

MAURITIUS TIMES

• I offered my opponents a deal: 'if they stop telling lies about me, I will stop telling the truth about them'. -- Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952

Interview: Chetan Ramchurn

“The opposition in our country is still relatively strong, but the opposition parties are weak”



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‘Barely a couple of months back MSM supporters thought that it would be a walkover win for them. This is no longer the case’

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Labour Day and Political Manoeuvrings

Labour Day, a global tribute to the contributions of workers, arrives once more next Wednesday. This international observance, known as May Day, resonates deeply with nations worldwide, each marking it in their unique ways. From parades to protests, it serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggle for fair labour practices and workers' rights.

Yet, in Mauritius, this occasion often serves as more than just a tribute to the labour force. It has become a battleground where political contenders flaunt their electoral prowess, vying for the attention and support of the masses. Amidst promises and inducements, the true essence of the day can sometimes get overshadowed by political theatrics.

This year, however, Labour Day holds particular significance, as the last before impending general elections. The political landscape is fraught with uncertainty, as alliances shift and allegiances waver. The recent departure of Xavier Duval and the PMSD from the Opposition alliance has sent ripples through the political landscape, potentially reshaping the balance of power in the run-up to the elections.

At the heart of the political manoeuvring lies a quest for strategic advantage. Both the ruling alliance and the Opposition are engaged in a high-stakes game of chess, each move calculated to outmanoeuvre the other. The alliances seek to bolster their ranks, to solidify their support base, and to sway the crucial bloc of undecided voters (some 50% or more of the electorate) whose allegiance could tip the scales in their favour.

It remains to be seen whether the departure of the PMSD from the opposition alliance has injected a new dynamic into the political equation, raising questions about the strength and cohesion of the Opposition bloc. Conversely, one may wonder why the ruling dispensation would have spent such inordinate efforts on seducing the PMSD if their existing construct of the MSM plus minor allies was so confident. Does the rapid split of the PMSD, with a major bloc sticking to the Opposition alliance as Nouveaux Démocrates, sound the death knell for MSM courtship of the PMSD? Or is the road to victory more fraught with obstacles than ever before for Navin Ramgoolam and his Labour Party, as well as Paul Berenger and the MMM?

The ruling alliance, meanwhile, may see an opportunity to consolidate its grip on power, capitalizing on the vulnerabilities of its opponents. However, these assumptions would need verification, and the attendance at the rallies of the different political factions may not provide an accurate representation of the balance of power in the political arena, as is often assumed.

Yet, amidst the political jockeying and electoral posturing, there lies an opportunity for renewal and revitalization at the level of the Labour Party and the MMM. It's also an opportunity to create space for new voices and perspectives to emerge, challenging the status quo and injecting fresh energy into the political discourse. It is a moment for Mauritians to reflect on the direction in which they want their country to move, to envision a future that is inclusive, equitable, and just.

However, the path forward is fraught with challenges, both old and new. Economic inequality, unemployment, proliferation of drugs and access to essential services continue to plague Mauritian society, casting a shadow over the promise of progress. As political leaders trade barbs and make promises, it is imperative that they address these pressing issues with concrete policy proposals and solutions, rather than empty rhetoric.

Furthermore, the integrity of Mauritius' democratic institutions must be safeguarded at all costs. Transparency, accountability, and adherence to the rule of law are not mere buzzwords—they are the bedrock of a healthy democracy. Need we recall here that "vendetta" politics has cost the nation and ordinary Mauritians dearly already (Betamax, BAI/Bramer, Neotown) or that the US State Department latest report is rather sanguine on its perceived failures of the regime's democratic and governance functions? Political leaders must demonstrate a commitment to ethical governance and responsible leadership, earning the trust and confidence of the electorate through their actions, not just their words.

As Mauritius stands at the crossroads of history, it is essential that its leaders rise to the occasion, guided by a sense of duty and a vision for the future. The road ahead may be long and arduous, but it is one that must be travelled with courage and conviction.

The Conversation



South Africa's youth are a generation lost under democracy – study

Fewer young South Africans are doing as well as their counterparts from 30 years ago. They are hardest hit by unemployment

South African president Cyril Ramaphosa recently painted a rosy picture in which the country's youth – "democracy's children" – had enormous opportunities for advancement, all thanks to successful post-apartheid governments led by the African National Congress (ANC) that he leads.

But what is the real state of young South Africans – defined as people below the age of 34 – after 30 years of democracy?

I have more than 30 years' experience in socio-economic and development research as well as political and governance reform. My recent research paper tracing 30 years of analysing youth marginalisation has found that youth in South Africa, who make up 34.3% of the population, have not fared well under democracy. They are the hardest-hit by unemployment and the lack of opportunities, and show high alienation.

Fewer young people are doing as well as their counterparts from 30 years ago; most are muddling along, searching for opportunities.

Measuring marginalisation

The idea of "marginalisation", as used in my analysis, had its origins in the early 1990s. In 1992 a large survey, 'Growing up Tough', was run by Mark Orkin and I among South African youth of all races so that the first democratic government could understand what they needed most. The survey recorded indicators like unemployment and level of education, as well as subjective views like feelings of alienation (not belonging in society).

The results were arranged on a scale of how far some young people had been pushed to the margins of

society. Those who scored in the negative on all, or almost all, indicators were labelled "lost". Those who barely featured or did not score at all on the negative indicators were labelled "fine". Others fell in between.

The survey was run again in later years, with amendments. The most recent, analysed here, was in 2018, as part of a broader quality of life survey.

Comparing data from the 1992 and 2018 indices of youth marginalisation, the same proportion (5%) is clearly "lost" – scoring off the chart on virtually every indicator. Sadly, at the other extreme, where 25% of youth were "fine" in 1992, this had dropped to 16% in 2018.

In the two categories in between – "marginalised" and "at risk" – the more worrying "marginalised" has shrunk, which is positive, while "at risk" has grown.

South Africa has changed profoundly since apartheid, and for some, including some young people, there are countless more opportunities than previously. But, analysed as a generational cohort, youth today are only a little better off than when apartheid ended in 1994. And the share of young people is doing well now has fallen by 9 percentage points.

Looking at the 15-24 cohort in late 2023, using the "expanded" definition of unemployment, a staggering 60.7% are officially unemployed; among the group aged 25-34, unemployment only drops to 39.8%.

David Everatt, Professor of Urban Governance, University of the Witwatersrand

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Sada Reddi

From Maroons to Trade Unions: The Persistent Spirit of Mauritian Workers

With jobless growth, workers have become easily replaceable, and the rupee in the pocket is no longer the same. Poor working conditions, alienation, and harassment are widespread

Right from the Dutch period, workers brought to Mauritius — whether coerced, voluntarily, or involuntarily — have always sought to fight for human dignity and freedom. In spite of the odds against them, they never gave up and have continued to fight up to the present and will do so in the future. This consciousness of the worker to resist exploitation, whether in an economic system which was pre-capitalist or capitalist, was translated into various forms of action depending on the context and the resources available. Today, an enlarged and wider consciousness has become imperative so that they can face the multiple challenges of modern life and build a new society.

In South African literature, the concept of Black worker consciousness, as defined by historians like Ian R. Phimister and C. Van Onselen, refers first to the consciousness and concern of workers to maximize wages and move towards the highest paying employment centres to combat the law. Secondly, to combat coercive legislation, workers expressed their discontent not directly 'but in the nooks and crannies of the day-to-day work situation.' This response was not different from slave resistance in America, which 'side by side with ordinary loafing went deliberate wastefulness, slowdowns, feigned illness, self-inflicted injuries and the well-known abuse of livestock and equipment.'

In Mauritian history, we are all familiar with marooning and vagrancy which has marked colonial history during the Dutch, French, and British periods. Not only did slaves escape to the forest as soon as they landed during the Dutch occupation of Mauritius, but slave revolt was carried out by slaves, convicts, and freemen of different 'nationalities.' As Megan Vaughan has reminded us, in 1695 there were 11 of them — from Madagascar, Bali, Batavia, Bengal, Goa, Mozambique, Malabar, Padang, and Patti. Direct and indirect forms of protest and resistance took many forms despite repression by planters assisted by colonial and religious authorities.

Even the free artisans from France were severely repressed under Labourdonnais, and one worker had to get his wife to write to the authorities in France to secure his release as he could not do it himself. So he wrote to her:

'If you want me to come you will have to ask the (authorities) since we are not allowed to make such request, and if we do they tie us to a cannon on a cheval de bois in the dungeons and we see nothing

but this unjust treatment... and so I ask you to use your friends to get me out of this country. Our grandparents too were severely repressed and school-going children were brainwashed by reciting the first lesson in their textbook the ideology of the capitalist class - God is great. One has to work for one's bread.'

Even when the Code pénal prevented workers from coming to improve their wages, worker consciousness flowed into new channels in the form of worker organizations, friendly and mutual societies before the advent of trade unions. Dr Cure's 'Société de Bienfaisance' was a disguised form of trade union when the latter movement was still illegal.

In the 20th century, it was on the initiative of Edgar Laurent that the first trade union of railway workers was set up. He had gathered some railway workers in Curepipe and provided them with a template for a trade union organization. Wilfrid Moutou set up the first union, which was against the law. It was tolerated because railway workers constituted an 'aristocracy of labour' which was relatively harmless, though the union did go on strike on at least three occasions.

The best example of worker consciousness among labourers before the law on industrial associations was passed is the march of labourers on Union Sugar Estate in 1937. It was not a strike nor a spontaneous response on the part of labourers. It was a carefully planned march; the roads the protesters were to take were known in advance, and coordination took place among the various villages. When police blocked the roads they were to take, they used other bypass routes to reach Union Factory.

The employers had already been informed by the police on the eve; they armed themselves and were faced with what was a 'threatening crowd' according to Magistrate Osman. The employers panicked and fired on the labourers.

Trade union consciousness

After the setting up of industrial associations in 1938, worker consciousness moved towards trade union consciousness. Apart from individuals who continued to stand up for their rights, it was trade unions which took up the challenge of advancing the cause of the working classes throughout the colonial period. In the 1970s, great efforts were made to turn the unions into class-based organizations with mixed results, as trade unionists sought to pursue reformist and parliamentary strategies albeit more realistic, to safeguard the rights of workers.



“Poor working conditions, alienation, and harassment are widespread in the workplace. The worker at the computer suffers from musculoskeletal disorders and eye problems which are detrimental to health. The girl at the checkout in the supermarket is as alienated as the factory worker when she has to spend a whole day at the checkout with ‘Bonjour, Scan, Bag, Payment and Bye’. Even in the past, the workers did not fight only for wages; they sought better working conditions, better living conditions, and better health protection. The worker has his own conception of fairness, justice, right, and wrong - what historian EP Thomson has called the moral economy of workers...”

In the 21st century, while trade unions continue to defend and protect workers in a world where the latter have to grapple with the challenges of globalization and technological revolution, workers need to expand their horizons and develop an expanded worker consciousness. This would empower them but at the same time equip trade unions to better protect, defend, and improve the welfare of workers.

The challenges facing workers, whether they do blue- or white-collar jobs, are daunting. With jobless growth, workers have become easily replaceable, and the rupee in the pocket is no longer the same. Poor working conditions, alienation, and harassment are widespread in the workplace. The worker at the computer suffers from musculoskeletal disorders and eye problems which are detrimental to health. The girl at the checkout in the supermarket is as alienated as the factory worker when she has to spend a whole day at the checkout with ‘Bonjour, Scan, Bag, Payment and Bye’.

Even in the past, the workers did not fight only for wages; they sought better working conditions, better living conditions, and better health protection. The worker has his own conception of fairness, justice, right, and wrong - what historian EP Thomson has called the moral economy of workers. Today, workers continue to fight for these rights when their workload is increased in the name of productivity, when they are given punitive transfers, are discriminated against, or robbed of their wages to cut labour costs.

These daily struggles are important for the worker individually, for they transform him as he refuses to become a cog in the

production machine or a cipher in the organization. They are also important collectively for the rest of the workers, for they provide models of resistance and point to workers the norms that they should aspire to and which should become the norms of society so that each worker can develop his human potential to the maximum. In so doing the individual struggle contributes to the collective struggle as workers identify themselves with these struggles, develop solidarity, sharpen their consciousness and see ultimately a commonness of purpose for workers and for society as a whole.

Given the interconnectedness of society, workers' struggles cannot be limited to workplace problems and will necessarily extend to other issues. Workers cannot ignore the fact that their leisure time has been reduced. The environment has become polluted and coal ash dumped here and there is lethal for the health of one and all just like asbestos and pesticide may have been responsible for the high incidence of cancer. The streets have to be claimed back for pedestrians and the protection of consumers is an ongoing struggle.

Efforts to tackle drug addiction and alcoholism must be among our priorities. All this makes workers' education crucial for the present and the future of society. All these struggles which are being waged daily on the shop floor or in the office whether at the individual level, at the level of the community or within workers' organizations show us in practical terms what can be achieved, what new norms can emerge, in short a new moral economy for the workers where the final aim is the emancipation of one and all.

Deepfakes et désinformation: Les défis de l'ère numérique pour la démocratie en 2024

Par A. Bartleby

Vous voulez qu'un opposant fasse campagne pour vous? Confondez les électeurs entre une vidéo réelle et une autre fausse? Alors que de nombreux pays se préparent à des élections en 2024, certains partis politiques se tournent vers l'IA pour employer des stratégies nouvelles - et dangereuses.

se terminent par le symbole électoral du Congrès et le slogan: "Votez pour la justice, votez pour le Congrès". Or, ces vidéos sont fabriquées!

Ces deux vidéos ont été visionnées sur les réseaux sociaux plus d'un demi-million de fois depuis la semaine dernière, selon « The Economic Times ». Leur propagation souligne le rôle potentiel que de tels contenus générés par l'IA (intelligence artificielle) peuvent jouer dans les élections

mentaire au responsable de la cellule des médias sociaux du Congrès, qui n'a pas répondu.

Aamir Khan et Ranveer Singh ont déclaré que les vidéos étaient fausses. Facebook, X et au moins huit sites Web de vérification des faits ont déclaré qu'elles étaient altérées ou manipulées, ce que l'unité de vérification numérique de Reuters a également confirmé.

Amir Khan a été "alarmé" par la vidéo "fausse" virale et l'équipe de Ranveer Singh enquêtait sur la question, selon un porte-parole des deux acteurs. Singh a écrit sur X vendredi: "Attention aux deepfakes, les amis".

Près de 900 millions de personnes en Inde ont accès à Internet et une enquête menée par l'organisation de recherche Esya Centre, et l'école de commerce de l'Indian Institute of Management a montré qu'un Indien moyen passe plus de trois heures par jour sur les médias sociaux. Le pays compte près d'un milliard d'électeurs.

Certaines versions des vidéos ont été bloquées sur les médias sociaux, mais au moins 14 étaient encore visibles sur X samedi dernier. Facebook a supprimé deux vidéos que Reuters a signalées à l'entreprise, mais une autre était toujours visible.

Dans les élections de cette année, les politiciens utilisent l'IA de différentes manières.

Dans le sud de l'Inde, un porte-parole du leader du Congrès, Vijay Vasanth, a déclaré que son équipe avait créé un clip audio-vidéo de 2 minutes à l'aide de l'IA, partagé sur les plateformes de médias sociaux, et lequel montre son père, désormais décédé mais plus populaire, le politicien H. Vasanthakumar, demandant des voix pour lui. L'ancien politicien est vu en train de dire "même si mon corps vous a

quittés tous, mon âme est toujours là".

Xavier Duval: première victime d'une «Deepfake»

À Maurice, le leader du PMSD est devenu la première victime d'une «Deepfake» générée par l'IA. En début de mois, il a publiquement dénoncé "la diffusion sur les réseaux sociaux d'une photo truquée le représentant prétendument aux côtés de Jean Michel Lee Shim, patron de People's Turf PLC".

Dans les mois précédant les prochaines élections générales, on peut donc s'attendre à ce que de plus en plus de « deepfakes » générées par l'IA soient utilisées pour ternir l'image et la réputation des adversaires politiques. En tout cas, il est préoccupant de constater l'émergence de la technologie «deepfake» impactant le paysage politique à Maurice. L'expérience récente de Xavier Duval met en lumière les dangers potentiels associés à la désinformation générée par l'IA.

À une époque où la perception publique est fortement influencée par les médias numériques, les dommages causés par de telles «deepfakes» peuvent être significatifs et durables. Une fois que des informations fausses sont diffusées, notamment dans le contexte d'une campagne électorale, il peut être nécessaire de consacrer un temps et un effort considérables pour corriger les préjudices causés à la réputation d'un individu. Dans certains cas, les répercussions peuvent même aller jusqu'aux résultats électoraux, coûtant potentiellement aux politiciens ciblés leur siège parlementaire.

Alors que nous faisons face à ces nouveaux défis, il est crucial que les décideurs politiques et le public restent vigilants face aux menaces technologiques en constante évolution pour garantir l'intégrité de nos processus démocratiques.

VIRAL DEEPFAKE VIDEOS OF AAMIR & RANVEER



Aamir Khan & Ranveer Singh critiquent le PM Modi ! Réfléchissez-y à deux fois, c'est du théâtre de deepfake. P - YouTube

Dans le contexte politique indien, l'utilisation de «deepfakes» générées par l'IA soulève des préoccupations majeures quant à la manipulation de l'opinion publique et à la diffusion de fausses informations. Bien que deux acteurs de Bollywood aient démenti l'authenticité des vidéos, leur propagation rapide sur les réseaux sociaux souligne la vulnérabilité des plateformes en ligne à la désinformation. Il faut savoir que «deepfake» est une forme d'intelligence artificielle (IA) qui peut être utilisée pour créer des images, des sons et des vidéos de canular convaincants. Le terme «faux profond» combine le concept d'apprentissage profond avec quelque chose de faux.

Les vidéos falsifiées, qui ont circulé en ligne, montrant deux des acteurs de Bollywood les plus en vue en Inde, critiquant le Premier ministre Narendra Modi et demandant aux gens de voter pour le parti d'opposition du Congrès lors des élections générales en cours dans le pays, se sont avérées être des faux profonds.

Dans une vidéo de 30 secondes montrant Aamir Khan et une autre vidéo de 41 secondes de Ranveer Singh, les deux acteurs de Bollywood s'exprimeraient ainsi : Modi n'a pas réussi à tenir ses promesses de campagne et n'a pas réussi à résoudre les problèmes économiques critiques lors de ses deux mandats de Premier ministre, rapporte «The Economic Times». Les deux vidéos générées par l'IA

gigantesques en Inde, qui ont commencé le 19 avril dernier et se poursuivront jusqu'en juin. L'IA et les «deepfakes» sont de plus en plus utilisées dans les élections ailleurs dans le monde, y compris aux États-Unis, au Pakistan et en Indonésie.

WhatsApp et Facebook s'inscrivent dans la campagne électorale

La campagne en Inde s'est longtemps concentrée sur le porte-à-porte et les rassemblements publics, mais l'utilisation extensive de WhatsApp et de Facebook comme outils de campagne a commencé en 2019. Les élections générales de cette année-là, au cours desquelles Modi devrait remporter un rare troisième mandat, sont les premières à utiliser l'IA.

Un porte-parole du Congrès, Sujata Paul, a partagé la vidéo de l'acteur Ranveer Singh avec ses 16 000 abonnés sur X le 17 avril et le samedi après-midi, son post avait été partagé 2 900 fois, aimé 8 700 fois et visionné 438 000 fois.

Sujata Paul a déclaré à Reuters par téléphone qu'elle était consciente que la vidéo était marquée "média manipulé" par X, mais elle ne voulait pas la supprimer car, lorsqu'elle l'a postée, elle pensait que la personne était un sosie de Singh et "elle a certainement de la créativité".

Le post n'était plus visible sur X dimanche, quelques heures après que Reuters ait envoyé une demande de com-

L'Afrique abrite 135 200 millionnaires et 21 milliardaires

Les juridictions qui attirent généralement les millionnaires sont celles qui offrent des politiques fiscales attractives comme l'île Maurice

La population de millionnaires en Afrique devrait augmenter de 65 % au cours des 10 prochaines années, selon un rapport publié récemment. Les nouveaux membres du club des riches viendront du secteur des technologies financières et des médias, selon une analyse du «AfricaWealth Report».

"Les fintech sont l'un des secteurs à forte croissance qu'ils choisiront, ainsi que l'externalisation des processus métier, la technologie verte, les médias et le divertissement", a déclaré Dominic Volek, responsable du groupe des clients privés chez Henley and Partners, l'entreprise qui a publié le «Africa Wealth Report».

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L'Afrique abrite 135 200 millionnaires et 21 milliardaires

Les juridictions qui attirent généralement les millionnaires sont celles qui offrent des politiques fiscales attractives comme l'île Maurice

👉 Suite de la page 4

“L'écotourisme et les projets durables visant à améliorer la vie des habitants de l'Afrique sont également des secteurs dans lesquels ils sont désireux d'investir.”

L'Afrique abrite 135 200 millionnaires et 21 milliardaires, mesurés en dollars américains. Si les projections se confirment, ce nombre passera à environ 220 000 d'ici 2033.

Les cinq États africains qui représentent la plus grande part des millionnaires du continent sont (par ordre du nombre de personnes fortunées) l'Afrique du Sud, l'Égypte, le Nigeria, le Kenya et le Maroc. Ils représentent collectivement 56 % des personnes fortunées d'Afrique et plus de 90 % de ses milliardaires.

L'Afrique du Sud est en tête avec 37 400 millionnaires et cinq milliardaires, tandis que la richesse de l'Égypte est entre les mains de sept milliardaires et 15 600 millionnaires.

“Les ‘cinq grands’ sont les cinq pays les plus développés en termes d'infrastructures, avec des économies beaucoup plus avancées par rapport aux autres pays africains”, a ajouté Volek.

Johannesburg est la ville la plus riche d'Afrique avec 12 300 millionnaires et deux milliardaires.

“Si l'on regarde globalement, il y a environ 54 milliardaires africains dans le monde, dont Elon Musk d'Afrique du Sud. Mais, parmi les 54, seulement 21 % vivent encore sur le continent”, a ajouté Volek.

Presque la moitié des milliardaires nés en Afrique ont quitté le continent pour des endroits comme la Suisse, Singapour ou Monaco, ou encore les États-Unis.

Ils veulent avoir une meilleure qualité de vie, une meilleure éducation pour leurs enfants, de meilleurs soins de santé, de meilleures opportunités commerciales. “Mais, l'Afrique est un continent qui reste proche du cœur”, a



Le taux de croissance élevé de l'île Maurice en a fait le troisième marché en plus forte croissance au monde pour les millionnaires, de 2013 à 2023

déclaré Volek à RFI. “Beaucoup de millionnaires du continent ressentent le besoin de réinvestir une partie de leur fortune dans leur pays d'origine.”

Incitations fiscales

Les juridictions qui attirent généralement les millionnaires sont celles qui offrent des politiques fiscales attractives comme l'île Maurice, a déclaré Volek.

Selon le rapport, le taux de croissance élevé de l'île Maurice en a fait le troisième marché en plus forte croissance au monde pour les millionnaires, de 2013 à 2023.

Au cours de la prochaine décennie jusqu'en 2033, des pays comme l'île Maurice, la Namibie, le Maroc, la Zambie, le Kenya, l'Ouganda et le Rwanda devraient connaître une croissance de 80 % du nombre de millionnaires.

Grâce à leurs programmes de migration des investissements, la Namibie et l'île Maurice sont deux des pays d'Afrique australe qui offrent des options intéressantes aux personnes fortunées pour investir.

En retour, le pays leur accorde une forme de droits de

résidence.

“Si les millionnaires s'installent dans un pays, ils chercheront à investir dans ce pays. Ils investiront généralement dans des entreprises, achèteront des biens immobiliers et d'autres biens de luxe qui contribuent au PIB de ce pays”, a déclaré Volek.

L'écart entre les riches et les pauvres

La croissance du nombre de millionnaires dans un pays peut être interprétée de différentes manières en ce qui concerne la santé économique de ce pays. D'une part, une augmentation du nombre de millionnaires peut indiquer un environnement économique favorable, propice à la création de richesse et à l'essor des entreprises. Cela peut refléter une croissance économique robuste, des opportunités d'investissement attractives et un climat des affaires favorable.

Cependant, d'autre part, une croissance du nombre de millionnaires ne garantit pas nécessairement une amélioration générale des conditions économiques pour l'ensemble de la population. Il est possible que cette augmentation de la richesse soit concentrée entre les mains d'une petite élite, tandis que la majorité de la population continue de lutter pour subvenir à ses besoins de base. Dans ce cas, l'écart entre les riches et les pauvres pourrait s'agrandir, ce qui pourrait entraîner une augmentation de l'inégalité économique et sociale.

Il est donc important de ne pas se fier uniquement au nombre de millionnaires pour évaluer la santé économique d'un pays. Il est également crucial d'examiner d'autres indicateurs tels que le taux de chômage, le niveau de vie moyen, l'accès aux services de base et la répartition équitable des richesses pour obtenir une image plus complète de la situation économique et sociale d'un pays.

L'escalade des tensions nucléaires: une course dangereuse vers l'inconnu

La Russie a déclaré lundi que le soutien militaire des États-Unis, du Royaume-Uni et de la France à l'Ukraine a poussé le monde au bord d'un affrontement direct entre les plus grandes puissances nucléaires mondiales, susceptible de se terminer en catastrophe.

À peine deux jours après l'approbation par les législateurs américains de milliards de dollars d'aide militaire supplémentaire à l'Ukraine, le ministre russe des Affaires étrangères, Sergueï Lavrov, a déclaré que les États-Unis et l'OTAN étaient obsédés par l'idée d'infliger une “défaite stratégique” à la Russie.

“Les Occidentaux flirtent dangereusement avec le bord d'un affrontement militaire direct entre des puissances nucléaires, ce qui est chargé de conséquences catastrophiques”, a déclaré Lavrov lors d'une conférence à Moscou sur la non-prolifération des armes



Menace nucléaire: «Le risque d'escalade est sérieux». P - Futura Science

nucléaires.

“Nous sommes particulièrement préoccupés par le fait que ce sont les ‘trois grands’ États nucléaires occidentaux qui sont parmi les principaux sponsors du régime criminel de Kiev, les principaux initiateurs de diverses mesures provocatrices. Nous voyons de sérieux risques stratégiques dans cela, conduisant à une augmentation du niveau de danger nucléaire.”

Depuis le début de la guerre, la Russie a averti, à plusieurs reprises, de l'augmentation des risques nucléaires - des avertissements que les États-Unis disent devoir prendre au sérieux, bien que les responsables américains affirment n'avoir observé aucun changement dans la posture nucléaire russe.

Poutine présente la guerre comme faisant partie d'une bataille séculaire avec un Occident décadent qui, selon lui, a humilié la Russie après la chute du mur de Berlin en 1989 en élargissant l'OTAN et en empiétant sur ce que Moscou considère comme étant la sphère d'influence historique de la Russie.

A. Bartleby

👉 Suite en page 16



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

A Personal Perspective

Elections in Bharat: PM Modi likely to win a third term

In an article on *Rediff*, News titled 'Exciting World of Data Science' by Ajit Balakrishnan, an internet entrepreneur, he writes: '... as I stroll through my neighbourhood in Bombay, I can see small roadside fruit vendors and fish sellers display a QR code near their coir baskets and ready to accept digital payments. Aadhaar now is carried by 1.2 billion Indians. Nearly 300 million Indians now do online shopping. And they all seem to have made this transition to the digital world enthusiastically and happily.'

Last year in Bangaluru and New Delhi, which I was visiting after several years, I had the same experience: from the roadside fruit/vegetable seller to the multifarious other outlets, my nephew made all payments using the QR code. I must confess that not only was this a revelation to me, but also that I myself have not quite got used to this now common and generalized mode of transaction there. But I guess I will have to sooner than later if I want to be part of this modern and future Bharat that I am bound to visit again.

The advent of the internet and social media has made it possible to track in real time via online sources happenings across the world, and that is the case too as regards the general elections in Bharat now under way, with a first phase completed, to end with the 7th phase on June 5. I regularly follow the developments that have taken place and the progress made there that I have also had the occasion to experience personally. The achievements of the NDA led by Prime Minister Modi for nearly ten years have been tremendous.

The first thing that comes to mind is the fact that from 10th place when Modiji took over, Bharat has now climbed to the 5th position in the global economy and, growing at the highest rate among major economies at over 7%, it is on an aspirational course to climb further to 3rd place by 2030.

From online sources we learn that this has been made possible through reform of the financial system by, amongst others, implementation of the GST, which made doing business much easier by consolidating several different taxes into one Goods and Services Tax, thus eliminating barriers to inter-state trade. Further, many schemes have enhanced investment in the country, leading to financial stability and increasing GDP.

The QR code mentioned above has become an integral part of India's retail businesses and, along with demonetization, has accelerated online transactions. It forms part of the UPI system, which is the most successful payment system in the world, with hundreds of millions of users and billions of transactions every month. There is also the Rupay card scheme which includes Mauritius, though which payments can be made instead of using e.g. Visa and Mastercard.

Undoubtedly, an outstanding achievement is Covid handling, which included the CoWIN platform (Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network) to administer the vaccination programme, development, and production of several vaccines in the country, administering free of cost over 2 billion made-in-India doses within a year.



Indian election campaign is currently in full swing. Pic - South China Morning Post

“There is massive development in the infrastructure sector in the country, with the rapid construction of highways, expressways, and other roads (38 km per day), massive expansion of the railway network and introduction of the made-in-India Vande Bharat Express train, and the Udaan scheme in civil aviation. Electrification of railways is proceeding apace. Tens of thousands of villages, earlier left out, now have electricity, and they have also had improvements in the availability and quality of water. This is something that people in developed countries take for granted, but the mind-boggling scale of the needs for water in a country of 1.4 billion people baffles the imagination...”

Besides becoming self-reliant in medical items like personal protection equipment and ventilators which mainly were imported earlier, the government made grants of almost 200 M vaccines doses to nearly 82 countries to kickstart their vaccination as they were unable to procure them initially, in addition to selling them afterwards.

Among other achievements, one can mention abrogation of Article 370 which has facilitated investment and tourism in Kashmir, along with other developments in healthcare, education, empowerment of women, as well as a significant drop in terrorist-linked activities, etc.

There is massive development in the infrastructure sector in the country, with the rapid construction of highways, expressways, and other roads (38 km per day), massive expansion of the railway network and introduction of the made-in-India Vande Bharat Express train, and the Udaan scheme in civil aviation. Electrification of railways is proceeding apace.

Tens of thousands of villages, earlier left out, now have electricity, and they have also had improvements in the availability and quality of water. This is something that people in developed countries take for granted, but the mind-boggling scale of the needs for water in a country of 1.4 billion people baffles the imagination. I

illustrate this with a personal example - when I was in New Delhi for my internship in 1971, its population was about 2 million. Today this figure is closer to 12 million if not more - while ours is a mere 1.2 M and is on the decline! - and yet every Delhiite has access to water. No need to comment on our own water supply situation here! So, before we criticize Bharat, let us have some humility!

Apart from these few developments, Bharat has also made great strides in inclusion of northeastern states, in foreign policy, and in indigenisation of the defence sector. Each topic requires a whole book to itself, and External Affairs Minister Subramaniam Jaishankar's two books: 'The India Way' and 'Why Bharat Matters' are a good place to start understanding 'Vixit Bharat.'

Perhaps the two iconic events that stand out are the successful Chandrayaan Mission that landed a vehicle on a hitherto hidden region of the moon - a first to add to the achievement of also being the fourth country to land on the moon - and the rebuilding and Pran Par-tishtha of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

No wonder the overwhelming feeling all over Bharat is that Modiji should come back...

Interview: Chetan Ramchurn

“The opposition in our country is still relatively strong, but the opposition parties are weak”

As Mauritius gears up for potential general elections, all eyes are on the upcoming Labour Day rallies, which will reveal the current political dynamics. Chetan Ramchurn, a seasoned observer of Mauritian politics, sheds light on the implications of the PMSD's departure from the opposition alliance and discusses the strategies and obstacles faced by both the ruling and opposition parties. From addressing electoral fatigue to the need for new leadership, Chetan Ramchurn dissects the intricacies of Mauritius' political landscape. As the nation approaches a pivotal moment, the interview also explores the factors that will influence the outcome of the elections.

Mauritius Times: This 1st of May holds particular significance as it appears that the Prime Minister may announce general elections sometime this year. The crowds at the Labour Day rallies will provide insight into the “rapport de forces” on the ground, but the assistance of activists and party sympathizers at the “reunions de mobilisation” of both alliances indicates substantial support for each. It's shaping up to be a tough battle, isn't it?

Chetan Ramchurn: Indeed, there seems to be significant hype around the Labour Day rallies. The general elections are on the horizon and while the remote control for the short timetable of events rests with the sitting PM. I say short for the present mandate will soon come to an end, and the obligation to organise by-elections within 240 days hovers above the MSM's head. A defeat at the No.10 by-elections would verily disrupt their plans. Jugnauth will in all probability go for general elections sooner rather later.

This last first of May rally prior to the general elections also comes against the backdrop of a simmering political cauldron. The PMSD has left the opposition alliance, ending long months of tumultuous bed-fellowship more with the MMM than the Mauritius Labour Party (MLP). This paves the way to serve the electorate an amended version of the 2014 remake; the MLP and the MMM join whatever is left of their forces

“62% of the electorate voted against the governing alliance in the last elections which should remind us of the following: despite the billions spent distributing money to key segments, despite the many lackeys hyping it, more than 6 out of 10 of Mauritians did not deem the winning alliance as trustworthy. This should remind us of the following: the opposition in our country is still relatively strong, but the opposition parties are weak...”

once again with the trio of dissenters from the PMSD and in all likelihood a veneer of 'difference' or 'leftism' from fringe parties and their members.

Disappointingly, non-mainstream parties seem eager to auction their ideals even at the expense of losing their bearings in the finalisation of this pact. If they merely ape the thoughts of the main parties, where lies the difference? They have yet to get the narrative right. As Antoine de Saint-Exupéry would say: «Si tu diffères de moi, mon frère, loin de me léser, tu m'enrichis.»

“Barely a couple of months back MSM supporters thought that it would be a walkover win for them. This is no longer the case”

The MSM watches. In the last decade, it has 'transformed' institutions into weapons that presently wait to strike its opponents should the need arise. It has campaigned consistently since it was elected in 2019. How could it not? 62% of the electorate voted against the governing alliance in the last elections which should remind us of the following: despite the billions spent distributing money to key segments, despite the many lackeys hyping it, more than 6 out of 10 of Mauritians did not deem the winning alliance as trustworthy. This should remind us of the following: the opposition in our country is still relatively strong, but the opposition parties are weak.

There are some days left before Labour Day and we have to hope that they use this event to bolster what Prashant Kishor terms the 4 Ms: the Message, Messenger, Machine (referring to the party or parties involved), and Mechanics (the process of connecting the leader with the masses).

* The departure of the PMSD from the LP-MMM-PMSD alliance, for reasons not entirely clear to this day, may have weakened the “force de frappe” of that alliance. Winning could now be more challenging for Ramgoolam and Bérenger. Do you share this perspective?

The timing of the separation certainly



raises questions on the intent of the PMSD. Bhadain claims that the 35-25 breakdown of tickets has been known for long. That the finer details of the deal were apparently not known to the PMSD surprises many. As leader of the opposition, Duval personified the rejection of the MSM and its many scandals and, overnight, he is mum about the billions allocated to drains and the clear project management issues.

To be honest, winning would have been challenging even with PMSD staying alongside the MLP and MMM. Their contribution to votes in the rural region is scant. What seemed clear to me since 2014 was that the MLP needed to introspect, reconnect with its base and grow organically. In business terms, it has pursued a merger and acquisition (M&M) strategy, once again embracing the 40+40 mantra. The electorate's high rejection of the MSM does not imply automatic allegiance to the mainstream opposition parties. The latter will have to work harder.

There seems to be renewed energy within opposition ranks since the PMSD's departure. Now no longer in an alliance with the MLP and the MMM, the PMSD will have no qualms in spreading the narrative that Ramgoolam is being manipulated by Bérenger. The MLP and the MMM must counteract this perception.

* Apart from what is widely suspected to be the ruling alliance's access to a significant war chest, the MSM has also shown a willingness to employ any means necessary to achieve its objectives. Do you believe the tide is turning against them this time?

“If you look at the harm that the present government has done to our institutions in the last five years, it seems apparent that all elections are important. The last one was as important as the next one. Indeed, these elections are undoubtedly crucial. As were the last ones. Let's hope that all involved parties, especially the Opposition, approach them with the utmost seriousness and prioritize the concerns of the many over their own...”

Nothing will be off limits once again. Nearly a decade of power marked by glaring mismanagement and widespread corruption will certainly impact the MSM's electoral prospects. But rejection of the MSM however does not automatically translate into votes for the mainstream opposition parties. They will have to work harder and not succumb to hubris like in 2014.

● Cont. on page 8

'Rejection of the MSM does not automatically translate into votes for the Opposition parties. They will have to work harder..'

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● Cont. from page 7

* Just like in 2014, the need for regime change has once again brought the Labour Party and the MMM together. However, to win the electorate’s confidence, they must also demonstrate that their partnership is going to be workable should they win the next elections. Do you believe there are valid concerns about this?

The situation in 2014 was different.

The ill-fated second republic... that constitutional imbroglia caused a backlash as well as the equal repartition of tickets. In 2024, nothing of the sort is on the agenda. Still, creating an alliance to overthrow the present regime means nothing if we do not know, to paraphrase Slavoj Zizek, what happens the morning after.

Let us hope that those advocating for change are aware of this. If not, we might be facing another Illovo or smart city scheme in the coming years.

* In addition to agreeing on key posts and electoral tickets, is it crucial for there to be consensus within the Opposition alliance on major economic policies? This question arises considering the minimal ideological differences between the parties today. What do you think?

The mainstream opposition hosts some of the architects of the first Illovo deal and the Integrated Resort Scheme as well as proponents of the flat tax regime (that enduringly crippling measure) and the Real Estate Scheme. The uninterrupted pandering to the oligarchy has to be stopped.

In 2023, the Fabian society gave its list of priorities for a Labour government. These included measures to protect against inequality in the early years, affordable housing and raising living standards amongst others. A common ground on economic direction would be the first step.

* When considering a common minimum programme for the LP-MMM alliance, governance of the country emerges as a key concern. What specific proposals do you have in mind that could signify a departure from what we have been subjected to over the last couple of years?

Greater opportunities for those at the lower rungs of the economic ladder have to be created. Assistance to entrepreneurs through a monthly stipend in the first 18 months would help them navigate through the turpitudes of the business world as would free training to them.

A special attention to the ageing population would be most welcome. Merely giving senior citizens money neither alleviates their loneliness nor ensures their safety. A more caring approach to them would include better access to medical facilities and a rethinking of our infrastructure.

Bolstering democracy through recall elections is a priority. So many sitting MPs have been found inept. Ensuring that these no longer remain in office would instill greater faith in our system.

A look at the state of public education and health clearly shows why private institutions are mushrooming. Uplifting public schools through stringent control and better project management (how can some students not have their textbooks at the end of the first term) would go in the right direc-



“Limiting the Prime Minister’s term would help keep democracy vibrant. Over the last 56 years, only three surnames have been given the golden PM ticket. Additionally, should there not be primaries for the selection of candidates for local and national elections? An all-powerful leader who selects candidates based on personal preference cannot be good for our democracy...”

tion.

* Do you believe the Opposition should also support the proposal to limit the Prime Minister’s term and introduce a dose of proportional representation (PR) in our electoral system to ensure better representation of all parties in Parliament?

Limiting the Prime Minister’s term would help keep democracy vibrant. Over the last 56 years, only three surnames have been given the golden PM ticket. Additionally, should there not be primaries for the selection of candidates for local and national elections? An all-powerful leader who selects candidates based on personal preference cannot be good for our democracy.

I am less enthused with PR because it could lead to an increase in extremist views and could disturb our already frail natural unity.

* Some Opposition members have drawn parallels between the upcoming elections and the struggle for Independence in 1967. However, the stakes may be even greater: it could be a make-or-break moment for the Opposition. If they fail to unseat the current government, they could potentially face an extended period in political wilderness. What are your thoughts on this?

If you look at the harm that the present government has done to our institutions in the last five years, it seems apparent that all elections are important. The last one was as important as the next one.

The erosion of trust in public institutions has lasting

effects; it could lead to the privatization of many of our services as well as to the disenchantment of the youth in the present and future and lives getting lost because of poor management.

Indeed, these elections are undoubtedly crucial. As were the last ones. Let’s hope that all involved parties, especially the Opposition, approach them with the utmost seriousness and prioritize the concerns of the many over their own.

* Jean Claude de l’Estrac has been talking about “electoral fatigue” and that the electorate would want to see new faces and is calling for a renewal in politics. In that case, it could be in the interest of these two parties themselves if their leaders would consider the upcoming election as a transitional one that allows for significant reforms and changes like, for instance, younger and promising hands at the helm. Your opinion?

Leaders should look at the opinion the public has of them. Leadership of a party cannot be bestowed based on blood ties in 2024. We cannot blame politicians without blaming the electorate that keeps voting for them. Maybe nepotism is what people want.

A change of personnel can sometimes merely be a PR coup akin to what we witnessed in 2019. I often quote from Tancredi’s line in Visconti’s *Le Guépard*, “*Il faut que tout change pour que rien ne change*”, that is, “For things to remain the same, everything must change.” New faces were brought to the dance, and nothing really changed. Corruption remained as high and even worsened, the bending over to the very rich continued, the institutions kept deteriorating.

Still, it would be a wise decision to retire some of those contributing little to our democracy.

* At the end of the day, what are your expectations for the outcomes of the upcoming elections, and what do you believe will be the key factors shaping those outcomes?

It is way too early to predict anything. Barely a couple of months back MSM supporters thought that it would be a walkover win for them. This is no longer the case. The government will have one last budget to sway voters in its favour. Distributing money creates a feel-good factor for a limited period. Meanwhile, there might be an assault on their nemesis’s reputation, potential arrests, and fresh accusations.

“Leaders should look at the opinion the public has of them. Leadership of a party cannot be bestowed based on blood ties in 2024. We cannot blame politicians without blaming the electorate that keeps voting for them. Maybe nepotism is what people want...”

While the government’s strength has traditionally been in welfare initiatives, the current alliance in power has notably faltered in maintaining law and order and addressing other critical issues. With the approaching general elections, voters may come to the realization that there’s a lack of any sustained feel-good factor, possibly leading to a hit-and-run scenario during the elections.

Merely responding to the present regime on their chosen battlegrounds will only strengthen the governing alliance. The opposition alliance has to give a vision, a dream of a better life to voters and not merely occupy battlegrounds already occupied by its adversaries. In short, they have to change the way people think.

Briani, Rum, and Political Circus: The Farce of Labour Day

In the bustling streets of ancient Athens, amidst the scent of olives and the chatter of philosophers, the wise philosopher, known for his probing questions and keen insights Socrates and Cephalus, find themselves engaged in a spirited discussion. As Labour Day approaches in a distant land known as Mauritius, their conversation takes a humorous turn as they delve into the curious world of politics and power plays. Join them as they make their way through the confusing maze of political manoeuvrings, Briani and Rum Parties, and the absurdities of electioneering on this special day dedicated to the workers. Let the laughter commence!

By Plutonix

Setting: A quaint Greek taverna in ancient Athens. Socrates and Cephalus are seated at a table, enjoying some wine and olives. The atmosphere is jovial as they engage in a light-hearted conversation.



Socrates: Ah, Cephalus, my dear friend, it seems Labour Day is upon us once again.

Cephalus: Indeed, Socrates! A day to celebrate the toils of the working class and the contributions they make to society.

Socrates: Quite so! Yet, it appears Labour Day has taken on a rather... shall we say, peculiar twist in certain corners of the world.

Cephalus: Oh? Pray tell, what curious twist has Labour Day taken now?

Socrates: Well, it seems in a land far away known as Mauritius, Labour Day has become less about celebrating the workers and more about... Briani and Rum Parties!

Cephalus: Briani and Rum Parties, you say? How peculiar! I presume they indulge in such festivities to attract large crowds to their political rallies.

Socrates: Precisely! The politicians there seem to

believe that the way to a worker's heart is through his stomach and perhaps a few pegs of rum.

Cephalus: Ah, the old "bread and circuses" tactic, I see. But tell me, Socrates, do these parties truly honour the labourers and other workers and their noble efforts?

Socrates: Alas, my friend, it seems the true spirit of Labour Day has been lost amidst the clamour of political manoeuvring. Instead of celebrating the sweat and toil of the workers, it has become a spectacle of political

showmanship.

Cephalus: How lamentable! Labour Day should be a time for reflection and appreciation, not political grandstanding, and gastronomic indulgence.

Socrates: Indeed, Cephalus. But fear not, for in the midst of this folly, there is still hope. The true essence of Labour Day lies within the hearts of the workers themselves, not in the pomp and circumstance of politicians.

Cephalus: You speak wisely, Socrates. The spirit of Labour Day cannot be diminished by the machinations of politicians or the allure of Briani and Rum Parties.

Socrates: Quite so, my friend. So let us raise our glasses not to the politicians and their antics, but to the hardworking men and women whose labour sustains our society.

Cephalus: Hear, hear! To the workers, the true heroes of Labour Day!

They clink their glasses together, toasting to the

workers.

Socrates: And may their efforts never be forgotten, nor their dignity compromised by the whims of politics.

Cephalus: Well said, Socrates. Well said indeed.

Socrates: Ah, but Cephalus, let us not forget the delightful drama unfolding amidst these Labour Day shenanigans! It seems the politicians are pulling out all the stops to ensure victory in the upcoming elections.

Cephalus: Indeed, Socrates! The stakes are high, and the politicians are leaving no briani pot unturned in their quest for power.

Socrates: And what a spectacle it is! The alliances shifting like sand dunes in a desert storm, with Xavier Duval and his PMSD departing the Labour Party-MMM-PMSD alliance faster than a hare chased by a hungry hound.

Cephalus: Ah, poor Xavier! One moment he's in, the next he's out, like a fickle lover at a masquerade ball.

Socrates: What of Navin Ramgoolam and Paul Berenger, left to pick up the pieces of their fractured alliance? It seems they're facing an uphill battle, my friend. And what of Pravind Jugnauth, the leader of the MSM, the ruling party in power?

Cephalus: Indeed, Socrates. But fear not, for where there's rum, there's hope! And if there's one thing politicians excel at, it's stirring up a potent brew of promises and pandemonium.

Socrates: Ha! You speak the truth, Cephalus. But let us not overlook the ruling alliance and their formidable war chest. It appears they're not above employing a few tricks of their own to secure victory.

Cephalus: Tricks, you say? Why, I wouldn't put it past them to summon the gods themselves if it meant clinching another term in office!

Socrates: Indeed, my friend. The lengths to which politicians will go in pursuit of power know no bounds. But amidst the chaos and cacophony of Labour Day, let us not lose sight of the true heroes—the workers themselves.

Cephalus: Hear, hear! For it is they who keep the wheels of society turning, even as the politicians spin their webs of deceit and deception.

Socrates: And so, as we raise our glasses once more, let us toast not only to the workers, but to the absurdity of politics and the comedy of errors that is Labour Day in Mauritius.

Cephalus: To the workers, the true champions of Labour Day, and to the politicians, the unwitting jesters in the theatre of democracy!

They clink their glasses together once more, laughter ringing out amidst the chaos of political intrigue.

As Socrates and Cephalus continued their banter amidst the warm ambiance of the taverna, they couldn't help but chuckle at the absurdity of it all. But amidst the laughter and jest, both philosophers couldn't help but acknowledge the seriousness of the situation. Labour Day, a day meant to celebrate the hardworking men and women, had been hijacked by political theatrics and manoeuvrings.

Osman Mahomed

“Irresponsible town planning and management have rendered Port Louis vulnerable in many ways”

Osman Mahomed shares his insights on Mauritius’ recurrent flooding issues, urban planning challenges, and environmental concerns. With his extensive background in urban development, he offers a critical perspective on the effectiveness of past initiatives and the way forward for sustainable development in Mauritius.

* The entire country was compelled to take an unexpected holiday on Monday due to the imminent risks of flooding caused by heavy rainfall throughout the day. Such forced holidays have become increasingly frequent in recent times. What does this pattern reveal about the adequacy of the government’s contingency plans for calamities and its effectiveness in managing crisis situations?

A brief response to your question: it’s not effective. However, it must be said that when the Labour Party left office in 2014, the foundation was laid for a different scenario.

I do recall that the very concept of disaster risk reduction emerged immediately after the flash floods of March 2013 at the Prime Minister’s Office when Navin Ramgoolam appointed British expert Mrs Venetia Bellers to kick-start the department. I got to know Venetia well because she started off her work at the office of the Maurice Ile Durable Commission, which I was then chairing.

Furthermore, the country could do better in as much as it is now equipped with a state-of-the-art radar which the country obtained from Japan following diplomatic efforts from former Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam at Ticad V in Yokohama in 2013, which I also attended as member of the Mauritian delegation, as Executive Chairman of the Maurice Ile Durable Commission, on invitation of UNESCO.

* Billions have already been allocated for drainage works across the island, with additional funds earmarked for future projects. However, despite these investments, recurring flooding continues to affect property and, in some cases, endanger lives. Does this persistent issue suggest that both past and recent initiatives to mitigate flood risks in Mauritius have proven to be ineffective?

It is observed that many projects that are currently being implemented raise doubts in the minds of professionals and of the people, about their effectiveness. I take the example of my own constituency for a drain project of Rs 353 million along Raoul Rivet Street for which the inhabitants are even prepared to go to the extent of refusing such massive investment in their locality because they do not believe in the effectiveness of the project. In such situations social consultation would have helped. I must say once again that I have approached the authorities for more details but to no avail.

But on a different level, a thorough assessment of how come after investing so many billions of rupees in drain works, the country still suffers so much from inundation, is very much warranted.

* To be fair, floods, particularly flash floods, are occurring in various regions worldwide, including China, Uruguay, the USA, France, Brazil, Indonesia, and unexpectedly, even in countries like the UAE and

Saudi Arabia. The main culprit is said to be climate change which is making it harder to predict the weather 22, although infrastructure vulnerabilities may be exacerbating the situation. What are your thoughts on this within the local context?

It is true to say that climate change is now a reality.

I flew through Dubai last week to attend the yearly meeting of the International Renewable Energy Agency in Abu Dhabi and I witnessed it all. I was compelled to stay in the plane for 16 hours for a flight of normally 6 hours because of the extreme weather conditions.

The situation in Dubai was chaotic even on the roads because the country is not equipped with extensive drain infrastructure given that it was not prone to such calamities before, unlike Mauritius which is a tropical island with cyclonic windows. The case of Dubai is therefore not comparable to ours because we always have to face cyclonic and rainy conditions.

* Regarding infrastructure vulnerabilities locally, there’s the pressing issue of implementing an effective town and country-planning programme with a view to optimizing our limited land resources and ensuring their sustainability. Despite occasional debates on the matter, successive governments seem to have neglected proactive measures concerning “l’aménagement du territoire”. Are vested interests obstructing the implementation of appropriate actions?

I have been canvassing for this issue on several occasions in Parliament, namely during my intervention on the Town Planner’s Council Bill and through several parliamentary questions on the delay encountered by this government for the preparation of National Land Development Strategy, which is now way obsolete in as much as it’s supposed to me of a maximum of 10 years of age and it’s now 20. I do believe that this persistence of mine and my almost weekly parliamentary questions on the housing sector, which I follow passionately as former officer in charge of the Housing Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Lands and former Managing Director of the NDHC, has earned me a second portfolio at the Labour Party, that of Housing and Land Administration in addition with Environment, which I follow together with the Hon. David.

* Port Louis’ location and disordered town planning may have exacerbated the capital’s vulnerability to climatic hazards, particularly floods. We understand that many residents are considering migrating to other urban areas or returning to their villages. What do you think the future holds for Port Louis?

Port Louis became the capital city of Mauritius because it had all the necessary attributes to be so. However irresponsible town planning and management has rendered it vulnerable in many ways.

I started ringing the alarm bell when I initiated a petition during my first mandate against this government’s action



to convert green spaces with tarmac for parking purposes at the Champ de Mars. Reducing green spaces has made the situation worse. The passage of the metro line at ground level in the Caudan area has also made Port Louis more flood prone notwithstanding the investments in drain infrastructure being made upstream.

Not taking any action on human intervention in Soreze that had clogged the cut off drain there leading to massive destruction of road infrastructure is deemed criminal. I have written officially to the Municipal City Council of Port Louis immediately after the passage of cyclone Belal. I wonder what action has been taken. And then there are basic things that are not being done, that is cleaning, clearing and maintenance of the vital drainage network and waterways.

* Roshi Bhadain’s Heritage City project, advertised in 2016, ultimately failed for reasons that may not to this day be entirely clear. However, in hindsight, one could argue that the idea itself had merit. What are your thoughts on this?

I must say that I had canvassed against this project by organising a colloquium at the Port Louis Gymkhana which was attended by the leadership of the Mauritius Labour Party and some 1500 people. We were all against it.

The project subsequently fell apart in unclear circumstances as you mentioned. It proved us right on all counts. There were major sunk costs accrued to taxpayers.

* We understand that you and Ajay Gunness have taken over from where Xavier Duval left off in drafting the electoral manifesto for the Opposition alliance. Regarding the environment, significant concerns include the proliferation of smart cities, which could be exacerbating the island’s concrete sprawl, and the limited progress made in transitioning to renewable energy in the energy sector. What actions do you believe are necessary to address these issues?

It’s a huge responsibility indeed. We were being told all along that the alliance that we had was wasting a lot of time on discussing the modalities of the alliance and not enough on the manifesto per se, which is a major expectation from the population wanting a major change in the administration of the affairs of the country.

Now that there is more stability in our alliance, we are focusing on its preparation. Already I can tell you that there will be some announcements of the 1st of May rally in Port Louis for which I extend a warm invitation to one and all.

World's largest military spenders in 2023: US, China, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia

Global military spending reached \$2,443 billion in 2023, marking a significant 6.8 per cent increase from the previous year and the most significant year-on-year rise since 2009, according to new data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The average military spending per person was the highest since 1990, at \$306.

The surge in military spending can be attributed largely to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and rising tensions in regions like Asia, Oceania and the Middle East, reports Hindustan Times.

SIPRI report on global military spending

- In 2023, total military expenditure accounted for 2.3 per cent of the global gross domestic product (GDP), reflecting the significant financial resources allocated to defence worldwide.

- The world's five largest military spenders in 2023 were the United States, China, Russia, India, and Saudi Arabia, collectively constituting 61 per cent of global military spending.

- Russia's military spending surged by 24 per cent in 2023, reaching an estimated \$109 billion, equivalent to 5.9 per cent of Russia's GDP.

- Ukraine emerged as the eighth largest military spender in 2023, increasing its defence expenditure by 51 per cent to \$64.8 billion, accounting for 37 per cent of



its GDP.

- Military expenditure by NATO member states totalled \$1341 billion in 2023, representing Israeli military intelligence chief resigns over October 7 Hamas attack

Top 10 countries with highest military spending in 2023

1. United States: \$916 billion
2. China: \$296 billion (estimated)
3. Russia: \$109 billion (estimated)
4. India: \$83.6 billion
5. Saudi Arabia: \$ 75.8 billion (estimated)
6. United Kingdom: \$74.9 billion
7. Germany: \$66.8 billion
8. Ukraine: \$64.8 billion
9. France: \$61.3 billion

readiness of the armed forces, particularly amidst ongoing tensions with neighbouring countries like China and Pakistan.

During the same period, Pakistan's military spending dropped to \$8.5 billion in 2023, a decrease of \$13 billion, relegating it to the 30th position globally. However, China's military expenditure grew by \$6 billion, allowing it to retain its second position.

- Despite the rise in overall spending, capital outlays for military procurement remained relatively consistent, accounting for around 22 per cent of the budget in 2023, the report added.

- Notably, a significant portion of these procurement funds, approximately 75 per cent, was allocated to domestically produced equipment, marking the highest level ever recorded and a notable increase from the previous year.

10. Japan: \$50.32 billion

'India spent the highest ever on procuring Made-in-India arms'

- India ranked fourth globally in military expenditure in 2023, totalling \$83.6 billion, marking a 4.2 per cent increase from 2022 and a substantial 44 per cent rise from 2014.

- The surge in India's military spending was primarily due to escalating personnel and operations costs, comprising nearly 80 per cent of the total military budget for 2023, the report said.

- According to the report, this increase aligns with the government's focus on enhancing the operational

UK parliament passes Rwanda asylum law as Sunak vows flights will start in weeks

The House of Lords had long refused to back the divisive legislation without additional safeguards, but eventually relented.

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak promised on Monday to start sending asylum seekers to Rwanda within 10 to 12 weeks as the upper house of parliament finally passed required legislation, delayed for weeks by attempts to alter the plan.

Sunak said the government had booked commercial charter planes and trained staff to take migrants to Rwanda, a policy he hopes will boost his Conservative Party's flagging fortunes before an election later this year, reports Reuters.

The House of Lords had long refused to back the divisive legislation without additional safeguards, but eventually relented after Sunak said the government would force parliament to sit as late into Monday night as necessary to get it passed.

"No ifs, no buts. These flights are going to Rwanda," Sunak told a news conference earlier on Monday.

Tens of thousands of migrants - many fleeing wars and poverty in Africa, the Middle East and Asia - have reached Britain in recent years by crossing the English Channel in small boats on risky journeys organised by people-smuggling



People believed to be migrants walk in Dungeness, Britain on August 16, 2023. Pic - Reuters

gangs.

Stopping the flow is a priority for the government, but critics say the plan to deport people to Rwanda rather than handle asylum seekers at home is inhumane. They cite concerns about the East African country's own human rights record and the risk asylum seekers may be sent back to countries where they face danger.

Sunak's new law states some existing UK human rights statutes will not apply to the scheme and Rwanda must be treated by British judges as a safe destination, in a bid to override a Supreme Court ruling which declared the scheme unlawful.

It also limits individuals' options for an appeal to only exceptional cases.

Other European countries, including Austria and Germany, are also looking at agreements to process asylum seekers abroad.

Mark Zuckerberg reveals whether he would have sold Facebook if offered \$5T: 'I did some analysis...'

Reports in 2006 claimed that Yahoo came up with a \$900 million offer after Mark Zuckerberg got rebuffed after countering Viacom's \$750 million offer for Facebook. The deal, however, did not go through. At present, Facebook (Meta Platforms Inc.) has a market cap of \$1.22 trillion.

Zuckerberg has now opened up about his thought process when the deals were offered. He also revealed whether he would have sold the tech giant for \$5 trillion instead of \$1 billion.

'I didn't really have the financial sophistication'

In an interview, podcaster Dwarkesh Patel told Zuckerberg that he did not sell Facebook for \$1 billion in 2006, "but presumably there's some amount you would have sold for." "Did you write down in your head like 'I think the actual valuation of Facebook at the time is this and they're not actually getting the valuation right?' If they'd offered you \$5 trillion, of course you would have sold. So how did you think about that choice?" Patel asked.

Zuckerberg said that at the time, he wasn't "sophisticated enough to do that analysis." He also said that there were people who made arguments for and against the deals at the time. "It was very far ahead of where we were at the time. I



Mark Zuckerberg. Pic - ET Telecom

didn't really have the financial sophistication to really engage with that kind of debate," he said.

The Meta CEO said that he believed in what he was doing. The analysis he did revolved around personal questions and about what he would do if they sold Facebook. He thought that even if he did sell it, he would soon build another similar tech giant. Therefore, there was no point selling it.

"I did some analysis like 'what would I do if I wasn't doing this?'" he said. "So I think if I sold this company, I'd just go build another company like this and I kind of like the one I have. So why?"

* Contd on page 12

Russia warns of direct clash with West over Ukraine military aid

Russia said on Monday that U.S., British and French military support for Ukraine has pushed the world to the brink of a direct clash between the world's biggest nuclear powers that could end in catastrophe.

President Vladimir Putin's 2022 invasion of Ukraine has touched off the worst breakdown in relations between Russia and the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, according to Russian and U.S. diplomats, reports Reuters.

Just two days after U.S. lawmakers approved billions of dollars in additional military aid to Ukraine, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the United States and NATO were obsessed with the idea of inflicting "strategic defeat" on Russia.

Lavrov said Western support for Ukraine was putting the United States and its allies on the verge of a direct military clash with Russia.

"The Westerners are teetering dangerously on the brink of a direct military clash between nuclear powers, which is fraught with catastrophic consequences," Lavrov told a Moscow conference on non-proliferation.

"Of particular concern is the fact that it is the 'troika' of Western nuclear states that are among the key sponsors of the criminal Kyiv regime, the main initiators of various provocative steps. We see serious strategic risks in this, leading to an increase in the level of nuclear danger."

Since the war began, Russia has repeatedly warned of rising nuclear risks - warnings which the United States says it has to take seriously, though U.S. officials say they



Ukrainian troops on a road between Iziom and Lyman. Kyiv's forces have taken back dozens of towns in regions in the south and east. Pic - AP

have seen no change in Russian nuclear posture.

Putin casts the war as part of a centuries-old battle with a decadent West which he says humiliated Russia after the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 by enlarging NATO and encroaching on what Moscow considers to be Russia's historical sphere of influence.

Ukraine and its Western backers say the war is an imperial-style land grab by a corrupt dictatorship that will lead Russia into a strategic dead-end. Western leaders have vowed to work for a defeat of Russian forces in Ukraine, while ruling out any deployment of NATO personnel there.

Hot war?

As relations have deteriorated, Russia and the United States have both voiced regret about the disintegration of the web of arms-control treaties which sought to slow the Cold War arms race and reduce the risk of nuclear war.

Russia and the United States are by far the world's biggest nuclear powers, holding more than 10,600 of the world's 12,100 nuclear warheads. China has the third largest nuclear arsenal, followed by France and Britain.

Lavrov said that given the current crisis there was no basis for dialogue with the United States on arms control.

He accused the West of trying to impose restrictions on the nuclear arsenals of Russia and China while developing non-nuclear capabilities in an effort to achieve unilateral military superiority.

Lavrov said the West was building a global missile defence system which could decapitate a rival, basing nuclear weapons in Europe, basing medium- and shorter-range missiles in regions around the world and preparing to deploy weapons in space.

In February, Putin said Russia opposed the deployment of nuclear weapons in space, and his defence minister denied Washington's accusations that Russia was developing a nuclear capability for space.

The United States says it is developing its defence capabilities in accordance with international agreements. It says it wants only the peaceful use of outer space and that its missile defence plans are defensive.



Alappuzha: Ducks being killed en masse by the Animal Husbandry Department, following detection of avian influenza birdflu among ducks at four places, in Alappuzha district of Kerala. Pic - PTI

Disease X: Scientists warn next pandemic could be triggered by virus of 'deadly infectious illness'

The World Health Organization (WHO) warns that seasonal flu isn't just a winter nuisance. Every year, flu affects an estimated 1 billion people worldwide, with millions more suffering from severe complications. Even worse, it claims hundreds of thousands of lives annually. The WHO emphasises the dangers of new flu strains, for which people have no immunity, urging us to take influenza seriously, reports Hindustan Times.

Cologne University's Jon Salmanton-García's research backs up this concern. His research indicates that influenza is the biggest threat to the upcoming worldwide pandemic because of its continual evolution and mutation properties. "Each winter influenza appears, you could describe these

outbreaks as little pandemics. They are more or less controlled because the different strains that cause them are not virulent enough – but that will not necessarily be the case forever." He said as cited by the Guardian.

Scientists warn of Disease X

The survey results will be announced at the ESCMID congress next weekend. The unidentified "DiseaseX" virus is seen as the next most likely pandemic-causing virus, after influenza, according to experts. Experts believe a new strain of this virus could emerge 'out of the blue' just like Covid-19, which claimed the lives of millions across the globe and still remains a threat.

These concerning details come on the heels of the World Health Organization raising concerns about the alarming spread of the H5N1 strain of influenza spreading rapidly in parts of the US. The organisation has warned of an "unprecedented surge" in the number of cases.

"This appears to be 100 times worse than Covid, or it could be if it mutates and maintains its high case fatality rate. Once it's mutated to infect humans, we can only hope that the [fatality rate] drops." John Fulton a pharmaceutical company consultant, said in a statement earlier.

According to WHO records, the data highlights that since 2003, 52 out of every 100 patients infected with the H5N1 virus have died, resulting in a fatality rate exceeding 50 percent. This rate is comparatively much higher than the current COVID-19 fatality rate, which stands at 0.1 percent.

White House fact checks Joe Biden: The President's uncle wasn't eaten by cannibals...'

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre confirmed on Thursday that President Joe Biden's maternal uncle, Ambrose Finnegan, died during World War II when his plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean and was not eaten by cannibals.

The House press secretary said the president feels "incredibly proud" of his uncle's service in uniform. "You saw the president, he was incredibly proud of his uncle's service in uniform. You saw him at the War Memorial. It was incredibly emotional and important to him," she said.

Jean-Pierre declined to delve further into the matter, citing the presidential plane's imminent arrival in Philadelphia, where Biden was scheduled for campaign visits, reports Hindustan Times.

Biden's provably false personal anecdotes

During recent campaign visits to Pennsylvania Biden claimed that New Guinea natives had consumed his uncle. "He got shot down in an area where there were a lot of cannibals at the time. They never recovered his body, but the government went

back when I went down there and they checked and found some parts of the plane," he stated.

Later, in Pittsburgh, Biden reiterated that Finnegan "got shot down in New Guinea, and they never found the body because there used to be — there were a lot of cannibals, for real, in that part of New Guinea."

The official account of Finnegan's death provided by the US military contradicts Biden's narrative.

According to the Pentagon's Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Finnegan's plane crashed into the ocean off the coast of New Guinea due to engine failure.

Biden's tendency to recount personal anecdotes with dubious accuracy or without supporting documentation is not new. Throughout his political career, he has often used such stories to connect with his audience, including Pennsylvania voters who could play a crucial role in his potential bid for a second term against former President Donald Trump.

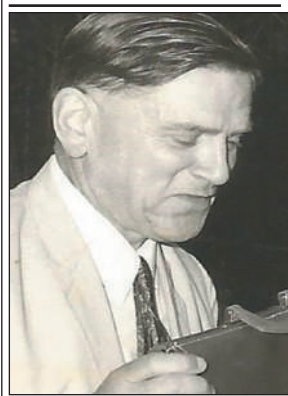
Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 269

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 9 October, 1959

● *Justice is the bread of the nation; it is always hungry for it. — François-René de Chateaubriand*

Peter Ibbotson

Foodcrop Production

Would Mauritius' economy best be served by continuing as now — increasing sugar production and importing almost all foodstuffs; or by limiting sugar production and thus increasing the area of land potentially available for foodcrops?

A prominent member of the British Labour Party's National Executive is famed for his ability to find two difficulties for any solution. I was reminded of him when reading the annual report

of the Chamber of Agriculture for 1958-59. "The Chamber is at present collecting information from all sugar estates with factories with a view to assessing the extent of foodcrop cultivation, the possibilities of further development, and also the difficulties encountered both in the growing and in the marketing of such crops."

It is well known that Mauritius imports nearly all her food requirements. The Department of Agriculture has for many years been trying to improve the local dairy cattle, so that people can have more milk and butter and cheese, and of a higher quality; and increased milk production at home would reduce the island's dependence on imported dairy produce, and so save foreign currency. Similarly, the more food produced at home, the less would have to be imported; again, saving foreign currency and releasing more funds for internal investment, so tending to increase self-dependence.

But the Chamber of Agriculture talks of the "difficulties" which may inhibit the full implementation of this laudable policy. Not only the "difficulties" of growing, but the "difficulties" in marketing when once the crops have been grown.

Let us look at some figures. In 1950, there were 11,456 arpents under foodcrops; they produced 15,053 tons of foodcrops, mainly rice, potatoes, sweet potatoes, groundnuts, arouilles, manioc and maize. The next year, 1951, the area under foodcrops fell to 8,584 arpents; the deficiency of 3,000 arpents being due to encroachment by sugar and aloe producers. However, increased production per arpent meant that the tonnage of foodcrops produced fell only to 14,077 tons. The acreage under foodcrops fell by another 1,000 arpents in 1952; of the yield, the annual report for Mauritius for 1952 says that "yields were good... vegetable growers dispose of their produce with good ease at very remunerative prices."

In 1953, the area under foodcrops slumped to 8,328 arpents, producing about 15,000 tons of marketable produce, including 3,000 tons of maize, 5,000 tons of potatoes, but only 50 tons of rice as well as quantities of sweet potatoes, manioc, groundnuts, and eddoes. In 1954 about 8,000 arpents produced 16,000 tons of foodcrops, chiefly maize, potatoes, and vegetables. By 1957, the acreage had gone up again, to 9,500 arpents; and high prices were being realised for potatoes; a solution to the problem of suitable seed would make pota-

toes even more important as a foodcrop.

However, the figures I have just quoted for 1957, from the annual report on Mauritius, do not tally with those given in the Chamber of Agriculture's annual report for 1958-59. There we read that the area under foodcrops actually harvested was only 4,158 arpents in 1956-57, and less than that at 3,130 arpents in 1957-58. Production was fairly constant, however; 8,675 tons in 1956-57 and 8,490 tons in 1957-58. It was, however, a jump, in the production of manioc per arpent (4,608 kilos per arpent to 9,300 kilos per arpent) which helped to hold total production fairly steady: for the increase in tonnage per arpent for maize, arouilles, Irish potatoes and groundnuts was either negligible or absent.



These production figures are deplorable. In a country such as Mauritius, there should be far more arpents under foodcrops; there should be a far higher home-grown production of foodcrops. From 1948-49 to 1956-57 we have seen foodcrop plantations dwindle from 18,036 acres to a mere 4,338 acres; we have seen production tumble from 19,673 tons to 8,675 tons. Simple calculation shows that during the period in question, production per acre has roughly doubled; but suppose the same area as in 1948-49 was now under foodcrops. With the increased production per acre which has been achieved, the total food production would have been over 38,000 tons. Every potato consumed in Mauritius could be grown at home; every bit of maize and maize flour could be grown and produced at home.

Small planters must be encouraged to grow foodcrops instead of sugar. The estates must play their part in growing more foodcrops. The Chamber of Agriculture must stop doing its disservice to progress in Mauritius by talking of the "difficulties" in foodcrop production. It must take a positive instead of a negative

stand with regard to food production. What, for example, is the Chamber doing to encourage the sugar producers to grow food in the *entre-lignes*? This policy is followed in Barbados, whereas in Mauritius there is a limited land area and a fast-growing population dependent economically on the one crop-sugar. Moreover, in Barbados the practice of growing food between the lines of canes has not had the result which was half-feared: reducing the yield of sugar. On the contrary, I understand that foodcrops in the inter-lines has led to increased yields of sugar!

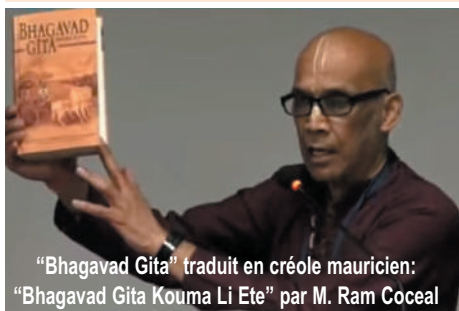
Or the Chamber should get to work on the problem of the optimum sugar production for Mauritius. The remarks in its report on world sugar conditions suggest that it might well be wise to set an upward limit to sugar production in Mauritius. Say, 650,000 tons, a figure which is not, in the light of modern developments of technique, by any means starry-eyed and optimistic. Land not required to achieve this target would be planted with foodcrops. As improved techniques led to still higher production per arpent, still more land could be released for foodcrops. It would be in the interest of the small growers, the metayers, the peasant-proprietors, to abandon their sugar crops with their low yields and poor canes and turn to vegetables and other foodcrops. Why does not the Chamber of Agriculture advance such a policy? Why does it not enquire into the economics of the Mauritius sugar-growing industry?

Why, in short, does not the Chamber undertake as a *public duty and service* a full-scale enquiry the results of which would (for a change) benefit the public as a whole instead of merely the handful of members of the Chamber?

The whole impression conveyed by the Chamber's report is one of smug complacency. "We have produced sugar for years, and we intend to go on producing sugar for years." — that is the tone underlying the Chamber's report. The secondary industries get a look-in; but only lukewarmly. Any development must "tend to supplement and not to replace any part" of the island's sugar production. This statement is made in the face of earlier remarks about the world sugar market which tend to suggest that sugar may be being over-produced. If there is no danger of overproduction, may we have such a firm assurance from the Chamber?

On the other hand, if there is such a danger, why does the Chamber insist that we must not replace any part of our sugar production with other production - vegetables, for example? I make no apology for suggesting once again that a competent economist ought to study whether Mauritius' economy would best be served by continuing as now — increasing sugar production and importing almost all foodstuffs; or by limiting sugar production and thus increasing the area of land potentially available for foodcrops.

Lancement de Livre



«Bhagavad Gita» traduit en créole mauricien: «Bhagavad Gita Kouma Li Ete» par M. Ram Coceal

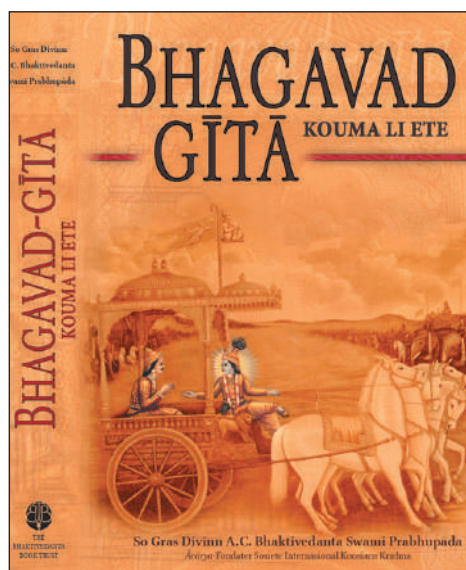
Le texte sacré de l'hindouisme, le «Bhagavad Gita» a été traduit en kreol mauricien sous le titre «Bhagavad Gita Kouma Li Ete» (BGKLE) par un mauricien établi à Londres, M. Ram Coceal, un disciple de la «International Society for Krishna Consciousness» (ISKON), une organisation fondée par sa grâce divine A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. L'ouvrage en kreol a été lancé sous l'égide de «The Bhaktivedanta Book Trust Africa», le vendredi 19 avril 2024 lors d'une fonction officielle en présence du Président de la République et d'autres personnalités.

Le BGKLE est la 61ème traduction dans une langue étrangère du texte original en sanskrit. Le texte en sanskrit fut traduit en anglais par le swami Prabhupada (*Bhagavad Gita As It Is*) en 1971. Le texte original en sanskrit a déjà été traduit dans 60 autres langues. Le traducteur du BGKLE a pris

Le «Bhagavad Gita» traduit en kreol

quatre ans pour compiler cet ouvrage de 788 pages en utilisant la lexicographie officielle du kreol mauricien établie par l'Académie du Kreol Mauricien et le Diksoner Monoleng du professeur Arnaud Carpooran. Le traducteur du BGKLE a utilisé plusieurs techniques pour garder la fluidité du texte original et préserver sa spiritualité. Le texte en kreol abonde de citations en sanskrit et en hindi.

Le BGKLE n'est pas destiné à un indivi-



La publication du BGKLE en kreol vise les objectifs suivants:

1. Aider à propager la «conscience de Krishna».
2. Aider à spiritualiser la société.
3. Apporter la compréhension de ce qu'il faut faire ou ne pas faire dans la vie.
4. Permettre la prise de conscience de ce qu'on est en comparaison avec le Tout-Complet.
5. Encourager la krishnaisation de la société.
6. Faciliter l'accès d'autrui à la «conscience de Krishna».
7. Sortir des préjugés linguistiques, culturels et religieux.
8. Réduire, éliminer ou faire disparaître la négativité, le tribalisme ou le communalisme.
9. Diminuer ou faire disparaître l'arrogance, la violence, l'hypocrisie, l'égoïsme et la haine.
10. Réveiller la conscience dormante à travers la langue maternelle.

du, une organisation ou une communauté en particulier, mais à toutes les entités de la société. Le Bhagavad Gita (BG) est universellement reconnu comme la perle de la sagesse spirituelle de l'Inde. Le BG raconte un dialogue entre le sage Sri Krishna et son

dévoit Arjun durant la guerre de Mahabharata, laquelle opposa deux groupes de cousins de la famille royale (Kaurava et Pandavas) pour le contrôle du royaume de Hastinapura.

Le BG a 700 versets en 18 chapitres qui constituent un guide sur la science de l'autoréalisation spirituelle. C'est un texte considéré comme étant incomparable sur la nature essentielle de l'être humain, son environnement et son rapport avec Dieu. Le texte en anglais du swami Prabhupada, un promoteur de la philosophie védique dans la lignée des gourous depuis Sri Krishna lui-même, transmet le message profond du BG sans la moindre contamination ou sans le moindre changement émanant d'une motivation personnelle.

Dans une note d'appréciation dans le BGKLE, le Dr Vedika Hurdoyal-Chekori, professeur associé et directeur de l'école d'études d'indologie à l'Institut Mahatma Gandhi (MGI), salue la traduction du texte sacré comme un service aux Mauriciens et à la diaspora mauricienne dans le monde. Elle écrit que le BGKLE, en étant accessible à tous les Mauriciens, renforce la paix, le respect, l'interculturalité et la fraternité universelle.

P. N.

Obituary

Dr Amrit Rajkomar passed away on 27 February 2024 after unfortunately suffering from a rather unusual recurrence of a viral infection that he had bravely fought and recovered from about six years prior. He bore this illness, as he had done before when he faced a couple of other life-threatening medical problems too, with great courage for several weeks before the untimely end came.

Untimely because, at 76 years, he was still in good health otherwise and continuing to do what he was professionally trained to do: treating children with the utmost care and compassion, having trained in paediatrics at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi where he had also obtained his MBBS degree in 1973. On his return, he joined the Ministry of Health, and retired in 2007. Coming from Dagotiere, he had proceeded to AIIMS in 1968 after completing his secondary schooling at the Royal College Curepipe, where his extra-curricular activities included being member of the St John's Ambulance, Photography Society, and the Indian Cultural Society. That's where we first met and became friends until I myself left for my own studies in 1965.

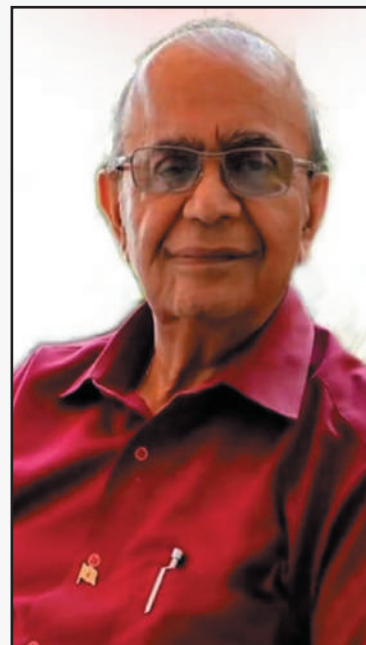
But we were destined to journey to-gether more often: he attended my wedding in New Delhi in 1971, when I was do-ing my internship at the Safdarjung Hospital across the road from AIIMS where he then was a student and was taught by my father-in-law who was Associate Professor of Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases there. In the early 1980s he was elected President of the Government Medical and Dental Officers' Association and I served with him as member of the Executive Committee. Our paths again converged when we were Consultants at Jeetoo Hospital, in the 1990s. Over the past several years we used to meet during Continuing Medical Education sessions organized by the Mauritius Medical

Dr Amrit Bhawan Rajkomar - Consultant Paediatrician

Association.

Our relationship deepened as we became family friends, although because of our separate professional commitments and personal circumstances we couldn't meet as often as we wished or ought to have – always, alas, an afterthought! But he was always there when needed, and thus it was that not only did he make all the arrangements but both he and his wife, herself a trained nurse, readily agreed to accompany me when I had to undergo cardiac bypass surgery at Narayana Hospital in Bangaluru.

That is where he had been regularly taking children for surgery, both when he was President of SACIM – Society for Aid to Children Inoperable in Mauritius – for several years, but even afterwards when he had stepped down from that position. That had also given us occasions to interact: he would re-request me to assess and report on children prior to their being sent abroad, as had also done before him the founder of SACIM, Dr Julia Maigrot. I and other colleagues also were only too willing to volunteer our support. He also organised medical care in prestigious centres in South Africa and Australia for deserving children,



besides serving benevolently many NGOs and crèches across the island.

Passionate about sports, particularly Formula One driving, in his teens he was also table-tennis champion of the Moka district.

Undoubtedly what kept him going with dedication was his engagement with the Brahma Kumaris, an organisation in which he and his whole family – three daughters and one son (Amrish, a surgeon in Melbourne Australia) – were also deeply involved. They all attended regularly for meditation and other activities, and at the Shraddhanjali held on the 40th day of his passing, the expressions of affection, thanks, gratitude, and respect for him from family, relatives and friends were overwhelming.

For me, with his gentleness, kindness, compassion, and soft touch, he couldn't have been anything else but a paediatrician. He never ceased to learn and update himself so

as to serve his patients better – but then he also followed up quite a few of them until their adolescent years, and why, even until adulthood because often his advice as confidante was still needed, as he had told me once.

He richly deserved being decorated by the Republic of Mauritius with the award of the PDSM, President's Distinguished Service Medal in 2008.

Shubh sadgati to his atman. Om Shanti.

RNG

South Africa's youth are a generation lost under democracy – study



Young men waiting to be offered casual jobs in Hermanus, Western Cape, South Africa. shutterstock

● Cont. from page 2

Youth are meant to be a generation enjoying a democratic dividend and contributing to a demographic dividend. Neither appears true. In terms of how much potential South Africa has squandered, they represent an entire generation of opportunity lost to the country.

Marginalised but not lost

In the 1980s and early 1990s, youth had taken on adult roles in political struggles. As ever, they demonstrated their instrumental value to the adults controlling violence on various sides. Those same adults and the media spoke of a “lost generation” – specifically, black, male, urban youth.

For the South African Council of Churches and Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference involved in organising the youth in the 1990-94 interregnum through their NGO, the Joint Enrichment Project, the lost generation discourse was anathema. Firstly, because in their view no-one is ever “lost” in spiritual terms; and secondly because of the stigmatising and policy implications of writing off young (black) people entirely.

This gave rise to the “marginalised youth” movement, which sought to understand youth on their own terms, to identify those at risk, those who were doing fine, and those who were pushed right to the margins of society – and design policy responses accordingly.

Marginalisation over time

In 1993, after first presenting to assembled youth organisations in 1992, we released the first iteration of the marginalisation index, ‘Growing up Tough’. It comprised 12 dimensions of concern and 32 variables. These included personal experiences of abuse, recidivism, exposure to violence, family status, attitudes to race, self-image, health, political alienation, social involvement, employment status, generational conflict and fatalism.

Despite the belief of our church sponsors that no-one is ever truly “lost”, that became the central category of the index. In all, 5% of respondents scored high on all, or

most, of the indicators in the 12 dimensions. “We use the term ‘lost’ with care”, we wrote at the time, but some 500,000 people had “slipped through, or been shoved through, the social net entirely”.

We found that a quarter of youth were “fine” – they only registered positive outcomes on the index. Four in ten were “at risk”: they were showing signs of concern on a few dimensions in the index. “Marginalised” youth were most in need of urgent intervention. They comprised more than a quarter (27%) of the 1992 sample and scored high on many of the 12 dimensions of concern. How to keep them from slipping further should have been a key policy challenge for the democratic period.

The index was changed after 1994, since some indicators were specific to the transition South Africa was going through and others, such as HIV and AIDS, had barely featured in the early iteration of the index.

It was rerun in 2000 (only on black African youth), and results suggested their status was improving: no respondent scored high on more than eight of the 12 areas of concern.

In other words, eight years after the first measurement, where 5% of youth appeared “lost”, no urban black African youth in 2000 fell into the “lost” category. Four in

ten (44%) respondents were “at risk”, scoring high on two or three areas of concern; another 33% scored high on slightly less than half the areas of concern. It seemed that progress was being made.

Most of the items in the index were later used by the Gauteng City Region Observatory in its early Quality of Life survey, allowing analysis of marginalisation across the entire Gauteng province population.

The total of those who are “fine” (using the 2018 data) fell to 16% of youth, from a high of 25% in 1992. At the other extreme, we found 5% of Gauteng youth were again “lost”. The trend suggested that 2000 was a high point. After that, young respondents were doing less and less well, both objec-

tively and subjectively.

Behind the overall data is a predictable racialisation. For example, in the 2018 analysis, while a third of white (33.3%) and Indian (34.8%) youth were “fine”, this was true for only 14.1% of African and 22.1% of coloured youth. This pattern has remained true since the index began in 1992. In 2018, to be young, black and male in Gauteng was to have the highest likelihood of being marginalised. Only 0.3% of white youth (and 0.5% of Indian youth) showed signs of high marginalisation.

Yet, despite having failed young people, the governing ANC's 2024 election manifesto only manages anodyne promises to “create opportunities” for young people, suggesting South Africa will continue to waste the massive resource represented by our youth.

David Everatt, Professor of Urban Governance, University of the Witwatersrand

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Mauritius Times



L'escalade des tensions nucléaires: une course dangereuse vers l'inconnu

☞ Suite de la page 5

Poutine a désormais explicitement menacé de recourir à l'utilisation d'armes nucléaires trois fois depuis le lancement de l'invasion de l'Ukraine en 2022. Et il a récemment ordonné que des armes tactiques soient stationnées en Biélorussie. Ses stratèges voient clairement la menace d'une confrontation nucléaire comme un moyen de dissuasion réaliste contre l'intervention de l'OTAN en Ukraine.

Le tabou nucléaire

Le comportement de Poutine est emblématique d'un changement mondial d'attitude à l'égard du tabou nucléaire. D'autres dirigeants, parmi eux l'ancien président américain Donald Trump et Kim Jong-un de la Corée du Nord, ont ramené la guerre nucléaire à la table comme une stratégie viable au lieu d'une dissuasion.

Depuis le début de ce siècle, le monde a vu la résurgence du populisme et du nationalisme religieux, la quasi-ubiquité de la technologie numérique et une augmentation de la prolifération et des bras de fer nucléaires.

Ces facteurs rendent notre situation actuelle plus complexe que la guerre froide. Un nouveau nexus de la Route de la soie est apparu entre la Chine, la Russie, l'Iran, Israël et la Corée du Nord depuis les guerres en Ukraine et à Gaza. Ce réseau de relations est façonné par des dynamiques régionales, des intérêts stratégiques et des changements de pouvoir mondiaux qui influencent la sécurité et la prolifération des armes mondiales.

La Chine et la Russie ont récemment développé des liens stratégiques plus forts. Mais les tensions persistent le long des frontières communes - et des documents classifiés fraîchement divulgués révèlent la peur de la Russie d'une



Des armes ont été saisies à l'Iran par les Etats-Unis et envoyées à l'armée ukrainienne.
P - S.Krasilnikov/SPU/SIPA / SIPA

attaque nucléaire chinoise. La Chine possède 500 têtes nucléaires actives et étend son arsenal nucléaire. Pékin tire également des leçons de la Russie et d'Israël sur la façon dont un futur conflit taiwanais pourrait se dérouler.

Une alliance inattendue est née entre la Corée du Nord et la Russie. Pyongyang a fourni des armes à la Russie depuis 2023 en violation des sanctions du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU et cherche à tirer parti de ce soutien pour être reconnu en tant qu'État nucléaire.

En 2019, le dirigeant nord-coréen Kim Jong-un a averti son peuple de se préparer à la guerre avec les États-Unis d'ici 2024. Un document militaire divulgué a confirmé cela, affirmant que "le Cher Commandant Suprême dominera le monde avec les armes nucléaires". Le 22 avril, Pyongyang a affirmé avoir testé un

nouveau système de commandement et de contrôle lors d'un exercice simulé de contre-attaque nucléaire.

La Corée du Sud a réagi en développant ses propres missiles balistiques lancés par sous-marin (SLBM) en 2022 et est le seul État-nation à posséder des SLBM sans tête nucléaire. En février 2023, le leader du Parti du pouvoir populaire, Chung Jin-suk, a soutenu que la Corée du Sud avait besoin d'armes nucléaires. Mais cette stratégie pourrait également rendre la Corée du Sud plus vulnérable aux attaques de la Corée du Nord, hostile envers cette première.

L'Iran et la Russie coopèrent dans le domaine nucléaire. Le programme d'armes nucléaires de l'Iran a été limité en vertu du Plan d'action global conjoint de 2015. Mais Trump a retiré les États-Unis du traité en 2018 et des preuves solides

(niées par l'Iran) montrent qu'il a revigoré son programme d'armes.

Israël a ciblé l'Iran avec des assassinats, des cyber attaques, des attaques de drones et des raids de commandos pour détruire son programme nucléaire naissant, ajoutant aux tensions existantes au Moyen-Orient. L'Arabie saoudite n'a pas d'armes nucléaires, mais des responsables ont déclaré qu'ils en acquerront si leur rival régional, l'Iran, devient nucléaire.

Une nouvelle course aux armements

L'ONU a déclaré qu'une course aux armements quantitative semblait imminente. La dernière revue de la posture nucléaire des États-Unis a révélé un plan d'une valeur de 1,5 billions de dollars pour moderniser la capacité nucléaire américaine et créer une "éponge nucléaire" de 450 silos nucléaires pour absorber une future attaque russe.

Maintenant, le Royaume-Uni a annoncé qu'il augmenterait son budget de la défense à 2,5 % du PIB pour le mettre sur un "pied de guerre". Le gouvernement a réaffirmé son engagement envers son arsenal nucléaire, malgré le fait que l'ambassadeur britannique aux Nations unies, James Kariuki, ait déclaré: "La guerre nucléaire ne peut pas être gagnée et ne doit pas être menée" lors d'une récente réunion du Conseil de sécurité.

La menace d'une course aux armements nucléaires s'intensifie alors que la Russie avertit d'un affrontement potentiel avec les grandes puissances nucléaires. Cette escalade souligne les défis actuels de la sécurité mondiale, alors que les relations entre les nations sont de plus en plus complexes et que de nouvelles alliances émergent. La prolifération nucléaire, associée à des tensions régionales, crée un paysage politique volatile. Alors que les États cherchent à protéger leurs intérêts stratégiques, il est essentiel de prioriser la diplomatie et la coopération internationale pour prévenir une catastrophe mondiale.

A. Bartleby

YOUR STARS

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

Answer the call of adventure with spontaneity. Stay grounded in your values while exploring new horizons. Embrace lessons and remain optimistic.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 12, 16, 19, 30

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Stay disciplined in pursuing realistic goals. Prioritize self-care to avoid burnout. Trust in your abilities and maintain focus on long-term ambitions.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 15, 23, 24, 26

AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

Embrace your uniqueness and connect authentically with others. Stay open-minded and trust

your inner wisdom. Balance social interactions with introspection.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 19, 20, 26, 33, 40

PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Trust your intuition and prioritize emotional well-being. Set boundaries and practice self-care. Trust in the universe's guidance towards your highest good.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 18, 20, 30, 36

ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Your energy is high, propelling you forward with determination. Balance assertiveness with sensitivity towards others. Embrace spontaneity and trust your instincts to make strides towards your goals.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 20, 26, 29, 31, 35

TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Focus on stability in career, finances, and rela-

tionships. Work diligently towards long-term goals and seek support when needed.

Remember to prioritize self-care for success.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 16, 19, 26, 30

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Communication is key. Share your ideas openly and listen actively. Embrace intellectual growth and curiosity in social interactions.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 20, 24, 25, 29, 30

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Prioritize emotional well-being. Nurture yourself and trust your instincts. Set boundaries while remaining open to support from others.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 11, 14, 20, 26

LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

Let your creativity shine and inspire others. Use your leadership skills to motivate and uplift. Remember to enjoy spontaneity and have fun.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 18, 20, 24, 28, 33

VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Stay organized and practical. Celebrate your progress and avoid perfectionism. Balance work with relaxation and self-care.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 11, 18, 26, 27

LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Seek harmony in relationships and personal pursuits. Use diplomatic skills to mediate conflicts. Trust in finding balance within yourself and your surroundings.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 14, 20, 23, 26, 34

SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

Embrace transformation and let go of what no longer serves you. Trust your inner strength and honour your emotions during transitions.

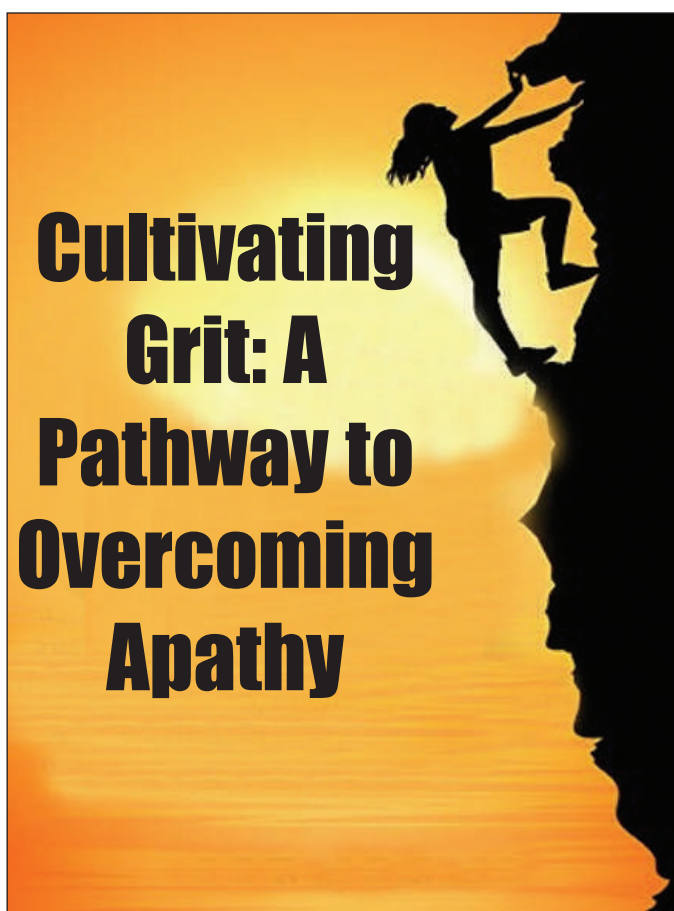
Lucky Numbers: 5, 19, 23, 27, 31, 29

Do you sometimes feel like you just can't be bothered? Would you like to have exercised more, learned a new language, or pursued further education, but the effort seems insurmountable? If so, you're not alone. Many individuals struggle with a lack of grit and self-belief, essential qualities for realizing one's aspirations. However, a recent breakthrough offers hope for those seeking to break free from apathy and embrace a mindset of determination and resilience.

Professor Hermundur Sigmundsson and his team at NTNU's Department of Psychology have been at the forefront of uncovering what drives human performance and how individuals can enhance their capabilities. Through their research, they've identified the crucial role of grit—a combination of passion and perseverance—in overcoming obstacles and achieving success.

In a pilot study involving 38 Norwegian students, Sigmundsson and his colleague, Research Assistant Håvard Hauge, administered a transformative intervention. Participants embarked on a 35 to 40-minute online course titled 'I CAN,' aimed at instilling an empowering attitude of self-belief and determination. Remarkably, after completing the course, the students exhibited a significant increase in grit—a testament to the potential for rapid mindset shifts.

The 'I CAN' course isn't just about instilling confidence; it's about equipping individuals with practical strategies to maintain and reinforce this newfound belief in their abilities. By repeatedly evoking the 'I can' attitude, participants can strengthen the neural pathways



associated with grit, paving the way for long-term resilience and success.

Moreover, this intervention isn't limited to academic settings. Studies have shown that bolstering self-efficacy—the belief in one's ability to achieve goals—can have far-reaching benefits, particularly for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. By empowering individuals to believe in their potential, initiatives like 'I CAN' can help level the playing field and unlock opportunities for those who may face systemic barriers to success.

The implications of this research extend beyond personal achievement; they offer a pathway to societal transformation. As Professor Sigmundsson aptly puts it, "When people develop stronger belief in themselves, it's almost as if a switch is flipped." By scaling up interventions like 'I CAN' and integrating them into educational systems, we have the potential to ignite a cultural shift towards resilience, determination, and empowerment.

While the initial findings are promising, researchers are eager to delve deeper into the efficacy of 'I CAN' on a larger scale. A forthcoming study involving nearly 1000 Year 10 pupils aims to shed further light on the transformative power of this intervention. As we continue to explore the potential of grit-building initiatives, we inch closer to a future where every individual can confidently declare, "I can."



Why don't female crickets chirp?

Only male crickets have wing structures that produce sound, but females are very good at following the signal.

Insects communicate in lots of different ways, for many reasons. Some, such as butterflies and beetles, use color, patterns and other visual cues to attract mates or warn potential predators that they don't taste very good.

Others, like fireflies, use bioluminescence – light that they produce in their bodies – to attract potential mates. Still others send chemical signals to interact with other animals and plants, or to defend against predators.

Insects also use sound to communicate, most often to attract mates. The ways in which they produce sounds can vary a lot, depending on what insect is making the sound.

Ah, there's the rub

Most insects create sound through a behavior called stridulation, which is basically rubbing two body parts against each other to make a noise, like a bow rubbing across a violin string. In all cases, there is a ridged structure on one body part that is rubbed across the surface of another ridged structure on a different body part, producing sound.

Many arthropods – the group that includes insects, spiders, centipedes, millipedes and lobsters – stridulate for a variety of reasons. They may do it to establish territory or as a warning, but most commonly they use it to attract a mate.

Stridulation has been most thoroughly studied in grasshoppers, crickets and katydids, which all are members of an



I feel a song coming on ... Paul Starosta/Stone via Getty images

insect group called orthopterans, meaning "straight wings." Grasshoppers and katydids rub a hind leg against a wing to make their songs; crickets rub one of their wings quickly over the surface of their other wing. People often describe this as singing, but it's really more like playing an instrument.

Among crickets, males are the only ones that make noise because females don't have sound-producing structures on their wings. But the female can hear very well and will come to a male who is signaling to her from some distance away. She also is very good at distinguishing the song of her species from those of other cricket species and zeroing in on the male who is singing to her.

When male crickets sing, they make themselves vulnerable to predators. So they tend to sing from hiding places, such

as tall grasses or cracks in rocks. This is why it can be hard to find a chirping cricket that's inside your house – it's probably tucked into a vent or the corner of an attic, and it will stop singing when humans approach because it feels the vibrations from their footsteps.

Different cricket species sing slightly different songs. You can learn to



recognize them with a little practice, even if you never find the actual crickets. And to know whether a cricket, katydid or grasshopper is singing, look at the time of day. Crickets start to sing beginning at dusk, just as the Sun is going down. Katydid mainly sing late at night when it is totally dark, and grasshoppers sing during the day.

Another insect tune

People in the U.S. Northeast, mid-Atlantic and Midwest will also hear another insect song this spring and summer: cicadas. Two large broods of periodical cicadas, which spend multiyear periods growing underground, will emerge in 2024 to mate. And that will involve a lot of singing.

As with crickets, only male cicadas sing. They make their buzzing and whistling noises using a special structure called a tymbal, which is a membrane on their sides that they vibrate very quickly to produce sound. Think of a drum, but instead of making sound by hitting it on the outside, the surface is vibrated by pulling on it using muscles from the inside.

When many male cicadas sing at once, it can be quite loud. During mass emergences of periodical cicadas, the noise can reach as high as 110-120 decibels – as loud as a jackhammer or a jet engine. If they're in your neighborhood, you'll know.

Floyd W. Shockley
Entomologist and Collections Manager,
Smithsonian Institution

Laughter is the Best Medicine

Me and God

An elderly couple goes to see the husband's doctor for his check-up. After running some tests, the doctor addresses the man, "Well, everything seems to be in reasonably good physical condition, but what about mentally? Are you a good Christian?"

The man responds confidently, "No problem. Me and God, we're good. He takes good care of me."

"Really? How's that?" the doctor inquires.

"Every night when I have to get up to go to the toilet, he turns on the light for me. And then, when I leave, he turns it back off," the man explains.

Upon hearing this, the doctor is slightly baffled and turns to the man's wife, "I'd like to speak to you about your husband's connection with God. He claims that every night when he needs to go to the bathroom, God turns on the light for him and turns it off for him when he leaves. Is this true?"

The wife responds with a smirk, "This old fool, he's peeing in the fridge again."

Psychology class

It was a practical session in the psychology class.

The professor showed a large cage with a male rat in it. The rat was in the middle of the cage.

Then, the professor kept a piece of cake on one side and kept a female rat on the other side.

The male rat ran towards the cake and ate it.

Then, the professor changed the cake and replaced it with some bread.

The male rat ran towards the bread.

This experiment went on with the professor changing the food every time. And, every time, the male rat ran towards the food item and never towards the female rat.

Professor said: This experiment shows that food is the greatest strength and attraction.



Then, one of the students from the back rows said: "Sir, why don't you change the female rat? This one may be his wife!"

* * *

Kiss in the tunnel

A Commanding Officer (CO), a Lieutenant (Lt), an old woman and her young daughter are travelling in a train and during the course of time get themselves introduced to each other and become temporary friends.

The train goes through a tunnel, and it gets completely dark.

Suddenly there is a kissing sound and then a slap.

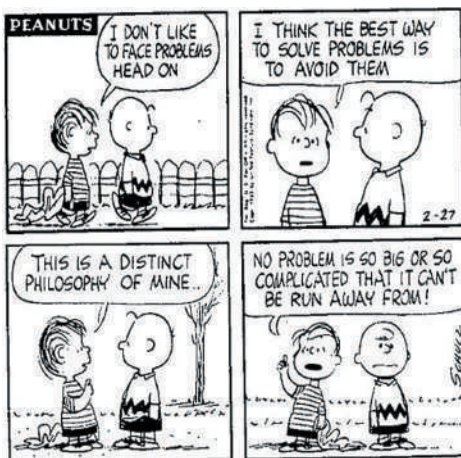
The train comes out of the tunnel.

The women and the Lt are sitting there looking perplexed.

The CO is bending over holding his face, which is red from an apparent slap.

All of them remain diplomatic and nobody says anything.

The old woman is thinking: "These aging Colonels are all crazy after girls. He must have kissed my daughter in the tunnel. Very proper that she slapped him."



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The young girl is thinking: "The CO must have tried to kiss me but kissed my mother instead and got slapped."

The CO is thinking: "Damn it. My Lt must have kissed the young girl. She might have thought it was me and slapped me."

Now guess what the Lt is thinking. Now hold your breath and read what the Lt is thinking.

"If this train goes through another tunnel, I will make another kissing sound and slap my CO again. The rascal keeps harassing me all the time".

* * *

A disgrace to the family

An Irish daughter hadn't been home for over three years.

Upon her return, her father erupted, "Where've ye been all this time? Why no letters or calls? Do ye not grasp the worry ye caused yer mother?"

Tearfully, she confessed, "Dad, I was too ashamed. I became a prostitute."

"Ye what?!" Her father thundered, berating her as a disgrace to their Catholic family.

Resigned, she replied, "Alright, Dad. I came back to give Mom this fur coat, a £2

million cheque, and a mansion deed. Shamus gets a gold Rolex, and you, Dad, a new Mercedes and club membership. Also, an invite for New Year's on my yacht."

Perplexed, her father asked, "What did ye say ye became?"

Sniffing, she repeated, "A prostitute, Dad."

Relieved, her father exclaimed, "Oh! Ye frightened me! I thought ye said ye became a PROTESTANT! Come here and give yer ol' Dad a hug."

* * *

Clifford and Daisy May

Clifford and Daisy May were married for many years.

Whenever there was a confrontation, yelling could be heard deep into the night. Clifford would shout, "When I die, I'll dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life, ol' woman!"

Neighbours feared him. Old Clifford liked the fact that he was feared. He died at the ripe old age of 98.

After the burial, Daisy May's neighbours, concerned for her safety, asked, "Aren't you afraid that he may indeed be able to dig his way out of the grave and haunt you for the rest of your life?"

She replied, "Let him dig. I had him buried upside down... and I know he won't ask for directions."

* * *

Little Johnny alone with the pastor

Once, Little Johnny was so upset by his past deeds that he decided to visit a church and confess all of his sins. When he arrived at the church, he walked to the confession area and spoke to the pastor, "Father, I am sinful."

"Yes son, just tell me what you have done, the lord will forgive you."

"Father, I have a steady relationship with my girlfriend, it's been for 2 years and nothing serious ever happened between us. Yesterday, I visited her house, nobody was at home except for her sister. We were alone and I slept with her."

"That's bad my boy, fortunately you have realised your mistake."

"Father, last week I went to her office to look for her and could not find anyone except for one of her friends. As we were alone, so I slept with her too."

"That's not very good of you."

"Father, before that, last month, I went to her uncle's house to look for her, nobody was around except for her auntie, and as we were alone, I slept with her also."

"Father... Father...?"

Suddenly Johnny realised that there was no response from the father, he walked over and discovered that the pastor was not there. So, he began searching for him.

"Father? Where are you?"

He searched all the corners, high and low and finally he found him hiding under the table behind the piano.

"Father, why are you hiding here?"

"Sorry son, suddenly I remembered there is nobody around here except me."



* * *

A shy Welsh village man

Elwyn, a shy Welsh village man, noticed that a beautiful girl had moved in next door.

But Elwyn was shy so every time he saw her in the garden or in the street, he couldn't think of what to say, so he would say, "Good morning miss" or "Good afternoon miss" and hurry off about his business.

He talked to his friend in the bar. "A beautiful girl lives next door to me, but I don't know how to chat girls up, I've never done it before."

Jones said, "All you have to do is say to her 'good morning miss. It's a beautiful day, isn't it? What beautiful flowers in your garden. That will get the conversation going."

Elwyn practised this in front of a mirror for a few days. Then one night at the local pub he saw her. Elwyn stood near the bar trying to pluck up the courage to go and talk to her. He was nearly ready when the girl got up and went to the washroom.

This is it, thought Elwyn, it's now or never. So he stood outside the washroom and waited. She was ever such a long time that poor Elwyn was starting to lose his nerve. He was just about to walk away when the girl came out. There she was, right in front of him looking beautiful.

Elwyn said, "Erm, erm g-good evening, miss."

She said, "Good evening."

He continued, "It's a b-beautiful day, isn't it?"

"Yes. It is a splendid day."

Encouraged, he went on. "I'm your neighbour and I must tell you have a lovely garden."

She smiled, "Thank you. I think so, too."

Stuck for something else to talk about, Elwyn stammered, "Erm, erm, err, ah, you've just had a shit, have you?"



That's Life

Men also need...

Someone to talk to: It's often assumed that men should always be the listeners, but they too need a shoulder to lean on. Ladies, take a moment to realize that it's not just about you. Men have their own struggles and need space to express themselves. Just as you confide in your man because you trust him, let him trust you enough to share his thoughts and feelings.

To be sought out: While women may expect men to take the lead in asking questions and showing interest during dates and conversations, men also appreciate when their partner shows genuine curiosity about them. Take the initiative to ask him questions and show interest in his life.

A hug: Beyond being expected to give hugs, men also crave the comfort of being embraced. Beneath their outward strength lies a tender heart that yearns for affection. Remember, emotions know no gender.

Protection: When a woman faces criticism or attacks, it's expected that her man will defend her. Similarly, stand by your man and protect his honor when he's under fire, both in private and in public.

Words of affirmation: Despite their reserved nature, men also cherish hearing "I love you" from their partner. If the expressions of love cease, they may fear losing the connection they share.

Spoiling: Just like women, men enjoy receiving gifts that cater to their interests and boost their ego. Celebrate



his achievements, big or small, and show him how much you appreciate him.

Being fought for: Men appreciate a partner who actively works to strengthen their relationship. Love requires effort from both sides.

Prayers: While men are often expected to take on a spiritual role in relationships, they too benefit from their partner's prayers and support.

Romance: Instead of waiting for him to initiate romance, take the lead sometimes. Show him love in ways that resonate with him, and watch your relationship flourish.

Comfort: Men experience emotions and need comfort just like anyone else. Be there for him in times of need, offering reassurance and support.

Compliments: Men thrive on appreciation and compliments, just as women do. Don't hesitate to express admiration for his qualities and actions.

Massage: Offer him the same care and relaxation that you desire. Ease his tensions with a soothing massage after a long day.

Initiating intimacy: Contrary to popular belief, men appreciate when their partner takes the lead in initiating physical intimacy. Show him desire and let him know you want him.

Being looked after: Anticipate his needs and care for him as you would for yourself. He's your partner, not just a provider.

Surprise gestures: Surprise him with unexpected calls or texts to brighten his day and show him you're thinking of him.

Faithfulness: Just as men are expected to remain faithful, they also need assurance of their partner's loyalty.

Assurance: Men, like women, need reassurance in their relationships. Let him know that you're committed to him and that he's the one you love.

Financial support: Be his partner in all aspects of life, including financial challenges. Offer support and understanding, showing that you're a team.

Asking about his day: Show interest in his daily experiences and well-being, just as you would expect from him.

Rescuing: Understand that men too can struggle and need support. Be his rock when life gets tough, offering your unwavering support and love.

Life's Story

God resides among us

A young man in his thirties used to stand on the footpath opposite the famous Tata Cancer Hospital in Mumbai, observing the fear etched on the faces of patients standing at death's door and their equally grim-faced relatives running around. These scenes deeply troubled him. Most of the patients were impoverished individuals from distant towns, clueless about whom to meet or what to do. They lacked money for medicines and even food. The young man returned home heavily burdened by these thoughts, haunted by the need to do something for these people.

After much contemplation, he found a way. He rented out his successful hotel to raise funds and started a charitable activity on the pavement next to Kondaji Building, right across from Tata Cancer Hospital. Little did he know that this initiative would thrive for the next 27 years. It began with providing free meals for cancer patients and their families. Many in the area supported this endeavor. Starting with 50 beneficiaries, the number soon grew to hundreds as patients increased, drawing more volunteers.

As time passed, the activity persisted through all seasons, serving 700 beneficiaries. The pioneer, Harakhchand Sawla, didn't stop there. He initiated providing free medicines, establishing a medicine bank with the help of three doctors and three pharmacists. A



Harakhchand Sawla (pictured in the background) - Making the lives of cancer patients easier

toy bank was also opened for children battling cancer. The 'Jeevan Jyot' trust, founded by Mr Sawla, now oversees over 60 humanitarian projects. At 57 years old, Sawla continues his work with unwavering dedication, deserving of a thousand salutes for his boundless energy and monumental contribution.

While some may idolize sports icons like Sachin Tendulkar, praising his achievements in cricket, few know about Harakhchand Sawla's selfless service in providing free meals to 1 to 1.2 million cancer patients and their families. This discrepancy is owed to the media's focus. Despite relentless searches, no photograph of Mr Sawla could be found online. Millions flock to temples seeking 'God', unaware that God resides among them. Yet, they chase after 'god-men' who become wealthy while their troubles persist. For 27 years, Mr Sawla has been a god-send to countless cancer patients and their families.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

“Write it on your heart
that every day is the best day in the year.
He is rich who owns the day, and no one owns the day
who allows it to be invaded with fret and anxiety.

Finish every day and be done with it.
You have done what you could.
Some blunders and absurdities, no doubt crept in.
Forget them as soon as you can, tomorrow is a new day;
begin it well and serenely, with too high a spirit
to be cumbered with your old nonsense.

This new day is too dear,
with its hopes and invitations,
to waste a moment on the yesterdays.”

The Fallacy of Majority Power in Democracy

Upma used to be served every day in a hostel of 100 inmates. Out of the 100 students, 80 complained and asked to be given different tiffin items every day. But 20 students were happy to eat upma every day.

To come to a decision, the warden arranged for voting. Whichever tiffin gets the majority will be served. The 20 students who wanted upma voted promptly. The remaining 80 students voted as per their choice:

- 18: Masala Dosa
- 16: Aloo Parota & Dahi
- 14: Roti & Sabji

- 12: Bread & Butter
- 10: Noodles
- 10: Idli Sambar

So, as per the voting pattern upma was continued. Daily.

Lesson: When 80% of the population gropes around, divided and scattered, the united 20% rules us.

“Experts Share the Most Commonly Used Passive-Aggressive Phrases and How to Communicate Directly Instead”

Passive-aggressive behaviour is pervasive in everyday interactions, affecting relationships with friends, romantic partners, family, and colleagues. However, it can be subtle, making it challenging to recognize when it occurs. Here's what passive-aggressive behaviour entails and how to communicate more directly:

Understanding Passive-Aggressive Behaviour: Passive-aggressive behaviour involves expressing negative emotions indirectly, often in a manner that is easily deniable or not directly linked to the aggressor. It can include actions like forgetting responsibilities or using ambiguous language to convey frustration or anger.

Identifying Passive-Aggressive Phrases: **“Good for you.”** This phrase can harbour envy or resentment while appearing to express happiness for someone's success. Instead, offer sincere congratulations and express a desire to learn from their achievements.

“I'm sorry you feel that way.” While it may sound like an apology, it shifts blame onto the other person's feelings rather than taking responsibility for causing harm. Offer a genuine apology for any hurt caused by your words or actions.

“It's fine.” Claiming everything is fine when it's not can lead to miscommunication and unresolved issues. Instead, openly share how you're feeling to foster understanding and address concerns.



“Whatever.” This dismissive response indicates resignation and can breed resentment. Instead, engage in open communication to address underlying issues and find solutions.

“If you say so.” This phrase dismisses the other person's perspective and implies a lack of interest in further discussion. Instead, express openness to different viewpoints and

encourage dialogue.

“You're just too sensitive.” This statement invalidates the other person's feelings and shifts blame onto them for their emotional reaction. Instead, acknowledge their feelings and seek understanding to prevent future harm.

How to Communicate Directly: When faced with the temptation to use passive-aggressive language, pause, take a breath, and consider expressing your thoughts and feelings directly. Use phrases like “I'm struggling with,” “I'm feeling,” or “I'm scared that” to initiate open and honest conversations.

Embracing Authentic Communication: While passive-aggressive behaviour may temporarily avoid conflict, it hinders authentic connections and resolution of underlying issues. By challenging yourself to communicate openly and assertively, you can foster genuine connections and navigate difficult conversations with integrity.

Unlocking the Ancient Wisdom of Bay Leaves: Discover their Health Benefits and Culinary Uses”

Bay leaves have been cherished since ancient times for their culinary and medicinal properties. From treating digestive issues to lowering cholesterol levels, this aromatic spice has been revered across cultures for its numerous benefits. Here's a deeper look into the ancient wisdom surrounding bay leaves, as written by Parmita Uniyal, for *Hindustan Times*.

The Rich History of Bay Leaves

- * Bay leaf has been a staple in traditional and folk medicines for centuries, used to address various ailments like respiratory disorders, digestive issues, and rheumatism.
- * In ancient times, bay leaves were not only valued for their medicinal properties but also considered symbols of prosperity, fame, and victory. They were believed to possess protective powers against misfortune and were planted near homes to ward off lightning strikes.

Health Benefits of Bay Leaves

- * Bay leaves are rich in antioxidants and possess anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, and anti-diarrheal properties.
- * They can help lower cholesterol levels, regulate blood sugar, and strengthen the immune system.
- * The caffeic acid present in bay leaves may contribute to heart health, while their antioxidants help reduce the risk of chronic diseases by fighting free radicals.

Culinary and Medicinal Uses:

- * Bay leaves are commonly used to flavour soups, curries, and rice dishes, imparting a unique aroma and taste.
- * In ancient times, bay leaves were consumed in various forms, from adding them to grain meals to creating herbal teas for their soothing effects.
- * However, individuals allergic to plants in the Lauraceae family should avoid consuming bay leaves.

Tips for Consumption:

- * Add bay leaves to grain meals before cooking for a flavourful touch, remembering to remove them before serving.
- * Create spice mixes with ground bay leaves and other herbs to enhance the flavour of meats and vegetables.
- * Brew herbal tea using dried bay leaves for a calming and fragrant beverage.

Bay leaves continue to be treasured for their versatility and health benefits, showcasing the enduring wisdom of ancient traditions in modern-day practices.

When to stay completely silent

Navigating life is a bit like dancing—it's all about knowing when to step forward and when to take a step back.

Or in some cases, when to stay completely still

And by 'still', I mean silent.

Hi there, I'm Lachlan Brown, founder of Hack Spirit and a mindfulness enthusiast with a strong interest in Buddhism. I'm here to tell you that sometimes, silence is the most powerful statement you can make.

Psychology backs this up too. It says there are certain situations where the wisest course of action is to simply hold your tongue and let silence speak volumes.

Let's delve into these 8 situations where it's best to remain silent.

* When emotions are running high:

We've all been there. Tensions are rising, voices escalating, and the air is

practically humming with emotion. It's in these instances that psychology urges us to zip it. Emotional arousal impairs our ability to process information and make balanced decisions. By choosing to remain silent, we provide ourselves the space to observe our emotions without getting swept away by them.

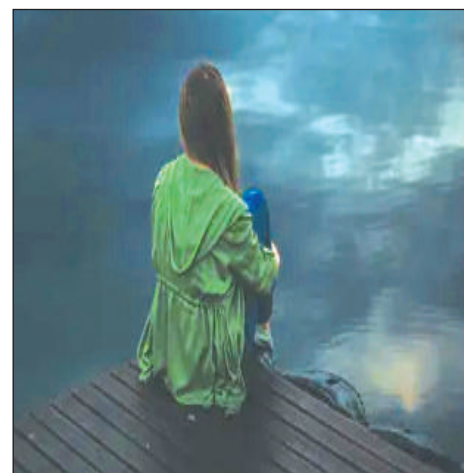
* When you're not informed enough

If you aren't well-informed about a subject, it's best to stay silent. Speaking without understanding only muddies the waters and confuses both you and whoever you're conversing with.

* When your words may harm others:

According to Buddhist teachings, right speech is vital. Words have power — the power to create and destroy, to heal and harm. If your words may cause pain or harm to another person, it's wise to hold your tongue.

* When you need to listen:



Active listening is a skill—one that requires mindfulness, patience, and practice. Sometimes, the best thing you can do is remain silent and simply listen, offering a safe space for others to express themselves without interruption or judgment.

* When you're practicing mindfulness:

Mindfulness is all about being fully present in the moment. Choosing to remain silent allows you to fully engage

with your environment and your thoughts without the distraction of unnecessary conversation.

* When silence itself is the answer:

In certain situations, silence communicates more than any speech. It acknowledges the complexity of the situation and respects the profundity of the moment.

* When your words won't change the situation:

Recognize when words won't change the outcome. Speaking up might only serve to fuel the fire or cause unnecessary distress.

* When you need to speak up:

Sometimes, it's wiser to stay silent momentarily to collect your thoughts, calm your emotions, and decide on the most mindful response before speaking.

Final thoughts: Silence is power. By understanding when to choose silence over words, we can navigate our relationships and interactions more skillfully, fostering deeper connections and cultivating inner peace.

Nora Fatehi says most Bollywood couples aren't in love

'They just want to be in right circles, camps and be relevant'

In a recent interview, Nora Fatehi shared her thoughts on the motivations behind some celebrity relationships in Bollywood. Without naming anyone, she criticized those who enter into relationships or marriages solely for the sake of public attention and relevance. She noted that such behaviour often leads to feelings of depression among those involved.

During a conversation with Ranveer Allahbadia on his podcast, Nora highlighted the presence of "clout predators" in the industry—individuals who seek to use others for their fame, power, or financial gain. She expressed her observation that many celebrity couples feign love to maintain their status and relevance, emphasizing their strategic approach to blending personal and professional lives. Nora described these individuals as "calculative" and stressed the detrimental impact of prioritizing fame and career over genuine personal connections.

Nora emphasized the importance of separating work and personal life for mental well-being, cautioning against sacrificing happiness for the sake of career advancement. Born and raised in Canada with Moroccan heritage, Nora began her Bollywood career in 2014 and has since gained recognition for her dance performances



and acting roles. She highlighted the need for individuals in the industry to prioritize authenticity and personal happiness over external validation and societal expectations.

Nora appeared opposite Varun Dhawan in *Street Dancer 3D* (2020). For her role in *Batla House* (2019), she won the Best Supporting Actress award at the 66th Filmfare Awards. Apart from this, Nora has been a judge on reality shows like *Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa* season 10.

Family dramas to watch with your loved ones

Bollywood's cinematic landscape is renowned for its engaging narratives that celebrate the Indian family unit. These films delve into the intricate web of familial relationships, upholding values and cultural traditions while reflecting on the emotional bonds, conflicts, and reconciliations that are part of family life. Presented here by Anuj Trehaan of newsbytesapp.com are five Bollywood family dramas that beautifully encapsulate the spirit of unity and affection.

'Piku'

"Piku" (2015) is a delightful portrayal of the quirky yet endearing relationship between an aging father and his independent daughter. Amitabh Bachchan and Deepika Padukone deliver stellar performances, bringing to life the everyday struggles and joys of caring for an elderly parent. The film's narrative is laced with humor and emotion, making it a relatable watch for many.

'Hum Saath-Saath Hain'

"Hum Saath-Saath Hain," directed by Sooraj Barjatya in 1999, is a quintessential Bollywood family drama. The film features a star-studded cast that includes Salman Khan, Saif Ali Khan, and Karisma



Kapoor. It navigates the complexities of life within a large Indian family, underscoring the importance of familial ties and the preference of shared happiness over individual wealth.

'Dil Dhadakne Do'

"Dil Dhadakne Do" (2015) is a film by Zoya Akhtar that explores the intricate family dynamics of the urban elite. The ensemble cast, featuring Anil Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Ranveer Singh, and Anushka

Sharma, portrays a Punjabi family fraught with dysfunction. As they embark on a Mediterranean cruise, they confront their issues and embark on a journey of self-discovery amidst familial turmoil.

'Baghban'

"Baghban" (2003) stars Amitabh Bachchan and Hema Malini as parents facing neglect from their children in their twilight years. This poignant drama highlights the theme of parental love and the sacrifices they make. It prompts a reflection on societal attitudes toward the elderly and celebrates the strength found in enduring partnerships, even as familial bonds are tested.

'Kapoor & Sons'

"Kapoor & Sons" (2016) offers a glimpse into the complexities of sibling rivalry set against the backdrop of family secrets. Directed by Shakun Batra, the film features Alia Bhatt, Fawad Khan, and Sidharth Malhotra as siblings. They grapple with misunderstandings and strive to find unity as they come together in their grandfather's final days, painting a realistic picture of modern Indian family life.

Stay fit with Bollywood

Top celebrities to follow for workout inspiration in 2024

Health is paramount in our lives, and nothing takes precedence over maintaining it. In today's fast-paced world, balancing health and work can be challenging. Fortunately, social media constantly provides us with sources of motivation. While Bollywood celebrities inspire us in various ways, here are some you can follow for fitness motivation, as reported by Anukriti Srivastava of Herzindagi:



1. **Shilpa Shetty:** Known for her toned physique, Shilpa Shetty exemplifies grace and physical fitness. She incorporates yoga into her workout routine and maintains a healthy diet to keep her body and mind in top shape. Shilpa also shares her exercise routines and yoga practices on her fitness YouTube channel and Instagram account, offering valuable insights for followers.

2. **Ranveer Singh:** A powerhouse of energy, Ranveer Singh maintains his physically and mentally fit body through rigorous exercise and training. His dedication to fitness serves as motivation for his followers.

3. **Hrithik Roshan:** Hrithik Roshan's fitness regimen includes intense workouts and a disciplined approach to nutrition. By adhering to a structured exercise routine, he ensures his body remains fit and active. Fans captivated by his action-packed performances can find motivation in his fitness journey.

4. **Katrina Kaif:** Undoubtedly one of the fittest actresses in Bollywood, Katrina Kaif maintains her toned physique through a strict diet and exercise regimen. She emphasizes the importance of monitoring sugar intake and shares her workout routines on Instagram, providing valuable insights for fitness enthusiasts.

5. **Alia Bhatt:** Alia Bhatt's remarkable transformation from a chubby physique to excellent fitness exemplifies dedication. She follows a disciplined exercise routine, healthy diet, and incorporates yoga to stay fit and fabulous for her roles. Her fitness journey serves as inspiration for those looking to embark on their own transformation.



Vendredi 26 avril - 20.30



Samedi 27 avril - 20.35



dimanche 28 avril - 20.35



Programme TV



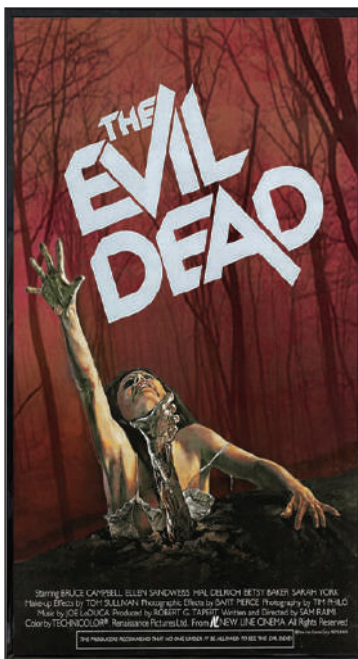
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| samedi 27 avril | 04.25 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 06.20 Tele: Amour A Mort 06.45 Film: The Night Is Young 08.15 Serial: New Amsterdam 09.00 Film: Le Dernier Vice-Roi Des Indes 10.50 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Tele: Amour A Mort 12.40 Film: Feu Sans Sommation 14.15 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme 15.20 Film: Alien, Le Huitième Passager 17.35 Imperio De Mentiras 18.31 Entertain: SA RE GA MA PA 20.35 Film: Right In Front Of Me Stars : Janel Parrish, Marco Grazzini, Anthony Konechny 22.55 Serial: Being Human 22.40 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: Rodrig: Ala Nou Vini 07.50 Local: Lir-Ekri Kreol... 08.16 Local: Come On Let's Dance 09.08 Local: La Sosiete 10.00 Live From St James Cathedral, Port Louis 11.47 MRIC - Inove Moris 12.16 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 12.25 Local: Enn Semenn Dan... 13.25 Local Rodrig: Ala Nou Vini 14.25 Local: La Sosiete 15.16 Local: Son Ladan Mem 17.41 Prod: MRIC - Inove Moris 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.20 Mag De L'emploi Et Des Metiers 20.00 Les Petits Genies 20.31 Local: Groov'in | 05.00 Aastha TV 07.00 Tik Tak Tail 07.12 Kiswa 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: Bol Radha Bol 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.15 Virasat 19.30 Khoobsurat 20.00 Yeh Shaam Mastani 21.00 Film: Intezaar 22.37 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.03 Duniya Mein Is Saptah | 06.00 D.Anime - Voltron 06.44 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 09.00 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little.. 09.47 Mag: Lab 360 09.52 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 11.27 Doc: La Resilience Face Aux 12.31 Doc: It's In The Air 13.13 Doc: Siblings: Love, Hate, Rivalry 14.06 Doc: Better Brain Health 15.00 D.Anime: Kids Songs 16.14 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.23 D.Anime: Magic: Kaito 1412 16.50 Mag: Action Kidz 17.30 Doc: Prestige Project... 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 18.40 Serial: Heartland 20.01 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: The Night Is Young Avec Matt Jones, Dave Hill, Alice Lozzi | 08.00 Swaran Ghar 09.49 Gadget Guru Ganesha 10.12 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.00 Udaariyaan 14.00 Anupamaa 16.00 Fanaa - Ishq Mein Marjawan 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Film: Fight Club Stars: Sunil Shetty, Zayed Khan, Sohail Khan, Dino Morea 20.59 Gadget Guru Ganesha |
| dimanche 28 avril | 04.45 Tele - A Que No Me Dejas 06.00 A Que No Me Dejas 06.30 Film: Amour A Mort 08.30 Serial: NCIS 09.15 Serial: Pearson 10.00 Serial: Airwolf 10.45 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete 12.25 Serial: Under Pressure 13.15 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 15.25 Film: Le Dernier Vice-Roi Des Indes 17.00 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 20.30 Local: Presentation Plateau 20.35 Film: Alien, Le Huitième Passager 22.31 Film: Apocalypto 00.43 Le Journal 01.28 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis | 06.00 Rodrig: D'jam 06.47 Local: Aktiv 07.09 Local: Saver Kil Tirel 07.36 Pran Kont Ou La Sante 08.55 Local: Les Petits Genies 09.21 Local: Zafan Nou Zil 09.49 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 11.01 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.25 Local: Les Petits Genies 14.03 Local: Elle 14.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 15.00 Local: Les Grands Noms Internationaux 17.07 Local: Aktiv 17.30 Local: G'war Dantan 18.26 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 22.32 Local: Clin D'oeil | 05.00 Aastha TV 07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness... 08.35 Local: Puranya Pakwan 09.00 Local: Virasat 09.31 Local: Khoobsurat 09.35 Local: Hunarbaaz 12.00 Film: Aaj Ka Arjun 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 Saath Nibhaib Sajna | 06.00 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Defenseur Legendaire 09.48 Mag: Lab 360 10.18 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 10.46 Mag: In Good Shape 11.12 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.26 Doc: Wild Isles 14.38 Mag: Healthy Living 14.53 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.00 D.Anime: Kids Songs 15.48 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 16.06 D.Anime: Spacepop 16.11 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.54 Mag: Action Kidz 17.01 Mag: Animal DNA 17.30 Mag: In Good Shape 18.40 Serial: Heartland 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: Retour Vers Le Futur 3 | 00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 01.41 Udaariyaan 03.28 Anupamaa 05.19 Fanaa - Ishq Mein Marjawan 07.47 Tanali 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: Tum Milo To Sahi Stars: Nana Patekar, Dimple Kapadia, Suniel Shetty 20.39 Serial: Tenali Rama 20.51 Dance India Dance Little... 21.44 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 23.30 Serial: Patiala Babes 01.21 Serial: Kundali Bhagya |
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Mardi 30 avril - 20.30



Mercredi 1 mai - 20.30



Jeudi 2 mai - 21.40



Programme TV



| MBC 1 | MBC 2 | MBC 3 | MBC 5 | Bollywood TV |
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| 03.09 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 03.52 The Gardener's Daughter 04.21 Amour Secret / Amor Secret 05.08 Pasion Y Poder 05.32 A Que No Me Dejas 06.01 Serial: Suits 06.45 Hollywood On Set 07.15 Serial: Zoo 08.00 Rookie Blue 08.45 NCIS 10.20 The Gardener's... 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.10 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 13.15 Fierce Angel/La Loba 13.40 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.05 Gout De L'amour 15.25 Film: 119 Jours 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 20.30 Film: Mes Autres Vies De Chien <small>Avec Josh Gad, Dennis Quaid, Kathryn Prescott</small> | 06.00 Feminin Pluriel 06.12 Konn Ou Drwa 06.46 Local: Aktiv 07.08 Local: Bricolo Ecolo 07.29 Local: Business Connect 08.18 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 08.46 Local: Itinerer Moris 09.30 Radio Vision 10.36 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol 11.01 Le Rendez Vous... Born 12.23 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 12.50 Local: Bricolo Ecolo 13.30 Local: Les Grands Moments 13.45 Local: Tous Egaux 14.58 Local: Itinerer Moris 18.06 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.25 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.25 Le Magazine De L'Empli... 19.47 Son Ladan Mem 21.00 Paroles Agricoles | 05.00 Mag: Prog From Aastha TV 07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 07.20 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Ved Ki Shikshaein 08.54 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 12.00 Film: Chhaila Babu 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Badki Malkaain 16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Tark Vitark 19.00 Bhojpuri Dhamaka 19.30 Local: Yaadein 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.35 Film: Bombay To Goa 22.40 Serial: Mere Sai 23.29 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 23.52 Local: Tark Vitark 00.18 Bhojpuri Dhamaka | 06.26 Magazine: The 77 Percent 07.00 Mag: Africa 54 09.04 Mag: Washington Forum 10.13 Doc: Will Roots Save The World? 11.27 Mag: The 77 Percent 11.53 Mag: Africa 54 12.25 Mag: In Good Shape 13.33 Mag: Tomorrow Today 14.32 Doc: Does The Lynx Have... 15.00 D.Anime: Kids Songs 15.45 D.Anime:The Jungle Book 15.55 D.Anime: Spacepop 16.08 D.Anime: Les Schtroumps 16.30 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Defenseur 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.31 Mag: Global Us 20.02 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow | 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.21 Film: Kyon Ki <small>Starring: Salman Khan, Kareena Kapoor and Rimi Sen</small> 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.32 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.29 Fanaa - Ishq Mein Marjawan 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.29 Radha Krishna 21.00 Anupama 21.33 Mere Sai 22.03 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.30 Swaran Ghar 23.02 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.31 Film: Kyon Ki <small>Starring: Salman Khan, Kareena Kapoor and Rimi Sen</small> |

| mercredi 1 mai | MBC 2 | MBC 3 | MBC 5 | Bollywood TV |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| 04.27 Amour Secret / Amor Secret 05.15 Pasion Y Poder 05.09 Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete 05.33 Pasion Y Poder 05.31 A Que No Me Dejas 06.01 Serial: Suits 07.15 Film: The Night Is Young 08.45 Serial: Heartland 09.30 Amour A Mort 10.27 The Gardener's Daughter 10.50 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.15 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 13.15 Fierce Angel 13.45 Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Serial: Heartland 15.25 Film: Mes Autres Vies De Chien 17.35 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.15 Film: The Evil Dead | 06.00 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 06.16 Local: Son Ladan Mem 06.44 Local: Aktiv 07.10 Local: Priorite Sante 07.35 Local: Paroles Agricoles 09.00 En Direct De L'Eglise Ste Therese, Curepipe 11.00 Music Tour 2022 12.00 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 12.41 Local: Generations J 13.12 Priorite Sante 13.34 Paroles Agricoles 14.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits 15.05 Nu Rasinn 15.31 Local: Glwar Dantan 17.41 Local: En Forme 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.25 Le Magazine De L'Empli... 19.30 Local: MRIC 20.32 Toc Toc Doc | 07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 07.08 Serial: Kisna 07.21 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Tark Vitark 08.27 Bhojpuri Dhamaka 10.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 12.00 Film: Nadaan 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Senhur - Bhojpuri Serial 16.00 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Yatra 19.00 Local: Ram Nawmi Cele... 20.00 Virasat 20.15 Gyan Vigyan 21.00 Film: Maine Unko Sajjan Chun Liya 23.30 Serial: Mere Sai 00.25 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.53 Local: Yatra 02.14 Local: Virasat 02.54 Serial: Senhur | 06.00 Magazine: Rev 06.26 Mag: Healthy Living 07.27 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 08.11 Film: Tut! Tut! Cory Bolides 08.51 Film: Boonie Bears 6 10.25 Mag: Made In Germany 11.17 Doc: Moyens De Transport... 11.41 Doc: Saving The Temples... 13.42 Mag: Shift 14.00 Film: Dinofroz 15.24 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.30 D.Anime: Messi Goes To... 16.30 D.Anime: Voltron... 17.01 Mag: Animal DNA 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 19.30 Doc: Our Future Cities 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.30 Live: News 21.40 Film: Right In Front Of Me <small>Stars : Janel Parrish, Marco Grazzini, Anthony Konechny</small> | 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film - MR & Mrs Khiladi <small>Starring: Akshay Kumar, Juhi Chawla, Paresh Rawal</small> 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.32 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Fanaa -Ishq Mein Marjawan 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.38 Radha Krishna 21.01 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.02 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.30 Swaran Ghar 23.02 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film - Mr & Mrs Khiladi <small>Starring: Akshay Kumar, Juhi Chawla, Paresh Rawal</small> |

| jeudi 2 mai | MBC 2 | MBC 3 | MBC 5 | Bollywood TV |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| 03.14 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 04.19 Amour Secret / Amor Secret 05.08 Pasion Y Poder 05.30 A Que No Me Dejas 06.01 Serial: Suits 07.15 Serial: New Amsterdam 08.00 Serial: Alex Rider 08.45 Serial: Pearson 09.55 Amour A Mort 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 11.15 Serial: Queens Of Mystery 12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel/La Loba 13.45 Pasion Y Poder 14.10 Gout De L'amour 15.25 Film: Easy Rider 17.15 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 20.30 Film: Yuvraaj <small>Cast : Salman Khan, Anil Kapoor, Zayed Khan, Katrina Kaif</small> | 06.00 Rodrig Spor 06.26 Local: Aktiv 07.12 La Journee Sous Le Regard 07.22 Toc Toc Doc 07.42 Agir Ensemble 08.41 Local: En Forme 08.59 Local: Rodrig 09.40 Come On Let's Dance 11.08 Les Klips 12.00 Mric - Inove Moris 12.59 Rodrig Spor 13.25 Local: En Forme 13.38 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.01 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 15.30 Local: Rodrig: Komanter 15.46 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.27 Tele: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Empli... 20.00 Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Emotion En Avant Plan | 05.00 Mag: Prog From Aastha TV 07.00 Serial: Kisna 07.20 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 07.33 Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.00 Yatra 09.20 Virasat 10.00 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 12.00 Film: Awaara 15.30 Badki Malkaain 16.00 Agniphera 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vaani 19.00 Local: Gyan Vigyan 19.30 Local: Vaad Vivaad 20.00 Hunarbaaz 20.30 Shiv Shakti 21.00 Yashomati Maiyya Ke... 22.00 Serial: Mere Sai 23.02 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 23.29 Amrit Vaani 23.42 Local: Solah Sanskaar | 06.00 Magazine: Motorweek 06.26 Doc: Ausgabe 3 06.41 Mag: Planet A 07.27 Doc: Our Future Cities 09.32 Doc: The Hidden Homeless 11.17 Magazine: Motorweek 12.06 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.03 Doc: It's In The Air 14.15 Doc: The Hidden Homeless 15.04 D.Anime: Earth To Luna! 17.00 Mag: Animal DNA 18.00 Magazine: Eco India 18.30 Magazine: Shift 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Magazine: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: Amour A Mort 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: The Doolins Of Oklahoma <small>Avec Randolph Scott, George Macready, Louise Allbritton</small> | 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Vivah <small>Starring: Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao, Anupam Kher, Alok Nath</small> 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.32 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Fanaa -Ishq Mein Marjawan 19.56 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.38 Radha Krishna 21.01 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Swaran Ghar 22.52 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.17 Film: Vivah 02.08 Kundali Bhagya |

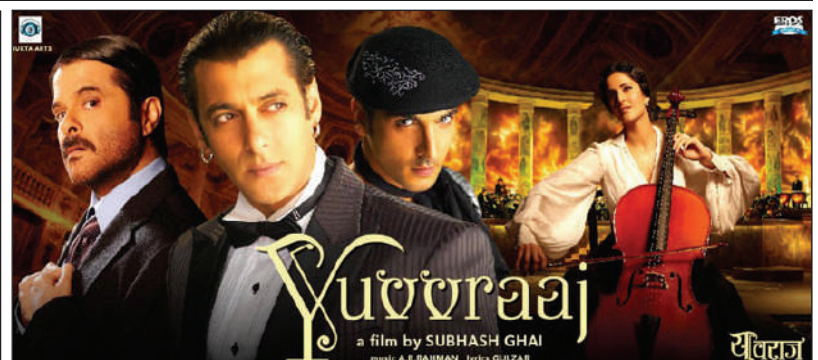
BTV Jeudi 2 mai - 15.30

Stars: Shahid Kapoor, Amrita Rao, Anupam Kher, Alok Nath



Jeudi 2 mai - 20.30

Stars: Salman Khan, Anil Kapoor, Zayed Khan, Katrina Kaif





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

La censure en votre nom

Il semble qu'il y ait un consensus dans les milieux officiels, chez les grandes figures de la vie publique et dans les milieux autorisés à penser, comme disait l'autre humoriste, de tenir à distance toutes les 'querelles extérieures'. En français mauricien, le terme "extérieur" signifie plutôt "externe" et "étranger", désignant ainsi toute polémique ou tout conflit qui polarise les peuples et les nations dans d'autres contrées au-delà des océans.

Cette mise à l'écart se fait dans le souci d'éviter toute manifestation ostentatoire d'un parti pris quelconque susceptible de reproduire dans l'île l'affrontement des blocs rivaux qui se déchirent ailleurs. Le mot d'ordre est: Silence, on construit... la nation.

Bien entendu, l'importation en masse de produits de consommation pour inonder les supermarchés, de tous types de véhicules et de gadgets, ainsi que l'implantation des grandes enseignes étrangères pour les articles de sport, principalement françaises, afin de pousser à la consommation un peuple qui vit au-dessus de ses moyens, sont acceptables car jugés inoffensifs. Tout comme l'intérêt pour le Bayern de Munich, dont l'animatrice d'une radio privée nous entretenait avec engouement pour amuser la galerie pendant la Covid, sans parler des exploits d'Arsenal, de Liverpool, de Manchester, de la PSG, etc., qui rassemblent les fans devant l'écran de leur téléviseur. *Panem et circenses*, du pain et des jeux, pour que le peuple soit occupé, et que la paix sociale suive.

La télévision nationale s'attelle à suivre les directives de la voix officielle, et par ricochet, aussi celle des milieux autorisés à penser qui s'alignent sur la politique gouvernementale sur ce point, en évitant de diffuser à l'écran tous les discours incendiaires et les lancements de missiles des pays en guerre. Cette stratégie semble sage et efficace pour mettre une chape de plomb sur une population dotée d'un tempérament chaud. Donc, l'astuce est d'éviter de mettre de l'huile



'Tout le monde sait à Maurice qu'il est impossible d'espérer un consensus sur certains sujets sensibles. C'est un réalisme. Et il est contre-productif d'assigner tout le monde au silence sur ces sujets.' P - Cultur'easy

“L'atout du public mauricien, malgré la possibilité d'être influençable, est de ne pas verser dans le sentiment et l'émotion, deux grandes mamelles du woke matriarcal depuis que les valeurs dites 'féminines' sont promues, au détriment de la logique et du rationnel. La vérité, c'est qu'on ne règle pas les grands conflits alimentés par des idéologies pernicieuses et destructrices au moyen de l'étagage de l'émotion...”

sur le feu, afin de ne pas aggraver l'incendie dans la catégorie des têtes brûlées dont le nombre augmente à chaque fois que les fers se croisent à 'l'extérieur'.

Cela étant, les informations internationales se résument à deux éléments: la fonte de la banquise, les ours polaires en errance, les inondations et les catastrophes naturelles, et un événement politique mineur dans tel pays, ce qui témoigne d'une indigence intellectuelle en n'ouvrant qu'au minimum la fenêtre sur le monde.

Cette censure expose le public mauricien aux partis pris des chaînes étrangères telles que LCI, BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, France 5 et autres, concernant les grands événements qui font l'actualité. Ces chaînes pratiquent une autocensure à outrance. Il en va de même pour la presse locale. En somme, l'État, les médias et les figures publiques s'accordent pour donner un seul son de cloche aux grondements qui déchirent le ciel, et

détruisent les édifices et les vies humaines sur terre.

Ceux qui sont aux manettes du pays ont toujours fait preuve d'une grande responsabilité, quel que soit le parti au pouvoir, en ménageant les uns et les autres, en appliquant quand c'est nécessaire la fermeté envers les malfrats prêts à la violence, et en tenant un discours neutre sur les conflits qui divisent les sociétés dans d'autres pays. En tant que rassembleur et gardien de la cohésion sociale, leur fonction première est de veiller à ce que le tissu social soit maintenu dans son intégralité, et d'éviter que le tissu ne s'effiloche à cause de quelques fils tordus.

La neutralité n'est qu'apparente, car la prise de position des représentants locaux à l'ONU s'aligne sur la voix du plus grand nombre de pays. La lâcheté est flagrante, à l'instar de bien d'autres dirigeants. Leur voix donne un seul son de cloche sur la scène internationale et ne reflète pas forcément leur conviction personnelle. Mais ont-ils le choix? Leur alignement est dicté par la *realpolitik*, les intérêts commerciaux, les liens économiques avec les grands pays, l'importation de l'énergie, etc. Le but d'étouffer une cacophonie sur le plan local n'est atteint qu'en apparence. Le public joue le jeu, teste les limites et s'accorde tacitement à ne pas franchir la ligne rouge.

La tendance serait de constater que Maurice adopte une ligne prudente de l'Inde sur les relations internationales. Mais un État insulaire ne peut jouer dans la cour des grands. Malgré la puissance

des États-Unis, l'Inde se permet de ne pas obéir à l'injonction occidentale de condamner la Russie en 2022, et fut le premier pays à condamner sans tergiverser l'acte terroriste perpétré par le Hamas dans un kibboutz en Israël. Officiellement, Maurice se range derrière le bloc occidental sur la question russe, contrairement à la prise de position de ce qu'on appelle le Sud global. Quant au vote pour un cessez-le-feu à Gaza, cela ne coûte rien au pays de suivre le troupeau à l'ONU, alors que l'Inde s'est permis de s'abstenir.

Finalement, les autorités savent qu'il leur faut jongler et ménager les plus remontés tout en calmant les esprits libres. Le pays est une démocratie et le public mauricien est attaché à la valeur de liberté en général et celle de s'exprimer en particulier. Est-ce que c'est efficace et raisonnable de considérer certains sujets comme tabous et de museler le public à la longue? A noter que l'explosion sur internet évite les affrontements physiques dans les rues, sauf sur les campus universitaires de certains pays.

Il y a une forte conscience générale que ce qui se passe au Moyen-Orient est d'une gravité pour l'avenir de l'humanité d'où l'urgence d'une prise de position bien tranchée et nette à travers le monde. En fin de compte, il n'est pas si aisé de tourner le dos aux conflits qui agitent d'autres pays dans la mesure où il y a aussi un intérêt économique, une identification politique, idéologique, religieuse et culturelle qui a un impact sur les uns les autres.

L'atout du public mauricien, malgré la possibilité d'être influençable, est de ne pas verser dans le sentiment et l'émotion, deux grandes mamelles du woke matriarcal depuis que les valeurs dites 'féminines' sont promues, au détriment de la logique et du rationnel. La vérité, c'est qu'on ne règle pas les grands conflits alimentés par des idéologies pernicieuses et destructrices au moyen de l'étagage de l'émotion. Un jeu dont certains lobbys sont experts dans les médias mainstream à l'international.

Tout le monde sait à Maurice qu'il est impossible d'espérer un consensus sur certains sujets sensibles. C'est une réalité. Et il est contre-productif d'assigner tout le monde au silence sur ces sujets.



Tree of Knowledge

The question "Who am I?" is a seed that can bear much fruit if given the chance to unfold.

At some point in our lives, or perhaps at many points in our lives, we ask the question, "Who am I?" At times like these, we are looking beyond the obvious, beyond our names, and beyond the names of the cities and states we came from — into the layers beneath our surface identities. We may feel the need for a deeper sense of purpose in our lives, or we may be ready



to accommodate a more complex understanding of the situation in which we find ourselves. Whatever the case, the question of who we are is a seed that can bear much fruit.

It can send us on an exploration of our ancestry or the past lives of our soul. It can call us to take up journaling to discover that voice deep within us that seems to know the answers to a multitude of questions. It can draw our attention so deeply

inward that we find the spark of spirit that connects us to every living thing in the universe. One Hindu tradition

counsels its practitioners to ask the question over and over, using it as a mantra to lead them inevitably into the heart of the divine.

While there are people who seem to come into the world knowing who they are and why they are here, the human journey, for the most part, appears to be very much about asking this question and allowing its answers to guide us on our paths. So, when we find ourselves in the heart of unknowing, we can have faith that we are in a very human place, as well as a very divine one. "Who am I?" is a timeless mantra, a Zen koan, ultimately designed to lead us home into the part of our minds that finally lets go of questions and answers and finds instead the ability to simply be.