

MAURITIUS TIMES

● "A right is not what someone gives you; it's what no one can take from you." — Ramsey Clark



Interview - Dharam Gokhool

● **“Voters’ silence should not be mistaken for voters’ indifference**

Two mandates are long enough for voters to decide whether they are better off, whether promises have been kept...”

● ‘Be the change you want to see’ should become the mantra of the Opposition leaders, in both their words and actions. Only then will people vote for a regime change’

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AMERICAN DEMOCRACY SUMMIT

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Provisional Charges: Caution and Restraint

An issue that has been flagged previously in these columns and by concerned citizens and public-spirited legists relates to the abuse that has been made of provisional charges. Besides police action directed at suspects in drug trafficking cases, there have so many disturbing cases of police action during the last ten years targeting specific people, mostly in Opposition, and in some cases conducted in the most outlandish of ways that it was deemed necessary to rethink the "provisional charges" provisions that would ignore the test of reasonable suspicion. No remedial action has been forthcoming. The abuse that's made of provisional charges remains a recurring problem and what we have been given to witness these last months is an ongoing tussle between the Office of the DPP and the Police - a first in the annals of this country - over who calls the shots in matters of arrest and detention of suspects.

The police are obviously hard-pressed dealing with the serious drug abuse and trafficking situation in the country as evidenced by the thousands of drug offences involving not only adults but also minors and young people under the age of 25 registered every year. Mistakes are bound to happen, and provisional charges are thereafter dropped in such cases. The latest statistics available relating to provisional charges come from the answer to the PQ put by MP Reza Uteem in June 2016, which indicates that between January 2015 and June 2016, the police had lodged 14,728 provisional charges, out of which 5,217 were struck out in court for lack of any evidence.

One would expect that any police investigation would comply with the rule of law and ensure that the fundamental rights of suspects would be respected. In view of suspicions that that would not be the case in many cases, the call for the introduction of the 'Juge d'instruction', modelled on the French system, was made. This idea seems to have been dropped, and it's still not clear when a piece of legislation modelled on the UK's Police and Criminal Evidence Act, introduced in 1984, which is meant to govern the use of police powers as well as balance the rights of the individual against the powers of the police, will be enacted. A Bill to that effect was drafted as far back as 2013, and it has yet to go through the legislative process.

In the meantime, doubt persists as to whether the police carry out their work as thoroughly as they should have before arresting suspects on different charges. The turn of events in a number of cases suggests that this might not have been the

case, and the consequence is moral and material damage suffered by the concerned persons. Oftentimes politicians in office and/or public office holders who help press such charges especially in politically-motivated cases without going the full length to substantiate them are more often than not out of the offices they occupied at the time the un-sustained charges were levelled. The question that arises is how such persons may be made to account for questionable charges raised against people who are put under arrest and not even allowed to leave the country over a long period of time.

It may be recalled that Mr Rundheersing Bheenick, the previous Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, was subjected to ignominy as well as prohibition to leave the country so long the 'provisional charges' did not get cleared in court. The court subsequently released him from those charges. He has instituted a claim in damages for false charges levelled against him. We learn that he attended Court this morning in the case lodged by him against the State, the Commissioner of Police and the then head of the CCID, Mr Jangi, and after numerous postponements the case is now fixed for continuation on 13th February 2024, which makes it exactly on the 9th anniversary of the two-dozen strong police "landing" at his residence and his arrest on that day on three separate provisional charges. So much for speedy justice!

The question that arises especially in politically-motivated arrests is whether the police, by acting under the influence or not fully substantiated statements made by politicians/ministers and public officers, proceed to arrest persons under 'provisional charges' which are subsequently quashed in courts, are not deliberately misled. If so, is it possible to charge those who made unsubstantiated statements to the police in the first place and hold them accountable, irrespective of whether they hold the office or cease to do so, for subsequent claims in damages of the 'victims' of this situation, unless they convincingly prove that they acted in good faith in light of solid evidence rather than on trumped-up charges?

It is manifest that the police reliance on "provisional charges" to allow them a free rein on the deprivation of liberties of any citizen and other constraints on his movements for months/years, cannot be acceptable and requires the counter-balance of DPP and/or effective judiciary oversight. The greater the powers conferred onto a State institution, the greater the need for caution and restraint in the exercise of such powers.

The Conversation

Covid-19: Will there be a new surge?

*Who should get the new mRNA vaccines?
Are they safe and effective?*



It's been almost four years since the first human cases of Covid-19 infection caused by SARS-CoV-2 were reported.

Though the global health emergency was declared over on May 5, 2023, Covid-19 remains a major public health threat. As we enter the fall/winter respiratory virus season, it's a good time to review current Covid-19 risks and recommendations.

What are the current Covid subvariants in circulation?

The dynamically evolving nature of SARS-CoV-2 represents a major hurdle for vaccine scientists. Omicron XBB.1.5 was the globally dominant subvariant during the first half of 2023, one which led to the development of the updated mRNA vaccines.

However, the predominant subvariants circulating in the United States, United Kingdom, European Union and Canada at the time of writing include Omicron subvariants EG.5, FL1.5.1, XBB.1.16, XBB.1.9 and XBB.2.3.

Do they cause serious illness?

The capability of currently circulating subvariants of SARS-CoV-2 to cause serious illness appears similar to that of other Omicron lineages, including XBB.1.5. The main risk factors for developing more than just a mild respiratory tract infection include increasing age, immunosuppression, cancer, pregnancy and the presence of chronic medical conditions.

Comorbidities such as diabetes, obesity and diseases of the lungs, heart, liver, kidneys and neurologic system are all risk factors for hospitalization, critical illness and death due to COVID-19.

In adults, the odds of dying with Covid-19 increase by approximately three- to six-fold with obesity and four-fold with pulmonary disease. In children, the odds of dying increases by about 63-fold with obesity, 20-fold with Down's syndrome and 1.4-fold with asthma. In adults with Covid-19 infection, men are almost twice as likely to die as women.

Long COVID (also known as post Covid-19 condition) is one of the most discussed complications of SARS-CoV-2 infection. However, it is rare in children and adolescents without chronic health conditions. Furthermore, vaccination does not appear to prevent long-Covid in children.

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A Reform Agenda for Today's Despairing Youths and Tomorrow's Leaders

and to restore our pride in being part of the Mauritius narrative

Jan Arden

Those currently in the Opposition - parliamentary and extra-parliamentary - have been prime witnesses of the dysfunctions of the State these last few years, and they should be ideally placed to work out a meaningful and comprehensive reform agenda that might go some way to restore our pride in being part of the Mauritius narrative. And, indeed, we are given to understand that think-tanks have been diligently at work behind the curtains to reach a broad consensus on the low-lying fruits and those that may require wider post-electoral consultations.

Here we would like to comment on some of the many aspects laymen and observers feel should be part of the reform agenda.

Rethinking the building blocks: Few would question that some institutions and their credible, independent functioning are so fundamental that they require immediate treatment:

(a) The electoral process, its governing structures with a Commissioner and a double Commission (Electoral Supervisory Commission & Electoral Boundaries Commission), which has been subject of unheard accusations with the «write-off» of several thousands of legitimate electors, have been largely canvassed here and elsewhere and require a clean-up.

(b) So too does our Representation of People's Act (RPA), where the judiciary and processes for appeals should be fast-tracked so that simple demands for recounts or other electoral challenges are cleared within 3 months at most. Not the four years that delaying tactics and a judge change have imposed on the unfortunate appellant in No.15 last week. If the Indian Supreme Court can dispose of such electoral appeals within days, there is no reason why a legally enforceable deadline should not be feasible here.

(c) The National Assembly, its regulations and Standing Orders, the number of sittings and sessions, the Question Time and the provision of written answers are all matters that have been the object of irritation to lawmakers. Live TV coverage has brought to focus the severe limitations of a Speakership that rather than bending backwards to allow Opposition latitude for questions of national interest, has preferred bending forward to protect the government or its flailing Ministers. Redacting or kicking out MP questions, erasing the Hansard or



“Live TV coverage has brought to focus the severe limitations of a Speakership that rather than bending backwards to allow Opposition latitude for questions of national interest, has preferred bending forward to protect the government or its flailing Ministers. Redacting or kicking out MP questions, erasing the Hansard or expelling Opposition MPs at the drop of a hat, with exaggerated expulsion periods, have made the world witness our impoverished democratic credentials and left many Mauritians, watching social media broadcasts of several Commonwealth Parliamentary abodes, aghast at such goings-on in the ‘temple of our democracy’...”

expelling Opposition MPs at the drop of a hat, with exaggerated expulsion periods, have made the world witness our impoverished democratic credentials and left many Mauritians, watching social media broadcasts of several Commonwealth Parliamentary abodes, aghast at such goings-on in the ‘temple of our democracy’. A Speaker's responsibility is to some extent tributary of his/her own conception of his/her role, but unfettered freedom, with the conspicuous support of the Leader of the House, leading to the mocking comments of the Seychelles political leadership, is obviously unacceptably excessive.

(d) Spurred to some extent by the current excesses and the severe constraining effects of the Covid pandemic on ordinary lives, the spectacle of MPs, Ministers and the superstructures of our Republic continuing to enjoy the full benefits of their lifestyles, world travels and per-diems, variety of allowances, perks, benefits, and life-term pensions has exacerbated the feeling for a greater degree of austerity. Of course, past matters cannot be changed, but a new era of responsibility and accountability would not be amiss for newly-elected MPs/Ministers. As examples, the Office of the Vice-President is an absolute waste. Backpacker Presidents or Ministers trekking the globe at our expense can also be checked. Life pensions could be replaced by two 5-year periods of commuted pensions, say 66 and 33%. The dozens of

allowances should be scrapped in favour of a flat salary for the mandate period of 5 years.

(e) In return, there should be some recognition and gratitude for Mauritians willing to give up their family and other time to their political vocation. This could lead us to consider some form of State contribution to the functioning of political parties and to electoral campaigning, although a large fraction of the tax-paying population may be extremely loathe for such a burden. If democracy comes at a price, then why not consider that those highly profitable companies and groups, say above Rs 100m, contribute a modest 1% (or x%) annually to finance that vital democratic exercise, provided legislators can ensure a mechanism that is beyond and above political interference.

The elephant in the room: Legists, constitutionalists, our polity and concerned NGOs like Resistans ek Alternativ (REA) have spent considerable time and resources over the contours of our Republic and its impugned shortcomings. This sensitive and complex issue of constitutional reform covers so many aspects that it should call for a post-electoral round table rather than another pre-electoral concoction, other than perhaps a temporary fix to allow all candidates not to declare their communal belonging.

While external constitutional specialists

may guide the process and help it stick to achievable objectives rather than the somewhat vain search for an ideal formula, we have gathered enough experience, legal, constitutional and political, to set ourselves a realistic deadline for popular sanction of proposed amendments to be applicable for the next general elections.

Correcting the failed institutions:

(a) Independence, transparency and accountability have been noticeably weak across the board, save for some hold-outs that have navigated us through collective traumas with some dignity. Top-flight administrators have quailed at keeping the powerful body politic on the straight and narrow throughout the Covid pandemic and even more generally. Neither at Mauritius Telecom, Air Mauritius, state-owned banks or insurance companies have political appointees showed mettle, some being merely round pegs in square holes better known for their expensive salaries and budgets.

(b) Investigative agencies like Police/CCID/MCIT, have shown such remarkable ineffectuality in high-profile suspicious death cases that the only solace for media, observers and the population came from courageous Magistrate inquiries. Even then and despite directions to inquire further from the Magistrates or the DPP, they have seemed oblivious to such appeals, preferring a constitutional public tussle against the Office of the DPP on their respective prerogatives in provisional charges and bail demands.

Democrats recall how the ruling dispensation was desperate to coral and rein in the DPP through an arbitrary dawn arrest or the failed Prosecution Commission. As for the richly endowed Independent Commission against Corruption and its colossally bleak results in all matters relating to the political masters of the day, the population knows that it has far exceeded its expiration date. Neither can we point with some satisfaction at the other costly structures (FIU, Integrity Reporting Services Agency, for example) of little net value as independent institutions.

The combined legal and constitutional minds of traditional political parties and concerned legists and NGOs have, we believe, the necessary experience to define the reforms required and to usher in an era of democratic processes and functions that meet the aspirations of today's despairing youths and tomorrow's leaders of the country.



Les partis de l'opposition vont devoir réévaluer leur stratégie politique. Comment vont-ils occuper le temps et l'espace politique de manière efficace et constructive dans une situation où Pravind Jugnauth détient toutes les cartes clés en main?

Point sur la situation politique Les élections générales ne sont pas pour bientôt

Par A. Bartleby

Ces deux dernières semaines, on aura vu des évolutions politiques importantes sur le plan local.

Le congrès de l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD qui s'est tenu à Flacq a rameuté une foule importante, tout comme ceux de Mare d'Albert et de Vacoas. Mais il reste toutefois difficile de jauger de la véritable popularité de cette alliance dont on ne connaît pas encore la composition, le «front bench» et le programme qui sera proposé.

L'alliance poursuit ainsi sa tournée du pays en se concentrant sur l'organisation de son prochain congrès, qui se tiendra dans les régions de Port Louis. Dans une telle situation, c'est le gouvernement qui semble donc toujours occuper l'espace politique ces derniers temps, notamment avec deux décisions fortes annoncées en l'espace de quelques jours.

C'est tout d'abord les prix de l'essence et du diesel qui ont été revus à la hausse samedi dernier. Nous apprenons que c'est la conjoncture mondiale qui a dicté cette augmentation, pour palier le risque d'un déficit de près de Rs 6 milliards dans les caisses de la STC. En effet, le prix du Brent qui avoisinait les \$70 en juin par baril a connu une nette augmentation depuis quelques semaines pour atteindre les \$90 en septembre dernier. Selon les autorités concernées, une répercussion de cette augmentation sur les prix à la pompe était ainsi devenue inévitable.

La question était celle du «timing». Est-ce que le gouvernement allait choisir de ne pas augmenter les prix à la pompe en vue d'une éventuelle échéance électorale d'ici la fin de l'année? Clairement, cela n'a pas été le cas.

D'ailleurs, dans la foulée, pour célébrer la Journée mondiale des personnes âgées, Pravind Jugnauth a réuni plusieurs milliers de personnes au Swami

Vivekananda Conference Centre à Pailles. De nombreux observateurs pensaient que le Premier ministre allait annoncer que son gouvernement porterait la pension de vieillesse à Rs 13,500 comme annoncé depuis un moment. Il n'en a été rien.

Pravind Jugnauth a saisi l'occasion pour tacler l'opposition en affirmant que son gouvernement accordait une place privilégiée aux personnes âgées contrairement à l'opposition qui, selon lui, était allé jusqu'au Privy Council pour contester la promesse de l'augmentation de la pension de vieillesse.

En tout cas, il semble ainsi clair que les élections générales ne sont pas pour bientôt. Le Premier ministre se donnera encore une année pour mener des projets à bon port avant d'appeler le pays aux urnes. Il y aura également d'ici là un budget - que nous devinons vraiment électoraliste - probablement plus électoraliste qu'on puisse l'imaginer.

En attendant, nous voyons bien que les choses sont particulièrement calmes depuis quelques jours. Même les médias et, en particulier, les radios qui sont normalement friandes d'émissions politiques quotidiennes, sont extrêmement discrets depuis quelques temps. Moins d'attaques contre le gouvernement, plus de «whistleblower» et autre homme politique qui annoncent des tsunamis politiques à tout bout de champ, juste des relais d'information qui sont le moins bruyants possibles.

Toutefois, nous demeurons dans une phase particulièrement sensible. D'un côté, les partis de l'opposition parlementaire se sont alliés pensant que les élections générales étaient proches et, de l'autre côté, le gouvernement prend son temps et ne témoigne d'aucune volonté de troubler son calendrier.

Il reste bien évidemment le cas du Privy Council, dont le verdict est imminent. Les événements de ce week-end laissent deviner que le Premier ministre est extrêmement confiant quant à l'issue de l'affaire devant les Law Lords.

On peut facilement imaginer ce que ce sera en termes de «boost» politique et de marge de manœuvre en cas où il y aurait une victoire de Pravind Jugnauth dans cette affaire.

Les partis de l'opposition, réunis dans une alliance conclue trop hâtivement, vont devoir réévaluer leur stratégie politique. Comment vont-ils occuper le temps et l'espace politique de manière efficace et constructive dans une situation où Pravind Jugnauth détient toutes les cartes clés en main? L'avenir nous le dira bien assez tôt.

* * *

Vivek Johri aux Renseignements

Nous connaissons désormais le remplaçant de Kumaresan Ilango au poste de 'National Security Advisor' au Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Il s'agit de Vivek Johri, un vétéran des services de renseignement indiens.

Connu pour être un homme discret, Vivek Johri a une vaste expérience dans son domaine ayant notamment été posté au Népal. Il est particulièrement rodé aux problèmes que posent les ambitions chinoises et nous devinons que c'est la raison pour laquelle il a été nommé au PMO à Maurice.

Certains Mauriciens trouvent choquant que ce soit un citoyen indien qui occupe ce poste extrêmement

sensible pour la sécurité de notre pays. Il y a plusieurs raisons à cela.

Tout d'abord, c'est depuis 1983 que le poste de 'National Security Advisor' est occupé par un Indien. Il s'agit d'un accord entre l'Inde et Maurice, qui a été mis en place à la suite de l'opération Lal Dora qui avait été avalisé par Indira Gandhi pour soutenir le Premier ministre de l'époque Anerood Jugnauth. L'opération Lal Dora avait pour objectif de positionner des navires militaires indiens au large des côtes mauriciennes afin de prévenir une «showdown» entre Anerood Jugnauth, d'un côté, et Paul Béranger, de l'autre.

L'armée indienne n'avait pas eu besoin d'intervenir à l'époque, mais un accord avait tout de même été finalisé entre l'Inde et Maurice afin que le poste de 'National Security Advisor' soit occupé par un Indien. Ceci témoigne de la relation privilégiée qui existe entre l'Inde et Maurice depuis des décennies, et la présence de Maurice dans la sphère d'influence indienne ne fera que s'approfondir avec les années (sans que Maurice renie pour autant ses autres pays amis).



Le poste de 'National Security Advisor' est extrêmement sensible, et requiert des compétences qui dépassent de loin la simple compréhension de la sécurité de l'île Maurice. P - Instagram

Pourquoi donc avons-nous besoin qu'un étranger occupe ce poste? Est-ce que c'est uniquement une question d'amitié avec l'Inde? Nous reconnaissons ici un pragmatisme qui est propre à la gouvernance mauricienne. Il ne s'agit nullement en réalité d'un choix idéologique ou identitaire, mais d'un pragmatisme bien réel.

Le poste de 'National Security Advisor' est extrêmement sensible, et requiert des compétences qui dépassent de loin la simple compréhension de la sécurité de l'île Maurice. Lorsque nous parlons de la sécurité du territoire mauricien, nous parlons de la sécurité d'un espace de près de 1,9 millions de km² dans une région extrêmement sensible pour la sécurité du monde.

Nous avons besoin d'expertise internationale dans ce domaine, et les officiers des services de renseignement indiens sont parmi les plus compétents du monde. Ces services travaillent d'ailleurs de concert avec la plupart des services de renseignement à travers le monde, ce qui permet à Maurice de bénéficier de «networks» bien plus complexes et étoffés que si nous devions développer nos propres capacités de renseignement.

☞ Suite en page 5



Vivek Johri. P - Naidunia

Vivek Johri aux Renseignements

☞ Suite de la page 4

Mais par-delà cela, il y a une autre raison au fait que ce soit un étranger qui occupe ce poste, une raison qui révèle le degré même du doute que chaque Mauricien peut avoir envers son prochain. Dans un pays où l'on peut être musulman avant d'être Mauricien, où l'on peut être hindou avant d'être Mauricien, où l'on peut être catholique avant d'être Mauricien, peut-être devons-nous laisser un poste aussi sensible que celui de 'National Security Advisor' à un étranger qui est en dehors des jeux d'intérêt et des lobbies communautaires ou communalistes ou ethniques...

* * *

Le problème du Khalistan au Canada Les limites du multiculturalisme à la canadienne

Cela fait maintenant plusieurs semaines que les relations entre l'Inde et le Canada sont plongées dans un froid diplomatique sans précédent. En effet, Justin Trudeau, le Premier ministre canadien, a directement accusé le gouvernement indien d'être impliqué dans l'assassinat d'un citoyen canadien nommé Hardeep Singh Nijjar en juin de cette année.

Trudeau a lancé cette accusation dans un discours au Parlement canadien le 18 septembre dernier, en affirmant que les services de renseignement du Five Eyes étaient en possession de "credible allegations of a potential link" du gouvernement indien avec cet assassinat. Le gouvernement canadien n'a publié aucune preuve de ce qu'a avancé Trudeau à ce jour, ce qui n'a fait que monter les tensions entre les deux pays.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar était un citoyen canadien d'origine indienne. Il avait émigré au Canada en 1997, entrant même sur le sol canadien grâce à un faux passeport et demandant l'asile politique, à la suite de son arrestation en Inde en 1995 pour avoir été actif dans des groupes que le gouvernement indien classifie comme des terroristes. La demande d'asile de Nijjar avait été rejetée par les autorités canadiennes qui n'avaient pas été satisfaites des informations reçues (que Nijjar avait été torturé et que sa vie était en danger en Inde).

Après plusieurs tentatives, dont un mariage blanc qui

avait été rejeté, Nijjar avait été autorisé à rester sur le sol canadien et il obtint la citoyenneté canadienne en 2007. Il était extrêmement actif dans des organisations khalistanaises, militant pour le séparatisme sikh. Ce mouvement compte plusieurs organisations dont l'éventail va de simples groupes contestataires à des organisations paramilitaires, classifiées comme des troupes terroristes par le gouvernement indien.

L'un des plus grands actes de terrorisme aérien avant ceux du 11 septembre 2001 est d'ailleurs attribué à un groupe khalistanais. C'était le fameux vol 182 d'Air India commandité par un groupe nommé Babbar Khalsa International.

Cela fait un moment déjà que le gouvernement indien a fait des demandes d'extradition au gouvernement canadien pour ce qui concerne des individus identifiés comme des terroristes. La réponse du gouvernement canadien a toujours été négative, ce qui a produit une certaine tension entre les deux pays. Mais ces tensions se sont vraiment exacerbées sous le régime actuel du Premier ministre Justin Trudeau. La raison à cela est dû au fait que le gouvernement de Justin Trudeau n'a pas de majorité claire au Parlement et a donc dû composer avec un parti dont le leader est un Canadien d'origine sikhe. Cela fait que le vote de la communauté sikh, notamment dans l'Ontario et dans le British Columbia, est un vote clé pour le gouvernement de Trudeau.



Le ministre indien des Affaires étrangères, S.Jaishankar, a exhorté le Premier ministre canadien à ouvrir les yeux sur la question khalistanaise, car il s'agit maintenant d'un problème canadien. P - Tfipt.com

Le couvert wokiste de la liberté d'expression

Ces faits expliquent les postures parfois incompréhensibles de Trudeau, ce qui lui vaut également les attaques violentes de l'opposition canadienne. Mais est-ce que cette situation électorale justifie vraiment que le Premier ministre canadien ferme les yeux sur des agissements douteux qui ont lieu dans son pays, les justifiant parfois sous le couvert wokiste de la liberté d'expression? Pas forcément. Le problème est en réalité plus profond et nous renvoie à l'essence même de la migration et de la politique du multiculturalisme à la canadienne.

Par exemple, le problème politique que posait les séparatistes khalistanais en Inde n'est plus d'actualité dans la Grande péninsule. L'immense majorité des Sikhs ne sont absolument pas en faveur de la partition d'un État sikh indépendant de la République de l'Inde, et l'actuel ministre en chef du Pendjab a affirmé haut et fort que le Pendjab était et restera toujours un État de la fédération indienne.

Pourquoi donc tant de bruit autour du Khalistan? En fait, le problème du Khalistan n'est plus un problème indien mais est devenu un problème canadien. L'immigration des extrémistes khalistanais vers le Canada, au fil

de ces dernières décennies, a fait que cette revendication a littéralement déménagé de l'Inde vers le Canada.

Cette réalité a produit la situation absurde que nous voyons aujourd'hui: un groupe vivant au Canada demandant la partition de l'Inde, et menaçant même d'organiser un référendum au Canada pour décider de cette partition en Inde. Non, ce n'est pas une blague, c'est exactement ce qui est en train de se passer.

C'est la raison d'ailleurs pour laquelle le ministre indien des Affaires étrangères, S.Jaishankar, a exhorté le Premier ministre canadien à ouvrir les yeux sur la question khalistanaise, car il s'agit maintenant d'un problème canadien et les violences précédentes de ces groupes laissent à penser que des actes de terrorisme pourraient désormais avoir lieu sur le sol canadien.

L'esprit de l'immigration au Canada, un "melting pot" profondément hétérogène

Nous voyons là en fait le résultat direct de l'esprit de l'immigration au Canada. Ce pays, second plus vaste du monde en termes de territoire, a besoin d'immigration pour se développer. Ce fait est indéniable. Mais l'immigration au Canada ne répond pas forcément aux impératifs d'adaptation à une culture commune, séculaire et proprement canadienne. Elle est en fait uniquement une immigration de main-d'œuvre.

Dans les faits, cela signifie que les immigrants ne sont pas obligés de s'intégrer à la culture du pays, comme en France, et ils peuvent continuer à vivre selon leurs modes de vie d'origine du moment qu'ils adhèrent aux lois du pays. Cela produit la situation suivante: un "melting pot" profondément hétérogène, où chaque communauté conserve ses modes de vie, ses croyances, ses pratiques sociales, etc., sans qu'il y ait forcément un effort d'intégration pour participer à l'essor d'une culture canadienne à part entière.

Tout cela se passe généralement très bien, surtout que personne ne se mélange à personne au Canada, mais nous voyons les limites d'une telle approche lorsque le gouvernement canadien est confronté à des groupes extrémistes. Le cas du mouvement khalistanais est particulièrement révélateur de ce manque de compréhension des enjeux.



"Référendum" en Colombie-Britannique pour la création d'un État sikh dans le Pendjab. P - Radio-Canada

Le fait est que le Canada est entré dans un piège qui pourrait un jour se retourner contre le pays: celui que le couvert de la liberté d'expression et de croyance permet les expressions et les croyances les plus contradictoires et parfois les plus violentes.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 8



Anil Madan

No Speaker for America's Democracy – Maybe not so bad

Sheer idiocy. That is the overwhelming message one reads from the smoke signals emanated by American Democracy

For the first time in US history, the Speaker of the House of Representatives lost the equivalent of a no-confidence vote in parliamentary systems and was out on his ear. The vote was instigated by Matt Gaetz, a Congressman from Florida, who is on the far-right fringe of the already far right Republican Party, and a vocal opponent of Kevin McCarthy, the Speaker until yesterday.

This denouement was months, even years, in the making. I will not get into details, reserving that for a future discussion, but my view is that Ronald Reagan, the patron saint of the Republican Party, and the spiritual guru of its far, far, right wing, started this debacle when he declared that government is not the solution, government is the problem. As I have written many times, this was the antithesis of the statement in the Declaration of Independence (DOI) that the *raison d'être* of government is to secure the unalienable rights of the people included among which are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. Indeed, the DOI goes on to state that when the government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Long before Donald Trump took that well chronicled ride down the escalator at Trump Tower and announced his candidacy for President, American Democracy suffered the machinations of Newt Gingrich (American politician and author who served as the 50th speaker of the United States House of Representatives from 1995 to 1999), the Tea Party, and assorted other right-wing extremists.

America's Democracy had a shining moment when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and President George H.W. Bush (the elder Bush) declared: "This will not stand."

Sadly, Bill Clinton demeaned the office of President with his penchant for fellatio, followed by denial, followed by impeachment. Democrats rallied to rescue their miscreant, President.

American Democracy was in trouble. Al Gore, sensing that equivocation might trump loyalty to his President, sensed — wrongly — and equivocated. So, we got George W. Bush who, in one of the greatest public cons, together with his henchmen sold the American electorate a bill of goods that led to the Iraq war and the invasion of Afghanistan.

“Trump’s antics to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, the attempted insurrection on January 6, 2021, and his continuing lies have cast a pall on the very notion that American Democracy is superior to authoritarian governments. China’s highest officials certainly did not hesitate to tell Secretary of State Antony Blinken that American Democracy was nothing to brag about when he had his inaugural meeting with his Chinese counterpart in Alaska as the Biden administration took office...”

GWB's presidency that accomplished nothing beyond impoverishing the nation with the runup of massive national debt (yes, it is little appreciated that he accumulated more total debt in his 8 years than the preceding 42 presidents), was perhaps the least productive the nation has ever had. But he was about to be trumped.

American Democracy fared no better under Obama whose presidency is probably best remembered for doing nothing other than continuing the Iraq and Afghanistan debacles. Even the praise for Obamacare, the enhancements to American healthcare, such as they are, were accomplished by the House of Representatives to whom Obama ceded the job. It is a fair comment that the Republicans never gave Obama a chance to



American democracy hangs on a slender thread. Pic - Reuters

shine. And he did not. The best that can be said is that he conducted a White House sans scandal. When the best credential you offer is that you did nothing, but did it with integrity, there isn't much to talk about.

Then, of course, there was Donald Trump. What more needs to be said than that he tried to have a mob overturn the result of the 2020 presidential election? And he has persisted in propagating his LIE that the election was stolen. That this fundamental betrayal of the core idea of America and everything for which it stands, does not engender outrage in every American heart is the most befuddling circumstance in the history of this country.

It is worth pausing here to understand that Trump's claim is that because he was "winning" as of 10:00 PM on election night, before ALL votes had been counted, the counting should have stopped. The sheer idiocy of this position has eluded his supporters.

Sheer idiocy. That is the overwhelming message one reads from the smoke signals emanated by American Democracy. Trump's antics to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, the attempted insurrection on January 6, 2021, and his continuing lies have cast a pall on the very notion that American Democracy is superior to authoritarian governments. China's highest officials certainly did not hesitate to tell Secretary of State Antony Blinken that American Democracy was nothing to brag about when he had his inaugural meeting with his Chinese counterpart in Alaska as the Biden administration took office.

American Democracy remains paralyzed

The Republicans eked out a slim majority to take control of the House of Representatives while the Democrats gained control of the Senate (with the help of a few Independents, so-called, who are Democrats in disguise).

Kevin McCarthy, a congressman from California lusted after the Speakership. Perhaps, he lusted too much. After fifteen (yes, 15) ballots, he won. Or did he? One of the compromises he made with the right-wing yahoo faction was that any one member could initiate a motion to vacate. And that is just what Congressman Matt Gaetz did.

● Cont. on page 7



Donald Trump's influence still hangs over the US Congress. Pic- The Independent

No Speaker for America's Democracy – Maybe not so bad

● Cont. from page 6

A couple of days earlier, there seemed to be hope that maybe American Democracy could find a bipartisan approach to resolving pressing problems. Funding for the government was about to run out. For those not versed in the American system, it is important to understand that Congress, i.e., both the House and Senate, must approve laws to fund government operations.

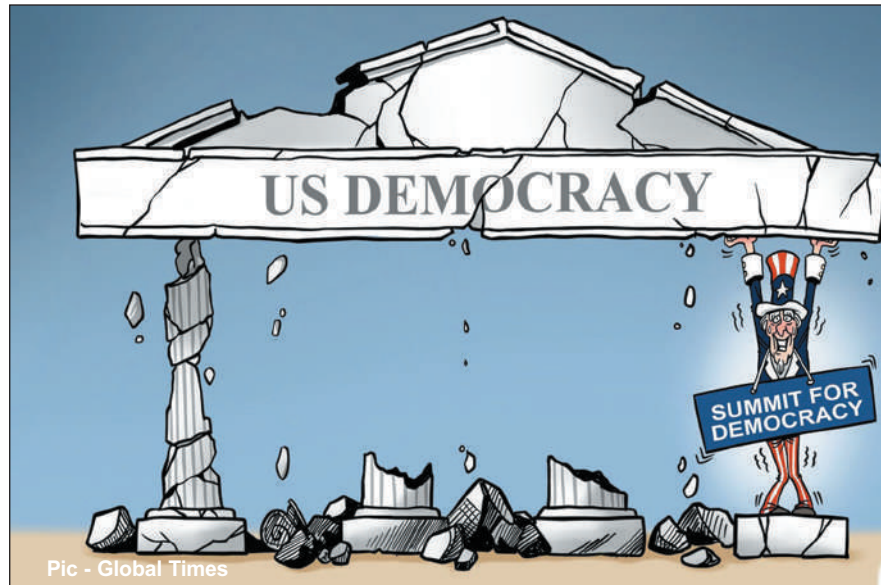
The right-wing faction sought to squeeze concessions from McCarthy. In the guise of wanting to bring spending under control, they wanted to cut money for programs that support the most vulnerable and weak of American society. Food stamps for the poor, funding for Medicaid (basic healthcare for the very poor) were on the line. Lost on these right-wing lunatics was the basic realization that in the federal budget of trillions of dollars, these programs are less than a rounding error.

McCarthy was coy. He danced and dallied. He had earlier made a well-publicized agreement with President Biden on funding and some cuts in spending. But McCarthy reneged on the agreement. He could no longer be trusted by the President or the Democrats in Congress.

As the government was about to be shut down, and probably realizing that this would be a disaster for the Republicans, McCarthy worked a compromise with the Democrats to pass a continuing resolution that would fund the government for a few weeks.

This infuriated Gaetz and the right-wing yahoos. Then, even after they had rescued him, McCarthy blamed the Democrats for the impasse. This infuriated the Democrats. And, of course, McCarthy had approved an impeachment investigation of President Biden for acts he is "suspected" of having committed BEFORE he became President. This too infuriated the Democrats.

When you infuriate a faction of your own party and, as



Pic - Global Times

“American Democracy fared no better under Obama whose presidency is probably best remembered for doing nothing other than continuing the Iraq and Afghanistan debacles. Even the praise for Obamacare, the enhancements to American healthcare, such as they are, were accomplished by the House of Representatives to whom Obama ceded the job. It is a fair comment that the Republicans never gave Obama a chance to shine. And he did not. The best that can be said is that he conducted a White House sans scandal...”

well, infuriate the opposition, you lose. McCarthy lost.

Now, we have a Speaker Pro Tempore, Congressman Patrick McHenry of North Carolina. One of his first acts was a petty directive, ordering Nancy Pelosi out of her office at the Capitol, and this while she was away at the funeral of the late Senator Diane Feinstein.

It should be understood that aside from taking petty actions, McHenry has no authority other than to declare the House in session, to adjourn it, or to schedule a vote to elect a successor, Speaker. He cannot bring legislation to the floor of the House.

In effect, American Democracy remains paralyzed. We

should also note that Donald Trump was cheering the right-wing yahoos on, calling for them to shut down the government and stop American funding for the Ukraine war. Trump's well-known love affair with Putin is likely responsible for the latter. On the former, this is speculation, but is he devious enough to have been thinking that shutting down the federal government would put the federal courts where his criminal trials are scheduled, out of business, so as to give him time to mount his campaign for reelection without having to be in court for his trial(s)?

Now the battle is on to find a successor. What concessions will he or she have to make to the right-wing yahoos to get elected? Recall that the Republicans have only a four-seat majority in the House. Perhaps the Democrats will cooperate to get a sensible Speaker candidate over the hump. But is there a sensible Republican Speaker candidate?

So far, Representative Jim Jordan, a far-right conservative from Ohio has thrown his hat in the ring. Representative Steve Scalise of Louisiana also announced his candidacy. He is the House Majority leader.

Trump for House Speaker

Meanwhile, at least one congressman has nominated Donald Trump to be the Speaker. Apparently, one does not have to be an elected Representative to serve as Speaker. More Republicans are joining what could be a crescendo of calls for Trump to be Speaker.

Donald Trump's ego is probably too big to let him take on a position less than President of the United States. On the other hand, he is devious enough to understand that he could wreak havoc across America's political landscape, if he wielded the gavel in the House. Marjorie Taylor Greene, one of Trump's acolytes, tweeted (or X'ed): "The only candidate for Speaker I am currently supporting is President Donald J. Trump. He will end the war in Ukraine. He will secure the border. He will end the politically weaponized government. He will make America energy independent again. He will pass my bill to stop transgender surgeries on kids and keep men out of women's sports. He will support our military and police. And so much more!"

American Democracy surely hangs on a slender thread. If politics is the art of making unfulfillable and unfulfilled promises, Trump and his acolytes have mastered it.

The government may well have to shut down in a few weeks when funding under the continuing resolution just passed runs out.

Winston Churchill is reputed to have said:

'Many forms of Government have been tried and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time...' 11 November 1947.

H.L. Mencken wrote:

'Under democracy one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule — and both commonly succeed, and are right';

and

'Democracy is a pathetic belief in the collective wisdom of individual ignorance.'

We Americans may well be on the way to proving Mencken was right. And Churchill too, but that won't matter.

Cheerz...
Bwana

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Every week
New Arrival
Low Price
Shopping

Le problème du Khalistan au Canada

Les limites du multiculturalisme à la canadienne



Un groupe vivant au Canada demandant la partition de l'Inde, et menaçant même d'organiser un référendum au Canada pour décider de cette partition en Inde. Non, ce n'est pas une blague... P - Daily Jasarat News

➔ Suite de la page 5

Nous parlons ici du Khalistan. Mais qu'en est-il des radicaux islamistes, des membres de guérillas colombiens, de groupes liés aux mercenaires serbes et croates, les anciennes milices de Pinochet, des franquistes espagnols, ou encore de fascistes néonazis par exemple? Est-ce qu'ils trouvent au Canada le terreau qu'ils recherchent pour continuer à faire vivre leurs idéologies et leurs mouvements? La liberté d'expression et de croyance est une chose, mais est-ce que cela implique de tolérer les extrémismes les plus violents? La question est du moins posée avec cette affaire des mouvements khalistanais.

Comme il n'y a pas de hasard, Justin Trudeau a été confronté à un autre problème de ce type la semaine d'avant, pendant la visite de Volodymyr Zelensky. Ce dernier était invité à s'adresser au Parlement canadien, session pendant laquelle il y a eu une "standing ovation" pour un Canadien d'origine ukrainienne qui s'était battu contre les forces russes pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale... Sauf qu'un individu qui s'est battu contre l'armée rouge sur le front ukrainien est forcément ce que l'on appelle un vétéran nazi...

Et le cas de ce vétéran est particulièrement criant car il avait rejoint une division des SS qui était impliquée dans des atrocités les plus graves contre une armée faisant partie des Alliés, alors que le Canada était engagé auprès de ces mêmes Alliés. Pour résumer, le Parlement canadien a donné une "standing ovation" à un individu qui était dans le camp des Nazi pendant une guerre où des Canadiens ont perdu la vie en s'engageant contre le nazisme.

Un havre de paix pour les terroristes et les criminels de guerre

En faisant cela, le gouvernement de Justin Trudeau a magistralement réussi quatre choses:

- (1) il s'est encore plus couvert de ridicule aux yeux du monde, justifiant toute la posture indienne qui accuse le Canada d'être devenu un havre de paix pour les terroristes et les criminels de guerre;
- (2) il a entièrement justifié la posture de Vladimir Poutine sur le fait que "l'opération spéciale" en Ukraine avait pour objectif d'éliminer les néo-Nazis qui s'en

prennent à la population russophone de l'Ukraine;

- (3) il a réussi à faire taire les alliés historiques du Canada, et notamment les États-Unis dont la timidité à prendre position en faveur du gouvernement canadien dans l'affaire Nijjar démontre à quel point l'Inde est devenue un partenaire stratégique des Occidentaux, et
- (4) il a également magistralement démontré son manque de compréhension des enjeux globaux et son innocence face à des problèmes qui pourraient devenir extrêmement sérieux pour les Canadiens dans le futur.

Nous voyons ainsi un problème de fond qui se joue dans des postures et des prises de position des pouvoirs publics au Canada. Justin Trudeau - qui s'est construit une image d'ardent défenseur du wokisme pour faire oublier le fait qu'il était un fils à papa - semble avoir dépassé la ligne rouge avec des bourdes à répétition.

Il serait extrêmement étonnant qu'il puisse gagner les prochaines élections, même s'il a le temps de renverser la vapeur. Mais Trudeau ou pas, le problème restera entier et il devient clair que le Canada doit impérativement se poser des questions sur sa politique migratoire. À vouloir accueillir toute la misère du monde, on s'expose parfois au risque d'accueillir également tous les marginaux et les rejetés du monde.

* * *

Double meurtre à Clairfonds: faut-il réintroduire la peine de mort?

Le couple Sookur a été retrouvé mort à leur domicile le 21 septembre dernier. Après quelques jours d'enquête, la police a appréhendé les suspects. Il s'agit des locataires du couple et de deux de leurs complices.

Ils s'en sont pris au couple Sookur en réponse à la demande de ces derniers qu'ils évacuent leur appartement. Ils ont ainsi voulu donner au couple "une leçon". Nous connaissons la suite...

Mais les choses ne se sont pas arrêtées là. Au fil de l'interrogatoire, deux des individus interpellés ont avoué un autre meurtre, celui d'une quinquagénaire, et ce, l'année dernière. En découvrons-nous d'autres, faisant de ce couple - au passage - des tueurs en série? Il faut attendre pour en savoir plus.

Mais la gravité des faits a réactivé une question qui se pose de temps en temps à Maurice, notamment quand il s'agit de crimes aussi calculateurs et odieux. Faudrait-il réintroduire la peine de mort?

Cette question déchaîne les passions de par le monde, notamment dans des situations de croissance exponentielle de la criminalité. Sommes-nous à Maurice dans une telle situation? Il faudrait appuyer ces dires par des statistiques sérieuses, mais la perception d'une croissance de la criminalité est bel et bien réelle.

Entre le trafic de drogue, les gangs qui y sont associés, les crimes liés aux conditions socioéconomiques actuelles, plusieurs Mauriciens ressentent une addition des potentiels de violence et ils pensent également que les passages à l'acte semblent se normaliser. Mais est-ce que cela cautionne le fait de réintroduire la peine de mort à Maurice?

La dernière exécution capitale qui a eu lieu dans notre pays remonte à l'année 1987 alors que la peine de mort a été elle abolie en 1995. Malgré cette abolition, la République de Maurice n'a pas ratifié le traité international abolissant la peine de mort, se donnant une certaine marge de manœuvre sur cette question.

D'ailleurs, il y a eu un moment en 2010 où la peine de mort était revenue sur la table du débat politique. Le Premier ministre de l'époque, Navin Ramgoolam, s'était exprimé en faveur d'un retour de la peine capitale pour les meurtriers et les trafiquants de drogue. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, alors Président de la République, avait secondé l'opinion du Premier ministre.

À l'époque, l'Union européenne (UE) s'était opposée au projet du gouvernement mauricien visant à modifier la loi infligeant la peine de mort. À ce moment-là, le Chef de la délégation de l'Union européenne à Maurice, Alessandro Mariani, avait même déclaré que la peine de mort est "cruelle et inhumaine" et que "l'UE a depuis longtemps été à la tête d'une campagne contre une telle sanction".

Il avait même ajouté que l'abolition universelle de la peine de mort "représente l'un des objectifs prioritaires de l'UE", que l'UE et l'île Maurice ont partagé les mêmes valeurs qui ont été démontrées par le soutien que l'île avait apporté à l'UE au moment du vote des résolutions appelant à l'abolition de la peine de mort.

Alessandro Mariani avait également souligné à l'époque que la condamnation d'un criminel à la peine de mort à la suite d'une erreur judiciaire est "irréparable" et représente une perte de vie, insistant sur le fait que la peine de mort ne permettrait pas de réduire la criminalité.

Il s'agit d'une des valeurs que les Occidentaux, à l'exception des États-Unis, souhaitent entièrement globalisée. Et il était clair en 2010 que les rapports de force faisaient que Maurice n'avait pas d'autre choix que de suivre la recommandation de l'UE. Cette situation a évolué depuis ce temps-là.



La peine de mort doit obligatoirement n'être qu'un dernier recours pour le judiciaire. P - fr.hespress.com

L'UE reste notre premier partenaire commercial et les relations économiques, institutionnelles et culturelles avec l'UE restent extrêmement importantes pour Maurice. Mais les choses changent pour nous et la reconfiguration régionale feront que l'influence européenne continuera à décliner au fil du temps.

Qu'est-ce qui nous empêchera alors de rétablir la peine capitale? Admettons que les objections formulées par l'UE sont réelles et nous devons absolument continuer à les considérer. En d'autres termes, la peine de mort doit obligatoirement n'être qu'un dernier recours pour le judiciaire; et il est absolument impératif de garantir une justice parfaitement transparente, une police parfaitement objective dans ses enquêtes, un système des prisons qui soit sérieusement capable de faire fonctionner la réinsertion de la petite délinquance afin de combattre la criminalité.

Sans ces impératifs, le rétablissement de la peine de mort serait une grave erreur et pourrait même se transformer en un instrument de répression politique grave.

A. Bartleby



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau at the G20 Summit in New Delhi. Pic - HT

Canada asked to reduce its diplomatic presence in India

Canada has maintained a studied silence on reports that New Delhi has asked Ottawa to significantly reduce personnel at missions in India amid an escalating diplomatic row even as foreign minister Melanie Joly said her government would prefer to engage privately on the issue.

The Indian side has asked Canada to withdraw several dozen diplomats to ensure parity in strength and rank in mutual diplomatic presence, a move that experts believe is sure to affect the processing of Canadian visa applications. Canada maintains a large diplomatic presence at its high commission in New Delhi and

consulates in Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Mumbai to deal with the high volume of visa applications, reports Hindustan Times.

While Trudeau ducked a question from reporters in Ottawa on Tuesday about India asking Canada to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country and whether the Canadian side will retaliate against such a move, foreign minister Joly said Ottawa is in touch with New Delhi on this issue.

On Tuesday India asked Canada to withdraw 41 of 62 diplomats posted at the missions in the country. In the face of reports that India could revoke the diplomatic immunity of some diplomats who remained in the country beyond a deadline of October 10, there was no official word from the Canadian side on whether it has been pulling out its officials or the impact of such a withdrawal.

People familiar with the matter said the latest developments have not affected Canadian visa processing services as yet but acknowledged that any significant reduction in diplomatic personnel will certainly have an impact.

The size of a country's diplomatic presence in India also reflects the status of the overall bilateral relationship. For instance, the US has significantly increased the number of diplomats posted in India to cope with the massive growth in visa applications and to deal with expanded cooperation in a wide range of areas.

There has been no other major instance of India asking a nation to reduce its diplomatic presence in the country, except for Pakistan.

Pope Francis suggests blessings for same-sex unions possible, a reversal from Vatican's official position

Pope Francis has suggested there could be ways to bless same-sex unions, responding to five conservative cardinals who challenged him to affirm church teaching on homosexuality ahead of a big meeting where LGBTQ Catholics are on the agenda.

The Vatican on Monday published a letter Francis wrote to the cardinals on July 11 after receiving a list of five questions, or "dubia," from them a day earlier. In it, Francis suggests that such blessings could be studied if they didn't confuse the blessing with sacramental marriage, reports AP.

New Ways Ministry, which advocates for LGBTQ Catholics, said the letter "significantly advances" efforts

to make LGBTQ Catholics welcomed in the church and "one big straw towards breaking the camel's back" in their marginalisation.

The Vatican holds that marriage is an indissoluble union between man and woman. As a result, it has long opposed gay marriage. But even Francis has voiced support for civil laws extending legal benefits to same-sex spouses, and Catholic priests in parts of Europe have been blessing same-sex unions without Vatican censure.

Francis' response to the cardinals, however, marks a reversal from the Vatican's current official position. In an explanatory note in 2021, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the

Faith said flat-out that the church couldn't bless gay unions because "God cannot bless sin."

In his new letter, Francis reiterated that matrimony is a union between a man and a woman. But responding to the cardinals' question about homosexual unions and blessings, he said "pastoral charity" requires patience and understanding and that regardless, priests cannot become judges "who only deny, reject and exclude."

"For this reason, pastoral prudence must adequately discern whether there are forms of benediction, requested by one or more persons, that do not transmit a mistaken conception of marriage," he wrote.

Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi fears he could be 'poisoned' in jail

Pakistan former prime minister Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi approached the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to seek more security for her husband in Adiala jail as she feared that he could be "poisoned".

Imran Khan has been detained in prison since he was found guilty in the Toshakhana case on August 5. The case relates to his alleged failure to properly disclose gifts he received while in government.



Imran Khan says he couldn't have survived without wife Bushra Bibi. Pic - South Asia Monitor

Raising concern for her husband's safety in prison, Bushra Bibi filed a petition on Monday with the IHC. She expressed concerns that there might be attempts to harm Imran Khan through food tampering, emphasising that her husband is not getting the entitled facilities as mentioned in the prison manual, reports Hindustan Times.

In her petition, Bushra Bibi noted previous instances where other prisoners were provided certain privileges like home-cooked meals but her husband has been denied such privileges, she claimed.

According to the jail manual, Imran Khan was supposed to be provided with facilities like a TV, newspapers, servants, a mattress, a chair and a table in the jail.

This treatment is inhumane and constitutes a breach of Articles 9 and 14 of the Constitution, she said, urging the IHC to intervene and ensure the enforcement of court orders regarding the provision of proper facilities to her husband in the jail.

Requesting to instruct the responsible medical officer to ensure the supply of healthy food to the former prime minister, she also asked the court to direct the relevant authorities to grant the privilege of exercising and taking walks to Imran Khan.

Taiwan says China has 'very diverse' ways of interfering in election

Ahead of elections, Taiwan routinely flags the risk of interference from Beijing, which claims the democratically governed island as its own, saying China seeks to sway the outcome to candidates who may be more favourable toward the country, reports Reuters.

"The way the Chinese Communists interfere in elections is very diversified," Taiwan National Security Bureau Director-General Tsai Ming-yen told lawmakers during a parliamentary committee session.

China can use military pressure, economic coercion or fake news to create a false choice between "war or

peace" in the election, seeking to frighten voters, Tsai said.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office did not answer calls seeking comment. China is in the middle of its weeklong national day holiday.

Taiwan Vice President William Lai of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which champions the island's separate identity from China, is the favourite to be the next president, according to opinion polls.

China considers Lai and his party to be separatists and has repeatedly rejected their offers of talks. Lai says that he does not seek to change the status quo across the Taiwan Strait, but that only Taiwan's people can decide their future.

China has increased military activities around Taiwan since the last election in 2020, and regularly sends warships and fighters into the seas and skies near the island.

Tsai said China's most recent drills close to Taiwan, which started last month and have been described by Taiwan's defence minister as "abnormal", were virtually the same as those in previous years in terms of their focus, such as landing exercises.

But more aircraft and ships were involved this time and there were more practice firings by the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force (PLARF), which oversees China's conventional and nuclear missiles, he added.

That might be related to Chinese President Xi Jinping seeking to exert his control over the PLARF, Tsai said, a branch of China's military that has come under focus after its two most senior leaders were suddenly replaced at the end of July with outside commanders.

China's defence ministry also did not respond to requests for comment.

* Contd on page 10

Trump links Judge's clerk to Democrat Schumer, gets slapped with a gag order

The judge in Donald Trump's civil fraud trial issued a gag order on both parties posting online about his staff, following a social media post by the former president attacking his clerk and sharing her photo with his followers.

On his Truth Social platform Tuesday, Trump claimed without evidence that the judge's principal law clerk is the "girlfriend" of Democrat Chuck Schumer, and reposted someone who asked why she was "palling around" with the Senate majority leader. Trump, the Republican presidential front-runner, has portrayed the case as part of a "corrupt" Democratic effort to hobble his campaign, reports Bloomberg.

"Personal attacks on members of my court staff are unacceptable and inappropriate," State Supreme Court Justice Arthur Engoron said. "I will not allow it under any circumstances."

Trump deleted the post. Returning to the courtroom after a session he and the lawyers had with the judge at the lunch break, he remarked that so far he had had "a perfect day in court."

In a statement, Schumer spokeswoman Allison



Former President Donald Trump leaves the courtroom for a recess during the second day of his civil fraud trial at New York State Supreme Court on October 03, 2023. Pic - AFP

Biasotti called the post false, "pathetic" and "absurd." She said Schumer doesn't even know the clerk and that he attends numerous events at which "tens of thousands of constituents take photos with him, just like this one, which was taken at an annual brunch in Manhattan."

Engoron has already found Trump liable for fraud. The trial is focused on six remaining claims by New York Attorney General Letitia James, who alleges that Trump won favorable bank loan terms by inflating his assets by billions of dollars a year. All told, the false valuations allegedly helped Trump reap \$250 million in illegal profits by getting better terms on loans, and the attorney general aims to claw that money back.

France to hold emergency meetings amid rising bedbug cases

The French government said Tuesday it would host emergency meetings this week to examine surging numbers of reported bedbug cases, which are being increasingly seen as a major potential public health problem.

Bedbugs have in recent weeks gone from being a subject of potential derision to a contentious political issue in France, with aghast citizens reporting seeing the creatures in locations including trains, the Paris metro and cinemas.

The concerns have gained added weight with France in the throes of hosting the Rugby World Cup and Paris preparing to welcome athletes and fans from around the world for the 2024 Olympics, reports AFP.

Two schools -- one in Marseille and the other in Villefranche-sur-Saone outside Lyon in southeastern France -- have become infected with bedbugs and have been closed down for several days to be cleaned out, local authorities said.

The aim of a meeting on Wednesday, which will see Transport Minister Clement Beaune host transport and passenger organisations, will be to "quantify the situation and strengthen the measures", his ministry said.

Meanwhile, the head of President Emmanuel Macron's Renaissance party in the French National Assembly, Sylvain Maillard, said a cross-party bill would be put forward "at the beginning of December" to combat the "scourge" of bedbugs.

Bedbugs, which had largely disappeared from daily life by the 1950s, have made a resurgence in recent decades, mostly due to high population densities and more mass transit.

One-tenth of all French households are believed to have had a bedbug problem over the past few years, usually requiring a pest control operation costing several hundreds of euros that often needs to be repeated.

The blood-sucking insects have been spotted in the Paris metro, high-speed trains and at Paris's Charles De Gaulle Airport.

Bedbugs get their name from their habit of nesting in mattresses, although they can also hide in clothes and in luggage. They come out at night to feed on human blood.

Bedbug bites leave red areas, blisters or large rashes on the skin, and can cause intense itching or allergic reactions. They also often cause psychological distress, sleeping issues, anxiety and depression.

Tallest statue of Ambedkar outside India to be unveiled in US on October 14

The tallest statue of the principal architect of India's Constitution, B R Ambedkar, outside India is set to be unveiled in Maryland on October 14, the organisers have said.

The 19-foot statue, named 'Statue of Equality,' is part of the Ambedkar International Centre (AIC) being built on 13-acre land in Accokeek city of Maryland, approximately 35 kms south of Washington, reports PTI.

Born on April 14, 1891, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar -- popular among his followers as Babasaheb -- was the chairman of the Constituent Assembly's most crucial Drafting Committee that earned him the moniker Architect of the Indian Constitution.



The 19-foot statue, named 'Statue of Equality,' is part of the Ambedkar International Centre. Pic - HT

Post-Independence, he was also the Minister of Law and Justice in Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's first Cabinet. Ambedkar played a key role in social movements that fought for the rights of Dalits and untouchables.

Ambedkar died on December 6,

1956, months after he embraced Buddhism on October 14 that year, the date coinciding with the unveiling of the statue in Maryland. October 14 is celebrated as Dhamma Chakra Parivartan Din by Ambedkarites.

The statue has been made by renowned artist and sculptor Ram Sutar, who also built the statue of Sardar Patel, called as Statue of Unity, and installed on an island in Narmada, metres downstream of the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat.

According to the AIC, this memorial will serve to spread Babasaheb's messages and teachings and showcase a symbol of equality and human rights.

Harry wants royal lifestyle back, but Meghan not willing to leave...

Hollywood expert Mark Boardman sheds light on the evolving dynamics within the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's relationship, highlighting the contrasting desires of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry regarding their future plans.

Since stepping away from royal life in 2020, Meghan Markle and Prince Harry have embarked on a path less travelled. While they have forged new connections and pursued groundbreaking projects, it seems there may be a divergence in their aspirations, reports Hindustan Times.

Boardman points out that Prince Harry's social circle has undergone significant changes over the past decade.



Britain's Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex. Pic - Reuters

"He appears to have distanced himself from his college friends and lacks a permanent UK residence," says Boardman. "During his visits to London, he typically resides in hotels and avoids public appearances.

Undoubtedly, Prince Harry longs for his old friendships."

On the other hand, Meghan Markle is reportedly frustrated with Harry's desire to revisit his past life. "Meghan loves Harry, but she wants to bring out the better side in him," Boardman continued. "They are trying to work together on projects, and people are eager to witness a transformed Harry, rather than a return to his previous partying lifestyle."

Boardman believes that Prince Harry's strong ties to his childhood friends may be the driving force behind his desire to return to the UK. However, convincing Meghan to endorse a "boys' weekend" in London with old Eton buddies might prove challenging.

While Prince Harry may yearn for a London base, Boardman suggests that such a move is unlikely, as it would disrupt the couple's current life and commitments in the United States.

Interview - Dharam Gokhool

“Voters’ silence should not be mistaken for voters’ indifference

Two mandates are long enough for voters to decide whether they are better off, whether promises have been kept...”

Former Minister of Education Dharam Gokhool gives his views on the withdrawal of his case in the Supreme Court by Cader Syed-Hossen, calling for the judiciary to recommend measures to speed the timely delivery of justice. He draws attention to the demographic decline that is affecting school intake and the falling standards in both the education and health sectors and is worried about a two-tier system that in both sectors – one for the rich and one for the poor. He also comments on the political situation in view of the next general election and argues for a restoration of the trust deficit in the electorate by an opposition that will bring about a turnaround on the basis of a genuine, robust and actionable programme.

Mauritius Times: Whatever the merit of his case, Cader Sayed-Hossen must have been right to have withdrawn the electoral petition against the election of MSM candidate Gilbert Bablee lodged in November 2019 and awaiting a judgement 12 months or probably more before the next elections. Along the way Justice Benjamin Marie Joseph, who was hearing the case together with Justice R. Seeetohul-Toolsee, went into retirement, and the case will now have to be taken anew. Mr Sayed-Hossen said he did not want to be “a party to this mockery of justice”. How do you react to that?

Dharam Gokhool: It was in the early 1600s that English philosopher and jurist Sir Edward Coke first used the phrase: Justice delayed is justice denied - *iustitia differtur iustitia negatur*. This phrase later became the guiding principle of Dr Martin Luther King Jr.’s crusade against injustice in the USA.

The trial and tribulations and the fate of the Cader Sayed-Hossen electoral petition is a case in point.

The right to vote at elections is an integral part of the Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius. It is provided for under Section 44 of the Constitution. After the elections, any aggrieved candidate has 21 days to file an electoral petition with the Supreme Court. Since November 28, 2019, the Cader Sayed-Hossen case has been before the Supreme Court. However, due to the retirement of the one of the judges hearing the case, a new panel of judges will need to hear the case afresh. It’s been four years now, and it’s unclear when a verdict will be rendered.

He would have felt proud of having battled for justice, regardless of the outcome, if the verdict had been delivered in a timely manner. But Cader Sayed-Hossen will have to bear a dreadful burden for the rest of his life. A very terrible situation. The experience must be painful for him, his loved ones, his friends, and his supporters.

This episode calls for deep soul-searching among our



lawmakers and our judiciary, and urgent remedial action should be envisaged to prevent a repetition of the Cader Sayed-Hossen episode. The Republic of Mauritius cannot delay and/or deny justice to any citizen. One of the top priorities of a future government should be to ensure that the judiciary is provided with all the necessary resources and facilities for the timely delivery of justice.

*** One would have expected that cases relating to electoral petitions would have been fast-tracked despite delaying tactics, if any, by lawyers of either parties. It’s obvious that any delay in the determination of electoral petitions will result in such petitions losing their relevance, isn’t it?**

All institutions, including the judiciary and other organizations, are endowed with legal obligations, matching power, and the duty of accountability. A sense of priorities

should direct how they manage their activities. This is especially true for organizations in the public sector that are supported by taxpayers’ money.

The Judiciary cannot be exempt from this obligation. The Judiciary, and all other institutions, must ensure that justice is carried out without delay because it is “one of the three pillars of our sovereign democratic State” and “is vested with the power to administer justice in the Republic of Mauritius” and because of the sacred principle of separation of powers.

About 10,108 cases remained unresolved by the end of 2022, and the trend is worsening. There is a mention of the necessity “to review procedures to expedite the disposal of cases” among the strategic goals of the judiciary (Judicial Branch Annual Report, 2022). This can’t just be wishful thinking, though. Justice must not only be done, but also be seen to be done, as the saying goes.

Election petitions directly affect how well a democratic state operates, how the rule of law is upheld, and how the Constitution is upheld. Given the unique nature of electoral petitions, any unnecessary delay will amount to tampering with the course of justice. Election petitions must be processed quickly; it is not only necessary, it is essential.

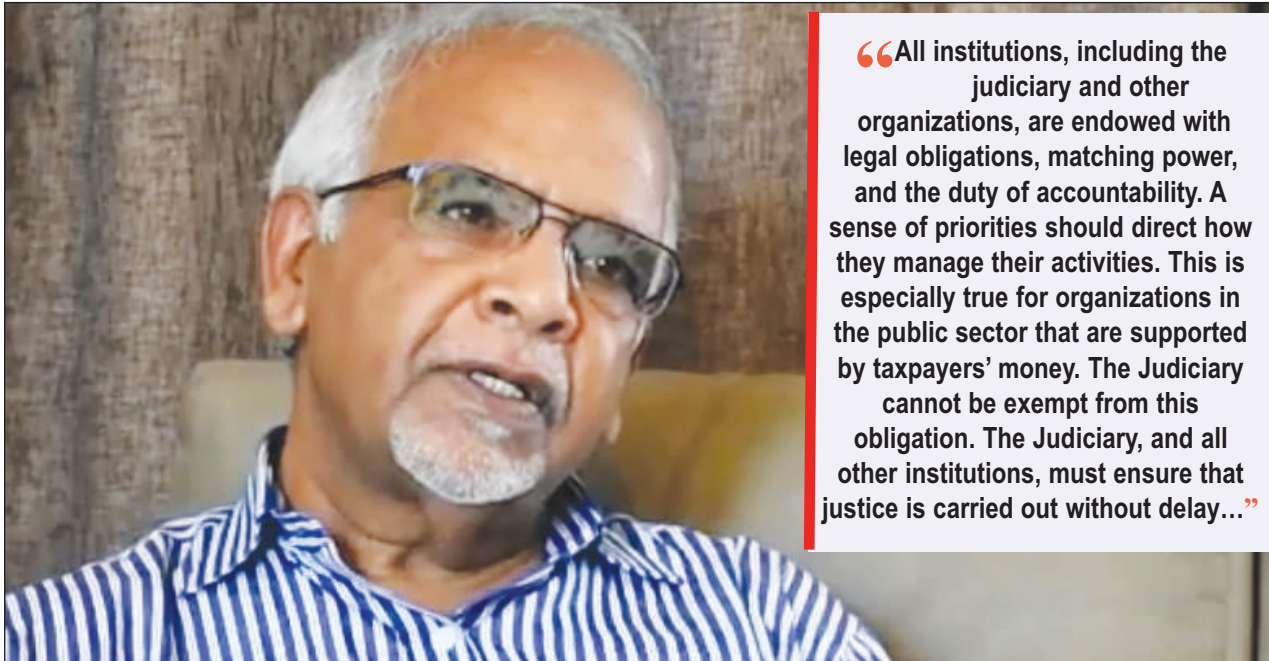
Therefore, it is appropriate that the judiciary review its internal procedures and processes and make appropriate recommendations to the lawmakers to legislate for the timely and speedy delivery of justice.

“Regarding the rising trend in enrolment in private fee-paying schools, it is a sign that people’s opinions of public schools are becoming more negative as a result of a number of factors, including a decline in teaching and learning standards, a deterioration in school leadership and management, a rise in school indiscipline, and a growing understanding that a passing grade is not a reliable indicator of higher-quality academic performance...”

● Cont. on page 12

'Be the change you want to see' should become the mantra of the Opposition leaders, in both their words and actions.

Only then will people vote for a regime change'



“All institutions, including the judiciary and other organizations, are endowed with legal obligations, matching power, and the duty of accountability. A sense of priorities should direct how they manage their activities. This is especially true for organizations in the public sector that are supported by taxpayers' money. The Judiciary cannot be exempt from this obligation. The Judiciary, and all other institutions, must ensure that justice is carried out without delay...”

● Cont. from page 11

* One other issue which has made the headlines this week and which would be of particular interest to you: the drop in admission to secondary schools, in particular to public schools. 98,900 were enrolled in March 2023 (down from 102,722 in Oct. 2022), and 44.8% went to public schools against 55.2% who chose the private fee-paying schools. We are not aware if this is a normal phenomenon in developed countries with a burgeoning middle- or upper middle class, but what do these statistics tell you?

The decline in admissions in secondary schools is just the tip of a demographic iceberg. Mauritius is confronted with a very complex social, economic, and cultural challenge driven by the triple phenomenon of an aging population, a declining birth rate, and brain drain. This drop is a direct result of our birth rate declining.

The birth rate for Mauritius in 2021 was 10.026 births per 1000 people, a 0.72% decline from 2020. In 2022, the birth rate was 9.954 births per 1000 people, a 0.72% decline from 2021. The current birth rate for Mauritius in 2023 is 9.881 births per 1000 people, a 0.73% decline from 2022.

Clearly, fewer children being born results in a declining overall student population. This declining trend will persist due to a decline in the fertility rate, which will have an adverse effect on the likelihood of economic growth.

“If the situation is allowed to persist, I'm concerned that we will end up with essentially two types of schools: public schools for the underprivileged and private fee-paying schools for the wealthy or those who can afford them. But the most important concern that should be on the minds of decision-makers and stakeholders in education is whether the education being offered by both types of schools is relevant to the challenges and transformations that the world is going through?”

Regarding the rising trend in enrolment in private fee-paying schools, it is a sign that people's opinions of public schools are becoming more negative as a result of a number of factors, including a decline in teaching and learning standards, a deterioration in school leadership and management, a rise in school indiscipline, and a growing understanding that a passing grade is not a reliable indicator of higher-quality academic performance.

We also have to factor in the fact that parents who can afford to pay fees are opting for private fee-paying schools as they believe that these schools offer better facilities and better educational opportunities.

If the situation is allowed to persist, I'm concerned that we will end up with essentially two types of schools: public schools for the underprivileged and private fee-paying schools for the wealthy or those who can afford them. But the most important concern that should be on the minds of decision-makers and stakeholders in education is whether the education being offered by both types of schools is relevant to the challenges and transformations that the world is going through?

How dynamic proactive is the educational agenda being pursued by the majority of our schools — both private fee-paying and public ones? Is the education we provide our children and young people geared towards preparing them to live and work in the world of tomorrow?

* Most parents who have been to public schools rejoice every year to see public secondary schools taking the lion's share from amongst the winners in the laureate scheme and their students generally performing quite well at O- and A-levels, but if the privatisation of education were to continue, the standard of public education is bound to fall, isn't it?

Most private fee-paying and public schools follow the curricula and syllabi prescribed by Cambridge International. The annual percentage of passes at both O and A levels is either steady or registers a slight increase. But a scrutiny of the detailed marks obtained by learners shows a steady downward trend in the quality of performance. So, one must be careful not to interpret % pass as an improvement in quality of performance. The overall quality

of education, both in private fee paying and public schools, is not improving.

But the fundamental issue that needs to be addressed by policy makers is the *relevance* of the current educational agenda and strategy, as I mentioned earlier. How can we address the current and future needs of learners by engaging them in the learning process?

*Do you see the same thing happening to the public health services? We see modern hospitals and mediclinics being built in different places, and more and more people paying for private medical care in an increasing number of private hospitals. That's good for private entrepreneurship, but it's said that when the middle class abandons public services, the quality of those services goes down. What's your take on that?

There is a parallel to be drawn between the situation prevailing in both the education and health sectors. With all the money being spent on our public health system, is the health of the population improving?

The Annual Health Statistics Report 2022 presents a worrying state of affairs. Just like in the education sector, there is an emerging negative perception as far as the public health sector is concerned. Patients are turning to private health providers. “The total number of cases seen for treatment, including admissions, at private hospitals and clinics having in-patient services was 207,967 in 2022 compared to 206,849 in 2021; this represents a 0.5% increase”. (Health Statistics Report 2022)

“Most private fee-paying and public schools follow the curricula and syllabi prescribed by Cambridge International. The annual percentage of passes at both O and A levels is either steady or registers a slight increase. But a scrutiny of the detailed marks obtained by learners shows a steady downward trend in the quality of performance... The overall quality of education, both in private fee paying and public schools, is not improving...”

More people will turn to costly private health care. Just like in the education sector, many taxpayers will be paying twice for their health care. Just like in the education sector, there is a commodification process taking place. If you have money, you can buy health.

This curative medicine logic will drive the market for private health in the years to come. A line of reasoning that contradicts the main goals of a healthcare system, which ought to be patient-centred and preventive in nature.

* On the political front, the widespread speculation about the imminence of general elections sometime before the end of year has taken a hit in view of the latest hike in petroleum products by the STC. No government would want to face the electorate in such circumstances. What is in your view the game plan of the MSM leader?

The MSM's strategy is to win the next general elections and keep hold of power at any cost.

● Cont. on page 13

Electoral petitions: 'The Judiciary, and all other institutions, must ensure that justice is carried out without delay'

• Cont. from page 12

The Prime Minister's trump card is the timing of the elections. He will do everything to ensure that conditions are favourable before going to the polls. Barring unforeseen circumstances like an unfavourable verdict of the Privy Council in the Suren Dayal case, the MSM game plan will be articulated along three key missions:

- Strike a favourable Diego deal with the British and Americans and secure additional financial support from the Indians for the use of the Agalega facilities
- Destabilise the Opposition through its "Acheter Vender" stratagem
- Rebuild its popularity through a series of targeted populist measures



“The overall political landscape continues to be in a stalemate condition, with some 40% of the voters in a wait-and-see posture. Due to our electoral system being based on the First Past The Post system, a minor swing in either direction can decide the fate of either the government or the opposition. Incumbency will not favour the MSM, but the opposition cannot bank on this single factor to reap a victory...”

A favourable interplay of these three moves will boost the confidence of the MSM and place it in a comfortable situation to face the electorate.

*** On the other hand, it's not likely to see any of the two blocs surfing on an electoral wave (popularly known here as "une vague") to power next time round since there is none in sight. It can only happen on the strength of electoral arithmetic. How do you think this will play out at the end of the day?**

The overall political landscape continues to be in a stalemate condition, with some 40% of the voters in a wait-and-see posture. Due to our electoral system being based on the First Past The Post system, a minor swing in either direction can decide the fate of either the government or the opposition. Incumbency will not favour the MSM, but the opposition cannot bank on this single factor to reap a victory.

If the mainstream Opposition maintains its alliance, winning by default could be a possibility where people vote against the Government but not for the Opposition.

I do not think that electoral arithmetic can be relied upon to deliver victories or inflict defeats. There must be the proper chemistry between the electorate and the candidates. Electoral arithmetic will have to be combined with electoral alchemy—the right mix of candidates, policies, and ethics.

Voters' silence should not be mistaken for voters' indifference. Two mandates are long enough for voters to decide whether they are better off, whether promises have been kept, and whether the country is moving in the

“Winning back the trust of the electorate is the real issue. The leaders of the opposition are proposing a new deal based on “rupture”. Rupture should start at their level. They must identify the trust deficit, do some serious introspection and do everything possible to win back the confidence of the electorate...”

right direction.

*** We often hear about people, disillusioned with the politics of the two contesting blocs, looking for a better option. That is also not in sight. Is it likely therefore that the people will by default vote for the Opposition alliance — and for its front bench?**

40% undecided voters are a clear indication that the two main contesting blocs have, so far, not been able to make a breakthrough in this undecided electorate segment. A third credible option is also not in view. But there is still time for the situation to evolve.

MSM came to power by default, with only 37% of the electorate's support. It is true that it has been in government and in power, but its legitimacy remains contested

due to a lack of a popular mandate.

The prospect of a third consecutive mandate for the MSM, with all its consequences in terms of governance, is likely to provoke second thoughts among those whose stand has, so far, “Ni Pravind Ni Navin”. When the prospect of a third MSM mandate is evoked, with the MSM and its horde of “Chatwas” at the helm of government and a repeat of all the culture of “Chatwarism”, I can hear voices in favour of another political tagline: “Vaux

“I don't see Xavier standing up for the Stag Party, the Angus Road scandal, or the murder of Kistnen in exchange for a few extra tickets and a better position in an MSM government. I don't know if all PMSD will act in a suicidal manner and set the stage for a split within the PMSD. Politics is indeed the art of the possible, but everything is also not possible in politics...”



Mieux Navin ki Pravind”.

A default vote in favour of the Opposition should not be discarded.

*** It appears there is much truth in what is being said about the MSM's attempts to rope Xavier Duval and his PMSD away from the Opposition alliance - at any cost, it would seem. It's said that Duval would not be comfortable for different reasons in that alliance. Should he decide to go back to the MSM, would that signal the death knell of the Opposition alliance?**

Part of the MSM game plan is to destabilise the Opposition and getting PMSD on board is the logical move in that direction.

Xavier left the government because of the sinister motives of the MSM to exercise control over the Office of the DPP and undermine its independence as guaranteed by the Constitution.

He has performed exceptionally well and has been very effective as the leader of the opposition. From the

mismanagement of the economy, the denunciation of endless cases of scandals, corruption, nepotism, and favoritism, to the state capture of almost all our institutions, including the National Assembly, the drug scourge, and the brain drain — you name it — Xavier has been on all fronts.

I don't see Xavier standing up for the Stag Party, the Angus Road scandal, or the murder of Kistnen in exchange for a few extra tickets and a better position in an MSM government. I don't know if all PMSD will act in a suicidal manner and set the stage for a split within the PMSD.

Politics is indeed the art of the possible, but everything is also not possible in politics. We have to leave Xavier to his conscience.

Should MSM succeed in roping in the PMSD, it will not be game over for the opposition. They can always reshuffle their cards and win more favours among the undecided 40% of the electorate.

*** At the end of the day, regime change will only happen if the people vote for change, but they have to be convinced that what is on offer is a credible and workable alternative. They'll otherwise vote the incumbents back to power. It does not seem people have been given an answer to that question so far...**

That is the crux of the matter. Winning back the trust of the electorate is the real issue. The leaders of the opposition are proposing a new deal based on “rupture”. Rupture should start at their level. They must identify the trust deficit, do some serious introspection and do everything possible to win back the confidence of the electorate. Mauritians are a great people with a generous heart. *Zotte pas content dominere et dimoune faisere!*

They expect a new political culture where there is no

place for arrogance of power, cronyism, privileges at the expense of public interests; people want an end to their daily hassles with the bureaucracy in the provision of public services; they want employment opportunities for their children on an equitable basis; they want better health, better education, better leisure, better environment and better quality of life; they want an end to the drug scourge and the pauperisation of the middle income and the lower income groups. They want a New Social Contract.

There are so many areas where the Opposition can come up with proposals which will impact favourably on public opinion. The country is going through difficult times, but adversity can be transformed into opportunity.

On 2nd October, we celebrated the birth anniversary of the great Mahatma Gandhi. His inspirational saying “Be the change you want to see” should become the motto, the mantra of the Opposition leaders, in both their words and actions. Only then will people vote for a regime change. By design and not by default.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 251

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 5 June, 1959

• *There is no cure for birth and death save to enjoy the interval. – George Santayana*

Exploitation of our Natural Resources



help the poor people and the country as a whole if they would consent to voluntarily release these lands before the date of expiry of their leases.

The eyes of thousands of landless peoples are now turned towards Hon A. R. Mohamed the Minister of Land, and towards Hon Boolell, Minister of Agriculture and towards the Executive Council. It is up to them to take up a decision which will make the people happy. If they succeed, their names will go down in history as those who have got rid of two-century old privilege.

On the 12th of May 1959, Hon J. N. Roy asked the Minister of Housing & Lands to say how many arpents of Crown Lands and Pas Géométriques are there in the Constituency of Plaine Magnien, to whom they are leased and the rent claimed. Replying, the Minister stated that:

64 arpents:	Major Guimbeau for Rs 300 per annum
10 arpents:	Dr Darne for Rs 425 p.a.
224.62 arpents:	Mon Tresor & Mon Desert Ltd for Rs 1606.25 p.a.
26 arpents:	Heirs B&R Gujadhur for Rs 51 p.a.
61.75 arpents:	Savinia Ltd for Rs 28 p.a.
270.50 arpents:	Beau Vallon Ltd for Rs 391 p.a.

To the following questions of Hon Roy:

- (1) What is the acreage of Pas Géométriques and Crown Lands rented to Le Morne Estate?
- (2) How are the lands so rented utilized?
- (3) Is he satisfied that the use that is being made of the lands is to the best advantage of the Colony? If not, what steps does he propose to take?

The Minister replied:

- (1) 669 arpents 14 of Pas Géométriques and Crown Lands at Le Morne are leased to Mrs Hugh Cambier.
- (2) 409 A 80 are leased for tree planting: 259 A 54 leased for unspecified purposes are probably used for cattle grazing.
- (3) The matter is being examined and if it is found that these lands may be put to a better use, appropriate action will be taken.

The revenue derived from these quarries during the period 1 July 1957 to 30 June 1958 will be Rs 3,700.

To a question asked by Hon. J. N. Roy on 28 April 58 concerning the lease of Government Sand Quarries, the Minister of Agriculture replied:

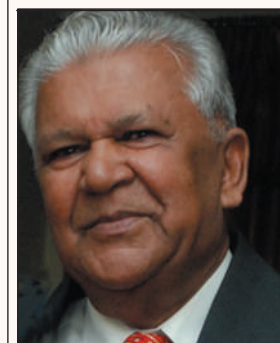
(a) Belle Mare Inland Sand Quarry:	Nouvelle Société de Belle Mare at a rental of Rs 1,000 for six months.
(b) Ile aux Cerfs Sand Quarry:	Flacq United Estates Ltd at a rental of Rs 100 for six months.
(c) Mon Desert Sand Quarry:	Mon Désert and Mon Trésor Lid at a rental of Rs 100 for six months.
(d) Le Souffleur Sand Quarry:	Savinia Co Ltd at a rental of Rs 100 for six months.
(e) Beau Champ & Ste Marie Inland Sand Quarry:	Compagnie Sucriere de Bel Ombre at a rental of Rs 450 for six months.
(f) Le Morne Sand Quarry:	Mrs H. Gambier at a rental of Rs 100 for six months.

Opinion

An Appeal to Trade Unionists

Unity is a Must in Mauritius

As a retired trade unionist, I believe that it is time for us to join hands and create a united trade union force to protect the interests of working people, their families, and society as a whole. There are several dedicated trade unionists working hard to give their members satisfaction. However, the current situation in Mauritius and overseas demands a truly strong trade union force to protect the interests and dignity of workers.



Rajpalsing Allgoo
Former President, Mauritius Labour Congress

A united trade union movement is essential in Mauritius. Small unions and federations cannot stand up to the powerful employers' confederation and the government. It is sad to say that many employers do not even respect the minimum Mauritian labour laws and ILO conventions.

I urge all sincere and committed trade unionists to join hands together with the aim of merging their federations or confederations. I believe that with goodwill Mauritius can have a united trade union movement that will earn the respect of both the government and employers in general.

Here are some examples of the past successes of trade union unity in Mauritius:

- In 1921, a single man named Willy Moutou led the first successful attempt at trade union unity in Mauritius. At the time, there was no trade union law in Mauritius, so this was a bold and courageous move.
- In 1944, Emmanuel Anquetil, the father of the trade union movement in Mauritius, created the first trade union federation, the Mauritius Trade Union Congress (MTUC).
- In 1988, the trade unions united to form the National Trade Unions Council (NTUC) in response to the Sinotex strike. The NTUC was able to secure the release of three trade unionists who had been jailed, and it also forced the government to pay an anticipated salary compensation to all workers.

These are just a few examples of the many successes that have been achieved through trade union unity in Mauritius. I believe that if we continue to work together, we can achieve even greater things in the future.

I realise that a unified trade union structure may not be achievable in the present political topography in Mauritius. However, given the economic and industrial situation in our country there is the need for greater interaction with trade union bodies of countries with which Mauritius has economic and industrial ties.

"Unity in purpose" will strengthen the workers' voice both with the government, the employers on the island as much as with those outside companies with which the local employers carry out business. This will also ensure industrial peace in the island.

Covid-19: Will there be a new surge?

Cont. from page 2

Is there a possibility of a fall surge in Covid-19 cases?

In contrast to pandemics, which are global in nature and involve sustained virus transmission, outbreaks are time-limited and geographically restricted.

During the last three respiratory virus seasons in the US and Europe, Covid-19 transmission patterns were somewhat reminiscent of seasonal influenza. The fall/winter outbreaks of Covid-19 were characterized by a sudden increase in infection rates above the baseline pandemic level.

These observations, along with recent wastewater surveillance and clinical data, suggest that a spike in hospitalizations and deaths from Covid-19 is likely to occur this fall and winter.

Are current vaccines protective?

In September 2023, policymakers in the US, the UK, Canada and the EU announced the approval of updated Covid-19 mRNA vaccines.

These "next generation" products were formulated to target the XBB.1.5 subvariant. Unpublished pre-clinical studies that led to regulatory approval have demonstrated these vaccines to be safe and efficacious in all age groups.

The astonishing ability of the virus to mutate at every given opportunity has made it extremely challenging for scientists to develop a vaccine that offers long-term protection. The XBB.1.5 subvariant now accounts for only two to five per cent of circulating SARS-CoV-2 viruses, and is on the verge of becoming extinct. Newer circulating subvariants such as EG.5 possess novel mutations that may reduce the effectiveness of vaccine-mediated immunity.

What are the current vaccine recommendations?

Recommendations for the updated vaccines vary according to country/region, vaccine product, presence of chronic health problems, age and history of prior Covid-19 vaccination or infection.

Public health authorities in Canada, the UK and the EU have strongly emphasized the need to prioritize vaccination for those at highest risk of illness, including those providing essential community services.

In contrast, the US Food & Drug Administration has provided the general public with vaccine recommendations that are not risk-stratified.

How can I protect my health?

In addition to vaccination, standard infection control practices are recommended at all times to prevent the acquisition and transmission of respiratory tract viruses such as SARS-CoV-2. These measures include staying at home when ill, wearing a surgical or N95 mask in crowded indoor areas and frequent hand-washing.

Research evidence supports a non-universal vaccination strategy that focuses on high-risk individuals. Healthy children and adolescents are low-priority candidates for Covid-19 vaccination according to the World Health Organization and renowned experts.



The mortality rate for unvaccinated children under the age of 18 years is around 1/400,000, with most deaths occurring in those with comorbidities. Therefore, parents and their children should consult with their health-care provider for personalized recommendations.

Public health messaging for vaccine-preventable illnesses often ignores other health-promoting activities such as regular physical exercise, a healthy diet, restful sleep and avoidance of harmful substances (smoking, alcohol, illicit drugs). These lifestyle practices can improve and protect health, but are not a substitute for vaccination.

What if I'm hesitant about getting a vaccine?

Research has clearly shown who is at greatest risk of developing severe Covid-19 illness, and who stands to benefit most from vaccination. Yet, misinformation may compel some high-risk individuals to avoid vaccination altogether.

These doubts may be fuelled by a perceived lack of transparency of governments and the pharmaceutical industry. In these instances, a shared decision-making approach involving patients and their trusted health-care providers is recommended to dispel any myths about vaccines.

Sameer Elsayed, Prof of Medicine, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, and Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Western University

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

Building & Land Use Permit Application

Notice for Permission for Land Use

Take notice that **Aqua Controllers Ltd** will apply to the Municipal Council of Vacoas/Phoenix for a **Building and Land Use Permit** for a proposed office at Caleechurn Lane, Carreau Laliane, Vacoas.

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

6 October 2023

New parent? Night shift? New analysis suggests ideal nap strategy

Reanalysis of data showed that when staying up all night, scheduling two nap sessions — a 90-minute one followed by a quick 30-minute shut-eye later — is the optimal choice over a single 120-minute snooze in putting off drowsiness and fatigue. The study was published in the journal 'Scientific Reports'.

"A 90-minute nap to maintain long-term performance and a 30-minute nap to maintain lower fatigue levels and fast reactions, as a strategic combination of naps, can be valuable for early morning work efficiency and safety," said study sole author Sanae Oriyama, a nursing science professor at Hiroshima University's Graduate School of Biomedical and Health Sciences.

Shift work is a norm in emergency sectors such as healthcare where round-the-clock access to services can be life-saving. And working double shifts on non-traditional hours isn't unheard of among medical professionals. However, night shift work is also known to increase the risk for sleep-related physical and mental health disorders and impair job performance, reports Asia Research News.

During the daytime, our light-sensitive internal clock



activates wakefulness. The opposite happens at night-time when alertness dims as our biorhythm readies to switch off, elevating the likelihood of errors and accidents. In the medical field, this may inadvertently lead to serious harm to patients or to oneself. Naps are usually taken by shift workers to offset disruptions to the body clock.

In Japan, nurses are typically allowed to sleep up to two hours during 16-hour night shifts. Oriyama wanted to find out which napping schedule is the best in fighting off sleepiness and diminished cognitive function during such gruelling work hours. And while at it, figure out how sleep

quality factors in.

She found that those who took a single 120-minute nap ending at midnight experienced worse drowsiness as soon as 4 a.m. and lasted until the end of the shift. However, participants who scheduled two naps — the 90-minute one lasting until midnight and the 30-minute one ending at 3 a.m. — staved off drowsiness until 6 a.m. Oriyama suggested adding an extra 30 minutes of shut-eye between 5-6 a.m. given that drowsiness might shoot up from 7-8 a.m.

As for fatigue, although all nap groups expressed significantly heightened levels of it from 4-9 a.m., the two-nap group experienced it at an intensity lower than the rest.

"During a night shift that, for example, lasts from 4 p.m. to 9 a.m. the next morning, a split nap of 90 minutes and 30 minutes, ending at 12 a.m. and 3 a.m., respectively, is thought to be more effective than a 120-minute monophasic nap ending at 12 a.m. when tasks requiring quick responses to maintain a high level of safety are scheduled between 2 a.m. and 9 a.m.," Oriyama said.

Oriyama said her findings could also be helpful to new parents.

"The results of this study can be applied not only to night shift workers but also to minimize sleep deprivation fatigue in mothers raising infants."



How do astronomers know the age of the planets and stars?

Measuring the ages of planets and stars is tricky. An observational astrophysicist describes the subtle clues that provide good estimates for how old different space objects are.

Measuring the ages of planets and stars helps scientists understand when they formed and how they change — and, in the case of planets, if life has had time to have evolved on them.

Unfortunately, age is hard to measure for objects in space.

Stars like the Sun maintain the same brightness, temperature and size for billions of years. Planet properties like temperature are often set by the star they orbit rather than their own age and evolution.

Determining the age of a star or planet can be as hard as guessing the age of a person who looks exactly the same from childhood to retirement.

Sussing out a star's age

Fortunately, stars change subtly in brightness and color over time. With very accurate measurements, astronomers can compare these measurements of a star to mathematical models that predict what happens to stars as they get older and estimate an age from there.

Stars don't just glow, they also spin. Over time, their spinning slows down, similar to how a spinning wheel slows down when it encounters friction. By comparing the spin speeds of stars of different ages, astronomers have been able to create mathematical relationships for the ages of stars, a method known as gyrochronology.

A star's spin also generates a strong magnetic field and produces magnetic activity, such as stellar flares — powerful bursts of energy and light that occur on stars' surfaces. A steady decline in magnetic activity from a star can also help estimate its age.

A more advanced method for determining the ages of stars is called asteroseismology, or star shaking. Astronomers study vibrations on the surfaces of stars caused by waves that travel through their interiors. Young stars have different vibrational patterns than old stars. By using this method, astronomers have estimated the Sun



Astronomers can estimate ages for stars outside the Solar System, but not planets. Corbis Historical via Getty Images

to be 4.58 billion years old.

Piecing together a planet's age

In the solar system, radionuclides are the key to dating planets. These are special atoms that slowly release energy over a long period of time. As natural clocks, radionuclides help scientists determine the ages of all kinds of things, from rocks to bones and pottery.

Using this method, scientists have determined that the oldest known meteorite is 4.57 billion years old, almost identical to the Sun's asteroseismology measurement of 4.58 billion years. The oldest known rocks on Earth have slightly younger ages of 4.40 billion years. Similarly, soil brought back from the Moon during the Apollo missions had radionuclide ages of up to 4.6 billion years.

Although studying radionuclides is a powerful method for measuring the ages of planets, it usually requires having a rock in hand. Typically, astronomers only have a picture of a planet to go by. Astronomers often determine

the ages of rocky space objects like Mars or the Moon by counting their craters. Older surfaces have more craters than younger surfaces. However, erosion from water, wind, cosmic rays and lava flow from volcanoes can wipe away evidence of earlier impacts.

Aging techniques don't work for giant planets like Jupiter that have deeply buried surfaces. However, astronomers can estimate their ages by counting craters on their moons or studying the distribution of certain classes of meteorites scattered by them, which are consistent with radionuclide and cratering methods for rocky planets.

We cannot yet directly measure the ages of planets outside our solar system with current technology.

How accurate are these estimates?

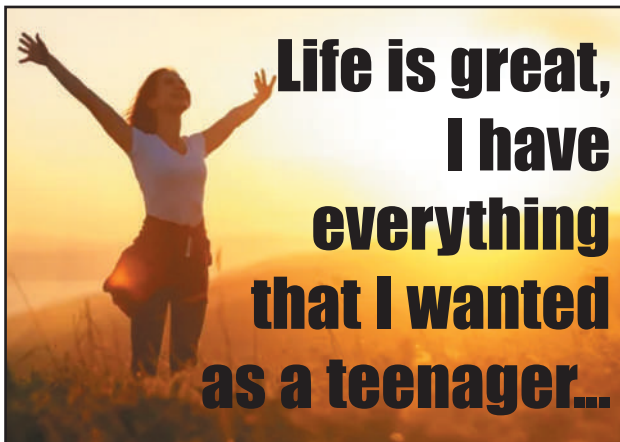
Our own solar system provides the best check for accuracy, since astronomers can compare the radionuclide ages of rocks on the Earth, Moon, or asteroids to the asteroseismology age of the Sun, and these match very well.

Stars in clusters like the Pleiades or Omega Centauri are believed to have all formed at roughly the same time, so age estimates for individual stars in these clusters should be the same. In some stars, astronomers can detect radionuclides like uranium — a heavy metal found in rocks and soil — in their atmospheres, which have been used to check the ages from other methods.

Astronomers believe planets are roughly the same age as their host stars, so improving methods to determine a star's age helps determine a planet's age as well. By studying subtle clues, it's possible to make an educated guess of the age of an otherwise steadfast star.

Adam Burgasser

Professor of Astronomy & Astrophysics, University of California, San Diego



I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and I don't have acne. Life is great. I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row. I decided to stop calling the bathroom "John" and renamed it the "Jim". I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

When I was a child, I thought "nap time" was a punishment. Now it feels like a small vacation.

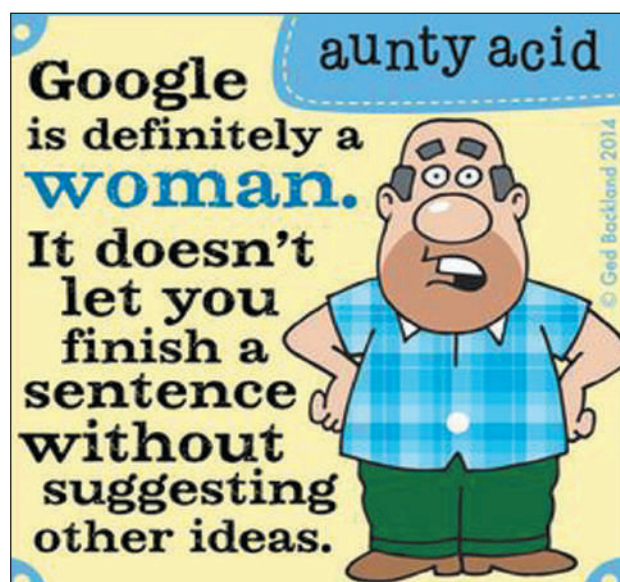
The biggest lie I tell myself is... "I don't have to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have gray hair... I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?



Of course, I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

At my age "Getting Lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names.

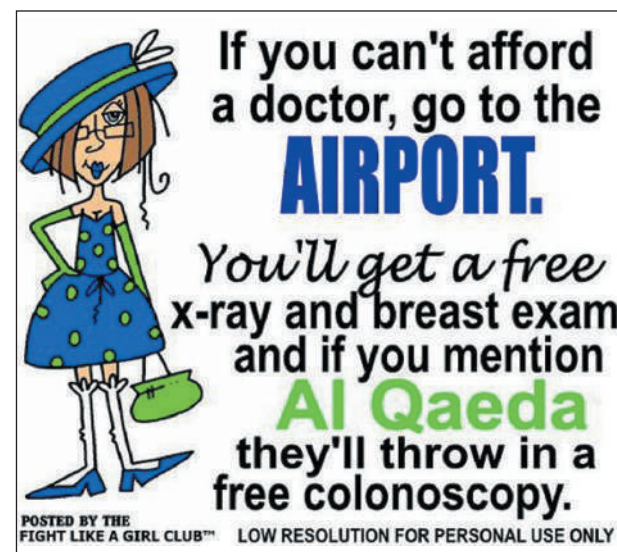
* * *

Grandma, who was becoming an ever more intimidating personality as the years went on, was giving directions to her grown grandson who was coming to visit with his wife.

"You come to the front door of the apartment complex. I am in apartment 14T. There is a big panel at the door. With your elbow push button 14T. I will buzz you in. Come inside, the elevator is on the right. Get in, and with your elbow hit 14. When you get out, I am on the left. With your elbow, ring my doorbell."

"Grandma, that sounds easy, but why am I hitting all these buttons with my elbow?" the grandson asked.

"You're coming empty handed?"



* * *

A man went to consult his doctor after a brief but debilitating illness. The doctor after a lengthy examination, looked him in the eye and said: "I have some bad news for you... you have a terminal cancer and it can't be cured, you have a maximum of a month."

The guy was shocked and saddened by the news, but being a man of solid character, managed to compose himself and walk from the doctor's office to meet his son, who was waiting for him outside.

"Son, as Rudyard Kipling once said, if you can meet with triumph and disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same - you'll be a man. It turns out that I have cancer and I've been given a short time to live, but we are going to celebrate, let's head for the pub and have a few pints," he said.

His son was shocked at first, but after a few pints the two were feeling a little less sombre. They had a laugh, shed a few tears and drank some more beers. After a while, they were eventually approached by some of the guy's old friends, who asked what the two were celebrating.

He told his friends "I've got only a few weeks to live as I have been diagnosed with aids." The friends gave him their condolences and they all had a few beers.

After his friends left, the son leaned over and whispered in confusion, "Dad, you are dying of cancer, why did you tell your friends that you got AIDS?"

"Well son, I don't want them bothering your mother," the father said.

I finally found a diet plan that really works. It's called "The Price of Food."



* * *

I rode my bicycle to the local illegal bottle store yesterday and bought a 750ml of brandy.

I was about to leave when I realised that if I fell off my bike on the way home, the bottle would break.

So, I drank all the brandy before I rode back, which was a good thing, because I fell off my bike seven times on the way home."

* * *

Two fellows stopped into an English pub for a drink. They called the proprietor over and asked him to settle an argument.

"Are there two pints in a quart or four?" asked one.

"There are two pints in a quart," confirmed the proprietor.

They moved back along the bar and soon the barmaid asked for their order.

"Two pints please, miss, and the bartender offered to buy them for us."

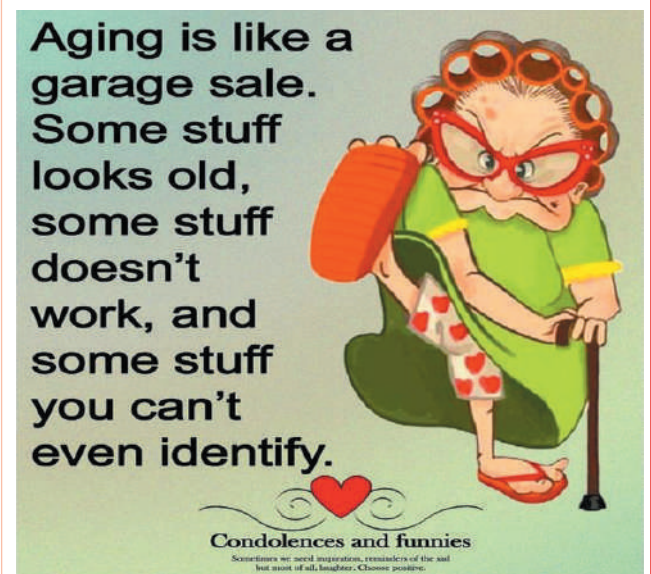
The barmaid doubted that her boss would be so generous, so one of the fellows called out to the proprietor at the other end of the bar, "You did say two pints, didn't you?"

"That's right," he called back, "two pints!"

* * *

Husband: "Now that we are married, perhaps I might venture to point out a few of your little defects."

Wife: "Don't bother, dear. I'm quite aware of them. It was those little defects that prevented me from getting a much better man than you."





Pic - Times Educational Supplement

The Education of Millionaires

1. The most successful people in the world have one thing in common: they decided to create their own life's work around making a difference in the world, serving people in some way, and providing value to others.
2. The most important skill in life is not how to make money, but how to keep it.
3. Success is not about getting a diploma from a fancy university; it's about acquiring the skills that
4. The way to become a skilled persuader is by getting out into the real world, meeting a lot of people, and making your case for something.
5. If you're not happy with the way your life is turning out, you don't have to settle for less. You can change it.
6. The more you take personal responsibility for your own education, not just in school but in life, the more successful you become.
7. You don't need anyone's permission to start a business, to follow your passion, or to live a life that excites you.
8. Your network is your net worth. The people you surround yourself with can help you achieve your goals and open doors that otherwise might be closed to you.
9. Entrepreneurship isn't just about starting a company. It's about developing a mindset that allows you to see opportunities that others miss and take action on them.
10. The ability to communicate effectively and connect with others is one of the most important skills you can develop. People skills will take you further than any degree ever could.

From the book 'The Education of Millionaires' by Michael Ellsberg

What is spiritual maturity?

By Rumi, a 13th century Persian spiritual teacher

1. It's when we stop trying to change others and focus on changing ourselves.
2. It is when we accept people as they are.
3. It is when we understand that everyone is correct according to their own perspective.
4. It is when we learn to "let go".
5. It is when we are able to not have "expectations" in a relationship, and we give of ourselves for the pleasure of giving.
6. It is when we understand what
7. It's when we stop showing the world how smart we are.
8. It's when we stop seeking approval from others.
9. It's when we stop comparing ourselves to others.
10. It is when we are at peace with ourselves.
11. It is when we are able to distinguish between "need" and "want" and we are able to let go of that want.
12. Spiritual maturity is gained when we stop attaching "happiness" to material things!



"Don't cry my son... Dad will give it back when Petrol price comes down"



You don't meet anyone in this life by accident. Some are sent to teach you what love is. Some are sent to teach you what love most definitely isn't. Some are sent to support you without bias, and those you must hold very dear indeed. Others are sent to challenge your self-worth, never let them win. Some people are taken far too soon and the lesson there, is to live life fully here and now. Some people are sent to try and stop you from reaching your goals. Let their negativity be your fuel, not your defeat. You don't meet anyone in this life by accident, my friend. Each person brings with them a joy, a love or a lesson.

Pay attention.

Donna Ashworth / Power of Words



Leadership



Three professional salespeople submitted their resumes to a major corporation. They all had similar qualifications, so the interviewer held a sales competition to determine who would get the job.

The goal was to make a sale of combs to monks at any mountain shrine. The monks should be of the tradition where they have to shave their heads.

The interviewer said, "You have three days, and the person who sells the most will get the job."

The three applicants came back with their findings after three days.

The first candidate reported, "It was a very difficult situation, but I sold one comb. At first, they accused me of openly mocking them, and they scolded me. Because I was so dissatisfied, I decided to leave. On the way back, however, I noticed a young monk scratching his head incessantly due to an itch. He only bought one comb after I assured him it would reduce his itching."

The second candidate said, "That's good, but I did better. I made ten comb sales."

The interviewer was impressed and asked, "How did you do it?"

The candidate replied, "I noticed that the visitors' hair was all messed up because of the strong winds they encountered on the way to the temple. I persuaded the monk to hand out combs to the worshippers so that they would seem more reverent."

The third candidate excitedly interrupted, "Not so fast; I sold more than both of them."

When asked how many were sold, the candidate said:

"It must be over hundreds."

"Wow!" the interviewer questioned, "How did you do it?"

"I praised the Senior Master of one of the largest temples for his service to the community and for creating a sacred space for worship. He thanked all who came to see him and expressed gratitude for their loyalty and commitment. I advised that he should give his guests Buddha's blessing and a souvenir."

"I showed him the wooden combs I'd etched with inspirational words and explained how they'd be used daily to encourage people to be kind to others. The concept appealed to him, so he placed an order for a thousand brushes."

"You got fortunate," one of the other candidates sniped sourly.

The interviewer said, "Not really. He had the comb etched before he went there, so he had thought it out. If not this temple, then another one will desire it."

The third hopeful candidate grinned and said, "There is more. I returned to the temple the day before yesterday to see how the Master was doing. Many tourists who visited the monastery and received Buddha's blessing etched on the comb went home and informed their friends and families about it. The number of daily visitors continues to rise. As a result, the comb is in high demand, and people are willing to pay a premium for it. The Master predicts the temple's popularity will cause him to quickly run out of available combs and require him to place an additional order."

Moral: Planning and creative thinking are essential for any successful leader.



Men's Health Screening Tests Every Man Needs

Getting the right test at the right time is one of the best things you can do for your health

Getting the right screening test at the right time is one of the best things a man can do for his health. They check on your health and if you do have a condition, it's better to find out ASAP so you can start treating it. The tests you need are based on your age and other factors. A guide by WebMD and medically reviewed by Dany Paul Baby, MD.

Lung Cancer: Most lung cancers are caused by smoking. But people exposed to second-hand smoke over long periods of time can get it, too. So can people who don't smoke at all or haven't been exposed to a lot of second-hand smoke. Not smoking and avoiding second-hand smoke are the best ways to lower your risk.

A low-dose CT scan is a type of X-ray that takes pictures of your lungs. It's also called LDCT. Low-dose CT is recommended if you're between 55-80 years old and have a history of heavy smoking. That's 1 pack a day for 30 years or 2 packs a day for 15 years. It's also recommended if you smoke or quit smoking.

Prostate Cancer: Prostate cancer tends to be a slow-growing cancer, but some types are more aggressive. Screening tests may help find the disease early. Screenings for healthy men may include a digital rectal exam (DRE) and possibly a prostate specific

antigen (PSA) blood test.

Testicular Cancer: This uncommon cancer is usually seen in men ages 20-54. It can be treated, especially if it's found early. Testicular exams are typically part of a man's routine check-up. Some doctors recommend that men do self-exams for lumps, bumps, or changes in the testes' size or shape.

Colorectal Cancer: Most colon cancers develop from growths called polyps on the inner surface of the colon. Finding and removing colon polyps before they turn cancerous is key.

For most people, screening begins at age 50 (earlier if you're at high risk). Tests include colonoscopy, in which a doctor uses a thin tube and tiny camera to screen the entire colon and remove polyps, or flexible sigmoidoscopy, which only checks the lower part of the colon.

Skin Cancer: There are several kinds of skin cancer. The most dangerous is melanoma. The most common

forms are melanoma basal cell and squamous cell skin cancers. Risks include sun exposure, tanning, and sunburns.

Check your skin regularly for any changes including the shape, colour, and size of any marks. Your doctor, dermatologist, or other health professional should also check your skin when you get a check-up. Treatments are more effective when skin cancer is found early.

High Blood Pressure (Hypertension): Your chances of getting high blood pressure are tied to your age, weight, and lifestyle. Many people have high blood pressure and don't know it. It's treatable, and changing your diet and exercise habits can make a big difference. That may help you avoid heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure.

Cholesterol Levels: If you have too much LDL cholesterol in your blood, plaque builds up in the walls of your arteries. This makes heart disease more likely. Over time it can lead to heart attack and stroke. Lifestyle changes and medications can lower your LDL levels.

A blood test can check your levels of total cholesterol, LDL ("bad") cholesterol, HDL ("good") cholesterol, and triglycerides (another type of blood fat). Your doctor may ask you to fast for a few hours before the blood test.

Type 2 Diabetes: Uncontrolled diabetes can lead to heart disease and stroke, kidney disease, blindness from damage to the blood vessels of the retina, nerve damage, and impotence. But if found early, you can control diabetes and avoid complications with diet, exercise, weight loss, and medications.

A fasting plasma glucose test is most often used to screen for diabetes. Doctors may also use the A1C test, which checks how well your body has controlled blood sugar over time. Healthy adults should have the test every three years starting at age 45. Some people, including those with high cholesterol or high blood pressure, should start testing earlier and more often.

Glaucoma: Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually damages the optic nerve and may lead to blindness. Screening tests look for high pressure within the eye, to find and treat glaucoma before it damages the optic nerve.

Health lessons men can learn from women

When it comes to being healthy, women tend to do a lot of things better, writes Poonam Sachdev of WebMD

Women usually get more sleep than men. Many log at least 8 hours of shut-eye on weeknights. Both genders need between 7 and 9 hours a night. To help you nod off, make sure your room is dark and cool, and leave devices like phones, tablets, and TVs in another part of the house.

Keep up with your buddies

Looking for a reason to get a group of guys together for poker night? How about this? It could add years to your life. Women tend to have more friends. Having a group of pals you can have fun with and trust can be quite healthy.

Kick the habit

About 20 out of every 100 adult men smoke, while only 15 of 100 adult women light up. Whether you go through a couple of packs a day or only smoke every once



in a while, it's time to talk to your doctor about how to stop.

Back away from the bar

Ladies know when to say no better than guys do. They're only half as likely to abuse alcohol as men. That's not the only

bad news -- dudes are also more likely to binge and to stay drunk longer.

Play it safer

Guess which gender takes more risks. Guys are usually the ones who don't wear seat belts, drive too fast. Slow down and

think twice before you act.

Keep your skin safe

Men spend more time in the sun. But they're less likely to use sunscreen correctly, if at all. Use enough to fill a shot glass, and reapply every 2 hours.

Wash your hands

Don't touch that bathroom door handle. Way more women wash their hands more often (and better) than men - especially after they use a public restroom. That gets rid of germs that can cause disease. Plus, women are much more likely to use soap than men. Bottom line: If you don't want to catch a cold, the flu, or something worse, scrub down!

Get checked out

One way to stay healthy: Go to the doctor. Men are about twice as likely as women to say they haven't seen a doctor in the past year. Don't tough it out. Ask the doc how often you should come in and what tests they suggest for someone your age. Then make an appointment and get it over with.

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma to Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh

A look at the most expensive weddings of Bollywood celebrities

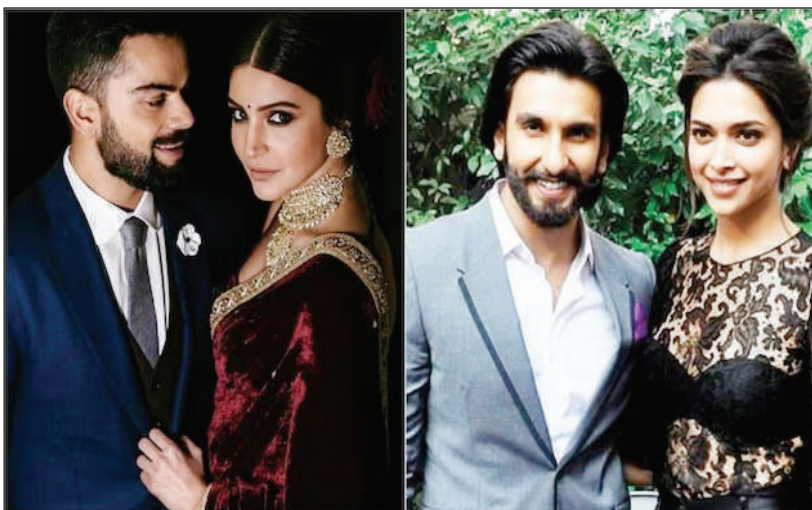
Bollywood weddings are a treat for fans who love to experience grand and lavish things. Celebs love to spend hefty amounts on their dreamy weddings and the grandeur and an extravaganza affair comes with a huge expense. From Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma to Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh... a look at the most expensive weddings of Bollywood as reported by Bollywood Life.

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh's wedding in Italy

Bollywood's most romantic couple got married at the Villa Del Balbianello and as per India Times, the cost of each night is Rs. 24-27 lakhs. Reportedly, their wedding cost crossed Rs.77-79 crores.

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli's grand wedding in Tuscany

Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma and Indian cricketer Virat Kohli's wedding is the most expensive shaadis in history. Reportedly, their wedding cost was around



Rs. 100 crores.

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas's Bollywood dream wedding

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas got married at the Umaid Bhawan in Rajasthan. The couple had two different wedding ceremonies - a white wedding and a Hindu wedding. Reportedly, the cost of the wedding was around Rs. 3-5 crores.

Parineeti Chopra and Raghav Chadha got married in Udaipur

Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra and Aam Aadmi Party member Raghav Chadha got married in Udaipur,

Rajasthan. Reportedly, their wedding cost was around Rs. 3-5 crores.

Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan had a traditional wedding

Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan got married traditionally. Reportedly, their wedding cost was around Rs. 6-9 crores.

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal's fairytale wedding

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal give major love goals with their PDAs. The two tied the knot in Six Senses Fort, Barwara and their wedding cost was reportedly around Rs. 5-7 crores.

Shilpa Shetty and Raj Kundra's lavish wedding

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty got married to a British businessman Raj Kundra in 2009 and the cost of their wedding was reportedly around Rs. 5-7 crores.

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra's destination wedding

The two Bollywood actors Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra tied the knot in Suryagarh Palace of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Reportedly, their wedding cost was around Rs. 6-8 crores.

7 Bollywood star kids who are following their parent's footsteps



Bollywood, the Indian film industry, has a long history of welcoming new talent, and it's not uncommon to see family legacies carried forward by the children of famous actors. Over the years, several star kids have ventured into the world of cinema, inheriting the talent and charisma of their famous parents. In this article, rvcj.com explores seven Bollywood star kids who are not only following in their parents' footsteps but also making a mark of their own in the industry.

Alia Bhatt (daughter of Mahesh Bhatt)

Alia Bhatt, daughter of renowned filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt, burst onto the Bollywood scene with her debut in "Student of the Year" in 2012. Since then, she has consistently delivered exceptional performances in films like "Raazi," "Gully Boy," and "Highway." Alia's versatility and

acting prowess have established her as one of the most talented actresses of her generation.

Varun Dhawan (son of David Dhawan)

Varun Dhawan, the son of celebrated director David Dhawan, has carved a niche for himself in the industry with his impeccable comic timing and charismatic presence. He made his debut in "Student of the Year" and went on to deliver hits like "Badlapur," "Badrinath Ki Dulhania," and "Judwaa 2."

Sara Ali Khan (daughter of Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh)

Sara Ali Khan, the daughter of Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, has taken Bollywood by storm with her infectious charm and acting prowess. Her debut film, "Kedarnath," was well-received, and she followed it up with successful projects like "Simmba" and "Love Aaj Kal."

Tiger Shroff (son of Jackie Shroff)

Tiger Shroff, the son of the legendary actor Jackie Shroff, is known for his extraordinary dancing skills and action sequences. His debut film, "Heropanti," showcased his martial arts prowess, and he has since become a sought-after action hero with movies like "Baaghi" and "War."

Janhvi Kapoor (daughter of Sridevi and Boney Kapoor)

Janhvi Kapoor, daughter of the late Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor, made her debut with "Dhadak" and garnered critical acclaim for her performance. She is gradually establishing herself as a talented actress, with upcoming projects that promise to showcase her versatility.

Ranbir Kapoor (son of Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Singh)

Ranbir Kapoor, part of the illustrious Kapoor family, has proven himself to be a versatile actor with a string of critically acclaimed films such as "Rockstar," "Barfi!," and "Sanju." He has inherited not only his family's acting legacy but also their passion for cinema.

Ananya Panday (daughter of Chunky Panday)

Ananya Panday, daughter of actor Chunky Panday, made her Bollywood debut with "Student of the Year 2." Known for her fresh and vibrant on-screen presence, Ananya is quickly becoming a favorite among the younger audience.

These star kids have not only inherited the acting genes but have also demonstrated their dedication to their craft. They've trained rigorously, honed their

skills, and worked hard to establish themselves as credible actors in their own right.

Challenges and Expectations: While being the child of a Bollywood celebrity comes with privileges, it also brings immense pressure and sky-high expectations. These young actors are often compared to their illustrious parents, which can be daunting. However, they have shown resilience in facing the challenges and have managed to carve their own unique paths in the industry.

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Aneri Vajani talks about trolls, career graph and joining 'Anupamaa'

'Calling someone thin amounts to body-shaming too'

After Gaurav Khanna, the makers of *Anupamaa* have now roped in Aneri Vajani to play a pivotal character in the daily soap. Her track will change the dynamics of the equation between the principal cast members.

Aneri tells Times of India, "I went for a meeting with Mr Rajan Shahi and within an hour, he signed me for *Anupamaa*. We were quite keen to work together, and I am glad it's happening finally. In fact, I had auditioned for the lead role in his show, *Aur Pyaar Ho Gaya*. However, the deal failed to materialise, and I bagged *Nisha Aur Uske Cousins*, which again was a beautiful project. As they say, everything happens for the better."

The actress was last seen in *Pavitra Bhagya*, which ended in October 2020. She says, "I didn't take up anything because nothing interesting came my way. If you see my trajectory, I have always taken up versatile roles, be it turning the protagonist from sister in a show like *Kaali – Ek Punar Avatar*, playing a tomboy in *Nisha Aur Uske Cousins*, or a mother in my last show. I don't like to repeat myself and if that means I have to take mini breaks in between projects, I really don't mind that. As an artiste, I am greedy for characters that excite, intrigue and push me," she says.

Despite some naysayers who often comment on her being skinny, the actress continues to post



pictures on social media without letting the toxicity affect her. She shares, "What people fail to understand is that just like calling someone overweight, calling someone thin amounts to body-shaming, too. I don't pay heed to what they have to say about my weight on social media. In fact, I take it in my stride. I can eat as much as I want to and still maintain my weight by working out just three days a week. People need to work harder to attain that."

Another personal aspect that is often talked about is her alleged relationship with her *Crazy Stupid Ishq* co-actor Harsh Rajput. "I don't want to talk about my personal life. At the moment, my energies are focused on my work, and I want to first achieve everything that I have set out for. It's only after I am settled professionally will I think about relationships. I will speak about this aspect of my life when I feel that the time is right," she concludes.

Isha Malviya: 'I miss going to 'Udaariyaan' sets, it is always going to be very close to my heart'



Actress Isha Malviya, who rose to fame as Jasmin from hit TV show *Udaariyaan*, made an exit from the show some time ago as it took a generation leap. The actress is currently on a break and is making the most of her time with her family. She recently spoke to ETimes TV about how life has been post the show and how much she is missing being part of *Udaariyaan*.

"I am enjoying my break to the fullest and it is going amazing. I travelled a lot during my break,

met my family, relatives and everyone. After spending my last few years at work, this was a much-needed break," shared the actress about her break from work.

Commenting on how much she misses the show, she said, "I miss going to *Udaariyaan* sets a lot and shooting with the cast. *Udaariyaan* is always going to be very close to my heart. I miss shooting in Chandigarh but I'm happy that I stay there so I don't miss the city. I personally love this city."

She added, "I'm missing being in front of the camera or facing the camera mostly. This is the first job I learnt, and this is my first job actually. I really miss being there on sets. Be it wearing new outfits, reading scripts, gearing up

for the shot or shooting powerful scenes, I miss all these things. *Udaariyaan* gave me an opportunity to shoot some powerful scenes."

Talking about her work experience on the show, "My learning experience on *Udaariyaan* has been great. I'd never imagined that I would get a chance like this but when I got it, I grabbed with both hands and gave my best. My directors, co-stars, and everyone was very helpful," she concluded.

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Professionally, your unique ideas will be given the attention they deserve, but make sure to act on them. You may be tempted to take a financial risk. While the stars are aligned in your favour, you must exercise caution. In relationships, your openness and honesty will help you connect with your spouse on a deeper level.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 3, 9, 12, 20, 23

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

This coming week is a good week to make careful financial investments. Your realistic attitude will steer you toward options that provide long-term stability rather than short-term rewards. You may come across as restrained or aloof in relationships. Take the time to express your emotions; it will help to strengthen your bonds.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 29, 30, 35, 40

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You'll discover novel answers to old challenges, particularly at work. You may find a financial chance to invest in something that aligns with your ideals, such as a sustainable initiative. Your independence may clash with your partner's need for connection in relationships. Finding a happy medium is critical.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 10, 15, 16, 30

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your creative abilities will flourish at work, making you the go-to person for out-of-the-box ideas. Stick to your budget and avoid making rash purchases. Although your intuition may lead you to a financial opportunity, it is critical that you contact specialists before making any decisions.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 11, 13, 16, 20

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Even if it's in your nature to rush into things, the stars recommend taking things more slowly for the time being. The presence of Mars and Venus in your career sector is a strong indicator that you will soon have access to new prospects for professional growth. Spend some time cultivating relationships, both in your personal life and in your professional life.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 15, 23, 30, 38

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Now is a good time to try new things because Jupiter is moving through the house that governs your own personal development. Expanding your horizons will bring you a variety of unexpected pleasures. Take precautions with your money. Given Saturn's location, it appears that this week is not the best time to make investments that involve risk.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 11, 19, 20, 30

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Think about the things you want to accomplish and how you may best direct your actions to get you there. When it comes to matters of the heart, Venus ushers in a surge of desire and closeness. If you're not attached to somebody, an intriguing newcomer can attract your attention.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 10, 15, 23, 24, 31

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

When the Sun travels through your fourth house, it brings to light concerns that you may have been trying to avoid or ignore. Take a direct approach while maintaining your compassion. In terms of your professional life, check everything twice, especially the agreements and correspondence. Because of this, you should listen to your instincts.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 10, 20, 27, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

It's the perfect time to transform your energy into something that can be seen and touched, whether it be a project at work or a personal interest. If you're lonely and looking for love, don't be surprised if a whirlwind romance sweeps you off your feet. The stars point to a magnetic affinity in romantic relationships.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 24, 25, 31, 33, 36

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

The placement of the Moon in your seventh house of relationships means that you will be able to use your emotional intelligence to your advantage. It's possible that a hard assignment at work will demand you to think of solutions that fall outside the norm. The careful preparation you've done will get you through this.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 11, 16, 20, 33

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

It is time to let go of outdated routines and become open to new experiences. Trust your gut, whether it be regarding a change in your professional life or a personal choice. On the love front, there is a lot of passion going around. If you don't already have a significant other, there's a chance you will soon.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 18, 22, 26, 30

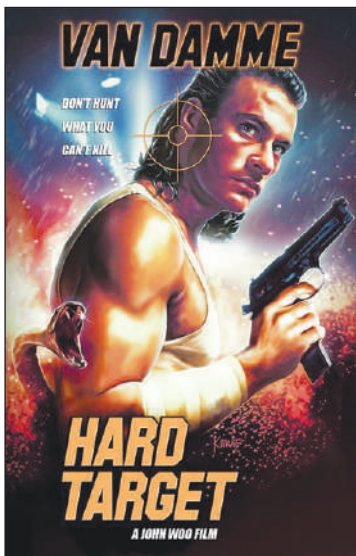
Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You'll become completely immersed in whatever you do, whether it's business or personal matters. Professionally, your concentration will help you solve a difficult challenge, gaining you praise. This intensity, though, can make you rather compulsive. Be aware of this inclination, particularly in partnerships.

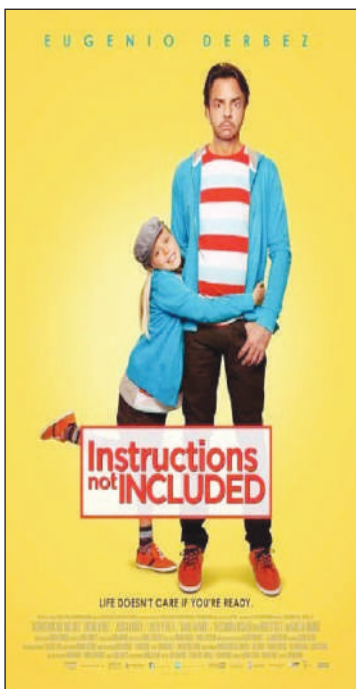
Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 14, 21, 29, 31



Vendredi 6 octobre - 20.30



Samedi 7 octobre - 20.30



Dimanche 8 octobre - 20.30



Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 6 octobre	05.32 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 06.01 Serial: New Amsterdam 07.00 Film: Un Ete Magique 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.06 Tele: Amour Secret 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter 10.55 Tele: Marimar 11.05 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Barbarita 13.25 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.50 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 The Baker And The Beauty 15.21 Film: Decision At Sundown 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.35 Film: Hard Target 22.05 Tele: Barbartia 23.30 Le Journal Televisione 00.15 Serial: Billions	06.25 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 08.51 Konkour Sante Patriotik 09.43 Local: Radio Vision 10.38 Local: J'ai Faim 11.03 Local: Groov'in 12.02 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 12.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 13.26 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 14.28 Local: Groov'in 15.24 Local: Generations J 15.54 Konkour Sante Patriotik 16.56 Local: En Forme 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.32 Tele: Amour Secret 19.30 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 20.04 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 22.00 Local: La Societe 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 23.44 Local: Rodrig Prog	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 08.00 Local: Amrit Vaani 10.00 Serial: Agniphera 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Anjane Mein Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Neetu Singh, Nirupa Roy 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhava 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 16.44 Serial: Bhakharwadi 17.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 19.02 Local: Khel Khiladi 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 20.54 Film: Agneepath 23.05 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain	06.03 Doc: Smoothie Mania 06.45 Mag: Carnet De Sante 07.28 Mag: Tomorrow Today 08.24 Doc: Serbia And The New... 08.57 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 10.34 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor Miracles 11.04 Doc: Smoothie Mania 11.55 Doc: Castles 12.18 Mag: Tomorrow Today 12.44 Doc: A Mediterranean... 13.56 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours 14.52 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.06 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti 15.30 D.Anime: Les Blagues De Toto 15.42 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.28 The Adventures Of Puss... 16.47 Mag: Recipes For Kids	14.25 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Paisa Yeh Paisa Starring: Jackie Shroff, Meenakshi Seshadri 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.01 Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.15 Anupamaa 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.59 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Paisa Yeh Paisa Stars : Jackie Shroff, Meenakshi Seshadri
samedi 7 octobre	04.20 Serial: S.W.A.T 05.07 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 06.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 07.00 Le Livre Perdu Des sortileges 07.45 Serial: Seal Team 08.31 Serial: Hooten & The Lady 09.15 Serial: Riviera 09.59 Serial: S.W.A.T 10.45 Serial: The Inbetween 11.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Queens Of Mystery 13.20 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 15.21 Film: The Last Boy 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Dance India Dance Little Masters 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Instructions Not Included 22.27 Film: Las Vegas Parano 01.06 Tele: Missing Bride	06.14 Local: Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 08.30 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 10.29 Local: Rodrig: It's My Day 12.02 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 12.31 Local: Les Grands Noms... 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.02 Local: Zafan Nou Pei 15.09 Local: La Societe 17.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.00 Serial: The Equalizer 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Magazine De L'emploi 21.02 Local: Urban Dance Festival 22.04 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 23.56 Local: Saver Kil Tirel 00.20 Pran Kont Ou Lasante 00.35 Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art 01.28 Local: Rodrig - D'jam	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 08.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol 10.55 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 12.02 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 11.59 Local: Khel Khiladi 14.08 Taare Zameen Par 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Imaandaar Starring: Vikas Anand, Sanjay Dutt, Satyen Kappu 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.29 Local: Satrangi 18.52 Duniya Mein Is Saptah 19.17 Local: Khoobsurat 19.29 Local: MBC Prod 20.49 Film: The Body Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Emraan Hashmi, Vedhika, S. Dhulipala 22.28 Local: Satrangi 22.58 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptan	06.31 D.Anime: Fast And Furious 07.04 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 09.56 Mag: N*Gen 10.25 Serial: Malory Towers 11.05 Doc: Smoothie Mania 13.17 Doc: Heritage 14.07 Mag: Shift 15.06 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti 15.08 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 15.19 D.Anime: Les Blagues De Toto 15.42 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.29 The Adventures Of Puss 16.48 Mag: Recipes For Kids 16.54 Mag: Sand Tales 17.15 Doc: World Capitals 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: Eaten By Lions	08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 10.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 10.18 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.15 Udaariyaan 14.05 Anupamaa 16.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 18.31 Film: Gopi Kishan Starring: Shilpa Shirodkar, Suniel Shetty, Karishma Kapoor 21.02 Gadget Guru Ganesha 21.13 Serial: Porus 21.35 Naagin Season 05 22.16 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
dimanche 8 octobre	02.58 Film: Eaten By Lions 04.30 Mag: Top 100 Famous Act... 04.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 06.06 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 06.35 Film: Instructions Not Included 08.35 Serial: Imposters 09.20 Film: The Last Boy 10.50 Serial: Falling Water 11.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Film: Decision At Sundown 14.15 Serial: Scorpion 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Timecrafters 17.00 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 19.16 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Mothers And Daughters	06.00 Rodrig: D'Jam 06.26 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou 06.45 Local: Yoga 07.26 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante 09.26 Local: Zafan Nou Zil 10.12 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 11.42 Local: Konkour Sante Patriotik 13.11 Local: Urban Dance Festival 14.11 Local Prod: Elle 15.03 Local: Pause Cuisine 17.23 Konkour Sante Patriotik 18.00 Serial: The Equalizer 19.00 Zournal Kreol 20.00 Local: Tita Tita Nu Avance 20.45 Local Production 21.37 Local: Clin D'oeil 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 00.38 Local: Nu Lakwizin	07.10 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 09.00 Duniya Mein Is Saptah 12.02 Film: Sanjog 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.22 Other: Radha Krishna 15.31 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah 15.46 Local: Khoobsurat 17.00 Local: Ekta 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.29 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi 19.13 Local: Tohar Farmaish 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.01 Serial: Naagin Season 4 21.43 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.26 Serial: Bahubali 23.10 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 00.04 Local: Planet Bollywood 00.30 Local: Tohar Rashi	06.56 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 07.16 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 09.23 D.Anime: Miraculous 10.25 Serial: Hank Zipzer 11.00 Doc: Foodland 11.29 Mag: In Good Shape 12.00 Doc: Trust The Guide 13.41 Doc: Fat, Fatter, Fattest 14.52 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.09 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti 15.19 D.Anime: Les Blagues De... 15.42 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.27 The Adventures Of Puss... 16.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.10 Doc: World Captials 18.26 Foodland: Veggie Feasts 18.35 Doc: Iran From Above 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 21.42 Film: Une Soiree D'Enfer	00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 02.05 Udaariyaan 04.00 Anupamaa 06.06 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise... 08.00 Tenali Rama 08.12 Patiala Babes 10.16 Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 13.46 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 15.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.32 Film: Judaai Starring: Anil Kapoor, Sridevi and Urmila Matondkar 21.21 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.24 Serial: Naagin Season 22.10 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 23.57 Serial: Patiala Babes 01.57 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
lundi 9 octobre	06.07 Serial: Killjoys 06.45 Film: 3 Secondes 08.52 Serial: The Equalizer 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.00 Tele: Amour Secret 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.48 Tele: Marimar 11.16 Serial: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita, Les Couleurs.. 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: The Equalizer 15.20 Film: Mothers And Daughters 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 19.30 Le Journal 20.25 Serial: Wanted 21.15 Serial: Seal Team 22.00 Serial: Hooten & The Lady	07.12 Local: Tita Tita Nu Avance 09.42 Local: Elle 10.35 Local: Le Challenge 11.05 Local Prod: MBC Prod 12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.07 La Journee Sous Legard... 13.56 Local: Elle 14.44 Local: Nos Aines 15.00 Local: Tita Tita Nu Avance 15.30 Local: Aktiv 16.38 Local: Le Challenge 17.00 Local: Radio Vision 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Nos Aines 21.19 Local: Radio Vision 22.18 Local: Lir - Ekkrir Kreol 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 08.04 Local: Planet Bollywood 08.47 Local: Tohar Farmaish 09.31 Local: MBC Prod 10.00 Serial: Bahubali 10.43 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 11.36 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Gauri Starring: Sunil Dutt, Sanjeev Kumar, Nutan, Mumtaz 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhava 16.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.35 Ved Ki Shikshayen 19.04 Local: Ayush 19.34 Local: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.15 Local: Vaad Vivaad 21.01 Film: Ban Pooal Starring: Jeetendra, Babita, Shatrughan Sinha	06.02 Doc: Eye On SADC 08.00 Doc: Secluded Treasures... 09.59 Doc: Rules Of War 10.42 Doc: Tea-New Ideas For A Traditional Drink 11.37 Doc: Foodland 11.44 Doc: Iran From Above 13.45 Doc: Beyond Men And Mas... 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours 14.51 D.Anime: L'heure Du Conte 15.05 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti 15.08 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little 15.19 D.Anime: Les Blagues De... 15.42 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.29 The Adventures Of Puss In... 16.49 Mag: Recipes For Kids 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.02 Student Support Programme 19.32 Mag: In Good Shape 21.41 Film: Little Kingdom	14.25 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar... 15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Bekaraar Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Padmini Kolhapure, Mohnish Behl 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.08 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.28 Radha Krishna 21.32 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Bekaraar Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Padmini Kolhapure, Mohnish Behl



Mardi 10 octobre - 20.30



Mercredi 11 octobre - 21.15



Mercredi 11 octobre - 15.30



Programme TV



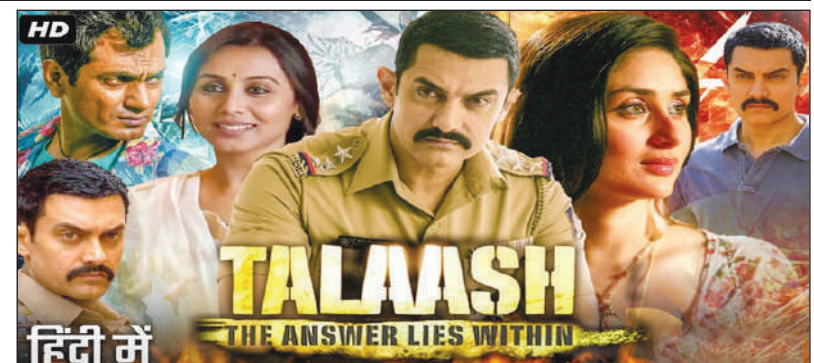
MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 10 octobre 04.45 Tele: Amour Secret 05.08 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 07.15 Serial: Wanted 08.09 Serial: Seal Team 08.45 Serial: Hooten & The Lady 09.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: Marimar 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.10 Serial: The Magicians 15.25 Film: Little Kingdom 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.30 Film: Extracted	mardi 10 octobre 07.10 Eclairage Economique 09.28 Local: Radio Vision 10.25 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal 11.07 Local: Le Rendez Vous 12.07 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 13.06 Eclairage Economique 13.40 Local: Tous Egaux 13.48 Rodrig Mo Pei 14.39 Local: Lir - Ekri Kreol 14.57 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif 16.47 Local: En Forme 17.09 Local: Radio Vision 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.34 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 19.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 21.33 Local: Radio Vision 22.10 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Journal Kreol	mardi 10 octobre 07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 09.34 Local: Vaad Vivaad 10.03 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 12.02 Film: Jhoothi 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.30 Badki Malkaain 16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 17.28 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.36 Local: Tark Vitark 19.00 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 19.30 Local: Prakriti Ki God Mein 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.42 Film: Amir Garib 23.12 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.35 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 00.24 Local: Tark Vitark 00.51 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 01.28 Prakriti Ki God Mein 01.57 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya	mardi 10 octobre 06.03 Mag: Eco At Africa 08.53 Mag: Tomorrow Today 09.24 Mag: Washington Forum 10.41 Doc: High Velocity 11.28 Mag: Eco At Africa 13.26 Doc: Van Gogh, The Choice... 14.21 Doc: World Heritage 14.52 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.06 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little 15.29 D.Anime: Les Blagues De... 15.43 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.01 D.Anime: Gon 16.24 D.Anime: The Adventures Of... 16.47 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.08 Doc: World Capitals 17.15 Doc: Disappear 18.05 Mag: Rev 18.31 Mag: Healthy Living 19.31 Mag: Global US 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	mardi 10 octobre 14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.30 Film: Yaraana Starring Rishi Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Raj Babbar 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.38 Radha Krishna 21.08 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.08 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 23.30 Film: Yaraana Starring Rishi Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit, Raj Babbar 01.58 Kundali Bhagya
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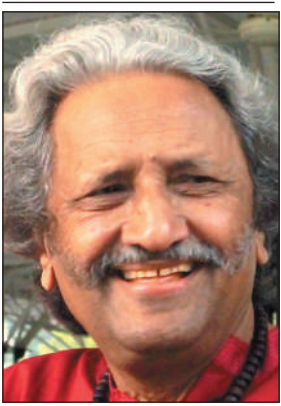
Jeudi 12 octobre - 15.28

Stars: Anil Kapoor, Jackie Shroff,
Farha Naaz, K. Katkar

Jeudi 12 octobre - 20.30

Stars: Rakhee Gulzar, Akshay
Kumar, Kareena Kapoor

Dev Anand: From Tourist to Spiritual Guide



Kul Bhushan

The cinema was packed full. After the first song of the movie, the audience clapped, went on clapping for every song and clapped heartily when it ended. The excited cine fans had watched their cherished film 'Guide' with the eternal hero Dev Anand after it was first released in 1965.

Yes, even after 58 years, the charisma and the glamour of the two stars, Dev Anand and Waheeda Rehman, has not diminished. About half the audience was white haired

who were capturing their youth again, but the other half was young who were discovering the enigmatic star.

This film festival was a celebration to mark the hundredth birthday of Dev Anand by screening his top hits in major Indian cities. The Film Heritage Foundation (FHF) restored Dev Anand's popular movies such as "Hum Dono", "Tere Ghar Ke Samne", "CID", and "Guide" to mark his hundredth birthday and honoured birthday on 26 September 2023 with a gala titled 'Dev Anand@100 - Forever Young'.

Each one of these films is a firm favourite but *Guide* remains the hallmark of Dev's élan and genius. Based on the novel of the same name by RK Narayan, it relates the story of Raju the tourist guide who becomes a manager for a dancing star, a criminal prisoner and finally a spiritual guide



Dev Anand's leading lady Waheeda Rehman, launches the film festival in Mumbai marking his 100th birthday. A couple of days later, she was honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke Award, the ultimate accolade of Indian cinema, for her lifetime contribution to movies. Pic - Times of India

by accident. The screenplay before the climax when the ego personified by the tourist guide questions the consciousness in the form of the spiritual guide is unmatched in Indian movies.

Happy-go-lucky Raju meets the subdued wife Rosie of Marco, the archaeologist who bullies her as she yearns to be

free and to dance. After a heated argument, she leaves with Raju to start a new life as an accomplished dancer. The dance sequences, the costumes and the music provide an enchanting experience while the crisp dialogues bind in rapt attention. It all adds up to sublime entertainment.

The film ventured into new vistas as the leading couple never married but lived in a relationship. Thus, the distributors were wary of releasing it as this was not socially acceptable in the sixties. And it ends on a sad note.

Producer Dev persisted and it was not a big hit but later caught momentum to become a blockbuster.

Director Vijay Anand, Dev's brother, made some changes to the location from South India to Udaipur, amended the script/screenplay to highlight the compulsions and longings of the characters and, above all, the spiritual dimension which sinks in long after the film is over.

Thus, its theme and message remain valid after so many decades. No wonder the clapping in the theatres during the current re-release. Yes, Dev has shown his class in more than a hundred films, but *Guide* tops the top hits like *Jewel Thief*, *Johnny Mera Naam*, *Hare Rama Hare Krishna*, *Hum Dono*, *Kala Bazaar*, *Tere Mere Sapne*, *CID*, *Kala Paani...* and the list goes on and on.

At the launch of his biography, 'Romancing with Life', at a five-star hotel in New Delhi, I had the privilege of meeting him and presenting him with a book by Osho. His instant response was, "Yes, I know Osho, my brother Vijay was his disciple." Of course, I knew Vijay well but was impressed with Dev's eclectic energy and dynamism which came across more powerfully than any words. He lives in his films and our hearts. He has scored a century but not out.

Kul Bhushan worked as a newspaper Editor in Nairobi for over three decades and now lives in New Delhi

Education - Study Abroad



Pooben Narayanan

Canada is the second largest country in the world; however, it is facing a very serious housing crisis. Whilst there's enough space there aren't enough houses being built to meet demand. Most of the country's population is concentrated in the major urban centres such as Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, etc. These are the economic centres of the country and home to many leading universities and post-secondary colleges.

They are also magnets for Canadians looking for work and to study at their country's tertiary education institutions; the same applies to the hundreds of thousands of immigrants and foreign students that the country takes in every year. The result has been more demand for homes to buy and rent than can be supplied. This shortage means prices continue to increase to the point where they are unaffordable for most people.

In Toronto, which is home to the University of Toronto, York University, Toronto Metropolitan University and other colleges, a shared room is going for 1000 Canadian dollars a month, approximately 33,000 Mauritian rupees. Shared means that the kitchen and bathroom will be shared. In a smaller city such as Winnipeg, Manitoba, rents near the universities are around half that of Toronto for a student. Attractive as that may be, the city is further away from Mauritius and there are additional travel costs that must be taken into consideration.

The rising costs and low supply have led to some foreign students finding themselves homeless, as was the case for

Canada is running out of housing for its university and college students

a student from India studying at a college in Kitchener, Ontario, who had the unfortunate experience of living under a bridge for four days until he was rescued by fellow students. In Quebec, students from West Africa who were accepted at the University of Quebec in Trois Rivières found themselves living in motels and Airbnbs as there was no accommodation for them. Some of the students decided to move to other Francophone countries for their studies.

The solutions seem to be few and far between, and priority is given to Canadians. The universities and colleges which are experiencing a major influx of income from foreign students are trying to find a solution. Meanwhile, classes have started across Canada, but the situation remains unchanged. The government is considering whether it needs to cap the number of international students being allowed in the country. In 2022, the country took in 800,000 plus students, a 33% increase from the previous year. This year it is projected to hit the 900,000 plus mark. Immigration has also increased and the resulting sudden increase in population has put pressure on the housing market and the healthcare system.

If you are planning on studying in Canada, there are couple of things to bear in mind.

- Your budget must take into consideration the cost of living, especially rent. If you choose and are accepted for on campus and other university run accommodation, be prepared to pay much more than living off campus.
- You must be prepared to share accommodation and living



space with other people. You may have to wait a long time before you find your ideal place, this could mean living in a motel (a cheaper version of a hotel), Airbnb and hotel. Which means eating out and doing your laundry in coin machines, driving up your budget.

- You may have to rent far from your school, this means longer commute

times. Depending on the city you may benefit from cheaper fare for students, which helps. If you are working part-time you may have to move around a lot. You could invest in a car, but the associated costs may not be worth it.

- You must do your research before you head out to your school. Once you have been admitted your school will give you your student number and you will be able to access the school's message boards.

- If you are not planning on living in university accommodation, start looking for a place even before you leave. There's plenty of news articles and pieces that are available online which can allow you to make an informed decision and do not hesitate to get in touch with your school, they will be more than happy to help.

Studying in Canada for those who can afford it is a great opportunity and privilege, but to be able to do so, you need a place to live.

Pooben Narayanan has a BA in Economics and a BA with Honours in Political Science from McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada. As he teaches part-time at the University of Mauritius, he has an active interest in tertiary education and career paths for Mauritians in a rapidly changing world.