

MAURITIUS TIMES

• Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right. - Oprah Winfrey

Interview: Kugan Parapen, Economist

"The next general elections are critical for the future of this country"



• 'The last minute MedPoint alliance between the MMM and the MSM in 2000 was a game changer. Who is in possession of a trump card in 2024?' **P8**

Breakfast with Bwana

Trump's Claim of Immunity - A License to Act with Impunity



Anil Madan **P 6**

Eclairages

La moitié de la population mondiale votera en 2024

L'année mettra à l'épreuve même les démocraties les plus robustes



A. Bartleby **P4**

Opinion

From The Frying Pan into The Fire



Dr R. Neerunjun Gopee **P 3**

Politics & Social Security

Année 2024

La pension de vieillesse, au cœur de la campagne électorale



Prakash Neerohoo **P 11**

Edit Page

Responsible Government

In the coming months, Mauritians have the opportunity to demand more than just words

As Mauritius approaches its 2024 elections, it is crucial to reflect on the state of accountability in the current political landscape, examining the promises made, the pitfalls encountered, and the path forward for a more transparent and responsible government.

Democracy's essence lies in its commitment to checks and balances, mechanisms designed to hold the government and associated institutions accountable for their actions. Ideally, decisions should reflect the national interest, and when they deviate, the responsible parties should face consequences. However, the all-too-familiar narrative soon unfolds — promises of change and reform during election campaigns give way to the continuation of age-old practices, where favoritism, nepotism, and cronyism overshadow principles of transparency, meritocracy, and competence.

As the current government approaches the 2024 elections, signs of a recurring pattern emerge. Nearly two years into its term, with limited tangible results to showcase, there is a discernible shift in strategy and approach. The focus now turns towards securing public support through the distribution of freebies, reminiscent of past political tactics. Different organizations are once again courted, their influence elevated to sway public opinion. Yet, amidst these familiar political manoeuvres, the deeper issues that demand urgent attention seem relegated to the background.

A retrospective glance at Mauritius' political history unveils instances where exceptional commitment to the nation's future clashed with the prevailing norms. Successful endeavours stemmed from the independence and strength of public institutions implementing policies in the public interest. Politicians, no matter their stature, faced mid-mandate scrutiny, preventing various abuses and the unchecked accumulation of wealth at the expense of the public. The media played a watchdog role, fearlessly exposing abuses, and public opinion was not easily swayed by political or private interests.

However, a gradual erosion began to take place. The disempowerment of public office holders occurred through constitutional

changes, making them susceptible to political pressures. Public institutions found themselves inundated with political appointees, often more aligned with political agendas than the welfare of the institutions they were meant to serve. The once-potent spotlight of public scrutiny dimmed, allowing politicians to operate with increased impunity. Boards and panels, once bastions of accountability, faced disbandment with each political shift.

The pivotal question emerges: can a robust system of checks and balances effectively prevent decisions detrimental to the public interest? The undue influence of a select few in steering decisions for personal gain raises concerns about accountability. Waiting until the end of a government's term for accountability is impractical; timely intervention is imperative.

In response to this challenge, a proactive and impartial mechanism is urgently needed. Swift investigations into reported cases of abuse and decisive action against *mala fide* proposals must occur before irreversible decisions are cemented. This is particularly pertinent in commercial decisions that impact the nation and public undertakings, where behind-the-scenes influencers stand to benefit.

As Mauritius stands on the brink of the 2024 elections, the call for accountability and transparency resonates louder than ever. The electorate must rise beyond the allure of electoral promises and scrutinize the government's commitment to genuine reform. Without a robust system ensuring accountability, the risk of costly and harmful decisions persists, potentially derailing the nation's progress and compromising the well-being of its citizens.

In the coming months, as political campaigns intensify and electoral rhetoric fills the air, Mauritians have the opportunity to demand more than just words. The focus should shift towards concrete actions, policy reforms, and institutional strengthening that fosters a culture of accountability. The nation's future depends on the collective insistence for a government that prioritizes the common good over personal interests, ensuring that the threads of accountability remain tightly woven into the fabric of Mauritian democracy.

Socratic Dialogue

On Resisting the Allure of a Few Shiny Coins in an Election Year

In this philosophical dialogue between Socrates and Cephalus, a wealthy businessman, the profound intersection of New Year resolutions and the complexities of an election year unfolds. As they embark on a journey through the labyrinth of promises, propaganda, and pecuniary allure, the two thinkers explore the challenges citizens face in staying true to their resolutions amidst the clamour of political discourse...

Plutonix



Socrates: Greetings once again, my esteemed Cephalus! As we delve into the labyrinth of New Year resolutions in the midst of an election year, I cannot help but marvel at the multifaceted challenges that lay ahead. The pursuit of resolutions, a noble endeavour indeed, is juxtaposed against the cacophony of promises, the dance of propaganda, and the alluring melodies of financial incentives that characterize the political landscape. How, then, can a citizen stay true to their resolutions in the face of such formidable adversaries?

Cephalus: Ah, Socrates, the journey towards self-improvement becomes all the more intriguing when set against the backdrop of political fervour. Let us unravel the layers of complexity that enshroud the resolution-making process, navigating through the treacherous waters of promises, propaganda, and pecuniary allure.

Socrates: An admirable endeavour, my friend! Let us begin with the siren call of promises. In an election year, politicians, like skilled rhetori-

cians, weave dreams of utopia, promising prosperity, and happiness for all. The citizens, eager for positive change, find themselves ensnared in the seductive web of these grandiose declarations. How, then, can one resist succumbing to the charm of such promises?

Cephalus: To resist promises, Socrates, one must adopt the mindset of a vigilant sentinel guarding the gates of reason. The citizen, much like a wise philosopher-king, should hone their ability to discern the substance behind the rhetoric. As they listen to promises of change, they must question the nature of that change, scrutinizing whether it signifies a mere rearrangement of the political furniture or a genuine transformation.

Socrates: A sagacious stance indeed! Yet, in the public square of ideas, citizens may find themselves susceptible to the mesmerizing oratory of politicians. The philosopher-king's discernment might be clouded by the eloquence of speech.

● Cont. on page 17

Mauritius Times

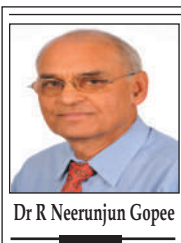
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Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

From The Frying Pan into The Fire

If there's one issue that almost dominated conversations as we met family and friends during the end of year festive season, it was assuredly the extreme, oppressive heat heightened by equally high humidity. There was no respite as we transitioned to January, in fact it seemed to get even worse, and in parts of the island was accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and heavy rains with unprecedented flooding.

Both literally and metaphorically, to use a phrase commonly taught during the schooldays of my generation, from the frying pan into the fire! Similar weather phenomena, involving extreme cold as well, are alas happening all over the world. Experts say that over and above the natural cycles, much of what is taking place can be ascribed to the climate change that is impacting the globe, and which is the result of unbridled human activities and exploitations of natural resources.

As if these were not enough trouble, the beast in man keeps surfacing in fight-to-death competitions for power, fame, money, conquest, and domination, especially in the world of politics. We need go no further than our own shores to witness the acrimonious narratives that have been making the waves and that will no doubt accentuate and become more strident, dirty even, as we approach the next election. It is a forlorn wish to hope for a modicum of wisdom to be infused into the discourses – which one could justifiably expect from ageing politicians – and that is a sad comment in regard to our upcoming generations who need more guiding vision than dark meaningless rhetoric.

* * *

Globally too...

However, matters seem to be no better at the global level either, where old conflicts persist along with new ones that reason says ought not to have been – but then who cares about reason in an atmosphere of hardened, even atavistic, ideological positionings? For example, on land along with the Ukraine war that is now in its second year, the Middle-East is again on fire triggered by the October attack on Israeli citizens as they were innocently enjoying a festival. No one is venturing to make a prediction of when there will be a resolution, but such an eventuality keeps receding as stances become increasingly rigid on either side.

On the other hand, there are four hotspots that have the potential to escalate and complicate further an already troubled world situation. One is the attacks from Yemen on ships in the Red Sea, and recently a renewal of Somali piracy in the Arabian Sea.

In Asia, against the backdrop of the ongoing China-Taiwan confrontation has erupted one between the Chinese and Philippine navies, over the disputed Spratly Islands where the Chinese have already built infrastructure. In a speech delivered by Philippines' president Marcos, he has vowed that his country will not give in to the Chinese at all. Besides, the right to global free navigation in the South China Sea is already in dispute.

* * *

India as first responder in the Indian Ocean

As reported in an online report by Aaron Matthew Lariosa on January 7, 2024, titled 'Indian Navy Retakes Merchant Ship From Armed Hijackers in the Arabian Sea' the Indian Navy sprang into action when a ship was hijacked in the Arabian Sea which forms part of

the Indian Ocean. The report is as follows:

'Indian Navy commandos secured the hijacked Liberian-flagged MV *Lila Norfolk* last week after a 24-hour confrontation off the Somali Coast in the Arabian Sea. This swift response comes as New Delhi reinforces its presence in the area, surging ships and aircraft to deter attacks on international shipping in the Western Indian Ocean Region.

Five to six armed hijackers boarded *Lila Norfolk* on Thursday, which was sailing 450 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia. The crew of the *Lila Norfolk*, composed of 15 Indian and six Philippine nationals, sheltered from the hijackers in the bulk tanker's citadel and were unharmed during the entire ordeal. Indian naval forces deployed the destroyer INS Chennai (D65) as well as several helicopters and aircraft, including an American-built P-8 maritime patrol aircraft and a MQ-9B SeaGuardian drone, in response.'

Several reports in the Indian media have given extensive coverage to this serious incident, accompanied by graphic or live images of the dramatic rescue operation carried out by Marcos – marine commandos of the Indian Navy. They took over and 'sanitized' the ship, and the hijackers had no other option but to flee – *la queue leu leu* as is so expressively described in French!

Subsequently, the Indian Navy has increased the number of warships in the region to ten, adding seven more to the three that were already present there, and there will be a corresponding enhancement of aircraft and drone surveillance according to information available.

It is worth noting that this is not the first time that the Indian Navy has carried out such a rescue operation. It has done so in the past several years in other hijackings in the region by pirates.

This episode reflects the increasing relevance of the

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Pic - Shekhawati Live

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Indian Navy in the overall maritime security of the Indian Ocean, a matter of concern to us as well as we would surely realise. This is so in the context of a possible resurgence of piracy in the region, which had been at a low key in recent years, and which now is deemed may be on the rise given the vulnerability of that region with the events happening in the Red Sea. Both these upsurges will have an inevitable impact on the economy as the experts have warned, and as a small island nation there is no doubt that we stand to be hit quite hard. Any move to ensure regional maritime security should be welcome indeed.

It may be noted that this first responder role is a part of the broad humanitarian approach that has characterized India in its global role and presence, which in recent years is having greater visibility.

As the External Affairs of India, Shri Subramaniam Jaishankar, notes in his book *The India Way*, India's 'greater capabilities and confidence' are building up its 'unique brand as a generous power,' one that 'fits well with the embrace of the world that is inherent in Indian thinking and reinforces its positioning as a power that can bridge divides.'

Further, he points out, 'this approach... has been expressed especially through initiatives responding to natural calamities... as a first responder to crisis situations (Author's note - for example, supplying the world with vaccines and medicines, a significant proportion as grants to over 70 countries)... India has surely but steadily assisted in underwriting the global commons... through a physical presence supported by declared respect for international law and norms.' In this respect, one may note the All-Women Indian peacekeeping contingent in the Congo, as well as the long-standing contribution of Indian soldiers, both as part of the UN peacekeeping forces in different countries.

The larger paradigm, to quote Jaishankar again, is the 'rebalancing of the world order' that is taking place. It would be foolhardy for tiny Mauritius to miss the opportunity of benefiting from that evolving scenario.

2023: L'année la plus chaude de tous les temps

2024 s'apprête à surpasser même cela

Par A. Bartleby

Les enregistrements météorologiques fiables remontent à 1850, mais les données proxy plus anciennes sur le changement climatique - issues des cernes d'arbres, des carottes de glace et des sédiments - montrent que les températures au cours de l'année 2023 dépassent probablement celles de n'importe quelle autre période des 100,000 dernières années.



Les températures au cours de l'année 2023 dépassent probablement celles de n'importe quelle autre période des 100,000 dernières années. P - Sciences et Avenir

"C'est également la première année où toutes les journées étaient plus chaudes d'au moins un degré par rapport à la période préindustrielle", a déclaré Samantha Burgess, directrice adjointe du Service de changement climatique Copernicus (C3S). L'année a enregistré un autre record inquiétant: deux jours en novembre 2023 ont dépassé la référence préindustrielle de plus de deux degrés Celsius.

Des records ont été battus sur tous les continents. En Europe, 2023 a été la deuxième année la plus chaude jamais enregistrée, à 0,17 °C de moins qu'en 2020. En effet, l'année 2023 a été la plus chaude jamais enregistrée, avec une augmentation de la température de surface de la Terre frôlant presque le seuil critique de 1,5 degré Celsius, ont déclaré mardi les observateurs du climat de l'Union européenne. D'ailleurs, la limite de 1,5 °C a été dépassée pour environ la moitié de l'année.

Conséquences dramatiques sur la terre

En 2023, il y a eu d'énormes incendies au Canada, des sécheresses extrêmes dans la Corne de l'Afrique ou au Moyen-Orient, des vagues de chaleur estivales sans précédent en Europe, aux États-Unis et en Chine, ainsi qu'une chaleur hivernale record en Australie et en Amérique du Sud.

Le changement climatique a intensifié les phénomènes à travers la planète: vagues de chaleur, sécheresses et incendies de forêt, par exemple, ce qui explique l'augmentation de température notée au niveau mondial. Au-delà de la limite de 1,5 °C, les impacts climatiques seront susceptibles de s'auto-renforcer et devenir ainsi

plus catastrophiques, selon les scientifiques.

Effets néfastes sur les océans

2023 a marqué le début d'un phénomène météorologique El Niño se produisant naturellement, réchauffant les eaux du Pacifique Sud et favorisant des conditions météorologiques plus chaudes. On prévoit que le phénomène atteindra son pic en 2024 et est lié aux huit mois consécutifs de chaleur record de juin à décembre.

Ces températures océaniques sans précédent ont provoqué des vagues de chaleur marines dévastatrices pour la vie aquatique et ont intensifié l'intensité des tempêtes.

Les océans absorbent plus de 90% de la chaleur excessive causée par l'activité humaine et jouent un rôle majeur dans la régulation du climat de la Terre.

Les températures croissantes ont également accéléré la fonte des plateformes de glace et des crêtes gelées qui aident à empêcher les glaciers massifs du Groenland et de l'Antarctique occidental de glisser dans l'océan et de faire monter le niveau de la mer. La banquise de mer en Antarctique a atteint des niveaux records de faiblesse en 2023.

"Les extrêmes que nous avons observés au cours des derniers mois témoignent dramatiquement de la distance qui nous sépare désormais du climat dans lequel notre civilisation s'est développée", a déclaré Carlo Buontempo, directeur du C3S.

Et à l'île Maurice?

En tant que Petit État Insulaire en Développement (PEID), le territoire mauricien est très vulnérable au dérèglement climatique. L'île Maurice est classée au 51^e rang des pays les plus vulnérables. Les températures et le niveau de la mer ont augmenté, et ce, plus rapidement que les moyennes mondiales. L'érosion côtière et le blanchiment des coraux sont plus fréquents aujourd'hui. Selon les spécialistes, le pays sera en stress hydrique en 2025.

Selon la théorie de Clausius-Clapeyron, si l'atmosphère se réchauffe d'un degré, il y aura 7% d'eau de plus. En ce qui concerne les pluies cycloniques, une augmentation d'environ 15% est attendue pour un réchauffement global de 2°C. La fonte des glaces et autres phénomènes aidant, le niveau des océans va encore s'élever et va apporter, dans son sillage, le risque accru d'inondations lors des cyclones tropicaux et des fortes averses. L'intensité des cyclones va augmenter ainsi que la force des vents.

Un mois après un accord climatique à la COP28 à Dubaï appelant à une transition progressive loin des énergies fossiles, principales responsables du réchauffement climatique, les déclarations de différents responsables ne sont pas encourageantes. Il semblerait qu'il y a toujours une absence de bonne volonté politique sur le plan international pour résoudre ce problème.

Pourtant, il est difficile de lutter contre les phénomènes du dérèglement climatique. Il faut donc apprendre à mieux se protéger des risques durant les cyclones et adopter une attitude de prudence. À l'île Maurice, y a-t-il une instance qui s'occupe des branches dangereuses qui risquent de tomber sur les fils électriques? Difficile de dire quand on observe les arbres longeant les routes actuellement... Les exercices d'évacuation des zones côtières ne devraient-elles pas reprendre?

* * *



2024, l'année des élections. Malgré tous ses problèmes, l'idéal démocratique conserve un attrait généralisé, même pour les dirigeants autoritaires. P - Globely News

La moitié de la population mondiale votera en 2024

L'année mettra à l'épreuve même les démocraties les plus robustes

Plus de 50 pays, abritant la moitié de la population mondiale, devraient organiser des élections nationales en 2024. L'année semble destinée à tester les démocraties les plus solides et à renforcer le pouvoir des dirigeants aux tendances autoritaires.

Les défis de la démocratie en Afrique

Le changement climatique, les perturbations des approvisionnements en céréales dues à la guerre en Ukraine et l'attention croissante de la Chine et de la Russie font partie des forces qui façonnent l'Afrique, le continent à la croissance la plus rapide au monde.

Huit pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest ont connu des coups d'État militaires depuis 2020, dont le Niger et le Gabon en 2023.

Afrique du Sud: En Afrique du Sud, des élections législatives prévues entre mai et août 2024 se dérouleront dans un contexte économique difficile, avec des coupures de courant dévastatrices et un taux de chômage de près de 32%. Surmonter le désenchantement des électeurs sera un défi pour le Congrès national africain, longtemps dominant.

Ce dernier détient la présidence et une majorité au Parlement depuis la fin du système d'apartheid raciste du pays en 1994, mais l'organisation autrefois vénérée a remporté moins de la moitié des voix aux élections locales de 2021. Si son soutien tombe en dessous de 50%, le parti devra former une coalition pour s'assurer que les législateurs réélisent le président Cyril Ramaphosa.

Sénégal: Le Sénégal est considéré comme un bastion de stabilité dans la région. Maintenant que le président Macky Sall se retire, l'élection du 25 février 2024 est considérée comme un indicateur de la résilience politique du pays.

Les partisans du leader de l'opposition Ousmane Sonko accusent le gouvernement de chercher à l'empêcher de se présenter avec une série de poursuites judiciaires, ce qui a provoqué des manifestations meurtrières. L'élection présidentielle pourrait "marquer un retour aux normes des années précédentes ou signaler un changement durable vers une politique plus volatile", selon l'analyste du groupe Eurasia Tochi Eni-Kalu.

☞ Suite en page 5

La moitié de la population mondiale votera en 2024

☞ Suite de la page 4

Soudan: Le Soudan du Sud, le plus jeune pays du monde, prévoit de tenir ses premières élections longtemps retardées en décembre. Le vote serait une étape-clé, mais il pourrait être truffé de dangers et être vulnérable à l'échec dans les conditions actuelles.

Le nœud gordien de l'Europe

Le populisme a gagné du terrain en Europe alors que le continent fait face à l'instabilité économique et à des migrations massives d'ailleurs. Les élections nationales de l'année dernière ont produit des signaux mitigés. La Slovaquie a élu le Premier ministre populiste pro-russe Robert Fico, mais les électeurs polonais ont remplacé un gouvernement conservateur par une coalition dirigée par le centriste Donald Tusk.



P - TOI

Grande-Bretagne: En Grande-Bretagne, ancien membre de l'UE, le populisme s'est exprimé lors du référendum sur le Brexit en 2016 et au cours du mandat turbulent de l'ancien Premier ministre, Boris Johnson.

Une élection générale au Royaume-Uni cette année opposera les conservateurs au pouvoir au Parti travailliste de centre-gauche, largement en tête dans les sondages alors qu'il cherche à retrouver le pouvoir après 14 ans.

Union européenne: Les élections de juin pour le Parlement de l'Union européenne à 27 nations indiqueront si les partis traditionnels peuvent repousser les rivaux populistes, nombreux étant sceptiques quant au soutien militaire à l'Ukraine.

L'ouest et ses démêlés

Etats-Unis: Une revanche possible entre le président Joe Biden et son prédécesseur Donald Trump plane sur le calendrier électoral. Une victoire de Trump en novembre 2024 sera peut-être le plus grand imprévu mondial. Cependant, des votes à enjeux élevés avant cela mesureront également "l'humeur de mécontentement, d'impatience, d'inquiétude" parmi des électeurs dispersés, a déclaré Bronwen Maddox, directeur du groupe de réflexion londonien Chatham House.

Mexique: Le Mexique est sur le point d'élire sa première présidente le 2 juin 2024 - soit l'ancienne maire de Mexico Claudia Sheinbaum, protégée du président Andrés Manuel López Obrador, soit l'ancienne sénatrice de l'opposition Xóchitl Gálvez. La gagnante dirigera un pays confronté à une violence liée à la drogue et une

armée de plus en plus influente.

El Salvador: Un autre dirigeant cherchant à conserver le pouvoir est le président salvadorien Nayib Bukele, qui a remporté un large soutien en utilisant des pouvoirs d'urgence pour réprimer de manière agressive les gangs de rue ultra-violents.

Une Cour suprême composée de membres de son parti a autorisé Bukele à se présenter le 4 février malgré une interdiction constitutionnelle de deux mandats consécutifs. Bien que des gouvernements étrangers aient critiqué la suspension de certains droits civils, on ne s'attend pas à ce que Bukele soit sérieusement concurrencé.

Les antagonismes en Asie

Bangladesh: La Première ministre bangladaise Sheikh Hasina, la dirigeante féminine la plus ancienne du monde, a remporté un quatrième mandat consécutif lundi lors d'une élection boycottée par les partis d'opposition et précédée de violences. Le parti Ligue Awami de Hasina a été réélu avec une faible participation de 40 %, et la répression de la dissidence risque de déclencher des troubles politiques.

Biélorussie: C'est une histoire similaire en Biélorussie, dirigé par le président Alexandre Loukachenko. Le 25 février, le pays devrait tenir ses premières élections législatives depuis que le gouvernement de Loukachenko a réprimé les manifestations contre la réélection contestée de l'allié de Poutine en 2020. Des milliers d'opposants sont en prison ou ont fui le pays.

Inde: L'Inde, le pays le plus peuplé du monde, devrait organiser des élections générales d'ici mi-2024, ce qui pourrait offrir au Premier ministre Narendra Modi du Parti du peuple indien un troisième mandat consécutif.

Pour ses partisans, Modi est un outsider politique qui a mis fin à des décennies de corruption et a fait de l'Inde une puissance mondiale émergente. Les critiques affirment que les attaques contre la presse et la liberté d'expression sont devenues plus audacieuses sous sa gouvernance.

Indonésie: Les électeurs en Indonésie, la plus grande démocratie d'Asie du Sud-Est, choisiront un successeur au président Joko Widodo le 14 février. Les sondages d'opinion indiquent une course serrée entre le ministre de la Défense Prabowo Subianto, nationaliste de droite, et l'ancien gouverneur du Centre-Java, Ganjar Pranowo, candidat du parti au pouvoir.

Le colistier de Subianto est le fils du leader sortant Widodo, suscitant des spéculations sur la formation d'une dynastie. Cependant, le vainqueur marquerait une continuité des politiques entachées de corruption qui dominent l'Indonésie depuis la fin de la dictature de Suharto en 1998.

Pakistan: Les élections parlementaires du 8 février au Pakistan sont également contestées par des politiciens bien établis, sous le regard de l'armée puissante du pays. L'ancien Premier ministre Imran Khan, une figure populaire de l'opposition, est emprisonné, et les responsables électoraux lui ont interdit de se présenter.

Son rival, Nawaz Sharif, Premier ministre à trois reprises et leader de la Ligue musulmane du Pakistan, a

été autorisé à se présenter après l'annulation de ses condamnations pour corruption. Le Parti du peuple pakistanais, dirigé par l'ancien ministre des Affaires étrangères Bulawal Bhutto Zardari, est également en lice.

Russie: Il ne fait aucun doute que le président russe Vladimir Poutine remportera l'élection présidentielle en mars. Il n'y a qu'une opposition symbolique à sa candidature pour un cinquième mandat. Ses principaux rivaux sont en prison ou en exil ou morts. Et, pour rappel, un politicien appelant à la paix en Ukraine a été disqualifié.

Taiwan: Les élections présidentielles et législatives de Taïwan auront lieu samedi sous une pression intense de la Chine, ce qui rend l'issue importante pour une grande partie de la région Asie-Pacifique, ainsi que pour les États-Unis.

Pékin a renouvelé sa menace d'utiliser la force militaire pour annexer l'île autonome qu'il considère comme son propre territoire, et a décrit les élections comme un choix entre la guerre et la paix. Aucun des trois principaux candidats à la présidence n'a indiqué une volonté de tester la résolution de la Chine en déclarant l'indépendance de Taïwan.

Cela dit, le favori William Lai, actuel vice-président de Taïwan, a promis de renforcer la défense de l'île, et une victoire de sa part pourrait intensifier les tensions à travers le détroit. Le Parti nationaliste, ou Kuomintang, est plus favorable à Pékin que le Parti démocratique de Lai.

L'idéal démocratique conserve un attrait généralisé

Du Royaume-Uni à Taïwan en passant par la Russie, l'Inde et l'Afrique du Sud, avec un détour par El Salvador, les élections présidentielles et législatives ont d'énormes implications pour les droits de l'homme, les économies, les relations internationales et les perspectives de paix dans un monde instable, selon Jill Lawless de l'AP.

Dans certains pays, le vote ne sera ni libre, ni équitable. Et dans de nombreux pays, les restrictions imposées aux candidats de l'opposition, la lassitude des électeurs et le potentiel de manipulation et de désinformation ont fait du sort de la démocratie un enjeu central de la campagne électorale.

Pourtant, malgré tous ses problèmes, l'idéal démocratique conserve un attrait généralisé, même pour les dirigeants autoritaires.

Gabriel Attal, 34 ans, nommé Premier ministre

Attal est le premier Premier ministre ouvertement gay de la France

Emmanuel Macron a nommé Gabriel Attal, 34 ans, ministre de l'Éducation, comme son nouveau Premier ministre, a annoncé son bureau dans un communiqué.

Gabriel Attal s'est fait connaître en tant que porte-parole du gouvernement et ministre de l'Éducation. Il est également le premier Premier ministre ouvertement gay de la France et a été révélé par un ancien camarade d'école en 2018. À l'époque, il était en couple avec Stéphane Séjourné, ancien conseiller politique d'Emmanuel Macron.

Il a été choisi pour ce poste après la démission de son prédécesseur Elisabeth Borne, suite à des troubles politiques liés à une loi sur l'immigration permettant au gouvernement de déporter des étrangers.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 7



Anil Madan

Trump's Claim of Immunity - A License to Act with Impunity

Donald Trump faces some 90 criminal charges, most for acts while he was President, and some after he left office. In the case charging him with using illegal efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and to defraud the US government, Trump moved to have the entire case dismissed on the grounds that a President cannot be prosecuted for acts committed while he was president. Added to that is the claim that the President is answerable only to Congress, and not in the courts.

This latter claim is based on the text of the US Constitution dealing with punishment upon impeachment: "Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law."

Based on this language, Trump argues that the president is answerable only to Congress under the impeachment clause and, if he had been convicted, he would be answerable for criminal acts. However, since he was not convicted in his impeachment trials, his acquittal insulates him from any further liability. Hence, the claim is, he is immune from liability.

In the early days of this nation's history as a newly established Republic, the notion of separation of powers — among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches — was a key element of the structure of the government. Trump's lawyers argued that "the immunity of the President's official acts from judicial second-guessing has been treated as self-evident and foundational from the dawn of the Republic." They cited Chief Justice Marshall's opinion in the landmark case, *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) that "by the Constitution of the United States, the President is invested with certain important political powers, in the exercise of which he is to use his own discretion and is accountable only to his country in his political character, and to his own conscience." And that, "the acts of such an officer, as an officer, can never be examinable by the courts."

The qualifying phrases "in the exercise of which he is to use his own discretion" and "the acts of such an officer, as an officer," act as delimiters of a supposed absolute immunity.

Trump's attack on the validity of the indictments started in the federal district court for the District of Columbia where the criminal charges were brought. Judge Tanya Chutkan, the federal district judge assigned to the case, ruled on Trump's motion to dismiss the indictment in its entirety on the claimed ground that the Constitution grants him "absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions performed within the 'outer perimeter' of his official responsibility" while he served as President of the United States, so long as he was not both impeached and convicted for those actions.

Judge Chutkan ruled that the Constitution's text, structure, and history do not support that contention. She wrote: "No court — or any other branch of government — has ever accepted it. And this court will not so hold. Whatever immunities a sitting president may enjoy, the United States has only one Chief Executive at a time, and that position does not confer a lifelong 'get-out-of-jail-free' pass." In an emphatic ruling, Judge Chutkan noted that



Trump claims presidents 'have absolute immunity.' But judges seem skeptical. Pic - Common Dreams

“Donald Trump faces some 90 criminal charges, most for acts while he was President, and some after he left office. In the case charging him with using illegal efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and to defraud the US government, Trump moved to have the entire case dismissed on the grounds that a President cannot be prosecuted for acts committed while he was president. Added to that is the claim that the President is answerable only to Congress, and not in the courts...”

former Presidents enjoy no special conditions on their federal criminal liability. Trump is subject to federal investigation, indictment, prosecution, conviction, and punishment for any criminal acts while in office.

Trump's position evokes memories of President Nixon's interview with Richard Frost where Frost asked if the President could decide that it's in the best interest of the nation and do something illegal. Nixon replied: "Well, when the president does it ... that means that is not illegal." A careful reading of the transcript of the Frost-Nixon interview shows that Nixon did not go as far as Trump. He seemed to suggest that those who acted under the President's direction in such situations would be immune from prosecution and emphasized that burglaries are per se illegal, but when undertaken because of an expressed policy decided by the President in the interests of national security, then that means what would be technically illegal does not subject those who engage in such activity to criminal prosecution. And Nixon expressly stated: "I do not mean to suggest that the President is above the law."

President Nixon's comments show his appreciation of the distinction between the need for unfettered discretion that the President must have in his ability to make and carry out executive policy decisions, versus the fundamental American notion that no person is above the law.

Trump, on the other hand, tried to turn the proposition on its head and essentially argued that there was no law above him as President.

The text of the Constitution is our starting point. It contains no provision conferring immunity on a President. In contrast, the Constitution grants to Senators and Representatives, privilege from arrest while attending sessions of their respective Houses, and in traveling to and returning from the same, and they may not be questioned in any

other Place for any Speech or Debate in either House. The only exceptions are for Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace. The omission of presidential immunity may therefore be treated as deliberate.

Trump's approach was to take the language of the Impeachment Judgment Clause quoted above and extrapolate the argument that the President may be charged by indictment only in cases where the President has been impeached and convicted by trial in the Senate. Judge Chutkan ruled that a grant of absolute immunity to Trump would contravene the plain meaning and original understanding of the clause, as well as common sense.

Against this background, Trump appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Judge Chutkan's

refusal to dismiss the indictment against him on immunity grounds.

On January 10, the appellate court heard oral argument on the appeal before a three-judge panel. Such a panel is the norm and I mention it here because whichever side loses when the panel renders its decision, can apply to the court to have what is known as an en banc rehearing, i.e., a hearing before all the judges of the Circuit Court of Appeals. Such a hearing is discretionary, and the court may, but is not required to, grant it. After that, the losing party can petition the United States Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari, which is another discretionary appeal to the highest court in the land. The Supreme Court may grant certiorari or not. If the Supreme Court does not grant certiorari, it will sub silentio, affirm whatever decision the appellate court makes.

A key part of Trump's argument in the appellate court is that he was merely carrying out his constitutional duty to ensure that election laws are upheld. One of the panel judges, who was appointed by President Bush, was skeptical: "I think it's paradoxical to say that his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed allows him to violate the criminal law," she said.

Putting aside the difficulty in deciding what an official act of the presidency is, and where the President is serving purely personal interests, such as campaigning for reelection or engaging in election contests whether brought by him or his opponent, it was necessary to test the limits of Trump's legal argument. One of the judges asked his lawyer if a President ordered SEAL Team 6, the Navy commando unit, to assassinate a President's political rival, would he be subject to criminal prosecution.

● Cont. on page 7

Trump's Claim of Immunity - A License to Act with Impunity

● Cont. from page 4

Trump's lawyer answered that such a President would surely be impeached and convicted, but he persisted in his position that no court would have jurisdiction to oversee or hear a murder trial unless there was first an impeachment and a conviction. In the case of acquittal by the Senate, there would be no prosecution possible.

Noting that one of the principal pillars on which Trump's lawyer's argument rests is the notion that the doctrine of separation of powers precludes other branches of the government from undertaking prosecutions of the executive (President), one of the judges observed that Trump's lawyer's concession that a President could be prosecuted if he had been impeached and convicted, undercut his argument: "Once you concede that Presidents can be prosecuted under some circumstances, your separation of powers argument falls away, and the issues before us are narrowed to are you correct in your interpretation of the impeachment judgment clause?" she said.

Whereas it is unwise to try to extrapolate how appellate judges will rule based on their questions and comments during oral argument, it certainly seemed that the judges were not receptive to Trump's claim of immunity or the arguments of his lawyers.

Ultimately, the legal ruling may turn on the distinction



“Trump's position evokes memories of President Nixon's interview with Richard Frost where Frost asked if the President could decide that it's in the best interest of the nation and do something illegal. Nixon replied: 'Well, when the president does it ... that means that is not illegal'...”

between the discretionary decisions that a President must make in carrying out his executive responsibilities, versus the ministerial acts he is required to do in conformity with law. One of the judges did ask about this distinction but it seemed lost on Trump's counsel.

A couple of procedural questions arose that may mean no decision on this appeal or no decision until the district judge (Chutkan) conducts a further analysis. The first is a question of jurisdiction, whether the appeals court can even entertain Trump's appeal in the absence of a final judgment. There is precedent suggesting that the appeal is premature. The second is the question whether Judge Chutkan should be asked to rule which of Trump's actions, if any, fall within the discretionary acts exception and which acts were either personal or did not involve presidential duties. The jurisdictional challenge is a difficult obstacle to overcome. The court may well remand the case to the district court for trial without a decision. On the other point, I do not think the appellate court will dodge making a ruling since the judges can discern which acts are official executive duties and which are not.

My overall impression is that Trump's lawyers did not come close to making a compelling case for presidential immunity.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Éclairages

Gabriel Attal, 34 ans, nommé Premier ministre



Gabriel Attal est devenu mardi à 34 ans le plus jeune chef de gouvernement de l'histoire de la République française, le premier ouvertement homosexuel aussi, à l'issue d'un remaniement ministériel censé donner un nouveau souffle à la présidence d'Emmanuel Macron. P - France 24

☞ Suite de la page 5

À 34 ans, Gabriel Attal est le plus jeune Premier ministre de la France d'après-guerre. Ce record était précédemment détenu par Laurent Fabius, qui avait 37 ans lorsqu'il avait été nommé Premier ministre par François Mitterrand en 1984.

Comment Gabriel Attal est-il devenu un nom familier?

Gabriel Attal a rejoint le Parti socialiste à l'âge de 17 ans. Il est devenu populaire après avoir été nommé porte-parole du gouvernement pendant la pandémie.

Ensuite, il a été nommé secrétaire d'État au ministère des Finances, puis ministre de l'Éducation en 2023. Il est devenu populaire et a été salué comme l'un des ministres les plus avisés d'Emmanuel Macron et un communicateur efficace.

La première mesure de Gabriel Attal après sa nomination comme ministre de l'Éducation l'année dernière a été d'interdire la tenue abaya musulmane dans les écoles

publiques. Cela lui a valu une grande popularité auprès de nombreux électeurs conservateurs.

Dans une émission de télévision populaire récente, Gabriel Attal a raconté comment il avait été harcelé au collège par un ancien camarade de classe. Il a raconté comment un blog avait été créé pour noter le physique des camarades de classe et la manière dont il avait été ridiculisé.

Pourquoi Emmanuel Macron a-t-il choisi Gabriel Attal pour le poste?

Emmanuel Macron a eu du mal à faire face à un Parlement plus turbulent depuis la perte de sa majorité absolue en 2022. Emmanuel Macron et Gabriel Attal peuvent ensemble insuffler un nouvel élan au gouvernement, mais le chef de l'opposition a déclaré que le président français assumerait lui-même une grande partie de la prise de décision.

L'appel final de Julian Assange aura lieu à la Haute Cour du Royaume-Uni

'Il s'agit du cas le plus important pour la liberté de la presse au XXIe siècle', selon John Rees de la campagne 'Free Assange'

La Haute Cour du Royaume-Uni a confirmé la tenue d'une audience publique les 20 et 21 février 2024. Cette audience de deux jours pourrait être la dernière chance pour Julian Assange d'empêcher son extradition vers les États-Unis. En cas d'extradition, Assange risque une peine de 175 ans pour avoir révélé des crimes de guerre commis par les États-Unis en Afghanistan et en Irak.

Assange est détenu dans la prison de haute sécurité de Belmarsh depuis son arrestation à la demande d'extradition des États-Unis le 11 avril 2019. Ce sera son cinquième Noël à Belmarsh.

L'audience publique à venir se tiendra devant un panel de deux juges qui examineront une décision antérieure de la Haute Cour prise par un seul juge le 6 juin 2023, refusant à M. Assange la permission de faire appel.

Cette étape décisive dans les appels de M. Assange déterminera l'une des deux issues: soit M. Assange aura



En cas d'extradition, Julian Assange risque une peine de 175 ans pour avoir révélé des crimes de guerre commis par les États-Unis en Afghanistan et en Irak. P - L'Humanité

d'autres opportunités pour plaider sa cause devant les tribunaux nationaux (britanniques), soit il aura épuisé tous les appels sans possibilité d'un recours ultérieur au Royaume-Uni et entrera ainsi dans le processus d'extradition. Une demande devant la Cour européenne des droits de l'homme reste une possibilité.

La campagne de liberté d'Assange est soutenue par Amnesty International, la National Union of Journalists, Reporters Without Borders et pratiquement toutes les organisations de droits civils, de liberté de la presse et de syndicats de journalistes dans le monde. Plus de 70 politiciens fédéraux australiens ont appelé les États-Unis à abandonner les poursuites. Aux États-Unis, le nombre de représentants du Congrès appelant à l'abandon de l'affaire ne cesse de croître.

John Rees de la campagne Free Assange a déclaré: "Les États-Unis cherchent à condamner Julian Assange en vertu de l'Espionage Act de 1917. S'ils réussissent, ils auront réussi à redéfinir le journalisme comme de l'espionnage. Chaque journaliste sera intimidé. Chaque journal et diffuseur regardera du matériel critique envers le gouvernement et ressentira une pression significative de ne pas publier de peur de poursuites et d'emprisonnement. Il s'agit du cas le plus important pour la liberté de la presse au XXIe siècle, et nous devons nous assurer de ne pas perdre les libertés durement acquises."

A. Bartleby

Interview: Kugan Parapen, Economist

“The next general elections are critical for the future of this country”

‘Opposition parties have a unique opportunity in 2024 to bring forward the biggest societal revolution since independence. Will they seize it?’

In this interview with Kugan Parapen, economic spokesperson for *Rezistans ek Alternativ*, Mauritius Times delves into the intricacies surrounding the potential timing of the next general elections. Against the backdrop of speculation and political manoeuvring, Kugan Parapen provides insightful perspectives on the democratic implications, the strategies of the ruling party, and the challenges facing the opposition. He also addresses questions on the opposition’s performance, potential game-changing factors in the upcoming elections, and the socio-economic consequences of political decisions. As the political stage unfolds in Mauritius, the interview also explores external influences, global economic trends, and the critical choices facing the electorate.

Mauritius Times: There have been a lot of speculations on social media, as well as prognostications by local “politologues,” about the timing of the next general elections, especially in the wake of Pravind Jugnauth’s casual but deliberate remark that the elections could also take place beyond 2024. Beyond the longing for some fresh air in the governance of the country, does it matter when the elections are held?

Kugan Parapen: From a strictly democratic perspective, it is somewhat a joke that the date of the most important event in the country’s democratic calendar remains unknown until a few weeks before it actually happens.

Adding insult to injury is the fact that the onus of such

“ On numerous occasions in the past we have seen governments attempt last-ditch manoeuvres to improve their appeal vis-à-vis the electorate but to no avail. That said, a trump card can be a game changer. For example, the last minute MedPoint alliance between the MMM and the MSM in 2000 was such a trump card. Who is in possession of a trump card in 2024? Will they know how and when to use it if they do indeed possess one? ”



a decision fall into the hands of the Prime Minister solely. While the most fervent supporters of the MSM will say that this has always been the case and that this is the prerogative of all Prime Ministers of the Republic, an unbiased assessment of such a prerogative can only see its unfair nature.

If we recall what happened the last time general elections were held in our country, we will remember the nastiness surrounding the dissolution of Parliament. Then, the incumbent MSM government kept saying that they would see out their mandate but, in the meantime, they were secretly getting ready for elections. So much so that when Parliament was dissolved, Jugnauth was more than ready to hit the campaign ground running while the opposition was yet to get in their stride.

Should we expect a repeat of 2019 in 2024? Probably. As such, it does not really matter when elections are held, unless you are a staunch astrology believer as we hear some are. What matters more is the degree of an unfair advantage the government can garner by catching the opposition by surprise. With that in mind, I would say that it is up to the opposition forces to be ready and not get caught by the pettiness of the MSM once again.

* It’s the government of the day that can fill the pockets of electors in exchange for their support, and what we have been seeing lately is that it has

started to put the political conditions in place for the holding of elections anytime within the next three to six months. The Opposition cannot beat the MSM-led government at that game. Does this mean that the election outcome could be highly predictable?

History has taught us that the run-up to an election is generally less important than the full journey leading to a general election. It is then quite possible that the outcome of the next election has already been sealed. How much can the government do in the coming months to alter the perception of the people on its tenure?

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On numerous occasions in the past we have seen governments attempt last-ditch manoeuvres to improve their appeal vis-à-vis the electorate but to no avail. That said, a trump card can be a game changer. For example, the last minute MedPoint alliance between the MMM and the MSM in 2000 was such a trump card. Who is in possession of a trump card in 2024? Will they know how and when to use it if they do indeed possess one?

* In the meantime, would you say that the opposition has lived up to the people’s expectations and to yours personally?

I suspect you are referring to the parliamentary opposition here.

By and large, the mainstream parliamentary parties are aging, especially those politicians who are close to the leadership of these parties. Now, I know that age is just a number, but one cannot but acknowledge the disconnect between these traditional opposition parties and the younger generations. Jugnauth’s team has recognised that and that is why he has made a special effort to woo this electorate over recent months.

Coming back to our appreciation of the opposition, we need to recognise that Mauritius is tending towards multipartism. Thus, an appraisal of the opposition cannot be limited to parliamentary parties only, but we also need to include extra parliamentary parties as well. It is high time to realise that if our electoral system featured a decent proportional representation (PR) layer, multiple parties would be elected to Parliament as is currently the case in sound democracies across the world.

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'Citizens of this country settle their scores with politicians in the secrecy of the voting booth... ... is anything brewing underneath the seemingly calm ocean'

☞ Cont. from page 8

We need to appraise the work of the opposition in a context whereby the government has had increasingly recourse to what many would qualify as fascist methods. MSM and its allies were on the ropes when the public manifested its discontent following the Wakashio disaster. Never in the history of this country had so many people taken to the streets to express their anger and exasperation with a government.

The second lockdown, which occurred in early 2021, was a timely 'distraction' for the government and allowed those in power to divert that deep-rooted anger. Then through strategic targeted actions, they managed to instil a degree of fear in many and have been surfing on this seemingly calm ocean ever since. But is anything brewing underneath? We are often told that citizens of this country settle their scores with politicians in the secrecy of the voting booth... Their verdict is imminent!

*** Whatever the views of opinion makers and the Opposition inside or outside Parliament regarding the current government, ultimately it will be the choice of the electors whether to vote the current government back into office or opt for the Opposition. That would effectively reflect the democratic nature of the electoral process and the role of the electors in determining the government, don't you think?**

Vox Populi, Vox Dei. If we are to remain a credible democracy, it is absolutely essential that we respect the outcome of the next general elections, irrespective of who wins or loses.

Over the years and elections, there has been an admirable and laudable serenity when it comes to political transitions in this country. Alas, there has been a departure from this peaceful and respectful transfer of power in 2019. Unfortunately, the sheer number of people who were nowhere to be found on the ballots does raise a few serious question marks.

We must do our utmost to ensure that such disturbing occurrences do not repeat themselves this year or at any other time in the future. Democracy is precious!

*** What if the Pravind Jugnauth-led alliance were to win his gamble, which could also be seen as an endorsement by the electorate of his policies and strategies? What do you think would happen to the traditional parties and the leadership of the Labour Party, the MMM, and the PMSD in the short- and medium-terms?**

Our country has long lost dignity when it comes to politics. Political parties have turned their back on democratic traditions and are nowadays a shadow of their former selves.

One would like to think that a triumph of Jugnauth at the next general elections would herald a deep-rooted renewal of staff within all opposition parties. But we do not expect this to materialise. Stepping down is not in the DNA of our politicians. Who was the last major leader of a political party to make way following an electoral defeat? Can Mauritius envisage a 34-year-old Prime Minister as is currently the case in France?

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“ One would like to think that a triumph of Jugnauth at the next general elections would herald a deep-rooted renewal of staff within all opposition parties. But we do not expect this to materialise. Stepping down is not in the DNA of our politicians. Who was the last major leader of a political party to make way following an electoral defeat? Can Mauritius envisage a 34-year-old Prime Minister as is currently the case in France? ”

“ The Republic of Mauritius possesses valuable economic and geopolitical assets. As irresponsible as one can be, one does not go bankrupt overnight if one possesses wealth. And ironically, this is probably our main weakness. If one is to learn from one's mistake, one would rather hit rock bottom as soon as possible so that one can subsequently recover. This is unlikely to be the country's destiny under current circumstances... ”



The short- and medium-term implications of such tenacity from political leaders can only be far-reaching. To a certain degree, by clinging to power at any cost, political leaders are weakening their own parties since more and more people are likely to turn their back on their respective parties. We talked earlier about the disconnect between younger generations and these rigid political parties. This does create a political vacuum. At some point, this vacuum is bound to be occupied by another political proposition. To stay relevant, political parties face an existential question: to prune or not to prune?

*** What about the country? What would Mauritius gain from another MSM mandate?**

Continuity... Another MSM mandate is bound to be a carbon copy of the current mandate. The MSM did win a third mandate under Anerood Jugnauth in 1991 except that its bid for re-election involved allying itself with the then MMM opposition. In the current context, we struggle to see which major opposition force the MSM could seduce. Even more so given the epic backlash suffered by the Labour Party-MMM alliance in 2014.

So, assuming the same government is reappointed, what will Mauritius stand to gain? That's a tough one to answer, I'm afraid.

*** In any case, 2024 will surely not be the year of major economic reforms or discipline. Given the unrestrained largesse displayed by the current government despite the public debt situation, might we be in for some bad news in the years ahead? And do you see that hitting us sooner rather than later?**

First thing first, the Republic of Mauritius possesses valuable economic and geopolitical assets. As irresponsible as one can be, one does not go bankrupt overnight if one possesses wealth. And ironically, this is probably our main weakness.

If one is to learn from one's mistake, one would rather hit rock bottom as soon as possible so that one can subsequently recover. This is unlikely to be the country's destiny under current circumstances.

Nevertheless, the day of reckoning will be upon us at some point in the future, and it might well be too little, too late by then.

*** Do you believe that the economic challenges anticipated in the coming years would be a result of systemic issues, or would they primarily be influenced by the current government's policies?**

Current government policies have not been geared towards addressing the country's longstanding systemic issues. If anything, they have and will contribute to exacerbating the structural problems of our economy. Our policy makers are experts at kicking the can down the road - that is refusing to tackle the pressing economic issues of the day.

We should also differentiate between the economy and its economic agents. The current path upon which the country has embarked inevitably leads to gentrification. That is the development of a new economic paradigm which will be beneficial to the owners of capital but irreversibly detrimental to the population at large.

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'The last minute MedPoint alliance between the MMM and the MSM in 2000 was a game changer. Who is in possession of a trump card in 2024?'



“ The current path upon which the country has embarked inevitably leads to gentrification. That is the development of a new economic paradigm which will be beneficial to the owners of capital but irreversibly detrimental to the population at large. The evidence is here for all to see. The rampant rise in the cost of living coupled with the housing crisis experienced by the working population are all but symptoms of the new economic model being slowly but surely ushered in... ”

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The evidence is here for all to see. The rampant rise in the cost of living coupled with the housing crisis experienced by the working population are all but symptoms of the new economic model being slowly but surely ushered in.

Smart Mauritius has never been designed to maximise the welfare of the population but rather to engineer an expat-led economic model similar to countries like Cayman Islands, Singapore and other well-known tax havens.

*** Otherwise, what key external factors, such as global economic trends or geopolitical events, do you anticipate influencing Mauritius in 2024?**

2024 is the biggest election year in history. 76 countries are scheduled to hold national voting this year with some 4.2 billion people (or more than half of humanity) being called to cast their ballot. The stakes could not be higher with important elections being held in the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and India to name a few.

2024 can be considered as a referen-

“ We have noticed an inclination by the MSM to synchronise major events as much as possible with Modi's India. Given that the general elections in India are expected to be held around April/May, we should not expect elections in Mauritius to be held before. Modi's coalition is a hot favourite to win re-election and Jugnauth's strategy might be to surf on his victory and hope that this will enhance his popularity among his core electorate... ”

dum on the handling of Covid-19 around the world.

We have noticed an inclination by the MSM to synchronise major events as much as possible with Modi's India. Given that the general elections in India are expected to be held around April/May, we should not expect elections in Mauritius to be held before. Modi's coalition is a hot favourite to win re-election and Jugnauth's strategy might be to surf on his victory and hope that this will enhance his popularity among his core electorate.

Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and in Ukraine also have the potential to impact the local scene. The recent disruptions in the Red Sea by Iranian-backed forces should not be underestimated. The possibility of a wider scale war across the Middle East is still very distinct.

Finally, the strength of the global economy will also matter eventually. Investors are rejoicing at the thought that central banks across the world seem to have tamed inflationary pressures. 2024 will provide a definitive answer to that topic. This year will also tell us about the economic cost of the meteoric rise in interest rates - will the global economy emerge unscathed, or will it tilt towards a recession?

*** Are there any emerging opportunities or risks that you believe Mauritius should be particularly mindful of in the coming years?**

The ultimate risk has got to be climate change. Mauritius has been identified as one of the countries that would be most vulnerable to climate change and recent experience suggests that this is indeed the case.

As climatic patterns evolve, the impact on our socioeconomic model can be manifold. On the one hand, it will increasing-

ly negatively impact the well-being of the population as it comes to terms with flash floods, super cyclones and warmer temperatures. On the other hand, the survival of the tourism industry is likely to be on the line as both sea levels and ecological consciousness increase.

In terms of opportunities, obviously the progressive shift of power from the West to the East does present Mauritius with several windows of opportunities. However, this will likely prove to be a tricky, delicate route to navigate.

*** Finally, what do you think should be the priority of the next government: economic reforms or the strengthening of democratic institutions in Mauritius?**

In the ideal world, we would prefer both to go hand in hand.

But if we really need to choose one at this moment in time, we would go for democratic reforms. For one, we do not

expect reforms to happen without a solid foundation. We see the type of governance we choose as being the operating system of our society. It is thus paramount that we equip our society with an adequate operating system if we want to optimise public decision making.

Over the last five years, we have, on numerous occasions, witnessed scathing attacks on our democratic pillars by Pravin Jugnauth and his gang. His repetitive attacks on the judiciary, his handling of the police force and his meddling with independent bodies all suggest that this man is a danger to our democracy.

Rezistans ek Alternativ would never have suggested a *regroupment* of opposition forces if we did not consider the next general elections as being critical for the future of this country. Opposition parties have a unique opportunity to bring forward the biggest societal revolution since independence in 2024. Will they seize it?



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Prakash Neerohoo

Année 2024

La pension de vieillesse, au cœur de la campagne électorale

L'Etat ne peut plus continuer à confondre la pension de vieillesse (tributaire de la politique sociale) et la pension de retraite financée par la CSG. Il y a une confusion conceptuelle qui démontre l'irrationalité de la politique publique

La pension de vieillesse sera inmanquablement l'une des thématiques dominantes de la campagne électorale en vue des élections législatives prévues au début de 2025, après la dissolution automatique du Parlement le 7 novembre 2024. Le gouvernement et l'opposition en ont donné le ton dans leur message de fin d'année pour 2023. En sus de l'augmentation de la pension de vieillesse, il faudra sans doute s'attendre à d'autres promesses au fur et à mesure que la campagne électorale s'intensifiera.

D'abord, examinons la question de la pension de vieillesse (appelée *Basic Retirement Pension* ou *Old Age Pension* dans le jargon officiel). Dans son message de fin d'année, le Dr Navin Ramgoolam, leader de l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD, a annoncé que l'opposition parlementaire accorderait, si elle arrive au pouvoir, une pension de vieillesse égale ou supérieure à Rs 13 500 par mois. En 2019, le présent gouvernement avait promis de payer le même montant vers la fin de son mandat en 2024.

La promesse faite par Navin Ramgoolam vise à contrecarrer la campagne du gouvernement qui veut faire croire aux pensionnés du troisième âge que l'opposition parlementaire réduirait la pension de vieillesse si elle remporte les prochaines élections. En effet, cette allégation d'une réduction hypothétique de la pension de vieillesse en cas de changement de gouvernement est ridicule parce qu'aucun gouvernement n'a réduit cette pension universelle dans l'histoire du pays. Soit le gouvernement en place à l'époque l'a augmentée, soit il l'a gardée intacte.

Comme pour donner la réplique à Navin Ramgoolam, le Premier ministre a, dans son message de fin d'année, annoncé que la pension de vieillesse passera de Rs 12 000 à Rs 13 500 par mois pour les pensionnés âgés de

“Le ciblage de la pension de vieillesse selon le critère économique vise à dispenser l'Etat de l'obligation de dépenser des ressources financières limitées pour le compte des individus qui ont d'autres sources de revenu (notamment la pension de retraite du travail, les dividendes, les gains en capital sur la vente de biens mobiliers et immobiliers, les intérêts sur les comptes d'épargne, les intérêts sur les obligations, le revenu de location, etc.). En vertu du ciblage économique, un multimillionnaire ne méritera pas la pension de vieillesse...”



“Le barème gradué introduit une dose de ciblage par âge dans le système dans la mesure où l'intention officielle est de reconnaître que les pensionnés de 75 ans et plus méritent un traitement plus généreux. Toutefois, le ciblage par âge pose un problème d'équité économique: est-ce qu'un pensionné de 65-74 ans qui a une seule source de revenu ne mérite pas le même montant de pension qu'un pensionné de 75-89 ans qui peut avoir plusieurs sources de revenu ?”

75 ans et plus à compter de janvier 2024. C'est une hausse de Rs 1 500, soit 12,5%. Nul ne conteste que les pensionnés méritent une amélioration de leur pouvoir d'achat au moment où le taux d'inflation tourne autour de 10%. Quant aux autres pensionnés, ils devront attendre sans doute le budget 2024-25, qui sera déposé en juin 2024, pour savoir s'ils auront droit à cette augmentation.

Barème gradué

Avec cette nouvelle mesure, le gouvernement introduit une pension de vieillesse graduée selon les tranches d'âge:

- Rs 11 000 pour ceux âgés de 60-64 ans;
- Rs 12 000 pour ceux âgés de 65-74 ans;
- Rs 13 500 pour ceux âgés de 75-89 ans;
- Rs 19 710 pour ceux âgés de 90-99 ans;
- Rs 21 710 pour ceux âgés de 100 ans et plus.

A première vue, ce barème gradué paraît discriminatoire selon le critère d'âge mais on ne connaît pas à ce stade les vraies raisons derrière cette logique. Est-ce que l'Etat n'a pas assez de fonds à ce stade pour étendre la mesure à tous les pensionnés ? Est-ce qu'il faut privilégier les pensionnés qui ont besoin de plus d'argent lorsqu'ils vieillissent, soit pour se payer une consommation appropriée ou pour se procurer des soins de santé spéciaux? Quoi qu'il en soit, le barème gradué introduit une dose de ciblage par âge dans le système dans la mesure où l'intention officielle est de reconnaître que les pensionnés de 75 ans et plus méritent un traitement plus généreux.

Toutefois, le ciblage par âge pose un problème d'équité économique : est-ce qu'un pensionné de 65-74 ans qui a une seule source de revenu ne mérite pas le même montant de pension qu'un pensionné de 75-89 ans qui peut avoir plusieurs sources de revenu?

Ciblage de la pension

En termes de rationalité économique, le ciblage de la pension de vieillesse devrait tenir compte du revenu global du bénéficiaire et non pas de l'âge. L'objet de la politique sociale est d'offrir la pension de vieillesse à ceux qui n'ont pas d'autre source de revenu (par exemple, la pension de retraite du travail) ou qui n'ont pas un revenu suffisant pour mener une vie décente (soit avoir un revenu au-dessus du seuil de pauvreté).

Essentiellement, le ciblage de la pension de vieillesse selon le critère économique vise à dispenser l'Etat de l'obligation de dépenser des ressources financières limitées pour le compte des individus qui ont d'autres sources de revenu (notamment la pension de retraite du travail, les dividendes, les gains en capital sur la vente de biens mobiliers et immobiliers, les intérêts sur les comptes d'épargne, les intérêts sur les obligations, le revenu de location, etc.). En vertu du ciblage économique, un multimillionnaire ne méritera pas la pension de vieillesse.

Il faut rappeler que le ciblage de la pension de vieillesse selon le critère économique était une idée lancée par le gouvernement MSM en 2003, mais cette idée fut abandonnée après une levée de boucliers. La pension de vieillesse universelle constitue un tabou à Maurice. Tout parti politique qui la remet en question risque d'y laisser des plumes. Une alternative juste et raisonnable au ciblage économique est d'assujettir la pension de vieillesse à l'impôt sur le revenu au-delà du seuil d'exemption fiscale.

Ainsi, dans les pays avancés, la pension de vieillesse universelle devient imposable à l'impôt à un taux marginal lorsqu'elle est ajoutée à d'autres sources de revenus (comme susmentionnées) qui poussent le revenu global du contribuable pensionné au-delà du seuil d'exemption fiscale.

● Suite de la page 11

Traitement fiscal de la pension

À Maurice, le revenu net imposable (le revenu brut moins les déductions diverses) n'est pas taxé sur les premières Rs 390 000 (un seuil d'exemption). Les déductions sont, entre autres, l'allocation de Rs 110 000 pour une personne à charge, les primes d'assurance médicale, les intérêts payés sur un prêt hypothécaire, etc. Par exemple, si un individu a un revenu brut de Rs 500 000 et des déductions totalisant Rs 200 000, il ne paie pas d'impôt sur le revenu net de Rs 300 000. Au-delà du seuil d'exemption, le revenu net devient taxable à des taux d'imposition marginaux. Ainsi, le revenu net d'un pensionné devient taxable s'il dépasse Rs 390 000 par an.

Dans le tableau 1 ('Annual amount based on 13 months'), nous avons calculé le revenu global d'un pensionné tiré de deux sources seulement : la pension de vieillesse et une pension de retraite théorique de Rs 20 000 par mois. Rappelons que d'autres sources de revenu telles que les dividendes, les gains en capital et les intérêts ne sont pas taxables à Maurice, ce qui place les pensionnés nantis dans une meilleure situation financière.

Nous voyons dans ce tableau que le revenu brut du pensionné est légèrement supérieur au seuil d'exemption de Rs 390 000 dans toutes les tranches d'âge, mais le revenu net après les déductions tombera au-dessous du seuil d'exemption. Dans ce tableau théorique, les pensionnés en général sont bien lotis car ils ne paieront aucun montant d'impôt. Evidemment si l'on double le montant de la pension de retraite (de Rs 20 000 à Rs 40 000 par mois), le revenu brut augmentera de façon significative et le revenu net dépassera le seuil d'exemption pour devenir imposable aux taux d'imposition marginaux.

Table 1: Annual amount based on 13 months

Age (yrs)	Old Age Pension (OAS)	Annual OAS (Rs)	Work pension (Rs)	Annual work pension	Annual income (Rs)
60-64	11,000	143,000	20,000	260,000	403,000
65-74	12,000	156,000	20,000	260,000	416,000
75-89	13,500	175,500	20,000	260,000	435,500
90-99	19,710	256,230	20,000	260,000	516,230

Certains pays privilégient l'application de la fiscalité à la pension plutôt que le ciblage économique. Le ciblage économique a ceci de dangereux qu'il permet à l'Etat de décider qui va toucher la pension de vieillesse ou non. Une telle discrétion peut donner lieu à des abus autoritaires. C'est la raison pour laquelle les pays avancés accordent la pension de vieillesse à tous ceux âgés de 65 ans et plus, mais ils la frappent d'un impôt marginal du moment que le revenu du pensionné dépasse le seuil d'exemption. Dans l'absolu, il n'y a pas de raisons sociales ou économiques pour exempter la pension de vieillesse et la pension de retraite de l'impôt.

Coûts économiques

La pension de vieillesse universelle deviendra un lourd fardeau pour l'Etat avec le vieillissement de la population. Selon le rapport du recensement de la population en 2022 publié par *Mauritius Statistics*, la proportion des personnes âgées de 60 ans et plus dans la population a augmenté de 12,7% en 2011 à 18,7% en 2022. D'après les chiffres du ministère de la Sécurité sociale, le nombre de pensionnés de 60 ans et plus était de 257 320 en décembre 2023, soit 19,8% de la population de 1,3 mil-

Année 2024

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“Le ciblage de la pension de vieillesse selon le critère économique était une idée lancée par le gouvernement MSM en 2003, mais cette idée fut abandonnée après une levée de boucliers. La pension de vieillesse universelle constitue un tabou à Maurice. Tout parti politique qui la remet en question risque d'y laisser des plumes. Une alternative juste et raisonnable au ciblage économique est d'assujettir la pension de vieillesse à l'impôt sur le revenu au-delà du seuil d'exemption fiscale...”

En principe, le paiement de la pension de vieillesse relève de la politique sociale qui est normalement financée par les impôts et taxes divers versés dans le *Consolidated Revenue Fund* (CRF). Cela fait partie de l'Etat-Providence. Une telle pension universelle ne peut pas être financée par un simulacre de plan de pension contributif.

Faute d'être un plan de pension contributif, la Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG) est une taxe sur les salaires conçue pour financer la pension de retraite destinée aux employés du secteur privé. La CSG ne devrait pas financer la pension de vieillesse universelle.

Confusion conceptuelle

En intégrant la CSG dans le *Consolidated Revenue Fund*, le gouvernement a voulu s'assurer des fonds additionnels pour payer l'augmentation de la pension de vieillesse. De 2020-21 à

2022-23, le fonds de la CSG a doublé, passant de Rs 5,3 milliards à Rs 9,5 milliards, comme indiqué dans le tableau 3 (CSG contributions). Cependant, au 30 septembre 2023, le fonds de la CSG n'avait pas de surplus parce que tout l'argent récolté fut dépensé pour payer une augmentation des pensions et des allocations sociales. En effet, la caisse de la CSG a été détournée de ses objectifs primaires pour financer toutes sortes d'allocations sociales (par exemple, l'allocation de Rs 2 000 pour enfants jusqu'à l'âge de 3 ans, et l'*Income Allowance* de Rs 1 000 pour 350 000 employés, etc.).

La caisse de la CSG est déjà déficitaire et ne pourra pas assurer la pension de retraite aux employés du secteur privé. Les employés du secteur public, eux, ont leur propre plan de pension contributif. Il faudra dans l'avenir retourner au modèle du Fonds National de Pension, un plan qui collecte les contributions des employeurs et employés pour les investir dans des instruments financiers à des rendements importants, pour assurer la viabilité du système de retraite à Maurice.

L'Etat ne peut plus continuer à confondre la pension de vieillesse (tributaire de la politique sociale) et la pension de retraite financée par la CSG. Il y a une confusion conceptuelle qui démontre l'irrationalité de la politique publique.

Table 2: OAS Cost

	Pensioners	2024	2025
	60 yrs. +	257,320	257,320
	broken down into:		
A	60-89 yrs: 98%	252,174	252,174
	pension (Rs)	13,500	15,000
	total monthly (Rs)	3,404,343,600	3,782,604,000
A1	annual cost 13 mths	44,256,466,800	49,173,852,000
B	90+ yrs: 2%	5,146	5,146
	average pension (Rs)	21,710	21,710
	total monthly (Rs)	111,728,344	111,728,344
B1	annual cost 13 mths	1,452,468,472	1,452,468,472
A1+B1	total annual cost	45,708,935,272	50,626,320,472

La caisse de la CSG est déjà déficitaire et ne pourra pas assurer la pension de retraite aux employés du secteur privé. Les employés du secteur public, eux, ont leur propre plan de pension contributif. Il faudra dans l'avenir retourner au modèle du Fonds National de Pension, un plan qui collecte les contributions des employeurs et employés pour les investir dans des instruments financiers à des rendements importants, pour assurer la viabilité du système de retraite à Maurice.

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Table 3: CSG contributions

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Rs Bn.	Rs Bn.	Rs Bn.	Rs Bn.	Rs Bn.	Rs Bn.
	5.3	8.4	9.5	11.4	13

L'Etat ne peut plus continuer à confondre la pension de vieillesse (tributaire de la politique sociale) et la pension de retraite financée par la CSG. Il y a une confusion conceptuelle qui démontre l'irrationalité de la politique publique.

Prakash Neerhoo

Top UN court opens hearings in Gaza genocide case against Israel

A top UN court opened hearings on Thursday in a case in which South Africa demands an emergency suspension of Israel's military campaign in Gaza, where it says Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will hear South Africa's arguments on Thursday and Israel's response to the allegations on Friday.

It is expected to rule on the emergency measures later this month. The court will not rule at that time on the genocide allegations - those proceedings could take years, reports Reuters.

"Our opposition to the ongoing slaughter of the people of Gaza has driven us as a country to approach the ICJ," South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has said of the genocide accusations, rejected by Israel and its top backer, the United States.

With the politically-charged case attracting global attention, supporters of both sides of the case planned marches and rallies in The Hague.

Thousands of pro-Israel protesters marched in freezing temperatures in the city centre early on Thursday, carrying Israeli and Dutch flags and posters with images of people taken hostage by Hamas.

The court's decisions are final and without appeal but the court has no way to enforce them.

Israel says allegations baseless

Israel has rejected the accusations of genocide as baseless and accused Pretoria of playing "advocate of the devil" for Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist militant group it is waging war against in Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on social media platform X: "I want to make a few points



A Palestinian boy walks near a destroyed building which was hit in an Israeli air strike, in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.
Pic - San Diego Union-Tribune

absolutely clear: Israel has no intention of permanently occupying Gaza or displacing its civilian population."

Worried on Israel likely breached international law in Gaza, says UK's Cameron

Britain's foreign minister David Cameron said on Tuesday he was worried that Israel might have breached international law in Gaza, and that the advice he had received so far was that Israel was compliant but there were questions to answer.

Britain has backed Israel's right to defend itself against Hamas attacks but also called on its military to show restraint and act within international law in its offensive in Gaza that has laid waste to much of the Palestinian enclave, reports Reuters.

Cameron did not directly answer lawmakers about whether he had received legal advice that Israel might

South Africa and Israel are both parties to the 1948 Genocide Convention, which obliges them to not commit genocide and also to prevent and punish it.

The treaty defines genocide as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group".

Israeli forces launched their offensive after fighters from Hamas-ruled Gaza carried out an Oct. 7 cross-border rampage in which Israel says 1,200 people were killed and 240 abducted.

Since then, the offensive has laid much of the densely populated Gaza Strip to waste, and nearly all its 2.3 million people have been driven from their homes at least once, causing a humanitarian catastrophe.

Post-apartheid South Africa has long defended the Palestinian cause, a relationship forged when the African National Congress' struggle against white minority rule was cheered on by Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation.

have broken international law, but said some incidents had raised questions over whether there had been breaches.

"Am I worried that Israel has taken action that might be in breach of international law, because this particular premises has been bombed, or whatever? Yes, of course," Cameron said as he took questions from parliament's foreign affairs committee.

Cameron said that there was always a "question mark" over whether a given incident broke international law, which lawyers would examine and then advise him over.

Amid growing international concern over the huge Palestinian death toll from the Israeli assault, as well as a deepening humanitarian crisis, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday urged Israeli leaders to do more to avoid further harm to non-combatants and to protect civilian infrastructure.

Ayodhya in US: Ram Mandir consecration live-streamed at Times Square



The consecration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya, a historic and religious event for millions of Hindus, will be live-streamed at the iconic Times Square in New York City on January 22.

The event will also be broadcast at various Indian embassies and consulates around the world, as well as at thousands of temples and booths across India.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who performed the Bhoomi Pujan (ground-breaking ceremony) of the temple on August 5, 2020, will attend the consecration ceremony of Ram Lalla (infant Lord Ram) and address the devotees in

India and abroad. He is said to be closely monitoring the preparations for the ceremony and following all the religious protocols and procedures, reports Hindustan Times.

The consecration ceremony, also known as Pran-Pratishtha, is the ritual of infusing life into the idol of the deity. It will be performed by a High priest from Varanasi, Lakshmi Kant Dixit, who will chant Vedic mantras and offer prayers to Lord Ram. The ceremony will mark the culmination of a week-long Amrit Mahautsav, which will begin on January 16 with various Vedic rituals and a 1008 Hundi Mahayagya, in which thousands of devotees will be fed.

The idol of Lord Ram that will be consecrated is a 51-inch tall Krishna Shila (black stone) statue, which has been chosen for its divine, royal, and childlike qualities. The idol will be adorned with a Yagopavit (sacred thread) and placed on a lotus-shaped platform inside the Garbh Grah (sanctum sanctorum) of the temple. The old Ram Lalla statue, which was worshipped for decades at the makeshift temple, will be placed before the new one and will be called "Utsav Ram".

Taiwan presidential hopeful Hou promises to boost island's defence and restart talks with China

Hou Yu-ih, the presidential candidate from the opposition Kuomintang, or Nationalist Party, on Thursday said he wants to "strengthen" Taiwan's ability to protect itself to deter a potential attack from China.

"We have to let them know they have to bear the cost of the war," Hou said during a news conference in New Taipei City, a municipality bordering the capital, Taipei. Hou, 66, is mayor of New Taipei, a position from which he took leave to run for president.

Besides bolstering defence, Hou pledged to restart dialogue with Beijing - first through cultural and civil society exchanges - as part of his "3d" strategy, which stands for deterrence, dialogue and de-escalation, reports PTI.

Most pre-election polls place Hou second after the governing Democratic Progressive Party's candidate, William Lai, who currently serves as vice president under Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen. Tsai is barred by law from running a

third term.

A third candidate, Ko Wen-je, from the smaller Taiwan People's Party, is also running in the election.

Beijing is believed to favour Hou in the election, as an alternative to Lai, whom it has criticised as a "separatist" who is trying to provoke a Chinese attack on Taiwan.

Taiwan split from China amid civil war in 1949, but Beijing continues to regard the island of 23 million with its high-tech economy as Chinese territory and has been steadily increasing its threat to achieve that goal by military force if necessary.

Differences over Taiwan are a major flashpoint in US-China relations. U.S. relations with the island are governed by the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, which makes it American policy to ensure Taiwan has the resources to defend itself and to prevent any unilateral change of status by Beijing. (AP)

* Contd on page 14



The Google logo is seen on the Google house at CES 2024, an annual consumer electronics trade show, in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.
Pic - Business Today

Google, Microsoft and Meta no longer top list of best places to work: Survey

Google and Microsoft's rankings have significantly fallen on Glassdoor's list of the top 100 companies to work in 2024. Google's ranking sank from No. 8 to No. 26, and Microsoft's plummeted from No. 13 to No. 18. Companies like Meta, Zillow, and Zoom did not appear on the list at all, for the second year in a row.

This list generally comprises the top companies in the UK and US with 1,000 or more workers, and is decided on the basis of feedback from employees. The latest rankings were released on Wednesday, January 10.

Other companies that earlier made it to the list dropped off the rankings, including Gainsight and Box. As many as 41 tech companies made to the list last year. This year, only 31 did.

Notably, tech companies across several companies laid off over 260,000 employees last year alone, as per online tracker layoffs.fyi. More than 2,000 workers in the sector have already been laid off in the first nine days of 2024. Employees across the globe are thus bound to be unhappy, reports Hindustan Times.

Rankings of companies like Google, Meta, Zoom, and Zillow have dropped because of layoffs, long hours, and bad management, according to Glassdoor reviews.

Is Donald Trump 'Doe 174' in Jeffrey Epstein Documents? What We Know

Court documents related to deceased sex offender Jeffrey Epstein have been released over the last week, naming dozens of high-profile figures, including former President Donald Trump.

The papers were originally filed in a defamation lawsuit brought by Epstein victim Virginia Giuffre against the financier's former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell, who is serving a 20-year sentence after being convicted in 2021 of conspiring with him in his sex-trafficking operation.

The documents were initially sealed on potential privacy grounds and on what could be made public about some people mentioned, reports Newsweek.

However, in December 2023, New York Southern District Judge Loretta Preska ordered that documents listing individuals mentioned within the lawsuit, referred to as "Doe" in court documents, should be unsealed.

There have been no accusations of wrongdoing by Trump and he has not been implicated in any of the crimes committed by Maxwell or Epstein.

Is Donald Trump Doe 174?

Preska's order included a table with 187 individuals and docket entries where their names appeared.

Details of victims of sexual abuse, individuals whose identity could help identify victims, and one individual



Former President Donald Trump. Pic - AP

who was mistakenly included and not introduced to the case by the plaintiff, remain sealed.

Doe 174 was described in Preska's list as a person whose "association with Epstein and Maxwell has been widely reported in the media already, and his or her name came up during Maxwell's public criminal trial."

Trump's name appeared in all nine docket entries that Doe 174 is mentioned in.

What Trump Has Said About Epstein

A 2002 profile about Epstein in New York magazine quoted Donald Trump saying Epstein was a "terrific guy," adding details about their

shared interest in "beautiful women."

Trump made the comments well before police began investigating Epstein in 2005 after a teenage girl's parents complained she had been molested at his house.

In 2019, Trump distanced himself from Epstein. Speaking to the press, the then-president said he knew Epstein only because "everybody in Palm Beach" did, noting: "I had a falling out with him. I haven't spoken to him in 15 years. I was not a fan of his, that I can tell you."

On August 10, 2019, Epstein was found hanged in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in New York, where he was awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

Ex-Pakistan PM Imran Khan's recent article in UK publication written by AI?

A recent article in a British publication attributed to Imran Khan was not a work of artificial intelligence but was authored by the jailed former Pakistan prime minister himself, his party said on Tuesday.

The write-up, published in The Economist on Thursday with the title 'Imran Khan warns that Pakistan elections could be a farce', raised serious doubts over whether the scheduled February 8 polls in Pakistan will be held as announced.

Khan, the founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party is incarcerated at the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi, convicted in the Toshakhana corruption case and being tried under multiple other cases, reports PTI.

In the write-up, which drew sharp objections from the caretaker government, the 71-year-old former prime minister reiterated his "engineered" removal from power in 2022 by the establishment "under pressure from America" and the lack of "level playing field" in the elections.

The write-up has already been denied by both the Pakistani government and the US Department of State.

Several observers had doubts over whether the PTI founder had personally penned the piece, according to the Dawn newspaper. It was also reported that the former-cricketer-turned-politician said he did not write the essay himself, rather it was based on points he had



Ex-Pakistan PM Imran Khan's. Pic- Geo Tv

dictated, which were put into words.

The former ruling party, which rose to power after the 2018 general election, urged the local media to "present the facts and carry this clarification in its true letter and spirit by publishing it at the same prominent place in their

upcoming editions", Geo News reported.

Meanwhile, the PTI founder too addressed the doubts in a talk with journalists at the high-security Adiala Jail on Monday and said he had "verbally dictated" the article.

On Friday, Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi said the government will be writing to the editor of the British publication The Economist in connection with an essay attributed to incarcerated Khan.

"We believe it is critically essential to uphold ethical standards and promote responsible journalism," the paper quoted Solangi, a former journalist, as saying.

"We would like to know how the editorial decision was made and what considerations were taken into account regarding the legitimacy and credibility of the content by The Economist," he said.

"We would also be interested to know if The Economist has ever published such ghost articles by jailed politicians ever from any other part of the world. If jailed convicts were free to write to the media, they would always use the opportunity to air their one-sided grievances," the minister said.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 260**MAURITIUS TIMES**

Friday 7 August, 1959

● "Error is worse than ignorance." — Philip James Bailey

Without fear of contradiction, it can be averred that local government in the rural districts has developed rapidly and evenly since its inception over a decade ago. The local Village Councils were governed by the District Councils where the Civil Commissioners were playing the central role. It was foreseen that after some time the Civil Commissioners would disappear leaving the whole movement into the hands of the local councillors. The time is perhaps not far when most of the powers of Civil Commissioners will be transferred to the direct representatives of the rural population.

So far the District Councils have no revenue of their own; they are not authorised to levy any sort of tax. They have to manage with the annual grants allowed to them by the Central Administration. And their commitments range from road scavenging to granting of scholarships to primary schoolchildren. Levying of taxes is a very unpleasant affair, especially for the ruling party. The tendency of expecting a lot of services without paying for them will take time to die. There is, in addition, the political aspect of the problem.

Nonetheless, Government is bent upon making the District Councils play a more effective part in the overall development of the rural areas. In order to increase their income, District Councils are authorised to raise entertainment tax. This is a new departure. The present law relating to entertainment tax is amended so as to enable the District Councils to strengthen entertainment tax regulations.

The Governor-in-Council has approved by-laws empowering all the District Councils to collect entertainment duty in connection with any public exhibition, performance, amusement, games or sport's meeting to which the public is admitted on payment. The duty will represent ten per cent of the admission fee.

The by-laws exempt non-profit making organizations

Taxing the Villagers



"Levying of taxes is a very unpleasant affair, especially for the ruling party. The tendency of expecting a lot of services without paying for them will take time to die. There is, in addition, the political aspect of the problem..."

from paying entertainment duty. Such duties will not be raised on the admission fee at an exhibition of the products of an industry, or the display of skills of workers, or works of art, or craft, or displays of skill which are of material interest in connection with questions relating to public health.

Performance of music by a band or an exhibition of work by children under sixteen will not be taxable provided that the whole admission proceeds are devoted to charitable purposes. Duty will also not be claimed when the entertainment is intended only for the amusement of children and the charge for admission of each child does not exceed twenty-five cents.

It is stipulated that no tickets other than tickets duly

stamped by the District Councils shall be used for admission to any entertainment. Moreover, no person shall be admitted to any entertainment without payment unless that person is holder of a complimentary ticket. Proprietors of entertainment places shall be bound to submit returns of admission fees.

The District Council may require a proprietor to keep registers of payments for admission and record tickets or books of season tickets which have been duly stamped. He shall pay to the District Council the full amount of the duties due by him within five days after the

submission of his returns.

The new by-laws laydown that anyone acting in breach of the laws is liable, on conviction, to a maximum fine of Rs 100. This penalty will have to be revised if experience happens to show that it is ineffective. It is also said that any officer authorised by the District Council may enter any place of entertainment to ascertain whether the provisions of these by laws are respected. But it is not clear whether he is legally empowered to compel a member of the audience to produce his admission ticket. The particular by-law relating to complimentary tickets is wrongly worded; it is inadequate because it does not limit the percentage of such tickets which can be allowed. There may be abuse on this score.

In The Civil Service

The following promotions in and appointments to the Public Service during the week ended 6th Aug 1959, are released from the Colonial Secretary's Office:

Promotions

- Mr J.L. Allier, Senior Executive Officer, promoted Finance Officer Grade I.
- Mr S.P.Y. Valadon, Meteorological Assistant Grade II, promoted Assistant Meteorologist, Meteorological Department.
- Mr G.S. Naidu, Clerical Officer, promoted Chief Storekeeper, Telecommunications Department.
- Mr M.A. Beebeejaun, 1st Class Teacher, promoted Head Teacher.
- Mr M.A. Musbally, Clerical Officer, promoted Executive Officer.
- Mr M. Gungabeesoan, Clerical Officer promoted Higher Clerical Officer.
- Mrs A. Remy, G. Xavier, and Miss M. Maugendre, Typists and Stenographers,

promoted Confidential Assistants.

- Mr H. Salaun, Store-Clerk Class II, promoted Assistant Storekeeper, Public Works Department.

Appointments

- Messrs S. Vythilingum and I. Nobeebocus appointed Messengers.

Acting Appointments

- Mr A. Dupavillon, Superintendent of Police, to act as Deputy Commissioner of Police.
- Mr L.A.P. Vallet, Executive Engineer, to act as Senior Engineer, Public Works Department.
- Mr R. Seeruthun, Chief Finance Officer to act as Accountant, Accountant General's Department.
- Mr N. Nalletamby, Finance Officer Grade II, to act as Finance Officer Grade I.
- Mr M. Osman, Executive Officer, to act as Finance Officer Grade II.
- Mr Vinayagam S. Pillay, Storekeeper, to act as Senior Storekeeper, Granary.



JSS Academy receives yet another patent for a scaffold for the treatment of diabetic wounds



Dr Satyanarayana Reddy, Principal Investigator of the Project

A research team from JSS Mauritius and India has unveiled a groundbreaking discovery that holds the potential to revolutionize the treatment of diabetic wounds. Their innovative creation, a tissue-engineered acellular scaffold composed of chitosan, collagen, and L-glutamic acid (LGA), is poised to significantly enhance healing rates and outcomes for the millions of individuals grappling with diabetes. The patent for this breakthrough, titled 'Tissue Engineered Acellular Scaffold for Diabetic Wound Healing', was officially

granted on December 27, 2023 (Patent no. 490279, Patent Office Government of India).

Challenges of Diabetic Wounds

Diabetic wounds, affecting up to 25% of patients at some point in their lives, pose a significant complication of diabetes. Characterized by slow healing and susceptibility to infection due to impaired blood flow and reduced immune function, traditional treatments often fall short, resulting in amputations and a substantial decline in quality of life.

A Novel Approach

The pioneering minds behind this breakthrough — Dr Satyanarayana Reddy, Dr Bharatkumar Reddy, Ms Rishita Tyagi, Dr K Gowthamarajan, Dr TK Praveen, and Dr Ashish Wadhvani — have developed a unique scaffold that mimics the natural extracellular matrix of the skin. This scaffold provides a supportive structure for new tissue growth and releases LGA, a naturally occurring amino acid that stimulates cell proliferation and wound healing.

The patent introduces a distinctive approach utilizing L-Glutamic acid (LGA)-loaded Chitosan-Collagen scaffolds for diabetic wound care through topical delivery. This innovative formulation combines



Prof Dr Ashish Wadhvani, Co-Investigator of the Project

Chitosan's structural similarity to glycosaminoglycan in wound healing with Collagen's role in tissue regeneration. By employing a freeze-drying method, the team produces porous scaffolds with interlinked pores, resembling a sponge-like structure. In-depth studies have demonstrated high water absorption and controlled drug release, ensuring safety through cytotoxicity and hemocompatibility assessments. The ingenious use of these scaffolds paves the way for an advanced topical wound treatment, leveraging established safe components to accelerate healing.

Key Features of the Invention

Biocompatible: Crafted from natural materials, the scaffold is well-tolerated by the body, reducing the risk of rejection.

Porous Structure: Interlinked pores facilitate proper diffusion of oxygen and nutrients, crucial for tissue regeneration.

Controlled Drug Release: LGA is gradually released from the scaffold over time, providing sustained wound healing effects.

Promotes Cell Growth: The scaffold and LGA combination encourage the growth of new skin cells, accelerating the healing process.

Promising Results

Dr Satyanarayana Reddy, the Principal Investigator of the Project and Research Coordinator at JSSCPO, reports that the studies have demonstrated the new scaffold's effectiveness in both in vitro and in vivo models. The scaffold has shown increased cell proliferation, improved wound closure, and reduced inflammation compared to traditional treatments.

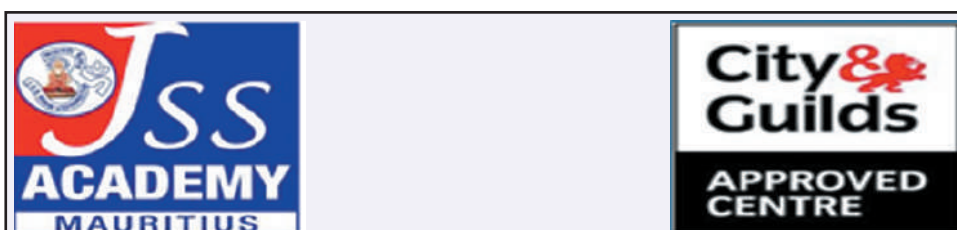
The patent reveals significant outcomes in developing LGA-loaded Chitosan-Collagen scaffolds for diabetic wound therapy. Analysis demonstrated scaffold biodegradation, controlled drug release, and superior water absorption in non-cross-linked versions. Extensive safety evaluations

confirmed the formulation's cytocompatibility and blood compatibility, securing its viability. Notably, cell proliferation assays indicated the enhanced potential of LGA-loaded scaffolds in fostering wound healing compared to conventional approaches. These promising findings signify a significant leap in wound care, offering a safe, efficient, and targeted solution for diabetic wound treatment via topical application.

The Road Ahead

Prof Wadhvani emphasized that the patented LGA-loaded Chitosan-Collagen scaffolds serve as a pivotal foundation for advanced

wound care solutions. Future directions include refining scaffold properties for optimal biodegradation rates and controlled drug release, ensuring sustained therapeutic efficacy. Collaborations with healthcare providers and industry partners will drive innovation, aiming to revolutionize diabetic wound management and offer a transformative approach towards faster, more effective healing. With the recent patent granted, the team is in discussions with partnering industries to bring this life-changing technology to the market.



JSS ACADEMY, MAURITIUS

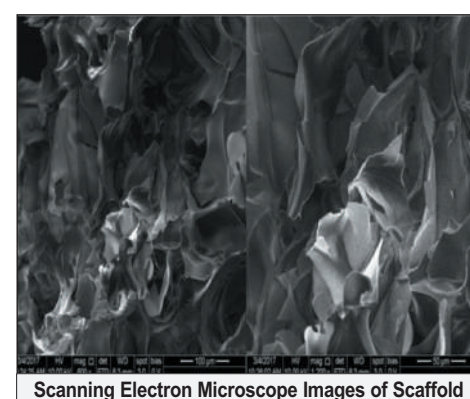
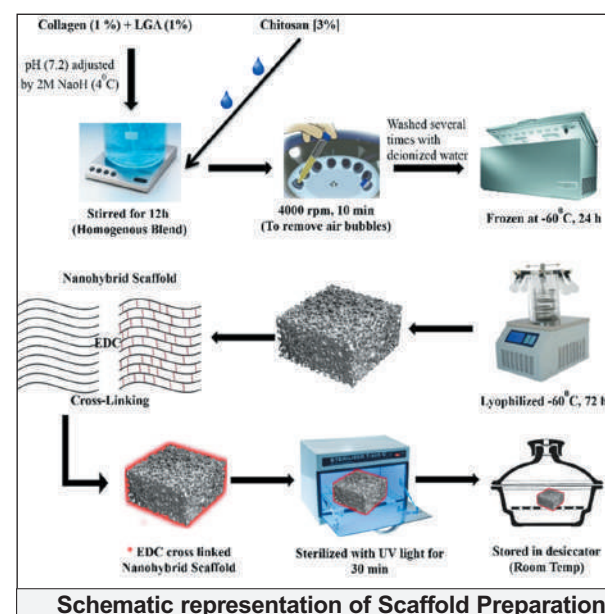
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Scanning Electron Microscope Images of Scaffold

Persevering Through Adversity

Dr Randhir Seewoodharry Buguth

“We are all born equal, but some are more equal than others,” a quote from ‘Animal Farm’ by George Orwell, explains the disparities that exist in society. Adversities encompass disabilities – physical, mental, emotional, social, spiritual, and financial. Perseverance is the relentless determination to keep moving forward despite setbacks, failures, and seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Hardship, adversity, and even failure can lead to greater success. Our mindset needs to be formatted to work outside our comfort zone to achieve a desirable outcome.



Dr Randhir Buguth, far right, seen here with his Dental Clinic manager and his patient who won the best Google review

Many educated elderly Mauritian citizens have had to persevere through adversity to achieve a better quality of life for themselves and their families. I am sure that in every family and every community, there are numerous examples of people who have excelled, starting from humble beginnings.

Our late Father of the Nation, SSR, came from a family of labourers and lost an eye at a very early age. He used to walk barefoot to his primary school through the sugarcane fields to pursue his education. He later became the first prime minister of Mauritius and is the architect of our welfare state, providing free health, education, social benefits, and free transport for students and the elderly.

I also have in mind Sir Ramparsad Neerunjun, who too came from a modest family and became a laureate at the RCC, going on to study Law in London. He was

the uncle (mamou) of my mother and did not have a new shirt to go to college after the proclamation of the laureate results. His grandmother, a dressmaker, was sewing a shirt for him at night, and unfortunately, the machine needle broke. The poor grandmother had to finish the shirt by hand all night to be ready the following day. He went on to become the first Mauritian Chief Justice, also being knighted in July 1962 for Queen’s Birthday Honours – a remarkable achievement!

We have also heard about laureates in villages who studied by the light of candles and kerosene lamps at night due to a lack of electricity. I personally come from a poor family and had to endure a lot of personal hardship. When I went to college in 1970, I did not have an English dictionary, and I asked a family neighbour for one, as they had several. “*Si pas ena dictionnaire pena pou alle l’ecole...*” was the answer!

Doing my HSC in 1978, I was desperate to study abroad, and the only way was to win a scholarship. Two weeks before my final exams, I asked my private tuition math teacher, who was a neighbour as well, how to solve a problem in a module called complex numbers. He said that his time was over, and I had to wait until the next week. I was in mental agony to solve this equation, and finally, the following week, I understood the concept within 10 minutes of explanation. This particular question came up in the exam and helped me win a French scholarship to study dentistry in France. The last two people involved are still alive, and they came to my dental surgery in Curepipe in the 1990s for dental treatment – a privilege for me to have treated them. God works in mysterious ways!

On my arrival in the UK in 2006, I went to inquire about the routes to follow to practise in the country. At the reception desk, I was greeted by a middle-aged English lady with a stern face who told me, “Why the hell have you come to this horrible country.” After checking my paperwork, she said that I would not be able to work in the UK as my qualification was not from a British university, I am born outside the EU (Mauritian passport), and I am not proficient in English. I went on to prove her wrong, and I am now practising as senior dentist in the UK.

I award a prize every year in the sixth form college to the student (chosen by a panel of teachers) who has persevered through adversity. This year, the award winner will study at Birmingham University. I wish I could do more for needy students.

Socratic Dialogue

On Resisting the Allure of a Few Shiny Coins in an Election Year

● Cont. from page 2

How can we equip citizens with the intellectual fortitude to resist the enchanting melodies that emanate from the political pulpit?

Cephalus: Verily, Socrates, citizens must cultivate the art of deciphering political jargon, much like unravelling the cryptic messages of ancient scrolls. When a politician speaks of bringing change, citizens should embark on a quest to unveil the specifics of that change. Is it a mere rebranding of old policies, or does it herald a departure into uncharted territories of genuine progress?

Socrates: Your analogy unveils a profound truth, my friend! Now, let us turn our gaze to the intricate tapestry of propaganda that colours the political landscape during an election year. The citizens, bombarded by narratives and half-truths, find themselves entangled in a maze of competing ideas. How can one navigate through this labyrinth, distinguishing fact from fiction?

Cephalus: A citizen armed with critical thinking becomes a true philosopher-king in the realm of propaganda, Socrates. They must question the motives behind each narrative, scrutinize the reliability of sources, and remain vigilant against the seductive allure of persuasive storytelling. By becoming intellectual architects, citizens can construct a fortress of reason that stands impervious to the onslaught of manipulative narratives.

Socrates: Admirable counsel, my friend! Now, let us explore the role of material incentives in the political equation. During an election year, politicians often wield financial enticements as tools to sway the allegiance of the masses. How can one resist the allure of a few shiny coins, especially when the coffers of political campaigns overflow?

Cephalus: In the pursuit of virtue, Socrates, citizens must recognize the transient nature of material wealth. Just as gold may lose its lustre over time, so too do the promises of financial incentives. Instead of succumbing to the ephemeral allure of immediate gains, citizens should focus on accumulating the lasting wealth of knowledge and the enduring currency of virtue.

Socrates: A perspective that transcends the material realm, my friend! Now, considering the intricate dance between promises, propaganda, and pecuniary temptations, what can we posit as the most virtuous resolution for citizens in the upcoming year?

Cephalus: Socrates, it appears that the most virtuous resolution is to cultivate the art of discernment. Citizens must become adept philosophers, capable of sifting through the rhetoric, decoding the narratives, and resisting the ephemeral allure of material gains. To stay true to one’s resolutions, one must be resolute in the pursuit of virtue and wisdom.

Socrates: An excellent summation, my friend! How does self-reflection become the lantern that illuminates the path to a more fulfilling life amidst the political tempest?

Cephalus: Self-reflection, Socrates, serves as the compass that guides the citizen through the stormy seas of political discourse. By examining their own values, aspirations, and motivations, citizens can better navigate the tumultuous waters, steering clear of the sirens’ songs and the treacherous currents of political manipulation.

Socrates: A virtuous citizen, then, is one who not only questions the external world but also engages in a dialogue with their own soul. As we strive for a happier life, this introspective journey becomes an integral part of the resolution-making process.

Cephalus: Indeed, Socrates! A citizen who reflects upon their own desires, motives, and values is better equipped to resist external influences that may lead them astray. In the pursuit of resolutions, self-awareness becomes the lantern that illuminates the path, revealing the true aspirations of the individual amidst the cacophony of political discourse.

Socrates: Your insights are as enlightening as the sun breaking through the clouds, my friend! Let us, then, encourage our fellow citizens to embark on this journey of discernment, armed with the shield of critical thinking, the compass of self-reflection, and the unwavering resolve to stay true to their resolutions amidst the political tempest.

Cephalus: A noble endeavour, Socrates! May the citizens of this great city navigate the tumultuous seas of an election year with the wisdom of philosophers, the resilience of sailors, and the clarity of vision that comes from pursuing a virtuous and happier life. In the face of promises, propaganda, and pecuniary temptations, let the citizens be the architects of their destinies, steering towards the shores of virtue and enlightenment.

Plutonix

Banking Sector



Yashodaren Umanee - General Manager, Justice Bernard Sik, Yuen Professeur Donald Ah-Chuen - Managing Director, and Brian Ah-Chuen - Executive Director,

ABC Banking Corporation reorganizes to consolidate its foundations

In line with its development strategy and subject to the approval of the relevant authorities, ABC Banking Corporation Ltd will soon reorganize its activities by creating a legal entity that will oversee the banking sector and a new non-banking subsidiary.

Simultaneously, it will issue subordinated bonds, through a public offering, in the amount of Rs 500 million, with the option to issue an additional Rs 200 million.

"After more than a decade of sustained growth, this reorganization illustrates our vision and ambitions as a premium bank. It will allow us to consolidate our foundations, expand our offerings, and move forward with confidence and determination," explains Brian Ah-Chuen, Executive Director of ABC Banking Corporation.

This reorganization, subject to approval from the bank's shareholders and regulators, envisions the creation of a new legal entity, namely ABCB Holdings Ltd, which will act as the parent company for both the bank and the future non-banking sector. This organizational structure will enable the banking group to operate with more agility and access new opportunities related to financial services.

Following this reorganization, ABCB Holdings will be listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange of Mauritius, replacing the shares of ABC Banking Corporation, which are currently listed on the Development and Enterprise Market (DEM). Thus, ABC Banking's ordinary

shares will be exchanged for new shares in ABCB Holdings Ltd at a ratio of 1:1 – shareholders' interests will remain unchanged. The board of directors is confident that this exercise will facilitate access to capital for the banking group and increase the visibility of its shares.

With its annual performance as of June 30, 2023, showing profits of around Rs 298 million, ABC Banking Corporation is gearing up for the next stage of its development. The bank's board of directors has approved the upcoming issuance of fixed and variable-rate subordinated securities with a nominal amount of at least Rs 500 million. Once approved by regulatory authorities, these funds will be used for the company's general purposes, including the expansion of its asset portfolio.

"These two initiatives demonstrate our commitment to growing sustainably, prioritizing organic growth over external growth, and constantly challenging ourselves while maximizing shareholder value," adds Brian Ah-Chuen.

Operating since 2010 through its four main pillars, namely International Banking, Treasury, Private Banking, and Domestic Banking, ABC Banking Corporation has already established an excellent international reputation, as evidenced by awards received from the media, including Euro-money magazine, Capital Finance International Magazine, and Global Banking & Finance Review. The bank also has two Representative Offices, one in Hong Kong and the other in Dubai.

Higher Education

Rushmore Business School's Graduation Ceremony tomorrow

RBS has produced to date over 5000 successful graduates



Rushmore Business School - An earlier graduation ceremony

Rushmore Business School is holding its graduation ceremony on Saturday January 13, 2024, at RM Garden, Trianon. This momentous occasion will witness the convergence of nearly 600 attendees, including parents, relatives, teaching staff, and distinguished guests.

The ceremony aims to celebrate the accomplishments of approximately 200 graduates across diverse fields such as Aviation, Business Studies, Engineering, Health and Social Care, Information Technology, Law, Marketing, Spa and Wellness, Tourism, and Hospitality. It provides a platform to honour and reward the outstanding achievements of the top-performing students, with each valedictorian receiving a trophy and a gift sponsored by Rushmore Business School's partners.

Mr Lee Jones, Director of Academic Quality at Leeds Beckett University, will grace the occasion. Additionally, Mr Vishuene Vydellingum, CEO of MauBank, be the distinguished guest of honour, commending the students for their exceptional accomplishments.

Rushmore Business School stands as an eminent international tertiary education institution committed to nurturing the academic and professional growth of students and executives in Mauritius. The institution offers a comprehensive range of courses in fields such as Aviation, Business, Engineering, Health and Social Care, Information Technology, Law, Marketing, Spa and Wellness, Tourism, and Hospitality. These courses are accredited by the Higher Education Commission, Mauritius Qualifications Authority, and the British Accreditation Council.

In its continuous pursuit of maintaining the relevance of tertiary education in Mauritius, Rushmore has strategically partnered with prominent British universities and organizations to deliver quality education to students. Notably, in 2022, the institution welcomed the University of Suffolk as a new academic partner, introducing several courses in Health and Social Care and Information Technology. The University of Suffolk's recognition in various university guides and its commitment to employability align seamlessly with Rushmore's mission.

Building on this success, Rushmore forged a partnership in 2023 with the Ascencia Group (France) to offer postgraduate courses specializing in diverse fields. This collaboration bridges the gap between personal ambitions and employment, ensuring international recognition and alignment with industry trends.

In its 22-year history, Rushmore Business School has produced over 5000 successful graduates, many of whom return for postgraduate studies. Currently, the institution is expanding its course catalogue to introduce top-notch programs in a wider variety of disciplines, including an array of postgraduate offerings. This commitment exemplifies Rushmore's dedication to maintaining the quality and high standards of its programmes.

The graduation ceremony not only marks a significant milestone for the graduates but also underscores Rushmore Business School's contribution to higher education in Mauritius.

To bolster a new year's resolution, ask, don't tell

"Will you exercise this year?" That simple question can be a game-changing technique for people who want to influence their own or others' behaviour, according to a recent study spanning 40 years of research.

The research is the first comprehensive look at more than 100 studies examining the 'question-behaviour effect,' a phenomenon in which asking people about performing a certain behavior influences whether they do it in the future.

The effect has been shown to last more than six months after questioning.

Writing in the 'Journal of Consumer Psychology', marketing researchers from the University of California, Irvine, the University at Albany, State University of New York, the University of Idaho and Washington State University examined why the effect occurs.

Their findings offer guidance to social marketers, policy makers and others seeking to impact human behaviour.

Why questions can influence behaviour

"If you question a person about performing a future behaviour, the likelihood of that behaviour happening will change," said Dave Sprott, a co-author and senior associate dean of the Carson College of Business, Washington State University.

The basic idea is that when people are asked 'Will you recycle?' it causes a psychological response that can influence their behaviour when they get a chance to recycle.



The question reminds them that recycling is good for the environment but may also make them feel uncomfortable if they are not recycling.

Thus, they become motivated to recycle to alleviate their feelings of discomfort.

Overall, the researchers' findings suggest questioning is a relatively simple yet effective technique to produce consistent, significant changes across a wide domain of behaviours.

The technique can sway people toward cheating less in college, exercising more, recycling, or reducing gender stereotyping.

Benefits of using the technique

"We found the effect is strongest when questions are used to encourage behaviour with personal and socially accepted norms, such as eating healthy foods or

volunteering," said Eric R. Spangenberg, first author and dean of the Paul Merage School of Business, University of California, Irvine.

"But it can be used effectively to even influence consumer purchases, such as a new computer."

"It is pretty easy to ask a question, and it can be done in a variety of means, such as ads, mailers, online media, and interpersonal communications," said Sprott.

The researchers found the question-behaviour effect to be strongest when questions are administered via a computer or paper-and-pencil survey, and when questions are answered with a response of 'yes' or 'no.' They also found that those using the technique are better off not providing a specific time frame for the target behaviour.

The study suggests that the technique will be less impactful on habits or behaviours that consumers have done a lot.

The researchers also advise using caution asking about vices like skipping class or drinking alcohol.

In their review, they found a study showing that people asked about vices later did them more than a control group.

Tips for New Year's resolution makers and others

The researchers suggest the key to influencing someone's behaviour is to ask a question rather than make a statement.

For example, parents asking their high school-age children, 'Will you drink and drive?' should be more effective than when they say, 'Don't drink and drive.'

For people making New Year's resolutions, a question like, 'Will I exercise -- yes or no?' may be more effective than declaring, 'I will exercise.'



What happens to the ocean if we take out all the fish?

There are so many fish in the ocean that if you took them out, important habitats and food sources for many creatures would be lost.

The ocean is massive and covers most of the surface of our planet. In addition to its size, it's packed with life, ranging from an astounding diversity of plants, microbes, worms, corals and crabs to squids, whales and, yes, even fish. The ocean is full of fish, so much so that they make up the second-largest amount of all carbon – the material that makes up living things – in the entire animal kingdom. They're just behind the group containing insects and crustaceans.

Most people only interact with the ocean from a beach or in a boat, so it can be hard to wrap your head around how many fish there really are. But the ocean is swarming with them, from its surface to its depths.

These fish also come in all kinds of shapes and sizes, ranging from the tiny sardines, guppies and blennies that you might see on a coral reef to massive tunas and whale sharks that you might find out in the open ocean.

These fish perform all kinds of roles in their ecosystems that support the lives of other organisms around them. If they disappeared one day, the ocean would look very different.

I'm a scientist who studies fish, their diversity and all the ways they contribute to ocean environments.



Fish swim in a reef at Pearl and Hermes Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. AP Photo/Jacob Asher

Fish as food

Fish play important roles as both predators and prey in ocean ecosystems. Thousands of species throughout the ocean and terrestrial ecosystems rely on fish for food – including people.

In coral reef ecosystems, small fish are eaten by larger fish and other marine animals. This means the little fish form the base of the food web – they provide energy to the bigger fish and other creatures.

Outside of the water, many birds, mammals and reptiles eat fish and rely on them as an essential source of protein.

Even land plants can benefit from the

presence of fish. On the western coast of the United States, salmon returning to small streams after spending several years at sea function as a conveyor belt of nutrients. The salmon feed not only animals that catch them, like bears, but also the plants that border the streams. Studies have shown that some plants get 70% of their nitrogen from salmon that die on or near the river banks.

Humans also depend on fish as a food source. Fish and other seafood products are an important protein source for nearly 3 billion people. Human populations have been eating and following fish around the world for thousands of years.

Fish maintain habitats

Fish are also more than just food. As fish themselves forage for food, they can create and maintain important habitats for other organisms. In coral reef ecosystems, plant-eating fish control the growth of algae by constantly grazing it down. Without the help of these herbivores, or plant-eating fish, the algae would rapidly grow and smother the coral, effectively killing it.

One type of herbivorous fish, the

parrotfish, feeds directly on the corals. At first, this may seem bad for the corals, but the grazing done by parrotfish can actually increase a coral colony's rate of growth. And the poop – yes, the poop – from parrotfish has been shown to be particularly nutritious for corals. Parrotfish poop also forms part of the beautiful white sand beaches that you may have enjoyed on a family vacation.

Other fish create habitats for other animals and influence their environment by disturbing sand while they feed. By moving the sand around, they're exposing tiny organisms hiding in the sand, which other animals can eat.

Despite the fact that many types of fish are confined to the ocean, their presence can be felt across many habitats. They can directly and indirectly affect the lives of the organisms that depend on them for food and shelter. Without fish, Earth would gradually lose its beautiful white sand beaches, the coral reef ecosystems would be overgrown with algae, lots of people would run out of food to eat, and we would lose some of the planet's most fascinating creatures.

Kory Evans

Assistant Professor of BioSciences,
Rice University



A Day without Laughter is a Day Wasted!

Today, I donated my watch, phone, and Rs. 500 to a poor guy. You don't know the happiness I felt as I saw him put his knife back in his pocket.

I miss the times when I was working at the zoo. My boss fired me just because I left the lion's gate open. I mean, who would steal a lion?

I was in a cab today, and the cab driver said, "I love my job; I'm my own boss. Nobody tells me what to do." Then I said, "turn left."

Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get to the pharmacy for their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?

Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and yet get a diet coke?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens on the countertops?

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in our driveways and put our useless junk in the garage?

Why does the sun lighten our hair but darken our skin?

Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?

Why is 'abbreviated' such a long word?

Why is it that doctors and attorneys call what they do 'practice'?

Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavouring, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?

You know that indestructible black box used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

Why don't sheep shrink when it rains, whereas sweaters of wool do?

Why are they called apartments when they are all stuck together?

If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?



Now that you've smiled at least once, it's your turn to spread this stupidity and send this to someone you want to bring a smile to (maybe even a chuckle)...

We all need to smile every once in a while.

Where are my kids?

A wealthy man in Wuhan decided to purchase a voice-activated robotic car that could flawlessly execute any command given to it. The man was immensely proud of the car's ability to carry out tasks without error.

One day, while the man was at home, his wife, feeling exhausted, requested him to instruct the car to pick up their children from school. The man agreed and addressed the car, saying, "Car, go and bring my children from school."

To their dismay, the car didn't return within the expected time, raising concerns about its whereabouts. After several hours passed without any sign of the car, the man grew increasingly worried. He decided to dress up and prepare to file a report at the police station.

As he and his wife stepped outside, they were surprised to see the car approaching with an excessive number of children on board. The car parked in front of them and declared, "These are your children, sir!"

To their astonishment, the car had brought not only their own kids but also the Landlady's two daughters, his wife's best friend's daughter, his secretary's son, and their neighbours' two sons.

In a fit of anger, the wife exclaimed, "Don't tell me all these are your children."

Maintaining his composure, the man calmly responded, "First, you tell me why our children are not in the car."

Statutory warning!

A warning to all of you in and just after the holiday period. Be careful about drunk driving as the Police are out there checking on people.

Last night, a friend was out for a few drinks. One thing led to another, and he had a few too many cocktails and then went onto the wine. Not a good idea.

Knowing he was over the limit, he decided to leave his car at the pub and took a bus home. Sure enough, he passed a police checkpoint, where they were pulling over drivers and performing breathalyzer tests. Because he was on a bus, they just waved it past. He arrived home safely and without incident, which was a real surprise as he had never driven a bus before, and he was not even sure where he got it from...

A father put his 3-year-old daughter to bed, told her a story, and listened to her prayers which ended by her saying, "God bless Mummy, God bless Daddy, God bless Grandma and goodbye Grandpa."

The father asked, "Why did you say 'goodbye Grandpa?'"

The little girl said, "I don't know Daddy; it just seemed like the thing to do."

The next day Grandpa died.

The father thought it was a strange coincidence. A few months later, the father put the girl to bed and listened to her prayers which went like this, "God bless Mummy, God Bless Daddy, and goodbye Grandma."

The next day the grandmother died.

"Holy crap!" thought the father, "this kid is in contact with the other side."

Several weeks later when the girl was going to bed, the dad heard her say, "God bless Mummy and goodbye Daddy."

An Inspirational speaker said: "The best days of my life were the days I spent with another man's wife". Audience was in shock and silent. Then he added: "and she is my mother". A big round of applause and laughter followed.

One Man who listened to the speech decided to crack this joke at home. After dinner, he said to his wife: the best days of my life were the days I spent with another man's wife.... After a moment he tried to recall the second line.....

By the time he regained consciousness, he was on hospital bed, recovering from burns of hot water poured by his wife.

Moral of the Lesson :
Do not copy if you cannot paste...



He practically went into shock. He couldn't sleep all night and got up at the crack of dawn to go to his office. He was nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs all day. He had lunch and watched the clock all afternoon. He figured if he could get by until midnight, he would be okay. He felt safe in the office, so instead of going home at the end of the day, he stayed there, drinking coffee, looking at his watch, and jumping at every sound. Finally, midnight arrived. He breathed a sigh of relief and went home. When he got home, his wife said, "I've never seen you work so late. What's the matter?"

He said, "I don't want to talk about it; I've just spent the worst day of my life."

She said, "You think you had a bad day. You'll never believe what happened to me. This morning my boss died in the middle of a meeting..."

A husband enters the bedroom holding two Panadol and a glass of water.

"What's this for?" asks the wife.

"It's for your headache," replies the husband.

"I don't have a headache."

"Good, then I can sleep with you tonight."

A mechanic is killed in a road accident on his thirty-fifth birthday and wakes up at the pearly gates. The angels are singing a melodious hymn, and there is a huge crowd cheering and shouting his name, and everyone wants to meet him. Just when he thinks it can't possibly get any better, St. Peter himself comes over, apologizes for not greeting him personally at the gates, shakes his hand, and says:

"Congratulations, son, we've been waiting for you."

Totally confused and a little embarrassed, the guy says, "St. Peter, I tried to lead a decent life, I was a good husband, and I loved my kids... but why the congratulations? I don't remember performing anything special to deserve this."

St. Peter is amazed at the guy's modesty. "We are celebrating the fact that you beat the record of survival – 150 years old, God himself is waiting for you."

The man is speechless; eventually he says, "St. Peter, I lived my life hoping that when I died I would find a place in heaven, but as God is my witness, I am only thirty-five."

"That's impossible; we've added up your time sheets," says St. Peter.



10 Lessons from 'Daily Stoic'

-- Ryan Holiday

1. Today, make sure you take a walk. And in the future, when you get stressed or overwhelmed, take a walk. Take a walk when you have a tough problem to solve or a decision to make. When you want to be creative, take a walk. When you need to get some air, take a walk.

When you have a phone call to make, take a walk. When you need some exercise, take a long walk. Take a walk together when you have a meeting or a friend over. Nourish yourself and your mind and solve your problems along the way.

2. Failure is a part of life we have little choice over. Learning from failure, on the other hand, is optional. We have to choose to learn.

3. The next time you face a political dispute or a personal disagreement, ask yourself: Is there any reason to fight about this? Is arguing going to help solve anything? Would an educated or wise person really be as quarrelsome as you might initially be inclined to be?

4. How you handle even minor adversity might seem like nothing, but, in fact, it reveals everything.

5. No need to be too hard on yourself. Hold yourself to a higher standard but not an impossible one. And forgive yourself if and when you slip up.

6. "It is possible to curb your arrogance, to overcome pleasure and pain, to rise above your ambition, and to not be angry with stupid and ungrateful people — yes, even to care for them." — Marcus Aurelius

7. Do your job today. Whatever happens, whatever other people's jobs happen to be, do yours. Be good.

8. Why do we read? We're not trying to ace tests or impress teachers. We are reading and studying to live and be good human beings — always and forever.

9. "In your actions, don't procrastinate. In your conversations, don't confuse. In your thoughts, don't wander. In your soul, don't be passive or aggressive. In your life, don't be all about business." — Marcus Aurelius

10. Great teachers are usually hardest on their most promising students. When teachers see potential, they want it to be fully realized. But great teachers also know that natural ability and quick comprehension can be quite dangerous to the student if left alone. An early promise can lead to overconfidence and create bad habits. Those who pick things up quickly are notorious for skipping the basic lessons and ignoring the fundamentals.

Don't get carried away. Take it slow. Train with humility.

10 Things to Start Doing in 2024

Practice gratitude - Cultivate an attitude of gratitude. "Life is full of give and take. Give thanks and take nothing for granted."

Remember self-compassion - Be kind to yourself and accept your perfect imperfections. We don't have to be flawless to be great!

"Pause for a moment, take a breath, and be proud of yourself for how far you've come."

Focus - Clarify your desires and goals in life. Make a list of these objectives and learn to say no to anything that doesn't align. Develop laser-like focus!

"The first principle of success is desire - knowing what you want. Desire is the planting of your seed." - Robert Collier

Plan - While knowing your goals is crucial, mere dreaming isn't sufficient.

"If you talk about it, it's a dream; if you envision it, it's possible, but if you schedule it, it's real." - Tony Robbins

The little things - We shape our identity through repeated actions. Improving life involves enhancing daily habits, the small actions that define us. Focus on little improvements and victories; they are the pieces of life's big picture.

Become a student of life - Extract lessons from every challenging experience. Wisdom arises from recognizing lessons and finding gratitude in every circumstance.

"Life is a succession of lessons that must be lived to



be understood." - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Make time to rest - Allow yourself to rest and recharge. Nobody operates on "Duracell". Balancing intense effort with relaxation is essential.

Trust the timing of your life - Your timing is always perfect for YOU. Breathe deeply and continue constructing the life of your dreams.

Become unstoppable - Adopt a "Whatever it takes" attitude. "Confidence is deciding that you're unstoppable – not that you'll never fail."

Share your successes - "There is no delight in owning anything unshared." - Seneca

"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." - Maya Angelou

Bonus:

remind yourself daily how **wonderful** and **awesome** you are!

Look in the mirror and affirm: "**I love being me! I'm wonderful and awesome!**"

Quotable Quotes

Deep Reflections related to the suffering of mankind

The most dangerous virus in the world is not the coronavirus, but the virus of poverty.

(Nearly 1.8 billion people (nearly 25 % in the world out of a population of approximately 8 billion, are living in extreme poverty. Around 1.5 million people die each year due to poverty, more than half of them below the age of 5. According to UNICEF, around 22,000 children die each day due to poverty.)

-- Anonymous

We have coronavirus in the real world. Here in the information ecosystem, you have the virus of lies.

Maria Ressa - Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

We can live without religion and meditation, but we cannot survive without human affection.

-- Dalai Lama

Although the life of a person is in a land full of weeds and thorns, there is always a space where the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.

-- Pope Francis

I think that the biggest suffering is being lonely, feeling unloved and having no one ... That is the worst disease any human being can ever experience.

-- Mother Teresa

Because a human being is endowed with empathy, he violates the natural order if he doesn't reach out to those

who need care. Responding to this empathy, one is in harmony with the order of things, with dharma; otherwise, one is not.

-- Swami Dayananda Saraswati

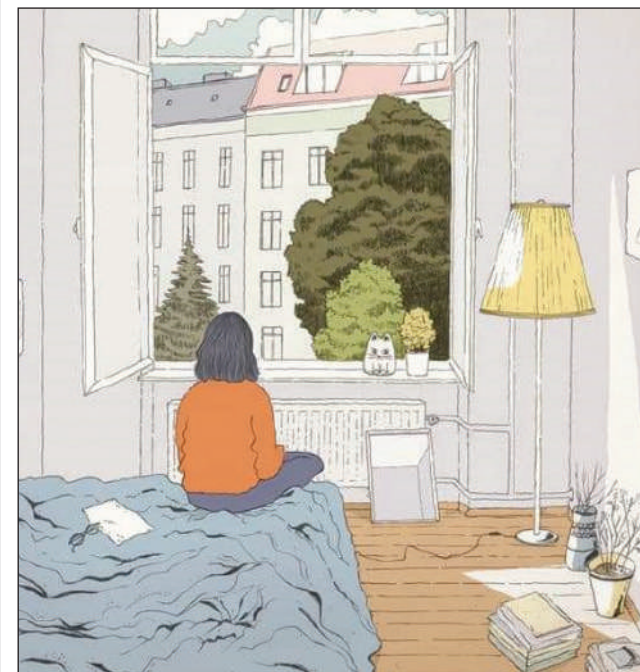
Suffering is a gift. In it is hidden mercy.

The wound is the place where the Light enters you!

-- Rumi

If you want to awaken the whole of humanity, then awaken all of yourself. If you want to eliminate the suffering in the world, then eliminate all that is negative in yourself. Truly the greatest gift you have to give is that of your own self-transformation!

-- Lao Tzu



Health Tips for Men in their 40s & 50s



For many men, career, financial, and family pressures can make the 40s and 50s a very stressful time. And stress is a known risk factor for heart disease. Keep in mind, too, that heart disease hits men at a younger age than it does women. In addition, heart disease is the No.1 killer of men ages 45 to 54. Now's the time to find ways to get that stress off your back, whether it's regular exercise, yoga, meditation, or stress management classes.

2. Don't skip the doctor

The women in your life have probably been to the

doctor at least once a year since they were in their 20s, even if just for a Pap smear. It's easy for guys to get out of the habit of routine care. But as you reach midlife, this is one habit you should start, not stop.

3. Deflate the spare tire

Many men tend to gain weight around the middle as they hit midlife. Watch it closely. Studies have found that spare tires trump even general obesity as a predictor of heart disease and diabetes.

4. Don't forget key screening tests

All men 20 and older should get their cholesterol

checked every five years.

Everyone 35 years or older should have their blood glucose level evaluated for undiagnosed prediabetes or diabetes.

Ask your doctor how often you should be screened for high blood pressure.

Colon cancer screening is recommended at age 50 (earlier if you're at high risk).

Gina Shaw

Medically reviewed by Nayana Ambardekar, MD- WebMD

The Science Behind Exercise and Mental Health

Exercise has long been associated with a positive impact on both physical and mental well-being. Recent scientific research sheds light on the cellular mechanisms responsible for the mood-enhancing effects of physical activity. A report by Devi Sridhar, the Chair of Global Public Health at the University of Edinburgh, as published by the Guardian...

Myokines, referred to as "hope molecules," are chemicals released into the bloodstream when muscles contract. These proteins travel to the brain, acting as antidepressants by improving mood, learning capacity, locomotor activity, and protecting the brain from aging effects.

Beyond myokines, exercise releases neurotransmitters like dopamine, noradrenaline, and serotonin, further contributing to mental health benefits. Studies show a clear link between exercise and reduced anxiety

and depression, prompting health professionals to prescribe "social prescriptions" such as outdoor activities and daily walks.

The positive impact of exercise on mental health is particularly crucial for children and young people. Research indicates that physically active teenagers, especially those in team sports, exhibit higher self-esteem and life satisfaction. However, there's a concerning trend of increased screen time and decreased physical activity among young people, negatively impacting mental health.

Promoting a healthy relationship with exercise is essential for preventing illness and maintaining overall well-being. It goes beyond body size or weight and is crucial for maintaining functional independence, especially as individuals age. The antidote to low moods, supported by epidemiology and biology, is to engage in physical activity, whether through team sports, walks, or community fitness classes. Exercise provides a tangible pathway to improved mental health and a more hopeful outlook on life.

Why Younger Women Find Older Men Attractive

In the realm of dating, it's not uncommon to witness the attraction between older men and younger women. While the reasons behind this dynamic are diverse, certain characteristics stand out as particularly appealing to women in their 30s when considering a relationship with middle-aged men. The following penned down by Antonio Centeno, the founder of RMRS. I'm a former Marine Corps Officer with a BA in Evolutionary Biology and Philosophy, tells you why older men may be more appealing to younger women...

1. Class and Maturity in Older Men

Younger women often seek true maturity and stability, qualities that middle-aged men tend to embody more than their younger counterparts. While 20-something-year-olds may attract attention for a fling, the life experience and self-sufficiency of older men offer a more substantial foundation for a lasting connection.

2. Self-Sufficiency of Older Men

Having weathered the challenges of life, older men have acquired skills that make them self-sufficient. This independence is especially attractive to women looking to build a family, as they can choose a partner experienced in problem-solving and providing support, without relying on parental assistance.

3. More Romantic Gestures

Contrary to the notion that romance diminishes with age, older men often balance masculinity with romantic gestures. Younger women appreciate feeling loved and respected consistently, a

trait that can be more prevalent in relationships with older men who understand the importance of emotional connection.

4. Dating Younger Women: Maturity Alignment

Research indicates that men tend to reach emotional maturity in their 40s, while women typically achieve it by the age of 30. This alignment in maturity levels can contribute to more harmonious relationships between older men and younger women.

5. Signs of Interest from Younger Women

Recognizing a younger woman's interest may not be straightforward, but certain cues can offer insights. Consistent requests for help, genuine laughter at jokes, unexplained physical contact, and sharing information about the relationship with friends are potential signs of romantic interest.

6. Disadvantages of Dating Younger Women

Despite the benefits, challenges may



arise in relationships with significant age differences. Differences in life priorities, such as family planning and career aspirations, can lead to complications. Judgment from others, discomfort for adult children, and the potential for making your kids uncomfortable are additional factors that require consideration.

Embracing Age-Gap Relationships

While age-gap relationships are relatively common, it's crucial for all parties involved to be consenting adults, fostering

mutual respect, understanding, and shared interests. Challenges may emerge, but successful relationships can thrive when prioritizing the health and happiness of the individuals involved.

In summary, the attraction between older men and younger women is multifaceted, with both advantages and potential pitfalls. Understanding and addressing these aspects can contribute to fulfilling and lasting connections.



Katrina Kaif on '12th Fail's' success: 'I think you should be fearless'

Bollywood star Katrina Kaif has reacted to the success of Vikrant Massey film *12th Fail*. The actor said that the success of such a small and intimate film should be an example for everyone in the industry, reports India Today.

Speaking to Film Companion, Katrina said, "I think you should be just fearless in your choices. Don't calculate so much. And I think this year (2023) is probably one of the best years for me to give this example where we've of course seen high octane action commercial blockbusters and we've seen a small, intimate film, *12th Fail*, do so well. I think that's all the example we need."

"If a film has an interesting story, it will find its audience. It's the job of the producers to calculate the numbers, but it is the job of the actors and directors to tell the right stories," she added.

About 12th Fail

Helmed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, *12th Fail* revolves around the real-life story of IPS officer Manoj Kumar Sharma and his IRS officer partner, Shraddha Joshi.

Upon its release, the film received wide acclaim from both general audience and celebrities. Celebs such as Kamal Haasan and Sanjay Dutt among others praised Massey's performance and the film.

Meanwhile, Katrina Kaif will next be seen in Sriram Raghavan directorial Merry Christmas alongside Vijay Sethupathi. The movie releases on January 12 in cinemas.

From Ibrahim Ali Khan to Pashmina Roshan, 9 most awaited Bollywood debuts in 2024

From Ibrahim Ali Khan to Pashmina Roshan, many star kids and newbies are gearing up for their Bollywood debut in 2024, according to Hindustan Times. Here is a round-up:

1. Junaid Khan

With high expectations in many fans, Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan will finally make his debut with Yash Raj Films' *Maharaj*. As per reports, the film will premiere on Netflix as a part of YRF's collaboration with the OTT giant. Amid this, Junaid has already started shooting for his second film co-starring Sai Pallavi.

2. Veer Pahariya

Recently, *Sky Force*, a film based on India's first and deadliest airstrike against Pakistan's teaser was released. The teaser had introduced Veer Pahariya who is making his acting debut with the Sandeep Kewlani directorial alongside Akshay Kumar. Veer is the maternal grandson of former Chief Minister of Maharashtra Sushilkumar Shinde and Sikhar Pahariya's brother. The debutant had worked as an assistant director and stunt double in Varun Dhawan's *Bhediya*.

3. Shanaya Kapoor

Shanaya Kapoor, daughter of Maheep Kapoor and Sanjay Kapoor is all set to make her pan-India debut in a South film opposite the Mohanlal in *Vrushabha*. The multi-language film is scheduled to release this year. Moreover, she will feature with Laksh Lalwani in another project titled *Bedhadak*, produced by Dharma Productions.

4. Rasha Thadani

Even before entering the industry, Raveena Tandon's daughter Rasha Thadani has to back-to-back film offers in her kitty. She is already a social media sensation and has bagged two films. Rasha will join Aaman Devgan in Abhishek Kapoor's yet to be titled next. As per reports, the film will release in February 2024. And, she will also



make her Telugu debut in Ram Charan's next film *RC 16*.

5. Ibrahim Ali Khan

Ibrahim Ali Khan, Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh's son, will soon step into the Bollywood industry with his debut film *Sarzameen* this year. Produced by Dharma Productions, the film is being directed by Kayoze Irani, son of Boman Irani. As per reports, Kajol will also play a pivotal role in the project.

6. Pashmina Roshan

Pashmina Roshan, Hrithik Roshan's cousin is looking forward to her Bollywood debut in 2024 with her first release *Ishq Vishk Rebound*, alongside Jibraan Khan and Rohit Saraf. The film is a sequel of Shahid Kapoor's *Ishq Vishk*. According to reports, she also has another film with Tiger Shroff in her kitty, also starring Sara Ali Khan.

7. Aaman Devgan

Ajay Devgn's nephew Aaman Devgan, who is very close to the Devgn family, is also set to make his Bollywood debut in Abhishek Kapoor's untitled next, sharing screen space with debutant Rasha

Thadani. His uncle Ajay will also be a part of the film. Produced by Ronnie Screwvala and Pragya Kapoor, it will hit the theatres on February 9, 2024. The same was confirmed by Trade analyst Taran Adarsh in an Instagram post.

8. Jibraan Khan

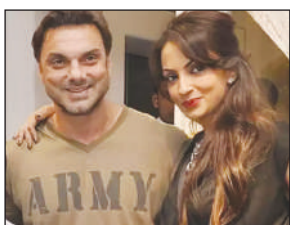
Jibraan Khan is not a new name in the entertainment, but he is making his return as a debutant in his elder self, after playing the role of young Krrish, Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol's son in Karan Johar's *Kabhie Khushi Kabhie Gham*. The actor is now gearing up for his Bollywood debut in *Ishq Vishk Rebound*, the sequel of *Ishq Vishk*, with Pashmina Roshan.

9. Ahaan Panday

Ahaan Panday, Ananya Panday's cousin, will also make his acting debut in Bollywood in 2024. According to reports, he has been training under the YRF banner and will soon have his own film as the lead with them. The star kid gained massive attention on social media after his dance videos from sister Alanna Panday's wedding went viral.

Bollywood Couples Who Parted Ways in 2023

Last year marked the separation and divorce of many Bollywood couples after long years of relationships. From Sohail Khan-Seema Sajdeh to Asim Riaz-Himanshi Khurrana, these 7 Bollywood couples went through a separation in 2023, reports Jagran.



Sohail Khan & Seema Sajdeh

The couple decided to part ways after 24 years of marriage. However, the reason for their divorce is still ambiguous with no statements from the couple.

Asim Riaz & Himanshi Khurrana

The Bigg Boss famed couple went their separate

ways due to their difference in religious faith. The two decided to stick to their religions and end their relationship of four years.



Isha Kopikar & Timmy Narang

The pair divorced after 14 years of marriage.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui & Aaliya

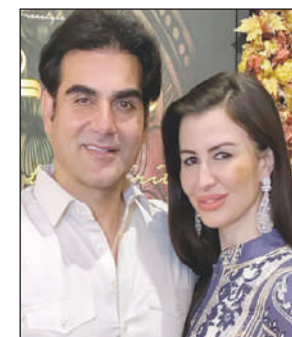
Nawaz' and Aaliya ended their marriage of 19 years after the actor's wife alleged him for harassing her. The news made several headlines in 2023, and the two divorced.

Kusha Kapila & Zorawar Aluhwalia

Kusha took to Instagram to announce the mutual decision to separate from her husband Zorahar Ahluwalia.

Charu Asopa & Rajeev Sen

The couple officially divorced in June 2023, after long troubles in their marriage.



Arbaaz Khan & Giorgiana Andirani

The two were dating for several years before the couple decided to amicably separate due to the growing difference in perspective and interests between the two. Arbaaz Khan married Shura Khan, the celebrity makeup artist in December 2023.



Vendredi 12 janvier - 21.22



Samedi 13 janvier - 20.30



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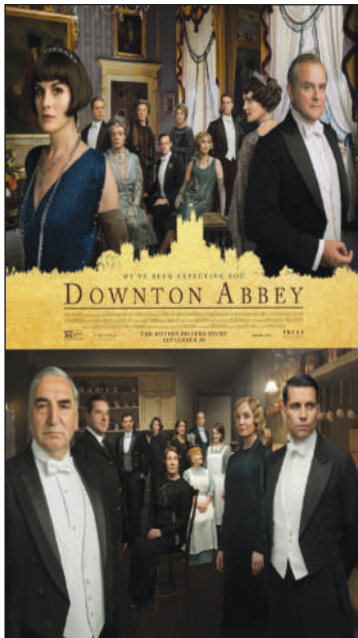
Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 12 janvier	05.39 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 06.00 Serial: Knight Rider 07.15 Film: Popster 09.30 Tele: Amour A Mort 09.55 Tele: Amour Secret 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter 10.45 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 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.10 Le Livre Perdu Des Sorti... 15.21 Film: Damsel 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar 20.30 Film: Doom 22.15 Tele: Barbartia 23.00 Tele: The Gardener's Daughter	07.05 Emotion En Avant Plan 07.57 Local: Artizan 09.04 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 09.48 Konkour Sante Patriotik 10.56 Mama Jazz Revisited 12.13 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 14.11 Nou Later Nou Lamer... 14.36 Local: J'ai Faim 15.57 Local: ONG An Eta Dalert 16.48 Local: En Forme 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret 19.27 Local: 13 Minit Natiir Rodrig 19.45 Local: Enn Semenn Dan... 21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 22.03 Voyage Au Feminin 22.58 Zournal Kreol 23.25 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 23.59 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 00.12 Local: Enn Semenn Dan...	07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 08.00 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 08.45 Local: Upanishad 09.11 Local: Hunarbaaz 09.47 Serial: Agniphera 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Dil Diwana 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: Senurwa Sajan Ke 23.10 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.25 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.26 Mag: Eco India 06.52 Mag: Shift 07.26 Mag: Border Crossing 08.18 Doc: The Great Meat Debate 09.30 Doc: Hot Times 10.55 Doc: Cool & Clever 11.26 Mag: Eco India 11.52 Mag: Shift 12.52 Mag: Tomorrow Today 14.30 Mag: N*Gen 15.00 Serial: Hi Opie! 15.14 D.Anime: Giving Tales 15.24 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory... 17.07 Serial: Lost & Found Music 17.30 Mag: Kids' Planet 18.42 Mag: Her: Women In Asia 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Doc: Albatros Et Gorfou 21.44 Doc: Van Gogh, The Choice	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Kitne Door Kitne Paas Starring: Fardeen Khan, Amrita Arora, Satish Shah 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: Kitne Door Kitne Paas Starring Fardeen Khan, Amrita Arora, Satish Shah
samedi 13 janvier	03.39 Serial: Airwolf 04.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 06.14 serial: Knight Rider 07.00 Serial: Pearson 07.50 Serial: Rookie Blue 08.30 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans 09.15 Serial: Riviera 09.59 Serial: Airwolf 10.45 Serial: F.B.I 11.30 Tele: Amour A Mort 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Madam Secretary 13.21 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 15.30 Film: Mes Autres Vies De Chien 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Dance India Dance Little... 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: A Boy Called Po 22.05 Serial: Suits 22.46 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis	06.04 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 07.08 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 08.12 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 08.38 Local: Zanford Nou Pei 08.52 Rodrig Prog: Ala Nou Vini 09.22 Local: Rodrig Prog 11.01 Local: Come On Let's Dance 12.00 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 12.34 Local: Lir - Ekirir Kreol 13.00 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 13.26 Local: Zanford Nou Pei 13.39 Local: Ala Nou Vini 15.07 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 16.00 Local: Son Ladan Mem 16.49 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.20 Local: Son Ladan Mem 22.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 22.49 Local: La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 23.00 Local: Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL	07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 08.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol 10.10 Mag: DDI Mag 10.41 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Film: Love Story Starring: Kumar Gaurav, Vijayata Pandit, Danny Denzongpa 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.02 Local: 2024 Ke Gammat 20.12 Local: Magh Mela 21.04 Film: Badnaam Starring Priya Gor, Mohit Sehgal 23.04 Local: Puranya Pakwan 00.43 Local: Magh Mela 01.35 Film: Badnaam 03.35 Local: Puranya Pakwan 04.01 Local: Zo24 Ke Gammat	06.24 Serial: Rainbow Rangers 06.46 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 09.06 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 10.00 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 11.10 Doc: Albatros Et Gorfou 13.41 Doc: The Arctic 15.00 Serial: Hi Opie! 15.30 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! 15.40 D.Anime: Zoonicorn 15.55 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.19 D.Anime: Adventures In Duckport 16.41 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.05 Serial: Lost & Found Music 18.03 Mag: In Good Shape 18.40 Serial: Kojak 20.01 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: Battleship Avec Taylor Kitsch, Rihanna, Liam Neeson	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: 8x10 Tasveer Starring: Akshay Kumar, Ayesha Takia, Javed Jaffrey 20.30 Gadget Guru Ganesha 20.50 Serial: Porus 21.20 Serial: Crime Patrol
dimanche 14 janvier	03.56 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 05.14 Tele: Amour A Mort 05.41 Serial: Knight Rider 08.05 Mag: Meet The Costume... 08.20 Serial: The Good Doctor 09.05 Film: Mes Autres Vies De Chien 10.50 Serial: F.B.I 11.35 Tele: Amour A Mort 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Film: Decision At Sundown 14.15 Serial: Scorpion 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Filler: A Boy Called Po 17.00 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 19.16 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Trois Hommes Et Un Bebe	06.45 Local: En Forme 08.05 Local: Les Petits Genies 09.44 Local: Glwar Dantan 10.14 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 11.03 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.04 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art 14.00 Local: Elle 14.28 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 15.53 Local: Festival Kiltir Ek Langaz Kreol Morisien 16.50 Local: En Forme 17.00 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Local: Elle 20.03 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 20.30 Local: Le Challenge 20.46 Local: Les Klips 21.38 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.21 Local: Arsiv MBC 23.45 Local: Mangeons Veg	07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 08.11 Local: Hamar Fitness... 12.02 Film: Shola Aur Shabnam Starring Govinda, Divya Bharti, Gulshan Grover 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan 17.00 Local: Ekta 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.29 Local: Planet Bollywood 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi 19.29 Local: Tohar Farmaish 20.00 Local: Yaadein 20.32 Serial: Porus 21.02 Serial: Crime Patrol 21.42 Serial: Naagin Season 4 22.28 Serial: Bahubali 23.07 Bhaag Na Bachhe 00.00 Planet Bollywood	07.49 D.Anime: Patamuse 09.02 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 09.09 D.Anime: La Petite Ecole D'Helene 10.00 Serial: Superstore 11.50 Mag: In Good Shape 12.20 Doc: Cuisine Sauvage 13.59 Doc: Cool & Clever 15.00 Serial: Hi Opie! 15.46 D.Anime: Zoonicorn 15.52 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.16 D.Anime: Adventures In Duckport 16.42 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.05 Serial: Lost & Found Music 17.31 D.Anime: Kids' Planet 18.45 Serial: Kojak 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.02 Tele: Amour Secret 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: A Star Is Born	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: Velle Starring Abhay Deol, Mouni Roy, Karan Deol, Anya Singh 21.02 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.20 Enter: Dance India Dance Little Masters 22.22 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 00.18 Serial: Patiala Babes
lundi 15 janvier	05.10 Tele: Amour Secret 06.50 Film: A Star Is Born 08.45 Serial: Kojak 09.38 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 09.55 Tele: Amour Secret 10.25 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 13.46 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: Kojak 15.20 Film: Trois Hommes Et Un Bebe 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar 19.30 Le Journal 20.25 Serial: Pearson 21.15 Serial: Rookie Blue 22.00 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans	07.15 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avanse 09.29 Local: Elle 10.05 Local: Rodrig - Komanter 12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.07 Local: Rodrig - Sa Lavi-La 14.00 Local: Elle 14.30 Local: Arsiv MBC 15.13 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 15.44 Local: Aktiv 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.25 Rodrig - Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Proze Dime 20.30 Local: Belle et Mystérieuse 21.00 Local: Radio Vision 22.30 Local: Itinerer Moris 23.20 Le Rendez Vous Avec Kiltir.. 00.17 Entrepreneurit Au Feminin 00.30 Rodrig Prog: Zen Aktif 00.48 Local: Rodrig - Saver Lokal 01.00 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei: Larout	07.12 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 08.12 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 08.42 Local: Theatre 09.56 Serial: Bahubali 10.38 Bhaag Na Bachhe 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Dharam Kanta Starring: Raaj Kumar, Waheeda Rehman, Jeetendra 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man... 16.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Yatra 19.00 Local: Kala 19.30 Local: Ayush 20.30 Film: Maha Chor Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Neetu Singh, Prem Chopra 22.51 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.13 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	07.00 Mag: Art Unveiled 07.47 Doc: The Renewables Revol.. 08.39 Doc: Artificial Immortality 09.26 Doc: Riding The Rails... 10.08 Doc: Naples Under The Vol... 12.43 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.09 Doc: The Renewables... 14.05 Doc: The Trillion Tree... 14.30 Mag: N*Gen 14.56 Serial: Hi Opie! 15.10 D.Anime: Giving Tales 15.20 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! 16.29 D.Anime: Adventures In Duckport 16.42 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.04 Serial: Lost & Found Music 18.05 Mag: Eco India 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 21.42 Film: The Quake 23.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Rangoon 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Serial: Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 21.00 Anupamaa 21.30 Mere Sai 22.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Rangoon Starring Saif Ali Khan, Shahid Kapoor, Kangana Ranaut



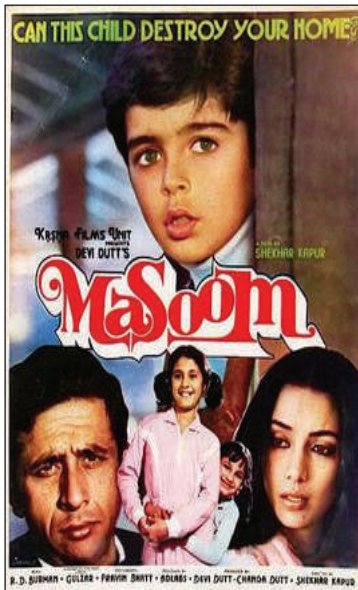
mardi 16 janvier - 20.30



mercredi 17 janvier - 22.15



mercredi 17 janvier - 15.30



Programme TV



mardi 16 janvier

MBC 1

04.45 The Gardener's Daughter
05.04 Tele: Amour Secret
07.05 Serial: Pearson
09.30 Tele: Amour A Mort
10.27 The Gardener's Daughter
10.51 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
11.16 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: Hamlet & Hutch
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
17.59 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar
20.30 Film: Downton Abbey
22.27 Tele: Barbarita
23.10 The Gasrdener's Daughter
00.20 Serial: Airwolf

MBC 2

07.48 Local: Lir-Ekrir Kreol
09.30 Local: Radio Vision
10.40 Local: Rodrig Prog
11.04 Le Rendez Vous Avec Kiltir...
12.46 Local: Belle Et Mysterieuse
13.21 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei
14.17 Local: Itinerer Moris
15.25 Local: Saver Lokal
16.39 Local: En Forme
17.45 Local: Talk On Cavadee
18.29 Tele: Amour Secret
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
19.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante
21.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles
21.30 Local: Radio Vision
22.31 Local: Mots & Ecrits
23.20 Local: Music Tour 2022
00.28 Local: Profil
00.43 Local: Koze Zom

MBC 3

07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
07.13 Serial: Tik Tak Tail
08.40 Local: Darshan
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
12.02 Film: Gomti Ke Kinare
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: Theatre
20.31 Film: Kathputli
22.38 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
23.19 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan
00.02 Local: Tark Vitark
00.28 Local: Bhojpuri Bhamaka
00.58 Local: Theatre
01.21 Local: Chikitsa Aur Swasthya

MBC 5

07.20 Mag: In Good Shape
08.39 Mag: Tomorrow Today
09.09 Mag: Washington Forum
09.38 Doc: Will Roots Save The World?
10.20 The Illusion Of Abundance
11.16 Mag: Eco India
12.40 Doc: In Good Shape
13.07 Doc: Mother Ocean
14.56 Serial: Hi Opie!
15.10 D.Anime: Giving Tales
16.11 Adventures In Duckport
16.38 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.05 Serial: Lost & Found Music
17.29 D.Anime: Kids' Planet
18.00 Mag: Rev
18.30 Mag: Healthy Living
18.45 Mag: Red Carpet
19.31 Mag: Global US
20.02 Tele: Amour A Mort
20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.15 Film: Phool
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.03 Serial: Udaariyaan
19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
20.30 Radha Krishna
21.00 Anupamaa
21.30 Mere Sai
22.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
22.30 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
23.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
23.30 Film: Phool
Stars: Sunil Dutt, Rajendra Kumar, Kumar Gaurav
02.11 Kundali Bhagya

mercredi 17 janvier

05.40 Serial: Knight Rider
07.00 Film: Downton Abbey
08.57 Serial: Kojak
09.44 Tele: Amour A Mort
10.25 The Gardener's Daughter
10.53 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: Kojak
15.21 Film: In A Valley Of Violence
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.30 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man
21.08 Serial: Billions
21.50 Film: Blanche Neigh
23.30 Le Journal Televise
00.20 Tele: Barbarita

07.26 Local: Mots & Ecrits
08.45 Local: Profil
10.21 Local: Koze Zom
11.01 Local: Music Tour 2022
12.20 Local: Son Ladan Mem
13.07 Local: Priorite Sante
14.00 Local: Koze Zom
14.29 Local: Rodrig: Rod'Art
15.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.52 Local: Glwar Dantan
16.27 Local: Music Tour 2022
17.45 Local: Talk On Cavadee
18.01 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
18.33 Tele: Amour Secret
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi
20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel
20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc
21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble
21.30 Local: Les Klips
22.22 Local: Proze Dime
23.20 Local: Come On Let's Dance

07.00 Tenali Rama
07.14 Tik Tak Tail
08.26 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka
09.17 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya
10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
12.00 Film: Mujrim
Starring: Shammi Kapoor, Ragini, Shubha Khote
15.30 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave
16.01 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.39 Local: Yatra
19.00 Local: Kala
20.02 Local: Virasat
20.32 Film: Prem Leela
23.02 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
23.24 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

08.46 Mag: Initiative Africa
09.40 Doc: Guinea-Bissau
11.09 Mag: Rev
12.31 Mag: Global US
13.05 Doc: Space Robot Revolution
14.00 Mag: Initiative Africa
14.30 Mag: N*Gen
14.57 Serial: Hi Opie!
15.11 D.Anime: Giving Tales
15.21 D.Anime: Tut! Tut!
16.15 Adventures In Duckport
16.38 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.05 Serial: Lost & Found Music
17.30 D.Anime: Kid's Planet
18.00 Mag: Motorweek
18.31 Mag: Choices
19.31 Doc: Troubled Treasures
20.02 Tele: Amour A Mort
20.50 Doc: Heritage
21.42 Filler: A Boy Called Po
23.21 Mag: Close Up

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.58 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.27 Film: Masoom
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 Serial: Radha Krishna
21.00 Serial: Anupamaa
21.30 Serial: Mere Sai
22.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Ke
22.30 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
23.26 Film: Masoom
Starring: Naseeruddin Shah, Shabana Azmi, Jugal Hansraj
02.05 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
02.30 Serial: Udaariyaan

jeudi 18 janvier

04.43 Tele: Amour Secret
06.00 Serial: Knight Rider
07.15 Serial: The Good Doctor
09.35 Tele: Amour A Mort
10.22 The Gardener's Daughter
10.45 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 Filler: A Boy Called Po
17.15 The Gardener's Daughter
17.59 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar
20.30 Film: Sadak 2
Starring : Sanjay Dutt, Alia Bhatt, Aditya Roy Kapur, Jisshu Sengupta, Pooja Bhatt

06.00 Local: Rodrig: Kot Nou
07.33 Local: Agir Ensemble
09.04 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante
09.30 Come On Let's Dance
10.35 Rodrig: Komanter
11.00 Local: Les Klips
12.21 Local: Saver Kiltirel
13.11 Local: Agir Ensemble
13.35 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
14.26 Local: Proze Dime
15.28 Local: Come On Let's Dance
16.44 Local: En Forme
18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
18.25 Tele: Amour Secret
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
20.30 Local: Mots & Ecrits
21.00 Local: Radio Vision
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: Groov'in
00.20 Local: Generations J

07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
07.14 Serial: Tik Tak Tail
07.36 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi
10.00 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana
12.00 Film: Kaun Jeeta Kaun Haara
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Amrish Puri, Aruna Irani, Kishore Kumar
15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain
15.58 Serial: Agniphera
17.31 Radha Krishna
18.30 Local: Amrit Vaani
18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
19.00 Sadguru Kabir Ke Gyan
20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz
20.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
21.30 Mag: Dharam Yatra
21.59 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
22.21 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan
23.07 Local: Amrit Vaani

07.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled
09.13 Mag: Focus On Europe
09.35 Forgotten By The Crown
10.22 Doc: A World OF Debt
11.08 Mag: Motorweek
11.34 Mag: Choices
13.03 Doc: Heritage
14.00 Mag: Close Up
14.57 Serial: Hi Opie!
15.11 D.Anime: Giving Tales
15.42 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
16.06 Adventures In Duckport
17.20 D.Anime: Kids' Planet
17.49 Mag: Japan Video Topics
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Mag: Shift
18.45 Mag: Carnet De Sante
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
21.40 Film: L'or Noir De L'oklahoma

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.30 Film: Mumbai Xpress
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 Anupamaa
21.30 Mere Sai
22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
22.59 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
23.21 Film: Mumbai Xpress
Stars: Kamal Haasan, Manisha Koirala, Pasupathy



Jeudi 18 janvier - 15.28

Stars: Kamal Haasan, Manisha Koirala, Pasupathy



Jeudi 18 janvier - 20.30

Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Alia Bhatt, Aditya Roy Kapur, Jisshu Sengupta, Pooja Bhatt





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Sticking to Principles in US Universities

Recently, the US Congress summoned the presidents of three prestigious American universities — Harvard, Pennsylvania, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — to answer for their students' anti-Semitic slogans and calls for eradicating Israel and Jews during protest marches staged in key cities. A Republican Congresswoman grilled the three presidents on whether the slogans chanted by their students breached the code of conduct set by the universities. This particular session at the Capitol sent a message that lofty principles cannot be compromised and sacrificed on the altar of controversial ideologies.

Describing the entire session as an embarrassment for the three presidents is an understatement. By stating that such slogans are condemnable only when translated into action, the President of Penn University found herself trapped in a confusion of values, advocating for action before sanctions. It did not take long for the Republican Congresswoman to destroy her argument and compel the Penn University president to admit that she failed to ensure students respected the university's code of conduct. Like her counterparts, Harvard University's first African-American president, Claudine Gay, tried to navigate her way out by repeatedly offering the same answer: "It depends on context." She was grilled during the heated interrogation. After the resignation of the two presidents, it took Harvard administration one month to remove its president. Leftist editorialists cried foul and criticized the boards of the prestigious colleges for yielding to the will of a right-wing party.

What does the special session at Capitol Hill reveal? It exposes to a global audience the moral bankruptcy that has undermined every institution — politics, media, NGOs, UN agencies — without sparing academia. It is the perfect example of a confusion of values, ethics, and morals that grips elite institutions in the US and beyond its frontiers. It is widely acknowledged that the world has



Pic - Kesri Clinic

gone topsy-turvy. The very failure of the Ivy League universities, which draw bright students from around the world, to show appropriate discernment on serious issues is symptomatic of the rot that has set in for years. It shows the extent of ideological indoctrination gripping university campuses — a simplistic binary worldview shaped by leftist utopia that aligns with imported radical religious ideologies to shape the minds of students from the Middle-East and Southeast Asia, funded by dubious foreign organizations to spread propaganda and influence public opinion abroad.

Add the woke movement originating in American campuses, giving voice to categories who have supposedly awakened to their status as oppressed minorities — women against men, coloured people against privileged male whites, LGBTQ against heterosexuals, poor against rich, socialism against capitalism — and you have a simplistic world outlook of binary categories operating in a confrontational mode. It leads to creating highly fractured societies, and unfortunately, such inane concepts spread to universities in Europe and other places in a stupefying mass movement of sheepish mimicry.

However, the resignation of the presidents of the top three elite colleges sends a positive signal. It sets things straight for those still confused with the concept of free speech and the consequences of propagating harmful and vicious ideologies. It lays bare the lack of critical thinking in universities that allow 22-year-olds to stage mass protests and occupy streets without a clue about what they are protesting against. Both universities and media outlets fail to develop critical thinking based on history and knowledge, leaving young minds ill-equipped to handle issues related to nations and politics involving ethnic and religious angles. Secondary schools do not educate students on the history of nations in the modern world. A partial, one-sided view in the media leaves the bigger picture to be filled with emotional and irrational outbursts by ill-informed crowds.

Moreover, protestors failed to realize that universities are funded by billionaires who might not appreciate loud calls for extermination resonating during mass protests in major cities. Threats to withdraw funding by the richest, including Indian billionaires, compelled the administration to be more demanding on the code of conduct that their students are expected to abide by. Right from the outset, top American companies blacklisted students of Harvard who signed a petition to condemn Israel for the current situation without a single note of compassion for Israeli citizens who were victims of an attack on October 7th.

A crucial point is that if universities fail to educate students on history and the contemporary world and promote critical thinking, are the students sufficiently informed and intellectually mature to shout vicious slogans and occupy streets in mass protests? In that case, should universities not fulfill their primary purpose of solely imparting knowledge? No indoctrination of leftist utopian dreams, no simplistic and binary vision of antagonistic groups clashing with one another, no propaganda for obscurantist religious world outlook — just a place to impart in-depth knowledge on various subjects.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Begetting Change

Repeated bouts of adversity are an unavoidable aspect of human existence. We battle against our inner struggles or outer world forces, and in many cases, we emerge on the opposite side of struggle stronger and better equipped to cope with the challenges yet to come. However, we can occasionally encounter trials that seem utterly hopeless. We strike at them with all of our creativity and perseverance, hoping desperately to bring about change, only to meet with the same results as always. Our first instinct in such situations is often to push harder against the seemingly immovable obstruction before us, assuming that this time we will be met with a different outcome. But staying power and stamina net us little when the same choices consistently garner the same results. A change

in perspective, behaviour, or response can do so much more to help us move past points where no amount of effort seems sufficient to overcome the difficulties before us.

Whether our intention is to change ourselves or some element of the world around us, we cannot simply wish for transformation or hope that our lives will be altered through circumstance. If our patterns of thought and behavior remain unchanged, our lives will continue to unfold much as they have previously. Patterns in which fruitless efforts prevail can be overcome with self examination and courage. It is our bravery that allows us to question the choices we have made thus far and to channel our effort into innovation. Asking ques-



tions and making small adjustments to your thought processes and behaviors will help you discover what works, so you can leave that which does not work behind you. To break free from those unconscious patterns that have long held sway over your actions and reactions, you will likely have to challenge your assumptions on a most basic level. You must accept once and for all that your beliefs with regard to cause and effect may no longer be in accordance with your needs.

Stagnation is often a sign that great changes are on the horizon. Courting the change you wish to see in yourself and in the world around you is a matter of acknowledging that only change begets change. The results you so ardently want to realize are well within the realm of possibility, and you need only step away from the well-worn circular path to explore the untried paths that lie beyond it.