

MAURITIUS **TIMES**

• "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure." — Colin Powell, politician

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low, Historien

Nouvelle alliance politique?

'Il y des rumeurs qui circulent... A l'île Maurice, tout est possible en politique'

• 'Un partage de 32 tickets pour le PTr et de 28 pour le MMM-PMSD aux prochaines élections serait-il de nature à rassurer la Hindubelt?'



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La célébration des lauréats, un événement qui célèbre l'excellence académique



Man and Technology

The Perils of IT and Social Media

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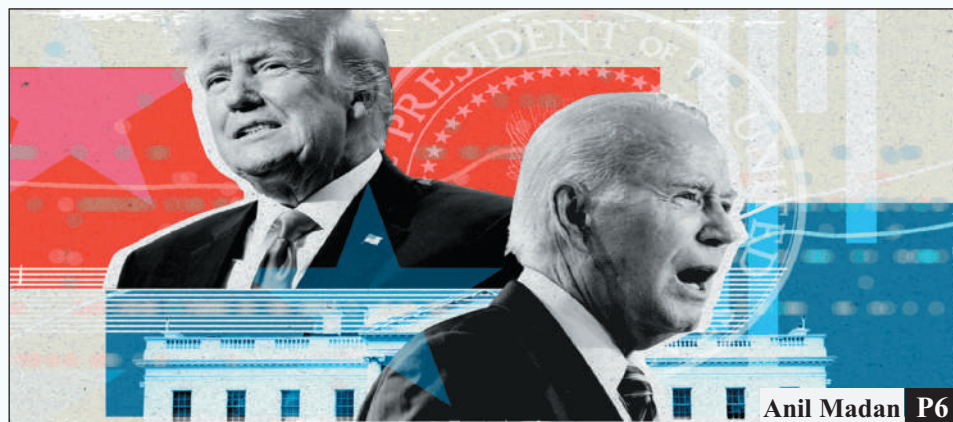
Développement foncier

Un moratoire pour l'immobilier



Breakfast with Bwana

A Biden Win or Trump President Again: What difference will it make to the World?



Uncertain and hard times ahead

Although it may seem that life is going on as normal, the reality is that there are global and local undercurrents that threaten peace, prosperity, stability, and security in all countries. And this despite the fact that nearly 60 countries are to hold general elections this year. In fact, in Bangladesh, Cameroon and Pakistan they have already taken place. Not unexpectedly in the latter two countries there has been violence in the process, with a bomb blast in Pakistan that has killed several people. In the same country, though, ex-Prime Minister Imran Khan who was a serious contender to the PM post has been jailed by a judicial process within a seemingly democratic set-up and barred from standing for elections.

The point is that democracy is suffering in many countries, and we have seen this in our own polity too, where strong-handed arm tactics have been repeatedly used to try and gag justified criticisms of measures that are destabilizing to our national institutions, so that even their guaranteed constitutional prerogatives have been effectively curtailed. No less than a bulwark of the safeguard of the citizen's freedom, namely the Office of the DPP, has been practically 'under attack' – something which should be and has been a great cause for widespread concern and worry among both professionals and the population in general. And again, this has been done in the very so-called temple of democracy – the Parliament.

Perhaps this is a natural corollary of what we have been witnessing in the matter of discussions and exchanges among the MPs in the Parliament. Since these are now available on live, citizens have had the opportunity of a quasi-ringside view of the happenings within the august house, and to say that they have been repeatedly appalled by the level of interactions is to put it mildly. Further, suspensions and walkouts, which ought to be exceptions, seem to have become the rule, as well as refusal to provide answers to PQs on several issues of national importance. There is no indication that even as we ourselves are in an election

year, the replies will be forthcoming before they take place.

On the other hand, when this will happen is also a question mark, although the PM has declared that he will abide by the law in the matter, it being his prerogative to decide on the date for the general election. Undoubtedly, the largesse that has been seen in the matter of pensions to the elderly and the increase in the minimum wage are calculated moves with a view on the forthcoming election. However, much of these increases have already been gobbled up by the rising prices, and these are set to increase further as the conflict in the Middle-East deepens and the Ukraine war prolongs without any end in view in a foreseeable future.

In fact the overall situation globally seems poised to aggravate even more, with the EU having voted to grant almost 50 BN USD in support to Ukraine, the rationale being that they are defending the sacrosanct freedom that Russia doesn't respect. More aware analysts view this as the triumph of the military-industrial complex with its eye on profits. In fact, several arms manufacturers gleefully announced an upshot in profits – that have been passed on to the CEOs etc – within months after the Ukraine war began. And they have now been given a shot in the arm! Never mind the disruption of supply chains that has affected the poorer countries.

And as if this were not enough, they are now further at risk with the attacks by the Houthis in the Red Sea. The counter-attacks by the combined US and other forces have so far not been able to contain the situation, and in the months to come we will no doubt be witnessing further increases in prices and likely inflation and impoverishment in, again, the poorer countries.

But we must not think that we will be spared either. Definitely, the times ahead are going to be very trying for all of us. How will we prepare to face them is the critical question both as individuals and as a country that stares at us in the face.

Socratic Dialogue

Probing the Depths of Mind-Reading

Plutonix

In the serene groves near Athens, under the embracing shade of ancient olive trees, the venerable Socrates and his discerning companion, Cephalus, delve into a discourse that traverses the realms of philosophy, technology, and the delicate tapestry of human cognition. The symposium begins with musings on the latest revelations from the HuthLab at the University of Texas, setting the stage for a profound exploration of mind-reading and the dawn of Elon Musk's Neuralink's technological marvels. Neuralink hopes to build a brain-computer interface that can be implanted in humans. That would allow them to interact with a computer just using their thoughts, and vice versa. Elon Musk says the system, which has till now only been tested on animals, has been trialled in a human.



Pic - Telegraph India

Socrates: Ah, Cephalus, my wise companion! Have you heard the latest musings from the HuthLab at the University of Texas? They claim to have unlocked the secrets of the mind, decoding thoughts into continuous natural language!

Cephalus: Decoding thoughts, you say? Are they planning to publish Plato's dialogues in plain text? That would save me the trouble of deciphering your philosophical riddles, Socrates.

Socrates: (chuckles) No, my dear Cephalus, this is a more profound discovery. Imagine, being able to fathom the thoughts of others, to unravel the mysteries hidden within the recesses of the mind!

Cephalus: (raising an eyebrow) Unravel mysteries, you say? What about the mysteries of why my wife insists on rearranging the furniture every fortnight? Should we expose those too?

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Mauritius Times

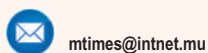
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Prakash Neerohoo

Développement foncier

Un moratoire pour l'immobilier

La proposition d'un moratoire est un pas vers une réflexion profonde sur le modèle de développement du pays axé sur les morcellements fonciers et la braderie de pans entiers du patrimoine national aux étrangers

Au nom de l'alliance de l'opposition parlementaire, le leader du PMSD, Xavier Duval, a annoncé qu'un éventuel gouvernement PTr-MMM-PMSD, décréterait un moratoire concernant les gros projets immobiliers (IRS, PDS, RES, centres commerciaux) en attendant une étude approfondie de leur impact sur l'aménagement du territoire.

Ce moratoire serait une cessation temporaire dans l'exécution de gros projets immobiliers dans le pays afin de permettre aux autorités d'évaluer leur impact sur l'environnement (terre, air, eau, organismes vivants) en tenant compte des critères d'un aménagement du territoire planifié et viable. C'est une excellente idée dans la mesure où les morcellements fonciers permettant le développement immobilier sont réalisés, dans la plupart des cas, au détriment des écosystèmes naturels à Maurice.

Nous savons que ces projets ne sont pas souvent conformes aux normes de l'évaluation environnementale prescrite dans la loi, notamment l'*Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)* sous *The Environment Protection Act, 2002*. Parfois, les projets sont sujets à un EIA minimal, donc inefficace, ou ils sont carrément exemptés de l'EIA. L'exemple le plus frappant de cette insouciance environnementale est le projet d'aménager une ville intelligente (*smart city*) sur un terrain marécageux à Roches Noires. La société civile s'est élevée contre ce projet dont l'EIA ne fait pas l'unanimité.

Types de projets

Au fil des années, Maurice a conçu une panoplie de plans pour offrir différents types de propriétés immobilières principalement à une clientèle étrangère :

- l'*Integrated Resort Scheme (IRS)* qui construit des villas de luxe avec terrains de golf dans les régions côtières pour des résidents non-citoyens au prix minimum de \$ 500 000 par résidence;
- le *Property Development Scheme (PDS)* qui permet aux étrangers d'obtenir le droit de résidence à Maurice en achetant une propriété résidentielle de \$500 000 ou plus ;
- le *Real Estate Scheme (RES)* qui permet la vente de propriétés immobilières aux étrangers sans un investissement minimal, mais sujette aux frais d'enregistrement de \$ 25 000 et à une taxe de cession de 5% sur la valeur de la propriété à la revente;
- l'*Invest Hotel Scheme (IHS)* qui permet à un promoteur de construire un hôtel en vendant des villas, suites ou chambres dans l'hôtel à des acheteurs individuels. Sous ce plan, l'acheteur



P - Business Magazine

“Sur le plan social, tous ces projets immobiliers ont créé des agglomérations exclusives (*gated communities*) pour des étrangers et/ou Mauriciens bien nantis dans le cadre d'un système de ségrégation de classe. Certaines agglomérations sont uniquement habitées par des étrangers dans un système d'apartheid social. Un étranger qui visiterait Rivière Noire et Tamarin dans l'Ouest du pays se croirait en Afrique du Sud au temps de l'apartheid. L'opulence ostentatoire dans ces agglomérations contraste singulièrement avec la pauvreté de certains villages avoisinants...”

utilise la propriété pour 45 jours au maximum et la loue au promoteur pour le reste de l'année d'après les termes d'un contrat de cession-bail (*sale-lease back*);

- le *Smart City Scheme (SCS)* qui permet la création de villes intelligentes (*smart cities*) dans le pays sur de grandes surfaces.

À l'origine, le projet IRS fut lancé pour développer certaines régions côtières dans le cadre d'un tourisme haut de gamme. Mais au cours des années, ce projet de construction de villas de luxe pour de riches étrangers s'est étendu à toutes les régions côtières. Le gouvernement a ensuite ajouté d'autres projets (PDS, RES, IHS) pour mettre le pays sur la voie d'un développement immobilier débridé sans un respect rigoureux des normes d'un aménagement du territoire viable et intégré.

Dans bien des cas, ces projets ont été réalisés sur des terres agricoles qui ont été converties à un usage résidentiel ou commercial. L'article 5 de la *Sugar Industry Efficiency Act, 1988* permet la conversion de terres agricoles à un usage non-agricole moyennant le paiement d'une taxe de conversion (maximum de Rs 1 million par hectare). Cette taxe n'est pas assez dissuasive et des milliers d'hectares de terres agricoles ont été converties à l'usage résidentiel ou commercial au cours des années. Les gros propriétaires fonciers du secteur privé en quête de rente économique ont trouvé un beau filon pour mieux exploiter leurs terres et maximiser les

profits.

Nouvelle filière

Les établissements sucriers en particulier se sont engagés dans cette nouvelle filière économique depuis la chute des prix du sucre sur le marché d'exportation, laquelle a eu pour résultat une chute énorme de la production de sucre (de 700 000 tonnes à 300 000 tonnes) depuis les années 1990. Avec un prix de vente en chute libre, le coût marginal de production du sucre (par tonne supplémentaire) avait dépassé le revenu marginal. Le secteur privé a développé ce nouveau créneau économique grâce à une fiscalité favorable: l'impôt maximal de 15% sur les bénéfices des sociétés depuis 2006, l'abolition depuis novembre 2011 de la taxe sur les plus-values réalisées sur la vente de biens fonciers, et les faibles taux de taxe sur la conversion de terres agricoles, les morcellements fonciers et les cessions immobilières.

En effet, tous ces projets immobiliers ont fait du pays un vaste chantier de construction où les permis de construction sont alloués à gauche et à droite sans respecter les critères d'une planification urbaine raisonnée et intégrée à l'environnement.

Les inondations fréquentes dans le pays ne sont pas uniquement les résultats du dérèglement climatique. Elles sont aussi les conséquences de l'abattage d'arbres et du déboisement dans certains endroits. Les canalisations naturelles des terrains autrefois agricoles ont été bouchées avec pour conséquence des inondations en temps de pluies diluviennes.

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● Suite en page 11

La célébration des lauréats, un événement qui célèbre l'excellence académique

Par A. Bartleby

La semaine en cours a vu l'annonce des résultats des examens du HSC, marquant la fin traditionnelle de sept années d'études secondaires. Le taux de réussite total, tant pour Maurice que pour ses îles extérieures, en particulier Rodrigues, s'élève à 84,4%.

Cette annonce traditionnelle, marquant la fin d'un cycle pour les étudiants de la Forme Six, s'accompagne de la publication officielle de la liste de ceux qui se sont distingués en tant que "lauréats" avec les meilleures notes aux examens de Cambridge, dans diverses disciplines, des arts aux sciences en passant par le côté technique, et qui bénéficieront d'une bourse d'État.

La consécration de sept années d'efforts de la part des étudiants, de leurs enseignants et des parents s'accompagne de nombreuses célébrations enthousiastes. Les étudiants, les parents, les enseignants et les recteurs des collèges honorés partagent une joie commune. Ces distinctions remarquables ne manquent pas de susciter des réjouissances, renforçant le sentiment d'accomplissement au sein de la communauté éducative.

Au fil des ans, les écoles, les collèges et même les universités, qu'elles soient locales ou à l'étranger, ont érigé des traditions pérennes. Ces pratiques contribuent à consolider leur identité unique et à tisser des liens durables. Malgré l'élément évident de compétition à l'approche de la dernière ligne droite, ces institutions parviennent à créer un environnement où la réussite



Les célébrations entourant les lauréats représentent un moment précieux tant pour les étudiants que pour leurs écoles, la communauté éducative et les parents. P - Le Mauricien

individuelle est célébrée collectivement, nourrissant ainsi un esprit de camaraderie et d'excellence éducative.

Les lauréats jouent le rôle de modèles au sein de leur école, incarnant l'effort et la persévérance. Certains d'entre eux bénéficient du soutien conscient de leurs parents pour éviter une concentration excessive sur les études académiques, tandis que d'autres développent leurs talents à travers des passe-temps ou des intérêts naturels. À une époque où les médias occupent une place prépondérante, les lauréats offrent d'innombrables opportunités pour alimenter les médias radio, télévision et Internet. Leurs réussites sont célébrées à travers des couvertures, des interviews et des émissions qui se prolongent sur plusieurs jours.

Les célébrations entourant les lauréats représentent un moment précieux tant pour les étudiants que pour leurs écoles, la communauté éducative et les parents. C'est l'occasion de reconnaître les efforts méritoires de dizaines de personnes qui, pour quelques points seule-

ment, ont manqué le statut de lauréat. Néanmoins, ces individus ont toujours la possibilité de poursuivre des études tertiaires, que ce soit à l'étranger ou localement, que ce soit grâce à d'autres programmes de bourses ou par leurs propres moyens, notamment dans nos universités publiques gratuites.

Les lauréats, distingués sur la base du mérite, sont ensuite suivis par ceux bénéficiant de bourses accordées en fonction des conditions sociales des parents et des candidats. Cette mesure, introduite en 2013, permet d'ajouter près de 30 lauréats aux 49 déjà annoncés.

Certes, de nombreux problèmes persistent dans notre système éducatif, que ce soit en termes de voies, d'approche centrée sur les examens, de pressions de sélection importantes ou même de coûts pour les finances publiques. Ces discussions sont cruciales et méritent d'être menées, permettant ainsi l'expression de diverses opinions. Les questions telles que la durée de la filière, le manque de voies alternatives structurées pour ceux désintéressés par de longues études académiques, ou encore la nécessité des Académies, qui ont elles-mêmes introduit une sélection supplémentaire pour la 10e année, sont autant de sujets pour amorcer un débat constructif.

Le phénomène des lauréats célébrés est incontestablement un moment précieux, honorant les réussites académiques des étudiants et reconnaissant leurs efforts soutenus. Cependant, la question persistante de la fuite des cerveaux pourrait être soulevée, se demandant si le système actuel encourage inconsciemment le départ des lauréats vers des horizons étrangers.

Il y a donc une réflexion à mener en vue de créer les conditions propices à l'attraction des lauréats de retour au service du pays. Ainsi, le défi consisterait à transformer le programme de lauréat en un catalyseur du développement national, encourageant les talents locaux à explorer leurs horizons tout en mettant en place des incitations et des supports significatifs pour favoriser leur retour. Il est crucial d'établir des mécanismes favorisant le retour volontaire des lauréats, garantissant ainsi que leurs compétences contribuent de manière optimale au progrès et à la prospérité du pays.

La Malaisie est actuellement le théâtre d'une enquête de grande envergure contre la corruption, avec l'ancien ministre des Finances Daim Zainuddin et son épouse inculpés pour non-divulgaration de leurs avoirs. Cette affaire découle des révélations des 'Pandora Papers', pointant du doigt des avoirs offshore d'une valeur de 31 millions de dollars. Daim, un homme d'affaires de 85 ans, ancien ministre des Finances de 1984 à 1991 et de 1999 à 2001, nie toute faute et plaide non coupable.

L'enquête a débuté en 2023 après que 'Malaysiakini', partenaire médiatique de l'International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), ait exposé les liens de Daim avec plusieurs sociétés et fiducies des îles Vierges britanniques. Ces révélations faisaient partie de l'enquête des 'Pandora Papers' de 2021, basée sur une fuite massive de 12 millions de documents de 14 fournisseurs de services financiers offshore.

Lutte contre la corruption en Malaisie: Leçons pour Maurice à tirer du cas Daim Zainuddin

Le couple fait actuellement l'objet d'une demande d'annulation des charges, et une autre fiducie familiale offshore, évaluée à 52,5 millions de dollars, est également sous enquête. La Malaisie, par le biais de sa Commission Anti-Corruption (MACC), intensifie ses efforts pour lutter contre la corruption, mettant en lumière d'importantes ramifications politiques et économiques.

La MACC a déclaré qu'elle enquêtait sur toutes les personnes associées aux 'Pandora Papers' et aux 'Panama Papers', intensifiant son action contre la corruption. Cette enquête de haut niveau a déjà touché plusieurs anciens politiciens et leurs familles, avec des saisies d'actifs significatives, y compris un gratte-ciel de 60 étages à Kuala Lumpur appartenant à la famille Daim.



Daim Zainuddin a nié toute malversation et plaidé non coupable. La semaine dernière, il est entré au tribunal en fauteuil roulant et a obtenu une caution après que son avocat a évoqué des problèmes de santé, selon Reuters. P - Getty Images

Le chef de la MACC, Azam Baki, a souligné les défis liés à la collecte de preuves à l'échelle internationale, illustrant la complexité de telles enquêtes.

☞ Suite en page 5

Lutte contre la corruption en Malaisie: Leçons pour Maurice à tirer du cas Daim Zainuddin

☞ Suite de la page 4

Les autorités ont gelé les comptes bancaires de la famille Daim et ont élargi leurs investigations à d'autres personnalités politiques, comme Mirzan Mahathir, fils de l'ancien Premier ministre Mahathir Mohamad.

L'implication de Mirzan dans une entreprise des îles Vierges britanniques a été révélée dans les 'Panama Papers',

suscitant des enquêtes supplémentaires. Ces développements soulignent la portée internationale des enquêtes anti-corruption et la nécessité de la coopération transfrontalière pour obtenir des résultats probants.

En ce qui concerne Maurice, il existe des leçons cruciales à tirer de ces affaires. La commission anticorruption (ICAC) et les institutions politiques devraient intensifier leurs efforts pour lutter contre la cor-

ruption à tous les niveaux et dans tous les secteurs. La coordination avec des organismes internationaux, comme l'ICIJ, pourrait renforcer la capacité de l'ICAC à enquêter sur des affaires complexes et transfrontalières.

Les récents scandales en Malaisie soulignent également l'importance d'une surveillance étroite des avoirs et des transactions financières des personnalités politiques. L'obligation de déclaration com-

plète des avoirs, y compris les biens à l'étranger, devrait être renforcée à Maurice pour garantir la transparence et la responsabilité des fonctionnaires.

L'affaire Daim Zainuddin en Malaisie offre des perspectives précieuses sur les défis et les opportunités liés à la lutte contre la corruption. Maurice peut s'inspirer de ces expériences pour renforcer ses propres mécanismes anti-corruption et garantir une gouvernance plus transparente et responsable. Cependant, il est essentiel que la volonté politique soit véritablement présente afin que tout effort de lutte contre la corruption puisse produire des résultats significatifs.

La crise persistante au Pakistan et les incertitudes des élections

La crise actuelle au Pakistan, marquée par des problèmes économiques sévères et l'emprisonnement de l'ancien Premier ministre Imran Khan, soulève des doutes quant à la capacité des élections tenues hier à apporter une alternative significative. Ces élections décideront de la formation du prochain gouvernement du cinquième pays le plus peuplé du monde et de quatre provinces - le Baloutchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, le Pendjab et le Sind.

Imran Khan, récemment condamné à 14 ans de prison supplémentaires pour corruption, se trouve au centre de cette crise complexe. Les difficultés économiques, notamment l'inflation, le chômage et une crise de capitaux, ajoutent à l'incertitude quant à l'avenir du pays.

Le processus électoral au Pakistan, fonctionnant sous un régime parlementaire, décidera de la composition de l'Assemblée nationale et des quatre assemblées provinciales. Cependant, des complications émergent, notamment le refus de la Commission électorale du Pakistan (ECP) d'accorder au Mouvement du Pakistan pour la justice (PTI) son symbole électoral désigné, la batte de cricket. Cette décision force la majorité de ses candidats à participer en tant qu'indépendants. De plus, Imran Khan lui-même a été disqualifié de participer aux élections, étant interdit d'occuper un poste public pour la prochaine décennie.

L'histoire de Khan en tant que personnalité approuvée par l'armée pakistanaise, qui est devenue son principal adversaire, ajoute une dimension supplémentaire à la crise. Le désaccord a surgi autour de la nomination d'un chef de l'ISI contre la volonté de Khan et de sa visite en Russie, marquant la position agressive du Pakistan au début de la guerre Ukraine-Russie. Les récentes inondations de 2022 ont également exacerbé la situation économique, provoquant une hausse de l'inflation et augmentant les difficultés auxquelles la population est confrontée.

Les défis économiques du Pakistan sont profondément enracinés, avec une inflation dépassant les 30 %, atteignant un pic de 50 ans en 2023, et maintenant à 28,3 % en janvier 2024. Le pays se trouve parmi les plus bas en termes de PIB, de revenu par habitant et de croissance économique dans la région. Selon l'Indice de développement humain du PNUD, le Pakistan se classe au 161e rang sur 191 pays, signalant des réalisations médiocres dans des domaines cruciaux tels que



Elections au Pakistan: un total de 128 millions de personnes sont éligibles pour voter. P - Arab News

la santé et l'éducation. En 2022, le taux de pauvreté atteignait 39,4 %. La dépendance élevée du Pakistan à l'égard des prêts étrangers, avec une dette de 80 milliards de dollars à rembourser dans les trois prochaines années, aggrave encore la situation.

Cette crise complexe ne peut être résolue par un simple changement de parti politique au pouvoir. Elle est ancrée dans des problèmes structurels profonds tels que l'inégalité, la concentration du pouvoir entre les mains de quelques-uns, surtout de l'armée, et le manque d'engagement des leaders à présenter des alternatives viables. Tous ces dysfonctionnements suscitent des préoccupations, d'autant plus que la population traverse des difficultés, que le scepticisme à l'égard du processus électoral croît, et que le pays semble s'orienter vers un avenir incertain, dépourvu d'une trajectoire de redressement bien définie.

Quelques données relatives aux élections:

- Un total de 128 millions de personnes sont éligibles pour voter, ayant plus de 18 ans, sur une population de 241 millions d'habitants.
- L'Assemblée nationale du Pakistan compte 336 sièges, dont 266 seront pourvus par le biais du vote direct.
- 70 sièges sont réservés - 60 pour les femmes et 10 pour les non-musulmans.
- Le Pakistan formera son 16e Parlement.

- 276 402 bureaux de vote ont été installés dans tout le pays.
- Il y a un total de 69 millions d'électrices et 59 millions d'électeurs.
- Parmi les jeunes électeurs, 23,51 millions ont entre 18 et 25 ans et 33,34 millions ont entre 26 et 35 ans. 44 % des électeurs ont moins de 35 ans.
- 5 121 candidats se présentent pour l'Assemblée nationale - 4 806 hommes, 312 femmes et deux candidats transgenres.
- Un total de 167 partis politiques sont enregistrés. Certains candidats se présenteront également en tant qu'indépendants.
- 73,21 millions d'électeurs sont inscrits dans la province du Pendjab, 26,9 millions dans la province du Sind, 21,9 millions dans le Khyber Pakhtunkhwa et 5,37 millions dans le Baloutchistan.
- 596 618 membres des forces armées ont été déployés à l'extérieur des bureaux de vote dans tout le pays.
- La participation électorale lors des dernières élections de 2018 était de 51,9 %.
- Aux élections de 2018, 116 sièges ont été remportés par le Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) du Premier ministre actuel Imran Khan, le Pakistan Muslim League (N) de Nawaz Sharif a remporté 64 sièges, le Parti du peuple pakistanais dirigé par Bilawal Bhutto Zardari a remporté 43 sièges, les indépendants ont remporté 13 sièges et 40 autres ont été remportés par d'autres partis et membres.

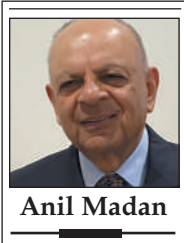
Le roi Charles III atteint d'un cancer

L'annonce, faite lundi, selon laquelle le roi Charles III est atteint de cancer, a brisé une longue tradition de secret entourant la santé de chaque monarque britannique.

La déclaration sans précédent indique que Charles, 75 ans, a commencé un traitement pour un cancer après avoir été diagnostiqué lors d'une récente intervention corrective pour une prostate hypertrophiée.

A. Bartleby
☞ Suite en page 7

A Biden Win or Trump President Again: What difference will it make to the World?



Anil Madan

A Trump presidency promises upheaval in Europe and at home, turmoil in Ukraine, a possible invitation to China to attack Taiwan, and disruption of global trade and supply chains.

When Donald Trump was elected President, one of his first shots was at the NATO alliance. He questioned the very need for its existence, questioned America's commitment to defend Europe, criticized NATO members for not paying their fair share of the costs associated with the alliance, and spoke of putting America first. Europeans, dismayed by such talk, saw it for what it really seemed to convey: putting Putin first.

Upon his inauguration, one of President Biden's first priorities was to patch relations with NATO countries and the EU writ large. Putin's invasion of Ukraine brought home the urgency of keeping NATO together as a cohesive defensive alliance as well as a consortium with the economic clout to hold Putin in check.

Notwithstanding early support from the US and NATO countries for Ukraine, shortly after Putin's invasion of Ukraine, I predicted that Russia having failed to overrun that country, would engage in a war of attrition, and that this did not bode well for Ukraine. I foresaw a time when Western support for Ukraine would falter at least as far as the EU and European members of NATO were concerned, but that American aid was likely to continue.

Well, despite protestations and grumblings from Viktor Orban, Hungary's Prime Minister, about providing further aid for Ukraine, a \$54 billion (€50 billion) funding package passed last week. However, I was wrong in my confidence about unwavering American support for Ukraine.

After the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas, President Biden had sought to put together a package combining aid for Israel as well as Ukraine, and some humanitarian supplies to Gazans. Extreme right-wing Republican members of the US House of Representatives balked at providing aid for Ukraine. At first, they tried to stall passage of a funding package on border enforcement. But when the Biden administration agreed in principle to that deal, the Republican legislators who had clamored for border enforcement suddenly did not want to pass the bill. What happened? Well, Trump happened. He asked the House Republican members who are firmly in his camp and known as the MAGA Republicans to scuttle the bill. The ostensible reason is that he wants to run on Biden's failure to enforce US immigration laws and stem the flow of illegal immigrants into the country as a winning campaign issue.

Sinister truth

The truth may be more sinister. Trump continues to have a strange fascination with Putin and a desire to kill funding for Ukraine. Last month, he urged House Republicans to condition aid for Ukraine on a commitment

from the Biden administration to cooperate with investigations into alleged crimes by his son, Hunter, and the Biden family in general. As people around the world know, Trump is a moving target. He has boasted that he would bring about a ceasefire in Ukraine and end the war within 24 hours but has offered no details of his supposed "secret" plan.

Harking back to a 2019 telephone call during which Trump asked Ukrainian President Zelensky to assist in finding emails of the US Democratic National Committee which he claimed without proof, were in Ukraine, and as well to assist in an investigation of Hunter Biden, readers will remember that call formed the basis of the first impeachment trial of Trump. The former president may be on some sort of vendetta here.

The stark difference between the approaches of Biden and Trump toward NATO, Ukraine, and Russia, are only part of the risk profile that the US presidential election of 2024 presents for Europe and the world. Whereas Biden has sought to strengthen NATO and America's alliance with its European friends, Trump still seeks to destroy NATO and indeed, the backbone of the rules-based order that these allies have so long promoted and nurtured.

No American president has damaged his own country as much as Donald Trump. His four-year term as President was bad enough, culminating as it did with the insurrection at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, and his petulant recalcitrant refusal to attend the inauguration of his successor, a time-honored tradition in

a country that has prided itself on a peaceful transition of power every time a new President is elected.

Now, it seems that the EU overcame the objections of the lone authoritarian, Viktor Orban. America may not so easily overcome the authoritarian tendencies of a Donald Trump. The power of the American presidency is formidable as major policy decisions can be made by one person.

As the US Senate struggles to put together a bill that will ensure funding for both Israel and Ukraine, the MAGA Republicans in the House continue to play games. The consequences for Taiwan's security could be disastrous. Trump appears willing to risk all this even before being back in the White House for a second term. What will he do if he is indeed reelected? Trump continues to propagate the myth that President Xi is a "friend" of his and a person with whom he gets along well. The truth is that President Xi has his own agenda, and that is no surprise. That agenda does not include being a friend of Donald Trump.

The former president has made it clear that he abhors war and does not want American troops stationed around the world. He had his Secretary of State sign an agreement with the Taliban for American troops to be withdrawn from Afghanistan. That task fell to his successor. Quite frankly, the Biden administration botched the withdrawal, but what will Trump do with respect to American troops stationed around the world? Will he usher in a new era of American isolationism and withdraw more troops? Will he abandon the Pacific and the South China Sea to Beijing?

Trump's attempt to destroy America's Democracy entered a new chapter when, after Biden's inauguration, he refused to show the gracious acceptance of election results that Richard Nixon, and Al Gore had mustered after their bitter electoral defeats in 1960 and 2000. No, Trump persisted in the BIG LIE that he was the real winner and that the election had been stolen from him.

A delusional autocrat

All of this may be risible to the world, as it is to most Americans save a subset of MAGA Republicans or, as I like to call them, the MAGA Maggots. But there is a serious side to Trump's quest for a second term as America's President and Commander in Chief of its armed forces. No, it's not the danger of his starting a nuclear war, he seems to have a genuine abhorrence for that, but rather, the prospect of a second Trump presidency is grave cause for concern in terms of the geopolitical order, America's alliances with other nations, and for the world economy writ large.

Aside from the fragmenting of NATO, abandoning Ukraine, and risking Taiwan, Trump also promises to upend global trade. He has promised to uproot and deport millions of undocumented immigrants even if they have been in the US for years.

● Cont. on page 7



Pic - Daily Express

“No American president has damaged his own country as much as Donald Trump. His four-year term as President was bad enough, culminating as it did with the insurrection at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, and his petulant recalcitrant refusal to attend the inauguration of his successor, a time-honored tradition in a country that has prided itself on a peaceful transition of power every time a new President is elected...”

A Biden Win or Trump President Again: What difference will it make to the World?

• Cont. from page 6

It is one thing to enforce immigration laws, but just imagine the impact on services in the US, on GDP, and the potential impact of an inflow of millions into Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Or consider that he plans to impose a universal baseline tariff on most imported goods. In 2022, the US imported \$3.2 trillion worth of goods. A 10% tariff would impose minimum cost of \$320 billion, a 15% tariff, \$480 billion on American consumers. When one considers that a large share of imports are incorporated into the supply chain and marked up on resale, the impact could be as much as \$1 trillion or almost 5% of GDP.

Getting back to NATO, whereas Trump wants to gut that alliance and pull American troops back from Europe, he intends to send US troops into Mexico to contend with drug cartels. Whereas his constitutional authority for this is ques-



“Whether one agrees or disagrees with America’s foreign policy and the way in which it conducts its relations with other countries, there has been a consistency over many decades. This is largely because underlying each new administration is the bureaucracy that stitches together the guts of the policies that endure. Trump threatens to gut what he calls the Deep State. One can only imagine the turmoil and ensuing turbulence this would cause...”

tionable and Mexico’s consent not likely, in some senses Trump’s suggestions are those of a delusional autocrat with no sense of limits on his power.

And what of Israel? Trump is still smarting from what he claims was an alleged betrayal by Netanyahu when the US took out the Iranian general Qasem Soleimani. Will Trump continue America’s support of Israel, or will he cut off aid to spite Netanyahu?

Whether one agrees or disagrees with America’s foreign policy and the way in which it conducts its relations with other countries, there has been a consistency over many decades. This is largely because underlying each new administration is the bureaucracy that stitches together the guts of the policies that endure. Trump threatens to gut what he calls the Deep State. One can only imagine the turmoil and ensuing turbulence this would cause.

In short, a Trump presidency promises upheaval in Europe and at home, turmoil in Ukraine, a possible invitation to China to attack Taiwan, and disruption of global trade and supply chains.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Éclairages

↳ Suite de la page 5

Alors que la règle royale apparemment établie par la reine Elizabeth II était autrefois “ne jamais se plaindre, ne jamais expliquer”, Charles a choisi de divulguer son état de santé, marquant un changement dans la perception de la monarchie britannique.

Selon l’agence de presse AP, le monde ne connaît toujours pas la cause du décès de la reine Elizabeth II en 2022 à l’âge de 96 ans. Dans les dernières années de sa vie, le public a été informé uniquement que la reine souffrait de “problèmes de mobilité”. Son certificat de décès indiquait simplement “vieillesse”.

La décision de Charles d’être ouvert sur son diagnostic de cancer a été saluée comme un pas vers la transparence dans une ère de désinformation. Certains estiment toutefois que le monarque devrait partager davantage d’informations compte tenu de son statut dans une société médiatique.

La divulgation de sa maladie a également été motivée par le désir de contrôler l’information dans l’ère des médias sociaux rapides et de la désinformation. Le palais a déclaré que Charles avait choisi de partager son diagnostic pour éviter toute spéculation.

La question de savoir dans quelle mesure le monarque doit partager des informations sur sa santé reste délicate, étant donné que les membres de la famille royale sont des citoyens privés, mais il y va également pour une partie de la confiance publique en tant que bénéficiaires des contribuables britanniques. L’évolution de la

Le roi Charles III atteint d’un cancer



La décision de Charles d’être ouvert sur son diagnostic de cancer a été saluée comme un pas vers la transparence. P - Euro Topics

monarchie, la popularité de Charles et la préparation de son fils William à lui succéder sont des éléments cruciaux dans cette équation.

En tout cas, la nouvelle a suscité une grande sympathie dans un pays où trois millions de personnes vivent avec le cancer, et elle pourrait marquer le début d’une ère de transparence accrue dans un contexte de désinformation.

Par ailleurs, il subsiste un débat complexe quant à savoir si les personnalités publiques, en particulier les chefs d’État, les présidents et les Premiers ministres, devraient divulguer tous les détails de leur santé en cas de maladies, ou si cela relève de la sphère privée.

D’une part, la transparence totale peut être perçue comme un élément crucial de la responsabilité envers le public, notamment dans les démocraties où les dirigeants sont élus pour représenter et servir la population. La divulgation complète de la santé des leaders peut favoriser la confiance du public en montrant un engagement envers l’honnêteté et la reddition de comptes.

D’autre part, la vie privée des personnalités publiques demeure un aspect important. Certains estiment que la divulgation de détails médicaux peut être excessive et peut compromettre la vie personnelle des dirigeants. Cela peut également donner lieu à des spéculations inutiles et détourner l’attention des enjeux politiques.

En fin de compte, la réponse à toutes ces questions peut varier en fonction des normes culturelles, des attentes sociétales et des circonstances spécifiques. Un équilibre délicat doit être trouvé pour répondre aux besoins de l’opinion publique tout en respectant le droit à la vie privée des personnalités publiques.

A. Bartleby

I Know

I know I’m going to die
and I’m not sad!
That’s the order of things
and therefore I submit
to it.

I’ll leave here without
even asking
Just like my coming that
I didn’t claim.

What a joy to have
come to this earth
With conscience, eyes
and senses
Who allowed me to see
and enjoy
friendship of flowers and
birds chirping.

And better, to feel united
with Life
Who makes me breathe,
dwells in me and
that I dwell.
Also I know I’m never
alone, too.
Only when I leave, I’ll
be with Her.

Life, death, I say, and I
have always known it:
It’s in between of the
same continuity...

Joseph Tsang Man Kin
Floreale, January 27, 2024

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low, Historien

Nouvelle alliance politique?

'Il y des rumeurs qui circulent... A l'île Maurice, tout est possible en politique'

Une analyse de la situation politique par Jocelyn Chan Low, historien et observateur de la société mauricienne, fait ressortir une vérité crue. Le système politique est si défaillant que les électeurs ne sont pas intéressés par les partis politiques existants sur l'échiquier. Toutefois, ils font leur devoir civique de voter pour élire un gouvernement et une opposition. Notre invité insiste sur un phénomène bordant la schizophrénie chez certains: au moment des élections, il y a une autre attitude qui se met en place contrastant avec le vivre-ensemble en harmonie habituel. Le jeu de forces entre groupes devient alors palpable. Pourtant l'heure est grave car le dérèglement climatique est une réalité...

Mauritius Times: Actuellement, de nombreuses spéculations entourent la question de la tenue des prochaines élections. Pensez-vous que le Premier ministre souhaite repousser l'échéance jusqu'au bout de son mandat, c'est-à-dire vers la fin de l'année, ou cherchera-t-il à éviter la saison cyclonique à partir de décembre, notamment après les dégâts causés par le cyclone Belal et la mauvaise presse résultant de la gestion de ce cyclone et des inondations qu'a connues le pays?

Jocelyn Chan Low: Pravind Jugnauth a souvent répété qu'il ira au bout de son mandat, ce qui amène certains à conclure que les élections générales seront organisées au début de 2025.

Personnellement, je crois que c'est un leurre pour endormir l'opposition qui a plusieurs obstacles à surmonter avant la concrétisation finale de leur alliance dans les détails - composition du "front bench", répartition des candidats, programme, etc.

C'est un fait connu que les autorités n'attendent pas la dernière minute pour organiser les élections, et ce, pour être à l'abri d'un contretemps majeur et inespéré, surtout dans des pays tropicaux où les risques de tempêtes tropicales et d'inondations sont très élevés, notamment en été. Belal et les pluies qui l'ont accompagné l'ont démontré d'une manière dramatique.

Les mois de janvier à mars peuvent devenir des cauchemars pour tout pouvoir en place, surtout pour un régime qui compte sur la création, souvent artificiel, d'un "feel-good factor" pour rallier l'électorat.

*** Les dégâts survenus lors du passage du cyclone Belal et les inondations dans certaines régions du pays auraient probablement neutralisé le "feel-good factor" engendré par l'augmentation du salaire minimum et de la compensation salariale de Rs 1,500 à Rs 2,000, celle de la pension de vieillesse de Rs 12,000 à Rs 13,500 pour les pensionnés de 75-89 ans, ainsi que le cadeau de fin d'année de Rs 2,000 aux fonctionnaires. Voyez-vous donc les questions environnementales, et surtout celle de la gestion des calamités, devenir un enjeu majeur lors des prochaines élections?**

Dans un contexte de réchauffement planétaire et de bouleversements climatiques, les questions environnementales devraient être un enjeu majeur des élections dans toutes les démocraties du monde.

Il est vrai qu'à Maurice, en raison de l'exiguïté du territoire et d'une population restreinte, tous les efforts consentis

ne changeraient pas grand-chose à la situation mondiale. Il faut cependant des mesures urgentes pour contrer les effets du dérèglement climatique sur le pays et sur la population en général.

Les constructions et le bétonnage effectués d'une manière désordonnée sans considération à l'évacuation des eaux de pluies ont rendu des endroits tels que des quartiers de la capitale ou les environs du cimetière de Saint-Jean et d'autres endroits encore à travers le pays en des zones à très haut risque pendant toute la saison cyclonique et les périodes de fortes pluies.

De plus, il faut se rappeler que l'île Maurice est située dans une zone géographique 'cyclone prone' et que l'idée que le pays puisse être victime de telles catastrophes est profondément enracinée dans la psyché du Mauricien.

Deuxièmement, pour que ce soit un enjeu majeur, il faudrait bien que les partis et les alliances en présence se focalisent dessus. Mais ni le gouvernement ni l'opposition n'ont intérêt à faire revivre les terribles mémoires des tragédies non seulement de janvier 2024 mais aussi de mars 2013 et de 2008...

*** Quelles options s'offrent à l'alliance au pouvoir en ce qui concerne le timing des prochaines élections? Y a-t-il des facteurs particuliers qui pourraient influencer cette décision?**

Il est évident que l'alliance au pouvoir organisera les

“ Aujour'd'hui les "hardcore" — les fameux 'dépôts fixes' — ont fondu comme neige et l'électorat semble dégouté de la classe politique actuelle et veut du nouveau — des vrais, pas des "fakes" comme on retrouve à foison dans les partis extra-parlementaires... Une solution possible serait d'introduire une majorité de nouveaux candidats compétents au passé politique irréprochable et désigner un "shadow cabinet" où les nouveaux seront majoritaires et où les anciens dirigeants deviendraient des "mentors". Idéalement, on proposerait un arrangement pour le poste de Premier ministre à l'israélienne, mais avec une personnalité crédible issue de PTr lui-même... ”



élections après le budget 2024, l'effet des augmentations du salaire minimum, de la pension de vieillesse pour les plus âgés des "seniors", et d'une compensation salariale relativement élevée s'étant dissipé avec les inondations accompagnant Belal.

D'ailleurs le PM a fait comprendre à ses partisans que le gouvernement a un autre budget dans la poche avant les prochaines élections. Il dispose ainsi d'une fenêtre de temps entre juillet et mi-décembre 2023, ou le début de la saison des grosses pluies.

Cependant, l'organisation des élections en novembre/décembre risque de poser d'énormes problèmes à l'Electoral Supervisory Commission en termes de recrutement du personnel nécessaire pour superviser le scrutin et le dépouillement des bulletins de vote- les fonctionnaires-enseignants étant pris dans la supervision ou/et la correction des copies.

En outre, il y a le risque que d'ici la fin de l'année, l'inflation inévitable grignote l'effet des annonces 'la bouche doux' du budget. Ainsi à mon humble avis, il aura sûrement recours à des "snap elections" (élections anticipées) vers le mois d'août 2024.

***Au-delà de sa propension à "faire la bouche doux", quelles stratégies voyez-vous que le gouvernement pourrait envisager de mettre en œuvre pour assurer sa réélection lors des prochaines élections?**

C'est un fait que, traditionnellement, le Mauricien attend beaucoup de l'État. Et cela ne date pas d'aujourd'hui.

☞ Suite en page 9

'Un partage de 32 tickets pour le PTr et de 28 pour le MMM-PMSD

aux prochaines élections serait-il de nature à rassurer la Hindu belt?"

☞ Suite de la page 8

Au début du 20e siècle, l'île Maurice fut la proie d'une très grande crise économique et un très grand nombre d'artisans se retrouvèrent au chômage. Ils s'organisèrent en syndicat privé et envoyèrent des pétitions au gouverneur réclamant de l'aide.

Dans une note au Bureau colonial, le gouverneur ne put s'empêcher de constater que les Mauriciens sont de braves gens et que l'idée 'socialiste' est très ancrée dans le pays: le Mauricien s'attend que l'État lui fournisse tout-du travail, l'éducation de ses enfants, des services de santé et d'autres encore gratuitement ! Et on sait que l'État-providence est une des grandes réalisations de l'île Maurice contemporaine.

Dans plusieurs publications académiques, j'ai décrit Maurice comme un des rares "developmental social-democratic states" de l'hémisphère sud. L'idée du "Welfare State" est si ancrée, qu'au moment des réformes de réajustement structurelles de la FMI et de la Banque mondiale à la fin des années 70 et au début des années 80, ces deux institutions abandonnèrent l'idée de réduire l'État-providence, sachant que tout gouvernement qui y toucherait se verrait balayé par un 60-0 et qu'elles auraient à recommencer les négociations à zéro. C'est l'unique cas au monde où le "Structural Adjustment Programme" fut appliqué sans une réduction de l'État-providence.

Depuis, l'élargissement de l'Etat-providence, à travers le transport gratuit pour les étudiants et les personnes âgées, l'augmentation des allocations et des facilités pour les retraités, l'aide de l'Etat pour garantir le paiement du salaire minimum, etc., a été une constante dans la République de Maurice. Et tous les partis politiques se retrouvent désormais dans une situation où il leur est impératif d'inclure de telles mesures dans leur programme au risque d'être rejetés dans le 'karo kann'. Et il est évident que Pravind Jugnauth ne s'en privera pas pour rallier l'électorat.

*** Y a-t-il des facteurs particuliers susceptibles d'influencer la politique en marge des prochaines élections?**

A ce stade, il est essentiel de souligner ce que je considère comme les trois fondamentaux de la situation politique de l'île Maurice d'aujourd'hui.

D'abord, nous avons un gouvernement au pouvoir qui dispose d'une faible légitimité populaire. En effet, le MSM et ses alliés n'ont récolté que 37% des votants aux dernières élections générales –moins de 30% de l'ensemble de l'électorat. Et la situation n'a guère évolué depuis. Selon le dernier sondage de Synthèses, réalisé en septembre 2023, parmi ceux qui s'étaient exprimés sur leur intention de vote, les partis au pouvoir ne recueillaient que 24% contre 36% en faveur de l'alliance de l'opposition.

Mais attention ! L'opposition parlementaire a beaucoup de points faibles alors que l'opposition extra-parlementaire est quasi-inexistante, son poids étant très marginal dans l'électorat. Ainsi, par exemple, les sondages révèlent que la popularité de Pravind Jugnauth devance de loin celle de Navin Ramgoolam. En fait, il existe un énorme "credibility gap" entre l'électorat et l'opposition traditionnelle et extra-parlementaire.

Et, finalement, les sondages révèlent que près de 70%

de l'électorat ne croient plus dans les dirigeants politiques actuels et seraient prêts à voter pour une nouvelle personnalité politique en tant que Premier ministre. Ce fort courant déagiste et cette immense désaffection par rapport aux partis politiques existants constituent un phénomène totalement inédit dans l'histoire politique du pays.

Mais comme il est pratiquement impossible pour qu'un nouveau leader politique-homme ou femme-émerge d'ici les élections générales, il est évident que les prochaines élections se joueront entre deux alliances de partis traditionnels, menées par des dirigeants actuels, tentant tant bien que mal de gagner les faveurs d'un électorat. Et ce dernier, pour la grande majorité, leur est potentiellement hostile! Cependant, le Mauricien étant en général un animal politique, il ira voter bien qu'on puisse prévoir une petite hausse du taux d'absentéisme.

Un tel contexte est évidemment propice à la démagogie populiste et aux promesses d'élargissement démesuré de l'État-providence.

*** Qu'en est-il de certaines questions spécifiques liées aux droits de l'homme, à la gouvernance ou à d'autres aspects tels que la situation économique actuelle du pays? Pensez-vous que ces questions influenceront le vote des citoyens?**

Elles auront certainement une place de choix dans la campagne électorale surtout qu'on assiste actuellement à un glissement progressif de Maurice vers une démocratie illibérale, ce qui commence à inquiéter des observateurs étrangers. Il faut toutefois souligner que cet état de choses ne date pas du présent régime.

Sur la question de bonne gouvernance, le "track record" de ceux qui se présentent comme alternative au PM et au



“ Les autorités n'attendent pas la dernière minute pour organiser les élections, et ce, pour être à l'abri d'un contretemps majeur et inespéré, surtout dans des pays tropicaux où les risques de tempêtes tropicales et d'inondations sont très élevés, notamment en été. Belal et les pluies qui l'ont accompagné l'ont démontré d'une manière dramatique. Les mois de janvier à mars peuvent devenir des cauchemars pour tout pouvoir en place, surtout pour un régime qui compte sur la création, souvent artificiel, d'un "feel-good factor" pour rallier l'électorat... ”

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gouvernement n'est pas très reluisant. Les allégations de scandales, de corruption, de népotisme, etc., ont aussi foisonné sous d'autres gouvernements. Et, quelques fois, même les bonnes intentions ont eu de mauvaises conséquences sur l'évolution des institutions du pays.

On sait que la Constitution de 1968, malgré certaines provisions restrictives, notamment par rapport à l'état d'urgence, avait érigé des garde-fous et un système de "checks and balances" pour prévenir tout glissement vers un "illiberal democracy" où tous les pouvoirs sont concentrés dans les mains d'un seul homme, en l'occurrence le Premier ministre. Malheureusement certains de ces garde-fous ont été enlevés.

Prenons l'amendement 2 de 1982. D'un côté, cet amendement constitutionnel consolide grandement la démocratie en rendant pratiquement impossible tout renvoi des élections générales.

☞ Suite en page 10

“Nous sommes définitivement à la fin d’un cycle et certains acteurs politiques ont fait leur temps”

Croyez-vous que les leaders de l’opposition pourront survivre et rebondir face à une énième défaite? Et que le MSM n’aura pas de soucis à se faire s’il est jeté hors du pouvoir?”

☞ Suite de la page 9

Par contre, l’article 113 restreint grandement les privilèges et les immunités des hauts fonctionnaires et même des détenteurs de postes constitutionnels. La Constitution de 1968 prévoyait que les détenteurs de postes constitutionnels évoluent dans un cadre où il pourrait agir indépendamment du PM. Ainsi le Commissaire de Police était nommé pour un minimum de 4 ans. Désormais, il pouvait être nommé pour un maximum de 4 ans et même pour une période de 3 mois ! Comment garantir l’indépendance de l’institution dans un tel cas?

Il faut ajouter que certains hauts fonctionnaires peuvent être mis à la porte “on grounds of public interest”. Ainsi l’administration civile conçue pour être indépendante du pouvoir politique devient un instrument au service du parti au pouvoir. Il est vrai que les dirigeants d’alors redoutaient les crocs en jambe d’une administration nommée par Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam et Sir Gaëtan Duval. Mais, sans le savoir, ils avaient ouvert une boîte de pandore, comme le souligne Joseph Tsang Man Kin.

*** En ce moment, comment évaluez-vous la perception publique à l’égard du gouvernement?**

Difficile à déchiffrer car le public n’est pas homogène et les opinions vont inévitablement varier en fonction de la tranche d’âge, de l’ethnicité, de la classe sociale, etc.

Cependant d’une manière générale, l’opinion publique est défavorable envers l’ensemble de la classe politique actuelle. Et les allégations de scandales, de corruption, de népotisme, et aussi l’arrogance de certains et la dérive des institutions — alors que le combat contre le trafic de drogue est loin d’avoir été gagné et que le coût de la vie ne fait qu’augmenter continuellement — ont grandement entamé l’image du gouvernement déjà minoritaire au sein de l’électorat au lendemain des élections de 2019.

Cependant, ce mécontentement n’entraîne pas, comme auparavant, un ralliement à l’opposition dont l’image est aussi très écornée. Il semblerait que le “credibility gap” qui s’est installé entre les dirigeants de l’opposition et le grand public et qui a amené à leurs défaites successives aux dernières élections générales est toujours opératoire.

Tout cela explique le flou en ce qu’il s’agit des prochaines élections générales - la grosse majorité de l’électorat est encore indécise et ne se décidera probablement qu’à la dernière minute.

Il est à noter cependant qu’un grand nombre d’électeurs reconnaissent les développements infrastructurels de grande envergure entrepris sous le présent régime. Je prends comme exemple le Metro Express qui, malgré les critiques, fait partie aujourd’hui de la vie de milliers de Mauriciens quotidiennement. De même, le bilan social du gouvernement n’est pas totalement négatif. La hausse du salaire minimum et des allocations sociales telles la pension de vieillesse de même que la “Negative Income Tax” sont autant de points positifs malgré la hausse constante du coût de la vie. Et, chez les seniors en général, on ne voit pas se dessiner une tendance forte en faveur d’un soutien à l’opposition.

*** Mais, comment interprétez-vous cette déclaration du Premier ministre lors d’un comité régional du MSM dans la circonscription no 4, où il affirme avoir soutenu ce qui suit: “Je ne resterais pas Premier ministre éternellement. On mourra tous un jour” - ce qui a été inter-**



“ D’une manière générale, l’opinion publique est défavorable envers l’ensemble de la classe politique actuelle. Et les allégations de scandales, de corruption, de népotisme, et aussi l’arrogance de certains et la dérive des institutions — alors que le combat contre le trafic de drogue est loin d’avoir été gagné et que le coût de la vie ne fait qu’augmenter continuellement — ont grandement entamé l’image du gouvernement déjà minoritaire au sein de l’électorat au lendemain des élections de 2019. Cependant, ce mécontentement n’entraîne pas, comme auparavant, un ralliement à l’opposition dont l’image est aussi très écornée...” ”

prété par l’opposition que Pravind Jugnauth aurait intériorisé la défaite?

Les services de renseignement ont dû l’informer que la grosse majorité des Mauriciens n’ont pas encore fait leur choix.

De même, chez un parti qui est arrivé au pouvoir avec bien moins de 40% de l’électorat, le spectre de la défaite électorale n’est jamais vraiment bien loin. Dans ce sens, il fait preuve de réalisme

*** Par la suite, Pravind Jugnauth a déclaré que l’Opposition ne valait pas grand-chose, et il a ainsi dirigé ses tirs sur la presse. L’adversaire principal de l’opposition, c’est la MBC-TV, et celui de l’alliance gouvernementale, c’est la presse... est-ce vraiment ainsi?**

Si l’on se fie aux divers sondages, à la fois le gouvernement et l’opposition sont minoritaires dans le pays. La grosse majorité de l’électorat – près de 70% voudrait voir du neuf dans le leadership politique du pays.

Mais puisque cette option n’est pas à l’ordre du jour pour les prochaines élections, les électeurs finiront par voter pour une des deux alliances traditionnelles. D’où le rôle de la presse qui, selon les sondages, demeure l’une des institutions les plus crédibles du pays.

C’est un fait que les Mauriciens font plus confiance aux journalistes qu’à la classe politique. Dans d’autres démocraties, ceux qui s’en prennent à la classe politique traditionnelle s’en prennent aussi à la presse qu’ils associent au même système vil et trompeur. Tel n’est pas le cas à Maurice - tout au moins jusqu’à maintenant.

Ainsi la presse jouera un rôle déterminant quant à l’issue des prochaines élections. Cela expliquerait les sorties de Pravind Jugnauth et les pressions malsaines exercées pour que certains changent leur ligne éditoriale ou même leurs journalistes vedettes.

Quant à la MBC, elle a toujours été au service du pouvoir en place, et il incombe à l’opposition de démasquer sa propagande infecte.

*** Toutefois, cette même presse tombe sur la tête de temps à autre, comme lorsqu’elle essaie de pousser cette idée de proposer Xavier Duval... “au lieu de Navin**

Ram-goolam, comme potentiel PM de l’alliance de l’opposition”... ce serait “le vrai changement”, soutient-elle. Duval a sans doute ses mérites, mais voit-on Paul Bérenger soutenir une telle démarche?

C’est la résurgence d’un vieux fantasme, et je ne crois pas qu’elle mérite qu’on s’y attarde. La proposition en fait indique le chemin le plus sûr pour une défaite de l’opposition sur un score de 60-0!

Il est vrai que la société mauricienne semble évoluer vers une société post ethnique dans le très long terme. Il y a certes plus d’interactions et d’échanges entre des personnes des différents groupes ethniques que dans les années 60.

Cependant il faut faire une distinction entre comportement social et comportement politique. Ce sont deux domaines différents à ne pas

confondre. Et l’*ethnic politics*, qui met en jeu de puissants intérêts, est là pour durer encore quelques décennies.

D’ailleurs, cela risque de poser de sérieux problèmes à l’alliance de l’opposition en termes de répartition et de distribution des tickets. L’opposition gagnerait beaucoup à se pencher sur les élections de 2014. Le raz de marée de l’Alliance Lepep dans les régions rurales était dû non seulement à la perte de crédibilité de Navin Ramgoolam mais il y avait surtout cette peur qu’il n’exercerait plus le pouvoir réel et ne serait qu’un fantoche aux mains de Bérenger.

Or, un partage de 32 tickets pour le PTR et de 28 pour le MMM-PMSD aux prochaines élections serait-il de nature à rassurer la “Hindu belt” ? Cela alors qu’on sait pertinemment bien que logiquement une bonne partie des candidats du PTR affronteront un MSM bien ancré dans les régions rurales alors que le MMM et PMSD peuvent théoriquement enlever des circonscriptions dans les régions urbaines où l’opposition a fait un meilleur score aux dernières élections générales...

Je suis certain que le MSM exploitera à fond la peur que Navin Ramgoolam pourrait se retrouver en minorité au sein de l’alliance de l’opposition en cas de victoire aux élections.

De telles inepties (comme celle visant à proposer Duval comme PM de l’alliance de l’opposition) qui ne mènent à rien risquent bien de faire le jeu de l’alliance au pouvoir.

*** De votre point de vue, quelles sont les principales préoccupations de l’opposition actuelle et quelles stratégies pourraient-elles utiliser pour remporter les élections?**

Un partage de tickets et un “front bench” qui pourrait satisfaire à la fois l’électorat urbain et le “Hindu belt”, et neutraliser la campagne de peur qui sera sans doute alimentée par le MSM sont parmi les grandes priorités de l’opposition, selon moi.

Mais il reste le fond du problème: Comment présenter une alternative crédible quand le leader de l’alliance a été victime, à tort ou à raison, d’une campagne de “character assassination” féroce le présentant comme le “devil incarnate” en ce qu’il s’agit de mauvaise gouvernance, de corruption et de passe-droits?

☞ Suite en page 11



● Suite de la page 3

Par ailleurs, la surface cultivable dans le pays rétrécit comme une peau de chagrin au moment où les besoins de sécurité alimentaire (garantie en partie par les cultures vivrières et l'élevage) et les besoins de sécurité énergétique (assurée par des énergies renouvelables) se font plus pressants, avec pour corollaire une dépendance accrue sur les importations.

Pour sa part, le gouvernement a trouvé dans ces projets immobiliers un moyen d'engranger des devises étrangères pour renflouer la balance des paiements déficitaire du pays. La majeure partie (plus de 50 %) de l'investissement direct extérieur (IDE) va dans l'achat de propriétés immobilières et non pas dans la capacité productive du pays.

Selon les chiffres de la Banque de Maurice (voir le

Développement foncier Un moratoire pour l'immobilier

tableau ci-dessous), l'investissement direct extérieur dans l'immobilier était de Rs 8,7 milliards dans le premier semestre de 2023, soit 64% du montant total de l'IDE de Rs13,5 milliards. En 2022, l'investissement direct extérieur dans l'immobilier était de Rs 15,4 milliards sur les Rs 27,6 milliards d'IDE dans le pays, soit 56%. Dans plusieurs rapports, la Banque mondiale a tiré la sonnette d'alarme sur le faible niveau de l'IDE dans la capacité productive de l'économie (agriculture, industrie).

| Table - BOM: Gross Direct Investment Flows | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | 2021 | ratio | 2022 | ratio | 2023 H1 | ratio |
| | Rs M. | | Rs M. | | Rs M. | |
| Other sectors | 9,547 | 0.52 | 12,236 | 0.44 | 4,850 | 0.36 |
| Real estate activities | 8,922 | 0.48 | 15,422 | 0.56 | 8,663 | 0.64 |
| Total | 18,469 | 1.00 | 27,658 | 1.00 | 13,513 | 1.00 |
| Of which: | | | | | | |
| IRS/RES/IHS/PDS/SCS | 5,922 | 0.32 | 11,361 | 0.41 | 5,915 | 0.59 |

Ségrégation sociale

Sur le plan social, tous ces projets immobiliers ont créé des agglomérations exclusives (*gated communities*) pour des étrangers et/ou Mauriciens bien nantis dans le cadre d'un système de ségrégation de classe. Certaines agglomérations sont uniquement habitées par des étrangers dans un système d'apartheid social. Un étranger qui visiterait Rivière Noire et Tamarin dans l'Ouest du pays se croirait en Afrique du Sud au temps de l'apartheid. L'opulence ostentatoire dans ces agglomérations contraste singulièrement avec la pauvreté de certains villages avoisinants.

La proposition d'un moratoire est un pas vers une réflexion profonde sur le modèle de développement du pays axé sur les morcellements fonciers et la braderie de pans entiers du patrimoine national aux étrangers. Il est probable que cette réflexion ne mène pas à une remise en question du modèle, mais au moins elle permettrait d'analyser les méfaits d'un développement foncier débridé, incohérent et néfaste à l'environnement. Si cette réflexion débouche sur des mesures susceptibles de corriger les excroissances du modèle et éviter les effets négatifs sur l'environnement, ce sera déjà un pas dans la bonne direction.

Prakash Neerohoo

Interview: Jocelyn Chan Low, Historien

☞ Suite de la page 10

Dans les démocraties plus établies, la défaite aux élections entraîne le retrait automatique du leader du parti et la nomination d'un nouveau leadership chargé de la mission essentielle de "rebranding" du parti pour les prochaines échéances électorales.

Dans la République de Maurice, tel n'est pas le cas car les partis politiques sont des partis personnels, non collectifs ni démocratiques, mais sous le contrôle d'une seule personne qui, en outre, dans certains cas, finit par installer une dynastie.

Ceci rend l'exercice de "rebranding" extrêmement difficile, voire impossible et cela explique aussi la succession de défaites. Je vous rappelle qu'aujourd'hui les "hardcore" — les fameux 'dépôts fixes' — ont fondu comme neige et l'électorat semble dégouté de la classe politique actuelle et veut du nouveau - des vrais, pas des "fakes" comme on retrouve à foison dans les partis extra-parlementaires.

La tâche est ardue. Une solution possible serait d'introduire une majorité de nouveaux candidats compétents au passé politique irréprochable et désigner un "shadow cabinet" où les nouveaux seront majoritaires et où les anciens dirigeants deviendraient des "mentors". Idéalement, on proposerait un arrangement pour le poste de Premier ministre à l'israélienne, mais avec une personnalité crédible issue de PTR lui-même. Ce serait une manière forte d'acter la transition.

Il y a évidemment le programme. L'élargissement de l'État providence doit être l'un des piliers de ce programme non seulement pour contrer la campagne du gouvernement mais surtout parce qu'en démocratie, c'est l'un des moyens les plus efficaces pour atténuer le problème des inégalités historiques.

En outre, un programme de réformes des institutions est essentiel pour assainir la situation. Cependant, il faut aussi se rappeler qu'une bonne partie de l'électorat ne

“ Je crois que nous sommes définitivement à la fin d'un cycle et que certains acteurs politiques ont fait leur temps. Ainsi va la vie. Même le meilleur joueur de football aura à quitter le terrain un jour. Croyez-vous que les leaders, plus particulièrement ceux de l'opposition, pourront survivre et rebondir face à une énième défaite? Et que le MSM n'aura pas de soucis à se faire s'il est jeté hors du pouvoir? ”



prend même pas la peine de lire les manifestes électoraux.

En ce qu'il s'agit de l'économie, il faut certainement des mesures fortes pour consolider nos acquis et éviter le désastre. Cependant, à trop mettre l'accent sur les difficultés économiques, l'opposition risque de voir son discours être perçu comme annonciateur d'une politique d'austérité à venir. Or, c'est exactement ce que l'électorat ne veut pas entendre.

Je me souviens qu'en 1983, le MMM avait fait campagne autour d'une politique de vérité au moment où des milliers de personnes étaient au chômage dont des maçons qui constituaient le gros de l'électorat des cités ouvrières. Sir Gaetan Duval, par contre, était venu avec la fameuse promesse de "Solange, amenn mo diary", et en tant que 'militant-coaltar' nous avions pu constater comment cela avait fini par faire basculer une bonne partie de cet électorat vers l'alliance bleu-blanc-rouge...

* **La prochaine campagne électorale risque d'engendrer une surenchère politique marquée par des attaques personnelles et d'autres abus. Toutefois, à la fin de la journée, nous nous retrouverons probablement avec les mêmes acteurs politiques et la persistance de la même culture politique. Comment pou-**

vous-nous sortir de cette impasse?

Je ne serai pas aussi catégorique. Au contraire, je crois que nous sommes définitivement à la fin d'un cycle et que certains acteurs politiques ont fait leur temps. Ainsi va la vie. Même le meilleur joueur de football aura à quitter le terrain un jour. Croyez-vous que les leaders, plus particulièrement ceux de l'opposition, pourront survivre et rebondir face à une énième défaite? Et que le MSM n'aura pas de soucis à se faire s'il est jeté hors du pouvoir?

En fait, l'après-élections générales pourrait bien voir le début d'un nouveau cycle, avec de nouveaux acteurs et de nouvelles idées. Pour ceux qui militent pour un vrai changement dans la vie politique à Maurice, *it could be a very*

exciting time ahead!

* **En attendant, vous savez qu'il n'y a pas de conditions permanentes ou fixes en politique; les alliances et les situations peuvent évoluer avec le temps. Pensez-vous donc que de nouveaux partenariats pourraient émerger avant les prochaines élections?**

Évidemment, la situation politique a toujours été très fluide à l'île Maurice et les alliances se font et se défont même à la veille du Nomination Day.

Déjà, il y des rumeurs qui circulent - peut être alimentées par les partisans du gouvernement. En outre, si le principe d'une grande alliance de l'opposition a été annoncé, nous sommes toujours, comme je le disais tout à l'heure, dans le flou concernant les détails - "front bench", répartition des tickets, programme - c'est-à-dire des sujets qui fâchent et qui peuvent disloquer une alliance. Et, il est dans l'intérêt du gouvernement qu'un de partis de l'opposition fasse défection et rejoigne ses rangs.

A l'île Maurice, tout est possible en politique. Les Mauriciens le savent depuis très longtemps. D'ailleurs, c'est tout ce cirque qui a alimenté la distanciation du gros de l'électorat vis à vis des partis traditionnels.

Israel's Netanyahu rejects ceasefire proposal, renews pledge to destroy Hamas

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday total victory in Gaza was within reach, rejecting the latest offer from Hamas for a ceasefire to ensure the return of hostages still held in the besieged enclave.

Netanyahu renewed a pledge to destroy the Palestinian Islamist movement, saying there was no alternative for Israel but to bring about the collapse of Hamas, reports Reuters.

"The day after is the day after Hamas. All of Hamas," he told a press conference, insisting that total victory against Hamas was the only solution to the Gaza war.

Hamas had proposed a Gaza ceasefire of four-and-a-half months, during which all hostages would go free, Israel would withdraw its troops from the Gaza Strip and an agreement would be reached on an end to the war.

The Hamas offer, the contents of which were first reported by Reuters, is a response to an earlier proposal drawn up by U.S. and Israeli spy chiefs and delivered to



Hamas last week by Qatari and Egyptian mediators.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken discussed the offer with Netanyahu after arriving in Israel following talks with the leaders of Qatar and Egypt, the countries that have acted as mediators. Blinken later met Palestinian

President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah.

Israel began its military offensive after militants from Hamas-ruled Gaza killed 1,200 people and took 253 hostages in southern Israel on Oct. 7. Gaza's health ministry says at least 27,585 Palestinians have been confirmed killed, with thousands more feared buried under rubble. There has been only one truce so far, lasting just a week at the end of November.

Israel has previously said it would not pull its troops out of Gaza or end the war until Hamas was wiped out.

But sources described Hamas as taking a new approach to its longstanding demand to end the war, now proposing this as an issue to be resolved in future talks rather than a condition for the truce.

A source close to the negotiations said the Hamas counterproposal did not require a guarantee of a permanent ceasefire at the outset but that an end to the war would have to be agreed before final hostages were freed.

Repeated US strikes pushing govt to end America-led coalition's mission: Iraq

Repeated US strikes against Iran-backed armed groups in Iraq are pushing the government to end the mission of the U.S.-led coalition in the country, the prime minister's military spokesman Yahya Rasool said on Thursday.



Civil defense members gather at the site of a burned vehicle targeted by a US drone strike in east Baghdad, Iraq. Pic - AP

The US military said a strike on Wednesday killed a commander from Kataib Hezbollah, an Iran-backed armed group in Iraq that the Pentagon has blamed for attacking its troops, reports Reuters.

Rasool said in a statement that the US-led coalition "has become a factor for instability and threatens to entangle Iraq in the cycle of conflict".

The US-led international military coalition in Iraq was set up to fight Islamic State. The United States has 2,500 troops in Iraq, advising and assisting local forces to prevent a resurgence of the group.

Since the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza began in October, Iraq and Syria have witnessed almost daily tit-for-tat attacks between hardline Iran-backed armed groups and US forces stationed in the region.

Maldives at high risk of debt distress amid heavy borrowings from China, warns IMF

The strategically-placed Indian Ocean nation of the Maldives, which has borrowed heavily from China and shifted allegiance from India, is at high risk of "debt distress," the IMF warned Wednesday.

Beijing has pledged more funding for the Maldives since pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu took power in November.

Muizzu thanked China last month for its "selfless assistance" for development funds after a visit to Beijing, reports AFP.

The International Monetary Fund did not give details of the Maldives' foreign debt but said there was a need for "urgent policy adjustment".

"Without significant policy changes, the overall fiscal deficits and public debt are projected to stay elevated," the IMF said after a review of the country's economy.

The archipelago, famed for its white sand beaches and where tourism accounts for nearly a third of the economy, has recovered economically from the Covid-19 pandemic.

But while a planned airport expansion and an increase in hotels are projected to boost growth, the IMF said "uncertainty surrounding the outlook remains high and risks are tilted to the downside."

Muizzu's mentor, former president Abdulla Yameen,



The Maldives has borrowed heavily from China for infrastructure projects, including a bridge connecting the capital Male to the country's international airport on another island. Pic - Nikkei Asia

who ruled for five years until 2018, borrowed heavily from Beijing for construction projects.

That left it owing 42% of its more than \$3 billion foreign debt to China in 2021, according to the World Bank, citing the Maldives' finance ministry.

Muizzu, who has requested that Indian troops operating three reconnaissance aircraft in the Maldives leave by May 10, has vowed to strengthen his military to defend the country's vast maritime territory.

Global east-west shipping lanes pass through the nation's chain of 1,192 tiny coral islands, stretching around 800 kilometres (500 miles) across the equator.

* Contd on page 13

LOCAL GOVT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Local Govt. Employees Association which will be held on Saturday 24 February 2024 at 10.00 am at Royal Road, Morc St André Community Centre. Only compliant members are invited to attend.

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of last AGM.
2. Matters arising
3. President's Report.
4. Finance
5. Motions and amendments of rules.
6. Election of Managing Committee (if any)
7. AOB

Mrs Jantee Rungloll
Secretary

9 February 2024

ALL WORKERS FEDERATION

Annual Congress Meeting

Affiliates of the All Workers Federation are kindly invited to attend the Annual Congress Meeting which will be held on Thursday 29 February 2024 at the seat of the MLC at 11.30 am.

AGENDA:

1. Approval of Minutes of Last Annual Congress.
2. Matters arising.
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report and approval of accounts
5. Election of Executive Board Members for the year 2024-2025 as per appropriate group.
6. Appointment of auditors for the year 2024-2025.
7. A.O.B.

7 February 2024

Secretary

Indian students in US universities living in fear after 2 deaths in a week, 'Scared to travel alone'

The Indian community in the US is reeling from the recent string of sudden deaths among Indian students across American universities this month. The circumstances surrounding these tragic events vary, with one student losing his life in a shocking murder, another succumbing to suicide, and several deaths remaining unexplained. Numerous questions linger, leaving the community grappling with uncertainty and seeking answers.

Some of the deaths this year include the brutal murder of Vivek Saini, the suicide of Sameer Kamath, the mysterious demise of Neel Acharya, and Akul Dhawan's death due to hypothermia, reports Hindustan Times.

'You always have to be situationally aware'

In the aftermath of the recent deaths, Indian students studying in the US spoke with Hindustan Times about their concerns.

Kajari Saha, 28, from the University of California, Santa Barbara, said she felt a "sense of alienation" after learning about the incidents. "You always have to be situationally aware and surround yourself with people who feel safe to you," she said. "I live in California, a very liberal state compared to others. However, there is a bit of racial profiling, no matter where you go."

"Although I am mostly surrounded by friends, I can imagine how threatening it must feel for someone who lives by themselves and in the vicinity of where these incidents happened," she added.

'There were occasions when I felt scared to travel alone'

Vivek Saini, an MBA student in Georgia's Lithonia, was brutally attacked and killed by a homeless man named Julian Faulkner. The gut-wrenching incident was caught on camera.

Faulkner reportedly hit Saini about 50 times on the head with a hammer. The incident took place at the Chevron Food Mart at Snapfinger and Cleveland Road.

"I first came across the news on X and it shook me to the core. I think over the past year, there has been a growing number of crimes, including some hate crimes, among different communities and unfortunately some-



(L-R) Vivek Saini, Neel Acharya and Sameer Kamath were among other Indian students who died in the US this year. Pic - X

times students are on the receiving end of it," Anukta Datta, 28, also from the University of California, Santa Barbara, said.

On being asked whether Indian students in the US have reasons to feel threatened, she added, "Having lived in Michigan and California over the last six years, I think this is very subjective. Although Ann Arbor is a very buzzing and rather safe college town in the Midwest, there were still occasions when I felt scared to travel alone. These incidents can be very worrying for Indian students, mostly based on where they live and their surrounding community."

Anukta said that Southern California has appeared to be a relatively safer place to her. "However, over the course of the last winter break, we did get some news about sporadic thefts and robberies here, which did take me aback," she said, adding that "there is an added concern about security given the not-so-stringent gun control laws in the country."

Indian-American student Akul Dhawan was found dead outside the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in January. His father later criticised the police for inaction. The initial findings of the autopsy suggested he died from hypothermia, according to the Champaign County Coroner.

"It is terrible, of course, and somewhat scary," Aritra

Basu, 29, from University of Massachusetts Amherst, said of all the recent deaths. "I do not really think Indian students in particular are being targeted, or are victims of hate crimes on a wide scale. But I do feel threatened when I read reports of increasing gun violence, and white supremacist political movements. Increasing socio-economic inequality has spillover effects too."

The Purdue deaths

In just a month, two Indian students of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, have lost their lives. Neel Acharya, a student who went missing days ago, was later found dead on the Purdue campus. An autopsy conducted on January 29 revealed that there were no signs of trauma on his body. The cause and manner of death are under investigation.

Indian-origin doctoral student Sameer Kamath, who studied at Purdue too, was found dead at a nature preserve this week. The 23-year-old reportedly died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

The deaths have sent shockwaves across Purdue. A student of the university expressed his fear, saying on the condition of anonymity, "It sent a wave of disbelief and concern among the Indian student community. Neel's death, especially, has heightened my sense of concern about safety on campus. It makes me question the overall security measures and prompts us to consider what more can be done to ensure the well-being of students."

Acharya and Kamath's deaths are not the only ones to have rocked Purdue. In 2022, a 20-year-old Indian-origin student studying at the university, Varun Manish Chheda, was murdered by his 22-year-old Korean student Ji Min 'Jimmy' Sha, who was later arrested.

Elsewhere in the US, in January this year, two 22-year-old Telugu students were found dead in their room in Hartford town of Connecticut. Gattu Dinesh from Wanaparthy district of Telangana, and R Nikesh from Palakonda of Parvathipuram Manyam district, were found dead on January 14 after inhaling carbon monoxide emitted by a room heater.

King Charles has cancer. Can this make astrologer Nostradamus' predictions true?

Buckingham Palace revealed on Monday that King Charles is facing a battle with cancer at the age of 75. The monarch will temporarily step back from public duties for treatment but hopes to return soon.

Nostradamus, a 16th-century French astrologer, foresaw royal turmoil in his 1555 text "Les Prophéties." The prediction suggests the King might abdicate, with Prince Harry potentially taking the throne. Nostradamus mentioned the "King of the Isles" being "driven out by force" and replaced by someone unexpected, reports Hindustan Times.

British author Mario Reading, in his book 'Nostradamus: The Complete Prophecies for the Future,' explained that the people might force out the King due to disapproval of his divorce. Reading stated, "A man will replace who never expected to be king."



What did Nostradamus' 2024 predictions say about King Charles? Pic - Instagram/WikiCommons

Nostradamus' track record: Nostradamus has a history of accurate predictions about British Royals, including the death of Queen Elizabeth in 2022 at around the age of 96, according to Reading.

Prince Harry's return amid father's health: Prince Harry, King Charles' estranged son, arrived in London on Tuesday after the cancer diagnosis. While the health situation may encourage reconciliation between father and son, healing the rift with Prince William, the heir to the throne, remains a challenge.

Family dynamics and challenges: Royal watchers suggest that Charles's health could be a catalyst for a reunion between father and son. However, reconciling with Prince William may prove more difficult due to the ongoing tensions from Harry's departure from royal life.

In uncertain times, the convergence of King Charles' health battle and Nostradamus' intriguing predictions adds a layer of speculation to the future of the British monarchy.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 261**MAURITIUS TIMES**

Friday 14 August, 1959

• *The morality of some people is in remnants – never enough to make a coat. — Joseph Joubert*

By L. SEETANAH

The idea of using Creole as a medium for mass education in Mauritius has long been haunting me. I remember putting the suggestion forward to the late Seeneevassen when he came to London with the delegation in February 1957. In June, the same year, when I called a meeting at the House of Commons to discuss the possibility of creating the *Mauritius League*, I again brought forward the question in the speech I then delivered. Most of our more perspicacious university students saw eye to eye with me and agreed that the language of the majority must be respected and be given prominence and dignity if the country were to forge ahead at a greater speed. I believe I also hinted at it in one of my articles, which appeared in *Advance* about that time.

It is most surprising and deplorable to hear even a section of our intelligentsia — those who are especially responsible for moulding the public mind — contending that Creole is a “mere dialect,” that it cannot be made into a written and standardized language. It clearly shows how half-baked even a section of our élite can be. Perhaps it’s sheer snobbishness not to recognise Creole just as another vehicle through which one puts over what one has to say, and as having as much ‘dignity’ as French or English or any other standard language. A knowledge of history would reveal to us that these European languages were, only four centuries ago, considered as “undignified” as Creole is today.

Writing about the Renaissance, the author of *Glimpses of World History* has this to say about the European languages: “The new spirit that was abroad affected the young European languages powerfully. These languages had existed for some time, and we have seen that Italy had already produced great poets. In England there had been Chaucer. But Latin, the speech and language of the learned and of the Church all over Europe, overshadowed them all. They were the vulgar tongues — the vernaculars. It was almost undignified to write in them. But the new spirit and paper and printing pushed these languages ahead. Italian was first in the field; then followed French and English and Spanish and, last of all, German. *In France a band of young writers in the sixteenth century resolved to write in their own language and not in Latin and to improve their ‘vulgar tongue’ till it became a suitable medium for the best of literature.*” And H.G. Wells in his *Outline of History* tells us: “With the fourteenth century, the real history European Literatures begins. We find a rapid development of Standard Italian, Standard English, Standard French...*These lan-*

The Use of Creole



guages became literary languages: they were tried over, polished by use, and made exact and vigorous.” It is high time we took a leaf out of the lesson of History in this country in connection with the “national language”.

We should copy the first-class methods of priests who have used vernaculars and turned them into written languages in their relentless endeavour to reach the common people through the language they best understand. One example — not too far away from us — is Swahili in East Africa which has comparatively recently been made a written language. If we really want the advancement of the common people, who, after all, now have a greater say in the affairs of the country, we must come to their level and identify ourselves with them. There is, or should be, no shame in expressing an idea or speaking to a person in a language that is more current. On the contrary, it is quite logical — and sensible. It would be preposterous to speak to an Englishman or an Italian in Creole, in England or in Italy! We should be Romans in Rome!

Any well-meant information for the public must, to be effective, be in the language understood by all. It would in fact, be superfluous to write or to speak in other languages when one is universally understood in the country. Not all of us understand “Better careful than crippled”. In our campaign for cleanliness, for instance, it would be much better for us to use “Tache manière garde la ville prope” than “help to keep Port Louis clean.” In some buses one reads: “Please help the conductor by tendering the exact fare.” If these words were meant for English tourists, perhaps it would have been suitable. We normally want those whom we are so pleased to call “the riff-raff” to know what they should do. Therefore, the easier the language, the more response we shall have.

On the other hand there are sensible

people among us who have had the courage of standing up against the barrage of carping criticisms, often aped by the fickle, narrow and mediocre mind. We must applaud the officers of the Department of Agriculture who showed exemplary initiative during the Agricultural Week organised by them at Triolet some months ago for addressing the public in general in Creole. We still remember the dialogue in Creole Messrs Walter and Jagatsingh had on the Radio. These I call true leaders who will, ignoring all the temptations of inarticulate vanity, come down to the level of the masses whom they sincerely wish to serve and condescend to talk to them in the language they all understand.

Mauritius must move forward with logic

and reason and forget not to laugh at the vain and ridiculous attitudes of some of our “great men” who will shun the language of the common people for fear of being looked upon as undignified. Wherever there is reason, there should be dignity. Our leaders should together take the initiative in freeing the country from all its false concepts which obfuscate the mind, prevent any clear and creative thought and retard our progress. This is or should be the Age of Reason, the age of new ideas when we must determine here and now to break away from the shackles of past and burdensome traditions, from the false sense of shame and from all other barriers to progress.

No progressive country in the world today can fail to realize the importance of the use of vernacular in the education of the masses. It appeals directly to all and is understood by all. Today, when we are striving for self-determination and sovereignty, it is all the more important to speed up progress, that we should use the language of the largest number, which is quite in consonance with democracy. It is inevitable that long-implanted and petrified ideas, or barriers that have grown up in our mind, will take time to be shed or broken down, for, to quote the author of *Glimpses of World History* once more “the most terrible of walls are the walls that grow up in the mind which prevent you from discarding an evil tradition simply because it is old, and from accepting a new thought because it is novel”; but if we only value a sense of freedom, the vacuum would easily be filled. Life, after all, perpetuates itself through changes and new creations.

CANE INSURANCE COOPERATIVE CREDIT UNION LTD

c/o SIFB, 18 SSR Street, Port Louis

Registered No 636

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In line with Section 41 (1) of the Cooperatives Act 2016 as subsequently amended, the Shareholders of the **CICCU Ltd** are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Cane Insurance Cooperative Credit Union Ltd on **23rd February 2024 - From 14.00 pm to 16.00 pm** at the seat of the Sugar Insurance Fund Board, 18 SSR Street Port Louis.

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
2. Matters arising.
3. President's Report.
4. Address by the Representatives of the Ministry of Cooperatives.
5. Approval of the Financial Statement of the Society duly audited, together with the audit report for 2022-2023.
6. Approval of estimates of income and expenditure for the financial year 2023-2024.
7. Approval of the appropriation of surplus for preceding years.
8. Approval of interest rate payable on deposit @ 30.06.2023.

9. Internal Controller's Report 2022-2023.
10. Confirmation/Appointment of Auditor (the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives).
11. Motions from shareholders, if any.
12. Election of Internal Controller.
13. Election of 9 Directors to sit on the Board of Directors for the year 2023- 2024.
14. Closing
15. AOB

Notes:

1. Shareholders wishing to stand as candidates on the Board of Directors should forward their letter of candidature under registered cover to the Executive Secretary of the CICCU Ltd, c/o SIFB, 18 SSR Street, Port Louis by Friday 09th February 2024 by 15.00 pm at latest.
2. Shareholders wishing to present a motion at the Annual General Assembly should advise the Executive Secretary of the CICCU Ltd, C/O SIFB, 18 SSR Street, Port Louis in writing by Friday 09th February 2024 by 15.00 pm at latest.

T. Guenessing
Executive Secretary

09 February 2024

Probing the Depths of Mind-Reading

● Cont. from page 2

Socrates: (stroking his beard) An intriguing proposition, Cephalus. The quest for understanding the enigma of a woman's mind has perplexed men for centuries. Would you not wish to comprehend the intricacies of your wife's thoughts?

Cephalus: (laughs) Socrates, my friend, understanding a woman's mind is like trying to untangle a fishing net with your eyes closed. It's an art, not a science.

Socrates: (nodding) An art, indeed. But what if this newfound mind-reading technology could enhance our ability to comprehend one another? Politicians, for instance, could no longer cloak their true intentions behind eloquent speeches.

Cephalus: (leaning back) True, but where's the fun in politics if we strip away the mystery? It's like attending a tragedy without the suspense – a dull affair.

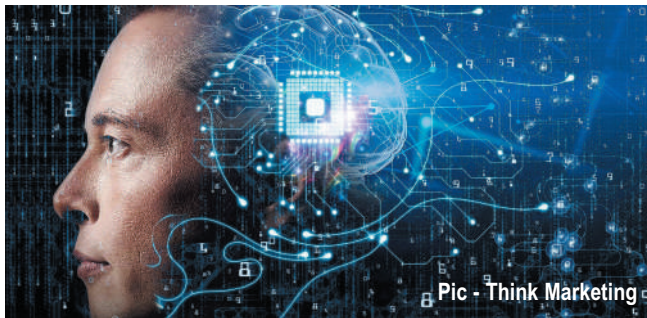
Socrates: (smiling) Ah, Cephalus, you appreciate the theatrics of life. Yet, ponder this: what if we could discern the genuine intentions of those who profess to work for the public good?

Cephalus: (raising an eyebrow) Public good, you say? If I could read a politician's mind, I fear I might find a labyrinth of self-interest, cunning strategies, and a penchant for long-winded speeches.

Socrates: (laughing) A labyrinth, indeed! But what if we could guide them out of that maze and towards the light of true public service?

Cephalus: (smirking) Socrates, my friend if you could achieve that, you'd be the true philosopher-king. Perhaps even a mind-reading sage.

Socrates: (raising his cup) A sage,



Pic - Think Marketing

indeed! But let us not forget the ethical questions that loom over this newfound power. Are we ready to bear the responsibility of peering into the depths of the human psyche?

Cephalus: (sipping his wine) Responsibility, you say? It's a burden, my friend. I'd rather stick to decoding the mysteries of the latest fisherman's tales.

Socrates: But there is more, dear Cephalus! Have you heard the latest symphony of innovation? Elon Musk claims that his Neuralink, a brain-computer interface, has made its debut in the human mind.

Cephalus: Ah, Neuralink! The mysterious creation that promises to untangle the threads of the mind and weave them into the fabric of technology. Pray tell, what sorcery is this?

Socrates: (stroking his beard) It is no sorcery, my friend, but the pursuit of understanding the intricate dance between human thought and machine. Musk dreams of a world where one can commune with computers through mere thoughts.

Cephalus: (raising an eyebrow) Thoughts, you say? Are we to share our deepest musings with machines, as if revealing the secrets of our very souls?

Socrates: Indeed, Cephalus. Neuralink aspires to create a symphony of connection

between the human brain and computers, allowing the two to converse without the need for spoken or written language.

Cephalus: (leaning forward) A symphony, you say? Will it be a harmonious melody, or shall we face a cacophony of technological discord?

Socrates: (smiling) That, my friend, remains to be seen. Musk speaks of aiding those with quadriplegia or ALS, offering a bridge between their thoughts and external devices. Imagine, Cephalus, a world where the paralyzed could reclaim control through the mere power of their minds.

Cephalus: (reflecting) A noble cause, indeed. But, as with every leap in knowledge, ethical concerns must shadow our excitement. Are we prepared for the Pandora's box of possibilities that mind-computer interfaces may unleash?

Socrates: (nodding) Ethical shadows, my friend, are the guardians of our moral compass. As we traverse this uncharted territory, we must weigh the potential benefits against the risks and ponder the implications of unravelling the very fabric of thought.

Cephalus: (chuckling) Fabric of thought, you say? Will we weave a tapestry of enlightenment, or shall we stumble upon the threads of chaos?

Socrates: (smiling) Chaos and enlightenment, entwined like the roots of the olive trees above us. Neuralink, with its probes and specially designed robots, seeks to navigate this delicate dance within the human mind.

Cephalus: (looking towards the horizon) The dance, indeed, is delicate. But, my wise Socrates, ponder this: if we could decipher thoughts, would we not expose the deepest recesses of the human soul? Is that not a realm best left untouched?

Socrates: (contemplating) A profound question, Cephalus. The sanctity of the mind, like the sacred groves of Athena, should be preserved. Yet, the quest for knowledge is the heartbeat of our existence.

Cephalus: (raising his cup) The heartbeat, indeed. A rhythm that echoes through the ages. Perhaps, my friend, in our pursuit of deciphering the mind, we shall compose a melody that resonates with the harmony of wisdom and humility.

And so, under the olive trees, Socrates and Cephalus continued their banter, exploring the complexities of mind-reading and the enduring mysteries of human nature. Simultaneously, they contemplated the mysteries of Neuralink's endeavour and the delicate balance between unravelling the mind's code and preserving the sanctity of the human soul. The symposium echoed through the grove, a timeless conversation bridging the wisdom of antiquity with the technological odyssey of the modern age.

Plutonix

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

Sodnac Islamic Society

(Reg. 2598)

Bait-UI-Mukarram Masjid, 10 Avenue des Mouettes,
Sodnac - Quatre Bornes

Members of the Sodnac Islamic Society are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 25 February 2024 at 9.00 am at the seat of the Bait-UI-Mukarram Masjid, 10 Avenue des Mouettes, Sodnac, Quatre Bornes

AGENDA:

- Reading and approval of minutes of the last AGM
 - Matters Arising
 - President's report
 - Treasurer's report
 - Approval of final accounts for year ended 31st December, 2023.
 - Approval of estimates of Income/Expenditure for year ending 31st December 2024.
 - Motions, if any
 - A.O.B
- * Motions, if any, should reach the Secretary by Monday 19 February 2024 at the latest.
- * In case there is no quorum, the meeting will be re-scheduled for Sunday 03 March 2024 at the same place, same time and with the same agenda.

Riaze Ramjan
Secretary, SIS

09 February 2024

MAURITIUS LABOUR CONGRESS

Annual Congress Meeting

Affiliates of the Mauritius Labour Congress are kindly invited to attend the Annual Congress Meeting which will be held on Thursday 25 February 2024 at 11.30 am at the seat of the MLC.

AGENDA:

- Approval of Minutes of Last Annual Congress.
- Matters arising.
- President's report
- Treasurer's report and approval of accounts
- Election of Executive Board Members of year 2024-2025 as per appropriate group.
- Appointment of auditors for the year 2024-2025.
- A.O.B.

Compliance members who wish to stand as candidates on their appropriate group should submit their candidature letters, duly signed by the President and Secretary and bearing the seal of their respective Union, through registered post to the address of MLC, 8 Louis Victor de la Faye Street, Port Louis, not later than February 20, 2024.

Secretary

7 February 2024

Guide to Chinese Astrology Predictions for the Year of the Dragon

As the cosmic dance of celestial bodies ushers in the Year of the Dragon, the Chinese zodiac unveils a tapestry of energies and possibilities that promise to shape the destinies of millions. The Dragon, a symbol of strength, vitality, and good fortune, takes centre stage in this lunar cycle, inviting us to explore the multifaceted dimensions of its influence.

In the intricate mosaic of Chinese astrology, the Dragon is revered as a harbinger of auspicious energies. Those born under its spirited influence are believed to possess a unique blend of confidence, intelligence, and charisma. The Dragon's essence is fiery and assertive, signalling a period conducive to taking calculated risks and pursuing ambitious goals. It beckons us to embrace challenges with unwavering determination, channelling the spirit of the Dragon to overcome obstacles and usher in an era of personal and professional triumphs.

Zodiac Revelations: Individual Horoscopes for the Year

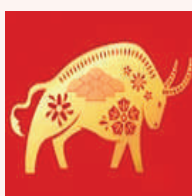
Embarking on the celestial journey, let's unravel the personalized forecasts for each zodiac sign during the Year of the Dragon:

Rat:



The industrious Rat faces a year of unexpected opportunities and twists. The Dragon's influence encourages adaptability and an openness to change. With a strategic approach, Rats can anticipate career advancements and financial gains.

Ox:



For the diligent Ox, the Year of the Dragon unfolds as a period of stability and growth. Consistent effort in both personal and professional endeavors will yield positive results. It's a time to consolidate and strengthen existing foundations.

Tiger:



The spirited Tiger can expect a year of transformation and renewed energy. Embrace change and tap into your creative potential. Relationships may undergo shifts, emphasizing the importance of clear communication to maintain harmony.

Rabbit:

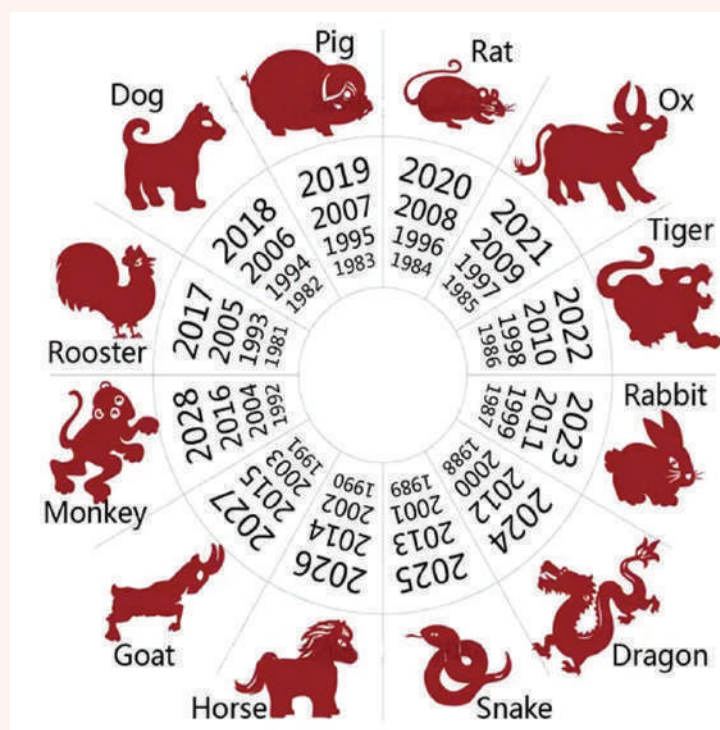


The Year of the Dragon brings financial opportunities for the intuitive Rabbit. Investments and career pursuits may flourish, but maintaining a healthy work-life balance is crucial for enjoying the rewards without undue stress.

Dragon:



As the celestial Dragon graces its own year, those born under this sign will experience a journey of self-discovery and personal growth. Opportunities for learning and self-



Goat:



For the compassionate Goat, the Year of the Dragon emphasizes relationships and emotional well-being. Strengthen connections with loved ones and cultivate a supportive network. Personal growth intertwines with meaningful connections.

Monkey:



Monkeys can anticipate a year of dynamic energy and creativity. Pursue new ventures and embrace innovation. However, exercising caution in decision-making is crucial; thoughtful planning will lead to more sustainable success.

Rooster:



The charismatic Rooster faces a year of collaboration and teamwork. Networking opportunities abound, and partnerships can lead to significant achievements. Cultivate diplomacy and effective communication for success.

improvement abound. Relationships may deepen, bringing emotional fulfilment and personal enrichment.

Snake:



Snakes may encounter challenges in the Year of the Dragon, requiring resilience and strategic thinking. Prioritizing health and well-being is essential. Seek balance in all aspects of life to navigate the year smoothly.

Horse:



The energetic Horse gallops into a year of action and achievement. Career advancements and personal projects will flourish under the Dragon's influence. Maintaining a positive mindset and seizing opportunities will be key to success.

Dog:



Dogs may find the Year of the Dragon emotionally fulfilling. Focus on personal relationships and nurture connections with family and friends. Professional success is achievable through collaboration and mutual support.

Pig:



The Pig enters a year of financial prospects and career advancements. Strategic planning and disciplined efforts will yield positive results. Be open to new opportunities and collaborations for long-term success.

Navigating the Cosmic Currents

Beyond individual horoscopes, certain universal recommendations can guide all through the ebullient Year of the Dragon:

Embrace Change with Openness: The Dragon's energy encourages bold actions and adaptability. Embrace change with an open mind, recognizing it as an opportunity for growth and self-discovery.

Set Ambitious Goals: This is a year for setting audacious goals and pursuing passions with fervour. The Dragon's influence amplifies the potential for success, so dream big and take calculated risks.

Cultivate Relationships: Relationships play a pivotal role in the Year of the Dragon. Cultivate meaningful connections, collaborate with others, and seek support when needed. Teamwork will lead to shared success.

Prioritize Health and Well-being: The dynamic energy of the Dragon can be intense, necessitating a focus on physical and mental well-being. Maintain a balanced lifestyle, practise mindfulness, and address any health concerns promptly.

Stay Grounded Amidst Dynamism: While the

Dragon's energy is powerful, staying grounded is essential. Balance ambitions with practicality, making decisions based on a clear understanding of the consequences.

In conclusion, the Year of the Dragon promises a cosmic odyssey of empowerment, growth, and transformation. By aligning with the Dragon's bold and vibrant energy, individuals can navigate the year with confidence, realizing their aspirations and embracing positive change. As the celestial Dragon spreads its majestic wings, may the journey ahead be adorned with prosperity, joy, and the fulfillment of lifelong dreams for all.

'Broken heart' syndrome is on the rise in women

'Broken heart' syndrome is seeing an alarming increase among women, according to recent research. Takotsubo cardiomyopathy, colloquially known as 'broken heart' syndrome, is a condition often triggered by stress or loss, leading to long-term heart injury and impaired function. The study, featured in the Journal of the American Heart Association (JAHA), highlights a concerning rise in diagnoses among middle-aged and older women, occurring up to 10 times more frequently than in younger women or men of any age.

The investigation, based on national hospital data from over 135,000 individuals diagnosed with Takotsubo syndrome between 2006 and 2017, reveals a steady increase in cases, with women constituting the majority (83.3%), particularly those aged 50 and above. The annual incidence grew six to 10 times faster for women between 50 and 74 compared to other demographics.

Notably, this upward trend predates the Covid-19 pan-



dem, challenging assumptions about its impact on the syndrome. Susan Cheng, MD, MPH, MMSc, the senior author of the study and director of the Institute for Research on Healthy Aging, emphasizes the critical role the heart-brain connection plays in women's overall health.

Key findings from the study include:

* The annual incidence of Takotsubo cardiomyopathy increased steadily, primarily affecting women (83.3%),

especially those over 50.

* Middle-aged and older women experienced a significantly greater increase in incidence compared to younger women and men of all age groups.

* The study is the first to explore age-based sex differences and changing case rates over time.

Cheng notes that the brain and nervous system response to stress changes as women age, potentially leading to a tipping point beyond midlife where stress excessively affects the heart. Ongoing research at the Smidt Heart Institute aims to explore the long-term implications of Takotsubo diagnosis, molecular risk markers, and factors contributing to rising case rates.

The study underscores the Smidt Heart Institute's leading role in identifying female-pattern heart disease, developing diagnostic tools, and advancing specialized care for women. While the link between stress and heart disease risk is acknowledged, there remains much to uncover. Christine M. Albert, MD, Chair of the Department of Cardiology at the Smidt Heart Institute, emphasizes the need for further exploration to unravel the underlying drivers of Takotsubo condition and other conditions predominantly affecting women.

You don't need words to calm a grumpy kid. Parents around the world use a magic touch

In 'Psychological Care of Infant and Child', published in 1928, psychologist John B. Watson cautioned parents to keep physical affection with their children to a minimum, lest it make them dependent and unable to take on the world as adults. "You could give them a pat on the head if they did something really special,

but when you greet them in the morning, you could give them a handshake," he suggested.

Watson's advice may sound needlessly cold to our modern ears. Still, compared to many cultures around the world, many American moms and dads are underutilizing touch in their parenting,

according to NPR contributor Michaelleen Doucleff.

Take bedtime. Most advice around settling down young kids for bed focuses on how to talk to them. Yet from Korea, to India, to Mexico parents calm their kids with a type of gentle touch. This type of touch goes by different names in different

cultures, but generally involves softly scratching the head, back or arms. Neurologists have observed that such gentle stroking turns on special nerves, in the hairy parts of our skin, reducing pain perception and slowing heart rate. And it works for adults too.



Why do people and animals need to breathe? A biologist explains why you need a constant source of oxygen

Inhaling air is how you get the oxygen your body needs to turn your food into energy. Other living things use different strategies.

You need to breathe for the same reason you need to eat: It helps you make the energy your body requires.

You probably already know that food is fuel for your body. When you eat, food gets broken down in your stomach and enters your bloodstream.

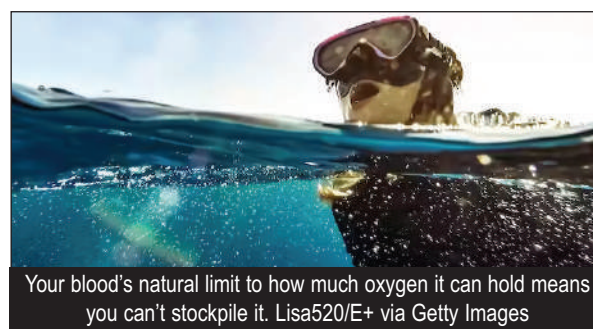
From there, it gets delivered to your cells. Inside your cells are even tinier structures called mitochondria, which are the engines that power your entire body. Your mitochondria use the nutrients from food as fuel. But to turn it into energy, they need one more ingredient – oxygen.

I am a biologist who studies animals and plants. All living things need oxygen, except for some bacteria and a few tiny animals that don't. You might be surprised to learn how many ways there are to get oxygen – breathing is only one of them.

Lungs and their linings

When you breathe in, your lungs temporarily trap oxygen, allowing it to pass through very thin surfaces in your lungs into your bloodstream.

Because you need a lot of oxygen, your lungs need a lot of surface area to do their job. They achieve this by having millions of little air sacs lined with tiny blood vessels



Your blood's natural limit to how much oxygen it can hold means you can't stockpile it. Lisa520/E+ via Getty Images

called capillaries.

If you could somehow flatten out all the capillary surface area in your lungs, it would more than cover the floor of an average classroom – around 1,350 square feet (125 square meters).

Getting enough oxygen

If breathing is kind of like eating, why can't you just take three breaths a day?

One reason is that air on Earth is only 21% oxygen – the rest is mostly nitrogen. That means you need to take five breaths just to get the equivalent of one complete lungful of oxygen.

Also, when you take a breath, only some of the oxygen makes it into your bloodstream. Even though people and

many animals make specialized proteins to grab and carry oxygen, there's a limit to how much they can hold at once. To keep your body's oxygen levels high enough to power all your cells, you need to keep breathing.

Of course, once you breathe in, you also have to breathe out. The gas you breathe out is called carbon dioxide. You can think of it as the exhaust from

your mitochondria engines, the leftovers once the mitochondria burn oxygen and nutrients to release energy.

Other animals and plants

Most living things get oxygen without lungs.

Many aquatic animals use gills, which are sort of like lungs turned inside out. Instead of a bunch of capillaries wrapped around air sacs, gills are a bunch of capillaries sticking out into the water. Just like in your lungs, the blood vessels take in oxygen from the water and release carbon dioxide.

Insects take in oxygen through a network of little air tubes just under their skin, sort of like the chimneys of a building. This

system works because insects are small, so the tubes are already close enough to their cells to give them oxygen. When large insects need extra energy, they pump air through the tubes with their muscles.

Plants have little holes in their leaves called stomata. They open and close to let in air when plants need it. Plant roots need oxygen, too, which they usually get from the soil.

You may have heard that plants are the opposite of people: They breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen. That's true because carbon dioxide is a crucial ingredient in photosynthesis – the process plants use to make their own sugar fuel – and oxygen is a byproduct. But plants' mitochondria also need oxygen to make energy, just like you do.

Even though most animals and plants don't breathe in and out the way people do, they all have ways of getting enough oxygen. Learning how organisms solve the same problem in different ways is one of my favorite things about biology.

Christina S. Baer

Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences,
Binghamton University,
State University of New York



Meal

Negotiation on a Flight

400 passengers were on board a flight from Delhi to New York City, but only 200 meals had been loaded for the journey. The oversight was realized after take-off when the flight attendants began their preparations for the meals. The airline found itself in a predicament due to this error.

In the midst of this situation, one resourceful flight attendant devised a clever solution. A few hours into the flight, she nervously addressed the passengers, stating, "Ladies and gentlemen, we don't know how this happened, but we have over 400 people on board, yet only 200 dinners. Anyone who is kind enough to give up their meal to someone else will receive unlimited free liquor for the duration of the flight!"

Six hours later, the same flight attendant made another announcement, saying, "Ladies and gentlemen, if anyone wants to change their mind, we still have 180 dinners available." The episode highlighted the unexpected challenges that can arise during air travel and showcased the creativity of the crew in finding a solution to the problem.

World Cup Final Dilemma

It's the World Cup Final, and a man navigates through the crowd to reach his seat, situated right next to the pitch. As he settles down, he observes that the seat adjacent to him is unoccupied. Curious, he leans over to his neighbour and inquires about the possibility of someone occupying the empty seat.

The neighbour responds, "No, the seat is empty." Perplexed, the man expresses his amazement, pondering who would have such a prime seat for the Final and choose not to use it. The neighbour then discloses, "Actually, the seat belongs to me. I was supposed to come with my wife, but she passed away. This is the first World Cup Final we haven't attended together since we got married."

Expressing sympathy, the man responds, "Oh, I'm so sorry to hear that. That's terrible... But couldn't you find someone else, a friend, relative, or even a neighbour to take her seat?"

The neighbour solemnly shakes his head and replies, "No, they're all at the funeral."

A Man, an Ostrich and Exact Change

A man walked into a restaurant accompanied by a full-grown ostrich. They routinely ordered the same meal—hamburger, fries, and a coke. The peculiar aspect was the man always paid with exact change. This routine continued until one Friday evening when they ordered steak, baked potato, and salad.

As the waitress presented the bill, the man, once again, pulled out the exact change. Intrigued, the waitress couldn't resist asking how he consistently managed this feat. The man revealed a story of finding an old lamp in his attic, rubbing it, and being granted two wishes by a genie.

His first wish ensured that he always had the exact amount of money in his pocket for any purchase. The waitress commended his clever wish, and then, curious about the ostrich, asked about its presence.

The man sighed, paused, and answered, "My

second wish was for a tall chick with long legs who agrees with everything I say."

You sure that's what you want?

While strolling along a Californian beach, a man stumbled upon an old lamp. Upon picking it up and giving it a rub, a genie emerged. The genie, somewhat disgruntled, informed the man that it was the fourth time that month someone had released him and imposed a limit of one wish. Unfazed, the man contemplated his desire.

The man sat and thought about it for a while and said, "I've always wanted to go to Hawaii but I'm scared to fly and I get very seasick. Could you build me a bridge to Hawaii so I can drive over there to visit?"

The genie laughed and said, "That's impossible. Think of the logistics of that! How would the supports ever reach the bottom of the Pacific? Think of how much concrete...how much steel!! No - think of another wish."

The man agreed and tried to think of a really good wish. Finally, he said, "I've been married and divorced four times. My wives always said that I don't care and that I'm insensitive. So, I wish that I could understand women... know how they feel inside and what they're thinking when they give me the silent treatment...know why they're crying, know what they really want when they say 'nothing'...know how to make them truly happy..."

The genie said, "You want that bridge to be two lanes or four?"

Buddhist and the Tofu Hot Dog

"Make me one with everything," says the Buddhist to the tofu hot dog vendor. After getting his tofu hot dog, the Buddhist hands the vendor a \$20 bill. The vendor takes the money and begins helping the next customer.

The Buddhist looks puzzled and asks the vendor, "Where is my change?"

The vendor replies, "Change comes from within."



Sunday Church Confusion

After Sunday church, the priest would hand us each an orange and a big cookie. A little girl once lied and took two oranges, but the priest told her she mustn't lie because God is watching.

Then, the girl took two cookies and lied about it. When asked why she had done that, she said because she thought that God was only watching oranges.

Miraculous Misunderstanding

I was in my garden when I got the news that my father had fallen from a 20 feet ladder and was in the hospital.

I rushed to the hospital expecting that my father had some major fractures, but he was alright except for some minor cuts.

When I told him that it was a miracle, he disagreed



and told me, "Son, I had just fallen from the first step of the ladder."

Cowboy's Longevity Tip

A tough old cowboy from Texas counselled his granddaughter that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gun powder on her oatmeal every morning.

The granddaughter did this religiously until the age of 103 when she died. She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, 25 great-great-grandchildren, and a 40-foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

Blonde's Password Logic

During a recent password audit, it was found that a blonde was using the following password: "MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento."

When asked why such a long password, she said she was told that it had to be at least 8 characters long and include at least one capital.

The Silent Boy Speaks

An eight-year-old boy had never spoken a word. One afternoon, as he sat eating his lunch he turned to his mother and said, "The soup is cold."

His astonished mother exclaimed, "Son, I've waited so long to hear you speak. But all these years you never said a thing. Why haven't you spoken before?"

The boy looked at her and replied, "Up until now, everything has been satisfactory."

SECONDARY AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND OTHER STAFF UNION

Affiliated to the State and other Employees Federation

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Union to be held on Thursday 29 February 2024 at 15.00 hrs at SPSTSU Office, Unity House, Royal Road, Beau Bassin.

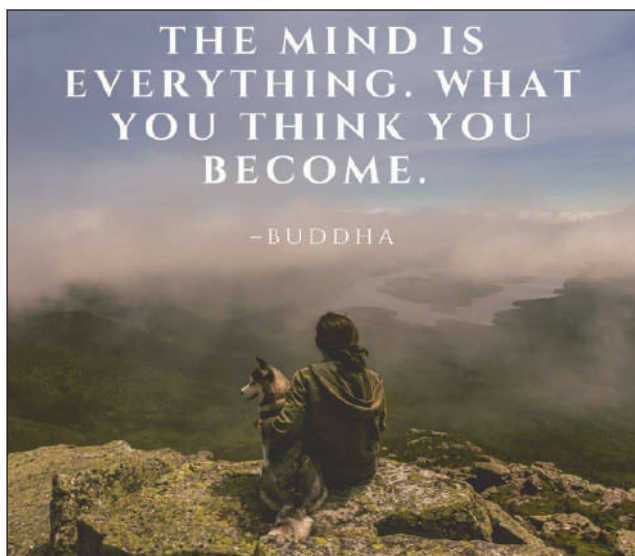
AGENDA

1. Reading of minutes of AGM 2023
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Motion if any
5. AOB

Motions from members, if any, should reach the Secretary by 22 February 2024. Shall there be no quorum, the meeting shall be postponed to Thursday 14 March 2024 at 15.00 hrs at SPSTSU Office, Beau Bassin.

Lily Wong Leung Ki
Secretary

7 February 2024



You Become What You Think

Subham Kumar's "You Become What You Think" is a compelling exploration of the influence of our minds on shaping our reality. It serves as a guide for fostering a positive mindset and unlocking our full potential. Here are 10 crucial insights from this transformative book:

Your thoughts serve as architects

Consider your thoughts as building blocks constructing the house of your life. Positive thoughts act as sturdy bricks, fortifying your foundation, while negative thoughts weaken it. Kumar emphasizes our ability to choose our thoughts, empowering us to be conscious architects of our lives.

The significance of mindfulness

Envision your mind as a garden where weeds of negativity can stifle positive growth. Mindfulness acts as a gardener, uprooting negative thoughts and nurturing positive ones. Practices like meditation cultivate awareness of our inner landscape, creating a healthier mental space.

Reframing the narrative

We all possess narratives about ourselves that may become limiting beliefs. Kumar urges us to identify and challenge these negative stories. By asking if a belief

serves us and reframing it into something empowering, we rewrite our inner narrative and, consequently, our destiny.

Action complements thought

Positive thinking alone is insufficient; action is vital to bridging the gap between dreams and reality. Kumar stresses the transformative impact of aligning thoughts with actions. Setting goals, taking concrete steps, and persevering through challenges are crucial steps in this journey.

Gratitude opens doors to abundance

Kumar advocates for a gratitude practice to appreciate both big and small aspects of life. Shifting our focus to gratitude invites abundance in various forms.

Find your purpose

Discovering your purpose goes beyond employment; it involves aligning life with your deepest values. Kumar encourages exploration, experimentation, and listening to your inner compass. Living purposefully transforms each step into meaning and every challenge into an opportunity for growth.

Embrace challenges as stepping-stones

Life is filled with obstacles, yet our response defines us. Kumar teaches viewing challenges as stepping-stones, opportunities for learning and growth. Embracing adversity with resilience and positivity results in emerging stronger and wiser.

The power of forgiveness

Holding onto anger weighs us down. Kumar advocates for forgiveness, not just for others but for ourselves. Letting go of past hurts and mistakes allows us to move forward with a lighter heart, liberating us to embrace the present and future.

Invest in relationships

Human connection is vital for well-being. Kumar stresses nurturing positive relationships with loved ones, friends, and mentors. These connections offer support, encouragement, and a sense of belonging, becoming sources of strength and joy.

Continuous learning is crucial

In a constantly changing world, Kumar encourages a mindset of lifelong learning. Reading, exploring new ideas, and stepping outside our comfort zones foster growth, equipping us to navigate life's ever-evolving landscape.

Thoughts to Live by

A declaration of faith

"You know, love doesn't mean 'I never want you to change. But I don't think it means 'I don't care if you change either."

So, I suppose it might mean, 'I believe that you'll always be the person I adore. A declaration of faith, perhaps."

Sayaka Saeki

* * *

Reality of Life

By reaching this stage in life, the lion can no longer hunt, kill or defend itself.

It roars and roars until it weakens, then it will be surrounded by the Hyenas, nibbled and devoured.

They won't even let him die to be dismembered.

Life is short, what happens to the lion also happens to us humans.

We won't be young forever.

We won't always be the strongest.

We won't always be on top.

We won't always be the boss.
We won't always be the king of the jungle or king of life.

As long as God and life gives us opportunities, let's be humble, remove arrogance and mistreatment.

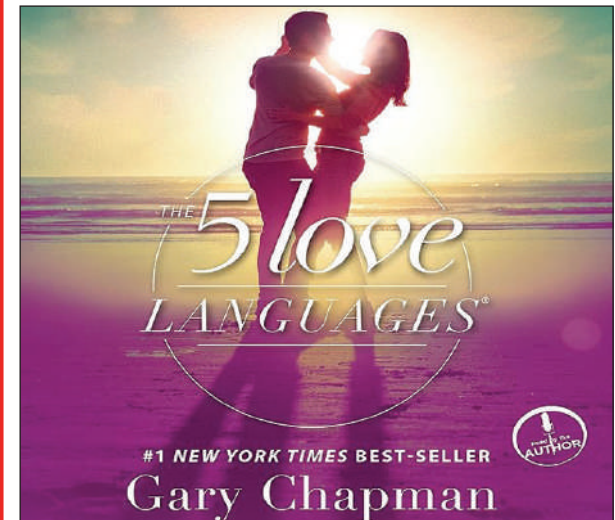
Because sooner or later, life will pass us a bill and we will reap just what we sow.

-- Anonymous



The 5 Love Languages

Here are some key lessons you can discover 'The 5 Love Languages' by Gary Chapman, an insightful book that has helped countless individuals understand and express their own love languages, as well as those of their loved ones.



1. Everyone has a primary love language: These five distinct languages – Words of Affirmation, Acts of Service, Receiving Gifts, Quality Time, and Physical Touch – represent how we prefer to give and receive love.

2. Misunderstandings arise from speaking different languages: We often try to express love in our own language, but it may not be the language our loved one speaks, leading to misinterpretations and hurt feelings.

3. Learning your and your loved one's languages is crucial: By identifying your primary love language and that of your partner, family, or friends, you can tailor your expressions of love to be truly meaningful and impactful.

4. Words of Affirmation: For those with this language, verbal expressions of love, appreciation, and encouragement are essential. Saying "I love you," offering compliments, and expressing affection verbally are keyways to show care.

5. Acts of Service: Showing love through concrete actions like doing chores, errands, or helpful gestures speaks volumes to individuals with this language. Taking responsibility for tasks, lending a hand, and demonstrating support through actions are deeply appreciated.

6. Receiving Gifts: For those with this language, thoughtful gifts, tokens of affection, and symbols of love hold significant meaning. The gift itself isn't always as important as the thought and effort behind it, showing you pay attention and care.

7. Quality Time: Individuals with this language prioritize dedicated, focused time spent with their loved ones. Engaging in meaningful conversations, shared activities, and undivided attention demonstrate strong love and connection.

8. Physical Touch: Non-sexual physical affection like hugs, holding hands, and other forms of touch are very important for those with this language. Feeling physically close and connected through gentle touch fosters a sense of love and security.

9. Love languages can evolve over time: While you typically have a primary language, your preferences can shift due to life experiences, changes in relationships, and personal growth. Be open to adapting your expressions of love as needed.

Frequent Urination at Night: A Sign of Diabetes?

Understanding Nocturia: Could Frequent Nighttime Urination Indicate Diabetes?

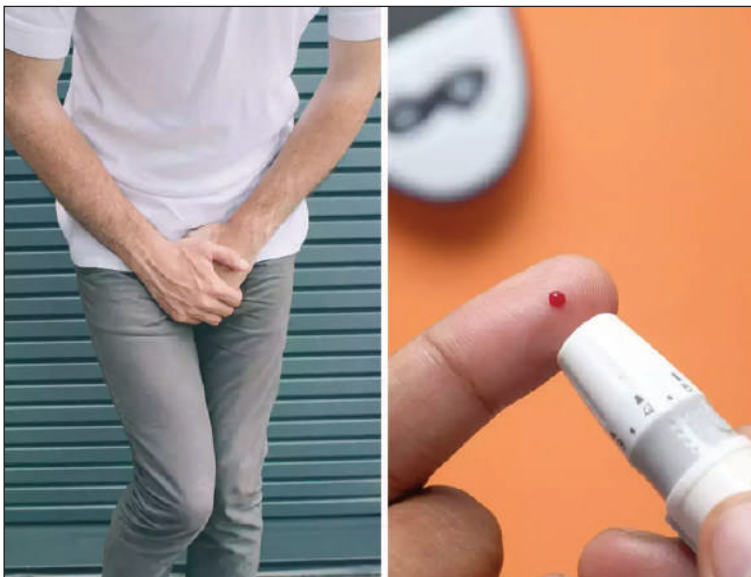
If you find yourself waking up often at night to use the bathroom, you may be experiencing a condition known as nocturia. While it's normal for adults to go to the bathroom once during 6-8 hours in bed, frequent nighttime urination could be a signal of an underlying health issue, with diabetes being one of the potential culprits.

Why could it be diabetes? One of the early signs of diabetes is an increased need to urinate, both during the day and at night. Excess sugar in the blood, a common occurrence in diabetes, requires the kidneys to work harder to eliminate it, leading to an increased production of urine. This process does not cease during sleep, contributing to nocturia. Additionally, diabetes can cause damage to the kidneys or bladder, further exacerbating the need to urinate.

Other reasons for nocturia: While diabetes is a significant factor, several other reasons may contribute to frequent nighttime urination, including:

1. Age: Aging affects hormone levels that regulate urine production at night, leading to an increased volume in the bladder.

2. Excessive Fluid Intake: Consuming large amounts of water or beverages containing caffeine or alcohol before bedtime can fill the bladder and prompt nocturnal awakenings.



3. Diabetes Insipidus: Unrelated to type 1 or type 2 diabetes, this condition results in excessive urine production due to the kidneys.

4. Medical Conditions: Various health issues such as urinary tract infections, heart failure, an enlarged prostate, pregnancy, chronic kidney failure, tumors in the bladder or prostate, liver failure, and sleep apnea can contribute to nocturia.

Other Diabetes Symptoms: If diabetes is the cause of your frequent nighttime urination, you may also experience additional symptoms, including:

- * Increased thirst
- * Larger appetite
- * Unexplained weight loss

- * Blurry vision
- * Fatigue
- * Tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- * Increased susceptibility to infections and slower healing

Seeking Medical Advice: If you notice any of these symptoms, it's crucial to consult with a healthcare professional. Diabetes is a serious condition that can lead to various health complications. Your doctor can perform specific blood tests to diagnose or rule out diabetes:

1. A1c Test: Measures average blood sugar levels over the past 2-3 months. An A1c level of 6.5 or higher indicates diabetes.

2. Fasting Blood Sugar Test: After an overnight fast, blood is tested. A level higher than 126 mg/dL on two tests indicates diabetes.

3. Oral Glucose Tolerance Test: After fasting, blood is sampled before and 2 hours after consuming a sugary drink. Levels over 200 mg/dL after 2 hours suggest diabetes.

4. Random Blood Sugar Test: Blood is sampled at a random time, and a level of 200 mg/dL or higher indicates diabetes.

These tests may need to be conducted twice to confirm a diabetes diagnosis. Early detection and management are crucial in addressing diabetes and preventing potential complications. If you suspect diabetes or experience any concerning symptoms, consult your healthcare provider promptly.

Listening to Your Body: Understanding Signals and Taking Action

Our bodies are remarkably communicative, often providing signals when something is amiss or needs attention. Learning to listen to these cues is essential for maintaining overall health and well-being. In this guide, we'll explore common red flags, signs that you may need a rest day, and various physical and emotional indicators that your body may present, as medically reviewed by Minesh Khatri, MD., of WebMD.

1. Red Flags:

Sudden Drastic Changes: If you experience sudden and drastic changes, such as difficulty seeing, talking, walking, thinking clearly, or chest pain and shortness of breath, it's crucial to call 911 immediately. Prompt medical attention is vital for potential issues like strokes or heart attacks.

2. Do you need a rest day?

Listen to Your Body: If you feel sore and worn out or simply not up to your regular workout, consider taking a rest day. Pay attention to your body's signals, and if you're not in pain, engaging in light movement can be beneficial. A certified personal trainer can help tailor a training schedule that incorporates adequate recovery.

3. Is it aging?

Understanding Wear and Tear: Recognize that some pain and changes in flexibility or strength are natural as you age. Staying active is crucial, but persistent pain may require a specialized

"rehab" exercise routine, recommended by your doctor.

4. Your heart rate feels off

Pay Attention to Heart Rate Changes: If you experience lightheadedness, dizziness, or abnormal heart rates, it could indicate an underlying health issue. Consult with a doctor if symptoms persist, especially if accompanied by chest pain or difficulty walking and speaking.

5. Burned out?

Recognize Signs of Stress: Persistent stress can manifest as reduced energy, headaches, and upset stomach. Prioritize stress management through exercise, positive relationships, meditation, and breaks to maintain your overall well-being.

6. Mood matters

Connect Physical and Emotional Health: Conditions like depression or anxiety can affect both emotional and physical well-being. If you notice changes such as isolation, tense muscles, or altered sleep and eating patterns, seek help from a doctor or therapist.

7. Appetite changes

Consider Emotional and Physical Factors: Significant changes in appetite may be linked to emotional stress or underlying health conditions. Stay active, choose nutritious foods, and consult your doctor if appetite changes persist.



8. Injured or just sore?

Differentiate Between Soreness and Injury: Mild soreness after a workout is normal, but persistent muscle pain may indicate an injury. Allow proper time for recovery, and if pain persists, consult a healthcare professional.

9. Put on the brakes

Respond to Body Signals During Workouts: If your body signals you to stop during a workout, heed the warning. Follow the RICE method (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation) for minor injuries, but seek medical attention for intense or worsening pain.

10. Sleep problems

Address Sleep Issues: Tossing and turning at night may suggest a need for more sleep. Establish a consistent sleep routine, keep your bedroom conducive to sleep, and consult with a doctor if

problems persist.

11. Pain that doesn't quit

Don't Ignore Persistent Pain: Regular twinges and aches should not be ignored. Consult a doctor to identify the source of the pain and explore appropriate treatment options.

12. A new lump

Seek Medical Evaluation for Lumps: Whether in the breast or testicles, new lumps should be promptly evaluated by a doctor. Early detection is crucial for timely treatment.

13. A bad reaction

Verify Allergic Reactions: Skin issues, sudden allergies, or digestive problems may require professional evaluation. Consult a doctor to determine whether you have allergies or if another underlying cause is responsible.

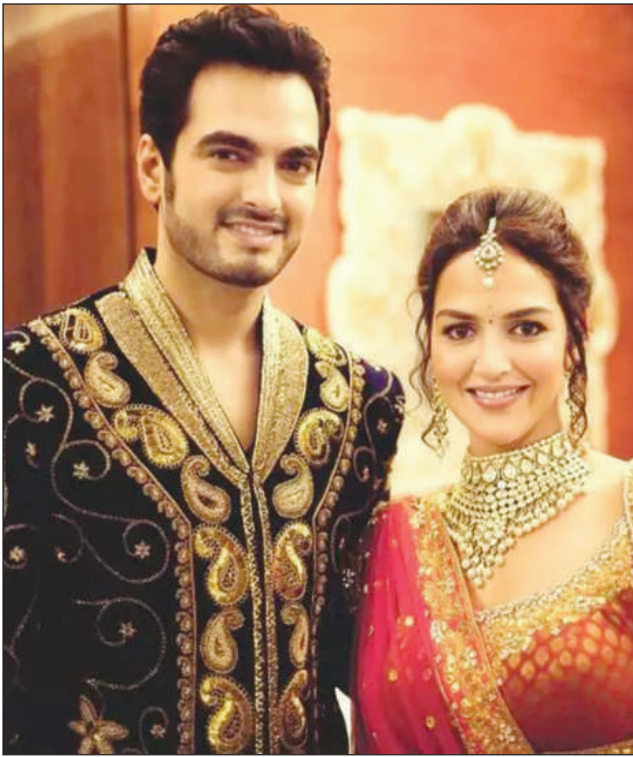
14. Trust yourself

Listen to Your Intuition: Pay attention to your body and trust your instincts. If something feels off, don't hesitate to consult with a healthcare professional.

15. What helps your doc

Provide Comprehensive Information: When seeking medical advice, provide your doctor with a detailed list of symptoms, their duration, exacerbating or alleviating factors, and any self-initiated interventions. Include information about medications, supplements, and any other relevant factors.

Esha Deol and Bharat Takhtani announce separation after 12 years of marriage



Esha Deol and Bharat Takhtani have mutually decided to part ways after 12 years of marriage, emphasizing their children's welfare. Despite efforts to maintain their relationship, the couple has chosen to separate. They have requested privacy during this time, reports BNN.

In a surprising development, Bollywood actress Esha Deol and her husband, businessman Bharat Takhtani, have mutually decided to part ways after 12 years of marriage. The couple, who became parents to daughters Radhya and Miraya in 2017 and 2019 respectively, stressed the primacy of their children's welfare in their decision.

In her book, 'Amma Mia: Stories, Advice and Recipes from One Mother to Another', Esha Deol had previously opened up about the trials of juggling her personal life with her professional commitments. She recalled a phase following the birth of her second daughter, Miraya, during which Bharat felt neglected as Esha strove to balance her time among her children's needs, her book writing, and production meetings.

Efforts to maintain the relationship

Recognizing the importance of nurturing their relationship, Esha made concerted efforts to address Bharat's concerns. She organized date nights and made a point to spend more quality time with him. However, despite these attempts, the couple has now chosen to separate.

Esha Deol, daughter of Bollywood veterans Dharmendra and Hema Malini, is known for her role in the 2004 action thriller film 'Dhoom'. She was last seen in the movie 'Ek Duaa', for which she won a National Award. As the news of their separation surfaced, rumours also began to circulate when Bharat was noticeably absent from Esha's birthday bash and her mother's 75th birthday celebration.

In another press report, Idiva.com highlights the other Bollywood marriages that also ended in divorce, including Malaika Arora-Arbaaz Khan, Hrithik Roshan and Sussanne Khan, Saif Ali Khan-Amrita Singh, Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao, Anurag Kashyap and Kalki Koechlin, Karisma Kapoor and Sunjay Kapur, Farhan Akhtar-Adhuna Bhabani and many more.

Hrithik Roshan and Sussanne Khan: Hrithik and Sussanne tied the knot on December 20, 2000. However, after 14 years of marriage, they mutually agreed to separate on November 1, 2014.

Malaika Arora and Arbaaz Khan: Malaika and Arbaaz got married on December 12, 1998, and spent 18 years together. However, they chose to separate in 2016 and finalised their divorce in 2017.

Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh: The iconic couple of the '90s tied the knot in 1991 but opted for separation in 2004. Saif then went on to remarry Kareena Kapoor.

Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao: After being married for fifteen years, Aamir and Kiran announced their separation on July 3, 2021. They also revealed their decision of taking joint custody of their son.

Ranvir Shorey and Konkana Sen Sharma: After dating for a year, Ranvir and Konkana tied the knot in 2010. Unfortunately, their marriage came to an end in 2015.

10 Bollywood star kids will make their debut in 2024

From Ibrahim Ali Khan's unorthodox debut to Jibraan Khan's magnetic allure, get ready to enter into the new era of entertainment with their distinctive flair and potential performances, as reported by Odishatv.

Ibrahim Ali Khan: The son of Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, Ibrahim Ali Khan, is going to make his Bollywood debut in the movie *Sarzameen*, next to Kajol and Prithviraj Sukumaran. It's also noted that Ibrahim has already worked as an assistant director in the movie *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*.

Rasha Thadani: The daughter of the gorgeous Raveena Tandon and film distributor Anil Thadani, Rasha Thadani, will be making her Bollywood debut in an Abhishek Kapoor movie, whose title is yet to be decided. Acting next to another star kid's debut, Rasha Thadani has been active in social appearances and also has an impressive social media follower base.

Aaman Devgan: Appearing in various social events with his Uncle Ajay Devgn and Kajol, Aaman Devgan, is all set to make his Bollywood debut in Abhishek Kapoor's next film, alongside Rasha Thadani.

Junaid Khan: While everyone is busy talking about his Clark Kent-esque avatar in his sister Ira Khan's registered wedding, Junaid Khan, son of Aamir Khan, is going to make his Bollywood debut in *Maharaj*, an Aditya Chopra movie, next to Jaideep Ahlawat, Sharvari Wagh, and Shalini Pandey. He is also going to make his pro-



ducing debut in the movie *Pritam Pyaare* with his dad as a cameo.

Aahaan Panday: Chunky Panday's nephew and Ananya Panday's cousin, Aahaan Panday, is also going to make his Bollywood debut in 2024, under the Yash Raj Films. However, the details are yet to be disclosed.

Pashmina Roshan: Another star kid to debut in 2024, is Hrithik Roshan's cousin and the daughter of music director Rajesh Roshan, Pashmina Roshan. Titled *Ishq Vishk Rebound*, a sequel to Shahid Kapoor's debut film *Ishq Vishk*, Pashmina Roshan will act alongside Jibraan Khan, Rohit Saraf, and Naila Grewal. In another report, she is also going to act in Jagan Shakti's *Hero No. 1*, opposite Tiger Shroff.

Shanaya Kapoor: The daughter of the actor and producer Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep Kapoor, Shanaya Kapoor, is also going to make her Bollywood debut in Karan Johar's *Bedhadak*, next to Lakshya

and Gurfateh Pirzada. Reportedly, Shanaya is also going to star next to superstar Mohanlal in *Vrushabha* - a Malayalam-Telugu bilingual movie.

Jibraan Khan: Expected to bring a fresh perspective with his charming presence, and known for his role in the movie *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, Jibraan Khan is set to start his Bollywood career with the movie *Ishq Vishk Rebound* alongside Pashmina Roshan.

Lakshya Lalwani: Known for his role in the Indian TV show *Porus*, Lakshya Lalwani is going to take center stage in Bollywood with an action-packed movie *'Kill'*, with all the anticipation of a heart-pounding nature of the movie. He is also to star in *Bedhadak* next to Shanaya Kapoor and Gurfateh Pirzada.

VEDA PRATISHTHAN

Shivala Road - Laventure

Annual General Assembly

Members of the Veda Pratishtan are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Association, which will be held on **Sunday 25 February 2024 at 14.00 hrs** at the seat of the association at Shivala Road - Laventure.

AGENDA:

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
2. President's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. A.O.B.

Secretary

8 February 2024

Poudre d'Or Village Sarvajanik Shivalaye

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Poudre d'Or Village Sarvajanik Shivalaye on **Sunday 25 February 2024 at 9.00 am**

AGENDA:

1. Secretary's Report
2. Financial Report 2023
3. Election of Executives Members
4. AOB

Prospective candidates who wish to stand for election should submit their candidacy letters to the Secretary no later than February 25, 2024.

9 February 2024

Secretary



Vendredi 9 février - 20.30



Samedi 10 février - 20.30



dimanche 11 février - 20.30



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 9 février

MBC 1

05.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
06.00 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
06.25 Serial: Blue Bloods
07.25 Film: Apache Drums
08.50 Serial: Falling Water
09.30 Tele: Amour Secret
10.28 The Gardener's Daughter
10.50 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
11.13 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Barbarita
13.25 Tele: Fierce Angel
13.50 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
14.13 Le Livre Perdu Des Sorti...
15.21 Film: Les Dents De La Mer
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar
20.30 Film: Contre-Jour
22.40 Tele: Barbartia

MBC 2

07.05 Emotion En Avant Plan
08.25 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
08.52 Local: Artizan
09.05 Local: Generations J
10.32 Local: J'ai Faim
12.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
12.45 Emotion En Avant Plan
13.00 Local: Evasion: China Town
14.12 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
15.18 Local: Generations J
18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
18.29 Tele: Amour Secret
19.31 Local: 13 Minit Natiir Rodrig
19.42 Local: Enn Semenn Dan...
21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance
22.03 Local: La Sosiete
22.58 Journal Kreol
23.20 Local: Parkour
23.47 Local: Voyage Au Feminin
00.14 Local: Rodrig Prog

MBC 3

07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
08.00 Local: Amrit Vaani
08.33 Swami Dayanand Saraswati
09.25 Hunarbaaz
10.00 Serial: Agniphera
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
12.00 Film: Do Ladke Dono Khadke
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
19.30 Local: Geet Gawai
20.33 Serial: Vidrohi
21.03 Film: Ladab Ya Marab
23.16 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
23.35 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

Cine 12

06.00 Mag: SADC
06.26 Mag: Shift
07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
07.32 Mag: Tomorrow Today
08.19 Doc: Twin Sisters
10.30 Doc: My Family War And I
11.12 Mag: Eco India
11.38 Mag: Shift
12.45 Doc: Tomorrow Today
14.30 Serial: Apple Tree House
14.58 D.Anime: Word Party
15.16 D.Anime: Brewster The...
15.23 D.Anime: Fireman Sam
15.32 D.Anime: Best Furry...
17.24 Mag: Eco India
17.50 Mag: Japan Video Topics
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: Ultimate Countdown

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.11 Film: Dil Hai Betaab
Starring: Vivek Mushran, Ajay Devgn, Pratibha Sinha
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 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
22.59 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
23.30 Film: Dil Hai Betaab
Starring: Vivek Mushran, Ajay Devgn, Pratibha Sinha

samedi 10 février

03.16 Serial: Hooten & The Lady
03.59 Tele: Airwolf
04.45 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
06.25 Tele: Amour A Mort
07.10 Serial: Briarpatch
07.45 Serial: Rookie Blue
08.30 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
09.15 Serial: Hooten & The Lady
09.59 Serial: Airwolf
10.50 Serial: S.W.A.T
11.35 Tele: Amour A Mort
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Serial: Madam Secretary
13.16 Tele: Sublime Mensonge
15.20 Film: Sorority Sister Killer
16.47 Tele: Tour De Babel
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Dance India Dance Little...
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Film: Les Dents De La Mer 2
22.21 Serial: Suits
23.02 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

06.04 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
06.56 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
08.01 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...
08.38 Local: Zafan Nou Pei
08.58 Rodrig: Ala Nou Vini
09.26 Local: La Sosiete
11.01 Local: Come On Let's Dance
12.00 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
12.11 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
13.06 Local: Voyage Au Feminin
13.39 Animalia Nos Amis Les Animaux
14.32 Local: Ala Nou Vini
15.04 Local: La Sosiete
16.00 Local: Son Ladan Mem
17.07 Local: Come On Let's Dance
18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
19.20 Mag De L'emploi...
21.31 Local: Glwar Dantan
22.55 Local: La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur
23.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL

07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
08.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol
10.00 Live From Dr Chiranjiv Bhardwaj Ashram Belle Mare
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Saveray Wali Gaadi
Starring: Sunny Deol, Poonam Dhillon, Prem Chopra
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan
19.02 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah
19.15 Local: Virasat
21.04 Film: Karam
Starring: John Abraham, Priyanka Chopra
22.59 Local: Puranya Pakwan
23.25 Duniya Mein Is Saptah
01.17 Film: Karam
03.07 Local: Puranya Pakwan

06.24 Serial: Rainbow Rangers
06.46 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
09.06 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
09.56 Serial: Superstore
11.17 Mag: Ultimate Countdown
14.00 Film: Chasseur De Monstres
15.46 Serial: Baby Einstein
15.58 D.Anime: Fireman Sam
16.07 D.Anime: Best Furry Friends
16.18 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
16.35 D.Anime: Yo Yo
16.47 D.Anime: All Hail King Julien
17.10 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
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: The Final Land
With Torben Föllmer, Milan Pestl

08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
10.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha
10.18 Sasural Simar Ka 2
12.16 Udaariyaan
14.02 Anupamaa
16.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..



18.33 Film: Dedh Ishqiya
Starring: Huma Qureshi, Madhuri Dixit, Naseeruddin Shah
20.50 Gadget Guru Ganesha
21.02 Serial: Porus

dimanche 11 février

04.08 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
06.09 Tele: Amour A Mort
06.50 Film: Les Dents De La Mer 2
08.42 Serial: The Good Doctor
09.25 Film: Sorority Sister Killer
10.50 Serial: S.W.A.T
11.35 Tele: Amour A Mort
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Film: Apache Drums
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Film: Albion
15.38 Film: Albion
17.28 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: Rat Race
Stars: Rowan Atkinson, John Cleese, Whoopi Goldberg, Cuba Gooding Jr, Seth Green

06.32 Rodrig: Rod'Art
07.40 Pran Kotn Ou Lasante
09.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
09.31 Local: Glwar Dantan
11.03 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.31 Local: Les Petits Genies
14.32 Local: Elle
15.28 Local: Festival Kiltir Ek Langaz Kreol Morisien 2023
17.05 Local: Saver Kiltirel
17.30 Local: Glwar Dantan
18.03 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.20 Local: Elle
20.03 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse
21.30 Local: Le Challenge
21.38 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
23.00 Journal Kreol
23.21 Local: Arsviv MBC
23.46 Local: Mangeons Veg

07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
07.32 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi
08.11 Local: Hamar Fitness...
12.02 Film: Benaam Badshah
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Juhi Chawla, Shilpa Shirodkar
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
21.39 Serial: Naagin Season 4
22.28 Serial: Bahubali
23.07 Bhaag Na Bachhe
23.58 Planet Bollywood

06.00 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Defenseur
09.02 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
09.12 D.Anime: Miraculous...
10.00 Serial: Superstore
10.45 Mag: In Good Shape
11.07 Mag: Afrimax
12.15 Doc: Project Enlightenment
14.11 Doc: Will Roots Save The...
14.58 D.Anime: Word Party
15.10 D.Anime: Baby Einstein
16.38 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.22 D.Anime: Kid's Planet
18.00 Doc: A Mediterranean...
18.26 Mag: Japan Video Topics
18.45 Serial: Kojak
19.34 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.02 Tele: Amour A Mort
20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
21.40 Film: Oujia
Avec: Elizabeth Reaser, Lulu Wilson

00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
02.27 Udaariyaan
04.00 Anupamaa
06.15 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise...
08.04 Tenali Rama
08.16 Patiala Babes
10.33 Kundali Bhagya
12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
14.00 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
16.08 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.39 Film: Blackmail
Starring: Irrfan Khan, Kirti Kulhari, Arunoday Singh
20.43 Serial: Tenali Rama
21.02 Enter: Dance India Dance Little Masters
21.50 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
23.37 Serial: Patiala Babes

lundi 12 février

04.31 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
06.01 Film: Once Upon A Time
08.45 Serial: Kojak
09.35 Tele: L'Amour A Mort
10.04 Tele: Amour Secret
10.23 The Gardener's Daughter
10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
11.10 Serial: La Reina Del Flow
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Barbarita, Les Couleurs..
13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel
13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
14.10 Serial: Kojak
15.21 Film: Rat Race
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar
19.30 Le Journal
20.25 Serial: Briarpatch
21.15 Serial: Rookie Blue
22.00 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans

06.00 Nu Rasinn
07.09 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance
07.39 Rodrig
09.07 Arsviv MBC
09.32 Local: Elle Joana Narrainen
09.59 Local: Rodrig - Komanter
10.22 Mangeons Veg
11.05 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.45 Regard Du Seigneur
14.00 Elle : Joana Narrainen
15.18 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse
16.59 Le Challenge
18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
18.31 Tele: Amour Secret
19.20 Magazine de L'emploi
20.16 Rene - Jeewan Lalibeharry
20.46 Eclairage Economique
21.01 Tous Egaux
22.50 Local: Regard Du Seigneur
23.42 Le Rendez Vous - Nabi
00.23 Rodrig Prog: Zen Aktif
00.49 Rodrig Mo Pei
01.53 Feminin Pluriel

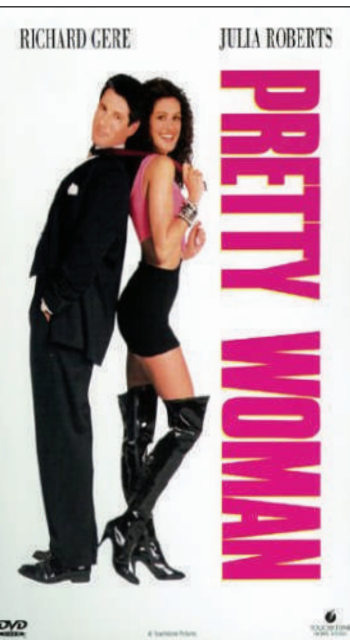
07.12 Serial: Tik Tak Tail
08.26 Local: Tohar Rashi
08.52 Local: Tohar Farmaish
09.20 Local: Yaadein
09.56 Serial: Bahubali
10.33 Bhaag Na Bachhe
11.30 Radha Krishna
12.00 Film: Moojrim
Starring: Joy Mukherjee, Kumud Chhugani
15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
16.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen
19.00 Local: Ayush
20.01 Local: Vaad Vivaad
20.40 Film: Sachaa Jhutha
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Mumtaz, Vinod Khanna
23.10 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
23.32 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

06.00 SADC
06.26 Arts Unveiled
07.48 Doc: Rwanda
08.30 Doc: Bring Her Home
09.59 Doc: I Want More
10.41 Doc: Beneath The Waves
11.11 Doc: Mediterranean
12.37 Mag: Art Unveiled
14.30 Doc: Beneath The Waves
14.58 D.Anime: Word Party
15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein
15.34 D.Anime: Best Furry Friends
15.44 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
16.14 D.Anime: All Hail King Julien
16.37 D.Anime: The Adventures Of Puss In Boots
17.29 D.Anime: Kids' Planet
18.00 MFDC Intercollege Short Film
19.00 OpenUniv: Student Support
20.50 Film: Love Under The Stars
21.42 Film: Njinga, Reine D'Angola
22.52 Washington Forum

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
15.30 Film: Sharafat Gayi Tel Lene
Starring: Talia Bentson, Tina Desai, Zayed Khan
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
20.30 Radha Krishna
21.00 Anupamaa
21.30 Mere Sai
22.00 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se
23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
23.30 Film: Sharafat Gayi Tel Lene



Mardi 13 février - 20.30



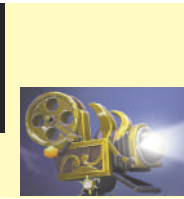
Mercredi 14 février - 21.57



Mercredi 14 février - 15.30



Programme TV



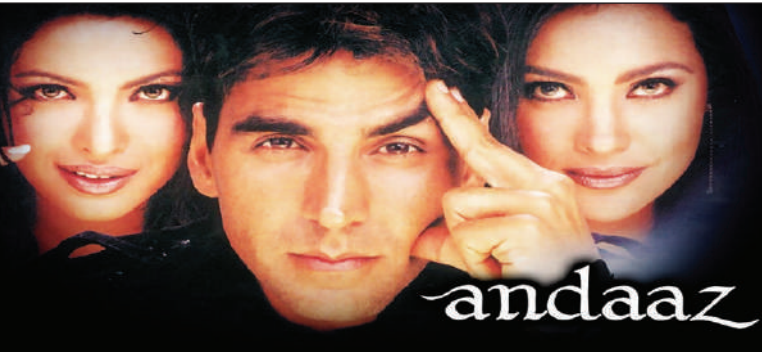
| MBC 1 | MBC 2 | MBC 3 | MBC 5 | Bollywood TV |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| 04.39 Tele: Amour Secret 05.26 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 05.49 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 07.20 Serial: Briarpatch 08.00 Serial: Rookie Blue 08.45 Serial: NCIS 09.30 Tele: Amour A Mort 10.21 The Gardener's Daughter 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.10 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: Apache Drums 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 20.30 Film: Pretty Woman 22.25 Tele: Barbarita | 06.00 Feminin Pluriel 07.08 Nos Aines 07.30 Tous Egaux 08.39 Itinerer Moris 09.04 Rodrig Prog - Zenn Aktif 09.29 Radio Vision 10.21 Local: Rodrig: Saver Lokal 11.01 Local: Le Rendez Vous 12.00 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 12.52 Regard Du Seigneur 13.26 Rodrig Mo Pei 14.04 Lir - Ekri Kreol Morisien 14.32 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif 16.11 MFDC Intercollege Short Film Competition 2024 18.05 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.31 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Magazine de L'emploi 19.49 MFDC Interprimary S. Films 21.31 Radio Vision | 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.30 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi 09.32 Local: Vaad Vivaad 10.21 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Film: Paayal 15.15 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 18.59 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 19.38 Local: Theatre 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.42 Film: Rickshawala 22.58 Serial: Jijai Chhat Par Hain 23.20 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 23.47 Local: Tark Vitark 00.28 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 00.58 Local: Theatre 01.26 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya | 06.00 ECO AT AFRICA 08.50 Doc: Spain 09.00 Mag: Washington Forum 10.14 Superfood Or Climate Killer 11.15 Mag: Eco At Africa 12.20 Doc: Africa 12.40 Mag: In Good Shape 13.06 Doc: Spain 14.30 Serial: Apple Tree House 14.58 D.Anime: Word Party 15.00 Dessin Anime 15.34 D.Anime: Best Furry Friends 15.43 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.04 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.11 D.Anime: All Hail King Julien 16.34 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.22 D.Anime: Kids' Planet 17.48 Mag: Shift 20.02 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 23.18 Doc: The Future Of Travel | 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Sweetiee Weds Nri Starring Himansh Kohli, Zoya Afroz, Darshan Jariwala 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.38 Radha Krishna 21.08 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.08 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.55 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Sweetiee Weds Nri 02.07 Kundali Bhagya 02.33 Serial: Udaariyaan |

| MBC 1 | MBC 2 | MBC 3 | MBC 5 | Bollywood TV |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| 05.15 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 06.50 Film: The Final Land 08.45 Serial: Kojak 09.35 Tele: Amour A Mort 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.15 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.10 Serial: Kojak 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Film: Pretty Woman 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 21.15 Serial: Billions 21.57 Film: Extract Avec Jason Bateman, Kristen Wiig | 06.00 Rodrig Prog 06.57 Priorite Sante 07.33 Paroles Agricoles 07.59 Mots & Ecrits 08.26 Profil - Fanfan 11.00 Music Tour 2022 12.09 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.19 Ong An Eta Dalert 12.32 Local: Priorite Sante 13.53 Local: Koze Zom 14.32 Nu Rasinn 15.20 Glwar Dantan 16.50 MFDC Intercollege S. Film 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 MFDC Intercollege S. Film 20.18 Mercredi des Cendres 20.43 Love Connection 22.13 Proze Dime 23.20 Local: Les Klips 00.12 Come on let's Dance | 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 08.26 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 09.04 Local: Theatre 09.28 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 10.11 Serial: Jijai Chhat Par Hain 11.41 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.12 Film: Prem Patra 15.11 Live: Samachar 15.42 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.12 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 17.41 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.11 Live: Samachar 18.39 Local: Yatra 19.00 Local: Vasant Panchami 19.30 Local: Hindi Sahitya 20.10 Local: Virasat 20.41 Film: Love Ke Liye Kuch Bhi Karega 22.34 Serial: Mere Sai 23.19 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan | 06.00 Magazine: Rev 08.57 Doc: Katanga Nation 09.27 Doc: The Future Of Travel 10.11 Doc: Fed Up With Machismo 11.22 Magazine: Rev 12.16 Magazine: Made In Germany 12.40 Mag: In Good Shape 13.12 Doc: Iran From Above 14.30 Katanga Nation 15.00 Dessin Anime 15.34 D.Anime: Best Furry Friends 15.45 D.Anime: The Treasure Island 16.11 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.18 D.Anime: Shezow 16.34 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.32 D.Anime: Kids' Planet 18.00 MFDC Intercollege Short Film 18.52 Magazine: Japan Video 20.02 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.50 Film: Love Exclusively 22.19 Magazine 23.18 Doc: Thank You For The Rain | 14.25 Radha Mohan 14.58 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.27 Film: Lucky - No Time For Love Starring: Salman Khan, Sneha Ullal 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.06 Anupama 21.36 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie ittefaq Sey 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.26 Film: Lucky - No Time For Love 02.05 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Serial: Udaariyaan |

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|---|--|--|--|--|
| 04.25 Tele: Amour Secret 07.15 Serial: The Good Doctor 08.09 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 08.45 Serial: Hooten & The Lady 09.35 Tele: Amour A Mort 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.15 Serial: The Inbetween 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.05 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 15.25 Film: Love Exclusively 17.15 The Gardener's Daughter 17.59 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar 20.30 Film: Race (2008) Starring : Saif Ali Khan, Akshaye Khanna, Bipasha | 06.00 Rodrig Spor 07.07 Rodrig Prog : Kot Nou 07.34 Love Connection 09.34 Come On Let's Dance 11.02 Les Klips 12.00 Rodrig Spor 12.31 Mercredi Des Cendres 12.56 Regard Du Seigneur 13.01 Love Connection 15.00 Come On Let's Dance 16.12 MFDC Intercollege S. Film 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.25 MFDC Intercollege S. Film 20.15 Langue Des Signes 20.53 Mots & Ecrit 22.11 Klip Seleksion 23.25 Groov'in - Kafé Kiltir 01.11 Generations J 01.46 Artizan: Sandrine Callinghee | 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.12 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 07.36 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi 09.17 Local: Virasat 10.01 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Anpadh Starring: Ashok Kumar, Parikshat Sahni, Zarina Wahab 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 15.58 Serial: Agniphera 17.31 Radha Krishna 18.31 Local: Amrit Vaani 18.45 Local: Yaj 19.02 Sadguru Kabir Ke Gyan 20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.28 Serial: Shiv Shakti 20.59 Yashmati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.28 Mag: Dharam Yatra 21.59 Serial: Mere Sai | 06.00 Magazine: Motorweek 07.25 Magazine: Close Up 09.27 Doc: Town To Glory 11.00 Magazine: Motorweek 11.37 Magazine: Planet A 12.20 Magazine: Close Up 13.44 Thank You For The Rain 14.30 Doc: The Trillion Tree Plan 14.30 Serial: Apple Tre House 15.00 D.Anime: Word Party 15.17 D.Anime 15.22 D.Anime: Fireman Sam 15.36 D.Anime: Best Furry Friends 16.06 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.37 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 18.00 MFDC Intercollege S.Film 18.52 Magazine: Japan Video 18.45 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.50 La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: Film: Code Mercury | 14.25 Radha Mohan 15.27 Film: Andaaz Stars: Akshay Kumar, Lara Dutta, Priyanka Chopra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.02 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.59 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Andaaz Stars: Akshay Kumar, Lara Dutta, Priyanka Chopra 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.31 Udaariyaan |

BTV Jeudi 15 février - 15.28 Stars: Akshay Kumar, Lara Dutta, Priyanka Chopra

MBC 1 Jeudi 15 février - 20.30 Stars: Saif Ali Khan, Akshaye Khanna, Bipasha Basu





Arvind Saxena

The Perils of IT and Social Media

We have let loose the monsters of IT and social media onto every half-educated even uneducated Tom, Dick and Harry. Yet they feel empowered because they can access information without being educated

“Your product is killing people”. This was US Senator Josh Hawley addressing Meta Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg at a US Senate hearing which started on January 31. Zuckerberg’s response was as evasive as ever. He apologised and said that “we will continue making industry-wide efforts to ensure that families do not suffer”. The hearings started with testimonies of parents and children about the social and psychological issues faced by youngsters exposed to social media platforms. Suicides, eating disorders, unrealistic beauty standards, bullying, sexually addictive behaviour, etc., were some of the issues raised by parents and children in their recorded testimonies. Child rights advocates have for long asserted that giant social media companies were not doing enough to protect users from the ill-effects of their platforms. The Committee will also hear CEOs of TikTok, X, etc.

Earlier, we had seen how over 40 States in the US were suing ‘Meta’ for building algorithms in its Instagram and Facebook platforms, which promoted addictive behaviour. Anti-trust regulators in several European countries have also heard pleas demanding greater regulation of social media companies and questioned the business models of IT giants like Microsoft and Google, etc. Amnesty International has produced a report titled ‘Driven into darkness’ which documents the many ills which users are facing.

So, do you see a glimmer of hope – a small sliver of light in the darkening dungeon of toxic social media? Perhaps yes. It is only the bright light of enquiry and transparency which can destroy the rot created by greedy IT companies. The question is, why are we not seeing enough debates on this mounting social crisis? Has this destructive technology already destroyed something in us? The spirit of questioning and enquiry?

Every student from the post WW-II generation will remember how, at one time or another, they were required to write an essay, or join a debate, on “Is nuclear power a boon or a bane? Is it a blessing or a curse?” Massive public mobilisations were seen across the world and most responsible nations backed away from large scale adoption of nuclear energy for civilian projects. All promises of clean and boundless energy, safety measures, etc., were rejected by the people. Strong non-proliferation treaties and laws also ensured restrictions on the widespread use of nuclear weapons.

We have also witnessed public debates on the health hazards of ‘processed and fast food’, ecological perils of

“The debate against use of fossil fuels continues as we grapple with global warming and climate change. But we don’t see IT causing any similar damage to our natural habitat and causing disease, do we? Their offices are made of shiny steel and glass. Right? No, the ubiquitous IT sector is polluting another natural resource, perhaps as precious as the air, water and land which we are struggling to save. It is polluting our minds, it is giving rise to mental issues and playing havoc with our social equilibrium...”



big hydroelectric, transportation and mining projects and dangers of introducing new pharmaceutical products without adequate clinical trials. Public awareness campaigns against tobacco effectively reduced smoking to a socially unacceptable behaviour. The debate against use of fossil fuels continues as we grapple with global warming and climate change. But we don’t see IT causing any similar damage to our natural habitat and causing disease, do we? Their offices are made of shiny steel and glass. Right? No, the ubiquitous IT sector is polluting another natural resource, perhaps as precious as the air, water and land which we are struggling to save. It is polluting our minds, it is giving rise to mental issues and playing havoc with our social equilibrium.

If producers of spurious or potentially hazardous technology and substances could be hauled up for exemplary damages, then why are we not seeing enough regulatory activity against the global IT giants? The moot point is that public scrutiny alone can safeguard public interest, not proforma apologies and promises of “industry-wide self-regulation”. We need public spirited regulations and severe penalties for those selling deleterious technology to unsuspecting masses. But before that we need widespread public enquiries and debates on IT and, now the even bigger social disrupter, AI.

The occasional article in newspapers and journals on how IT and social media tools influence public opinion, and thus elections, in the ‘free world’, or how algorithms are designed to spread fake narratives, outright lies and create a ‘need’ for unnecessary and useless goods and services are helpful. But we are still not seeing enough disclosure on how digitisation of all data and processes is opening up the lives of people, institutions and countries to ceaseless surveillance, paving the path for massive subversion of nations and coercive control over common people. Peoples’ lives were supposed to be personal under transparent governments, toady we have turned this paradigm on its head – opaque governments pry into each sphere of the common man’s life.

Do some of you get a sense that I am opposed to technology? I am most certainly not. With an M.Tech in Systems Management from one of our most reputed institutions - where we were working on an IBM-360 mainframe, when most of the world did not know what a computer was - I am a great believer in how technology has helped humankind emerge from a life of drudgery, and

how the industrial revolution was perhaps the greatest wealth creator in recorded history. The difference is that the technology of the last two hundred years emerged out of felt needs of people, it was developed to ease the travails of industrial and agricultural work. So we consciously accepted that the price we paid in terms of ecological damage, for the benefits of a better lifestyle, was unavoidable – at least in the short term.

The IT sector, on the other hand, creates ‘products’ and then hunts around for people it can be sold to, of course making false claims of increasing efficiency and transparency. It thus invests large sums of money to create unnecessary demands. Does it sound like the junk food and sugary drinks industry? Well, it is exactly that. Just as junk food gives you an energy rush - a quick pick me up, the efficiency promised by IT ‘products’ is also nebulous, and the dependence, or craving for more of the same, keeps growing.

IT and the internet are certainly amongst the most powerful and useful tools developed by man. The technology has revolutionised the way we work and collate information for making better and informed decisions. But then so was nuclear power. The difference is that while access to nuclear technology was restricted to a few highly qualified educated and trained scientists, we have let loose the monsters of IT and social media onto every half-educated even uneducated Tom, Dick and Harry. Yet they feel empowered because they can access information without being educated, albeit without the faculties to discriminate between facts and falsehood. Therein lies the danger.

We must therefore start by asking questions and disabuse ourselves of certain notions about this technology propagated so strenuously over the last few decades.

You might say that the IT sector is providing highly paid jobs for our young, so what is wrong with that? Since the remunerations are fairly high, start by asking what these jobs are? Why the salaries are so high is a separate question which needs examination. Let us focus on the nature of these jobs. These are essentially of four types: The most challenging and creative ones are undoubtedly for writing original software, programming and systems analysis. Only a very few graduates land up jobs of this type.

The second category involves retrofitting existing software, tailoring it for specific consumers. They do nothing original but are the ‘Seventh Wonder’ type of tailors, who used to alter and refit your old suits. Still, they do add value to the products in the market. The third category revolves around maintenance of IT systems and software which is about fixing malfunctions and bugs. Still there is some technical contribution involved here. The fourth category of jobs, which draws the most number of youngsters is about data collection, processing of data, digital marketing and sale of the data processed by them.

The full text is available online. Please consult:
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