

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Men are more often bribed by their loyalties and ambitions than by money." — Robert H. Jackson

Interview : Nando Bodha, Candidat premier ministériel de Linion Moris

## “Se débarrasser du MSM et de son régime, n’est pas pour nous un programme. C’est un objectif...”

Si c’est le programme du PTr-MMM-PMSD, c’est en effet un peu mince”

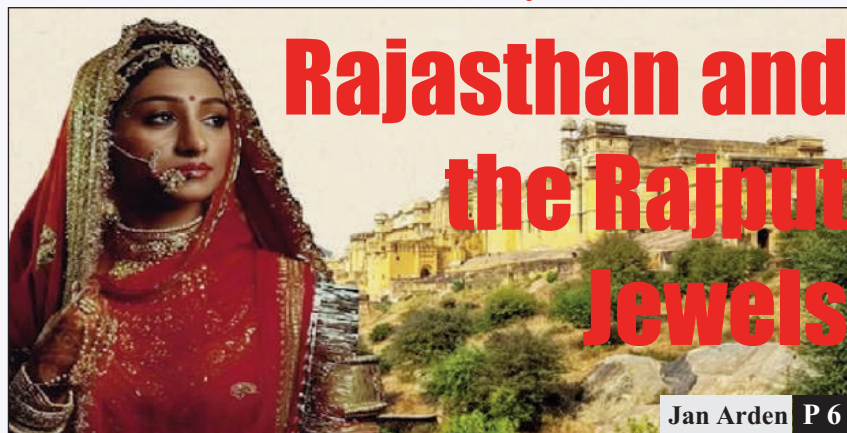
‘Je suis convaincu qu’une bataille à trois devrait permettre au peuple d’aspirer à une Ile Maurice propre où il y aurait l’unité et le partage’

‘Jugnauth pense qu’il peut s’acheter une majorité minoritaire face à un opposition divisée. Je ne le crois pas’



P10

### Travel Diary



Jan Arden P 6

### Opinion

## Doing Politics In Mauritius



Murli Dhar P3

### Eclairages

## Un anarcho-capitaliste élu à la tête de l’Argentine, des violences raciales en France et l’extrême droite au pouvoir aux Pays-Bas



A. Bartleby P 4

### Carnet Hebdo

## Alimentation, une autonomie souhaitable



Nita Chicooree-Mercier P 24

# Re-registration of SIM Cards

## Another Big Brother Initiative?

The regulation issued under the purview of the Information and Communication Technologies Act, and coming into effect on 31st October 2023, requires all mobile operators in Mauritius to obtain, register and store not only new requests for SIM cards but also all existing SIM card holders. Details to be furnished by the existing cardholder and that have to be verified, registered and stored by the operator, include cardholder's proof of address, National Identity Card (NIC) or copy of passport info and a colour photo/selfie which would be compared with the photo on the NIC/passport. The exercise has to be completed by 30th April 2024 failing which the card would be deactivated.

This is causing quite some stir in many circles despite the official justification of the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) that this regulation stems from one of the 450 recommendations of the 2018 Lam Shang Leen Report on Drug Trafficking. The authorities have been somewhat vague on which recommendations of the five-year old Report have not been or will not be implemented (estimates provided of those implemented have varied from 60% to 80%) which makes it rather difficult to judge the merit or the sudden urgency of the proposed regulation.

Nobody would query a genuine though belated initiative to fight drug traffickers who may be using SIM cards of dead persons, departed tourists or other means to communicate with their suppliers or accomplices, yet several voices, legal and IT professionals have raised concerns that have yet to be satisfactorily answered by the ICTA. Two legists and opponents of the MSM regime, Me Rama Valayden and Ivor Tan Yan, have last week challenged the constitutionality of those regulations by taking the issue to the Supreme Court. We therefore do not expect the ICTA to answer other than in front of our highest Court, while senior Labour Party MP Arvin Boolell has asked the ICTA to shelve proceedings until the serious matters raised have been properly thrashed out in Court.

The fact that the ICTA with its Board of poli-

tical appointees, has since several years, been under clouds of suspicion for unavowed motivations in what looks like Big Brother initiatives or proposals, does not help confidence build-up in the general public or in the Opposition that this regulation (rather than a legal imposition debated in Parliament) stems from a genuine desire to partake in government's oft-repeated gambit to break the backs of drug barons.

Back in November 2020, the authorities had to backtrack from plans to merge the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) and the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), while the IBA itself came under criticism for going after private radio stations which were deemed critical of the government. Then in 2021, came the rather outlandish proposal to set up a proxy server to intercept all social media traffic and a National Digital Ethics Committee of political hacks that would have the power to take down and censor social media posts. Again, government backtracked after intense national and international denunciations of the ludicrous proposal.

We need not go further into why this new ICTA regulation suffers from an acute trust deficit, all the more so as an issue affecting at best some 1000 suspicious SIM card users, does not call for a blanket hammering of the civil liberties and the inherent right to privacy of all Mauritians. No guarantees have been provided either on the use of selfies or colour pics demanded by the ICTA from mobile phone operators, their storage on databases (against which the Supreme Court has already ruled) or even usage by third parties, despite any verbal assurances provided by the current CEO of Mauritius Telecom.

In an upcoming electoral year, it has even been rumoured that some MPs, PPSes and even Ministers also privately worry that CCTV facial recognition features may be used to interconnect with mobile IDs and track their movements around the island. Let us hope the ICTA, on behalf of government, will better reassure the Supreme Court of their intents and clarify the many unanswered questions before applying this regulation.

### The Conversation

# A Year of ChatGPT

More than four billion people will be asked to vote in various elections next year. What happens in such elections when we combine the reach of social media with the power and persuasion of AI-generated fake content?



OpenAI's artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot ChatGPT was unleashed onto an unsuspecting public exactly one year ago.

It quickly became the fastest-growing app ever, in the hands of 100 million users by the end of the second month. Today, it's available to more than a billion people via Microsoft's Bing search, Skype and Snapchat – and OpenAI is predicted to collect more than US\$1 billion in annual revenue.

We've never seen a technology roll out so quickly before. It took about a decade or so before most people started using the web. But this time the plumbing was already in place.

As a result, ChatGPT's impact has gone way beyond writing poems about Carol's retirement in the style of Shakespeare. It has given many people a taste of our AI-powered future. Here are five ways this technology has changed the world.

#### 1. AI safety

ChatGPT forced governments around the world to wise up to the idea that AI poses significant challenges – not just economic challenges, but also societal and existential challenges.

United States President Joe Biden catapulted the US to the forefront of AI regulations with a presidential executive order that establishes new standards for AI safety and security. It looks to improve equity and civil rights, while also promoting innovation and competition, and American leadership in AI.

Soon after, the United Kingdom held the first ever inter-governmental AI Safety Summit in Bletchley Park – the place where the computer was born in World War II to crack the German Enigma code.

And more recently, the European Union has appeared to be sacrificing its early lead in regulating AI, as it struggled to adapt its AI Act with potential threats posed by frontier models such as ChatGPT.

Nations around the world are increasingly directing their money, time, and attention towards addressing this issue which, five years ago, didn't cross most people's minds.

#### 2. Job security

Before ChatGPT, it was perhaps car workers and other blue-collar workers who most feared the arrival of robots. ChatGPT and other generative AI tools have changed this conversation.

By Toby Walsh,

Professor of AI, Research Group Leader, UNSW Sydney

● Cont. on page 15

## Mauritius Times

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

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

*This epaper has been produced with the assistance of*

**Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy**

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

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

# Doing Politics In Mauritius

*We should lay a more solid foundation for our political and economic decisions than through the divisiveness we've travelled during the past 55 years*

Murli Dhar

It is not only in Mauritius. It's a phenomenon that is hitting even the socially best performing countries of the world, notably even the very well governed Scandinavian countries. About half the population in very many countries are unhappy with the way politics is being done. This phenomenon is affecting nearly all countries, rich and poor.

This is what explains why more than 40% of Mauritian voters haven't made up their minds on the relevance of the political class. I won't be surprised if such numbers increased over time, given the prevailing parlous state of politics on both sides.

It's the reason why many Europeans are up in arms against their governments. It is also the reason why so many sub-Saharan refugees are taking the risk to cross the Mediterranean in life-threatening overcrowded frail crafts, presumably sailing away to safety from domestic dictators/predators or distressful economic conditions, or both at the same time.

The unhappiness springs, in some of the cases, with the emergence of challenging day-to-day adjustment issues touching upon job security, inability to meet basic bills pertaining to rent, water, electricity or the servicing of debts incurred. In other cases, there's growing mistrust in the ability of the state to balance the social equation, given that the elite goes on squeezing living standards out of those lower down by all (market) means available.

The fundamental question being asked on all sides is whether orderliness will emerge out of the growing widespread dis-order. And, if so, by which means? Or, will the disequilibrium stretch on to breaking point, with incongruous leaders emerging, unable to find a satisfactory answer to the problems which have cropped up all round?

## How the dysfunction came about in Mauritius

Politics is about earnest decision-making. Good decisions improve the orientation of society and the economy. Bad politics keeps tinkering at the edges to a point of no return in the social and economic fabric. Consider the impact of the way of doing politics in Mauritius.

Mauritius is a multi-cultural society. It was therefore important to operate a har-



**“Mauritius is a multi-cultural society. It was therefore important to operate a harmonious framework to take advantage of a unified structure. However, right in the beginning, a model of communal confrontation was adopted as the way forward for local politics. Strident appeals to separateness of cultural identities was brought forth as the foremost factor on which the campaign for independence was fought way back in 1967. Fifty-five years later, it may have become dormant but it appears ready to pounce, only waiting to be awakened...”**

monious framework to take advantage of a unified structure. However, right in the beginning, a model of communal confrontation was adopted as the way forward for local politics. Strident appeals to separateness of cultural identities was brought forth as the foremost factor on which the campaign for independence was fought way back in 1967.

Fifty-five years later, it may have become dormant but it appears ready to pounce, only waiting to be awakened. The principal vehicle through which it is being carried forward is through politics. It may have helped politicians to get people to rally around them over decades. The communal segmentation which was centred on opposing minority versus majority communities at the time of independence “progressed” to other perverse forms since then. Election after election thereafter, sub-groups from within the population became the focus of the power game, resulting in sub-sub-divisions.

Given this, the focus of politics was no longer on getting the best outcomes for the country. What mattered more was drawing the “correct” representation from this sub-divided pool, with power of selection of candidates concentrated on

party leaders.

Identity politics took centre stage. Other national issues, such as strengthening public institutions and increasing our economic scope were also looked into but as subsidiary concerns. Meritocracy was quite often baffled in the name of identity politics. It became primordial to meet the demands of distinct lobbies which wanted to grab key positions. The country lost.

The sociology of this situation may be interesting, but I would focus on the serious impairment it has caused to the decision-making process in the country. The pursuit of identity politics in Mauritius, focussing on distinct communities, castes and related affiliations, made the country weaker than necessary. Not only the best candidates to elections were not picked up according to their sharper embrace of public and international issues.

The power and influence of all manner of lobbies and incompetents on politics ended up affecting the delivery of certain public institutions, forcing politicians to increase the space of non-meritocracy. The DWC is no more; the CWA did not consolidate; casinos accumulated losses; police leaned increasingly on ‘provisional charges’ to even get highly

respected citizens behind bars, only to be spurned by the courts.

It goes to our credit that, despite this dysfunctional divisive model, our successive governments did not fail us totally. Pressured by an educated citizenship, successive governments were led into taking some initiatives from time to time for the good of the country as a whole. Mauritius did not therefore sink the way certain other countries did into abject dictatorships, swayed by ethnic lobbies. Our institutional structure was able at one time to withstand unwarranted political interferences.

After bankrupting the goodwill they had earned in the previous election, however, our governments were forced to concoct diverse coalitions to stick to power. This diluted whatever force of conviction the original politicians had in a personal sense of values or standing up for a sense of values for the country as a whole. A widespread culture of perpetual defection undermined whatever little ideological grounding or true statesmanship remained.

## Breaking away from a model to nowhere

It is obvious that Mauritius will not make much headway if this system of divisive decision-making continued, pitching one set of people against the other or putting private interests “first”. Problems will not be solved at the root. New governments will keep overturning “bad” decisions taken by their predecessors. We might make some progress, but it won't be the lasting solution or direction for the country.

We are seeing the world over how divisiveness is threatening the established world order, without necessarily offering a viable alternative. Chaos appears to be springing up in many places. This is because problems have been allowed to amplify unchecked to an uncontrollable point. It is the reason we should lay a more solid foundation for our political and economic decisions than through the divisiveness we've travelled during the past 55 years.

Citizens in their majority have shown that they will endorse rational decisions taken for the good of all. This will happen the more the better we reconstitute statesmanship on a wider sociological base which makes sense of how people live and will be governed, how they earn their living, what are the prospects in the making for them and how the fruits of progress will be shared among all, indiscriminately.

That will cause politicians to shift from the classic divisive model to a larger role in keeping with the changing world: one in which they will adopt performing policies to the benefit of all, and be day-to-day accountable for their actions to the people at large.

# Un anarcho-capitaliste élu à la tête de l'Argentine, des violences raciales en France et l'extrême droite au pouvoir aux Pays-Bas

Par A. Bartleby

Ces dernières semaines ont été marquées par des basculements politiques vers l'extrême-droite en Argentine en Amérique latine, et en Europe – en France et aux Pays-Bas pour être plus précis.



Ultralibéral, anti-avortement, climatosceptique... Javier Milei, le nouveau président de l'Argentine. P - TF1 INFO

Commençons par l'Argentine. Après des décennies des mouvements de gauche inspirés du péronisme, le pays vient d'élire un économiste anarcho-capitaliste à la tête du pays. En effet, l'élection de Javier Milei s'est inscrite dans un rejet massif des politiques économiques et monétaires qui ont mis l'économie du pays à genoux depuis plus de 30 ans.

Milei, un économiste qui se décrit lui-même comme un anarchiste et un capitaliste, a été élu sur des promesses de rupture économique qui ont séduit la majorité des Argentins. Parmi ses propositions, il y a

- la politique radicale d'abandonner le Peso argentin en faveur du Dollar américain,
- une réduction drastique de l'intervention de l'Etat dans les affaires économiques, et
- une réforme visant à revoir l'application politique des valeurs égalitaires qui structurent la société argentine depuis plus d'un siècle.

Milei propose en réalité un "reboot" (redémarrage) de l'économie argentine par les principes directeurs des théories économiques de l'ultralibéralisme. Ces derniers ont, selon l'idéologie (par exemple, de l'école de Chicago), la capacité à restructurer les principes fondateurs de l'organisation sociale et politique d'une société donnée dominée par le libre jeu et le non-interventionnisme. En d'autres termes, c'est aux principes du jeu de l'économie de dicter les décisions politiques et non aux politiques de dicter à l'économie, et c'est au libre jeu de l'économie de dicter les formes institutionnelles que doit adopter l'Etat.

Il s'agit là d'une rupture radicale avec l'histoire même des mouvements politiques en Amérique latine, à une exception près : le Chili.

En effet, le 11 septembre 1973, une junte - dirigée

par le général Augusto Pinochet avec l'appui des États-Unis - déposa le président socialiste élu Salvador Allende, qui préféra se suicider au Palais de la Moneda plutôt que de se laisser prendre.

Le gouvernement de Pinochet entama alors un vaste projet de réformes économiques fondé dans les principes articulés par l'économiste autrichien néolibéral Friedrich Hayek qui enseignait alors à l'Université de Chicago. Ces réformes prévoyaient la destruction de l'État social et son remplacement par un État qui opère selon les principes du marché libre, acceptant par exemple que l'exclusion et l'insécurité soient des éléments internes à toute société et que ce n'était pas le rôle de l'État de combler les inégalités sociales et économiques.

L'expérience chilienne servit alors de laboratoire aux politiques que Ronald Reagan et Margaret Thatcher allaient appliquer aux États-Unis et au Royaume-Uni respectivement. *The rest, as they say, is history. (Le reste, comme on dit, appartient à l'Histoire.)*

L'Argentine s'apprête ainsi à basculer dans un bouleversement profond si

Milei réussit à appliquer son programme. Nous devinons que les troubles sociaux risquent de se multiplier et que Milei devra sans doute souvent avoir recours aux forces de l'ordre et à une application dure et rigide des principes de sécurité.

## La montée des extrémismes en France et aux Pays-Bas

De l'autre côté de l'Atlantique, en Europe, la France et les Pays-Bas ont également été secoué par des événements faisant la part belle à la montée des extrémismes.

En France tout d'abord, où la petite commune de Crépol a été secouée par le drame de la mort d'un jeune adolescent nommé Thomas. Ce dernier assistait à une fête de la commune qui a été interrompu par des délinquants venus des quartiers et des cités des villes voisines. Une bagarre s'ensuivit lors de laquelle Thomas fut poignardé.

Les réactions furent immédiates avec une levée de bouclier des mouvements d'extrême-droite qui ont riposté en attaquant des centres sociaux et des commerces appartenant à des Français issus de l'immigration. En fait, nous avons vu la symétrie directe de l'affaire Nahel qui avait provoqué d'importantes émeutes en juin de cette année.

Certains observateurs parlent d'un climat social qui ne cesse de se dégrader et qui glisse lentement vers une guerre raciale en France, une opposition banlieues/France profonde qui traduit elle-même une opposition Blancs/Arabes. Et il est clair que la gestion calamiteuse des émeutes de juin par le président Emmanuel Macron n'a pas aidé à calmer les choses.

C'est en tout cas l'extrême droite française qui en profite, et Marine Le Pen pourrait bien encore plus

consolider sa base en vue des prochaines élections présidentielles.

En parlant de profiter du climat délétère, c'est Geert Wilders (un ami de Marine Le Pen) qui a réalisé un coup d'éclat en obtenant la majorité aux élections qui se sont tenues aux Pays-Bas. En effet, le PVV Freedom Party, le Parti pour la liberté (PVV) l'équivalent du Front National aux Pays-Bas, a réalisé un coup politique énorme cette semaine en remportant 37 des 150 sièges au parlement hollandais. Cela peut ne pas sembler énorme puisque ne constituant pas la majorité, mais ces 37 sièges placent le PVV en tête devant toutes les autres coalitions, lui permettant de former un gouvernement si d'autres partis acceptent de se joindre à eux.

Geert Wilders pourrait ainsi bientôt se retrouver à la tête d'une coalition qui va gouverner les Pays-Bas, avec un agenda économiquement et socialement de droite et avec une politique migratoire d'extrême droite.

Après la Hongrie, après l'Italie, c'est maintenant au tour des Pays-Bas de basculer. Et cela pourrait n'être que le début.

\* \* \*

## Linion Moris entre en campagne électorale et annonce ses deux PM

C'est l'évènement politique de la semaine à Maurice : Linion Moris a tenu une conférence de presse annonçant son entrée en campagne électorale et a présenté son équipe pour les prochaines échéances électorales.



Partage à l'israélienne pour Nando Bodha et Rama Valayden en cas de victoire aux prochaines élections. P - Maurice Info

L'exercice a fait grandement réagir sur les réseaux sociaux. Entre critiques et insultes, Linion Moris n'a pas échappé aux foudres et aux attaques, à cause notamment de sa proposition pour un partage du mandat à l'israélienne. Nous y reviendrons.

Mais par-delà les réactions majoritairement mitigées et/ou négatives, il faut avouer que l'exercice a surpris. Pourquoi annoncer une entrée en campagne électorale et présenter une équipe alors que la date des prochaines élections n'est pas encore connue? Il est bien évidemment clair que le mandat de l'actuel gouvernement se terminera au début de novembre de l'année prochaine, ce qui fait que nous approchons rapidement des prochaines échéances électorales.

☞ Suite en page 5

## Linion Moris entre en campagne électorale et annonce ses deux PM

☞ Suite de la page 4

Mais le coup de départ est loin d'être donné, ce qui explique que tous les partis aiguisent actuellement leurs armes, occupent le terrain et commencent les tractations qui leur permettront d'aligner leurs candidats dès que le feu vert sera donné.

Ce travail de préparation est extrêmement important et requiert plusieurs mois d'occupation du terrain et la multiplication des rencontres et des réunions. D'ailleurs tous les partis politiques traditionnels sont actuellement affairés à cela. Le MSM multiplie depuis quelques temps les réunions dans les circonscriptions alors que l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD continue, elle, sa tournée en organisant des congrès qui se termineront le 3 décembre prochain.

Ces partis ont également commencé à déployer leurs candidats potentiels dans les circonscriptions, notamment les nouveaux candidats qui n'ont pas encore d'expérience électorale. Commencer à occuper le terrain est ainsi essentiel pour les différents partis, et notamment pour les nouveaux partis qui n'ont pas de base électorale solide, comme pour LPM.

Mais occuper le terrain et entrer officiellement en campagne électorale, ce sont deux choses différentes. Dans le premier cas, c'est un exercice de prise de température qui permet des ajustements et des repositionnements critiques, alors que dans le deuxième cas, c'est une affirmation claire et précise sur les intentions et la stratégie d'un parti politique.

Est-ce que les membres de Linion Moris ont effectué ce travail de terrain leur permettant d'être absolument clairs dans leurs stratégies? Sans doute oui, avec les moyens dont le parti dispose. Mais peut-être aussi qu'il y a du sens à se déclarer bien avant les échanges lorsque vous vous battez contre les grosses locomotives.

Pour l'instant, Linion Moris ne semble pas avoir les capacités d'aligner 60 candidats. Mais si le parti déclare déjà ses candidats à l'avance, cela permettra à ces derniers d'abattre un travail que les grands partis, eux, peuvent compléter rapidement par le simple fait de l'existence de leur organisation territoriale et structurelle.

Ainsi, cette entrée en campagne de Linion Moris ressemble bien plus à un exercice de structuration du parti qu'à une actuelle entrée en campagne. Et ce n'est pas une stratégie tout à fait inutile car c'est maintenant qu'un tel parti dispose de l'espace nécessaire pour manœuvrer. Nous le savons tous: plus on approchera des échéances, plus les Mauriciens mettront les petits partis et leurs alliances de côté dans leurs considérations politiques.

Nous voyons d'ailleurs cela à chaque élection. Les nouveaux partis attirent un certain intérêt au début d'une campagne électorale. Ils font un peu de bruit, surtout si leurs propositions sont en rupture avec les partis traditionnels. Mais cet intérêt ne dure jamais bien longtemps, et l'immense majorité de l'électorat se tourne très rapidement vers les partis traditionnels - ce qui fait que les nouveaux sont vite relayés en arrière-plan lors d'une campagne électorale.

Ainsi, Linion Moris semble avoir pris une initiative louable en annonçant dès maintenant son entrée en campagne électorale. Ses membres pourront aller sur les plateaux de radio en annonçant et en énumérant leurs propositions comme s'ils étaient en campagne, en faisant

un peu le buzz et en forçant même les partis traditionnels à entrer dans leur jeu. Cette prise d'initiative ressemble ainsi également à une volonté de dicter le rythme politique.

D'ailleurs, l'annonce des deux PM et du partage à l'israélienne s'inscrit dans cette volonté d'ouvrir les débats en vue des prochaines élections.

\* \* \*

## L'Arabie saoudite accueillera l'Exposition universelle en 2030

**L**a nouvelle est tombée dans la nuit de mardi, l'Arabie saoudite accueillera l'Exposition universelle en 2030, devançant ainsi la Corée du Sud et l'Italie.



L'Arabie saoudite veut organiser l'Expo universelle 2030 – et qu'elle soit «la plus remarquable de tous les temps». P - Pax Nouvelles

Il s'agit bien évidemment d'un événement de prestige, mais ce prestige démontre certaines choses. Cela fait des années que le royaume saoudien fait des efforts importants pour changer la perception du monde quant à son rôle dans le monde et durant ce siècle.

L'arrivée du prince héritier d'Arabie saoudite Mohammed Ben Salmane (MBS) aux affaires a encore plus accéléré et renforcé cette volonté. En effet, ce dernier s'est démarqué dès le départ de ses prédécesseurs - tous les fils d'Abdelaziz ben Abderrahmane Al Saoud, le fondateur du royaume d'Arabie saoudite - de par sa jeunesse et de par le fait qu'il représente une nouvelle génération de Saoudiens dont les aspirations sont différentes de leurs aînés.

Ainsi, dès sa nomination comme prince héritier en 2017, MBS a tenu à se démarquer de ses aînés. Son ascension au poste de Premier ministre en 2022 lui a

donné les outils et les moyens de mieux asseoir cette image de la transformation du royaume saoudien à travers différentes réformes. Par exemple, par des politiques hautement symboliques déjà, comme le droit de conduire et de voyager sans autorisation d'un gardien accordé aux femmes ou encore le refus de financer le wahabbisme à travers le monde. Mais, il s'inscrit aussi de manière bien plus profonde dans le paysage politique en réalité, avec un plan de transformation de l'économie saoudienne en anticipation du déclin du pétrole d'ici 2050.

Ce plan de transformation prévoit le développement des secteurs économiques puissants en Arabie saoudite, mais également un élargissement des intérêts géopolitiques et culturels du royaume. Ainsi, MBS n'a pas eu de mal à détourner le regard de l'allié historique américain en faveur des puissances émergentes comme la Chine et l'Inde.

Parallèlement, MBS n'a pas hésité à se lancer dans des conflits parfois ouverts contre le Qatar et l'Iran, qu'il considère comme des obstacles à la volonté hégémonique du royaume saoudien sur la région et sur l'Islam car c'est aussi cela qui est en jeu.

Malgré son modernisme, MBS reste un traditionaliste et se rend entièrement compte que la première force de l'Arabie saoudite, par-delà le pétrole, reste le fait que l'immense majorité du monde musulman regarde vers la Mecque, ce qui fait du royaume saoudien la voix du monde musulman.

MBS a parfaitement bien compris cela, d'où sa volonté de développement d'un autre modèle économique qui permettra au royaume d'être une puissance économique et technologique, tout en restant une puissance spirituelle pour une grande partie de l'humanité.

Ce rôle a d'ailleurs été parfaitement observé depuis le début de la guerre de Gaza. Les Saoudiens ont réussi le pari d'arriver à une trêve entre le Hamas et Tsahal sans pour autant antagoniser le monde musulman et maintenir sa politique visant à entretenir des relations autrement avec Israël.

Benjamin Nétanyahou avait déclaré qu'Israël se trouvait au milieu

d'un processus de transformation du Moyen-Orient. Ce qu'il n'a pas précisé, c'est que cette transformation se faisait main dans la main avec MBS et le royaume saoudien.

Ainsi, MBS se positionne comme l'architecte et le bâtisseur de l'Arabie saoudite du 21ème siècle. Contrairement aux autres leaders mondiaux, il n'a que 38 ans et régnera sur son royaume jusqu'à sa mort. Il a ainsi le potentiel de devenir l'acteur majeur de la région pendant la majorité de ce siècle, et il a clairement décidé de le devenir.

L'attribution de l'Exposition universelle à l'Arabie saoudite représente une grande victoire symbolique pour ses ambitions, tout comme pourrait l'être également l'attribution de la Coupe du monde de football bientôt.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 7

# Rajasthan and the Rajput Jewels

Jan Arden

From New Delhi, the trip to the land of the proud and feisty Rajput kingdoms, a semi-arid territory of mountainous terrain and the famous Thar desert of moving sand dunes of some 200,000 sq.km constituting a natural frontier with Pakistan, was not to be missed as Rajasthan is indeed, India's most visited tourist destination.

I had decided to vacate the unmissable universal tribute to love, the Taj mausoleum and Agra forts in Uttar Pradesh on my first full-day sightseeing from New Delhi. Distraught at the death of his beloved wife who bore him 14 children and accompanied him on his military expeditions, Shah Jahan had this architectural marvel of white marble, surrounded by acres of gardens, built as an enduring tribute to his lifelong love and where both would ultimately be laid to rest.

With tourist tickets at INR 1200, I was relieved that my OCI card allowed me entry at Indian visitor prices of some INR 200, a reminder that was to be useful throughout my museum, palace, royal gardens, and other visits elsewhere. I also learned to be wary of coach tours, which dragged us on an unplanned extension to Mathura and Vrindavan late afternoon. It should have been a total immersion in temples, ashrams, cultural heritage, and profound spirituality, but after the full day of trekking, it was an extended evening annoyance that, with due respect to their faith and beliefs, only devout lovers of Lord Krishna, from various parts of India enjoyed, despite being pressed for donations in that particular temple doing brisk Godly business.

Despite or maybe because of my upbringing, I could not reconcile the hard-sell techniques, or the millions raked in annually with the shabby surrounds of that particular temple complex, its unlit potted streets, its lack of decent amenities and the hundreds of monkeys, particularly fond of eyeglasses and mobiles, waiting to pounce on unwary visitors! This was an unholy hold-up as there are hundreds of other brightly lit, well maintained Krishna temples, ashrams, guesthouses, and spiritual centers in Vrindavan (or Mathura) which deserve a full two-day stay by religious or spiritually minded visitors. Returning by the coach at near midnight in New Delhi, I was too exhausted and annoyed to bear testimony to the spiritual dimensions of that trip extension to Lord Krishna's alleged birthplace (Mathura) and playground (Vrindavan).

Back the next day for the a/c comfort of India's rail network for the discovery of what I knew was a land of continuous bat-

*For travel and discovery, history, people and culture buffs or spiritual questers or simply India lovers, Rajasthan is a must destination*



**“Jaipur, the state's bustling capital of 4m, aka the Pink City, has a multitude of temples, including one of the several Birla temples in India, a delightful mandir in white marble, dedicated to Narayan and Lakshmi Devi, the architectural oddity of the Hawa Mahal (palace of winds) and the extraordinary 18th century concrete observatory (Jantar Mahal) one of several built by the learned Maharaja Jai Singh (from which the name Jaipur) and visited by European and other astronomers of the times for the most precise stellar and planetary measurements and observations”**

tles between separate and non-unified Rajputana fiefdoms against marauding invaders first from Arabs, who had been decisively halted at Sindh, and departed, leaving the centuries long invasion/conversion attempts to their Turk, Afghan or later, Moghol fiercer horsemen and cavalries. The whole area was also a present-day remnant, at least in part, of the much older Indus Valley civilisation, starting 6-8000 BCE, that spanned the whole twin river valley (Indus and Saraswati) mentioned in the Vedas and its extension into more uphill lands, ports and trading outposts of that vast empire, fabled amongst other things, for its agricultural output, including prized livestock of elephants, camels and horses, handicraft and jewellery, attracting caravans of traders from as far away as Oman, the Arabian peninsula, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey and Greece.

This was quintessentially a wealthy and wide-ranging trading empire with considerable mathematical and astronomical knowledge, high city development skills, based on an entirely autonomous inge-



nity, as confirmed by a vast array of scientific evidence including population genetics, (apart from a growing academic literature, interested readers can consult the special issue of Sciences et Avenir, no 163, 2010) with a sophisticated language developed for spiritual delvings, Vedic Sanskrit, source of many Indo-European languages, and a profoundly monist core of beliefs with one Supreme Lord manifesting itself in various ways over the material, visible and non-visible spiritual world.

That civilisation and its inhabitants, constantly ruffled by annual floods of fertile silt from monsoon or Himalayan glaciers, fearful of the «kali yug» predicted by its own theologians (around 3100 BCE), migrated to higher shores with shreds of their beliefs and practices and found a terminal decline, according to geological evidence and satellite imagery, when they fled, around 1900 BCE a vast tectonic movement that engulfed its thriving ports, its orderly cities and dried up the Saraswati.

It was with all this background that I eagerly awaited to plunge into the main cities of Rajasthan and get, at best, a whiff of its most notable three gems Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur, in far too brief a first discovery trip full of magnificent scenery, including its lakes and rivers, its desertic Thar proximity, the majestic forts and palaces whose restored remains have given rise to many sumptuous accommodation experiences for the wealthy travellers. Most of this one can find by perusing any travel site, publication, travel tour guides on that state and my personal experience was far more mundane and limited.

Jaipur, the state's bustling capital of 4m, aka the Pink City, has a multitude of temples, including one of the several Birla temples in India, a delightful mandir in white marble, dedicated to Narayan and

Lakshmi Devi, the architectural oddity of the Hawa Mahal (palace of winds) and the extraordinary 18th century concrete observatory (Jantar Mahal) one of several built by the learned Maharaja Jai Singh (from which the name Jaipur) and visited by European and other astronomers of the times for the most precise stellar and planetary measurements and observations.

Then there is Amer, in the mountainous outskirts of Jaipur, where the splendid Amer fort, with its multiple courtyards and elephant rides, its elegant hall of intricate mirrors, its multiple levels to house the Royal family and concubines and where their army could display any conquered bounty to the local Rajasthanis. Looming over it is another fortress, Jaigarh Fort, connected to a ridge of defensive wall stretching for miles atop the mountainous crests constituting a formidable engineering feat. Within Jaipur itself, Jai Singh had built the landmark sprawling City Palace, with a high entrance fee that would seduce mostly those interested in stories of Rajahs, their lavish lifestyles, and their pastimes.

Jaisalmer at the edge of the Thar desert, which I skipped, has reportedly a fascinating fortress with golden walls, and a colourful mix of turbaned cameliers, musicians, craftsmen and soldiers whereas Jodhpur, similarly gateway to the desert, is known as the “blue city” because most of the houses in its old town are painted this colour, while it boasts probably the most formidable fortress overlooking the region. When tired of all the bustle or the forts and palaces, Udaipur, almost 400 kms south of Jaipur, is a gorgeous city of majestic mountains, picturesque lakes, incredible monuments, and breathtaking gardens. Locals proudly regard it as one of the most romantic cities in the world, dubbed the ‘Venice of the East.’

For those into some shopping, Rajasthan is renowned for beautiful block-print textile materials and dress elements, carpets, handicrafts and is famous for its precious and semi-precious jewellery, although travellers, as in any tourist spot, should be careful of being ripped off. The food is as usual good, if you can stand more thalis and spicy things from breakfast (most annoyingly!) through lunch or dinner. No respite for more sensitive taste buds but Jaipur was one place where I found a clean restaurant for a cool beer and some European snacks.

For travel and discovery, history, people and culture buffs or spiritual questers or simply India lovers, Rajasthan is a must destination in the sub-continent's awesome and immensely rich multi-cultural fabric.

## Guerre de Gaza : les négociations s'accélèrent en vue d'une trêve étendue

**A** lors qu'un cessez-le-feu temporaire a pu être conclu entre Israël et le Hamas, en contrepartie d'un échange d'otages et de prisonniers, il semblerait que tout soit fait pour que ce cessez-le-feu continue encore quelque temps.

En effet, il devait durer quatre jours au départ et il est sur le point d'expirer à l'heure où nous écrivons. Mais les tractations avancent rapidement entre Israël, le Hamas, le Qatar et l'Arabie saoudite afin d'étendre la trêve et afin que plus d'otages et de prisonniers soient libérés.

victimes israéliennes. C'est le "prix" qu'a accepté de payer le Hamas avant de considérer une trêve et d'échanger des otages contre des prisonniers.

Est-ce que cela signifie que les frappes israéliennes ne reprendront pas? Pas forcément, mais le moment d'accalmie actuelle est très certainement une opportunité que les acteurs du Moyen-Orient ne voudront pas laisser passer, notamment l'Arabie saoudite.

Ce pays s'est montré très prudent depuis le



Des manifestants brandissent des pancartes lors d'un rassemblement devant les bureaux de l'Unicef pour demander la libération des Israéliens retenus en otage à Gaza. P - Le Télégramme

Il se pourrait ainsi que la stratégie diplomatique que certains pays ont privilégié porte ses fruits, même si une trêve ne signifie pas une solution à long terme.

Il est intéressant de décortiquer les attitudes des deux côtés avec un Hamas qui déclare avoir réussi à faire plier Israël, alors que les dirigeants israéliens, eux, considèrent que les lourdes frappes sur Gaza ont forcé le Hamas à entrer dans une posture de négociation.

En réalité, les deux ont plus ou moins raison. Pour comprendre toute stratégie militaire, il faut regarder par-delà les enjeux humanitaires et éthiques et se concentrer sur les rapports de force dans ce qu'ils ont de plus crus et de plus de passionnés. C'est ainsi qu'un général et grand théoricien de la guerre s'est approprié la fameuse leçon de Clausewitz en commentant la situation actuelle à Gaza: cette guerre est la continuation de la politique mais par d'autres moyens. Et, ajoutons ceci, par des moyens extrêmement brutaux, voire excessifs.

D'ailleurs, nous le suggérons nous-mêmes dans un précédent billet sur une éventuelle réponse israélienne : il était clair que Tsahal ne penserait pas à aller par le dos de la cuillère. En d'autres termes, il se pouvait bien que la stratégie de l'armée israélienne ne fut jamais celle d'une occupation de Gaza, comme Benjamin Nétanyahou a pu le déclarer, mais une attaque tellement violente et meurtrière au point de forcer le Hamas à la table des négociations une fois qu'une certaine ligne rouge a été passée.

Cette ligne rouge : 14 000 morts du côté des Palestiniens. Soit près de 10 fois le nombre des

début de la guerre, dénonçant les frappes israéliennes mais sans forcément adopter une posture de non-retour vers les Israéliens. Les enjeux actuels pour l'Arabie saoudite font qu'Israël pourrait devenir un partenaire clé dans le cadre de la modernisation mis en place par Mohammed Ben Salmane. D'ailleurs, les deux pays étaient sur le point de conclure un accord pour la normalisation de leurs relations diplomatiques, économiques et sécuritaires...

Cet accord, Israël en a également besoin puisque l'Arabie saoudite pourrait être l'acteur clé pour sa sécurité, et notamment pour contenir l'ennemi iranien.

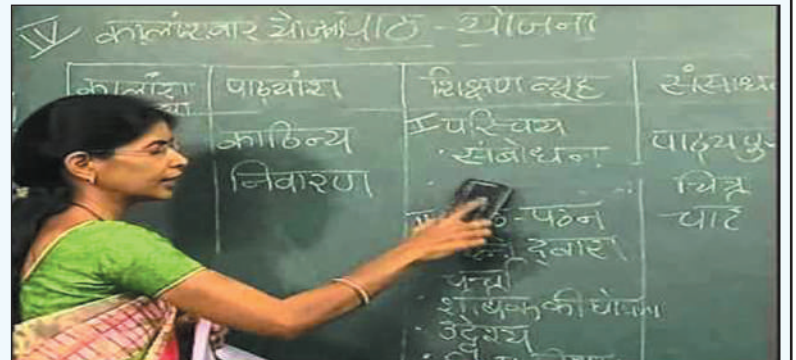
Ainsi, il était farfelu de penser que Tsahal s'était lancé dans une opération militaire motivée uniquement par la vengeance. L'objectif était multiple dès le départ : produire une démonstration de force qui forcerait le Hamas à la table des négociations pour la libération des otages sans pousser la relation avec l'Arabie saoudite vers le point de non-retour.

Assistons-nous au début d'une autre phase du conflit ? Difficile de le dire pour l'instant, mais une chose est absolument sûre et certaine: Israël et le Hamas ont utilisé les Palestiniens de Gaza comme d'une matière d'échange afin d'arriver à un point de neutralité permettant à une négociation de commencer, et ni l'Arabie saoudite ni l'Iran n'y ont vu le moindre souci.

Malheureusement, nous assistons là à la triste histoire des Palestiniens, toujours utilisés par les pays voisins pour faire avancer leurs propres intérêts géopolitiques et souverains.

A. Bartleby

## READ ONLINE



### Language & Culture

## Revisiting Baithkās: The Unmatched Pillar for Hindi Learning

Mauritius is an island paradise in the Indian Ocean. Its picturesque scenery includes pristine beaches, magnificent coral reefs, and majestic volcanic mountains, making it an unparalleled destination. But what sets Mauritius apart is its commitment to preserving its Hindu culture and language, which serves as a shining example to the world in celebrating linguistic diversity.

By Dr Shubhankar Mishra



### Opinion

## 'Make love not war'

Today the world is at war, in Palestine/Israel, in Ukraine, in Sudan. What lessons did we learn from the tragedy of the two World Wars where 100 million people died, 100,000 of them under two atomic bombs?

By Dr Michael Atchia



## The Smuggler's Paradise

Nestled amidst the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean, Mauritius is a picture-perfect paradise, renowned for its pristine beaches, lush rainforests, and vibrant culture. Yet, beneath this idyllic façade lies a darker reality: Mauritius is grappling with a severe drug trafficking problem, casting a shadow over its reputation as a tranquil island getaway.

By Sydney S Chellen

Please Consult: [www.mauritiustimes.com](http://www.mauritiustimes.com)

## Leaders pay tribute to Henry Kissinger while social media dubs late US secretary 'war criminal'

Global leaders paid tribute to former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on Thursday, but there was also sharp criticism of the man who remained an influential figure decades after his official service as one of the most powerful diplomats in American history.

Kissinger, who died Wednesday at 100, drew praise as a skilled defender of U.S. interests. "America has lost one of the most dependable and distinctive voices" on foreign affairs, said former President George W. Bush, striking a tone shared by many high-level officials past and present, reports AP.

Kissinger served two presidents, Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, and dominated foreign policy as the United States withdrew from Vietnam and established ties with China.

In China, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called Kissinger an "old friend and good friend of the Chinese people, and a pioneer and builder of China-U.S. relations."

Many on social media in China mourned his passing.



Former United States Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Pic - Reuters

State broadcaster CCTV shared on social media an old segment showing Kissinger's first secret visit to China in 1971, when he broached the possibility of establishing U.S.-China relations and met then-Premier Zhou Enlai.

Kissinger exerted uncommon influence on global affairs long after he left office. In July, for instance, he met Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing while U.S.-Chinese relations were at a low point.

Criticism of Kissinger, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in negotiating a cease-fire in

Vietnam in 1973, was especially strong on social media, where many posted celebratory videos in reaction to his death.

A Rolling Stone magazine headline said, "Henry Kissinger, war criminal beloved by America's ruling class, finally dies."

The head of the independent Documentation Center of Cambodia, Youk Chhang, described Kissinger's legacy as "controversial." Well over half of the population was born after the Khmer Rouge were ousted in 1979 and Kissinger left government, so there is not much awareness among Cambodians about his record, he said.

Kissinger initiated the Paris negotiations that ultimately provided a face-saving means to get the United States out of a costly war in Vietnam.

Nixon's daughters, Tricia Nixon Cox and Julie Nixon Eisenhower, said their father and Kissinger enjoyed "a partnership that produced a generation of peace for our nation."

"Dr. Kissinger played an important role in the historic opening to the People's Republic of China and in advancing détente with the Soviet Union, bold initiatives which initiated the beginning of the end of the Cold War," the Nixon daughters said in a statement. "His 'shuttle diplomacy' to the Middle East helped to advance the relaxation of tensions in that troubled region of the world," the Nixon daughters said in a statement.

## Indira Gandhi, PN Haksar proved more than a match for Nixon-Kissinger in 1971: Jairam Ramesh



As former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger passed away, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday recalled that in 1971 then US President Richard Nixon and Kissinger created huge headaches for India but then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her close aide P N Haksar proved "more than a match for them", reports PTI.

In a post on X, Ramesh said, "Henry Kissinger has passed away. He was as immensely consequential as he was hugely controversial."

For the last three decades, he positioned himself as a great friend and supporter of India and indeed he was, Ramesh said.

"But this was not always so and in 1971 especially, President Nixon and he created huge headaches for India and thought they had us cornered. However, Indira Gandhi and PN Haksar proved more than a match for them," the former

Union minister said.

"I have described the Kissinger-Haksar and Nixon-Indira Gandhi encounters with archival detail in my book 'Intertwined Lives: PN Haksar & Indira Gandhi'," Ramesh said.

He also pointed out that Gary Bass in his book 'The Blood Telegram: Nixon, Kissinger and a Forgotten Genocide' indicts Kissinger severely for his role in the events of 1971 leading up to the creation of Bangladesh.

In another post, Ramesh said Haksar, while an admirer of Kissinger's intellectual prowess, felt that he lacked moral fibre and sensitivity to democratic processes.

Dobrynin had been Soviet Ambassador to Washington between 1962 and 1986. His opening words to Haksar were: 'I am very glad to meet the man who outwitted Henry Kissinger'," Ramesh recalled.

## 'China overwhelmed by internal challenges': Taiwan leader on 'unlikely' invasion

China is not likely to consider a major invasion of Taiwan for now due to domestic challenges, the island's president Tsai Ing-wen said Wednesday, although Beijing is trying to sway its upcoming election.

"I think the Chinese leadership at this juncture is overwhelmed by its internal challenges," Tsai told the 2023 DealBook Summit in New York.

Tsai was responding to questions about the risks of an invasion, in the aftermath of a closely watched meeting between the US and Chinese presidents, Joe Biden and Xi Jinping, in California this month, reports AFP.

The leaders' talks, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, were aimed at preventing growing tensions from spiraling into conflict.

But Xi and Biden remain far apart on the flashpoint of Taiwan, with the Chinese leader telling his US counterpart that reunification was "unstoppable."

China considers democratic Taiwan its territory, to be taken one day by force if necessary.

For the moment, however, Beijing is grappling with domestic economic, financial and political challenges, Tsai said.

The international community has also made it clear that war is not an option, she added.

But China is still "interested in interfering" in Taiwan's upcoming



A Chinook helicopter carrying a Taiwan flag flies over the city during the country's National Day celebration in Taipei, Taiwan. Pic - Reuters

presidential election, Tsai said, adding that Beijing is attempting to sway the outcome in its favour.

"All major elections in Taiwan since 1996 have seen similar influence operations from China," she said.

Instead of hoping Beijing would give up on its tactics, Taiwan should "focus on strengthening the resilience of our democracy," she added.

Responding to Tsai's comments on Thursday, Beijing's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "As Taiwan is an inseparable part of China's territory, there is no president of Taiwan."

Spokesperson Wang Wenbin added that it is necessary to "oppose Taiwan independence and external interference."

Self-ruled Taiwan is set to hold its presidential election in January, a contest that is being scrutinized by policymakers in China and the United States, as it could determine Taipei's ties with an increasingly bellicose Beijing.

Tsai is not able to run in the upcoming election, as she will have completed the maximum of two terms in office.

\* Contd on page 9



## Internal rebellion against Biden's Israel policy explodes, CIA issues warning

The CIA's top analysis chief has sparked controversy by changing her Facebook cover photo to a Palestinian flag amid growing dissent within the Biden administration over its handling of the Israel-Hamas war.

The associate deputy director for analysis, who is one of the three people responsible for approving all analysis disseminated inside the agency, updated her profile picture two weeks after the October 7 attack by Hamas and its allies that killed 1,200 people and took 240 hostages, reports Hindustan Times.

She also posted a selfie with the slogan "Free Palestine" on it, according to the Financial Times. The chief has previously posted messages against anti-semitism, a colleague said.

Another former official said that such social media activity was 'highly irregular' for a senior agency official, given the 'longstanding incredibly close relationship' between the CIA and the Israelis.

The chief's Facebook post comes as the Biden



US President Joe Biden speaks to reporters before boarding Air Force One at Pueblo Memorial Airport in Colorado, on November 29, 2023. Pic - AFP

administration faces mounting pressure from its own staff to seek an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, where 13,000 Palestinians have died in Israeli airstrikes.

More than 400 administration employees signed an

anonymous letter earlier this month urging the President to demand a halt to the violence. Another 1,000 staff from the US Agency for International Development echoed the call.

The State Department has not taken any action against the dissenters, but instead has organized 'listening sessions' with staff to hear their feedback and ideas.

Secretary of State Anthony Blinken wrote to staff earlier this month, "I know that for many of you, the suffering caused by this crisis is taking a profound personal toll. The anguish that comes with seeing the daily images of babies, children, elderly people, women, and other civilians suffering in this crisis is wrenching. I feel it myself."

Biden has repeatedly refused to demand a ceasefire, but has instead supported a series of temporary truces that have been agreed in exchange for the release of some of the hostages.

## Increased cyber activity due to Israel-Hamas conflict

SecurityHQ, a Global MSSP that detects, and responds to threats, instantly, has been monitoring the prevalence of Adversarial Cyber Activities that have occurred since the most recent conflict between Israel and Hamas. Its researchers have identified a notable increase in the number of adversarial actions and the association of various threat actors globally.

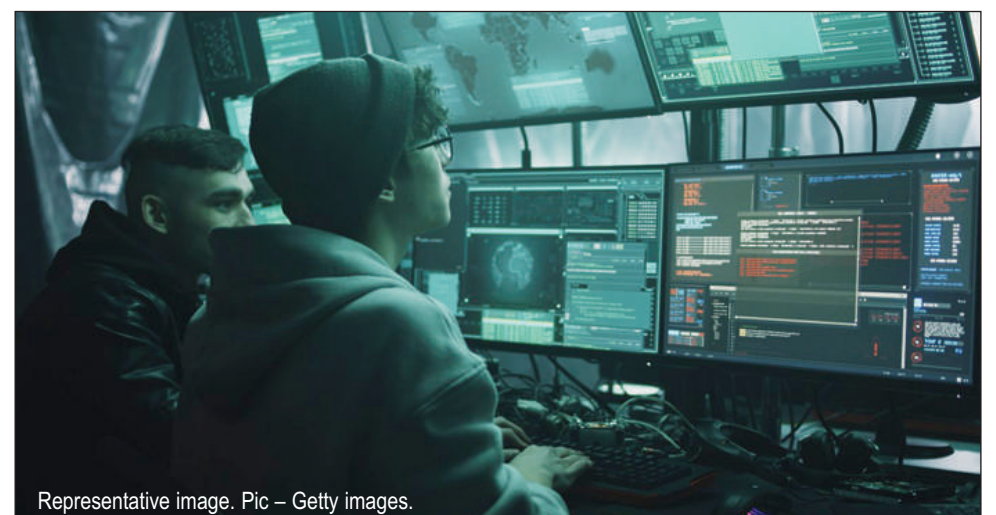
A significant number of adversarial groups have pledged their support and services to both sides in the conflict, with the majority siding alongside the Pro-Palestinian. Many appear to be adopting the stance of their home nation, with Pro-Russian groups, like "Killnet", taking up digital arms against Israel and their

supporters. Similarly, Pro-Israeli groups, like the "Kerala Cyber Xtractors" have been seen acting against Palestinian interests.

To date, SecurityHQ has observed 93 Pro-Palestinian Adversary Groups and 17 Pro-Israel Groups.

Notable Pro-Palestinian adversarial actions include the publication of a mobile app, known as "Red Alert: Israel", claiming to provide alerts for Israeli civilians of impending incoming rockets. Purported to be spyware, the app has the objective of intercepting alert requests and stealing sensitive data. The success of this campaign is reported as widespread over Israel and may have successfully gathered sensitive information from both iOS and Android users.

The consequences of the related cyber alliances worldwide are expected to be widespread. Organisations that have an association with entities or nations that have already taken a public or political



Representative image. Pic - Getty images.

stance, that is either Pro-Palestinian or Pro-Israel, may expect to be targeted.

Many industries have been targeted, including Financial Services, Aerospace, Automobiles & Parts, Banks, Construction & Materials, Consulting Services, Defence, Education, Food & Beverage,

Government, Health Care, Industrial Goods & Services, Insurance, Legal Services, Media, NGO, Oil & Gas, Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology, Real Estate, Retail, Technology, Telecommunications, Travel & Leisure, and Utilities.

## Indian MEA reacts to US charging Indian of plotting to kill Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

In response to the US indictment of an Indian national implicated in a murder conspiracy, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed concern on Thursday (30 November), emphasising that such actions contradict government policy.

According to Hindustan Times, MEA spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi, reiterated that during bilateral security discussions with the US, information was shared regarding the connection between organised crime, arms dealers, and terrorists.

Bagchi stressed that they take these inputs very seriously and a high-level inquiry committee has been formed to investigate every aspect of the case. The committee's findings will prompt necessary follow-up actions. However, Bagchi maintained that they cannot disclose any additional details about such sensitive security issues, reports Swarjya.

The spokesperson emphasised the gravity of the situation, stating that the connection between international organised crime, trafficking, gunrunning, and extremism poses a significant challenge for law enforcement agencies and organizations.



Nikhil Gupta of India charged in plot to kill Gurpatwant Singh. Pic - ARY News

Regarding the issue with Canada, the MEA expressed its concern that Canada has continually harboured anti-India extremists, which is the crux of the problem. "Our diplomats in Canada have suffered the most from

this situation. Hence, we anticipate that the Canadian government will fulfill its responsibilities as per the Vienna Convention," said the spokesperson.

On Wednesday, an Indian citizen was charged by US federal prosecutors for his involvement in a thwarted alleged assassination attempt of a Sikh separatist in the United States.

The indictment didn't disclose the names of the Sikh leader, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, or the Indian government official who allegedly collaborated with the accused, Nikhil Gupta.

Interview: Nando Bodha, Candidat premier ministériel de Linion Moris

# “Se débarrasser du MSM et de son régime, n'est pas pour nous un programme. C'est un objectif...”

Si c'est le programme du PTr-MMM-PMSD, c'est en effet un peu mince”

**L**inion Moris se démarque des autres partis politiques en lice pour les prochaines élections générales. En effet, Nando Bodha a commencé à présenter quelques pans du programme de son parti au grand public. Il compte ainsi grossir le nombre de ses sympathisants à travers la vision et le projet de société envisagé par cette alliance. Les membres de son parti travaillent sur le programme en tenant compte du contexte contemporain et des enjeux que l'avenir nous impose. Comme Nando Bodha a déjà travaillé sous plusieurs gouvernements, il explique la direction que prend Linion Moris avec la force de l'adhésion sans faille de l'ensemble des membres de cette alliance.

**Mauritius Times :** “Caraille pé chauffé,” semble-t-il, à observer l'intensification des attaques du Premier ministre contre ses principaux adversaires et celles-ci sont diffusées presque quotidiennement au journal télévisé de la MBC-TV durant la soirée. De toute évidence, Pravind Jugnauth est déjà en campagne électorale, mais on ne sait pas si cette campagne électorale sera longue ou non, ou si les choses sérieuses vont intervenir après le prochain budget. Quelle analyse faites-vous de la situation politique actuelle et de ce que vous percevez comme la stratégie du leader du MSM?

**Nando Bodha :** Pravind Jugnauth n'est pas en campagne électorale. Il est en train de cajoler et caresser un électoral précis dans le sens du poil pour le préparer à une campagne électorale qui viendra quand elle viendra. Cela fait partie de sa stratégie électorale. Il y aura cette stratégie, jouant sur le temps, pour ensuite déclarer les élections et, ensuite, jouant à fond une campagne courte mais intense.

La MBC joue en effet – comme toujours – son rôle de porte-voix avec, je le rappelle, l'argent des contribuables. Ce n'est pas nouveau, mais cela n'en est pas moins scandaleux. Cela ne m'inquiète pas outre mesure car le service public de radio-télévision a perdu depuis longtemps à la fois sa crédibilité et une grande partie de ses auditeurs et téléspectateurs. Ceux qui restent devant leur poste sont soit des partisans du MSM – ceux qu'on appelle des *chatwas*.

La seule stratégie qui reste à Pravind Jugnauth, c'est celle d'acheter les votes en jouant sur une division scientifique et tablant sur une opposition qui a du mal à s'unir. Pour lui, chaque électeur a un prix. Il ratisse large pour ensuite cibler les segments utilisant les dernières technologies.

*Caraille pa pe chauffer? Caraille fini dan difé.* Jugnauth ne peut compter que sur la MBC pour relayer ses messages ou des organisations socioculturelles où il sait que personne ne le contredira ou ne sont présents que des *béni-oui-oui*. Quand a eu lieu sa dernière confrontation avec la presse? Je ne me souviens plus. C'est le signe même d'une fin de règne et il le sait très bien d'où son utilisation à outrance de la MBC.

Il n'a aucune stratégie propre à lui, ce qui est totalement différent de Sir Anerood. Il est l'otage de *Lakwizin* et ne fait qu'obéir à des ordres. Qui dirige le pays aujourd'hui? Demandez aux fonctionnaires qui sont quotidiennement harcelés par *Lakwizin* pour prendre des décisions allant contre les principes de la *good governance*. Les officiers aux échelons les plus élevés de l'État sont impuissants car pour conserver son poste, il faut obéir aux ordres. Il faut exécuter les ordres. C'est du jamais vu dans la fonction publique: une politisation à tous les échelons.



**\* En tout cas, Rama Valayden et vous-même semblez aussi croire en l'imminence des prochaines législatives. On vous a vu tous deux présenter votre “équipe nationale” dont une liste de candidats de Linion Moris qui brigueront les suffrages aux prochaines élections générales, et les deux premiers ministrables en cas de victoire. Les élections ne sont pas pour demain, autant que l'on sache. Pourquoi cette grande urgence, donc?**

Qu'est-ce qui vous fait croire que nous croyons dans l'imminence des prochaines législatives? Nous avons présenté notre équipe à la population il y a une semaine, mais cela ne signifie pas que nous pensons que les élections sont derrière la porte.

Nous n'en savons rien, mais nous nous y prenons assez tôt parce que nous souhaitons que les Mauriciens commencent à connaître les hommes et les femmes engagés avec Linion Moris. Ce sont des hommes et des femmes de terrain qui ont déjà entrepris d'aller à la rencontre des Mauriciens pour partager avec eux le projet de Linion Moris.

Nous sommes dans une logique de l'information et de dialogue et non dans celle de ces alliances qui propulsent d'illustres inconnus sur des listes électorales à la veille du

“Nous vivons dans un pays où la grosse majorité des électeurs est fractionnée. On veut la morceler en communautés, en clans, en familles, en factions, en lobbys, en groupements ou de groupuscules qui ne réfléchissent qu'en fonction de leurs intérêts respectifs. Notre système politique et électoral s'est tellement bipolarisé dans une logique dynastique qu'il ne fait aucune place à du sang neuf et... je dirai même à de nouvelles audaces...”

Nomination Day en nous demandant de voter pour eux les yeux fermés. Nous comptons sur notre sens de mission, nos convictions et nos idées. Beaucoup attendent pour se joindre à nous.

Nous n'avons pas la même conception de l'action politique. Nous voulons convaincre par la sincérité, la détermination et, bien sûr, des idées et des solutions, et ainsi établir notre différence.

La situation est dramatique. La compétence et la méritocratie n'ont plus de sens. Partout, on entend dire que toutes les institutions sont accaparées par des *chatwas*... Le dernier exemple est à la NEF et c'est n'est pas tout. Faites une enquête parmi les CEO de nos institutions, vous verrez l'étendue de ce cancer qui ronge le pays: la médiocratie. Parmi se trouvent des personnes avec des cahiers judiciaires, y compris un conseiller de ministre.

Sur le plan économique, la dévaluation de la roupie est une politique adoptée par la Banque de Maurice pour montrer que tout va bien alors que la population n'arrive pas à joindre les deux bouts. Il y a eu une augmentation excessive des prix causée par la dévaluation de notre roupie. Le pouvoir d'achat a tellement diminué que c'est devenu un cauchemar pour la majorité des familles mauriciennes.

La situation sociale est au bord de l'explosion. Les récents événements à la Citadelle et à Trou d'Eau Douce sont extrêmement dangereux pour le tissu social mauricien, déjà fragilisé par la politique de division du régime actuel.

La drogue et la corruption sont à l'ordre du jour et ce qui fait frissonner, c'est l'aveu même du PM que la mafia a infiltré les institutions de l'État, Cela implique qu'il sait qui est cette mafia et ne fait rien pour contrer ce fléau.

Pourquoi se demande la population? Les courses, le Lotto et le *gambling* ont pris de l'ampleur. Mais qui sont ces gens qui ont les nouveaux permis? Il le sait très bien, mais il se trouve dans une situation d'impuissance car il a les poings et les pieds liés. Conséquence: la culture des 'zougadère' se propage extrêmement bien.

**\* L'agenda principal de l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD, c'est de «débarrasser le pays des griffes du MSM», comme le soutient Navin Ramgoolam. Pour vous, et Linion Moris également, «Pravind Jugnauth et Navin Ramgoolam portent tous deux le germe de la corruption». On conclut donc qu'il faut s'en débarrasser aussi. C'est assez mince comme programme politique pour une alliance ou une “Linion” qui aspire à diriger le pays, non?**

Comment êtes-vous arrivé à cette conclusion? Notre programme est prêt avec des solutions: nous sommes en train de *finetune* les éléments des différentes formations.

- Une nouvelle Constitution limitant tous les mandats du Premier ministre et aussi l'accès aux autres grands postes à deux mandats uniquement
- Un nouveau Parlement reflétant le dynamisme de notre démocratie
- Un comité constitutionnel pour les grandes nominations

☞ Suite en page 11

# 'Je suis convaincu qu'une bataille à trois devrait permettre au peuple d'aspirer à une île Maurice propre où il y aurait l'unité et le partage'

☞ Suite de la page 10

- Une économie avec de nouveaux piliers, l'agro-industrie, les nouvelles technologies, l'économie bleue
- Des réformes profondes pour l'éducation, la santé, la formation
- Des milliers de bourses d'études pour les jeunes
- Un réel accompagnement pour les personnes âgées face à la solitude et un accès facile aux soins spécialisés
- *Bef travay bef manze*: A travail égal, salaire égal

Se débarrasser du MSM et de son régime, ce n'est pas pour nous un programme. C'est un objectif. C'est un cri du peuple. Si c'est le programme du PTr-MMM-PMMSD, c'est en effet un peu mince. Linion préfère focaliser ses énergies sur l'élaboration d'un programme. Un vrai programme! Qui exposera, de manière complète et détaillée, les principes et les objectifs qui servent à guider les actions de notre mouvement. Chaque chose en son temps.

**“Vous voulez que l'on dise que Ramgoolam est pire que Jugnauth, ou que Jugnauth est pire que Ramgoolam. L'essentiel n'est pas là, plus de deux tiers de la population ne veut ni de l'un, ni de l'autre. Notre pays n'est pas une monarchie. Cinquante ans après notre Indépendance, le peuple veut un nouveau cycle dans notre histoire politique...”**

Voter contre n'est pas un programme politique. C'est une démarche tactique. Linion s'engage autrement parce qu'on a fini par dévaluer les programmes à force de se confondre en tactiques politiciennes électorales. Nous voulons proposer un programme solide, ambitieux, novateur, et c'est un pacte avec le peuple.

Il ne suffit pas d'être connu (ou de crier plus fort que les autres). Il faut un projet, des équipes avec lesquelles on a l'habitude de travailler et, surtout, l'honnêteté de solliciter des opinions distancées.

**\* Vous ne suggérez aucune hiérarchie entre Ramgoolam et Jugnauth. Selon vous, les deux sont donc nuisibles pour le pays même si Ramgoolam ne contrôle plus les leviers du pouvoir, et ce, depuis bien-tôt 10 ans?**

Vous voulez que l'on dise que Ramgoolam est pire que Jugnauth, ou que Jugnauth est pire que Ramgoolam. L'essentiel n'est pas là, plus de deux tiers de la population ne veut ni de l'un, ni de l'autre.

Notre pays n'est pas une monarchie. Cinquante ans après notre Indépendance, le peuple veut un nouveau cycle dans notre histoire politique, nous sommes à la croisée des chemins.

Quoi qu'il en soit, il y a deux réalités.

L'un des deux s'est jeté sur les dernières forces qui lui restent pour tenter de reconquérir le pouvoir. Dans quel but? Je me le demande. L'autre est considéré comme un petit arriviste qui doit coûte que coûte protéger et conserver l'empire financier qu'il s'est construit en enrichissant une forme de bourgeoisie de l'État qui orbite dans la périphérie du pouvoir et ne carbure qu'à l'argent, mais aussi la peur de la justice et de la vérité dans beaucoup de cas.

Un vieux proverbe africain dit : lorsque les éléphants se

battent, c'est l'herbe qui souffre. Nous, nous restons à l'écart de cet affrontement pour protéger l'herbe... Notre manière de penser la culture du pouvoir est différent.

**\* En tout cas, l'échec de Paul Bérenger de se débarrasser de Navin Ramgoolam, du PTr et de "L'Entente de l'Espoir" d'alors vous a éloigné du leadership d'une grande alliance de l'opposition - et éventuellement de la possibilité d'être présenté comme son candidat au poste de Premier ministre. Est-ce Bérenger ou est-ce vous qui avez fait le mauvais calcul en ce qui concerne le contrôle absolu de Ramgoolam sur le Parti Travailiste et sa détermination à diriger l'alliance de l'opposition?**

Excusez-moi, à mon avis, les petits calculs des uns et des autres sont insignifiants. Parce qu'ils n'ont souvent d'autre but que de satisfaire des egos et des ambitions de ceux qui n'ont comme objectif que de conquérir le pouvoir pour le pouvoir. Bons calculs, mauvais calculs, etc...

L'Entente de l'Espoir avait le vent en poupe, elle avait tout pour dynamiser les forces de l'opposition. Ramgoolam, étant hors-jeu, a tout fait pour que Bérenger tombe encore une fois dans une stratégie de division, avec les 'coze coze' qui ont duré de novembre 2022 à août 2023.

Aujourd'hui encore, l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMMSD est floue, et on ne parle plus de transition, de rupture, de programme. Finalement, il est toujours question du nombre de tickets, de positionnement, et bien sûr -- il semblerait que c'est Ramgoolam qui dicte les enjeux. Il tient et le PTr et l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMMSD en otage.

Je n'ai pas voulu participer au 'coze coze' connaissant la méthode Ramgoolam parce que je ne vois pas une alliance dirigée par Ramgoolam gagner les élections, encore plus amener le changement tant voulu par le peuple.

C'est pour cela que je suis convaincu qu'une bataille à trois devrait permettre au peuple d'aspirer à une île Maurice propre où il y aurait l'unité et le partage.

La survie de notre pays dépend de notre capacité à examiner les grandes tendances du monde actuel et à dégager des hypothèses de développement dans un contexte de plus en plus complexe de bouleversements divers : climat, démographie, intelligence artificielle... Vous ne pensez pas que ces enjeux-là sont bien plus importants pour le pays que de savoir si j'ai été éloigné de la possibilité d'être candidat au poste de PM ?

**\* C'est à l'électorat d'en décider... Toutefois, parmi les conclusions du dernier sondage Synthèses-l'express, en ce qui concerne le taux d'adhésion aux différents partis et alliances politiques, on note que les partis extraparlimentaires ne recueillent que 4% des intentions de vote. Pensez-vous que ce sondage reflète la réalité en termes du poids que pèsent les partis sur l'échiquier, et en particulier, ceux qui sont extras parle-**

**“Jugnauth est déjà hors-jeu dans beaucoup de circonscriptions tant rurales qu'urbaines. Ses structures sont dépassées et n'existent que parce que le MSM est au pouvoir. Je connais le MSM. Aujourd'hui, c'est seulement le dossard du pouvoir comme un maillot jaune qui lui permet de parler haut et fort. Quand le peuple pourra respirer et s'exprimer, la vraie alternance à Jugnauth va se concrétiser...”**



**“La seule stratégie qui reste à Pravind Jugnauth, c'est celle d'acheter les votes en jouant sur une division scientifique et tablant sur une opposition qui a du mal à s'unir. Pour lui, chaque électeur a un prix. Il ratisse large pour ensuite cibler les segments utilisant les dernières technologiques...”**

mentaires?

Un sondage, c'est une photographie du moment. Premier constat: il y a un parti au pouvoir, le MSM, nous savons ce que cela signifie à Maurice.

Deuxième constat: il n'y a plus de grands partis. Il y a des partis traditionnels et les nouveaux. 4%! Ça vous étonne? Moi, non!

La majorité des Mauriciens sont un cri: c'est l'appel pour un renouveau.

Ça ne m'étonne pas parce que nous vivons dans un pays où la grosse majorité des électeurs est fractionnée. On veut la morceler en communautés, en clans, en familles, en factions, en lobbys, en groupements ou de groupuscules qui ne réfléchissent qu'en fonction de leurs intérêts respectifs.

Notre système politique et électoral s'est tellement bipolarisé dans une logique dynastique qu'il ne fait aucune place à du sang neuf et à des nouvelles idées, je dirai même à de nouvelles audaces.

Tout cela provoque une cacophonie de visions, d'objectifs, d'intérêts et de croyances dans un contexte de soupçon généralisé contre les institutions.

Cela dit, ce que je retiens surtout de ce sondage, c'est une usure de l'opinion publique qui considère que l'offre politique ne correspond pas à ses préoccupations et aux sujets qui la concerne vraiment.

Mais tout change ! Aujourd'hui, les Mauriciens cherchent à vivre dans un pays où l'unité, le partage, la méritocratie et la démocratie puissent donner un exemple au monde.

C'est ce vide que Linion Moris veut combler.

Il nous faut une alternative réelle et crédible avec un leadership qui rassure et une équipe compétente.

☞ Suite en page 12

# 'Jugnauth pense qu'il peut s'acheter une majorité minoritaire face à un opposition divisée. Je ne le crois pas'

☞ Suite de la page 11

\* Curieusement toutefois, on ne voit pas le leader de l'alliance gouvernementale, qui se dit être l'homme le mieux informé du pays, attaquer les partis extra parlementaires, dont Linion Moris. Sa cible principale, c'est Ramgoolam, pas Bodha, Bhadain ou Valayden. Soit il garde la porte ouverte, soit il serait d'avis que cela ne vaut pas le coup. Comment réagissez-vous à cela?

Ce que fait Jugnauth le regarde. Jugnauth cible Ramgoolam parce qu'il est préoccupé par un certain électorat, sa réalité rurale à lui et le mythe du 4 à 14. Il fait une très grosse erreur, Jugnauth est déjà hors-jeu dans beaucoup de circonscriptions tant rurales qu'urbaines.

Ses structures sont dépassées et n'existent que parce que le MSM est au pouvoir. Je connais le MSM. Aujourd'hui, c'est seulement le dossard du pouvoir comme un maillot jaune qui lui permet de parler haut et fort. Quand le peuple pourra respirer et s'exprimer, la vraie alternance à Jugnauth va se concrétiser.

Permettez-moi de vous poser une question: croyez-vous qu'en se tirant dans les pattes à longueur de journée, les chefs de partis ont préoccupés par le sort du peuple? Ne feraient-ils pas mieux de remettre en question leurs certitudes et leurs hypothèses pour essayer d'élever un peu le débat politique pour mieux comprendre les Mauriciens?

\* Probablement, mais là également, c'est à l'électorat d'en décider. Pour revenir aux priorités de Linion Moris, on note que vous souhaiteriez "effacer les larmes des mères" des drogués, éliminer la fraude et la corruption dans le pays, protéger l'environnement, s'attaquer au "système des tenders mafia du MSM", etc. Vous mettez aussi l'emphase sur l'affirmation que "la différence entre nous et les autres, c'est la sincérité, la volonté et la détermination". Voyez-vous un tel programme susciter l'adhésion d'une grande partie de l'électorat qui serait plus réceptif au 14e mois ou à l'augmentation de la pension de vieillesse?

Vous n'êtes pas en train de citer notre programme, mais ce que j'ai dit lors de la présentation des équipes de Linion. Ce n'est pas notre programme. Votre référence au 14e mois et à l'augmentation de la pension résume bien ce à quoi a été réduite la politique dans notre pays. A des avantages pécuniers immédiats et à court terme.

Jugnauth, je le répète, pense qu'il peut s'acheter une majorité minoritaire face à un opposition divisée. Je ne le crois pas. L'électorat mauricien peut être admirable et, en même temps, avoir un rêve pour ses enfants et son pays. Je le crois sincèrement.

\* Par ailleurs, Rama Valayden a déclaré lors de la présentation de votre "équipe nationale" qu'une fois au pouvoir, "les décisions seront prises en toute collégialité... na pas pou ena missié-kone-tout...". Pour avoir été



“La Constitution est claire: le Premier ministre a ses pouvoirs et ses prérogatives. Il doit, et le PM de Linion, va les exercer comme il se doit. Il y aura bien sûr les consultations, les institutions vont fonctionner comme cela se doit dans la transparence et l'accountability. Le Premier ministre est maître à bord...”

ministre dans les gouvernements de Sir Anerood Jugnauth ou ce lui dirigé par Navin Ramgoolam, vous savez sans doute que la collégialité n'a pas sa place dans notre système quasi-présidentiel. N'est-ce pas le germe de la discorde qui est en train d'être semé là?

La Constitution est claire: le Premier ministre a ses pouvoirs et ses prérogatives. Il doit, et le PM de Linion, va les exercer comme il se doit. Il y aura bien sûr les consultations, les institutions vont fonctionner comme cela se doit dans la transparence et l'accountability.

Le Premier ministre est maître à bord.

Mon objectif est simple, c'est un sacerdoce. Je veux changer de système de gouvernance et je présenterai une nouvelle approche dans la gestion des affaires du pays à la génération actuelle et future. J'encouragerai l'émergence d'une nouvelle génération de leaders politiques.

\* Toutefois, quiconque veut devenir Premier ministre doit recevoir un mandat de l'électorat. Le seul Premier ministre dont vous allez vous inspirer, si vous réussissez à obtenir ce mandat, ce sera sans doute SAJ?

J'ai été ministre pendant plus d'une douzaine d'années sous quatre Premiers ministres. La séduction de Ramgoolam aurait été une très belle chose, si elle avait été vraie. Le sens de calcul de Pravind Jugnauth donne le frisson. Mais il peut être complètement à côté de la réalité d'un peuple qui désire ardemment un vrai changement.

“Des ordinateurs analysent le comportement des passants et des voitures dans la rue en permanence. Cela permet de détecter les accidents mais aussi de traquer des fugitifs, de reconnaître des visages, de suivre les gens à la trace, et sans doute aussi d'intercepter et d'écouter des conversations privées. Vous croyez que Jugnauth a dépensé Rs 19 milliards pour le projet Safe City pour intercepter des pick pockets?”

Je dois dire que j'ai beaucoup appris. La capacité de travail de Paul Bérenger est une leçon. Le sens de décision de Sir Anerood est une grande leçon à retenir. Mais la chose essentielle, c'est qu'il faut aimer son peuple et tout mettre en œuvre pour lui offrir le meilleur avenir possible.

\* Deux questions sont d'actualité ces temps-ci. D'abord, entant que légiste dans l'Opposition, quel regard jetez-vous sur l'ICAC et sa performance depuis 2014 avec en filigrane le projet de coiffer toutes les institutions d'investigation par une future "Financial Crimes Commission" (FCC) aux contours encore flous? Cela poserait-il des problèmes d'ordre constitutionnel, selon vous?

C'est une approche purement politique pour mieux contrôler les dossiers politiques liés à la corruption. Le fonctionnement de l'ICAC nous montre comment on pourra encore mieux cadenciser cette nouvelle institution.

Linion veut un pays propre, libre de la drogue, de la nar-co économie, du blanchiment d'argent sale, et de la fraude et de la corruption. Il faut une nouvelle politique pour le procurement et le recruitment au plus niveau des institutions. Nous savons ce que le FCC va donner et les nominations qui vont suivre.

"L'ICAC pa guette figir"... C'était le slogan de son lancement. Et si je demande la liste de toutes les plaintes reçues à l'ICAC? A réfléchir...

\* Par ailleurs, la société civile s'émeut de la proposi-

“Votre référence au 14e mois et à l'augmentation de la pension résume bien ce à quoi a été réduite la politique dans notre pays. A des avantages pécuniers immédiats et à court terme. Jugnauth, je le répète, pense qu'il peut s'acheter une majorité minoritaire face à un opposition divisée. Je ne le crois pas. L'électorat mauricien peut être admirable et, en même temps, avoir un rêve pour ses enfants et son pays. ...”



tion, par «regulations» de l'ICTA, du projet de réenregistrement des cartes SIM avec données biométriques et photos en couleur reliées à une base de données. Pensez-vous que c'est pour combattre le fléau de la drogue ouest-ce une tentative déguisée de mettre sous surveillance les opposants du régime?

Nous avons tout lieu de nous inquiéter. Est-il nécessaire de fichier quasiment toute la population pour combattre une infime minorité de trafiquants de drogue? C'est un mauvais prétexte. Je suis convaincu que, comme l'explique fort bien Ivor Tan Yan, le MSM tente de mettre en place un réseau de surveillance qui fait clairement penser à Big Brother.

Des ordinateurs analysent le comportement des passants et des voitures dans la rue en permanence. Cela permet de détecter les accidents mais aussi de traquer des fugitifs, de reconnaître des visages, de suivre les gens à la trace, et sans doute aussi d'intercepter et d'écouter des conversations privées.

Vous croyez que Jugnauth a dépensé Rs 19 milliards pour le projet Safe City pour intercepter des pickpockets?

Le collectif de journalistes d'investigation "Forbidden Stories" a révélé au début de l'année qu'une entreprise clandestine israélienne, spécialisée dans la manipulation électorale, notamment par les réseaux sociaux, a été utilisée pour influencer des dizaines d'élections dans le monde, particulièrement en Afrique.

La société, surnommée Team Jorge par les journalistes, est intervenue dans 33 campagnes électorales. Sur ces 33 campagnes, les deux tiers d'entre elles [ont eu lieu] en Afrique anglophone et francophone. Vingt-sept ont été un succès.

La société a notamment développé depuis six ans une plateforme numérique qui lui permet de créer à volonté de faux comptes sur les réseaux sociaux, mais aussi et surtout de les activer, de les animer pour leur donner un vernis d'existence.

Le système exploitait début janvier 2023, 39 213 faux profils différents, consultables dans une sorte de catalogue. On y trouve des avatars de toutes ethnies et nationalités, de tous genres, célibataires ou en couple... Leurs visages sont des portraits de vraies personnes piochées sur Internet, et leurs patronymes, la combinaison de milliers de noms et de prénoms stockés dans une base de données.

Ces ont ces types de données que recueilleront les opérateurs téléphoniques mauriciens pour le compte du gouvernement.

Je vous laisse imaginer l'usage qu'on peut en faire dans le contexte d'une élection législative qui semble perdue d'avance...

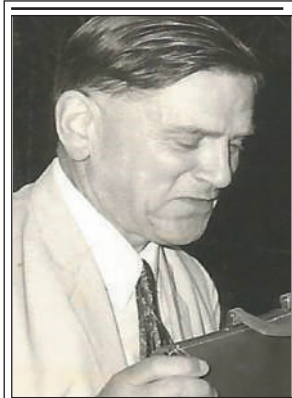
From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 257

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 17 July, 1959

• One can't create love. Love comes by itself. — Geetakory



Peter Ibbotson

# Aspects of Secondary Education

**T**he recent publication by the Ministry of Education of the analysis of results in the 1958 School Certificate examination has dismayed the principals of the many mushroom private colleges. When the Minister told Hon B. Ramlallah (Labour, Poudre d'Or) in April that the Cambridge Syndicate was averse to publication of percentage passes scored by individual schools, these same principals were happy; they thought that the academic shortcomings of their schools and colleges would be forever cloaked in secrecy. The Syndicate had, however, based its refusal to have the results published on experience elsewhere; when it was told that publication of the results of individual schools in Mauritius would be desirable, in view of the peculiar circumstances of the Island and the proliferation of private secondary schools (many of which are mere money-grubbing academies), there was a change of mind in Cambridge. Hence the present discomfiture of many private college principals.

Thanks to the many private candidates who enter for School Certificate but do not pass, Mauritius has a bad overall record among Commonwealth territories where the School Certificate is taken. The table below shows for 1957 the number of School Certificate candidates in certain colonies, with the number of those gaining a Certificate; this number is expressed as a percentage as well as absolutely (see: **Table A - School Certificate Results - 1957**).

Territory	No. of Candidates	No. of Passes	Passes (%)
Nyasaland	72	60	83
Singapore	3,170	2,308	72
Nigeria	3,782	2,655	70
Northern Rhodesia	344	238	69
Tanganyika	667	458	68
Jamaica	1,584	1,007	63
Trinidad	2,685	1,643	60
Sierra Leone & Gambia	256	147	57
Zanzibar	173	100	57
Ghana	2,222	1,227	55
Uganda	1,314	698	53
Mauritius	2,448	606	25

And in Kenya, two-thirds of the candidates gained their certificates.

And the figures for the 1958 results in Mauritius? We find that 2,162 candidates sat the examination; and 704 passed — a percentage of 32.6 — higher than in 1957. It is true, but a shockingly low percentage none the less, and far below the percentage passes of any other territory. An analysis of the percentage passes of the various



groups of schools distinguished by the Syndicate is published at the end of this article (see: **Table B - School Certificate Results - Schools' Performance**).

Type of School	No. of Candidates	No. of Passes	Passes (%)
Government "A"	198	146	73.6
Aided "A" & "B"	311	229	73.6
Non-Aided "B"	303	102	33.6
Provisional "B"	824	173	20.9
Non-Approved	526	54	10.2

Of the five Non-Aided "B" schools, three (Loreto Convent, Rose Hill, St Mary's College, and the Collège Bon et Perpétuel Secours) are eligible for government aid; their percentage of passes was 58 out of 68, or 85 p.c.; it was the poor performances by New Eton (15 passes out of 97 candidates) and Trinity (29 out of 138) Colleges which pulled down the group performance.

We find that no Government or Aided school had less than 63% of its candidates passing, except St Andrew's School with 59.5 p.c. passes. Except for the three special cases of the Non-Aided "B" schools referred to above, which are eligible for aid but do not get it, we find that no Non-Aided school (provisional "B" or non-approved) had a higher percentage of passes than 28.3% (at Neo) except the Islamic Cultural College (48.5%) and the Adventist College (30%). These two can be excepted — on account of their specific religious affiliation — from the charge that by and large the private colleges are conducted with an eye to the profit of their proprietors' pockets rather than to the profit of their pupils' brains.

Yet the existence of these private colleges demonstrates that there is an unsatisfied urge among the people for a wider provision of secondary education than at present exists. Up to now the Government has been unable to provide all the secondary education that is called for by the people; but more provision is being made. More Government secondary schools will be built. One is under way at Beau-Bassin; at least two more are needed, one in the rural area of the north, to save chil-

dren from the north a long daily journey; and equally, one in the rural south. But people must be wary of equating secondary education with grammar school education of the kind traditionally associated with the Royal College and the Loreto Convents.

I am not denigrating the value of these (and other similar) schools; but it is true that they educate their pupils in an academic man-

ner and fit them only for white-collar jobs: for jobs as clerks, as civil servants, as (as regards a minority) for the learned professions. One of the valuable, commendable things which Mr Snell (I apologise to the gentleman — Mr Kynaston-Snell, I mean, of course; carnation and all) has done is the analysis he published in the Education Department's bulletin of August 1958, on the employability of secondary school pupils. He showed conclusively that the secondary schools are educating potential white-collar worker far in excess of the country's actual needs; referring to candidates for the School Certificate, passes and failures too, he says (and rightly): "It is possible that all have dissociated themselves from anything but the search for a white-collar job." And he rightly quotes Francis Bacon in asking what happens "when more are bred scholars, than preferment can take off."

A realignment of the secondary schools and what is taught in them is needed. Mr Luce rightly drew attention to the fact that education in Mauritius is not in keeping with the needs of the modern society. A start has been made with the Technical School in reorienting the emphasis on secondary education, but it is a small start which at the moment bids fair to grow but slowly. But it is a start, and from little acorns do mighty oak trees grow. The Central School will help redress the balance away from the emphasis on grammar school education too; but it is a pity that with the grammar schools, the technical school, the central school, and so on, there is being given credence in Mauritius to the fallacy that children can be sorted out at the age of 12 by a scholarship examination into types of children, the best being destined to become the nation's leaders, the worst being forever destined to be merely hewers of wood and drawers of water.

I know that the Director of Education is a believer in the varying types of children; I know too that he is a Christian. And in the Church Catechism it clearly states that the Christian shall do his duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call him. Not, be it noted, as is often misquoted, "in that state of life unto which it has pleased God to call him".

Since the Christian believes that God shall call him to a state of life, not has called him, it follows that the education provided should give equal opportunity for all to achieve that state in life. But the provision of different sorts of secondary education on the grounds that some are born brainy, and others are born dull is anti-Christian.

Cont. from page 2

White collar workers such as graphic designers and lawyers have now also started to worry for their jobs. One recent study of an online job marketplace found earnings for writing and editing jobs have fallen more than 10% since ChatGPT was launched. The gig economy might be the canary in this coalmine.

There's huge uncertainty whether more jobs get destroyed by AI than created. But one thing is now certain: AI will be hugely disruptive in how we work.

### 3. Death of the essay

The education sector reacted with some hostility to ChatGPT's arrival, with many schools and education authorities issuing immediate bans over its use. If ChatGPT can write essays, what will happen to homework?

Of course, we don't ask people to write essays because there's a shortage of them, or even because many jobs require this. We ask them to write essays because it demands research skills, improves communication skills, critical thinking, and domain knowledge. No matter what ChatGPT offers, these skills will still be needed, even if we spend less time developing them.

And it isn't only school children cheating with AI. Earlier this year, a US judge fined two lawyers and a law firm US\$5,000 for a court filing written with ChatGPT that included made-up legal citations.

I imagine these are growing pains. Education is an area in which AI has much to offer. Large language models such as ChatGPT can, for example, be fine-tuned into excellent Socratic tutors. And intelligent tutoring systems can be infinitely patient when generating precisely targeted revision questions.

### 4. Copyright chaos

This one is personal. Authors around the world were outraged to discover that many large language models such as ChatGPT were trained on hundreds of thousands of books, downloaded from the web without their consent.

The reason AI models can converse fluently about everything from AI to zoology is because they're trained on books about everything from AI to zoology. And the books about AI include my own copyrighted books about AI.

The irony isn't lost on me that an AI professor's books about AI are controversially being used to train AI. Multiple class action suits are now in play in the US to determine if this is a violation of copyright laws.

Users of ChatGPT have even pointed out examples where chatbots have generated entire chunks of text, verbatim, taken from copyrighted books.

### 5. Misinformation and disinformation

In the short term, one challenge which worries me most is the use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT to create misinformation and disinformation.

This concern goes beyond synthetic text, to deepfake audio and videos that are indistinguishable from real ones. A bank has already been robbed using AI-generated cloned voices.

Elections also now appear threatened. Deepfakes played an unfortunate role in the 2023 Slovak parlia-

# A Year of ChatGPT



Pic - edition.cnn.com

news platform and the chairman of the Progressive Slovakia party reached thousands of social media users. Commentators have suggested such fake content could have a material impact on election outcomes.

According to The Economist, more than four billion people will be asked to vote in various elections next year. What happens in such elections when we combine the reach of social media to with the power and persuasion of AI-generated fake content? Will it unleash a wave of misinformation and disinformation onto our already fragile democracies?

It's hard to predict what will unfold next year. But if 2023 is anything to go by, I suggest we buckle up.

**Toby Walsh**, Professor of AI,  
Research Group Leader, UNSW Sydney

mentary election campaign. Two days prior to the election, a fake audio clip about electoral fraud that allegedly featured a well-known journalist from an independent

## Mauritius Times

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

## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

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

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

### Payment Options - Any one of the following

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

Bank	Account No	Swift Code	IBAN
MCB	000448214277	MCBLMUMU	MU71MCBL0901000448214277000MUR
SBM	50300000703075	STCBMUMU	MU17STCB1101000000703075000MUR
SBI	156000504401	INILMUMU	MU47INIL0801156000504401000MUR

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

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

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**

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

Tel - 5 2929 301 - 5 782 9861 - 212 1313 -- Email: [mtimes@intnet.mu](mailto:mtimes@intnet.mu)

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

Thank you so much.  
**Mauritius Times**



**Andy Phippen**  
Professor of IT Ethics  
and Digital Rights,  
Bournemouth  
University

# When to give your child their first mobile phone – and how to keep them safe

*Parents have a role to play in educating their children and making them aware of the risks that come with being online*

I spend my career researching young people and the internet: what they do online, what they think about it and how their views differ to those of their parents.

I often get questions from parents about their children's internet use. One of the most common is when to get their child a mobile phone, as well as how to keep them safe when they have one. Here are my answers to some key questions.

## How old should my child be when they get their first phone?

I'm afraid I often disappoint parents in my answer to this question by not giving them a definite number. But the key here is what your child is going to use the phone for – and when might be suitable for that individual child.

According to a 2023 report by UK communications regulator Ofcom, 20% of three year olds now own a mobile phone. But this phone may just be used for taking pictures, playing simple games and supervised video calls with family.



The more pertinent question is when children should have their own fully connected phone, which they can use unsupervised to contact others online.

When a child is primary school age, it's highly likely that they will be used to adult supervision in most aspects of their life. They will either be at school, at home, with friends and trusted adults or with other family members.

Their need to contact a distant adult may not be that great – but you will want to think about what the specific needs of your own child might be.

Typically, the transition from primary school to secondary is when children might be more distant from home or be involved in school activities or socialising with friends where being able to contact home becomes more important. I have spoken to plenty of young people who talk about starting secondary school as the point where they first had their own phone.

## How do I make sure they use a phone safely?

First of all, it's important that if your child is going online – at whatever age and regardless of the device they're using – you have a conversation with them about online safety.

Parents have a role to play in educating their children and making them aware of the risks that come with being online, as well as being mindful that most online experiences are not harmful.

I have carried out extensive research with young people on

online harms. As part of this research, I and colleagues developed a number of resources for parents, put together with the help of over 1,000 young people.

What these young people say the most is they want to know who to turn to when they need help. They want to be confident they will receive support, not a telling off or confiscation of their phone. This means that a key first step is to reassure your child that they can come to you with any problems they encounter, and you will help them without judgment.

It's also important to discuss with your child what they can and can't do with their device. This could mean, for instance, setting ground rules about which apps they can have installed on their phone, and when they should stop using their phone at the end of the day.

You should also explore the privacy settings for the apps that your child uses, in order to ensure that they cannot be contacted by strangers or access inappropriate content. The NSPCC has resources for parents on how to use privacy settings.

## Should I check my child's phone?

Sometimes parents ask me about whether they should be able to check a child's device – either by physically looking at the phone or by using "safetytech", software on another device that can access the communications on the child's phone.

I believe it's important that this is also something you discuss with your child. Trust is important to ensure that your child comes to you with any online issues, so if you want to monitor their phone, talk to them about it rather than doing so covertly.

It seems reasonable parental supervision to be accessing a child's device when they are of primary age, in the same way a parent would check with another child's parent before agreeing to let them visit their home.

However, as your child gets older, they might not want their parent to see all of their messages and online interactions. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly states that a child does have a right to privacy.

## Should I track my child's location through their phone?

I have spoken to some families that track each other's devices in an open and transparent manner, and this is a decision for the family. However, I have also spoken to children who find it very creepy that a teenage friend is tracked by their parents.

The question here is whether parents are reassuring themselves that their child is safe – or whether they want to know what they are doing without them knowing. I had a particularly memorable conversation with someone who told me their friend was extremely upset because their daughter had changed device and so they could no longer track her. When I asked how old the daughter was, they said she was 22.

It's also worth considering whether tech like this actually provides false reassurance. It may allow parents to know where their child is, but not necessarily whether they are safe.

As with monitoring a child's phone, it is worth reflecting upon whether a surveillance approach creates the ideal conditions for them to come to you with problems, or whether this is more likely to be fostered by open conversations and an environment of mutual trust.

# Today's Biggest Trends Will Collide

and reshape the future of everything

By Mauro F. Guillén



1. The world is getting older. The global population is aging, and this will have a profound impact on economies, societies, and cultures.
2. The middle class is growing in emerging markets. The middle class is expanding rapidly in emerging markets, and this will create new opportunities for businesses and consumers.
3. Women are becoming more powerful. Women are gaining more power and influence in all aspects of society, and this will lead to a more equitable and inclusive world.
4. Technology is changing everything. Technology is rapidly changing the way we live, work, and play. This will create new challenges and opportunities for businesses and individuals.
5. The environment is under threat. Climate change and other environmental challenges are becoming more pressing, and this will require urgent action from businesses and governments.
6. The world is becoming more interconnected. The world is becoming more interconnected through trade, travel, and communication. This will create new opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.
7. The future is uncertain. The future is uncertain, but it is clear that the world is changing rapidly. Businesses and individuals need to be prepared for change and adapt to new challenges.
8. We need to think laterally. The traditional ways of thinking about the world are no longer adequate. We need to think laterally and be open to new ideas if we want to succeed in the future.
9. We need to be collaborative. The challenges we face are too big for any one person or organization to solve. We need to work together to find solutions.
10. We need to be optimistic. The future is uncertain, but it is also full of possibilities. We need to be optimistic and believe that we can create a better future.

These are just a few of the key takeaways from the book "2030". If you are interested in learning more about the future of the world, I highly recommend reading this book.

*10 key takeaways from the book '2030: How Today's Biggest Trends Will Collide and Reshape the Future of Everything' by Mauro F. Guillén*

## Indicators of despair rising among Gen X-ers entering middle age

Indicators of despair -- depression, suicidal ideation, drug use and alcohol abuse -- are rising among Americans in their late 30s and early 40s across most demographic groups, according to new research led by Lauren Gaydosh, assistant Prof of Medicine, Health and Society and Public Policy Studies at Vanderbilt University. These findings suggest that the increase in "deaths of despair" observed among low-educated middle-aged white Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) in recent studies may begin to impact the youngest members of Generation X (born 1974-1983) more broadly in the years to come.

The study, *The Depths of Despair Among U.S. Adults Entering Midlife*, appears in the *'American Journal of Public Health'*.

In 2016, U.S. life expectancy began to decline for the first time in nearly a quarter-century, and researchers theorized that this was driven by a marked increase in deaths due to drug overdose, alcoholic cirrhosis and suicide among middle-aged whites with low education or in rural areas. At the time, this was explained by a unique



triple-punch of worsening employment prospects accompanied by a declining perception of socioeconomic status and an erosion of social supports for this group. But studies to better understand those mortality trends did not definitively show that low-income rural whites were actually experiencing more despair than other groups.

"What we wanted to do in this paper was to examine whether the factors that may be predictive of those causes of death -- substance use, suicidal ideation and depression -- are isolated to that particular population subgroup, or whether it's a more generalized phenomenon," Gaydosh said.

To do so, they turned to the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health, or Add Health, directed by Harris at the University of North Carolina, which tracked the physical and mental health of thousands of Americans born between 1974-1983 from adolescence through their late 30s and early 40s in 2016-18.

"We found that despair has increased in this cohort, but that increases are not restricted to non-Hispanic whites with low education," Gaydosh said. "Instead, the increase in despair that occurs across the 30s is generalized to the entire cohort, regardless of race, ethnicity, education, and geography."

While patterns of drinking, drug use and mental health symptoms varied across races and education levels -- whites were more likely to binge-drink in adolescence, while Hispanics and African Americans of all ages were more likely to report depressive symptoms, for example -- the trends were broadly the same. Adolescence was, perhaps unsurprisingly, a rocky time for everyone, followed by a period of improvement in their twenties. By the time the teens were in their late 30s, however, indicators of despair were trending back up across the board, and in some cases were higher for minority populations than they were for low-educated whites or rural adults.

Gaydosh and her colleagues say these findings should be cause for concern, as they suggest midlife mortality may begin to increase across a wide range of demographic groups.



## Why are bullies so mean? A youth psychology expert explains what's behind their harmful behaviour

*No matter your age, if you're being bullied - there's help out there*

Being bullied can make your life miserable, and decades of research prove it: Bullied children and teens are at risk for anxiety, depression, dropping out of school, peer rejection, social isolation and self-harm.

Adults can be bullied too, often at a job, and they may suffer just as much as kids do.

I'm a professor who studies child and adolescent development. That includes learning how people become bullies -- and how they can be stopped.

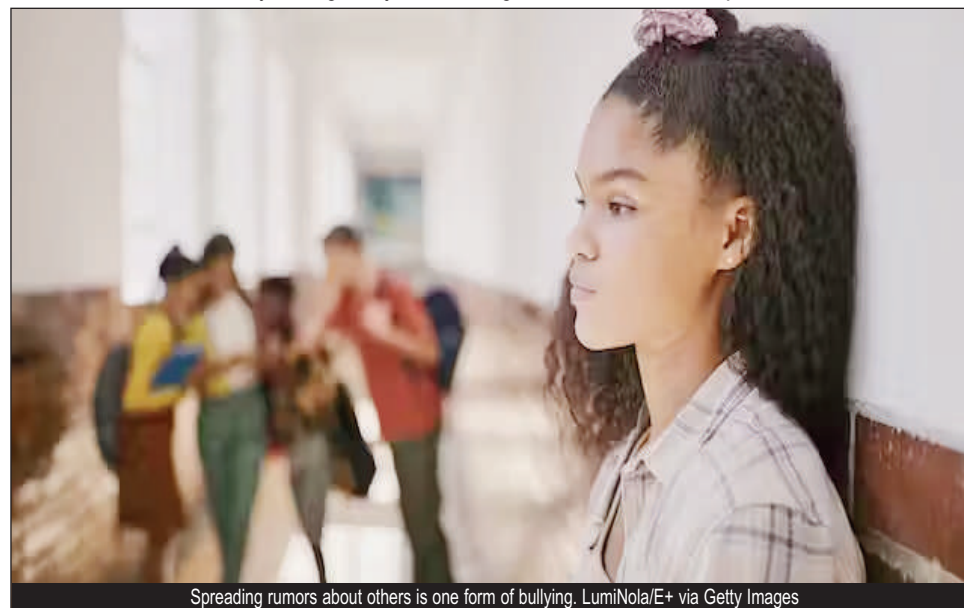
First, let's define what bullying is: It's mean-spirited, harmful behavior by someone with more power or status -- like a popular kid at school or a supervisor at work -- who repeatedly picks on, harasses, irritates or injures a person with less power or status.

Bullying can take many forms -- physical, like pushing, shoving and hitting; relational, such as spreading rumors, keeping somebody out of a friend group or just rude remarks; or sexual harassment and stalking behavior.

Sometimes, bullies target someone because of their race, religion, sexual orientation or appearance. People from the LGBTQ+ community, or who are overweight, or with a physical or developmental disability are more likely to be bullied. As a result, they may develop mental health problems, including depression, anxiety and self-harming behavior.

### So why do bullies do it?

People learn how to bully others early



Spreading rumors about others is one form of bullying. LumiNola/E+ via Getty Images

on through what psychologists call modeling and social learning. This means bullies see other people bullying and they essentially model, or copy, this aggressive behavior.

Media is a big culprit here. When mean or violent conduct is glamorized and gamified in music, video games, TV and movies, bullies will imitate what they see and hear, especially if it seems cool or if it's rewarded.

Family is also an influence. If children grow up in a home without kindness and closeness, but with plenty of physical punishment and heavy conflict -- including parents fighting with each other -- then children view this behavior as acceptable.

They can go on to treat their peers this way.

A similar thing happens when a kid falls into a group of friends who are bullies; they become more likely to bully others themselves. To say it another way, they bully because they think it makes them look cool in front of their friends.

And bullies bully for lots of other reasons. Some do it because it makes them feel better about themselves when they put other people down. Other bullies discovered that force and intimidation worked for them in the past, so it's a go-to strategy to get what they want. Still others simply have difficulty controlling themselves and can't calm down when they're angry.

And with some bullies, it's just a way to get ahead. For instance, an adult bully in the workplace may spread an embarrassing rumor about a co-worker to keep a rival from being promoted.

### How to handle bullies

Fortunately, there are lots of ways to stop a bully.

If you're a child or teenager, talk about what has happened with a trusted adult -- a parent, teacher, principal or counselor. They will help you figure out your next move. Schools are familiar with this sort of problem; they have policies in place to protect victims of bullying.

If you're an adult who has been bullied in the workplace, talk to your human resources department or a neutral supervisor who can advise you on next steps. You are also legally protected -- employment laws prohibit harassment and discriminatory behavior.

Whatever your age, it's a good idea to talk to friends or family members who may not be involved in the incident but who will offer support. Engaging in coping activities -- like exercising, or relaxing with a walk -- may also help.

And a final word: Bullying is not acceptable. It's not just "kids being kids," or that you're "too sensitive." If a bully is bothering you, don't try to handle it alone -- getting help is the way to get through.

Sara Goldstein

Professor of Human Development,  
University of Delaware





## It's a guy's first day in prison

**I**t's a guy's first day in prison and he's not taking to it very well.

He's off in the corner with that thousand-yard stare, hugging himself and rocking back and forth.

An old-timer takes pity on him and walks over.

"How ya' doin', kid? Having a rough time I see."

"Yeah, well look around. I'm in prison."

"Awww, shit! You've seen too many movies! It really ain't so bad in here - take it from me."

"How can you say that? What could possibly be good in a place like this?"

"Well, lemme ask you: You like baseball?"

"Of course! Who doesn't?"

"Well, every Monday night is Baseball Night! We all get to play! It's a lotta fun!"

"Huh! How about that!"

"Yeah! And Tuesday is Movie Night! We all get popcorn and sodas too! It's a hoot!"

"Wow! How about Wednesdays?"

"You like Italian food?"

"Are you kidding? I LOVE Italian food! "

"Italian Food night. Yeah! We feast like there's no tomorrow!"

"Holy cow! This is great!"

"You betcha!

"Tell me about Thursdays!"

"Oh, fuggit about it! Thursday's are off the hook up in here!"

"What? Tell me!!!" (He's all excited now!)

"Well, every Thursday, we all get together and..."

"And what?!?"

"And... Well, Kid, the thing is, I just met you, so..."

"So what?"

"Well, I, uh... I gotta ask you: You wouldn't happen to be one of those, you know, homo-sexuals, would'ya'?"

"Me? God, no! I'm straight as an arrow!"

"Oh... Well, in that case, you are REALLY gonna hate Thursdays!"

## Double the trouble

**A**woman's husband was cheating on her. The woman and her husband got a divorce and the woman went on with her life hating her ex-husband. One day she found a beautiful lamp tossed in the streets. She picked it up and rubbed it a little bit. Suddenly, a genie popped out of

the lamp!

The genie said: "I feel that you are married. You have 3 wishes woman, but please know that anything you ask for, your husband will get as well, only double! Sorry but the rules were written at a more primitive time."

So, the woman thinks of a first wish...

"I want to be rich!"

So, the woman became rich, and the husband became twice as rich!

So, the woman thinks of a second wish... "I want to be beautiful!" So, the woman became beautiful, and the husband became twice as beautiful.

"Okay," the genie says. "This is your last wish so be careful what you wish for." The woman thinks real hard and finally comes to a decision.

"I want you to scare me half to death!"

\* \* \*

**A**n old man was driving his Lambo with 100 miles/hour when suddenly he saw the police chasing him. So, he starts speeding up, 140, then 150, then 180.

Suddenly he slows down and thinks: "I'm too old for this."

He pulls over and waits for the police to catch up.

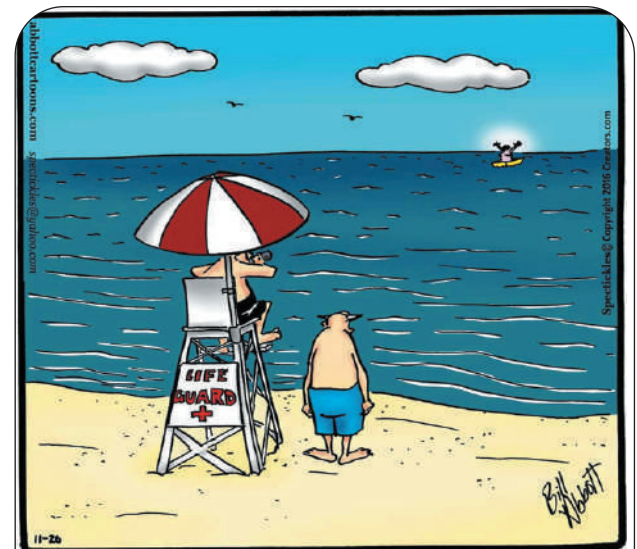
The officer gets out of the car and as he's heading to the old man, he says: "Sir, my shift is ending in 10 minutes. Today's Friday and I'm leaving this weekend with my family. If you give me a very good reason that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The old man looks at him, thinks very hard and says: "Years ago, my wife ran away with a policeman and when I saw you chasing me, I thought you're bringing her back."

"A good day to you sir," said the policeman.

\* \* \*

**O**ne guy nearing 50 decides to undergo a facelift. He spends £6,000 on the surgery and is very happy with the results. On his way home from the operation, he stops



"Yeah, that's my wife in the boat being carried out to sea. Don't put yourself at risk though - I can get a new boat."

a t

a shop and buys a packet of cigarettes. Before leaving, he asks the vendor, "I hope you don't mind me asking, but how old do you think I am?"

"In the thirties," the vendor replies.

"I'm actually 49," the man replies smugly, feeling good about himself.

After that he enters a Starbucks for a coffee and asks the young girl behind the counter the same question, to which she replies, "About 30!"

"I am 49." By now he's feeling great.

While standing at the taxi-stand, he asks a really old lady the same question. She replies, "I am 92 and my eyesight is weak, but when I was young there was a sure way of guessing a man's age. If you put down your trousers, I will be able to make a good guess."

As there is no one around, the guy lets down his pants.

The old lady looks at him and says, "You are 49."

The guy is stunned.

"That was brilliant. How did you guess it?"

The old lady replies, "I was standing behind you in Starbucks."

\* \* \*

**A** defendant was on trial for murder at Old Bailey. There was strong circumstantial evidence indicating guilt, but no corpse. In his closing statement the lawyer for defence, realizing that in all likelihood his client would be convicted, resorted to a trick.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I have a surprise for you all," the lawyer said as he looked at his watch. "Within two minutes, the person presumed dead in this case will walk into the courtroom."

Minutes passed and no one appeared.

"Actually, I made the previous statement, but you all looked at the door to see if someone walked in. I put it to you, therefore, that there is reasonable doubt in this case as to whether anyone was actually killed and insist that you return a verdict of not guilty."

The jury retired in confusion to deliberate. A few minutes later, the foreman of the jury returned and told the judge that they had arrived to an unanimous verdict of guilty.

The lawyer was surprised, and told the jury, "You must have had some doubts, I saw you all looking at the door."

The foreman replied, "Yes, but your client didn't."

## Life

## Gautam Adani

This is the first time Mr “Gautam Adani” has come for any public interview. There are so many qualities that one can learn from his life. A truly inspiring figure!

Summarising key takeaways from the interview:

**1. Success Formula:** To become successful one needs to have right Niyat (Intention) and Mehnat (Hardwork). There is no other formula to become successful.

**2. Humbleness:** He seems to be a grounded person. At one point in time, he had scooter and now he has fleet of jets. Because of his humble upbringing, he can gel well with all kinds of people. He attributed his success to team support, family support and God’s blessings.

**3. Learning on the ground:** High academic qualification does not guarantee success in business world. He is a college dropout. Learned skills on the ground working with his father during initial days. He says: ‘Labour



and experience has increased my wisdom’. He was also quick to acknowledge, he would have done much better had he finished his education.

**4. Showing gratitude:** He mentioned that the key behind his success is his team who supported him throughout his journey.

**5. Respecting Competitors:** He has high regards for his competitors.

He is inspired by people like Dhirubhai Ambani, Jamshedji Tata and counts Mukesh Ambani as his friends. He lauded Reliance new business expansion with Jio and other retail business initiatives.

**6. Risk taking ability:** No business is risk free. He advised to take the risk but aware of the risk and reward associated with it. Perseverance is key to success.

**7. Adaptability:** He has the habit of adopting to new situation quickly. Even though something upsets him, he quickly moves on from that.

**8. He saw death from close quarters.** He was in Taj Hotel on the day of terrorist attack. He lauded employees of Taj for their effort of saving guest and said no other organisation could do what Tata has done.

**9. Personal Time:** In spite of his busy schedule, he exercises every day and make it a point to have dinner with his family.

**10. There are so many opportunities available.** Don’t look for shortcuts. It takes time to become successful.

Vineet Neeraj

## Here are 5 key takeaways from the book Happier Now by Nataly Kogan:



**1. Happiness is a choice.** We often think that happiness is something that happens to us, but it’s actually something that we choose. We can choose to focus on the positive aspects of our lives, or we can choose to dwell on the negative.

**2. Happiness is not about perfection.** We often think that we need to be perfect in order to be happy, but this is not the case. In fact, striving for perfection can actually make us less happy.

**3. Happiness is about gratitude.** Gratitude is the practice of appreciating the good things in our lives. When we focus on the things that we’re grateful for, it helps us to see the world in a more positive light.

**4. Happiness is about connection.** We are social creatures, and we need connection in order to be happy. Spending time with loved ones, building strong relationships, and being part of a community can all contribute to our happiness.

**5. Happiness is about taking care of ourselves.** This means taking care of our physical health, our mental health, and our emotional health. When we take care of ourselves, we have more energy, we’re more resilient, and we’re better able to cope with stress.

### Some additional tips...

**Practise mindfulness.** Mindfulness is the practice of paying attention to the present moment without judgment. When we practice mindfulness, we’re more likely to appreciate the good things in our lives and to let go of negative thoughts and feelings.

**Spend time in nature.** Spending time in nature has been shown to boost happiness and reduce stress. If you can, get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine.

**Do things that you love.** When we do things that we love, it releases dopamine, a neurotransmitter that makes us feel happy. So make sure to schedule some time for activities that you enjoy, whether it’s reading, spending time with friends, or pursuing a hobby.

**Help others.** Helping others is a great way to boost your own happiness. When we help others, it releases oxytocin, a hormone that promotes feelings of love and connection. So, find ways to give back to your community and help others in need.

## Thoughts to Live by

### Each person deserves a day...

Every person needs to take one day away.

A day in which one consciously separates the past from the future. Jobs, family, employers, and friends can exist one day without any one of us, and if our egos permit us to con-

cess, they could exist eternally in our absence.

Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us.

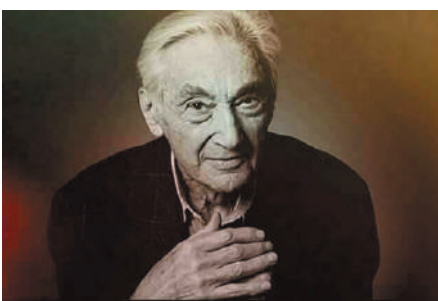
By Maya Angelou, ‘Wouldn’t Take Nothing for My Journey Now’



### Which Celtic Tree Astrology Sign Are You and What It Says About You

- Birch** (DECEMBER 24 - JANUARY 20) - resilient and radiate inner strength.
- Rowan** (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 17) - deep-thinking visionaries and radiate influential energy.
- Ash** (FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 17) - free thinkers, naturally artistic and crave solitude.
- Alder** (MARCH 18 - APRIL 14) - magnetic, confident, and inspire others.
- Willow** (APRIL 15 - MAY 12) - intuitive, intelligent, and have mystical lunar powers.
- Hawthorn** (MAY 13 - JUNE 9) - complicated, mysterious and energetic.
- Oak** (JUNE 10 - JULY 7) - resilient and the crusaders of the underdog.
- Holly** (JULY 8 - AUGUST 4) - regal, ambitious and natural winners.
- Hazel** (AUGUST 5 - SEPTEMBER 1) - organized, intelligent and smart.
- Vine** (SEPTEMBER 2 - SEPTEMBER 29) - unpredictable, empathetic, and sophisticated.
- Ivy** (SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 27) - spiritual, generous, and born survivors.
- Reed** (OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 24) - truth-seekers, curious and adventurous.
- Elder** (NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 23) - thrill-seekers, freedom-lovers and thoughtful.

LEARN MORE IN ARTICLE



Civil disobedience is not our problem. Our problem is civil obedience.

Our problem is that people all over the world have obeyed the dictates of leaders. Millions have been killed because of this obedience. Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world in the face of poverty, starvation, stupidity, war and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obediently filling our jails full of petty thieves while the grand thieves are running the country. That’s our problem.

~Howard Zinn



## Health & Balance

# Simple Keys to Living Your Best

**Y**ou hear lots of advice from many sources about what it takes to live well and keep your body in good working order. Sorting out what that means for you could seem like an overwhelming task. Let's break it down into a few simple, easy-to-remember ways for adults to stay on a healthy path, as suggested and medically reviewed by Zilpah Sheikh, MD of WebMD

**Become a flexitarian:** Numerous studies have shown that a plant-based diet is healthiest, but you can still get many of the benefits even if you don't go full-on vegetarian. Following a semi-vegetarian diet that includes fewer animal products but doesn't completely cut them out may help you keep your weight in check as well as lower your chances of high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and inflammatory bowel disease.

**Expand your palate's palette:** Dietary guidelines recommend that half of what's on your plate at any meal be vegetables or fruits. But it's also important to mix things up. While all fruits and veggies are healthy, they don't all have the same nutrients. Give yourself the widest range of benefits by eating different-colored produce throughout the day.

**Less sugar, more water:** Some studies show that just a soft drink or two a day makes you 26% more likely to get

type 2 diabetes. Sugary drinks have also been tied to heart attacks, gout, and obesity. Stay hydrated with water.

**Move more, sit less:** While at least 150 minutes a week of moderate exercise is ideal, experts say that any movement is better than nothing. So make it a point to stand up more often and stretch, park a bit farther from your destination for extra steps, and explore new pastimes that will help put you in motion.

**Get enough rest:** Chronic sleep deprivation raises the odds for heart disease, diabetes, stroke, obesity, and many other sicknesses. Getting your ZZZs also helps keep you safe: Driving while sleepy is just as bad as driving drunk. If you don't usually wake up feeling refreshed, try slipping into bed 15 minutes earlier every week until you do.

**Tame your stress:** Everyone has stress; it's how you react to it that matters. When you often explode in anger, get stomachaches because you're nervous, or have trouble sleeping because you're anxious, it's time to make a change. Find a way to blow off steam, whether that's through exercise, meditation, or laughing with good friends.

**Wash your hands:** It's one of the easiest and most effective ways to avoid catching whatever contagious bugs are going around. The key is to be thorough:



After you lather up with soap, scrub your palms, the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails for at least 20 seconds.

**Limit your drinking:** It's true that moderate amounts of alcohol have been tied to some health benefits, like a lower risk of heart disease, but there are also serious downsides to drinking, such as a higher risk of cancer and liver disease. So you shouldn't start drinking for the sake of good health. When you do have alcohol, keep it to one drink per day if you're a woman or two if you're a man.

**Steer clear of smoke:** Smoking doesn't just hurt your lungs. It harms almost every organ in your body, making you a more likely target for cancer, heart

disease, and other serious illnesses. Second-hand smoke is dangerous, too, and there's no amount that's "safe"

**Check in with your doctor:** Regular visits can help you catch problems early, when they're easier to treat and often cure. Stay on top of tests like cholesterol checks, mammograms, and prostate cancer screenings.

**Take baby steps:** To better your odds of getting -- and staying -- healthier, make a series of small changes and work your way up to a bigger end game. For instance, if you'd like to eat a more nutritious diet, focus on breakfast. Once you get used to that, think about how to improve your lunch menu.

## Leading a better life

# Power of Consistency : Micro habits that matters

**W**hen it comes to making changes in our lives, we often think of big, drastic actions as the key to success. But the truth is, small habits can have a big impact on our lives over time. In fact, small, consistent habits are often the key to achieving our goals and creating lasting change. It's not about doing everything perfectly, but about showing up and taking consistent action, day after day.

First, let's define consistency. Consistency refers to doing something regularly and with a level of predictability. Consistency is about showing up and doing the work, even when it's hard, and even when you don't feel like it. It's about making a commitment to yourself and sticking to it. The power of consistency lies in the fact that small actions, when done consistently, can lead to big results over time.

Consistency is also important when it comes to building good habits. Habits are actions that we do regularly and automatically, without much thought. By consistently doing something, we start to build a habit, and it becomes easier and easier to do over time. So, what are some small habits that can change your life? Here are a few examples:

### Consistency in sleeping

Waking up and going to bed at the same time every day can have a profound effect on one's physical and mental health. Having a consistent sleep schedule can help regulate the body's internal clock, also known as the circadian rhythm, which plays a crucial role in regulating



sleep, appetite, and hormone levels. When the circadian rhythm is in sync, it can lead to improved sleep quality, increased energy levels, and a better mood throughout the day. Additionally, having a consistent sleep schedule can also help to improve productivity and focus during the day

### A glass of water

When you wake up, your body is in a state of dehydration after not drinking water for several hours while you sleep. Drinking a glass of water as soon as you wake up helps to rehydrate your body and get it ready for the day. Additionally, drinking water in the morning can help to stimulate your metabolism, which can aid in weight loss and digestion. It also helps to jumpstart your body's detoxifying processes by flushing out toxins and improving your skin and complexion.

Furthermore, drinking water first thing in the morning can also help to boost your energy levels and improve your mood. It's also a great way to make sure you're getting enough water throughout the day.

### Exercise daily

Exercise for at least 30 minutes a day. Whether it's going for a walk, doing yoga, or lifting weights, regular

exercise can improve your physical and mental health. Regular exercise, even in short bursts, has been shown to improve cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength and tone, flexibility, and overall physical health. It can also help to boost energy levels, improve mood, and reduce stress. Additionally, exercise can also help with weight management and reduce the risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.

### Read daily

Reading for at least 15 minutes a day can have a significant impact on one's overall well-being. It can help improve cognitive function, increase vocabulary, and reduce stress. It can also serve as a form of escapism and entertainment. Additionally, reading has been shown to improve empathy and emotional intelligence. Studies have also found that reading can help with sleep and relaxation.

### Hustling

Hustling involves taking small but consistent actions toward achieving a goal, whether it be in the form of working on a side project, learning a new skill, or networking. By hustling daily, one can make steady progress toward their desired outcome, rather than trying to accomplish everything at once. It also provides a sense of accomplishment and motivation to continue working towards the goal. Additionally, hustling can increase self-discipline, time management, and productivity. Hustling for just 45 minutes a day can be a simple yet effective way to improve one's life and achieve success.

Remember, it's not about doing everything perfectly, but about being consistent and making progress over time. By consistently incorporating good habits into your daily routine, you can see big changes in your life over time. So, start small and make a habit of doing something good for yourself every day.

## Sam Bahadur Vs Animal

*Animal's advance bookings prove yet again that bad boys mean good business at the box office*

It's a year of big Bollywood clashes at the box office. After *OMG 2* and *Gadar 2* had the clash of sequels on August 11, Ranbir Kapoor's *Animal* and Vicky Kaushal starrer *Sam Bahadur* are both releasing in theatres today, December 1st. While *Sam Bahadur's* release date was announced a year ago, the makers of *Animal* chose the same date, raising quite a few eyebrows. Perhaps it was easier to compete with director Meghna Gulzar's film than taking on Shah Rukh Khan's film *Dunki* or Prabhas' *Salaar* releasing later in the month, reports Indian Express.

Unfortunately, badly behaved men have always generated good results at the box office. Perhaps that's why, in spite of the A rating and long running time, *Animal* has had a tremendous response ever since advance bookings opened and is currently miles ahead of *Sam Bahadur* in terms of projected opening day revenues.

*Sam Bahadur* is based on the life of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, a decorated Indian officer who was Chief of Army Staff and part of five wars for India. *Animal*, as per the trailer, is about a man with what can only be called psychosis inducing daddy issues. After the deeply disturbing and disturbingly successful *Kabir Singh*, where the leading man was constructed out of red flags, *Animal* seems to have Ranbir Kapoor playing Kabir on steroids. Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga, who made misogyny great again, has changed the object of obsessive affection from Preeti to Papa (father), and amped up all the



problematic behaviour, as if to prove a point to those who criticised his earlier films.

But Vanga is not alone in celebrating toxic male behaviour. Over the years in Bollywood, we have had innumerable instances where a man gets away with almost everything from harassment, adultery and domestic violence.

Extramarital affairs have also been a recurring theme in our films. While films like *Silsila* and *Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna* chose drama to process the ramifications of people cheating on their partners, adultery as a theme has largely been dealt with using crass jokes in ensemble cast films. Whether it's *No Entry*, *Biwi No 1*, *Garam Masala*, *Heyy Baby*, *Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya*, *Gharwali Baharwali* or *Masti* and its torturous sequels; a man

cheating on his female partner is supposed to be treated with sympathy, understanding and humour.

Even in the seemingly harmless Sooraj Barjatya films, the women were homemakers by default not choice. The iconic Prem is respectful of elders but says nothing when his sister-in-law slaves in the kitchen all day to feed three adult men in the household. It's like the men in Mr. Barjatya's films said to domestic responsibilities, *Hum Aapke Hain Kaun?*

In the hugely successful *Dabangg*, Salman Khan's Chulbul Pandey threatens to slap Sonakshi Sinha and almost forcibly marries

her. *Rehna Hain Tere Dil Mein* romanticised Madhavan cutting off Dia Mirza's telephone connection, posing to be a prospective groom and entering her home on multiple occasions. In *Cocktail*, Saif Ali Khan's character Gautam claimed he wanted casual relationships, till he rather falls for the shy Indian girl who can be more willingly domesticated.

Ranbir himself has played red flag riddled men in the past. As Rohan in *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkar*, he tamed his independent and nuclear family-seeking girlfriend (the shrew) into living with his large joint family. He played the role of actor Sanjay Dutt in *Sanju*, a man we were asked to empathise with simply because he is a man, a movie star and famous.



## Vicky Kaushal reveals the trait he changed for Katrina Kaif

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif got married almost two years ago and since then, the two have become one of the most loved Bollywood couples. Vicky loves to dote on his wife Katrina and often shares anecdotes about their life. At the Express Adda on Monday, Vicky was asked about being the "green flag husband" that the internet loves and the "red flag" that he had to get rid of for his wife Katrina.

Vicky shared that the biggest complaint that Katrina always had from him was that he was "too stubborn" and he consciously worked to get rid of this trait. "The biggest complaint that Katrina has always had is that sometimes I'm too stubborn. That needed a little bit of moderation," he said.

Vicky Kaushal was also asked the one thing that he misses about being single and the *Sam Bahadur* actor said, "The Ms is now my Mrs so it's all good." When asked about the one actor that has the best chemistry with Katrina, apart from him, Vicky chose Akshay Kumar and said that he loved *Namaste London*. The 2007 film starred Akshay and Katrina and was one of the first films that got Katrina some critical acclaim.

Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif are yet to star in a film together. They have also never appeared together in any interviews, even after they got married.

Vicky is presently looking forward to the release of *Sam Bahadur*, directed by Meghna Gulzar, on December 1.

## Rani Mukerji says 'there were a lot of divorces' after 'Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna'

Rani Mukerji, who is currently in Goa for the 54th International Film Festival of India, attended a masterclass and opened up about what happened after the film *Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna* was released, reports Indian Express.

The actor said that the film was an eye-opener: "I think what happened with *Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna* was that, after the film (was released), there were a lot of divorces. There were a lot of people going to the theatre and watching the film in extreme discomfort. And I think that is the feedback Karan got for his film, and I think it opened eyes for a lot of people and they took the decision of being happy."

Talking about her character Maya, the actor said, "What is beautiful about Maya's character is that she loved Rishi in a different capacity and as a friend. What she found in Shah Rukh's character was the romance she was always looking for."

The actor said, "It is very important to talk about a woman's wants and her choices. Just because the husband doesn't beat you, it does not mean that he is good in bed or you are in love with him. A woman is never allowed or asked, 'Are you attracted to this man?'"

Rani continued, "In fact, Karan Johar was bold enough to make a film like that at a time when he wasn't sure what was happening. I think it is important to stand by strong films and strong roles. But in the history of Indian cinema, it will always be remembered as a film which is always ahead of its time."

Karan had opened up about a fight with Aditya



Chopra, about one scene in which Shah Rukh and Rani married characters commit adultery. On journalist Anupama Chopra's All About Movies podcast, Karan had said, "I was shooting that sequence, and I was at this big location that was snowed out, and Adi called me. He said, 'Listen, I've been thinking about it for the last couple of days, and it's very strongly in my head. I don't think they should have sex. I feel like India will not accept it. They should come to the point, and retract, because they're guilty about it'."

However, Karan insisted on including the scene in the film despite disagreements. Later, he realised that it might have been better commercially to avoid it, thinking the audience would have been more receptive to the love story without the intimate scenes. *Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna* was released in 2006 and also starred Shah Rukh Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Preity Zinta and Anupam Kher, among others.

## Ektaa Kapoor wins Emmy Award

After making India proud at the 51st International Emmy Awards in New York, filmmaker Ektaa Kapoor returned to Mumbai with her prestigious trophy. In the videos captured by Mumbai-based paps, Ektaa can be seen smiling and posing for shutterbugs. She also proudly flaunted her award, reports ANI.

Ektaa Kapoor was conferred with the Directorate Award at the 51st International Emmy Awards.

With this, Ektaa Kapoor became the first Indian woman filmmaker to receive the International Emmy Directorate Award. Ektaa's win is not merely a personal triumph but a recognition of her unconventional and ground-breaking work, consistently delivering content that resonates with a diverse and extensive audience.

Reflecting on this momentous achievement, the producer expressed her gratitude, and stated, "I'm delighted to receive the prestigious Emmys Directorate Award! It brings me immense joy and happiness to be honoured at a global scale, such as this. I've always wanted to tell stories because they give me a chance to be heard, seen and represented. I am grateful for the audience's love that has opened doors for me, allowing me to transition from television to the world of films and OTT."

Ekta has been a major figure in Indian television since starting Balaji in 1994, with her parents - Indian movie star and producer Jeetendra



Kapoor and media executive Shobha Kapoor. She is credited with revamping India's television landscape, pioneering an entire genre of television content and heralding India's satellite television boom. Under the Balaji banner, she has created and produced more than 17,000 hours of television and 45 films.

Through her banner, Ekta has produced several iconic TV shows such as 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi', 'Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii', 'Kasautii Zindagii Kay' and 'Bade Achhe Lagte Hain' among others.

### Rapid Fire

## Manan Joshi of 'Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey': 'I wish to paint bright colours that depict hope and happiness'

Manan Joshi, the talented actor who is presently seen essaying the lead role in Star Plus' *Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey* is optimistic in life.

In a candid chat with IWMBuzz.com, Manan spread his positive vibes on us when he answered Rapid Fire questions.

Check them here.

**The superpower you want to have:**

Teleport or fly but currently just want to flip a book and know it all

**Film character you are similar to in real life:**

Characters are all about being relatable. I relate to a few characters. Farhan Akhtar's *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*, Hrithik Roshan in *Laksh*, Madhavan in *3 Idiots*.

**The kind of inspiration you crave for:**

Something that drives me...something I feel or hear that creates a need to be better. It's to make me a better person.

**If you are looking for a quote that will inspire you for a new day, what will it be:**

You don't need directions, just point up and keep going

**Something you are really attracted to during lockdown:**



A couple of things. Home workouts, reading better and faster. Physio stuff, I googled and learnt as well. As with my gym, I keep getting injured.

**What kind of books you like to read:**

All sort of books. My library and kindle have all genres from fiction to self-help to autobiographies and more. Recently I went back to my engineering books too which make more sense today.

**If you turn a painter for a day what will you draw that signifies your life:**

I do paint but for now it will be bright colours suggesting hope and happiness.

**The kind of hairdo you love the most:**

Love curly hair. I used to have an afro in college, and later half ponytails as a guitarist.

### YOUR STARS

#### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

When it comes to your professional life, building your network will be advantageous. Spending quality time together and making memories that will last should be a relationship priority. To improve your health, you should prioritise activities that take place outside, such as hiking or cycling.

**Lucky Numbers: 3, 15, 21, 26, 30, 31**

#### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Make your health a top priority and learn to confidently decline offers when necessary. In your professional life, you should concentrate on long-term goals and plan properly. Exercise empathy in your personal connections, and always be present for the people you care about.

**Lucky Numbers: 6, 7, 9, 15, 17, 20**

#### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Aquarius, you are being challenged to think creatively. Exercise your imagination and come up with original answers to difficult problems. In your romantic relationships, it is important to recognize and appreciate even the smallest of accomplishments. To improve your health, make breathing exercises a priority.

**Lucky Numbers: 10, 11, 14, 17, 23, 36**

#### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces, you should focus on self-reflection. Explore the depths of your feelings and get to know the real you on the inside. In your professional life, put your faith in your gut instincts while also making well-informed choices. Active communication should be practised in relationships, and concerns should always be addressed.

**Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 23, 26, 39, 40**

#### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

The universe is encouraging you to have faith and make an irrational decision, particularly in matters pertaining to your professional life. Put your faith in your gut feelings and try not to be too chicken to try new things. When it comes to your health, make taking care of yourself a top priority and think about starting a new exercise routine.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 16, 20, 23, 30**

#### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Keep in mind that the difficulties that you face are only temporary and will eventually go away. It is a good opportunity to evaluate your investments and give some thought to long-term planning from a financial perspective. Open communication is essential to the health of any relationship. Take a direct approach to solving any problems that persist.

**Lucky Numbers: 11, 17, 20, 23, 26, 35**

#### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Be flexible in your professional life; you never know when a fresh chance will present itself. In romantic partnerships, this is the week to reconnect with one another. Treasure the time you get to spend with those you care about and make it count. You should also prioritise your mental well-being and think about taking frequent rejuvenating pauses.

**Lucky Numbers: 18, 20, 23, 24, 39, 40**

#### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Now is an excellent moment to take stock of your previous accomplishments and plan for new ones. Collaboration will be absolutely necessary for your professional success. Work together and discuss your thoughts to achieve better results. In your personal connections, make active listening a habit, and always be present for the people you care about.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 11, 13, 20, 21, 29**

#### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Maintain a flexible mindset and be open to engaging in new activities. Showcase your leadership abilities and take initiative in the projects you work on to advance your career. When it comes to relationships, this is the week to show some affection. Make it a point to spend quality time together and reignite the flame.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 15, 22, 23, 27, 30**

#### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

This is the time when your capacity for analysis will be put to good use, Virgo. In terms of your finances, you should try to refrain from making rash purchases and instead preserve money. Exercise tolerance and empathy in your interpersonal connections. To improve your health, you should strongly consider signing up for a yoga class.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 24, 26, 29, 31, 34**

#### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

You should focus on maintaining a healthy balance. In your work life, you should assign tasks to prevent yourself from becoming overburdened. Exercise both giving and taking in your personal interactions. It's a great chance to get together with some of your long-lost buddies. In order to improve your health, you should practise methods of mental relaxation.

**Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 15, 26, 30, 32**

#### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Let go of old grievances and make room in your heart for fresh starts. Maintain your confidence in the workplace and don't be afraid to share your thoughts. Maintain a level of openness and honesty in your interactions with others. Consider engaging in strength training exercises, with an emphasis on developing your core strength.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 14, 20, 25, 36**



Vendredi 1 decembre - 21.22



Samedi 2 decembre - 20.30



dimanche 3 decembre - 20.30



# Programme TV



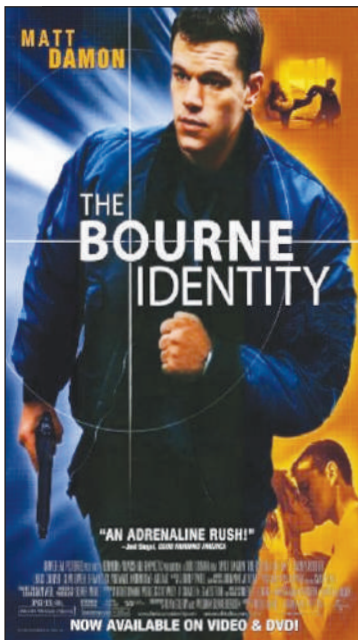
SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 1 decembre</b>	05.32 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 06.01 Serial: New Amsterdam 07.00 Film: Damsel 09.40 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.52 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.15 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Barbarita 13.25 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.50 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Le Livre Perdu Des Sortileges 15.21 Film: If I Had Wings 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 21.30 Film: Taxi Driver 00.15 Tele: Barbartia 00.58 Tele: The Gardener's Daugh..	06.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 07.45 Local: ONG An Eta Dalert 09.33 Local: Radio Vision 10.27 Local: J'ai Faim 10.56 Local: Groov'in 12.00 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 12.25 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 14.31 Local: J'ai Faim 15.21 Local: Generations J 15.39 Konkour Sante Patriotik 17.08 Local: La Sosiete 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret 19.47 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 20.04 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 22.00 Local: La Sosiete 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 23.52 Local: Rodrig: Nou La Ter	07.00 Serial: Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.00 Local: Amrit Vaani 08.33 Satguru Kabir Ke Gyan 08.46 Local: Khoosurat 08.59 Local: Yaadein 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Juari 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: Lahu Pukarela 23.15 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.38 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 00.23 Local: Mati Ke Mol 00.48 Local: Khel Khiladi	06.03 Mag: Eco India 06.52 Mag: Japan Video Topics 07.21 D.Anime: The Story Of Book 09.32 Mag: Lab 360 09.35 Film: Happily N'Ever After 11.05 Mag: Sand Tales 12.24 Doc: Secret Des Plantes 13.43 Mag: Tomorrow Today 14.30 Mag: Kids' Planet 15.06 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! 15.13 D.Anime: Petit Pingouin 15.19 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles 15.29 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 15.34 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.46 D.Anime: Miraculous 16.20 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers 16.42 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.56 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 17.15 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.35 Serial: The Wish 18.00 Doc: World Capitals	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Loafer Starring: Anil Kapoor, Pramod Moutho, Dinesh Anand 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: Eena Meena Deeka Starring Vinod Khanna, Rishi Kapoor, Juhi Chawla
<b>samedi 2 decembre</b>	04.30 Serial: S.W.A.T 05.11 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 06.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 07.00 Serial: Pearson 07.45 Serial: Seal Team 08.30 Serial: Absentia 09.15 Serial: Riviera 09.59 Serial: S.W.A.T 10.45 Serial: F.B.I 11.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Madam Secretary 13.20 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 15.21 Film: Ghost In The Family 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Dance India Dance Little Masters 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Meet Joe Black 00.15 Serial: Under Pressure 00.58 Tele: Missing Bride	06.17 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 08.30 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 13.57 Local: Zanford Nou Pei 15.00 Local: La Sosiete 17.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Magazine De L'emploi 21.40 Local: Glwar Dantan 22.04 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 23.46 Local: Saver Kiltirel 00.24 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art 00.47 Local: Rpdrog - D'Jam 01.13 Local: Les Petits Genies 01.39 Local: All Stars Jazz 02.39 Local: Glwar Dantan	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: Himmatwala Starring Mithun Chakraborty, Ayesha Jhulka, Shakti Kapoor, Dina Pathak 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Satrangi 19.02 Duniya Mein Is Saptah 19.17 Local: Puranya Pakwan 20.18 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani 21.08 Film: Vinashak Starring Suniel Shetty, Raveena Tandon, Danny Denzongpa 23.50 Local: Satrangi 00.18 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah	06.24 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers 06.46 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 07.05 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 09.35 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 10.17 Serial: Monster Hunt 10.38 Mag: Sand Tales 13.25 Doc: Castles 14.40 Mag: Kids' Planet 15.05 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 15.10 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory... 15.13 D.Anime: Petit Pingouin 15.45 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.20 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers 16.43 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.32 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.35 Serial: The Wish 18.00 Doc: World Capitals 18.03 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: Life Gets In The Way	08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 10.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 10.18 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.15 Udaariyaan 14.05 Anupamaa 16.10 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise.. 18.31 Film: Hum Tumhare Hain Sanam Starring: Salman Khan, Shahrukh Khan, Madhuri Dixit 21.20 Gadget Guru Ganesha 21.32 Serial: Porus 21.54 Serial: Crime Patrol
<b>dimanche 3 decembre</b>	04.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 05.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 05.30 Film: Meet Joe Black 09.00 Film: Ghost In The Family 10.50 Serial: F.B.I 11.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 12.00 Le Journal 12.45 Film: The Tall T 14.05 Mag: Top 100 Famous... 14.15 Serial: Scorpion 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: 119 Jours 17.30 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 19.16 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: 47 Metres Down 21.59 Serial: Under Pressure 22.42 Tele: Missing Bride	06.00 Rodrig: D'Jam 06.39 Local: Rodrig: Kot Nou 07.05 Local: Saver Kiltirel 07.28 Local: Pran Kont Ou Lasante 08.54 Local: Les Petits Genies 09.22 Local: Zanford Nou Zil 11.29 Local: Tous Egaux 12.04 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art 14.15 Local: Elle 14.41 Local Prod: Lavi Zoli An XXL 15.03 Local: Pause Cuisine 17.34 Local: Glwar Dantan 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Loca Production 20.00 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance 20.45 Local: Le Challenge 21.37 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: Roadside Romeo 08.32 Local: Hamar Fitness... 12.02 Film: Kya Dil Ne Kaha Starring Tushar Kapoor, Esha Deol, Raj Babbar, Nina Kulkarni, Rajesh Khanna, Smita Jaykar, Ashok Saraf 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.22 Local: Satrangi 16.00 Special Programme 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	06.46 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 07.05 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 09.13 D.Anime: Miraculous 09.53 Serial: Monster Hunt 10.35 Mag: Sand Tales 11.00 Mag: In Good Shape 12.21 Doc: Foodland 13.16 Doc: Riding The Rails Across 15.05 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 15.06 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! 15.43 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.55 D.Anime: Miroculous 16.18 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers 16.41 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.05 Serial: The Avatars 17.52 Doc: World Capitals 18.34 Foodland: Veggie Feasts 18.40 Serial: Airwolf 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 21.42 Film: The Purge	00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 02.05 Udaariyaan 04.00 Anupamaa 06.06 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise... 07.46 Tenali Rama 08.11 Patiala Babes 10.02 Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.31 Film: Laadla Starring Sridevi Anil Kapoor, Raveena Tandon, Anupam Kher, Farida Jalal 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
<b>lundi 4 decembre</b>	06.00 Serial: New Amsterdam 07.00 Film: 47 Metres Down 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: L'Envers Du Paradis 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: Life Gets In The Way 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 09.29 Local: Elle 10.54 Local: Le Challenge 11.00 Local Prod: Les Klips 12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.07 La Journee Sous Legard... 14.12 Local: Elle 14.52 Local: Rodrig: Komanter 15.11 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance 15.42 Local: Aktiv 15.56 Local: Les Klips 17.03 Local: Radio Vision 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.45 Local: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Nos Aines 21.00 Local: Radio Vision 22.31 Local: Itinerer Moris 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol	07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.04 Local: Planet Bollywood 08.42 Local: Tohar Farmaish 09.36 Local: Radha Krishna 10.00 Serial: Bahubali 10.38 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 11.36 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Haque Starring: Dimple Kapadia, Anupam Kher, Aashif Sheikh 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: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.13 Local: Charcha 20.37 Film: Pyar Hi Pyar Starring: Dharmendra, Vyjayanthimala, Pran	06.02 Mag: SADC 07.21 D.Anime: The Story Of Book.. 09.30 Mag: Lab 360 09.39 Film: Sissi 11.09 Mag: Sand Tales 12.00 Doc: Planet Home 13.25 Doc: The Dirty Business... 14.40 D.Anime: Kid's Planet 15.06 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! 15.15 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.21 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles 15.33 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 15.45 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.57 D.Anime: Miraculous 16.19 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers 16.42 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.28 Mag: Recipes For Kids 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.02 Mag: Africa 54 19.32 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 21.41 Film: Baby Doll	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Shiva Starring: Nagarjuna, Amala 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 21.45 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: Shiva Starring Nagarjuna, Amala



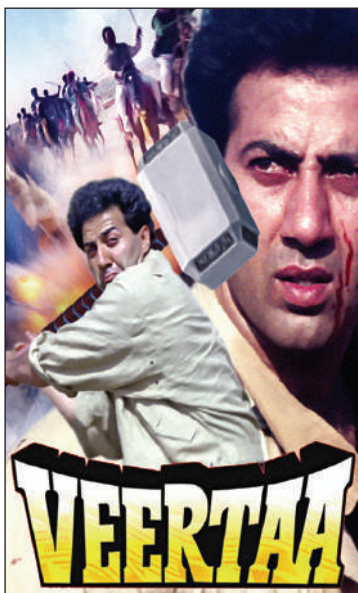
Mardi 5 decembre - 20.30



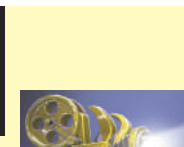
Mercredi 6 decembre - 21.15



Mercredi 6 decembre - 15.30



# Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 5 decembre</b>	05.08 Tele: Amour Secret 05.34 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: L'Envers Du Paradis 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: Bull Shark 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 20.30 Film: The Bourne Identity 22.28 Tele: Barbarita	07.15 Eclairage Economique 09.05 Rodrig Prog - Zenn Aktif 10.23 Local: Rodrig: Saver Lokal 11.04 Local: Le Rendez Vous 12.00 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 12.24 Local: Nos Aines 13.47 Rodrig Mo Pei - Pallisande 14.31 Local: Itinerer Moris 15.08 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif 15.44 Le Rendez Vous Avec... 16.48 Local: En Forme 18.08 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi... 19.48 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.03 Local: Generations J 21.30 Local: Radio Vision 22.27 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.45 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Journal Kreol	07.00 Serial: Gadget Guru Ganesha 09.39 Local: Charcha 10.03 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 12.02 Film: Mastana 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: Hindi Sahitya... 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.27 Film: Pyaar Diwana 22.38 Serial: Jijai Chhat Par Hain 23.00 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 23.47 Local: Tark Vitark 00.13 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 01.35 Serial: Badki Malkaain 02.03 Local: Tark Vitark	06.03 Mag: Eco At Africa 08.46 D.Anime: Croco Doc 09.15 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 09.35 Film: Jungle Book 2 11.11 Mag: Sand Tales 12.30 Doc: Hotels 14.10 Mag: In Good Shape 14.40 D.Anime: Kid's Planet 15.07 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 15.13 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du... 15.40 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 15.49 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.18 D.Anime: Li'L Santa 16.42 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.27 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.41 Doc: World Capitals 18.55 Doc: Smoothie Mania 18.31 Mag: Healthy Living 19.31 Mag: Global Us 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Zulmi Starring Akshay Kumar, Twinkle Khanna 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: Zulmi 02.07 Kundali Bhagya
<b>mercredi 6 decembre</b>	06.11 Serial: Blue Bloods 07.00 Film: The Bourne Identity 08.55 Serial: Airwolf 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 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 15.30 Film: The Tall T 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: Ship Of Fools 00.30 Tele: Barbarita	07.05 Local: Generations J 09.00 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art 10.30 Local: Koze Zom 11.01 Extraits Du Festival Lamisik 12.09 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.42 Local: Generations J 13.12 Local: Priorite Sante 13.53 Local: Koze Zom 16.00 Local Glwar Dantan 16.39 Local: Aktiv 16.53 Extraits Du Festival Lamisik 18.01 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.28 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal 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 21.26 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 Local: Hindi Sahitya 09.23 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Kachna Chor Starring: Randhir Kapoor, Rekha Helen, Ranjeet Jagdeep 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: Yatra South 19.00 Local: Kala 19.37 Local: Zindagi Ka Safar 20.02 Local: Virasat 20.32 Film: Golmaal Ba Bhaiya 22.25 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 22.46 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.26 Mag: Made In Germany 07.22 D.Anime: The Story Of Book... 09.32 Mag: Lab 360 09.39 Film: Kung Fu Mulan 11.14 Mag: Sad Tales 13.45 Mag: Initiative Africa 14.40 D.Anime: Kid's Planet 16.42 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.55 Serial: The Avatars 17.28 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.30 Serial: The Wish 17.53 Doc: World Capitals 18.00 Doc: Smoothie Mania 18.30 Doc: Prestige Project... 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 21.50 Film: 47 Metres Down 23.23 Mag: Close Up	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.58 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.27 Film: Veerta Starring: Sunny Deol, Jaya Prada, Shakti Kapoor 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: Veerta 02.11 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 02.33 Serial: Udaariyaan
<b>jeudi 7 decembre</b>	04.40 Tele: Amour Secret 07.15 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: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.15 Serial: Timeless 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: 47 Metres Down 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: Simran Starring: Kangana Ranaut, Sohum Shah, Hiten Kumar	08.04 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou 08.54 Local: Proze Dime 10.29 Rodrig Prog: Komanter 12.00 Local: Rodrig Spor 15.00 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante 15.19 Local: Rodrig - Komanter 16.30 Le Journee Sous Le Regard 16.51 Local: En Forme 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.46 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Li Bon OU Konin 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.49 Local: Mots & Ecrits 21.20 Local: Radio Vision 23.20 La Journee Sous Le Regard 22.12 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 23.40 Local: Groov'in 00.58 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 01.40 Local: Generations J	07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.12 Serial: Kisna 07.36 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 09.50 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.01 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 11.14 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Shatranj Ke Khiladi Starring: Sanjeev Kumar, Saeed Jaffrey, Shabana Azmi 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 15.58 Serial: Agniphera 17.31 Radha Krishna 18.45 Talk By Mahamandleshwar 19.02 Swami Dayanand Saraswati 20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.28 Mag: Dharam Yatra 21.28 Mag: Dev Bhumi 21.59 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 22.20 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 23.07 Local: Amrit Vaani 23.40 Swami Dayanad Saraswati	07.22 D.Anime: The Story Of Bookworm Gogo 09.41 Film: Dinofroz 11.04 Mag: Sand Tales 11.52 Doc: Smoothie Mania 12.00 Doc: Motorweek 14.10 Mag: Arts Unveiled 14.40 D.Anime: Kid's Planet 15.05 D.Anime: Li'l Santa 15.12 D.Anime: Petit Pingouin 16.41 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.28 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.30 Serial: The Wish 17.52 Doc: World Capitals 18.00 Doc: Smoothie Mania 18.30 Mag: Shift 19.00 Mag: Border Crossing 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 21.40 Film: Coroner Creek Avec Randolph Scott, Marguerite Chapman	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.14 Film: Tum Milo To Sahi Stars: Nana Patekar, Dimple Kapadia, Suniel Shetty 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: Tum Milo To Sahi Stars: Nana Patekar, Dimple Kapadia, Suniel Shetty 02.12 Kundali Bhagya

**BTV** Jeudi 7 decembre - 15.28 Stars: Nana Patekar, Dimple Kapadia, Suniel Shetty

**MBC 1** Jeudi 7 decembre - 20.30 Stars: Kangana Ranaut, Sohum Shah, Hiten Kumar





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

# Alimentation, une autonomie souhaitable

Le gouvernement indien, par la voix de son Premier ministre, lance un appel aux Indiens riches de célébrer les mariages en Inde, ce qui permettra de dépenser localement en termes de nourriture, de service traiteur qui compte des millions de petits *catering businesses*, les *entertainment groups* avec musiciens et danseurs. Et bien évidemment, en plus de réduire l'empreinte carbone, c'est l'économie locale qui en tire les bénéfices.

En ce temps d'inflation, de vie chère et d'une récession menaçante, si les performances économiques d'une Amérique endettée jusqu'au cou se mettent à marcher au ralenti à l'image de son Président, le conseil du Premier ministre indien tombe à pic.

Dans une rencontre avec les jeunes, il n'a pas hésité de faire un rappel au bon sens et au patriotisme économique: Regardez! Tout ce que vous avez sur vous, à commencer par le téléphone, est importé, leur a-t-il lancé.

Fort heureusement, les festins qui accompagnent les mariages indiens à l'étranger restent indiens, plats végétariens soigneusement préparés avec des épices divines. Il semblerait que la Turquie a créé de bonnes affaires en misant sur les Indiens en quête d'un cadre dépaysant, et aussi le *bling-bling* de Dubai, avec un budget faramineux.

Les riches Indiens gagneraient à choisir avec plus de sagesse la destination de leurs grandes dépenses. En dehors des mégapoles à dimension surhumaine et hyper polluées, le sous-continent indien dans toute sa variété ne manque pas d'attrait. Si une fête grandiose dans le cadre enchanteur du Cachemire court le risque de tourner au vinaigre, il y a les palais somptueux du Rajasthan et les régions du Nord-Est qui ne demandent qu'à booster leur économie.

La Chine prend conscience de l'effet dévastateur sur la santé de la nourriture transformée depuis que les grandes enseignes occidentales ont pignon sur rue et, que le gras, le salé et le sucré en plus des pesticides font mauvais ménage dans le foie et les artères des consommateurs.

Ce n'est pas que l'agriculture chinoise est dépourvue de pesticides, comme en Inde d'ailleurs. C'est que les bouillons aux légumes mi-cuits tendent à disparaître des tables surtout chez les jeunes cadres hyper pressés au quotidien. Passons sur les dommages collatéraux créés par les boissons sucrées importées du pays de l'Oncle Sam.

Visionnez le petit-déjeuner traditionnel chinois, varié selon les régions, mais essentiellement composé de bouillons (indispensable pour fluidifier le transit des aliments), galettes aux légumes ou bol de riz et thé nature remplacés par toasts avec beurre et confiture, pire encore, café nature ou café au lait sucré (un excitant et une agression gratuite faite au cœur), vous avez les dégâts en 3D.

Comme dans bien d'autres contrées, le petit-déjeuner

est traditionnellement salé. En Inde, au *roti bhaji* et *dhal*, l'héritage britannique introduisit le thé au lait et sucré à donner la nausée, héritage malheureux qui s'est aussi invité à Maurice.

Le lait mélangé au café et au thé est fortement déconseillé, autant les prendre nature. Le *dithé pire*, comme le sucre roux, attire un mépris injustifié de la part de nos compatriotes, et c'est même un signe anachronique de pauvreté.



Si vous dites aux visiteurs de passage vers trois heures de l'après-midi qu'ils auront une tasse de thé (on ne prive pas les Mauriciens de leur thé chéri, il y en a qui voyagent avec leur paquet de thé) et du manioc bouilli agrémenté d'un chutney de cotomili, eh bien, ils vous regardent, les yeux écarquillés, un peu étonnés.

Leur offrir un thé sans lait est un affront aux règles de l'hospitalité. Rassurez-vous, même si les gâteaux et les biscuits achetés au supermarché ont acquis un certain prestige, les Mauriciens tiennent aux *gâteau patate* et, le manioc, autre produit naturel, est prisé lorsque le temps libre d'un week-end le leur permet.

Le petit-déjeuner a connu un bouleversement qui n'a guère plu à notre foie, aux intestins et aux artères. Le *dipain diber* a écarté sans ambages le *roti* et légumes que les femmes avaient le temps de préparer autrefois. Confitures de toutes sortes et les jus de fruits sucrés apportent de la modernité et de la couleur sur la table au point d'oublier qu'un petit-déjeuner sain doit être salé.

Les aliments trop cuits constituent un autre défaut des habitudes alimentaires car ils perdent leur valeur nutritive. Les épices ont une valeur inestimable pour la santé, de la cannelle, du tilani à l'elaychee, le methi et le clou de girofle, dont le mélange et le dosage sont méticuleusement étudiés et calculés, et l'aura qu'elles diffusent dans le corps procurent aussi un bien-être psychique, peu connu du grand public.

Il convient de les utiliser à bon escient avec des légumes mi-cuits; et les salades, très prisées en Europe, peinent à constituer un repas complet à Maurice. N'hésitons pas à emprunter à d'autres pays ce qui est bon pour la santé du public.

En revanche, nous constatons avec effroi une consommation d'alcool avec le whisky en tête de liste pour débiter le week-end chez les jeunes salariés et cadres des milieux aisés. Si c'est un moyen de détente et de liberté, il n'est pas souhaitable d'en faire une habitude.

Rappelons qu'en ce qui concerne les personnes d'origine indienne et asiatique, certains aliments et boissons sont étrangers à leur organisme depuis des siècles, d'où leur vulnérabilité à une consommation immodérée.

Avec la fête du brède, les Mauriciens ne découvrent pas l'Amérique! A Maurice, ce n'est pas les fêtes qui manquent. La fête du choucou, du letchi, etc., sont courants à la Réunion qui ne peut se vanter d'un calendrier chargé de fêtes comme à Maurice.

Dans leur ensemble les Mauriciens sont restés attachés aux légumes et brèdes locaux. Le *dhal* et ses variétés conservent une place d'honneur autant pour la

saveur que pour les vitamines. Longtemps stigmatisés avec le cliché négatif de feuillage, aliment des barbares, voilà le brède réhabilité et mis à l'honneur par un groupe commercial puissant.

Les mentalités ont évolué, tant mieux! Le but reste commercial, sinon où en est l'intérêt? Ça plaira aux touristes tout comme les aquarelles des femmes en jupe, blouse et *horni*, travaillant dans les champs de canne. Des peintures qui rapportent à ceux qui ont le flair d'utiliser ce qui est rentable dans le paysage local.

A la recherche des fruits disparus des cours et des marchés figurent le cœur de bœuf, le corossol, le jambalac, le jamblon et le zatte (les nouvelles générations en connaissent à peine la saveur). Le tamarin frais dont le jus fait grand bien en été est fortement ignoré.

Il faut régler le problème causé par les chauve-souris si la production de la mandarine et d'autres fruits est menacée. Les oranges coûtent cher; on ne sait pas si l'Université de Maurice se penche sur la question de la propagation rapide de l'influenza qui rend visite à chaque maisonnée en hiver. Y a-t-il une carence en vitamine C due à l'absence de consommation de fruits? Ou des allergies? C'est quand même particulier à Maurice.

Au chapitre des produits presque inexistantes dans les ménages, il y a l'ail noir, les tomates variées et de qualité, les champignons frais. L'Inde en fait une production en quantité industrielle destinée à l'exportation. Les bienfaits du champignon sont peu reconnus. On a quelques réserves à allouer des terres à l'élevage tant que Rodrigues assure les produits frais en viande.

Allons donc! Il y a tout un boulevard à explorer pour une meilleure santé et aussi pour le plaisir...