

MAURITIUS TIMES

• I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians. -- Charles de Gaulle, French general and politician

Interview: Nita Deerpalsing

• **“The mainstream parties seem to be stuck in the past. Both in methods and leadership**

But that would not have been a problem if there was at least the renewal of IDEAS”



• ‘Power for the sake of power takes a completely different meaning when you have such an utterly vulnerable population to play with’

• **‘I do not like the word ‘dinosaur’ nor the word ‘chatwa’ for that matter. This is all just useless noise. Where are the IDEAS for a better Mauritius?’** P9

Breakfast with Bwana

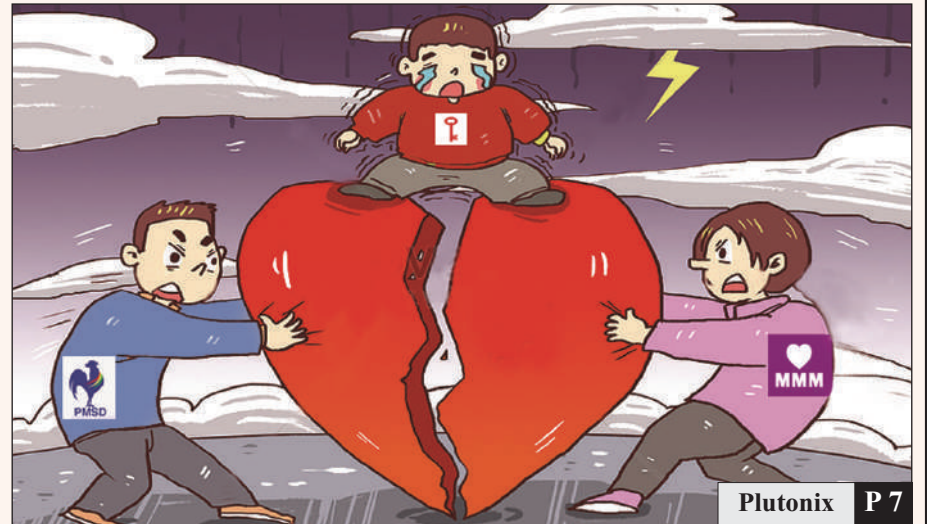
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Upholding Civil Liberties

in the face of SIM Card re-registration

The ongoing resistance against the re-registration of SIM cards in Mauritius underscores a broader concern for civil liberties and data privacy. Initiated by the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) on October 31st and scheduled to conclude on April 30th, 2024, this exercise according to the Authority stems from the four year-old Lam Shang Leen Drug Report and aims to curb illicit activities, particularly among drug traffickers and criminals, by ensuring SIM cards are registered to their rightful owners. However, opposition to this initiative has intensified, especially regarding the mandatory inclusion of biometric photos, raising alarm bells about potential misuse of biometric data and infringement of privacy rights.

Critics rightfully point out the contradiction between this exercise and previous judicial rulings. The Supreme Court's declaration of the collection of biometric data for identity cards as unconstitutional (ref: Dr Raja Mahade-woo case) casts doubt on the legality of similar practices for SIM card re-registration. Concerns are mounting about the timing of such an exercise, a few months before general elections are scheduled to be held and the intense pressure made to bear on card and mobile providers to execute ICTA's directive. Civil society and Opposition suspect that the government's intentions may not be clean and overboard, particularly as one Commissioner of the Lam Sham Leen drug report has denied that such a proposal emanated from their recommendations. Many human rights activists suspect government might be using this opportunity to establish a comprehensive biometric database, potentially for surveillance or tracking purposes in the upcoming elections and more generally through an intrusive connection to the Safe City CCTV intelligent surveillance system. Why was a parliamentary discussion not held and a bill passed rather than using the ICTA's regulatory powers?

Legal challenges have been mounted against the SIM card re-registration process. Figures like Rama Valayden, Ivor Tan Yan and Pazhany Rangasamy have taken their grievances to the judiciary, questioning the legality and implications of collecting and storing biometric data. These efforts highlight the importance of upholding constitutional rights and ensuring transparency in government actions.

Moreover, the backdrop of previous electoral controversies and government initiatives exacerbates public distrust. Issues surrounding the use of computer rooms during elections and attempts to regulate social media have deepened the trust deficit between the government and the people. ICTA had previously on the trumped up purpose of protecting children from internet, proposed to mandatorily intercept all social media activity through a government housed facility, not the sort of proposal that gives credence to the Authority.

Moreover, the resistance against the re-registration of

SIM cards in Mauritius echoes similar concerns about civil liberties and data privacy that have arisen in other countries facing similar initiatives.

It is noted that France has a quasi-judicial oversight of the use and storage of personal data of all citizens, the *Commission Nationale Informatique et Libertes* (CNIL). From its website, "Beyond raising awareness and sharing information on data protection culture, the CNIL has an advisory power, an onsite and offsite investigatory power as well as an administrative sanctioning power". Many feel that both the CCTV surveillance systems and the biometric SIM card or National Identity card cannot be left in a legal "terrain vague" in Mauritius, without a strong legislation enabling judiciary oversight of their usage and protecting civil rights from Authorities intrusion.

In the Philippines, the government's push for SIM card registration has also been met with resistance from civil liberties groups and privacy advocates. While the aim is to enhance national security and combat crime, there are concerns about the potential for abuse of personal data and surveillance by authorities. Similar to Mauritius, the mandatory inclusion of biometric data, such as fingerprint scans or facial recognition, raises questions about the extent of government surveillance and individual privacy rights.

In Turkey, SIM card registration has been required since 2006, ostensibly to combat terrorism and criminal activities. However, concerns have been raised about government surveillance and the potential for abuse of personal data. The government's crackdown on dissent and opposition groups has heightened fears of surveillance and infringement on privacy rights.

In light of these global experiences, Mauritius' resistance to SIM card re-registration reflects a broader global struggle for civil liberties and data privacy. The mandatory inclusion of biometric photos and the potential establishment of a comprehensive biometric database raise valid concerns about government surveillance and individual privacy rights.

In light of these concerns, many citizens are refusing to participate in the SIM card re-registration unless transparency and safeguards for data protection are guaranteed. To some, the potential misuse of collected data, particularly in upcoming elections, poses a significant threat to democratic processes. Without clear assurances regarding data processing, storage, and destruction, many citizens fear the manipulation of personal information for political gain.

The opposition to SIM card re-registration in Mauritius goes beyond mere technicalities -- it reflects a broader struggle for civil liberties and democratic values. It is imperative for the government to address these concerns, uphold constitutional rights, and restore public trust through transparent and accountable governance.

The Conversation

Britain's constitution has helped the Conservatives stay in power.

Now it could lock them out

Polls predict total wipeout for the Tories – and Britain's constitution with its first-past-the-post electoral system makes it a real possibility



Labour MPs: eyeing up green bench real estate in the Commons chamber. Flicker/UK Parliament, CC BY-NC-ND

A spate of opinion polls has led to fevered speculation that the Tories won't just lose the next election, they will be wiped out. In one projection doing the rounds, the government loses 250 MPs and is left with fewer than 100 seats. The prime minister, Rishi Sunak, and chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, both lose their seats in this scenario.

The spectre of a "Canadian-style" wipeout is in the air – a reference to the plight of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada (PCP), which went from being in government to losing all but two of its seats in the federal election of 1993 – including that of the prime minister, Kim Campbell.

Third in vote share at 16%, the CPC nonetheless came bottom of the five parties represented in parliament. New parties had emerged, challenging the PCP for core support, and the party would never recover. It later merged with its rival to form the Conservative Party of Canada. Sound familiar?

The comparison is interesting because it shows that there is indeed precedent in a Westminster system (which Canada operates) for a governing party to experience complete collapse. Canada also operates a majoritarian electoral system similar to the one which has long been the friend of the Conservatives in Britain, delivering majority governments on minority votes for a century.

Britain's first-past-the-post voting system tends to heavily favour the winner. For instance, by dividing the number of votes cast with the number of seats won, it can be seen that in 2019 it took on average 38,000 votes to elect a Conservative MP, but almost 51,000 to elect a Labour MP – and a whopping 336,000 votes to elect a Liberal Democrat.

Stephen Barber, Professor of Global Affairs,
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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

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Sada Reddi

Ensuring Food Security

Food shortage is a major trigger of social and political instability throughout the world... people with empty stomachs obey no rules or the law

During the past two years, amidst the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, politicians, economists, and businessmen have expressed concerns about a global recession. The ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine and the conflict in the Middle East opposing Israel to Hamas have only deepened their pessimism, especially with millions of people now confronting the spectre of food insecurity. Despite a WTO forecast, released on Wednesday by the WTO, predicting a gradual recovery in global trade growth this year following a contraction in 2023, the prevalence of regional conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and economic policy uncertainty presents significant downside risks.

In 2014, over 500 million people were already grappling with various forms of food shortages. Since mid-2020, global food prices have surged by 50%. In Mauritius, a combination of factors including inflation, currency depreciation, adverse weather conditions, and unemployment has exacerbated food insecurity for numerous families. In 2020, Mauritius regressed from a high-income to a middle-income country, resulting in relative poverty transitioning into absolute poverty. Escalating food prices have forced some individuals to skip meals, while many families are forced to reduce their essential food intake, particularly for children.

The memories of food shortages are deeply ingrained in the collective consciousness of our parents and grandparents. They endured significant hardships, relying solely on locally grown produce from vegetable plantations and home gardens. Staple foods like maize, manioc, and sweet potatoes became their primary diet for prolonged periods, sometimes spanning months or even years, all while working exhausting 10 to 12-hour days.

In light of the impending crisis, there is little optimism that the situation will improve for the suffering poor unless we engage all stakeholders from various sectors and devise solutions tailored to our specific needs.

During the First World War, despite a sugar boom and sufficient resources to procure basic commodities, the population endured severe food shortages. The government intervened by implementing price controls and establishing a profiteering court. However, during the simultaneous Spanish influenza pandemic, which afflicted the island, malnutrition among the impoverished exacerbated the situation, contributing to the deaths of approx-

imately 12,000 people.

Similarly, the food security situation did not significantly improve during the Second World War. In April 1941, the colonial Secretary of State sought measures from Governors in various colonies to ensure food security. However, resistance faced by the colonial government in Mauritius hindered effective action.

To avert food shortages, measures were taken to stockpile food for a 90-day period. The establishment of the Food Control Board, equipped with executive powers, aimed to oversee food supply management. Additionally, landowners with over 20 acres of land were encouraged to cultivate food crops, although initially without compulsion.

As the situation worsened with the Japanese occupation of the East, more drastic measures became imperative. Critical land allocations for food crop cultivation were made, with sugar estates designated approximately 34,000 acres for food production. Various initiatives were undertaken to bolster food supply, including the establishment of a nutrition department, provision of financial aid, and mandatory food crop cultivation by sugar estates.

In the end, the food growing program failed miserably as King Sugar dominated the scene. Sugar estate owners vehemently opposed the initiative, citing various reasons, many of which were mere pretexts. While they resisted growing food crops on lands dedicated to lucrative sugar cane cultivation, they overlooked the needs of the population, assured of their own food supply from their estates. Consequently, widespread food scarcity led to malnutrition, illness, and a considerable drop in workers' productivity, as they frequently absented themselves from work due to illness.

“The Agricultural Marketing Board, State Trading Corporation, and various ministries must play pivotal roles in ensuring adequate food supplies at reasonable prices, particularly for the most vulnerable. Famines often occur not due to food shortages but because of affordability issues among the poor. Additionally, recent events like the Wakashio disaster disrupted for quite some time the supply of fresh fish and other sea foods, highlighting the importance of diverse food sources...”



P - aspentimes.com

“The failure to implement the Gorvin Report on agricultural diversification in 1946, rejected by sugar estates, underscores the need to reevaluate agricultural practices. Today agricultural diversification by sugar estates is geared towards the tourism industry with the surplus being dumped on the local market. Has capitalism become more humane now that King Sugar is no longer sitting on the throne?”

The shortage of labourers in many regions necessitated the transportation of workers from one area to another by lorries. Only the timely arrival of manioc starch and wheat from Madagascar and Australia averted a food crisis in 1943. Dr Clyde, the Food Adviser of the Colonial Office, noted the relative failure of the food production program, with only 49,000 tons of foodstuff harvested between 1943-1944, while sugar production not only remained unaffected but increased.

Reflecting on history, it's clear that food shortages have been a significant trigger for social and political instability globally. Recognizing this, the government and stakeholders are implementing initiatives to boost food crop production. These efforts include encouraging youth to pursue agriculture, providing training, and introducing them to agricultural technology. Despite advocacy from groups and individuals like Eric Mangar, *Resistans ek Alternativ*, practical challenges persist, including soil and climate conditions, pest impacts, and a lack of planting coordination.

Present initiatives appear limited in scope, with little attention given to leveraging sea resources, which have long been vital for food security. Better planning, coordination, and political will are needed to ensure success. Key measures should include allocating more land for food crop cultivation, safeguarding

and increasing sea product availability, and enhancing food storage capacity to avoid market gluts that discourage producers.

The Agricultural Marketing Board, State Trading Corporation, and various ministries must play pivotal roles in ensuring adequate food supplies at reasonable prices, particularly for the most vulnerable. Famines often occur not due to food shortages but because of affordability issues among the poor. Additionally, recent events like the Wakashio disaster disrupted for quite some time the supply of fresh fish and other sea foods, highlighting the importance of diverse food sources.

To address these challenges effectively, comprehensive plans crafted in collaboration with researchers, experts, and stakeholders with indigenous knowledge are essential. Without such concerted efforts, food security, and even food sovereignty, will remain mere rhetoric. Finally, the failure to implement the Gorvin Report on agricultural diversification in 1946, rejected by sugar estates, underscores the need to reevaluate agricultural practices. Today agricultural diversification by sugar estates is geared towards the tourism industry with the surplus being dumped on the local market. Has capitalism become more humane now that King Sugar is no longer sitting on the throne?

Espagne : Fin des visas dorés pour les étrangers aisés

Par A. Bartleby

Le gouvernement espagnol a annoncé lundi dernier qu'il abandonnerait son programme de "visa doré", affirmant qu'un afflux d'investisseurs étrangers fortunés avait fait grimper les prix des logements pour les habitants locaux.

Depuis 2013, les citoyens non européens pouvaient obtenir une résidence accélérée en investissant au moins 500 000 euros (540 000 dollars) dans l'immobilier espagnol, dans le cadre d'un programme destiné à attirer les investissements étrangers.

Mais avec Madrid, désormais parmi les marchés immobiliers les plus chers de l'UE, les plaintes se sont multipliées car la perception était forte que les investisseurs étrangers prenaient des logements aux habitants locaux.

"Le logement est un droit constitutionnel et non pas un simple business spéculatif", a déclaré le Premier ministre Pedro Sánchez dans un post sur les réseaux sociaux lundi.

Des villes comme Barcelone, Madrid, Malaga et Alicante "sont confrontées à un marché du logement très tendu, où il est presque impossible de trouver un logement décent pour ceux qui y vivent et travaillent et paient leurs impôts tous les jours", a déclaré le chef de gauche espagnol, cité par *El País*.

Près de la moitié des bénéficiaires du visa doré en Espagne étaient des Chinois, suivis des Russes, des Iraniens et des Américains, a rapporté la BBC.

D'autres pays de l'UE, dont le Portugal, la Grèce et l'Irlande, ont modifié ou supprimé leurs programmes de visa doré ces dernières années suite à des préoccupations similaires.

Une solution à la crise du logement?

Malgré la justification du gouvernement espagnol selon laquelle la crise du logement est la principale raison de l'abandon des visas dorés, les analystes estiment que cette mesure ne sera pas suffisante pour rendre le logement abordable.

Le nombre de permis de séjour délivrés en Espagne pour l'investissement immobilier a chuté, avec seulement 1 % des investissements étrangers en 2023 liés à ces investisseurs, a déclaré l'ancien président de l'Association espagnole des chasseurs immobiliers personnels à Idealista. La crise immobilière en Espagne est plutôt le résultat d'une plus grande pénurie d'offre, a déclaré un porte-parole d'Idealista.

Australie: Infiltration politique au moyen des visas dorés?

Par ailleurs, l'Australie a supprimé en janvier un programme de « visa doré » qui était connu pour être utilisé par des Chinois fortunés cherchant à échapper aux difficultés politiques et économiques chez eux, a rapporté *Radio Free Asia*.

Bien que Canberra ait cité un manque de bénéfices économiques, les agences gouvernementales avaient averti depuis longtemps que le programme accueillait 85 % des demandeurs de Chine. C'était une porte d'entrée pour l'"argent sale" dans le pays, selon *The Australian*, un journal conservateur. Un milliardaire chinois lié au Parti com-

muniste chinois a été expulsé d'Australie en 2019 pour avoir fait un don illégal de 100 000 dollars à un homme politique local, a rapporté *The Guardian*.



Espagne: Un afflux d'investisseurs étrangers fortunés ont fait grimper les prix des logements pour les habitants locaux. P - Courrier International

La suppression des «visas dorés» dans ces deux pays met en lumière les défis posés par les programmes de visas pour les investisseurs. Alors que ces programmes peuvent être conçus pour stimuler l'activité économique et encourager les investissements, ils soulèvent également des préoccupations en matière de sécurité, de blanchiment d'argent et d'accessibilité au logement pour les populations locales.

IRS et "visa doré": l'expérience mauricienne

Maurice propose des options de visa attrayantes pour les expatriés fortunés en quête de résidence ou de citoyenneté. Les programmes du pays exigent généralement un investissement dans l'immobilier, les affaires ou les obligations gouvernementales. Par exemple, le programme de permis de séjour permet aux investisseurs d'obtenir la résidence par l'acquisition de biens immobiliers, tandis que le programme de citoyenneté par investissement à Maurice offre la citoyenneté en échange d'investissements dans l'économie. Ces initiatives visent à attirer les personnes fortunées, en tirant parti du régime fiscal favorable de Maurice, de son environnement politique stable et de sa situation stratégique en tant que porte d'entrée d'investissement vers l'Afrique et au-delà.



Le programme de permis de séjour permet aux investisseurs d'obtenir la résidence par l'acquisition de biens immobiliers, tandis que le programme de citoyenneté par investissement à Maurice offre la citoyenneté en échange d'investissements dans l'économie. P - Architects Journal

Par ailleurs, un programme connu sous le nom de "Integrated Resort Scheme" (IRS) a été lancé il y a quelques années. Ce programme a été vivement critiqué par les politiciens lorsqu'ils étaient dans l'opposition, et à juste titre, comme un cadeau en faveur d'une poignée de chercheurs de rente. L'impression a été donnée qu'il serait rejeté dès que l'opposition arriverait au pouvoir. Mais rien de tel ne s'est produit.

Dans un article abondamment détaillé publié précédemment, *Mauritius Times* avait rapporté les points de vue de Percy Mistry sur la manière de traiter habilement la question des terres pour tous, y compris la population, pour gagner de manière concrète à long terme. Bref, Percy Mistry avait soutenu que la terre acquiert une valeur plus élevée lorsqu'elle est convertie d'une utilisation ordinaire (agriculture) à un usage commercial (villas, hôtels, casinos, centres commerciaux, etc.), et le gouvernement aurait pu exiger que le gain exceptionnel du nouveau statut acquis par la propriété foncière jusqu'à 50%, soit versé dans un fonds national (Sovereign Fund) laissant le reste aux promoteurs immobiliers.

Il avait également souligné que le prix de la propriété devrait être basé sur un système internationalement compétitif comme cela se fait dans d'autres pays, afin que nous ne restions pas bloqués avec des évaluations archaïques et subjectives des promoteurs immobiliers locaux cherchant la rente.

C'est la différence entre ce prix et le prix prévalent d'une telle propriété, ou le gain exceptionnel, qui aurait été destiné à financer des programmes éducatifs, de santé, de formation professionnelle, et d'autres programmes pour le bien-être de la population dans son ensemble à travers le Fonds national.

Il est bien connu que la terre est la ressource la plus rare de cette île. Une fois que nous avons omis de faire preuve de diligence raisonnable dans la mise en œuvre de projets clés impliquant cette ressource rare, nous ne pouvons pas espérer revenir en arrière.

L'incapacité à établir et à mettre en œuvre le bon cadre politique peut donner des gains temporaires aux promoteurs immobiliers locaux non globaux mais elle échouera à apporter à l'économie sa contribution potentielle.

Guerre Israël-Hamas Après six mois de guerre, l'isolement d'Israël s'accroît

Après six mois de conflit meurtrier, Israël se retrouve dans une position délicate, confronté à des défis internes et externes qui semblent sans fin. Ce qui a commencé comme une réponse à une attaque dévastatrice du Hamas s'est transformé en un engagement prolongé, marqué par des pertes humaines tragiques, des déplacements massifs de populations et une crise humanitaire croissante.

Sur le terrain, malgré une offensive militaire intense, Israël n'a pas réussi à atteindre ses objectifs initiaux de détruire le Hamas et de ramener ses citoyens en sécurité. Bien que des territoires aient été conquis, la résistance du Hamas persiste, notamment dans la ville de Rafah, où ses forces demeurent concentrées malgré les menaces d'une invasion israélienne.

Cette impasse militaire a des répercussions au niveau international. Alors qu'Israël bénéficiait autrefois d'un large soutien après l'attaque initiale, cette solidarité s'est estompée au fil du temps.

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Guerre Israël-Hamas

Après six mois de guerre, l'isolement d'Israël s'accroît

☞ Suite de la page 4

Les appels à un cessez-le-feu immédiat se multiplient, et la communauté internationale exprime de plus en plus son impatience face à la situation humanitaire désastreuse à Gaza.

L'isolement diplomatique d'Israël s'intensifie également. Les résolutions des Nations unies exhortant à un arrêt immédiat des hostilités ont été adoptées malgré les objections d'Israël, mettant en lumière la frustration croissante de la communauté internationale. De plus, les actions controversées d'Israël, telles que la mort de travailleurs humanitaires et les attaques contre des infrastructures civiles, ont exacerbé les tensions avec ses alliés traditionnels.

Au niveau national, Israël est profondément divisé. Alors que l'unité initiale face à l'agression du Hamas s'estompe, les tensions politiques internes refont surface. Le Premier ministre Netanyahu fait face à une pression croissante pour rendre des comptes à propos de la gestion de la crise et les échecs en matière de sécurité. Les manifestations contre le gouvernement se multiplient,

reflétant un mécontentement généralisé à l'égard de la direction actuelle.

Malgré ces défis, Netanyahu reste fermement au pouvoir, refusant de démissionner malgré les appels en ce sens. Cependant, sa position pourrait devenir de plus en plus précaire alors que la pression publique et internationale continue de monter.

En ce qui concerne le Hamas, bien que l'organisation ait subi des pertes importantes, elle continue de résister et de maintenir son contrôle sur une partie de Gaza. Le mouvement de résistance n'a pas seulement survécu à l'offensive israélienne, mais il a également réussi à conserver un soutien populaire malgré les difficultés croissantes auxquelles la population de Gaza est confrontée.

Alors que le conflit se poursuit, il devient de plus en plus urgent de trouver une solution durable. Cependant,



Après six mois de guerre à Gaza, l'isolement d'Israël s'accroît. P - fr.euronews.com

les obstacles politiques, diplomatiques et militaires semblent insurmontables pour le moment. Israël, le Hamas et la communauté internationale sont confrontés à des choix difficiles alors qu'ils cherchent des moyens de sortir de cette impasse dévastatrice.

Prévisions de l'OMC

Le commerce mondial devrait rebondir cette année



L'OMC anticipe une reprise progressive du commerce mondial en 2024

La croissance du commerce mondial devrait progressivement s'accroître cette année après une contraction en 2023, mais les conflits régionaux, les tensions géopolitiques et l'incertitude économique posent des risques substantiels à la baisse, selon les prévisions de l'OMC publiées ce mercredi, comme rapporté par l'agence AP.

Cependant, l'Organisation Mondiale du Commerce a revu à la baisse la projection de croissance du commerce pour 2024 à 2,6 %. En octobre de l'année dernière, l'organisation avait projeté une croissance de 3,3 %.

"Le commerce mondial des marchandises devrait progressivement s'accroître cette année à la suite d'une contrac-

tion en 2023 due aux effets persistants de la hausse des prix de l'énergie et de l'inflation", a déclaré l'OMC dans un communiqué.

"Elle a ajouté que le volume du commerce mondial des marchandises devrait augmenter de 2,6 % en 2024 et de 3,3 % en 2025 après une baisse de 1,2 % en 2023.

"Cependant, les conflits régionaux, les tensions géopolitiques et l'incertitude de la politique économique posent des risques substantiels à la prévision", a-t-elle ajouté.

La baisse des exportations de marchandises en 2023 était en partie due à la chute des prix des matières premières,

telles que le pétrole et le gaz.

"En 2024 et 2025, l'inflation devrait graduellement diminuer, permettant aux revenus réels de croître à nouveau dans les économies avancées, stimulant la consommation de biens manufacturés. Une reprise de la demande de biens échangeables en 2024 est déjà perceptible.

"Cela est lié à une augmentation de la consommation des ménages liée à des perspectives de revenus améliorées", a-t-elle ajouté.

Elle a également déclaré que le conflit au Moyen-Orient a détourné les expéditions maritimes entre l'Europe et l'Asie, tandis que les tensions ailleurs pourraient conduire à une fragmentation du commerce.

Le protectionnisme croissant est un autre risque qui pourrait compromettre la reprise du commerce en 2024 et 2025.

La directrice générale de l'OMC, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a déclaré: "Nous progressons vers une reprise du commerce mondial, grâce à des chaînes d'approvisionnement résilientes et à un cadre commercial multilatéral solide, qui sont essentiels pour améliorer les moyens de subsistance et le bien-être."

Il est impératif de noter que malgré les prévisions optimistes de reprise du commerce mondial, les défis persistants tels que les tensions géopolitiques et les conflits régionaux continuent de peser sur la stabilité économique et la croissance.

La réduction de la croissance du commerce mondial projetée pour 2024 par l'OMC est un signal clair que les risques liés à ces facteurs externes sont pris au sérieux. Les tensions géopolitiques, en particulier, peuvent perturber les chaînes d'approvisionnement mondiales et entraîner une volatilité accrue sur les marchés financiers.

La crise récente dans la région de la mer Rouge et du canal de Suez illustre parfaitement ces risques. Les attaques contre les navires commerciaux ont non seulement perturbé les flux de commerce entre l'Europe et l'Asie, mais ont également entraîné des retards et des coûts supplémentaires pour les entreprises.

De plus, la menace persistante de protectionnisme risque de compromettre les gains potentiels de la reprise du commerce mondial. Alors que la coopération multilatérale est essentielle pour favoriser une croissance économique durable, les politiques unilatérales axées sur le protectionnisme pourraient entraver les progrès réalisés.

Dans ce contexte, les appels de la directrice générale de l'OMC, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, pour atténuer les risques et maintenir un cadre commercial multilatéral solide sont plus pertinents que jamais. La résilience des chaînes d'approvisionnement et la coopération internationale sont essentielles pour relever les défis actuels et promouvoir une reprise économique mondiale durable.

A. Bartleby

Revisiting Post-Ukraine



Anil Madan

Change on the geopolitical stage may be coming faster than we thought

On April 1, 2022, I wrote a piece titled “Too Soon To Tell What The Post-Ukraine World Holds.” I noted then that Vladimir Putin’s war of destruction against Ukraine rages on. It had been going on for about a month and a half. Today, Putin’s aggression has continued for more than two years, almost twenty-six months.

Putin’s attacks on Ukraine’s population, what’s left of it, and on its infrastructure continue. Russia just announced that it had destroyed a heavy drone manufacturing and storage facility in Ukraine by firing a ballistic missile. The loss of the drones and the manufacturing capability come as Ukraine is desperately short of weapons, ammunition, and soldiers. On April 9, President Zelensky said that although Ukraine produces a lot of drones which help, “it is not a substitute for air defense, it is not a substitute for long-range weapons, missiles, long-range artillery.” Approval of a bill to provide funding for aid to Ukraine remains stalled in the US Congress as House Speaker Mike Johnson, kowtowing to Trump’s demands and fearful of losing his speakership, refuses to bring the measure to the House floor for a vote. If he did bring it for a vote, all indications are that it would pass with an overwhelming majority.



Pic - Discourse Magazine

The Uncertain Post-War Landscape

Getting back to April 2022, I wrote: “Western media reports and pundits cheer the Ukrainians’ valiant resistance to the point of claiming that the Ukrainians are beating back the Russian onslaught and ‘winning’ the war. Whether the Ukrainians are on to victory, or these pronouncements are just wishful thinking -- or even that Russia will, at a minimum, stop or be stopped -- remains to be seen. On many fronts, the truth is that the Ukrainians are being pummeled by the blunt force of indiscriminate artillery shelling and airborne bombing. Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby warned that Russia still has a substantial amount of its firepower available.

“As we ponder what a post-Ukraine-war world might look like, it is fair to ask if the inquiry is premature or must await the end of Russian shelling and bombing. Certainly, the war will eventually come to an end, and no matter how it ends, the world will be somewhat changed: there will be some reset of geopolitical alignments, brakes will be applied to the forces of globalization, the rules-based order, or at least our perception that there is a rules-based order to some degree will need rethinking, and perhaps tribunals will be constituted to consider accountability for

war crimes most likely holding trials in absentia.

“We cannot yet define the contours that will mark the end of the war. At the most basic level, we do not know if Putin will agree to a ceasefire without significant concessions by Ukraine amounting to a de facto surrender or at the point when its cities have been reduced to ruinous rubble, its male population decimated, and its displaced women and children unable to return to their homeland and carry on their lives before a massive rebuild of infrastructure, homes, services, and civil society takes place. We do not know, except in broad generalizations what the terms of any ceasefire acceptable to the Ukrainians might be. What we know is essentially some of the Ukrainian and Russian wish lists. To underscore the point, indeed, we cannot tell if the Ukrainian leadership will survive the assault staged by Putin, nor foretell the shape of the nation that will emerge.” I could have written that yesterday. Little has changed, yet much has changed.

Weapons and Ammunition

Obviously, Ukraine needs weapons and ammunition to fight off Russia’s attacks. The situation is getting desperate. Although European nations are trying to increase their aid and support, their capacity is limited. Army General Christopher Cavoli, head of US European Command, the top general for US forces in Europe testified to Congress that Ukraine will be “out-gunned” ten to one by Russia within a matter of weeks barring fresh supplies of ammunition and weapons from the US.

There is no guarantee that US aid will be approved any time soon or indeed, in time to make a difference. House Speaker Mike Johnson at first parroted Republican demands that approval for Ukraine aid be tied to a border security bill. When the Senate passed such a bill, Johnson, at Trump’s behest, killed it. Johnson has promised to bring the bill to a vote but also described it as “dead on arrival.”

Lately, he has tried to tie approval for Ukraine aid to a lifting of President Biden’s pause on exports of LNG from the US. One of the new LNG export terminals is located in Johnson’s home state of Louisiana.

Meanwhile, Trump has declared that he could end the war in Ukraine in 24 hours. The Washington Post reported that Trump’s plan includes territorial concessions of Crimea and the Donbas to Russia. Zelensky has made it clear that Ukraine will not cede any territory to the aggressor.

Less than a month ago, in mid-March, the Financial Times (FT) reported that an estimated 330,000 soldiers had been deployed in Ukraine. But it also noted that Ukraine needs and expects to recruit 500,000 more soldiers in 2024. A new law authorizing a draft has been controversial. Some politicians argued fiercely against a proposal to lower the recruitment age to 25 saying it would be suicidal for the nation to send its youngest into the trenches.

The FT also noted that when Russia first attacked, many Ukrainians volunteered to defend their country. But that pool has been exhausted and a large proportion of the men of fighting age are unwilling to be deployed to the

front.

In February, Zelensky announced that Ukraine had suffered 31,000 deaths among its troops, but the estimate is apparently low and the actual number about twice what is reported.

End of America...

Two years ago, I noted that “there is the cadre of pundits, some cheerfully and others fearfully, marking the end of America as a world power and an end to the Western notion of a rules-based order.” I suggested that we not put too much stock in the premature declarations of the end of American power. But it may well be that we are seeing the end of the American era.

On Tuesday, Secretary of State Blinken expressed great concern about supplies of arms to Russia from China, North Korea and Iran, while emphasizing the urgent need for more US aid to Kyiv. North Korea has reportedly sent dozens of ballistic missiles and more than 10,000 containers of munitions and related supplies to Putin since September.

Two years ago, I wrote: “Most importantly, no one could have predicted that Putin would undertake a brutal war of attrition against a people he professes are no different from his own countrymen. This kind of aggression and indiscriminate bombing were surely not in anyone’s calculus, certainly not in the imagination of any armchair pundit. On the other hand, it seems almost a given that ... to bring an end to the Russian bombing and shelling, Ukraine will have to pledge neutrality and abjure NATO membership.”

On the 75th anniversary of the formation of NATO, Blinken reiterated that Ukraine will become a member of NATO. Back in 2008, at the Bucharest summit, NATO members declared that Ukraine would join the alliance. In 2023, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, as he prepared to leave his position, declared: “Ukraine will join NATO. It is not a question of if, but of when.”

Last month, the Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orban, met with Trump at Mar-a-Lago. Orban claims that Trump told him he will force the war to end because “he will not give a penny” to help Ukraine. A Trump spokesperson dismissed Orban’s statement as false. Trump’s spokesman offered the somewhat dubious explanation that Trump didn’t want to publicly contradict Orban after entertaining him at his Florida club and admiring his toughness and anti-immigration positions. According to the report, the Trump person spoke on condition of anonymity — no surprise there. I will caution readers that no one has profited from treating anything Trump or his people say as true.

My thought two years ago, that Ukraine would have great difficulty surviving the Russian assault is reinforced by the developments recounted above.

Trump’s plan for territorial concessions

If Trump’s plan to force territorial concessions is abhorrent to Zelensky and the Europeans and most Americans are correct that Putin simply cannot be allowed to prevail, it is difficult to see how extant European and US policies are designed to reach that result. Indeed, Trump’s position is contrary to the US-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership that was renewed on November 21, 2021, three months before Putin’s attack. That document declared: “The United States does not and will never recognize Russia’s attempted annexation of Crimea and reaffirms its full support for international efforts, including in the Normandy Format, aimed at negotiating a diplomatic resolution to the Russia-led armed conflict in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine on the basis of respect for international law, including the UN Charter.”

Cheer...

Bwana

● Cont. on page 16

Of Love, Dowry, and Political Alliances

In a bustling marketplace, amidst the lively chatter and fragrant spices, two old friends, Socrates and Cephalus, engage in a witty dialogue. The topic at hand? The curious case of Mauritius' dwindling marriage rates. Their conversation, laced with humour and colourful metaphors, promises to explore the reasons behind this trend, weaving in social and economic factors with a touch of philosophy. But their conversation takes an unexpected turn, much like the twists and turns of a Mauritian back road. The love affair, once seemingly strong, between the Opposition parties appears to be on the rocks... Prepare to be swept away by this delightful exploration of love, commitment, the ever-changing Mauritian society, and the messy world of politics – all served with a generous helping of wit and wisdom.

By Plutonix

Socrates: By Zeus' beard, Cephalus! Have you heard the whispers on the wind regarding the Mauritian marriage market? Apparently, unions are dissolving faster than a politician's promise after an election!

Cephalus: Indeed, Socrates! It seems commitment these days is as rare as a dodo sighting. The number of

even if it means occasional nagging about stray socks?

Cephalus: Yearn they may, Socrates, but the allure of cohabitation without the legal ball and chain is too tempting for many. Why buy the whole cow when you can, ahem, enjoy the communal pastures?

Socrates: A most...colourful metaphor, Cephalus! It seems the financial noose of matrimony isn't the only one tightening. The rising cost of living pinches harder than a hermit crab and whispers of "modern love" are leading many astray from the altar.

Cephalus: Precisely, Socrates! Who needs the expense of a lavish wedding when you can cohabit in a cosy nest, sharing expenses and dodging societal pressure!

Socrates: Indeed, Cephalus, it seems the once-mighty ship of matrimony now navigates a sea of stormy uncertainty. Yet, love remains a flickering candle in the wind, guiding lost souls towards their destinies!

Cephalus: Aye, Socrates! For in the end, a wedding ring is just a fancy metal circle. True love binds hearts stronger than any legal document, like barnacles clinging to a ship's hull! Let us raise a toast to love, in all its messy, glorious forms!

Socrates: Hear, hear, Cephalus! Now, speaking of stormy seas, have you heard the latest buzz about the Opposition Alliance? Seems their love affair is on the rocks!

Cephalus: (Chuckles) Indeed, Socrates! The Labour Party, PMSD, and MMM are squabbling like children fighting over a last dodo egg – all because of electoral tickets, cabinet positions and constitutional posts!

Socrates: Ah, the tangled web of politics! It seems even the most passionate allies can't resist the siren song of power and prestige. But tell me, Cephalus, do you think they'll manage to patch things up for their big May 1st rally? Or will it be a political version of a one-person party, filled with awkward silences and empty chairs?

Cephalus: Well, Socrates, predicting politics is like trying to herd zebras – chaotic and unpredictable. One

minute they're promising a utopian future, the next they're bickering like market vendors over a single, overripe papaya!

Socrates: Fascinating! So, political alliances are as flimsy as a house built on sandcastles during a high tide. But tell me, Cephalus, have you heard any whispers about the PMSD playing the role of a political gold digger in this alliance?

Cephalus: (Guffaws) Spot on, Socrates! It seems even in the world of political unions, there's a hefty dowry involved. Much like a bride demanding a bigger diamond ring, the PMSD is said to be haggling over their share of the electoral spoils!

Socrates: A most apt comparison, Cephalus! Love and politics – both driven by a desire for something, be it a beating heart or a comfortable seat in parliament. Truly, as the French would say: "Décidément, les mariages à trois sont très compliqués!" (three is a crowd, especially in a marriage!)

Cephalus: (Wipes a tear from his eye, still chuckling) You said it, Socrates! But hey, maybe that's the beauty of this whole mess. It's like watching a particularly dramatic sega performance – full of flamboyant costumes, unexpected twists, and enough drama to fill a Shakespearean play!

Socrates: (Raises an eyebrow) A sega performance, eh? Now that's a colourful metaphor! Though, I must confess, I wouldn't mind a bit less drama and a touch more decisive action. These politicians are starting to remind me of a flock of headless chickens, running around in circles!

Cephalus: Patience, Socrates! Patience! Remember, in politics, a quick decision is often a bad decision, especially when there are juicy scandals and public spats to keep the voters entertained. Think of it as a long, slow dance – full of calculated steps, hidden agendas, and the occasional strategic wardrobe malfunction, metaphorically speaking, of course.

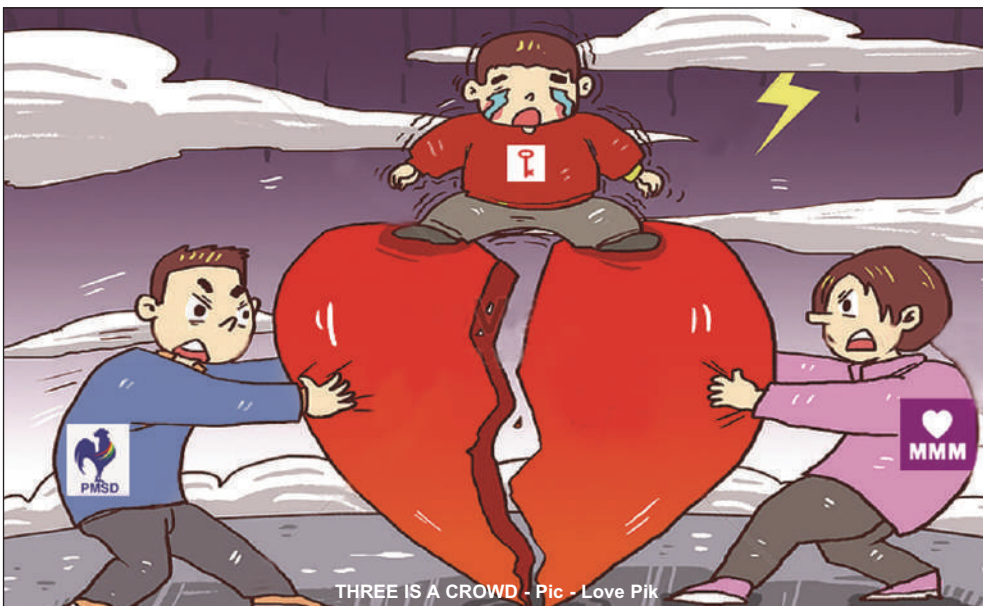
Socrates: (Feigning horror) A wardrobe malfunction you say? Now that is something I wouldn't mind witnessing! Though, I suppose the public already gets a front-row seat to enough political blunders to last a lifetime.

Cephalus: (Laughs heartily) Precisely, Socrates! Perhaps that's the real entertainment – watching these politicians trip over their own egos and make promises emptier than a politician's stomach after a long election campaign!

Socrates: (Chuckles) A most insightful observation, Cephalus! In the end, maybe love and politics aren't so different after all. Both are messy affairs, filled with grand pronouncements, passionate arguments, and the occasional need to duck for cover when the mudslinging starts!

Cephalus: (Raises his cup in a toast) To love, politics, and the never-ending circus that keeps life interesting, even if it occasionally makes us want to hide behind a conveniently placed coconut tree on the rocky beaches of Grand Gaube, Roches Noires or Souillac!

Socrates: (Clinks his cup against Cephalus') To that, my friend! And may the coming elections be a spectacle worthy of the gods, filled with twists, turns, and enough entertainment to rival a thousand ravanne nights!



weddings is plummeting faster than a coconut off a palm tree during a cyclone!

Socrates: A most curious predicament! Can it be the gods are meddling with love's arrows, or is there a more earthly explanation, perhaps a lack of rupees for a lavish wedding feast?

Cephalus: Fear not, Socrates, the gods are likely vacationing in Maldives, leaving us mortals to our own romantic entanglements. Statistics Mauritius, bless their data-collecting souls, point to a multitude of reasons for this decline.

Socrates: Do enlighten me, good Cephalus. Don't hold back, even if it shakes the very foundations of Mount Piton!

Cephalus: Buckle up, Socrates! Apparently, with women wielding the power of pay cheques as hefty as sugar cane stalks, they no longer see marriage as a necessary upgrade. They're too busy soaring like phoenixes to settle for a gilded cage!

Socrates: Aha! So, the fair maidens are spreading their wings and leaving the nest, leaving poor bachelors high and dry like a beached boat! But what of the men, Cephalus? Don't they yearn for a wife's companionship,

TP Saran

The online publication *Rediff News* purports to see 'Europe differently.' It is instructive to take a look at its headlines of a few days ago:

NATO has launched its second major exercise this year in the vicinity of Ukraine, this time focusing on the Black Sea and the Danube Delta region; Romania set to build the largest NATO base in Europe; Romania must prepare for war with Russia, says country's chief of defense; Romanian parliament approves record \$6.5 billion purchase of US F-35 combat aircraft; Ukrainian F-16 pilots to be trained by private US firm in Romania; British Challenger tanks seen near the Ukraine front line in Zaporizhzhya; Hungary calls for calm after missiles hit Poland and oil supply through key pipeline was suspended; Romanian defense minister resigns after calling for peace talks with Russia.

This second major exercise is a joint operation, *Sea Shield 24*, runs until April 21, and 'brings together more than 2,200 troops from Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, the UK, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Turkey, the United States, Georgia, and Moldova. The forces will include 27 river and naval warships, 17 aircraft, and 91 land-based military vehicles.'



Ukrainian servicemen cry near the coffin of their comrade Andrii Trachuk during his funeral service on Independence square in Kyiv, Ukraine. Pic - AP

It's war, war, war!

This is in contrast to the exercise launched in January by NATO, "*Steadfast Defender 2024*," which is about 'rehearsing the alliance's response to a hypothetical aggression against a member state. All 32 NATO member states participated, with some 90,000 personnel, including the largest single contingent of 20,000 from the United Kingdom.'

In the last century, Europe involved the whole world in two World Wars. Several European countries had fought with each other, bringing troops from their colonies to fight alongside European soldiers. After the Second World War, many of these countries lay devastated as a result of their mutual destruction, with millions of people killed and their civilian infrastructure in ruins. Besides, the war had left these countries financially and economically impoverished.

It is also said that 'Communists aided by the Soviet Union were threatening elected governments across

“Europe is warring again. This time round there are no troops from former colonies to be roped in, except for some mercenaries. There is already a shortage of soldiers, and also shortfalls in the supply of war equipment and ammunition. NATO is reluctant to put boots on the ground, and a proposal by French President Macron to this effect has not been taken favourably by all the NATO country members, especially Germany. Even the civilian population has begun to become war weary, but unfortunately that does not mean that the war will end soon. In fact, it would seem that it's going to drag on...”

Europe. The example given is that 'in February 1948, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, with covert backing from the Soviet Union, overthrew the democratically elected government in that country. Then, in reaction to the democratic consolidation of West Germany, the Soviets blockaded Allied-controlled West Berlin in a bid to consolidate their hold on the German capital.'

As a result, America stepped in. With its European Allies, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was founded 'to serve three purposes: deterring Soviet expansionism, forbidding the revival of *nationalist militarism* in Europe through a strong North American presence on the continent, and encouraging European political integration.' (italics added). Additionally, the US provided aid through the Marshall Plan for the economic recovery and rebuilding of Europe. However, 'European states still needed confidence in their security, before they would begin talking and trading with each other. Military cooperation, and the security it would bring, would have to develop in parallel with economic and political progress.' Hence NATO.

In the 1990s, alongside *nationalist militarism*, a religious dimension was incorporated, catalyzing the dissolution of Yugoslavia and the birth of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Following the war, the influx of immigrants brought hopes for multiculturalism, yet the once religious dimension has now evolved into a potent fundamentalism. With shifting demographics and the looming spectre of permanent civil strife, the threat of conflict persists. Witness the regular eruptions of street protests and violence, accompanied more often than not with attacks against the forces of law and order, that take place involving these newer immigrants.

Against this backdrop, nationalist militarism in Europe has made a comeback in the form of the Ukraine war now in its third year that is generating a thriving arms industry – as the headlines of *Rediff News* show. Russia's patience was severely tested by what it deemed a red line being crossed, particularly with the

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perceived likelihood of NATO edging closer to its borders courtesy the Ukrainian regime of Zelensky that had been installed.

So, Europe is warring again. This time round there are no troops from former colonies to be roped in, except for some mercenaries. There is already a shortage of soldiers, and also shortfalls in the supply of war equipment and ammunition. NATO is reluctant to put boots on the ground, and a proposal by French President Macron to this effect has not been taken favourably by all the NATO country members, especially Germany. Even the civilian population has begun to become war weary, but unfortunately that does not mean that the war will end soon. In fact, it would seem that it's going to drag on because dialogue is not on the cards.

On the other hand, pressures to involve non-European countries have been without effect, because the era of colonialism is over. Sovereign countries are pursuing their own path with greater awareness and understanding of the complex dynamics that govern international relations and are acting more smartly on the basis of enlightened self-interest.

With the other hot spot in the Middle-East – the Hamas Israeli war - that is now in its sixth month and has regionalised, there is no prospect of resolution on the horizon any time soon. And peace seems to be as elusive as ever.

Interview: Nita Deerpalsing

“The mainstream parties seem to be stuck in the past. Both in methods and leadership

But that would not have been a problem if there was at least the renewal of IDEAS”



Mauritius Times: How do you assess the current socio-economic and political situation in Mauritius in the lead-up to the upcoming general elections?

Nita Deerpalsing: This is a huge question! And it would take till the cows come home to do justice to a deep probe into our very dire situation.

Regardless of general elections or not, any non-fanatically partisan person, any neutral person, anyone without an obligation to defend one T-shirt colour over the other, will agree that our country is at a dangerous crossroads.

On the one hand we have this fact which I take from a recent Hansard record: more than 90 percent of our population earns less than Rs 36,000 rupees a month. Do note that we are talking about rupees which are constantly being depreciated so even if you hold Rs 100 in our hands today, next week, next month or sometime in the not-too-distant future, you will actually not be holding Rs 100 but in reality, a lesser amount.

Now let us come back to this figure of 90% earning less than Rs 36,000 a month. This average actually hides a much darker picture because the graph is very skewed towards the less than Rs 15,000 a month.

Just on that figure, it tells you that the large majority of the population is living very precariously. Let me hasten to add that this did not happen yesterday or over the last 5 years. It means successive governments have failed to address this core systemic flaw in the system.

What does this mean today? That *most* people are in

In this week’s interview, Nita Deerpalsing emphasizes the vulnerability of a large segment of the population, making them susceptible to exploitation by those seeking power. She criticizes the lack of visionary leadership and innovative ideas within mainstream political parties, calling for a fundamental overhaul of the socio-economic model rather than just a change in personnel. She also expresses skepticism towards traditional notions of political renewal, stressing the need for genuine innovation and policy reform. She urges a shift towards a more inclusive and sustainable development agenda, emphasizing the importance of decolonizing the mindset and embracing Mauritius’ cultural diversity.

a such a zone of vulnerability that if you just promise a few thousands of rupees here and there, the vast majority, being utterly vulnerable, can become willing takers. This vast pool of people living on precarious means, then become an ‘appetizing’ prey for those who have no compulsions about what the country will be tomorrow. It seems that some people without an iota of état d’âme have understood this well and will not hesitate to use the population’s vulnerability ruthlessly.

Power for the sake of power takes a completely different meaning when you have such a ‘prime tool’ i. e. an utterly vulnerable population to play with. Pardon the sarcasm, it is only to highlight the situation.

*** Fine. However, we may engage in intellectual discussions regarding the governance of the country and its future, but ultimately, it is the electorate who wield the decisive power during elections to shape the leadership, policies, and direction of the nation, don’t they?**

Well, as I was just saying, it depends which electorate you are talking about? The 10% - 25% at the upper echelons of the ladder?

An electorate normally wields power at the time of the vote yes. But what if over the last 30 years or more, nothing has been done to uplift those at the bottom? What if those at the bottom of the ladder can only wait for elections as a means to ‘bargain’ for a little iota of temporary advancement in their own individual predicaments?

Typically, the electorate wields power at the moment of the vote, yes. However, what if, over the past 30 years or more, little has been accomplished to uplift those at the bottom? What if those situated at the bottom of the ladder can only anticipate elections as an opportunity to ‘bargain’ for a little iota of temporary advancement in their individual predicaments?

Does this tell you that anyone has governed with a grand vision for the past few decades? Or have everyone just looked at grabbing power for the spoils of power? Would you agree that we have failed lamentably in building

a sustainable future for everyone in this country? And by sustainable I certainly do not mean green washing on ecological issues.

*** What you’re suggesting is that it ultimately comes down to the absence of leadership. But how can this occur when the political parties themselves are locked up, much like many of our institutions, thus perpetuating the same political culture and leadership style? How do you propose tackling this problem of entrenched leadership and promoting genuine political rejuvenation?**

The problem lies squarely on the shoulders on the absence of enlightened leadership in most sectors and not only on the political scene.

Sadly, today there is no such thing as a compelling vision for the future. The mainstream parties seem to be stuck in the past. Both in methods and leadership. But that would not have been a problem if there was at least the renewal of IDEAS.

I have no problem with people’s age, and I do not like the word ‘dinosaur’ nor the word ‘chatwa’ for that matter. This is all just useless noise. Where are the IDEAS for a better Mauritius? Goodies, promises, ‘mesures’, ‘manifest’ — all that is just to tick the boxes. I do not see up till now anyone with a compelling vision for the future. And to change the dire vulnerability index of the majority of the population.

“Most people are in a such a zone of vulnerability that if you just promise a few thousands of rupees here and there, the vast majority, being utterly vulnerable, can become willing takers. This vast pool of people living on precarious means, then become an ‘appetizing’ prey for those who have no compulsions about what the country will be tomorrow. It seems that some people without an iota of état d’ me have understood this well and will not hesitate to use the population’s vulnerability ruthlessly...”

We do not need political renewal of personnel as much as we need innovative ideas for an upheaval of the current socio-economic model. Renewing personnel is just fake without renewal of ideas.

*** More specifically, how would these ideas manifest in practical actions and policies?**

For example, the issue of land ownership and therefore land use, is now becoming ever so critical.

Because it affects access to housing for the vast majority (and I am not talking of the few thousands of social housings here and there that come out of the ground coincidentally at times aligned with electoral calendars).

Remember I just mentioned that the vast majority of the electorate has interiorized that it is at or around electoral times that they can aspire to a little bit of even illusory advancement.

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'Power for the sake of power takes a completely different meaning

when you have such an utterly vulnerable population to play with'

● Cont. from page 9

To those who are trigger happy to point the finger to the electorate and to lament that "dimun inn sanze", it would be good to return the question "well what exactly was done to pull them out of the vulnerability index with which they have been stuck for the last 30+ years?"

Now we will hear laments about 'money politics'...How about laments about a true 'réforme agraire'? Any takers for that one?

Anybody lamenting about using our land for not-so-smart cities, for 'betonaz partou', for villas selling for more than Rs 600 million a piece? Do you know what this means for the average Mauritian? Let us take an average monthly salary of Rs 15,000. That is on what *most* Mauritians live, not counting loans, cost of medication for an increasingly unhealthy population. That's Rs 180,000 a year. Assume no depreciation.

You can do the maths as to the equivalent number of years the Rs 600M villa represents to the average Mauritian with say Rs 180,000 of savings every year? It would take

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that average Mauritian more than 3,000 years to buy that villa assuming no inflation, no depreciation, etc. More than 30 reincarnations if s/he is lucky. Ok, I grant you; it's somewhat of a silly exercise. But I am driving a point here.

Have you heard anyone in the mainstream political parties even make mention of the surreal situation of our scarce land being used to sell "béton" worth Rs 600 m? Does anyone need a fully printed manifest to even whisper about this phenomenon of quick, unsustainable one-time FDI?

Maybe they should seriously consider aligning as candidates some of the enabler-sellers of the so-called 'smart cities'?

*** Ok, let's talk about these mainstream parties. Do you think the removal of the current MSM-led government should be seen as a necessary step towards the advancement of Mauritius, with the alliance of the Labour Party, MMM, and PMSD presenting a potential solution to this challenge?**

Forgive my exasperation. I do not think anything about the removal of X and replacing it by Y if we are NOT going to talk about land use, food security, access to housing, abuse of charges by banks and private clinics, the anti-nation building that private primary schooling represents, etc., etc. They are all interrelated.

Besides, are you not shocked when any politician utters the word 'sacrifice'? That they have supposedly made in the past or that they are currently making? I mean, what is one to think of anyone who talks about leaving a ministerial seat, a parliamentary seat, an ambassador's post as a humongous 'sacrifice'? Does that not reveal an inherent mentality of establishment entitlement?

Top of Form

I would much rather hear talk shows about a coherent, integrated plan which shows how the wellbeing of the average Mauritian is linked to policy making being truly independent. Policy making is not for sale to the highest bidder, be it a drug baron, a land baron or a political baron. A program aimed at preventing policy capture would be an excellent starting point.

For example, I am more interested in knowing if anyone has a plan for the population to have access to decent, healthy food.

In a recent edition, the British Medical Journal (BMJ) released an extremely important longitudinal study which should have given pause to anyone working on national policy with far reaching consequences.

So, the study demonstrates that heavy consumption or dependency on UPF (Ultra Processed Food) not only gives rise to diabetes, obesity and hypertension (which we knew already). Now the BMJ says that the study demonstrates that UPFs gives rise to cognitive problems, behavioural problems, pschye-related issues and mental health issues.

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“I have no problem with people's age, and I do not like the word 'dinosaur' nor the word 'chatwa' for that matter. This is all just useless noise. Where are the IDEAS for a better Mauritius? Goodies, promises, 'mesures', 'manifest' — all that is just to tick the boxes. I do not see up till now anyone with a compelling vision for the future... We do not need political renewal of personnel as much as we need innovative ideas for an upheaval of the current socio-economic model...”

Now let us peep into the dining rooms of most people in Mauritius. We no longer have fresh cow milk; most people drink powdered milk or UHT i.e. brick milk which are packed with chemicals. This is UPF (ultra processed food) en force. What about cheese? We all eat only processed cheese! What do average or poor kids take to school for lunch? Burgers, fries, etc. More Ultra Processed food. And the list goes on.

Access to fresh (not processed food) is practically disappearing in Mauritius. Definitely for those at the lower end of the ladder. But even for the middle class. Thanks to utter lack of vision, regime after regime for decades on end. The only one who had avant-garde vision regarding access to food, food sovereignty, innovation in agriculture, was Kishore Deerpalsing, and I say this unabashedly even if he was my relative.

*** We cannot, however, detach ourselves from the political landscape if we desire change. Take, for example, the Opposition alliance, which has recently faced hurdles due to particular concerns raised by the PMSD. Tensions have reportedly subsided. What are your thoughts on the impact of these differences on the alliance's viability moving forward?**

Again, please forgive me for being uninterested in the destiny of a handful of individuals. Or the viability of X, Y or Z. I am interested in the viability of my country. I would really like to see some groundbreaking ideas.

Let me come back to food security. We see signs of a world getting mired in different wars. A day may come when ships will not be able to come to Mauritius. What will we eat then? Béton? Of what value will be the FDI of that villa sold at Rs 600 million then?

On other media platforms, I have made this proposition. Let us have a Marshall Plan for food security. The authorities can create a multitude of cooperatives with both the 22,000 arpents of small planters abandoned land PLUS an equivalent number of arpents from large landowners to be dedicated to massive milk production. So that at least our kids, our youths can grow up on fresh milk and not UPF milk. It also means meaningful productive work for thousands of women and youths. Many will point to difficulties relating to workforce and feed, etc. But today with mechanization, with Artificial Intelligence being used in mechanized Agri processes, solutions can and should be found.

Have you heard teachers say that classrooms are more and more out of control? Some are blaming parents; some are blaming drugs in the school population. It's probably a mixed bag. But with the BMJ study, I am wondering just how much of the behavioural problems we are witnessing is also due to the extreme *dependency* on nothing but ultra processed food?

So there, I have articulated one of the few major policy initiatives I have worked out with a little group of like-minded individuals. And I have no problem if any of the political parties wants to copy and paste. Even if they need to slightly alter so that it looks like it comes from them. En passant, this so-called argument that you cannot present your program because others will copy, is puerile to say the least.

● Cont. on page 11

● Cont. from page 10

* The 2014 debacle remains vivid in the memories of the electorate, especially among the party sympathizers of the Labour Party and the MMM, who recall the reasons and factors contributing to that setback. What reassurances can the leadership of both parties provide to the electorate that things will be different, and that their alliance is indeed a viable and sustainable one?

As I was just saying, the viability of any political party has to be tied to the viability of the country. The viability of the future for the many, not the few. And even the few have no viable future if they are to live in a country of a widening gap in Gini coefficient. One day or the other, the few will pay the price for the ever-widening gap. This is inevitable. Unless there is some kind of enlightened leadership at all levels.

Unfortunately, there is no glimpse of enlightened leadership to be found.

* **The Opposition's adversary is suspected to command vast resources and networks; it has also demonstrated that it can be ruthless and uncompromising in the pursuit of its objectives. Though the challenge is immense, failure is not an option for the Opposition, nor for the leadership of the parties within their alliance, isn't it?**

Ok, let us agree that things can be slightly less distasteful if we take even only one thing.

What has been on show every Tuesday should be seen as totally unacceptable to anyone having even one iota of understanding of how a Westminster parliamentary democratic model should function. Let me correct the word unacceptable. Downright reprehensible would be more fitting.

Anyone, absolutely anyone, any citizen with a modicum of understanding of the rules of democracy, regardless of what colour T-shirt they wear on election day, should rally in denouncing and stopping the circus that destroys our democracy every single Tuesday, week in, week out.

* **I'll come back to my previous question, but phrased differently: should circumstances take a turn for the worse, do you think the Opposition parties will manage to survive?**

What is extremely painful and sad is to see the demise of ideas in historical political parties which have hitherto been at the heart of Rights-based struggles.

We are all physically here for a short visit to this planet. One day will inevitably come when we will have to leave. We will all be dusty and totally forgettable one day or the other. Except if we have left some worthy sustainable ideas and actions behind. Sometimes I wonder how many of those on the political scene do realize every day when they wake up that we are all temporary beings with a fixed un-renewable life span.

* **What do you believe are the most pressing issues or priorities that those leaders you had in mind just now, but have chosen not to name, should focus on addressing in their electoral campaign?**

I think it is very good that groups like Resistans ek Alternativ and Lalit and other citizens-led groups like Jack Bizlall's, etc. are feeding public debate with propositions of constitutional reforms. Once again, it shows there is no renewal of ideas within the mainstream political groups.

The Constitutional reforms are needed and interesting, but I would say that Constitutional Reform cannot be a single focus agenda of change. It is necessary but not sufficient. I come back to access to housing, access to fresh food, anti-policy capture, etc.

* **What are the key development challenges Mauritius faces, particularly in sectors requiring investment for sustainable growth, and how should the upcoming government tackle inequalities and enhance governance?**

Of all things, we need to create the environment for the

'I do not like the word 'dinosaur' nor the word 'chatwa' for that matter.

This is all just useless noise. Where are the IDEAS for a better Mauritius?'

“Let me come back to food security. We see signs of a world getting mired in different wars. A day may come when ships will not be able to come to Mauritius. What will we eat then? Béton? Of what value will be the FDI of that villa sold at Rs 600 million then? On other media platforms, I have made this proposition. Let us have a Marshall Plan for food security...”



“On this issue of nation building, let me express my discomfort with those who keep harping on 'Morisyenism' as a slogan. What exactly does that mean? Who will decide who is considered to be a 'vre morisyen' and who is not? I wake up every morning, I do my puja and I wear a tikka every day. Would that bar me from being considered enn vre morisyen? We have to be careful of taking a page of fascist narrative from Hitler's book. I would say we have as many versions of "Morisyenism" as there are of Mauritian citizens...”

wellbeing of each and every citizen. That spans on all the issues I mentioned earlier. From fresh food to housing to land use to policy capture. Reduce segregation on the basis of class so that we can have real nation building.

On this issue of nation building, let me express my discomfort with those who keep harping on 'Morisyenism' as a slogan. What exactly does that mean? Who will decide who is considered to be a 'vre morisyen' and who is not? I wake up every morning, I do my puja and I wear a tikka every day. Would that bar me from being considered enn vre morisyen?

In France, some are claiming that if you wear a hijab you are not truly French. Is that the kind of single straight jacket we want for "Morisyenism"? We have to be careful of taking a page of fascist narrative from Hitler's book. I would say we have as many versions of "Morisyenism" as there are of Mauritian citizens and that is actually to be nurtured and celebrated.

One of the aspects that I would like to see in the "Morisien" of the future is a total decolonization of the mind.

Specifically, from the tendency to think that everything that comes from the Occident is the 'norm', the 'Truth', the benchmark of what humanity should be about.

In any case, I hope people have noticed that the West is losing its hegemony, and the world is shifting East. Do you know, for example, that learning Sanskrit is hugely more cognitively beneficial than learning French?

At a colloque at the College de France a couple of years ago, Gerard Huet, a linguist and mathematician gave a talk on the structure of Sanskrit grammar as crafted by Sage Panini. And no, Panini was not Italian! He was one of the foremost Rishis, intellectual, linguist who devised the scientifically based 4000 complex rules of Sanskrit grammar. And Gerard Huet had this to say in his talk: "Une fois qu'on regarde ça [la complexité de la grammaire de Panini], et on reconsidère l'alphabet français, on se dit qu'est ce que c'est que cette cochonnerie, ça n'a aucun sens!"

I say this because it pains me to see the utter awe that some families, particularly of Indian ancestry, have for the French language. Out of sheer ignorance for the sophistication and brilliance of Sanskrit and other Eastern languages. They have this awe also because of the epistemicide that accompanied colonization.

It is perhaps high time to shed the awe for all kinds of 'cochonnerie' and for example learn Sanskrit, Mandarin, Urdu, Farsi in our schools. Not to mention the one unifying language that binds us all, that is Morisyen.

Speaking of our schools, shouldn't swimming and gardening be mandatory activities, at least at the primary level? Is it normal that most kids living on an island do not know how to swim properly?

There is a *vaste chantier* ahead of us. And our country has enormous potential. I have no doubt about this. But we are also in a dangerous spot with regard to the future.

At the base, if we are able to build an environment where people are mentally decolonized, *decomplexé par rapport à l'Occident*, and enjoy the dividends of a society where the reward system is not broken (who you know is a determinant of where you end up on the ladder), rule of law prevails (not who you know or who hates you), this is an environment which can only breed positive spillovers.

* **Looking forward, what vision do you believe the Opposition alliance should embrace for Mauritius's future, and what concrete steps do you think are essential to realize this vision?**

Let me end by paraphrasing Gramsci: we can have the pessimism of the '*constat*', but we must have the optimism '*de la volonté*'.

At the moment, everything is dysfunctional because the reward system is broken, and there is no integrity, no real sense of purpose to be seen, sensed or heard from the top. The fish rots from its head. Always. And I am not referring only to the political scene. We also see how some *pyromanes* do not hesitate to push people to a *repli identitaire* in the absence of well functional, just, rights-based socio-economic democracy.

But if we truly have the *volonté* to have a society where *lazistis* (Justice in all of its forms, social economic, constitutional, etc.) is a built-in feature, then in this society, there is bound to have *lakorité* (this is a hard to translate Kreol word – it kind of means sticking together, it's about togetherness). That is, everyone's wellbeing.

Russian spacecraft comes within 10m of destroying US Satellite



On February 28, Russian spacecraft came dangerously close to a U.S. satellite. Pic – Yahoo News

A Russian spacecraft, named Timed, came dangerously close to a US satellite, passing within just 10 meters in space. Experts have asserted that the near-miss could have had severe consequences, potentially endangering lives on Earth.

NASA's Timed satellite, designed to monitor Earth's

atmosphere, narrowly avoided a collision with the defunct Russian spy satellite Cosmos 2221. Colonel Pam Melroy, NASA's deputy administrator and a former astronaut, described the incident as "really scary" for the US space agency, reports Hindustan Times.

Speaking at the Space Foundation's Space Symposium in Colorado, Melroy said, "On February 28, a Nasa spacecraft called Timed and a Russian satellite, neither of them manoeuvrable, were expected to make a close path. We recently learnt that the path ended up being less than 10 metres apart, less than the distance of me to the front row. Had the two satellites collided, we would have seen debris generation, tiny shards travelling at 10,000 miles per hour, waiting to puncture a hole in another spacecraft and potentially putting human lives at risk.

She emphasized the potential danger posed by even small objects in space, saying, "It's kind of sobering to think that something that's the size of the eraser on the end of your pencil could wreak such havoc – but it can. We're all worried about this. Timed really scared us."

US weighs impending Iran Missile Strike on Israel

The US and its allies deem major Iran missile strikes against Israeli government targets as imminent. A new Bloomberg report details that the six-month-old conflict is far from over, as the potential violent attack may follow in the next few days. In what would mark a significant widening of the six-month-old conflict, according to people familiar with the intelligence.

People in contact with the intelligence claimed that high-precision missiles may be used to accomplish the assault. Certain officials from the US and Israeli intelligence are, in fact, positive that the attack may follow soon, which is no longer a matter of uncertainty, reports Bloomberg.

Iran's ensuing threats are supposedly a response to Israel's attack in Damascus, Syria, last week that claimed the lives of several veteran Iranian military officials. Israel has maintained its ambiguity in this case.

Per the tip, Israel's Western allies believe that government and military operations will be singled out in the attack – civilian spaces are not likely to be hampered in the process. Reportedly, the US is helping Israel by sharing these intelligence estimations despite its other call-outs for Israel to ceasefire in Gaza.



Israel has not explicitly acknowledged it was behind that attack on an Iranian embassy but it has put its military on alert. Pic -Daily Mail

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme leader of Iran, equated the Damascus strike with an assault on Iran and reiterated their claims of a violent payback on Wednesday.

Subsequently, the Brent crude prices leapt up over 1% to trade above \$90 a barrel. Moreover, oil has witnessed a 16% spike this year since, with Middle East war risks in the air.



US President Joe Biden applauds as Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida speaks during a state dinner in Washington. Pic - AFP

Japanese astronaut to be first non-American to set foot on Moon

A lucky Japanese astronaut will become the first non-American to set foot on the Moon during one of NASA's upcoming Artemis missions, US President Joe Biden announced Wednesday.

The offer to Japan - an opportunity many nations have long dreamed of - came as part of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's state visit, and as Washington seeks to strengthen ties with its key Asian ally.

Kishida hailed the announcement as a "huge achievement" and announced that Japan would in return supply a rover for the program, reports AFP.

NASA's Artemis program seeks to return humans to the Moon for the first time in over 50 years, and to build a sustained lunar presence ahead of potential missions to Mars.

Between 1969 and 1972, the US Apollo program saw 12 Americans all white men walk on the Moon.

NASA previously announced that the Artemis program would see the first woman and the first person of colour land on the Moon.

"America will no longer walk on the Moon alone," NASA chief Bill Nelson said in a video published on social media. "Diplomacy is good for discovery. And discovery is good for diplomacy," he added.

The first mission to take astronauts to the lunar surface, Artemis 3, is planned for 2026. China meanwhile has said it seeks to put humans on the Moon by 2030.

Prince Harry's US visa application under scrutiny amid drug use lawsuit

Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, is at the centre of legal scrutiny as his US visa application has been handed over to a judge following a lawsuit initiated by The Heritage Foundation.

The lawsuit aims to determine whether Prince Harry falsified information regarding his drug use on his visa application, information that could potentially impact his immigration status in the United States.

Joe Biden's legal team has complied with the court order to submit Prince Harry's visa documents, making development in the ongoing legal battle, reports Hindustan Times.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) refused to release the documents earlier, keeping in mind privacy concerns. However, the Heritage Foundation argues that



Prince Harry is concerned about a 'serious security risk' before his UK visit after sharing sensitive information in his memoir. Pic- AP

there is a public interest in revealing whether Prince Harry provided accurate information, given his admissions of drug use in his memoir, 'Spare.'

Judge Carl Nichols, overseeing the legal proceedings, ruled in March for an in-camera review of Prince Harry's documents to assess whether they should be made public.

Prince Harry's memoir provides a look into his experiences with drug use, including magic mushrooms, cocaine, and marijuana.

He described using psychedelics as, "There was only truth. After the psychedelics wore off my memory of that world would remain: This is not all there is."

* Contd on page 13

Hand sanitizers recalled in US. FDA warns methanol exposure could cause coma, blindness



Hand sanitisers are being recalled in the US as FDA issues warning over Methanol exposure. Pic – Mint

Health officials in the United States have recalled several lots of hand sanitisers and aloe gels over the risk of methanol exposure. The Food and Drug Administration recently announced that 40 lots of Aruba Aloe Hand Sanitizer Gel Alcohol 80% and Aruba Aloe Alcoholada Gel were recalled as they contain “alcohol denatured with methanol.” The FDA said in a notice that methanol can be highly toxic.

The agency warned that “substantial methanol exposure” could lead to “nausea, vomiting, headache, blurred vision, coma, seizures, permanent blindness, permanent damage to the central nervous system, or death.”

FDA further said that while there haven't been any reports of “adverse events” related to the recalled products, children who may accidentally ingest them are at high risk, reports Hindustan Times.

The products affected by the recall are labelled as “ARUBAALOE Hand Sanitizer GEL 80% Alcohol Made in Aruba World's Finest Aloe” and “Alcoholada Gel Pain Relieving Gel 0.5% Lidocaine Hydrochloride.”

FDA urged the existing consumers of the recalled products to stop using them and “discard the product.” “Consumers should contact their physician or healthcare provider if they have experienced any problems that may be related to taking or using this drug product,” FDA said.

World's oldest man reveals secret to his longevity: 'regular fish, chips and...'

Englishman John Alfred Tinniswood, 111, has been confirmed as the new holder of the title by Guinness World Records. It follows the death of the Venezuelan record-holder, Juan Vicente Pérez, this month at the age of 114. Gisaburo Sonobe from Japan, who was next longest-lived, died March 31 at 112.

Tinniswood was presented with a certificate by Guinness World Records on Thursday at the care home where he lives in Southport,

northwest England, reports AP.

Born in Liverpool on Aug. 26, 1912, a few months after the sinking of the Titanic, Tinniswood lived through two world wars, serving in the British Army Pay Corps in World War II.

The retired accountant and great-grandfather said moderation was key to a healthy life. He never smokes, rarely drinks and follows no special diet, apart from a fish and chip supper once a week.

“If you drink too much or you eat too much or you walk too much — if you do too much of anything — you're going to suffer eventually,” Tinniswood told Guinness World Records.

But ultimately, he said, “it's pure luck. You either live long or you live short, and you can't do much about it.”

The world's oldest woman, and oldest living person, is 117-year-old Maria Branyas Morera of Spain.

No Indian interference in Canada's poll process: Public inquiry

A panel of senior Canadian officials monitoring the 2021 elections in the country were not informed of any attempt by India at influencing those national polls.

That emerged as officials who were part of the Critical Election Incident Public Protocol testified before the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference in Federal Electoral Processes and Democratic Institutions, which is headed by Justice Marie-Josée Hogue, reports Hindustan Times.

However, a briefing note submitted to the Public Inquiry on Monday pointed to Chinese interference during that election cycle. That was prepared by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) and provided to the Prime Minister's Office in February 2023. That document said, “We know that the PRC clandestinely and deceptively interfered both in the 2019 and 2021 general elections.” PRC refers to the People's Republic of China.

The target was the principal opposition Conservative Party and its then leader Erin O'Toole, who had adopted a platform that was sharply critical of Beijing. “In 2021, the PRC FI were almost certainly motivated by a perception that the Conservative Party of Canada was promot-



Canadian PM Justin Trudeau with Narendra Modi in New Delhi

ed on a platform that was perceived to be anti-PRC,” the CSIS note stated.

These details came up as the public hearings for the Inquiry enter the final stretch, concluding on Wednesday, with senior officials including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expected to appear before it.

India has denied it is involved in FI activity in Canada. Last week, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, “We strongly reject all such baseless allegations of Indian interference in Canadian elections. It is not the Government of India's policy to interfere in the democratic processes of other countries. In fact, quite the opposite, it is Canada which has been interfering in our internal affairs.”

US treads carefully in responding to Hong Kong's new national security law

The U.S. has denounced Hong Kong's new national security law as a tool to potentially silence dissent both at home and abroad, but so far the action from Washington has been notably muted, disappointing those fighting for the Chinese territory's democracy and freedoms.

Since the law's swift passage on March 19, the US has announced visa restrictions on an unspecified number of unnamed Hong Kong officials but taken no further action. That's a far cry from 2020, when Beijing imposed national security restrictions to end months of unrest on Hong Kong streets. The US responded by hitting the city's highest-ranking officials with sanctions and depriving the territory of its preferential trading status.

While the new law, known as Article 23, now expands the Hong Kong government's powers to go after those it accuses of spying and to target dissidents any-



President Joe Biden, left, greets China's President Xi Jinping in Woodside, Calif, Nove, 15, 2023. Pic - AP

where in the world, Washington has been treading carefully, reports Hindustan Times.

Analysts suggest the Biden administration may not want to rock relations with China in an election year, especially when the impact of the law might take a while to

manifest itself and any punitive US measures would be unlikely to bring about meaningful change.

The language of the new law is vague, and its implementation will depend on how it is interpreted, which in itself is worrisome and could erode Hong Kong's status as a safe place for international contract settlement, Daniels said.

The new security law has come at a time when the White House wants to protect the fragile US-China relationship, which has only stabilized in recent months, said Willy Lam, a senior fellow at the Jamestown Foundation, another Washington-based think tank.

In Congress, a bill to strip Hong Kong's trade offices in the US of their diplomatic privileges has not moved forward and neither has one that would require the president to consider sanctioning the city's judges, prosecutors and police commissioner if they were found to have undermined civil freedoms there.

“The latest response by the Biden administration has honestly concerned me about the administration's commitment to stand up against Beijing's aggression,” said Frances Hui, policy and advocacy coordinator for the Washington-based Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation. “A more robust response from the U.S. is needed to facilitate future behavioural changes among (Chinese) and Hong Kong officials. A visa ban is something but not enough.”

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 267**MAURITIUS TIMES**

Friday 25 September, 1959

● *How difficult it is to get men to believe that any other man can or does act from disinterestedness. — Benjamin Haydon*

At Hyde Park

By B. Ramlallah

For our readers unfamiliar with London, Hyde Park offers a delightful glimpse into the city's green heart. Imagine sprawling grounds exceeding 350 acres, dwarfing even our beloved Botanical Garden of Pamplemousses by a factor of four! Kensington Gardens, once the private domain of Kensington Palace (Queen Victoria's birthplace), seamlessly connects to Hyde Park, creating a truly magnificent expanse. Together, they boast the title of London's largest and most vibrant park, teeming with diverse birdlife and boasting a magnificent array of mature trees.

Hyde Park's southern side is graced by the Serpentine, a picturesque artificial lake occupying roughly 40 acres, where marshland once dominated the landscape. Beyond the Serpentine lie other highlights not to be missed:

- Hyde Park Corner (south side), the official starting point for measuring all distances from London.
- Marble Arch (north side), a former grand entrance to Buckingham Palace.
- Rotten Row, a historic track reserved for horseback riding.
- Speaker's Corner, a world-famous platform for public discourse, located near Marble Arch.

Speaker's Corner: A Stage for All Voices

Speaker's Corner is a captivating spectacle nearly every afternoon. A vibrant tapestry unfolds as individuals representing a kaleidoscope of beliefs take center stage. Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Jehovah's Witnesses – all find their voice here, alongside those advocating for political change – Socialists, Communists, Conservatives. Those yearning for Scottish and Welsh independence raise their voices, as do people of colour from Nigeria, Ghana, and the West Indies. Each stands on a makeshift platform, passionately addressing the crowd.

Some orators arrive armed with elaborate visions for reforming the world, their fervour bordering on fanaticism. Others, with a genuine desire to share their message, take to the stage. Religious figures like priests, monks, and nuns reach out to those who might not be drawn to traditional houses of worship ("les brebis égarées" – the lost sheep), offering hymns and religious messages in a public forum. Regardless of our personal views on their messages, we can't help but admire the dedication of these selfless individuals, both religious and political.

On sunny days, Speaker's Corner pulsates with life. Many come not just for the oratory, but to be part of the spectacle itself. A true melting pot of races and cultures gathers here. Loudspeakers and music are forbidden, so orators must rely on the power of their voices to be heard. Rarely does a visitor to London miss this vibrant spot. For Mauritians seeking compatriots, keep an ear out for Creole amidst the energetic throngs. Speaker's Corner is a place unlike any other – a testament to free speech where, unlike Mauritius, anyone can step up and address an audience (if fortunate enough to find one) at any time.

The number of listeners varies greatly. Some orators hold court to a solitary soul, while others captivate a hun-



Hyde Park, Speaker's Corner. Hyde Park is one of London's finest landscapes and covers over 350 acres. Since 1872, people have been allowed to speak at Speaker's Corner on any subject they want to. Pic - On The Road Archives

dred or even a thousand. In fact, during 1953, I found myself the sole audience member for an elderly Scotsman reciting the poetry of Robert Burns! The creation of Speaker's Corner stands as a thoughtful initiative, providing a platform for individuals to express themselves or simply vent their frustrations. I'm told that even Nikita Khrushchev, during his visit to London, expressed a desire to witness Speaker's Corner firsthand.

* * *

The Colonial Office hosted a farewell tea party in honor of the five Mauritian journalists who concluded their four-week visit to the UK. The party was well-attended by dignitaries from the Colonial Office, including Sir Hilton Poynton, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, and Mr C.Y. Carstairs, Assistant Under-Secretary. Representatives from the British Council, including Mr Paul Reed, and Mauritian officials like Mr Robertson were also present.

The party was quite interesting. We had the pleasure

of meeting some Mauritians who have settled in the UK, and they were delighted to meet us. Our presence evoked memories of their happy days in Mauritius. Among them were Dr Benedict and Miss Scullard, who either stayed in Mauritius for a while or visited. They fondly reminisced about their time on the "lovely little Island."

Throughout the 90-minute event, we fielded a variety of ques-

tions, spanning from Mauritius' overpopulation issue to our impressions of the UK. A newspaper representative and a group urged me to share my impressions, even the negative ones. I began by addressing the unpleasant aspects I had observed. It saddened me to witness public displays of racial prejudice, such as the offensive statements on accommodation cards in shop windows: "No Africans; No Coloured, No Asians." Despite efforts by numerous institutions, notably the British Council, to combat this issue, many average Britons oppose legislation against it, preferring a change of hearts.

Despite this blemish, which detracts from Britain's allure, I commended the British people for their courtesy, honesty, willingness to assist those in genuine need, and tolerance. They possess a strong work ethic and a commendable sense of responsibility. As inhabitants of underdeveloped regions, we have much to glean from their example.

PROMOTIONS

- Mr M. J. J. L. Rivalland, MBE Assistant Attorney General, promoted Solicitor General, Legal Department.
- Mr G. Lalouette, Master and Registrar, Supreme Court, promoted Assistant Attorney General, Legal Department.
- Mr N. H. R. Chaperon, Senior Executive Officer, promoted Chief Executive Officer.
- Mr S. Ramlall, Assistant Diver, promoted Diver, Harbour and Quays Department.

Appointments

- Mr J. S. Savrimoutou Publicity Officer appointed Temporary Information Officer, Central Information Office.
- Mr K. Mardaymootoo-Pillay appointed Messenger.
- Mr D. Oozeer appointed Temporary Messenger.

Acting Appointments

- Mr M. J. J. L. Rivalland, MBE, Solicitor General, Legal Department, to act as Puisne Judge.
- Mr M. Latour-Adrien, Senior Crown Counsel to act as Solicitor General, Legal Department.
- Mr V. G. Bouloux, Senior Crown Counsel, to act as Assistant Attorney General, Legal Department.
- Mr H. Garrioch, Crown Counsel, to act as Senior

Crown Counsel, Legal Department.

- Mr C. Moullan, District Magistrate, to act as Crown Counsel Legal Department.
- Mr L. Ah-Kong, Assistance Officer Grade I, to act as Adjudicating Officer, Public Assistance Department.

Published in MT - Issue 11 September 1959

* * *

Promotions & Appointments in the Civil Service Promotion

- Mr P. Chan Kin, Clerical Officer, promoted Executive Officer with effect from the 11th September, 1959.

Appointments

- Mr N. H. R. Chaperon, Senior Executive Officer,
- Mr C. Ramtohl appointed Executive Officer with effect from the 1st July, 1959.

Acting Appointments

- Mr C. Ramchurn, Second Class Teacher, to act as Education Officer with effect from the 1st September, 1959.
- Mr H. M. Cornell, Chief Inspector, to act as Senior Officer of Works, Public Works and Surveys Department, with effect from the 4th August, 1959.
- Published in MT - Issue 18 September 1959

Britain's constitution has helped the Conservatives stay in power. Now it could lock them out

● Cont. from page 2

And the real outlier, the SNP, received one-third of the votes of the Liberal Democrats but secured almost four-and-a-half times the number of seats. Thanks to its geographic concentration and its position as the "winner" in Scotland, it took on average just 26,000 votes to return an SNP MP.

Worse than losing an election

So, if the polls are right, Labour can expect its vote share to be magnified in terms of seats won when the ballots are counted. First past the post is a winner-takes-all system where candidates do not have to secure 50% of the vote to become the MP. If Labour wins 45% of the national vote, as indicated in recent polls, that would likely translate to a considerable majority in the House of Commons. At the 2019 election, under Boris Johnson, the Tories won 43% of the vote but 56% of the seats. Remember, under the UK electoral system most people vote for losing candidates.

But the British electoral system has also saved losing parties in crisis. It bailed out Labour in 1983 when, divided and undisciplined, it was challenged by the breakaway SDP. The SDP/Liberal Alliance came within 2.2 percentage points of Labour's vote share but won only 23 seats to Labour's 209. This meant Labour remained as the official opposition and was able to regroup, eventually returning to government.

It is said that the Tory party exists in one of two states: complacency or panic. Complacent Conservatives resigned to defeat will be hoping the 1983 trick is repeated this time, cushioning their loss so that they survive to fight another day.

But those panicking will envisage a scenario where the electoral system works



P - theguardian.com

against them, maximising the anti-Tory vote, whether that be for Labour, the Lib Dems, Reform UK or any other challenger. This has certainly been reflected in recent byelections. And again, there is a precedent. John Major's Conservatives were roundly beaten, by Tony Blair's New Labour, when he went to the country in 1997. They survived in England but were completely wiped out in Scotland, despite securing half a million votes there. And that was one-third more than the Lib Dems, who returned ten MPs.

When the system turns against you

The Conservatives, of course, have been wedded to first past the post, even cynically changing the (proportional) supplementary vote electoral system ahead of this year's mayoral elections. And so, it is ironic that the Conservatives only survived north of the border thanks to another part of the constitution – proportional representation operated in the Scottish parliament giving them a continued voice there after 1999. Perhaps as a marginalised force,

they will come to see the benefits of a system where representation reflects votes.

There is, though, one place where the Conservatives will undoubtedly survive – for a time at least. With 278 peers, the Conservatives represent the largest group in the House of Lords and that will not change quickly. Boris Johnson, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak have all, controversially, appointed a considerable number of new peers including party donors. For the next government to

rebalance the upper house would require either flooding the chamber with even more members, bloating what is already the second biggest legislature in the world after the National People's Congress of China, or serious reform.

Labour has so far backed away from the latter hinting only at an abolition of the remaining hereditary peers. It could be that this is where we will find Conservatives clinging to power, whether it's worth much is another matter.

Historically, the British Conservatives are the most successful political force in the democratic world. They have dominated British politics and occupied Downing Street for most of the past century. The question now is whether a constitution that has facilitated this dominance for so long will this year turn against the Tories.

Stephen Barber, Professor of Global Affairs, University of East London

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SICOM and OracleMed Health join forces to launch international medical insurance plan



From L to R: Kiran Ancharaz, CEO of SICOM General Insurance Ltd., Nandita Ramdewar, CEO of SICOM Group, Patricia Hainsworth, Joint Shareholder of OracleMed Health Investments (Pty) Ltd., Ashvin Sookrenram, SICOM's Manager Property and Casualty, and David Van der Knaap, Joint Shareholder of OracleMed Health Investments (Pty) Ltd

of our clients," said Kiran Ancharaz, Senior Executive Officer of SICOM General Insurance Ltd. "The partnership with OracleMed Health elevates the standards of healthcare accessibility for our policyholders by granting them access to the best healthcare providers globally."

"In today's world of ever-changing health concerns, effortless access to appropriate treatments is paramount," remarked David Van der Knaap, Founder and Co-Director of OracleMed Health Investments (Pty) Ltd. "Our extensive network of public and private hospitals, coupled with our multilingual 24/7 call center and expertise in African healthcare insurance, positions us perfectly to deliver exceptional solutions that cater to the evolving needs of the Mauritian population and residents alike."

Established in 2001, OracleMed Health is a leading international medical insurance provider, offering a comprehensive suite of medical insurance products designed to deliver 24/7 medical coverage. With a presence in 18 countries, OracleMed Health ensures all products comply with local regulations and are legally registered in each region.

SICOM Group is a leading provider of insurance and financial services in Mauritius. The company offers a wide range of competitive products tailored to meet the specific needs of its clients. Established in 1975 with the founding of the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd (SICOM), SICOM Group has been a cornerstone of the Mauritian economic landscape for nearly five decades.

SICOM Group has announced a new partnership with OracleMed Health, a global medical insurance company, to offer a comprehensive international medical insurance plan. This plan aims to provide residents of Mauritius and beyond with greater access to high-quality healthcare services worldwide.

The new plan boasts access to a vast network exceeding 3,000 hospitals across the globe. This ensures policyholders benefit from a personalized approach to healthcare, with coverage tailored to their specific needs.

Unmatched Coverage and Support

SICOM Group, in partnership with OracleMed Health, offers comprehensive medical coverage of up to 1 million US dollars. This coverage ensures policyholders access to a network of globally accredited medical providers in the event of medical emergencies. Additionally, it provides the option for seeking advanced medical treatment abroad when needed.

OracleMed Health, specialists in international healthcare insurance, will guide policyholders towards destinations offering the most suitable medical care for their specific situation. The plan goes beyond medical costs, fully covering transportation, hospitalization, and accommodation for both the policyholder and one accompanying person.

24/7 Support and Flexible Options

An additional benefit is the 24/7 telephone assistance service. Through a dedicated call centre, policyholders can connect directly with reputable doctors or related services.

Understanding the diverse needs of its clientele, SICOM has designed the plan with flexible geographical coverage options. A premium tier offers worldwide coverage, excluding the United States and Canada. Alternatively, policyholders can choose from Africa-specific or Asia-specific plans.

"This new offering underscores our dedication to adapting our insurance products to the evolving needs

Breakfast with Bwana

Revisiting Post-Ukraine

● Cont. from page 6

At the same time, the US-NATO-European position that Ukraine will become a NATO member does not address Putin's security concerns, no matter how baseless they may be.



Trump has declared that he could end the war in Ukraine in 24 hours. His plan includes territorial concessions of Crimea and the Donbas to Russia. Pic - News18

Earlier in 2022, I criticized Biden's approach of declaring that the US would defend every inch of NATO territory, thus leaving the clear impression that an invasion of Ukrainian soil would not trigger a US defense of that country. For some reason, Biden seems to have taken it as gospel that Putin would resort to nuclear weapons if the US and its allies confronted his illegal invasion directly. Biden's current policy remains a muddle. Trump's approach is short-sighted appeasement of Putin. But Putin has shown no death wish. To the contrary, he is a survivor.

China, North Korea, Iran, and Putin have truly formed yet another "axis of evil" that views as acceptable an attack on the territorial integrity of a sovereign nation and what is effectively becoming, as I said then, a genocide of the Ukrainian people.

As we move on, if it is true as the FT reports that "a large proportion of the men of fighting age are unwilling to be deployed to the front," one can only wonder how firm the resolve of the NATO countries will be to defend a country whose young men don't want to defend themselves. Trump supporters will jump on that as an excuse for not supporting Ukraine.

Change on the geopolitical stage may be coming faster than we thought.

Cheerz...
Bwana

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

You'll feel a restless energy propelling you to explore new opportunities and experiences. Trust your intuition as you step outside your comfort zone but remain grounded to avoid impulsiveness. Mindfulness and self-awareness will guide you on your journey.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 19, 21, 33, 36, 39

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

You'll feel driven to achieve success and make tangible progress towards your ambitions. However, be mindful of maintaining balance in all aspects of your life. Prioritize self-care and meaningful connections with loved ones to sustain your motivation and well-being.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 13, 15, 19, 21, 30

AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

You'll be drawn to social causes and progressive initiatives that align with your values. Trust in your ability to effect positive change, both on a personal and collective level. Cultivate empathy and understanding in your interactions, recognizing the humanity in each person you encounter.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 20, 21, 30, 32, 33

PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

YOUR STARS

PISCES: prioritize intuition and spiritual growth this week. You'll feel drawn to introspection and reflection, seeking guidance from your inner wisdom and higher self. Pay attention to your dreams and synchronicities, as they hold valuable insights into your path forward.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 7, 11, 14, 19, 33

ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

ARIES: this week ignites your ambitions and drive for success. You'll feel a surge of energy propelling you towards your goals, both personally and professionally. While your determination is commendable, be mindful not to steamroll over others in your pursuit of success.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 19, 25, 26, 27, 30

TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

This week prompts you to delve deep into your emotions and past experiences. It's a time for introspection and healing as you seek closure on unresolved issues. Nurture yourself and prioritize self-care practices that replenish your spirit. Trust your intuition and allow yourself to be vulnerable

with those you trust.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 9, 11, 18, 29

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

GEMINI: conflicting desires may pull you in different directions this week. Your adaptability and quick thinking will help you navigate these complexities with ease. Setting boundaries and prioritizing tasks will prevent you from feeling overwhelmed.

Effective communication will be vital in both personal and professional relationships.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 17, 20, 26, 34, 39

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

CANCER: this week encourages you to focus on nurturing your closest relationships and creating a sense of security in your home environment. You'll find solace in the company of family and close friends, drawing strength from their love and support.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 16, 30, 31, 34

LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

You'll feel inspired to showcase your unique talents to the world. Your charisma and enthusiasm will attract others to you, fostering collaboration and camaraderie. However, be mindful not to let arrogance or egotism overshadow genuine connection.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 17, 25, 26, 31

VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Your attention to detail and problem-solving skills will serve you well in tackling tasks efficiently. However, guard against perfectionism and self-criticism, which could lead to unnecessary stress. Remember to celebrate your accomplishments, no matter how small, and practice self-compassion in all your endeavours.

LUCKY NUMBERS: 8, 19, 20, 21, 33, 39

LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

LIBRA: seek harmony and balance in your relationships this week. You'll be inclined to find common ground and foster cooperation among those around you. While diplomacy is your forte, be cautious of people-pleasing tendencies that may compromise your own needs.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 22, 29, 36, 37, 39

SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

SCORPIO: embrace transformation and renewal this week. You'll find yourself shedding old patterns and embracing a new way of being. Allow vulnerability and authenticity in your interactions, inviting deeper connections with others.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 13, 17, 22, 26, 33,

Insights for couples

Self-compassion enhances relationship satisfaction

Research conducted by the Otto Friedrich University Bamberg and the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) suggests that practicing self-compassion within a romantic relationship can lead to greater satisfaction for both partners. The study, published in the journal *Personal Relationships*, surveyed 209 heterosexual couples.

The research highlights the significance of self-compassion, defined as treating oneself with kindness and understanding, especially in acknowledging personal shortcomings. Dr. Robert Körner from the University of Bamberg, the lead author, emphasizes that self-compassion not only enhances individual happiness but also contributes to the overall satisfaction within the relationship.

The study underscores that men in heterosexual relationships experience higher levels of satisfaction when their partners demonstrate self-compassion. This suggests that fostering self-compassion within oneself and within the relationship can positively influence romantic dynamics.

Past research has established the impact of self-com-



passion on personal well-being and its role in shaping interpersonal relationships. This study delves deeper into how self-compassion influences romantic connections, including conflict resolution and emotional management.

One notable aspect of this study is its comprehensive approach, which involved assessing both partners' perspectives within the romantic relationship. By examining various aspects of relationship satisfaction, such as sex-

ual fulfillment and long-term prospects, the researchers gained a nuanced understanding of the role of self-compassion in romantic dynamics.

Moreover, the study differentiated between different categories of self-compassion, such as prosocial orientation, relationship orientation, financial orientation, and creative orientation. This nuanced analysis shed light on how individuals may prioritize different aspects of self-compassion within the context of their relationships.

The researchers stress the importance of considering the interplay between partners' self-compassion levels to fully harness its potential in fostering happiness within relationships. They suggest that future research should explore how self-compassion influences diverse relationship dynamics, including same-sex relationships and couples from various cultural backgrounds.

In addition to its implications for research, the findings offer practical insights for couples' therapy. By encouraging individuals to cultivate self-compassion and extend it to their partners, therapists can facilitate healthier and more fulfilling romantic relationships.



How do airplanes fly? An aerospace engineer explains the physics of flight

People have been flying airplanes for well over a century. Engineers know how to balance all the forces at play, but still aren't exactly sure how some of the physics of flight actually works.

Airplane flight is one of the most significant technological achievements of the 20th century. The invention of the airplane allows people to travel from one side of the planet to the other in less than a day, compared with weeks of travel by boat and train.

Understanding precisely why airplanes fly is an ongoing challenge for aerospace engineers, like me, who study and design airplanes, rockets, satellites, helicopters and space capsules.

Our job is to make sure that flying through the air or in space is safe and reliable, by using tools and ideas from science and mathematics, like computer simulations and experiments.

Because of that work, flying in an airplane is the safest way to travel – safer than cars, buses, trains or boats. But although aerospace engineers design aircraft that are stunningly sophisticated, you might be surprised to learn there are still some details about the physics of flight that we don't fully understand.

May the force(s) be with you

There are four forces that aerospace engineers consider when designing an airplane: weight, thrust, drag and lift. Engineers use these forces to help design the shape of the airplane, the size of the wings, and figure out how many passengers the airplane can carry.

For example, when an airplane takes off, the thrust must be greater than the drag, and the lift must be greater than the weight. If you watch an airplane take off, you'll see the wings change shape using flaps from the back of the wings. The flaps help make more lift, but they also make



U.S. airlines carry more than 800 million passengers per year. Lasha Kilasonia/iStock via Getty Images Plus

more drag, so a powerful engine is necessary to create more thrust.

When the airplane is high enough and is cruising to your destination, lift needs to balance the weight, and the thrust needs to balance the drag. So the pilot pulls the flaps in and can set the engine to produce less power.

That said, let's define what force means. According to Newton's Second Law, a force is a mass multiplied by an acceleration, or $F = ma$.

A force that everyone encounters every day is the force of gravity, which keeps us on the ground. When you get weighed at the doctor's office, they're actually measuring the amount of force that your body applies to the scale. When your weight is given in pounds, that is a measure of force.

While an airplane is flying, gravity is pulling the airplane down. That force is the weight of the airplane.

But its engines push the airplane forward because they create a force called thrust. The engines pull in air, which has mass, and quickly push that air out of the back of the engine – so there's a mass multiplied by an acceleration.

According to Newton's Third Law, for every action there's an equal and opposite reaction. When the air rushes out the back of the engines, there is a reaction force that pushes the airplane forward – that's called thrust.

As the airplane flies through the air, the shape of the airplane pushes air out of the way. Again, by Newton's Third Law, this air pushes back, which leads to drag.

You can experience something similar to drag when swimming. Paddle through a pool, and your arms and feet provide thrust. Stop paddling, and you will keep moving forward because you have mass, but you will slow down. The reason that you slow down is that the water is pushing back on you – that's drag.

Understanding lift

Lift is more complicated than the other forces of weight, thrust and drag. It's created by the wings of an airplane, and the shape of the wing is critical; that shape is known as an airfoil. Basically it means the top and bottom of the wing are curved, although the shapes of the curves can be different from each other.

As air flows around the airfoil, it creates pressure – a force spread out over a large area. Lower pressure is created on the top of the airfoil compared to the pressure on the bottom. Or to look at it another way, air travels faster over the top of the airfoil than beneath.

Understanding why the pressure and speeds are different on the top and the bottom is critical to understand lift. By improving our understanding of lift,

engineers can design more fuel-efficient airplanes and give passengers more comfortable flights.

The conundrum

The reason why air moves at different speeds around an airfoil remains mysterious, and scientists are still investigating this question.

Aerospace engineers have measured these pressures on a wing in both wind tunnel experiments and during flight. We can create models of different wings to predict if they will fly well. We can also change lift by changing a wing's shape to create airplanes that fly for long distances or fly very fast.

Even though we still don't fully know why lift happens, aerospace engineers work with mathematical equations that recreate the different speeds on the top and bottom of the airfoil. Those equations describe a process known as circulation.

Circulation provides aerospace engineers with a way to model what happens around a wing even if we do not completely understand why it happens. In other words, through the use of math and science, we are able to build airplanes that are safe and efficient, even if we don't completely understand the process behind why it works.

Ultimately, if aerospace engineers can figure out why the air flows at different speeds depending on which side of the wing it's on, we can design airplanes that use less fuel and pollute less.

Craig Merrett

Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Clarkson University



The Unusual Payment Method

A large group of punters enter a pub and order drinks for everyone. When they come to pay, they give the barman milk bottle tops.

"What the hell is this?" complains the barman.

The leader of the group comes to explain. "It's the annual outing from the mental hospital down the road. Just humour them, keep a tab, and at the end of the night, I'll settle with you," says the guy.

"Okay," says the barman, smiling.

The night rolls on, and it's a roaring success. The barman comments to the group leader on how there's been no trouble at all. He gives the group leader a bill of £500.

"No problem, have you got change for a dustbin lid?"

* * *

A Startling Encounter

A guy is driving along in his car when he is suddenly stopped by a policeman. The man pokes his head out of the window and asks, "What seems to be the problem, officer?"

The policeman looks him in the eye and says, "Are you aware that a woman fell out of your car about a mile back?"

"Thank God, I thought I had gone deaf," says the driver.

* * *

Police intelligence defined: What's the definition of police intelligence? An excuse to raid the wrong houses.

* * *

The Secret to a Happy Married Life

Once I was asked by my friend, "What is the secret behind your happy married life?"

I said: "You should share responsibilities with due love

and respect each other. Then absolutely there will be no problems."

He asked: "Can you explain?"

I said: "In my house, I take decisions on bigger issues where as my wife decides on smaller issues. We do not interfere in each other's decisions."

Still not convinced, the friend asked me: "Give me some examples."

I said: "Smaller issues like, which car we should buy, how much amount to save, when to visit the super market, when to go on vacation, which sofa, air conditioner, refrigerator to buy. Monthly expenses, whether to keep a maid or not, etc. Are all decided by my wife. I just agree to it."

He asked "Then, what is your role?"

I said: "My decisions are only for very big issues. Like whether America should attack Russia, whether Britain should lift sanctions over Zimbabwe, whether to vote against Russia at the UN, etc., etc. And do you know, my wife, NEVER, objects to any of these decisions."

* * *

A wealthy aristocrat was hosting a party at his estate, which had been in his family for generations. He noticed that one of his guests bore a striking resemblance to himself. He could not believe that such a similarity could exist with no genetic link, so guessing that his father had sown some wild oats. He approached the guest and asked with a smirk, "Was your mother ever a maid here?"

The guest replied, "No, my father used to be the gardener here."

* * *

Did you know the History of Women's Day?

Initially, Women's Day was planned on 6th March... Women took two days to get ready. That's how it got postponed to 8th March!!!

Men's Day was also planned... But as usual, they forgot the date!

* * *

Legal Humour

Defence Attorney: Will you please state your age?

Old Lady: I am 73 years old.

Defence Attorney: Will you tell us what happened the night of April 1st?

Old Lady: There I was, sitting there on my swing on my front porch on a warm spring evening, when a



young man came to the porch and sat down beside me.

Defence Attorney: Did you know him?

Old Lady: No, but he sure was friendly.

Defence Attorney: What happened after he sat down?

Old Lady: He started to stroke my thigh.

Defence Attorney: Did you stop him?

Old Lady: No, I didn't stop him.

Defence Attorney: Why not?

Old Lady: I felt so good. Nobody had done that since my late husbands, Dr Fashi and Major Sandson, passed away years ago.

Defence Attorney: What happened next?

Old Lady: He began to fondle my upper part chest.

Defence Attorney: Did you stop him then?

Old Lady: No, I did not stop him.

Defence Attorney: Why not?

Old Lady: His fondling made me feel all energized. I haven't felt that good in years!

Defence Attorney: What happened next?

Old Lady: Well, by then, I was feeling so horny that I just laid down and asked him, "Take me, young man. I'm all yours."

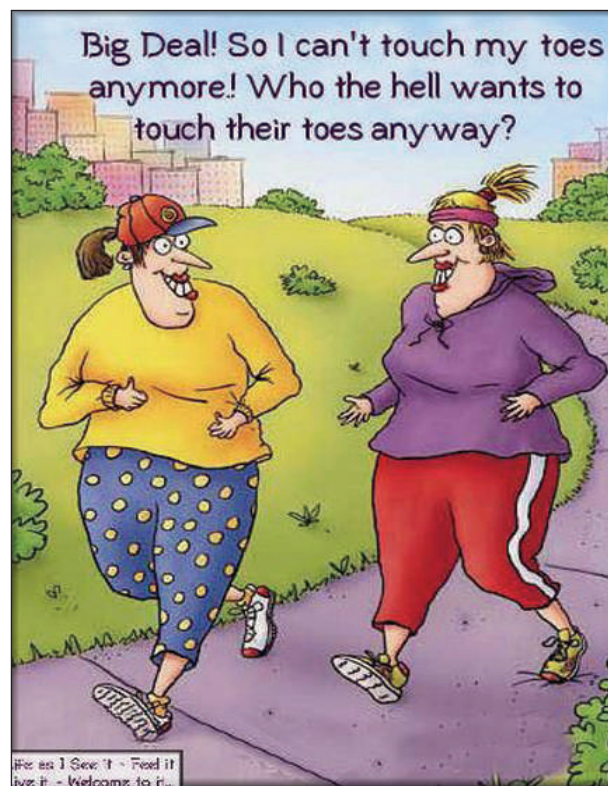
Defence Attorney: Did he take you?

Old Lady: Hell, no! He just yelled, 'APRIL FOOL!'

Chicken Humour

Dedicated to all the chicken lovers

- Who is the father of chicken?**
Chicken ka-bab.
- Who is the mother of chicken?**
Chicken Keema.
- How do you tell a chicken to call you on your mobile?**
Kalmi chicken.
- What happens when a chicken takes a bath?**
Chicken showerma.
- Chicken in trouble?**
Chicken soup.
- Chicken getting an injection?**
Chicken teeka.
- Chicken doing flattery?**
Butter chicken.
- Chicken on a winter night?**
Chilly chicken.
- Chicken @ retirement?**
Chicken 65.
- Last one - Social distancing chicken**
Tan-Doori Chicken.



Confucius did not say...

Man who wants pretty nurse must be patient.

Passionate kiss, like spider web, leads to undoing of fly.

Lady who goes camping with man must beware of evil intent.

Squirrel who runs up woman's leg will not find nuts.

Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.

Man who runs in front of car gets tired, but man who runs behind car gets exhausted.

Man who eats many prunes get good run fo money.

War does not determine who is right; it determines who is left.

Man who fights with wife all day get no piece at night.

It takes many nails to build a crib, but only one screw to fill it.

Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.

Man who stands on toilet is high on pot.

Wise man does not keep sledge hammer and slow computer in same room.

Man who lives in glass house should change clothes in basement.

That's Life**The Power of a Woman's Tongue**

By Akello Oliech and Dayan Masinde

1. A woman's greatest power is in her words, whereas men are physically strong, a woman can bring down a man just with her tongue

2. A woman's words can encourage a man and be his greatest inspiration, or discourage him and be his greatest nightmare. The more he loves her, the more power she has over him

3. A woman's tongue can destroy her own children's self-esteem with harsh and cold words. A woman's words can uplift her own children with words of hope, faith and love. How children remember their childhood is based on how their mother spoke to them



4. A woman's tongue can be very suggestive that implies to many men that she is interested in them. This type of woman comes off as flirtatious. If she is single, she misleads men; if she is married, she makes her husband insecure as he wonders why she speaks to other men with a sexual undertone

5. A woman's tongue can chase friends away with her mean tone, stinging jokes and insensitive words. A woman's tongue can keep friends because her words create an environment of care

6. A woman's tongue can be a gossip machine and she hangs around women who are also gossip machines, eventually, these women destroy each other, their marriages, their careers, their peace and other people's lives just with their tongue

7. A woman's toxic tongue can make her husband avoid coming back home to her; he deliberately comes home late to avoid her even though he is not cheating. A woman's loving tongue can make her husband come home early because he feels at home with her, he even enjoys calling her over the phone

8. A woman who is emotionally unstable is reckless with her tongue, lashing out and saying irrational things. A woman who is emotionally stable is responsible with her tongue, she may be moody, hormonal or not having a good day but she is still measured in her response

9. A woman's tongue can be a weapon that provokes a man with words such "You are not man enough", "You poor man cannot handle me", "Worthless", "Beat me, I dare you". A woman's tongue can be a peace maker, calming down conflict, stopping fires before they escalate, showing her man understanding and appreciation

10. A woman's tongue can destroy or build her own home. With her tone, she sets the mood of the home

11. A woman's words can cancel her own progress, dreams and prayers... Or she can use her tongue to make effectual and fervent prayers, command her morning and speak life to her dreams, husband, children and society

There is power in her tongue.

Life can be different**The Everyday Hero Manifesto: Key Lessons**

The Everyday Hero Manifesto" by Robin Sharma is a guide designed to inspire and empower individuals to achieve personal greatness and lead fulfilling lives. It's a call to step into your greatness, make a positive impact on the world, and become an everyday hero.

Here are key lessons from the book

1. **Embrace Your Inner Hero:** Sharma argues that everyone has the potential to be a hero in their own life. This begins with the courage to face your fears, step out of your comfort zone, and commit to personal excellence.

2. **Mastery in the Mundane:** Greatness is found in the consistent execution of small, seemingly mundane tasks done with extraordinary attention to detail and commitment. Daily disciplines and routines are crucial for achieving success.

3. **The 5 AM Club:** Waking up early is presented as a strategy for personal transformation. The morning routine of victory hour, starting at 5 AM, is divided into 20 minutes of exercise, 20 minutes of planning or learning, and 20 minutes of reflection or meditation, setting a positive tone for the day.

4. **The Twin Cycles of Elite**



Performance: Sharma discusses the importance of balancing high-intensity work with periods of rest and recovery. Just as athletes need time to recuperate, individuals striving for peak performance should also prioritize rest to rejuvenate their creativity and productivity.

5. **Personal Growth as a Service to Others:** Personal success is not just about individual achievement but also about how those achievements can serve and uplift others. Leadership is about making a difference and leaving a legacy that benefits others.

6. **Heartset over Mindset:** While having a positive mindset is important, Sharma emphasizes the power of the heart. Cultivating qualities like

compassion, kindness, and empathy is crucial for true fulfillment and impactful leadership.

7. **The 4 Interior Empires:** Sharma teaches that mastering your Mindset, Heartset, Healthset, and Soulset is essential for a well-rounded and successful life. Each aspect requires attention and development to achieve harmony and peak performance.

8. **The Power of Kaizen:** Continuous improvement, or Kaizen, is vital for personal and professional growth. Embracing lifelong learning and consistently seeking ways to improve oneself can lead to significant achievements over time.

9. **Lead Without a Title:** Leadership is not about holding a position of power but about taking responsibility, inspiring and uplifting those around you, regardless of your job title. Every individual has the ability to lead by example.

10. **Victimhood to Victory:** Moving from a mindset of victimhood to one of victory is a choice. By taking responsibility for your life, embracing challenges as opportunities for growth, and maintaining an unwavering commitment to your ideals, you can transform your life.

Quotable Quotes**On the Purpose of Life**

The main purpose of life is to bring happiness to others and radiate energy from our soul to our surroundings.

The happiness we give to others is greater than the happiness we receive from others!

— Anonymous

Give the ones you love wings to fly, roots to come back and reasons to stay.

— Dalai Lama

True wisdom comes to each of us when we realize how little we understand about life, ourselves and the world around us.

— Socrates

Lovely days don't come to you. You should walk to them.

— Rumi

In this life, we cannot always do great things. But we



can do small things with great love.

— Mother Teresa

To understand life is to understand ourselves, and that is the beginning and end of education.

— Jiddu Krishnamurti

The whole world yearns after freedom, yet each creature is in love with his chains. This is the first paradox and inextricable knot of our nature.

— Sri Aurobindo

Life is really simple, but we insist of making it complicated.

— Confucius

Speak truth in humility to all people. Only then can you be a true man.

— Native American

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

— African proverb

The Journey of Love in Marriage

By Wenhe Olsen

If you see a married couple still in love through the years, you may think how lucky they are. But in marital relations, there's no such thing as luck.



They made many compromises, they overlooked each other's faults. They forgave many mistakes and endured many problems. They spent years learning to understand one another.

Love has never been a matter of luck. It's mutual giving, compromise, shared dreams, care, respect, mercy and patience...

Gentleman's Guide to looking Great as you get Older

Just a few simple adjustments can help you maintain a youthful appearance and enhance your self-assurance

In an era where appearance plays a significant role in everyday life, maintaining a youthful and confident look is paramount for many men as they get older.

This guide offers practical tips and expert advice to help men embrace their maturing years with grace and sophistication. From grooming essentials to wardrobe choices, from skincare tips to self-care practices, this guide empowers men to exude confidence and radiate timeless style at every stage of life.

Care for Your Hair - As you mature, keep your hair-style tidy. That mop-top from your younger years might not suit you anymore. If you're experiencing hair loss, consider your options: invest in restoration treatments, opt for a shorter trim, or embrace a clean-shaven look. Avoid ponytails, especially if you're dealing with thinning hair; they can add years to your appearance. If you prefer to cover grays, choose a color close to your natural shade.

Grooming Essentials - Nothing betrays age like unruly eyebrows, ear hair, or a thick back. Visit your barber to tame your brows, ears, and nose hair, or manage it yourself with at-home trimmers. Keep your chest and back hair in check to maintain a polished look, whether through shaving, waxing, depilatory creams, or laser treatments.

Beard Care Choices - While a closely shaved face often conveys youthfulness, there are no hard rules when it comes to facial hair. Simply ensure your beard is well-groomed. If you decide to cover grays, opt for a dye specifically formulated for men's facial hair to avoid an artificial appearance.

Maintain Healthy Skin - Preserve your skin's youthful glow by incorporating daily sunscreen, moisturizer, and lip balm into your routine. Consider using retinoids to promote skin cell turnover and prevent collagen breakdown, which contributes to a more vibrant complexion. These products are available over the counter or through prescription from a dermatologist.



Addressing Wrinkles - Considering cosmetic procedures? Consult a professional for filler injections to plump up your skin or Botox treatments to soften wrinkles. Laser skin resurfacing is another option to target shallow to medium-depth wrinkles, providing a rejuvenated look.

Prioritize Health and Wellness - To maintain a youthful appearance, prioritize self-care: get adequate rest, follow a balanced diet, stay hydrated, refrain from smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, and engage in regular exercise.

Radiant Smile Maintenance - A bright smile can instantly boost your confidence. Maintain good oral hygiene with regular brushing and flossing and consider whitening toothpaste or at-home bleaching treatments for added brightness. Consult your dentist for professional whitening or veneers if needed.

Elevate Your Wardrobe - Invest in timeless wardrobe staples like a well-fitted suit, leather jacket, and classic denim jeans. Integrate trendy pieces seasonally but avoid clinging to outdated styles. If feasible, opt for tailored clothing for a polished look. Keep accessories understated to avoid an overly flashy appearance.

Enhance Your Look with Eyewear - Select eyeglass frames that complement your features and conceal signs of aging around your eyes. Opt for molded plastic frames

with a sweeping design to uplift your facial contours. Avoid styles with heavy lower sections or downward curves, as they can accentuate droopiness.

Eyebrow Grooming Tips - Maintain well-groomed eyebrows by plucking stray hairs periodically. Consider professional waxing for a more thorough approach if needed.

Combatting Bad Breath - Combat bad breath by practicing good oral hygiene and minimizing odorous foods. If persistent, consult a dentist to address underlying issues.

Tackling Nose and Ear Hair - Use electric trimmers to manage nose and ear hair without causing discomfort or compromising respiratory function.

Hand and Nail Maintenance - Keep your hands presentable with regular nail care, including trimming and cleaning. Consider professional manicures for a polished look if desired.

Managing Thinning Hair - Embrace thinning hair gracefully by opting for shorter styles or shaving it off entirely for a confident appearance.

Fragrance Etiquette - Use cologne sparingly and avoid combining heavily scented grooming products to prevent overwhelming fragrances.

Refining Shaving Techniques - Take your time with shaving, allowing shaving cream to soften hairs before shaving to minimize irritation and razor burn.

Maintaining Skin Health - Protect your skin from sun damage by using sunscreen with broad-spectrum protection and SPF 30 or higher.

Cleansing Your Face Effectively - Opt for gentle facial cleansers to avoid stripping the skin of its natural oils, particularly considering the facial skin's sensitivity.

Foot Care Routine - Pay attention to foot hygiene by regularly trimming nails and exfoliating dead skin to maintain overall cleanliness and comfort.

Medically Reviewed
by Poonam Sachdev, MD

Relationship Rules Actually Worth Following

In the sea of relationship advice, it's often challenging to distinguish the valuable insights from the noise. Amidst the myriad tips from friends, relatives, and the internet, it's crucial to discern which rules are truly worth following. While every relationship is unique, therapists specializing in couples' issues offer invaluable guidance on which guidelines tend to benefit most couples. Here are some relationship rules they genuinely believe in as reported by Kelsey Borresen of HuffPost:

Keep dating each other: No matter the stage of your relationship, avoid slipping into autopilot. Continue pursuing your partner with thoughtful gestures, meaningful conversations, and creative date activities. This effort fosters growth both individually and as a couple, sustaining chemistry and intimacy.

Stop comparing your relationship: Comparison is natural, but fixating on how your relationship measures up against others can be detrimental. Create your own blueprint based on what works best



He & She

for you and your partner, free from societal pressures and external influences.

Don't avoid uncomfortable conversations: Confronting issues rather than ignoring them is vital for relationship health. Commit to addressing uncomfor-

table topics head-on, as avoiding them only exacerbates problems in the long run.

Express gratitude daily: Take time to acknowledge and appreciate your partner's contributions to your life, big and small. Expressing gratitude daily streng-

thens your bond and fosters a positive atmosphere in the relationship.

Be transparent: Honesty about your needs and desires builds trust and intimacy. Authentic communication allows for genuine connection and strengthens emotional bonds.

Build trust continuously: Trust is foundational in any relationship and requires ongoing effort. Reflect on your actions and behaviors, ensuring they contribute to building trust rather than eroding it.

Don't rely solely on love: While love is essential, a successful relationship requires more. Intentionality, shared values, and meaningful connections provide depth and substance to your partnership, helping navigate conflicts with purpose and resolve.

Remember, these rules serve as guiding principles, but ultimately, each couple must define their path based on mutual understanding and respect.



Akshay Kumar's first salary was Rs 150, worked as an 'errand boy' in travel agency

Akshay Kumar, who is now one of Bollywood's highest-paid actors, opened up recently about how he spent his days tirelessly working as an errand boy in a travel agency when he was only fifteen years old. Akshay revealed that he earned Rs 150 with that job and later shifted to places like Dhaka and Bangkok for better opportunities.

In an interview with Curly Tales, Akshay said, "I received my first earning/pay cheque when I was working with a travel agency in Calcutta." Tiger asked, 'Errand boy?' Akshay said, 'Yes, errand boy.' Akshay continued, "My salary there was somewhere between Rs 150 to Rs 200. It was somewhere in 1984, and I might be around 15-16 years old."

When asked why he ventured into jobs so soon, Akshay said, "When a person is not educated, he will of course strive and do something. This was the only job that I got. After that I went to Dhaka, there was a hotel there. Then I went to Bangkok, then Delhi. I worked in Delhi. I used to sell artificial jewellery in Delhi. I used to purchase jewellery in Delhi and sell it here in Bombay. If I got the jewellery for Rs 20,000, I used to sell for Rs 24,000."

Akshay, in an interview with Mid-day, had previously revealed that his journey to stardom took a major turn when he visited Natraj studio. Scheduled for a flight to Bangalore, he was approached by a make-up artist who offered him a chance to become a hero. Akshay accepted and received his payment that day. He recalled receiving three cheques: Rs 5000 for the first film, Rs 50,000 for the second, and Rs 150,000 for the third.

Tiger and Akshay are currently seen in the film *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan*. Also starring Prithviraj Sukumaran, the film was released in theatres on April 11.

Nora Fatehi opens up about being 'bullied, demeaned' by male superstars

Nora Fatehi opened up about the disrespect that she has faced in the film and entertainment industry, at the hands of none other than major superstars. She said that sometimes, she meets people that make her feel 'weird inside' because their 'energy and intention' is not good, as she opened up about being bullied and humiliated by male stars. She said that this often happens because they want women close to them to succeed over her, reports Indian Express.

Appearing on Ranveer Allahbadia's podcast, Nora said that she has witnessed behaviour like this often, and that it happened again very recently. "They'll say things behind your back, and you'll get to know what they said, and they have that entitlement of being bullies. Nobody will call them out," she said, adding that she has survived mainly because she's intimidating and unpredictable.

Opening up about her experiences, Nora continued, "If I feel something is off, I'll say it. But some people don't like that. Some people prefer girls who are quiet, submissive, someone who looks like they need the work. I don't give that power to anybody. And then they'll say things like, 'She's nothing, she's nobody, she's not talented, why is she here?' All that happens, and then they see you again at certain events. They seem to not be able to brush you off, wherever you go, they're there too, and this irritates them more. You're slowly climbing up and reaching where they are, and they don't want that."



Nora also confessed that even her friends are curious how she's avoided predators in Bollywood. "Luckily, I've not had that situation, and I know why... I do think that it could have almost happened, but my personality is a little intimidating, so they kind of get like, 'Iske saath nahi, she could talk'. These people, whether they're stars or not, at the end of the day are predators." Nora said that people like this 'sniff out victims', and she refuses to be one.

The Sabarmati Report

Vikrant Massey plays a journalist investigating the Godhra Incident

After the success of *12th Fail*, Vikrant Massey is ready with his next film, *The Sabarmati Report*. The makers unveiled the film's teaser recently. The movie is based on the real-life incident from 2002 when 59 pilgrims returning from Ayodhya died in a fire inside the Sabarmati Express near the Godhra railway station in Gujarat, reports Indian Express.

In the film, Vikrant plays the role of Hindi journalist Samar Kumar, who teams up with a fellow reporter, played by Raashii Khanna, and a senior anchor, played by Ridhi Dogra. They break the news of the Godhra incident and are convinced that it wasn't an accident but an attack on the pilgrims. As they struggle to gather evidence to support their claims, they face attacks and the scrutiny of their bosses.

The teaser also comments on the politics within media houses as Samar says, "The whole nation looks at the media to report the truth but the media looks at their boss before showing the truth."

By the end of the teaser, Samar touches upon the national language debate as he puts forward a case for



the Hindi language.

Earlier, the makers released a promotional clip, announcing *The Sabarmati Report*. The clip featured Vikrant sitting in a studio as he announces the news on February 27, 2002, when the Godhra train burning occurred. He captioned the video, "27th February 2002. Godhra, Gujarat. A homage to the 59 innocent

lives burned to death. 22 years two official reports and multiple investigations later, *The Sabarmati Report*."

The Sabarmati Report is produced by Shobha Kapoor, Amul V Mohan, Ektaa R Kapoor, and Anshul Mohan under the banner of Balaji Motion Pictures. Directed by Rajan Chandel, the film will release in theatres on May 3, 2024.



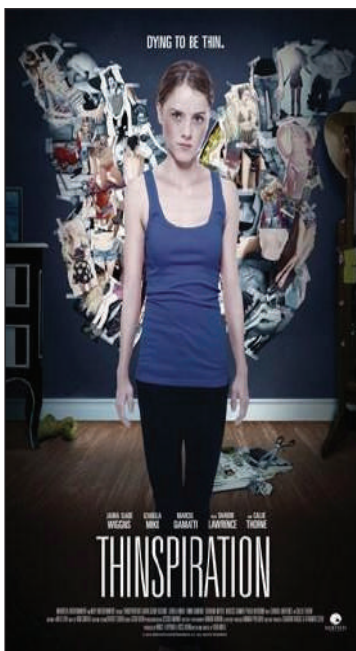
Vendredi 12 avril - 20.30



Samedi 13 avril - 20.35



dimanche 14 avril - 21.40



Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 12 avril	03.56 Tele: Gardener's Daughter 04.23 Amour Secret / Amor Secreto 05.10 Pasion Y Poder 05.34 A Que No Me Dejas 06.00 Serial: The Equalizer 07.05 Film: Stormboy 08.45 Serial: Wanted 09.30 Tele: Amour Secret 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter 10.45 Tele: L'Envers du Paradis 11.10 La Reina Del Flow 12.34 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 13.17 Fierce Angel 13.50 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Serial: Treadstone 15.31 Dark Beginnings of S.Holmes 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Swaran Ghar 20.30 Film: The Quake With Kristoffer JonerAne Dahl Torp	06.00 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 06.15 Les Grandes Lignes 07.05 Local: Mots & Ecrits 09.01 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 08.48 Local: Artizan: Huile Coco 10.22 Local: J'ai Faim 11.00 Local: Groov'in 12.00 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 12.23 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 12.49 Local: Mots & Ecrits 13.30 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 14.53 Local: J'ai Faim 16.36 Local: Aktiv 16.50 Local: La Sosiete 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.44 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 20.30 Lir - Ekri Kreol Morisien 20.59 Local: Come On Let's Dance 22.00 Local: La Sosiete 23.20 Local: Voyage Au Feminin	05.00 Aastha TV 07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.36 Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Local: Amrit Vaani 08.28 Local: Ramayan Satsang 08.41 Local Production 09.22 Local: Hunarbaaz 10.00 Serial: Agniphera 12.00 Film: Solah Shukrawar 15.00 Samachar 15.29 Serial: Senhur 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron... 16.44 Serial: Bhakharwadi 17.29 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Ramcharitmanas Sandesh 19.00 Local: Khel Khiladi 19.30 Live: Durga Nawmi Celebra... 21.03 Bhojpuri Film: Sasur Ghar 23.16 Serial: Mere Sai	06.00 Mag: Eco India 06.26 Mag: Border Crossing 06.58 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 07.24 D.Anime: Kids Songs 07.28 D.Anime: All Hail King... 09.00 D.Anime: Earth To Luna! 11.00 Magazine: Eco India 11.41 Doc: The World's Biggest... 12.22 Doc: Extreme Climate... 13.10 Doc: Made To Measure 14.00 Film: Le Roi Des Elephants 15.19 D.Anime: Kids Songs 16.03 D.Anime: Spacepop 16.32 D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1412 16.55 Mag: Action Kidz 17.25 Serial: Secrets 18.00 Doc: Marvel - Empire Of Superheroes 19.30 Doc: A Mediterranean... 20.00 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.25 Film: Aladin With Shubhankar Atre, Amitabh Bachchan, Victor Banerjee 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.33 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.36 Fanaa - Ishq Mein Marjawan 19.56 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.25 Radha Krishna 21.00 Anupamaa 21.31 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 22.30 Swaran Ghar 23.03 Shaurya & Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Aladin
samedi 13 avril	03.30 Serial: Airwolf 04.45 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 06.30 Tele: Amour A Mort 07.00 Serial: French Series 07.45 Serial: Rookie Blue 08.30 NCIS : New Orleans / NCIS 09.15 Serial: Pearson 10.00 Serial: Airwolf/Supercopter 10.50 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Tele: Amour A Mort 12.25 Under Pressure 13.15 Sublime Mensonge 15.20 Film: The Quake 17.10 Telenovela: Tour De Babel 18.31 Dance India Dance 20.35 Film: Retour Vers Le Futur 3 Avec Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Thomas F. Wilson 22.30 Serial: Being Human 23.13 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 23.30 Le Journal 00.15 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis	06.00 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 06.15 Local: Enn Semenn Dan... 07.09 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 07.35 Lir - Ekri Kreol Morisien 08.35 Animalia Nos Amis Les... 09.07 Local: Zanford Nou Pei 09.21 Rodrig: Ala Nou Vini 09.43 Local: La Sosiete 10.55 Local: Come On Let's Dance 11.47 MRIC - Inove Moris 12.01 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 12.35 Local: Enn Semenn Dan... 12.55 Lir - Ekri Kreol Morisien 13.21 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 13.44 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 16.19 Local: Retrovizer 17.45 MRIC - Inove Moris 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.20 Mag De L'emploi Et Des Metiers 20.00 Les Petits Genies 20.31 Local: Groov'in	05.00 Aastha TV 07.00 Tik Tak Tail 07.12 Kisna 07.21 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 07.33 Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.00 Hamar Fitness Challenge 08.52 Local: Khel Khiladi 10.19 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 12.01 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.22 Local: Mati Ke Mol 12.50 Local: Khel Khiladi 14.08 Local: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 14.30 Mag: Discover Life 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Ek Vivaah... Aisa Bhi 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.15 Virasat 19.30 Khoobsurat 20.00 Yeh Shaam Mastani 21.00 Film: Poorna (2017) 22.43 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.09 Duniya Mein Is Saptah	06.00 D.Anime - Voltron 06.44 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 09.00 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little.. 09.34 Mag: Lab 360 09.36 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 11.27 The Saving The Temples... 12.15 Doc: Legendary Hotels 13.40 Mag: Shift 14.06 Film: Le Royaume De Terracotta 15.45 D.Anime: Messy Goes To... 16.31 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.43 D.Anime: Magic: Kaito 1412 17.07 Mag: Action Kidz 17.14 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 18.40 Serial: Heartland 20.01 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: The Demon's Child With Mirko D'Antona, Chiara Iezzi	08.00 Swaran Ghar 09.49 Gadget Guru Ganesha 10.12 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.00 Udaariyaan 14.00 Anupamaa 16.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise.. 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Film: Cirkus Stars : Ranveer Singh, Varun Sharma, Pooja Hegde 20.48 Gadget Guru Ganesha 20.55 Serial: Porus 21.16 Serial: Crime Patrol
dimanche 14 avril	04.06 Tele - A Que No Me Dejas 05.45 Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete 06.15 Film: Retour Vers Le Futur 3 08.15 Serial: New Amsterdam 09.00 Film: The Quake 10.50 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete 12.35 Film: The Big Gundown Avec Lee Van Cleef, Tomás Milián, Fernando Sancho 14.10 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme 15.25 Film: Restart The Earth 17.00 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 20.30 Film: Thinspiration Stars : Laura Wiggins, Izabella Miko, Callie Thorne 21.55 Serial: Being Human 22.36 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 01.03 Serial: Chicago Med	06.00 Rodrig: D'jam 06.32 Rodrig: Kot Nou 07.16 Local: Saver Kil Tirel 07.36 Pran Kont Ou La Sante 08.50 Local: Les Petits Genies 10.11 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 11.01 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.01 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art 12.22 Local: Les Petits Genies 14.03 Local: Elle 14.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 15.00 Le Vrai Gout Du Janpon 16.00 Local: International Jazz Day MBC TV Special 18.01 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 20.00 Local: Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 20.30 Local: Le Challenge 20.45 Local: Les Klips 21.37 Local: Sa Lavi-La 23.20 Local: Clin D'oeil	05.00 Aastha TV 07.00 Film: Super Bheem 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness... 08.35 Local: Puranya Pakwan 09.00 Duniya Mein Is Saptah 09.16 Local: Virasat 09.31 Local: Khoobsurat 09.49 Local: Tirth Yatra 2022 12.00 Film: Nachnewala Gaanewale 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.24 Local: Puranya Pakwan 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Planet Bollywood 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi 19.30 Local: Tohar Farmaish 20.00 Yaadein 20.30 Porus 21.00 Serial: Crime Patrol 21.45 Serial: Naagin Season 4 22.24 Serial: Bahubali 23.07 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa	06.00 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Defenseur Legendaire 09.34 Mag: Lab 360 09.37 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 10.30 Mag: In Good Shape 11.38 Doc: The Bitter Sweet Deal 13.34 Doc: The Trillion Tree Plan 14.06 Film: Bikes 15.22 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! 16.30 D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1412 16.54 Mag: Action Kidz 17.01 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 17.43 Mag: Her: Women In Asia 18.40 Serial: Heartland 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: Lucy Avec Scarlett Johansson, Morgan Freeman, Min-sik Choi	00.14 Sasural Simar Ka 2 02.11 Udaariyaan 04.00 Anupamaa 06.21 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise... 07.47 Tenali Rama 08.01 Patiala Babes 10.44 Kundali Bhagya 12.29 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 14.15 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.39 Film: Velle Stars : Abhay Deol, Mouni Roy, Karan Deol, Anya Singh 20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.23 Sayings Radha Krishna 21.25 Dance India Dance Little... 22.12 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 23.22 Serial: Patiala Babes
lundi 15 avril	04.12 The Gardener's Daughter 04.34 Amour Secret / Amor Secreto 05.21 Pasion Y Poder / Passion & Power 05.45 A Que No Me Dejas/Ne Me 06.11 Serial: Suits 06.55 Mag: Red Carpet 07.10 Film: Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes 08.45 Serial: Heartland 09.30 Tele: Amour Secret 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.10 Serial: La Reina Del Flow 12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 13.15 Fierce Angel 13.35 Pasion Y Poder 14.10 Serial: Heartland 15.25 Film: Juste Un Peu D'Alchimie 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar 21.15 Serial: Rookie Blue	06.00 Nu Rasinn 07.20 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 09.13 Arsvi MBC 10.05 Mangleons Veg 10.58 Klips 12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.01 Rodrig: Komanter 14.30 Local: Arsvi MBC 15.20 Local: Les Klips 16.17 Local: Le Challenge 16.46 Local: En Forme 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.20 Magazine de L'emploi 19.30 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 20.00 Local: Proze Dime 20.30 Local: Business Connect 20.45 Local: Tous Egaux 21.15 Local: Radio Vision 22.07 Lir - Ekri Kreol Morisien 22.42 Local: Itinerer Moris 23.00 Journal Kreol 23.20 Le Rendez Vous...	05.00 Mag: Prog Aastha TV 07.12 Serial: Kisna 07.36 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Planet Bollywood 08.26 Tohar Rashi 09.18 Local: Yaadein 09.43 Serial: Bahubali 10.22 Saaton Vachanwa Saath... 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Bhagwan Samaye Sansar Main 15.30 Serial: Senhur 16.01 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen 19.00 Local: Darshan 19.30 Excerpts - Shiv Abhishek 20.10 Vaad Vivaad 20.36 Film: Maa Baap 23.44 Serial: Mere Sai 23.19 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 23.15 Ved Ki Shikshaen	06.00 Magazine: SADC - Ep 536 06.26 Doc: Tea-New Ideas For A... 07.08 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 09.24 Mag: Action Kidz 09.31 Film: Bayala 10.51 Mag: Lab 360 11.06 Doc: Tea-New Ideas For A... 11.31 Doc: Growing Up In Mongolia 13.53 Doc: Japan Video Topics 14.00 Film: Garfield 2 15.23 Dessin Anime: Tut! Tut! 16.54 Mag: Action Kidz 17.01 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 17.43 Mag: Shift 18.00 Magazine: Eco At Africa 19.00 Mag: Africa 54 20.01 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 News 21.40 Film: The Street Where We Live Kristina Kopf, Dino Tripodis, Katie Stottlemir 23.40 Mag: Washington Forum	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.54 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.26 Film: Laat Saab 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.32 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Serial: Udaariyaan 19.31 Fanaa Ishq Mein Marjawan 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.00 Anupamaa 21.31 Mere Sai 22.00 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 22.32 Swaran Ghar 22.59 Shaurya & Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Laat Saab



Programme TV



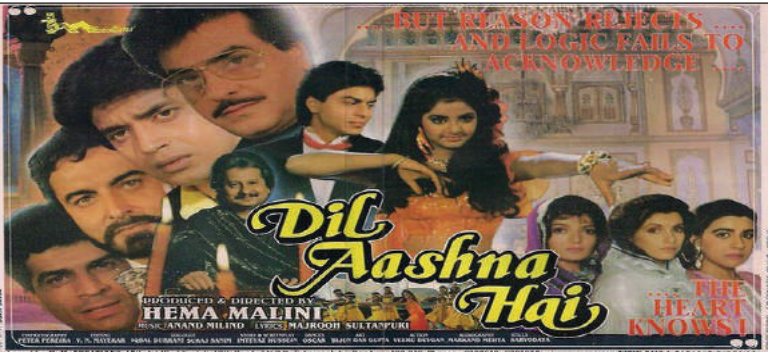
	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 16 avril	03.15 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 03.58 The Gardener's Daughter 04.17 Amour Secret / Amor Secret 05.04 Pasi3n Y Poder 05.28 A Que No Me Dejas 06.01 Serial: Suits 06.50 Hollywood On Set 07.15 Serial: Zoo 08.00 Rookie Blue 08.45 NCIS 09.30 The Gardener's... 09.55 Tele: Amour Secret 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.10 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 13.15 Fierce Angel/La Loba 13.40 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.05 Gout De L'amour 15.25 Film: The Big Gundown 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 20.30 Film: Terminator Avec Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda Hamilton, Mackenzie	06.00 Feminin Pluriel 06.24 Konn Ou Drwa 06.49 Local: Aktiv 07.08 Local: Proze Dime 07.34 Local: Business Connect 08.05 Local: Les Grands Moments 08.49 Local: Itinerer Moris 09.30 Radio Vision 10.46 Local: Rodrig: Saver Lokal 11.08 Le Rendez Vous... Born 12.06 Feminin Pluriel 12.32 Rodrig Mo Pei 13.24 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 13.50 Local: Proze Dime 14.15 Local: Business Connect 18.06 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.28 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.25 Le Magazine De L'Empli... 19.43 Son Ladan Mem 21.00 Paroles Agricoles	05.00 Mag: Prog From Aastha TV 07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.36 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Ved Ki Shikshaein 08.54 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 12.00 Film: Tulsi Vivah 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Badki Malkaain 16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Tark Vitark 19.00 Bhojpuri Dhamaka 19.30 Local: Navsamvatsar Utsav 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.35 Film: Bhakti Mein Shakti 22.51 Serial: Mere Sai 23.35 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 23.59 Local: Tark Vitark 00.25 Bhojpuri Dhamaka 01.01 Local: Navsamvatsar Utsav	06.00 Mag: Eco At Africa 06.26 Magazine: The 77 Percent 07.00 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 09.14 Mag: Action Kidz 09.31 Film: Ploey 10.53 Mag: Lab 360 11.52 Mag: Africa 54 12.30 Mag: In Good Shape 13.39 Mag: Healthy Living 14.00 Film: La Vallée Des Lanternes 15.32 D.Anime: Messy Goes To... 15.45 D.Anime: Romy & Boo 15.55 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 16.08 D.Anime: Spacepop 16.30 D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1412 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living 19.00 Mag: Made In Germany 19.31 Mag: Global Us 20.02 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 22.29 Doc: Euromaxx	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.21 Film: Shanti Kranti Starring: Juhi Chawla 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.32 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.29 Fanaa - Ishq Mein Marjawan 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.29 Radha Krishna 21.00 Anupama 21.33 Mere Sai 22.03 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.30 Swaran Ghar 23.02 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.24 Film: Shanti Kranti Starring: Juhi Chawla
mercredi 17 avril	04.06 The Gardener's Daughter 04.28 Amour Secret / Amor Secret 05.15 Pasi3n Y Poder 05.31 Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete 05.07 Pasi3n Y Poder 05.31 A Que No Me Dejas 06.06 Serial: Suits 07.10 Film: The Street Where We Live 08.51 Serial: Heartland 09.35 Amour A Mort 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter 10.47 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.10 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 13.15 Fierce Angel 13.45 Pasi3n Y Poder 14.15 Serial: Heartland 15.25 Film: 1941 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 21.28 Film: Warning: Do Not Play	06.00 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 06.16 Local: Son Ladan Mem 06.54 Local: Entractes 07.21 Priorite Sante 07.42 Paroles Agricoles 08.14 Mots & Ecrits 11.00 Music Tour 2022 12.00 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 12.31 Local: Entractes 13.02 Priorite Sante 13.24 Paroles Agricoles 13.50 Local: Mots & Ecrits 14.16 Local: Koze Zom 15.05 Nu Rasinn 16.52 Music Tour 2022 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.25 Le Magazine De L'Empli... 19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor 20.32 Toc Toc Doc 20.47 Local: En Forme	07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.08 Serial: Kisna 07.36 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Tark Vitark 08.27 Bhojpuri Dhamaka 10.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 12.00 Film: Hari Darshan 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Senhur - Bhojpuri Serial 16.00 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Yatra 19.00 Local: Kala 20.00 Virasat 20.15 Gyan Vigyan 21.00 Film: Rangli Chunariya Tohre Naam 23.05 Serial: Mere Sai 23.52 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.21 Local: Yatra 01.42 Local: Virasat 02.10 Local: Gyan Vigyan	06.00 Magazine: Rev 06.26 Mag: Made In Germany 06.52 Mag: Japan Video Topics 07.00 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 09.13 Mag: Action Kidz 09.31 Film: The Jungle Book 11.15 Magazine: Rev 11.41 Magazine: Healthy Living 13.33 Doc: Kyvi's Techno Scene... 14.00 Film: Even Bigger Slime Movie 15.23 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! 16.30 D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1421 17.01 Mag: Animal DNA 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 19.30 Mag: The Inside Story 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 21.46 Film: Thinspiration Stars : Laura Wiggins, Izabella Miko, Callie Thorne	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film - Love Love Love Starring: Aamir Khan Juhi Chawla Gulshan Grover 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.32 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Fanaa -Ishq Mein Marjawan 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.38 Radha Krishna 21.01 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.02 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.30 Swaran Ghar 23.02 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film - Love Love Love Starring: Aamir Khan Juhi Chawla Gulshan Grover
jeudi 18 avril	03.08 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 04.21 Amour Secret / Amor Secret 05.08 Pasi3n Y Poder 05.33 A Que No Me Dejas 06.01 Serial: Suits 07.15 Serial: New Amsterdam 08.00 Serial: Alex Rider 08.45 Serial: Pearson 09.30 Amour A Mort 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.15 Serial: Queens Of Mystery 12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel/La Loba 13.45 Pasi3n Y Poder 14.10 Gout De L'amour 15.25 Film: Thinspiration 17.15 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 20.30 Film: Thank God Cast : Sidharth Malhotra, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh	06.00 Rodrig Spor 06.44 Local: Aktiv 06.59 La Journee Sous Le Regard 07.02 Toc Toc Doc 07.17 Agir Ensemble 08.23 Local: En Forme 08.38 MBC Prod 09.43 Rodrig: Komanter 11.08 Les Klips 12.00 Mric - Inove Moris 12.59 Rodrig Spor 13.25 Local: Saver Kil Tirel 13.46 Toc Toc Doc 14.01 En Forme 15.34 Proze Dime 15.53 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.27 Tele: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Empli... 20.00 Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Emotion En Avant Plan	05.00 Mag: Prog From Aastha TV 07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.24 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.36 Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Yatra 08.26 Kala 09.22 Virasat 10.00 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 12.00 Film: Shriman Shrimati 15.30 Badki Malkaain 16.00 Agniphera 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vaani 19.00 Ramayan Satsang 19.30 Local Production 20.00 Hunarbaaz 20.30 Shiv Shakti 21.00 Yashomati Maiyya Ke... 22.00 Serial: Mere Sai 22.45 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 23.13 Amrit Vaani 23.26 Local: Bhajan Sandhya	06.00 Magazine: Motorweek 06.26 Doc: Unseen Malaysia 06.41 Mag: Planet A 07.00 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 09.24 Film: The Magic Kids 10.58 Mag: Lab 360 11.06 Magazine: Motorweek 12.34 Mag: The Inside Story 14.00 Film: Kung Fu Mulan 15.34 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! 17.11 Mag: Animal DNA 18.00 Magazine: Eco India 18.30 Magazine: Shift 19.00 Mag: Border Crossing 19.30 Magazine: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: Coroner Creek Avec Randolph Scott, Marguerite Chapman 23.11 Doc: A Mediterranean...	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Dil Aashna Hai Starring: Jeetendra, Mithun Chakraborty, Dimple Kapadia 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.32 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Fanaa -Ishq Mein Marjawan 19.56 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.38 Radha Krishna 21.01 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Swaran Ghar 23.02 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Dil Aashna Hai 02.00 Kundali Bhagya

B TV Jeudi 18 avril - 15.30

Stars: Jeetendra, Mithun Chakraborty, Dimple Kapadia

MBC 1 Jeudi 18 avril - 20.30

Stars: Sidharth Malhotra, Ajay Devgn, Rakul Preet Singh



Elections 2024: How the world's largest democracy casts its ballots

Since no technology can be entirely tamper-proof, each election outcome should undergo manual audit verification to ensure accuracy, regardless of the results



Poorvi Vora
Professor of Computer
Science, George
Washington University

About 600 million Indian citizens are expected to cast their votes over a period of 39 days ending May 19, in the ongoing election for their country's parliament. There are roughly 900 million eligible voters, and the country has typically seen about two-thirds of them turn out to polling places.

I have been working on the security of electronic voting systems for more than 15 years, and, along with other colleagues, have been interested in understanding how a nation can tally that many votes cast over such a long period. India uses a domestically designed and manufactured electronic voting machine – as many as 4 million of them at 1 million polling places, at least some in extremely remote locations.

The first version of the Indian electronic voting machine debuted in the state election in Kerala in 1982. Now they're used in elections throughout the country, which happen on different days in different areas.

How does it work?

When a voter arrives at the polling place, she presents a photo ID and the poll officer checks that she is on the electoral roll. When it's her turn to vote, a polling official uses an electronic voting machine's control unit to unlock its balloting unit, ready to accept her vote.

The balloting unit has a very simple user interface: a series of buttons with candidate names and symbols. To vote, the voter simply presses the button next to the candidate of her choice.

After each button press, a printer prints out the voter's choice on paper and displays it to the voter for a few seconds, so the person may verify that the vote was recorded correctly. Then the paper is dropped into a locked storage box.

The whole system runs on a battery, so it does not need to be plugged in.

When it's time for the polling place to close at the end of the voting day, each electronic voting machine device and paper-record storage box is sealed with wax and tape bearing the signatures of representatives of the various candidates in that election, and stored under armed guard.

After the election period is over and it's

time to tally the votes, the electronic voting machines are brought out, the seals opened and the vote counts for each control unit are read out from its display board. Election workers hand-tally these individual machine totals to obtain the election results for each constituency.

Security protections – and concerns

The Indian electronic voting machine primarily runs on specialized hardware and firmware, unlike the voting machines used in the U.S., which are software-intensive. It is intended for the single purpose of voting and specially designed for that, rather than relying on a standard operating system like Windows, which needs to be regularly updated to patch detected security vulnerabilities.



A woman tests an electronic voting machine in India in advance of that country's national elections. AP Photo/Manish Swarup

Each machine requires only a connection between a balloting unit and a control unit; there are no provisions to connect an electronic voting machine to a computer network, much less the internet – including wirelessly.

This design does offer some protections against possible tampering with how votes are recorded and tallied. The Election Commission of India has repeatedly claimed that the electronic voting machines are tamper-proof. However, a scholarly study has demonstrated there are ways to rig the machines. In particular, the simplicity of the design allows for simple attacks, such as intercepting and modifying the signal carried over the machine's cable.

The Election Commission has not made public any independent security evaluations, so it's unclear exactly what is – or isn't – possible. Parties that lose elections often suspect malfeasance and question the equipment.

Manufacturing the machines

As I and others have observed, when the machines are being made, there are a number of opportunities for someone to physically tamper with an electronic voting

machine in ways that preelection device testing might not detect. The machines' software is designed, written and tested at two electronics companies owned by the government of India: Bharat Electronics Limited and Electronics Corporation of India Limited. The chips for the machines are manufactured outside India. In earlier versions of the machine, the chip manufacturer also wrote the machine code into the chip; today the electronics companies do it themselves.

At any time during manufacture, testing and maintenance, it may be possible to introduce counterfeit chips or swap out other components that could let hackers alter the results.

The Election Commission of India

argues that any manipulation or error would be detected because the electronic voting machine is tested frequently and candidate representatives have opportunities to participate in mock elections immediately before a machine is used in a real election. However, it is possible to make changes that will not be detected. Testing can reveal only some problems, and the absence of problems during testing does not mean that problems do not exist.

Auditing the machines' results

There is, however, a mechanism for detecting attacks – that printed-out paper bearing the vote and stored securely with the electronic equipment. A 2013 Supreme Court directive asked the Election Commission to create that process to protect the integrity of the balloting process.

In each constituency, five electronic voting machines will have their results audited by comparing a manual count of the printouts with the electronic tallies. (This means about 1% or 2% of each constituency's machines will be tested.) Opposition parties have asked the Supreme Court to order audits of half of all electronic voting machines, but that may not happen with this year's election.

While the electronic voting machine system is useful and functional, officials and observers shouldn't assume there's no way to tamper with the results. The Election Commission should certainly continue to improve testing and provide public reports of independent testing. However, because no technology can be tamper-proof, each election outcome should be verified by a manual audit, to ensure that the results are correct, whatever they may be.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

Life Can Be Scary

No matter how brave, strong, or level-headed we are, sometimes we all get scared

Life can take us on a roller coaster ride full of highs and lows and twists and turns. Even for those of us who enjoy unexpected thrills, it's frightening to suddenly find ourselves heading for a deep plunge. Yet, it happens to all of us. At these moments, it is important to remember that you are not alone in your experiences. No matter how brave, strong, or level-headed we are, sometimes, we all get scared.



Our fears may revolve around our physical safety, particularly if we are not feeling well, living under difficult circumstances, or doing work that exposes us to hazardous conditions. Or we may be experiencing financial woes that are causing us to be fearful about making ends meet. We may also fear the loss of a loved one who is sick, or we may be scared of never finding someone special to spend our life with. We may be scared to start at a new school, begin a different job, move to a new town, or meet new people. Whatever our fears are, they are valid, and we do not need to feel ashamed or embarrassed that we are, at times, afraid.

It may be comforting to know that everyone gets scared, and it is perfectly OK. Sometimes just acknowledging our fears is enough to make us feel better. And while it sometimes takes a lot more to ease our mind, we can console ourselves with the knowledge that life can be scary at times. Giving ourselves permission to be scared lets us move through our fears so we can let it go. It also makes it alright to share our fears with others. Sharing our apprehensions with other people can make our fears less overwhelming because we are not letting them grow inside of us as pent-up emotions. Sharing our fears also can lighten our burden because we are not carrying our worries all by ourselves. Remember that you are not alone.