keep in mind that some older models may not be tip-proof.

Don't buy makeup or makeup brushes

Makeup and brushes touch your hands, eyes, and mouth. That makes those little containers breeding grounds for all kinds of germs. Even the testers in stores can be a bad idea. You can get skin rashes and serious infections. And used makeup may no longer have labels that list ingredients and warnings and tell you how to use them safely.

Do wash and dry clothes and linens

If you're concerned about bedbugs, go straight to the dryer. Washing alone won't kill them. Run everything through on high heat for 30 minutes. Take any bags the items came in to your outside trash right away. For things that can't go into the washer and dryer, dry cleaning will get the job done.

Don't buy helmets

From bikes to horse riding, most helmets are made to

hold up through only one crash. Or one drop on a hard surface. Once that happens, the foam inside squeezes and won't protect you the same way, even if it looks fine. Plus, older helmets don't necessarily meet the same safety standards as new ones, and the materials can break down over time.

Don't buy swimwear or underwear

Because of where they sit on your body, a whole other level of germs come into play. That includes genital infections and small amounts of poop. And swimsuits tend to wear out quickly, so you're not really saving much money in the long run.

Look for bedbugs in furniture

These critters can crawl into the tiniest seam or crack and go a year without eating. They can be in most types of used furniture, but you're more likely to find them in mattresses or items with soft fabric, like sofas. Check these things very closely, looking for bugs, eggs, and signs of their poop, which looks like tiny black dots.

Don't buy tires

Like car seats and helmets, there's just too much you can't know about their history. Were they in an accident? Driven at really high speeds? Towing loads that were too heavy? All those can cause damage you can't see. And every tire has an expiration date. They're only good for 6 years, whether you use them often or not.

Do check the plug on hair dryers

Water and electricity are deadly together. As long as it's plugged in, a hair dryer has electricity raring to go, even if it's turned off. Newer ones protect you with a bulky plug that has red and yellow switches on it. It cuts off the supply of electricity if it gets wet. Don't buy older models that don't have this feature. And check that the cord is in good shape.

11 Habits for Better Mental Health

Building a "happiness habit" can help get you through a rough patch. Try these tips, medically reviewed by Michael W. Smith, MD of WebMD, for treating yourself and others to help you cultivate a sense of peace.

Sometimes you need a mental lift. There are some simple steps you can take to build a "happiness habit" that may help get you through a tough spell. These pick-me-ups aren't meant to replace treatment for serious depression, acute anxiety, or other clinical issues. If you need help, tell your doctor or a trusted friend or family member.

Curb Clutter: Studies have found that when you're surrounded by stuff, the visual chaos goes straight to your brain. It distracts you and gets in the way of your ability to process info. Other research has shown a cluttered home amps up the stress hormone cortisol, especially in women. Make a plan right now to banish or sort your clutter. Then call a charity to set a date for pickup.

Buy Yourself Something Nice: It doesn't have to be a spree for fancy elec-



tronics or a new designer wardrobe. Research shows the real magic of so-called retail therapy is the sense of control you have over your environment when you make your own choices. So try a little smart shopping to help snap you out of short-term sadness. Just make sure your picks fit your budget, too.

Ticket to Read: Studies have linked reading to improvements in depression symptoms, as well as mental flexibility and brain function. Make sure it's a pleasure read -- not the news, or your computer manual. Find a book you've wanted to check out or a juicy magazine. Sock away at least 30 minutes every day to read in peace.

Pet a Furry Friend: In one study, college students who chilled for just 10 minutes with a good-natured dog or cat had sharply lowered cortisol, a major

stress hormone. You don't need to be in school to get these warm fuzzies, though. Spend extra quality time with your own pet.

Catch a Groovy Beat: Yes, classical music can relax you and ease tension. But what if your listening tastes are more high-energy? An Italian study found quick tempos can help calm you, too. It just happens when the music stops. After listening to fast-paced songs, the subjects' blood pressures and heart rates mellowed.

Pile a Power Plate: One study looked at young adults with diets rich in fruits, veggies, and lean meats over just a few weeks. They reported less depression than a group that didn't eat as well. Studies have shown that the Mediterranean diet, which counts grains and olive oil as staples, can ease depression in older adults. (Exercise and sharing meals are key parts of this diet, too.)

Try Acupressure: To practice this ancient Chinese healing art, you press certain spots on your body to release tension. It can lessen anxiety and improve your blood flow. Try this simple move called yin tang, which refers to the middle point between your eyebrows. Sit back and relax. Place your thumb or forefinger between your brows. Press in small, gentle circles for 5 to 10 minutes. Repeat several times during the day.

Find Your Flow: "Flow" is your state of mind when you do something that

challenges and fulfills you, without too much pressure on your performance. Hint: Passive entertainment like bingeing a TV show or playing computer games aren't flow. Think dancing, cooking, painting, even housecleaning -- pursuits that absorb you and put your worries aside. Make plenty of time for them.

Walk in Nature: Ecotherapy explores how quality nature time eases stress, anxiety, and depression. A 2015 study found people who take nature walks have lower activity in the parts of the brain where negative thoughts can spool. Start with a stroll close to home or an easy trail for about a half-hour several times a week. If you're game, build up to longer-term "forest bathing" (the Japanese take on nature immersion). It works if you take a friend, too.

Keep Up Your Support System: Make time for friends and family. Offer to help them out when you can -- some research suggests it can be more uplifting to give support than to get it. And while some experts say it's best to meet up in person, don't hesitate to draw on electronic tools like Skype, online chat, and texts to stay close if needed.

Find Something Funny: Find the things that make you laugh. Humour essay books, funny podcasts, or jokes from magazines are great sources, too. Studies show laughter -- and the distraction it brings -- is one of the best mood lifters around.

20 Years of Baghban

“After its release, suddenly there was a spike in senior citizens taking insurance for themselves and not for their children” – Samir Soni

Baghan (2003) completed 20 years on Wednesday. The classic family entertainer, starring Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini in the leading roles, was a box-office hit and is remembered even today for its highly emotional moments, performances and music. Bollywood Hungama exclusively spoke to Samir Soni, who played the role of Big B and Hema's son, about his experience and a lot more.

How was it to work with Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini?

It was a dream come true. I have such beautiful memories. I remember meeting him for the first time during the mahurat. Around 200 journalists were present, and we all were waiting for him to come. Suddenly, the hustle and bustle started. Amit ji walked right through the journalists. I introduced myself and told him that I was playing one of the sons. He mockingly gave me a dirty look saying ‘Hmmm...you are the one’. I said, ‘Yes. I am sorry’ (laughs)! That broke the ice. Then, Hema ji came. I have never seen a prettier woman in my life.

Then we met when we filmed the first scene of the children coming home. My thought process was ‘I am seeing my parents after 3-4 months. Obviously, I am going to give them a hug’. But how do you hug Amit ji and Hema ji? You feel like taking their autograph, not hugging them (laughs)! In the first rehearsal, I tentatively hugged Amit ji but I hesitated to hug Hema ji. I asked Hema ji, ‘If you don't mind, instinctively I feel I should hug you as well



as you are playing my mother. Do you mind?’ She replied, ‘Yes, no problem’. I also told myself, ‘If I keep thinking that they are Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini, I'll never be able to act’.

In between shots, Amit ji would tell us stories about *Sholay* (1975) and other films that he worked on and his

experiences. I feel like he's my father. Whenever I meet him, I touch his feet. He always invites us to the Diwali party at his residence. One of his greatest attributes is that he never makes you feel that he's Amitabh Bachchan. He's always quite relaxed, laughing and joking. He was so enthusiastic.

Hema ji, meanwhile, is grounded and a pleasure to work with. I didn't realize then that I was a part of something so epic. I can't believe I almost said 'No' to this film!

Does Hema Malini know that you named your daughter Ahana after her daughter?

I don't know if I mentioned it to her. I can't remember. I used to conduct pottery classes and Ahana used to come there. I loved the sound of her name. When we were naming our daughter and Neelam said that the name should start with 'A', I said that it has to be Ahana.

What feedback did you get for Baghban?

I have a couple of experiences. My dad saw the film and said, ‘Good that he (Amitabh's character) didn't accept you. You deserved it.’ I replied, ‘Dad, you are taking it personally. We were just acting.’ The strangest thing that happened to me was in a mall, months after the film was released. A lady recognized me. Usually, people come and appreciate my work or click pictures with me. I thought she'd say something nice. Instead, she remarked, ‘You are a very bad son. You should be ashamed of yourself.’ She then just walked away!

My insurance person told me about the impact that *Baghban* had. Suddenly, there was a spike in senior citizens taking insurance for themselves. Normally, they keep insurance for their children. But thanks to *Baghban*, there was an increase in the mindset where senior citizens kept money for themselves thinking, ‘We don't know what these kids are going to do.’

Superspies Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Hrithik Roshan to come together in 'War 2'



Fans of the YRF Spy Universe could see some of the top spies from the Aditya Chopra-created franchise together in *War 2*. As per a report by IndiaToday.in, Ayan Mukerji will bring Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan and Hrithik Roshan together for the first time in *War 2*. As per the portal, Ayan will commence shooting for *War 2* in October. NTR Jr and Kiara Advani will reportedly also feature in *War 2*, which features Hrithik in the lead role.

“The muharat for *War 2* has already happened. Ayan is looking at starting shooting for the film this month itself. While Hrithik Roshan is currently in Italy for *Fighter*, he will soon return to commence shooting for *War 2*. In the meantime, shooting with NTR Jr might begin. Kiara

Advani has also been locked as the female lead for the action-thriller,” a source told the portal.

In *War 2*, Hrithik Roshan's Kabir will reportedly be seen with two more superspies – Salman Khan's Tiger and Shah Rukh Khan's *Pathaan*. The source added, “The film is exciting for several reasons but also because Ayan's directorial will be the first film in the YRF Spy Universe to bring the three megastars together.”

War 2 is a sequel to *War* (2019). Directed by Siddharth Anand, it featured Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff in lead roles with Vaani Kapoor, Ashutosh Rana and Anupriya Goenka playing supporting roles. It broke all opening day and weekend box office records for a Hindi film with its collections, until it was surpassed by Shah Rukh Khan's *Pathaan* (2023).

About the YRF Spy Universe

Backed by Aditya Chopra's Yash Raj Films, the YRF Spy Universe is an Indian shared universe centred on a series of spy action-thrillers, which feature various fictional RAW agents. The next film in the franchise is Salman Khan's *Tiger 3* with Katrina Kaif; it nearing its release date – Diwali 2023. The film will reportedly also have a cameo featuring Shah Rukh Khan's *Pathaan*, who was seen with Salman Khan's Tiger in Siddharth Anand's blockbuster *Pathaan*.

In March this year, *Pathaan*'s writer Sridhar Raghavan had dropped hints about a new action film headlined by the women in the YRF Spy Universe – Deepika Padukone's Rubai in *Pathaan* and Katrina Kaif's Zoya in the Tiger series. In July, it was also reported that Alia Bhatt is the latest actor to join YRF's Spy Universe and will star in a female-led film that will go on floors in 2024.

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Dheeraj Dhoopar on Saubhagyavati Bhava 2: "I've fully immersed myself in each scene"



Dheeraj Dhoopar has made a significant mark in the world of Indian television. With his charming persona and acting prowess, he has captured the hearts of many viewers. Dheeraj is recognized for his versatile roles and is all set to enthral the audience once again with his latest character in the show "Saubhagyavati Bhava: Niyam aur SharteinLaagu." His performances have consistently garnered attention and are eagerly anticipated by fans.

Dheeraj is gearing up for an exciting new role in the show "Saubhagyavati Bhava 2." Ever since the promo was released, there has been a lot of buzz surrounding his character in the series. In an

[Yesha Rughani of 'Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey' fame](#)

'I love the love that I am getting'

Yesha Rughani who plays the leading lady Gungun in Star Plus 'Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey' is having a gala time playing this fun-loving character. Her mannerisms as Gungun have been the talk of the town and she simply loves the appreciation coming in from her fans.

In an exclusive chat with IWMBuzz.com, Yesha talks at length about playing Gungun and much more. Excerpts:

How easy or tough is it for you to get into the skin of Gungun?

It was initially a bit tough. But as I started connecting with her daily, I found a lot of 'me' in her. Hence it has gotten easy for me now. Having said that, I connect with characters very easily; I start living the character while I am performing. So, when I wear her clothes, I am Gungun.

Are you disappointed with the stagnancy in numbers?

Not really. We are slowly and gradually moving up. The feeling is the opposite of disappointment. I am extremely happy with the response I am getting. The new tracks and twists have been appreciated. Also, I would say that I just do my job. The number game is something different. I don't get my head into it. I focus on delivering what I am asked to do.

With Anubhav marrying both Gungun and Akriti, how do you think the story will go now? What can viewers expect?

Yes, there are a lot of problems going on in Anubhav's life with him marrying two girls. I don't know what lies ahead. We get to know the story only while we are performing or a little before that. All I can say is that viewers can expect a lot of

exclusive interview with India Forums, the actor expressed his enthusiasm for the exciting journey ahead, stating, "New beginnings are always exciting. Portraying this character has been incredibly enjoyable, as it's unlike any role I've taken on before. I've fully immersed myself in each scene, striving to embody the essence of the character. The feedback I've received has been fantastic, and it fills me with happiness."

Discussing the character and the upcoming season of the show *Saubhagyavati Bhava: Niyam aur Shartein Laagu*, the actor remarked, "This season marks a departure from its previous season, featuring fresh storylines that delve into contemporary issues. We've adapted to the current digital and social media-driven landscape, crafting a narrative that resonates with the modern age. It's a story and a character that will connect with audiences on a whole new level when they tune in."

Dheeraj Dhoopar is a renowned Indian television actor known for his diverse roles. He began with *Maat Pitaah Ke Chamon Mein Swarg* and appeared in *Behenein*, *Sasural Simar Ka*, and *Kundali Bhagya* for five years. Dheeraj also hosted *Sa Re Ga Ma Pa* and *Dance India Dance 7* briefly. He made cameo appearances in *Naagin 5* and featured in *Sherdil Shergill*. In July 2022, he withdrew from *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa 10* due to health and personal reasons.

drama. It is going to be entertainment, entertainment and more of it (smiles).

What kind of roles interest you?

I don't think there is anything specific. Everyone is different, and it is different to what you are. This in itself is interesting. The roles that I have played till now are very close to my heart.

Looking back at your career graph, what have been your gains as an actor?

I don't know what I have gained as an actor. But as a person, I have learnt how to balance my emotions, emote when needed and not when not needed, how to deal with specific situations, etc. There are so many things that I learn from every show.

How is it to work with Manan Joshi?

Manan is a very fine actor and a wonderful human being. Actually, it is brilliant working with him. He is extremely focussed. We rehearse our scenes, and this focus in him is what makes things so easy. When we are in unison, there is an easy flow of work. I am glad and fortunate that I am working with such a sorted person.

Have you taken in any of the character traits of Gungun after playing it for some time now?

Yes, it does happen that certain traits of the character we play, remain in us even after the cut happens. Gungun is so much like me. The walk, a few words, I really keep that with me. When I go home and behave in the same way, my sister addresses me as Gungun. That's when I understand that I did something similar to Gungun (smiles).

How have the fan reactions been to your role?

I am loving every appreciation that I am getting from everyone around me. I have got to know that someone in my extended family has named their child Gungun (smiles). I love the love that I am getting.



YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

The horizon is calling out to you, which is a sign of adventure. The influence of Jupiter gives you a desire to explore new places and a hunger for new information. It's a good time for cerebral pursuits, even though you could be thinking about going on a trip. Start something new, like a book or a class. Accept the fact that you don't know everything and let your curiosity be your guide.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 1, 20, 23, 25, 30

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

With a sense of responsibility, this week you'll realise that strength is in structure. Saturn, the planet that rules over you, places a strong emphasis on order and routine. It is the perfect moment to make plans for the future, formulate objectives, and organise one's thoughts. Despite the fact that you're recognized for your work ethic, don't forget to schedule in some time for leisure.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 7, 8, 19, 36, 40

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

The influence of Uranus encourages you to think creatively and to question the established order of things. Your ideas, despite the fact that they could be perceived as odd, have the potential to bring about change. Getting together with friends could open doors to fascinating new chances.

Lucky Numbers: 14, 20, 21, 23, 36, 39

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your artistic ability and intuitive perception will improve under the influence of Neptune. Now is the ideal moment to indulge in some creative self-exploration and look for ideas in everyday occurrences. Even while it's healthy to fantasise, it's important not to lose touch with reality. A sincere talk will ease your discomfort and bring clarity to the situation.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 11, 12, 15, 33, 34

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

In spite of the fact that your fiery temperament frequently compels you to rush in without first assessing the situation, the upcoming week requires you to strike a balance between intuition and preparation. An unexpected run-in with someone could provide new perspectives. Prepare yourself for the unexpected and keep in mind that sometimes the most beautiful places can be found by taking the road less travel.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 11, 12, 13, 20

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Your planetary ruler, Venus, encourages you to take care of yourself and to find beauty in the mundane activities of everyday life. Even though one's financial future appears to be bright, it is critical to refrain from making rash purchases. Clarity on a topic that is near and dear to your heart might be gained through a discussion with a close friend or member of your family.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 9, 14, 20, 23

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Under the influence of Mercury, you will feel compelled to communicate openly and freely express your thoughts. However, watch out for situations in which you stretch yourself too thin. Set priorities for the tasks at hand and get assistance whenever you can. It's possible that a dream or a flash of insight will send you in a different course.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 11, 20, 24, 26, 29

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You should be focusing on making relationships. It's the ideal moment to get back in touch with loved ones and fix any relationships that have been strained. Even though your emotions may be running high, make it a point to listen more than you talk. It's possible that you'll stumble onto an unanticipated opportunity in the business world. Put your faith in your gut instinct, but don't be afraid to take some risks.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 10, 15, 16, 19, 20

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Your magnetic personality will captivate people's attention, making this an excellent opportunity for networking and forming new partnerships. Even though you're used to taking the initiative, you'll need to collaborate with your teammates. It's possible that you'll make substantial headway with a personal project or interest. Keep in mind that the trip itself, and not simply the end result, is what truly matters.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 29

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Your ability to concentrate is enhanced by Mercury's influence, which enables you to perform difficult activities with relative ease. However, it is vital to prevent oneself from overthinking by taking rests at regular intervals. A random meeting could result in the formation of a new friendship or business partnership. Embrace the unknown and keep in mind that everyone you encounter has something special to impart to you.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 12, 15, 17, 30, 33

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

When Venus visits your sign, it highlights the need for harmony in personal activities as well as in personal relationships. It is the perfect opportunity to work on finding common ground and building bridges. There is a possibility that an artistic endeavour will require your attention, and your innate sense of beauty will come in handy for this endeavour. Always keep in mind that life is all about giving and taking. Find your centre of gravity.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 17, 20, 29, 30, 31

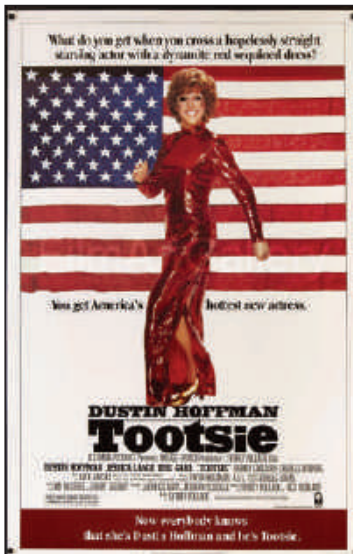
Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

The influence of Pluto inspires people to reflect on themselves and become more self-aware. Even though it's important to face your emotions, you shouldn't let yourself get consumed by them. A revelation that you were not expecting could put your beliefs to the test. Embrace the process of growth and keep in mind that change is the necessary precondition for transformation.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 15, 18, 33, 34



Vendredi 13 octobre - 20.30



Samedi 14 octobre - 20.30



Dimanche 15 octobre - 20.30



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 13 octobre

MBC 1

- 05.32 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 06.01 Serial: Killjoys
- 07.15 Film: Mothers And Daughters
- 09.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 10.00 Tele: Amour Secret
- 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 10.52 Tele: Marimar
- 11.15 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 The Baker And The Beauty
- 15.21 Film: Timecrafters
- 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 20.35 Film: Tootsie
- 22.05 Tele: Barbartia
- 23.30 Le Journal Televisé
- 00.15 Serial: Billions

MBC 2

- 06.25 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 08.51 Konkour Sante Patriotik
- 09.33 Local: Radio Vision
- 10.32 Local: J'ai Faim
- 11.03 Local: Groov'in
- 12.02 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin
- 12.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 14.13 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
- 14.39 Local: J'ai Faim
- 15.08 Local: Generations J
- 15.54 Konkour Sante Patriotik
- 16.44 Local: Aktiv
- 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 18.26 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
- 23.48 Local: Rodrig Prog

MBC 3

- 07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
- 08.00 Local: Amrit Vaani
- 10.00 Serial: Agniphera
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Dil Ne Pukara
Starring: Shashi Kapoor, Sanjay Khan, Rajshree
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhava
- 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein
- 16.44 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: Brijwa
- 23.17 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain

Cine 12

- 06.03 Doc: Smoothie Mania
- 06.45 Mag: Carnet De Sante
- 07.28 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 08.24 Doc: Made In Auschwitz
- 08.57 Doc: Our Friend The Atom
- 10.34 Doc: Does The Lynx Have A Future?
- 11.04 Doc: Smoothie Mania
- 11.55 Doc: Castles
- 12.33 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 13.03 Doc: A Mediterranean...
- 13.29 Doc: Our Friend The Atom
- 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours
- 14.52 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
- 15.06 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti
- 15.30 D.Anime: Les Blagues De Toto
- 15.42 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
- 16.07 D.Anime: Gon
- 16.28 The Adventures Of Puss...
- 16.47 Mag: Recipes For Kids

Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana
- 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.30 Film: Jaanwar
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Karisma Kapoor, Shilpa Shetty, Mohanish Bahl
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.01 Udaariyaan
- 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
- 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 20.30 Radha Krishna
- 21.01 Anupamaa
- 21.30 Mere Sai
- 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
- 22.59 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 23.30 Film: Jaanwar

samedi 14 octobre

- 04.39 Serial: S.W.A.T
- 05.19 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 06.45 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 07.10 Serial: Wanted
- 07.55 Serial: Seal Team
- 08.40 Serial: Hooten & The Lady
- 09.25 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: Albion
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Dance India Dance Little Masters
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Force Of Nature
- 22.09 Serial: Under Pressure
- 22.50 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 Sosiete
- 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: Urban Dance Festival
- 22.04 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
- 23.00 Zournal Kreol
- 23.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 23.56 Local: Saver Kil Tirel
- 00.20 Pran Kont Ou Lasante
- 00.35 Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art
- 01.36 Local: Rodrig - D'jam

- 07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
- 08.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 10.55 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
- 12.02 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 11.59 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 14.08 Taare Zameen Par
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Ramprasad Ki Therhvi
Starring: Naseeruddin Shah, Vinay Pathak, Vikrant Massey
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.29 Local: Satrangi
- 18.52 Duniya Mein Is Saptah
- 19.17 Local: Khoobsurat
- 19.29 Local: Ayush
- 20.49 Film: Tevar
Starring: Arjun Kapoor, Sonakshi Sinha, Manoj Bajpayee
- 22.28 Local: Satrangi
- 22.58 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptan

- 06.31 D.Anime: Fast And Furious
- 07.04 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 09.51 Serial: Creeped Out
- 10.15 Serial: Hank Zipzer
- 10.45 Doc: Smoothie Mania
- 13.29 Doc: Junk Food
- 14.12 Mag: Shift
- 15.06 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti
- 15.08 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little...
- 15.19 D.Anime: Les Blagues De Toto
- 15.42 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
- 16.07 D.Anime: Gon
- 16.29 The Adventures Of Puss
- 16.48 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 16.54 Mag: Sand Tales
- 17.15 Doc: World Capitals
- 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
- 21.40 Film: Never Stop Never Stop...

- 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: 99 Songs
Starring: Ehan Bhat, Edilsy Vargas, Tenzing Dalha
- 21.02 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 20.49 Serial: Porus
- 21.12 Naagin Season 05
- 21.52 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey

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- 03.35 Film: Popstar
- 04.54 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
- 06.15 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 06.35 Film: Force Of Nature
- 08.20 Serial: Imposters
- 09.05 Film: Albion
- 10.50 Serial: Falling Water
- 11.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.40 Film: L'Homme De La Plaine
- 14.15 Serial: Scorpion
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.25 Film: Revolt
- 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: Avalon
- 22.32 Serial: Under Pressure

- 06.00 Rodrig: D'Jam
- 06.26 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou
- 06.45 Local: Aktiv
- 07.33 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante
- 09.30 En Direct De Ste Croix
- 11.06 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.00 Local: Rodrig Prog
- 13.11 Local: Urban Dance Festival
- 14.11 Local Prod: Elle
- 15.03 Local: Pause Cuisine
- 17.19 Local: Aktiv
- 18.00 Serial: The Equalizer
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.33 Local: Elle
- 20.00 Local: Tita Tita Nu Avance
- 20.45 Local Production
- 21.37 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.20 Local: Arsiv MBC - Fer Roule
- 23.46 Local: Nu Rasinn

- 07.10 Serial: Tik Tak Tail
- 09.00 Duniya Mein Is Saptah
- 12.02 Film: Kasma Vaade
- 14.59 Live: Samachar
- 15.22 Other: Radha Krishna
- 15.45 Local: MBC Prod
- 16.45 Local: Ekta
- 17.45 Local: Navratri Sandesh
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.29 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi
- 19.13 Local: Tohar Farmaish
- 20.00 Local: Yaadein
- 20.30 Serial: Porus
- 21.01 Serial: Crime Patrol
- 21.43 Serial: Naagin Season 4
- 22.26 Serial: Bahubali
- 23.10 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
- 00.04 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 00.30 Local: Tohar Rashi

- 06.56 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
- 07.16 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
- 09.23 D.Anime: Miraculous
- 10.25 Serial: Hank Zipzer
- 11.00 Doc: Foodland
- 11.29 Mag: In Good Shape
- 12.00 Doc: Antarctique Printemps...
- 13.41 Doc: Marvel
- 14.49 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte
- 15.02 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti
- 15.19 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
- 15.42 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
- 16.07 D.Anime: Gon
- 16.27 The Adventures Of Puss...
- 16.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 17.10 Doc: World Captials
- 18.26 Foodland: Veggie Feasts
- 18.35 Doc: Iran From Above
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 21.42 Film: Killing Lionel

- 00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 02.05 Udaariyaan
- 04.00 Anupamaa
- 06.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise...
- 08.00 Tenali Rama
- 08.12 Patiala Babes
- 10.16 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 13.06 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 15.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 18.32 Film: Nayee Padosan
Starring: Vikas Kalantri, Anuj Sawhney and Aslam Khan
- 20.42 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 20.56 Serial: Naagin Season
- 21.42 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 23.29 Serial: Patiala Babes
- 01.39 Serial: Kundali Bhagya

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- 06.07 Serial: Killjoys
- 07.05 Film: Damsel
- 08.55 Serial: The Equalizer
- 09.40 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: Avalon
- 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.25 Serial: Wanted
- 21.15 Serial: Seal Team
- 22.00 Serial: Hooten & The Lady

- 07.12 Local: Tita Tita Nu Avance
- 09.42 Local: Elle
- 10.27 Local: Le Challenge
- 11.32 Local Prod: Komanter
- 12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 13.07 La Journee Sous Legard...
- 13.56 Local: Elle
- 14.26 Local: Clin D'oeil
- 15.00 Local: Tita Tita Nu Avance
- 15.30 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 16.38 Local: Le Challenge
- 17.00 Local: Radio Vision
- 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 20.00 Local: Proze Dime
- 21.19 Local: Radio Vision
- 22.18 Local: Lir - Ekri Kreol
- 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Zournal Kreol

- 05.00 Programme From Aastha Tv
- 07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
- 07.31 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi
- 08.00 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 08.26 Local: Tohar Farmaish
- 09.31 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 09.58 Serial: Bahubali
- 10.38 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
- 11.35 Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi
Kishore Kumar
- 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhava
- 16.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.35 Ved Ki Shikshayen
- 19.04 Local: Ayush
- 19.30 Excerpts From Durga Pooja
- 20.15 Local: Vaad Vivaad
- 20.40 Film: Ek Mahal Sapnon Ka
- 23:03 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 23:30 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

- 06.02 Doc: Planet Home
- 08.00 Doc: Persons
- 09.28 Doc: China's Arctic Ambition
- 10.53 Doc: Beneath The Waves
- 11.50 Doc: Foodland
- 11.57 Doc: Guess Where We Eat...
- 12.53 Doc: Persons
- 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours
- 14.51 D.Anime: L'heure Du Conte
- 15.05 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti
- 15.08 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little
- 15.19 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...
- 15.42 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
- 16.07 D.Anime: Gon
- 16.29 The Adventures Of Puss In...
- 16.49 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 19.02 Student Support Programme
- 19.32 Mag: In Good Shape
- 21.41 Film: Boyne Falls
- 23.10 Mag: Tomorrow Today

- 14.25 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar..
- 15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.30 Film: Bhabhi
Starring: Govinda, Bhanupriya, Juhi Chawla
- 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: Bhabhi
Starring: Govinda, Bhanupriya, Juhi Chawla



Mardi 17 octobre - 20.30



Mercredi 18 octobre - 21.15



Mercredi 18 octobre - 15.30



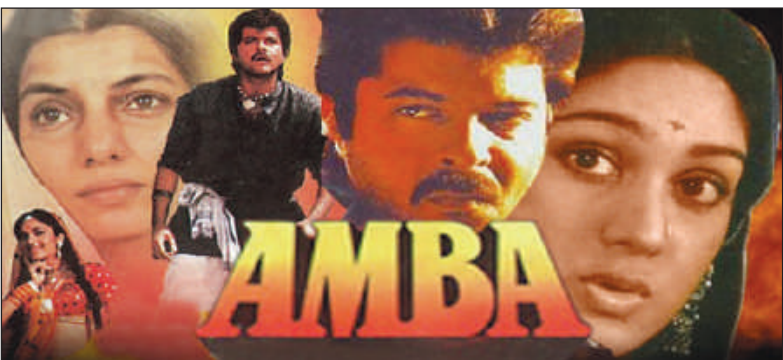
Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 17 octobre	04.45 Tele: Amour Secret 05.08 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 07.15 Serial: Wanted 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: For Life 15.25 Film: L'Homme De La Plaine 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: Extreme Limit Avec: Kevin Quinn, Claudia Lee...	07.16 Local: Business Connect 09.28 Local: Radio Vision 10.22 Local: Ekriir Korel 11.07 Local: Le Rendez Vous 12.07 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 13.06 Local: Business Connect 13.40 Local: Tous Egaux 13.42 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol 15.29 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif 16.00 Le Rendez Vous Avec... 17.09 Local: Radio Vision 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.34 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi... 19.48 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.03 Local: Dubreuil Fete Ganesh 21.33 Local: Radio Vision 22.23 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol	05.00 Programme From Aastha Tv 07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 09.03 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 10.03 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Film: Aap Aye Bahaar Ayee 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.30 Badki Malkaain 16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 17.45 Navratri Sandesh 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.35 Bhojpuri Dhamaka 19.05 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 19.31 Excerpts - Durga Pooja 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.30 Film: Aulad 23.07 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.30 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 00.20 Bhojpuri Dhamaka 00.57 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 01.26 Excerpts - Durga Pooja 02.25 Serial: Badki Malkaain	06.03 Doc: Smoothie Mania 08.48 Mag: Business Africa 09.18 Mag: Euromaxx 10.26 Doc: Naples Under The Vol... 11.15 Mag: Rev 13.10 Doc: Lost Edens 14.00 Mag: Business Africa 14.50 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.06 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little 15.17 D.Anime: Les Blagues De... 16.17 D.Anime: Gon 16.28 D.Anime: The Adventures Of... 16.51 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.15 Doc: World Capitals 17.22 Doc: Naples Under The Vol... 18.05 Mag: Motorweek 18.31 Mag: Vous Et Nous 19.31 Mag: The Inside Story 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.30 Film: Ekkees Tareekh Shubh Muhurat Starring Sanjay Mishra, Brijendra Kala 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 21.30 Mere Sai 22.08 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 23.30 Film: Ekkees Tareekh Shubh Muhurat Starring Sanjay Mishra, Brijendra Kala 01.58 Kundali Bhagya
mercredi 18 octobre	04.30 Tele: Amour Secret 05.08 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 08.50 Serial: The Equalizer 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.28 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: Marimar 11.15 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: The Equalizer 15.21 Film: Extreme Limit 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: Nobel Son Avec: Alan Rickman, Bryan Greenberg	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 Dubreuil Fete Ganesh 15.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 15.52 Local: Gwar Dantan 16.19 Local: Mots & Ecrits 17.08 Local: Music Tour 2022 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.28 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Local: Mangeons Veg 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.45 Local: En Forme 22.18 Local: Agir Ensemble 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Come On Let's Dance 00.12 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La	05.00 Programme From Aastha Tv 07.00 Coming Up 2023 08.26 Excerpts - Durga Pooja 09.48 Coming Up 2023 10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 11.29 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Do Dil - Hindi Film 15.00 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.01 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 17.45 Navratri Sandesh 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Navratri 2023 19.00 Virasat - Ehelepola Tomb 19.15 Gyan Vigyan: Knowledge & Science 19.30 Excerpts - Durga Pooja 20.02 Local: Virasat 20.30 B. Film: Hum Hai Dharam Yodha 23.51 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 02.22 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...	06.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 08.00 Doc: Hotels 09.24 Mag: Washington Forum 11.22 Doc: Smoothie Mania 11.51 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.53 Mag: In Good Shape 14.11 Mag: Shift 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours 14.51 D.Anime: L'heure Du Conte 15.04 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 16.06 D.Anime: Gon 16.51 Mag: Recipes For Kids 16.54 Serial: My Perfect Landing 17.15 Doc: World Capitals 18.00 Doc: Smoothie Mania 18.08 Mag: Rev 18.34 Mag: Healthy Living 18.58 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Mag: Global US 20.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow	14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.30 Film: Sangram Starring: Ajay Devgn, Ayesha Jhulka, Karishma Kapoor, Amrith Puri 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.06 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: Sangram Starring: Ajay Devgn, Ayesha Jhulka, Karishma Kapoor, Amrith Puri 02.09 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
jeudi 19 octobre	04.52 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: For Life 15.25 Film: Force Of Nature 17.18 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.30 Film: Will You Marry Me Starring :Shreyas Talpade ,Rajeev Khandelwal, Tripta Parashar, Mugdha Godse, Celina Jaitley, Muzamil Ibrahim	07.45 Local: Agir Ensemble 09.01 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.00 Local Prod: Happy Singers 12.03 Local: Rodrig Spor 13.05 Local: Toc Toc Doc 13.12 Local: En Forme 14.03 Local: Mangeons Veg 15.19 Local: Proze Dime 15.46 Come On Let's Dance 16.43 Local: Aktiv 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.31 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol 19.20 Le Mag De L'Emploi 19.25 Local: Mangeons Veg 20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Emotion En Avant Plan 21.00 Local Radio Vision 23.00 Le Journal 23.20 Local: Groov'in	05.00 Programme From Aastha Tv 07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 07.31 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi 08.00 Navratri 2023 08.39 Knowledge & Science 08.54 Excerpts - Durga Pooja 09.46 Radha Krishna 10.00 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Aashiq Hoon Baharon Ka - Rajesh Khanna 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 16.00 Serial: Agniphera 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Amrit Vaani 18.41 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.01 Hunarbaaz 19.27 Excerpts - Durga Pooja 20.27 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi 22.15 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa	06.03 Doc: Smoothie Mania 07.31 Mag: The Inside Story 09.29 Doc: World Heritage 10.33 Doc: The Never Ending... 11.17 Mag: Motorweek 11.43 Mag: Vous Et Nous 13.18 Doc: Goods To Paradise 14.01 Mag: Close Up 14.51 Serial: L'heure Du Contre 15.08 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 15.19 Les Blagues De Toto 16.21 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.02 D.Anime: Gon 16.24 D.Anime: The Adventure Of... 16.47 Mag: Recipes For Kids 16.53 Serial: My Perfect Landing 18.30 Mag: Shift 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 21.42 Film: In A Valley Of Violence	14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.28 Film: Ambaa Stars: Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri 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 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Amba Stars: Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri 02.04 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Serial: Udaariyaan

BoTV Jeudi 19 octobre - 15.28 Stars: Anil Kapoor, Meenakshi Seshadri

MBC 1 Jeudi 19 octobre - 20.30 Stars: Shreyas Talpade ,Rajeev Khandelwal, Tripta Parashar, Mugdha Godse, Celina Jaitley, Muzamil Ibrahim



Inspiring Women Role Models

May there be other Kariko, Marwaai and Karwa to inspire men and women to be resilient and never give up their dreams



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Right now, the world is full of sound and fury, the international arena is a battlefield of rival world powers vying for influence and space, Mother Earth is overburdened and exhausted from pressures on her capacity to house and feed everyone. Earthquakes take thousands of lives within a few minutes, fires run wild like hell, floods unleash unbelievable volumes of water while scorched land

runs dry from severe droughts, and cracks in African lands show signs of splitting the continent in two and likely to drift apart in the ocean.

Indonesia has taken care to build another capital outside the mainland since Jakarta has been sinking for years. Tiny Maldives is threatening to oust Indian military presence from its soil in a muscle-flexing bid no matter when the island is going to disappear in the Indian Ocean, and part of Mumbai may yield to the raging waters of the Arabian Sea in years to come. To top it all, medical experts are raising warnings of a deadlier virus than Covid-19 and are gearing up to counter Disease X.

Move on with our business as usual and look for stability in an unstable world and positive news around the world.

The Nobel Prize in medicine goes to Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman for their work in enabling the development of mRNA vaccine at the University of Pennsylvania. They did their best to come out with a vaccine not for money and award but for interest in science and out of curiosity to break frontiers on the path of progress. The US remains the best place for bright and ambitious people to carry out research and further progress in key fields of technology and science. This is what Kariko from Hungary did. It is more than one century now that the United States smartly set itself the mission to draw the best brains from around the world and realized all the benefits and prestige it can reap from the tremendous progress that has been achieved on its territory. The launching and landing of space shuttle Perseverance was supervised by a woman scientist of Indian origin a few years back in the US.

How a book can change the life of a person and bring about changes in society is the glaring example of Nouf Marwaai. She is the first Saudi Yoga Acharya in Saudi Arabia. She was afflicted



Yoga became a tool to beat cancer for Saudi Arabia's Nouf Marwaai. Pic - Al Arabiyat

with lupus disease since childhood and had to drop out of high school. Her father, an official in a Saudi ministry, came back from a trip abroad with a book on yoga. The book sparked off a deep curiosity in yoga, and Nouf Marwaai started practising the asanas in 1998. She went to India to study yoga and its philosophy.

Yoga changed her life and her health completely. She graduated in clinical psychology in Saudi Arabia and managed to use both disciplines

in her endeavour to share her experience with fellow compatriots. Nouf Marwaai approached the authorities to gain recognition for the teaching of yoga, and she created the first Arab Foundation of Yoga in her country after people started coming up to her for yoga classes.

In 2014 she developed breast cancer, avoided chemotherapy, and went to India to have the tumor removed. She raises awareness on the benefits of Pranayama. Till now the number of practitioners has shot up to 10,000 and she has trained 700 yoga teachers all over the kingdom, in Ryad, Jeddah and Mecca.

What a feat! Just imagine what changes she is bringing to her

country. No wonder she received the Padma Shree Award from the Indian government recently and is invited at events in Delhi. Note that the Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman introduced the teachings of Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita, Ayurveda and Yoga in the education system in the kingdom four years ago. Serenity and peace emanate from Nouf Marwaai's speech in fluent English with an unmistakable clarity of thought.

Who is Maleesha Karwa? A girl straight from *Slumdog Millionaire*, you would first think. Indeed, she is

from Dharavi slum where she lived in a hut with her parents and siblings. She has a from-rags-to-riches story. Far from being a product of 'Fair and Lovely', Maleesha has brown skin, fine features as those of *apsaras* featured on temples' façades and is endowed with gorgeous beauty. Who discovered that she is stunningly beautiful? Of course, she knew it from childhood and dreamt of becoming a model at the age of five. No Indian put her in the limelight.

Mainstream Indian society does not find beauty in brown skin, we all know the colour and caste biases. American actor Robert Hoffman was struck by her beauty when she was nine and had her play in a clip which went viral. Since then, the sky is the limit for Maleesha. An Indian modelling agency approached her and now she is on every cover of fashion magazines and has become the face of luxury brand 'Forest Essentials' at the age of 14.

Let's hope that she does not step in Bollywood and meet the fate of Suswant Sing Rajput, a promising outsider to the mafia reigning there for decades. She consults her parents for their approval, the parents consult the grandparents, and Maleesha has her way on condition that education is a key factor for her way out, and she has to stick to it.

At 14, her English is fluent and clear, and she has a most beautiful smile when she speaks with such authenticity, innocence, and warmth. How her English contrasts sharply with what we hear from the awful pronunciation and accent of some Indian TV anchors, who look more like Spaniards and Portuguese than Indians, is mind-boggling. Dream big and aim high is Maleesha's motto. What a girl!

May there be other Kariko, Marwaai and Karwa to inspire men and women to be resilient and never give up their dreams.



Katalin Kariko, Drew Weissman receive Nobel Prize in Medicine. Pic - Nextbigwhat



14-year-old Maleesha Kharwa from Mumbai slum becomes face of luxury beauty brand. Pic - The Tribune India



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Spoiling Our Children

Spoiling our children with new things stems from our feeling of lack in our own childhood.

One of the greatest things about children is that they have the ability to entertain themselves for long periods of time with something as simple as a cardboard box, a container, or a set of measuring spoons. It makes you wonder why we feel the need to buy them so many toys that they won't even have time to play with them all before they grow out of them. Often, if we take the time to question our compulsion to constantly give our children new toys and clothes, and to spoil them with food that is not even good for them, we will find that we are trying to fill up the space to avoid our own difficult feelings and pain. If you feel yourself wanting to spoil your child with material possessions, take a moment and see if you can feel where your motivation is coming from.

We may be inundating our children with things they don't need out of our own desire to create a feeling of abundance that was lacking in our own childhood, or out of a need to feel liked by our children. Both of these motives tend to be unconscious, stemming from unresolved issues from our own upbringing or even our adult life. These unresolved feelings naturally come up when we find ourselves in the role of a parent, often as our child reaches the age we were when these traumas were most pronounced. Spoiling your children will not save you or make your pain disappear, only acknowledging and working on your emotional issues can do that. What our children really need us to provide for them is both a sense of safety and a sense of freedom and love of which there can never be too much. If we are able to do this well, material possessions need not take center stage.

We all want to provide our children with a good and happy life, but most of us know deep down that material possessions play a very small role. We confuse our children when we seek to make them happy through buying them things. When we do this, they take our cue that happiness comes in the form of toys and treats, rather than in the joy of being alive, surrounded by love, and free to explore the world.