

MAURITIUS TIMES

• All war is a symptom of man's failure as a thinking animal. -- John Steinbeck

Interview: Lindsay Rivière

“Le MSM et Pravind Jugnauth vont devoir se battre farouchement pour conserver le pouvoir en 2024-25”

‘L’Opposition doit être incarnée non seulement par le trio Ramgoolam-Bérenger-Duval... La nation doit sentir et voir une armée politicienne de l’Opposition solide en marche’



P10

Politics

Fighting the ‘System’



Sada Reddi P 3

Breakfast with Bwana

Dysfunctional geopolitical disorder resets after the Hamas attack

ISRAEL AT WAR



Anil Madan P 6

Eclairages

Troubles à la Citadelle



A. Bartleby P 4

Opinion

Peace: Lasting if not everlasting! MIDDLE EAST CRISIS



TP Saran P 7

Harmonious Coexistence

Some recent events in the country and the way the authorities have reacted to them or failed to react, in particular to the disturbance at the Citadelle last Saturday in Port Louis – where a group of hooded persons forced their way past security and entered the hall, prevented a singer from performing a number they objected to, and ordered the audience to evacuate, should call into serious questioning the principle of rule-of-law. Irrespective of their political affiliations or communal belonging, if the citizens of this country do not feel protected by a uniform and strict application of the rule of law, then there will be little confidence left on which to do business in general and in the future prospect of harmonious coexistence that has allowed the country to grow and prosper.

We have seen the troubled background against which elections are usually held in so many places in Africa and elsewhere. In Haiti, mob violence has been a recurrent feature: departures from universal norms of good governance have been the rule rather than the exception. The consequent anarchy has compromised the country's future and made it one of the poorest nations on earth – and the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. We are far from that situation in Mauritius, but our credentials as a rule-of-law country should not be allowed to be undermined by the absence of sound decisions by those who have been entrusted with the execution of official duties. There is a serious risk that any distraction from our main national concerns towards issues that may not be relevant to the local context, or imported from foreign shores, will result in a loss of focus on what really matters for the continued progress of the country. The law and order situation should therefore be impeccable and rigorously maintained.

It would be well to remember that research conducted in different societies afflicted by conflicts and tensions indicates that it takes only a small group of trouble makers to challenge the established order, and disturb or indeed to nullify all that has been laboriously built up by all citizens over several decades. Without going into alarmist conjectures, what happened at the Citadelle last week appears to form part of a persisting mindset of intolerance towards what is perceived to go counter to established beliefs in some quarters. The democratic right to free expression, as enshrined in our Constitution, must not be denied to any party, as long as this freedom is not stretched into a licence to say or do anything. Hence the need for a strict regulation so as to curb such a tendency. In the same breath, it would be appropriate to call upon the authorities to enforce vigilance over social media platforms that have a very far outreach, in a bid to prevent excess and provocation. All this forms part of the broader law and order situation that must at all times be secured.

It bears repeating that there is a broad consensus among all our citizens that nobody wants a disturbance of the comfort of peaceful living that is allowing us to prepare for a safe and sound future for our children. We are a mature society that has come to accept that social harmony is an absolute must, and we realise that we sink or swim together – after all, we have nowhere else to go.

The opportunities for that kind of future are shaping up and neither the authorities should, nor the citizens will allow them to be undermined by forces based on prejudices and reflexes that belong to another age and time, and which have no place in our forward-looking scheme of things.

Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah - Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah / Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee

This epaper has been produced with the assistance of

Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy

Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis

Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313



mtimes@intnet.mu



www.mauritiustimes.com



facebook.com/mauritius.times

The Conversation

Remember the climate map from your school atlas? Here's what climate change is doing to it

For some countries, climate change has already pushed most of their territory into a different climate zone. Research shows what's already happened – and what's yet to come

You probably saw a multi-coloured climate map at least once in school. You might have pored over it, fascinated. Was Antarctica really a cold desert? And why was so much of Russia listed as tundra?

Almost always, those maps were based on the climate classification system proposed by Wladimir Köppen. The colours are chosen to suit our imagination: Australia with its red desert centre, surrounded by a yellow or orange semi-arid fringe and more lush green climates along many coastlines and hinterland.

But these maps were made for a climate that doesn't exist anymore. Our new research shows just how fast climate change has altered these maps – and how they will continue to change.

Our web app lets you see for yourself for any country in the world and for different emission scenarios. For Australia, you can watch the hot desert area expand and the temperate areas shrink.

The climate map of the future assumes nations meet their climate goals. It could be far worse. Or it could be better, if we finally treat climate change with the urgency it needs.

Around 1900, he proposed the influential climate classification system which now bears his name alongside his collaborator, Rudolf Geiger. It remains by far the most used classification system, as it combines different aspects of climate data into types of landscapes and vegetation types, we can actually picture, from rainforests, savannahs and deserts to temperate and boreal forests, tundras, glaciers and ice sheets.

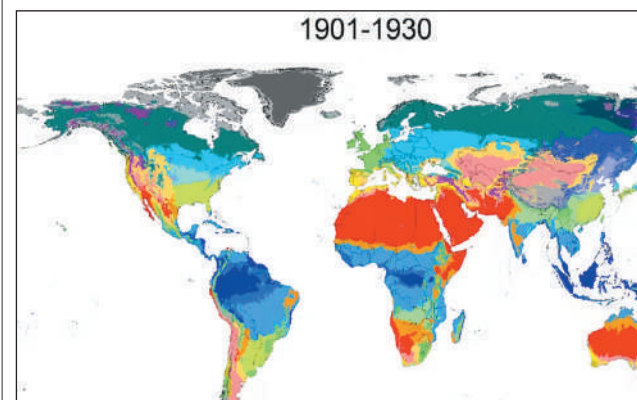
The Köppen-Geiger classification has five major climate classes: tropical, dry, temperate, cold and polar. These are divided into 30 subclasses based on the amount of rain and temperatures in summer and winter.

You might think it would be relatively straightforward to figure out if climate change has pushed a region into a new classification. Add the recorded global warming of 1.2°C so far and see if that changes anything.

Alas, it's not that simple. This is because climate change can have weird regional effects. We're getting much more rain in some areas, and much less in others. Some regions are warming faster than the global average and others are warming slower.

Climate models predict there will continue to be such differences. Plus, a degree of warming will have a greater impact at the edge of a glacier than in the Sahara.

To find out what will happen, we analysed vast databases of past weather observations and future climate projections under different socio-economic and emission pathways to redraw the Köppen map.



This map gives you a snapshot of the changes to the Köppen zones over the past century and the remainder of this one. Albert van Dijk, CC BY-ND

How do you classify a climate?

Köppen was a 19th century Russian botanist who later retrained in meteorology. Over his career, he combined both interests, becoming fascinated by the relationship between climate and types of vegetation.

Albert Van Dijk, Professor, Water and Landscape Dynamics, and Pablo Rozas Larraondo - Australian National University & Hylke Beck, Assistant Professor, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology

● Cont. on page 14



Sada Reddi

Fighting the 'System'

We may all agree that the 'system' remains a major obstacle in the path of progress, yet one should not despair; our history is but a continuous conquest of rights and freedoms

Many people crying for change in various areas to improve living and working conditions have reached the conclusion that the 'system' is the major barrier to (positive) change in this country. Whether they are discussing politics, public policies and any other issue, the diagnosis is the same. Often it is with a feeling of despair that they articulate their grievances and the same tune echoes in everyone's ears. This is true for Mauritius as for any other country. It is a problem which has been debated for centuries and is captured in the eternal debate between reformism and revolution and variations on the same theme.

We may all agree that the 'system' remains a major obstacle in the path of progress, yet one should not despair of improving our society. History provides us with the reassurance that people have employed various strategies to improve society; our history is but a continuous conquest of rights and freedoms — though we should guard against seeing progress as something linear or inevitable.

Two broad strategies have been employed to fight the 'system', one from outside which bypasses the system; others have fought it from inside, that is by making oneself the agent of change and securing incremental positive changes, however small they might have been but eventually proved to be of great significance in the long run.

Take the case of private tuition in primary schools. There are some parents who refuse to provide for private tuition for their children for a number of reasons; there are others who can afford to simply opt for private schools. While the majority will accept private tuition somewhat grudgingly even if they are aware of its limited educational value, they have employed various strategies to nullify its baneful effects.

Some parents will ensure that after tuition, from 5 to 8 o'clock, their children get the opportunity to enjoy and relax by doing some sports or some reading for pleasure, watching television, and thereafter to focus either on school work or tuition work after arrangement with their teachers. Most of Saturdays and Sundays are reserved for leisure activities and there is no question of two private tuitions.

This is just one of the many strategies which can and have been used to fight the 'system'.

A brick wall of indifference

The identification of the 'system' as an obstacle to progress is not confined to education. It is equally relevant in every walk of life whenever one seeks to improve society or an organisation. Many people are repeatedly telling us that whenever they seek to fight corruption, nepotism, malpractices, environmental degradation, arbitrary power, traffic problems and injustices of every kind, they come up against a brick wall of indifference, bureaucratic incompetence, institutional inertia, sheer vested interests, government incompetence or public apathy.

Not only do they blame the authorities of the day for the various ills that affect them in their daily lives, the blame is also shifted to government as it is viewed increasingly as a "cash and carry" government.

Whatever the issue, which is likely to become a major

preoccupation of the people, there will always exist various ways to fight these ills both from inside and outside. In Afghanistan, policemen living in very remote areas used to receive their salaries through several intermediaries, and a cut was deducted from the salaries throughout the process at the level of each intermediary. What the policeman pocketed at the end of the month was but a fraction of his salary.

Recently technology has altogether removed the corrupt practice — his full salary, which comes to a huge amount, much to the surprise of the police officer himself, is henceforth credited directly into his bank account through mobile payment. What police officers initially took to be a huge salary increase was in fact their normal salary. Similarly, the Aadhar Card, a unique identification card, has been introduced in India to rid the system of corruption, and to give every citizen a proof of identity — something many poor and marginalized in the country lacked. In both cases technology has been used to eliminate corruption. Other strategies include protest of various kinds, which over the years have yielded positive results even when they were not entirely successful.

Every day we hear of multiple protests of various kinds against the encroachment on public beaches, pollution of rivers and the seas, illegal constructions, nuisance caused by lorries running along narrow roads destroying the peace of villagers and putting their lives at risk. Where the authorities are incompetent, they simply turn a deaf ear for they lack the ability to come up with appropriate solutions.

In other cases some civil servants or concerned officers, who have a sense of duty and service, will use their

“Yet one should not despair of fighting the system. Whenever we are confronted with any system which is inimical to the public good, we have always resorted to various strategies to put pressure for change — some successful, some less — but people have never given up on their principles or convictions. Ecological movements maintain pressure against those who grab public beaches at the expense of the public, people have united to stand against a few irresponsible citizens who want to put the nation at risk...”



“We may all agree that the 'system' remains a major obstacle in the path of progress, yet one should not despair of improving our society. History provides us with the reassurance that people have employed various strategies to improve society; our history is but a continuous conquest of rights and freedoms — though we should guard against seeing progress as something linear or inevitable”

resourcefulness to find an acceptable solution. For example, where traffic poses a problem to a school, they simply put up a road sign banning traffic during certain hours, or when lorries become a nuisance, similar action is taken. Small solutions can provide and prove to be durable solutions to what are perceived as insuperable problems.

Two examples recently show how inefficiency and indifference to the welfare of the public can have disastrous consequences. The disturbances at a concert at the Citadelle is a glaring example of failure of intelligence officers in the police force to preempt a situation which could have proved catastrophic for the country, for a small band of people could have easily destroyed our social harmony.

A second example is the decision to build a dormitory for 400 workers and some social houses in the catchment area, near the rivulets and river in Hermitage which flow in the main river feeding the Bagatelle Dam. The authorities do not seem to care that the Bagatelle Dam supplies drinking water to citizens in lower Quatre Bornes, Beau-Bassin, Rose Hill and Port-Louis. The Vacoas-Phoenix Municipality knows quite well that the land in Hermitage is impermeable and all the sewage will flow into the river and pollute the water in Bagatelle Dam. In response to the protest of concerned citizens, it has simply shifted its responsibility to the Ministry of Health and other departments. While nobody is against social housing, a little concern for public health would have simply moved the houses and the dormitory a few hundred yards along the new Hermitage Road towards Wooton where lands are available. The authorities would wait for a disaster to occur, then pass the buck and resort to fire-fighting.

● Cont. on page 12

Troubles à la Citadelle

Par A. Bartleby



Y a-t-il à Maurice des groupes radicaux qui pourraient passer à l'action ? Au regard des capacités des dispositifs de la sécurité intérieure et des services de renseignements, on aurait tendance à dire que non... P - Defi Media

Les faits se sont déroulés le samedi 21 octobre dernier. Plusieurs individus cagoulés se sont introduits dans l'enceinte de la Citadelle alors que s'y déroulait un concert pour célébrer les 15 années du groupe hôtelier Attitude. Ces individus se sont mis à pousser des cris hostiles avec pour objectif premier d'interrompre le concert.

La force policière et les agents engagés pour la sécurisation des lieux ont heureusement réussi à évacuer la foule présente sans provoquer un mouvement aux effets dramatiques. Il n'y a heureusement pas eu de blessés et les dommages relèvent surtout de l'ordre matériel sonore et musical. Cela étant dit, cet incident a de quoi inquiéter.

Le terrorisme, tel que pratiqué par certaines organisations à l'étranger, est une méthode dont l'objectif est de réaliser des opérations de terreur sur les populations civiles afin de faire plier les décideurs politiques. En sommes-nous arrivés là? Est-ce que c'était là l'objectif des assaillants de samedi? Est-ce que c'était l'événement organisé par le groupe Attitude qui était visé? Nous devrions attendre les conclusions de l'enquête policière pour en savoir plus.

Toutefois, il y a eu une succession d'événements qui ont apporté de l'eau au moulin des fauteurs de trouble depuis quelques semaines: la légalisation de la sodomie, la marche des fiertés organisée à Rose-Hill et la guerre à Gaza.

Au lieu de tempérer les choses, certains politiciens n'ont eu de cesse de mettre de l'huile sur le feu afin d'avancer leurs intérêts politiques. Ainsi nous n'assistons pas uniquement à l'importation d'enjeux qui n'ont rien à voir avec Maurice, mais il y a également ce qui ressemble grandement à une tentative politique d'alimenter un sentiment de victimisation, cultivé dans certains milieux. En d'autres termes, la question consiste à savoir si nous sommes en face d'une tentative de déstabilisation du pays par certains intérêts politiques et autres.

Il n'y a là rien de nouveau. L'histoire politique mauricienne est parsemée de moments similaires. Dans les années 1990, les événements de l'Amicale et la cavale de l'escadron de la mort avaient démontré à tout le pays que certains individus s'étaient radicalisés. Plus récemment, la marche des fiertés qui devait se tenir à la Place d'Armes avait été bloquée par une contre-manifestation. La police

avait calmé la foule avant de procéder à des arrestations les jours suivant cette contre-manifestation, tout comme elle le fait depuis samedi dernier.

Y a-t-il à Maurice des groupes radicaux qui pourraient passer à l'action? Au regard des capacités des dispositifs de la sécurité intérieure et des services de renseignements, on aurait tendance à dire que non. Toutefois, cela ne signifie pas que le système est parfaitement étanche, ce qui nous amène à nous poser certaines questions.

- Comment se fait-il qu'un petit groupe d'individus a pu arrêter un concert samedi dernier?
- La police était-elle au courant mais n'a pas agi en conséquence?
- La police, a-t-elle été prise au dépourvu?
- Ou bien encore a-t-elle appliqué le même *modus operandi* que lors de la contre-manifestation à la Place d'Armes, c'est-à-dire qu'elle n'a pris aucun risque qui aurait pu produire une escalade et un dérapage de la situation avant de passer à l'action avec des arrestations et des poursuites?

Ce qui est certain, c'est que les théories complotistes fument sur les réseaux sociaux, certains «intellectuels» de Facebook n'hésitant pas à affirmer que c'est le gouvernement qui se trouve derrière les événements de samedi afin de produire une situation de bascule politique.

Il faut avouer que l'apparition de l'attaché de presse d'un ministre dans l'enquête policière a forcément apporté de l'eau à ce moulin. Pourtant, il est innocent jusqu'à preuve du contraire, à savoir, son éventuelle implication dans cet événement. Pour l'instant, il a simplement été entendu en tant que témoin présent sur les lieux ce jour-là. Du coup, il est essentiel que la police fasse la lumière sur sa présence et interroge toutes les personnes concernées.

Concentrons-nous pour l'instant sur le recadrage du débat. Politiser de tels événements est extrêmement dangereux puisque cela produit un shift du focus et détourne les regards. Encourager des radicaux ou les utiliser à des fins politiques : cela implique que ces radicaux existent et qu'ils sont capables d'agir. Ce sont donc eux qui doivent, en premier lieu, être la cible des patriotes et des démocrates, et une réponse nationale forte doit être envoyée à leur rencontre.

Quelle posture donc adopter?

Déjà, nous devons être clairs sur le fait que la question palestinienne, par-delà la dimension humanitaire et la solidarité certaines aux victimes civiles, ne doit absolument pas devenir une variable d'ajustement politique à Maurice. Nous devons même absolument rejeter cela en affirmant constamment la position de la République de Maurice, telle qu'elle a été rappelée dans le communiqué du ministère des Affaires étrangères il y a quelques jours.

Ensuite, nous devons absolument empêcher la censure de l'espace public. Des lieux comme la Place d'Armes ou la Citadelle sont des lieux publics qui appartiennent à la nation mauricienne, et il est essentiel de ne laisser personne dicter l'utilisation de ces espaces, tout comme il est essentiel que la peur et la terreur ne nous poussent pas à désertir ces lieux.

* * *

L'échiquier est posé au Moyen-Orient

Cela fait déjà plus de deux semaines que le Hamas a attaqué Israël, initiant un nouvel épi-sode de violence. La réaction immédiate des autorités israéliennes a été d'annoncer une opération terrestre d'envergure à Gaza, opération qui n'a pas encore eu lieu lorsque nous

écrivons ces lignes.

En attendant, l'armée de l'air israélienne n'a eu de cesse de bombarder ce qu'elle appelle des positions du Hamas, faisant des centaines de morts tout autant du côté du Hamas que du côté des civils.

Comme il n'y a aucune réponse idéale, la situation est chaotique. Israël se voit, selon ses dirigeants, dans l'impératif d'une réponse qui doit atteindre deux objectifs.

- Premièrement, son offensive doit lui donner les moyens de sauver les quelques 200 otages détenus par le Hamas.
- Et deuxièmement, au vu de la nature de l'attaque du Hamas sur son territoire, Israël pense devoir absolument envoyer un signal fort à ses voisins ; ces derniers pourraient être tentés de poursuivre des incursions sur son territoire au cas où la réponse militaire israélienne ne serait pas adéquate.



Hamas/Israël : jusqu'où ira l'armée israélienne?
P - FRANCE 24 - YouTube

Ainsi, s'il paraît qu'une opération au sol serait imminent, il est intéressant de constater également que les dirigeants israéliens sont hésitants. La prudence semble avoir pris le dessus sur la volonté d'une invasion rapide et forte au lendemain des attaques du Hamas, car une opération au sol à Gaza est un piège qui pourrait devenir un borbier sans solution pour l'armée israélienne.

En fait, le Hamas garde pour l'instant l'initiative sur l'armée israélienne. Malgré les frappes aériennes, les victimes et les dégâts causés à Gaza, le Hamas a obtenu exactement ce qu'il souhaitait en attaquant Israël. En forçant l'armée israélienne à une réponse au sol, le Hamas appliquera les techniques de guerre urbaine maîtrisées par les Afghans et les Iraquiens contre l'armée des Etats-Unis. Un général de l'OTAN a d'ailleurs parfaitement bien décrit la situation à laquelle fera face l'armée israélienne à Gaza en la comparant à la guerre anti-sous-marine.

En effet, la guerre anti-sous-marine est toujours au désavantage de celui qui poursuit, et la guerre urbaine, elle, favorise celui qui connaît parfaitement bien son terrain. Cela donne l'initiative au Hamas et met Israël dans une situation où elle ne saura pas d'où surgira l'ennemi et comment il attaquera. La guerre urbaine comporte donc une forte dose d'incertitudes et de surprises pour l'assaillant, alors qu'elle permet à l'assailli d'utiliser à fond sa connaissance du terrain, et sa capacité de camouflage et d'attaques surprises.

Les généraux israéliens sont parfaitement au courant de cela, et c'est la raison pour laquelle ils sont extrêmement prudents.

Les dirigeants politiques israéliens, eux, ont ouvert des voies diplomatiques afin de tenter de faire libérer les otages, ce qui permettrait à l'armée israélienne de n'avoir qu'une courte intervention au sol à Gaza. L'Arabie saoudite, avec le Qatar, serait en négociations avec des représentants du Hamas afin de trouver une solution à la situation des otages.

☞ Suite en page 5

L'échiquier est posé au Moyen-Orient



☞ Suite de la page 4

D'ailleurs, quatre d'entre eux ont été libérés jusqu'à présent. Nous devinons que ces négociations dureront très longtemps avec des libérations au compte-gouttes. Et il est difficile de croire qu'Israël restera les bras croisés en attendant que les quelques 150 otages soient finalement libérés.

Ainsi, ce n'est qu'une question de temps avant que l'opération au sol ne débute. Une telle opération signifierait un basculement de la guerre de Gaza dans une autre phase, qui risquerait de durer très longtemps et serait ainsi au cœur de bouleversements géopolitiques majeurs.

D'ailleurs, la Chine a déjà donné la réplique aux Etats-Unis en déployant plusieurs navires de guerre dans la région. Cela a été fait en réponse au second porte-avion américain envoyé par Joe Biden en Méditerranée. Mohammed Ben Salman (MBS), le futur roi saoudien et actuel Premier ministre, lui, a pris position clairement en affirmant que l'Arabie saoudite était pour l'application de la solution à deux États, avec un retour aux frontières de 1967. Donc, cela impliquerait qu'Israël retourne certains des territoires colonisés aux Palestiniens. Il est intéressant de noter dans la posture de MBS une reconnaissance implicite d'Israël.

En prenant une telle position, MBS pose ainsi également les enjeux pour la région en affirmant qu'une solution durable doit être trouvée. Est-ce que ces conditions impliquent qu'il n'a pas encore fait une croix sur le réchauffement des relations avec Israël ? Nous avons toutes les raisons d'y croire, mais il est également clair que MBS pose également des conditions de non-franchissement d'une ligne rouge par l'armée israélienne.

En tout cas, l'échiquier du Moyen-Orient est bel et bien en place avant que l'opération au sol ne débute.

* * *

Echec du référendum pour la reconnaissance des Aborigènes australiens

Les Australiens ont été appelés aux urnes le samedi 14 octobre dernier pour un référendum historique portant, selon son intitulé officiel, sur la Voix des peuples aborigènes et des îles du détroit de Torrès et communément appelé «La Voix au Parlement» («Voice to Parliament»).

Ce référendum proposait de mettre en place un comité consultatif qui émanerait des peuples aborigènes australiens (il y en a des centaines) et de ceux des îles du détroit

de Torrès qui se situent entre l'Australie et la Nouvelle-Guinée. Ce comité, qui serait inscrit dans la Constitution australienne, pourrait donner son avis sur tout projet de loi concernant ces peuples, régulièrement opprimés depuis le début de la colonisation britannique en 1788. Ils représentent aujourd'hui environ 3% des 26 millions d'Australiens.

En clair, il s'agirait de mettre en œuvre un mécanisme de consultation direct des Aborigènes auprès du Parlement australien (qui est élu par tous les Australiens, y compris les Aborigènes) pour reconnaître les défis spécifiques aux populations aborigènes afin d'essayer d'y apporter des solutions qui proviendraient de ces dernières, plutôt que des décisions prises à leur place.

Ce référendum s'est soldé par la victoire du "non" qui constitue indéniablement un retour en arrière pour la cause aborigène. La campagne des tenants du «non» a d'ailleurs été marquée par des relents de racisme d'un autre temps, contrairement à l'élan de fraternité auquel s'attendait le gouvernement travailliste d'Anthony Albanese, élu en mai 2022.

Ce comité consultatif aurait-il permis la réparation des injustices historiques subies par le peuple aborigène en Australie? Nous ne le saurons pas. Mais par-delà le racisme certain immanent à ce "non", de sérieuses questions se posent quant à la pratique même de la citoyenneté en Australie.

En effet, certains intellectuels avaient alerté l'opinion que, malgré l'impératif d'une plus grande intégration des Aborigènes aux enjeux nationaux, la forme proposée par le gouvernement australien posait de sérieux problèmes, notamment le fait de poser deux formes de citoyenneté avec, d'un côté, les Australiens aborigènes et, de l'autre côté, tous les autres Australiens.

Les Australiens auraient ainsi été confrontés à deux formes de citoyenneté pour une même souveraineté, ce qui pose un problème conceptuel fondamental quant à la notion d'égalité des citoyens. Ainsi, la condition d'exception que recherchait le peuple aborigène aurait pu ouvrir la voie à des pratiques qui auraient entraîné dans son sillage des différences trop importantes quant aux droits des citoyens.

C'est comme si nous acceptions l'implémentation des lois de la personne de chaque communauté, fondées sur la religion, créant de facto des citoyens qui ont des droits différents des autres. Cette situation est profondément problématique et nous comprenons aisément pourquoi ce genre de situation devrait être évité.

Ainsi, il est triste que la volonté pour plus de justice pour les Aborigènes a échoué lors de ce référendum. Mais il est sans doute également plus sage que ce soit le cas. Un pays ne peut pas avoir deux types de citoyens. Il appartient maintenant aux Aborigènes de continuer leur combat et de proposer d'autres avenues pour plus de justice.



L'Australie rejette le référendum qui aurait donné une reconnaissance aux Aborigènes dans la Constitution. P - rtbf.be

Baisse du prix de certains matériaux de construction

A lors que la situation globale fait craindre une reprise de l'inflation qui aura un impact certain sur l'économie locale, le secteur de la construction a reçu une bonne nouvelle avec la baisse du prix de certains matériaux.

En effet, la barre de fer et les céramiques ont connu une baisse de 6% et de 10% respectivement. Cette baisse significative est due à une Roupie forte et à une diminution des frais de port.

Nous voyons ainsi que cette baisse est due à des facteurs volatiles et instables. La Roupie a effectivement repris du poil de la bête mais grâce à des interventions calculées de la Banque de Maurice sur le marché des Forex.

Les frais de port, eux, ont connu une baisse globale, notamment grâce à une normalisation de la logistique globale et une diminution du prix des énergies.



L'immobilier à Maurice semble émerger comme un secteur refuge aussi bien pour les Mauriciens que pour les étrangers. Est-ce que cette situation durera ou bien sommes-nous en train de créer une bulle immobilière? P - Investir à l'île Maurice

Ainsi, ces prix pourraient repartir à la hausse dans les prochaines semaines. D'ailleurs, l'indice de construction qui était de 132,9 pour le deuxième trimestre de 2023 a légèrement augmenté pour atteindre 133 pour le troisième trimestre.

Les prix du secteur restent donc dans une tendance haussière et cela devrait continuer. Mais nous ne sommes pas pour autant en face d'un ralentissement du secteur.

En effet, la demande pour les biens immobiliers ne cesse de grimper à Maurice, et ce, malgré l'inflation et des prix qui deviennent punitifs. Il semblerait que la raison de cette croissance continue du secteur soit une confiance accrue des investisseurs et des épargnants dans l'immobilier, notamment en faveur des investissements financiers.

L'économie mondiale a été tellement instable depuis le début de la pandémie de la Covid-19 que les investissements financiers sont devenus extrêmement volatiles, poussant les investisseurs vers des valeurs sûres et sécurisées.

Ainsi, l'immobilier à Maurice semble émerger comme un secteur refuge aussi bien pour les Mauriciens que pour les étrangers. Est-ce que cette situation durera ou bien sommes-nous en train de créer une bulle immobilière qui risque de se retourner contre nous? Seul l'avenir nous le dira.

A. Bartleby



Anil Madan

Dysfunctional geopolitical disorder resets after the Hamas attack

Major casualties on the geopolitical scene will be the United Nations, Russia, Iran, and Turkey

The terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel sent shock waves through Israel. That was to be expected. The sheer horror and disbelief of initial reports that a thousand or more Israelis were killed and an unknown number of hostages including women and children had been transported to Gaza, was punctuated by the incredulity of a nation aghast at what seems a colossal security and intelligence failure. Added to this was the mass feeling of insecurity at the slowness of the government's response and the seeming vulnerability and ineffectiveness of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF). Those latter perceptions would change, but not all else.

Reaction around the world writ large also reflected a shock wave. To be sure, there was the obligatory cheering from Iran's slimy Ayatollah Khamenei who sent a message about kissing the hands of the terrorists who had wrought this evil, and from Putin who attributed the attack to a failure of America's policy in the Middle East. And there were scenes of rejoicing in Arab and other nations.

A day before Hamas attacked, a newly shaped Middle East appeared to be in formation. Iran's hostility toward Israel was being marginalized as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other Gulf nations embraced a new reality and Saudi Arabia too began a dialogue with Israel about establishing diplomatic relations. To be sure, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) also sought to defuse tensions between his country and Iran, and indeed to bring some quiescence to the ongoing fighting in Yemen.

One would have thought that the attack by Hamas might have brought forth a rallying cry from the UAE and Gulf nations, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, especially after the initial and forceful bombing response by Israel. But that did not happen. Saudi Arabia suspended talks with Israel, but a Saudi source is reported to have said that talks could not continue for now and that Saudi Arabia would need to prioritize concessions for the Palestinian people when discussion resumed. The key here is that talks were not completely abandoned. Considering this, an initial Saudi Foreign Ministry statement appearing to blame Israel and referring to past warnings about the treatment of Palestinian civilians, must be viewed as obligatory public relations fodder.

The UAE, on the other hand, issued a statement calling the attack by Hamas "serious and grave escalation." Its foreign ministry allowed as how it was "appalled" that Israeli civilians were taken as hostages. Perhaps displaying some prescience about what was to be, it also said: "Civilians on both sides must always have full protection under international humanitarian law and must never be a target of conflict." Egypt has kept its Rafah border crossing essentially closed with a trickle of trucks allowed and has not laid out the welcome mat for a mass of Gazans.

The point of reciting these events is to show that the forces that were causing the geopolitical chaos that described the Middle East and which seemed to be receding before October 7, do not appear to have changed much. It is possible that Israel's promise to disembowel Hamas and leave it devoid of the ability to attack Israel or to administer Gaza will lead to an even worse humanita-

rian disaster than we are witnessing, but for now, even that eventuality may not stymie what seems an inexorable acceptance by the major Arab countries of Israel's right to exist and the wisdom of doing business with Israel for their own benefit.

Whether it is distasteful to say so, or not, the hatred of Israel in Arab countries has dissipated at least at the leadership level and the Gazans have become irrelevant, if not expendable in the grand context of the existential threats that they see to their own survival and hold on power.

Casualties on the geopolitical scene

So, what has changed? I see four major casualties that will flow from the attacks by Hamas other than the casualty that Hamas itself will be and perhaps Hezbollah too. Recall that a high-ranking Israeli has threatened to inflict severe damage on Iran as well as Hezbollah if that Iranian proxy intervenes.

The major casualties on the geopolitical scene will be the United Nations, Russia, Iran, and Turkey. The United Nations has become all but useless in so much of its initial mission as was dedicated to maintaining world peace and in defusing conflicts as they occur. UN Secretary General Guterres has been reduced to issuing sound bites about the ongoing humanitarian disaster. He is entirely correct, but nobody listens to him and certainly, no one responds to his pleas.

To compound matters, Guterres stated two days ago: "It is important to also recognize the attacks by Hamas did not happen in a vacuum." In an editorial captioned, *'The Disgrace of the United Nations on Israel'*, the Wall Street Journal wrote about this: Lest anyone miss his point, [he added]: "The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating occupation. They have seen their land steadily devoured by settlements and plagued by violence; their economy stifled; their people displaced, and their homes demolished."

Calls for Guterres to resign came swiftly. In a weaselly response, Guterres claims that his remarks have been misinterpreted. With all respect, his apologia for Hamas was quite clear.

It is now impossible to get any useful or consequential resolution through the UN Security Council given the veto powers of its five permanent members. My prediction is that Guterres will probably resign or at least be viewed as an unreliable and contemptible figure for the remainder of his term, and he will be as ineffective as an international voice as the UN as a whole is.

Russia's standing in the world in general is no better. From its ongoing genocide in Ukraine to its supporter of the murderous Assad in Syria, Russia has no voice in international affairs.

Turkey's President Erdogan stated a day ago: "Hamas

is not a terrorist organisation, it is a liberation group, 'mujahideen' waging a battle to protect its lands and people." The term "mujahideen" refers to freedom fighters. Once again, Erdogan comes across as the gadfly sitting on the fence between Europe and the Middle East. Italian Deputy Prime Minister Salvini described Erdogan's words as "serious and disgusting". Salvini rightly pointed out that such statements do nothing to alleviate the ongoing conflict in the region. And, of course, at a higher level, Erdogan's comments cause unease about the message they send to other militant groups worldwide. Turkiye too is on its way to irrelevance.

Then, of course, there is Iran, a country seemingly hell-bent on destroying the lives of its own people for such transgressions as wearing the hijab too loosely or reporting on the death of a woman killed by the morality police. Now, we have militant terror groups supported by Iran threatening US bases in Kuwait and the UAE. Iran's ongo-



“The major casualties on the geopolitical scene will be the United Nations, Russia, Iran, and Turkey. The United Nations has become all but useless in so much of its initial mission as was dedicated to maintaining world peace and in defusing conflicts as they occur. UN Secretary General Guterres has been reduced to issuing sound bites about the ongoing humanitarian disaster. He is entirely correct, but nobody listens to him and certainly, no one responds to his pleas...”

ing enrichment of enough fissile material to make nuclear weapons, and its ongoing support of terrorism to achieve its perceived political ends, are not likely to go on uninterrupted for too much longer.

Iran's Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian issued a threat on Sunday that the United States would see "heavy losses" and warned Israel with a deadline to end its military actions toward Gaza. He said: "I say frankly to the American statesmen, who are now managing the genocide in Palestine, that we do not welcome the expansion of the war in the region. But if the genocide in Gaza continues, they will not be spared from this fire."

Game of terror by proxy

Just as Israel got too complacent about Hamas, the US has seemingly been too complacent about the threats posed by Iran. That is beginning to change. Last week, US Secretary of State Blinken warned Iran not to intervene.

Peace: Lasting if not everlasting!

As usual, the victims are the common people, and the prospects for peace are receding further. The history of the region indicates that there will likely never be any lasting peace there, and that's a real tragedy for all the suffering people

TP Saran

As if the Ukraine-Russia war was not enough, now the world is faced with a second major war front that has opened up, between Israel and the Hamas. The trigger was the unexpected and unprecedented attack by the Hamas organisation on civilians on October 7, resulting in the death of 1400 Israelis (men, women, many elderly as well as babies) and 200 being taken hostage. Israel, battling in the throes of a constitutional crisis for several months, was taken completely unawares, as its intelligence services failed to detect this murderous onslaught, and the armed forces took nearly 24 hours to respond.

However, as soon as the country recouped under a government of national unity and got into action, the Israeli Defence Force (IDF), as was to be expected, has reacted vehemently. Israeli warplanes have pummeled the blockaded strip with an intensity that its war-weary residents had never experienced, reports AP. 'The airstrikes have killed over 1,100 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Officials have not said how many civilians are among the dead, but aid workers warn that Israel's decision to impose a "complete siege" on the crowded enclave of 2.3 million people is spawning a humanitarian catastrophe that touches nearly every one of them.'

In fact, Israel is pounding Gaza with the avowed objective of completely eradicating Hamas by attacking both its



overground and underground infrastructure that harbours its leaders, arms manufacturing units, living quarters, rocket launching and other facilities.

The tunnels make up a total of 500 km and are meant for the use of Hamas solely - the rest of the population of about 2.1 million Palestinians are not allowed access to this fortified subterranean maze where the Hamas are said to both hide and operate from.

There is thus already an internal discrimination existing between these two components of the Gaza strip, which is under the control of Hamas since it won the elections in that area. This implies that they are responsible for the overall welfare and development of the Gaza as they receive funding to the tune of billions of dollars from various international sources. However, it is contended that instead they have been using this money to maintain and consolidate further their

underground tunnels, known as the Gaza metro, thus leaving the people in a state of chronic poverty.

Ever since the war has erupted there has been an avalanche of articles and analyses of the historical aspects of the Israel-Palestine issue, about the validity of their very existence and the various attempts to establish peace between these two entities. The quasi-iconic Oslo Accord that was signed by Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin in the presence of President Bill Clinton in the mid-1990s was short-lived, as terrorist acts began to be perpetrated afresh. The political power tussle over who is actually in control of Palestine - the PLO, the Palestinian Authority, Hamas didn't help either.

Everything points to this war being a protracted one, like the Ukraine-Russia war which was initially presumed to be a quick affair, but has now entered its second year with no end in sight in a fore-

seeable future. Media coverage of it has already been relegated to the background as the Israel-Hamas war now dominates the headlines. Israel has accused the western media, in particular the BBC and the New York Times, of bias against it in their reporting, a mix of misinformation and disinformation with a tilt against Israel.

The Israeli authorities have even accused the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres of similar bias in his speech about the conflict and have averred that he should resign as in their view he is not fit to lead the UN. The UN is supposed to prevent atrocities from happening in its member states and has failed to do so - this is the charge levelled against it.

The greatest danger is that this war develops in a full-blown regional conflict what with the entry of the other parties that support Hamas, such as the Hezbollah and Iran, with the former already launching attacks on Israel from south Lebanon. The US has sent aircraft carriers to support Israel, and Hamas itself is receiving widespread support from the Arab world.

Meanwhile, Israel has allowed humanitarian aid to enter Gaza though a corridor in Rafah on the Egypt-Gaza border. At the same time, though, both Egypt and Jordan have categorically affirmed that they will not accept Palestinian refugees in their respective countries given their past experiences with the latter.

Alas, as usual, the victims are the common people, and the prospects for peace are receding further. The history of the region indicates that there will likely never be any lasting peace there, and that's a real tragedy for all the suffering people.

Dysfunctional geopolitical disorder resets after the Hamas attack

● Cont. from page 6

In a seemingly too mild statement, he stated that if US forces or assets were attacked, the US will defend itself "swiftly and decisively" against attacks by Iran or its proxies. Whether that means anything more than just defending itself rather than a counterattack on Iran remains to be seen. President Biden, also seeming to wish to low-key the situation, merely warned Iran that the US will "respond" if US troops are attacked.

The Israelis left no one with any illusions on that subject. Israeli Economy Minister Nir Barkat's incendiary lan-

guage is worth reading in full. He said: "If we discover that [Hezbollah] intend to attack Israel, we will not only strike back on those fronts, but we will also strike on the head of the snake that is Iran. The ayatollahs in Iran will not sleep well at night. We will make sure they pay a heavy price if, God forbid, they open a northern front. Lebanon and Hezbollah will pay a heavy price similar to what Hamas will pay. But that is not enough. The very clear message is that we are going to go after the leaders of Iran as well. When will we do that? When we decide. Israel has a very clear message to our enemies.

We are telling them: Look what is happening in Gaza. We will do the same to you if you attack us. We will wipe you off the face of the earth."

The interesting point is that no one in Israel has disavowed any of this. Nor has there been worldwide condemnation. The message is clear. US leaders at the highest level have no compunctions about issuing warnings to Iran. The US seems to have come around to the long held Israeli view that the time to deal with Iran is now, before it actually has nuclear weapons. One need only think of the horrific consequences if the Ayatollahs enable Hamas or Hezbollah to explode a dirty bomb over Israel.

The leaders of the Arab world stand by as if they too understand that their heads too are at risk in this high-stake game of terror by proxy that Iran has been allowed to get away with for far too long.

Cheer...
Bwana

Russia says it rehearsed delivering a massive retaliatory nuclear strike

Russian president Vladimir Putin oversaw ballistic missile drills remotely, the Kremlin said. This comes hours after Russia moved to revoke its ratification of a landmark nuclear test ban treaty.

"Under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Russian armed forces, Vladimir Putin, a training exercise was conducted with the forces and equipment of ground, sea and air components of nuclear deterrent forces," the Kremlin said in a statement.

State TV showed Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu talking to Vladimir Putin about the exercise, reports Hindustan Times.

The Kremlin gave further information saying, "Yars

intercontinental ballistic missile had been fired from a test site in Russia's far east, that a nuclear-powered submarine had launched a ballistic missile from the Barents Sea, and that Tu-95MS long-range bombers had test-fired air-launched cruise missiles."

What happened in Russian parliament?

Russia's parliament completed the passage of a law withdrawing ratification of the global treaty banning nuclear weapons tests. Country's deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov said Russia was not prepared to resume discussing nuclear issues with the US unless Washington dropped its "hostile" policy.

Speaking to Russian lawmakers before the vote, deputy foreign minister said, "As our president said, we must be on alert, and if the United States moves towards the start of nuclear tests, we will have to respond here in the same way."

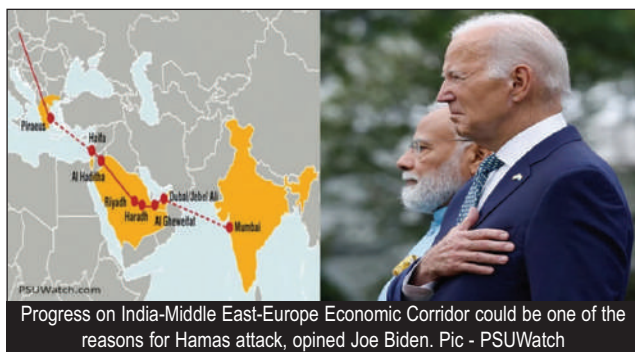
The bill to deratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was approved by 156 votes to zero in the upper house after the lower house passed it unani-



Russia has tested a Yars intercontinental ballistic missile capable of delivering a nuclear warhead. Pic -AP

mously. It now goes to Russian president Vladimir Putin for signing.

Earlier Russia had said that it will not resume testing unless Washington does. Meanwhile, CNN published satellite images last month showing that Russia, the United States and China have all expanded their nuclear test sites in recent years.



Progress on India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor could be one of the reasons for Hamas attack, opined Joe Biden. Pic - PSUWatch

Progress on India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor could be a reason behind Hamas attack: Biden

US President Joe Biden has said that he is convinced that one of the reasons why Hamas launched a terrorist attack on Israel was because of the recent announcement during the G-20 Summit in New Delhi on the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor that integrates the entire region with a network of railroad.

Biden told reporters at a joint news conference with the visiting Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese that his analysis is based on his instinct and does not have any proof for this, reports PTI.

This is the second time in less than a week that Biden has mentioned the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) as a potential reason for the terrorist attack by Hamas.

The new economic corridor, which many see as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative, was jointly announced by the leaders of the US, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, France, Germany, Italy and the European Union on the sidelines of the G20 summit in September.

The corridor comprises an eastern corridor connecting India to the Gulf region and a northern corridor connecting the Gulf region to Europe.

Biden said in the past few weeks, he has spoken to leaders throughout the region, including King Abdullah of Jordan, President Sisi of Egypt, President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, and Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia about making sure there's real hope in the region for a better future about the need to work toward a greater integration for Israel while insisting that the aspirations of the Palestinian people will be part, will be part of that future as well.

Israel agrees to US request to delay Gaza invasion

Israel has agreed to delay an expected invasion of Gaza for now so that the United States can rush missile defences to the region to protect its troops there, the Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday, citing U.S. and Israeli officials.

Israel is also taking into account in its planning the effort to supply humanitarian aid to civilians inside Gaza, as well as diplomatic efforts to free hostages held by Hamas militants, reports Reuters.

The U.S. military and other officials believe their forces will be targeted by militant groups once the invasion of the Hamas-ruled Palestinian territory starts.

The United States is hurrying to deploy nearly a dozen air-defence systems to the region, according to the



Israeli soldiers walk past tanks near the country's border with the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military is preparing for a major ground assault in Gaza, as it urged Palestinians to flee the area. Pic - Reuters

Journal.

Reuters reported on Monday that Washington advised Israel to hold off on a ground assault in the Gaza Strip and is keeping Qatar - a broker with the Palestinian militants - apprised of those talks as it tries to free more hostages and prepare for a possible wider regional war.

Ready to work with US for win-win cooperation: China's Xi Jinping

Citing the impact of US-China relations on world peace and development, Chinese President Xi Jinping said that Beijing is ready to work with Washington, to "properly manage differences", contribute to each other's progress and push for common prosperity, Chinese state media agency Xinhua reported on Wednesday.

Xi stated that China is willing to work with the US based on three principles of "mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation".

"As two major countries in the world, whether China and the United States can find a right path of state-to-state interactions bears on world peace and development, and the future of mankind," Jinping said.

He added, "Based on the three principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, China is willing to work with the

US side to advance mutually beneficial cooperation, properly manage differences, and make joint efforts to tackle global challenges, contribute to each other's progress, and push for common prosperity so as to deliver benefits to both countries and the whole world".

In a congratulatory message to the annual Gala Dinner of the National Committee on US-China Relations, Xi applauded the committee's longstanding dedication to the exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various areas, reports ANI.

He also congratulated former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on winning an accolade at the gala.

Tensions between the US and China have escalated on a variety of issues, including technology, espionage, economic competition, and military strength. Multiple close military encounters in the South China

Sea and the Taiwan Strait, as well as a spy balloon incident in February and current accusations that China has operated a spy base in Cuba since at least 2019.

Earlier in August, in a scathing attack on China, President Biden had described Xi's China as a "ticking time bomb" citing economic concerns. In June, Biden had even called Xi a "dictator". Both statements were denounced by Beijing.

In another major decision, the Biden administration imposed restrictions on US investment in high-tech areas in China and barred exports of advanced microchips.

Several US leaders including Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen have made visits to China in recent months in an effort to improve relations with China.

* Contd on page 9

Pakistan gives last warning to illegal immigrants to leave country by Nov 1

Pakistan on Thursday gave a last warning to all immigrants in the country illegally, including hundreds of thousands of Afghan nationals, to leave voluntarily before a Nov. 1 deadline, the country's caretaker interior minister said on Thursday.

Interim Interior Minister Sarfraz Bugti told a news conference in Islamabad that Pakistan was determined to go ahead with a plan to remove all undocumented immigrants after Nov. 1.

Pakistan announced the move in October. It says it took the decision after Afghan nationals were found to be involved in crimes, smuggling and attacks against government and the army, including 14 out of 24 suicide bombings this year, reports Reuters.



Pakistan announced the move in October. It says it took the decision after Afghan nationals were found to be involved in crimes, smuggling and attacks against government. Pic – Samaa TV

Bugti warned law enforcement agencies will start an operation to remove people after the expiry of the deadline. He also said action would be taken against anyone found involved in facilitating or hiding the

immigrants.

The immigrants, mostly Afghans, many of whom have lived in Pakistan for years, will be processed at temporary centres being set up by the government.

Those leaving voluntarily will be helped to leave Pakistan, such as preparation of their documents, permission to exchange currency and transportation.

Pakistan has received the largest influx of Afghan refugees since the Soviet invasion of Kabul in 1979.

Hundreds of thousands of Afghans moved to Pakistan to escape war and conflicts, and many are registered as refugees with the government and U.N. agencies.

The expulsion plan marks a new low in relations between the South Asian neighbours after border clashes in recent months.

Islamabad alleges that the militants use Afghan soil to train fighters and plan attacks inside Pakistan, a charge Kabul denies, saying Pakistani security is a domestic issue.

'Should never have happened': Canada on India's visa services move

Canada on Thursday welcomed New Delhi's decision to resume some visa-related services saying the move was a "good sign after an anxious time" for Canadians. Immigration minister Marc Miller, while welcoming the decision, said the suspension of visa services "should never have happened".

India had suspended visa services days after Canada accused the country's officials of conspiring to murder Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

"Our feeling is that a suspension should never have happened in the first place," he was quoted as saying by CTV News.

Canada's emergency preparedness minister Harjit Sajjan welcomed the move but said he wouldn't speculate on the message India was sending by resuming these services, reports Hindustan Times.

India's high commission in Canada



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had accused Indian officials of being behind Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder. Pic – Times Now

said on Wednesday that some types of visa applications for Canadians would be

processed by the Indian officials.

Nijjar, a designated terrorist, was

murdered on June 18 in British Columbia. Last month, after the G-20 summit, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused Indian agents of having involvement in his murder. India dismissed the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated".

New Delhi has resumed services like entry visas, business visas, medical visas and conference visas.

India resumed visa services after Canadian authorities showed "greater responsiveness" to New Delhi's concerns over the safety and security of its diplomatic premises and personnel, an official told HT. This came after discussions at multiple levels that went on for 10 days.

Taking a strong posture against Trudeau's allegations, India had accused Canadian diplomats of interference in its internal matters and asked it withdraw 41 of its diplomats to achieve parity in numbers. Last week, Canada pulled out 41 of its diplomats in India.

Women in world's most gender-equal country are protesting for wage parity

Iceland, the world's most gender-equal country, on Tuesday, saw women including Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir go on strike from midnight to midnight demanding an end to unequal pay and gender-based violence.

Tens of thousands of women refused to work on Tuesday, which was called the 'kvinnafri' in Icelandic or the women's day off, reports Hindustan Times.

Speaking to mbl.in ahead of the protest, the PM said, "I will not work this day, as I expect all the women [in cabinet] will do as well."

Iceland, with a population of 380,000, has been ranked the world's most gender-equal country for 14 years in a row by the World Economic Forum (WEF), which measures education, pay, healthcare and other factors.

Why did women strike in Iceland?

Iceland is the most gender-equal country, however, WEF has assigned it a score of 91.2 per cent. No nation



Demonstrators take part in a rally for equal rights, as Icelandic women strike for equality, in Reykjavik, Iceland. Pic – Iceland Magazine

has been able to achieve complete equality in terms of the gender pay gap and there remains a gap in Iceland too.

Jakobsdóttir told mbl.in, "We have not yet reached our goals of full gender equality and we are still tackling the

gender-based wage gap, which is unacceptable in 2023. We are still tackling gender-based violence, which has been a priority for my government to tackle."

A University of Iceland study has found that 40 per cent of women in the country face gender-based violence at least once in their lifetime.

While women in Iceland have broken glass ceilings and have acquired top roles — from bishops to top government positions — the lowest-paying jobs in the volcanic island nation like cleaning and child care are also women-dominated.

The work also depends upon immigrants, since Iceland is a tourism-dominated economy. However, most foreigners work longer hours and take home lesser salaries. About 22 per cent of women workforce in Iceland is foreign-born, Statistics Iceland states.

Tuesday's protest was the largest in Iceland since October 24, 1975, when 90 per cent of the women refused to work, clean or look after children to protest against discrimination at the workplace.

The country's trade unions organised the strike and asked women and non-binary people to refuse paid and unpaid work, including daily chores. Around 90 per cent of women in Iceland belong to a union.

Interview: Lindsay Rivière

«Le MSM et Pravind Jugnauth vont devoir se battre farouchement pour conserver le pouvoir en 2024-25»

À la suite du jugement du «Privy Council», l'atmosphère n'a pas changé dans le pays. Ceux qui attendaient une déclaration en bonne et due forme du Premier ministre annonçant les prochaines élections législatives avaient tort. Peut-être que ce dernier a compris que la grande majorité de la population demeure sur ses gardes et attend la dernière minute pour se décider de voter en faveur d'un parti ou d'une alliance politique quelconque, ou plutôt contre le gouvernement en place... Alors, le PM prend son temps pour trouver un allié potentiel. En attendant, les trois leaders de l'alliance de l'opposition vieillissent et font du surplace car les stratégies ne changent pas. Le PM aurait-il donc toujours une longueur d'avance sur ses adversaires?



Mauritius Times: On aurait pu croire au lendemain de l'annonce du jugement du «Privy Council» rejetant la pétition électorale de Suren Dayal, qui contestait l'élection de Pravind Jugnauth et de ses deux colistiers en 2019, que les dés sont jetés pour l'Opposition. Mais il semblerait que le «boost» politique que cette décision des «Law Lords» a donné au leader du MSM va vite s'effriter. Pravind Jugnauth en est sans doute conscient...

Lindsay Rivière: Le jugement du «Privy Council» favorable à Pravind Jugnauth aura certainement été un «boost» et un motif de satisfaction momentané pour le PM et le MSM. Mais son impact dans la durée sera sans doute assez limité car chaque personne sensée avait plus ou moins déjà intériorisé (après les plaidoiries des deux parties à Londres) le fait que la défense présentée par les avocats du PM était largement supérieure et beaucoup plus convaincante que celle de Suren Dayal.

Le MSM va certainement exploiter au maximum cette victoire légale pendant quelques semaines pour retourner la table sur l'Opposition, arguant que les «Law Lords» légitiment sans contestation possible sa victoire de 2019 mais, vous savez, comme toute autre chose à Maurice, on n'en parlera plus dans un mois ou deux.

Pourtant, un effet secondaire important de ce jugement est qu'il ouvre la voie, par son interprétation très libérale de la notion de «bribe électoral», à un torrent possible de promesses et d'engagements (à condition que ces promesses concernent tout l'électorat et non un groupe particulier).

En l'absence d'une «Fiscal Responsibility Act», obligeant à chiffrer de manière crédible toute promesse formulée, cela pourrait changer un peu la nature même du jeu politique mauricien et le faire verser encore davanta-

« Il n'y a certainement pas, dans le jugement du «Privy Council», matière à élections anticipées. D'ailleurs, même certains dans l'Opposition ne croyaient pas tout à fait en ce scénario. Je crois vraiment, honnêtement, qu'on devrait cesser, à Maurice, de parler d'élections générales anticipées à tout bout de champ et au moindre coup de brise politique... »

ge dans la démagogie.

* Ce «boost» politique vous paraît-il suffisant dans ces nouvelles circonstances pour prendre l'Opposition au dépourvu avec des élections anticipées vers la fin de 2023 ? Ou voyez-vous Pravind Jugnauth miser sur

« Pravind Jugnauth ne rappellera pas le pays aux urnes avant d'avoir tiré ses toutes dernières munitions politiques et d'avoir mis absolument toutes les chances de son côté. Le PM est allergique au risque et on l'a bien vu avec le renvoi systématique des municipales. Il ne se décidera qu'au moment où il sera certain de gagner... »

le temps en vue de l'essoufflement de l'Opposition ou même d'une cassure, et de frapper fort l'année prochaine après l'annonce des mesures budgétaires, surtout populistes ?

Il n'y a certainement pas, dans le jugement du «Privy Council», matière à élections anticipées. D'ailleurs, même certains dans l'Opposition ne croyaient pas tout à fait en ce scénario. Je crois vraiment, honnêtement, qu'on devrait cesser, à Maurice, de parler d'élections générales anticipées à tout bout de champ et au moindre coup de brise politique.

Je ne crois absolument pas (et je l'ai répété très souvent dans vos colonnes, à la radio et ailleurs) qu'il n'y aura pas d'élections avant au moins la deuxième partie de 2024, possiblement même avant 15 ou 20 mois.

Le PM l'a dit lui-même: il a encore une carte maîtresse à jouer, le Budget 2024-25, qui verra probablement un déferlement de mesures populaires.

Pravind Jugnauth ne rappellera pas le pays aux urnes avant d'avoir tiré ses toutes dernières munitions politiques et d'avoir mis absolument toutes les chances de son côté. Le PM est allergique au risque et on l'a bien vu avec le renvoi systématique des municipales. Il ne se décidera qu'au moment où il sera certain de gagner.

Pour moi, il n'y a qu'une seule et unique situation où le PM changera ses plans et organisera des élections avant décembre 2024 : ce serait dans le cas où l'alliance de l'Opposition PTr-MMM-PMSD éclate en morceaux, pour une raison ou une autre, et si le PMSD se dit prêt à le rejoindre au gouvernement.

Avec l'alliance rouge-mauve-bleu, l'Opposition s'est aventurée très loin en faisant repartir l'espoir d'un changement de régime et de politiques. Cette alliance ne peut plus se dissoudre sans infliger un 'knock out' psychologique à l'Opposition et sans ridiculiser ses dirigeants. En quelque sorte, 'there is no going back' au risque de se décrédibiliser totalement.

Or, si le PM parvient à briser cette alliance en convaincant le PMSD que l'avenir du parti Bleu est avec le régime et non avec le couple Ramgoolam-Bérenger, alors tout deviendrait possible pour lui. La tentation deviendrait irrésistible pour Pravind Jugnauth de profiter du désarroi total de Ramgoolam et de Bérenger, et sans autre option que d'aller, déconfits, ensemble. Mais ils deviendraient alors une proie plus facile pour Jugnauth.

Ainsi, la vraie question à se poser est de savoir si le PMSD saura résister au chant des sirènes du MSM dans la période qui nous sépare de fin 2024.

* **Maintenir la cohésion et tenir le coup jusqu'aux prochaines législatives qui vont avoir lieu quand le Premier ministre jugera opportun, c'est cela donc le défi principal qui se présente à l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD dans les nouvelles circonstances politiques ?**

Certainement. Et voici pourquoi: La politique est une affaire de rapport de forces constant. Pravind Jugnauth et le MSM ont des moyens financiers et organisationnels considérables, de même que le pouvoir qu'exercent l'Etat, les Municipalités, et les autres institutions.

● Suite en page 11

‘L’Opposition doit être incarnée non seulement par le trio Ramgoolam-Bérenger-Duval...

La nation doit sentir et voir une armée politique de l’Opposition solide en marche’



« On surestime parfois l’ascendant du MSM auprès de la communauté majoritaire et l’importance du « Hindu Belt ». Il n’y a que 5 circonscriptions où le poids électoral hindou est majoritaire (plus de 50%) et encore ces 50% se divisent entre le MSM et le PTr. Pour assurer sa victoire, Pravind Jugnauth se doit d’élargir son soutien (même symboliquement) dans les milieux de la population générale et musulman... »

● Suite de la page 10

Mais la grande donnée nouvelle à Maurice depuis une vingtaine d’années est qu’aucun parti (même celui au pouvoir) n’a pas plus du tiers de soutien populaire et n’est jamais garanti d’une victoire car ce sont les 40% à 50% d’indécis qui décident.

On surestime parfois l’ascendant du MSM auprès de la communauté majoritaire et l’importance du «Hindu Belt». Il n’y a que 5 circonscriptions où le poids électoral hindou est majoritaire (plus de 50%) et encore ces 50% se divisent entre le MSM et le PTr. Pour assurer sa victoire, Pravind Jugnauth se doit d’élargir son soutien (même symboliquement) dans les milieux de la population générale et musulman.

En milieu musulman, il espère pouvoir attirer autour du Dr Husnoo et du Dr Joomye, des députés MMM de Port Louis : Adil Ameer Meea au No.3 et même possiblement Reza Uteem au No.2 en jouant sur leur impatience d’être constamment dans une opposition stérile.

La population générale (PG) reste largement hostile au gouvernement, et Steven Obeegadoo, malgré toutes ses réalisations, n’émerge pas vraiment comme représentatif de la PG. Il faut donc, à Pravind Jugnauth, un allié PG de taille et symbolique. Et comme celui-ci ne peut pas être Paul Bérenger, il ne lui reste que le PMSD.

« L’Opposition a repris du poil de la bête avec ses meetings réussis, ce qui a galvanisé et rendu l’espoir à ses troupes. Il lui faut, pourtant, développer plus d’énergie, projeter plus de vision, cesser de ne compter que sur des conférences de presse, cesser d’entrer dans le piège des expulsions au Parlement comme des bleus, cesser de parler d’élections à tout bout de champ...»

Et il apparaîtra évident, au fil des mois, qu’après avoir ‘épurer’ son parti de tous ceux qui l’embarrassent, le PM sera prêt à dérouler le tapis rouge pour attirer à lui le PMSD. Ce serait en quelque sorte une répétition de 2014.

*** Pourtant, on dit que Xavier Duval est très hostile à toute suggestion de rapprochement entre le PMSD et le MSM ?**

Oui. Xavier Duval est un très bon Leader de l’Opposition et il préfère manifestement Navin Ramgoolam (son vieil allié et ami) à Pravind Jugnauth. Il a aussi montré qu’il est un homme de principes en quittant le gouvernement.

De plus, il sait que le gouvernement Jugnauth est impopulaire auprès du petit peuple en raison des difficultés de la vie quotidienne. Jusqu’ici, il a résisté à toutes les approches du PM, même si celui-ci serait prêt, dit-on, à lui offrir le poste de Deputy Prime Minister et une quinzaine de tickets contre 7 que lui offre le PTr-MMM.

*** Voyez-vous Xavier Duval capable de retourner sa veste et vendre une nouvelle alliance avec le MSM auprès de son électorat, cela sans trop de dégâts ?**

Le problème ne serait pourtant pas Xavier Duval mais plutôt ses lieutenants et ses troupes, sevrés de pouvoir pendant 10 ans et fatigués de chauffer les bancs de l’Opposition, sans pouvoir faire quoi que ce soit pour leurs électeurs.

*** Il est probable toutefois que Xavier Duval serait en train de réfléchir sur ce qu’il adviendra du PMSD et de la carrière politique de son fils Adrien en cas de défaite de l’alliance de l’Opposition lors des prochaines législatives. L’avenir d’un parti politique est plus souvent assuré dans le pouvoir, dans le gouvernement, et non pas dans l’opposition, comme le MMM l’aura appris à ses dépens, non ?**

Il est normal qu’il y réfléchisse comme Paul Bérenger à tout moment pense à l’avenir du MMM. La séduc-

tion du pouvoir est parfois irrésistible.

Ce qui est sûr, c’est qu’il y a, au PMSD, une réflexion sur plusieurs sujets:

- (i) les chances réelles de l’alliance de l’Opposition de gagner les prochaines élections,
- (ii) les relations demain entre le PMSD et Bérenger et le MMM, et
- (iii) la possibilité de faire en sorte que Pravind Jugnauth change d’équipe, de style de gouvernement et de revenir vers plus de justice sociale, etc.

On laisse entendre que tout le monde au MMM ne partage pas exactement les mêmes vues sur toutes ces questions. Ce qui est sûr, c’est que si Pravind Jugnauth voit apparaître une brèche au PMSD, il foncera sans hésitation dans cette direction.

*** Au-delà de ses casseroles et de sa gouvernance autocratique au cours de ces dernières années, le MSM n’est pas assuré d’un “walk-over” dans les régions rurales, et il devra absolument remporter quelques sièges dans les circonscriptions urbaines afin d’espérer diriger le prochain gouvernement. Cette réalité n’est pas si évidente ?**

Vous avez parfaitement raison. Et cela rejoint ce que j’affirmais plus tôt dans cette interview.

Une chose est sûre: Le MSM et Pravind Jugnauth vont devoir se battre farouchement pour conserver le pouvoir en 2024-25. Le PM a, pourtant, quelques autres points d’avance sur l’Opposition: la capacité assez surprenante de mobilisation permanente de son parti, son âge et son énergie – 60 ans contre 76 à Ramgoolam et 77 à Bérenger, qui vieillissent de plus en plus, et une certaine flexibilité dans sa stratégie politique par opposition à une certaine rigidité dans l’Opposition.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth avait comme recette de préservation du pouvoir, à chaque élection, le changement d’alliés et le fait de se servir des autres. Son fils navigue sur la même stratégie.

*** Le défi est aussi énorme pour l’Opposition PTr-MMM-PMSD qui miserait sur l’arithmétique électorale afin de remporter les prochaines élections. Quel sera le principal handicap pour cette alliance: le profil des leaders et de son ‘front bench’, un déséquilibre dans la répartition des tickets ou l’incertitude quant à la viabilité d’une telle alliance dans l’exercice du pouvoir ?**

Un peu de tout cela.

L’Opposition a repris du poil de la bête avec ses meetings réussis, ce qui a galvanisé et rendu l’espoir à ses troupes. Cela a aussi rétabli quelque peu l’équilibre de peur, voire de terreur politique, qui caractérise le jeu.

Il lui faut, pourtant, développer plus d’énergie, projeter plus de vision, cesser de ne compter que sur des conférences de presse, cesser d’entrer dans le piège des expulsions au Parlement comme des bleus, cesser de parler d’élections à tout bout de champ, structurer ses bases communes dans chaque circonscription, proposer un programme qui encourage les jeunes à reprendre confiance et à demeurer au pays.

● Suite en page 12

‘SAJ avait pour recette de préservation du pouvoir de tout le temps, à chaque élection, de changer d’alliés... Son fils est sur la même stratégie’

● Suite de la page 11

A plusieurs points de vue, l’Opposition est en train de ‘underperform’.

Paul Bérenger et Navin Ramgoolam vieillissent à vue d’œil. Xavier Duval paraît un peu malade. Il faut faire monter en première ligne les lieutenants et plus de jeunes car la jeunesse veut savoir, si l’Opposition gagne, qui dirigera le pays en 2025, 2028 ou 2030 et quels seront les thèmes d’avenir. L’Opposition doit être incarnée non seulement par le trio Ramgoolam-Bérenger-Duval mais la nation doit sentir et voir une armée politique de l’Opposition solide en marche.

* Et les extra-parlementaires parlant de ‘troisième voie’ et de ‘Ni ..., Ni ...’, qui bouge beaucoup ?

Vous le savez: Je n’ai jamais cru et je ne crois pas dans une ‘troisième voie’. Nous sommes enfermés dans une culture de ‘blocs’ politiques où on ne peut pas faire de la place pour tout le monde, avec 3 candidats par circonscription. Les partis extra-parlementaires déploient une belle énergie, font des propositions de réforme fort intéressantes. Mais espérer gagner hors des blocs est d’un irréalisme politique total.

Il y a 1,000,000 d’électeurs à Maurice. 80% de ceux-là votent. Il faut gagner au bas mot 20,000 électeurs dans chaque circonscription pour espérer remporter un siège et au moins 36 sièges pour prendre le pouvoir. Croire que cela soit possible pour Nando Bodha, Roshi Bhadain, Rama Valayden et autres Dev Sunnasy, c’est rêver les yeux grands ouverts.

Il est plus que temps que ces groupes ouvrent un dialogue avec les deux grands blocs, comme le propose Rezistans ek Alternativ qui fait preuve d’une lucidité remarquable dans la circonstance.

* On devra donc s’attendre à une bataille rude et dure lors des prochaines



« Le MSM et Pravind Jugnauth vont devoir se battre farouchement pour conserver le pouvoir en 2024-25. Le PM a, pourtant, quelques autres points d’avance sur l’Opposition: la capacité assez surprenante de mobilisation permanente de son parti, son âge et son énergie – 60 ans contre 76 à Ramgoolam et 77 à Bérenger, qui vieillissent de plus en plus, et une certaine flexibilité dans sa stratégie politique par opposition à une certaine rigidité dans l’Opposition... »

« Si le PM parvient à briser cette alliance en convaincant le PMSD que l’avenir du parti Bleu est avec le régime et non avec le couple Ramgoolam-Bérenger, alors tout deviendrait possible pour lui. La tentation deviendrait irrésistible pour Pravind Jugnauth de profiter du désarroi total de Ramgoolam et de Bérenger, et sans autre option que d’aller, déconfits, ensemble... »

« Il y a 1,000,000 d’électeurs à Maurice. 80% de ceux-là votent. Il faut gagner au bas mot 20,000 électeurs dans chaque circonscription pour espérer remporter un siège et au moins 36 sièges pour prendre le pouvoir. Croire que cela soit possible pour Nando Bodha, Roshi Bhadain, Rama Valayden et autres Dev Sunnasy, c’est rêver les yeux grands ouverts... »

élections... Tous les éléments qui forment partie de la culture politique seront mis à contribution, avec en plus une bonne contribution de “money politics”. La loi du plus riche triomphera-t-elle, selon vous?

En effet. La probabilité est que des centaines de millions seront dépensés aux prochaines élections. S’il est vrai que l’argent est le nerf de la guerre, cela ne veut pourtant pas forcément dire que celui qui dépensera le plus gagnera les élections.

L’Opposition a d’ailleurs trouvé une parade à cela : “Prenez, sans état d’âme, tout ce qu’on vous donne mais votez selon votre volonté profonde et vos convictions.” Tout est devenu d’un tel cynisme à Maurice! On verra bien!

* Par ailleurs, il y a aussi beaucoup d’impondérables en ce qui concerne la guerre au Moyen-Orient. On ne sait pas à ce stade si cette guerre va s’étendre et quel impact une déflagration pourrait avoir sur l’économie mondiale, dont la nôtre et, par extension, sur la politique à Maurice. Votre opinion?

Une extension et une régionalisation incontrôlables de ce conflit seraient une tragédie pour le monde entier et, bien sûr, pour nous-mêmes à Maurice.

Les conséquences pour l’approvisionnement en pétrole, le coût de fabrication des produits, le tourisme avec des gens ne voyageant plus l’esprit tranquille, tout cela serait terrible pour Maurice sans parler des retombées et des perturbations potentielles sur notre peuple.

Ce qui se passe au Moyen-Orient, c’est une immense tragédie humanitaire et morale. On ne peut que souhaiter que le bon sens prévaille et que les artisans de paix fassent entendre leur voix.

Fighting the ‘System’

● Cont. from page 3
The public good

These two cases illustrate the culture of indifference, inefficiency and impunity which have spread in our various institutions. Yet one should not despair of fighting the system. Whenever we are confronted with any system which is inimical to the public good, we have always resorted to various strategies to put pressure for change — some successful, some less — but people have never given up on their principles or convictions.

Ecological movements maintain pressure against those who grab public beaches at the expense of the public; people have united to stand against a few irresponsible citizens who want to put the nation at risk. And there will be more protests against the senseless action of polluting the drinking water of Bagatelle Dam.

“When the authorities fail to deliver on what the people consider the most important public goods, they will seek alternatives. No longer will the people just wait for action to be taken. Protests should intensify and the people must continue to press for the redress of issues which concern them directly and ensure they find their way on the political agenda. This means greater public awareness, mobilization and winning support for important matters and preparing the long list of issues from below...”

All these show that the fight for democracy and a better life is an unending struggle in which different stakeholders participate at all times. Changes are always taking place. We have to push for more positive changes, accelerate them and support them. Public opinion contributes a lot towards the attainment of these objectives.

When the authorities fail to deliver on what the people consider the most important public goods, they will seek alternatives. No longer will the people just wait for action to be taken. Protests should intensify and the people must continue to press for the redress of issues which concern them directly and ensure they find their way on the political agenda. This means greater public awareness, mobilization and winning support for important matters and preparing the long list of issues from below. We must participate actively in whatever way we can to better our society and make sure that these are implemented in a reasonable time.

We all have a stake in this country and its future, and we must contribute to shape it the way we want and not abdicate our duty and responsibility to those who want to take us back to feudal times.

Sada Reddi

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 253**MAURITIUS TIMES**

Friday 19 June, 1959

• *Love is a wonderful thing and highly desirable in marriage.* — R. Hughes

They are no more

During the course of the last fortnight three great men connected in a way or another to Mauritius died. Raja Sir Maharajsinh, ex-Governor of Bombay, Shri J. A. Thivy and Mr Aboo Bakar. The men who have left their imprint in the history of Mauritius.

Raja Sir Maharajsinh came from a royal family. He joined the Indian Civil Service and gradually climbed the steps to a position of great prestige.

Indian emigration to Mauritius was subject to bitter criticism both in India and in Mauritius. In order to inquire into the matter and also into the conditions of Indian indentured labourers settled in Mauritius, the Government of India appointed Sir Maharajsinh who was at that time Deputy Commissioner of Bahria (UP). He landed on our shores on the 19th December, 1924.

As it was the first time that such a high official was coming to Mauritius from the mother country, the enthusiasm of the Indians ran very high. People of all ranks flocked to meet him or to acquaint him with their grievances. He visited the remotest villages, estate camps, attended scores of religious and social functions and talked to thousands of people.

Sir Maharajsinh noted with satisfaction the devotion of the Indians who though practically cut off from their motherland, were devoted to their language and culture in spite of the strong European influence prevailing. He was pleased to find that caste and provincialism were not so marked as it was in the mother country itself. By dint of hard labour and thrift the ex-Indian emigrants had made good economic headway. That was another factor which struck the eminent visitor.

Indian emigrants who were not satisfied with their lot were returned on the recommendation of Maharajsinh. It was on his recommendation that further emigration was stopped. He made certain other recommendations among which were: better housing for estate labourers, employment of Indian doctors in estate hospitals, prohibition of employment of children in factories, workmen's compensation, morcellement of lands, reduction in the sale of liquor. It is thought that the teaching of Oriental Languages in Government Aided Schools and the appointment of Indians in some high posts which were so far denied to them were made at his instigation.

Though Maharajsinh stayed here for only six weeks, yet his name is still remembered with pride by thousands of Mauritians who came in contact with him. He infused in his countrymen settled here the spirit of thinking and made them shed the feeling of inferiority. As he was a Christian, the Indo-Christians too took a pride and interest in his arrival and his activities.

* * *

Mr John A. Thivy was a born patriot. During the epic struggle for Indian independence, he played a very prominent part. When the Second World War broke out, Mr Thivy was in Malaya where he was practising at the bar. When Subhash Chandra Bose appealed to the Indians of Malaya to help him, he was one of the first to join his vast organisation. In the Azad Hind Government, he was given a portfolio. When his army was defeated Thivy was thrown in prison. We are told that his heart trouble from which he lost his life was due to ill-treatment suffered in prison.

For the valuable services rendered to the Motherland, for

his ability and for his vast knowledge of the problems of the Colonial people. Thivy was appointed Commissioner. During his term of office though he was laid in bed for months, yet he left behind two living monuments in the form of the Indo-Mauritian Association and the Indo-Christian Association. He was instrumental in bringing closer the Indo-Mauritians and the non-Indians.

Indo-Christians, who thought or were made to think that they had nothing in common with India and its culture, were startled to learn from him that they were as good Indians as any other religious group living in India. To restore that con-

fidence, Thivy formed the IMCA which became the pride of the Indo-Mauritian community.

Thivy had a number of very active lieutenants among whom was Mr Aboo Bakar, the president of the Indo-Mauritian Association.

Mr Aboo Bakar was not only a learned man, but he was endowed with a quality which marked him above the crowd — he was very rational in his outlook. While the Hindu-Muslim unity was shaking on its very foundation, Aboo-Bakar remained unperturbed and went on with his cementing work of bringing closer both communities. He was one of the founders of the Port Louis Gymkhana Club, which is the pride of the Indian Community. Aboo-Bakar is no more but his memory will live in the mind of both Hindus and Muslims for decades.



COMMUNIQUE

Financial Support to Business Operators following increase in price of "Diesel"

The public is hereby informed that the Government of the Republic of Mauritius has decided to provide a financial assistance of Rs. 5 per litre of "Diesel" consumed to certain categories of persons in business.

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) has been entrusted with the responsibility to pay the financial assistance. Eligible persons in business are required to register with MRA, and the necessary facility is available on the MRA website www.mra.mu

Eligible persons in business

1. Micro, Small and Medium enterprises having a turnover not exceeding Rs 100 million based on Income Tax return submitted to MRA for the year of assessment 2022/2023;
2. Bakeries registered with the State Trading Corporation and benefitting from subsidised price of flour and having a turnover not exceeding Rs 100 million;
3. Persons holding a Public Service Vehicle Licence (PSVL) for School Van issued by National Land Transport Authority;
4. Sugarcane planters registered with the Sugar Insurance Fund Board; and
5. Small farmers and breeders registered with the Small Farmers Welfare Fund.

Eligible persons in business, who have registered for the financial assistance, will thereafter be required to submit electronically to MRA a monthly statement giving the details of the number of litres of "Diesel" consumed for business purposes and such other particulars as may be required. The MRA will credit the payment directly in their bank account.

To benefit from the financial assistance, eligible persons are required to be fully compliant with their tax/social contribution obligations and also keep proper records.

For further details, kindly visit the MRA website: www.mra.mu or phone the MRA Helpdesk on 207 6000 during working hours.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

16 October 2023

Ehram Court, Cnr. Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius
T: +230 207 6000 | F: +230 207 6048 | M: headoffice@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu



Remember the climate map from your school atlas? Here's what climate change is doing to it

Cont. from page 2

We did so at a very fine scale, dividing the world up into square kilometres so we could observe localised changes in mountainous regions and on small islands.

Change has already happened – and there's much more to come

The results were surprising. In some parts of the world, climate zones have already shifted considerably since Köppen drew his first climate map more than a century ago. The fastest change has been in the last few decades. The largest changes have been in cold and polar climates, which have become less cold and sometimes drier.

Eastern Europe has been a climate change hotspot over the last century. Its continental climate of cold winters and warm summers has given way to a temperate climate with hot summers.

Several countries have already changed climate zones across more than half of their area. Hungary, for instance, has changed the most of any nation. A whopping 81% of the country has already moved into a different, more temperate climate zone. Other global hot spots include central Europe, the Middle East and South Korea.

Our projections show these regions are among those to undergo the biggest climatic shifts through to 2100. Some areas will shift climate zones more than once.

Countries at higher latitudes will see some of the largest changes. Almost a quarter (24%) of both Canada and Russia have already moved into another climate zone since Köppen's first map. Another 39-40% of their immense landmasses will follow suit before the end of the century.

A similar story applies to Europe, where climate zones will change in between one-third and two-thirds of the area

in most countries.

South Africa and neighbouring countries Eswatini and Lesotho are the fastest changing countries in the Southern Hemisphere. Their climate zones have shifted across 28% of their combined area. By 2100, an additional 44% will change.

In Australia, climate zones have already shifted across 14% of the country, with another 13% predicted during the remainder of this century.

You might wonder how it can be that climate zones don't move in some areas. That is because each Köppen climate zone represents a specific range of temperature and rainfall conditions, and a region can move within that range.

But Köppen didn't foresee what's happening now. In his classification, deserts and tropical climates are at the high end of the temperature scale and cannot change - they just get hotter.



What will this mean on the ground?

Changes as dramatic and rapid as this are already upending natural ecosystems. As climate change progresses, it will force significant change to our farms and infrastructure. Humanity gets half its calories from just three plants – rice, maize, and wheat – and each of these has a preferred climate.

Warmer and drier climates bring more drought as well as crop loss, water shortages, ecosystem degradation, bushfires, and desertification. Warmer winters, extreme heat, drought, and fire have been pummeling forests the world over - from the cold high latitudes in Canada and Russia to the dry forests in the Mediterranean region, California and Australia. Even the Amazon rain-

forest is affected.

Of course, some changes may be beneficial for people, such as better agricultural conditions or lower heating costs in cold regions. But the overall picture is one of calamitous change.

Over the next decades, it will take all of humanity's commitment and ingenuity to avoid a major climate catastrophe.

Albert Van Dijk, Professor, Water and Landscape Dynamics, and Pablo Rozas Larraondo - Australian National University & Hylke Beck, Assistant Professor, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology

Mauritius Times

Even if you are receiving a free copy of the paper from your contacts or WhatsApp/Email groups

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

As a reader-funded newspaper, the Mauritius Times relies on the support of those who are in a position to help. We know that you are fully conscious of the important role of an independent media, so even if you are receiving a free copy of the paper from your contacts or WhatsApp/Email groups, your support in the form of a subscription or patronage will allow us to pursue our mission and protect our editorial independence. That is why we would kindly request you to consider becoming a regular subscriber by sending us your contribution.

Our Annual Subs Rate amounts to Rs 1500.
Your support, however much you can contribute, will be greatly appreciated.

Payment Options - Any one of the following

1. By cheque drawn to the order of **The Prakash Ramlallah Foundation**. Kindly post the cheque to our postal address as above.
2. Via MCB Juice to the following Phone No **5 782 9861**.
3. Bank transfer, paid to **The Prakash Ramlallah Foundation**, to any one of the following bank accounts:

Bank	Account No	Swift Code	IBAN
MCB	000448214277	MCBLMUMU	MU71MCBL0901000448214277000MUR
SBM	50300000703075	STCMUMU	MU17STCB110100000703075000MUR
SBI	156000504401	INILMUMU	MU47INIL0801156000504401000MUR

Please send us your personal details - Name, Postal Address, Email and Telephone / Mobile number by email or WhatsApps for immediate processing of your subscription.

Another option is to subscribe by going to our Google Form by clicking on the link below:

[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

Please know that we are at your disposal for any clarification and assistance that you may require. You may please contact us on:

Tel - 5 2929 301 - 5 782 9861 - 212 1313 -- Email: mtimes@intnet.mu

Pearl House - 4th Floor - Room 406, Sir Virgil Naz St -- Port Louis

Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

Apravasi Ghat Indian Indentured Immigrants Arrival
189th Anniversary Celebrations of Indentured Immigrants Arrival
2 November 1834 - 2 November 2023
The Apravasi Ghat Indian Indentured Immigrants Arrival Celebration Committee is solemnly inviting you to be present at the
Annual Yaj Ceremony
to pay tribute to the *Girmittias* - Indian Indentured Immigrants.
Apravasi Ghat Thursday 2nd November 2023
From 8.00 am to 8.45 am
The programme will comprise Yaj, Prayers, Tribute, Lighting of Lamp and Shradhanjali with offering of flowers.
Please bring along garlands, flowers, bouquets for the Shradhanjali.
Rita Ramlallah Secretary
Dr Mrs Sarita Boodhoo President

Notice for Permission for Land Use within Residential Zone

Take notice that I, **Mrs Anuradha Imrit** will apply to the **District Council of Pamplemousses for a Building and Land Use Permit** for a proposed Tailor (Individual/ Homebased) at Kashmir Road, Khoyratty. Any person feeling aggrieved by the proposal may lodge an objection in writing to the above-named Council within 5 days as from the date of this publication.

Date: 24 Oct 2023

How to get your kids to talk about their feelings

Many of us grew up not talking about emotions. But as modern parents, we're told we need to teach our children about their feelings to build their resilience. So how do we do it?

Emotions are core to our human experience, but seeing “negative” emotions in our children – anger, fear, jealousy, envy, sadness, resentment – can make us uncomfortable.

Strong emotions in our kids may trigger our own emotional reactions, and we may feel lost about the best way to respond.

Many of today's adults grew up not talking about emotions. But as modern parents, we're told we need to teach our children about their feelings to build their resilience. So how can you encourage your children to talk about their feelings?

Research shows kids learn about emotions in four key ways: our parenting, how we explicitly teach them, our behaviour and the family environment.

1) Our parenting helps kids name, express and manage emotions

As parents, we play an important role in helping children name, express and manage their emotions.

But this is often not easy. We might be comfortable teaching our children to recognise when they are hungry, tired and thirsty, but be focused on stopping children's sadness, fears or anger, rather than on teaching about these emotions.

Everyone feels a range of emotions, and the “negative” emotions are not inherently bad. Emotions are signals that are important for our survival and help us to understand ourselves and our world. Children often “act out” their emotions, rather than talking about how they feel.

When we teach kids that all emotions are healthy, they learn to trust themselves, feel more comfortable sharing their feelings, and view emotions as brief experiences that pass.

So, what should we say in the moment?

1. Start by describing what you see or observe. “You sound sad/angry?” or “You are looking a little quiet.”

2. We often don't know exactly what



Everyone feels a range of emotions. Max Harlynkung/Unsplash

our child is feeling. Be tentative and check: “You look frustrated, is that right?”

3. Validate: “That situation was really hard, no wonder you're frustrated.”

4. When our child is upset, we don't need to say much. Try to listen and connect through eye contact and gentle touch. As University of Houston professor of social work and author Brené Brown reminds us, it is not about having the right words, but instead about offering support and connection.

5. Avoid trying to fix (problem-solve) or distract your child when they are emotional. Support kids to acknowledge and “sit with” their feelings.

6. Older children and teens may learn how to start masking their emotions, so we might only see their challenging behaviours. Imagine their behaviour is the tip of an iceberg, caused by emotions under the surface. Try connecting with

their emotion rather than focusing only on the behaviour, “You slammed your door, are you feeling upset?”

2) Parents can explicitly teach kids about emotions

When everyone's calm (not when you or your child are upset), we can teach kids about emotions.

We can start conversations about emotions based on almost anything your child is interested in, a TV show, video game, movie, or book they're reading. A great movie for starting the conversation is Inside Out.

Watching emotions in fictional characters normalises emotions as a universal experience and helps kids to recognise more subtle types of emotions and different ways to express and manage emotions.

For older kids who've become more self-conscious, try having these discussions when not directly looking at them, in the car, or during an activity (walking, kicking a ball, watching a movie together). Some kids open up more at bedtime. Try to listen more and talk less.

3) Children watch and learn from us

Many of us grew up in families where parents did not teach us about emotions, or they were poor role models for expressing emotions in healthy ways.

If this is the case, it's common to view emotions as bad and unhelpful, and

believe it's not good to dwell on feelings.

As a result, it can be hard to watch our children experiencing strong negative emotions. If you're feeling triggered by your child's emotion, it will help to pause. You can leave the room if necessary. It's healthy to role-model to kids taking a break when we feel overwhelmed.

If we make a mistake as parents and act in ways we're not proud of, this is a great opportunity to model to our kids how to make amends.

Explain what you were feeling, that your actions were not okay, and apologise. This gives kids a template for making amends themselves, which is a critical relationship skill.

If you often struggle managing your own emotions, learning about emotions is a good start. Two good books are:

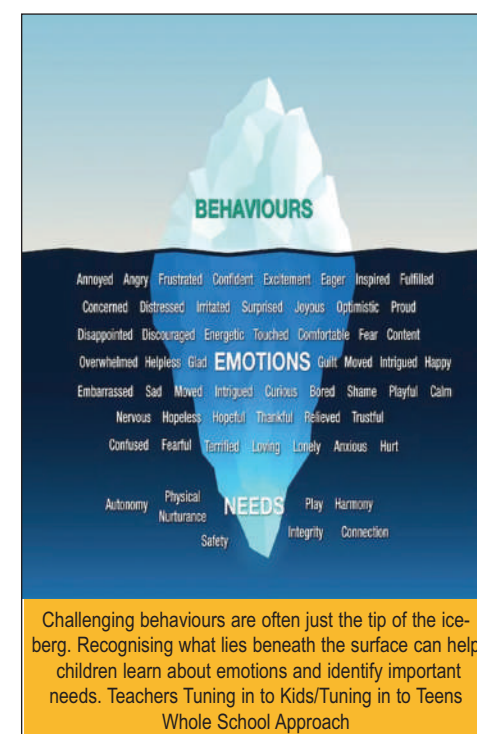
- 'Permission to Feel' (Marc Brackett)
- 'The A to Z of Feelings' (Andrew Fuller and Sam Fuller).

4) Kids are affected by relationships in the family

Emotions are contagious. Kids are affected by other relationships in the family, including conflict between parents.

Remember, conflict is a healthy human experience and cannot be eliminated. Instead, it's important to show kids healthy conflict, where we all express emotions in a respectful way.

It's also important that kids see healthy conflict resolution.



Parents can explain how they were feeling in certain situations. James Wheeler/Unsplash

By Elizabeth Westrupp, Associate Professor in Psychology, Deakin University & Christiane Kehoe, Research Manager and Program Specialist Tuning in to Kids, The University of Melbourne

How superstitions spread

Even seemingly irrational beliefs can become enshrined in the social norms of a society

Ancient Roman leaders once made decisions about important events, such as when to hold elections or where to build new cities, based on the presence or flight patterns of birds. Builders often omit the thirteenth floor from their floor plans, and many pedestrians go well out of their way to avoid walking under a ladder.

While it's widely recognized that superstitions like these are not rational, many persist, guiding the behaviour of large groups of people even today.

In a new analysis driven by game theory, two theoretical biologists devised a model that shows how superstitious beliefs can become established in a society's social norms. Their work, which appears in 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences', demonstrates how groups of individuals, each starting with distinct belief systems, can evolve a coordinated set of behaviours that are enforced by a set of consistent social norms.

"What's interesting here is that we show that, beginning in a system where no one has any particular belief system, a set of beliefs can emerge, and from those, a set of coordinated behaviours," says Erol Akçay,

an assistant Prof of biology at Penn.

"Slowly, these actors accumulate superstitions," adds Bryce Morsky, a postdoctoral researcher. "They may say, 'Ok, well I believe that when I observe this event I should behave this way because another person will behave that way,' and over time, if they have success in using that kind of a strategy, the superstitions catch on and can become evolutionarily stable."

Morsky and Akçay's work is an application of game theory, which attempts to predict how people will interact and make decisions in a social setting. They specifically considered what are known as correlated equilibria, scenarios in which all actors are given correlated signals that dictate their response to any given situation.

"A classic example is a traffic light," says Akçay. "If two people are approaching an intersection, one will get a 'stop' signal and one will get a 'go' signal and everybody knows that. It's rational for both parties to obey the light."

The signal, in this case the traffic light, is known as a correlating device, or more evocatively, a "choreographer." But the Penn team wanted to know what would happen if there was no choreographer. If people could pay attention to a variety of other signals that could direct



their actions, and their beliefs were transmitted according to the success of their actions, would coordinated behaviours arise? In other words, can evolution act as a "blind choreographer?"

"What if a cyclist is riding toward an intersection, and instead of a traffic light they see a cat," Akçay says. "The cat is irrelevant to the intersection, but maybe the person decides that if they see a black cat, that means they should stop, or that maybe that means the approaching cyclist is going to stop."

Despite the colour of a cat having no bearing on the likelihood of an approaching cyclist stopping or going,

sometimes this kind of conditional strategy might result in a higher payoff to the cyclist -- if it is correlated with superstitions of other cyclists.

"Sometimes it may be rational to hold these irrational beliefs," Morsky notes.

In their model, Morsky and Akçay assume that individuals are rational, in that they do not follow a norm blindly, but only do so when their beliefs make it seem beneficial. They change their beliefs by imitating successful people's beliefs. This creates an evolutionary dynamic where the norms "compete" against one another, rising and falling in prevalence through the group. This evolutionary process eventually leads to the formation of new social norms.



Why does cold air go down and hot air go up?

This is a really important question, and one which climatologists work on in many aspects of their jobs.

Does cold air go down because the Earth's core is made out of magma and does hot air go up because it's cold out in space – and does the circle repeat? (Neo, 10, Boksburg, South Africa)

Thank you, Neo, for this great question! You've clearly got a very analytical mind, and would make an excellent atmospheric physicist – that's a researcher who looks at the physical processes happening in our atmosphere – one day.

The rising of hot air and sinking of cool air is important for almost every aspect of our day to day weather and our long term climate. It affects which way the wind blows and how fast it blows. It also affects whether we are likely to have rain, and the type of rainfall. Over larger areas of the earth, and over longer time periods, it even influences our seasons. So this is a really important question, and one which climatologists like myself work on in many aspects of our jobs.

I want to start by describing what's happening in the earth's core, then tell you a little bit about the temperature of space. Once I've done that, I'll explain the real reasons hot air rises and cold air sinks.

The Earth's core and outer space

If you were to cut a slice out of the earth, you would see four clear layers. The crust is the thin outer layer – much like an orange skin. The crust is hard, made up of solid rock. It's the part of the earth that we walk on. Below that is a thicker layer



The land surface heats up during the day because of solar radiation coming in from the sun. Ed Connor/Shutterstock

called the mantle; it's a viscous layer of molten (melted) rock. Below that is the outer core, and right at the centre of the earth the inner core. These are very hot layers of molten rock and metal.

And you are quite right – the earth's core is very, very hot. The inner core, made up of iron, is approximately 6,000°C. Even the upper mantle, just below the crust, has an average temperature of 2,000°C. That's 100 times hotter than most daytime temperatures during spring in South Africa.

But the temperatures at the top of the crust are controlled far more by the sun than by the temperature of the centre of the earth. We'll come back to that shortly.

Now, let's talk about the temperature of space.

The earth is surrounded by an atmosphere – a layer of gases that we breathe in and out, and that control our temperatures by absorbing some of the heat, and reflecting the rest. Beyond the atmos-

phere is what is called "outer space".

The temperature of outer space just outside the earth's atmosphere is about 10.17°C. Outer space is heated directly by the sun. The areas in the sun are as warm as 120°C, while areas shaded by the earth are as cold as -100°C. Again, you're right: this is a lot cooler than the earth's inner core.

It's correct that the earth's core is very hot and space is much cooler. But that's not the reason hot air rises and cool air sinks.

Thermodynamics

To come to the real reason, let's turn to a field of science called thermodynamics. This is the branch of physics which studies heat and energy. Thermodynamics allows us to understand exactly what's happening to individual bubbles of air. Did you know that the air around us is made of millions and millions of tiny air bubbles that sit very closely together?

Heating of the air can occur via conduction or convection – transferring heat to these air bubbles, and sharing it between them. The land surface heats up during the day because of solar radiation coming in from the sun. This incoming solar radiation is absorbed by the earth, warming it up. It is then released from the earth as long wave radiation, and heats up the air above the ground.

Those air bubbles then move around and bump into each other, sharing their

heat between themselves.

When the ground heats up an air bubble above it, that air bubble expands – much like our feet swell up when they're very hot in our shoes. As the air bubble heats up, the weight of that bubble is spread over a bigger area and so it becomes less dense.

As these air bubbles become less dense, they rise because they weigh less than what's next to them. This is the same when you let go of a helium balloon and it floats away: the helium gas in the balloon is less dense than the air in our atmosphere (which is made up of a large amount of much heavier nitrogen).

The opposite happens when air cools down. The air bubbles contract, their weight takes up much less space and so they become more dense, and sink. This can happen if the air particles move away from the source of heat; they might have risen very high, or moved to an area over a cool lake or over some shade.

So, there's no link between the earth's core, space's temperature and the behaviour of cold air versus hot air. But you definitely think like a scientist, Neo, because you are interested in how one thing influences another. Maybe one day you'll study thermodynamics, too!

Jennifer Fitchett

Associate Professor of Physical Geography, University of the Witwatersrand



Those darn time differences



One of the Russian Ambassadors comes to President Putin and nervously tells him he'd like to resign.

"Why?" Putin asks him.

"Ah, Mr President, I can't find myself with these time differences! I fly to another city, call home and everyone is asleep. I last woke you up at 4 in the morning, but I thought it was only evening.

"I call Angela Merkel to congratulate her on her birthday and she tells me she had it yesterday. I wish the Chinese President a happy New Year, and he says it will be tomorrow."

"Well, these are just minor inconveniences!" says Putin. "Do you remember when that Polish plane crashed with the President? I called them to express my condolences, but the plane hasn't taken off yet!"

The cruel king and his dogs

There once was a cruel king who enjoyed executing whoever he pleased. A minister once gave him wrong advice. The king decided to have him killed. He ordered that the minister to be thrown to the ravenous and vicious guard dogs.

The minister said, "I have served you loyally for 10 years and you do THIS?"

The king was without mercy.

The minister fell on his knees pleaded, "Please give me 10 days before you throw me to the dogs."

The king thought about it, weighed his curiosity vs. his blood lust, and finally agreed.

In those 10 days the minister went to the keeper of the dogs and told him he wanted to feed the dogs for the next 10 days. The guard was baffled, but he agreed. So the minister started feeding the dogs, caring for them, washing them, providing all sorts of comforts for them.

When the 10 days were up, the king ordered that the minister be thrown to the dogs as sentenced. When he was thrown in, everyone was amazed at what they saw. The ferocious dogs were wagging their tails, playing with the



condemned minister and even licking his feet.

The king was baffled at what he saw. "What happened to the my vicious dogs?!" he growled.

The minister then said, "I served the dogs for only 10 days and they didn't forget my service. I served you for 10 years and you forgot all of it at my first mistake!"

The king then realized his own great mistake.

The next day, he replaced the dogs with crocodiles.

Tick tock, tick tock

Colonel Reichman, an interrogation specialist for the German army, was walking around in a quaint little Swiss village one day during WWII. He spots a little shop selling clocks and watches and decides to enter.

Inside, the owner, a lady standing behind the counter, immediately recognizes who he is and welcomes him into the shop, asking how she can be of assistance. "Frauline," he starts "Deez are all very nice little clocks and vatches you have in here, but ze von I am interested in is zat big grandfazer clock you have outside above your door."

"Nein colonel, I am sorry, but zat grandfazer clock is not for sale. It is a showpiece of ze little shop," she answers.

"Frauline, don't gif me that! You know who I am, and ven I say I vant zat grandfazer clock, you give me ze bloody grandfazer clock!" he retorts impatiently.

"Colonel, vhy vould you vant zat clock anyway? It is broken. It does not vork!" she says.

"Vhy Frauline? Vhat is wrong with ze clock?" he asks.

"Colonel, ze pendulum only swings von vay, ze bloody thing only goes TICK, TICK, TICK and it cannot go TOCK." she answers.

He gets a grin on his face and says "Haha, don't you worry about zat Frauline! Vhere ve come from, ve haf vays of making it TOCK!"

The First Jewish President

The year is 2032 and the United States has elected the first woman as well as the first Jewish president, Sarah Goldstein.

She calls up her mother a few weeks after Election Day and says, "So, Mom, I assume you'll be coming to my inauguration?"

"I don't think so. It's a ten-hour drive, your father isn't as young as he used to be, and my arthritis is acting up again."

"Don't worry about it, Mom, I'll send Air Force One to pick you up and take you home. And a limousine will pick you up at your door."

"I don't know. Everybody will be so fancy-schmancy; what on earth would I wear?"

Sarah replies, "I'll make sure you have a wonderful gown, custom-made by the best designer in New York."



"Honey," Mom complains, "you know I can't eat those rich foods you and your friends like to eat."

The President-to-be responds, "Don't worry Mom. The entire affair is going to

be handled by the best caterer in New York; Kosher all the way Mom, I really want you to come." ("Kosher" is a term used to describe foods that comply with dietary guidelines set by traditional Jewish law.)

So, Mom reluctantly agrees and on January 20th, Sarah Goldstein is being sworn in as President of the United States. In the front row sits the new President's mother, who leans over to a senator sitting next to her and says, "You see that woman over there with her hand on the Torah, becoming President of the United States?"

The senator whispers back, "Yes, I do."

Her mom flushes with pride and says: "Her brother is a doctor."

St Peter and the Politicians

St Peter was standing at the pearly gates of Heaven when a group of politicians walked up.

"Hey Peter, may we come into Heaven?" asks one jovially.

St Peter replies "Well, we have never had a group of politicians come into heaven before, let me ask God."

He then turns around and goes to consult God.

"My Lord, there is a group of politicians at the pearly gates of Heaven. Should I let them in?"

God thinks for a moment and says "We have never had politicians in Heaven before. Let's see how it goes. Let them in."

St Peter leaves God, only to come running back a few minutes later. "THEY'RE GONE!" He said.

"The politicians?"

"THE PEARLY GATES!!"

Three Gentlemen and the Wall of Lies



Three men are walking in the desert for days, seeking a way out of the heat-ed hellscape. There was an American, an Englishman and a Brazilian.

After a long

while they encounter a huge wall.

They try to go around it, over it, but the wall is too high and too long. They break down weeping, when the American spots a sign near the wall.

The sign reads: "You must all tell a lie in order to break this wall. The greater the lie, the greater the damage. But beware, each one of you only has one try."

The men sink into deep thinking state.

After hours of thinking, the Englishman begins: "We, the English gentlemen, we never drink tea with milk."

The wall cracks.

The American adds: "We, the American gentlemen never smoke stogies (long, thin, cheap cigars) after a hard day of work."

Again, the wall cracks. Now all left up to the Brazilian, he takes a deep breath and starts: "We, the Brazilian gentlemen..."

The wall shatters.



6 ways to live a fulfilled life

1. Control your thoughts when you are alone. Your thoughts manifest into realities.
2. Control your tongue when you are with friends. Your words have so much power and people can use them against you.
3. Control your decisions when you are angry. Anger is a temporal thing but the decisions you

make when you are angry can have lifelong effect.

4. Pay attention to your behaviour when you sit in a group. Maintain a respectful attitude to others even during stressful times. Don't disrespect anyone, use appropriate language, apologise for errors or misunderstandings, and keep your personal opinions of others private.

5. Control your pride when someone praises you. Pride is poison for your soul and can create an inflated self-image with negative after effect.

6. Control your emotions when someone says something wrong about you. It can be a trap intentionally set to capture you. If you control your emotions, you can figure out how to deal with problematic events and difficult situations and come to reasonable solutions.

Thoughts to Live by

When you remember me..

When you remember me, it means that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us.

It means that if we meet again, you will know me. It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart.

For as long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost. When I'm feeling most ghost-like, it is your remembering me that helps remind me that I actually exist. When I'm feeling sad, it's my consolation. When I'm feeling happy, it's part of why I feel that way.

If you forget me, one of the ways I remember who I am will be gone. If you forget, part of who I am will be gone.

Frederick Buechner
From 'Whistling in the Dark'

* * *

Living and Loving

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool,

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach out to another is to risk involvement,

To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self.

To place your ideas and dreams before a crowd is to risk their loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return,

To live is to risk dying,

To hope is to risk despair,

To try is to risk failure.

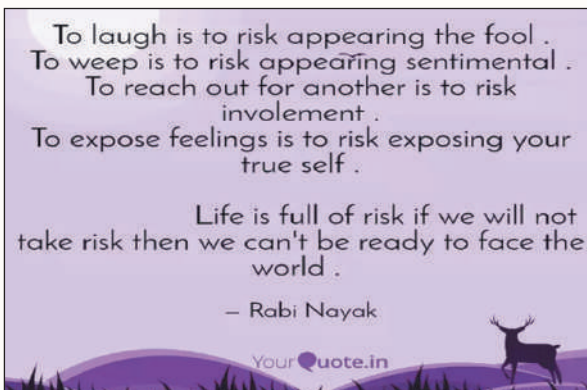
But risks must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.

The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.

He may avoid suffering and sorrow,

But he cannot learn, feel, change, grow or live.

Chained by his servitude he is a slave who has forfeited all freedom.



Only a person who risks is free.

Leo Buscaglia

From 'Living, Loving & Learning'

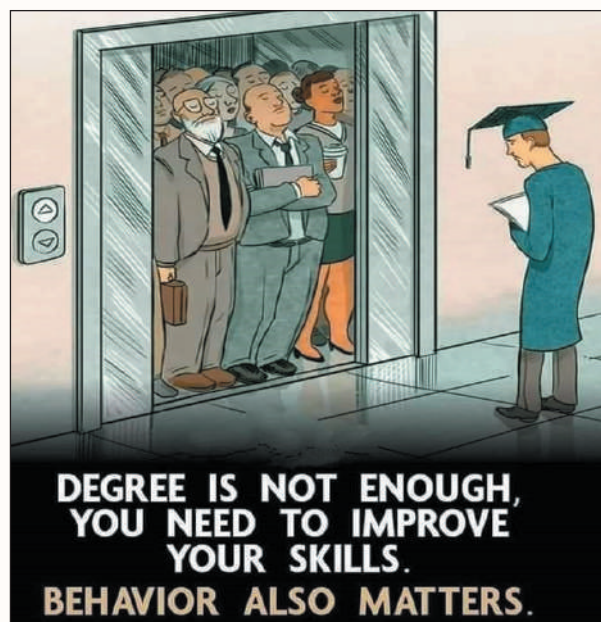
* * *

“A lady's imagination is very rapid; it jumps from admiration to love, from love to matrimony in a moment.”

“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.”

Jane Austen

From 'Pride and Prejudice'



Warren Buffett's Success Tips

These lessons from “The Snowball” provide valuable insights into Buffett's life and investment philosophy.

1. **Patience and Long-Term Thinking:** Warren Buffett's success is attributed to his patient and long-term approach to investing. The lesson here is to focus on the bigger picture and not get swayed by short-term fluctuations.
2. **Value investing:** Buffett's investment strategy revolves around identifying undervalued companies and investing in them for the long haul. This lesson emphasizes the importance of seeking value and not being driven solely by market trends.
3. **Continuous learning:** Buffett is known for his voracious reading habit. The lesson here is to prioritize continuous learning and intellectual curiosity to stay ahead in a rapidly changing world.
4. **Integrity and ethics:** The book highlights Buffett's commitment to ethical business practices. This lesson underscores the importance of maintaining integrity and ethical standards in all aspects of life and business.
5. **Rational decision-making:** Buffett is known for his rational and disciplined approach to decision-making. The lesson here is to base decisions on sound reasoning and analysis rather than emotions or market hype.
6. **Risk management:** Buffett is cautious when it comes to taking risks. The lesson here is to assess risks carefully and have a well-thought-out risk management strategy in place.
7. **Building strong relationships:** The book emphasizes the importance of building and nurturing strong relationships. Buffett's success is partly attributed to his ability to collaborate and build trust with business partners and investors.
8. **Humility and simplicity:** Despite his immense wealth, Buffett maintains a humble and down-to-earth attitude. The lesson here is to stay grounded and not let success lead to arrogance or a disconnect from reality.
9. **Giving back:** Buffett is known for his philanthropy, pledging a significant portion of his wealth to charitable causes. The lesson here is to make a positive impact on society by giving back and using one's resources for the greater good.
10. **Longevity and sustainability:** Buffett's investment approach focuses on companies with sustainable competitive advantages. The lesson here is to seek long-term, sustainable opportunities that can weather economic storms and generate consistent returns.

Applying these principles can help individuals navigate their own paths to success and make informed decisions in various aspects of life.

Weight Loss & Obesity

Numbers that matter as much as your weight

Instead of focusing just on the scale when you're trying to lose weight and improve your health, pay attention to these numbers, too, says Paul Frysh of WebMD

BMI

Body mass index uses your height to gauge if your weight is healthy, but even that's not foolproof. Your body type, ethnic group, and muscle mass can change the meaning of the number. For example, if you start exercising regularly, you may gain weight as you build muscles. When you're trying to lose weight to be healthier, there are other numbers you should pay attention to, too, instead of focusing only on the scale.

Waist size

Breathe out and wrap a tape measure around yourself midway between your hip bone and ribs. No matter your height or build, if your waist measures more than 40 inches (35 inches for women who aren't pregnant), you probably have extra fat around your heart, liver, kidneys, and other organs. Besides needing a larger pants size, you're more likely to have heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, sleep apnea, and colorectal cancer.

Blood pressure

Ideally, you want your upper, or "systolic," number to be below 120, and your lower "diastolic" number to be below 80. Once the numbers are 130 and 80, or higher, you have high blood pressure. You may not have any symptoms, yet it can damage your heart and blood vessels. Eventually, it can also cause problems with your kidneys, eyes, and sex life.

Blood sugar

When you're healthy, it should be under 100 mg/dL before you eat and less than 140 mg/dL a couple of hours later. (Your doctor will set your targets, which may be a bit higher, when you have diabetes.) Higher glucose levels can lead to long-term damage of your heart, blood vessels, and kidneys. Daily exercise and healthy eating can help bring your blood sugar down.

Lipid profile

This set of tests measures different kinds of fats in your blood: "bad" (LDL) cholesterol, "good" (HDL) cholesterol, and triglycerides. The general rule of thumb is that your total cholesterol score should be less than 200 mg/dL. You want your HDL to be 60 mg/dL or more and your triglycerides below 150 mg/dL. Unhealthy levels could lead to narrow or blocked arteries, heart attack, and stroke.

Exercise

You should get at least 30 minutes a day, at least 5 days a week, of moderate exercise (heart is pumping, lungs are working) like walking or gardening. It's best to spread the activity out, over the week and even the day, as long as you're doing it for at least 10 minutes. Make sure that twice a week you're using all your major muscles to keep them strong. Muscles will burn more calories than



fat, too, even at rest.

Seat time

Even working out an hour a day, 7 days a week, won't undo the unhealthy effects of sitting all day. When you stay seated, your body metabolism slows, so you burn fewer calories. Your muscles and joints stiffen up, and your back may hurt. Get up every 30 minutes or so. Stretch or take a short walk. That's a good way to help you hold onto those hard-earned gains from the gym and possibly live longer.

Steps

To improve your health and your mood, 10,000 every day is the number you'll hear a lot. But there's nothing magical about it. Anywhere between 4,000 and 18,000 may be good for you. The types of steps you take are important, too. The point is to make sure you're getting enough moderate activity every day. Talk to your doctor about what number makes sense for you. A smartphone app or fitness tracker may help you meet your goal.

Sleep

Adults usually need 7 to 9 hours a night. Our bodies use that time to fix tissue, make hormones, and grow muscle. Our brains use it to process the information and learning of the day into memories. Not enough sleep can make you hungrier -- and make junk food more appealing. Though it helps to get a bit of extra shut-eye if you haven't had enough, you can't really make up what you've missed in a night's sleep.

Screen time

Limit yourself to 2 hours a day that's not work- or school-related. And yes, that includes your smartphone. Too much time glued to that device has led to a new

condition called "text neck" that can cause back, neck, and shoulder pain. Screens in the bedroom can mess with your sleep. Screens during the day can make you less active and more distracted. There's even research being done on whether screen time causes brain damage.

Water

Most people can stay hydrated by drinking water when they're thirsty. To set a baseline, drink at least one glass of water with and between each meal. You may need more if it's hot or dry outside, or when you're pregnant. Drink before you work out, every 10-20 minutes during exercise (depending on the weather and how much you sweat), and within 30 minutes afterward. A glass of water might do the trick instead when you want a snack.

Fruit per Day

Men and all adults 30 and under should shoot for 2 cups a day. Women over 30 should stick with 1 1/2 cups. What's a "cup"? A small apple, a large banana, a medium pear, 8 big strawberries, or 1/2 cup of dried fruit. If you're more active, you may be able to eat more since you're burning the extra calories. Fruits have lots of nutrients that many people don't get enough of, like vitamin C, potassium, fibre, and folic acid.

Vegetables per day

You need more veggies than fruit: 2-3 cups a day, depending on your age and sex. Mix it up throughout the week with dark green (broccoli, spinach, kale), red and orange (tomatoes, red peppers, carrots, sweet potatoes), and starchy veggies (corn, potatoes, green peas), as well as beans, peas, and other vegetables (cabbage, onions, zucchini, cauliflower, mushrooms). Fresh, frozen, canned, or dried -- raw or cooked -- it all counts.

Alcohol

Moderation is key: a drink a day for women, two for men. (A drink can be 5 ounces of wine, 12 ounces of beer, or 1.5 ounces of liquor.) More than that, and any potential benefits start to fade. And the calories add up. Alcohol can be bad for your liver, kidneys, and heart, and could hurt your baby if you're pregnant. More than four drinks a day or 14 in a week for men, three in a day or seven in a week for women, could signal a problem.

Cigarettes

Literally, zero. They cause more deaths than HIV, illegal drug use, alcohol, car accidents, and gun incidents combined. Being a "light" or "social" smoker still isn't OK. Even if you smoke less than five cigarettes a day, you may have early signs of heart disease and other health problems. Ask your doctor about using nicotine gum to help control your appetite while you quit.

DASAUTO CO LTD

Tel: 248 3693 / 5850 1922 / 5256 4837

BMW SPECIALIST GARAGE

- Servicing & General Repairs
- Mechanical & Electrical Problems
- Diagnosis & Coding & Programming
- Engine Overhaul/Oil &
- Water Leakages/Suspension

FOR RENT

4000 Sq Ft Building
In Excellent Condition
within less than 5 mins
from New Supreme
Court Building

Ideal for
Office · Mini
Clinic · Medical
Lab · Archives
& Chambers

Parking Spaces &
Alarm System Available

CONTACT US
57809413 - 5 7829861 - 5 2929301
email: drrouget@gmail.com

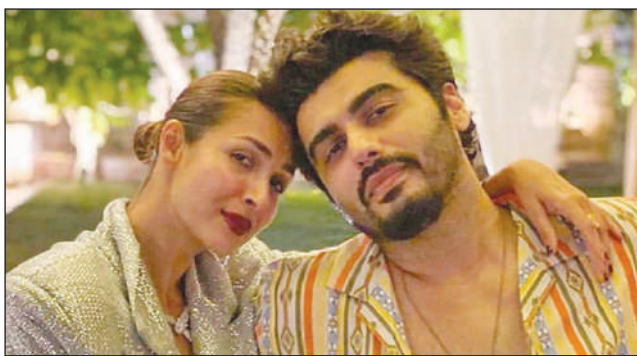
Kangana Ranaut's marriage plans: 'It will happen before...'

During the promotions of her upcoming film *Tejas*, Kangana Ranaut delved into her personal life and shared her aspirations for marriage and family

Kangana Ranaut is currently busy with the promotions of her upcoming film *Tejas*. In an interview with Times Now, Kangana discussed her aspirations for marriage and family. She also reflected on her past relationships, which, as it turns out, she believes were for the best, reports Indian Express.

Kangana revealed that she plans to get married in the next five years. She said, "Every girl dreams of her marriage and of having a family. I am a completely family person, it is very important to me. I want to be married and have a family and it will happen before five years. It will be good if it is a mix of arranged and love marriage."

Speaking about past relationships, the *Queen* actor said, "You won't always get success in relationships. And you will be lucky if you don't get that success at a young age and that happened to me. I was so determined to make that thing work that if it would have continued, I have would have given all my years to it. Luckily that relationship didn't work for me at that time. I think God protected me, but this perspective comes very late in life."



Malaika Arora opens up about break-up rumours with Arjun Kapoor

Malaika Arora, a dancer and actress from Bollywood who turned 48 on Monday 23 Oct, responded in a recent interview to rumours that she and her boyfriend Arjun Kapoor were breaking up.

"I am at that stage where I have spoken when I had to speak. I don't need to clarify anything because whatever has to be said has already been said," she stated.

"As the sun sets on another year and I turn 48 (in my favourite bathrobe), I am grateful for the peace, my people, and my calm that have been my companions throughout this journey," she said on Instagram, sharing a glimpse of her 48th birthday celebrations. "Every hour I spend here seems like a soft murmur pointing me in the direction of inner strength and self-discovery."

"Celebrating the calming sounds of the wind, the captivating dusks that hint at fresh starts, and the coziness of those who have enriched my life," the actress exclaimed, adding, "I am thankful for the life I have been given thus far and full of hope for the future." To me, happy birthday!

Arjun Kapoor and Malaika have been dating for more than five years.

In *Tejas*, scheduled for a theatrical release today 27 October, Kangana steps into the role of a fighter pilot for the first time. The actor recently held a special screening of the movie for Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Air Force personnel and even shared a photograph with NSA Ajit Doval. She is also working on her film *Emergency*, where she will be playing the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Her directorial venture also stars Anupam Kher, Shreyas Talpade, Mahima Chaudhary, and Milind Soman, among others. Based on the events of the Emergency imposed in India in 1975, the film is expected to be released in 2024.

Kangana says 'battles' with Aamir, Shah Rukh, Salman were 'never personal'

Kangana Ranaut has always been loud and clear about her opinions. She never minces words, even if it means targeting the Khans of Bollywood — Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir. But, recently, she was seen getting friendly with Salman Khan on *Bigg Boss 17* during the promotions of her upcoming film, *Tejas*. She also praised Shah Rukh's latest blockbuster, *Jawan*. So, in a recent interview, Kangana was questioned about her change of heart towards the Khans.

She responded by saying that her 'battles' were never 'personal' and she had no personal grudge with any of the Khans. "My main issue was the shorter female roles (in their films) and the age of the actresses who were cast opposite them. See, how that is changing now. Actresses over 35-40 are becoming the heroines of Khans. So, I have fought for these changes. Otherwise, we used to



see the heroines of Khans play their mothers 8-10 years down the line. So, we have fought for these changes," Kangana told Times Now Navbharat.

Asked if she has become a little diplomatic and is not as fierce as she was earlier, Kangana replied by saying that after many defamation cases against her, she has realised that it is a "waste of time" to visit court again and again.

"I am not scared of speaking against anyone but when you have to go to court, then you feel that this is such a wastage of time," said Kangana.

Aishwarya Rai, Anushka Sharma, Parineeti Chopra...

Why Bollywood actresses are subjected to endless trolling, public scrutiny?

In the age of social media, celebrities like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan endure relentless scrutiny and criticism. A former Miss World, actor, brand ambassador, mother, wife and a successful, self-made public figure, Aishwarya walked the ramp at the Paris Fashion Week about a fortnight ago. Sadly, instead of admiring the fact that she joined a select group of beautiful and successful women from around the world, people went on to leave cruel comments about her weight, her looks and even alleged that she had used cosmetic procedures on her face, reports Indian Express.

Even before her Paris Fashion Week appearance, Aishwarya was trolled for her choice of clothes, hairstyle and her weight at the Cannes Film Festival. It makes one wonder, were we always this mean and nasty, or did social media unearth a latent reservoir of pure evil residing within each one of us? Why is it so perversely satisfying for so many of us to criticise women we don't know? Most frighteningly, why does the insensitivity feel justified and even satisfying to some people online?

But Aishwarya is not alone. Just google 'Bollywood actresses getting trolled' and you will find a plethora of

articles about actresses who got trolled for what they wore, what they said, their personal lives and of course the constant comments on their dimensions. Whether it's Vidya Balan's waistline, Anushka Sharma's lips, or Janhvi Kapoor's alleged cosmetic procedures; there are innumerable examples of women in the public eye being subject to unrelenting and frankly unnecessary public scrutiny.

Saba Azad is a talented singer and actor who received a shocking amount of hatred and negativity from social media users after her appearance at the Lakme Fashion week. In an earlier interview to India Today, Saba spoke about dealing with hatred online and said, "It's taken me quite some time to come to a place where I

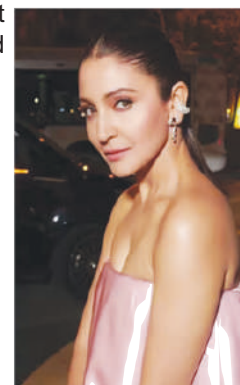
treat everything else as white noise because hatred is palpable. I am not made of stone, it hits you. You feel like sh*t. There are days when you wake up and you wonder 'What did I do to anyone?'

Parineeti Chopra who got married recently, was trolled for her choice of bridal couture

at her wedding. From the colour of her *lehenga* to the song she made her entry on, netizens found fault with every aspect of her wedding.

While the homogenisation of celebrity weddings may be a topic that the wedding planner fraternity to debate on, making a person feel bad about the way she looked on her wedding day is perhaps as awful as people can get.

Sadly, this pressure to look constantly pretty is a reflection of how we treat women. Just walk into a departmental store and see the range of creams, lotions, concealers, primers, anti-ageing creams, fine line reducers, wrinkle removers and dark spot reduction serums being sold at varying prices to ensure our appearance checks off all the boxes of attractiveness.



China's Belt and Road Initiative turns 10

Xi announces 8 new priorities, continues push for global influence



Lauren Johnston
Associate
Professor, China
Studies Centre,
University of
Sydney

China's Belt and Road Initiative, which now includes 44 African countries, got under way 10 years ago. President Xi Jinping launched it in 2013 with a first speech in Kazakhstan and a second one in Indonesia. The initiative is something of a trial-by-doing development policy enigma: it keeps China watchers chasing Xi's next move to help define just what it is.

The two speeches, however, give some lasting guidance. The Kazakhstan speech outlined five elements of the "Belt": strengthening policy communication; road connectivity; currency circulation; people-to-people ties; and promoting unimpeded trade. In Indonesia, the five points were more abstract and diplomacy-oriented. They were framed as pursuing win-win cooperation, mutual assistance and affinity, and remaining open and inclusive.

So, what's happened since then? As an economist with a keen interest in the political economy of China-Africa relations, I have studied the Belt and Road Initiative since its inception.

Among the more tangible achievements so far is fostering "road connectivity". China has helped to finance and construct highways, rail and energy projects in various countries. People, goods and commodities flow more smoothly in many places than before, within and between countries. But at a cost. Most of these projects have been funded by loans from Chinese banks, including the China Export Import Bank and China Development Bank.

Marking the 10th anniversary at a forum in October, Xi outlined the progress of the initiative. He also made a commitment to raise the quality of development cooperation, and provided more details on people-to-people ties and on areas of policy dialogue especially.

Much is made of a fall in spending on the Belt and Road Initiative. But if these promises take shape, the early big spending years may come to reflect a down payment. That down payment was made in times of low interest rates and kick-started some important and highly visible infrastructural projects.

Xi's announcement at this year's forum offered old and new news for the Belt and Road Initiative and its signatories. For African signatories (and their regional organisations and development banks) to make the most of what China is now offering, they need to understand the origins of the Belt and Road Initiative and also what has and has not changed since.

In addition, Xi's announcement comes at a time when China's relationship with the African continent is changing, as I outlined in a recent article. The change sees the China-Africa relationship move beyond a focus on oil, extractive commodities and large infrastructure projects. It shifts attention to industrial production, job creation and investments that lead to African exports, and productivity-enhancing agricultural and digital technology opportunities. This model, called the "Hunan model", is named after the province in southern China that is leading the push. This also helps to explain why China's lending is moving from bilateral development finance to include more commercial and trade finance lending.

Comparing promises 10 years on

Xi made eight major commitments at the October 2023 forum. More than half of these draw directly from



A Belt and Road Initiative's bridge being built over L. Victoria, Tanzania. Herman Emmanuel/Xinhua via Getty Images

the policy focus areas announced a decade ago.

- Xi promised to build a multidimensional Belt and Road connectivity. He referred to roads, rail, port and air transport and related logistics and trade corridors.
- He promised to open China's economy more to the world. Higher trade levels would be one way. Alongside a new emphasis on the digital economy, Xi added that China would establish pilot zones for e-commerce-based cooperation. In Africa, a guide to those may be provided by the two existing digital commerce hubs set up by Alibaba in Ethiopia and Rwanda under its electronic World Trade Platform Initiative.
- He spoke of "practical cooperation". This seems to refer to financing for expensive infrastructure projects, smaller livelihood projects and technical and vocational training. This has an aspect of crossover with currency circulation, people-to-people ties, unimpeded trade and more.
- Xi's recent speech also promised to support people-to-people exchanges. This is a direct take from the first launch speech of 2013. But he added detail about establishing arts and culture alliances. Also that China would host a "Liangzhu Forum" to enhance dialogue on civilisation.
- Finally, in line with the earlier commitment to elevated policy dialogue, Xi promised to strengthen institutional building for international Belt and Road Initiative cooperation. This relates to building platform forms for cooperation in energy, taxation, finance, green development, disaster reduction, anti-corruption, think-tanks, media, culture, and other fields.

Where extending sovereign lending may present a challenge at the moment while the legacy of debt sustainability issues is addressed, Chinese policy banks are continuing to lend to institutions of the global south. For example, in the lead up to the forum the China Development Bank agreed a US\$400mn loan to Afreximbank to support small and medium enterprise trade efforts, with an eye on the goal of "unimpeded trade" and Africa's own regional integration efforts under the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Beyond the promises made in Xi's speech to this year's forum, elevated funding for China's policy banks

was announced. Further, agreements made between participants also signal commitment to the original principles of the Belt and Road Initiative. For example, Xi's speech in Kazakhstan in 2013 called for elevated currency circulation. China has not only developed its mobile payments ecosystem but is now testing its emerging central bank digital currency, the eCNY, at home and abroad.

New promises

There are three new policy promises added to those of a decade ago.

- China will promote green development, including green infrastructure, green energy, and green transportation. It will hold a Belt and Road Initiative Green Innovation Conference and establish a network of experts. China also promised to provide 100,000 training opportunities in areas of green development.
- China will continue to advance scientific and technological innovation. It will hold a conference on Science and Technology Exchange and increase the number of joint laboratories that support exchange and training for young scientists. Xi also promised that China would propose a Global Initiative for Artificial Intelligence Governance and promote secure artificial intelligence development.
- China will promote integrity-based cooperation. This would include publishing details of Belt and Road achievements and prospects and establishing a system of evaluating compliance.

These new areas are of increasing economic importance to China, amid rapid population ageing especially, and competition with high-income countries.

The future

Where the twin launch speeches of the Belt and Road Initiative had very broad agendas, Xi's speech at the 10-year anniversary revealed progress on earlier themes and a push to elevate the quality of development. There was more detail especially on people-to-people ties and on areas of policy dialogue to be fostered.

He added some new areas such as artificial intelligence governance, green development, e-commerce, and greater emphasis on scientific and tech cooperation. These new areas are becoming more economically important to China.

Comparing the new policy signals with the earlier ones implies that the initiative is by design adaptable. Further, since the Covid pandemic, some countries that had benefited from China's new level of Belt and Road lending have run into debt problems and interest rates have risen. This signals China's increased interest in lending to regional and locally present multilateral development and commercial banks that are relatively well positioned to target local entrepreneurs and development. In Africa, this offers a new chance to evolve strategies that can sustainably tap Chinese resources towards fostering the independent advance of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement and local socioeconomic development.