

MAURITIUS TIMES

• The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie. -- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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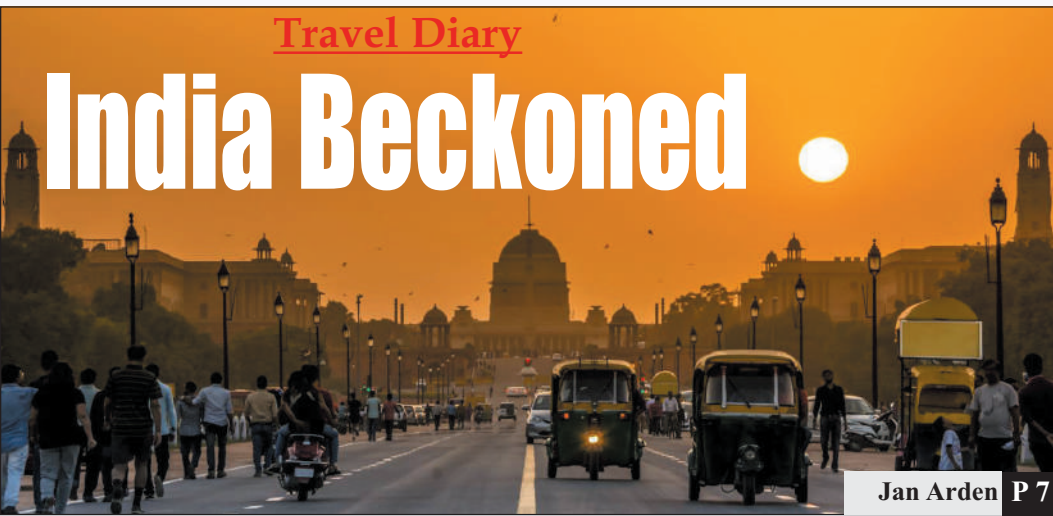


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Criminality and Role Models

Even as news outside the country, especially in certain places, for instance in Israel and Gaza, is nothing but depressing, we also have our fair share of the bad news. Yesterday brought us news about the several cases of bomb scare registered in several schools, both public and private. The authorities will surely do what is required to determine whether that is the doing of pranksters or whether it should become a matter of concern for the country.

What is a matter of continuing concern however is the occurrence of crimes - some petty, others serious - that are reported regularly. Every week is bringing its lot of unacceptable social behaviour unheard of a few decades back. The cases of spouses, concubines or girlfriends stabbed or seriously injured by those usually close to them have become more frequent. Theft is also becoming more frequent. In certain cases, not only is there larceny, but the victim of theft gets attacked, is often badly hurt, or even killed in the process. Even taxi drivers and bus conductors are aware of the new level of risks attendant to their occupations.

Cases of theft by motorbike riders, such as snatching of chains worn by women, which were heard of quite frequently a few years back, appear to have diminished, presumably due to greater police and community vigilance in certain areas. Incidents of misbehaviour by schoolchildren towards each other or in some cases towards teachers also appear to be on the decline, but they do happen from time to time. However, besides drugs related offences, there are more crimes being committed under the influence of synthetic drugs not only in the urban areas but also in our villages - something unheard of in the past. Only this week, another piece of bad news relates to the availability of a new drug, apparently more potent than heroin and which would have caused several cases of overdose. This has become a matter of serious concern for NGOs engaged in the fight against drug abuse.

Multiple crimes may be linked to specific offenders, but it appears we have as yet not undertaken a thorough study of the profiles of those who commit the different types of crimes that are taking place in recent years. One assumption is that many of the offenders come from families which have lost a sense of cohesion. But that is not always the case, and a proper study will inform us about the extent of the problem and how

to address it. We have four public universities and yet the authorities seem loathe to call any of them to conduct a thorough sociological investigation that may lay the basis for informed policy actions or for fine-tuning the actions of meritorious NGOs.

We have also seen several cases of people invested with the duty to ensure respect for the law, indulging in questionable activities while wearing their duty uniforms. If they themselves set such examples, what do their hierarchy or authorities generally expect the rest of the people to do? Politicians have also displayed reckless conduct - whereas as public figures they are expected to act as exemplars by demonstrably setting the highest standards in the discharge of their responsibilities towards the country and their constituencies. But instead, they choose to operate within very short-term horizons, maximizing gains while the going is good for them! Many of those operating in the circles of the powerful don't hesitate to indulge in dubious activities, including business malpractices under the cover of their political shield. Riding the gravy train even through international travels, per diems, luxury limos and other perks of office has become the norm rather than the exception as checks and balances seem inoperative.

No doubt such phenomena are found in other countries and societies too. In the case of Mauritius, however, we have been more on the conservative side, rather keen to protect our gains as we went up the social ladder. Individuals and even families used to benchmark themselves against each other, to the point of emulation so as to be well seen socially. There was a self-correcting attitude within families in pursuit of 'achievement'. Honour and dishonour were important considerations. Unfortunately, this sense of values has been taking a sharp downward dip in recent times.

The responsibility for reversing this state of affairs doesn't belong to a single individual or entity. It is rather a shared one among all citizens and at all levels of society - individual, family, community, NGOs, religious leaders, and all other organisations that must surely be concerned about what kind of society they want for the future generations. And the youth too, for it is their future that is at stake. However, there is no gainsaying that strong role models among those who are thrust into positions of leadership must be the main drivers of this movement for transformation. Are they prepared to assume this role as they should?

The Conversation

Doomsday Clock warns the world about catastrophe

Here's why it stands at 90 seconds to midnight



The Doomsday Clock, with its hands hovering close to midnight ("doomsday"), is a symbolic device that is designed to warn the world how close it is to catastrophe. Midnight is said to represent the point at which the Earth becomes uninhabitable by humanity.

The clock dates back to the early days of the cold war. It was set up as an integral feature of a journal called the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. This was established in 1947 by those Manhattan Project scientists and engineers who were closely linked to the development of the atomic bomb. They were concerned about "the destroyers of worlds" they had created. Articles in the bulletin were largely devoted - as they still are today - to highlighting the perils of nuclear weapons.

At the beginning of 2023, the hands of the Doomsday Clock were set at a mere 90 seconds to the hour, the closest it has ever been to midnight. There is no one overall reason for this move. Of course, with climate change now a major factor in the threat to humanity, the clock has to reflect this, and does. But it is, however, other more immediate factors that have largely caused the hands to be pushed forward.

The most significant influence has been the war in Ukraine and particularly the Russian threat of "escalating to de-escalate". This notion has been widely discussed in Russia, including by those with close ties to President Vladimir Putin.

The idea here is that if Russian forces were about to suffer a major defeat in Ukraine, they would use tactical (low-yield) nuclear weapons on the battlefield (that is, to "escalate" the war).

Rod Thornton, Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in International Studies, Defense and Security, King's College London

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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

The Downward Spiral to Destruction

We are raring to be what we are not. We don't need any external bomb. The internal bomb is ticking in our own minds

"We are wholly responsible for what we are; and whatever we wish ourselves to be, we have the power to make ourselves." – Anon

Many years ago, when I was in HSC, I attended a debate that was held after class hours at the Salle des Fetes in Plaza. The topic was, 'The youth of this country have taken the downward path to destruction.' There was a Debating Society at the Royal College Curepipe where I was studying, and we were encouraged to watch out for any similar public event – which probably took place more frequently than – and participate if possible. Like many of my friends, we had the flame of youth burning in our veins, and I went there determined to speak against the motion if I got a chance.

I did – because I was incensed by the vehemence with which the youth were taken to task by someone whom I had never met before: Dr Paratian, who was a gynaecologist. Anyone who still remembers Dr Paratian would know that he was a firebrand speaker with a sure command of English. But I was not cowed down by his outburst, and raised my hand to take the floor when the attendees were invited to comment, and it was a packed hall. I do not remember what all arguments I countered those of Dr Paratian with, but I recall my parting words as I left the stage after speaking: 'Instead of taking the downward path to destruction, I will now take the backward path from the stage.'

To start from the beginning: What distinguishes the human being from other sentient organisms is the faculty of choice that he possesses. This derives from another faculty, that of reason which allows him to enquire, explore and thus gain knowledge. The application of knowledge, and learning from its outcome(s), whether positive or negative, constitute experience. Reason, knowledge and experience widen the field of choice and open up limitless possibilities. The good choice is one that does not destroy oneself or others. The bad choice is one that causes irreparable harm or destruction without the possibility of rising anew.

Choice is made in the mind and affects the body, and ultimately the mind itself. Thus, it is the mind that must be prepared so as to make the right choice. The right choice leads to the right action, and right action done at the right time and the right place cannot but lead to positive results.

Experience takes time to build up, but reasoning is within everyone's capacity, and knowledge is available and increasingly easily accessible so that, even if one does not possess or have enough of it, there is always a possibility of gaining it from a number of sources. We live in the information age, and no one can say that s/he does not have access to loads of information nowadays, especially social media in the use of which the youth are very savvy.

The issue is to sift the wheat from the chaff or, to use modern terminology, to distinguish what is true and correct from what is false and fake. However, the amazing thing about humans is that, in spite of knowing that something can cause them harm, they will still go after it. Or, knowing that something can do them good, they will find a thousand and one pretexts to avoid it. In medical practice we see this daily. For example, in relation to cigarettes, alcohol, eating habits, and lifestyle in general – such as exercising, walking

instead of taking the car for short trips, pursuing relationships/activities which impact negatively on one's bodily, mental and emotional health or on the family, and so on and so forth.

Sadly, knowledge and practice seem to be inversely related to one another in many cases: the more one knows the less, it seems, is one likely to put into sound practice this knowledge. What is even more unsettling is that this behaviour is also exhibited by educated people, when exactly the opposite is expected of them. Character formation does not seem to be part of any educational curriculum. And many refuse to look back and learn their lessons.

The phenomenon of synthetic drugs that has been

making headlines in the media of late illustrates the point. That young people wish to have a bit of fun and frolic is understandable. That they should, knowing the dangers they are in for, put themselves in situations where their bodies will be subjected to physical aggression under stupor is incomprehensible. It's the self-rape of both mind and body.

It will be very easy to say, here go these bloody old chaps again, with their moralizing. Fact is, we too were young once. We also have indulged in truanancies and clandestine tricks. But there were limits beyond which we did not go. Right, the society was then more conservative, but also, the words and admonitions of parents, and of teachers more than parents, were heeded more often than they are now. Because they shone by example, it is also true, and the same is not as widespread today, although it must be said that the concerns of parents and teachers remain the same.

"That young people wish to have a bit of fun and frolic is understandable. That they should, knowing the dangers they are in for, put themselves in situations where their bodies will be subjected to physical aggression under stupor is incomprehensible. It's the self-rape of both mind and body. It will be very easy to say, here go these bloody old chaps again, with their moralizing. Fact is, we too were young once. We also have indulged in truanancies and clandestine tricks. But there were limits beyond which we did not go..."

There is a right time for everything. That is why the sages of yore gave us guidelines and enjoined us to live our lives in stages each of which carried specific duties and responsibilities. As students and apprentices, we learnt not only different subjects, but also how to discipline ourselves and restrain our racing desires; we then entered family life which allowed expression of these desires in fulfilling relationships that raised the next generation, and had to assume the responsibility of providing for the family; next came the stage where we could give more time to society, the immediate family concerns having more or less been taken care of; and then came the time for us to gracefully and gradually retreat as the next generations took over.

But what has happened is that we yield to the pressures of an increasingly materialistic society that tempts us to jump the gun and so we do things that we ought not to be doing at the different stages. The youngster wants to be a premature adult. The elderly want to frolic like the youngster. The lines get blurred, and the boundaries are crossed in both directions with the consequences that we are seeing. Modern society, instead of providing role models, supplies rave-substances, Viagra, wigs to cover balding heads and dyes to hide greying hair. All the artifices of falsehood and illusion.

We are raring to be what we are not. We don't need any external bomb. The internal bomb is ticking in our own minds. And we say we are civilized. With a moral order that has all but collapsed, we have little to be proud of. Add to this the suicide-bombings and other forms of terrorism, ethnic violence, wars and the despicable examples set by many public figures supposedly belonging to 'high' levels, and we can see that unless there is a collective U-turn, not only youth but society as a whole may well continue on the downward spiral to destruction, validating Dr Paratian's stand!

I shudder to think about our future...



P - akm-img-a-in.tosshub.com

Needless to say, I felt quite proud of myself, though I do not remember whether the motion was carried. As for Dr Paratian, I met him years later after becoming a doctor myself – but that's another story.

I do not know who were the organizers of that debate and what made them choose this topic. Because, looking back at what is now more than half a century ago, compared to what is happening now any aberrant behaviour of the youth of that time is miles away from the really destructive types that we are witnessing now. Probably, like me then, the youth would defend themselves, but that there has been a deterioration is, I think, undeniable.

Remaniement ministériel au Royaume-Uni Limogeage de Suella Braverman, une conservatrice trop à droite

Par A. Bartleby



Braverman limogé et retour de Cameron... Rishi Sunak recentre son gouvernement. P - Le Figaro

Rishi Sunak a pris tout le monde de court lundi dernier en annonçant le limogeage de Suella Braverman et un remaniement ministériel avec le retour de l'ex-Premier ministre David Cameron dans la foulée.

Suella Braverman s'était fait connaître grâce à ses positions à la droite de la droite du Parti conservateur britannique. Ardente défenseuse du Brexit, elle s'était positionnée comme un élément clé du gouvernement de Sunak, avec la responsabilité du très important ministère de l'Intérieur.

Ses prises de position et ses déclarations, souvent sulfureuses, notamment sur les enjeux liés aux migrants avait fait d'elle un personnage détesté de la gauche et des modérés. Mais elle était plutôt populaire dans les milieux ultra conservateurs. D'ailleurs, c'est un article publié dans les journaux où elle accuse la police londonienne d'avoir fait preuve de trop de laisser-faire envers les manifestants pro-Palestiniens qui est à l'origine de sa chute.

Cet article avait été édité par le personnel du PM, mais Braverman n'a pas tenu compte des recommandations de 10 Downing Street et l'a publié dans sa version originale, mettant ainsi le feu aux poudres entre le PM et la ministre de l'Intérieur.

En réalité, il n'y a là rien de surprenant. Cela fait un moment que Rishi Sunak démontre un certain malaise vis-à-vis de la frange ultra-conservatrice de son parti. Il avait besoin de leur soutien pour se propulser au 10 Downing Street sans passer par un vote des membres du parti, mais il a souvent fait attention à se distinguer de certaines prises de position jugées trop à droite. En contrepartie, Rishi Sunak a souvent été accusé de renier les valeurs conservatrices en faveur d'un agenda politique trop social.

Mais par-delà les affinités personnelles et politiques, le départ de Suella Braverman et le remaniement ministériel qui a suivi sont beaucoup plus pertinents politiquement qu'il n'y paraît en surface.

En se séparant de Braverman, Sunak a également écarté un groupe d'influence qui commençait à aliéner

beaucoup au sein du vote conservateur, et notamment ceux représentant la droite libérale modérée qui commençait volontiers à regarder du côté du leader du Parti Travailleuse, Keir Starmer, pour les prochaines échéances électorales.

Ainsi, le départ de Braverman représente également un réalignement de la position du parti vers le centre, ce qui produit deux effets.

- Premièrement, Sunak souhaite clairement rassurer l'électorat historique des Tories et ramener vers lui les libéraux qui lui reprochaient un trop grand laxisme envers les ultra conservateurs.
- Et deuxièmement, en écartant Braverman, Sunak tente également d'isoler Boris Johnson qui ne cache plus ses intentions de contester le leadership du PM actuel pour mener les Tories lors des prochaines législatives.

Le surprenant retour de David Cameron doit également être compris dans ce sens. D'un côté, Sunak rappelle un ancien Premier ministre dont l'expérience et les compétences sont reconnues (malgré les récentes affaires). Et, de l'autre côté, le retour de Cameron ne peut que se lire comme une alliance entre Sunak et les modérés des Tories afin de faire front contre la frange ultra conservatrice du parti.

Rishi Sunak aura ainsi quelques mois pour préparer le gouvernement aux prochaines échéances électorales, et ce remaniement envoie certains signaux qui se veulent absolument clairs et précis.

Le retour de David Cameron sera particulièrement scruté, notamment de par le fait qu'il devra pouvoir délivrer les accords commerciaux que Sunak peine à finaliser avec l'Inde et certains pays africains.

Ce retour aux Affaires étrangères a également une certaine importance à Maurice, pour nous qui sommes au milieu d'une négociation capitale avec le gouvernement britannique pour le retour des Chagos et une résolution pour Diego Garcia. David Cameron, lui, était farouchement opposé au «claim» de la République de Maurice sur les Chagos lorsqu'il était PM. Qu'en sera-t-il maintenant qu'il est ministre des Affaires étrangères?

Élections sous tension à Madagascar

Nos amis malgaches ont été appelés aux urnes ce jeudi pour choisir leur nouveau président. Ces élections se déroulent sous haute tension avec une opposition qui n'a eu de cesse de dénoncer des irrégularités.

Andy Rajoelina, le président sortant, se présente afin de remporter un deuxième mandat successif malgré la volte-face de Siteny Randrianasoloniaiko, un allié devenu son premier challenger.

De son côté, la majorité de l'opposition s'est alignée avec le Collectif des 10 (un collectif de 10 candidats) qui appelle au boycott des élections. Ce collectif a même organisé une série de manifestations à Antananarivo, où la police a dû intervenir afin de disperser les manifestants procédant même parfois à des arrestations.

D'ailleurs, l'office des Nations-Unies aux droits de l'homme ont émis une missive indiquant que les forces de sécurité malgache avaient fait preuve d'un excès de force et de zèle contre des manifestants pacifiques. Le fait que deux candidats aient été blessés dans les manifestations n'a pas aidé la police malgache à rétablir sa

réputation.

Malgré la crise croissante, la Haute Cour Constitutionnelle a maintenu les élections en les décalant d'une semaine.

Mais pourquoi une telle levée de boucliers?

En fait, l'opposition reproche au président sortant de ne pas être éligible à se représenter car il a reçu la nationalité française en 2014, ce qui sous-entend le fait de renoncer à sa nationalité malgache, le rendant donc inéligible à Madagascar...

En effet, le droit malgache affirmerait que les citoyens nés à Madagascar n'ont pas le droit à la double nationalité. Seuls les Malgaches naturalisés (donc nés ailleurs) peuvent bénéficier du fait de conserver leur nationalité d'origine.

Or, ce n'est pas le cas d'Andy Rajoelina qui est né, lui, à Madagascar et qui a fait la demande de citoyenneté française pour des raisons personnelles afin que ses enfants puissent étudier en Métropole. Ainsi, ce dernier a déclaré que les autorités malgaches ne l'ont pas notifié d'un retrait de nationalité.



Andy Rajoelina avec sa femme et ses enfants au milieu de ses supporters. P - AFP

Mais c'est là aussi que le problème se pose. Selon les dires de l'opposition, le régime de Rajoelina aurait progressivement fait main basse sur les institutions, freinant leur bon fonctionnement et compromettant la séparation des pouvoirs dans la Grande île.

Cela peut sembler paradoxale venant de Madagascar, qui n'est pas exactement un pays connu pour sa stabilité politique et économique. Bien au contraire même, le régime actuel semble avoir réussi à apporter une certaine stabilité dans un pays connu pour la succession de coups d'État et pour être l'un des pays les plus pauvres de la planète.

En effet, depuis l'arrivée de Rajoelina au pouvoir en 2018, l'économie malgache semble plus stable et les investisseurs étrangers semblent reprendre un peu confiance dans la viabilité et la stabilité du pays. Cela s'est traduit par une croissance dans les investissements étrangers et dans une légère augmentation des niveaux de vie dans la Grande île.

Est-ce que ces élections vont replonger le pays dans l'instabilité politique qui n'a eu de cesse de ronger le potentiel de son développement? Il faudra attendre pour voir la démarche des Malgaches au moment du vote et savoir s'ils feront de nouveau confiance au gouvernement actuel ou bien s'ils choisiront de boycotter les élections...

👉 Voir plus en page 5

L'armée israélienne est-elle sur le point de déloger le Hamas de Gaza?



Certains alliés historiques d'Israël, soutenant une réponse forte de la part de Tsahal, commencent à appeler à un cessez-le-feu et à la retenue... P - luhakkepenuhan.com

Les opérations au sol de l'armée israélienne se sont intensifiées depuis quelques semaines faisant des milliers de morts parmi les civils. Les ONGs au sol parlent de plus de 11 000 morts parmi les civils depuis le début des opérations en réponse à l'attaque du Hamas.

Le bilan est tel que certains alliés historiques d'Israël, soutenant une réponse forte de la part de Tsahal, commencent à appeler à un cessez-le-feu et à la retenue. C'est notamment le cas d'Emmanuel Macron qui a appelé le gouvernement israélien à arrêter de tuer des femmes et des enfants.

Est-ce que ceci témoigne d'un glissement de l'opinion dans les pays occidentaux qui représentent les plus grands soutiens à Israël? Il y a très certainement une certaine évolution dans cette direction, surtout que Joe Biden a lui-même appelé Benjamin Netanyahu à la retenue dans les opérations au sol de l'armée à Gaza.

Ces appels semblent avoir eu un impact. En effet, il est possible de constater un changement de méthode dans la manière dont Tsahal mène ses opérations dans Gaza. Par exemple, les frappes lourdes de l'armée de l'air ont fortement diminué au profit de frappes au sol par des tanks, ce qui peut sembler anodin. Mais la différence sur le terrain est énorme. Une frappe aérienne met à plat un bâtiment entier alors qu'une frappe de tank est beaucoup plus précise et localisée.

Ainsi, par des opérations faisant preuve d'une grande patience, l'armée israélienne a réaligné ses objectifs et sa méthode. Le nombre de morts reste extrêmement important mais les progrès militaires sont également réels, en témoigne le fait que l'armée israélienne semble avoir réussi à couper Gaza en deux parties en forçant les combattants du Hamas à se retrancher dans des tunnels et des bunkers.

Il semblerait que ce soit le cas de l'hôpital Al Shifa, le plus grand hôpital de Gaza, où il y aurait des tunnels cachant les combattants du Hamas. Ces tunnels se trouvent dans les sous-sols de l'hôpital et sont difficiles d'accès. Ainsi, la stratégie adoptée par l'armée israélienne est claire: encercler l'hôpital et attendre que les combattants sortent ou tentent de fuir de ces lieux.

Certains médias semblent penser que Tsahal va raser l'hôpital en faisant des centaines de morts chez les civils mais quel serait le sens de cette action violente pour l'armée israélienne? Aucun. Elle est justement dans la situation où elle peut démontrer que son opération s'inscrit dans la volonté de viser uniquement le Hamas et non les civils palestiniens.

Cette situation démontre en tout cas que les combattants du Hamas reculent et se retranchent. Toutefois, nous devons rester prudents à propos d'une telle affirmation. Mais il semble de plus en plus clair que Tsahal n'est plus aussi pressé de frapper les cibles. L'armée israélienne semble même être entrée dans un faux rythme où ils avancent tranquillement vers leurs cibles tout en faisant preuve de patience avant d'attaquer.

Est-ce que le gouvernement israélien est moins pressé de récupérer les otages pris lors de l'attaque du 7 octobre dernier? Pas du tout. Cela reste leur priorité, parallèlement à la destruction du Hamas. Mais quelque chose a changé dans l'attitude israélienne. Benjamin Netanyahu a lui-même déclaré que les négociations étaient au point mort avant l'entrée de l'armée israélienne dans Gaza mais que les négociations s'étaient accélérées depuis que l'armée avait coupé Gaza en deux parties.

Est-ce que cela signifie que le Qatar, intermédiaire désigné entre Israël et le Hamas, ait réussi à ouvrir une négociation sérieuse concernant la libération des otages? Seules les prochaines semaines nous le diront. Pour l'instant, il est clair que Tsahal n'est pas pressé d'en finir avec ses opérations et que l'armée israélienne prend même son temps pour bien occuper le terrain de Gaza. Tout cela laisse présager d'une confiance quant à une issue favorable qui serait également dans l'intérêt des civils palestiniens.

Dev Virahsawmy: le penseur de l'insularité

Dev Virahsawmy a fait ses adieux à ce monde la semaine dernière à la suite d'une longue maladie. Il a fait partie du paysage politique et culturel du pays depuis presque cinq décennies. Avant tout, il est connu pour son engagement politique au sein du MMM, devenant même le premier élu de ce parti aux élections partielles de 1976 à la circonscription numéro 5 (partielle qui allait éventuellement culminer au 60-0 de 1982).

Ensuite, il y a eu ses "clash" avec Paul Bérenger, la création du MMMSP (ironiquement rebaptisé populairement le "MMM Sans Paul") et surtout la scission avec la tradition marxiste-léniniste du parti mauve en 1982-83 par le refus de laisser le Bureau politique du parti dicter les directions politiques du Conseil des ministres.

Ce refus de laisser un appareil partisan capturer un appareil d'État doit être mis en avant comme une des grandes réalisations de Dev Virahsawmy, et ce, en équipe avec d'autres "camarades", comme il le disait, et cela paradoxalement sous l'inspiration de la culture et l'idéologie du Parti Travailleurs d'alors. En rejetant massivement cette tentative de mainmise sur l'appareil d'État, il a fait partie d'un groupe de personnes qui ont eu une lecture historique juste de ce qu'était la fin du 20ème siècle qui allait voir l'effondrement des mouvements de gauche d'inspiration marxiste.

C'est d'ailleurs un reproche réel qui peut être fait aujourd'hui à Paul Bérenger. Alors que le début des années 80 voyait l'effondrement progressif des satellites de l'URSS, et que cette dernière vivait ses dernières années d'agonie, le MMM a alors poussé pour la mise en

place d'une économie planifiée de type socialiste. Au même moment, une immense vague de libéralisation et de croissance économique s'apprêtait à être déployée dans des pays en voie de développement comme Maurice.

C'est un des points sur lequel s'est jouée la scission au sein du MMM. Les élections de 1983 ont amené Anerood Jugnauth au PMO, avec une croissance soutenue de plus de 8% annuellement pendant près de 10 ans. Les progrès économiques que le pays a connus et dont les bases avaient été jetées par le gouvernement travailliste d'alors - la modernisation des infrastructures, l'extension du "Welfare State", la diversification industrielle avec l'effondrement progressif du sucre - découlent aussi de cette scission.

En d'autres termes, Maurice a déjoué les pronostics apocalyptiques des économistes comme Meade grâce à cette scission qui a ancré l'économie du pays encore plus dans la mondialisation et a permis de tourner le dos au système agricole sucrier.

Il faut préciser que cette transformation de l'économie avait été rendue possible grâce à une population jeune et qualifiée, qui avait bénéficié de tout ce travail de préparation qui avait été déclenché au lendemain de l'indépendance. Les décideurs politiques de l'époque avaient su saisir les opportunités qui étaient devant eux.



En rejetant massivement la tentative de mainmise sur l'appareil d'État par Paul Bérenger en 1982-83, Dev Virahsawmy a fait partie d'un groupe de personnes qui ont eu une lecture historique juste... P - Défi Media

Changement de paradigme

Mais Dev Virahsawmy ne faisait pas partie de ces décideurs politiques. Sa scission du MMM n'a pas signifié pour lui un positionnement privilégié dans les affaires publiques mais bien plutôt un retrait de la vie politique et un changement d'orientation. Dev Virahsawmy est ainsi passé de politicien à linguiste défendant la cause de l'insularité. Ce terme, insularité, doit ici être compris comme le fait qu'un territoire et sa population puisse exister de manière autonome et indépendante des circuits d'échanges commerciaux, culturels et technologiques qui constituent la mondialisation.

Ce "shift" (ou cette réorientation) avait beaucoup de sens en réalité puisque l'effondrement de l'Internationale socialiste a eu pour conséquence la mise à plat de la lutte des classes et des travailleurs dans le monde. Le paradigme même de la politique a d'ailleurs subi des bouleversements majeurs avec une transformation des enjeux liés à la lutte des classes (et notamment des enjeux industriels, économiques et sociaux) en enjeux culturels.

☞ Suite en page 8



Anil Madan

Moral Clarity about the Israel-Hamas War

Morality is often a one-way street depending on one's perspective and, more importantly, depending on the result one seeks to achieve

Which side is morally right in the Israel-Hamas war? A week or so ago, a friend asked me that question. I pondered with my hand over my mouth, as if shutting myself from speaking too soon before thinking. Recently, the editor asked me to write on this subject.

The truth is that I do not feel particularly equipped to speak about morality. Yes, I know the definition of "moral": concerned with the principles of right and wrong behaviour and the goodness or badness of human character. Or holding or manifesting high principles for proper conduct.

My view of morality is tempered by a pragmatic sense of reality. First, ever since I can remember, I have struggled to understand man's seemingly infinite capacity for hatred and evil. Second, I know intuitively that if Germany had won the Second World War, there would have been articulation of the concept of crimes against humanity or of war crimes. Certainly, there would have been no Nuremberg war crimes trials.

When I read the Bhagavad Gita, the Hindu scripture known as *The Song Celestial*, I was struck that its theme is that God, Lord Krishna as he is known, is conveying to Prince Arjun that it is acceptable for him to kill all one hundred of his half-brothers because it is his duty to kill them: one can kill only the body but not the soul because the soul is immortal. The idea of morality is given fleeting short shrift.

When it comes to killing, much of morality as we know it today is concerned with the killing of the body. Little attention is paid to the soul. And if there is a notion of just war, the notion of necessary killing washes away the unnecessary impediment of morality.

A day of horror, a day of mixed moral messages

October 7, 2023, a day of horror, was a day of mixed moral messages for Israelis. It is not unfair to say that Hamas unleashed a day of moral turpitude and evil, the likes of which has seldom been seen in the history of mankind. Comparisons to the Nazis immediately sprang to mind. But, as Douglas Murray, a journalist at the Israel-Gaza border explained to Piers Morgan, it was dimensionally worse. Morgan began, in his usual self-important, pugnacious and ill-informed way: "But what concerns me about what Israel is doing, is not their efforts to get rid of Hamas, but because of the particular nature of Hamas embedding themselves among the civilian population with the massive amount of civilian casualties that will inevitably come, and that figure will grow and grow and grow, are we not, as Barack Obama warned, creating here, just an opportunity for far greater radicalization of all those young Palestinians who watched their loved ones getting killed? Why would we imagine that at the end of all this they would want to do anything other than to become a new version of Hamas in wanting to exact revenge for what happened to their families?"

Before I get to Murray's response, I want you to ponder the one-sided nature of this question. When Hamas



Pic - The Daily Beast

“When I read the Bhagavad Gita, the Hindu scripture known as *The Song Celestial*, I was struck that its theme is that God, Lord Krishna as he is known, is conveying to Prince Arjun that it is acceptable for him to kill all one hundred of his half-brothers because it is his duty to kill them: one can kill only the body but not the soul because the soul is immortal. The idea of morality is given fleeting short shrift. When it comes to killing, much of morality as we know it today is concerned with the killing of the body. Little attention is paid to the soul. And if there is a notion of just war, the notion of necessary killing washes away the unnecessary impediment of morality...”

committed its atrocities and young Israelis watched their loved ones getting killed, why would we imagine that at the end of all this they would want to do anything other than to exact revenge for what happened to their families? And if the Israeli nation writ large is a proxy for those who cannot avenge the killings, should we be surprised at the response we have seen?

Murray's answer was twofold. First, he pointed out that if you follow the logic of what Obama said, then you shouldn't do anything if you are Israel. You should just sit back and say, "We'll just wait for the next one." Second, he pointed out that Morgan's question supposes that there is a peaceful population in Gaza that would just love a two-state solution, and then a few bad apples in Hamas. He asseverated that this is not true. A young German Jewish girl at the music festival was raped and murdered and taken into the Gaza, a mob of ordinary

Gazans were spitting on her body, hitting her body, and mutilating it. He added that during World War II, the German soldiers who were ordered to execute Jews, felt remorse, and often were known to drink heavily to deal with what they had done. The Hamas assassins and attackers, on the other hand, appeared to enjoy what they did and to take pleasure from killing Jews. And the Gazan population displayed no inkling of moral rectitude as they attacked a corpse.

Let us look at this from the other side. The Palestinians believe deeply that their land was stolen from them in 1948. They consider their displacement the "catastrophe" or Nakba. They have long nurtured the idea

that their struggle against the very existence of Israel is morally right. Killing Jews is, therefore, not a moral wrong.

Often, humans who have suffered moral injury are powerless to do anything about it. Witness the Tibetans and Uyghurs in China, the population of Hong Kong, the Native American population, the Aborigines in Australia — there are a thousand other examples in the annals of humankind. So, it is that Palestinians lament their fate. In such situations, proxies rise to fill the vacuum because there is an opportunity for exploitation, profit, control, and power.

The difference in the Middle East is that from the outset, the Arab countries were champions of the Palestinians and avowed enemies of Israel. They tried but failed to extinguish Israel's very existence. Now, there is a new reality and with it a new morality: Israel is more valuable as an ally than fearful as an enemy. Morality be damned. There is one major exception: Iran. Among the Ayatollahs, morality is nonexistent as we have seen. They see their own populace as vermin to be controlled by harsh rules. And Israel is a convenient scapegoat.

The need for moral clarity

Israeli leaders often speak of the need for moral clarity. So, when students in American colleges rally in pro-Palestinian gatherings and marches and university presidents fail to condemn Hamas unstintingly, this is seen as a lack of moral clarity. While it is true that many university presidents have been lily-livered as they have tried to pander to both sides, the truth of the matter is that the university should be the place where opinions are expressed. In the morality of free expression, there should be no expression of an institutional opinion other than that the free expression of opinions and peaceful debate on them is its mission.

● Cont. on page 8

India Beckoned

Jan Arden

Having decided on a sightseeing and exploration trip to India before either that the sub-continent's fast-paced development or my own health forbade such a luxury, I restricted myself for time reasons to the general north-west, i.e., the capital New Delhi, the famous Agra-Taj-Rajasthan triangle and a wider perambulation that would be decided on the spot. Many of MT readers have been there and done this up-north trip for leisure, spiritual travel, trade or business and surely have explored far more than I could, either as base point for sacred rites at Rishikesh or the Kashi-Varanasi temples and ghats or again to north-eastern hill stations.

At the back of my mind was my last business trip to New Delhi more than 25 years ago when, residing about one hour outside the capital at a relatively decent hotel reached along tiring pot-holed roads, a severe bout of «Delhi-belly» gripped me in the last days there, ferociously brought on by a couple of innocent-looking ice-cubes at the hotel bar. Forewarned and armed with a panoply of emergency pharma stuff, I decided this overhang for three weeks would be unbearable and asked my city tour driver to take me to a «dhaba» where he would personally lunch. This was no place for the faint-hearted but a ubiquitous Rs 150 thali later and without any signs of queasiness, I relaxed and felt emboldened enough later to plunge by foot or an occasional rickshaw, into Delhi's numerous bazaar and food streets around the noisy, dirty, lively, and rag-tag areas near the 24-hour Central station.

By contrast, New Delhi's south was a haven of lush-green and leafy tree-lined avenues, with its embassies, political brass residences, administrative staff enclaves, its unmissable landmarks, and museums around the Gandhi-Nehru era dynasties. In a city gorged with temples and mosques, each piously greeting devotees, it was absolutely refreshing to visit the exquisite gardens surrounding

the Lotus Temple, an amazing open flower structure of concrete of Bahá'í universal faith, visited daily by tens of thousands of tourists from across India and Delhiites alike.

Designed by an Iranian origin architect, like all Bahá'í Houses of Worship, the Lotus Temple is open to all, regardless of faith. 27 free-standing marble-clad «petals» arranged in clusters of three to form nine sides, with nine doors opening onto a central hall with a capacity of 1,300 people. The Lotus Temple has won numerous architectural awards and exudes spiritual serenity.

The other major attractive feature was undoubtedly the India Gate vista and fully pedestrian promenade, with brooks, water features, shady trees and manicured lawns surrounding a majestic 42-metre-high tribute to martyred Indian soldiers of the first European World war, with their 13,000 names etched on the walls and, further on, a statue to Subhash Chandra Bose. Miles of leisurely unhindered stroll, with occasional vendors of beverages, fruit salads, ice-cream or «bhel puri» regrouped at the sides, take you, at the other end, to the restricted and security controlled imposing government buildings and the Houses of Parliament, old and new.

Temples, gods and leisure aside, the other back of mind inquiry was a pulse-feel, intentionally talking to a variety of ordinary Indians who had settled in the capital, Rajputs, Punjabis, Marathis, Muslims, Sikhs and many others, particularly in this sprawling capital city of 10+m, housing the usual rowdiness of Parliament Houses, where occasional all-India gatherings of activists elicit a few hundred or thousand folks and where electioneering times or the ins and outs of central Enforcement Directorate offices, can rally crowds or raise temperatures. Of course, New Delhi was not West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, or Kerala, but ruled by Opposition Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) stalwart Kejriwal, was not considered a BJP or Modi bastion, so I rather eagerly awaited some inkling, however limited, of its cross-cultural under-currents.

“The tragic ongoing events in Gaza after the murderous onslaught by Hamas on a thousand Israeli civilians, has left Indians, whose country is regularly targeted by infiltrated terror network operatives from across its borders, outraged and sympathetic to Israel's narrative even while most of them would urge a peaceful two-state solution with sovereignty and national security safeguards for Palestinians and Israelis. They know too that this is a forlorn hope while Hamas or Hezbollah and their powerful Iranian backers, vowing to destroy the state of Israel and exterminate all Jews, make ordinary Palestinians miserable victims and cruel hostages of greater geopolitical games in the Middle-East...”



India Gate, New Delhi

“Was there really an atmosphere of constant fear in minorities engendered by so-called wild Hindu supremacists, RSS bedfellows or the Modi-Shah regime? In the very short time, I was there I cannot pretend to have met anything more than a sprinkling of Indians of all walks of life, but nowhere in New Delhi could I feel any of these undercurrents as most people, of various faiths and regions, plied their trade and focused on getting on board the immense opportunities being opened up by the developments taking place...”

Was there really an atmosphere of constant fear in minorities engendered by so-called wild Hindu supremacists, RSS bedfellows or the Modi-Shah regime? Were the leftist-liberal narratives in 2014 or 2019 of «dark and ominous» places or the rivers of blood that a BJP regime would bring to India, that plagued the BBC coverage, Oxfam do-gooders or the haughty Guardian editorials, were the accusations grounded in reality or just high-pitched shrillness and hyperbole reflecting the political fortunes of Congress and its allies? A sort of milder version of Arundhati Roy's posts for her groupies where such discourse as «the banality of evil, its normalisation, is now manifest in our streets, in our classrooms, in very many public places» entertain Western magisters or politically motivated Indian fans.

In the very short time, I was there I cannot pretend to have met anything more than a sprinkling of Indians of all walks of life, but nowhere in New Delhi could I feel any of these undercurrents as most people, of various faiths and regions, plied their trade and focused on getting on board the immense opportunities being opened up by the developments taking place. Was it merely all of India's obsessive love of the great game, the ICC World Cricket Cup being played out daily and capturing rapt audiences every afternoon? Sure, there were many who knew at any moment every detail of their favourite team, bowler or batter statistics and India's massive wins over every international team in the round-

robin part leading to this week's semi-finals. There were those happy with the AAP at local level but Congress sympathisers or undeniably Modi at national elections. Nowhere in Delhi did I feel Ms Arundhati Roy's assertions that these were «dangerous time for India's minorities, Muslims and Christians in particular» and thankfully her brand of tireless fiery quasi-apocalyptic pamphlet-writing sounds so feverishly anachronistic.

The tragic ongoing events in Gaza after the murderous onslaught by Hamas on a thousand Israeli civilians, has left Indians, whose country is regularly targeted by infiltrated terror network operatives from across its borders, outraged and sympathetic to Israel's narrative even while most of them would urge a peaceful two-state solution with sovereignty and national security safeguards for Palestinians and Israelis.

They know too that this is a forlorn hope while Hamas or Hezbollah and their powerful Iranian backers, vowing to destroy the state of Israel and exterminate all Jews, make ordinary Palestinians miserable victims and cruel hostages of greater geopolitical games in the Middle-East. Neither Indians nor we, beyond prayers for an early cease-fire and humanitarian aid, stand anything to gain in importing an age-old enmity and enduring territorial-cum-religious conflict onto our generally peaceful shores.

The second part of this narrative will be devoted to a week-long discovery of Kashmir.

Moral Clarity about the Israel-Hamas War

● Cont. from page 6

When it comes to condemning Hamas' attack on Israeli civilians, I have no hesitation in finding the moral clarity to declare that it was yet another example of animals in human form rising to new heights of depravity. There is simply no justification for what happened. None.

After 75 years of Israel's existence, one would have thought that notions of destroying the nation would have passed. They have not. The journalist Murray's observation, referenced above, leads us to wonder if Israel should sit back and wait for the next one or whether the morality of existential struggle should rule the day.



P - ethics.org.au

“Often, humans who have suffered moral injury are powerless to do anything about it. Witness the Tibetans and Uyghurs in China, the population of Hong Kong, the Native American population, the Aborigines in Australia — there are a thousand other examples in the annals of humankind. So, it is that Palestinians lament their fate. In such situations, proxies rise to fill the vacuum because there is an opportunity for exploitation, profit, control, and power. The difference in the Middle East is that from the outset, the Arab countries were champions of the Palestinians and avowed enemies of Israel. They tried but failed to extinguish Israel's very existence. Now, there is a new reality and with it a new morality: Israel is more valuable as an ally than fearful as an enemy. Morality be damned...”

Then there is the issue of proportionality. Let us not dance around this. There is nothing proportional about more than 11,000 civilian deaths among which are almost 5,000 children, in Gaza. As I have written, the recognition of Israel's right to self-defense is not the same as saying all of its actions are moral. Indeed, the articulation of the notion that Israel has not only the right to defend itself, but the obligation to its citizens to do so, transcends the morality question. Putting it in stark terms, if an Israeli Prime Minister were told that the choice is between the extermination of 10 million Jews in Israel or the lives of 2 million Gazans, the answer is not difficult to grasp. And, on other hand, if one were to ask a Palestinian to choose between 2 million Gazans and 10 million Jews, the answer is again not difficult to imagine.

Morality is often a one-way street depending on one's perspective and, more importantly, depending on the result one seeks to achieve.

The sad truth is that in the history of mankind, all too often, the elimination of Jews is not seen as a moral wrong, or amoral. For too long, in the history of Israel's

existence, this point has been overlooked.

I am struck by two thoughts here. First, some days ago, I read a comment by a Jew. “We pray for peace. We do not pray for the death of any other people, or their destruction.” And a quote I read on Anu Garg's Wordsmith website today: “He who, when called upon to speak a disagreeable truth, tells it boldly and has done, is both bolder and milder than he who nibbles in a low voice and never ceases nibbling.” - Johann Kaspar Lavater, poet, writer, philosopher (15 Nov 1741-1801).

That last leads me to disclaim any idea that I endorse the killing of civilians and children in Gaza. As I wrote immediately after Hamas' attack on October 7, how to respond would be a test for Israel which will find itself in danger of committing genocide.

Israel has passed the test of its own existential survival. Has it passed the moral test? My answer is sadly, no.

Ultimately, morality is a luxury of the victorious sometimes displayed by grace in winning, just as charity is often a luxury of the affluent but doled out by those who have the least.

This war is another example of humanity's failing the morality test. The Palestinians who pray for the destruction of Israel will end up weaker both physically and morally. Israel will come out stronger in its existential struggle but diminished in its moral struggle. And yet, there are those who will say that its existential struggle is the only morality its leaders need to ensure.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Éclairages

☞ Suite de la page 5

Pour dire les choses autrement, on a arrêté de parler de syndicalisme et des droits des travailleurs pour commencer à parler de la valorisation de ce qui fait apparemment l'essence des classes ouvrières à Maurice: l'insularité.

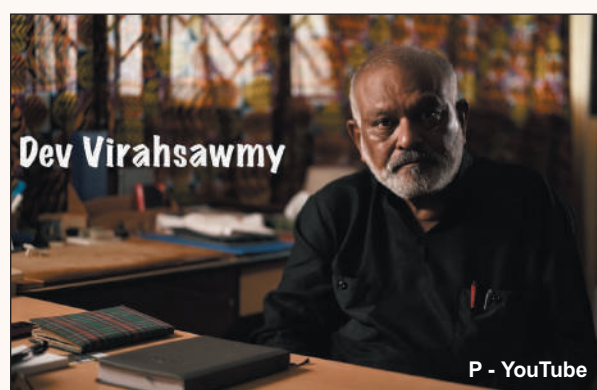
Cette lecture du paradigme politique découle de tout un corpus d'études post-coloniales et culturelles qui inspire la gauche depuis l'effondrement de l'URSS. Ne trouvant plus l'adhésion des classes ouvrières autour des enjeux liés à la lutte des classes, un déplacement s'est effectué vers la reconnaissance et la valorisation des particularités culturelles. Et personne n'a mieux défendu ce “shift” à Maurice que Dev Virahsawmy.

En faisant cela, il a permis (avec d'autres) l'ouverture d'un espace politique distinct à l'insularité grâce notamment à la formalisation et à l'institutionnalisation de la langue créole. Et cet espace s'appuie sur des a priori que Dev Virahsawmy n'a eu de cesse de répéter que la langue créole est la langue maternelle de tous les Mauriciens, affirmant ainsi l'existence d'une base commune pour le développe-

ment d'une communauté nationale.

Cette lecture de Dev Virahsawmy est profondément erronée en réalité car la société mauricienne est fortement différenciée linguistiquement et culturellement. Et la notion de communauté nationale a beaucoup plus de sens dans la construction et l'élargissement de l'économie et des biens communs que dans la pratique culturelle unifiée et totalisante.

Cette lecture est également erronée car elle rêve d'une insularité qui n'a jamais existé, n'existe pas et n'existera jamais. Il est vrai que l'île Maurice fait partie d'un archipel (un ensemble d'îles formant une unité géographique). Mais elle n'est pas insulaire pour autant. Ici, il n'y a aucune culture autochtone, aucun peuple originaire, aucune société primitive. La République de Maurice existe grâce aux différents processus qui ont construit la mondialisation et le peuple mauricien sera toujours l'incarnation des rencontres spécifiques à l'océan Indien. Cela ne signifie pas que des éléments communs n'existent pas, mais il est à



Dev Virahsawmy

P - YouTube

chercher ailleurs que dans une langue, une culture et/ou une religion communes.

L'insularité, une fiction!

Ainsi, l'insularité relève bien plus d'une fiction que d'une réalité sociale et économique à Maurice. L'insularité n'a jamais existé, c'est le global qui a toujours été présent, voire même omniprésent. Et si nous devons donner un sens réel et profond à ce que doit devenir la lutte des classes aujourd'hui à Maurice, c'est-à-dire le cheminement politique par lequel les exclus et les laissés-pour-compte peuvent accéder au progrès économique et social,

ce serait en opposant justement l'insularité porteuse de misère à la globalité offrant, elle, les opportunités de croissance économique, et d'accès aux comforts et aux bienfaits des pays riches (plus ou moins le modèle de Singapour et de Dubaï).

Il est indéniable qu'il y a à Maurice une distance qui ne cesse de s'accroître entre les gagnants et les perdants du jeu de l'économie. Et à y regarder de plus près, il est facile de voir que les gagnants sont ceux qui bénéficient des opportunités du global et que les perdants sont ceux qui sont enfermés dans les limites de l'insulaire...

Citons Eliezer François qui a toujours crié son angoisse et son inquiétude quant à la création d'un ghetto linguistique duquel aucun enfant des cités d'où il est issu lui-même ne pourrait s'échapper. N'a-t-il pas raison en réalité? Comment donc permettre aux perdants d'avoir accès à la globalité? C'est là la réelle question politique et critique.

A. Bartleby

All adult Singaporeans to receive up to S\$800 in Assurance Package support in December

All Singaporean adults will receive between S\$200 (US\$148) and S\$800 in December this year under the Assurance Package, which aims to help with inflation and cost of living concerns. About 2.9 million will receive up to S\$600 in Assurance Package Cash, said the Ministry of Finance (MOF) on Wednesday (Nov 15). About 2.5 million will also receive up to S\$200 in Assurance Package Cash Special Payment. All Singaporeans aged 21 and above in 2024 are eligible, regardless of the number of properties owned, reports Channel News Asia.

The package was first announced at Budget 2020 to help offset additional goods and services tax (GST) expenses. Payouts are disbursed over five years, from



People buying groceries at GhimMoh Road Market on Aug 8, 2023. Pic - CNA

2022 to 2026.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong announced at Budget 2023 that the government would enhance the Assurance Package to

account for higher inflation and provide additional one-off support to Singaporeans to address immediate cost of living concerns. Mr Wong also announced in September an additional S\$1.1 billion Cost-of-Living (COL) Support Package to provide more relief for Singaporean households.

The cost-of-living support package includes a S\$0.8 billion enhancement to the Assurance Package, bringing the Assurance Package to over S\$10 billion.

Besides the Assurance Package support in December, eligible Singaporeans will also receive further support in January and February 2024.

This comes in the form of U-Save rebates, Community Development Council (CDC) vouchers, service and conservancy charges (S&CC) rebates, an Assurance Package Seniors' Bonus and MediSave top-ups.

Vatican confirms Catholics still forbidden to join Masonic lodges

The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, in a document signed by the Prefect, Cardinal Victor Fernández, and approved by Pope Francis, has reaffirmed that Catholics are forbidden from joining Freemasonry.

The Dicastery responded on Wednesday to a question from Bishop Julito Cortes, Bishop of Dumaguete in the Philippines, reports Vatican News.

"After explaining with concern the situation in his diocese, due to the continuous increase in the number of members of Freemasonry, [Bishop Cortes] asked for suggestions on how to adequately deal with this reality from a pastoral point of view, while also taking into account the doctrinal implications" of the situation.



Headquarters of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith

The dicastery's response makes clear the importance of involving the Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, "notifying them that it would be necessary to implement a coordinated strategy among the individual bishops that would involve two approaches."

The first approach addresses the

question on the doctrinal level: the dicastery reiterates that "active membership in Freemasonry by a member of the faithful is prohibited, because of the irreconcilability between Catholic doctrine and Freemasonry (cf. the 1983 Declaration of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on Masonic Associations), and the Guidelines published by the Bishops' Conference in 2003."

The second approach concerns the pastoral response: the dicastery suggests that the Philippine bishops undertake "a popular catechesis in all parishes on the reasons for the irreconcilability between the Catholic faith and Freemasonry."

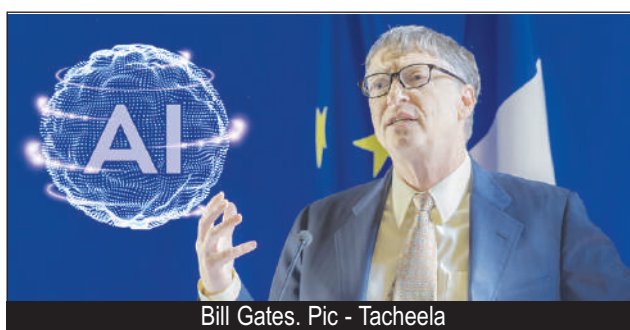
Bill Gates predicts every netizen will have AI-powered advanced 'personal assistant'

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates has weighed in on the advancement of artificial intelligence in coming years. According to a report in Fortune, Gates believes that every netizen will have a virtual assistant to help them to do various works.

"In the near future, anyone who's online will be able to have a personal assistant powered by artificial intelligence that's far beyond today's technology. Agents are smarter. They're proactive — capable of making suggestions before you ask for them," said Gates.

The 68-year-old predicted that personal assistants powered by AI, would help people plan trips like a travel agent does, reports Hindustan Times.

"When asked, it will recommend things to do based on your interests and propensity for adventure, and it will book reservations at the types of restaurants you would enjoy. If you want this kind of deeply personalized planning today, you need to pay a travel agent and spend



Bill Gates. Pic - Tacheela

time telling them what you want," said Gates.

He predicted how technology will aid people in forming and strengthening relationships. He hinted that the virtual assistants would be smart enough to help people in taking compassionate and sympathetic decisions.

"If your friend just had surgery, your agent will offer to send flowers and be able to order them for you. If you tell it you'd like to catch up with your old college roommate, it will work with their agent to find a time to get together, and just before you arrive, it will remind you that their oldest child just started college at the local university," predicted Gates.

Pro-Khalistanis in Canada threaten to disrupt routine activities of India's missions

On Monday, India's consulate in Vancouver held a consular camp for issuing life certificate to the Indian government pensioners. The venue was the Khalsa Diwan Society's gurdwara in Abbotsford in British Columbia, reports Hindustan Times.

However, protesters gathered outside the gurdwara and later consulate officials had to be escorted out by local police. That underscored the point made by India earlier about work by its high commission and consulates being impeded by pro-Khalistan groups.

The secessionist group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has said that "wherever" India officials go, pro-Khalistani elements will attempt to "hold them accountable".

"Pro-Khalistan Sikhs are going to challenge Indian diplomats since they are setting up spy network under the cover of community programmes," SFJ's general-counsel Gurpatwant Pannun said in a statement.

SFJ released posters on Wednesday threatening to "shut down" such camps that are scheduled to be held in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) on November 18 and 19. The venue for one is a gurdwara while the other two are to be held at Hindu temples. A similar poster was also issued for the Metro Vancouver region, where such camps are scheduled on November 19 at two gurdwaras. It lists another camp to be held at a school in Saskatoon, in the province of Saskatchewan.

In fact, a video from the event on Monday shows a pensioner being heckled outside the gurdwara premises even as his younger companion attempts to pick up an Indian flag thrown on the ground by the protesters.

A senior Indian official said between ten and 20 protesters had gathered outside the gurdwara and they "also abused a couple of end-users who came to get consular services". "There was no problem in the conduct of the camp. Enough police presence was ensured by the organisers," the official added.

Such camps are routine where there are significant numbers of the Indian diaspora, and are aimed at serving seniors who require the document for various purposes including receiving pension, insurance and banking activity.

* Contd on page 10



People hold and wave Israeli flags as they gather during a demonstration in a show of support for Israel in Lyon, central France. (AP)

France records over 1,500 anti-Semitic incidents since Hamas' Israel attack

More than 1,500 anti-Semitic acts and comments have been recorded in France since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told broadcaster Europe 1 in an interview on Tuesday.

This was a more than three-fold increase compared to the whole of 2022, when 436 anti-Semitic acts or remarks were recorded, reports AFP.

"These are mainly tags and insults, but there are also assaults and injuries", Darmanin added.

Those acts resulted in 571 arrests, said the ministry.

In late October, Paris prosecutors opened an investigation into an incident when dozens of Stars of David were daubed on buildings around the city and its suburbs.

France has accused Russia of interfering in its affairs by sharing photos online of the anti-Semitic graffiti.

Darmanin said there had also been anti-Muslim incidents "but they are not on the scale of what we are seeing in terms of anti-Semitism".

He said that some mosques had received threats of violence.

A total of 330 investigations have been opened into anti-Semitic acts and justifications of terrorism since October 7, the justice ministry told AFP on Monday.

On Sunday, more than 180,000 people turned out to march against anti-Semitism in France. The march took place a day after several thousand people demonstrated in Paris under the rallying cry "Stop the massacre in Gaza".

US move to ease Venezuela sanctions reshapes global oil landscape

Oil companies are gearing up to substantially increase crude oil production from Venezuela, after America eased the sanctions it had placed on the Latin American country for many years.

A brief background, from Swarajya, will help to fully understand the significance, implications, and timing of this move.

Venezuela had been a major oil exporter for over a century, with a good portion of its crude oil going to America.

But relations between the two nations soured after Hugo Chávez was elected president of Venezuela in 1998 — he chose to curtail the power of the oil companies.

This was followed by the American shale oil boom starting early this century, which meant that Venezuelan crude became a competitor.

Deepfakes & other AI tools pose threat to next election: UK cybersecurity centre

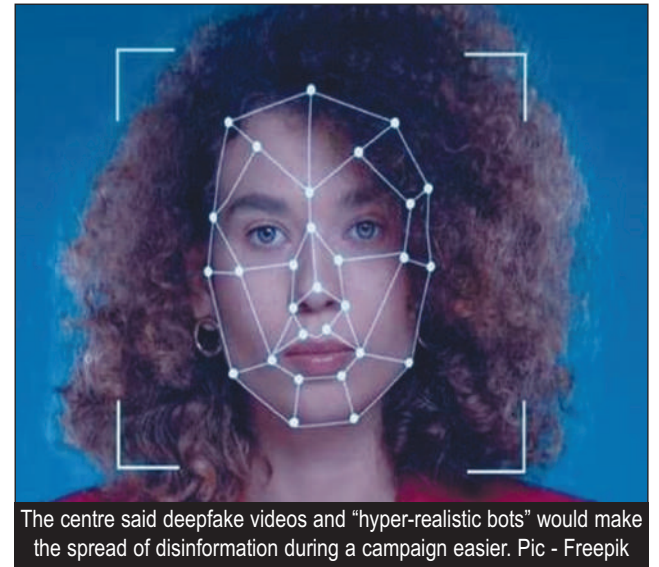
Britain's cybersecurity agency said Tuesday that artificial intelligence poses a threat to the country's next national election, and cyberattacks by hostile countries and their proxies are proliferating and getting harder to track.

The National Cyber Security Centre said "this year has seen the emergence of state-aligned actors as a new cyber threat to critical national infrastructure" such as power, water and internet networks, reports AP.

Echoing warnings by Britain's MI5 and MI6 intelligence agencies, the centre called the rise of China as a tech superpower "an epoch-defining challenge for UK security."

"We risk China becoming the predominant power in cyberspace if our efforts to raise resilience and develop our capabilities do not keep pace," it said.

The report also highlighted the threat posed by fast-evolving AI technology to elections, including a UK



The centre said deepfake videos and "hyper-realistic bots" would make the spread of disinformation during a campaign easier. Pic - Freepik

national election due to be held by January 2025.

While Britain's old-fashioned method of voting, with pencil and paper, makes it hard for hackers to disrupt the vote itself, the centre said deepfake videos and "hyper-realistic bots" would make the spread of disinformation during a campaign easier.

Iran deports more than 21,400 Afghan migrants to Afghanistan

Iranian guards detained and deported 21,407 Afghan migrants to Afghanistan who had crossed into Iran illegally, the Taliban-appointed commander of the border guards in Khorasan Razavi province said, reports Afghanistan-based Khaama Press.

Majid Shuja, the Taliban-appointed commander of the border guards in Khorasan Razavi, said that these migrants had been identified during the past nine days when they entered Iran "illegally."

More than 328,000 Afghan migrants have been deported from Iran in the first six months of 2023, according to Khaama Press report. The deportation of Afghan migrants follows reports from Afghan returnees to Iran indicating that some of them, even with official residency permits, were detained and deported.

Last week, Afghan refugees in Iran raised concerns regarding the increase in deportations, arrests, and harassment by the police, TOLO News reported. The Taliban has called on neighbouring countries to not



Deportation of Afghan Migrants. Pic - The Daily Guardian

deport Afghan refugees.

"Afghan refugees in Iran face various challenges in the employment market, with housing and the lack of identity documents," said Asefa Stanikzai, a refugee affairs analyst.

Deportation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan has intensified - it has already deported more than 220,000 Afghan migrants to date -, and now Iran has also initiated forced deportations. One refugee expressed anxiety about returning to Afghanistan.

There were persistent geopolitical efforts to restrict Venezuelan oil production, which Chávez manfully resisted.

But once Chávez died in 2013, sanctions were applied more forcefully.

As a result, oil production in Venezuela dropped drastically from over 2 million barrels a day to just around half a million barrels a day in 2020, when all energy trade was disrupted after demand slumped following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Something else happened in this period: Russia joined the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and usurped America's traditional ability to set the global oil price.

However, once the conflict between Russia and Ukraine broke out in early 2022, and consequently, the West started placing sanctions on energy from Russia, America embraced the onus of becoming the principal supplier of oil and gas to Europe.

That gamble flopped because American oil companies were chary of increasing drilling activity in the midst of an oil glut; they definitely didn't want to be left holding the baby if demand didn't pick up, and oil prices cooled

to, or even below, the \$70-80 band.

Simply put, it was too high a risk to take, because shale oil is expensive to extract, unlike conventional oil, and needs high prices and a firm market to succeed.

Worse, major importers like India completely circumvented this ungodly mess by the simple stratagem of buying huge volumes of oil from Russia on a welcome discount.

And, above all, OPEC chose to cut production to prevent prices from dropping too much.

That plus self-imposed sanctions on Russia resulted in an artificial shortage. So, now, the Americans were stuck in a situation where they could neither rapidly boost domestic oil output adequately nor meet Europe's oil needs (who, obediently, reduced oil offtakes from Russia without a care).

It is a piquant situation: while demand is still in a slump, major importers like Europe still need to source reasonably priced crude from somewhere.

This is where the resumption of exports in large volumes from Venezuela comes in.

Interview: David Snoxell,
 Coordinator - The Chagos Islands All-Party Parliamentary Group

“The only way out of the Chagos tragedy is diplomacy, negotiation, and compromise”



David Snoxell, needs no introduction as he has been a privileged witness, actor or advisor on the long humanitarian, legal and constitutional battles for the Mauritius claim to Chagos sovereignty, either as British High Commissioner or as Coordinator of the UK Parliament's Chagos Islands All-Party Parliamentary Group. He offers valuable insight into the final steps towards resolution of the “Chagos tragedy” through diplomacy and compromises that would push through the necessity to implement Mauritius sovereignty while not undermining the current UK/US confidence in a continuation of the US Diego aero-naval base for regional security purposes. If the UK Foreign Minister's timetable for completion of the many complex issues by early 2023 was overly optimistic, his view is that, despite some opposition from motivated quarters, most if not all issues related to Chagos sovereignty transfer to Mauritius could be satisfactorily resolved within a couple of years.

“UK/Mauritius negotiations: ‘What remains is the more complex issue of how to ensure that the UK and US have confidence that the security and effective operation of the UK/US base will be maintained’”

Mauritius Times: We learnt last week about a coup engineered by a group of Tory MPs to take over the Chagos Islands All Party Parliamentary Group, perceived to have been controlled by “supporters of the FCDO” that would be planning “to give the islands away to Mauritius”. The coup's organisers say, “giving the islands away will cut crucial access to the Indian and Pacific Oceans and give China undue influence in the region,” and they want the Mauritius-UK negotiations to stop. This looks like a rearguard action to scuttle any agreement that may be in the offing. What's your take on that?

David Snoxell: What has been dubbed a “coup” was in fact an election of the Chairman by Parliamentarians. This process happens each year at the Annual General Meeting. For the last year the APPG has had a Labour Chairman together with vice-chairs from other

parties. This year there was a much increased presence of Conservative MPs who voted in a new Conservative Chair, Henry Smith who was a vice-chair and has a large Chagossian community in his constituency.

It is normal practice to have a member of the party in government as the chairman of an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). The other 3 vice-chairs elected this year are from the Labour, SNP, and Lib-Dem parties. Members of the APPG have a range of views concerning the future of the Chagos. They are wholly supportive of the right of return for the exiled Chagossians but views differ as to whether this should take place under British or Mauritian control. Most of the 52 members support a negotiated settlement with Mauritius to include resettlement and security for the base on Diego Garcia.

* The China bogey has been canvassed earlier

by former PM Boris Johnson, who stated to the Daily Mail, last September, that “Britain is surrendering UK-owned territory the Chagos Islands to a close ally of China.” It's an “utterly spineless” decision to abandon the islands, he said. Johnson's motives are clear, but the question really is whether he can influence the British government to turn the clock back in case any progress has indeed been achieved on the Chagos issue. What do you think?

When he was Foreign Secretary in 2016, Boris Johnson met PM Sir Anerood Jugnauth at the UN and agreed to talks about the future of the Chagos Islands. It is unlikely that today his views carry any weight with Rishi Sunak or the new foreign secretary David Cameron.

It is inevitable that there are some British politicians, academics and news reporters who see China as a major security threat to the UK. It is perhaps not surprising that they see any change in the status of Diego Garcia as a threat to security, especially when it concerns the return of the territory to Mauritius after nearly 60 years under British control.

“The US Administration is firmly behind the negotiations although there may be some in Congress who are sceptical and would like the islands to remain under British control. There is no evidence that Washington has concerns over Mauritius' long-standing economic relationship with China. Mauritius however is not a close ally of China but is of the UK, US and EU. The Foreign Office is fully behind the negotiations...”

The current UK/Mauritius negotiations address the exercise of sovereignty, including the base on Diego Garcia, the long-term future of which can only be secured by an agreement. Mauritius strongly supports the continuation of the UK/US base. Its closest ties are with India, not China, and it maintains excellent relations with the UK, US, and France. It is inconceivable that Mauritius would make the islands available to China or prioritise its relations with China over those with the US and UK.

The US fully supports a negotiated settlement to this long-standing dispute. The ICJ decision and the overwhelming UNGA resolution endorsing it makes an agreement on the basis of international law necessary and inevitable.

* It's interesting to note that the Daily Mail appears to be the only paper in the UK to talk about the US's alleged concerns about the transfer of the Diego Garcia base. Sam Greenhill, its Chief Reporter wrote in its 22 Sep 2023 edition that “Washington has been increasingly concerned by the growing relationship between Mauritius and China,” and “the (transfer) plan has triggered ‘serious concerns’ in the White House...” The suspicion here is that this line is being fed by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, which is known to have a long-standing objection to handing over the archipelago. Your opinion?

The US Administration is firmly behind the negotiations although there may be some in Congress who are sceptical and would like the islands to remain under British control. There is no evidence that Washington has concerns over Mauritius' long-standing economic relationship with China.

☞ Cont. on page 12

‘Mauritius strongly supports the continuation of the UK/US base.’

It is inconceivable that Mauritius would make the islands available to China’

☞ Cont. from page 11

Mauritius however is not a close ally of China but is of the UK, US and EU. The Foreign Office is fully behind the negotiations and probably recommended as much to the new Government in September 2022.

*** In a shock move this week, ex-PM David Cameron has been appointed by Rishi Sunak as Foreign Secretary. Cameron is not known to have been favourable to Mauritius’ claim of sovereignty over the Chagos and to any deal with Mauritius. Do you think he’ll pursue the policy of negotiating a settlement with Mauritius, or would a decision in that regard be taken at a higher level?**

Since Cameron stepped down as PM in July 2016 the position of the Chagos Islands in international law has become clear following the ICJ Advisory Opinion (2019), the UNGA resolution endorsing it, and the ITLOS judgment (2021) on the delimitation of the maritime boundary between Chagos (as part of Mauritius) and the Maldives.

I do not expect David Cameron to diverge from the policy of his predecessor and of the Prime Minister which is to uphold international law and bring the UK/Mauritius negotiations to a successful conclusion.

*** The UK/Mauritius negotiations were due to conclude early this year. Why is there such a delay?**

When the negotiations were announced on 3 November 2022, I thought the comprehensive agenda was overly ambitious to reach agreement by early this year.

I expect most of the issues have now been sorted out but what remains is the more complex issue of how to ensure that the UK and US have confidence that the security and effective operation of the UK/US base will be maintained as and when control of the territory is transferred to Mauritius.

I can see no insurmountable problems with beginning to transfer the MPA and the Outer Islands to Mauritius and establishing a trial resettlement for Chagossians who wish to return.

*** There is also opposition to the negotiations from some Chagossians living in the UK. Why is that so?**

I am not surprised that some Chagossians now living in the UK would prefer Chagos to remain British.

“When he was Foreign Secretary in 2016, Boris Johnson met PM Sir Anerood Jugnauth at the UN and agreed to talks about the future of the Chagos Islands. It is unlikely that today his views carry any weight with Rishi Sunak or the new foreign secretary David Cameron. It is inevitable that there are some British politicians, academics and news reporters who see China as a major security threat to the UK...”



“The current UK/Mauritius negotiations address the exercise of sovereignty, including the base on Diego Garcia, the long-term future of which can only be secured by an agreement. Mauritius strongly supports the continuation of the UK/US base. Its closest ties are with India, not China, and it maintains excellent relations with the UK, US, and France. It is inconceivable that Mauritius would make islands available to China or prioritise its relations with China over those with the US and UK...”

They are mainly second and third generation and see the UK as their homeland but nonetheless still want restoration of their right to return to the homeland of their ancestors and to visit the islands whenever they so choose.

Although opposition to Mauritius has increased over the last few years, the fact is the majority of Chagossians both in Mauritius and the UK want the Islands to be returned to Mauritius, and some of them will want to resettle in Chagos. Under international law self-determination belongs to the people of Mauritius including Chagossians.

*** What do you make of the opposition from some British politicians. Daniel Kawczynski MP, for instance, tabled an Early Day Motion (EDM) in October to have you replaced with an administrator of the Chagos Islands All Party Parliamentary Group. He states in his EDM that you have “publicly promoted the interests of the Mauritian Government in**

“I am not surprised that some Chagossians now living in the UK would prefer Chagos to remain British. Although opposition to Mauritius has increased over the last few years, the fact is the majority of Chagossians both in Mauritius and the UK want the Islands to be returned to Mauritius, and some of them will want to resettle in Chagos. Under international law self-determination belongs to the people of Mauritius including Chagossians...”

relation to Chagos and (...) has promoted (your) personal views on Chagos to the members of the APPG”. That’s pretty serious, isn’t it?

The EDM was tabled on 16 October but only signed by its proposer, out of the 650 MPs. This is a strong indication that Parliament did not agree with it, indeed many saw it as an abuse of process. It was misguided and untrue.

However, I can understand why someone could feel a perceived loss of Britain’s influence in the world and direct these feelings at me as the Co-ordinator of the APPG and a former British High Commissioner to Mauritius who has devoted much of the last 15 years to the APPG’s aim which is “to help bring about a resolution of the issues concerning the future of the Chagos Islands and the Chagossians”.

This EDM no longer exists as EDMs are removed at the prorogation of Parliament which was on 26 October.

*** The APPG was created some 15 years back, and a negotiated settlement has yet to be achieved. Would you say that the APPG has nevertheless been able to put the need for a settlement on the table?**

Indeed, the APPG has advocated resettlement since 2008 and latterly a negotiated settlement with Mauritius. The APPG has members from all seven political parties of whom several have been ministers including some at the Foreign Office. It is the combination of continual pressure from the APPG in Parliament, domestic and international litigation, the UN and other transnational organisations and the media which have led the current British government to see that the only way out of the Chagos tragedy is diplomacy, negotiation, and compromise.

*** How do you see the outcome for the future of the Islands and the UK/US base?**

I expect the outcome to be resettlement, a transfer of the Outer Islands and the MPA to Mauritius, a legally binding agreement, which may be the 99-year lease that Mauritius has suggested, in order to maintain the security and effectiveness of the base and a longer timetable for Mauritius to resume sovereign control of Diego Garcia. I am hoping this will be achieved before the 100th meeting of the APPG. The 94th meeting is on 13 December.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 256

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 10 July, 1959

• *Liberty means responsibility. That's why most people dread it. — George Bernard Shaw*

Family Planning: A Reappraisal

By Impartial

Much ink has recently been spilt over the controversial and vexed subject of family planning. A few people, mostly belonging to the medical profession, have started to arouse the conscience of the people of this country and to make them alive to the dangers of overpopulation for which, in a way, they are to be held responsible.

Why overpopulation? Most of the diseases that took a great toll of the population are under control. Malaria has been almost completely eradicated. Sulpha drugs, Penicillin and Chloromycetin effectively control a host of diseases hitherto fatal to a large degree.

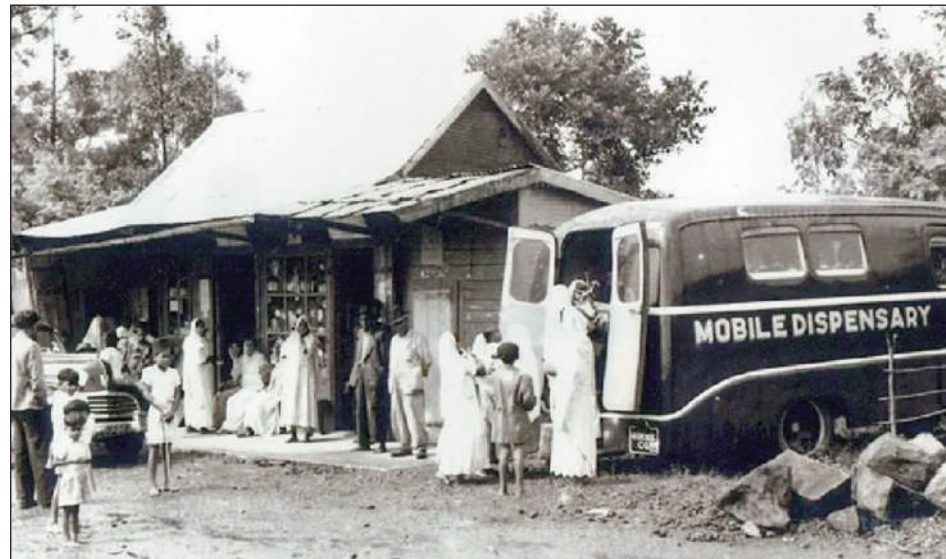
Even tuberculosis so dreaded before can be effectively controlled with Streptomycin, P.A.S., Isoniazid, etc. Diphtheria has almost completely disappeared nowadays. Children are also successfully being vaccinated against the scourge of infantile paralysis, smallpox, and tuberculosis. Diabetes can now be controlled. Hence, we may safely say that in the recent years there has been an effective death-control. The lifespan of the Mauritian has increased considerably.

Modern surgery combined with safer anaesthetics is saving the lives of many people and so is blood transfusion. The death-control so successfully carried out has brought in its train a host of problems with which the social scientist has got to cope, and these include overpopulation and its consequences which, if not checked, will seriously lower not only the standard of living but also the physical well-being of the human race due to chronic malnutrition over the years.

This is why it is sometimes pertinently asked, why save people from malaria only to let them die of slow starvation? Human conscience however forces us to seek a solution to this dilemma.

The production of sugar on which we depend has increased during the past years and at present varies between 530 and 575,000 tons per annum. This figure has remained stationary more or less during the past few years and it seems - according to the best forecasts of the experts - incapable of rising very much more in spite of all the efforts in that direction. One must remember that the size of the Island is not elastic and cannot be made to increase.

In view of these disturbing facts, one is led so ask: What will be the future destiny of this Island home of ours, if the population continues to increase at this alarming



rate - the 2nd or 3rd highest in the world?

This question seriously troubles the mind of the socially conscious people of this Island. At present, the standard of living of our people is higher than that of India, Pakistan, or Ceylon, but it is still very low in comparison with even the poorest European country. It is an accepted and known fact that anaemia exists up to the extent of 90% among the women of the poorer classes. These women are increasingly anaemic because of lack of proper food and their condition is made worse by too close pregnancies. Protein, iron, vitamins, and mineral salts are all too poorly supplied in their daily diet, because they are too expensive.

Let us have a look at the food problem. We have to content ourselves with rice of the lower grade at six times the pre-War price. While a pound (lb) of black lentils, which was sold at 8 cents a lb, is now sold at 60 cents, and it is not available in the open market all the year round. Fish, meat, milk, eggs are sold five to six times their pre-War price.

Ghee is so expensive that even well-to-do people cannot afford to buy the genuine one and have to fall back on the vegetable substitute, inferior on many scores.

Vegetables, which provide the people with vitamins and mineral salts, are becoming scarcer and scarcer. Many vegetable growers find it more convenient and economical to plant sugarcane. What about meat? That commodity used to be sold every day in the market. Now it is available at a prohibitive price only once a week. Is it any wonder that people are anaemic? And what is to become of the future generation born of anaemic mothers? Are they not going to grow into weaklings?

Let us take a look at the schools. Although Government is erecting schools

rapidly everywhere, and the Training College is turning out teachers by the hundreds, yet these schools are filled to bursting capacity as soon as they are contracted. The education provided, besides that, is of a diluted nature. All these happen as a result of overpopulation.

We find the same state of affairs in our hospitals. There are not sufficient doctors and beds to cope with the ever-growing number of patients. The Luce Report has already focussed our attention on the problem of unemployment which is at the staggering figure of 31,000.

What is to be done? That is the question which all thinking people are asking? Do we have to sit and do nothing in the fond hope that "something will turn up"? Quite seriously, I have heard many people say that nature will right itself in the end — that epidemics will come and wipe out the weak and the ill-nourished. Some people put their hopes in floods, cyclones, or something else they cannot define themselves.

This attitude of let's-sit-and-wait was adopted by the foreign rulers of a generation ago. The result was devastating. For neither the epidemics nor the bursts of famine had been successful in checking the growth of population. The misery which followed shocked the world. On the other hand, it is an accepted biological fact that fertility increases with a diminished standard of living.

Reforms on economic lines have been elaborated. India had its Five-Year Plan which provided immense benefits to its population. But every beneficial effect of the plan was neutralised by the increase in population. India finding that its people are literally exhausted with excessive child-births, and that the amount of food per capita is getting less and less every year, decided on a bold step. India elaborated

vast programmes of family planning. It was met with very little opposition. Experts came from various countries and offered their help. India first started with the Japanese medical doctor Kyusaku Ogino's method ("Rhythm Method" of birth control) but failed because of its difficulties. Later it moved on with surer and more scientific methods.

As one result of family planning, the incidence of abortion is bound to go down. Many ignorant people resort to abortion to check the size of their family. Many women resort to abortifacient drugs regularly every month towards the end of the menstrual cycle. Here perhaps it may be said that family planning is going to stamp out a very great evil indeed. Were it only for that, our spiritual and many social workers, should give to family planning their attention.

In Pakistan, Malaya, Indonesia, etc., population pressure is hardly less than that in India. These countries too have gone forward boldly and in the face of opposition with their plans. No doubt such a new idea is bound to be resisted by some ignorant people. Let it be remembered that even in the USA, the amount of opposition around it was considerable and that birth control activist Mrs Margaret Sanger was imprisoned in 1916 for her views. Slowly but surely the people began to understand that what their Government wanted was for their own good. It was a battle to save themselves, their health - physically, mentally -, and economically.

Certain methods of birth control do not appeal to some individuals. It is left to each individual to adopt the method of his choice according to his conscience. The Ogino's method is said with some justification to be acceptable to everybody. In this connection, experience already gained in India will be of value to us.

Before concluding, I would like to stress that the people who are advocating family planning, whether they are members of the FP Association or not, are doing so on purely altruistic motives and are obeying the dictates of their conscience. Opponents of birth control will have to re-examine the whole situation in the light of the views expressed above. They will have to ask themselves whether they are not dooming this country to a certain loss, and whether they will not be responsible for trying to put the clock back. An appeal is made to them asking them to at least respect — if they cannot share the views of their opponents. The road of those who advocate family planning is already an uphill one. People are slow to learn, are slow to adopt any new concept. Let us then not try to frustrate those who are doing the job at great sacrifices.

Doomsday Clock warns the world about catastrophe

Cont. from page 2

This would then create serious pause among those western powers who were supporting Kyiv.

They would, the logic runs, be persuaded into withdrawing that support because they would not want to risk a wider war with Russia that might include the use of strategic nuclear weapons. Moscow would then “win” the war against a Ukraine now lacking western help. The war would be over – hence the “de-escalation”.

Beyond what might happen on actual battlefields in Ukraine, rising background tensions between Washington and Moscow have also contributed to the current position of the clock’s hands.

The bilateral treaties that once held in check developments in the field of nuclear weapons have now largely gone. The US itself withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty in 2001 and the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty in 2019. And while the end of these agreements would have played their part in the setting of the clock’s hands at 90 seconds at the start of 2023, there have been yet further concerning moves actually during 2023.

In February 2023, Russia withdrew from the New Start Treaty and early in November it was announced that it would also withdraw from the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. So all of the agreements related to limiting nuclear weapons that, in the past, had moved the hands away from midnight, have now gone.

When the clock started

The clock’s hands, since 1947, have been set at the beginning of every year by the bulletin. Originally, the clock was concerned with the threat of an actual nuclear war between the cold war superpowers, the US and the Soviet Union. Recently, however, the clock has also come to include and reflect the global threat from climate change, which was first included as a factor by the bulletin in 2007.

At various points over the years, the clock has been adjusted to react to world events. In 1947, its original set-



ting was at seven minutes to midnight. It moved up to just two minutes in 1953 when both the US and the Soviet Union tested their new, and more destructive, hydrogen bombs. The clock, though, never moved as close again to midnight throughout the rest of the cold war.

Whenever the hands were moved forward, they tended to be brought back again later to reflect any warming of relations between Washington and Moscow – such as

with the detente of the early 1970s or following the signing of various arms limitation agreements. These agreements would include the likes of the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (Salt) of the 1960s and 1970s, the ABM treaty of 1972, the INF agreement of 1987, the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start I) of 1991, and the follow-on New Start of 2010.

Indeed, in 1991, and in the halcyon days – in tension-reduction terms – of the immediate post-cold war period, the Doomsday Clock’s hands were moved further away from the midnight hour than at any point since 1947: they stood at a comforting 17 minutes.

In 2023, the world, it seems – and if the Doomsday Clock is to be treated with credence – is not in a good place. But this clock is, though, a warning device, albeit symbolic. As such, it can hopefully serve to concentrate minds and to bring to bear wise counsels who can act to avert the catastrophe (whether nuclear- or climate-induced) that the clock’s founders had designed it to prevent.

Rod Thornton, Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in International Studies, Defense and Security, King's College London

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

FIREFIIGHTERS UNION

C/O F.S.C.O.U. 3rd Floor, Jade Court, Jummah Mosque Street, Port-Louis - Tel: 2161977 Fax: 2161475
Reg no 661

Re: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members of the Firefighters Union (FFU) are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Union which has been scheduled for Friday 8th December 2023 at 1000 hrs at the seat of the Federation of Civil Service Trade Union House, Coromandel.

AGENDA:

- Approval of last Minutes of Proceeding
- Matters Arising
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Motion, if any
- Election of Members to replace Retired Member/Vacant post of Managing Committee
- A.O.B.

All compliance members of FFU who are willing to form part of the Managing Committee and/or to move any motion should send their request to the Secretary, Firefighters Union, C/O F.S.C.O.U., 3rd Floor, Jade Court, Jummah Mosque Street, Port-Louis either by post or through email not later than 1st December 2023 office hours.

N.B: If there is a lack of quorum, the next meeting will be held on Friday 15th December 2023 at 1000 hrs at Coromandel, as mentioned above.

For any further information, kindly contact the President or the Secretary of FFU.

Mr GOORIAH Rishi
President

Mr RAMJUTTUN Praveen
Secretary



Lowri
Dowthwaite-Walsh
Senior Lecturer in
Psychological
Interventions, University of
Central Lancashire

Four Habits of Happy People

The good news is that we can all improve our levels of happiness with daily practice

What makes you happy? Maybe it's getting up early to see the sunrise, hanging out with family and friends on a weekend, or going for a dip in the sea. But what does science say about the things happy people do?

We know that happy people tend to have strong relationships, good physical health and contribute regularly to their communities.

I have experimented over the past seven years with a number of happiness and wellbeing interventions in a bid to improve my own mental health and to understand how to best help others. Some strategies have stuck while others haven't worked for me. But here's what I've learnt along the way.

The reality is that there'll be times we manage to engage with happiness habits and feel positive. Then there'll be occasions when life throws a curve ball and our happiness is affected. But the good news is that we can all improve our levels of happiness with daily practice.

1. Move your body

My body needs to move regularly throughout the day. Sitting for long periods of time does not make my body or mind happy. At the very least I will walk briskly for an hour every day. I also like to swim, dance and do yoga.

Regular physical activity and exercise are high on the list for happiness as studies consistently demonstrate a link between being physically active and increased subjective wellbeing, aka happiness.

Research shows that walking for 30 minutes a day can improve your health. But studies on happiness show that people benefit more when they engage in moderate and high-intensity exercise, which increases the heart rate.

Moderate exercise is anything that makes you slightly out of breath – you can still talk but probably couldn't sing a song.

2. Prioritise connection

The most recent happiness research shows that our social connections are important in terms of overall wellbeing and life satisfaction. Indeed, making time to talk, listen, share and have fun with friends and family is a habit I try to prioritise.

But a recent study has found that we generally engage more with friends and family when we feel unhappy and less so when we are happy. This may be because we naturally seek out comfort and support to feel happier and pursue other activities

when our happiness is stable.

It seems to come down to a question of balance, too much time alone can lead to negative emotions and so seeking out others is a natural way to alleviate this and boost our mood.

On the flip side when we feel positive and happier we are more inclined to support others and provide a shoulder to cry on. Nonetheless spending time in the company of friends and family provides both short-term and long-term happiness gains.

3. Practise gratitude

Our outlook on life and how we evaluate things also plays a huge part in our happiness levels. Studies have found that having a more optimistic mindset and practising a sense of gratitude can buffer against negative emotions and increase happiness.

Practising daily gratitude, such as counting my blessings or listing things throughout the day I am grateful for, helps me think more positively and feel happier. You can do this in a number of ways, for example, a daily gratitude journal, which can be handwritten or kept on your phone.

You simply write down three things that went well every day and reflect on what was good about these.

There are many apps now that can prompt you and keep track of your gratitude. Other apps allow you to create vision boards and positive affirmations for your days. Although some may seem gimmicky it's all about that gentle nudging towards positivity, which the science supports. Or in other words, practising and cultivating an attitude of gratitude and appreciation generally works, and helps you to feel more positive about your life. Gratitude also helps you to see the bigger picture and become more resilient in the face of adversity.

You can also practise gratitude more naturally by giving thanks – telling someone what you are grateful for that day or sending thank-you messages. Indeed, it might sound trite but this is important as research shows daily feelings of gratitude are associated with higher levels of positive emotions and better social wellbeing.

4. Spending time with pets helps too

My pets are part and parcel of our family routine and also support me in my daily happiness. I find going for walks easier to do because of my dogs. Research shows that dogs motivate their human companions to be more active and in turn, both dog and human have a shared pleasurable experience that boosts their happi-



Psychologist reveals four habits of happy people: 'We can all improve our levels of happiness'. Pic - NZ Herald

ness.

I also enjoy sitting with my cats while drinking tea and reading a book. Studies have found that family pets provide many

benefits towards health and happiness, as they not only provide companionship but also reduce incidents of depression and anxiety while helping to boost our happiness and self-esteem levels.

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By Sydney S. Chellen

Sydney S. Chellen was a Senior University Lecturer, in Canterbury Christ Church University, Kent, UK. During his teaching career he has written several educational books. His book: 'The Essential Guide to the Internet for Health Professionals' became an instant bestseller in the UK and sold in North America. Since his retirement he has taken up writing novels. His autobiography, 'An Untold Story Retold' is published by GPS Books, UK.



Mauritius Academy of Science & Technology's Newsletter - Oct/Nov 2023

Insightful Articles on a Variety of Topics:

- Artificial Intelligence By Salem Saumtally
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The history of humanity in your face

The face you see in the mirror is the result of millions of years of evolution and reflects the most distinctive features that we use to identify and recognize each other, molded by our need to eat, breath, see, and communicate.

But how did the modern human face evolve to look the way it does? Eight of the top experts on the evolution of the human face, including Arizona State University's William Kimbel, collaborated on an article published this week in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution* to tell this four-million-year story. Kimbel is the director of the Institute of Human Origins and Virginia M. Ullman Prof of Natural History and the Environment in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change.

After our ancestors stood on two legs and began to walk upright, at least 4.5 million years ago, the skeletal framework of a bipedal creature was pretty well formed. Limbs and digits became longer or shorter, but the functional architecture of bipedal locomotion had developed.

But the skull and teeth provide a rich library of changes that we can track over time, describing the history of evolution of our species. Prime factors in the changing structure of the face include a growing brain



and adaptations to respiratory and energy demands, but most importantly, changes in the jaw, teeth, and face responded to shifts in diet and feeding behaviour. We are, or we evolved to be, what we eat -- literally!

Diet has played a large role in explaining evolutionary changes in facial shape. The earliest human ancestors ate tough plant foods that required large jaw muscles and cheek teeth to break down, and their faces were correspondingly broad and deep, with massive muscle attachment areas.

As the environment changed to drier, less wooded conditions, especially in the last two million years, early Homo species began to routinely use tools to break down

foods or cut meat. The jaws and teeth changed to meet a less demanding food source, and the face became more delicate, with a flatter countenance.

Changes in the human face may not be due only to purely mechanical factors. The human face, after all, plays an important role in social interaction, emotion, and communication. Some of these changes may be driven, in part, by social context. Our ancestors were challenged by the environment and increasingly impacted by culture and social factors. Over time, the ability to form diverse facial expressions likely enhanced nonverbal communication.

Large, protruding brow ridges are typical of some extinct species of our own genus, *Homo*, like *Homo erectus* and the Neanderthals. What function did these structures play in adaptive changes in the face? The African great apes also have strong brow ridges, which researchers suggest help to communicate dominance or aggression. It is probably safe to conclude that similar social functions influenced the facial form of our ancestors and extinct relatives. Along with large, sharp canine teeth, large brow ridges were lost along the evolutionary road to our own species, perhaps as we evolved to become less aggressive and more cooperative in social contexts.



Is time travel even possible? An astrophysicist explains the science behind the science fiction

Scientists are trying to figure out if time travel is even theoretically possible. If it is, it looks like it would take a whole lot more knowledge and resources than humans have now to do it.

Have you ever dreamed of traveling through time, like characters do in science fiction movies? For centuries, the concept of time travel has captivated people's imaginations. Time travel is the concept of moving between different points in time, just like you move between different places. In movies, you might have seen characters using special machines, magical devices or even hopping into a futuristic car to travel backward or forward in time.

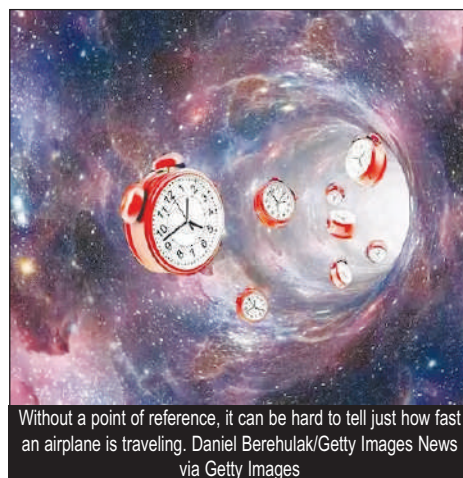
But is this just a fun idea for movies, or could it really happen?

The question of whether time is reversible remains one of the biggest unresolved questions in science. If the universe follows the laws of thermodynamics, it may not be possible. The second law of thermodynamics states that things in the universe can either remain the same or become more disordered over time.

It's a bit like saying you can't unscramble eggs once they've been cooked. According to this law, the universe can never go back exactly to how it was before. Time can only go forward, like a one-way street.

Time is relative

However, physicist Albert Einstein's theory of special relativity suggests that time passes at different rates for different people. Someone speeding along on a spaceship moving close to the speed of light – 671 million miles per hour! – will



Without a point of reference, it can be hard to tell just how fast an airplane is traveling. Daniel Berehulak/Getty Images News via Getty Images

experience time slower than a person on Earth.

People have yet to build spaceships that can move at speeds anywhere near as fast as light, but astronauts who visit the International Space Station orbit around the Earth at speeds close to 17,500 mph. Astronaut Scott Kelly has spent 520 days at the International Space Station, and as a result has aged a little more slowly than his twin brother – and fellow astronaut – Mark Kelly. Scott used to be 6 minutes younger than his twin brother. Now, because Scott was traveling so much faster than Mark and for so many days, he is 6 minutes and 5 milliseconds younger.

Some scientists are exploring other ideas that could theoretically allow time travel. One concept involves wormholes,

or hypothetical tunnels in space that could create shortcuts for journeys across the universe. If someone could build a wormhole and then figure out a way to move one end at close to the speed of light – like the hypothetical spaceship mentioned above – the moving end would age more slowly than the stationary end. Someone who entered the moving end and exited the wormhole through the stationary end would come out in their past.

However, wormholes remain theoretical: Scientists have yet to spot one. It also looks like it would be incredibly challenging to send humans through a wormhole space tunnel.

Paradoxes and failed dinner parties

There are also paradoxes associated with time travel. The famous “grandfather paradox” is a hypothetical problem that could arise if someone traveled back in time and accidentally prevented their grandparents from meeting. This would create a paradox where you were never born, which raises the question: How could you have traveled back in time in the first place? It's a mind-boggling puzzle that adds to the mystery of time travel.

Famously, physicist Stephen Hawking tested the possibility of time travel by throwing a dinner party where invitations noting the date, time and coordinates were not sent out until after it had happened. His hope was that his invitation would be read by someone living in the future, who had capabilities to travel back

in time. But no one showed up.

As he pointed out: “The best evidence we have that time travel is not possible, and never will be, is that we have not been invaded by hordes of tourists from the future.”

Telescopes are time machines

Interestingly, astrophysicists armed with powerful telescopes possess a unique form of time travel. As they peer into the vast expanse of the cosmos, they gaze into the past universe. Light from all galaxies and stars takes time to travel, and these beams of light carry information from the distant past. When astrophysicists observe a star or a galaxy through a telescope, they are not seeing it as it is in the present, but as it existed when the light began its journey to Earth millions to billions of years ago.

NASA's newest space telescope, the James Webb Space Telescope, is peering at galaxies that were formed at the very beginning of the Big Bang, about 13.7 billion years ago.

While we aren't likely to have time machines like the ones in movies anytime soon, scientists are actively researching and exploring new ideas. But for now, we'll have to enjoy the idea of time travel in our favorite books, movies and dreams.

Adi Foord

Assistant Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics, University of Maryland, Baltimore County



The Government Employee

A government employee sat in his office, and out of boredom, decided to see what was inside his old filing cabinet.

He poked through the contents and came across an old brass lamp he's never seen before.

"This will look good on my mantel," he said, and took it home with him.

While polishing the lamp, a genie suddenly appeared.

"Noble sir," he thundered. "You have three wishes you may ask of me."

"Alright," said the government clerk. "I would like an ice-cold Coke right now."

He gets his Coke and drinks it.

Now that he can think more clearly, he states his second wish.

"I wish to be on an island with beautiful women, who find me irresistible."

Suddenly, he's on an island with gorgeous women eyeing him lustfully.

He tells the genie his third and last wish.

"I wish I'd never have to work again."

Instantly, he was back in his government office.

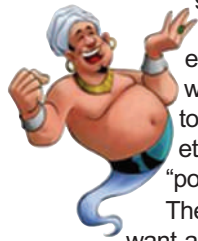
He tells the genie his third and last wish.

"I wish I'd never have to work again."

Instantly, he was back in his government office.

The Brit, The Scot, The Irishman and the Genie

Three guys, one Irish, one English, and one Scottish are out walking along the beach together one day. They come across a lantern and a genie pops out of it. "I will give you each one wish, that's three wishes in total," says the genie.



The Scottish guy says, "I am a fisherman, my Dad's a fisherman, his Dad was a fisherman and my son will be one too. I want all the oceans full of fish for all eternity." So, with a blink of the genie's eye "poof" the oceans were teeming with fish.

The Englishman was amazed, so he said, "I want a wall around England, protecting her, so that no one will get in for all eternity."

Again, with a blink of the genie's eye "poof" there was a huge wall around England.

The Irishman asks, "I'm very curious. Please tell me more about this wall."

The genie explains, "Well, it's about 150 feet high, 50 feet thick, protecting England so that nothing can get in or out."

The Irishman says, "Please fill it up with water."

The wife, the husband and the world cruise

A husband and wife in their sixties were coming up on their 40th wedding anniversary.

Knowing his wife loved antiques, he bought a beautiful old brass oil lamp for her.

When she unwrapped it, a genie appeared. He thanked them and gave each of them one wish.

The wife wished for an all expenses paid, first class, around the world cruise with her husband.

Shazam!

Instantly she was presented with tickets for the entire journey, plus expensive side trips, dinners, shopping, etc.

The husband, however, wished he had a female companion who was 30 years younger. The genie smiled and... Shazam!

Instantly he turned 93 years old.

A young Catholic couple about to get married

On their way to get married, a young Catholic couple were involved in a fatal car accident. The couple found themselves sitting outside the Pearly Gates waiting for St. Peter to process them into Heaven.

While waiting they began to wonder whether they could possibly get married in Heaven.

When St. Peter arrived, they asked him if they could get married in Heaven.

St. Peter said, "I don't know. This is the first time anyone has asked. Let me go find out," and he left.

The couple sat and waited for an answer... for a couple of months.

While they waited, they discussed the pros and cons. If they were allowed to get married in Heaven, should they get married what with the eternal aspect of it all? What if it doesn't work? Are we stuck in Heaven together forever?



Another month passed. St. Peter finally returned, looking somewhat bedraggled.

"Yes," he informed the couple, "You can get married in Heaven."

"Great!" said the couple. "But we were just wondering; what if things don't work out? Could we also get a divorce in Heaven?"

St. Peter, red-faced with anger, slammed his clipboard on the ground.

"What's wrong?" asked the frightened couple.

"Oh, come on!!!" St. Peter shouted. "It took me three months to find a priest up here! Do you have ANY idea how



long it'll take to find a lawyer?"

My wife and I have decided we don't want kids.

If you're interested, please contact us immediately to arrange dropping them off.

How do you know if your husband is dead?

The sex is the same, but you get to use the remote.

I can remember when I got married and I can remember where I got married.

For the life of me, I can't remember why I got married.

My partner told me I was rude for yawning when we were arguing.

I told them I wasn't yawning, I thought it was my turn to speak.

What's the difference between a relationship and a video game?

They both start off fun and easy, then get a litter harder. If you make it to the end without breaking, everyone is shocked.

"I love you," she said.

"Is that you talking," I asked, "Or the wine?"

"It's me talking to the wine."

Why do wives use twice as many words as their husbands?

Because they always have to repeat themselves.

My boyfriend and I met on the internet and my mother asked him what line he used to get me.

He said, "I just used a modem."

What do a wife and a grenade have in common?

They both leave you hurt when you pull off the ring.

If you want to change the world, do it while you're single. Once you're married, you can't even change the television channel.

Every morning I like to remind my wife who's in charge by holding a mirror up to her face.

My husband and I have agreed to never go to bed angry with each other.

So far, we've been up for three days.

Dead Poets Society

Live life to the fullest and embrace every moment

« Dead Poets Society" is a powerful film that explores themes of individuality, self-discovery, and the pursuit of passion. Set in an all-boys preparatory school in the 1950s, the movie, directed by Peter Weir and starring Robin Williams, has left a lasting impact on audiences. Here are some of the key lessons from the film:

Encouragement of individuality: The film emphasizes the importance of embracing one's individuality and unique voice. It encourages individuals to express themselves authentically, pursue their passions, and think independently, rather than conforming to societal norms or expectations.

Inspiration Through Passion and Creativity: "Dead Poets Society" inspires viewers to pursue their passions and engage in creative endeavours. It highlights the transformative power of literature, poetry, and the arts in fostering self-expression, critical thinking, and emotional catharsis.

Challenging Conventional Education: The movie critiques the limitations of a rigid, traditional educational system that suppresses creativity and critical thinking. It encourages students and educators alike to challenge



the status quo and seek alternative approaches to learning that foster personal growth and intellectual exploration.

Fostering Critical Thinking and Self-Expression: "Dead Poets Society" underscores the importance of fostering critical thinking skills and encouraging self-expression. It advocates for a holistic approach to education that prioritizes intellectual curiosity, open-mindedness, and the development of a strong moral compass.

Embracing Nonconformity and Taking Risks: The film encourages individuals to embrace nonconformity and take risks in the pursuit of their dreams. It celebrates

the courage to challenge societal norms, push boundaries, and strive for personal fulfilment, even in the face of adversity or disapproval from others.

Importance of Mentorship and Support: "Dead Poets Society" highlights the transformative impact of mentorship and support from influential figures. It emphasizes the role of educators in fostering an environment of trust, respect, and encouragement, empowering students to discover their true potential and pursue their aspirations with confidence and determination.

Value of Carpe Diem (Seize the Day): The movie's iconic line "Carpe Diem" serves as a powerful reminder to live life to the fullest and embrace every moment. It underscores the importance of seizing opportunities, taking risks, and making the most of the present, as it is an essential part of one's journey toward self-discovery and personal fulfilment.

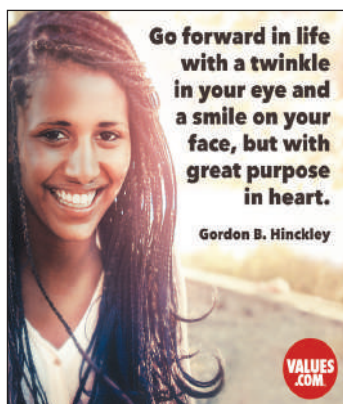
Resilience in the Face of Adversity: "Dead Poets Society" highlights the importance of resilience in the face of adversity and challenges. It encourages individuals to persevere through difficult circumstances, maintain their integrity, and stay true to their values and convictions, even when confronted with opposition or societal pressure.

These lessons from "Dead Poets Society" resonate with audiences, inspiring them to embrace their individuality, pursue their passions, and live life with a sense of purpose and authenticity.

Thoughts to Live by

It shows on the face...

If a person has ugly thoughts, it begins to show on the face. And when that person has ugly thoughts every day, every week, every year, the face gets uglier and uglier until you can hardly bear to look at it.



A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts, it will shine out of your face like sunbeams, and you will always look lovely.

By Roald Dahl,
The Twits

You won't be the same person...

And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive.

You won't even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain.

When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about.

By Haruki Murakami,
'Kafka on the Shore'

"I know that what you call 'God' really exists, but not in the form you think;

God is primal cosmic energy, the love in your body, your integrity, and your perception of the nature in you and outside of you."

By Wilhelm Reich

Human Brain Analysis - Man vs Woman

Learn the difference of men & women in lots of aspects

1. Multi-Tasking

Women - Multiple process

Women's brains are designed to concentrate on multiple tasks at a time.

Women can watch tv and talk over phone and cook.

Men - Single Process

Men's brains are designed to concentrate only on one work at a time. Men cannot watch TV and talk over the phone at the same time. They can either watch TV or talk over the phone or cook.

2. Language

Women can easily learn many languages. But they cannot find solutions to problems.

Men cannot easily learn languages; they can easily solve problems. That's why in average a 3-year-old girl has three times higher vocabulary than a 3-year-old boy.

3. Analytical skills

Men's brains have a lot of space for handling the analytical process. They can analyze and find the solution for a process and design a map of a building easily.

But if a complex map is viewed by women, they cannot understand it. Women cannot understand the details of a map easily, for them it is just a dump of lines on a paper.

4. Car driving

While driving a car, man's analytical spaces are used in his brain. He can drive a car fast. If he sees an object at long distance, immediately his brain classifies the object's (bus or van or car) direction and speed of the object, and he drives accordingly. Where woman take a long time to recognize the object direction/speed.

5. Lying

When men lie to women face to face, they get caught easily. Woman's supernatural brain observes facial



expression 70%, body language 20% and words coming from the mouth 10%.

Men's brain does not have this. Women easily lie to men face to face.

So guys, do not lie face to face.

6. Problem solving

If a man have a lot of problems, his brain clearly classifies the problems and puts them in individual rooms in the brain and then finds the solution one by one. You can see many guys looking at the sky for a long time.

If a woman has lots of problems, her brain cannot classify them. She wants someone to know about her problems. After telling everything to a person she goes happily to bed. She does not worry about the problems getting solved or not.

7. What they want

Men want status, success, solutions, big process, etc.

Women want relationships, friends, family, etc.

8. Unhappiness

If women are unhappy with their relations, they cannot concentrate on their work.

If men are unhappy with their work, they cannot concentrate on their relations.

9. Speech

Women use indirect language in speech. But men use direct language.

10. Handling emotions

Women talk a lot without thinking. Men act a lot without thinking.

Lovesickness: Why it happens and what you can do about it

Lovesickness is different from a broken heart. Find out why it happens and what you can do to get over it

Love can be a beautiful thing, but there's no denying that it can also have an unpleasant side. Lovesickness refers to the strong feelings that arise from being unable to be with your loved one physically or emotionally. This can originate from many situations, such as:

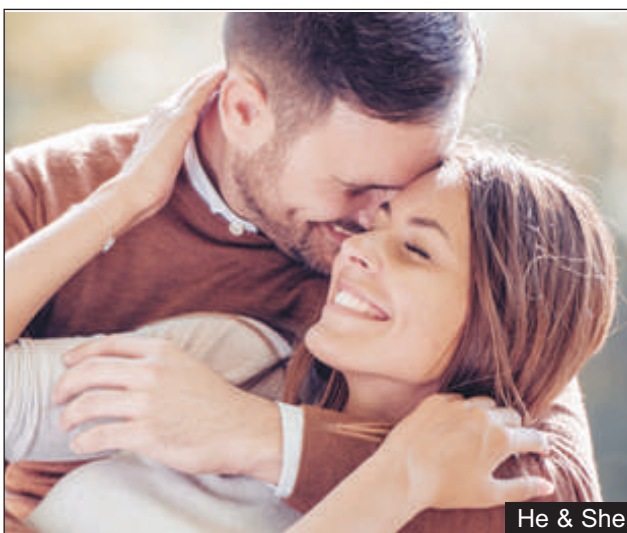
- Not being able to confess your love to the person
- Your loved one passing away
- Feeling unrequited love
- Breaking up with your loved one

Although lovesickness isn't an officially recognized disorder, experts agree it can considerably impact your body. But, more importantly, being lovesick often leads to changes in your behaviour — sometimes to an extent you didn't think you could reach. Here's what you need to know, as advised by Julian Selemin and medically reviewed by Dany Paul Baby, MD.

Lovesick symptoms: Lovesickness isn't a new phenomenon — medics, physicians, and scientists have been studying it for the past 2000 years. While the exact definition and treatment have changed throughout the years, the symptoms remain mostly the same.

Some of these symptoms are expected consequences of a broken heart, but others show more impulsive behaviour that wasn't present before. For example...

- Loss of concentration
- Insomnia
- Depression
- Excessive preoccupation
- Hoarding of the items related to the loved one



- Anxiety

You may also experience intense sadness, grief, and frustration when you can't be near the person you love. Similarly, you may develop passionate sexual feelings for them or the need to constantly touch them.

Lovesickness can cause physical symptoms as well. For example, scientists point out that when you're lovesick, your heart rate will accelerate when thinking about the object of your love. Plus, your pupils may dilate — a typical sign of being in love.

Yet, lovesickness can also cause symptoms that would usually be considered positive. For example, elevated self-esteem, significantly improved moods, and other "favourable" signs are common in the early stages of lovesickness. After all, it's important to remember that love isn't always rational.

Lovesickness Psychology: As most people know, love results from many chemical reactions in your brain. Experts point out that human attraction is mainly related to dopamine, serotonin, and noradrenalin — three neurotransmitters associated with sexual arousal. However, these three compounds are also associated

with motivation and obsessive thought patterns.

When these neurotransmitters and other love-related compounds start to abound in the brain, you may experience obsessive behaviours. Inability to sleep, constantly waiting for your loved one to call you, and disregard for other responsibilities are typical at this stage.

At this point, your behaviour will be significantly affected by how your loved one reacts to your feelings. If everything goes well, the chemicals in your brain will start to level off, slowly returning you to your usual self.

However, if your love is unrequited, impossible, or you can't express your love to the person, the previously-mentioned chemicals get disrupted. This may eventually lead to uncommon, compulsive, and potentially dangerous behaviours. For instance, you may wander for extended periods near your loved one's home.

Can lovesickness be dangerous? While lovesickness is relatively common, certain factors may lead it to cause potentially dangerous behaviours. From breaking into your loved one's home to harming yourself, lovesickness can trigger several conducts that may harm you or the person you love.

However, experts point out that most people won't get to this stage of lovesickness. Instead, these behaviours are more common among people who were unstable before being lovesick. For example, unstable, lovesick people may:

- Get depressed and jealous over small things
- Check their loved one's phone and computer
- Start to stalk that person
- Steal their belongings

While these behaviours may not seem extremely serious, uncontrolled lovesickness can quickly get out of control under certain conditions. At this point, the lovesick person's behaviours will start to affect the lives of everyone involved severely.

However, remember that most people won't get dangerous behaviours from lovesickness. But if you suspect you have an underlying condition that could worsen lovesickness, check with a licensed therapist.

Men's Health

Tips to Make a Better First Impression

The bad breath, ragged fingernails, and unkempt eyebrows aren't impressing anyone. Here's how to step up your game and look more put together.

Medically reviewed by Carol DerSarkissian, MD, WebMD

Pruning Your Eyebrows: Do your eyebrows look like an unweeded garden? Plucking once in a while might be enough. If you have a true unibrow looming, you might need more drastic measures. Waxing is relatively easy, either at home or in a salon. Once every six to eight weeks should do it.

Bad Breath: Bad breath is a colossal turnoff, but how do you know if you have it? This will give you an idea: Lick the back of your hand, wait, and smell. Causes of bad breath vary. Some guys resolve it with a toothbrush or fewer onions. If you still have chronic bad breath despite precautions, see a dentist. You could have an infection or other problems.



Nose and Ear Hair: As the hair starts disappearing from your scalp, it sprouts everywhere you don't want it. When it comes to nose hairs, don't pluck. First, it hurts. Second, nose hairs actually help filter out the air going into your lungs. Instead, an electric trimmer to cut them back a bit. You can use the trimmer on ear hairs, too.

Hand and Nail Care: Even if you don't pay them any mind, your hands get noticed every day -- every time you shake someone else's, for instance. Dirty or ragged fingernails aren't manly. They're a turnoff. Consider a manicure -- lots of men get them -- to get you on track. If not, do the bare minimum. Trim your nails regularly. Invest in a nail brush and use it.

Thinning Hair: If your hair is thinning, grooming experts have blunt advice: Own up to it. Don't hide it with longer hair, or

lots of product, or elaborate styling. No one will be fooled, except maybe you. Get it cut short or shave it off entirely. You'll look better and realize you had nothing to be ashamed of.

How Not to Smell: Go ahead and wear cologne. But if you do, don't also use a scented soap, aftershave, deodorant, and face cream. Stinking up the office with a cocktail of clashing manly scents isn't a good idea. When it comes to smell, subtle is best. Something else to consider: the more scented stuff you put on yourself, the higher the odds you'll irritate your skin.

Shaving - Don't Rush: Considering that most men do it daily, it's amazing how bad we can be at shaving. For one, we're impatient. We slap on a big beard of shaving cream and start scraping immediately. Instead, give shaving cream three minutes to permeate and soften the hairs. If you shave in the shower, let water soak in for a few minutes before you shave. It's why men used to get hot towels over their faces before a shave.

Shaving - A Light Touch: While razors often have four blades or more, that doesn't necessarily mean they're better -- especially if you keep re-shaving the same area. Too much focus on a close shave can result in nicks and razor burn.

Better to go to work with a hint of stubble than with bits of tissue on your face. If ingrown hairs are a problem, try exfoliation or use shaving gel instead of foam, and shave in the direction hair grows.

Skin and Sun: After three or four decades, the sun starts to take a toll on your face. Most of the wrinkles we associate with old age are actually the result of sun damage. Some guys pull off that weather-beaten look. The rest just look wrinkly. Protect your skin by using a sunblock-broad spectrum containing zinc oxide and an SPF 30 or higher.

How to Wash Your Face: Are you washing your face with the same harsh soap that you use to scrub your armpits and crotch? That's not a good idea. Not only is the skin on your face sensitive, but it's also the first thing that everybody sees. Scaly, dried out skin doesn't look good. Avoid soaps with strong smells and opt for a gentle non-soap face cleanser.

Foot Care: Of all the body parts that men ignore, your feet might be most neglected. But your partner is bound to notice them -- especially if scratched by your toenail in the night. Trim your nails straight across regularly. Soak your feet and sand away some of that dead skin with a pumice stone. You'll both like the results.

Akshay Kumar, Twinkle Khanna celebrate Diwali with British PM Rishi Sunak

Akshay Kumar, his wife and former actor Twinkle Khanna and Preity Zinta celebrated Diwali this year with the British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at his official residence in London. Akshay and Twinkle had previously wished their fans on social media but did not share any photos from the celebration. On Wednesday, Preity took to social media and shared photos from the celebration.

She wrote in the caption, "What an incredible Diwali this has been. A heartfelt thank you to Prime Minister @rishisunakmp & his gracious wife @akshatamurty_ official for inviting me to be part of this year's Diwali celebration at Downing Street. It was an honour to celebrate Diwali with him and the people from the Hindu community in the UK..."

Rishi Sunak had previously shared photos of his family lighting diyas outside 10 Downing Street. He



Rishi Sunak with Preity Zinta, Twinkle Khanna and Akshay Kumar.
Pic - Preity Zinta/Instagram

captioned the photos, "A special moment for me to be celebrating Diwali with my family on the steps of No.10. Happy Diwali to everyone celebrating here in the UK and around the world!"

Esha Deol opens up on her relationship with Sunny, Bobby Deol

Esha Deol opened up about her bond with her brothers Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol

Esha Deol is loving the successful streak that the Deols have been enjoying in 2023 with Dharmendra's *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*, Sunny Deol's *Gadar 2* and her film *Ek Duaa* receiving a National Film Award.

When Esha organised a special screening for half-brother Sunny's film, the siblings got together for a photograph for the media and while for her, it just happened "organically", the fans saw it as a reunion of the Deols. In a recent interview, Esha said that it was "very funny" to hear the word "reunion" as they like to remain "private" as a family.



Speaking to Instant Bollywood about the screening of *Gadar 2*, Esha said, "First of all, reunion is something I don't understand. It's very funny to hear that word. We are very private as a family and we've kept it that way and we are going to continue keeping it that way." She added, "This was a one off where it very organically happened and you all saw us in a picture which was really well received and the public got very overwhelmed so that was very sweet."

Esha Deol was also asked about Dharmendra's kiss with Shabana Azmi in Karan Johar's film *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*, that came as a surprise to the audience. "There's no age limit to a kiss. Romance is forever," she said. But when asked as to how she reacted when her father told her about the scene, Esha said that she did not know about it beforehand. "I didn't know. No one knew. That's how papa is," she said.

Dharmendra's kids from his first wife Prakash Kaur – Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol – are very rarely photographed with their father's kids from his second wife Hema Malini – Esha Deol and Ahana Deol. So it was quite a surprise for the audience to see them come together for a film screening. It was especially noteworthy for fans as Hema and her daughters were absent from Karan Deol's wedding which took place in June. Recently, when Hema celebrated her 75th birthday, Sunny and Bobby were missing from the celebrations.

Aishwarya Rai, Salman Khan, Kangana Ranaut confessed to have had a crush on their teachers



While she commands a huge fan following across the nation and on social media, Aishwarya Rai had her fair share of crushes during her younger days. She once reportedly confessed that she admired one of her physics teachers immensely during her school days. So much so that the actress used to sit in the front row of her class in order to impress her favourite teacher.

Ranbir Kapoor

As one of the most good-looking actors in Bollywood, Ranbir Kapoor has the ability to make millions of girls go weak in their knees with just his smile. He broke many hearts when he tied the knot with Alia Bhatt. While most of his relationships have been out in the open, not many know that he had a major crush on one of his teachers in the second standard.

Kangana Ranaut

Kangana Ranaut has very successfully created a niche in the film industry with her choices of work and her performance over the years. The actress, who has rarely discussed her love life in public, has left her fans guessing when it comes to her relationships. However, not many know that she had a crush on one of her teachers in the ninth standard. She liked him so much that she even reportedly dedicated Salman Khan's song 'Chand Chupa Badal Mein' to her teacher.

Sidharth Malhotra

Sidharth Malhotra, who made his debut with Karan Johar's *Student Of The Year*, has grown as an actor and as an individual over the years. He too broke millions of hearts when he married the love of his life, Kiara Advani in a dreamy destination wedding. While there were several reports about his previous relationships, not many know that he had a major crush on his biology teacher when he was in the ninth standard.

Salman Khan

While the actor has never openly spoken about his relationships, there was once a time when Salman Khan did admit to having a crush on somebody. On his reality game show, 'Dus Ka Dum', the actor revealed that he had a crush on one of his teachers in school and he even used to drop his teacher home on his bicycle.

In the dazzling world of Bollywood, our favourite stars often captivate millions with their charm and charisma. But before the red carpets, cameras, and fame, they too were students, navigating the challenges of school and college. What's more interesting is that some of these celebrities have had their own moments of adolescent infatuation, often directed at none other than their teachers. From Aishwarya Rai, Salman Khan to Kangana Ranaut, here's taking a look at celebs who confessed to crushing on their teachers as reported by Times of India.

Aishwarya Rai

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From Rupali Ganguly To Bharti Singh

Television actresses who earn more money than their husbands

Unlike films, television is no longer a male-dominated world. Today the leading actresses of Indian soaps are acing their personal as well as professional lives, enjoying a massive fandom across the globe. These actresses have earned more popularity and are also receiving huge paycheques higher than their husbands, owing to their television shows. Let's take a look at these divas, who ended the male domination, as reported by Bollywood Shaadis.

Rupali Ganguly

Rupali had taken a sabbatical from acting after the birth of her son, Rudransh. After her long break, Rupali returned to television with the show, *Anupamaa*, which is one of the most popular shows on Indian television today.

Rupali had begun the show by charging Rs 150,000 per episode. However, as the show TRPs skyrocketed, Rupali too had increased her fees to Rs 300,000 per episode. She is now paid way ahead of the male leads of Indian television. Rupali is married to Ashwin K Verma, who is a businessman and her biggest supporter.

Rubina Dilaik

Rubina Dilaik is a popular name on television as she has worked in shows like *Choti Bahu*, *Shakti Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki*, etc. She got married to actor, Abhinav Shukla in 2018. Rubina had



appeared on the reality show, *Bigg Boss 14* along with Abhinav and after giving tough competition to other housemates, she had won the show and had taken the trophy home along with the prize money of Rs 3.6 M.

Rubina participated in the reality show, *Khatron Ke Khiladi 12* and is shooting in Cape Town. As per multiple reports, she is reportedly paid a sum of Rs 1.5 M per episode for the show.

Divyanka Tripathi

One of the most bankable actresses in the telly world, Divyanka Tripathi needs no introduction.

In 2013, Divyanka played the character of 'Dr Ishita Bhalla' in the show, *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein*, which successfully ran for six years, made Divyanka a household name. In 2016, Divyanka got married to her *Yeh Hai Mohabbatein* co-actor, Vivek Dahiya. Divyanka reportedly charges Rs 100,000-150,000 per episode.

Bharti Singh

Stand-up comedian and reality show host, Bharti Singh is one of the most popular names in the world of television. She



had participated in the comedy reality show, *The Great Indian Laughter Challenge* season 4 and it was her sheer dedication to her work, which had made her a star overnight.

Bharti is married to Haarsh Limbachiyaa, who is reportedly the highest-paid writer in the television industry. However, Bharti's immense popularity makes her way ahead of Haarsh in terms of pay cheques. The talented comedian is reportedly paid Rs 1 to Rs 1.2 M per episode.

Dipika Kakar

Dipika Kakar made her television debut in 2010 with the show, *Neer Bhare Tere Naina Devi*, where she played the role of Lakshmi. Dipika then appeared in the show, *Agle Janam Mohe Bitiya Hi Kijo*. However, her role as Simar Bhardwaj in the show, *Sasural Simar Ka*, gained her immense popularity.

In 2018, Dipika got married to her *Sasural Simar Ka* co-star, Shoaib Ibrahim. Dipika and Shoaib are one of the most loved celebrity jodis of the telly world, however, the actress is paid more than her husband. The gorgeous actress charges Rs 70,000 per episode.

Anita Hassanandani

Anita Hassanandani made her television debut with the show *Idhar Udhar* season 2. Anita had appeared in many serials, but it was her role as 'Shagun Bhalla' in *Yeh Hai*

Mohabbatein, which got her huge popularity. In 2018, Anita also played the role of 'Vishakha' in *Naagin 3*.

Anita was also seen in Bollywood films like *Kuch To Hai*, *Krishna Cottage*, *Koi Aap Sa*, *Ragini MMS 2*. In 2013, Anita got married to businessman Rohit Reddy in Goa. Anita is one of the most established names in the film and television industry, who charges Rs 50,000 for an episode.

Sanaya Irani

Sanaya made her acting debut with a cameo appearance in Yash Raj Film, *Fanaa* in 2006. In 2007, she made her television debut with the show, *Left Right Left*. She bagged her first lead role in Star One's show, *Miley Jab Hum Tum*. Later, Sanaya was seen in shows like *Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon*, *Chhan Chhan*, *Rangrasiya* and many more.

Sanaya had fallen in love with her *Miley Jab Hum Tum* co-star, Mohit Sehgal. After announcing their relationship, Sanaya and Mohit tied the knot in 2016. Sanaya is more popular than her husband Mohit and reportedly charges Rs 85,000-95,000 per episode.



YOUR STARS

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

The planet that rules your sign, bestows prosperity and growth upon you. I encourage you to put yourself out there and go after your goals. There is always room for exploration in love. Whether you want to invest in your education or your own personal development, now is an excellent moment to do it financially.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 6, 17, 20, 23, 39

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

You should organise your to-do list and determine your specific objectives. Stay focused on the route you've chosen and do your best to avoid distractions. When it comes to relationships, consistency and dedication are emphasised. It is a wonderful time to strengthen your connections with others.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 12, 19, 30, 31

AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

Accept the unknowable and move along with the current. You will have an open mind to new events and ideas that may come your way. It's important to be spontaneous when you're in love. Arrange a spontaneous trip away with your significant other or arrange a lovely gesture to surprise them.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 23, 26, 30, 31, 34

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

It's important to listen to your intuition and let your creativity run free. Invest a great deal of time and energy into creative endeavours or spiritual pursuits. In love, there is always the possibility of dreamy and beautiful moments. Spend some quality time with the people you care about and treasure the memories you make together.

Lucky Numbers: 19, 20, 22, 30, 37, 39

ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Your ruling planet, Mars, is in a trine aspect with the planet Neptune, which stimulates both your imagination and your psychic abilities. Explore your interests in depth and allow them to direct your path. You can run into some difficulties at work but try to keep in mind that behind every problem lies an opportunity waiting to be discovered. Patience is a virtue.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 15, 19, 23, 31, 36

TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

When it comes to your finances, resist the need to make rash acquisitions. Instead, you should centre your attention on long-term investments. When it comes to love, you can find that you have an unexpected attraction to a certain person. Maintain an open heart, and trust that things will work out as they should.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 16, 17, 35, 38, 39

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Before sending anything, you should review and recheck all of your emails and messages to avoid any misunderstanding. On the plus side, the present time is perfect for engaging in introspective activities and fostering personal development. When it comes to relationships, being transparent is absolutely necessary. Always tell the truth about what your objectives are.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 11, 19, 21, 24, 26

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Don't be scared to push yourself beyond your comfort zone and take advantage of fresh opportunities. At work, cooperation will be the most important factor in determining success. You may have feelings of vulnerability while you're in love, but it's important to keep in mind that genuine connections can only be made when you express who you really are.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 3, 9, 11, 30, 35

LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

This is a fantastic time to launch brand-new endeavours and make progress towards achieving your goals. On the other hand, watch out for developing an excessive amount of pride or arrogance. Keep your feet on the ground and don't forget the value of being humble. Expect some love twists and turns, regardless of whether or not you're taken.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 14, 16, 18, 30

VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Consider your long-term objectives and the order in which you want to accomplish them. When you are really in love, you may experience feelings of distancing from your lover. Communication is the most important factor. Be honest with yourself and disclose your feelings. Plan for the future with regard to finances.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 5, 7, 16, 28, 30

LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Make it a priority to restore damaged connections and build bridges between people. Your ability to negotiate peaceful solutions will be in high demand at work. Make use of your charisma and dexterity to get through difficult situations. When it comes to love, this is the ideal season for going on intimate dates.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 13, 14, 19, 20, 31

SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

Be wary of power disputes in your place of employment. Maintain your composure, and do not get embroiled in any office politics. When two people are in love, passion fills the air. Expect some stressful moments in your life, regardless of whether you are alone or in a relationship.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 2, 13, 21, 23, 27



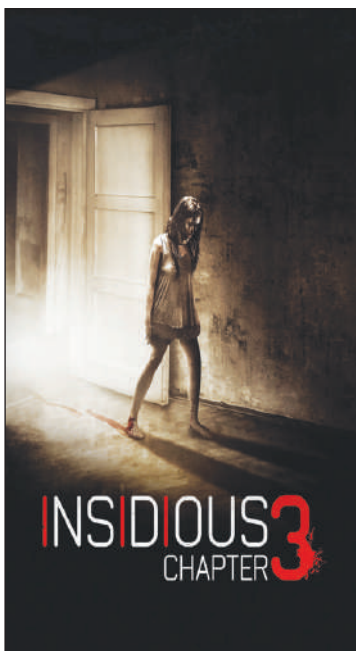
Vendredi 17 novembre - 21.22



Samedi 18 novembre - 20.30



Samedi 18 novembre - 22.06



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 17 novembre

MBC 1

05.32 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
06.01 Serial: New Amsterdam
07.00 Film: Flowers And Honey
09.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
10.05 Tele: Amour Secret
10.30 The Gardener's Daughter
10.52 Tele: Marimar
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: How I Met Your Murderer
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
21.22 Film: Sorority Sister Killer
22.48 Tele: Barbartia
00.16 Tele: The Gardener's Daugh...

MBC 2

06.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
08.25 Local: ONG An Eta Dalert
10.27 Local: J'ai Faim
10.56 Local: Groove'in
11.53 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin
12.08 Local: Rodrig: Seleksion
14.46 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
15.38 Local: Generations J
16.06 Local: Groove'in
16.53 Local: La Societe
17.45 MFDC Intercollege
18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
18.29 Tele: Amour Secret
19.30 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
20.04 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...
21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance
22.00 Local: La Societe
23.00 Journal Kreol
23.20 Local: Voyage Au Feminin
23.48 Local: Rodrig: Nou La Ter

MBC 3

07.00 Serial: Gadget Guru Ganesha
08.00 Local: Amrit Vaani
08.30 Swami Dayanand Saraswati
10.00 Serial: Agniphera
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
12.00 Film: Rootha Na Karo
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave
16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron...
16.44 Serial: Bhakharwadi
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
19.02 Local: Khel Khiladi
20.31 Serial: Vidrohi
21.03 Film: Devar Bhabhi
23.15 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
23.46 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan
00.39 Local: Mati Ke Mol
01.04 Local: Khel Khiladi

Cine 12

06.03 Doc: Eye On SADC
06.26 Mag: Japan Video Topics
07.25 D.Anime: The Story Of Book
09.32 Mag: Recipes For Kids
09.35 Film: Space Boy
11.16 Mag: Sand Tales
12.00 Doc: Secret Des Plantes
13.02 Mag: Tomorrow Today
13.28 Doc: Dogs & Us
14.15 MFDC Intercollege
14.30 D.Anime: Kids' Planet
14.52 D.Anime: Agi Bagi
15.06 D.Anime: Petit Pingouin
15.10 Idefix Et Les Irreducitables
15.29 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go!
15.41 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
16.14 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers
16.37 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
16.56 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
17.19 Mag: Recipes For Kids
17.20 Serial: Suerstore

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.30 Film: Life Mein Time Nah Hai Kisi Ko
Starring: Rajneesh Duggal, Krishna Abhishek, Yuvika Chaudhary
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.01 Udaariyaan
19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2
20.30 Radha Krishna
21.01 Anupamaa
21.30 Mere Sai
22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
22.59 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
23.30 Film: Life Mein Time Nah Hai Kisi Ko

samedi 18 novembre

04.23 Serial: S.W.A.T
05.04 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
06.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
07.00 Serial: Wanted
07.45 Serial: Seal Team
08.30 Serial: Absentia
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: Madam Secretary
13.15 Tele: Sublime Mensonge
15.21 Film: Hero Mode
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Dance India Dance Little Masters
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Film: Street Fighter
22.06 Film: Insidious
00.25 Serial: Under Pressure
01.06 Tele: Missing Bride

06.12 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
08.08 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...
10.59 Local: Come On Let's Dance
12.04 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
12.32 Local: Lir - Ekri Kreol
13.00 Local: Voyage Au Feminin
13.48 Local: Zanford Nou Pei
15.00 Local: La Societe
16.46 Local: Come On Let's Dance
18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.20 Magazine De L'emploi
21.40 Local: Glwar Dantan
22.04 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
23.00 Journal Kreol
23.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
23.46 Local: Saver Kiltirel
00.24 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art
00.53 Local: Rodrig: D'jam
01.15 Local: Les Petits Genies
01.41 Local: Patriotic Song Competition

07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness...
10.10 Mag: DDI Mag
10.55 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Aurat Teri Yehi Kahani Starring Raj Babbar, Meenakshi Seshadri
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Satrangi
19.02 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah
19.17 Local Prod
20.00 Local: Gata Rahe Mera Dil
21.08 Film: Dum Starring Vivek Oberoi, Diya Mirza
23.32 Local: Satrangi
00.02 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah

06.24 D.Anime: Fast And Furious
06.56 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
09.27 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
09.59 Serial: Hank Zipzer
10.24 Mag: Sand Tales
13.00 Doc: Butterfully Blueprints
14.30 D.Anime: Kids' Planet
14.56 D.Anime: Agi Bagi
15.07 D.Anime: Petit Pingouin
15.10 Idefix Et Le Irreducitables
15.37 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
16.11 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers
16.33 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.18 Mag: Recipes For Kids
17.20 Serial: Superstore
17.41 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: Faith Under Fire

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: Kaali Topi Lal Rumaal
Starring: Mithun Chakraborty, Z. Ibrahim, Kamal Sadanah
20.54 Gadget Guru Ganesha
21.05 Serial: Porus
21.29 Serial: Crime Patrol

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03.00 Film: Faith Under Fire
04.25 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable
05.00 Live From Jose Adolfo Pineda
08.38 Serial: The Good Doctor
09.20 Film: Hero Mode
10.54 Serial: F.B.I
11.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
12.00 Le Journal
12.40 Film: Le Cavalier De La Mort
14.05 Mag: Top 100 Famous...
14.15 Serial: Scorpion
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Mon Mariage Avec Mon Meilleur Ami
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 Entertainment: Miss Universe
00.15 Tele: Missing Bride

06.00 Rodrig: D'Jam
06.48 Local: En Forme
07.05 Local: Saver Kiltirel
07.28 Local: Pran Kont Ou Lasante
08.54 Local: Les Petits Genies
09.31 Local: Zanford Nou Zil
11.06 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art
14.02 Local: Elle
14.33 Local Prod: Lavi Zoli An XXL
15.03 Local: Armistices...
17.21 Local: Glwar Dantan
18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.20 Local: Elle
20.00 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
20.45 Local: Le Challenge
21.56 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.20 Local: Arsiv MBC - Fer Roule
23.45 Rodrigues: Mangeons Veg

07.12 Film: Khazane Ki Khoj
07.58 Local: Hamar Fitness...
12.02 Film: Veer Starring Salman Khan, Zarine Khan, Mithun Chakraborty, Sohail Khan, Jackie Shroff
14.59 Live: Samachar
15.22 Local: Satrangi
15.51 Mahotsav Shrawan Mass
17.00 Local: Ekta
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.29 Sayings Radha Krishna
19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi
19.29 Local: Tohar Farmaish
20.28 Sayings Radha Krishna
20.30 Serial: Porus
21.10 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.24 Serial: Bahubali
23.03 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
00.01 Local: Planet Bollywood
00.27 Local: Tohar Rashi

06.46 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
07.05 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
09.09 D.Anime: Miraculous
09.46 Serial: Monster Hunt
10.04 Serial: Hank Zipzer
11.47 Doc: A Mediterranean
12.00 Foodland: Veggie Feaste
13.00 Doc: The Memory Illusion
14.57 D.Anime: Baby Einstein
15.02 D.Anime: Tut! Tut!
15.39 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.51 D.Anime: Miraculous
16.12 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers
16.41 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.22 Serial: Superstore
17.43 Doc: World Capitals
18.26 Foodland: Veggie Feasts
18.35 Serial: Airwolf
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
21.42 Film: Upgrade

00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
02.05 Udaariyaan
04.00 Anupamaa
06.06 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise...
07.46 Tenali Rama
07.58 Patiala Babes
10.02 Kundali Bhagya
11.47 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.31 Film: Yamla Pagla Deewana Starring Sunny Deol, Bobby Deol
21.02 Serial: Tenali Rama
21.20 Enter: Dance India Dance Little Masters
22.15 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
00.07 Serial: Patiala Babes
02.07 Serial: Kundali Bhagya

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06.00 Serial: New Amsterdam
07.00 Film: The Final Land
08.55 Serial: Airworlf
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: Airwolf
15.20 Film: Les Demoiselles De Rochefort
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: Pearson
21.15 Serial: Seal Team
22.00 Serial: Treadstone

07.10 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
09.37 Local: Elle
10.45 Local: Le Challenge
11.00 Local Prod: Les Klips
12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn
13.07 La Journee Sous Legard...
14.01 Local: Elle
14.31 Arsiv MBC - Fer Roule
15.18 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
15.49 Local: Aktiv
16.03 Local: Les Klips
17.10 Local: Radio Vision
18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
18.30 Tele: Amour Secret
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.45 Local: Feminin Pluriel
20.00 Local: Proze Dime
21.19 Local: Radio Vision
22.34 Local: Itinerer Moris
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol

07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha
08.04 Local: Planet Bollywood
08.42 Local: Tohar Farmaish
09.31 Local: MBC Prod
10.00 Serial: Bahubali
10.38 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi
11.36 Radha Krishna
12.00 Film: Sunayana Starring: Naseeruddin Shah, Vijayendra Ghatge, Talluri Rameshwari
15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
16.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.35 Ved Ki Shikshayen
19.04 Local: Ayush
19.26 Local: Excerpt From Shiv Abhishek
20.07 Local: Vaad Vivaad
20.37 Film: Ankhion Ke Jharokhon Starring Sachin, Ranjeeta Kaur, Madan..

06.02 Doc: Eye On SADC
07.21 D.Anime: The Story Of Book..
09.30 Mag: Recipes For Kids
09.35 Film: Fireman Sam
11.00 Doc: Planet Home
12.00 Doc: Nature's Keepers
12.47 Doc: Persons
14.30 D.Anime: Kid's Planet
15.00 D.Anime: Tut! Tut!
15.07 Les Aventures Du Petit...
15.13 Idefix Et Les Irreducitables
15.25 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go!
15.37 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
15.49 D.Anime: Miraculous
16.11 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers
16.37 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.18 Mag: Recipes For Kids
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
19.02 Mag: Africa 54
19.32 Mag: In Good Shape
21.41 Film: Three Doors From Paradise

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.12 Film: Jai Vikraanta Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Zeba Bakhtiyar, Amrsh Puri
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
20.08 Sasural Simar Ka 2
20.28 Radha Krishna
21.06 Anupamaa
21.32 Mere Sai
22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
23.30 Film: Jai Vikraanta Starring Sanjay Dutt, Zeba Bakhtiyar, Amrsh Puri



Mardi 21 novembre - 20.30



Mercredi 22 novembre - 21.15



Mercredi 22 novembre - 15.30



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 21 novembre	04.55 Tele: Amour Secret 05.18 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 07.15 Serial: Pearson 08.09 Serial: Seal Team 08.45 Serial: Absentia 09.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: Marimar 11.15 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.10 Serial: Gout De L'Amour 15.25 Film: Three Doors From Paradise 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 20.30 Film: Le Pic De Dante	07.14 Eclariage Economique 09.02 Rodrig Prog - Zenn Aktif 10.23 Local: Rodrig: Saver Lokal 11.07 Local: Le Rendez Vous 12.00 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 12.31 Local: Proze Dime 13.51 Rodrig Mo Pei - Kafe Rodrig 14.31 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol 15.12 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif 15.52 Le Rendez Vous Avec... 16.58 Local: En Forme 18.08 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi... 19.54 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.03 Local: Generations J 21.21 Local: Radio Vision 22.18 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.45 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Journal Kreol	07.00 Serial: Gadget Guru Ganesha 09.29 Local: Vaad Vivaad 10.03 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 12.02 Film: Tapasya 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: Pyar Ka Sapna 23.12 Serial: Jijai Chhat Par Hain 23.21 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 00.24 Local: Tark Vitark 00.51 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 01.28 Prakriti Ki God Mein 01.47 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya	06.03 Mag: Eco At Africa 08.54 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 09.18 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 09.35 Film: Monsterville 10.57 Mag: Sand Tales 13.48 Doc: Africa 54 14.17 Doc: Japan Video Topics 14.30 D.Anime: Kid's Planet 14.55 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 15.07 D.Anime: Petit Pingouin 15.25 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 15.37 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.49 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.10 D.Anime: Raindow Rangers 16.37 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.18 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.41 Doc: World Capitals 18.05 Doc: Smoothie Mania 18.31 Mag: Healthy Living 19.31 Mag: Global Us 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Jaagruti Starring Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.38 Radha Krishna 21.08 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.08 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.55 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Jaagruti 02.07 Kundali Bhagya
mercredi 22 novembre	06.01 Serial: New Amsterdam 07.00 Film: Mon Mariage Avec Mon Meilleur Ami 08.45 Serial: Airwolf 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: Marimar 11.15 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: Airwolf 15.21 Film: Hard Target 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 Serial: Under Pressure 21.15 Film: Trigger Point	07.05 Local: Generations J 09.00 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art 10.22 Local: Koze Zom 11.16 Local: Music Tour 2023 12.12 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.42 Local: Generations J 13.13 Local: Priorite Sante 13.53 Local: Koze Zom 15.46 Local Glwar Dantan 16.14 Local: Mots & Ecrits 16.52 Local: Music Tour 2023 18.01 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.28 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi... 20.00 Local: Saver Kil Tirel 20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc 21.11 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.37 Local: Les Klips 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 00.12 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante	07.00 Serial: Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.26 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 08.56 Prakriti Ki God Mein 09.33 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 11.29 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Shikshaa Starring: Raj Kiran, Sushma Verma, Beena Banerjee 15.30 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.01 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.39 Local: Tirth Yatra 19.00 Local: Kala 19.37 Local: Anjoria 20.02 Local: Virasat 20.32 Film: Dharti Kahe Pukar Ki 22.49 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.19 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.26 Mag: Made In Germany 07.22 D.Anime: The Story Of Book... 09.32 Mag: Lab 360 09.35 Film: The Queen Of The Swallows 11.19 Doc: Smoothie Mania 13.02 Mag: Made In Germany 14.30 D.Anime: Kid's Planet 16.33 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.55 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 17.18 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.20 Serial: Superstore 17.36 Doc: World Capitals 18.00 Doc: Smoothie Mania 18.08 Mag: Motorweek 18.58 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 19.30 Mag: The Inside Story 20.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 20.30 Live: News 21.40 Film: Faith Under Fire 23.03 Mag: Close Up	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.58 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.24 Film: Nachnewala Gaanewale Starring: Sheeba Agarwal, Saathi Ganguly, Shahbaz Khan 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.06 Anupama 21.36 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie ittefaq Sey 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.26 Film: Jaan 02.09 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
jeudi 23 novembre	04.18 The Gardener's Daughter 04.45 Tele: Amour Secret 07.18 Serial: The Good Doctor 08.09 Serial: Under Pressure 08.45 Serial: Riviera 09.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: Marimar 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.05 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 15.25 Film: Sorority Sister Killer 17.15 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.30 Film: Shakuntala Devi Starring : Vidya Balan, Jisshu Sengupta	08.04 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou 09.32 Local: Come On Let's Dance 10.29 Rodrig Prog: Komanter 12.00 Local: Rodrig Spor 15.00 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante 15.50 Local: Come On Let's Dance 16.30 Le Journee Sous Le Regard 16.42 Local: En Forme: Flexifit 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.33 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.45 Rodrig: Li Bon OU Konin 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Mots & Ecrits 21.00 Local: Radio Vision 22.49 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 00.12 Local: ONG An Eta Dalert 00.26 Local: Groove'in Mama Jazz 01.22 Local: Generations J	07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.12 Serial: Kisna 07.36 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 09.35 Local: Gyan Vigyan 09.48 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 11.14 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Taj Mahal Starring: Pradeep Kumar, Bina Rai, Veena 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 15.58 Serial: Agniphera 18.30 Radha Krishna 18.44 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.02 Local: Swami Dayanand 20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.28 Mag: Dharam Yatra 21.28 Mag: Bharat Ke Sant 21.59 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 22.20 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 23.18 Local: Amrit Vaani 23.31 Local: Bhajan Sandhya	07.27 D.Anime: The Story Of Bookworm Gogo 09.41 Film: Nowhere Boys 11.00 Mag: Sand Tales 11.25 Doc: Smoothie Mania 12.00 Doc: Bee-Keeping 14.07 Mag: Shift 14.30 D.Anime: Kid's Planet 14.52 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 15.21 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 16.29 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.14 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.16 Serial: Superstore 17.37 Doc: World Capitals 17.34 Mag: Healthy Living 18.03 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 19.00 Mag: Border Crossing 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 21.40 Film: Insidious	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.28 Film: Ek Hasina Thi Stars: Urmila Matondkar, Saif Ali Khan, Aditya Srivastava 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.02 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.59 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Ek Hasina Thi Stars: Urmila Matondkar, Saif Ali Khan, Aditya Srivastava 02.04 Kundali Bhagya



Jeudi 23 novembre - 15.28

Stars: Urmila Matondkar, Saif Ali Khan, Aditya Srivastava



Jeudi 23 novembre - 20.30

Stars: Vidya Balan, Jisshu Sengupta





Kul Bhushan

Mother and daughter: Bonded in love for painting

Kul Bhushan traces the journey of Ruby Bajaj, and her daughter, Deeksha, both exhibiting at the India Art Fair in New Delhi

It was 2 am and Ruby Bajaj kept tossing in bed unable to sleep. A powerful urge to paint had welled up in her after many decades. She got up and looked around her home but found nothing to paint with. Desperate, she found an old notebook, went into her kitchen, spotted the turmeric jar, and started to paint with her thumb. To add green, she found the henna pot and the red colour came from her box of vermilion.

As a teenager, Ruby painted for fun and hung a couple of her artwork in a photo framer's shop. When she went back to find out about the fate of her paintings, she was delighted to discover that both had been sold! Even getting a fraction of the price of the material was a major boost for her hobby. Soon she was married and started a family. She became so involved in running her home while bringing up her three children that, until that night, she had not realised that four decades had whizzed by. Now that her children were married, art found the right moment to resurface.

Ruby relaunched herself as a painter. After filling a few notebooks with her thumb art, she organised herself with canvas, oil paints and brushes to get going. Since then, she has never looked back.

Her art is her meditation, she says. In her paintings she mainly incorporates impasto techniques to produce relief works. She also loves to play with textures to create abstract and semi-abstract paintings that are inspired by the beauty of nature.

After sharing her initial paintings with her relatives and friends, she created a decent collection that could be exhibited in New Delhi art galleries. Currently her work is on display at the Constitution Club of India where the huge modern art exhibition is attracting crowds.

Earlier, in October 2023, she was shown at the Lokayata Art Gallery. She also participated at the Speaking Art Fest of AIFACS in September 2023, and took part in a group exhibition at the RKG Art Gallery, in June 2023, and displayed her work at the Kalavithi Art Gallery, in March 2023, where some of her works were sold.

As a self-taught artist, Ruby has come a long way and yet she says that her best is yet to emerge. Her paintings incorporate an X-factor that makes them unique. She has also inspired her daughter, Deeksha Bajaj Thapar, to take up painting and evolve into an accomplished artist. As she continues to manage her home and all responsibilities that go with it, she carves time to indulge in painting to explore new vistas with that X-factor.

* * *

Deeksha Bajaj Thapar: From corporate deadlines to artistic curves

After eight years working for MNCs, she had enough of the corporate world with its deadlines, tensions, and the whole rat race. Despite her professional education and training, she felt suffocated.

Topping her education with an honour's degree in English from Delhi University, she had gone on to obtain



Mother Ruby Bajaj and daughter Deeksha Thapar share a big brush to cement their love for painting

an MBA from JIMS and a diploma in International Business Environment from the University of Nottingham in the UK. No wonder she was quickly

picked up by MNCs. But after eight long years, she started yearning to express her creative side.

Encouraged by her husband, Rohit Thapar, and inspired by her mother, Ruby Bajaj, she joined, for over three years, the Roop Chand Institute of Fine Arts to learn from its eminent artist, Roop Chand. During this time, she mastered the basics and evolved as a visual artist, fascinated by colours, tones and textures. Her paintings are a visual perception of positivity with mainly cubic abstraction displaying a lot of textures and hues.

Deeksha started to exhibit her work in August last year, first at the International Art Fair held at Ambience Mall Gurugram, followed by the India Art Festival at the Constitutional Club of India in October.

This year in March, she exhibited at the Kalavithi Art Gallery, in June at the Art City at RKG Art Gallery, in September at the Speaking Art Fest of AIFACS and in October at the Lokayata Art Gallery. She has also designed and painted glass panels for a pub called, Intactu, in Pune.

Millions of miles away from project reports and office memos, Deeksha is now fully immersed in her paintings. "That wasn't my life," she smiles, "painting is my true being."

Mother and daughter – Ruby and Deeksha

In this photograph, Ruby Bajaj, is handing over a large painting brush to her daughter, Deeksha, to symbolise the creative bond that unites them as artists. With art in their DNA, both mother and daughter are emerging as promising artists, jointly exhibiting their paintings, often sharing the same stand.

It's beautiful for me to see how mother and daughter have become fellow artists. They have a lot in common.

"Painting," says Ruby, "has become a passion for both of us. I don't know how, but my paintings have some mystery, some fantasy which comes up from inside of me." And Deeksha adds, "A true artist is not one who is inspired but one who inspires others, and my mother has done just that."

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



In memory of a great man Gavin Moonesawmy

Dear Family and Friends

As we mark one year since we gathered to remember and honour the life of our beloved Gavin Moonesawmy, I am deeply grateful for your presence, support, and comforting words during this difficult journey.

Your love and solidarity have been a source of strength for our family. Each one of you has played a significant role in helping us navigate this past year.

Your kindness, compassion, and unwavering support at the funeral prayers and continued presence in our lives have been a comforting reminder of the enduring bonds that connect us.

May the memory of Gavin continue to inspire us and thank you for being a pillar of strength for our family during this time of reflection and remembrance.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Gavin's wife and two sons

