

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• *Never follow a leader who is more in love with power than people. -- Native American Proverb*

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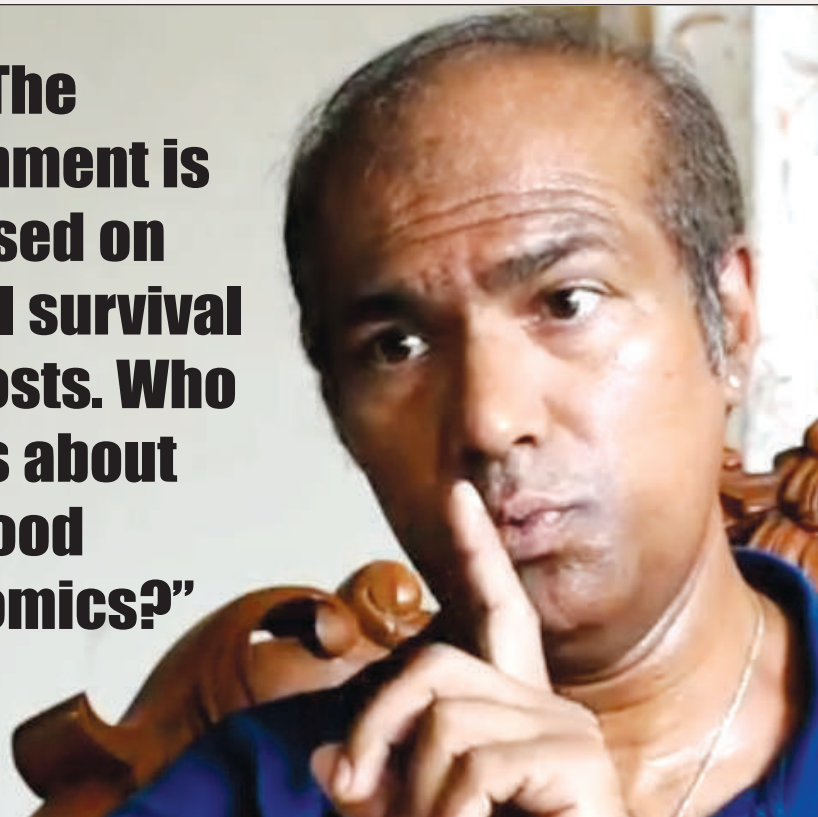
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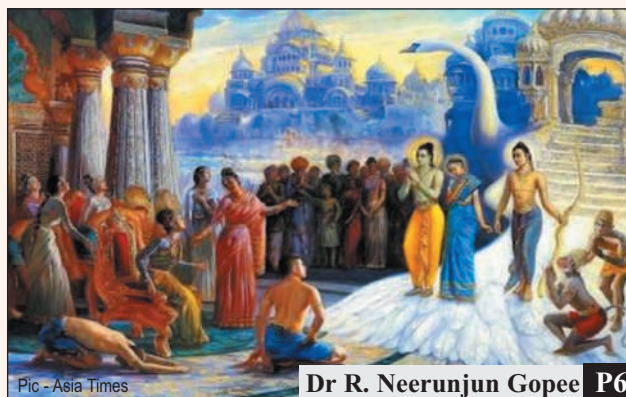
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# Has Parliament turned into a “Madhouse”?

In recent times, the halls of Parliament have become a theatre of chaos and partisanship, raising serious concerns for our nation. The role of the Speaker, once revered as a guardian of democracy, has come under intense scrutiny amidst accusations of partiality and abuse of power. The fragile balance between government and opposition has been disrupted, leading to unprecedented clashes and a breakdown of parliamentary decorum.

The Speaker, entrusted with the responsibility of upholding the sanctity of parliamentary proceedings, has been accused of favouritism towards the ruling party. This bias becomes evident when the Speaker appears to shield government benches from scrutiny, particularly when faced with probing questions from the opposition. The perceived abuse of power reaches its zenith when Parliamentary Questions (PQs) from opposition MPs are deemed unreceivable, and a vociferous attitude leading to record numbers of suspensions and actions disproportionate to any alleged wrongdoing.

In an earlier showdown in Parliament involving the Speaker and Hon Rajesh Bhagwan, the latter was disparaged due to his skin condition. The latest showdown, once again involving the Speaker and Hon Bhagwan, has descended to a level that Mauritians in general could not have imagined possible in our erstwhile august Assembly.

Parliament, as the cornerstone of our democracy, serves multiple vital functions, including representation, legislation, and oversight. However, its ability to fulfil these roles has been severely compromised by internal strife and dysfunction. The primary duty of Parliament is to hold the government accountable, ensuring transparency and accountability in governance. Yet, the turmoil seen so often in the Assembly has hindered the effective functioning of this crucial democratic institution.

The rules and procedures that govern parliamentary proceedings are designed to ensure order and fairness. However, the failure to uphold these rules, particularly by the Speaker, undermines the very foundation of our democracy. In the Westminster system, the Speaker is tasked with safeguarding the

rights of minority opposition members, ensuring their voices are heard and respected. At the end of the day, government by virtue of its majority, will have its way, but the Opposition needs to have ample room to have its say and in most respected Westminsterian democracies, the Speaker usually bends over backwards to make sure that happens. Unfortunately, this fundamental principle has been neglected, leaving opposition MPs marginalized and their concerns dismissed.

In a thought-provoking contribution, Lex argued that the Standing Orders cannot be allowed to infringe upon democratic principles. The late Justice Lallah’s ruling in the case of Attorney General against Navin Ramgoolam emphasized the importance of judicial oversight in ensuring the proper exercise of parliamentary powers. It is imperative that the judiciary plays its role in upholding the rule of law and preventing the abuse of parliamentary authority. Judicial cases entered against abuses by the Speaker have yet to be determined and it is a matter of concern when such cases linger on indefinitely without resolution. We dare believe that the Indian Supreme Court would have heard and pronounced itself on such pleas within weeks.

A self-respecting National Assembly, rooted in the British parliamentary tradition, must uphold the principles of democracy and good governance. The failure to do so not only undermines the credibility of our democratic institutions but also erodes public trust in the political process. The number of unanswered questions lingering over the past years serve as a stark reminder of the need for accountability and transparency in government.

As the leader of the House and the nominator of the Speaker, the Prime Minister bears a significant responsibility for the current state of affairs. It is incumbent upon the tandem to prioritize the dignity, decorum, and governance issues of our democratic state over narrow partisan interests. One would like to say that it’s only through decisive action and a commitment to upholding democratic principles that we can restore faith in our parliamentary system and rebuild trust in our democracy. But that may be too tall an order for the current dispensation.

## The Conversation

### Don’t trust politicians? That may not be such a bad thing

*Political trust is paradoxical. No one should be entrusted with power without conditions*



Many western countries have seen a decline of trust in government and politicians. But if you’re one of the distrustful majority, that may not be such a bad thing.

In a 2021 survey, just 24.5% of respondents across OECD, countries said they trust political parties. National polls repeatedly show similar results, particularly in the wake of scandals involving politicians misbehaving. Longer-term systemic failures and incompetence in public services don’t help either.

The OECD has offered some sound ideas on how to reinforce democracy and rebuild trust: be transparent about donations; increase citizen participation in the democratic process; and listen to people – especially the disadvantaged. I’d add that using proportional representation in elections could mitigate dissatisfaction with democracy.

But political trust is paradoxical. Dictators expect to be trusted unconditionally, too. So history has taught us that no one should be trusted with power unless it’s limited in scope and tenure. Hence, democracies separate powers, hold elections and prosecute corrupt public servants. Democratic constitutions are premised on distrust of the powerful.

In a representative system, the many have entrusted the few with powers to make law and form a government. But this is a conditional trust, interwoven with scepticism about misconduct and abuses of power. Historical experience proves

that a strong dose of distrust is good for democracy. Self-evidently, trustworthy leaders are preferable – but that doesn’t mean trusting them unconditionally once they’re in power.

#### Trust isn’t a ‘thing’

The OECD’s concern about low trust implies that more must be better. But there’s no optimal survey result, and no one should expect complete trust.

People talk metaphorically of “building” trust, but trust isn’t a “thing” that’s literally broken and rebuilt. It is relational and reciprocal. Political trust is about an underlying “deal” that keeps a society together and functioning. Since the 17th century, this has often been called a “social contract” by which those who govern are entrusted with powers, but only if they aim for the security and wellbeing of the people they represent. In return, people pay taxes and obey laws.

If the political elite wonder how to “rebuild trust”, their first place to look is in the mirror.

An international survey asked people “how to improve democracy”. The most frequent answers were about getting better politicians – and less often about changing the system.

*Grant Duncan, Visiting Scholar in Politics, City, University of London*

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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

# Celebrating Labour: Reflections for the forthcoming Labour Day

**A**s the annual celebration of Labor Day approaches, it is a time for us to pause and reflect on the immense contributions of workers around the world. From the bustling city streets to the quiet countryside, the labour of countless individuals shapes our societies and economies in profound ways. In this reflective piece, we take a moment to honour the dedication, resilience, and achievements of the workforce.

which has put a severe and an unbearable strain on most of its inhabitants even since the early years of settlement. Remember that even today we do not produce all that is needed to even prepare a breakfast for one day for the whole population from our own food resources. We cannot even produce one banana a day for all our population.

However, one may credit many of our inhabitants for their success in transforming this island into a colony and, at pre-

would not be considered too harsh if they were to describe the island as an 'overcrowded barracoon', which our pride as a nation refused to accept when the phrase was hurled in our face several decades ago.

Today we no longer talk about a rising middle class as even this small group has started slipping down the ladder while the lower classes are fast being reduced to an underclass.

**E**ven when we look back to the last few years of the 1930s when trade unions or more precisely industrial associations were set up, workers were never able to recover their autonomy or social justice. Their struggle for decent living and working conditions had remained a relentless pursuit. Modest achievements in one generation represented a shaky foundation for the ensuing generations to build on. The welfare state was brought about merely to ensure the survival and the reproduction of this labour force and, to a certain extent, to tame down predatory capitalism.

Can we say that nowadays the lot of the worker has improved significantly in light of recurrent unemployment, contract labour, part-time jobs, casual labour and seasonal employment which have become the dominant features of the labour market? The post-colonial state has proved unable to protect the workers enough since it has embraced globalisation – which dictates its own rules – as the only model for development. It is no longer able to salvage and uphold the values of the Left to achieve a reasonable balance between the needs of capital and other social forces. Privatisation, flexible labour and rentier capitalism are being pushed to the extreme, putting at further risk our food security, our environment and stable conditions of employment of the labour force.

**A**n examination of labour disputes registered then with the Ministry of Labour or at some of the court cases being heard before the Industrial Court, throws up a distressing picture of the conditions in which workers had to struggle on a daily basis to get a decent wage or decent working conditions. With the State being reduced to a slave of global capitalism, the workers had lost most of their defences, which they used to wield at one time to shield themselves from employers who could shout that 'We are not only the State, but we also are the Employers. We decide!'

Trade unions have been placed under a number of legal constraints and have found it increasingly difficult to resort to collective action unless they are about general issues. As in the past, workers often

find it necessary to take individual legal action against employers but are not always successful because workers are very often ill-informed about their duties and their rights.

Legal action is costly and prohibitive for many unless supported by their trade unions. On the other hand, employers have an arsenal of legislations readily available to use against workers and the odds to get justice are stacked against them. Not surprisingly workers find it necessary for a number of reasons, including strategic ones, to avoid direct confrontation with employers, and trade unions, too, prefer to avoid collective action.

In such a situation where workers are not satisfied with working conditions and wages and feel compelled to comply nevertheless, morale is inevitably low and forms of protest, when they are not overt, will take covert forms which will cut down on productivity, produce wastage and poor workmanship and all this adds up unnecessarily to the cost of the organisation. This is not the kind of organisation where one expects to see enhanced productivity, innovation and creativity. And, paradoxically enough, it is organisations in which management lacks innovation and creativity and finds it difficult to compete in a competitive world, that are the first to fire workers ostensibly to cut labour costs but in fact to mask their own incompetence.

Since workers cannot always choose their employers and most often have to sell their labour to eke out a living, it is imperative that workers become familiar with conditions of work. This is a tall order for many and they need the support of trade unions. Whatever be the weaknesses of trade unions and the trade union movement generally, these remain the first and best instruments to protect and defend workers.

On the other hand, trade unions have also a great responsibility to educate workers about their rights and to foster and enhance solidarity among workers and among trade unions. They should take a more proactive role in reflecting with workers over topical issues and about other aspects of workers' work and living conditions. Employers, especially the primitive ones, will continue to resent trade unions and will erroneously think that dealing with workers directly in the absence of trade unions may be beneficial for their organisations but this is a very shortsighted and stone-age view which forward-looking and enlightened management do not share.

On Labour Day and in the present situation where generally weak economic growth is going to be felt most acutely by workers and their families, some serious thought should be given as to how to best face the present and the future. In spite of the gloomy picture staring at us, we should remain optimist and have the faith that workers and trade unions will rise to the challenges which confront them and overcome the hurdles which stand in their way.



**“Can we say that nowadays the lot of the worker has improved significantly in light of recurrent unemployment, contract labour, part-time jobs, casual labour and seasonal employment which have become the dominant features of the labour market? The post-colonial state has proved unable to protect the workers enough since it has embraced globalisation – which dictates its own rules – as the only model for development. It is no longer able to salvage and uphold the values of the Left to achieve a reasonable balance between the needs of capital and other social forces...”**”

The proliferation of food stalls in both towns and villages and households selling vegetable items from their kitchen gardens or court cases for debts are clear indication that a significant proportion of the population is facing tough times despite an increase in pensions and salaries, as these gains are quickly neutralized by rising commodity prices. Workers too are confronted with a set of difficulties – job security has declined, longer unemployment spells, night shift and low wages. Weak employment opportunities mean that workers have a lost their bargaining power while management, finding it difficult to innovate or become competitive, resorts to the short-term solution of laying off workers.

**T**hese kinds of difficulties which have weighed down on the labour force throughout our history prompt the irrelevant question whether, in the first place, our island should have been colonized and settled permanently by human beings, given the lack of natural resources

sent, into a modern nation, but this, it must also be emphasized, has been achieved by untold suffering and misery. Slavery, indentured labour and today the 'modern worker' – whether local or from abroad – are the ones who have borne and continue to bear the burden of development for the benefit of the few.

There is no need to elaborate on this suffering humanity who bore the brunt of exploitation over all these years, but it is worth reflecting that the 'modern worker', as part of a captive labour force in the island, continues to have to bear with numerous difficulties at present just as his ancestors did in the past, and inevitably his children will most likely face the same difficulties in the future.

We do not rule out that many and in fact a minority has been able to eke out a reasonable standard of living now and will possibly do so in the future as well though nothing is certain in this age of uncertainties. But for the great numbers, who face the stark reality of poverty every day, it



# Transition de pouvoir à Singapour: Un chapitre se clôt, un autre commence

Lee Hsien Loong annonce sa démission après deux décennies au pouvoir

Par A. Bartleby

**L**e Premier ministre de Singapour, Lee Hsien Loong, âgé de 72 ans, quittera ses fonctions le 15 mai, marquant ainsi la fin d'une longue période de gouvernance et l'ouverture d'une nouvelle ère dirigée par son adjoint Lawrence Wong.

Lawrence Wong, également âgé de 51 ans et ministre des Finances, deviendra le quatrième Premier ministre de Singapour le même jour, bénéficiant du soutien unanime des députés du parti au pouvoir, selon un communiqué du Bureau du Premier ministre publié lundi.

Sous la direction de Lee, le produit intérieur brut par habitant de Singapour a plus que triplé pour atteindre près de 92 000 dollars, se hissant ainsi parmi les plus élevés au monde. L'île a également consolidé son attrait en tant que destination prisée par les investisseurs étrangers dans une région de plus en plus compétitive.

La succession à la tête de Singapour est un événement soigneusement planifié depuis des années. Le désir initial de Lee de passer le relais avant ses 70 ans a été perturbé par la Covid-19 et la décision surprise en 2021 de son successeur désigné, Heng Swee Keat, de se retirer en raison de son âge.



Le Premier ministre Lee transférera le leadership au vice-Premier ministre Lawrence Wong d'ici mai 2024, avant les prochaines élections générales. P - CNA

Lee a été élu pour la première fois en 1984 et est devenu Premier ministre en 2004, ce qui en fait l'un des dirigeants politiques actuels les plus anciens au monde. Son père, feu Lee Kuan Yew, a été le premier Premier ministre de Singapour de 1959 à 1990. Après leur démission de leurs fonctions de Premier ministre, le père de Lee et son prédécesseur, Goh Chok Tong, ont été nommés ministres seniors.

Bien que le Parti d'action populaire au pouvoir ait remporté 89 % des sièges parlementaires lors des élections de 2020, il a enregistré son pire résultat à ce jour. L'opposition a plaidé en faveur de mesures

pour aider les Singapouriens à faible revenu et a appelé à privilégier l'embauche de locaux plutôt que d'étrangers.

Lee a déclaré que la succession à la direction coïnciderait avec les prochaines élections prévues d'ici 2025 et qu'il serait à la "disposition du nouveau Premier ministre".

Bien que Lawrence Wong ne partage pas le pedigree politique de son prédécesseur, le changement générationnel attendu devrait maintenir la continuité. Avant de se lancer en politique en 2011, Wong était fonctionnaire, notamment lors d'un passage en tant que secrétaire privé principal de Lee.

Wong fait face à des défis, notamment l'anxiété nationale concernant le coût de la vie élevé et la compétitivité des travailleurs. De plus, le passage de relais intervient après une série de scandales qui ont ébranlé la réputation du parti au pouvoir en matière de gouvernance propre, notamment la démission d'un ministre inculpé de corruption.

Cette transition marque la fin d'une ère et le début d'une nouvelle pour Singapour,

qui s'engage sur une voie guidée par une nouvelle génération de dirigeants.

## Continuité et stabilité dans la gouvernance

**L**e plan et l'exécution méticuleux de Singapour dans le processus de succession au plus haut niveau de l'État reflètent une compréhension profonde de l'importance de la continuité et de la stabilité dans la gouvernance. En veillant à former soigneusement des successeurs et à assurer une transition en douceur du pouvoir, Singapour ne fait pas seulement honneur à ses principes de méritocratie, de pragmatisme et d'honnêteté, mais renforce également son engagement envers la prospérité économique à long terme et la résilience.

Contrairement à l'île Maurice, où la domination politique par quelques familles est la norme depuis ces 56 dernières années, notamment par les Ramgoolams et les Jugnauths durant la majeure partie de cette période, et par Paul Bérenger pendant deux années, l'approche de Singapour en matière de succession favorise un certain dynamisme au sein de sa direction. En renouvelant constamment son vivier de dirigeants à différents niveaux de l'Establishment politique et en offrant des opportunités aux individus capables d'accéder au sommet, Singapour peut exploiter un large éventail de talents et de perspectives pour stimuler son économie.

De plus, l'accent mis par Singapour sur la force institutionnelle et les mécanismes de gouvernance efficaces garantit que la transition du pouvoir est gérée avec précision et intégrité. Cela permet au pays de maintenir la confiance des investisseurs, d'attirer des investissements étrangers et de manœuvrer avec agilité et résilience à travers les défis mondiaux.

En essence, la planification réussie de la succession de Singapour ne reflète pas seulement son engagement envers une bonne gouvernance, mais constitue également un pilier essentiel soutenant sa forte et résiliente économie. En favorisant une culture de renouvellement du leadership et d'excellence institutionnelle, Singapour continue de donner l'exemple à d'autres nations aspirant à atteindre un développement durable et la prospérité.



# Élections indiennes 2024: Entre tradition et modernité, le BJP domine le paysage politique

**L'**élection générale de l'Inde en 2024 s'annonce comme l'une des plus grandes et des plus longues de l'histoire du pays. Cependant, peu de changements sont attendus sur le plan politique avec le BJP au pouvoir en tête des sondages. La plus grande élection du monde commence aujourd'hui en Inde, avec environ 970 millions d'électeurs inscrits éligibles de voter lors d'un gigantesque scrutin en sept phases et d'une durée de six semaines.

Le concours implique 6 partis nationaux, 57 partis régionaux et 2 597 petits partis autorisés à figurer sur le bulletin de vote mais ne répondant pas aux conditions pour être officiellement reconnus par la Commission électorale nationale.

Cependant, la course principale se jouera entre les deux plus grands partis politiques de l'Inde: le parti au pouvoir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) et le parti d'opposition Congrès national indien (INC).

☞ Suite en page 5



Selon les sondages d'opinion, le Premier ministre Modi et le BJP sont largement attendus en tête de l'élection de 2024. P - Scroll



# Élections indiennes 2024 : Entre tradition et modernité, le BJP domine le paysage politique

☞ Suite de la page 4

En 2024, pour présenter une opposition cohérente au BJP et à Modi, le Congrès est à la tête d'une alliance de 28 partis avec plusieurs partis d'opposition régionaux, sous une bannière appelée "Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance", ou INDIA.

## Modi et le BJP restent populaires auprès des électeurs

elon les sondages d'opinion, le Premier ministre Modi et le BJP sont largement attendus en tête de l'élection de 2024.

Le Premier ministre Narendra Modi espère remporter un troisième mandat consécutif, alors que les électeurs élisent 543 membres du Lok Sabha, la chambre basse du parlement indien.

Lors de l'élection de 2019, le BJP a remporté une victoire écrasante avec 303 sièges, et a formé une coalition qui contrôle un total de 353 sièges. Le parti du Congrès, en revanche, a remporté 52 sièges, et en a ajouté 91 de plus avec des alliés.

Selon les chiffres officiels, l'Inde compte 497 millions d'électeurs masculins



Les films populaires de Bollywood ont une énorme influence sur les fans, ce qui a été pleinement exposé ces dernières semaines alors que l'Inde se préparait à aller aux urnes. P - Deccan Chronicle

et 471 millions d'électeurs féminins. L'électorat a augmenté de 6% par rapport à la dernière élection générale de 2019.

Plus de 20 millions de jeunes électeurs âgés de 18 à 29 ans ont été ajoutés à l'électorat.

"Les jeunes affichent une tendance différente, et la tendance intéressante est qu'ils ne votent pas simplement pour les partis mais pour les dirigeants", déclare le politicien du BJP GVL Narasimha Rao. "C'est l'image des dirigeants et des candidats qui semble être un facteur important

pour eux plus que pour les électeurs plus âgés", a ajouté Rao.

## Bollywood jouera un rôle de soutien lors de ces élections indiennes

Pour ce qui est de l'image des dirigeants et des candidats, Bollywood va jouer un grand rôle de soutien dans ces élections indiennes.

En effet, les films populaires de Bollywood ont une énorme influence sur les fans, et le pouvoir de ce médium a été

pleinement exposé ces dernières semaines alors que l'Inde se préparait à aller aux urnes à partir du 19 avril.

En fait, l'utilisation du cinéma populaire dans la politique indienne n'est pas nouvelle. Selon Preminda Jacob, professeur agrégé d'histoire de l'art et d'études muséales à l'Université du Maryland, il s'agit d'une longue histoire - antérieure à l'indépendance de l'Inde vis-à-vis de la domination britannique en 1947 - lorsque l'imagerie cinématographique est devenue le principal vecteur de construction de la carrière de politiciens charismatiques dans l'État méridional du Tamil Nadu.

"En tant qu'historien de l'art, j'ai documenté comment l'imagerie cinématographique était utilisée pour produire une aura héroïque autour des figures politiques dans l'État du Tamil Nadu, dans mon livre de 2009 intitulé "Divinités cellulaires: la culture visuelle du cinéma et de la politique dans le sud de l'Inde", explique Jacob.

Le lien entre le cinéma et la politique a fait du cinéma le principal vecteur des longues carrières de nombreux politiciens charismatiques - certains scénaristes et producteurs de films, d'autres acteurs et actrices principaux. Depuis les années 1980, cela a également lancé une tendance nationale à utiliser des moyens cinématographiques pour capter l'attention des électeurs.

Une étude menée par l'Institut de recherche sur l'impact climatique de Potsdam (PIK), publiée dans le journal scientifique "Nature" mercredi, affirme que le dérèglement climatique est sur le point d'effacer environ 20% du PIB mondial d'ici 2050.

Les chercheurs du PIK ont déclaré que leurs calculs étaient basés sur la perspective que des pays comme l'Allemagne allaient atteindre leurs objectifs de réduction des émissions. Actuellement, la plupart des pays semblent peu susceptibles d'atteindre ces objectifs, ce qui signifie que l'impact financier pourrait être encore plus important que les dommages drastiques projetés.

Selon les calculs de l'étude, le fardeau économique du dérèglement climatique pourrait atteindre 38 billions de dollars (35,6 billions d'euros) par an, soit six fois plus que le coût estimé de limiter le réchauffement climatique à 2 degrés Celsius au-dessus des niveaux préindustriels.

## Ceux qui sont les moins responsables seront les plus touchés

L'étude souligne que malgré les dommages affectant différentes régions à des degrés divers, les régions les plus pauvres et celles contribuant le moins au réchauffement climatique seront les plus durement touchées.

"Les pays les moins responsables du changement climatique sont censés subir une perte de revenus 60% plus importante que les pays à revenu plus élevé et 40%

# Le dérèglement climatique menacerait de réduire le PIB mondial de 20% d'ici 2050



Le changement climatique pourrait réduire le PIB mondial de 20% d'ici 2050. P - L'Expression

plus importante que les pays à émissions plus élevées", a déclaré Anders Levermann, un scientifique senior du PIK. Les chercheurs ont projeté, par exemple, que les économies industrielles de l'Allemagne et des États-Unis diminueraient d'environ 11% d'ici le milieu du siècle (13% pour la France), même si des mesures climatiques sont prises avec succès.

Les scientifiques du PIK ont analysé 40 ans de données climatiques collectées dans plus de 1 600 régions pour l'étude, excluant cependant le coût des dommages causés par les catastrophes naturelles telles que les tempêtes et les incendies, qui se sont également intensifiés avec le changement climatique. Ces derniers entraîneraient des dommages beaucoup plus importants.

"L'ensemble des pertes est projeté pour la plupart des régions, y compris l'Amérique du Nord et l'Europe, avec l'Asie du Sud et l'Afrique étant les plus touchées", selon Maximilian Kotz, l'un des auteurs de l'étude. "Ces pertes sont causées par une large gamme d'effets économiquement pertinents du changement climatique, tels que les conséquences sur les rendements agricoles, la productivité du travail et les infrastructures."

## L'inaction coûte encore plus cher - 60% du PIB d'ici 2100

La chercheuse Leonie Wenz a souligné le danger de la complaisance, notant que les calculs actuels portaient sur les effets du carbone déjà libéré dans l'atmosphère, soulignant que la société doit rapide-

ment trouver des moyens d'atténuer l'impact du changement climatique.

"De plus, nous devons réduire drastiquement et immédiatement nos émissions de CO2 - sinon les pertes économiques seront encore plus élevées dans la seconde moitié du siècle et atteindront une moyenne mondiale allant jusqu'à 60% d'ici la fin du siècle", a-t-elle déclaré.

Selon la Banque mondiale, le PIB mondial a dépassé 100 billions de dollars en 2022 et doublerait d'ici 2050 - si ce n'était pas pour le frein du changement climatique.

Les observateurs disent que l'estimation du PIK est probablement une sous-estimation de l'impact économique réel.

D'autres ont souligné que la nouvelle étude semble confirmer des conclusions similaires à celles du soi-disant Rapport Stern, qui a été produit par l'économiste Nicholas Stern en 2006 à la demande du gouvernement britannique.

Stern, lui aussi, projetait que le changement climatique amputerait de 20% le PIB mondial d'ici le milieu du siècle, tout en arguant que le coût de la lutte contre le changement climatique était bien inférieur au coût de la gestion des dommages qu'il causerait.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 11





Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

In the wake of Ram Navmi – the meta dimension

# Beyond Politics to Inspired Statecraft

**I**t is a nice coincidence (I recall a similar one a few years ago) that within days of each other recently, the major religious communities in the country have celebrated important festivals in their respective calendars – Easter, the Hindu New Year (known by various names in different regions of Bharat such as Ugadi, Baisakhi, Puthandu, Gudi Padwa), Eid. Moreover, this time it has been rounded off as it were by the celebration of Ram Navmi.

Ram Navmi has had a special resonance and significance this year because of the completion of the rebuilding of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and the Pran Pratishtha (consecration) of the murti of Ramlalla there, which was followed by a worldwide audience. The Ramlalla is a 51-inches tall *murti* that represents the five-year-old form of Shri Ram. At around 12 pm on Wednesday, 17 April, the rays of the Sun fell on the forehead of the *murti*. The sunlight adorned Ramlalla's forehead with a circular 'tilak', measuring 75mm, and lasted for three to four minutes.

Further, on every Ram Navmi hence, this phenomenon will take place; it draws inspiration from the thirteenth-century Sun temple at Konark in Odisha, which I had the blessed opportunity to visit in 1967. The team setting up the Surya tilak started the special project in April 2023, with studies and calculations conducted by experts from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, and Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru.

## Ram Navmi and Ramrajya

Ram Navmi is celebrated after a 9-day period of fasting and daily special prayers and satsangs on the theme of the Ramayana and Bhagavan Shri Rama, and has gained much fervour in Mauritius with the organisation of competitions of Ramayana chanting, incentivized by the award of attractive prizes.

Besides the talks delivered by the acharyas conducting the satsangs, various speakers are requested to share their thoughts on some aspect of the Ramayana, and it has become the practice over the years to invite some political personalities who invariably address the audience.

**“An article published in *The Dharma Despatch* of April 02, 2024, titled 'The True Essence of Sri Rama Rajya' makes a comprehensive coverage of the concept, as detailed in an essay by Sri D.V. Gundappa. He was a Rishi (sage) of the last century from Karnataka in South India, regarded Sri Ramachandra as one of his greatest ideals and was deeply attached to him till the very end of his life. A central concern he addressed was: how is politics and statecraft conceived in Rama Rajya? For him, 'the primacy of the human spirit and its higher impulses in politics was paramount. Unless this spirit was underlaid and motivated by Dharma, any political system was superficial at best and dangerous at worst...’**

## EXCELLENT INTERPRETATION OF RAMAYAN



SANATAN BHARAT  
Spirituality | Culture | Wisdom | Advaita

Ram is your soul. Sita is your heart.  
Raavan is your mind that steals your heart from your soul.  
Lakshman is your consciousness, always with you and active on your behalf.  
Hanuman is your intuition and courage that help retrieve your heart to re-animate your soul!!

**“Besides the talks delivered by the acharyas conducting the satsangs, various speakers are requested to share their thoughts on some aspect of the Ramayana... A common topic they touch upon is Ram Rajya. They refer to some episodes in the life of Ram as king and ruler with the hallmark of his rule being Ram Rajya, a benchmark for an ideal form of governance. Implied is that they too believe in and practise it so as to ensure development and prosperity in the country under their watch. In such a dispensation, there is no room for discrimination, the poor are not marginalized, and the rule of law prevails – importantly, the ruler sets the example by obeying too the same rule of law...”**

A common topic they touch upon is Ram Rajya. They refer to some episodes in the life of Ram as king and ruler with the hallmark of his rule being Ram Rajya, a benchmark for an ideal form of governance. Implied is that they too believe in and practise it so as to ensure development and prosperity in the country under their watch. In such a dispensation, there is no room for discrimination, the poor are not marginalized, and the rule of law prevails – importantly, the ruler sets the example by obeying too the same rule of law. As a result, the people act with responsibility and self-discipline. Further, the ruler practises austerity, generosity, and kindness, and displays an ability to care for and plan for his subjects, ensure their welfare and that justice prevails.

However, “twixt the cup and the lip there's many a slip” and in the experience of the people there is more often than not a departure from these high ideals once the festival is over and it's back to square one. The

behaviours and events that cause more disturbance than peace return, although there is a semblance of prosperity – for some only as the gap between the haves and the have-nots increase: something which is seen the world over.

## The meta dimension

This is perhaps why it is important for those who aspire to rule by Ram Rajya to understand its deeper meaning, which has a transcendental or meta dimension – a prefix that derives from the Greek and encompasses a wide array of meanings. One of which is 'beyond', and 'refers to a reality existing alongside, upon or beyond the confines of the supposedly primary reality that preexists it, a transcendence of what came before,' and denotes self-awareness or self-reflection.

An article published in *The Dharma Despatch* of April 02, 2024, titled 'The True Essence of Sri Rama Rajya' makes a comprehensive coverage of the concept, as detailed in an essay by Sri D.V. Gundappa. He was a Rishi (sage) of the last century from Karnataka in South India, regarded Sri Ramachandra as one of his greatest ideals and was deeply attached to him till the very end of his life.

A central concern he addressed was: how is politics and statecraft conceived in Rama Rajya? For him, 'the primacy of the human spirit and its higher impulses in politics was paramount. Unless this spirit was underlaid and motivated by Dharma, any political system was superficial at best and dangerous at worst... Rama Rajya is the grandest conception of a Master Poet... where there are no fetters in the relationship between the ruler and the ruled... where Dharma doesn't depend on others for its functioning and is akin to breathing: effortless.'

Moreover, 'politics is also a mere instrument like the numerous paths and approaches to pursue and practise Dharma,' and 'the state akin to the family, is a field for the pursuit of Dharma.' But there's more, for 'The ruler is subservient to Dharma; Dharma in turn is embodied in society. Therefore, the original home of the state's power emanates from the Dharmic feeling prevalent in the society. The seat of the ruler is just a mere implement or equipment that maintains and protects this Dharmic feeling.'

'Thus, in this conception of statecraft, 'the king (ruler) is to be an upholder, protector and an agent of Dharma in the verse, *rājā dhārmiko bhūyāt*. The most effective discharge of this duty is also the price that he pays for enjoying his royalty (or its equivalent in today's democratic terms).' From which it follows that 'the yardstick of a politician's merit is the condition of the citizens.'

Additionally, and critically, the Rishi also stressed upon 'the necessity and importance for a ruler to be guided by poets, philosophers, scholars and wise people.' After all, they are the ones who best understand the true, transcendental meaning and the practical fallouts of Dharma as the fundamental principle that should guide both the rulers and the people.

Before the next Ram Navmi, some deep self-reflection is perhaps in order for those who will make reference to Ram Rajya...



# Israel and Ukraine – America's Incoherent Responses



Anil Madan

*Zelensky highlights the obvious: What was done for Israel, could be done to protect Ukraine, which like Israel, is not a NATO member*

Iran's barrage of cruise missiles, ballistic missiles and drones failed to inflict any appreciable damage on Israel other than an unfortunate injury to a ten-year-old girl who was struck by bits of an Iranian missile shot down by a defensive missile (or perhaps by a piece of the defensive missile). IDF spokesman, Daniel Hagari, said that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps launched 170 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), more than 120 ballistic missiles and more than 30 cruise missiles in the attack. He also said: "99% of the threats launched towards Israeli territory were intercepted — a very significant strategic achievement."

President Biden has urged Israel to "take the win" and not retaliate against Iran. Britain's Foreign Secretary, Lord Cameron, echoed Biden's call and urged Israel to be "smart" and not escalate tensions by retaliating.

Both Hagari's and Biden's statements are misleading. Whereas it is understandable that Israel wishes to engage in some chest-thumping after Iran's attack was repulsed, the truth of the matter based on most media reports, is that none of the cruise missiles or drones ever entered Israeli airspace. Hagari seemed to confirm these reports when he said that some 25 cruise missiles were intercepted by Israeli Air Force fighter jets outside the country's borders, most likely over Jordanian territory. Even one successful missile strike can do immense damage, so whereas Israel's success in intercepting 25 cruise missiles should not be minimized, it is fair to recognize that this was not just a "win" by Israel, but a joint effort.

Also, there are reports that half of the missiles Iran fired at Israel over the weekend failed on launch or malfunctioned and crashed, according to reports. Other reports have referred to failures of drones, not missiles, so it remains unclear where exactly Iran's failures occurred. Most of the rest of the missiles and drones were shot down by the US and Britain, and a few by Jordan.

## Biden administration's wishful thinking

Despite its failures, it is reasonable to assume that Iran has accumulated valuable data to adjust and calibrate its capabilities for future attacks. In what sounds like an attempt to de-escalate, Iran stated that barring a retaliatory attack from Israel which will provoke a massive response, it considers this episode with Israel "closed." This should give no solace to Israel. After the October 7 Hamas attack, Israelis know that complacency is out of the question. It is not clear, however, that the Biden administration shares the concern about becoming complacent, and instead is

engaged in wishful thinking about keeping the Israel-Iran-Hamas-Hezbollah conflict in check.

Given the information so far available, what we also do not know is whether Israel would have successfully defended itself against such a massive Iranian assault, without the combination of Iranian technical failures, and US, British, and regional support. More importantly, in the event of a future Iranian attack, we do not know if Israel will be able to defend itself without American and British support. Can we assume that such support will be provided without question? Ukraine's experience with Biden's response to Russia's attack may well give the Israelis pause.

We also do not know the state of Israel's inventory of defensive missiles. Reports suggest that worldwide stockpiles of defensive missiles are perilously low and that there



Does the West have a double standard for Ukraine and Gaza? Pic - WSJ

are long lead times to get orders fulfilled.

Then there is the problem of emboldening Iran's ayatollahs. Perhaps for this reason, Israel does not seem to be paying heed to either Biden or Cameron, with Israeli PM Netanyahu saying that Israel will make its own decision on whether, when, and how to retaliate. Reports suggest that the war cabinet has decided that Israel must retaliate.

President Biden said, while the US commitment to Israel is unwavering, his administration would not support a retaliatory strike by Israel against Iran. It is not clear what Biden hopes to achieve by this declaration. Surely, it cannot be

**“President Zelensky's frustration that the US and Europeans did not leap to provide Ukraine with the same level of defensive support in repelling Putin's war of destruction against his country, as Israel received in repelling Iran's aerial assault from the US, Britain, and even Arab countries, is palpable. 'Now the whole world has seen from the actions of Israel's allies in the sky and neighbouring countries how effective unity can be in the protection from terror,' Zelensky said. 'Terror must lose everywhere and completely—not somewhere more and somewhere less.'”**

that he expects Iran to treat this as a gesture of goodwill from the US and, therefore, grounds for restraint against Israel whose responses cannot be mistaken for holding out an olive branch to the ayatollahs.

On this point, before Iran launched its attack on Israel, Biden was asked about Iran's plans and his response was: "Don't." But Iran attacked anyway.

Now, the US response is a threat to impose even more severe sanctions against Iran. We have seen that sanctions lasting decades have not deterred Iranian aggression. There seems to be no reason to think anything has changed in that regard. And the next Iranian missile attack may not be limited to conventional payloads. If Israel thinks it is imperative that Hamas be defanged and neutralized as an existential threat to the Jewish state, it does not seem a stretch to treat Iran in the same way. After all, Iran's leaders continue to promise that Israel will be destroyed and thus defeated. Last week's missile attack teaches that Israel should not take these threats lightly.

One can easily justify Biden's statements — and Cameron's, which I take to be the squawking of a compliant parrot — as being aimed at the broader goal of preventing a regional war in the Middle East. But that is too easy a cop out.

## Putin's attack against Ukraine

These latest events are eerily similar to Biden's handling of the prelude to Putin's attack against Ukraine. Back in December 2021, Biden and Putin had a telephone chat during which Biden reiterated his support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and called for de-escalation and a return to diplomacy. He declared that the US and our Allies would respond with strong economic and other measures in the event of military escalation. At the same time, he made it clear that the US would not send troops or weapons systems to engage Americans directly with Russia.

Back then, Biden did not commit US defensive capabilities to aiding Ukraine in repelling Russia's missile attacks. As I wrote back in 2022, the Biden administration seemed directed by a palpable fear that Putin would be provoked into using nuclear weapons if the US and Europe crossed some imaginary red line in

terms of the level of support to Ukraine that he deemed unacceptable. And statements from Putin and Kremlin spokespersons repeatedly called on the US and Europe to desist from aiding Ukraine because Russia would consider such assistance to be direct engagement by the US and Europe against the Russian state.

Now, just as Biden seemed anxious to telegraph to Russia that US forces would not participate in defending Ukraine, he seems ever as anxious to disavow any participation with Israel in offensive responses to Iran. To what end, is not clear.

The fact that Ukraine was left to handle Russian missile attacks on its own should not be lost on us. Indeed, back in 2022, the US and its allies seemed initially reluctant to even provide missile defense systems to Ukraine. In contrast, the US, Britain, and even Jordan came to Israel's aid in shooting down Iranian drones and missiles.

Neither Biden, nor any White House spokesperson has explained the difference in approach to Russia and Iran. Is it just that Iran does not, at least as far as we know, have nuclear weapons?

The irony of the discordant approaches taken by the US and its allies, is not lost on Ukrainian President Zelensky who even today continues to beg for more Patriot missile batteries, asking for at least five such systems at a minimum.

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# On Marital and Political Discord: The Comedy Continues

**I**n the tranquil embrace of an Athenian afternoon, amidst the whispering leaves of an ancient olive tree, two figures recline in deep conversation. Socrates, the venerable philosopher, and his companion Cephalus, find themselves drawn into the tumultuous world of mortal affairs once more.

As they delve into the intricacies of marital strife and political intrigue as well as into the absurdities of human nature, where the foibles of love and the follies of politics intertwine in a delightful tapestry of comedy, their discourse takes on a light-hearted tone, punctuated by laughter and wit.

By Plutonix

*In the tranquil embrace of an Athenian afternoon, Socrates and Cephalus recline beneath the comforting shade of a majestic olive tree. The sun, its golden rays filtering through the lush foliage, casts a warm glow upon their animated faces. As they engage in their philosophical discourse, the air resonates with the promise of intellectual banter and witty repartee.*

**Socrates:** Ah, my esteemed companion Cephalus, it seems we've stumbled into yet another entanglement of mortal affairs. Pray tell, have you caught wind of the recent tempest stirring in the political pot?

**Cephalus:** Indeed, Socrates, it appears that the delicate dance of political alliances has taken a turn for the absurd. Much like the unpredictable twists and turns of a marital spat, these political unions seem to be teetering on the brink of collapse.

**Socrates:** A keen observation, my friend! Like the fickle whims of lovers, political partnerships are often swayed by the winds of self-interest and ambition. But do enlighten me further, what catalyst has prompted the Parti Mauricien Social Démocrate (PMSD) to bid adieu to its former comrades?

**Cephalus:** Ah, Socrates, it appears that the eternal struggle for power and prestige has reared its head once more. Xavier Duval, the leader of PMSD, bemoans the lack of equitable distribution of electoral tickets and positions within the alliance. It's as if he's decided to throw the political equivalent of a tantrum and seek greener pastures elsewhere!

**Socrates:** How intriguing! It seems the pursuit of self-interest knows no bounds, whether in matters of the heart or matters of state. But tell me, Cephalus, what of the juicy gossip surrounding the PMSD's flirtations with the ruling party, the MSM? Are these whispers of clandestine negotiations the stuff of comedy or tragedy?

**Cephalus:** Ah, Socrates, the political arena is a veritable circus of intrigue and deception! While Xavier Duval vehemently denies any such dalliance, one can't help but wonder if there's more to the story. It's as if we're witnessing a high-stakes game of political poker, with everyone bluffing and no one willing to fold!

**Socrates:** Indeed, my dear Cephalus, the allure of



power can lead even the most virtuous astray. But let's not forget the human drama at play here. Xavier Duval's disappointment with his former allies mirrors the emotional rollercoaster of a soap opera. Do you not agree?

**Cephalus:** Absolutely, Socrates! The broken bonds of trust and loyalty are like cracks in a marriage, impossible to mend. Just as a bitter divorce leaves scars, so too do political betrayals leave their mark on the soul.

**Socrates:** And yet, my dear friend, amidst the chaos and turmoil, one can't help but marvel at the absurdity of it all. For just as marriages may end in divorce, so too may new alliances be forged from the ashes of old grievances. Perhaps Xavier Duval's gambit will lead to a comedic resolution worthy of the gods!

**Cephalus:** Indeed, Socrates, only time will tell. But for now, let us revel in the absurdity of human nature and the comedic drama of politics. After all, it's the laughter that keeps us sane in a world gone mad!

*As the sun begins its descent, painting the sky with hues of orange and pink, Socrates and Cephalus continue their spirited banter. Their laughter mingles with the rustle of olive leaves in the gentle breeze, creating a symphony of mirth and camaraderie. And though the questions remain unanswered, they find solace in the joy of philosophical exploration and the timeless pursuit of wisdom.*

**Socrates:** Ah, my dear Cephalus, it seems we've stumbled upon a veritable treasure trove of comedic gold amidst the sombre backdrop of political turmoil. Tell me, have you ever encountered a more absurd spectacle than the machinations of our mortal counterparts?

**Cephalus:** Indeed, Socrates, it appears that the gods themselves have taken to playing a grand jest upon the stage of politics. Why, the antics of Xavier Duval and his merry band of political wanderers would make even Dionysus himself blush with amusement!

**Socrates:** How true, my friend! For what could be more entertaining than the spectacle of grown men and women squabbling like petulant children over the allocation of electoral tickets and ministerial portfolios? It is as if they have forgotten the solemn duty entrusted to them by

the people.

**Cephalus:** Quite so, Socrates! And let us not forget the tragicomic subplot involving some of Xavier Duval's erstwhile party members, who have now abandoned ship faster than rats fleeing a sinking vessel. One can only imagine the awkward family dinners at the Duval household!

**Socrates:** Ah, yes, the age-old tale of sibling rivalry rears its head once more, much to the amusement of onlookers. One can almost hear the echoes of familial discord reverberating through the hallowed halls of Mount Olympus!

**Cephalus:** And what of the rumours swirling about Xavier Duval's supposed dalliance with the ruling party, the MSM? Why, it is as if he has taken to courting a new lover before the ink has even dried on his divorce papers with the Labour Party and the MMM!

**Socrates:** Ah, the fickleness of political allegiances knows no bounds! It is as if our mortal counterparts have taken leave of their senses, forsaking loyalty and principle in favour of fleeting promises and empty gestures.

**Cephalus:** And yet, Socrates, amidst the chaos and confusion, one cannot help but marvel at the resilience of the human spirit. For just as marriages may end in divorce, so too may new alliances. Who knows what strange bedfellows the future may hold?

**Socrates:** Indeed, my dear Cephalus, the wheel of fortune spins ever onward, leaving in its wake a trail of broken hearts and shattered dreams. But fear not, for as long as there are men like us to shine a light on the folly of our mortal counterparts, there will always be laughter in the face of adversity!

*And so, amidst the laughter and merriment, Socrates and Cephalus continue their philosophical musings, their voices rising and falling like the tide of history itself. And though the questions remain unanswered, they find solace in the timeless pursuit of wisdom and understanding. As the sun sets on another day in ancient Athens, we are reminded that even in the midst of chaos and discord, laughter is the elixir that soothes the soul and brings light to the darkest of times.*



Interview: Vinaye Ancharaz

# “The government is focused on political survival at all costs. Who cares about good economics?”

**I**n this week’s interview with the Mauritius Times, Vinaye Ancharaz, an International Economic Consultant and a keen observer of local politics, offers insights into recent developments, particularly the departure of the PMSD from the Opposition alliance. He analyzes the potential ramifications for the political landscape leading up to the next elections, highlighting shifts in alliances, voter sentiments, and the economic implications of government spending. Vinaye Ancharaz also emphasizes the importance of fiscal responsibility amidst calls for increased social benefits and encourages voters to assess proposed policies based on their long-term sustainability and impact on welfare.

**Mauritius Times: As an attentive observer of local politics, how do you interpret the recent departure of the PMSD from the Opposition alliance, and what implications do you foresee for the political landscape leading up to the next elections?**

**Vinaye Ancharaz:** I think it is fair to say that the writing was on the wall. The three parties have been negotiating for more than a year, and both the Labour Party and MMM made numerous concessions to the PMSD to keep them in the alliance. This was done to preserve unity among the parliamentary opposition parties in the fight against the tyranny of the MSM in the upcoming elections.

However, the PMSD had a joker up their sleeve – for they knew that the MSM was secretly wooing them. It appears that they ultimately yielded to the lure of power and money. If that’s indeed the case, then it’s regrettable, but the Labour-MMM alliance remains solid and both leaders have vowed to work together diligently to make their Labour Day meeting a success and, thereafter, focus on the general elections.

Xavier Duval has said that his party will consult with a variety of extra-parliamentary party leaders, including Roshi Bhadain and Nando Bodha, in their search for potential partners for a future alliance. I believe this is just eyewash. The PMSD’s choice has already been made. Expect to see the Duval clan on the same electoral platform as the MSM.

**\* In your assessment, how might the departure of the PMSD from the Opposition alliance affect the balance of power between political parties and coalitions, and what ripple effects could this have on electoral outcomes?**

I believe the departure of the PMSD is ultimately a good thing for the Opposition alliance. It removes the lingering uncertainty about the sharing of tickets and key positions in a future government and allows the Labour-MMM alliance to embrace other political partners, including some of those who quit the PMSD following their exit from the Opposition alliance.

In fact, the ongoing wave of resignations from the PMSD,

“The ongoing wave of resignations from the PMSD, and potentially more to follow, has significantly weakened Duval’s party. So, if the MSM thought that they would destabilize the Opposition alliance by luring the PMSD away, they in fact ended up scoring an own goal! The Opposition alliance has only been strengthened, and the negative publicity and adverse public reaction against the PMSD could do quite a bit of collateral damage to the MSM and a future MSM-PMSD alliance...”

and potentially more to follow, has significantly weakened Duval’s party. So, if the MSM thought that they would destabilize the Opposition alliance by luring the PMSD away, they in fact ended up scoring an own goal!

The Opposition alliance has only been strengthened, and the negative publicity and adverse public reaction against the PMSD could do quite a bit of collateral damage to the MSM and a future MSM-PMSD alliance.

**\* How do you believe the potential realignment of political forces, particularly with the involvement of the PMSD, will shape the discourse on key issues such as governance, accountability, and socioeconomic policies in the election campaign?**

I am afraid that governance and accountability will slide back further with the PMSD joining the MSM. Let us not forget that the PMSD quit the MSM-led government in 2016 over their disapproval of the Prosecution Commission, which was widely perceived as a tactic by the MSM to bypass the DPP’s Office, one of the rare institutions that refused to bend to their diktat.

Last year, when the Financial Crimes Commission Bill was being debated in the Parliament, Xavier Duval as the Leader of the Opposition vehemently argued against it, saying that it was a ghost of the still-born Prosecution Commission, except more devilish in its form and intent. Now, with the PMSD likely partnering up with the MSM, there is a feeling in the public that Xavier Duval has made a dramatic U-turn to embrace something that he fought with all his might in the past and until recently.

Duval had also systematically decried the waste of public funds, the rise of corruption and nepotism, and the decline of democratic standards that have become endemic during the MSM’s reign. He was himself constantly a target of the Speaker of the House, but cleverly outmanoeuvred the latter’s ploy to expel him from Parliament on numerous occasions. Kudos for that!

Duval did a fine job as the Leader of the Opposition but that now raises a thorny question: how will he stand on the same platform and defend the party that he relentlessly attacked over the past three years?

**\* With the PMSD’s departure from the Opposition alliance, how do you anticipate this affecting the Opposition’s ability to effectively challenge the MSM-led alliance?**

I am convinced that the Labour-MMM alliance has come out stronger from the ordeal. They now have a third partner: the people. And the people are all too aware of the MSM’s dirty tactics to harm or weaken the Opposition alliance.

More will surely come as the MSM will leave no stone unturned as they head into the elections. They have deep pockets, the MBC, and the entire government machinery at



“The adverse public reaction against the PMSD could do quite a bit of collateral damage to the MSM and a future MSM-PMSD alliance”

their beck-and-call. While substantial portions of the population are already appalled by the government’s unethical political maneuvers, these actions are beginning to influence the mindset of many undecided voters and MSM supporters, who won’t hesitate to punish the MSM-led alliance.

In the ex-Opposition alliance, Duval had taken the responsibility to lead the work on the alliance’s electoral programme. It appears he might have purposefully delayed the work. With the PMSD out, the Labour-MMM alliance is gearing up to deliver a strong ‘projet de société’, some elements of which – such as the appointment of an impartial and respectful Speaker, replacement of the FCC, promise of a decent retirement pension and its protection against inflation, etc. – have already been highlighted. The programme will lay out the Opposition alliance’s vision for a better Mauritius, a stronger democracy and a more secure society that will surely appeal to the wide public.

The Opposition alliance, as both its leaders have repeatedly said, represents the last rampart – the last hope – against a regime with totalitarian tendencies. Ultimately, the MSM could have sowed the seeds of its own downfall. Its highhanded tactics are backfiring, and people are afraid to hand the country back to the MSM for a third term in a row – something that has never happened before and must not happen in a living democracy.

**\* In light of the shifting alliances, how do you envision the role of smaller political parties and independent candidates in influencing electoral outcomes and potentially shaping post-election political scenarios?**

The Opposition alliance has made room for like-minded parties and people to join in. It is expected that a group of the PMSD-leavers will form their own political party and seek a spot on the Labour-MMM platform. They are welcome. There is also speculation that ReA might join the alliance. However, there are obvious limits to the Opposition alliance’s wish and endeavour to expand political representation.

Outside mainstream alliances, there is little room for smaller political parties and independent candidates to make any major impact on the poll.

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# 'The Labour-MMM alliance has come out stronger from the ordeal. They now have a third partner: the people'

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Despite calls by emerging parties to reject traditional ones, it is clear that the latter will dominate the local political landscape for many years to come. There is no arguing that our political culture must evolve to accommodate smaller parties with good promise, but any change takes time, and culture shifts take longer.

However, one way in which smaller parties and independent candidates can influence the electoral outcome is by causing votes to be dispersed. If this happens at the expense of the Opposition alliance, there is a risk that it might benefit the MSM-led alliance. If I may seize this opportunity to address the voters, I'd like to convey this message: If you love your country and desire change from the current MSM government, I urge you to vote responsibly. Vote for the party/alliance that offers a viable alternative. While it may not be perfect, it stands as the best available option for progress. There is none better.

**\* On the one hand, the ongoing political manoeuvring and shifting alliances have diverted attention from the most pressing economic challenges facing the country. There are indications of further initiatives in terms of freebies and populist social measures in the forthcoming budget. Are you concerned about the potential impact of increased government spending on the country's finances and public debt, especially considering the uncertainty surrounding the financing of measures such as salary and pension increases?**

I am very concerned about the impact of populist measures on the country's finances. The recent pension hike has added over Rs 10 billion to the social security budget, which accounts for one-third of the government's recurrent expenditure. The increase in the minimum wage will have an additional impact on the public sector wage bill.

Moreover, the Rs 2,000 that will be paid out of the CSG, and the government's promise to assist small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which are incapable of paying the increase in the minimum wage, will further compromise government finances. Finally, the restructuring of salaries to maintain balance and relativity following the minimum wage adjustment will impose an added burden on both the government and the private sector.

Besides their impact on the public budget, the increases in pensions and in the minimum wage, and the upcoming salary adjustment, will result in a surge in liquidity, which could fan the inflation fire. I have said it repeatedly that we have entered an inflationary spiral where we are perpetually chasing inflation. That is, the rising cost of living is leading to calls for higher pensions and wages, and these in turn are driving the inflation rate up...

It seems that the government is happy with this situation. It is collecting significant amounts of inflation tax which it is distributing to the population. The beneficiaries are also happy because many of them hardly realize that they are under the spell of the money illusion, that is, the extra money they got is in fact worth much less because, in the meantime, prices have shot up.



“In an election year, the MSM government will surely roll out a slew of other perks and freebies to different segments of the population. Already, recruitment in the public service and in the police force is revving up; taxi licenses are up for grabs and new financial incentives may be forked out to taxi drivers, farmers and fishermen, the youth, and the newly wed. Sociocultural organizations may receive bigger subsidies... All these popular and populist measures will take a toll on the budget and potentially on the national debt...”

Now, as you indicated, in an election year, the MSM government will surely roll out a slew of other perks and freebies to different segments of the population. Already, recruitment in the public service and in the police force is revving up; taxi licenses are up for grabs and new financial incentives may be forked out to taxi drivers, farmers and fishermen, the youth, and the newly wed.

Sociocultural organizations may receive bigger subsidies while taxes on petrol may finally be reduced. Significantly also, there is growing expectation in the public sector that the PRB report may be released this year itself ahead of the elections.

All these popular and populist measures will take a toll on the budget and potentially on the national debt if recourse is given to borrowing. But even if the government could find the resources to pay for the freebies, one should ask: is this the best way to spend the country's cash?

**\* In your perspective, what strategies should be implemented to ensure fiscal responsibility and sustainable economic growth amidst the temptation to adopt popular but potentially financially burdensome social measures?**

Following the completion of the 2024 Article IV consultations, the IMF released a press communiqué calling on the Mauritian authorities to implement a “growth-friendly fiscal consolidation plan” centred around reducing the public debt and rebuilding fiscal buffers (by reducing current spending and increasing tax collections). The full report will likely include clear guidance on what could be done to achieve fiscal consolidation.

In this election year, however, the temptation to overspend and under-tax will be high. The IMF has warned against such fiscal irresponsibility. So, while in practice, the IMF's recommendations are fair and feasible, the government will do the exact opposite. The latest wave of populist measures suggests that the government is very short-term in its outlook. They are focused on political survival at all costs. Who cares about good economics? The danger is that the next government will inherit an economy buffeted by spending overruns, empty buffers, and high inflation.

**\* How do you propose balancing the public's demand for increased social benefits with the necessity to uphold fiscal discipline and prevent further escalation of the country's debt burden?**

Balancing the demand for higher social benefits and fiscal discipline involves a simple equation. Social benefits are paid out of taxes, which means they are a redistribution of income from one segment of the population to another. For example, retirement pensions are paid out of taxes paid by the working population. The increase in the minimum wage will partly be paid out of the CSG; another part may come from taxes on petrol, which have withstood popular criticism, and hurt low-income earners the most. If the national pie (GDP) is not growing fast enough, such redistribution will cause frustration among taxpayers, typically the middle class.

The trick is to promote healthy economic growth; yet, by the end of 2023, we have only managed to recover from the pandemic when GDP fell by a staggering 15%. This is evident in the IMF's statement: “Rapid growth was sustained in 2023... with output now having exceeded its pre-pandemic level” (emphasis added). In other words, the government went on a spending spree when we were just recovering from the pandemic and growth was fragile. This is utterly irresponsible.

To redistribute income, we must create it first. Else, we will be creating frustrations. That is what the MSM government has done. They have created a semblance of a ‘feel good factor’ by giving away to some while leaving others frustrated.

**\* From an economic standpoint, what critical factors should voters take into account when assessing political parties and candidates in the upcoming elections, particularly concerning their economic platforms and proposed policies?**

The effectiveness of any proposed policy measure must be judged on the basis of a two-question test. First, is the proposed measure Pareto-efficient (that is, will it improve aggregate welfare by making everybody – or a large majority – better off)? Second, is the proposed measure sustainable (that is, does it improve current welfare at the expense of the future generation's welfare)?

It is clear that most of the popular measures announced by the government recently will fail the test badly. The pension hike, for example, is clearly not sustainable, especially with the replacement of the NPF by the CSG. Unlike the NPF, the CSG is not a fund, and it does not guarantee that there will be money left in the pot to pay pensions to those who reach 60 in the future.

Moreover, many of the bling-bling infrastructure projects that have brought a false sense of ‘development’ in the country have been financed by debt, which will have to be paid by our children and grand-children. These projects are intergenerationally unfair.

I urge voters to judge the socioeconomic programmes of different political parties or alliances not in terms of who offers the most but who passes the Litmus test above.



## Israël face à l'Iran: Les options de riposte

Le cabinet de guerre israélien travaille ardemment pour élaborer une réponse adéquate à l'attaque récente de drones et de missiles en provenance d'Iran. L'incident, au cours duquel l'Iran a lancé près de 300 missiles et drones sur Israël dimanche dernier, a marqué la première attaque directe de l'Iran contre l'État juif depuis son territoire. Cette escalade des tensions souligne une guerre de l'ombre de longue date entre les deux nations.

Malgré les appels de plusieurs alliés, dont les États-Unis, à éviter un conflit régional plus étendu, les ministres du gouvernement Netanyahu ont insisté sur la nécessité d'une réponse ferme pour ne pas démontrer de faiblesse aux yeux de leur adversaire. Pour l'heure, Israël n'a pas divulgué les détails de sa stratégie de riposte. Cependant, selon l'agence de presse Reuters et Bloomberg, plusieurs options sont sur la table, chacune présentant ses propres risques et implications.

### Frappes aériennes sur les installations nucléaires iraniennes

Une option envisagée par Israël est de lancer des frappes aériennes sur les installations nucléaires de l'Iran. Cette approche est d'autant plus envisageable que les défenses aériennes iraniennes sont considérées comme moins efficaces que le système de défense déployé par Israël et ses alliés. Les cibles potentielles pourraient inclure les bases des Gardiens de la Révolution ou les installations de recherche nucléaire. Toutefois, une telle action est risquée et agressive, et elle pourrait déclencher une escalade conduisant à un conflit régional.



L'Europe appelle Israël et l'Iran à "s'éloigner du précipice". P - L'Echo

### Cibler l'infrastructure militaire

Une autre option serait de cibler l'infrastructure militaire iranienne par le biais de frappes aériennes directes ou d'opérations cybernétiques. Cette stratégie vise à envoyer un message de dissuasion à l'Iran tout en minimisant les pertes civiles. Cette approche pourrait inclure des attaques contre des bases militaires ou des installations stratégiques. Toutefois, cela pourrait également entraîner une escalade des tensions dans la région.

### Cyberattaque

Israël a également la capacité de mener des cyberattaques contre l'Iran, ciblant des sites civils et militaires ainsi que des infrastructures critiques. Ces attaques pourraient perturber des secteurs clés tels que la production d'énergie ou les services de vol. Cependant, une telle action est controversée et pourrait entraîner des représailles de la part de l'Iran.

### Frapper les mandataires iraniens au Moyen-Orient

Plutôt que de frapper directement l'Iran, Israël pourrait choisir de cibler des groupes mandataires soutenus par l'Iran, tels que le Hezbollah au Liban ou les Houthis au Yémen. Cette approche vise à affaiblir l'influence de l'Iran dans la région en frappant ses alliés. Cependant, cela pourrait également entraîner des représailles de la part de ces groupes.

### Focus sur Gaza

Une autre option pour Israël serait de se concentrer sur sa confrontation actuelle avec le Hamas dans la bande de Gaza. En neutralisant les combattants du Hamas et en affaiblissant l'organisation, Israël pourrait affaiblir l'influence de l'Iran dans la région. Cependant, une telle action pourrait prolonger le conflit dans la bande de Gaza et entraîner des pertes civiles.

### Opérations secrètes

Israël pourrait également choisir de mener des opérations secrètes à l'intérieur de l'Iran, telles que des assassinats ciblés ou des sabotages d'installations clés. Ces opérations visent à affaiblir l'Iran sans déclencher une escalade militaire ouverte. Cependant, elles pourraient également entraîner des représailles de la part de l'Iran.

### Diplomatie

Enfin, Israël pourrait chercher à résoudre la crise par des moyens diplomatiques. Cela pourrait inclure des efforts pour isoler l'Iran sur la scène internationale ou pour obtenir le soutien d'autres pays dans la région. Cependant, une telle approche pourrait prendre du temps et ne garantit pas nécessairement une résolution pacifique de la crise.

Dans l'attente de la décision d'Israël, la situation reste tendue dans la région, avec le risque d'une escalade militaire à tout moment. La communauté internationale surveille de près la situation et appelle à la retenue de toutes les parties concernées.

## L'attaque de l'Iran contre Israël ravive la prédiction troublante de Nostradamus

Au milieu des tensions croissantes au Moyen-Orient à la suite de l'attaque récente de l'Iran contre Israël, des parallèles sont établis avec les prédictions prophétiques de Nostradamus. Le 13 avril, l'Iran a lancé une attaque au moyen de drones-suicides, de missiles et de roquettes contre le pays juif, stupéfiant le monde entier. Avec des sirènes d'alerte aérienne retentissant dans plusieurs régions, allant du nord et du sud d'Israël au nord de la Cisjordanie et même à la mer Morte, les références de Nostradamus à la guerre navale et aux tensions géopolitiques refont surface.

### La Troisième Guerre mondiale en tête des tendances sur Twitter

Les utilisateurs d'Internet s'inquiètent de la possibilité d'une troisième guerre mondiale. Beaucoup pensent qu'en cas d'éclatement de la Troisième Guerre mondiale, il y aurait deux camps: d'un côté, l'OTAN, les États-Unis, Israël et le Royaume-Uni, et de l'autre, la Russie, la Chine, l'Iran, le Yémen et la Corée du

Nord. Un utilisateur a écrit: "Les craintes que la rivalité entre l'Iran et Israël 'puisse déclencher la Troisième Guerre mondiale' avec Vladimir Poutine 'se frottant les mains'." "L'Allemagne se joignant aux forces des États-Unis, de la Grande-Bretagne, de la France et de la Pologne pendant la Troisième Guerre mondiale..." a écrit un autre.

### Quelle est la prédiction troublante de Nostradamus pour 2024?

Nostradamus est aussi connu comme le prophète de la catastrophe et ses prédictions ont souvent fait frissonner les gens. Dans son livre «Les Prophecies», Nostradamus a fait quelques prédictions terrifiantes pour l'année 2024, et certaines d'entre elles se sont déjà réalisées tandis que d'autres sont en cours. Par exemple, il a prédit une terrible guerre navale que le monde devrait connaître en 2024.

L'un des versets traduits se lit ainsi:



"L'adversaire rouge pâlera de peur, plongeant le grand Océan dans l'effroi". Certains pensent que cette déclaration particulière est liée aux tensions entre la Chine et Taïwan, mais les récentes attaques des Houthis contre des navires en mer Rouge semblent plus pertinentes.

La série d'attaques dans les régions avoisinantes a sérieusement entravé le commerce international, notamment

dans l'industrie pétrolière dépendante de la mer Rouge. De plus, l'attaque de l'Iran contre Israël a ajouté une autre couche de complexité, déstabilisant davantage la situation au Moyen-Orient.

Israël, qui était déjà engagé dans un conflit avec la Palestine, a subi des attaques consécutives le 13 avril, lorsque l'Iran a utilisé ses alliés que sont la Syrie, le Yémen et l'Irak pour lancer des drones en direction d'Israël.

L'attaque survient après une frappe aérienne à Damas ayant détruit le consulat iranien, au cours de laquelle 12 personnes ont été tuées, dont deux hauts gradés de l'armée iranienne, et après que Téhéran a menacé d'envahir Tel Aviv. Les frappes de missiles précédentes des

États-Unis et du Royaume-Uni contre des rebelles soutenus par l'Iran dans l'ouest du Yémen ont entraîné des menaces de représailles de la part du groupe chiite. Ce conflit dure depuis plusieurs années, l'Arabie saoudite, soutenue par les États-Unis et leurs alliés, étant impliquée du côté sunnite.

A. Bartleby



## U.S. Supreme Court closely scrutinizing the Jan 6 Capitol riot cases, a move that carries significant implications for Donald Trump.

The US Supreme Court is going to hold hearings on Tuesday of this week in the case Fischer v. United States, which not only pits the incumbent but goes ahead to create a trial that puts in the cross-hairs over 300 individuals linked to the January 6, 2021, Capitol attack, reports Hindustan Times.

One of the main problems is whether an individual can be charged with a felony obstruction that is used to fight financial crimes by the law enforced, the defendants will get a punishment up to 20 years.

In response to the Enron accounting scandal, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act criminalizes the destruction of evidence, and anyone who "otherwise obstructs, influences or impedes any official proceeding, or attempts to do so."

Participant at the "Stop the Steal" rally, Joseph Fischer, who was said to have been part of the Capitol rioting when the US Congress was certifying the 2020 elections' results, had to face prosecution for alleged involvement. He was among the rioters who broke into the Senate



The U.S. Supreme Court is questioning whether federal prosecutors went too far in bringing obstruction charges against hundreds of participants in the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. Former President Donald Trump also faces the same charge. Pic - AP News

chamber.

Justice DOJ claims that Fischer's act of breaking was unlawful and discouraging for the certification process of Congress, hence, obstruction of such an official proceeding.

### Potential implications for Trump?

Although the former President is not directly connected to the case, he faces a similar charge under scrutiny by Fischer.

The DOJ has managed to obtain dozens of convictions and guilty pleas from about 150 people who participated in the events of January 6th.

Fischer challenges the government's interpretation of the law as overly expansive and unprecedented. He argues that the "obstruction of an official proceeding" clause should be limited to the financial and evidentiary crimes the law was initially designed to address.

A Trump-appointed district judge of the lower court initially ruled Fischer had prevailed, and the felony counts against him and some other accused rioters were dismissed. But, a divided three-judge bench revoked the decision in a 2-1 majority to uphold the charges.

Of the 15 federal judges overseeing cases involving Capitol rioters charged with obstruction of an official proceeding, 14 have permitted the DOJ to utilize the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

In the upcoming case set for this month, the high court will also look at whether Trump can claim immunity for his alleged wrongdoing with election interference.

A ruling in both cases is anticipated by the end of June.



Ukraine has said the situation around the eastern frontline city of Chasiv Yar is 'difficult and tense'. Pic - The Telegraph

## US aid for Ukraine won't change military situation: Russia

Russia said Thursday that fresh US aid for Ukraine will not change the dynamics on the battlefield, as Washington gears up for a crucial weekend vote on long-stalled military funding for Kyiv.

Ukraine has struggled on the battlefield for months, outgunned and outnumbered by Russian forces amid a shortage of Western military aid.

The Kremlin said Thursday it was not bothered by the prospect of a fresh injection of Western arms, reports AFP.

"All experts now assert that the situation on the front is very unfavourable for the Ukrainian side. Therefore it will not be able to change anything," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Thursday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said the months-long delay has cost Ukraine lives and territory.

Kyiv is dependent on Western funding to stave off the Russian offensive.

Washington has been Kyiv's most important military backer throughout the conflict, now in its third year.

The lack of fresh funding has become increasingly critical, with Ukrainian leaders urging support on an almost daily basis.

After months of stalemate on the frontlines, Russian troops have started to chalk up some of their first territorial gains this year. Although only modest so far, Moscow is seeking to press its advantage on the battlefield, hoping to secure a decisive breakthrough with Kyiv on the back foot.

\* Contd on page 13

## What caused once-in-a-200-year extreme heatwave in Africa's Sahel

The deadly heatwave that hit Africa's Sahel region in early April would not have occurred without human-induced climate change, according to a study by the World Weather Attribution (WWA) group published Thursday.

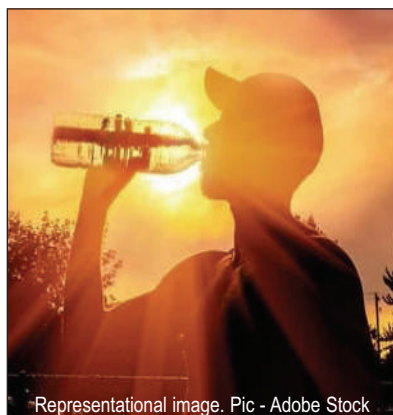
The West African nations of Mali and Burkina Faso experienced an exceptional heatwave from April 1 until April 5, with soaring temperatures above 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) triggering many deaths.

Observations and climate models used by researchers at the WWA showed that "heatwaves with the magnitude observed in March and April 2024 in the region would have been impossible to occur without the global warming of 1.2C to date", which scientists attribute to human-induced climate change, reports AFP.

While periods of high temperatures are common in the Sahel at this time of year, the report said that the April heatwave would have been 1.4C cooler "if humans had not warmed the planet by burning fossil fuels".

It added that the five days of extreme heat was a once-in-a-200-year event, but that "these trends will continue with future warming".

The length and severity of the extreme heat led to an increase in the number of deaths and hospitalisations in the two countries, despite their populations being



Representational image. Pic - Adobe Stock

acclimatised to high temperatures, the WWA said.

### Deaths in heatwave

A lack of data in the affected countries made it impossible to know the exact number of deaths, the WWA said, adding there were likely hundreds, if not thousands, of other heat-related casualties.

The April heatwave in Mali -- where the temperature spiked at 48.5 degrees Celsius -- and neighbouring Burkina Faso coincided with the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims fast from dawn until dusk.

It also came during power outages which restricted the use of fans and air conditioning and affected health services.

The national blood transfusion centre in Bamako had called on medical centres to suspend any non-essential transfusions because of daily power shutdowns lasting more than 12 hours a day.

Mali often suffers from electricity cuts partly due to the state of disrepair of its power stations.

Countries in the Sahel region have had to contend with drought since the 1970s, as well as periods of intense rainfall from the 1990s.

The dwindling availability of water and pasture, compounded by the development of agricultural land, has disrupted the lives of pastoral populations and encouraged the emergence of armed groups that have extended their hold over vast swathes of territory in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.

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## Maldives' opposition parties demand President Mohamed Muizzu's impeachment

**A**head of the parliamentary polls in the Maldives, the opposition parties have demanded a probe and impeachment of President Mohamed Muizzu following the leaked report of his alleged corruption from 2018, a charge dismissed by him.

Elections to the Majlis are to be held on Sunday and the atmosphere has been vitiated by the trading of charges between the main opposition the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and the Muizzu's People's National Congress (PNC).

Local media reports have highlighted that the political storm started on Monday with an anonymous handle 'Hassan Kurusee' posting on social media X leaked intelligence reports, including documents prepared by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) of the Maldives Monetary Authority and the Maldives Police Service that allegedly linked President Muizzu to corruption, reports PTI.

"These reports, dated circa 2018, claim irregularities in money transfers to President Muizzu's personal bank account, highlighting 10 critical red flag indicators of financial misconduct. These indicators suggest involvement with politically exposed persons, embezzlement,



President Mohamed Muizzu. Pic – News18

structured transactions, and the use of corporate entities to hide fund origins," news portal Maldives Republic (mvrepublic.com) reported.

The allegations soon created a political storm with several reactions pouring in on various social media channels. News portals and newspapers, however, tread with caution. The opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and People's National Front (PNF) demanded an investigation into the matter.

Former Vice President Dr Mohamed Jameel Ahmed urged Muizzu's impeachment following the leaked

intelligence reports. Taking to his social media handle X, Jameel reposted these documents, emphasising the need for accountability at all levels of governance.

Apart from demanding Muizzu's impeachment, Jameel, a senior member of the Progressive Party of Maldives, "also accused President Muizzu of extensive corruption in his flagship Ras Male' development project and alleged excessive spending on public relations. Jameel has called on President Muizzu to cooperate with independent investigations into these allegations," mvrepublic.com said.

The news portal also claimed that this was the first time an FIU report was leaked and said, there has been no official confirmation or response from government bodies regarding the legitimacy of the reports or the allegations.

Adhadu.com reported that President Muizzu responded late on Tuesday night to corruption allegations declaring that the opposition "cannot show any wrongdoing on his part regardless of how far attempts to implicate him are taken" and also accused the opposition of leaking the reports out of desperation.

A total of 368 candidates are contesting for 93 seats in this year's parliamentary elections on April 21, according to media reports. The outcome of the elections will determine whether the opposition parties can act against President Muizzu, who assumed charge in November last year.



An ad van with a message from Cancer Research UK urging MPs to back the bill passed through Westminster as MPs voted on the bill. Pic - Shutterstock

## MPs vote for smoking ban despite Tories' division over policy

**A**ban on smoking for future generations moved a step closer this week, but Rishi Sunak suffered a blow to his authority after dozens of Conservative MPs voted against it.

The House of Commons voted by 383 to 67 in favour of the prime minister's plan to make it illegal for anyone born in 2009 or later to buy tobacco products in the UK.

The legislation, which would effectively ban smoking for future generations by raising the legal age every year, is seen by the prime minister's allies as a key part of his political legacy, reports The Guardian.

However the result, voted against by 57 Tory MPs – including Kemi Badenoch, a likely future leadership contender, and five other ministers – underlined the depth of division within the party even over Sunak's flagship policies.

Labour has thrown its weight behind the plan, which was unveiled at the Tory party conference in October, ensuring that it sailed through the Commons. More than 100 Tory MPs abstained, although some of them will have been absent from the Commons for reasons unrelated to the vote.

Badenoch, the business secretary, was the

only cabinet minister to vote against the legislation. She said before the vote that she had "significant concerns" because the legislation meant that "people born a day apart will have permanently different rights".

She told LBC after the vote: "I don't think the end justifies the means. The principle I was against was treating adults differently and how that would be enforced. It didn't feel right to me."

Conservative MPs were given a free vote although Andrea Leadsom, the junior health minister in charge of the bill, contacted some of them to make the government's case.

Opposition to the plans was led by the former prime minister Liz Truss, who told the Commons she was "very concerned" it was "emblematic of a technocratic establishment in this country that wants to limit people's freedom".

Tory critics said the proposal would result in adults being treated differently according to their age, and it was a slippery slope that could lead to bans on fast food or alcohol. Some MPs argued the plan would encourage an illegal tobacco trade and that it would be difficult to enforce.

Several Tory MPs with links to the vaping industry spoke in opposition to the bill. Mark Eastwood, the vice-chair of the all-party parliamentary group for responsible vaping, argued it would push people from vaping to smoking. Adam Afriyie, who received an award last year from a vaping industry group, said he could not support the proposal because it would treat adults differently according to their age.

The legislation would not ban vaping but it would introduce greater restrictions, especially on marketing vapes at young people.

The plan for a smoking ban is modelled on proposals in New Zealand, which were repealed earlier this year, before they took effect, by a new rightwing government in Wellington.

## Trudeau government proposes more taxes on wealthy Canadians to fund housing

**C**anada on Tuesday revealed a new tax on wealthy individuals that will bring in billions of dollars over the next five years to help fund housing programs designed to win over a disgruntled voter base.

In its annual federal budget, the Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also said that despite the increase in spending the budget deficit for 2023/24 would remain stable before gradually falling.

The government had already outlined its housing plans in the weeks running up to the budget release with the main new element an increase in the capital gains tax. The budget also promised a flurry of measures to unlock government lands across the country for housing.

"The wealthy, who tend to earn relatively more income from capital gains, disproportionately benefit compared to the middle class," said Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, adding the new measure would only affect 0.13% on the population, reports Reuters.

Under the new measure, people realising capital tax gains of more than C\$250,000 (\$180,804) will pay tax on the excess at a rate of 66.7%, up from 50% at present. Similarly, all capital gains realised by companies and trusts will be taxed at 66.7%.



Canada's Deputy PM and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland presents the federal government budget for fiscal year 2024-25, in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, April 16, 2024. Pic - Reuters

The additional tax will bump up government revenue by close to C\$20 billion over the next five years and help shrink the government's fiscal deficit to C\$20 billion by 2028-29, or half of what it was last year, the document said.

Trudeau's minority Liberal government is being kept in power by the smaller left-leaning New Democrats, whose leader Jagmeet Singh told reporters he would study the document and possibly demand changes before deciding whether to back the government.

A string of recent polls show the Liberals and New Democrats would lose badly to the official opposition Conservatives in an election due by end-October 2025, meaning it is highly unlikely Singh would bring down Trudeau now.

The Conservatives are promising to slash what they call wasteful Liberal spending and eliminate the deficit.



From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6<sup>th</sup> Year No 268

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 2 October, 1959

• Men look to what people think of them; women to what they say. — Hippel



Peter Ibbotson

## A Letter from London

Today sees the second anniversary of the foundation, at Piton on October 2, 1957, of the Mauritius Family Planning Association. I recalled this when talking to Dr Benedict at a Colonial Office reception for the press delegation on September 14. "Yes," he remembered, "the women used to ask my wife

three questions: How much does your husband make? Where do you keep your jewels? And how can we stop having babies?" Out of Mrs Benedict's efforts to answer this last question, the F.P.A. was born.

Dr Benedict recalls the formation of the Association in an article in the July issue of *Family Planning*, only just available, since production was delayed by the printing strike. He says, "In villages in Mauritius there are Hindu socio-religious associations known as *baïtkas* which are ordinarily devoted to religious services, and to mutual aid of their members especially at marriage and death. Membership is acquired by paying a small entrance fee and monthly dues. The *baïtka* building is usually a small thatch or sheet iron hut. In just such a building in a village in Mauritius the first family planning association was founded. Organisationally it was modelled on the *baïtka*. It met on *baïtka* premises with the permission and therefore implicit support of the members. It elected similar officers, charged an entrance fee and small monthly dues which were used to buy contraceptives. Thus it was a type of association with

basis alike of Socialist and the religious *baïtka*).

To return, however, to the F.P.A. It has been in existence two years. It has spread all over the island. Its first annual report came out last December so of course we cannot have another interim report for another three months. But it would be interesting to know just how far the F.P.A. has been successful up to date. How many women are, in fact, regularly using the Volpar foaming tablets which the F.P.A. is recommending as the cheapest, simplest and most convenient method available at the moment? How far can that F.P.A. say that it has helped, be it in ever so small a degree, to slow down the growth in population? I firmly believe that the F.P.A. is doing valuable work, and is very necessary in Mauritius.

Both the Population and Luce Reports realize the importance of family planning in any consideration of the problems of present-day Mauritius. But is it satisfactory that the F.P.A. should have to continue to exist on its present voluntary, almost hand-to-mouth, basis? Is there no Member of Government who will firmly and unequivocally say that public money will have to be granted to the Family Planning Association in order that its urgent work may be more effectively be carried out? The five-year plan is aimed at raising the general standard of living; will it do so unless family planning is propagated simultaneously? Dr Benedict suggests that "there may well be a case for including family planning in a general programme of economic and social welfare" — but it isn't in the five-year plan.

\* \* \*

After gaining Rugby from the independent W.J. Brown at the general election of February 1950, Mr James

Johnson held his seat by only 199 votes when Labour lost power at the 1951 election. This was in a straight fight against a Conservative; Mr Johnson polled 19,995 against his opponent's 19,796. In 1955, he increased his majority in a three-cornered contest; polling 19,709 votes against the Conservative candidate's 18,331 and an independent candidate's 1,274. It will be noted that Mr Johnson's 1950 majority of 1,378 over the Conservative was bigger than the independent candidate's vote; so

that he had an absolute majority, in fact, over both his opponents combined. This time he is faced with both Liberal and Conservative opponents. All Mauritians will wish him well; although he is a Labour man, as "Member for Mauritius" he has in the past transcended party lines in advocating what is best for Mauritius.

\* \* \*

It is noteworthy to see what the two main parties have to say on colonial matters in their manifestoes. The Conservatives promise continued "progressive expansion of overseas information services" so that "misrepresentation about British colonialism does not go unchallenged." We read that the Conservatives will "discuss with our partners in the Commonwealth plans to deal with the status of members too small to be fully self-supporting and self-governing." (Presumably the Conservatives, ignorant of or else willfully ignoring the population of Mauritius and the

plans to make Mauritius really prosperous, regard Mauritius as "too small" for self-government.)

Then, the manifesto declares, "Our aim in multi-racial countries is to build communities which protect minority rights and are free of all discrimination on grounds of race or colour." (They daren't add "or creed" because the vicious discrimination practised by the semi-Fascist Conservative government of Northern Ireland against the Catholic minority is well known.) "If democracy is to be secured, education must underpin the franchise; and the rapid expansion of education is the Commonwealth's most pressing need; we will play a leading part in financing the new Commonwealth scheme of exchange scholarships and fellowships."

As regards the finance of the colonies, the Conservatives say, "Further British capital will be made available through loans and grants for sound Commonwealth development." The operative word is sound. Sound in whose estimation? Sound because it would reduce colonial dependence on imports from, say the UK (e.g. the implementation of the cement project) or sound because it would lead to fat overseas contracts for British firms which would thus channel much of the grants and loans back into the UK Treasury in the form of taxation on profits earned?

The Labour Party, in its manifesto, points out the truth that "Two worlds, one white, well-fed and free, the other coloured, hungry and struggling for equality, cannot live side by side in friendship." (A truth as applicable to the microcosm of Mauritius as to the macrocosm of the world.) The three principles of Labour's colonial policy are reaffirmed: "First, that the peoples still under colonial rule have as much right as we have to be governed by consent; secondly, that one man, one vote applies in all parts of the world; thirdly, that racial discrimination must be abolished." The pledge is repeated "to devote an average of 1 per cent of our national income each year to helping the under-developed areas."

In a Penguin book specially written and published for the occasion, Mr Roy Jenkins expands the Labour Party's proposals for small colonies such as Mauritius (which in fact he names specifically). He says that the Labour Party's proposals in its pamphlets *The Plural Society* and *The Smaller Territories* still stand: that a small colony such as Mauritius shall be elevated to the style of Dominion, with full internal self-government. Its government will have the power to decide the basis of the Dominion's associations as regards external affairs. The Dominion might choose to let the UK run its external affairs for it; or it might throw in its lot, as regards external affairs, with some convenient territory, perhaps Commonwealth, perhaps not (analogy the Ghana Guinea Union). Thus Mauritius might choose to be associated with the UK, or with Australia, or with India or Ceylon, or (very improbably) with South Africa or Kenya, as far as external relations were concerned. But it is clear that Labour's principle of government by consent points to the people of the colonies affected being responsible for the determination of their future. The Conservative proposals, on the other hand, make it clear that colonies will have their future decided for them by the UK and its "partners" — i.e. Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Ghana; which are the only "partners" in the Commonwealth. In brief, Labour says "Decide your own future"; but the Conservatives say "You're going to have your future decided for you." Clearly the interests of the colonial people will best be served by a Labour victory.



which villagers were familiar even though the purposes of the association were novel to them."

From this Dr Benedict draws the moral that family planners would be well advised to use established organisations, if at all possible, which can be adapted to the ends of family planning propaganda. But we can also urge that established organisations could be adapted, perhaps, to political organisational ends. Mr Dabee has written two timely articles on the need for mass organisation of the Labour Party in which he echoed pleas which I have also made, in *Advance* as well as in the *Mauritius Times*. The *baïtka* organisation is familiar everywhere in Mauritius; therefore an island-wide campaign to set up local Labour Parties in the villages, and Constituency Labour Parties in the constituencies, could well use the *baïtka* form of organisation, even if the ends are different. (Though the ends of the Labour Party are mutual self-help and social justice; the



# Don't trust politicians? That may not be such a bad thing

● Cont. from page 2

Responsiveness, competence, honesty and hence trustworthiness are qualities that people want in their leaders – although these are in the eye of the beholder. Supporters of Donald Trump often describe him as “honest”, while others see him as an egregious liar. People disagree about whom to trust, and judgment will partly depend on which politicians promote the policies people prefer.

For some, getting better leaders would mean throwing out the present cohort and starting afresh. For others, it might only mean that those in office should pull their socks up.

The European Social Survey shows that people express more trust in political institutions when they perceive public processes and social outcomes to be



fair and just.

But you probably didn't need a survey to understand that reducing inequality and democratising decision-making are good ideas. And if you've suffered discrimination and injustices, you'll be less trusting. Distrust may be based on reasonable assessments of actual events, rather than misinformation.

## Government is a work in progress

As the world faces complex problems such as climate change, the AI revolution, inequality and armed conflict, competent and honest leaders and effective government are needed more than ever. But leadership and government are themselves problems about which people have debated for millennia, with still no universally agreed solution in sight. It's worth noting, for example, that in China, most people tell pollsters that they trust their government.

There may be disagreements about how best to govern, but all states practice, by necessity, some form of government. And the arts of government are ancient. Concern for a fundamental political trust is as old as Confucius's Analects. The Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius wrote eloquent notes to himself about being a better ruler.

As there's no handy administrative formula for political trust, such personal and political self-examination has to persist. Undoubtedly, citizens want an end to scandal and corruption. Laws and codes may prevent the worst behaviour, but they can't produce the best.

So, if you distrust politicians, you're not alone. Telling surveyors that you don't trust politicians is a gentle and valid form of political resistance. Politicians should pay heed, reflect on their own behaviour, and then take practical steps to deliver better public services – in other words, do a better job.

**Grant Duncan, Visiting Scholar in Politics, City, University of London**

# Israel and Ukraine – America's Incoherent Responses

● Cont. from page 7

On April 17, following Russia's missile attack on Chernihiv, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba echoed Zelensky's call on partners to provide Ukraine with the means to defend itself against air attacks with the same effectiveness as seen in Israel over the weekend. He is expected to reiterate Ukraine's pleas for additional Patriot missile batteries during the Group of Seven ministerial meeting in Italy.

On the point of inadequate defensive missile batteries, and depleted inventories, President Zelensky claimed that the Russians were able to destroy the Trypillia Thermal Power Plant because Ukraine had completely run out of missiles to defend it due to insufficient assistance from its allies.

## President Zelensky's frustration



Pic - NBC News

Iran's attack on Israel is unlike anything we have seen except perhaps for the missile and drone attacks by Russia on Ukraine. True, Russia has not fired off as many missiles and drones in a single day, but Zelensky stated that Russia fired over 3,000

guided aerial bombs, 600 drones and 400 missiles at Ukraine in March alone. As the world has seen, Russian missiles have devastated Ukraine's cities and infrastructure.

President Zelensky's frustration that the US and Europeans did not leap to provide Ukraine with the same level of defensive support in repelling Putin's war of destruction against his country, as Israel received in repelling Iran's aerial assault from the US, Britain, and even Arab countries, is palpable. "Now the whole world has seen from the actions of Israel's allies in the sky and neighbouring countries how effective unity can be in the protection from terror," Zelensky said. "Terror must lose everywhere and completely — not somewhere more and somewhere less."

Within a week of Putin's assault on Ukraine, some two years ago, on March 3, 2022, I wrote: "The war of Ukraine has not been lost. It is too early to give up hope that the brave Ukrainians will prevail even as we fear the worst. It is not, however, too early for an autopsy of President Biden's failed effort to prevent a Russian invasion of Ukraine."

I received a lot of blowbacks then for using the word "autopsy" in this context. But in retrospect, I think that was not unfair and it remains today, a fair comment.

Zelensky points out the obvious, that what was done for Israel, could be done to protect Ukraine, which like Israel, is not a NATO member.

Perhaps referring back obliquely to Biden's declaration that the US would not cede one inch of NATO territory, but would not engage directly with Russia, Zelensky pointedly said: "And this does not require the activation of Article 5, but only the political will."

Article 5 of the NATO charter treats an attack on one member as an attack against them all.

Biden's approach appears incoherent, filled with bold declarations of support for Ukraine and Israel, but with a certain feckless timidity. It may be too late for Ukraine. Just last week, *The Boston Globe* carried a reprinted *New York Times* story about Ukrainian border guards often finding their quarry — men seeking to escape the military draft — swimming in hazardous conditions, trying to cross the Tysa River where it forms the border with Romania.

Cheer...  
**Bwana**

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Mauritius Times





**Justin Stebbing**  
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# Silent cancers: here's what you need to know when there are no obvious symptoms

*By encouraging patients to adopt preventive lifestyles and have screenings and tests, silent cancers don't have to be a grave threat to health*

**T**he recent revelations about the Princess of Wales's cancer diagnosis highlight a crucial aspect of cancer detection – the disease's sometimes silent nature.

Silent cancers are those without noticeable symptoms. They pose a unique challenge in early detection and treatment.

Contrary to common perception, cancer does not always announce its presence through overt symptoms or obvious signs. Many people receive a cancer diagnosis incidentally, when it's found during routine medical examinations or investigations for unrelated health concerns – as seems to be the case for both the princess and King Charles III.

While even silent cancers can sometimes be aggressive and advance rapidly, they can also remain dormant for years or even decades. Some prostate, breast and thyroid cancers, for example, often evolve slowly without obvious symptoms or spreading beyond the original area.

Research suggests that some of these cancers are over-treated. Sometimes patients are best left alone or treated much more gently, perhaps even without medical intervention, using a "watch and wait" strategy. This approach may be taken with prostate cancer in the elderly, for example.

## The importance of early diagnosis

Whatever the cancer, it's always important to get an early diagnosis though – and for silent cancers, this is obviously a challenge.

Some cancer symptoms can be vague and easily mistaken for benign ailments. Fatigue, unexplained weight loss and persistent pain are among the nonspecific symptoms that may signal an underlying malignancy. But such symptoms can be misinterpreted or easily dismissed, which contributes to delayed diagnosis and treatment.

Fortunately, in many countries including the UK, we have screening tests for diseases like breast or colon cancer, to increase early diagnoses.

Early diagnosis is a key factor for successful cancer treatment. Detecting cancer in its silent phase offers a window of opportunity for early intervention and improved outcomes. The discovery of asymptomatic cancers through diagnostic imaging or screening tests underscores the importance of these proactive health-care measures.

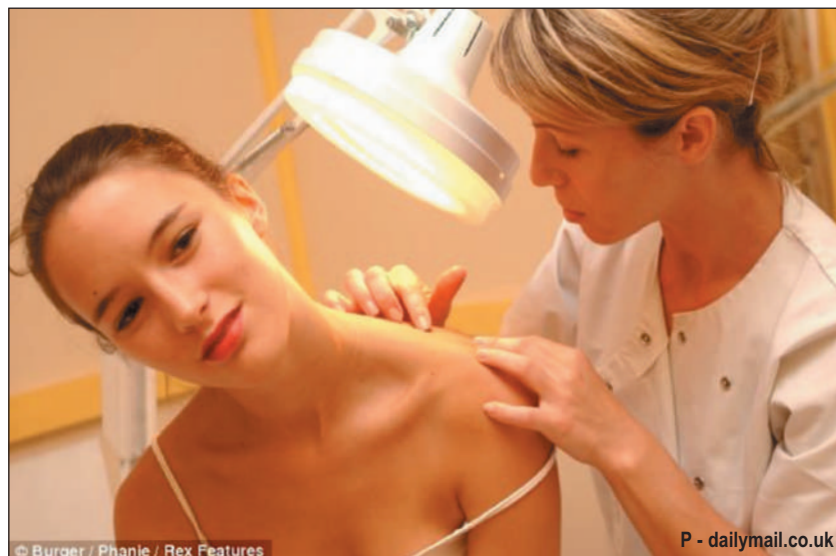
Identifying cancer at an early stage means the disease is confined to its site of origin, smaller and potentially easier to cure. Diagnosing a smaller cancer often means that if an operation is needed, it may be a less invasive surgery. There may also be a lower chance of needing post-operative preventative chemotherapy, to mop up any residual cells.

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is a good example to show the critical importance of screening. Studies show that patients who participate in CRC screening, such as colonoscopies or tests that look for blood in the stool, are more likely to be diagnosed while asymptomatic and have more positive prognoses after treatment. Those diagnosed with CRC after showing symptoms, such as rectal bleeding or changes in bowel habits, tend to have more advanced tumors and poorer outcomes.

Public health initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the importance of both cancer screening and symptom recognition play a pivotal role in reducing diagnostic delays. Empowering people to engage in preventive health-care measures such as HPV vaccinations and lifestyle changes that decrease risk can facilitate early detection and intervention, potentially altering the trajectory of the disease.

## Biomarker discovery

The latest advances in diagnostic technologies, often



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P - dailymail.co.uk

known as "biomarker discovery", hold promise for improving early detection rates and refining treatment strategies for silent cancers. From molecular profiling to liquid biopsy techniques (blood tests to diagnose cancer), innovative approaches are reshaping the landscape of cancer diagnosis, offering new avenues for personalised and precision medicine.

For example, I worked with a team using blood tests to identify cancers in more than 1,000 women recalled after screening for mammography. We looked at the DNA that tumour cells release – so-called cell-free DNA – and also metabolomics (rare markers related to metabolism in the blood). From this information, we found healthy patients, benign disease, pre-cancer and breast cancer. Although there's increasing awareness and use of this approach in Europe, it isn't standard in the UK.

Asymptomatic cancers represent a formidable challenge for patient care. But, by encouraging patients to adopt preventive lifestyles and engage with screenings and tests, asymptomatic cancers don't have to be a hidden threat to health.

## YOUR STARS

### SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

Sagittarius, prioritize your physical and mental health this week. Make time for exercise, meditation, and other activities that promote well-being. Focus on maintaining balance in all areas of your life.

**Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 15, 19, 23, 24**

### CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

This week is about building strong foundations for the future. Take practical steps towards your long-term goals and invest in your personal and professional development. Trust in your abilities to succeed.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 19, 21, 33, 39**

### AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

Embrace your individuality and express yourself authentically this week. Don't be afraid to stand out or pursue your unique interests. Surround yourself with people who appreciate you for who you are.

**Lucky Numbers: 14, 18, 27, 30, 31, 36**

### PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Pisces, focus on creating a sense of stability and security in your life. Pay attention to your finances and take steps to ensure your long-term prosperity. Trust in your intuition when making important decisions.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 11, 19, 20, 21**

### ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Aries, focus on balance. Take time to reassess your priorities and ensure that you're giving attention to all aspects of your life. Remember to communicate openly and honestly with loved ones, as misunderstandings may arise otherwise.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 5, 13, 19, 20, 30**

### TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

This week calls for patience and perseverance. You may encounter obstacles, but with determination, you can overcome them. Trust your intuition when making decisions, and don't hesitate to seek advice from trusted

friends or mentors.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 18, 27, 29, 33**

### GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

This week is about self-reflection and personal growth. Take time to evaluate your goals and aspirations and consider what changes you need to make to achieve them. Embrace new opportunities for learning and exploration.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 15, 20, 23, 28, 34**

### CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Cancer, focus on nurturing your relationships this week. Spend quality time with loved ones and express your appreciation for their support.

Remember to also take care of yourself and prioritize self-care to maintain emotional balance.

**Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 11, 16, 27, 32**

### LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

You may find yourself feeling ambitious and motivated. Channel this energy into your professional endeavours and pursue your goals with determination. Stay focused and organized to maximize productivity.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 17, 25, 26, 30**

### VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

This week emphasizes the importance of communication. Be clear and concise in your interactions, and don't be afraid to speak up for what you believe in. Collaborative efforts will be particularly fruitful now.

**Lucky Numbers: 5, 15, 23, 27, 36, 40**

### LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Libra, focus on finding harmony in your surroundings this week. Create a peaceful and balanced environment that supports your well-being. Take time to relax and recharge, especially if you've been feeling overwhelmed.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 35**

### SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

This week, Scorpio, trust your instincts and follow your passions. Don't be afraid to take risks or pursue your ambitions, even if it means stepping out of your comfort zone. Embrace change as an opportunity for growth.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 14, 17, 21, 28, 39**



## Don't vent, breathe: Calming techniques are key to anger management

While letting off steam about something that upsets you might feel good in the short term, new research suggests it's not helpful for reducing anger. In fact, techniques commonly used for stress management – deep breathing, mindfulness, meditation, yoga, or even just counting to 10 – are much more effective at calming you down and lowering aggression.

Researchers reviewed over 150 studies involving more than 10,000 participants. They found that the most effective way to manage anger is to lower your body's arousal level – essentially, to calm down. Activities that increased arousal had no effect on anger, and some, like jogging, actually made it worse.

"It's important to dispel the myth that venting anger is healthy," said lead author Brad Bushman, a communication professor at Ohio State University. "There's no scientific evidence to support the idea of catharsis, or releasing anger to feel better."

"To truly reduce anger, focus on activities that lower your arousal level," Bushman continued. "Despite what some might believe, even going for a run isn't an effective strategy because it increases arousal and can be counterproductive."

### Focus on Calming Activities

The study, published in *Clinical Psychology Review*, found that activities like deep breathing, mindfulness, meditation, yoga, and progressive muscle relaxation can



effectively reduce anger in various settings, including labs, workplaces, and online platforms. These techniques were helpful for a wide range of people, including college students, working professionals, and individuals with or without a criminal history.

"Interestingly, progressive muscle relaxation and general relaxation techniques seem to be just as effective as mindfulness and meditation," said study co-author Sophie Kjærøvik. "Even yoga, which can be more stimulating than meditation, can help reduce anger by promoting breathwork and focus."

### Calming Techniques Benefit Both Anger and Stress

"In today's stressful world, we all need healthy coping

mechanisms," Kjærøvik added. "The good news is that the same techniques that work for stress management can also be helpful for anger."

The study also found that activities that increase arousal were generally ineffective in reducing anger. Jogging, for example, was more likely to increase anger, while playing ball sports actually had a calming effect. This suggests that incorporating an element of fun into physical activity might help manage anger by promoting positive emotions.

### Free and Easy Anger Management Tools

The research aligns with previous findings by Bushman that linked venting anger to continued aggression.

"Some physical activities that increase arousal may be good for your heart health, but they're not the best way to deal with anger," Bushman said. "Venting might feel good momentarily, but our research shows it can actually reinforce aggressive behavior."

The authors point out that many of the calming techniques shown to be effective are free or inexpensive and readily available.

"You don't necessarily need therapy to manage anger," Kjærøvik concluded. "There are free apps and YouTube videos that can guide you through relaxation techniques."



## Why aren't there solar-powered cars?

*It's common to see solar panels on rooftops and fields, but they aren't widespread on cars – yet.*

Solar cars exist. The best place to see them is the World Solar Challenge, a race that's held every two years in Australia. Competitors have to drive about 1,870 miles (3,000 kilometers), from Darwin on the country's north coast to Adelaide on its south coast, using only energy from the Sun.

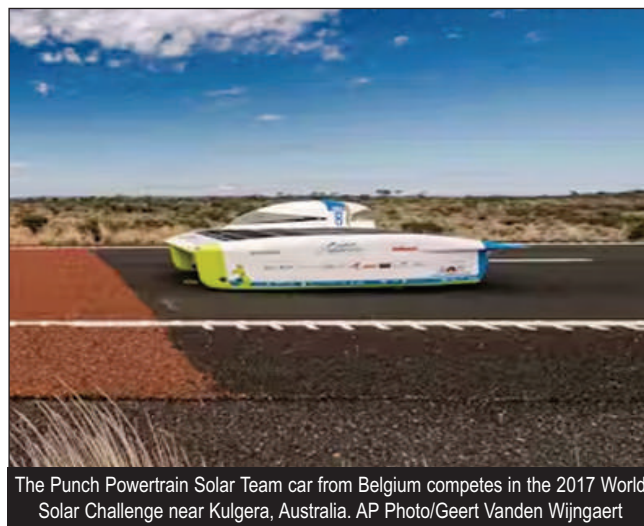
Many cars that compete in this race look more like amusement park rides or science fiction vehicles than the cars you see on the road. That tells you something about why solar cars aren't an option for everyday travel, at least not yet.

### Collecting enough sunlight

While a lot of sunlight falls on Earth during the day, the light becomes scattered as it travels through the atmosphere, so the amount that hits any given surface is fairly low. Averaged out over a full year to remove the effects of different seasons, it's about 342 watts per square meter, an area equivalent to about 10 square feet. That's approximately enough power to run a standard refrigerator.

Car sizes vary a lot, but a full-size car in the U.S. is about 18 feet long and 6 feet wide, so it has about 100 to 110 square feet (9 to 10 square meters) of horizontal surface. That would collect roughly 3,420 watts – enough to run a refrigerator, a dishwasher and a microwave oven.

Large solar farms that send electricity to cities and towns compensate for the fact that sunlight is spread across such a large area by putting up millions of solar panels across thousands of acres. Some,



The Punch Powertrain Solar Team car from Belgium competes in the 2017 World Solar Challenge near Kulgera, Australia. AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert

mainly in desert areas, use fields of mirrors to concentrate the Sun's energy. But a standard car doesn't have enough surface area to collect a lot of solar energy.

### Turning sunlight to energy

Another issue is that today's solar panels aren't very efficient at converting sunlight into electricity. Typically, their efficiency is around 20%, which means they convert about one-fifth of the solar energy that reaches them into electric current.

This means that 3,420 watts of solar power falling on an average car covered with solar panels would yield only about 684 watts that the car could use. In comparison, it takes about 20,000 watts for an electric vehicle to drive at 60 miles per hour (100 kilometers per hour).

Vehicles that compete in the World Solar Challenge tend to be large and have designs that maximize their horizontal surface area. This helps them collect as much sunlight as possible. As a concept vehicle, that's fine, but most models don't have many windows, or space for anything except a driver.

### When the Sun doesn't shine

Yet another challenge is that geographic locations, daylight hours and weather conditions all affect how much solar energy can be generated.

The Earth is tilted on its axis, so not all areas receive equal amounts of sunlight at any given time. When the Northern Hemisphere tilts toward the Sun, the upper part of the globe gets more Sun exposure and observes spring and summer, while the Southern Hemisphere is colder and darker. When the southern half of the planet tilts toward the Sun, areas on Earth's southern half get more Sun and the upper half gets less.

Areas near the equator get consistent sunlight year-round, so zones closer to it – such as Southern California or the Sahara desert – have more intense solar power than places closer to Earth's poles, such as Alaska.

Solar cars would also struggle to collect enough sunlight on overcast or rainy days. Even big utilities with huge solar farms have to plan for times when the Sun doesn't shine.

And drivers need their cars to operate at night. In order for a solar car to run after dark, it would need to use extra energy that it collected during the day and stored in a battery. Solar panels and batteries increase the weight of the car, and heavier cars need more power to run.

Researchers are working to design solar cars that are more suitable for everyday use. For this to happen, designers will need to make solar panels more efficient at converting sunlight to energy and design solar panels that are more suitable for cars. It also will be critical to make solar systems for cars cheaper, so average buyers can afford them.

For now, the closest option to a solar car is an electric vehicle that's charged at home or at a charging station. Depending on how that electricity is generated, some of the energy that flows into these cars is likely from solar panels, wind turbines, hydropower dams or other renewable sources. And that share will rise as states work to switch to clean energy over the next several decades. If you're driving or riding in an electric car, you might be traveling on solar power right now.

Chen Liu

Associate Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Clarkson University



*Laughter is the Best Medicine*

## The Pope was ill

The illness of the Pope had the cardinals worried. Despite their efforts, the best doctors were unable to help. Then one cardinal suggested, "There's one famous doctor in France left. We could call him." So the cardinals made every effort to summon the doctor.

After examining the Pope, the doctor delivered his diagnosis: "I have good news and bad news. The Holy Father has a problem with his testicles. But the good news is it can be cured. All he needs to do is to take this drug and sleep with a woman."

The cardinals recoiled in shock. Obviously, this treatment was impossible because he was the Holy Father and therefore must remain celibate. Unfortunately, there seemed to be no other way. So one of the cardinals approached the Holy Father and explained the situation.

"Holy Father, you have a difficult disease, and unless you sleep with a woman, you will not be cured."

The Pope pondered this for a while, then declared, "Okay, but on three conditions."

"Alright, what are the conditions?"

"One, the woman must be blind so she will never know who she made love with. Two, the woman must be dumb so she would not be able to talk."

"Certainly, Your Holiness. And the last condition?"

"She must be deaf."

\*\*\*

### A devout priest

An old priest in a small Russian town, who had always been a devout man and lived strictly by the Bible, was approached by God himself. God wanted to reward him by answering three of his

questions.



The priest didn't have to think long, so he asked, "Will there be married priests?"

God replied, "Not in your lifetime."

Then the priest asked a second question, "Will there be female priests?"

Again, God replied, "Not in your lifetime."

The priest was a bit disappointed and ultimately asked the last question: "Will there be a Russian pope in the future?"

God answered quickly, "Not in my lifetime."

\*\*\*

### Einstein and the Arab man

Einstein sat next to an Arab man on the train and wanted to test his intelligence, he turned to him and asked him: What if we played a game? I ask you a question if you don't know the answer give me \$5. And you ask me a question too and if I don't know the answer, I'll give you \$500

So, the Arab is in agreement.

Einstein: What is the reason for earth's gravity?

The Arab had a little thought, then took \$5 out of his pocket and gave it to Einstein.

Arabic: What climbs a mountain on three legs and descends with one leg?

Einstein kept thinking and asking his scientist friends and people who didn't know the answer, and after about an hour of thinking, Einstein took \$500 and gave it to the Arab.

Einstein asked him: What is that thing that goes up a mountain with three legs and comes down with one?

The Arab took \$5 out of his pocket and gave it to Einstein.

\*\*\*

### Bar Humour

I've noticed the strangest thing about men who hang out in bars a lot.

It seems they have only one of two reasons to be there.

They have no wife to go home to... or they do!

\*\*\*

### Easter Humour

**Wife:** What are your plans for Easter?

**Husband:** Same as Jesus...

**Wife:** What do you mean?

**Husband:** I will disappear on Friday and reappear on Monday!

**Wife:** AWESOME! You do that, I'll do a Mary and show up pregnant and untouched by my husband.

The man stayed home.

\*\*\*

**Son:** Why is 1st April celebrated as Fools Day?

**Father:** Because after paying all the taxes up to 31st March, we start working for the government again from 1st April...

\*\*\*

**Sam:** I'm having a lot of trouble with eczema, teacher.

Teacher: Heavens, where do you have

it?

Sam: I don't have it, I just can't spell it.

\*\*\*

### Free Wifi

A girl used to see a boy standing in front of her home every day.

She used to come from college and observe him. The boy never tries to talk to her; he just moves here and there by looking into his mobile. It went on like that for a year. The girl understood his love towards her and told her parents. Even they saw him and they liked him. The girl calls her grandparents too to decide about the marriage.

One day she goes to him and says, "You have been standing in front of my home every day for a year. I understood that you love me so much, and even I'm ready to marry you." The boy (in shock) responds, "Forgive me sister! Actually, your home's WIFI doesn't have a password. So, I come here to use free internet data!"



\*\*\*

### Spouse Banter

Wife: "What is 10 years with me?"

Husband: "A second."

Wife: "What is \$1000 for me?"

Husband: "A coin."

Wife: "Ok give me a coin."

Husband: "Wait a second."

\*\*\*

### Office Humour

I told my boss that three companies were after me and I need a raise.

My boss asked, "What companies?"

I replied, "Gas, water, and electricity."

\*\*\*

### Snake Humour

Two snakes are walking down the street. "Oh man, I have to ask you something," the little one said.

"What is it?"

"Are we dangerous? You know, venomous?"

The other one said, "Of course we are, why?"

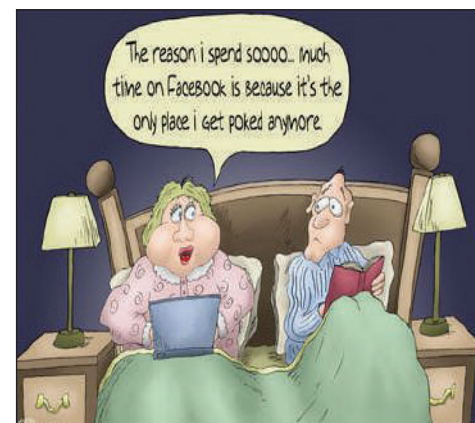
"Because I just bit myself!"

\*\*\*

### Missing Taxi Driver

Magistrate: "What was he doing when you arrested him?"

Policeman: "He was arguing with a taxi



driver, Your Honour."

**Magistrate:** "That is no proof he was drunk."

**Policeman:** "Well, Your Honour, there was no taxi driver there."

\*\*\*

A policeman caught a nasty little boy with a BB gun in one hand and a chipmunk in the other.

"Now listen here," the policeman said, "Whatever you do to that poor, defenseless creature I shall personally do to you."

"In that case," said the boy. "I'll kiss its butt and let it go."

\*\*\*

An American lawyer invited a Czech friend to stay with him in his mountain cabin. Early in the morning, the lawyer and his Czech friend went out to pick berries for their morning breakfast. As they were picking blueberries, along came two big bears - a male and a female.

The lawyer, seeing the two bears, climbed a tree.

His friend wasn't so lucky and the male bear caught him and swallowed him whole.

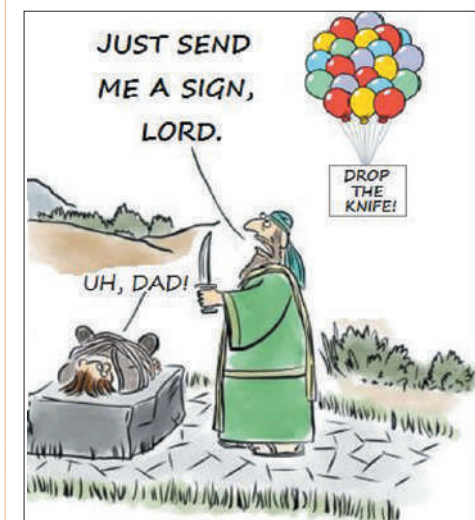
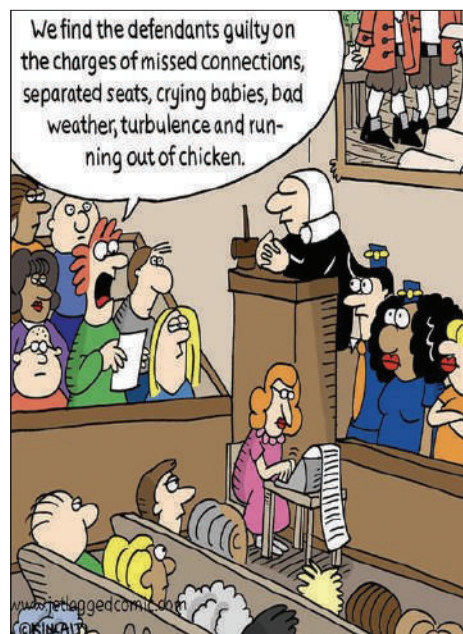
The lawyer drove his car to town as fast as he could to get a policeman. The policeman took his gun and ran to the berry patch with the lawyer.

Sure enough, the two bears were still there. "He's in that one!" said the lawyer, pointing to the male.

The policeman looked at the bears, took careful aim with his gun, and shot the female.

"What did you do that for!" shouted the lawyer, "I said he was in the other bear!"

"Exactly," answered the policeman. "Would you believe a lawyer who told you that the Czech was in the male?"





## Thoughts to Live by Women get more beautiful as they grow older...

...not less. Female youth is only prized in modern culture because it doesn't represent as much of a threat spiritually to anyone who is frightened of divine feminine power. As women grow and mature, they call in stronger forces of sacred feminine wisdom. They vibrate with the creative power of their stories. They are more of a force to be reckoned with. They see more, know more, feel more. They put up with a lot less bullshit. When women are trained into thinking there is something fundamentally wrong with getting older and are coerced into spending money, energy, and power investing in 'slowing the signs of aging', an enormous vault of divine love is lost.

Just think what would happen if all the women in the world started loving themselves even more with every year that passed. Perhaps a



total revolution would occur.

\*\*\*

### Try Something New

If what you've been doing is no longer challenging, try something new. Life gets boring when you stay within the limits of what you already know. Make a habit of trying new things. Life is about taking chances. Life begins at the end of our comfort zone. In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take.

Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates,

and Mark Zuckerberg tried new stuff. Life is a big experiment. If you adventure, you might either win or learn a new lesson. But if you don't try something new, you'll always work for those who dare the unknown. So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Do one thing every year that scares you to death. Refuse to be held back by the fear of failure.

Don't just build castles in the air while warming your couch. Thinking and doing are not synonymous.

Creativity is thinking up new things. Innovation is doing new things. The line between dreamers and doers is action.

Nothing is crystal clear at the starting point. You don't need to have everything figured out. Allow faith to lead you, and everything will fall into its rightful place. Dots eventually connect for those who exercise their faith. You don't know who you are until you see what you can do. Your life is an adventure.

### Life can be different

## "Skills Rather Than Just Degrees"

By Professor Isa Ali Pantami

1. In today's rapidly changing world, academic qualifications alone are no longer enough to secure a successful career.
2. Skills are the new currency of the job market, and those who possess them are the ones most likely to succeed.
3. We must invest in vocational education and training, to ensure that our workforce has the skills needed to compete in a global economy.
4. The future belongs to those who can adapt, innovate and learn new skills quickly and efficiently.
5. A skills-based education system will not only benefit individuals, but also businesses, industries, and the economy as a whole.
6. We need a paradigm shift from a degree-focused education system to one that focuses on developing practical skills and competencies.
7. Employers today are looking for candidates who can hit the ground running, with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in their roles.
8. It's time to rethink our approach to education, and prioritize the development of practical skills that can be applied in the real world.
9. Skills are the key to unlocking opportunities, driving innovation, and creating a brighter future for all.
10. In the modern workplace, success depends not on what degree you have, but on what skills you bring to the table.



## Contemplations by the Fireside

By J.R.R. Tolkien

I sit beside the fire and think of all that I have seen,  
of meadow-flowers and butterflies in summers  
that have been;  
Of yellow leaves and gossamer in autumns  
that there were,  
with morning mist and silver sun and wind upon my hair.  
I sit beside the fire and think of how the world will be  
when winter comes without a spring that  
I shall ever see.  
For still there are so many things that I  
have never seen:  
in every wood in every spring there is a different green.  
I sit beside the fire and think of people long ago,  
and people who will see a world that I shall never know.  
But all the while I sit and think of times  
there were before,  
I listen for returning feet and voices at the door.

### Life's Lessons

## Office boy at Microsoft

A jobless man applied for the position of 'office boy' at Microsoft. The HR manager interviewed him, then gave him a test, which was to clean the floor.

After that, the HR manager said, "You are engaged, give me your e-mail address, and I'll send you the application to fill, as well as when you will start."

The man replied, "I don't have a computer, neither an email."

"I'm sorry," said the HR manager, "if you don't have an email, that means you do not exist. And he who doesn't exist cannot have the job."

The man left with no hope at all. He didn't know what to do, with only US\$10 in his pocket. The man then decided to go to the supermarket and buy a 10Kg tomato crate. He sold the tomatoes in a door-to-door round. In less than two hours, he succeeded in doubling his capital. He repeated the operation three times and returned home with \$60.

The man realized that he could survive this way and started to go every day earlier, and return late. Thus, his money doubled and tripled day by day.

Shortly later, he bought a cart, then a truck, then he had his own fleet of delivery vehicles. Five years later, the man became one of the biggest food retailers in the U.S.

He started to plan his family's future and decided to get life insurance. He called an insurance broker and chose a protection plan. When the conversation was concluded, the broker asked him for his email. The man replied, "I don't have an email."

The broker replied curiously, "You don't have an email, and yet you have succeeded in building an empire. Do you imagine what you could have been if you had an email?!"

The man thought for a while, and replied, "An office boy at Microsoft!"

Sometimes  
removing some  
people out of your  
life makes room for  
better people.



Life has knocked me  
down a few times,  
it showed me  
things I never  
wanted to see.  
I experienced  
sadness and  
failures.  
But one thing for  
sure, I always get up.





Diet & Health

## Understanding the Impact of Foods on Mental Health

In today's modern era, mental health issues such as stress, anxiety, and depression have become increasingly prevalent. Despite employing various therapeutic strategies, maintaining good mental health can still be challenging, especially when certain foods can exacerbate these conditions.

**Refined Carbohydrates:** Refined carbohydrates pose a potential risk factor for heart problems, diabetes, and obesity, and are generally discouraged in many dietary practices. Research conducted by mental health organizations has shown that consuming refined carbs, including refined sugar, increases the risk of both anxiety and depression. Therefore, it's advisable to avoid foods such as white flour, white bread, white rice, agave sugar, syrups, confectionery products, processed snacks, and pasta.

Instead, opt for healthier alternatives like oats, brown rice, quinoa, cereals, and



bread made from whole or sprouted wheat flour.

**Added Sugars:** Foods containing added sugars can cause fluctuations in blood sugar levels, affecting energy levels and mood stability, thereby exacerbating anxiety issues. It's recommended to steer clear of processed or added sugars found in preserved fruit juices, jams, ketchup, dressings, sauces, and similar items.

Consider using natural sugar substitutes or products sweetened with Stevia, erythritol, or yacon syrup. Additionally, natural fruit and vegetable juices are preferable to packaged juices, which often contain preservatives and excessive

sugar.

**Caffeinated Beverages:** Consuming caffeinated beverages can disrupt the brain's adenosine receptors, affecting the sleep cycle and potentially leading to anxiety and stress-induced insomnia. While moderate caffeine intake is generally considered safe, excessive consumption can contribute to anxiety problems. Be mindful that normal tea, certain chocolates, and flavoured cakes also contain caffeine.

Opt for soothing herbal teas or beverages made from mint, lemon, or coconut water as alternatives to caffeinated drinks.

**Alcohol:** Excessive alcohol consumption can have detrimental effects on overall well-being. While some may turn to alcohol to cope with emotional distress, it can exacerbate anxiety by altering serotonin and neurotransmitter activity in the brain. Contrary to popular belief, alcohol does not provide long-term relief and can worsen mental health issues.

Consider indulging in mocktails, non-alcoholic beers, or other alcohol-free alternatives instead of relying on alcohol for relaxation.

**Trans Fat:** Consuming foods high in trans fats, such as deep-fried snacks, can increase the risk of both heart and mental health problems. Partially hydrogenated oils used for frying can contribute to these issues by altering the body's fatty acid composition.

Opt for snacks made with healthier fats, such as ghee or butter, instead of those containing trans fats.

**High Salt Content:** Excessive sodium intake can disrupt both kidney and neurological function, potentially leading to mood disorders, depression, and fatigue. Additionally, salt-induced bloating and weight gain can negatively impact body image and self-esteem.

Limit salt intake and focus on consuming a balanced diet with moderate sodium levels to support overall mental and physical well-being.

## 10 Things You Don't Owe Anyone an Explanation For

In our complex lives, we often feel burdened by expectations and demands that aren't truly ours to carry. Explaining our choices, lifestyle, dreams, or past can become a tiresome habit, but do we really owe anyone these explanations?

Through introspection and psychological research, Lucas Graham of Geediting has compiled a list of 10 things you don't owe anyone an explanation for.

1. **Your life choices:** Your decisions, whether big or small, are yours to make. You don't need validation from others. Your life choices are yours alone, as long as they don't harm others or break laws.

2. **Your career path:** Your career journey is personal and doesn't require validation from others. Success is subjective, and your satisfaction matters most.

3. **Your relationship status:** Your relationship status is your business. Your happiness isn't defined by societal norms, but by your own contentment.

4. **Your appearance:** Your personal style reflects your individuality. You don't need to justify it to conform to societal norms. Your body, your rules.

5. **Your personal boundaries:** Your boundaries are essential for your well-being. It's okay to protect your peace and say no without explanation.

6. **Your dietary choices:** Your diet is personal and unique to you. You don't owe anyone an explanation for it. What goes into your body is your concern alone.



7. **Your past:** Your past doesn't define your present or future worth. You don't need to justify your past or past mistakes to anyone.

8. **Your financial decisions:** Your financial decisions are yours to make. As long as they align with your goals and values, you don't need to explain them to others.

9. **Your parenting style:** Your parenting style is unique to you and your child. You don't owe anyone an explanation for it, as long as it's in your child's best interest.

10. **Your self-care routines:** Self-care is necessary, not selfish. You don't need to explain how you choose to take care of yourself. It's your journey to maintain your health and happiness.

Final reflection: Living authentically means owning your choices without feeling the need to justify them. Remember, you have the right to make decisions that

align with your values and contribute to your well-being. Embrace this mindset as a journey towards self-acceptance and growth. You don't owe anyone an explanation for the choices you make. Live authentically and embrace your freedom and autonomy.

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## 12 best real-life Bollywood couples that set relationship goals

Real-life Bollywood couples capture the hearts of audiences, their romantic tales becoming benchmarks for love. From courtships to weddings and married lives, their stories resonate deeply, often shared through social media, leaving fans in awe. Apeksha Juneja of Pink Villa presents a list of beloved Bollywood couples:



**1. Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor** - The story of Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor, the power couple of the film industry, started during a workshop for their first film together. These talented actors then began dating and gradually fell in love on the sets of *Brahmāstra: Part One – Shiva*. Few years later, Alia and Ranbir tied the knot on April 14, 2022. They welcomed their first child, daughter Raha, in November of the same year.

**2. Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli** - One of the most popular Indian celebrity couples, actress Anushka Sharma and cricketer Virat Kohli, met on the sets of an advertisement in 2013. After a few years of dating, their marital union happened on December 11, 2017, which took place in Tuscany, Italy, and became one of the most talked-about weddings. Anushka and Virat are proud parents of a girl, Vamika, and a boy, Akaay.



**3. Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas** - Next on the list of famous couples in India are Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas. They first got acquainted through Twitter DMs, and their connection grew during their meetings at global events. Priyanka and Nick got married in December 2018 in two different ceremonies, honoring their roots. Their daughter, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas, was born via surrogacy in January 2022.

**4. Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh** - Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh also make for one of the most famous Bollywood couples. They started dating in 2012 and finally tied the knot in November 2018 in Italy. Deepika and Ranveer have worked together in various films, delighting the public with their on-screen chemistry. The pair is expecting their first child in September 2024.

**5. Gauri Khan and Shah Rukh Khan** - Having been married for over three decades, Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan are an iconic Bollywood couple. These childhood sweethearts tied the knot on October 25, 1991. They share three children: Aryan Khan, Suhana Khan, and AbRam Khan.

**6. Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal** - Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal's love story is one for the ages, and they certainly count among the best jodis in Bollywood. They have often expressed that their union was unexpected, but it felt right. The actors' beautiful wedding ceremony took place on December 9, 2021, at the Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan.

**7. Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra** - One of the recent Bollywood marriages was of Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra. Their love blossomed on the sets of the biographical war film *Shershaah*. Their dreamy proposal happened in Rome, after which they got married on February 7 in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Sid and Kiara never fail to showcase their support for each other's milestones on social media.

**8. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan** - Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan are one of the most popular Bollywood celebrity couples. After falling in love on the sets of their films, Abhishek proposed to Aishwarya on a balcony in New York, and they had a grand wedding on April 20, 2007. They share a lovely daughter, Aaradhya.

**9. Twinkle Khanna and Akshay Kumar** - Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna are another famous Bollywood married couple. They often share glimpses of their domestic lives on social media. Akshay and Twinkle got married on January 17, 2001. They are parents to two kids, Aarav and Nitara.



**10. Kajol and Ajay Devgn** - Bollywood's real-life couples also include Kajol and Ajay Devgn, who are both acclaimed actors. After dating for a few years, they tied the knot on February 24, 1999. Ajay and Kajol have two kids: a daughter, Nysa, and a son, Yug.

**11. Mira Rajput and Shahid Kapoor** - Shahid Kapoor and Mira Rajput's marriage in 2015 may have been an arranged one, but their love is what dreams are made of. Bollywood's cute couple often sets goals for their fans by flaunting their affection for each other. Their little bundles of joy, Misha and Zain, make their family complete.

**12. Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja** - Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja are among the most romantic Bollywood couples. After a few years of courtship, their wedding took place on May 8, 2018, in Mumbai in the presence of their friends, family, and many significant personalities from the film industry.



### Taapsee Pannu reveals 'harsh reality' of Bollywood camps

## 'Big films is about access and I don't have that'

Taapsee Pannu has solidified her presence in the film industry with her unique selection of roles. Presently engrossed in promoting her upcoming film, *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*, the actor delved into the challenges she faces in accessing Bollywood's inner circles. In a recent interview, she highlighted how her disinterest in attending late-night parties diminishes her opportunities to secure roles in major productions, reports Indian Express.

Speaking to Zoom, Taapsee said, "Bollywood camps



are there. The nepotism debate that we talk about is the problem of getting access. If a big-budget film is being made, I am sure nobody would disrespect me by saying

I am not fit for the role, but I might not get the part because my name will not be brought up as other actors, who are part of camps, they would be recommended for the part. The harsh reality is that big films are about access and I don't have that access to make it into that room."

She added, "Parties are also a way to get into camps. You socialize with people, you become friends and then you work with them. That's fine but to get to that position you have to go through this process of partying after 10 and that is so draining for me. I can't sustain it. That's not me. So, I might as well choose the harder way to do a lot of films and a lot of good work."

In addition to *Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba*, Taapsee will grace the screen in *Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan?* alongside Pratik Gandhi and *Khel Khel Mein* with Akshay Kumar and Vaani Kapoor.





Vendredi 19 avril - 20.30



Samedi 20 avril - 20.35



dimanche 21 avril - 21.40



# Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 19 avril</b>	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: Suits 07.05 Film: The Big Gundown 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 Film: The Big Gundown 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Swaran Ghar 20.30 Film: Picture Perfect Romance	06.00 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 06.15 Les Grandes Lignes 07.15 Local: Evasion 09.10 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 10.33 Local: Generations J 11.00 Local: Groov'in 12.00 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 12.23 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 12.58 Emoton En Avant Plan 13.30 Prod: MRIC 14.36 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 15.47 Local: Generations J 16.20 Local: Groov'in 17.02 Local: Artizan: Difil 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: Satguru Kabir Ke Gyan 09.28 Local: Hunarbaaz 10.00 Serial: Agniphera 12.00 Film: Nadiya Ke Paar 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 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 21.03 Film: Pradhan Ji 23.32 Serial: Mere Sai	06.00 Mag: SADC 06.26 Mag: Eco India 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! 09.30 Film: The Legend Of Snow White 11.53 Mag: Border Crossing 12.24 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.16 Doc: Naples Under The Vol.. 14.00 Film: Mechant Menteur 2 15.32 D.Anime: Messi Goes To... 16.03 D.Anime: Spacepop 16.30 D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1412 16.53 Mag: Action Kidz 17.00 Mag: Animal DNA 18.00 Doc: Antarctica 19.30 Mag: Vous et Nous 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: Maidan-E-Jung With Dharmendra, Jaya Prada, Akshay Kumar, Karisma Kapoor 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: Maidan-E-Jung With Dharmendra, Jaya Prada, Akshay Kumar...
<b>samedi 20 avril</b>	03.59 Serial: Airwolf 04.45 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 06.30 Tele: Amour A Mort 07.00 Serial: Zoo 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: Picture Perfect Romance 16.48 Telenovela: Tour De Babel 18.31 Dance India Dance 20.35 Film: Above The Shadows Stars : Olivia Thirby, Alan Ritchson, Jim Gaffigan 22.30 Serial: Being Human 23.13 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 23.30 Le Journal	06.00 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 06.15 Local: Enn Semenn Dan... 07.14 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 07.40 Local: Toile De Fond 07.46 Animalia Nos Amis Les... 08.32 Local: Zanzan Nou Pei 08.52 Rodrig: Ala Nou Vini 09.32 Local: La Sosiete 10.55 Local: Come On Let's Dance 11.47 MRIC - Inove Moris 12.16 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 12.46 Local: Enn Semenn Dan... 13.37 Lir - Ekri Kreol Morisien 14.08 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 14.34 Local: Toile De Fond 15.52 Local: Retrovizier 17.41 Local: Aktiv 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 10.12 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: Kasam Paida Karne Wale Ki 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.15 Virasat 19.30 Khoosurat 20.00 Yeh Shaam Mastani 21.00 Film: Code Name 22.43 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.44 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 Doc: Papa! How Becoming... 12.15 Doc: Legendary Hotels 13.40 Mag: Carnet De Sante 14.06 Film: Simba Junior To the World Cup 15.45 D.Anime: Messy Goes To... 16.14 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.26 D.Anime: Magic: Kaito 1412 16.50 Mag: Action Kidz 17.26 Mag: Japan Video Topics 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: Paper Towns Avec Nat Wolff, Cara Delevingne	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: Baa Baaa Black Sheep Stars : Manish Paul, Anupam Kher, Manjari Phadnis, Annu Kapoor, Kay Kay Menon 20.10 Gadget Guru Ganesha
<b>dimanche 21 avril</b>	04.36 Tele - A Que No Me Dejas 06.15 Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete 06.40 Film: Above The Shadows 08.15 Serial: New Amsterdam 09.15 Film: Picture Perfect Romance 10.45 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete 12.35 Film: Coroner Creek Cast Randolph Scott, Marguerite Chapman 14.10 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme 15.21 Film: Ordinary Love 17.00 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 20.30 Film: Triple Alliance Stars : Avec Cameron Diaz, Leslie Mann, Kate Upton 22.20 Serial: Being Human 23.06 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 08.17 Local: Glwar Dantan 09.41 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 11.01 Local: Nu Rasinn 11.54 Local: Rodrig - D'Jam 12.25 Local: Les Petits Genies 14.03 Local: Elle 14.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 15.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 16.00 Local: Forever Gold 16.22 Local: Saver Kil Tirel 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 In Dragonpur 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness... 08.35 Local: Puranya Pakwan 09.00 Duniya Mein Is Saptah 09.16 Local: Virasat 09.31 Local: Khoosurat 09.49 Local: Hunarbaaz 12.00 Film: Jurrat 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 09.42 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 10.33 Mag: In Good Shape 11.41 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.12 Doc: Deep Sea Greed 13.37 Mag: Healthy Living 14.06 Film: Christophe Colomb 15.32 D.Anime: Messi Goes To... 15.55 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 16.06 D.Anime: Spacepop 16.18 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.54 Mag: Action Kidz 17.01 Mag: Animal DNA 17.30 Doc: The Expanding Desert 18.40 Serial: Heartland 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: Ouija Hosts	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 10.00 Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 14.00 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.39 Film: Saajan Stars: Sanjay Dutt, Madhuri Dixit, Salman Khan 21.24 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.37 Sayings Radha Krishna 21.38 Dance India Dance Little... 22.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 00.17 Serial: Patiala Babes
<b>lundi 22 avril</b>	03.55 The Gardener's Daughter 04.18 Amour Secret / Amor Secreto 05.05 Pasion Y Poder / Passion & Power 05.29 A Que No Me Dejas/Ne Me 06.01 Serial: Suits 06.45 Mag: Red Carpet 07.00 Film: Get Happy! 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 13.45 Pasion Y Poder 14.10 Serial: Heartland 15.25 Film: Triple Alliance 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar 20.30 Serial: Zoo 21.15 Serial: Rookie Blue	06.00 Nu Rasinn 07.37 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 09.10 Arsv Mbc 10.21 Mangeons Veg 10.58 Klips 12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.06 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 14.30 Local: Clin D'Oeil 15.55 Local: Les Klips 16.47 Local: Le Challenge 16.46 Local: Le Challenge 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 20.16 Eclairage Economique 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 07.08 Serial: Kisna 07.36 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.43 Planet Bollywood 08.09 Tohar Rashi 08.35 Local: Yaadein 09.38 Serial: Bahubali 10.22 Saaton Vachanwa Saath... 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Alibaba Marjinaa 15.30 Serial: Senhur 16.01 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen 19.00 Ram Nawmi Celebrations 19.30 Excerpts - Shiv Abhishek 20.10 Vaad Vivaad 20.36 Film: Yeh Raat Phir Na Ayegi 22.59 Serial: Mere Sai 23.48 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.11 Ved Ki Shikshaen	06.00 Magazine: SADC - Ep 536 06.26 Doc: Cobalt Rush 07.08 Mag: Arts Unveiled 09.09 Doc: Craft Chocolate 09.51 Doc: Bitcoin In Latin... 10.33 Doc: Asteroids 11.21 Doc: Buried, Found And Returned Home 12.29 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.42 Doc: Multi Tasking 14.25 Doc: Katanga Nation 15.23 Dessin Anime: Tut! Tut! 16.54 Mag: Action Kidz 17.01 Mag: Animal DNA 18.00 Magazine: Eco At Africa 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.01 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 News 21.40 Film: Killing Lionel With Fergus Rattigan, Martin RossTrev Lewis 23.03 Mag: Washington Forum	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.54 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.26 Film: Yeh Teraa Ghar Yeh Meraa Ghar Starring: Sunil Shetty, Mahima Chaudhry, Paresh Rawal 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 21.26 Mere Sai 22.00 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 22.26 Swaran Ghar 22.59 Shaurya & Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Yeh Teraa Ghar Yeh Meraa Ghar





Mardi 23 avril - 20.30



Mercredi 24 avril - 20.30



Jeudi 25 avril - 21.40



# Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>03.09</b> Entre Justice Et Vengeance <b>03.52</b> The Gardener's Daughter <b>04.21</b> Amour Secret / Amor Secret <b>05.08</b> Pasi3n Y Poder <b>05.32</b> A Que No Me Dejas <b>06.01</b> Serial: Suits <b>06.45</b> Hollywood On Set <b>07.15</b> Serial: Zoo 08.00 Rookie Blue <b>08.45</b> NCIS 10.20 The Gardener's... <b>10.45</b> Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis <b>11.10</b> Tele: La Reina Del Flow <b>12.25</b> Entre Justice Et Vengeance <b>13.15</b> Fierce Angel/La Loba <b>13.40</b> Tele: Pasi3n Y Poder <b>14.05</b> Gout De L'amour <b>15.25</b> Film: Feu Sans Sommaton <b>17.30</b> The Gardener's Daughter <b>18.31</b> Serial: Shiv Shakti <b>20.30</b> Film: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner <small>Avec Spencer Tracy, Sidney Poitier, Katharine Hepburn</small>	<b>06.00</b> Feminin Pluriel <b>06.12</b> Konn Ou Drwa <b>06.38</b> Local: Proze Dime <b>07.08</b> Local: En Forme <b>07.20</b> Eclairage Economique <b>08.05</b> Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin <b>08.22</b> Local: Itinerer Moris <b>09.30</b> Radio Vision <b>10.24</b> Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol <b>11.01</b> Le Rendez Vous... Born <b>12.12</b> Local: Konn Ou Drwa <b>12.38</b> Local: Proze Dime <b>13.24</b> Local: Metie <b>13.50</b> Local: Rodrig Mo Pei <b>14.56</b> Local: Itinerer Moris <b>18.06</b> Tele: Pasi3n Y Poder <b>18.32</b> Tele: Amour Secret <b>19.00</b> Journal Kreol <b>19.25</b> Le Magazine De L'Emploi... <b>19.43</b> Son Ladan Mem <b>21.00</b> Paroles Agricoles	<b>05.00</b> Mag: Prog From Aastha TV <b>07.00</b> Serial: Tik Tak Tail <b>07.20</b> Serial: Lambu G Tingu G <b>08.00</b> Ved Ki Shikshaein <b>08.54</b> Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek <b>12.00</b> Film: JIS Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai <b>15.00</b> Live: Samachar <b>15.30</b> Badki Malkaain <b>16.00</b> Jijaji Chhat Par Hain <b>17.30</b> Radha Krishna <b>18.00</b> Samachar 18.30 Tark Vitark <b>19.00</b> Bhojpuri Dhamaka <b>19.30</b> Local: Hanuman Jayanti <b>20.00</b> Chikitsa Aur Swasthya <b>20.35</b> Film: Raju Bajrangi <b>22.51</b> Serial: Mere Sai <b>23.49</b> Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya <b>00.12</b> Local: Tark Vitark <b>00.38</b> Bhojpuri Dhamaka	<b>06.00</b> Mag: Eco At Africa <b>06.26</b> Magazine: The 77 Percent <b>07.00</b> Mag: Africa 54 <b>09.04</b> Doc: To Tell A Tale <b>09.46</b> Doc: The Last Shelter <b>11.34</b> Mag: The 77 Percent <b>12.00</b> Mag: Africa 54 <b>12.33</b> Mag: In Good Shape <b>13.47</b> Mag: Tomorrow Today <b>14.13</b> Doc: To Tell A Tale <b>15.32</b> D.Anime: Messy Goes To... <b>15.45</b> D.Anime: Romy & Boo <b>15.55</b> D.Anime: The Jungle Book <b>16.08</b> D.Anime: Spacepop <b>16.30</b> D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1412 <b>18.30</b> Mag: Healthy Living <b>19.00</b> Student Support Prog... <b>19.31</b> Mag: Global Us <b>20.02</b> Tele: L'Amour A Mort <b>20.50</b> Tele: La Reina Del Flow <b>22.42</b> Doc: Euromaxx	<b>14.25</b> Serial: Radha Mohan <b>15.00</b> Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 <b>15.21</b> Film: Gaddaar Starring: Suniel Shetty, Sonali Bendre, Harish Kumar <b>18.00</b> Live: Samachar <b>18.32</b> Kundali Bhagya <b>19.00</b> Udaariyaan <b>19.29</b> Fanaa - Ishq Mein Marjawan <b>20.00</b> Sasural Simar Ka 2 <b>20.29</b> Radha Krishna <b>21.00</b> Anupama <b>21.33</b> Mere Sai <b>22.03</b> Kismat Ki Lakiron Se <b>22.30</b> Swaran Ghar <b>23.02</b> Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani <b>23.24</b> Film: Gaddaar Starring: Suniel Shetty, Sonali Bendre...
<b>04.24</b> The Gardener's Daughter <b>04.46</b> Amour Secret / Amor Secret <b>05.15</b> Pasi3n Y Poder <b>05.09</b> Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete <b>05.33</b> Pasi3n Y Poder <b>05.31</b> A Que No Me Dejas <b>06.24</b> Serial: Suits <b>07.32</b> Film: Coroner Creek <b>08.58</b> Serial: Heartland <b>09.40</b> Amour A Mort <b>10.27</b> The Gardener's Daughter <b>10.50</b> Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis <b>11.15</b> Tele: La Reina Del Flow <b>12.25</b> Entre Justice Et Vengeance <b>13.15</b> Fierce Angel <b>13.45</b> Pasi3n Y Poder <b>14.15</b> Serial: Heartland <b>15.25</b> Film: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner <b>17.35</b> The Gardener's Daughter <b>18.31</b> Serial: Shiv Shakti <b>21.15</b> Film: Brightburn	<b>06.00</b> Rodrig: Plat Du Chef <b>06.16</b> Local: Son Ladan Mem <b>06.41</b> Local: Aktiv <b>07.21</b> Local: Les Grands Moments <b>07.35</b> Local: Priorite Sante <b>08.36</b> Mots & Ecrits <b>11.00</b> Music Tour 2022 <b>12.00</b> Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef <b>12.37</b> Local: An Eta Dalert <b>13.12</b> Priorite Sante <b>13.34</b> Paroles Agricoles <b>14.16</b> Local: Koze Zom <b>15.05</b> Nu Rasinn <b>15.50</b> Local: Glwar Dantan <b>16.52</b> Local: Aktiv <b>18.00</b> Tele: Pasi3n Y Poder <b>18.29</b> Tele: Amour Secret <b>19.00</b> Journal Kreol <b>19.25</b> Le Magazine De L'Emploi... <b>19.30</b> Local: MRIC <b>20.32</b> Toc Toc Doc <b>20.45</b> Local: En Forme	<b>07.00</b> Serial: Tik Tak Tail <b>07.08</b> Serial: Kisna <b>07.21</b> Serial: Lambu G Tingu G <b>08.00</b> Tark Vitark <b>08.27</b> Bhojpuri Dhamaka <b>10.00</b> Jijaji Chhat Par Hain <b>12.00</b> Film: Phulwar <b>15.00</b> Live: Samachar <b>15.30</b> Senhur - Bhojpuri Serial <b>16.00</b> Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana <b>17.30</b> Radha Krishna <b>18.00</b> Samachar 18.30 Yatra <b>19.00</b> Local: Kala <b>20.00</b> Virasat <b>20.15</b> Gyan Vigyan <b>21.00</b> Film: Heroine No 1 <b>23.14</b> Serial: Mere Sai <b>00.03</b> Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya <b>00.28</b> Local: Yatra <b>01.42</b> Local: Virasat <b>02.27</b> Serial: Senhur	<b>06.00</b> Magazine: Rev <b>06.56</b> Mag: Made In Germany <b>07.27</b> Mag: Global US <b>08.53</b> Mag: Initiative Africa <b>09.06</b> Mag: Euromaxx <b>09.32</b> Doc: A Devious Disease <b>11.15</b> Magazine: Rev <b>11.41</b> Magazine: Healthy Living <b>13.55</b> Mag: Initiative Africa <b>14.21</b> Mag: Euromaxx <b>15.15</b> D.Anime: Tut! Tut! <b>15.30</b> D.Anime: Messi Goes To... <b>16.30</b> D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1421 <b>17.01</b> Mag: Animal DNA <b>18.00</b> Mag: Motorweek <b>19.00</b> Student Support Prog... <b>19.30</b> Doc: An Adventure In Trans... <b>20.00</b> Tele: Amour A Mort <b>20.30</b> Live: News <b>21.40</b> Film: The Quake <small>Stars : Kristoffer Joner, Ane Dahl Torp</small>	<b>14.25</b> Serial: Radha Mohan <b>15.00</b> Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 <b>15.30</b> Film - Ek Tha Raja Starring: Sunil Shetty, Saif Ali Khan, Aditya Pancholi, Neelam Kothari <b>18.00</b> Live: Samachar <b>18.32</b> Kundali Bhagya <b>19.00</b> Udaariyaan <b>19.30</b> Fanaa - Ishq Mein Marjawan <b>20.00</b> Sasural Simar Ka 2 <b>20.38</b> Radha Krishna <b>21.01</b> Anupama <b>21.30</b> Mere Sai <b>22.02</b> Kismat Ki Lakiron Se <b>22.30</b> Swaran Ghar <b>23.02</b> Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani <b>23.30</b> Film - Ek Tha Raja Starring: Sunil Shetty, Saif Ali Khan, Aditya Pancholi...
<b>03.14</b> Entre Justice Et Vengeance <b>04.19</b> Amour Secret / Amor Secret <b>05.08</b> Pasi3n Y Poder <b>05.30</b> A Que No Me Dejas <b>06.01</b> Serial: Suits <b>07.15</b> Serial: New Amsterdam <b>08.00</b> Serial: Alex Rider <b>08.45</b> Serial: Pearson <b>09.55</b> Amour A Mort <b>10.20</b> The Gardener's Daughter <b>10.45</b> Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis <b>11.15</b> Serial: Queens Of Mystery <b>12.25</b> Entre Justice Et Vengeance <b>13.15</b> Tele: Fierce Angel/La Loba <b>13.45</b> Pasi3n Y Poder <b>14.10</b> Gout De L'amour <b>15.25</b> Film: Memories Of War <b>17.22</b> The Gardener's Daughter <b>18.31</b> Serial: Shiv Shakti <b>20.30</b> Film: Jhund <small>Cast : Amitabh Bachchan, Ankush Gedam, Babu Kshatriya</small>	<b>06.00</b> Rodrig Spor <b>06.26</b> Local: Saver Kiltirel <b>06.59</b> La Journee Sous Le Regard <b>07.02</b> Toc Toc Doc <b>07.17</b> Agir Ensemble <b>08.23</b> Local: En Forme <b>08.59</b> MBC Prod <b>09.30</b> Come On Let's Dance <b>11.08</b> Les Klips <b>12.00</b> Mric - Inove Moris <b>12.59</b> Rodrig Spor <b>13.25</b> Local: Saver Kil Tirel <b>13.46</b> Toc Toc Doc <b>14.01</b> En Forme <b>15.08</b> Local: Rodrig: Komanter <b>15.32</b> Local: Come On Let's Dance <b>18.00</b> Tele: Pasi3n Y Poder <b>18.27</b> Tele: Amour Secret <b>19.20</b> Le Magazine De L'Emploi... <b>20.00</b> Les Grandes Lignes <b>20.30</b> Local: Mots & Ecrits	<b>05.00</b> Mag: Prog From Aastha TV <b>07.00</b> Serial: Kisna <b>07.20</b> Serial: Lambu G Tingu G <b>07.33</b> Gadget Guru Ganesha <b>08.00</b> Yatra 08.26 Kala <b>09.22</b> Virasat <b>10.00</b> Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana <b>12.00</b> Film: Upaasna <b>15.30</b> Badki Malkaain <b>16.00</b> Agniphera <b>17.30</b> Radha Krishna <b>18.00</b> Samachar <b>18.30</b> Local: Amrit Vaani <b>19.00</b> Local: Darshan <b>19.30</b> Local Production <b>20.00</b> Hunarbaaz 20.30 Shiv Shakti <b>21.00</b> Yashomati Maiyya Ke... <b>22.00</b> Serial: Mere Sai <b>22.45</b> Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya <b>23.13</b> Amrit Vaani <b>23.26</b> Local: Shiv Bhajans	<b>06.00</b> Magazine: Motorweek <b>06.26</b> Mag: Choices <b>06.41</b> Mag: Planet A <b>07.27</b> Doc: An Adventure In Trans... <b>09.32</b> Forgotten By The Crown <b>10.58</b> Mag: Healthy Living <b>11.17</b> Magazine: Motorweek <b>12.13</b> Mag: Arts Unveiled <b>14.23</b> Doc: The Politics Of Climate... <b>15.24</b> D.Anime: Patamuse <b>17.00</b> Mag: Animal DNA <b>18.00</b> Magazine: Eco India <b>18.30</b> Magazine: Shift <b>19.00</b> Student Support Prog... <b>19.30</b> Magazine: Tomorrow Today <b>20.01</b> Tele: Amour A Mort <b>20.50</b> Tele: La Reina Del Flow <b>21.40</b> Film: Little (2019) <small>Avec Marsai Martin, Regina Hall, Issa Rae</small> <b>23.32</b> Doc: A Mediterranean...	<b>14.25</b> Serial: Radha Mohan <b>15.00</b> Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 <b>15.30</b> Film: Prithvi Starring: Suniel Shetty, Shilpa Shetty Kundra, Suresh Oberoi <b>18.00</b> Live: Samachar <b>18.32</b> Kundali Bhagya <b>19.00</b> Udaariyaan <b>19.30</b> Fanaa - Ishq Mein Marjawan <b>19.56</b> Sasural Simar Ka 2 <b>20.38</b> Radha Krishna <b>21.01</b> Anupama <b>21.30</b> Mere Sai <b>22.05</b> Kismat Ki Lakiron Se <b>22.31</b> Swaran Ghar <b>23.02</b> Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani <b>23.30</b> Film: Prithvi <b>02.00</b> Kundali Bhagya



Jeudi 25 avril - 15.30

Stars: Suniel Shetty, Shilpa Shetty Kundra, Suresh Oberoi



Jeudi 25 avril - 20.30

Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Ankush Gedam, Babu Kshatriya







Nita Chicooree-Mercier

# L'évolution de l'esprit de solidarité

**D**ans la phase transitoire d'un pays en voie de développement vers un statut supérieur qui est celui des pays dits développés, la solidarité tiers-mondiste - qui caractérise les pays sous-développés - continue d'accompagner la traversée.

Celle-ci consiste à s'entraider entre membres d'une même famille et au-delà de la fratrie. C'est une solidarité qui invite dans son cercle la participation des oncles, des tantes, des grands-parents, de «mamou, mami, chacha, chachi» (oncle maternel, tante maternelle par alliance, oncle paternel, tante paternelle par alliance) et de toute la smalah les proches et les lointains reliés au clan familial.

Cette valeur incontournable est érigée comme une vertu, et s'affiche avec fierté alors que l'individualisme aurait détruit les sociétés plus prospères, dit-on.

- Ah! Vous êtes encore solidaires dans les familles chez vous.

Combien de fois n'avons-nous pas entendu les visiteurs de passage à Maurice tenir, admiratifs, ce genre de propos sur le mode de fonctionnement local?

Mais il y a d'autres qui froncent les sourcils en évoquant les péripéties des jeunes adultes mauriciens rencontrés en France, par exemple.

Dans les années 80 à Paris, des amis racontent que tel jeune homme s'est frayé un passage pour se faire un avenir en France grâce aux économies de sa mère et de sa sœur.

- C'est scandaleux! s'exclament-ils. Un homme ne vit pas aux crochets de sa mère et de sa sœur! C'est quoi ça?

J'imaginai la candeur de notre compatriote mâle raconter sans gêne: 'Ma mère et ma sœur ont payé le billet d'avion pour moi et elles m'envoient de l'argent pour m'aider à vivre le temps de trouver un travail.'

Eh bien, vous essayez tant bien que mal d'expliquer et de mettre un terme à toute polémique inutile. Faut-il aider? Faut-il laisser les autres se débrouiller tout seuls?

**L**es Français ont l'art de débattre de tout avec une propension à tout théoriser, et disons qu'autour d'une bonne table, vous n'avez pas envie de polémique. Et alors, vous tentez une explication laconique en mettant les bizarreries de nos compatriotes sur les contraintes liées au contexte socio-économique.

- Ce n'est pas si évident d'être indépendant et de se faire une place au soleil par soi-même lorsque le pays n'offre guère d'opportunités.

Un argument qui sauve l'honneur des «mâles» du pays assimilés, l'espace d'un instant, à une bande de mauviettes et de mollassons.

Peu convaincus (il n'est jamais facile de convaincre un Français), vos amis vous lancent un regard interrogateur: Sont-ils reconnaissants envers les proches qui les aident?

Soucieuse d'arrondir les angles, j'assurai: Oui, bien sûr, il y a une gratitude, une affection et un respect pour ceux qui aident à faire son chemin.

Ce qui dans le parler local se traduit par: «Mo parents, mo fami in guette moi, aster mo bizin guette zot.» (Mes parents, ma famille se sont occupés de moi, maintenant je



**“ Dans l'ensemble, on vieillit mieux de nos jours que dans les années 80. Double pension pour ceux issus des milieux aisés. Certains ont quitté leur poste ici et ailleurs pour une retraite anticipée et se consacrent à d'autres intérêts, la lecture, yoga, zumba, sports divers, nouvelles études et voyages pour se diriger vers des cieux lointains. Leur devise est: toucher moins en retraite et vivre mieux....”**

dois m'occuper d'eux à mon tour.)

Cela va de soi. C'est le devoir des jeunes adultes d'entourer d'affection les parents qui leur ont tout donné pendant des années.

Là-bas, ils sont sceptiques. - Eh bien! La famille va voir de toutes les couleurs, préviennent-ils.

## Et aujourd'hui?

**L**a prospérité s'est installée durablement. La porte étroite des promesses d'avenir s'est ouverte sur un boulevard d'opportunités. Une génération a bénéficié du confort de la famille nucléaire réduite à deux ou trois enfants où les parents les ont couverts de tout ce que leurs propres parents ont trimé pour leur offrir.

A l'instar des pays développés, l'État s'est substitué au cadre familial pour la prise en charge financière dans les secteurs clés qui assurent le progrès social, endosse le manteau du Bon Samaritain auprès des plus démunis, et officiellement, la loi met sur un pied d'égalité le droit humain des citoyens. La solidarité reste, néanmoins, nécessaire. Les parents ne lésinent pas sur les moyens pour apporter un coup de pouce à leurs grands enfants. Pour la reconnaissance, il faudra repasser.

Les plus gâtés des enfants-adultes s'attendent à ce que leurs parents assument la fonction de nourrice en permanence. Lorsque cela devient une obligation pour les parents, il s'agit d'un abus de la gentillesse de leurs aînés. - «Eta papa, vey zanfana là, to pane fer ça ...» (Eh tu es le père, tu dois t'occuper de cet enfant, tu ne l'a pas fait...) et ceci et cela. Le tout enrobé d'un tutoiement qui rend les échanges dont on est témoins insupportables.

Veuve, Gaytri aspirait à vivre paisiblement. Mais voilà que la belle-fille abandonne son fils et les trois enfants.

- «Mo ena 65 ans, mo bizin fer tou aster». (J'ai 65 ans. Désormais, je dois m'occuper de tout.)

**L**a bienveillance continue à faire son œuvre dans le devoir de «guetter» (s'occuper des) les parents. Mais les plus gourmands guettent surtout les biens et terres des parents. Telle fille a réussi à ce que son père mourant signe sur son lit d'hôpital un testament léguant sa maison à elle seulement, privant le frère de tout héritage. Un jeune homme fait signer par son père confiant un document lui léguant tout un terrain. Lorsque le père se rend compte de la supercherie, il tombe malade. Sa fille qui s'occupait de lui interdit au fils indigne l'accès à la maison lors des funérailles du père tandis qu'un projet avait déjà démarré sur

ledit terrain.

En période de précarité les appétits s'aiguisent. Tel jeune homme s'impatiente d'un don de Rs150,000 qu'il attend de son père. «Mo papa là» (Ah! mon père) ..., s'irrite-t-il.

- Votre père vous les donnera s'il le souhaite, jeune homme. Inutile de le harceler, on ne peut s'empêcher de lui dire les vérités.

Un cauchemar que vivent Shila et son époux, tous deux dans la cinquantaine, à la Pointe-aux-Piments. Leur fils drogué leur réclame Rs 1200 par jour pour un séjour quotidien dans son paradis artificiel. - «Kot pou al tiré» Où allons-nous trouver tout cet argent? se lamentent-ils.

La perspective effrayante d'un chemin trop long pour 'réussir' vite socialement, l'attrait de l'argent facile, la présomption que les parents n'ont d'autre ambition que de leur léguer leurs économies, ce sont autant de ruminations de la part de toute une faune de jeunes loups aux dents longues.

Oncles et tantes paternels et maternels, «chacha et chachi, mamou, mami», sans enfants n'ont qu'à bien se tenir. Ce ne sont pas des couleurs que les neveux avides sont susceptibles de les faire voir, mais des éclairs. Si tant est qu'on leur laisse la vie sauve lorsque le regard se promène sur leurs biens et se fixe sur le compte bancaire et la carte de crédit...

## L'aubaine de la pension

Il faut reconnaître que la pension presque doublée depuis 2014 a transformé la vie de milliers de personnes. Comment est-elle dépensée? Injectée dans le circuit économique, bien entendu. Elle s'évapore vite dans la caisse commune en signe de solidarité dans les milieux précaires.

**L**orsque les pensionnaires ne sont pas infantilisés par les autres de leur famille afin de mieux abuser de leur générosité, ils sont libres de s'organiser et de sortir, et aussi de se permettre le loisir d'un séjour dans les centres principalement conçus pour eux ou d'une escapade à Rodrigues comme premier voyage.

Dans l'ensemble, on vieillit mieux de nos jours que dans les années 80. Double pension pour ceux issus des milieux aisés. Certains ont quitté leur poste ici et ailleurs pour une retraite anticipée et se consacrent à d'autres intérêts, la lecture, yoga, zumba, sports divers, nouvelles études et voyages pour se diriger vers des cieux lointains. Leur devise est: toucher moins en retraite et vivre mieux.

Et c'est ainsi qu'autour d'une table ronde bien garnie de chinoeries dans un restaurant à Port-Louis, en compagnie de belles personnes que sont les anciennes du QEC, que nous discutons des choses et d'autres. On apprend que depuis plus d'une décennie, la mode Super Nanny version loisirs et voyages s'est bien enracinée dans le mode de vie local comme dans les grands pays. L'Angleterre, la France, la Belgique, l'Allemagne, le Canada et l'Australie sont les destinations où les veinardes passent deux mois auprès de leurs filles et les petits-enfants.

- Hé, ne nous leurrions pas. Nos filles ont besoin de nous pour faire la nounou! lance Ah-Moy, espiègle, joyeux et pleine de vie depuis que nous la connaissons.

Et alors? C'est bien de bouger de son patelin de temps à autre, non? C'est aussi l'entraide et la solidarité familiale qui perdurent comme en Occident, contrairement à ce que l'on croit. Profitons du temps présent. Carpe diem!