

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Our responsibility as citizens is to address the inequalities and injustices that linger, and we must secure our birthright freedoms for all people." -- Barack Obama



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Interview: Dr Avinaash Munohur, Politologue

## “La dégradation du climat politique pourrait basculer dans une dégradation du climat social et donc économique...”

nous ne pourrions pas continuer encore longtemps comme cela”

‘Les Mauriciens n’ont pas besoin de sauveurs. Ils ont besoin de décideurs capables de trouver des solutions rapides et efficaces face aux problèmes actuels’

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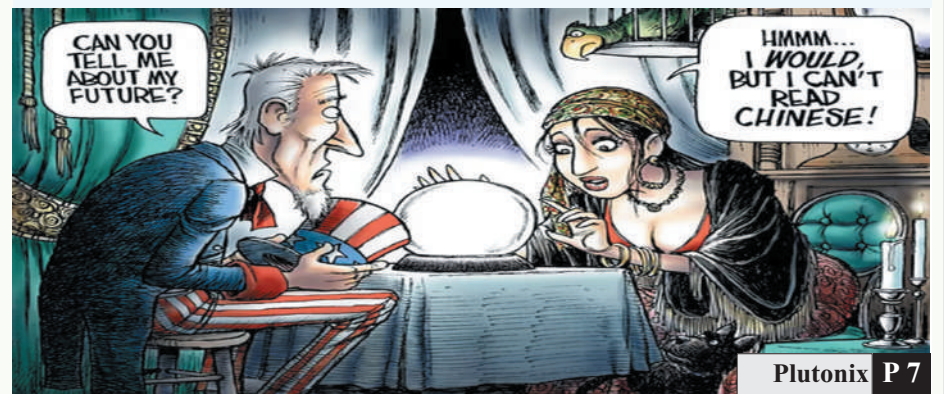


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# Pensions Increase and Crass Populism

In his recent address to the nation commemorating the 56th Independence Day anniversary, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth made a significant announcement that is poised to affect the national economy and impact the political landscape of Mauritius. With effect from April 2024, all 60-year-old pensioners will obtain a significant increase in their monthly pensions, bringing them to Rs 13,500.

This announcement regarding a pension increase, mentioned initially in 2019, underscores a common political strategy where parties vie for public support through policy promises, especially during election cycles. This strategy involves presenting initiatives that are framed as addressing pressing issues, such as financial concerns among the elderly, etc.

Supporters of the party in power might emphasize that it signifies a departure from mere election promises, portraying it as a genuine policy change aimed at improving the lives of the elderly and addressing the financial challenges faced by certain demographic groups. They may argue that the move demonstrates the government's commitment to addressing real societal issues.

For those elderly and OAPs who, for the past two to three years, have been facing the brunt of inflationary pressures through currency depreciation against the dollar, the high taxes on fuels and diesel-related distribution costs, this is certainly a well-deserved relief and only a catch-up on their dwindling financial situation. Economists can and will calculate how much such an announcement outside the confines of the budget (where costs to the Exchequer and financing means could have been clarified) will cost the country annually and how sustainable the CSG taxation-based approach to pensions remains for the future.

However, given the competitive nature of elections, other political parties are likely to respond by making their own promises or even attempting to outbid the initial announcement. This dynamic can lead to a situation akin to an auction, where parties strive to offer more appealing policies to attract voters. Ultimately, the impact of such an announcement on voting behaviour will depend on various factors, including how it is perceived by the electorate, the credibility of the party making the promise, and the overall political landscape at the time of the elections. It remains to be seen whe-

ther the pension increase will indeed sway voter preferences in favour of the current government.

However, one might anticipate the opposition to adopt a cautious stance, refraining from overtly contesting a measure that stems the erosion of the socio-economic welfare of a vulnerable demographic group. This strategic restraint is further compounded by recent judicial rulings that seemingly lend credence to the use of populist measures in electoral campaigns, thereby discouraging direct opposition against such initiatives.

A pivotal development in this matter is the landmark judgment delivered by the Law Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, in the matter of the electoral petition filed by the Labour Party's unreturned candidate, Suren Dayal against the election in 2019 of Pravind Jugnauth and his two running mates. In a detailed explanation, the Privy Council elucidated the fine line between legitimate electoral campaigning and illicit inducements, particularly in the context of allegations leveled against Prime Minister Jugnauth for purported promises made during that electoral campaign.

Of particular significance is the Privy Council's reading of electoral pledges, distinguishing between lawful campaign strategies and acts of bribery as delineated under existing legal statutes. While acknowledging the potential for abuse and manipulation, the Law Lords underscored the imperative for a contextual and fact-specific evaluation in determining the legality of electoral practices, thereby endorsing a nuanced approach tailored to individual circumstances.

The Privy Council's ruling should have served as a clarion call for legislative reforms aimed at strengthening the integrity of electoral processes, curtailing the potential for abuse and subversion of democratic norms. But that was too much to ask from the political establishment in power. The necessity of civic engagement and public oversight in ensuring elected officials uphold their campaign pledges and implement policies responsibly is paramount. The nation's political direction rests on striking a delicate balance between electoral pragmatism and ethical governance, underscoring the crucial role of active citizenship in safeguarding democratic values and promoting accountability.

## The Conversation

# How 'gate' became the syllable of scandal



A view of the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. John McDonnell/The Washington Post via Getty Images

On June 17, 1972, Washington, DC, police arrested five men for breaking into the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee. Although the administration's press secretary, Ron Ziegler, dismissed the crime as a "third-rate burglary," its scope would grow to consume Richard Nixon's presidency and then bring it to an end 26 months later.

As with other infamous episodes, such as the Teapot Dome scandal or the Chappaquiddick tragedy, the event would come to be known by the place where it occurred.

But unlike those two precedents, the Watergate Office Building would be immortalized as the catchall term for political scandal.

"Watergate," in this context, is an example of metonymy. A part – the site of the break-in – comes to stand for the larger whole: the illegal acts committed by Nixon's administration, as well as the subsequent investigation into them.

Metonymy is a common way in which English is fortified with new vocabulary – think of "the Pentagon" as a stand-in for the U.S. military, or "Hollywood" as a way to refer to the motion picture industry.

What's unusual about Watergate is that one syllable splintered off to become the universally recognized designator for political malfeasance. When boozy government-sponsored parties that broke Covid-19 lockdown rules came to light in the UK, the scandal quickly became known as "partygate." But the syllable has also migrated beyond politics, becoming a tag for wrongdoing of virtually any kind.

Other splinters have also been pressed into service to create new words. For example, "-athon," from "marathon," can emphasize an event's long duration – telethon, dance-a-thon, and hackathon. Similarly, "-aholic," from "alcoholic," denotes an addiction: shopaholic, workaholic, sexaholic.

But in terms of sheer productivity, "-gate" has no peer. Wikipedia's list of -gates has over 260 entries.

During its remarkable career, it has often been wielded as a linguistic cudgel, and few other four-letter strings have such power to stigmatize and to demonize.

Roger J. Kreuz

Associate Dean and Professor of Psychology, University of Memphis

## Mauritius Times

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

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

*This epaper has been produced with the assistance of*

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

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

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



Prakash Neerohoo

## Corporate governance

# Is Airports Holding Ltd a Good Corporate Model?

*State capitalism is not a problem as such as long as it is productive and efficient as we have seen in South Asian countries. It is a problem when it creates monopolies or oligopolies in some sectors of the economy, thereby eliminating competition, decreasing meritocracy, and encouraging inefficiency.*

**T**he national airline company Air Mauritius (AM) has been in the limelight in recent months with employee dismissals, staff reshuffling, flight delays, aircraft breakdowns and resignations. The saga continued until last week when the CEO of Airports Holding Ltd (AHL) resigned from the board of AM, a wholly owned subsidiary of AHL. Apparently, he resigned because he was not happy with the overall management of AM. At the same time, a new CEO (Charles Cartier) was appointed to head AM following the departure of his predecessor, whose contract was rescinded after several months of suspension due to an apparent conflict of interest situation.

These two latest developments have brought a new focus on governance issues at both AHL (parent company) and AM (its most important subsidiary). The new CEO of AM is the 13th since the creation of the company in 1967 and the 11th since 2000. Over the past 24 years, the average lifetime of a CEO at AM has been two years, which says a lot about instability at the helm. Paradoxically, in a recent interview in a business magazine, the CEO of AHL praised the corporate model of AHL, which he suggested could be replicated in other

countries in Africa.

Before examining the governance issues, it is necessary to compare the previous corporate structure of AM with the new corporate structure set up in August 2021, whereby a holding company (AHL) owns and controls a number (22) of subsidiaries, the most important of which is wholly owned AM. Other subsidiaries are, inter alia, Airports of Mauritius Co Ltd (aerodrome operator), Airports Terminal Operations Ltd (terminal operator at Plaisance) and Mauritius Duty Free Paradise.

### Public company

Since 1967, AM used to be a public company whose capital was owned by the State of Mauritius, as a majority shareholder, and minority shareholders represented by private companies such as Air France, Air India, Rogers Co, and private individuals. The majority shareholder (government) appointed the board of AM, its CEO and department directors. It also wielded considerable influence on corporate decision making as AM was considered a strategic asset for the country with its dominant role as the unique local carrier in civil aviation and tourism. Accordingly, the government always had a cru-

cial role in determining the company's fleet size, the routes to service and the terms of the contracts of directors.

To keep a tight rein on the management of the company, each successive government has appointed individuals aligned with its own interests as chairman and CEO. This has resulted in a revolving door scenario, with these positions changing hands every five years. Appointments in top management positions followed a political cycle with directors in and out according to government's wishes. Sometimes, within a five-year term, the company had changed its chairman and/or CEO due to some major corporate misfeasance.

**N**otwithstanding the imperative of political control over a strategic asset, the company managed to perform reasonably well, ensuring timely and adequate services on all routes. Despite some loss-making decisions such as the aviation fuel hedging contracts, abuse of free airline tickets by staff and directors, and over-staffing in some areas, the company was seen as the jewel in the crown, a standard bearer for the country abroad and a pool of skilled employment opportunities for the middle class.

**“To keep a tight rein on the management of Air Mauritius, each successive government has appointed individuals aligned with its own interests as chairman and CEO. This has resulted in a revolving door scenario, with these positions changing hands every five years. Appointments in top management positions followed a political cycle with directors in and out according to government's wishes. Sometimes, within a five-year term, the company had changed its chairman and/or CEO due to some major corporate misfeasance. Notwithstanding the imperative of political control over a strategic asset, the company managed to perform reasonably well...”**

### Change in legal entity

**P**rior to the financial crash caused by the Covid pandemic in 2020-2021, which grounded all commercial flights, the company's model of being public entity listed on the Stock Exchange with a fiduciary duty to shareholders was somehow working. The pandemic-induced insolvency put the company into voluntary administration for 17 months until September 2021, at the end of which some poor decisions were made, namely:

- the sale of four aircraft at a staggering loss of Rs 3.377 billion (net book value of Rs 3.650 billion less proceeds of sale of Rs 273 million),
- the reduction of skilled staff through voluntary retirement or layoffs, and
- the change in legal entity from a public company to a private company delisted from the Stock Exchange.

The divestment of stakes held by private minority shareholders in the company allowed AM to become a State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) 100% under the control of the holding company AHL in October 2021. This new corporate structure is supposed to bring cost savings and efficiency gains by integrating different lines of activity (airport management, duty free shop, civil aviation, Cotton Bay Hotel, etc.) under one banner. At the end of June 2023, AHL's turnover reached Rs 33,5 billion with a pre-tax profit of Rs 4 billion, which made it the third largest company in the Top 100 Companies. In December 2021, the Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC), a subsidiary of the Bank of Mauritius, injected Rs 25 billion into AHL, securing up to 49% of its share capital, which means that 51% (or Rs 26 billion) of the share capital is owned by government and its financial institutions.

Out of MIC's Rs 25 billion, Rs 12 billion was used to repay a loan that AHL obtained from the government and Rs 13 billion was used to buy up government's shares in AM. If MIC sells its shares bought for Rs 25 billion at a higher value (say Rs27 billion as AHL CEO suggested in a press interview), then it would realize a capital gain of Rs 2 billion. But to whom would it sell its shares? To whom would it sell its shares? Private investors are not an option as the government has divested all private investors from Air Mauritius. If the government were to entertain the idea of a private investor purchasing MIC's 49% share capital in AHL, it would undermine the core objective of establishing AHL as a state-owned holding company.

The CEO of AHL has resigned from the board of AM, a wholly-owned subsidiary, but retains his position as the head of the holding company. His successor on the board of AM remains accountable to AHL, the parent corporation, indicating that AHL maintains effective control over its subsidiary.

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P - english.lematinal.media

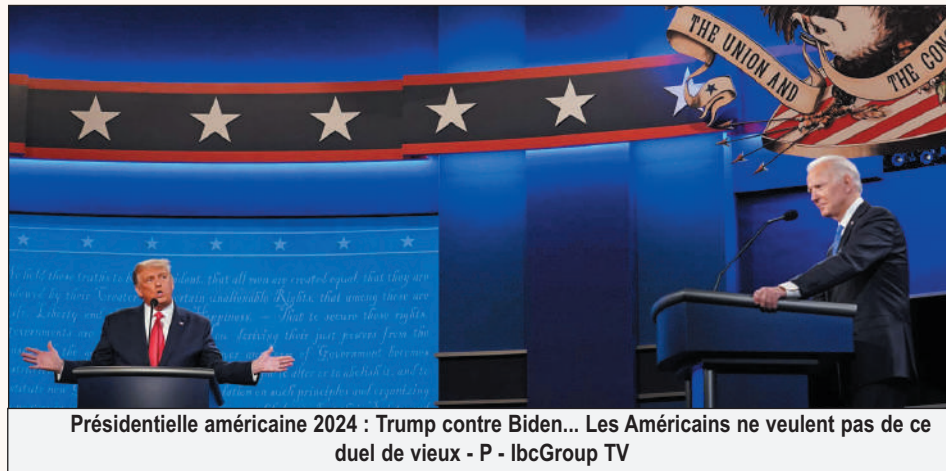
# Un nouveau duel entre Donald Trump et Biden

Par A. Bartleby

**L**e président actuel des États-Unis, Joe Biden, et l'ancien président Donald Trump ont chacun remporté la nomination présidentielle démocrate et républicaine pour eux-mêmes mardi dernier. Cela laisse envisager la possibilité d'une nouvelle élection générale, qui s'est déroulée de la même manière que la précédente. Il reste 238 jours jusqu'au 5 novembre, jour de l'élection présidentielle.

Lors des primaires en Géorgie, au Mississippi et dans l'État de Washington, les deux candidats sont devenus les vainqueurs, bien que la compétition ait été serrée.

Biden a sécurisé 11 délégués lors des primaires des îles Mariannes du Nord.



Présidentielle américaine 2024 : Trump contre Biden... Les Américains ne veulent pas de ce duel de vieux - P - lbcGroup TV

Cependant, malgré ces victoires, en Géorgie, les électeurs ont eu du mal à exprimer leur opposition à la position de l'administration Biden sur la guerre à Gaza.

Avec aucune option "non engagée" sur le bulletin de vote, certains électeurs ont eu recours à des moyens non conventionnels pour exprimer leur mécontentement.

Pendant ce temps, Trump a couru sans opposition en Géorgie, bien que d'autres candidats apparaissent toujours sur le bulletin de vote, attirant quelques électeurs comme Scott Carpenter, qui a voté pour l'ancienne ambassadrice Nikki Haley en raison de son mépris pour Trump.

Biden a affirmé: "Grâce au peuple américain, nous avons remporté cette bataille".

Le président a publié une déclaration à propos de l'importance du moment. Il a souligné la lutte menée par l'âme du pays et comment la menace sérieuse que représente le pouvoir du futur président actuel le préoccupe.

De plus, Biden a déclaré: "Il y a quatre ans, j'ai candidaté à la présidence parce que je croyais que nous étions dans une bataille pour l'âme de cette nation. Grâce au peuple américain, nous avons remporté cette bataille, et maintenant je suis honoré que la vaste coalition d'électeurs représentant la riche diversité du parti démocrate à travers le pays ait à nouveau mis leur foi en moi pour diriger notre parti - et notre pays - à un moment où la menace que représente Trump est plus grande que jamais."

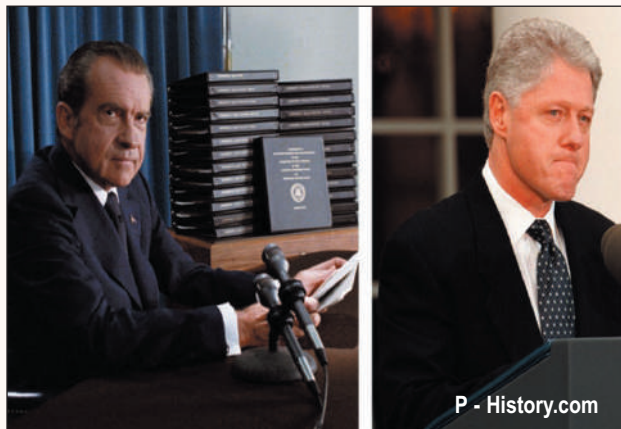
## Trump n'est pas le premier ancien président à faire face à des problèmes juridiques

**E**n ce qui concerne les défis juridiques auxquels sont confrontés certains anciens présidents américains, dont Donald Trump lui-même, il faut noter que la plupart des ex-présidents des 50 dernières années ont mené une vie publique relativement paisible, créant des fondations, prononçant des discours lucratifs, ou, dans le cas de Jimmy Carter, effectuant de nombreuses œuvres de bienfaisance. Ce n'est pas le cas pour certains autres, et Trump n'est guère le premier président, en fonction ou non, à être confronté à des ennuis judiciaires.

En 1974, Richard Nixon aurait pu éviter des accusations criminelles d'entrave à la justice ou de corruption, liées au scandale du Watergate, uniquement parce que le président Gerald Ford l'avait gracié quelques semaines après sa démission de la présidence.

La cause immédiate de la démission de Nixon a été la découverte des enregistrements fumants du Bureau ovale, initiés par Nixon lui-même, qui révélaient qu'il avait ordonné une dissimulation du cambriolage de 1972 au siège du Comité national démocrate au complexe du Watergate à Washington. En 1974, le scandale s'était étendu bien au-delà du crime initial. Beaucoup de principaux collaborateurs de Nixon avaient démissionné et avaient fini par être emprisonnés.

La disgrâce de Nixon l'a marqué pendant des années, même s'il est finalement



P - History.com

réapparu pour parler des affaires mondiales et conseiller les politiciens aspirants et les présidents potentiels, y compris Trump.

La licence d'exercice du droit de Bill Clinton dans son Arkansas natal a été suspendue pendant cinq ans après qu'il a conclu un accord avec les procureurs en 2001, à la fin de son second mandat, sur des allégations selon lesquelles il aurait menti sous serment sur sa liaison avec la stagiaire de la Maison Blanche, Monica Lewinsky.

Certains historiens se demandent quel aurait été le sort du président Warren Harding s'il n'était pas mort en fonction, en 1923. De nombreux responsables autour de lui auraient été impliqués dans divers crimes, y compris le secrétaire à l'Intérieur Albert B. Fall, dont les transactions foncières corrompues sont devenues connues sous le nom de "Scandale de la Teapot-Dome".

Les administrations de Nixon et Harding

faisaient partie de plusieurs administrations définies par le scandale, sans que le président ne soit inculpé.

Par ailleurs, Ulysses Grant, le général de l'Union et héros de la guerre civile, était naïf quant à ceux qui l'entouraient. De nombreux membres de son administration présidentielle étaient impliqués dans des malversations financières, de l'extorsion à la manipulation des marchés. Grant lui-même a été pris pour une infraction plus trivialement. En 1872, lors de son premier mandat, il a été arrêté deux fois pour avoir conduit trop vite son attelage. "La deuxième fois, Grant a dû payer une amende de 20 dollars, mais n'a jamais passé une nuit en prison", déclare l'historien Ron Chernow. La biographie de Grant a été publiée en 2017.

À l'automne 1963, le vice-président Lyndon Johnson était mal vu dans l'administration Kennedy et risquait des ennuis judiciaires potentiels car son principal collaborateur, Bobby Baker, faisait l'objet d'une enquête pour des transactions financières et des trafics d'influence. Johnson, avec son propre passé financier douteux, niait tout lien étroit avec un homme qu'il avait autrefois affirmé aimer comme un fils.

Le matin du 22 novembre 1963, «Life magazine» planifiait une enquête et des auditions du Congrès venaient de commencer. Mais en quelques heures, Kennedy avait été assassiné, Johnson avait prêté serment en tant que son successeur et l'intérêt pour les affaires de Baker avait essentiellement pris fin.

## Décorations nationales, symboles de reconnaissance et d'honneur

**L**e mardi 12 mars dernier, à l'occasion de la fête nationale, plusieurs personnalités ont été décorées de l'Ordre de l'Étoile et de la Clé de l'océan Indien (CGSK et GOSK). Parmi elles, nous retrouvons le Dr L. Jean Claude Autrey, Olivier Bancoult, Dev Virahsawmy, Harvesh Seegoolam, le Commissaire de Police Anil Kumar Dip, le directeur général de la Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Sudhamo Lal, feu l'ancien député et PDG du groupe Saint-Aubin, Eric Guimbeau - à titre posthume, le Chef commissaire de Rodrigues Franceau Grandcourt, Premode Neerunjun, Noël Leung Shing, Arnaud Martin, Satish Purnessur, Oomar Ramtoola et l'ancienne Ombudsperson for Children, Rita Venkatasawmy.

Les décorations nationales, symboles de reconnaissance et d'honneur, sont décernées par chaque pays à ses citoyens les plus méritants, à l'occasion de leur journée nationale. Autrefois, lorsque nous étions une colonie, c'était la Couronne britannique qui conférait ces titres, le plus élevé étant celui de "Sir".

↳ Suite en page 5

☞ Suite de la page 4

Il est inévitable que, lors de l'examen de la liste des décorés, certains citoyens expriment des réserves, non pas nécessairement parce qu'ils souhaitent être honorés à leur tour, mais parce qu'ils estiment que tel ou tel n'a pas mérité cette récompense. Dans de nombreux pays, y compris les grandes démocraties comme le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis, ce débat fait rage. Par exemple, plusieurs années auparavant, lorsqu'un des chanteurs des Beatles a été anobli, un autre récipiendaire a choisi de refuser sa distinction, ne voulant pas être associé à cette catégorie particulière de récipiendaires, quelle qu'en soit la raison.

Il est souvent perçu qu'il y a des biais dans la sélection des lauréats. Dans les petits pays comme le nôtre, les rumeurs permettent généralement de comprendre approximativement les raisons de ces sélections, qui varient souvent selon des critères ethniques, socio-politiques et politiques. Le mérite est invariablement teinté par ces étiquettes.

Cependant, même dans de grands pays, les choses ne sont pas aussi simples. Pendant son mandat de président des États-Unis, Barack Obama a décerné la Médaille d'honneur à 19 vétérans de la Seconde Guerre mondiale qui avaient été injustement exclus en raison de critères peu honorables: race, ethnique et religion. Malheureusement, mais sans surprise, seuls trois récipiendaires étaient encore en vie pour recevoir leur médaille, les autres étant des récompenses à titre posthume.

Il est indéniable que de nombreuses personnes méritent véritablement leur récompense. Les distinctions nationales attribuées par un pays sont un témoignage de res-

## Décorations nationales, symboles de reconnaissance et d'honneur



Décorations nationales 2024, symboles de reconnaissance et d'honneur. P - Défi

pect et d'honneur envers les décorés pour leurs réalisations exceptionnelles. Il y a une leçon à tirer de l'Inde quant à la manière dont ce pays attribue des distinctions aux plus méritants.

La liste des honneurs de l'Inde, annoncée à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la République, est un exercice bien dosé pour récompenser les mérites exceptionnels dans un large spectre de domaines. Les choix sont toujours très sélectifs et les lauréats, incontestables lors de cet exercice annuel.

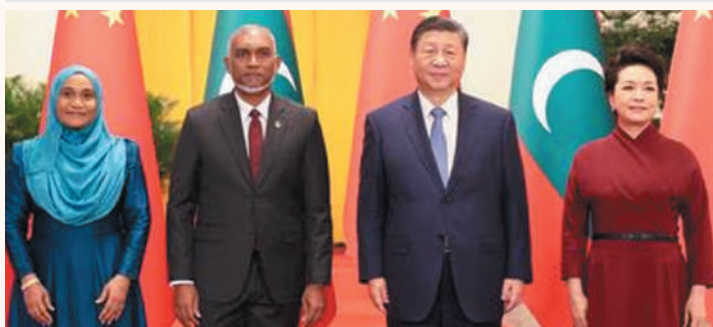
Le «Bharat Ratna», la plus haute distinction civile de la

République de l'Inde, n'a été accordé qu'à 53 individus jusqu'à présent, dont 20 à titre posthume. Institué en 1954, le «Bharat Ratna» est ouvert à tous, quelle que soit leur race, leur profession, leur position ou leur genre. Les récipiendaires du «Bharat Ratna» comprennent des personnalités telles que Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, C.V. Raman, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Mère Teresa, B.R. Ambedkar, Nelson Mandela, Satyajit Ray, Amartya Sen, Ravi Shankar, Bismillah Khan, Bhimsen Joshi, Lata Mangeshkar, J.R.D. Tata et Sachin Tendulkar.

Il est intéressant de noter que très peu de politiciens figurent dans cette liste exclusive. Ainsi, tous les présidents ou Premiers ministres n'ont pas reçu systématiquement le «Bharat Ratna». Par exemple, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, qui a été Premier ministre de l'Inde à trois reprises et poète acclamé, n'a été décoré du «Bharat Ratna» qu'en 2015.

En somme, les honneurs nationaux représentent la plus haute distinction qu'un citoyen puisse recevoir de son pays pour son service exceptionnel et sa contribution remarquable dans son domaine d'activité. Leçon à retenir: les grandes démocraties du monde utilisent des critères très stricts pour décerner ces honneurs étant donné qu'une attribution indiscriminée ne ferait que les dévaluer.

## La Chine signe un accord de coopération militaire gratuite avec les Maldives



Le président des Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu (deuxième à partir de la gauche), sa femme Sajidha Mohamed (à gauche), le président chinois Xi Jinping (deuxième à partir de la droite) et sa femme Peng Liyuan. P - AFP

**L**e 5 mars dernier, la Chine a conclu un accord de coopération militaire avec les Maldives. Cet accord offre une assistance militaire gratuite à la nation insulaire, renforçant les liens bilatéraux entre les deux pays. L'accord survient quelques semaines seulement après que le président maldivien Mohamed Muizzu a demandé le retrait d'un contingent de militaires indiens stationnés là-bas, rapporte Mint. Le ministre de la Défense des Maldives, Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon, s'est entretenu avec le major général Zhang Baoqun, directeur adjoint du Bureau de coopération militaire internationale de la Chine, pour discuter du renforcement de la coopération militaire entre les deux pays.

Maumoon et le major général Baoqun "ont signé un accord sur la fourniture par la Chine d'une assistance militaire gratuite à la République des Maldives, renforçant ainsi les liens bilatéraux", a déclaré le ministère maldivien de la Défense sur son compte officiel.

Les détails de l'accord de coopération militaire n'ont pas

été fournis.

La visite de la délégation militaire chinoise a eu lieu quelques jours après que Malé a autorisé Xiang Yang Hong 03, un navire de recherche chinois de haute technologie, à faire escale pour la "rotation de son personnel et son ravitaillement".

Le 5 janvier, le Sri Lanka, tout en refusant l'entrée au même navire, a annoncé avoir déclaré un moratoire d'un an sur l'entrée des navires de recherche étrangers dans ses eaux, en raison des inquiétudes de l'Inde concernant l'amarrage de navires de recherche chinois dans sa région et de la collecte de données océaniques, notamment dans la région de l'océan Indien, à des fins militaires, notamment pour les opérations des sous-marins.

Le porte-parole du ministère chinois des Affaires étrangères avait précédemment défendu l'escale du navire de recherche chinois aux Maldives, affirmant que "les activités de recherche scientifique de la Chine dans les eaux concernées sont à des fins pacifiques et visent à contribuer à la compréhension scientifique de l'humanité de l'océan".

La visite de la délégation militaire chinoise aux Maldives intervient quelques jours après que l'Inde a confirmé que sa première équipe civile d'experts techniques était arrivée dans l'Archipel pour remplacer le personnel militaire opérant un hélicoptère léger avancé dans le pays.

Le président Muizzu, largement considéré comme un leader pro-chinois, a fixé la date du 10 mars comme limite pour le retrait du premier groupe de militaires indiens de son pays.

Suite aux réunions du groupe central de haut niveau mis en place pour traiter de la question du retrait du personnel militaire indien, le ministère maldivien des Affaires

étrangères a déclaré que l'Inde remplacerait l'ensemble de son personnel militaire en deux phases d'ici le 10 mai.

Selon le gouvernement maldivien, 88 militaires indiens se trouvent dans le pays, principalement pour exploiter deux hélicoptères et un avion qui ont effectué des centaines d'évacuations médicales et des missions humanitaires.

Les relations entre les deux pays ont connu des tensions depuis l'arrivée de Muizzu au pouvoir en novembre de l'année dernière. Après son entrée en fonction en tant que président, Muizzu avait maintenu qu'il tiendrait sa promesse électorale d'expulser le personnel militaire indien de son pays. Muizzu a vaincu le pro-indien Ibrahim Mohamed Solih lors du second tour de l'élection présidentielle tenue en septembre de l'année dernière.

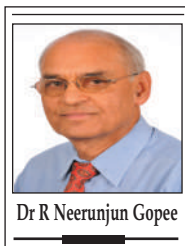
Les Maldives sont l'un des voisins maritimes clés de l'Inde dans la région de l'océan Indien, et les liens bilatéraux globaux, y compris dans les domaines de la défense et de la sécurité, ont connu une trajectoire ascendante sous le gouvernement précédent à Malé. Le gouvernement actuel a déclaré qu'il examinait plus de 100 accords bilatéraux signés avec l'Inde par les gouvernements précédents.

Dans un commentaire, le magazine indien «Swarajya» affirme que les Chinois renforcent leur présence dans l'océan Indien, cherchant à défier la prééminence de la marine indienne et jouant un jeu avec l'Inde pour la bataille de l'influence.

"Avec la victoire du leader pro-chinois aux Maldives, Mohammed Muizzu, les Chinois remportent le premier tour de cette année. Cependant, l'Inde a remporté une victoire lorsque le Sri Lanka a interdit aux navires chinois d'accoster dans son port pendant un an. Indépendamment de ces manœuvres, la base d'Agaléga (...) et les nouvelles pistes et installations en cours- à la fois dans les îles Lakshadweep et Andaman et Nicobar - obligeront les Chinois à réfléchir à deux fois avant de s'engager dans une quelconque aventure risquée, de peur de perdre leur ligne vitale maritime - le détroit de Malacca".

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 16



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Visit of Indian President of India Droupadi Murmu

## Consolidating India Mauritius ties

It is indeed a great honour and privilege for our country to have been graced anew by the presence of a President of India as Chief Guest during the celebration of our Independence Day. In fact, President Droupadi Murmu is the sixth President of India to do so since 2000, the previous one before her being her predecessor President Ram Nath Kovind who had come in 2018.

The visit that is most memorable to me personally is that of President Abdul Kalam in 2006. I attended the banquet given in his honour at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre. We had lined up to welcome him as he entered with the Prime Minister. It so happened that I had recently finished reading his semi-autobiography 'Wings of Fire', and as I was presented to him I expressed my appreciation of the book which shared his professional journey as a rocket scientist and his thoughts. Standing next to me was Dr K. Gajadharsingh who had studied in (then) Madras and greeted him in Tamil, which made him respond in the same language, his mother tongue, with a big smile.

It is interesting that the two leaders currently heading Bharat are both from humble origins, like President Abdul Kalam too whose father was a boatman. They similarly rose from where they were by dint of hard work and dedication to the higher cause of service to their people, their country, and humanity at large, an expression of Bharat's millennial foundational values. Indeed, President Murmu concluded her speech at the official banquet on this note: 'India will continue to be a force for global peace and shared prosperity, in keeping with its foundational values of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* ('the world is one family') and *Sarvajana Sukhina Bhavantu* ('may all be happy').'

### From village to Rashtrapati Bhavan

Hailing from a small village in Odisha, and growing up in extreme poverty, it is noteworthy that President Murmu has many firsts to her credit: the first woman from her village to complete a university education (earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rama Devi Women's College in Bhubaneswar, capital city of Odisha); the first person from a tribal community (the largest in Bharat, Santhals) to hold the office of president; first president to have been born in independent India; the youngest person to occupy the post. She was also the first woman tribal governor of any

**“It is interesting that the two leaders currently heading Bharat are both from humble origins, like President Abdul Kalam too whose father was a boatman. They similarly rose from where they were by dint of hard work and dedication to the higher cause of service to their people, their country, and humanity at large, an expression of Bharat's millennial foundational values. Indeed, President Murmu concluded her speech at the official banquet on this note: 'India will continue to be a force for global peace and shared prosperity, in keeping with its foundational values of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*...”**



President Droupadi Murmu: Paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute

tribal-majority state in India: Jharkhand state from 2015 to 2021.

She acceded to the President's post in 2022 with a rich experience in education and social work, as town councillor, legislator (awarded the Pandit Nilakantha Das Best Legislator Award in 2007 by Odisha's Legislative Assembly), and minister. She assumed these responsibilities even as she battled personal losses, that of her husband and two sons.

### The Bharat-Mauritius connect

Given this background, it is not surprising that she acknowledged the 'extraordinary triumph of the human spirit that Mauritius represents,' and paid 'homage to your brave ancestors who came from India, especially the "girmitya" indentured labourers who built this country with their toil, sacrifice and fortitude in the face of the worst adversities.' Who better than her could understand what adversities mean!

She saluted Mauritius as 'a shining beacon of development, democracy, diversity and dynamism.' Having welcomed her so warmly and sincerely, the least our leaders can do is to take a genuine commitment, short of rhetoric, to uphold these four "d's" – especially the second one – democracy – about which citizens have been expressing loud concern, so that her praise for our accomplishments does not go in vain.

Especially as she further underlined how Bharat takes 'great pride in your extraordinary achievements... a beacon of pluralism, a prosperous economy, an International financial centre of repute, a thriving tourist destination, and most importantly, one of the safest and most peaceful countries.'

Continuing, she said that 'We are happy to see the success of our Mauritian brothers and sisters, because in many ways we have undertaken this journey of nation building together. Our destinies were first intertwined when the first Indians landed here more than three centuries ago. We went on to inspire each other during our freedom struggles. And so, our *khoon ka rishta* (relation by blood) became a *dil ka rishta* (relation by heart).'

However, when we take a broad look at the population of Indian descent in Mauritius, we could consider that the first big wave that was the Great Experiment of indentured

labour which later was followed by a migration of smaller numbers from the west of India (engaged mainly in trade and business) constituted the first cohort of *khoon ka rishta*. As almost half of the first immigrants returned to Bharat, and with the paucity of communication, the blood relationship gradually faded except in a relatively few families.

And then came Bharat's Independence in 1947, after which the country started to offer opportunities for education in the form of several scholarships through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (I was a beneficiary myself in 1965) as well as self-financing. There was a surge of students through the sixties, making up what I would qualify as a second wave (though much smaller but significant nevertheless) more than a century later that has probably mitigated over the past couple of decades.

But the point is that many of these students came back home at the end of their studies with spouses from Bharat, myself included. These *dilon ke jore* (love marriages) resulted in renewed *khoon ka rishta* built on *dil ka rishta* that have strengthened further the historical links on the solid foundation of both *khoon* and *dil*. To which one can add the renewed interest in finding roots that has been spurred by the establishment of the Aapravasi Ghat, and the reinforcement of links through the influence of expanding communication and the media.

These historical, emotional, cultural and civilisational connects with Bharat are long-lasting and are the basis on which we share the special relationship that has contributed so much to our development in a number of traditional and the newer several sectors by means of both technical assistance through the ITEC scheme and generous financial support.

With the rebalancing of the world order, as Bharat's External Affairs Minister Subramaniam Jaishankar calls it, issues such as maritime security have come to the fore so that strategic partnerships take an altered colouring, and this has an impact on the generational relationships too. Quite naturally, as the challenges that the contemporary world is throwing up are forcing re-alignments and readjustments that we, as a small island state, must factor in as we negotiate our survival. While this element will keep changing, what is constant is the existential dimension of our relationship.

It is probably an awareness of this aspect that has led to the 'special provision under which Indian origin Mauritians of the 7th generation will also be eligible for the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Card. This will enable many younger Mauritians of Indian origin to become overseas citizens of India, and to reconnect with the land of their ancestors.'

Furthermore, taking cognizance of the celebration of 'Maha Shivratri with great devotion,' President Murmu was pleased to announce that 'my government will support the Government of Mauritius in the redevelopment of the sacred Ganga Talao complex into a religious, cultural and touristic hub. This decision reflects the deep respect in India for our shared cultural values. I am confident that our cooperation in this project shall further deepen the strong people-to-people connect between our two countries.'

Superb! We should take this golden opportunity to seek the guidance and advice of Bharat about re-organisation of the Mahashivaratri yatra along proper *shastric* lines so as to, among other things, avoid the kind of mishaps that befell us recently. In this context, an inspirational lecture tour by Shri Sudhanshu Trivedi would indeed be most apt and welcome.

This would fit in with the closing words of our distinguished Chief Guest: 'As India proceeds on its Amrit Kaal journey towards becoming a developed country and a leading global power, we will continue to walk hand-in-hand with our close partners like Mauritius.'

## A Humorous Journey Through Mauritian Politics

# Of Fortune Tellers, Palm Readers and their Predictions for the Next Elections

**I**n the bustling streets of Port Louis, amidst the aroma of street food and the sounds of bustling markets, two friends, Socrates and Cephalus, find themselves engrossed in a lively discussion about the ever-changing political landscape of Mauritius. As they sit in a cosy tavern, their conversation turns to the recent announcement by the Mauritian Prime Minister regarding an increase in the old-age pension. Little do they know, their discussion will soon take a humorous turn as they ponder the implications of early elections, the antics of fortune tellers, and the curious phenomenon of elevating Prime Ministers to the status of "Father so-and-so." Join Socrates and Cephalus as they address the complexities of Mauritian politics with wit and humour.

By Plutonix

*Socrates and Cephalus sit in a quaint tavern, their conversation punctuated by hearty laughter and the clinking of glasses.*

**Socrates:** Ah, Cephalus, my dear friend! How delightful it is to see you again. Tell me, have you heard the latest rumours swirling around the political circles of Mauritius?

**Cephalus:** Indeed, Socrates! The political landscape is abuzz with chatter, especially after the recent announcement of the increase in the old-age pension. It seems our Prime Minister is pulling out all the stops to secure his legacy.

**Socrates:** Ah, yes! The old-age pension increase. A move calculated to win the favour of the people, no doubt. But tell me, Cephalus, what do you make of the whispers of early elections?

**Cephalus:** Early elections, you say? Why, it's like a game of political musical chairs! With promises of more freebies and handouts, it's no wonder the Opposition parties are scrambling to keep up.

**Socrates:** Indeed, Cephalus. It seems our politicians are engaged in a bidding war of epic proportions. But tell me, my friend, what do you think the fortune tellers with their crystal balls and palm readings would predict about the outcome of the next election?

**Cephalus:** Oh, Socrates, I can only imagine! Picture this: a crystal ball swirling with colours, a palm reader gasping in amazement, and the words "early elections" echoing through the air. I daresay the fortune tellers would predict a whirlwind of chaos and confusion!

**Socrates:** Ha! Chaos and confusion, you say? Why, it sounds like a typical day in Mauritian politics! But tell me, Cephalus, what about the elevation of our Prime Ministers to the status of "Father so-and-so"?

**Cephalus:** Ah, yes! The esteemed titles of "Father of the Nation", "Father of Economic Development" and "Father of Modern Mauritius." It seems our leaders have a penchant for paternalism! First, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, then Sir Anerood Jugnauth, and now his son, Pravind Jugnauth. It's like a family reunion of fathers!

**Socrates:** A family reunion indeed! But tell me, Cephalus, do you think our Prime Ministers truly deserve such lofty titles?

**Cephalus:** Well, Socrates, if I were a betting man, I'd say it's all a matter of perspective. Some may see them



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as saviours of the nation, while others may see them as mere mortals with a knack for politics. But one thing's for sure: they certainly know how to keep us entertained!

**Socrates:** Ha! Entertained, you say? Why, it's like a never-ending circus of political antics! But tell me, Cephalus, what do you think our esteemed leaders would say about all this fuss?

**Cephalus:** Oh, I can only imagine, Socrates! They'd probably smile and wave, basking in the glow of their titles and revelling in the chaos of it all. After all, what's a little political drama among friends?

**Socrates:** Indeed, Cephalus. What's a little drama indeed! Well, my friend, it seems our drinks have run dry. Shall we continue our discussion over another round?

**Cephalus:** Absolutely, Socrates!

**Socrates:** My dear friend! Tell me, have you ever had your fortune told by one of those mystical seers?

**Cephalus:** Indeed, Socrates! Though I must confess, I've always been a sceptic when it comes to such matters. But there's no denying the allure of their predictions, especially when it comes to the fortunes of our politicians and leaders.

**Socrates:** Ah, yes! The fortunes of our esteemed politicians. I wonder what the crystal balls and palm readings would reveal about their fates.

**Cephalus:** Oh, Socrates, I can only imagine! Picture this: a fortune teller peering into her crystal ball, her eyes widening with revelation as she predicts the fate of the political leaders of Mauritius.

**Socrates:** And what does she see, pray tell?

**Cephalus:** On the one hand she sees a turbulent sea of uncertainty, with waves of scandal and controversy crashing against the hull of the political ship of one of the leaders. But fear not, for amidst the chaos, there shines a glimmer of hope — a path to redemption paved with promises of prosperity and progress.

**Socrates:** Ha! A path to redemption indeed! But tell me, Cephalus, what of the others? What do the palm readers foresee for them?

**Cephalus:** Ah, the crystal balls and palm readings paint a vivid picture of ambition and determination, with visions of victory dancing in their heads. But beware, for lurking in the shadows are whispers of betrayal and backstabbing, threatening to derail their dreams of political conquest.

**Socrates:** Ah, betrayal and backstabbing! The stuff of political dramas and daytime soap operas. But tell me, Cephalus, what of the electorate? What do the fortune tellers predict for the outcome of the next election?

**Cephalus:** Ah, the electorate! The crystal balls and palm readings reveal a swirling vortex of indecision and scepticism, with voters torn between promises of prosperity and fear of the unknown. But fear not, for amidst the chaos, there shines a beacon of hope — a glimmer of democracy's enduring spirit.

**Socrates:** Ha! A beacon of hope indeed! But tell me, Cephalus, do you believe in the prophecies of fortune tellers and palm readers?

**Cephalus:** Ah, Socrates, my friend! While I may remain a sceptic at heart, there's no denying the entertainment value of their predictions. After all, what's life without a little mystery and intrigue?

**Socrates:** Indeed, Cephalus. What's life without a little mystery and intrigue? Well, my friend, it seems our drinks have run dry once again. Shall we continue our discussion over another round?

**Cephalus:** Absolutely, Socrates! To fortune tellers, palm readers, and the unpredictable twists and turns of Mauritian politics!

*And with that, Socrates and Cephalus raise their glasses once more, toasting to the unpredictable world of Mauritian politics and the endless entertainment it provides.*

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Corporate governance

# Is Airports Holding Ltd a Good Corporate Model?



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● Cont. from page 3

## Association and Control

Those who are familiar with the concept of Association and Control in corporate law know that a holding company has a *de jure* control over its wholly owned subsidiaries and can issue shareholder directives for the proper management of affairs. Furthermore, considering the related party relationship between the parent corporation and subsidiaries, directors of the holding company can exercise *de facto* control over the subsidiaries by influencing their decision-making.

This is especially true in Mauritius where corporate governance rules are not strictly followed in terms of independent boards of management. Suspected government interference through board members appointed by the responsible minister seems to have blurred the boundaries between professional, independent management and oversight boards.

The relationship between a holding company and a subsidiary is clear: the parent sets the policy while the subsidiary delivers the goods. Association of related legal entities under the umbrella of a holding company to ensure control of subsidiaries is not a mystery in business. It is a structure where administrative (operational) powers are delegated to subsidiaries while the parent holds the purse and makes all strategic decisions. In any corporate group, the parent makes strategic decisions and delegates execution to subsidiaries. Especially when both the holding and subsidiaries are owned 100% by one shareholder (the State).

Associated corporations do not deal at arm's length as one can influence another's plan or act significantly or decisively. The general presumption in corporate law is that persons not dealing at arm's length will be tempted to make arrangements that are not dictated by bona fide business considerations but by other considerations such as a desire to

ensure patronage, rigging procurement bids to award contracts to cronies, inflating contract value to maximize profits, offering inter-company services for more than fair market value consideration, and shifting funds across associated companies in a thinly veiled cross subsidization exercise (winners bailing out losers).

## State capitalism

AHL is not just a corporate group operating like any other conglomerate in the economy. It is emblematic of a model of State capitalism that has been developed around SOEs over the last 40 years. Many SOEs and State-owned conglomerates have been set up: AHL in civil aviation and airport services, MauBank and NIC in finance and insurance, Landscape Mauritius in real estate development, Mauritius Telecom in telecommunications, NHDC in social housing, State Trading Corporation in the import of commodities, SBM Holdings in banking and finance, etc.

All those SOEs are controlled by the State and managed by a nomenklatura.

The nationalisation of AM by buying out private shareholders is a significant development as it does away with the mixed economy approach in some areas. A new arm of State capitalism is MIC, which acquired wholly or partly private companies through the purchase of shares or the direct acquisition of assets (e.g., the purchase of Omnicane Smart City).

State capitalism is not a problem as such as long as it is productive and efficient as we have seen in South Asian countries, especially China, where they have contributed to economic growth through scientific and technological innovation. It is a problem when it creates monopolies or oligopolies in some sectors of the economy, thereby eliminating competition, decreasing meritocracy, and encouraging inefficiency.

Prakash Neerohoo

## READ ONLINE



### Regional Cooperation

## Championing Women's Empowerment & Tourism in the IORA Region

Dr Salman Al Farisi, as the Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Rim Secretariat, leads the charge in fostering cooperation and progress among member states within the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Within this dynamic framework, the empowerment of women and the advancement of tourism stand as pivotal pillars of development. Celebrating the recent IORA Day, held on March 7th, 2024, Mauritius, a founding member of IORA and host of its Secretariat, exemplifies commitment to regional collaboration. This commitment is particularly evident in Mauritius's dedication to championing women's empowerment and tourism within the IORA region.

By Dr Salman Al Farisi, Secretary General of the Indian Ocean Rim Secretariat



### Opinion

## Soulful Rebirth of Bharat through restoration of its Sanctum Sanctorum - Shri Ram's birthplace, Ayodhya

By Dr Shравan Nosib

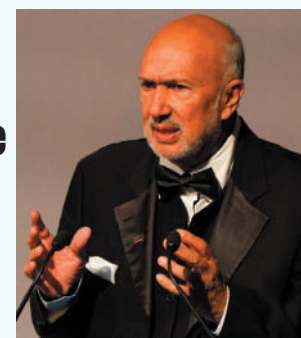
### Opinion

## Towards Energy and Food Security: A Comprehensive Budget Proposal for Mauritius

In a world where the control over commodity supplies and their prices often lies beyond the grasp of smaller nations, Mauritius faces the challenge of balancing its reliance on imported goods with the imperative of self-sufficiency. Dr. Michael Atchia, drawing upon his expertise as a Past Programme Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and his role as a Member of Democracy Watch Mauritius, presents a comprehensive budget proposal aimed at steering Mauritius towards energy and food security.

By Dr Michael Atchia

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





Interview : Dr Avinaash Munohur, Politologue

# “La dégradation du climat politique pourrait basculer dans une dégradation du climat social et donc économique...”

nous ne pourrions pas continuer encore longtemps comme cela”

**L**a célébration de l'indépendance de la République de Maurice est une opportunité pour évaluer le degré de maturité atteint, le développement de la capacité d'émancipation en termes économiques, sociaux et culturels après 56 ans. C'est aussi le moment de revenir sur l'ensemble des forces matérielles et spirituelles qui ont guidé la population pour ne jamais céder au pessimisme malgré les sacrifices imposés par la classe politique. Ce qui a toujours prévalu, c'est la préservation du droit de liberté et d'indépendance. Toutefois, si chaque gouvernement a accordé la priorité à l'édification et au développement, la traduction des aspirations politiques en actions concrètes ne fait plus l'unanimité chez les jeunes aujourd'hui. Dr Avinaash Munohur, politologue, élabore sur le sujet.



**Mauritius Times:** Il est coutume, dans le contexte de la célébration de l'indépendance, de faire le bilan du chemin parcouru depuis 1968 et d'envisager les perspectives d'avenir. Mais comme nous célébrons cette semaine les 56 ans de l'indépendance de Maurice, il nous semble plus important de nous attarder sur le présent et ses enjeux. Quelle analyse faites-vous de ce présent, justement?

Dr Avinaash Munohur: Le chemin parcouru a été admirable à bien des égards. Nous avons toujours eu des leaders qui ont su définir des directions claires et qui ont su saisir les opportunités qui se sont présentées. C'est comme cela que nous avons su déjouer les pronostics (les plus pessimistes d'ailleurs) quant à la pérennité de notre économie, en cultivant un esprit d'entreprise, de conquête et de résilience.

Le présent et ses enjeux sont nombreux et nous pressent déjà à faire évoluer notre réflexion sur ce que nous voulons pour notre pays. Les défis relèvent tout autant des enjeux géopolitiques, de la résilience au dérèglement climatique, de la transformation digitale et énergétique. C'est vraiment un autre monde qui est en train de se redessiner, avec des mutations profondes pour le monde de l'entreprise, de l'emploi, de la culture, etc.

Notre économie, elle, fait déjà face à des problèmes structurels. Malgré une relance solide après la pandémie, Maurice est extrêmement exposée aux disruptions du commerce mondial, de par notre trop grande dépendance aux importations – en énergies, en matières premières et en denrées notamment. Si nous rajoutons à cela les défis liés au dérèglement climatique et ceux posés par le vieillissement de notre population, nous constatons qu'il devient urgent de repenser un certain nombre de nos politiques publiques.

\* Sur le plan économique, vous affirmez il y a quelque temps que nous étions arrivés à un point de basculement, mais nous constatons que les fondamentaux de l'économie tiennent toujours la route. Les secteurs productifs sont aujourd'hui en pleine ébullition, et le FMI devrait confirmer une croissance économique dépassant les 5% pour l'année dernière. Cela signifie-t-il que le système actuel fonctionne bien malgré les fissures que nous pouvons observer?

Il est clair que notre économie repose sur des fondamentaux qui sont aujourd'hui solides. La transition d'une infrastructure économique fondée sur le sucre vers la diversification que nous connaissons aujourd'hui a été un processus historique hautement stratégique pour le réalignment de nos intérêts nationaux. Et oui, la relance est bel et bien là, avec une croissance solide. Mais à y regarder de plus près, nous constatons que nous faisons face à des problèmes qui pourraient nous mener vers une situation très compliquée dans un avenir proche.

Par exemple, selon une récente étude de Mauritius Statistics, nous serons en régression démographique à partir de 2035. Cela signifie quelque chose de très simple: moins de jeunes vont devoir travailler plus afin de produire plus pour continuer à soutenir un modèle social qui devient de plus en plus lourd à financer. Nous faisons déjà face à ce problème, et la réponse actuelle est une politique migratoire extrêmement agressive, que ce soit au niveau des emplois hautement qualifiés qu'au niveau de la main d'œuvre ouvrière.

Nous sommes actuellement obligés d'adopter cette approche, ce qui nous permet de compenser l'exode des talents locaux et le problème du «mismatch» entre les formations et les besoins des entreprises. C'est également ce qui nous permet de maintenir un niveau de productivité correcte en soutien de la relance économique. Mais nous ne faisons, en réalité, que colmater les fuites, et nous ne pourrions pas continuer comme cela.

\* Le pays connaît un exode important de professionnels qualifiés, à la recherche d'opportunités à l'étranger. En tant que consultant politique, quelles stratégies proposeriez-vous pour créer un environnement qui non seulement retient les talents, mais motive également les individus qualifiés à contribuer activement à la croissance et au développement du pays?

Il est clair qu'il y a un pessimisme latent chez les jeunes, et notamment ceux qui ont l'opportunité de faire des études à l'étranger. Des pays comme la France, le Royaume-Uni, le Canada ou encore l'Australie bénéficient aujourd'hui de l'investissement du contribuable mauricien dans l'éducation nationale, puisque ces pays recrutent les Mauriciens talentueux qui préfèrent tenter leur chance ailleurs.

Il s'agit là d'un choix personnel qui relève de la liberté

individuelle, mais nous nous devons de renverser cette situation. Les opportunités de l'économie mauricienne sont vastes et diverses aujourd'hui. Il suffit d'observer le nombre d'expatriés qui développent leurs entreprises ici pour constater que Maurice est un pays qui offre des opportunités intéressantes et un écosystème entrepreneurial attrayant.

Je ne dis pas que tout est parfait, mais les opportunités existent bel et bien pour ceux et celles qui souhaitent tenter leur chance. Il est trop facile de penser que l'herbe est plus verte ailleurs, notamment en reposant son jugement sur des conclusions hâtives et inadéquates. Mon travail de conseil m'a donné l'occasion de travailler avec des entreprises étrangères dans divers secteurs de l'économie locale, et je fais toujours le même constat : ces investisseurs savent profiter des avantages et des opportunités offerts par l'écosystème de l'économie mauricienne alors que les Mauriciens ont eux-mêmes parfois du mal à repérer et à saisir ces opportunités.

Il y a là clairement une responsabilité des décideurs pour envoyer les bons signaux, et ce, plus spécifiquement à la jeunesse.

☞ Suite en page 10

“Le défi d'une réforme en profondeur de l'éducation, de la formation et des métiers me semble absolument urgente. Notre ressource primordiale reste notre ressource humaine, et à l'ère du capital humain, il me semble que nous sommes dans l'impératif de donner les outils les plus adéquats à la jeunesse afin qu'elle puisse avoir les capacités de développer ses talents et s'épanouir pleinement. La résilience économique et sociale de Maurice dépend entièrement de la capacité de sa jeunesse à développer les capacités d'adaptation et de polyvalence que l'économie globale requiert aujourd'hui...”

# 'Les Mauriciens n'ont pas besoin de sauveurs.'

Ils ont besoin de décideurs capables de trouver des solutions rapides et efficaces face aux problèmes actuels'

☞ Suite de la page 9

Des initiatives de placements en entreprise, des *jobfairs* (salons de l'emploi), des workshops (ateliers) exposant les jeunes aux nouveaux métiers sont des moyens d'ouvrir les yeux de notre jeunesse sur les différents débouchés qui s'offrent aujourd'hui à eux. Il faut clairement prendre le problème à la source même, qui est le système éducatif. Son adaptation doit se construire en tenant compte de l'impératif premier de l'économie mauricienne aujourd'hui: le développement de la créativité et d'un esprit de conquête chez la jeunesse.

**\* Par ailleurs, la diversité à Maurice est à la fois un défi et une force. Pouvez-vous discuter de certaines des inégalités et des obstacles qui persistent dans la société mauricienne? Pourquoi cela pose-t-il un problème à Maurice pour embrasser pleinement sa diversité et parvenir à la prospérité collective?**

L'exclusion reste un défi majeur à relever. Et nous devons absolument comprendre comment l'exclusion est un phénomène économique et social, tout autant qu'il est un phénomène racial historiquement déterminé à Maurice. La volonté, d'ailleurs, de la construction du Welfare State (de l'État providence) et de la libéralisation de l'économie viennent précisément de ce désir politique de combattre les injustices de départ. Aujourd'hui, nous faisons face au fait que l'exclusion découlant de ces conditions historiques est l'une des vecteurs d'alimentation de l'économie parallèle.

En d'autres termes, régler le problème de la consommation et du trafic des drogues est directement lié, intimement lié même, à la nécessité de régler une fois pour toutes le problème de l'exclusion. Il faut donc prendre le problème éga-



☞ **«L'Histoire de notre pays s'est construite sur les vagues migratoires, et notamment de la migration du travail. Nous avons toujours eu besoin de cette migration, et nous en aurons toujours besoin. Mais cela ne doit en aucun cas nous dédouaner de l'impératif de trouver des solutions efficaces aux problèmes du chômage des Mauriciens, et notamment du chômage des jeunes. Je me déssole souvent de la teneur des propositions politiques pour la jeunesse mauricienne. Ses problèmes sont trop rarement pris au sérieux...»**

lement par ce biais, ce qui requiert encore une fois une approche différente quant au système éducatif, au développement des talents individuels, à l'épanouissement etc.

Nous devons mieux comprendre en quoi la diversité, et notamment la diversité mauricienne, est une ressource importante dans le monde entrepreneurial aujourd'hui. Par exemple, la capacité des Mauriciens à comprendre et à s'adapter à plusieurs langues et à plusieurs cultures est un atout majeur pour les entreprises aujourd'hui, et notamment les entreprises qui jouent directement dans le jeu de la globalisation. Celles-ci ont besoin de gens capables de s'adapter rapidement à la diversité, puisqu'ils sont eux-mêmes issus de la diversité.

De ce fait, le multiculturalisme relève d'une richesse qui n'est pas uniquement une richesse anthropologique: c'est également une richesse économique importante. C'est peut-être même une ressource majeure pour nous à condition que nous réussissions à développer des politiques plus efficaces dans la lutte contre l'exclusion...

**\* Lorsque l'on considère la dynamique de l'emploi et la présence de la main-d'œuvre étrangère à Maurice, quelles sont les complexités et les disparités évidentes sur le marché du travail? Et comment ces dynamiques affectent-elles les communautés locales et la stabilité globale de l'économie?**

Le problème de l'emploi nous donne une porte d'entrée extrêmement intéressante pour toute une série de questions économiques et sociales. Nous faisons aujourd'hui face à tout un ensemble de phénomènes quant au problème de l'emploi: l'automatisation, la digitalisation (la numérisation), l'avènement de l'intelligence artificielle, la libéralisation du marché de l'emploi, la globalisation de ce même marché, ou encore l'impératif pour les individus d'accumuler un maximum de polyvalence afin de répondre aux défis actuels.

Mettons-nous à la place des entrepreneurs mauriciens. Ils font face à une concurrence globale féroce, à un marché mondial qui évolue à une vitesse où la capacité d'adaptation peut faire ou défaire une entreprise. Ils font face à l'impératif d'anticiper les changements globaux afin de développer leur résilience à ces mêmes changements, dans une globalisation qui nous donne que très peu de visibilité sur l'avenir. Les entreprises sont, de facto, plus prudentes quant au recrutement et aux investissements qu'elles réalisent. Elles doivent également faire preuve de plus de discernement et de plus de sagesse dans le calcul économique.

Dans une situation d'exode des talents locaux, il est clair qu'un nombre important d'entreprises doivent obligatoirement se tourner vers la main d'œuvre étrangère. Cette situation est aujourd'hui une réalité sociale que nous côtoyons tous quotidiennement, que ce soit au niveau des entreprises de la finance et du numérique qu'au niveau des secteurs de l'hôtellerie ou de la construction. En fait, nous sommes dans une situation où nous pratiquons une politique migratoire extrêmement agressive sans vraiment le dire.

Or, cette situation est en train de créer des frustrations qui ne sont pas sans rappeler les différentes formes actuelles du nationalisme, notamment en Europe. Il suffit de tendre un peu l'oreille sur le terrain politique actuellement pour entendre des choses du type «les étrangers prennent notre travail» ou encore «les Mauriciens deviennent des étrangers dans leur propre pays». Et ce sentiment pourrait rapidement devenir un enjeu politique majeur si rien n'est fait pour y remédier.

L'Histoire de notre pays s'est construite sur les vagues migratoires, et notamment de la migration du travail. Nous avons toujours eu besoin de cette migration, et nous en aurons toujours besoin. Mais cela ne doit en aucun cas nous

dédouaner de l'impératif de trouver des solutions efficaces aux problèmes du chômage des Mauriciens, et notamment du chômage des jeunes.

Je me déssole souvent de la teneur des propositions politiques pour la jeunesse mauricienne. Ses problèmes sont trop rarement pris au sérieux, et nous comprenons mieux pourquoi elle se désintéresse des offres politiques, puisqu'un grand nombre de ces dernières ne leur parlent tout simplement pas.

La jeunesse fait face à un problème de logement, à un problème de pouvoir d'achat, à un problème de qualité de vie. Elle fait face à un certain désenchantement et à un pessimisme qui explique aussi l'exode vers d'autres pays.

**\* Quels sont les principaux défis auxquels Maurice est confrontée pour aligner ses politiques et sa mentalité sur l'évolution rapide du monde, alimentée par les progrès technologiques et l'évolution des dynamiques géopolitiques? Comment ces défis affectent-ils la capacité du pays à rester compétitif sur la scène mondiale ou à entreprendre une transformation significative?**

☞ **«L'artisanat, les métiers de bouche, les métiers liés à l'industrie du développement foncier, ceux rattachés au tourisme, à l'industrie du soin et du bien-être... Il y a tellement de débouchés pour les jeunes, mais il est impératif que les politiques publiques encadrent tout cela afin justement de produire les conditions de l'égalité, de l'équité et du progrès socio-économique pour tous... Ce sont les talents de notre jeunesse qui nous permettront de faire face aux défis actuels...»**

Le défi d'une réforme en profondeur de l'éducation, de la formation et des métiers me semble absolument urgente. Notre ressource primordiale reste notre ressource humaine, et à l'ère du capital humain, il me semble que nous sommes dans l'impératif de donner les outils les plus adéquats à la jeunesse afin qu'elle puisse avoir les capacités de développer ses talents et s'épanouir pleinement. La résilience économique et sociale de Maurice dépend entièrement de la capacité de sa jeunesse à développer les capacités d'adaptation et de polyvalence que l'économie globale requiert aujourd'hui, et cela passe forcément par le système éducatif.

L'accent doit être mis sur la créativité tout autant que sur la polyvalence des savoirs utiles et utilitaristes. Prenez, par exemple, le cas des filières dites techniques, qui sont les enfants pauvres du système scolaire. La diversification économique de ces deux dernières décennies, et notamment le développement des industries des services a fait que les métiers manuels sont aujourd'hui en très grande demande. Qu'attendons-nous pour vraiment valoriser ces carrières qui sont autant d'opportunités pour les jeunes à s'épanouir économiquement et à accéder à l'entrepreneuriat?

J'ai toujours prôné la mise en place d'un système de corps des métiers avec les formations, les soutiens en entreprise, les aides en financement et en micro-loans (micro-prêts) afin de permettre aux jeunes d'apprendre un métier selon les normes et les standards internationaux. L'artisanat, les métiers de bouche, les métiers liés à l'industrie du développement foncier, ceux rattachés au tourisme, à l'industrie du soin et du bien-être... Il y a tellement de débouchés pour les jeunes, mais il est impératif que les politiques publiques encadrent tout cela afin justement de produire les conditions de l'égalité, de l'équité et du progrès socio-économique pour tous.

☞ Suite en page 11

# 'La jeunesse fait face à un problème de logement, à un problème de pouvoir d'achat, à un problème de qualité de vie...'

☞ Suite de la page 10

Notre ressource la plus importante est notre capital humain. Ce sont les talents de notre jeunesse qui nous permettront de faire face aux défis actuels. Il est impératif de lui permettre de mieux se développer.

**\* Nous entrons dans la dernière année du mandat actuel de l'alliance gouvernementale, une période qui a été marquée de diverses manières, où les aspects moins favorables semblent avoir pris le dessus sur les aspects positifs. Quelle est votre opinion sur ce deuxième mandat de Pravind Jugnauth, en ce qui concerne ses méthodes et ses priorités ?**

Pravind Jugnauth s'attache à appliquer les méthodes du libéralisme économique, avec une certaine dose de pragmatisme. Si je dois résumer la chose, je dirai qu'il a compris qu'il faut produire de la croissance pour pouvoir redistribuer ses bénéfices via le modèle social. Les investissements dans les grands projets d'infrastructures en sont un exemple. Certains y voient uniquement l'endettement du pays, mais il faut dépasser cette vision pour comprendre ce qui est vraiment en jeu.

Les investissements en infrastructures sont une méthode qui permet au cercle de l'endettement de mieux fonctionner en réalité. C'est très simple au fond, et toute personne ayant contracté une dette auprès d'une banque peut comprendre cela : plus on a des actifs qui ont de la valeur, plus on est capables de contracter des dettes en utilisant ces actifs comme des garanties.

Or, c'est exactement comme cela que notre économie fonctionne aujourd'hui. C'est le moyen que nous avons trouvé pour continuer à financer notre modèle social dans une situation de baisse de la productivité et de vieillissement de la population.

Et Pravind Jugnauth, concernant le modèle économique qu'il souhaite défendre, s'inscrit clairement dans ce principe. Est-ce soutenable? Pour le long terme non, mais c'est ce qui nous permet pour l'instant de colmater les fuites évoquées plus tôt. C'est une approche pragmatique qui fonctionne pour l'instant, en attendant la mise en place de politiques qui soient capables de répondre aux problèmes évoqués plus tôt, et qui prendront quelques années pour porter leurs fruits.

Concernant les aspects moins favorables, l'accumulation de scandales par certains membres du gouvernement jouent forcément contre lui actuellement. Nous verrons bien ce qu'il proposera comme stratégie pour se libérer de cela.

**\* Pravind Jugnauth a réussi à s'imposer en 2019 comme un jeune leader pouvant se mesurer aux vieux routiers de la politique que sont Ramgoolam et Bérenger. Un deuxième test l'attend en 2024, et il devra, cette fois-ci, se mesurer aux trois grands partis réunis ensemble pour les prochaines législatives. Quelles sont vos anticipations quant à sa capacité à relever ce défi et à maintenir sa position face à une telle coalition politique ?**

J'entends souvent dire que les plus grands alliés de Pravind Jugnauth sont Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Bérenger. Il y a sans aucun doute du vrai dans cela, mais c'est sous-estimer la connaissance du terrain du MSM. J'ai moi-même été coupable de cela par le passé, et je dois avouer que l'expérience réelle du terrain m'a ouvert les yeux sur beaucoup de choses.

Les Mauriciens sont de grands pragmatiques au fond, et ce, dans le vrai sens du terme. Et ce pragmatisme ne peut pas se résumer aux humeurs des réseaux sociaux, qui ne représentent qu'une infime minorité des opinions et des positionnements politiques.

À en croire ces mêmes réseaux sociaux, peuplés de sociologues, d'économistes, de politistes et d'anthropolo-



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« Le Premier ministre doit aussi regarder son bilan avec un regard critique et juste. Ses réussites – comme la gestion de la Covid-19, de la relance économique, de la sortie de Maurice de la liste grise du GAFI, etc. – ne doivent pas l'empêcher de voir où il aurait pu mieux faire, et où ses ministres auraient dû mieux faire. À partir de là, il devrait obligatoirement trancher afin que l'équipe qu'il présentera pour le prochain mandat soit meilleure que celle du mandat actuel. Cet exercice pourrait être crucial lors de la prochaine joute électorale... »

gues du dimanche, le gouvernement actuel se fera balayer par un 60-0 aux prochaines échéances électorales. Les choses sont loin d'être aussi claires que cela. Pravind Jugnauth possède des arguments de poids que l'opposition ferait bien de ne pas prendre à la légère, surtout s'ils restent dans leur posture de sauveurs du pays.

Les Mauriciens n'ont pas besoin de sauveurs. Ils ont besoin de décideurs capables de trouver des solutions rapides et efficaces face aux problèmes actuels, et notamment face au problème du pouvoir d'achat qui sera un enjeu majeur de la prochaine campagne électorale. De ce fait, les différentes augmentations de la pension de vieillesse et du salaire minimum viennent donner une solution à de nombreux ménages qui se trouvent dans le rouge.

Parallèlement à cela, le gouvernement continue de miser sur une augmentation des investissements en infrastructures. Ces investissements – comme le Metro Express, les fly-overs ou le pont de Sorèze – ont également pour objectif de permettre une augmentation de la productivité en accélérant les flux de circulation. Moins les Mauriciens passent du temps sur les routes, plus ils sont productifs.

La question de la productivité est absolument cruciale pour maintenir notre compétitivité, et les investissements en infrastructures sont absolument essentiels pour permettre l'augmentation de la productivité. Il faut même aller plus loin et plus vite en réalité, en investissant dans des infrastructures portuaires, numériques et énergétiques avant-gardistes.

Cela dit, le Premier ministre doit aussi regarder son bilan avec un regard critique et juste. Ses réussites – comme la gestion de la Covid-19, de la relance économique, de la sortie de Maurice de la liste grise du GAFI, etc. – ne doivent pas l'empêcher de voir où il aurait pu mieux faire, et où ses

ministres auraient dû mieux faire. À partir de là, il devrait obligatoirement trancher afin que l'équipe qu'il présentera pour le prochain mandat soit meilleure que celle du mandat actuel.

Cet exercice pourrait être crucial lors de la prochaine joute électorale, surtout que l'opposition aura du mal à renouveler ses équipes du fait de la rareté des tickets disponibles dans une alliance à trois. La marge de manœuvre est définitivement plus importante du côté du MSM de ce point de vue.

**\* L'hostilité qui sépare le PTR et le MSM trouve ses racines initialement dans des philosophies politiques divergentes, cela depuis les années précédant l'indépendance. Par la suite, beaucoup de rancœurs ("bad blood") et une guerre autour du leadership du tribut ont contribué à la détérioration des relations entre ces deux partis. Comment évaluez-vous l'impact de ce conflit prolongé sur la stabilité politique et sociale du pays ?**

Les rancœurs dont vous parlez découlent des joutes passées et par la nécessité de devoir justifier des postures actuelles. J'ai vu, par exemple, la page Facebook officielle du Parti Travailleurs publier un post tentant d'expliquer que Sir Anerood Jugnauth était le plus grand traître de l'indépendance. Ça m'a bien fait rire car, d'un côté, SAJ est devenu PM après les deux dévaluations du FMI directement liées à la gestion catastrophique des finances publiques avant 1982.

La scission de 1983 s'est d'ailleurs jouée sur un différend idéologique profond. D'un côté, la branche qui allait devenir le MSM a fait le choix du libéralisme économique à un moment où le bipolarisme de la Guerre Froide vacillait grandement et qu'il était clair que le monde allait bientôt basculer dans la généralisation quasi-totale de l'économie de marché. De ce fait, la lecture libérale – à l'opposé de la vision économique de la planification alimentaire du « plant manioc » – était une lecture juste d'un moment unique dans l'Histoire de notre civilisation moderne.

Et c'est le gouvernement qui a été constitué en 1983 qui a remis le pays sur les rails de la croissance, de la sortie programmée de l'économie sucrière et de la diversification économique à travers une politique fiscale favorisant le climat des affaires et de l'investissement, ce qui a permis l'augmentation du niveau de vie que nous connaissons aujourd'hui. D'ailleurs, les Premiers ministres qui ont succédé à Anerood Jugnauth à partir de 1995 n'ont fait que continuer la libéralisation qu'il avait initiée, c'est vous dire à quel point ils pensaient que c'était la voie à suivre.

J'ai également ri parce que nous savons tous qui était opposé à l'indépendance, qui a encouragé l'exode de nos concitoyens vers l'Australie notamment, alors que leur pays accédait à une indépendance qui était inévitable de par l'effondrement progressive de l'Empire britannique! Et nous savons surtout que le fils et le petit-fils de ce dernier sont actuellement en alliance avec le PTR. Comme quoi, tout peut se justifier, et le problème fondamental n'est pas celui de la rancœur mais bien plutôt celui de la compromission et des petits arrangements entre héritiers politiques.

Il me semble évident en tout cas que nous ne pourrions pas continuer encore longtemps comme cela, parce que la dégradation du climat politique pourrait basculer dans une dégradation du climat social et donc économique. Le respect entre les opposants politiques doit nécessairement être rétabli, nous ne pouvons pas continuer à opérer à un niveau aussi bas et aussi populiste. Les arguments de la majorité tout comme ceux de l'opposition doivent résolument adresser les enjeux sociaux, institutionnels et économiques, et non uniquement être dans le mode du « pa mwa sa, li sa », ce qui ne produit strictement rien d'autre que des bagarres de cour de récréation scolaire.

## UK to ban foreign state ownership of British newspapers

The UK announced Wednesday that it plans to bar overseas governments from owning British newspapers, a move that could scupper the contentious Abu Dhabi-led takeover of the Telegraph Media Group.

Stephen Parkinson, a media minister, announced in the upper-chamber House of Lords that the Conservative government would amend proposed legislation so that it "prevents foreign state ownership of newspapers".

A government spokesperson added that the move would "deliver additional protections for a free press, a pillar of our democracy".

It follows pressure over the proposed takeover of the Daily Telegraph newspaper and Spectator magazine by a joint venture 75 percent owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, vice president and deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, reports AFP.

RedBird IMI, a joint venture between US firm RedBird Capital and Abu Dhabi's International Media Investments, struck a £1.2 billion deal with TMG's owners, the Barclay family, in November.

The agreement saw RedBird IMI pay off bank debts in



The announcement sparked an uproar in British media circles and the UK government quickly opened a formal probe into the sale on public-interest grounds. Pic - RFI

exchange for control of the media group.

The announcement sparked an uproar in British media circles and the UK government quickly opened a formal probe into the sale on public-interest grounds.

The takeover plans have also raised concerns among some lawmakers in the ruling Conservative party, which has long enjoyed a close ideological relationship with the right-leaning Telegraph titles.

The Spectator -- once edited by former Tory prime minister and Brexit figurehead Boris Johnson -- is widely considered the "Tory bible".

Its chair Andrew Neil told Sky News the announcement was "a move in the right direction" but said the government came "late to the party", as he had long called for such legislation.

The takeover plans have also led to consternation

among Telegraph staff, who have repeatedly spoken out against it, and press freedom activists who denounce the UAE's record on press censorship.

### Minority interests?

The government spokesperson hinted that the changes were sparked by the proposed takeover of the Telegraph titles.

"We have listened carefully to the arguments made by parliamentarians in recent weeks, and are taking action to explicitly rule out foreign state ownership, influence or control of newspapers and periodical news magazines," the spokesperson said.

The amendment is set to be added for next week's scheduled third and final reading of the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Bill, meaning they could come into force soon.

"We intend that the changes should take immediate effect upon royal assent," said Parkinson, confirming that the ban would not apply to broadcasters.

RedBird IMI is majority-owned by Sheikh Mansour, who is also owner of Manchester City football club.

RedBird IMI is run by former CNN president Jeff Zucker, who has said that Mansour would be a "passive investor" and that the takeover was "American-led".

British media suggested that minority interests in newspapers and magazines by foreign governments might be allowed, leaving the door open for a restructured bid by RedBird that reduces the UAE's stake.

## Israel plans to direct Palestinians out of Rafah ahead of anticipated offensive

The Israeli military said Wednesday it plans to direct a significant portion of the 1.4 million displaced Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip's southernmost town of Rafah toward "humanitarian islands" in the center of the territory ahead of its planned offensive in the area.

The fate of the people in Rafah has been a major area of concern of Israel's allies — including the United States — and humanitarian groups, worried an offensive in the region densely crowded with so many displaced people would be a catastrophe. Rafah is also Gaza's main entry point for desperately needed aid, reports AP.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said a Rafah offensive is crucial to achieve Israel's stated aim of destroying Hamas following the militants' Oct. 7 attack in which about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, were killed and around 250 taken hostage and brought into Gaza. Israel's invasion of Gaza has killed more than 31,000, according to Gaza health officials, left much of the enclave in ruins and displaced some 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million people.

Israel's chief military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said moving those in Rafah to the designated areas, which he said would be done in coordination with international actors, was a key part of the military's preparations for its anticipated invasion of Rafah, where Israel says Hamas maintains four battalions it wants to destroy.

Rafah has swelled in size in the last months as Palestinians in Gaza have fled fighting in nearly every other corner of the territory. The town is covered in tents.

"We need to make sure that 1.4 million people or at least a significant amount of the 1.4 million will move. Where? To humanitarian islands that we will create with the international community," said Hagari.



Palestinians line up for a free meal in Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Pic - CTV News

Hagari said those islands would provide temporary housing, food, water and other necessities to evacuated Palestinians. He did not say when Rafah's evacuation would occur, nor when the Rafah offensive would begin, saying that Israel wanted the timing to be right operationally and to be coordinated with neighboring Egypt, which has said it does not want an influx of displaced Palestinians crossing its border.

At the start of the war, Israel directed evacuees to a slice of undeveloped land along Gaza's Mediterranean coast that it designated as a safe zone. But aid groups said there were no real plans in place to receive large numbers of displaced there. Israeli strikes also targeted the area.

More than 31,270 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and most of its 2.3 million people forced from their homes, Gaza's Health Ministry says. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count, but says women and children make up two-thirds of the dead.

Israel blames the civilian death toll on Hamas because the militants fight in dense, residential areas. The military has said it has killed 13,000 Hamas fighters, without providing evidence.

## Prince Harry in 'panic mode' over threats that his naked photos may be leaked, expert says

It has been revealed that Prince Harry has been "worried for years" about some of his unseen naked pictures that a dominatrix threatened to leak. An expert said the Duke of Sussex is in "panic mode," according to The Mirror.

Carrie Royale said she and Harry met in 2012 when she received an invitation to a suite at the five-star Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas. This is where Harry was pictured naked during a party. The dominatrix recently said she would leak the photos on her OnlyFans account. She was banned from the platform following that. A spokesperson for the site said, "The creator's account has been deactivated and they have been banned from the platform for threatening to share non consensual intimate images."

### 'Harry has been worried for years'

According to royal expert Tom Quinn, Harry considered taking legal action after the threats. "Harry has been worried for years that his past will come back to haunt him and now it has. Threats by the dominatrix from his 2012 Las Vegas trip to release photographs of him naked has sent him into panic mode and he is considering legal action or a pay-off to stop it," Quinn said.

"He is acutely embarrassed about his wild past because that isn't who he is now after the seismic shift — choreographed by Meghan — from right-wing playboy to right-on saviour of the planet and its inhabitants," Quinn added.

One can read about this Las Vegas party in Harry's memoir, Spare. In the book, the Duke wrote that his friends had invited "four or five women who worked at the hotel to join us, along with two women they'd met at the blackjack tables" before the naked photos were taken, reports Hindustan Times.

Photos from the party showed Harry standing while holding his hands in front of his crotch. An unidentified naked woman was seen beside him. Harry was 27 at the time.

\* Contd on page 13

## Vladimir Putin warns the West: Russia is ready for nuclear war

President Vladimir Putin told the West on Wednesday that Russia was technically ready for nuclear war and that if the US sent troops to Ukraine, it would be considered a significant escalation of the conflict.

Putin, speaking ahead of a March 15-17 election which is certain to give him another six years in power, added that the nuclear war scenario was not "rushing" up and he saw no need for the use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

"From a military-technical point of view, we are, of course, ready," Putin, 71, told Rossiya-1 television and news agency RIA when asked whether Russia was really ready for a nuclear war, reports Reuters.

Putin said the US understood that if it deployed American troops on Russian territory - or to Ukraine - Russia would treat the move as an intervention. Moscow claims to have annexed four regions of Ukraine and says they are now fully part of Russia.

"(In the US) there are enough specialists in the field of Russian-American relations and in the field of strategic restraint," said Putin.

"Therefore, I don't think that here everything is rushing to it (nuclear confrontation), but we are ready for this."

The Biden administration has said it has no plans to send troops to Ukraine but has stressed the need to approve a stalled security aid bill that would ensure Ukrainian troops got the weapons they need to continue the war, now in its third year.

It did not immediately respond on Wednesday to a request for comment on Putin's remarks, but the White House has said in the past it has seen no sign that Russia is preparing to use nuclear weapons despite what it calls



President Vladimir Putin. Pic – Daily Express

Putin's "nuclear saber-rattling".

Mykhailo Podolyak, a senior Ukrainian presidential official, told Reuters in a statement he viewed Putin's nuclear warning as propaganda designed to intimidate the West.

"Realising that things are going the wrong way, Putin continues to use classic nuclear rhetoric. With the old Soviet hope - 'be scared and retreat!'," said Podolyak, who said he believed such talk showed Putin was afraid of losing the war.

The Ukraine war has triggered the deepest crisis in Moscow's relations with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. Putin has often warned of the risks of nuclear war but says he has never felt the need to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

### Nuclear doctrine

In a US election year, the West is grappling with how to support Kyiv against Russia, which now controls almost one-fifth of Ukrainian territory and is rearming much faster than the West and Ukraine.

Kyiv says it is defending itself against an imperial-style war of conquest designed to erase its national identity. Putin says he sent tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in Feb. 2022 to bolster Russia's own security against a hostile West.

Putin reiterated the use of nuclear weapons was spelled out in the Kremlin's nuclear doctrine, which sets out the conditions under which it would use such a weapon: broadly a response to an attack using nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction, or the use of conventional weapons against Russia "when the very existence of the state is put under threat".

"Weapons exist in order to use them," Putin said.

Putin's nuclear warning came alongside another offer for talks on Ukraine as part of a new post-Cold War demarcation of European security. The US says Putin is not ready for serious talks over Ukraine.

Reuters reported last month that Putin's suggestion of a ceasefire in Ukraine to freeze the war was rejected by the US after contacts between intermediaries.

US Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns said this week that, without more Western support, Ukraine would lose more territory to Russia which would embolden Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Burns, a former US ambassador to Russia, told the Senate Intelligence Committee it was in US interests to help Kyiv get into a stronger position before talks.

Putin said Russia would need written security guarantees in the event of any settlement.

"I don't trust anyone, but we need guarantees, and guarantees must be spelled out, they must be such that we would be satisfied," Putin said.

## Big relief for Trump as judge McAfee quashes six charges against ex-US President in Georgia election interference case

Fulton County judge on Wednesday dismissed several counts brought against former President Donald Trump and his aides in the Georgia 2020 election interference case.

Trump now faces ten criminal counts in Georgia, rather than thirteen.

Judge Scott McAfee consented to grant defendants' motions to dismiss six counts in the indictment, writing in an order on that: "The Court's concern is less that the State has failed to allege sufficient conduct of the Defendants - in fact, it has alleged an abundance." However, the undersigned believes that a lack of specificity about a crucial legal element is "fatal".

Trump and the other 14 co-accused in the Georgia election interference case are still facing allegations of racketeering and other felonies, reports Hindustan Times.

"As written, these six counts contain all the essential elements of the crimes but fail to allege sufficient detail regarding the nature of their commission, i.e., the underlying felony solicited," the judge wrote, as per Fox News. "They do not give the Defendants enough information to prepare their defenses intelligently, as the Defendants could have violated the Constitutions and thus the statute in



Former US President Donald Trump now faces ten criminal counts in Georgia, rather than thirteen. Pic – ABC News

dozens, if not hundreds, of distinct ways."

Georgia election interference case: All you need to know about charges against Trump

Georgia state law bans any employee of the government from deliberately and intentionally breaking the provisions of his or her oath as required by law. Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis accused Trump and six co-defendants of unlawfully attempting to encourage several state officials to breach their oaths in order to invalidate Georgia's 2020

presidential election.

The indictment alleges that Trump and his then-chief of staff Mark Meadows attempted to persuade Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to nullify the election.

McAfee claimed that the conviction should have included a fundamental felony requested by the defendants, stressing that "a naked charge of solicitation cannot survive unless accompanied by additional elements establishing the solicited felony."

Other than supervising the election racketeering case against Trump, McAfee is hearing charges from a few co-defendants that Willis recruited special counsel Nathan Wade while they were involved in secret relationship and profited financially from his hiring.

McAfee is also reviewing the information provided at the hearing and is anticipated to make the decision whether Willis and her teammates should be excluded from the case within the next two weeks.

At the beginning of the hearings this month, McAfee cleared that disqualification "can occur if evidence is produced demonstrating an actual conflict or the appearance of one."

Trump has pleaded not guilty to all counts and is attempting to postpone any trials until after the presidential election as he is set to face Biden in the 2024 White House race this November.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

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• Men rattle their chains to show that they are free. — Proverb

## Reaching London

By B. Ramlallah

Splendid was the weather upon our arrival at London Airport, where a plane lands approximately every five minutes. To witness people from every corner of the world, one must visit for a fortnight during the summer, and they will be astounded by the diverse influx: individuals of varying colours, races, nationalities, adorned in assorted costumes and conversing in a plethora of languages. The recent expansion of London airport, including the new station and Control Tower, stands as an imposing piece of architecture, annually attracting about a million sightseers. Upon landing, we were graciously welcomed by Mr W. Forsdick of the Colonial Office and Mr H. William Voigt of the COI on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Following swift customs formalities, we were escorted in two grand cars to the new air station.

On the second floor overlooking the airfield, Fortes operates a vast restaurant where all of us, including the other two officials, enjoyed a hearty lunch. Amidst our meal, discussions revolved around our journey and the weather. Sornay and I, on our second visit to London, inevitably shared our impressions of the considerable changes since our last visit. Subsequently, we were chauffeured to our hotel, the Royal Court Hotel in Sloane Square, S.W.I, unaware of any prior arrangements regarding our stay or itinerary.

Contrary to the norm of being transported to the BOAC station by their coach, we were driven directly to our hotel by the Colonial Office car. Delighted to traverse familiar roads, we passed through Osterley, catching a glimpse of the renowned Indian Gymkhana Club, where I first met Mr. Nehru at a garden party hosted by the then Indian High Commissioner, the late BG Kher. Passing through Hammer-smith, memories of the West London Hospital, where I received outpatient treatment, flooded back. Olympia, where I attended at least five exhibitions in 1953, also caught my eye. The mention of West Cromwell Road evoked numerous happy memories, as I had resided near Earls Court for several months. While speeding through the street, I was overcome with emotion, peering out in vain for familiar faces, especially those of Mauritian friends I used to meet in the area. For a fleeting moment, I relived one of the happiest moments of my life; it was overwhelming to return to that place again.

Upon arrival at the hotel, Peter Ibbotson eagerly awaited us, whom I introduced to the other members of the delegation. Accompanying Peter to my room, we were soon joined by a couple of Mauritian friends who seemed privy to our whereabouts. Presenting Ibbotson with a fruit-de-cythere pickle sent by my wife and a bird carved from oxhorn purchased at Sunassee's Tourist Shop, his delight was palpable. Engaging in conversation for over an hour, we eventually dined at the hotel. Fatigued from the journey, I opted to stay in for the evening, noticing the warmth persisting even as night descended. After Peter departed, I gazed out the window to witness thousands of people leisurely strolling the streets, parks, gardens, and squares.

• Let no man think he is loved by any man when he loves no man. — Epictetus

## London – New Impressions

I am writing this on the eve of our departure from London for a tour of Oxford, Birmingham, and Bristol.

These places are new to me. I hasten to write my impressions of London because they are still fresh in my mind; I fear they might be overshadowed by my impressions of the new places.

I do not know how my friend, de Sornay, who is on his second visit to England, feels about London but to me, seeing London for the second time is as thrilling as when I first saw it. Although quite familiar with the place, knowing the names of various squares and buildings, I have a strange feeling that these places are entirely new to me. I seem to both know and not know at the same time!

London has changed a great deal since my last visit in 1953. To start with, London airport itself has been completely transformed. It has been enlarged, and new elegant buildings have been erected. The highways have been improved, and new roads constructed.

Several new towns on the outskirts of London, initiated under the Labour government, have now taken shape. On the bombed sites, huge rectangular-shaped 10 to 15-storey buildings have been erected.

Fruits, vegetables, fish, and meat abound in shops. There are more jobs than there are hands. Several papers devote columns and columns to advertising "Situations Vacant". Throughout London, notices marked "Wanted" hang about lazily. To attract candidates, salaries and conditions are printed in the advertisement columns; this practice was not common formerly.

In 1953, during my seven-month stay, I saw only one coloured man working in an underground station. Now, not only men but colored women too, by the hundreds, are seen on the underground and in the buses. This is a very happy sign. I remember a few years ago when an Indian was employed as a bus driver, the English drivers struck. It is amazing how things have changed. So far, I have not seen any coloured policeman. I don't know whether there are any.

Another very apparent and noteworthy thing is that soot has almost disappeared. The sky is brighter than in 1953. I had to change my collar every day because it got soiled easily.

The Clean Air Act of 1956 came fully into force on 1st June 1958. It made it an offence to cause the emission of dark smoke or to fail to provide industrial premises with equipment to arrest grit and dirt. Smoke from chimneys is treated before it is emitted. One can see clear white smoke coming from these huge chimneys, which used to release black

smoke. Coke is treated with a solution that prevents it from producing black smoke. And so, London now has its smokeless sky. The Conservative Government has firmly imposed the law, although most of the factories belong to Conservatives.

\* \* \*

I don't think England has ever been so prosperous as it is now. There is an abundance of food, and it is rather cheap too. Eggs at 3d to 5d, tomatoes at 8 to 9d.

The amount of food wasted is tremendous. From what I have seen in various restaurants and private homes, the amount of food wasted in London could feed the entire population of Mauritius. People are spending as much as they are earning. The pubs, restaurants, cinemas, theaters, and entertainment centers are packed to capacity. Every day, numerous touring coaches either come to London or leave for the counties with gay holidaymakers. Though the Londoner likes to spend his money, he generally spends it intelligently. The English cherish family life; they will buy an expensive pram for their baby or a washing machine for their wife. Though hundreds of thousands of people drink their pint of beer or ale in the afternoon, I have not seen anybody drunk. One rarely finds such things in London.

During our visit to the Crawley new town development project last week, I was asked what struck me most about the UK. I said that everything was well-planned, whether it was a factory or a function, that the population was the most courteous and cooperative, and that many Englishmen and women work and live for an ideal - whether that ideal is to free the Kikuyus of the Hola Camp or to make all Britain atheist. Their ideals are quite sensible and embody common sense. Being a practical nation, they live and work for the upliftment of their country, and there are thousands who sacrifice themselves for the upliftment of the downtrodden millions of Africa, Asia, and other underdeveloped countries.

The Englishman is a great traditionalist and a hero-worshipper. That does not mean that he burns incense at the feet of the statues of his great men and women or basks in the sun of ancient glory or past achievements. He adores his great men because first, it is part of his mental makeup to be grateful in a fitting way, and secondly, he draws inspiration from the great deeds of his heroes.

\* \* \*

There are at least three categories of

people from the colonial territories who visit London. First, there are the students and workers who come here either to study or to work and have an occasional sightseeing. Then there are the civil servants and other visitors who visit England for a few months and go on a sightseeing spree, visiting chain stores and public institutions. Finally, there are the rare official tours arranged for overseas visitors. These are normally conducted tours. That does not mean that the guests are led by the nose and made to see what institutions the hosts think is fit to be seen. It's then that you can fully understand the genius of the English and the greatness that has gone into making their country.

After having seen the great achievements of this nation, which only a decade ago was shattered by a deadly war, we Mauritians feel like pigmies. The somebody of Mauritius is a nobody here. Besides specialization, which is part and parcel of the British temperament, the average Englishman has vast knowledge of the world. You will be surprised to know how well-versed the top people are in world affairs. Our liaison officer, Mr Bugton, has been in the army in Palestine and in the Civil Service in Malaya. He knows a bit of Hebrew, Arabic, Malay, and Chinese. Two heads of division of the BBC sitting by my side could speak Hindustani fluently. One told me that he used to read *Arya Vir* (a Mauritian paper) regularly. One of our lady chauffeurs has travelled extensively, as a ballet dancer. Her knowledge of Turkey, Assam, Malaya, China, and Japan is amazing.

What makes the greatness of England is that there is continuity in its history. The process of building is steadily continuing. On the accumulated wisdom of hundreds of years, new ideas are added. The edifice is going higher and higher.

Now there is competition next door. Every European country is trying to surpass its neighbour. There is a race for supremacy in all fields. In many sectors, there is a free interchange of ideas and findings. And when we come to see all that, we realize how great is the world, how fast it is moving, how petty personal jealousies and quarrels over trivial things appear. In such an atmosphere, Mauritians quarreling over small foolish things look like kids fighting among themselves as to who should stand at the top of a queue or quarreling for a marble!

B. Ramlallah

# How 'gate' became the syllable of scandal

● Cont. from page 2

## The early years

A year after the Watergate break-in, the humour magazine National Lampoon referenced "Volggate" – a fictitious Russian scandal – in its August 1973 issue. This seems to have been the first use of -gate as a generic label for a political scandal.

A month later, Newsweek characterized a scheme to peddle cheap Bordeaux as "Winegate." Its extension to viticulture suggested that -gate might have a life outside of politics.

But the real popularizer of -gate was William Safire, Nixon's former speechwriter. As a conservative political columnist with The New York Times for over 30 years, Safire created or promoted many such terms. These included Billygate, Lancegate and Briefingate to describe scandals that emerged during Jimmy Carter's presidency. He also popularized Travelgate and White-watergate during the Clinton years.

These episodes didn't rise to the seriousness of Watergate, of course. But by making them into -gates, Safire was implying that Democrats could be just as corrupt as Republicans.

Part from Safire's inventions, few episodes from the 1970s to the 1990s were referred to as -gates. Only about 10% of the terms on Wikipedia's list date from the 20th century. Even major political scandals of the period only occasionally received this epithet.

Consider the Reagan administration's scheme to use Iranian arm sales to fund the Nicaraguan Contras. All the attributes for a Watergate-style comparison were present: illegal activity, conspiracy and an attempted cover-up.

Despite this, The New York Times referred to the episode as "Reagangate" just twice, "Contragate" only 11 times and "Irangate" about 100 times. In contrast, the paper used the phrase "Iran-Contra" nearly 6,000 times in its coverage.

## Opening the 'flood-gates'

In the new millennium, however, -gate became totally unmoored from politics.

It has been employed to describe kerfuffles in almost every field of human endeavour – sports (Astrogate), journalism (Rathergate), technology (Antennagate) and entertainment (Nipplegate).

Already in 2022, hashtags referring to a number of events – such as #slapgate and #lettergate – have trended on Twitter.

For those who value precision in language, this is a problem – because if everything is a scandal, then nothing is.

Consider "Ponytailgate." In 2015, New Zealand's prime minister, over a period of several months, repeatedly tugged on the ponytail of a young café waitress. He persisted despite repeated requests from both the waitress and the prime minister's wife



After Nixon resigned, his former speechwriter, William Safire, deployed 'gate' as a suffix to describe various scandals that engulfed the Democratic Party. Bettmann/Getty Images

that he stop. Such behaviour is boorish at best.

But does it belong in the same category as events involving corruption, a conspiracy, or a cover-up?

## A pleasing sounding suffix

It may be that -gate is used because nothing better has come along. Replacement terms have enjoyed only limited popularity.

The splinter "-ghazi" arose in reference to the 2012 attack on the US diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya. It was occasionally deployed against the Obama administration. For example, when President Obama wore a tan suit to a press conference, "Beigeghazi" was born. But -ghazi probably failed as a suffix for scandal because it was too much of a mouthful.

This can be seen in the 2014 debate over what to call former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's lane closure scandal. Should it be "Bridgeghazi" or "Bridgagate" – or even "Bridgeaquiddick"?

Bridgagate won out – undoubtedly because it was shorter and simpler. Resonance also seems to apply for other scandals: "Deflategate" simply sounds better than "Ballghazi" as a name for the New England Patriots football scandal.

## One size fits all?

Not content with its domination of English, -gate has also wormed its way into other languages, such as German, Serbo-Croatian, Greek and Hungarian.

But like most successful trends, the widespread use of -gate has engendered significant backlash. As with Ponytailgate, many of these coinages fail to differentiate the mundane from the momentous. This invites accusations of journalistic laziness, in which events are merely lumped together rather than analyzed.

In addition, overuse has transformed -gate constructions from the somewhat clever coinages of Safire's day into the tired clichés of today. It can also be difficult to tell when a -gate construction is in-tended ironically, which makes interpretation difficult.

Finally, sometimes shorthand is just too short. "Reagangate" may have failed as a label for Iran-Contra because it wasn't specific enough. The term could have referred to any of several different episodes during Reagan's eight-year administration.

At the other extreme, the same -gate has been applied to very different controversies. "Sharpigate" referred to Terrell Owens' signing of a football in 2002. But it was also trotted out for President Donald Trump's edit of a map of Hurricane Dorian's path in 2019. And in

2020, it became associated with allegations of ballot fixing in Arizona.

But even half a century later, -gate is still finding gainful employment in politics. It was used, for example, to tag several Trump scandals, from Russiagate to Ukrainegate. And President Joe Biden has had to contend with Kabulgate and #formulagate.

No president has resigned since Nixon, arguably in the face of worse scandals than Watergate.

As with the wear and tear on an over-used suffix, one has to wonder: Have voters become numb to political scandal, too?

**Roger J. Kreuz**

Associate Dean and Professor of Psychology,  
University of Memphis

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Thank you so much.  
Mauritius Times

# Le scandale de la photo de Kate Middleton

*Manipulation numérique et intelligence artificielle: risques évidents pour les personnalités publiques*

**L**e 10 mars, pour célébrer la fête des mères au Royaume-Uni, le Palais de Kensington a partagé une photo de Kate Middleton, la princesse de Galles, avec ses trois enfants. C'était la première photographie de Kate depuis décembre et a été largement relayée par les médias d'information.

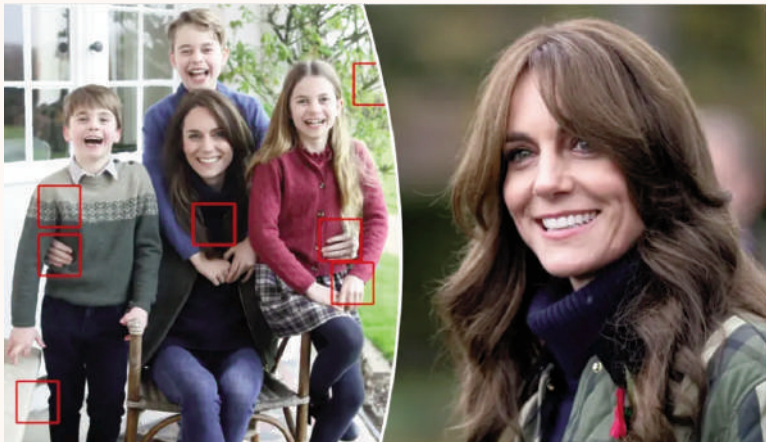
Kate Middleton n'avait pas été vue lors d'un événement public depuis le jour de Noël, et à la mi-janvier, il avait été annoncé qu'elle avait subi une intervention chirurgicale planifiée. Il existe un précédent visuel considérable de photographies et de vidéos prises de membres de la famille royale après des procédures médicales ou des événements. Cependant, le manque distinct de photos dans ce cas a laissé les médias et le public combler les lacunes d'informations avec leurs propres commentaires et théories du complot.

Le timing de la photographie suggérait qu'elle avait été prise pour mettre fin à toutes les rumeurs et discussions sur Kate. Très rapidement cependant, les utilisateurs des médias sociaux ont commencé à effectuer des analyses numériques de la photo, remettant en question tout, des feuillages représentés aux vêtements, en passant par le montage évident et amateur. La controverse a été encore alimentée par le refus du Palais de Kensington de publier la version non éditée de la photo.

Quelques heures seulement après la publication de la photo, l'Associated Press a publié un "ordre d'annulation", indiquant "qu'il semble que la source ait manipulé l'image. Aucune photo de remplacement ne sera envoyée." De nombreux autres organismes de presse et agences de photos ont rapidement suivi, retirant et supprimant l'image.

En réponse à l'incident, une déclaration attribuée à Kate a été publiée le lendemain, où elle a admis "expérimenter occasionnellement avec l'édition" et a présenté ses excuses pour toute confusion que la photographie pourrait avoir causé.

L'image de famille manipulée a déclenché de vifs débats sur l'éthique de la manipulation photographique. Il est courant que les gens publient des images retouchées sans beaucoup de réflexion. Cependant, lorsque cela est fait par



Le Palais de Kensington n'est plus digne de confiance après le fiasco impliquant Kate Middleton, selon l'agence de presse AFP - New York Post

un membre de la famille royale britannique, cela déclenche des théories du complot. Certains téléspectateurs ont soulevé des questions sur l'absence du prince William de la photo, alimentant ainsi des rumeurs de discordes matrimoniales potentielles au sein de la famille royale. D'autres ont examiné l'image dans le contexte de la récente chirurgie abdominale de la princesse, suggérant que la retouche pourrait être une tentative de dissimuler un processus de récupération moins que parfait aux yeux du public.

Bien que de telles théories puissent sembler farfelues pour beaucoup, elles soulignent le niveau de vigilance et de scepticisme accru auquel sont confrontées des personnalités publiques comme la princesse Kate Middleton à l'ère de la manipulation numérique et de l'intelligence artificielle.

Dans le monde hyperconnecté d'aujourd'hui, les anomalies échappent rarement au regard avisé des internautes. Bien que l'image de Middleton ne semble pas avoir été éditée avec une intelligence artificielle, la prolifération des outils d'édition basés sur l'IA a engendré une montée parallèle des techniques d'analyse et des communautés en ligne dédiées à la détection des médias manipulés. Comme le démontre l'image de Middleton, même les photos les plus méticuleusement retouchées sont susceptibles d'être détectées par ceux qui savent identifier les signes révéla-

teurs d'une intervention artificielle.

## République de Maurice: Manipulation de photos et de vidéos des adversaires politiques

La manipulation de photos, qu'elle concerne la famille royale ou les adversaires politiques, représente un risque sérieux pour l'intégrité de l'information et de la démocratie. Dans le cas de la famille royale, les images manipulées peuvent non seulement induire en erreur le public, mais aussi ternir la réputation des membres de la famille et semer la méfiance à l'égard des institutions monarchiques.

La manipulation de photos et de vidéos peut être utilisée comme une arme de désinformation pour discréditer les leaders politiques, influencer l'opinion publique et même détourner le cours des élections. En diffusant des images truquées, les acteurs politiques malveillants cherchent à semer la confusion, à diviser les électeurs et à saper la confiance dans le processus démocratique.

Ainsi, il est crucial de reconnaître les risques associés à la manipulation de photographies et de vidéos des adversaires politiques, surtout à l'approche des prochaines élections générales à Maurice, qui s'annoncent difficiles et marquées par une lutte acharnée. Dans ce climat politique tendu, il existe un réel danger que des images et des vidéos manipulées soient utilisées pour ternir la réputation des dirigeants politiques et influencer le comportement électoral des citoyens.

Il est donc essentiel que le public et les médias restent vigilants face à de telles manipulations. Il est impératif de vérifier la source et l'authenticité des images avant de les partager ou de les diffuser, et de faire preuve de discernement dans l'évaluation de l'information politique. De plus, les autorités et les organismes de réglementation doivent prendre des mesures pour lutter contre la diffusion de fausses informations et garantir la transparence et l'intégrité des processus électoraux.

A. Bartleby

## YOUR STARS

### SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

Adventure awaits, Sagittarius! This week is perfect for exploring new horizons and expanding your knowledge. Your optimism is contagious, so share it with others. Be mindful of your responsibilities, especially in your personal relationships. A spontaneous decision could lead to positive outcomes.

**Lucky Numbers:** 9, 17, 23, 30, 35, 39

### CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Capricorn, focus on your foundations this week. Attend to family matters and create a stable home environment. Professionally, your hard work pays off, leading to recognition. Finances are stable but avoid unnecessary risks. Cultivate patience in personal relationships and nurture the bonds that matter most.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 11, 18, 25, 32, 38

### AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

Aquarians, communication is vital this week. Express your thoughts clearly and be open to feedback.

Collaborative projects will thrive, so embrace teamwork. Financial matters may require attention, so be prudent with your resources. Balance your social life with moments of solitude for reflection.

**Lucky Numbers:** 7, 14, 20, 26, 33, 39

### PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Pisces, tap into your creative energy this week. Pursue artistic endeavours and let your imagination flow.

Financial gains are possible but be mindful of spending. Trust your intuition in personal relationships and be open to deepening emotional connections. Take time for self-care to maintain balance.facebook.com.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 12, 19, 27, 34, 40

### ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

This week, Aries, you're in for a burst of energy and confidence. The stars are aligning to push you towards new opportunities and challenges. Embrace the enthusiasm but remember to balance it with patience. Your social life will be lively, so make time for friends and family. Trust your instincts and don't hesitate to take the lead when needed.

**Lucky Numbers:** 7, 14, 21, 25, 31, 38

### TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Taurus, focus on your goals this week. It's a period of hard work paying off, and you may see the results of your efforts. Financial matters may need attention, so be prudent with your resources. Take a moment for self-reflection and consider any adjustments in your long-term plans. Remember, slow and steady

wins the race.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 11, 18, 24, 32, 39

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Communication is key for Geminis this week. Express yourself clearly and listen attentively to others. Your creative energy is flowing, so channel it into projects that excite you. If conflicts arise, address them with diplomacy and understanding. A short trip or change of scenery could bring fresh perspectives.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 15, 22, 27, 34, 40

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Cancer, emotions may run high this week. Focus on nurturing yourself and your relationships. Take time for self-care, and don't be afraid to share your feelings with loved ones. Professionally, be open to collaboration and new ideas. A positive mindset will help you navigate any challenges that come your way.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 12, 19, 26, 33, 38

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

This week, Leos may find themselves in the spotlight. Your charisma is magnetic, drawing people towards you. Use this energy to pursue personal and professional goals. Financial opportunities may arise, so stay vigilant. Remember to balance ambition with humility and gratitude for the support you receive.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 16, 23, 29, 35, 40

### VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Virgos, focus on your well-being this week. Pay attention to your physical and mental health and make necessary adjustments to your routine. Your analytical skills will be an asset in problem-solving, both at work and in personal matters. Embrace change and be open to new experiences.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 13, 20, 28, 36, 3

### LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Balance is the key for Libras this week. Strive for harmony in your relationships and work on finding equilibrium in various aspects of your life. Career opportunities may come your way, so be ready to seize them. Take time for introspection and connect with your inner self.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 10, 17, 24, 31, 38

### SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

Scorpios, your intuition is heightened this week. Trust your instincts and pay attention to subtle cues in your personal and professional life. Financial decisions should be made carefully. Embrace your passionate side and don't shy away from expressing your desires. Deep connections with others will be rewarding.

**Lucky Numbers:** 8, 15, 21, 27, 33, 35



## Misinformation and Irresponsible AI: Experts forecast technology's impact on our near future

**M**isinformation and invisible cyber attacks, coupled with the potential harm of irresponsible AI, are among the forecasted impacts of rapid technological changes by 2040, according to expert futurists. As computer technology advances and systems become more interconnected, understanding these potential outcomes is crucial for mitigating risks and preventing negative consequences.

Conducting a Delphi study, a team of cyber security researchers at Lancaster University interviewed 12 experts, including chief technology officers, consultant futurists, a technology journalist, and academic researchers. The experts discussed how specific technologies might evolve and shape the world over the next 15 years, the risks they pose, and potential solutions to address emerging challenges.

The majority of experts anticipated exponential growth in Artificial Intelligence (AI) by 2040. Concerns were raised about the possibility of cutting corners in AI development, potentially driven by nation states seeking a competitive advantage. Some experts even speculated that poorly implemented AI could lead to incidents resulting in multiple deaths, though not all experts shared this view.

Dr Charles Weir, lead researcher and Lecturer at Lancaster University's School of Computing and Communications, highlighted the staggering magnitude



of risks identified by some experts. While acknowledging the benefits of technological advances, the study emphasizes the need to forecast and address potential risks on the horizon.

Anticipating that technological developments would make it easier for misinformation to spread, the experts warned of challenges in distinguishing truth from fiction by 2040, posing potential threats to democracies.

The experts' forecasts included:

- By 2040, competition between nation states and big tech companies may lead to corners being cut in the development of safe AI.
- Quantum computing is expected to have limited impact by 2040.
- Ownership of public web assets will be identified and

traded through digital tokens by 2040.

- Distinguishing truth from fiction will be harder by 2040 due to widely accessible AI generating doubtful content.
- The decentralization and complexity of systems will make it less possible to distinguish accidents from criminal incidents by 2040.

To address these concerns, experts suggested potential solutions such as governments introducing AI purchasing safety principles and enacting new laws to regulate AI safety. Universities were also recommended to play a vital role by offering courses that combine technical skills with legislation. The study aims to assist policymakers and technology professionals in making informed decisions about the development and deployment of novel computing technologies.



## Why do trees need sunlight? An environmental scientist explains photosynthesis

*Trees – and all plants – harvest sunlight to gain the energy they need to live and grow.*

**T**rees need sunlight for the same reason you need food. The energy from the Sun's rays is a crucial ingredient in how plants make their own food that helps them power all their cells. Since trees don't harvest or hunt food, they have to produce their own. The way they make their food is a unique and important chemical process called photosynthesis.

### What is photosynthesis?

The cells in plants and all other living things have microscopic components called organelles. One type of organelle in plant cells is the chloroplast, and it contains the pigment chlorophyll, which is what makes leaves green. When chlorophyll receives sunlight, it starts the photosynthesis reaction.

The name photosynthesis comes from the ancient Greek words "photo," which means light, and "synthesis," which means to make. During this food-making process, plants take carbon dioxide from the air and water from the ground, and with the energy from sunlight, make glucose. Glucose is a very simple type of sugar. Because it is a simple compound, it is simple to make.

Most of the time, photosynthesis occurs in leaves, and leaves take in sunlight to make food. There are some special plants, though, that actually absorb sunlight on their stems. Some of these include cactuses like the balloon-shaped golden barrel cactus, the spiky Munz's Cholla and



The reason trees need sunlight is the same reason their leaves are green. Scottb211/Flickr, CC BY

the paddle-shaped prickly pear. Some plants even have roots that can photosynthesize, like the rare palm *Cryosophila albida*.

### Photosynthesis is billions of years old

Photosynthesis evolved more than 3.5 billion years ago. Initially, only single-celled organisms, kind of like today's algae, could make sugar this way. Oxygen is a waste product from the photosynthesis process, and over time, these single-celled organisms released enough oxygen to change the Earth's atmosphere. Ultimately, we and all other animals needed this to happen to be able to live and breathe.

Over time, aquatic plants developed, and gradually plants moved to land around

500 million years ago to better access their most vital resource: sunlight. Plants eventually got taller by around 350 million years ago. This is when the first tree evolved, which grew up to 150 feet tall. These trees looked like the evergreen trees we see today – sort of like pines, firs and spruce. And about 125 million years ago, trees that looked like the maples, oaks and beech trees we see today shared the landscape when dinosaurs ruled the Earth.

### Not just good for plants

The Sun provides energy for the Earth. However, we humans are not capable of taking in the sun directly and using it to power our bodies. So how do we make use of the Sun's energy? Plants do it for us.

Plants take in that energy and make food for us and other animals to eat and oxygen for us to breathe. We wouldn't exist without plants and photosynthesis.

Like the ancient tiny single-celled organisms from 3.5 billion years ago, some microorganisms today use photosynthesis. Specifically, the algae that you might see living on top of lakes and the ocean do. Chlorophyll is why algae is green.

There are aquatic plants that use sunlight to grow. They typically make use of less sunlight because sunlight does not travel well through water.

In addition, there are a very few animals that can photosynthesize. The pea aphid uses pigment to harvest sunlight to make energy. The Oriental hornet uses a pigment in its exoskeleton to make energy from sunlight. The emerald-green sea slug eats algae and then incorporates chlorophyll from the algae into its body to photosynthesize. Because of this strategy, the sea slug can go nine months without eating.

So the answer to this question – why do trees need sunlight – is to make their food. And thanks to trees and other plants turning sunlight into their food, most of the rest of the living things on Earth get to eat, too!

**Rebekah Stein**

Assistant Professor of Environmental Science,  
Quinnipiac University



## No seat on train

A tired US army veteran is looking for a seat on a busy British train.

He can't find a seat so he walks up to a British lady and asked, "Ma'am may I use your seat?"

The British lady responded with "Can't you see my puppy is sitting here? How rude are you Americans are!"

The army man and walks off and tries to find another seat after a couple of minutes of searching he walks back up to the lady and says, "Please, ma'am, may I have your seat. I am very tired."

The woman says: "How inconsiderate of you to ask me again."

The man then calmly walks up and throws the dog out of the train window and sits down. The woman starts screaming and demanding that the man be punished. Her husband walks up and says, "You Americans are doing everything wrong. You drive on the wrong side of the road. You use the wrong utensils to eat, and now you've thrown the wrong dog out of the window."

\* \* \*

### Converting a Bear

Every Monday, a rabbi, a priest, and a preacher gather in a coffee shop to discuss their spiritual lives. During one of these meetings, the priest challenges the others to a unique bet: he believes he can convert a bear in the woods to his religion.

The others are intrigued and accept the challenge, agreeing to share their experiences at their next meeting.

The following week, they all meet in the hospital, each in varying degrees of injury. They decide to convene in the rabbi's hospital room.

### The Priest's Tale

The priest, with his arm in a sling, recounts his encounter first.

"Yeah, it was tough at first, but I was able to dash it with some holy water. The next thing I know, it started saying Hail Mary. He's coming to mass this Sunday."

The others nod in approval.

### The Preacher's Encounter

Next, the preacher. The preacher is in bad shape. He's in a wheelchair, and he has a concussion, a broken leg, and a broken arm.

He says: "Well, when I finally happened upon it, I wrestled that thing to the ground and started beating its head. So, he lunges at me and we tumble down this hill into the river where I dunked him seven times. Finally, he came to the faith. He'll be coming to church next Sunday."

### The Rabbi's Experience

Finally, they turn to the rabbi. The rabbi looks like he got the worst of it. He's in a body cast and there's no way he's getting out of bed any time soon.

He looks at both men and says "Well, I probably should've started with something different than circumcision...."

\* \* \*

### Leap day jokes make every Feb 29 memorable

Trying to figure out why 2024 will be longer than 2023...

But so far, nothing leaps to mind.

What's a great thing about leap-year jokes?

That you only hear them repeated every 4 years.



What do you call a frog born on February 29?

A leapfrog

What do lawyers do on leap day?

They jump to conclusions.

What do athletes wear during a Leap Year?

Jumpsuits.

Birthdays are good for your health.

Studies have shown that people with more birthdays live longer.

RIP people born on the 29th of February.

Are you gonna buy into an annual subscription of any kind?

Do it on February 29, you might get it free for the next four years based on poor code!

Happy 2025 to all.

Remember we must skip 2024 — it's a leap year.

What kind of music do you listen to on Leap Day?

Hip Hop

How did the leap year party go?

It was jumping all night long!

Why did the calendar feel unbalanced during leap years?

Because it had an extra day to juggle!

Why don't lions like Leap Day?

Because they are always jumping through hoops.

I'm going to get married on February 29th, so I only have to remember our anniversary once every 4 years.

Why was February so popular with the other months?

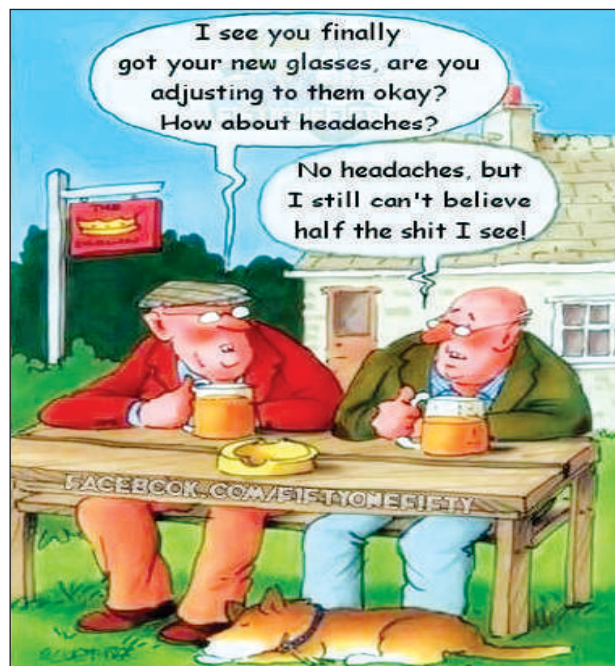
Because it brought an extra day of fun to the party!

Why don't we ever plan important events on February 29th?

Because it's too risky to take a leap of faith!

\* \* \*

A wife questioned her husband one day: "What excites you more, my pretty face or my body?"



The husband replied, "Your sense of humour."

Why do men usually die before their wives?

Because they want to.

My wife spends a lot of time on eBay; however, I still haven't had a single bid for her.

My wife told me she required more space, so I extended the kitchen.

My wife dresses to kill. Coincidentally, she also cooks the same way.

A woman asked her husband to tell her something that would make her happy and sad at the same time.

He replied, "I enjoy more when I sleep with you than with your friend."

\* \* \*

Confucius says... "Man who stands in front of car gets tired, man who stands behind car gets exhausted."

\* \* \*

### Husband Calling

Mick's wife was furiously humping away with her husband's best mate, Peter, when suddenly the phone rang. She hopped out of bed and returned to the sweaty sheet after a brief conversation.

"Who was it?" the backstabbing buddy asked.

"Oh, that was Mick," she replied calmly.

"Oh crap, I'd better be going then!" he said. "Did Mick say where he was?"

"Relax -- he's down at the pub playing a few games of pool with you."

\* \* \*

### Son of a lawyer...

While two families were waiting in line to see the Washington Monument, their two 5-year-old boys were getting acquainted.

"My name is Joshua. What's yours?" asked the first boy.

"Adam," replied the second.

"My daddy is a doctor. What does your daddy do for a living?" asked Joshua.

Adam proudly replied, "My daddy is a lawyer."

"Honest?" asked Joshua.

"No, just the regular kind," replied Adam.

\* \* \*

### An old man was sitting on a bench...

An old man was sitting on a bench in the mall when a young man with spiked hair came over and sat down beside him. The boy's hair was bright yellow and green with orange tips, and he had blue makeup around his eyes. The old man kept looking at him.

The boy said, "What's the matter, old man, haven't you ever done anything wild in your life?"

The old man answered, "Well yes, actually, I have. I got drunk once and had sex with a parrot. I was just wondering if you were my son."

## LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION NOTICE FOR PERMISSION FOR LAND USE

Take notice that I, **Mary Anne Rachel Mirbelle** will apply to the District Council of Grand Port for a Building and Land Use Permit for a proposed Construction of a Le Petit Bambou Pre-Primary School at Lot 257, Morcellement Le Mahé, Beau Vallon.

Any objection against the proposed development should be made in writing to the above-mentioned District Council with a delay of 5/15 days as from date of display.

15 March 2024

## Unveiling the Wisdom of "The Prophet" By Khalil Gibran

**D**elving into the pages of Khalil Gibran's timeless masterpiece, "The Prophet," one uncovers a wealth of profound lessons that resonate across generations. These insights, presented in lyrical prose, touch upon the intricate threads of life, love, and existence. Let's explore some of the remarkable teachings from this literary treasure that invite readers to reflect, question, and embark on a transformative journey.

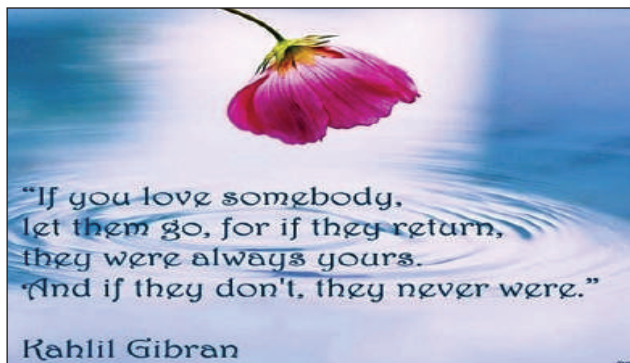
\* Love is a tapestry woven with joy and sorrow: Prepare to have your heartstrings tugged. Gibran paints love in all its vibrant shades, from the ecstatic joy of finding your soulmate to the soul-crushing pain of loss. Yet, he doesn't shy away from the truth – within love's embrace lie both light and shadow.

\* Work is an act of love: Have you ever felt drained by your daily grind? Gibran offers a fresh perspective. He reminds us that work, when approached with passion and purpose, becomes a form of self-expression, an act of love not just for ourselves but for the world around us.

\* Children are whispers of the future: This book is not just for adults. Gibran's words on children hold a unique wisdom. He encourages us to nurture their curiosity, respect their individuality, and see them as the seeds of a future brimming with possibilities.

\* Death is not an ending but a transformation: Often, death feels like a cruel curtain call. Gibran, however, offers a comforting perspective. He portrays death as a natural progression, a transition to a different plane of existence, a stage in life's grand journey.

\* Pain is a teacher: Sometimes, life throws stones our way. But Gibran reminds us that these experiences, however painful, are not meant to break us. Instead, they



are teachers, shaping us, refining our understanding of ourselves and the world.

\* Seeking truth is a lifelong quest: This book won't give you definitive answers. Instead, it invites you on a personal journey of exploration. Gibran encourages you to question, to delve deep into your own understanding of life, love, and everything in between.

\* Embrace the mystery: Life is an unfolding tapestry, woven with threads of the known and the unknown. Gibran celebrates this very mystery. He reminds us that not everything needs to be understood for us to appreciate the beauty and wonder of existence.

### Thoughts to Live by

#### If I die before my dog

If I die before my dog, let him see my body.

He understands death, if he feels my death, he can cry for me.

If he doesn't see me again, he will think I abandoned him, and he will continue waiting for my return.

If I die before my companion, let him say goodbye to me.

"Dogs are an endless friendship, a most loyal friend, a part of life and a reason to exist!"

*Author: unknown*

### Thoughts to Live by You start dying slowly

If you do not travel,  
If you do not read,  
If you do not listen to the sounds of life,  
If you do not appreciate yourself.

You start dying slowly :  
When you kill your self-esteem,  
When you do not let others help you.

You start dying slowly;  
If you become a slave of your habits,  
Walking every day on the same paths...  
If you do not change your routine,  
If you do not wear different colours  
Or you do not speak to those you don't know.

You start dying slowly:  
If you avoid feeling passion  
And their turbulent emotions.  
Those which make your eyes glisten.  
And your heartbeat fast.

You start dying slowly:  
If you do not risk what is safe for the uncertain  
If you do not go after a dream  
If you do not allow yourself  
At least once in your lifetime  
To run away from sensible advice

Don't let yourself die slowly.  
Do not forget to be happy!

**By Pablo Neruda**

Chilean poet who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1971

## Financial Empowerment

### Smart Women Finish Rich, Expanded and Updated

**T**he following 15 lessons from "Smart Women Finish Rich, Expanded and Updated" by David Bach provide a solid foundation for women to build financial security and achieve their financial goals. By implementing these strategies, women can take charge of their financial destiny and create a brighter future for themselves and their families.

**Take control of your finances** - The book underscores the importance for women to take ownership of their financial destiny. This involves understanding personal finance basics, setting financial goals, and actively managing investments.

**Start early and invest regularly** - Highlighting the power of compound interest, the book encourages women to commence investing early and consistently contribute to their retirement accounts.

**Pay off debt** - High-interest debt poses a significant obstacle to financial security. The book advises women to prioritize paying off debt to free up resources for investing and other financial



goals.

**Diversify your investments** - Avoid putting all your eggs in one basket. The book recommends diversifying investments across different asset classes to minimize risk and maximize returns.

**Live below your means** - Crucial for building wealth, spending less than you earn is emphasized. The book teaches effective budgeting and avoiding lifestyle inflation.

**Develop multiple income streams** -

Relying on a single income source can be risky. Women should explore multiple income streams, such as starting a side hustle or investing in income-generating assets.

**Protect yourself with insurance** - Financial security in unforeseen events is provided by insurance. The book recommends having adequate life, health, and disability insurance.

**Learn about and embrace risk** - Avoiding risk entirely can hinder financial growth. Women are encouraged to learn about risk management and make informed investment decisions based on individual risk tolerance.

**Seek professional advice** - Financial advisors offer valuable guidance and help develop personalized financial plans. The book encourages seeking professional advice, especially for complex financial matters.

**Believe in yourself and your ability to achieve financial goals** - Financial empowerment begins with a positive mindset. The book urges women to believe in their abilities and take action

towards achieving their financial goals.

**Invest in yourself** - Crucial for career advancement, education, and skill development are emphasized. Women should invest in themselves through education, training, and personal development.

**Be smart about money and relationships** - Addressing financial challenges in relationships, the book provides guidance on managing money effectively as a couple.

**Plan for retirement** - The book emphasizes the importance of planning for retirement and creating a sustainable income stream for later years.

**Teach your kids about money** - Financial literacy is crucial for future success. Women are encouraged to teach their children about money management and responsible financial habits from a young age.

**Give back and make a difference** - Financial success shouldn't solely focus on personal gain. The book encourages women to use their wealth to give back to communities and make a positive impact on the world.

## Being Mum & Dad

### Raising exceptional children: Expert insights for parental guidance



Parents regularly worry about how their children will navigate the world as adults. Will they grow up to be happy and well-adjusted? Will they get a good job and live comfortably?

Every child is different, and everyone develops at their own pace. But some strategies are proven to be more effective than others, when it comes to raising successful children.

Here are five ways parents can help set their kids up for future success, according to psychologists and other parenting experts, as reported by Tom Huddleston Jr of CNBC.

**Prioritize Self-Confidence:** While self-esteem is important, fostering self-confidence is paramount. Unlike self-esteem, which reflects overall self-perception, self-confidence relates to belief in one's abilities in specific situations. Encourage your child's confidence by allowing them space to experience both success and failure autonomously. This approach cultivates resilience and a belief in their capacity to overcome challenges.

**Cultivate Self-Control:** The ability to manage distractions and regulate emotions significantly influences future success. Introduce the concept of self-control early, integrating it into daily activities and play. By teaching children to allocate time wisely and focus on essential tasks, parents equip them with a crucial skill for navigating the complexities of the modern world.

**Empower with Autonomy:** Granting children autonomy in decision-making fosters self-motivation—a key trait for success. Establish expectations collaboratively, allowing children to take ownership of tasks such as school preparations and chores. Implementing strategies like "effort pacts" reinforces self-discipline while nurturing independence.

**Embrace Imperfection:** Avoid pressuring children for perfection, as it stifles growth and undermines confidence. Instead, create an environment where mistakes are viewed as opportunities for learning and personal development. Encourage perseverance and resilience by celebrating effort and resilience over flawless outcomes.

**Instil Financial Literacy:** Equip children with essential financial skills early on, including earning, saving, and spending wisely. Given the lack of formal education in financial literacy, parents play a crucial role in shaping their children's financial habits. Introduce practical lessons on money management and savings, emphasizing its role as a tool for achieving life goals rather than an end in itself.

By implementing these expert-endorsed strategies, parents can lay a solid foundation for their children's future success. Nurturing self-confidence, self-control, autonomy, resilience, and financial literacy equips children with the essential skills and mindset to thrive in an ever-changing world.



## Better Health

### Understanding prediabetes: Ayurvedic tips to overcome this condition

In some cases, individuals may receive advice to adjust their lifestyle practices, even if not diagnosed with diabetes, due to abnormal or elevated blood sugar levels. Such individuals are often categorized as prediabetic, with a heightened risk of developing diabetes type 2 or heart diseases. Here's a closer look at prediabetes, its symptoms, and some Ayurvedic tips for management:

**What is Prediabetes?** Prediabetes is part of the metabolic syndrome, characterized by elevated blood sugar levels not high enough for a diabetes mellitus diagnosis. While it may not exhibit obvious symptoms, prediabetes is associated with factors like obesity, dyslipidemia, and hypertension.

• Symptoms include increased thirst, frequent urination (especially at night), slow wound healing, and fatigue in some cases.

**Causes and Management:** Ayurvedic Tips Prediabetes often occurs in obese and inactive individuals. Factors such as impaired pancreatic insulin secretion or cell resistance to insulin can contribute to elevated sugar levels. Ayurvedic practices can complement lifestyle changes for effective management:

• **Turmeric and Indian Gooseberries (Amla):** A mixture of turmeric and amla powder or turmeric in amla juice can help prevent insulin resistance and regulate

glucose pathways, offering protection against various health issues.

• **Fenugreek Seeds:** For mild type 2 diabetes, fenugreek seeds have shown effectiveness in managing blood sugar levels and reducing insulin resistance.

• **Dietary Changes:** Avoid excessive consumption of junk food, fried meals, sugary treats, and processed foods. Opt for low-glycemic-index and low-glycemic-load vegetables, fruits, low-fat dairy, and legumes. Prioritize whole grains over refined options.

• **Exercise:** Maintain a healthy weight through yoga and exercise to burn calories, helping manage and normalize blood sugar levels.

By incorporating these Ayurvedic practices alongside lifestyle changes, individuals with prediabetes can minimize complications and reduce the risk of developing diabetes in the future.

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## Personal Care

### 6 Tips to Reduce Body Odor

Ever wondered how to bid farewell to body odor? Here are six tips to keep unpleasant smells at bay:

1. **Keep Yourself Squeaky Clean:** Shower at least once a day to wash away sweat and bacteria on your skin, especially in areas prone to sweating.

2. **Use Antibacterial Soap:** Choose an antibacterial soap to eliminate bacteria and combat odor. Look for the "antibacterial" label on the soap packaging.

3. **Towel Off Well:** Dry yourself thoroughly, paying extra attention to areas where you sweat heavily. Dry skin inhibits bacterial growth.



4. **Use 'Industrial Strength' Antiperspirants:** Apply a strong antiperspirant with aluminum chloride on your underarms twice a day to minimize sweat. Look for higher-strength options if needed.

5. **Keep Your Clothes Clean:** Change clothes frequently, especially when sweating heavily. Fresh clothes help reduce body odor. Address foot odor by changing socks, using deodorant powders, and replacing insoles regularly.

6. **Cut Out or Cut Back on Certain Foods or Drinks:** Foods like hot peppers or spicy foods, as well as aromatic foods like onions or garlic, can contribute to body odor. Reduce consumption of caffeine or alcohol, as they may increase sweating.

Stephanie S. Gardner,  
WebMD Medical

## From Alia Bhatt, Amitabh Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

# Bollywood stars who made it big in Hollywood

The success of the Telugu-language film *RRR* (2022), helmed by S.S. Rajamouli and starring N.T. Rama Rao Jr and Ram Charan, during the Hollywood awards season in 2022-2023, put a global spotlight on the Indian film industry, which produces films in multiple languages each year.

While Indian stars have been making a mark in the West for decades, and have been seamlessly transitioning between industries, they also have been breaking stereotypes and expanding the global influence of Indian cinema. Not limited to film, Indian voices are increasingly prominent in TV shows, streaming projects and various creative endeavours, leaving an indelible mark in the global entertainment space with their diverse roles. A report by South China Morning Post...

### 1. Priyanka Chopra Jonas

Referred to as "desi girl" (a South Asian woman who embraces her culture), Priyanka Chopra Jonas has successfully bridged a career between Bollywood and Hollywood. Acclaimed for her remarkable performances in Indian films, she pursued a career in the West through music before gaining widespread fame for her role as Alex Parrish in the American crime drama series *Quantico* (2015-18). In Hollywood, the actress portrayed the role of an antagonist in the 2017 film *Baywatch*, and later starred in *A Kid Like Jake* (2018) alongside Claire Danes and Jim Parsons.

Following a supporting role in the 2019 romantic comedy *Isn't It Romantic*, she joined the cast of *The Matrix Resurrections* (2021), led by Keanu Reeves. Her recent endeavours include starring roles in the Russo Brothers spy thriller series *Citadel* (2023 onwards) alongside Richard Madden, and the romantic comedy *Love Again* (2023) with Sam Heughan. Chopra Jonas continues her reign in Hollywood, with upcoming projects such as *Heads of State*, also starring Idris Elba and John Cena, and *Ending Things* with Anthony Mackie.

### 2. Deepika Padukone

Deepika Padukone made her stunning debut in the Hindi film industry in 2008 with *Om Shanti Om*, starring opposite Indian superstar Shah Rukh Khan. With an impressive 17-year career, she is one of the most popular leading stars in India.

In 2017, the actress stepped into Hollywood with a leading role in Vin Diesel's *xXx: Return of Xander Cage*. The third instalment in the *xXx* franchise, directed by D.J. Caruso, the film features an ensemble cast, including Donnie Yen, Ruby Rose, Tony Jaa, Nina Dobrev, Toni Collette and Samuel L. Jackson. Although she hasn't announced any new Hollywood projects, Padukone remains a prominent figure at international events and on

red carpets, and is a favourite with global brands.

### 3. Alia Bhatt

In just 11 years, Alia Bhatt has become one of the top female stars in India, captivating audiences with her versatility and critically acclaimed performances. She has gained recognition for her emotionally charged roles in films like *Highway* (2014), *Udta Punjab* (2016), *Dear Zindagi* (2016), *Gully Boy* (2019), *Darlings* (2022) and *Gangubai Kathiawadi* (2022).

Recently, she made her Hollywood debut in *Heart of Stone* (2023) on Netflix, sharing the screen with Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan in a film directed by Tom Harper. In 2021, Bhatt signed with the international talent agency WME.



### 4. Shabana Azmi

Shabana Azmi's international ventures have included roles in John Schlesinger's *Madame Sousatzka* (1988), Roland Joffé's *City of Joy* (1992), Blake Edwards' *Son of the Pink Panther* (1993), and Deepa Mehta's *Fire* (1996).

She has also appeared in Gurinder Chadha's *It's a Wonderful Afterlife* (2010), Deepa Mehta's *Midnight's Children* (2012) and Kavi Raz's *The Black Prince* (2017). More recently, Azmi showcased her talent in the Paramount+ Steven Spielberg series *Halo* (2022 onwards) and Shekhar Kapur's *What's Love Got to Do With It?* (2022).

### 5. Anupam Kher

Anupam Kher, a prominent veteran actor in Indian cinema with a career spanning four decades, has appeared in over 540 films. Beyond India, he made a mark in Hollywood with Gurinder Chadha's *Bend it Like Beckham* (2002) and later collaborated with her on *Bride and Prejudice* (2004), a Bollywood adaptation of Jane

Austen's *'Pride and Prejudice'*.

His diverse roles spanned the Oscar-winning *Silver Linings Playbook* (2012), directed by David O. Russell, the Kumail Nanjiani vehicle *The Big Sick* (2017) and the action thriller *Hotel Mumbai* (2018). Kher has also showcased his acting prowess in dramas such as *New Amsterdam* (2018-2023) and the Netflix original series *Sense8* (2015-2018).

### 6. Freida Pinto

Freida Pinto rose to fame after her breakout role in *Slumdog Millionaire*, earning a Bafta nomination. Born and raised in India, she quickly expanded her portfolio with projects including *Miral* (2010), *Trishna* (2011), *Immortals* (2011), *Desert Dancer* (2014) and the hugely successful *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* (2011).

Her work extends to TV dramas too, with roles in the miniseries *Guerrilla* (2017) and *The Path* (2016-18). She went on to star in *Hillbilly Elegy* (2020), *Mr Malcolm's List* (2022) and, most recently, *North Star* (2023), which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and also stars Scarlett Johansson, Sienna Miller and Kristin Scott Thomas.

### 7. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has showcased her global appeal, moving seamlessly between Bollywood and Hollywood, and appearing in several English-language films.

After starring in *Bride and Prejudice*, Rai Bachchan demonstrated her versatility with roles in Paul Mayeda Berges' *The Mistress of Spices* (2005), the Jag Mundhra drama *Provoked* (2006), Doug Lefler epic *The Last Legion* (2007) and Harald Zwart's *The Pink Panther 2* (2009).

### 8. Anil Kapoor

An icon in the film industry for over 40 years, Anil Kapoor made a successful international and Hollywood debut in *Slumdog Millionaire*. Following this triumph, he showcased his versatility in the final season of the crime thriller *24* (2001-2010) and starred in the 2011 blockbuster *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol* alongside Tom Cruise. Continuing his global journey, Kapoor recently appeared in the last episode of Jeremy Renner's Disney+ four-part series, *Rennervations* (2023).

### 9. Amitabh Bachchan

Amitabh Bachchan, a Bollywood star for over five decades, made his Hollywood debut in the role of Meyer Wolfsheim, a Jewish businessman, in a brief but impactful appearance in Baz Luhrmann's 2013 film, *The Great Gatsby*.

## Katrina Kaif 'intimidated' by unrealistic beauty standards

Katrina reveals how Vicky Kaushal handles her when she worries about her looks

Katrina Kaif has spoken about her experience with the pressure of looking a certain way. In an interview with Hello! India, Katrina, 40, admitted she's had to face unrealistic and relentless beauty standards since joining films with 2003's *Boom*. She also opened up about how, at times, she is worried about her looks before stepping out for an event and what actor-husband Vicky Kaushal tells her then.

### Katrina Kaif on 'stifling' beauty standards

Katrina Kaif said, "I have often experienced the pressures of a certain standard of beauty and the pressures to conform to that standard. I have found that to be often stifling and intimidating... There'll be a moment where I will be, you know, fussing before I leave the house for an event or something. I'll end up finding something that I see, which is not to my liking and I'm trying to fix it, whether it's a costume or hair or something. And then my husband will wryly remind me 'Aren't

you the person who says 'It's Kay to Be You' (Her makeup brand Kay Beauty's tagline)?"

### 'I'm still trying to navigate'

Katrina, who was last seen in Merry Christmas, added, "It can be really, really confusing to retain and to maintain your sense of individuality and know who you are, not who you are in comparison to what everyone else is doing or saying around you. I think what's really important for all of us, and this is something that I try to follow, is self belief, clarity of thought, determination and taking the time for us

to understand our own thoughts and desires and goals. This is something that I'm still trying to navigate."

### Katrina's makeup brand

In 2019, the actor turned entrepreneur, when she decided to turn her passion for makeup into a business venture. Her label Kay Beauty has products for all age groups and skin tones. Kay Beauty has emerged as one of the most loved beauty brands online, and as per a 2023 report by Financial-express.com, has an annual revenue of about \$12 million.



Vendredi 15 mars - 20.30



Samedi 16 mars - 20.30



dimanche 17 mars - 20.30



# Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 15 mars</b>	05.41 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 06.00 Serial: The Equalizer 07.20 Film: The Pleasant Valley War 08.50 Serial: Falling Water 09.35 Tele: Amour A Mort 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 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 13.20 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.06 Le Livre Perdu Des Sorti... 15.25 Film: The Dark Beginnings Of Sherlock Holmes 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar 20.30 Film: A Dog's Way Home 22.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 22.48 Tele: The Gardener's	07.05 Local: Mots & Ecrits 08.31 Local: Generations J 09.01 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 11.00 Local: Groov'in 12.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 13.12 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 14.04 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 14.31 Local: J'ai Faim 14.54 Local: Artizan: Menusier 17.05 Local: La Societe 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret 19.25 Mag de L'emploi... 20.00 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 22.00 Local: La Societe 22.58 Journal Kreol 23.20 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 23.48 Local: Rodrig - Nou La Ter 00.09 Local: Itinerer Rodrig	07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 08.13 Local: Bhajanavali 08.33 Local: Acharya Swami Kailashpuri Mahakaal Babajee 09.30 Local: Hunarbaaz 12.00 Film: AAG 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron... 16.44 Serial: Bhakharwadi 18.00 Local: Mati Ke Mol 19.00 Local: Khel Khiladi 19.30 Local: Yaadein 20.30 Local: Vidrohi 21.03 Film: Hum Hai Dharam Yodha 23.32 Serial: Mere Sai	06.00 Mag: SADC 06.52 Mag: Shift 07.00 Mag: Carnet De Sante 07.24 Mag: Tomorrow Today 07.50 Mag: The Answer To Almost 08.15 The Renewable Revolution 11.15 Mag: Eco India 11.41 Mag: Shift 12.15 Mag: Border Crossing 13.35 Doc: Albania's Last Trains 15.03 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou 16.05 D.Anime: Croco Doc 16.19 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 17.03 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 18.40 Mag: Healthy Living 18.52 Student Support Prog 19.30 Doc: Does The Lynx Have... 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Serial: Newton's Law	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.21 Film: Haathi Mere Saathi Starring: Rana Daggubati, Pulkit Samrat 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.29 Fanaa 19.56 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.29 Radha Krishna 21.00 Anupamaa 21.31 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 22.30 Swaran Ghar 23.03 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Haathi Mere Saathi Starring: Rana Daggubati, Pulkit Samrat
<b>samedi 16 mars</b>	04.09 Serial: Airwolf 04.55 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 06.40 Tele: Amour A Mort 07.05 Serial: Briarpatch 07.50 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: Under Pressure 13.16 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 15.20 Film: A Dog's Way Home 17.15 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Dance India Dance Little... 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Earthtastrophe 22.15 Serial: The Bionic Woman 22.40 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis	06.04 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 06.56 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 08.16 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 08.47 Local: Zafan Nou Pei 09.04 Rodrig: Ala Nou Vini 09.32 Local: La Societe 10.53 Local: Come On Let's Dance 12.16 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 13.12 Animalia Nos Amis Les Animaux 13.43 Local: Zafan Nou Pei 14.24 Local: Toile De Fond 15.05 Local: La Societe 16.13 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 16.44 La Jounnee Sous Le Regard... 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.40 Local: Rodrig - D'Jam 20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies 22.47 Local: La Jounnee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 23.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL	07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 08.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol 08.52 Local: Khel Khiladi 09.18 Local: Yaadein 09.45 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 10.35 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.20 Local: Mati Ke Mol 12.46 Local: Khel Khiladi 13.12 Local: Yaadein 13.39 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 14.09 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Bandhish Starring: Jackie Shroff, Juhi Chawla, Paresh Rawal, Shilpa Shirodkar 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 20.00 Golden Voice Of Mukesh 23.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.56 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah	06.00 Voltron, Le Defenseur 06.44 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 09.06 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little.. 09.50 Mag: Lab 360 11.29 Doc: By Train Through... 14.17 Doc: African Styles 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillous 15.10 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.39 D.Anime: Llama Llama 16.03 D.Anime: Croco Doc 16.17 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.40 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 17.01 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 17.36 Doc: Does The Lynx Have... 18.30 Mag: Japan Video Topics 18.48 Serial: Kojak 20.05 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: Lucy	08.00 Swaran Ghar 10.25 Gadget Guru Ganesha 10.20 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.06 Udaariyaan 13.54 Anupamaa 15.39 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..  18.00 Live: Samachar 18.33 Film: The Camp Starring: Sonali Kulkarni, Rakesh Bedi, Sanjay Mishra, Suresh Chatwal, K. Bhatt 20.28 Gadget Guru Ganesha 20.41 Serial: Porus
<b>dimanche 17 mars</b>	05.01 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 06.40 Tele: Amour A Mort 07.05 Film: Earthtastrophe 08.25 Serial: The Good Doctor 09.10 Film: S.W.A.T 11.35 Tele: Amour A Mort 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Film: The Big Gundown 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Monolith 16.55 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 19.16 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: A Tail Of Love Stars: Brittany Bristow, Chris McNally 21.53 Serial: The Bionic Woman 22.41 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis	06.51 Local: Aktiv 08.08 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 09.43 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 10.36 Local: Glwar Dantan 11.03 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.28 Local: Les Petits Genies 13.59 Local: Elle 15.01 Local: Nos Aines 16.43 Local: Mots & Ecrits 17.11 Local: Aktiv 17.32 Local: Glwar Dantan 18.03 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Local: Elle 20.30 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 21.00 Local: Le Challenge 21.11 Local: Les Klips 22.03 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.31 Local: Clin D'oeil	07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.24 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness... 08.52 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah 12.00 Film: Mohabbat Aur Jung 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.24 Local: Puranya Pakwan 16.00 Local: Hunarbaaz 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Planet Bollywood 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashhi 19.30 Local: Tohar Farmaish 20.30 Serial: Porus 20.50 Serial: Crime Patrol 21.35 Serial: Naagin Season 4 22.19 Serial: Bahubali 23.11 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna	06.00 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Defenseur Legendaire 09.06 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little.. 09.35 Mag: Lab 360 11.22 Doc: The Battle Of The Hurtgen Forest 14.17 Doc: A Mediterranean... 15.07 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.37 D.Anime: Llama Llama 16.07 D.Anime: Croco Doc 16.15 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.59 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 17.35 Mag: In Good Shape 18.03 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor... 18.40 Serial: Kojak 20.05 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: The Wilderness Road	00.12 Sasural Simar Ka 2 01.46 Udaariyaan 04.01 Anupamaa 06.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise... 08.04 Tenali Rama 08.16 Patiala Babes 10.10 Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 14.00 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 16.08 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.39 Film: Flight Starring Mohit Chaddalshita Sharma, Pawan Malhotra 20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama 20.43 Enter: Dance India Dance Little Masters 21.31 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 23.18 Serial: Patiala Babes
<b>lundi 18 mars</b>	04.58 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 05.22 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 08.45 Serial: Kojak 09.30 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 09.55 Tele: Amour Secret 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.10 Serial: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.35 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.10 Serial: Kojak 15.30 Film: The Lady From Shanghai 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	07.08 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avanse 09.32 Local: Elle 10.41 Local: Le Challenge 12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.57 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 14.00 Local: Elle 14.50 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 15.16 Sermon De Careme 2024 16.01 Local: Les Klips 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.25 Rodrig - Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Belle Et Mysterieuse 20.30 Local: Business Connect 20.45 Local: Metie 21.00 Local: Tous Egaux 21.15 Local: Radio Vision 22.39 Local: Itinerer Moris 23.20 Le Rendez Vous Avec Le... 00.45 Local: Zenn Aktif 01.17 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 01.29 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei	07.12 Serial: Kisna 07.37 Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.52 Local: Tohar Farmaish 09.18 Local: Yaadein 09.49 Serial: Bahubali 10.28 Saaton Vachanwa Saath... 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Ustadon Ke Ustad Starring: Ashok Kumar, Pradeep Kumar, Shakila 15.30 Serial: Senhur 16.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.35 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen 19.30 Local: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.01 Local: Charcha 20.40 Film: Apne Rang Hazaar Starring: Sanjeev Kumar, Leena Chandavarkar, D. Denzongpa 23.05 Serial: Mere Sai 23.27 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	07.13 Mag: Arts Unveiled 09.05 Doc: Multi Tasking 09.53 Doc: The Trillion Tree Plan 11.02 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor... 11.28 Doc: Antarctica 12.15 Mag: Art Unveiled 15.01 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventres De Caillou 15.10 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.19 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.00 D.Anime: Croco Doc 16.15 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.59 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 18.02 Mag: Eco At Africa 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Mag: Newton's Law 21.42 Film: The Curse Of Humpty Dumpty 23.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Sapoot Starring Akshay Kumar, Sunil Shetty, Karisma Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Serial: Udaariyaan 19.31 Serial: Fanaa 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.00 Anupamaa 21.30 Mere Sai 22.00 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 22.32 Swaran Ghar 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.26 Film: Sapoot



Mardi 19 mars - 20.30



Mercredi 20 mars - 21.57



Mercredi 20 mars - 15.30



# Programme TV



mardi 19 mars

## MBC 1

- 04.15 Tele: Amour Secret
- 05.10 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 05.33 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
- 06.00 Serial: The Equalizer
- 07.15 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 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
- 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 14.10 Serial: Gout De L'Amour
- 15.25 Film: L'Homme De La Sierra
- 20.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 17.59 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 20.30 Film: It Happened One Night

## MBC 2

- 07.41 Local: Tous Egaux
- 08.04 Local: Itinerer Moris
- 08.17 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
- 10.29 Local: Rodrig: Saver Lokal
- 11.04 Local: Le Rendez Vous
- 12.00 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 12.51 Local: Business Connect
- 14.22 Local: Itinerer Moris
- 15.06 Local: Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
- 15.34 Local: Saver Lokal
- 16.00 Le Rendez Vous Avec...
- 18.01 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi...
- 19.25 Local: Plat Du Chef
- 19.40 Local: Son Ladan Mem
- 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante
- 22.17 Local: Mots & Ecrits
- 22.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Journal Kreol

## MBC 3

- 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 07.36 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 09.36 Local: Charcha
- 10.23 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
- 12.00 Film: Ghar Basake Dekho
- 15.00 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: Bhojpur Dhamaka
- 19.30 Local: Hindi Sahitya 2023
- 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya
- 20.28 Film: Dillagi
- 22.42 Serial: Mere Sai
- 23.20 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 00.06 Local: Tark Vitark
- 00.28 Local: Bhojpur Dhamaka
- 01.02 Local: Hindi Sahitya 2023
- 01.30 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya

## MBC 5

- 07.51 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 08.17 Mag: Washington Forum
- 09.32 Doc: Europe Revealed
- 11.00 Mag: Eco At Africa
- 12.00 Mag: Africa 54
- 12.37 Mag: In Good Shape
- 13.46 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 15.00 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventure De Caillou
- 15.10 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.19 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 15.40 D.Anime: Llama Llama
- 16.11 D.Anime: Croco Doc
- 16.18 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 17.02 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
- 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.31 Mag: Global Us
- 20.02 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow

## Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.30 Film: Khatta Meetha
- 11.00 Mag: Eco At Africa
- 12.00 Mag: Africa 54
- 12.37 Mag: In Good Shape
- 13.46 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 15.00 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventure De Caillou
- 15.10 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.19 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 15.40 D.Anime: Llama Llama
- 16.11 D.Anime: Croco Doc
- 16.18 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 17.02 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
- 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living
- 19.00 Student Support Prog...
- 19.31 Mag: Global Us
- 20.02 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.30 Film: Khatta Meetha
- Starring: Akshay Kumar, Trisha, Rajpal Yadav, Urvashi Sharma
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.03 Udaariyaan
- 19.33 Serial: Fanaa
- 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 Swaran Ghar
- 22.55 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 23.30 Film: Khatta Meetha
- Starring: Akshay Kumar, Trisha, Rajpal Yadav, Urvashi Sharma

mercredi 20 mars

- 05.15 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 07.15 Film: A Dog's Way Home
- 08.50 Serial: Kojak
- 09.30 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 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
- 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 14.10 Serial: Kojak
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.21 Film: The Big Gundown
- 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
- 21.13 Film: Mr. Smith Au Senat

- 07.20 Local: ONG An Eta Dalert
- 09.00 Local: Profil
- 10.25 Local: Koze Zom
- 11.00 Local: Music Tour 2022
- 12.11 Local: Son Ladan Mem
- 12.26 Local: ONG An Eta Dalert
- 13.04 Local: Priorite Sante
- 13.49 Local: Paroles Agricoles
- 15.49 Local: Glwar Dantan
- 16.38 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 17.01 Local: Music Tour 2022
- 18.01 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi...
- 20.32 Local: Toc Toc Doc
- 20.47 Local: En Forme: Flexifit
- 21.11 Local: Agir Ensemble
- 21.37 Local: Les Klips
- 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.20 Local: Come On Let's Dance

- 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 08.26 Local: Bhojpur Dhamaka
- 09.23 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya
- 10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Daasi
- 15.11 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Serial: Senhur
- 16.00 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana
- 17.41 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.11 Live: Samachar
- 18.39 Local: Yatra
- 19.00 Local: Darshan
- 19.30 Local: Gyan Vigyan
- 20.02 Local: Virasat
- 21.03 Film: Jaisi Karni Vaisii Bharni
- Starring: Tushar Dalvi, Kishori Godbole, Vaibhav Mangle, Tarun Khanna
- 23.52 Serial: Mere Sai
- 00.14 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

- 06.26 Mag: Healthy Living
- 07.23 Mag: Global
- 09.25 Doc: The Power Of The Super Rich
- 10.08 Doc: The Great Toilet Battle
- 12.37 Doc: Butterfly Blueprints
- 13.21 Mag: Business Africa
- 14.11 The Power Of The Super Rich
- 15.00 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou
- 15.19 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 16.28 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 17.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
- 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 19.00 Student Support Programme
- 19.30 Doc: That's Just Life
- 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Serial: Newton's Law
- 21.45 Film: Earthtastrophe
- 23.09 Mag: Close Up
- 23.37 Mag: Focus On Europe

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.58 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.27 Film: Meherbaan
- Starring: Mithun Chakraborty, Ayesha Jhulka, Shantipriya
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Fanaa
- 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 20.30 Radha Krishna
- 21.06 Anupamaa
- 21.36 Mere Sai
- 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.27 Swaran Ghar
- 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 23.26 Film: Meherbaan
- 02.05 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
- 02.30 Serial: Udaariyaan

jeudi 21 mars

- 04.33 Tele: Amour Secret
- 07.21 Serial: The Good Doctor
- 08.02 Mag: Ultimate Countdown
- 08.45 Serial: Hooten & The Lady
- 09.31 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter
- 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 11.15 Serial: The Inbetween
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
- 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 13.40 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 14.05 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
- 15.25 Film: Earthtastrophe
- 17.15 The Gardener's Daughter
- 17.59 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar
- 20.30 Film: Sooryavanshi
- Starring: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Jackie Shroff

- 07.28 Local: Agir Ensemble
- 09.32 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 10.26 Rodrig Prog: Komanter
- 12.00 Local: Rodrig Spor
- 15.41 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 16.46 Local: Aktiv
- 18.06 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 18.33 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi...
- 19.25 Local Production
- 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 20.30 Emotion En Avant Plan
- 22.07 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
- 23.00 Journal Kreol
- 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.20 Local: Groov'in
- 00.09 Local: Generations J
- 00.37 Local: Artizan
- 01.51 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou Rises
- 02.19 Local: J'ai Faim

- 07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
- 07.12 Serial: Kisna
- 07.36 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 09.28 Local: Gyan Vigyan
- 10.00 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Garam Masala (1972)
- Starring: Aruna Irani, Mehmood, Jeevan
- 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain
- 15.58 Serial: Agniphera
- 17.31 Radha Krishna
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Local: Amrit Vaani
- 20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz
- 21.00 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala
- 22.06 Serial: Mere Sai
- 22.44 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 23.11 Local: Amrit Vaani

- 07.25 Doc: That's Just Life
- 09.29 Doc: Namibia: Africa's New...
- 11.00 MAG: Afrimaxx
- 11.28 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor...
- 12.49 Mag: Close Up
- 13.12 Mag: Shift
- 13.35 Doc: SOS Amazon
- 14.17 Doc: Namibia
- 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures...
- 15.08 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.17 D.Anime: Miraculous
- 15.41 D.Anime: Llama Llama
- 16.06 Les Nouvelles Aventures...
- 16.11 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 18.00 Mag: Eco India
- 18.30 Mag: Shift
- 18.45 Mag: Carnet De Sante
- 19.00 Student Support Programme
- 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 21.40 Film: Texas

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 15.21 Film: Namak
- Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Farah
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Fanaa
- 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 20.30 Radha Krishna
- 21.02 Anupamaa
- 21.30 Mere Sai
- 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.31 Swaran Ghar
- 22.59 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 23.30 Film: Namak
- Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Farah



Jeudi 21 mars - 15.28 Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Farah



Jeudi 21 mars - 20.30 Stars: Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Jackie Shroff





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

# Public Safety and Discipline

Do we truly comprehend the technical intricacies of the world around us and adjust accordingly for our own safety? To varying degrees, one might honestly concede. Decades ago, we were appalled by individuals falling off boats and drowning in scarcely three metres of water in our picturesque lagoons, particularly during Ganga Asnaan. Escaping danger on solid ground is less arduous than succumbing to panic in a boat teetering on the verge of capsizing with passengers mindlessly flocking to one side.

Boat rides gained popularity before common folk received any swimming lessons, enabling them to partake in the joys of swimming and conquer the fear of the natural elements surrounding the island. In those days, priority lay in putting food on the table, not in physical fitness, leisure, or water sports. People were aware of the risk of being non-swimmers but behaved as if tragedy would never befall them. The tragic death of some policemen, along with their wives and children, when their boat capsized at Grand River South East, while the skipper managed to save himself, remains etched in our memories. The entire incident sounded suspicious and dubious a few years ago.

cycle accident. Every such unnecessary death weighs heavily on our hearts.

By the way, how many health awareness campaigns have successive governments conducted on national television and radios to advise the public on healthy eating habits? The country has topped the list of diabetes-prone populations worldwide. You encounter workers who admit to having tea in the early morning, an American soft drink at lunch, and a couple of beers in the evening, with water being alien to them. The next thing you hear is that they are rushed to the hospital for an operation. ICUs are inundated with patients who couldn't care less about their dietary habits. Besides being a stubborn crowd, there is a serious lack of discipline resulting in avoidable loss of lives. Are we aware that smartphones contain highly polluting elements and are extremely harmful to the brain if held close to the ears?

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## Independence and the Road Ahead

Let us confront reality. The apocalyptic scenario predicted for a small island devoid of natural resources failed to materialize. Not even the locals could envision such a drastic change in their living conditions in the future.

resources. Mauritius should adhere to lofty principles and strive to compare with more advanced countries.

Kishore Mahbubani, a Singaporean diplomat, geopolitical consultant and political analyst, proudly extols the city-state's commitment to MPH: Meritocracy, Pragmatism, and Hard Work. The lack of meritocracy is a major hindrance in Mauritius; it entails appointing the right person for the right job, not your brother-in-law, relatives, or cronies. Singapore deserves commendation for not pandering to vote banks but compelling all groups to adhere to national principles.

As a democracy, a Western-style accountability must be demanded from politicians of all stripes in Mauritius to promote sound governance. The investigative agencies cannot be manipulated by powerful businessmen to dispatch greedy political agents to their loss... in sugarcane fields and elsewhere. The independence of the judiciary must be respected, but judges cannot appoint judges as in India, nor is a biased body of left-wing magistrates perverting justice as in France desirable in Mauritius.

## Promoting Nationhood

Nation-building in a democratic, multi-ethnic, and free country is progressing. It hasn't been a smooth journey in the West, despite their homogeneity in terms of race, culture, language, and religion. Therefore, it must be on our terms here.

Prejudices still run deep, despite occasional displays of solidarity and outpourings of grief in times of tragedy, which often serve as an opportunity to criticize specific socio-cultural organizations and their followers rather than express genuine sorrow. Divisive forces work clandestinely to advance their own agenda while lecturing on coexistence and nation-building.

Demographic dynamics are deliberately manipulated with the complicity of external forces to shift the balance of power. Despite all challenges, responsible patriots must act astutely and promote shared values.

National sovereignty is wielded haphazardly to cry foul whenever the country seeks to strengthen partnerships and alliances, particularly with India. It is conveniently overlooked that France collaborates with India to counter potential aggressive forces in the Indian Ocean.

Nerves fray only when India is involved. Do you believe that European nations are sovereign in matters of agricultural policy and military defence? Do you think the US informs the press before sending CIA operatives to intervene in the internal affairs of sovereign nations? Or when its religious lobbies are given free rein to destabilize other societies? Do you remember how the Kurds were abandoned after supporting Western nations in Syria?

As a small nation, we must discern who our reliable partners are in an increasingly tense geopolitical landscape.

Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor



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## Your Special Gift

Each of us is born with a specific genius that was bestowed upon us so we can do our part to make this world a better place. All of us have a role that we're uniquely suited for. Imagine our planet without trees, oceans, or clouds. In this same way, when one of us doesn't develop or use our special gift, a cosmic void takes place.

This unique talent or ability may be hidden from your own sight like a golden treasure buried under shifting sands. Often, we spend so much time dazzled by the talents of others that we can overlook our own gifts. It may even be that our unique ability is something we view negatively. Perhaps we find it difficult concentrating on any one subject for long; meanwhile, others are thrilled by our ability to weave various ideas throughout our conversations. Or you might think of yourself as "frivolous," when it's likely your charming approach to life casts a light of inspiration that others can't help but follow. It's important for all of us to try to find our special gift and discover how we can best express it. Ask others to name what they think is your most overlooked talent or character trait. Their answers may change your life.

Explore these riches that are yours to express, and you may find yourself helping others discover and develop their own blessings. Acknowledge and appreciate the gifts you see in those around you. Tell your neighbor that loves to garden how much her green thumb enlivens the whole block. Thank your coworker for always greeting your days together with a smile. Tell your close friends that their ability to listen makes your world a better place. Our unique gifts are like golden rays of expression that can encircle the world with light.



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Fortunately, electrocution from electric showers is now a thing of the past. Today, victims include painters, masons, and homeowners taking fatal steps backward onto electric cables on the rooftops of houses. Such incidents are seldom heard of in comparable countries. Barely two weeks after the tragic death of two young men on the road to Grand Bassin last year, it was appalling to witness two young men attempting to lift a dangling electric cable with wooden poles to retrieve a kanwar from a private yard at Trou-aux-Biches. Road accidents are on the decline these days, mostly caused by irresponsible, reckless males driving furiously on narrow roads. Heart-wrenching cases emerge of unsuspecting individuals standing in front of their gates and getting run over by motorcycles and cars. Recently, a well-known politician succumbed to injuries following a motor-

Reportedly, when the late Sir Gaëtan Duval proclaimed in a public meeting that one day the country would have to import workers from abroad, the public scoffed at the notion. Fortunately, at the time of independence, Mauritius boasted the highest level of education compared to all of Africa, including Réunion.

The political leadership believed in empowerment through education and heavily invested in democratizing education for the general public. The belief in education and the commitment to improve living conditions and share the benefits of economic progress through a generous Welfare State set Mauritius apart from comparable post-colonial islands and the African continent. This is what propels Mauritius to the forefront of an African continent blessed with natural