

MAURITIUS TIMES

•History repeatedly demonstrates that monsters often spawn from the smallest and most solitary of seeds. -- John Connolly, American author, from his novel "The Unquiet"

Interview: Yvan Martial

“Les élections arriveront plus vite que prévu

Elles prendront par surprise l’opposition à Pravind Jugnauth”



• ‘Rien n’a changé depuis 2014. Notre léthargie dépasse désormais les sommets les plus inaccessibles. Nous nous complaisons dans un cinéma politicard des plus ineptes’

P8



Pawan Kumar P3

Odds & Ends

Political Alliances: Challenges and Dilemmas



Opinion

How Credible are Global Ranking Indices?

Socratic Dialogue

Of Wine, Wisdom, & Xavier Duval's Cornelian Dilemma

Plutonix P7

Eclairages

Elections 2024: menace croissante des “deepfakes” de l’intelligence artificielle



P - Journal of Gender, Race & Justice - Université de l'Iowa

A. Bartleby P4

Audit Report: A Call for Meaningful Reform

Every year, the Director of Audit releases a report that draws considerable public attention, and rightly so. It serves as a stark reminder of how public funds are managed or mismanaged within various government departments. Unfortunately, this annual exercise seems to be a ritualized process, generating noise upon its release only to fade into oblivion until the following year's report emerges with familiar criticisms and failings in resource allocation and management.

This year's report follows suit, spotlighting a litany of deficiencies that have caught the attention of government auditors. From poor planning, to cost overruns and project delays, from inadequate timing to failures in essential service delivery, the litany of issues highlighted is both extensive and disheartening. Despite significant financial allocations – exemplified by the earmarking of approximately Rs 178 billion for the financial year 2022-2023 – essential service projects are stuck because of government bureaucracy. For instance, a staggering 86% of drainage projects entrusted to the National Development Unit remained unrealized during the cited financial year, exacerbating issues such as flooding that pose grave threats to public safety.

The ramifications of such delays extend beyond mere inconveniences. Delays often translate into ballooning costs, as adjustments made along the way inflate project budgets, burdening taxpayers with the weight of financial mismanagement. The notion that contractors would absorb such increased costs is a fallacy; instead, these costs are inevitably passed on to public sector agencies, further straining already stretched resources. Such cost overruns not only defy the principles of fiscal prudence but also betray a fundamental disregard for the public interest.

While the Director dutifully highlights deficiencies, and often makes pleas and recommendations, the onus lies on individual government departments to heed these warnings and take corrective action. Yet, the perennial recurrence of similar issues begs the question: why do we continue to tread the same path of inefficiency and mismanagement?

The root causes of these systemic failures are manifold, ranging from weaknesses in expenditure control to deficiencies in project and asset management. Despite audits flagging these issues year after year, progress remains elusive, with a mere 33% of identified problems resolved over the past three financial years. This inertia speaks volumes about the prevailing culture of complacency within our public institutions.

There was a time when the mention of an

impending Auditor's visit would mobilise all and sundry before and after. Why are we here today, when a combination of inertia, sloth, back scratching and bungling incompetencies of some throw disrepute over the whole system, without any determined effort to root out the rot?

At its core, this is not merely a matter of bureaucratic red tape or administrative oversight; it is a reflection of deeper systemic flaws that permeate our public sector governance structures. The absence of well-directed sanctions for "dereliction of duty" fosters a culture of impunity, where accountability becomes a mere afterthought rather than a guiding principle.

Has an implicit acceptance of some 10% of waste become the new normal? One might add that managers in private sector dinosaurs would face some tough questions at such unacceptable tolerance levels. Productive sectors of the economy must watch disconsolately at the regular, unregulated, gargantuan inefficiencies which they, as all consumers and taxpayers, are forced to fund.

Meaningful reform is imperative to break free from this cycle of apathy and inefficiency. Accountability mechanisms must be strengthened, with clear lines of responsibility delineated to ensure that individuals and units are held answerable for their actions – or inactions. Good governance practices, including transparency, accountability, and adherence to established protocols, must be ingrained into the fabric of our public institutions. But clearly, the bulldog must have some teeth, without which the annual audit would remain the proverbial myth of Sisyphus.

Reform efforts must therefore extend beyond mere rhetoric to tangible action. Concrete steps, such as the implementation of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, the establishment of clear performance metrics, and the adoption of international best practices in financial management, are essential to effecting real change. Some form of "dereliction of duty" must be ingrained in our governing legislation.

Ultimately, the annual audit report serves as a clarion call for reform – a stark reminder of the urgent need to overhaul our governance structures and restore public trust in our institutions. The time for idle platitudes and promises has passed; what is needed now is decisive action to address the root causes of systemic failures and usher in a new era of accountability and transparency in public administration.

Unfortunately, without a strong political will to enforce change, it's doubtful that this will happen anytime soon.

The Conversation

Deepfakes are still new, but 2024 could be the year they have an impact on elections



P - theinformation.com

Disinformation caught many people off guard during the 2016 Brexit referendum and US presidential election. Since then, a mini-industry has developed to analyse and counter it.

Yet despite that, we have entered 2024 – a year of more than 40 elections worldwide – more fearful than ever about disinformation. In many ways, the problem is more challenging than it was in 2016.

Advances in technology since then are one reason for that, in particular the development that has taken place with synthetic media, otherwise known as deepfakes. It is increasingly difficult to know whether media has been fabricated by a computer or is based on something that really happened.

We've yet to really understand how big an impact deepfakes could have on elections. But a number of examples point the way to how they may be used. This may be the year when lots of mistakes are made and lessons learned.

Since the disinformation propagated around the votes in 2016, researchers have produced countless books and papers, journalists have retrained as fact checking and verification experts, governments have participated in "grand committees" and centres of excellence. Additionally, libraries have become the focus of resilience building strategies and a range of new bodies has emerged to provide analysis, training, and resources.

This activity hasn't been fruitless. We now have a more nuanced understanding of disinformation as a social, psychological, political, and technological phenomenon. Efforts to support public interest journalism and the cultivation of critical thinking through education are also promising. Most notably, major tech companies no longer pretend to be neutral platforms.

Eileen Culloty

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● Cont. on page 15

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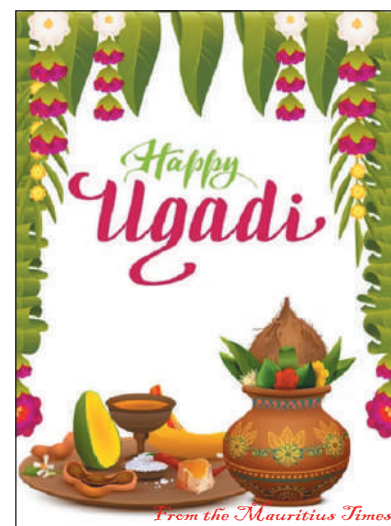
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From the Mauritius Times



From the Mauritius Times

Political Alliances: Challenges and Dilemmas

Pawan Kumar

In the tumultuous landscape of Mauritian politics, recent events have thrown the Labour Party-MMM-PMSD alliance into a mini-crisis. The allocation of electoral tickets among the three parties has sparked discontent, particularly within the ranks of Xavier Duval's PMSD. As the parties grapple with internal strife, external pressures from the ruling MSM alliance have added fuel to the fire.

The crux of the issue lies in the distribution of electoral tickets – the currency of power in any democracy. The PMSD feels slighted, receiving a mere eight tickets compared to the Labour Party's dominant 35 and the MMM's 17. This perceived imbalance has ignited internal dissent within the PMSD, creating fertile ground for the machinations of the ruling MSM party and leading to widespread rumours suggesting that financiers affiliated with the MSM are trying to persuade members of the PMSD to leave the alliance. A tempting offer of 12 tickets and the promise of the Deputy Prime Minister position in a future MSM-PMSD government has been dangled before them.

Amidst this political manoeuvring, Xavier Duval faces a daunting dilemma. His dissatisfaction with the current alliance allocation clashes with the prospect of joining forces with the MSM-led alliance. Duval's past resignation from an MSM-led government over democratic principles further complicates matters. How can he justify a potential alliance shift to his electorate, given his previous stance against the MSM? Will his electorate swallow such a turnabout?

Furthermore, the question of electoral prospects looms large. Would joining forces with the MSM-led alliance increase the chances of electoral success? Or does the Labour Party-MMM-PMSD alliance hold greater promise? The stakes are high, and the decision weighs heavily on Duval and his party.

As the parties grapple with these challenges, the spectre of early elections looms large. Any departure from the alliance could prompt the Prime Minister to seize the opportunity and call for elections sooner than anticipated. The political landscape is fraught with uncertainty, and every move is scrutinized for its potential impact.

Amidst the chaos, one thing remains clear: forming a feasible and lasting alliance is no easy task. Beyond mere agreement on a common government



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programme, issues of ticket allocation, high-level appointments, and ideological alignment must be handled delicately. All parties must be satisfied that they have received a fair deal, lest internal discord threaten the stability of the alliance.

In the coming days, as political negotiations unfold and decisions are made, the future of Mauritian politics hangs in the balance. The choices made now will shape the course of the nation for years to come, and the stakes could not be higher.

* * *

Why Politics bring out the Worst in Us

Tap into any social media platform, turn on the television or cue up a podcast, and it is easy to find examples of hypocrisy or bad behaviour in political discourse

Politics has long been known as a realm where civility often takes a back seat to conflict, where moral high ground becomes a slippery slope,

and where the line between right and wrong blurs into shades of gray. Recent research from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln sheds light on why this may be the case, uncovering a troubling trend of moral flexibility and ethical compromise within the political arena.

The study, conducted by political scientists Kyle Hull, Kevin Smith, and Clarisse Warren, surveyed over 2,400 adults to explore the relationship between personal morals and political behaviour. What they found was both revealing and

“As we deal with today's challenging political environment, it is incumbent upon us to remain vigilant against the erosion of our moral compass. Only by confronting the darker impulses that politics can evoke and reaffirming our commitment to ethical leadership and civic responsibility can we hope to stem the tide of moral decay and reclaim the integrity of our democratic institutions...”

disconcerting: people are more willing to bend their morals and engage in unethical behaviour when it comes to politics, driven primarily by hostility toward opposing groups.

“It's as if politics has a transformative effect on our moral compass,” explains Hull, a visiting assistant professor in political science. “When individuals enter the political realm, they become more willing to justify behaviours and judgments that they would find unacceptable in their personal lives.”

This shift in moral judgment was evident across various demographics, regardless of age or ideological orientation. The survey compared responses to non-political and political moral behaviour scales, revealing a notable discrepancy in the standards applied to personal versus political conduct. Even minor changes in wording, such as substituting “person” with “politician,” were enough to elicit more lenient moral assessments.

Perhaps most troubling is the finding that individuals are more forgiving of moral transgressions committed by politicians they favour, akin to the leniency granted to a friend. This bias in moral judgment underscores the deeply entrenched tribalism that characterizes modern politics, where loyalty to one's party or ideology often trumps ethical considerations.

“In today's polarized political landscape, we see the harmful consequences of outrage politics,” observes Hull. “Internalized animosity toward the opposing party fuels a willingness to compromise one's moral principles and tolerate behaviour that would otherwise be deemed unacceptable.”

Indeed, the study paints a sobering picture of the corrosive effects of political tribalism on moral integrity. As Smith, the Olson Professor of Political Science, notes, “Politics seems to make bastards of us all.” The polarization and demonization of opposing groups perpetuated by politicians and the media only serve to exacerbate this phenomenon, creating a vicious cycle of moral degradation.

The implications of these findings are profound, pointing to a pressing need for greater introspection and accountability within the political sphere. If politics is indeed a breeding ground for moral compromise, then it falls upon individuals and institutions alike to resist the allure of tribalism and uphold the principles of integrity and ethical conduct.

As we deal with today's challenging political environment, it is incumbent upon us to remain vigilant against the erosion of our moral compass. Only by confronting the darker impulses that politics can evoke and reaffirming our commitment to ethical leadership and civic responsibility can we hope to stem the tide of moral decay and reclaim the integrity of our democratic institutions.

Par A. Bartleby

Les élections de 2024 à travers le monde sont confrontées à une menace croissante et sophistiquée: les "deepfakes" audio IA (supports audio IA truqués) générés par l'intelligence artificielle. L'émergence de cette technologie a déjà eu un impact significatif sur plusieurs scrutins à travers le monde.

Cette montée en puissance des "deepfakes" audio soulève des préoccupations majeures quant à leur utilisation potentielle pour manipuler les élections et perturber les processus démocratiques. Les électeurs sont de plus en plus confrontés à la difficulté de distinguer les contenus audio authentiques des faux générés par des algorithmes de l'IA.

Cette menace est d'autant plus préoccupante que la technologie derrière les «deepfakes» continue de s'améliorer, rendant leur détection de plus en plus difficile. Selon Rowan Philp du «Global Investigative Journalism Network», les défis auxquels sont confrontés les enquêteurs pour identifier et enquêter sur ces manipulations, ainsi que les façons dont les «deepfakes» audio sont utilisés dans différents contextes électoraux à travers le monde sont nombreux.

En octobre 2023, une imitation de la voix d'un leader de l'opposition, synthétisée par l'IA, a contribué à faire pencher l'élection en Slovaquie en faveur d'un candidat pro-Russe.

Un autre faux audio IA a été superposé à un véritable clip vidéo d'un candidat au Pakistan, appelant supposément les électeurs à boycotter les élections générales de février 2024.

À l'approche des élections au Bangladesh en janvier, plusieurs faux créés avec des générateurs d'IA commerciaux bon marché ont gagné en popularité auprès des électeurs en diffamant les candidats rivaux du Premier ministre en place.

Elections 2024: menace croissante des "deepfakes" de l'intelligence artificielle

Et aux États-Unis, un extrait audio se faisant passer pour la voix du président Joe Biden exhortait les électeurs à ne pas voter lors de l'élection primaire d'un État clé.

Ces exemples ne sont que la pointe de l'iceberg d'une tendance inquiétante qui pourrait avoir des répercussions profondes sur la démocratie mondiale. Les experts s'accordent à dire que les "deepfakes" audio IA pourraient représenter une menace encore plus grande que les vidéos fabriquées. Ces faux audio, dans lesquels une voix réelle est clonée par un outil d'apprentissage automatique pour énoncer un message faux, sont plus faciles et moins coûteux à produire que leurs homologues vidéo. Cette facilité de création les rend particulièrement attrayants pour les acteurs malveillants qui cherchent à manipuler les électeurs. Les "deepfakes" audio peuvent être utilisés dans des appels automatisés ciblant les électeurs les plus vulnérables, et leur origine peut être difficile à retracer, créant ainsi un véritable défi pour les enquêteurs et les journalistes.

Mais comment pouvons-nous identifier et enquêter sur ces "deepfakes" audio IA? Selon Olga Yurkova, formatrice en journalisme et cofondatrice de StopFake.org, ces faux sont difficiles à détecter à l'œil nu en raison du manque d'indices contextuels. De plus, les outils de génération vocale sont plus avancés que jamais, rendant l'analyse encore plus complexe. Cependant, malgré ces défis, il est crucial que les médias et les citoyens soient vigilants et équipés pour contrer cette menace émergente.

Les organisations de vérification des faits et les ONGs pro-démocratie jouent un rôle essentiel dans la lutte contre les "deepfakes" audio IA. Des projets tels que le pro-



Les deepfakes sont encore nouveaux, mais 2024 pourrait être l'année où ils auront un impact sur les élections. P - Financial Times

gramme de réponse rapide aux "deepfakes" de WITNESS mobilisent des experts pour analyser les contenus suspects et fournir des informations précieuses aux citoyens et aux médias.

Cependant, ces efforts ne suffisent pas à eux seuls. Il est également essentiel que les gouvernements et les plateformes technologiques prennent des mesures pour réglementer et limiter la propagation de ces faux audio.

En fin de compte, la lutte contre les "deepfakes" audio IA est une bataille pour la vérité et l'intégrité des processus démocratiques. Alors que nous entrons dans l'année des élections de 2024, il est temps pour les gouvernements, les médias et les citoyens de s'unir pour contrer cette menace croissante. En investissant dans la recherche, la formation et la sensibilisation du public, nous pouvons espérer préserver la démocratie et protéger les fondements de nos sociétés libres et ouvertes.

En ce qui concerne l'île Maurice, les

élections de 2019 ont été marquées par des allégations selon lesquelles des experts étrangers en informatique et l'intelligence artificielle auraient été enrôlés par le parti au pouvoir pour "faciliter" l'élection de ses candidats. Cette situation souligne l'importance de prendre au sérieux la menace des "deepfakes" audio IA lors des scrutins électoraux. Sans céder à la paranoïa, les leçons tirées de cette expérience doivent servir à renforcer la vigilance et la préparation des institutions mauriciennes mais aussi des partis politiques en vue des élections futures.

Il est impératif que les autorités électorales, les médias et la société civile travaillent ensemble pour mettre en place des mécanismes de détection et de contrôle efficaces pour prévenir toute tentative de manipulation électorale à l'aide de "deepfakes" audio et, ainsi, se protéger contre cette menace émergente tout en préservant l'intégrité des processus démocratiques.

"Chasser les abeilles"

Le Roi de Malaisie offre du miel au chef de la Commission anti-corruption

Après deux mois au pouvoir, le Roi de Malaisie, Ibrahim Iskandar, a fait passer son message selon lequel sa phase de "lune de miel" de gouvernance était terminée - avec un pot de la substance sucrée et collante tant aimée de tous.

Le monarque a offert le miel au chef de la Commission anti-corruption de Malaisie, Azam Baki, lundi dernier, lors d'une réunion de trente minutes au palais national, selon la publication Facebook du roi. Il a réitéré que la lutte contre la corruption serait l'une de ses priorités tout au long de son règne, rapporte Bloomberg.

"Comme je l'ai dit précédemment,



Le monarque a offert le miel au chef de la Commission anti-corruption de Malaisie. P - Corse Matin

ma lune de miel est terminée, maintenant allez chasser les abeilles," a déclaré le Roi Ibrahim à Azam en lui présentant le cadeau, qu'il a dit symboliser la fin de la phase. Le monarque avait déclaré en mars qu'il commencerait son "véritable mode de gouvernance" une fois que son règne aurait atteint les deux mois.

Le Roi Ibrahim, originaire de l'État le plus au sud de Johor, a pris le trône fin janvier dans le cadre d'une monarchie constitutionnelle unique où neuf royaux des États se succèdent pour des mandats de cinq ans. Le rôle du roi, bien que principalement cérémoniel, est devenu de plus en plus important pour déterminer qui détient le pouvoir dans la nation d'Asie du Sud-Est, où les Premiers ministres occupent le poste en moyenne depuis moins de deux ans depuis 2018.

Avant son accession au trône, le roi avait partagé ses projets visant à lutter contre la corruption et avait proposé que la Commission malaisienne de lutte contre la corruption (MACC) lui rende directement des comptes.

Les autorités anti-corruption ont ordonné en janvier aux deux fils aînés de Mahathir Mohamad de déclarer leurs avoirs remontant à 1981, année où leur père est devenu Premier ministre.

☞ Suite en page 5

“Chasser les abeilles”

☞ Suite de la page 4

Les fils ont déclaré le mois dernier que la MACC leur avait ordonné d'aider à une enquête sur leur père, révélant pour la première fois qu'une enquête de plusieurs mois ciblait l'ancien Premier ministre âgé de 98 ans. L'agence enquête également sur Daim Zainuddin, un ancien ministre des Finances et proche collaborateur de Mahathir.

Il est intéressant de noter que Maurice et Rodrigues produisent également du miel de bonne qualité, et il pourrait être judicieux de faire don de miel aux autorités anti-corruption ici. D'autant plus que la performance de l'ICAC et sa gestion d'un grand nombre d'affaires de haut niveau sont sous le feu des projecteurs depuis de nombreuses années – et même sous le gouvernement précédent.

La liste des affaires où l'on ne sait toujours pas où en sont ses enquêtes est longue et ne cesse de s'allonger telles que

- le scandale Dufry (2015);
- le scandale Alvaro Sobrinho (2018);
- le scandale de la surévaluation excessive par rapport à la valeur du terrain du Sugar Insurance Fund Board (2018);
- le scandale Yerrigadoo/Bet 365 (2018);
- l'affaire Glen Agliotti (2019),
- l'affaire Serenity Gate/Film Rebate Scheme (2019), et
- le projet de revalorisation de la centrale électrique de St Louis.

Toutes ces enquêtes en suspens soulignent l'absence d'une agence d'investigation crédible et respectée capable de traiter les crimes en col blanc de manière indépendante de la proximité politique.

Moscou endeuillée : L'attaque terroriste du 22 mars et ses ramifications géopolitiques

En un claquement de doigts, la vie nocturne animée de Moscou s'est transformée en une scène de chaos et de carnage. Le 22 mars 2024, un concert de rock à la salle Crocus City Hall a été le théâtre d'une attaque terroriste dévastatrice. Quatre hommes armés ont ouvert le feu sur la foule, faisant 144 morts et de nombreux blessés. Cet acte de violence marque l'attaque la plus meurtrière en Russie depuis près de deux décennies et constitue un nouveau défi brutal pour la sécurité mondiale, selon Dr Rashmini Koparkar, Professeur Assistant, École des Études Internationales, JNU. Explications:

Retour sur un drame annoncé

La Russie n'est pas étrangère au terrorisme. En 2004, la prise d'école à Beslan avait déjà endeuillé le pays avec près de 300 victimes. Plus récemment, l'attentat à la bombe perpétré par l'État islamique (EI) contre un avion de ligne russe en Égypte en 2015 (224 morts) et l'attaque suicide d'un étudiant radicalisé dans le métro de Saint-Petersbourg en 2017 (11 morts) rappelaient la menace constante qui pèse sur le territoire.

Le timing de l'attaque de Moscou n'est pas fortuit. Elle intervient seulement quatre jours après la réélection de Vladimir Poutine à la présidence pour un cinquième mandat. L'EI a ciblé la Russie à maintes reprises, dénonçant l'oppression présumée des musulmans et le soutien russe au régime syrien de Bachar al-Assad.

Le fil conducteur tadjik

Les autorités russes ont rapidement identifié les quatre assaillants comme étant originaires du Tadjikistan, un pays d'Asie centrale à majorité musulmane. Cette nation enclavée est en proie à des difficultés économiques importantes, forçant une partie de sa jeunesse à l'émigration, notamment vers la Russie. Ce contexte social fragile est exploité par l'EI, qui a recruté de nombreux combat-



Le timing de l'attaque de Moscou n'est pas fortuit. Elle intervient seulement quatre jours après la réélection de Vladimir Poutine à la présidence pour un cinquième mandat. P - Euronews

tants tadjiks pour ses opérations au Moyen-Orient.

L'attaque de Moscou a mis en lumière le lien dangereux entre la pauvreté, l'instabilité politique et la radicalisation en Asie centrale. La branche régionale de l'EI, État islamique - Khorasan (ISIS-K), est apparue récemment et a attiré de nombreux militants d'autres groupes terroristes comme Al-Qaïda et les Talibans. La prise de pouvoir des Talibans en Afghanistan en 2021 a encore fragilisé la situation dans la région, d'autant plus que le Tadjikistan partage une frontière sur une longue distance avec ce pays.

Un casse-tête géopolitique

L'attaque de Moscou a également des implications cruciales pour la Russie. Déjà engagée dans une guerre difficile en Ukraine, la Russie doit désormais faire face à une menace accrue sur son propre sol. Les accusations mutuelles fusent entre la Russie et l'Occident. Alors que les États-Unis affirment avoir averti la Russie d'une attaque potentielle, Moscou accuse l'Ukraine et l'Occident de soutenir les terroristes.

Cette tension accrue ne fait qu'isoler davantage la Russie sur la scène internationale et complique la lutte contre le terrorisme, qui nécessite une coopération à l'échelle mon-

diale.

La présence de travailleurs migrants tadjiks en Russie, estimés à 3 millions de personnes, crée un autre point de tension. Ces travailleurs jouent un rôle vital dans l'économie russe, mais ils sont souvent confrontés à des conditions de vie difficiles et à la discrimination, ce qui les rend plus vulnérables aux discours extrémistes.

Une vigilance accrue nécessaire

L'attaque de Moscou est un cruel rappel de la menace permanente du terrorisme. Pour relever ce défi, il est crucial de comprendre les racines du problème. La pauvreté, l'instabilité politique et l'absence de perspectives d'avenir pour les jeunes constituent autant de terrains fertiles pour la radicalisation.

La communauté internationale doit agir de concert pour promouvoir la stabilité économique et politique en Asie centrale. La Russie, de son côté, doit adopter une approche plus inclusive envers les travailleurs migrants et lutter contre la discrimination. La coopération internationale en matière de renseignement et de lutte antiterroriste est également essentielle pour identifier et démanteler les réseaux terroristes avant qu'ils ne passent à l'acte.

L'économie européenne face aux défis chinois, russes et américains

Analyse et implications pour l'île Maurice

L'économie européenne, traditionnellement un moteur de la croissance mondiale, traverse une période d'une rare turbulence. L'article du 2 avril 2024 de «The Economist», intitulé “L'Économie Européenne Sous Attaque de Toutes Parts,” brosse un tableau inquiétant d'un continent aux prises avec un “ouragan parfait” de vents contraires économiques et géopolitiques. Examinons en détail les trois principales menaces auxquelles l'Europe est confrontée et leurs implications potentiellement désastreuses.

1. La montée en puissance de la Chine

L'accession de la Chine à l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC) en 2001 a marqué un tournant pour l'é-



P - afrique.latribune.fr

conomie mondiale. Les barrières commerciales se sont effritées, et les fabricants occidentaux ont dû faire face à

une concurrence accrue de la part des entreprises chinoises à bas prix. L'Europe a relativement bien résisté à ce premier choc, en partie grâce à l'expansion de l'UE vers l'Est. Cependant, la montée en puissance actuelle de la Chine est d'un tout autre ordre.

Sous la direction de Xi Jinping, la Chine ne se contente plus simplement de produire des biens de consommation à bas prix. Elle investit massivement dans les technologies de pointe et cherche à devenir un leader mondial dans des secteurs critiques tels que la robotique industrielle et les équipements ferroviaires. Cela représente une menace existentielle pour les industries manufacturières européennes, déjà fragilisées par des coûts de production plus élevés.

De plus, la Chine subventionne généreusement ses propres industries, faussant ainsi le jeu de la concurrence. L'Union européenne, attachée aux règles du commerce international, hésite à prendre des mesures de rétorsion.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 13



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

How Credible are Global Ranking Indices?

How seriously should we, lay people, take the country rankings that are published periodically? For example, the Mo Ibrahim Index which applies to the African region has a number of times placed Mauritius at No. 1 for the parameters that it considers. That obviously elates politicians, in particular the government of the day which takes the credit for that apparent achievement. However, for most people who go about their daily lives oblivious of such rankings, the social, economic, political, and institutional realities often seem to be in contradiction to these glorifying labels. Great to be numero uno, but how does this impact the overall living conditions and environment?

Conversely, does a drop in ranking truly reflect the ground reality? This is a question that is currently of interest in India which is shortly to have its general election, and which is being 'watched' with as much interest by the rest of the world – as was the recent Russian general election, and so too will be the coming US general election due in November.

A clue is provided in an April 2019 publication by Dr Essam Disi Director - Strategy & Policy at Mohammed Bin Rashid Est. for SME Development (DUBAI SME). He wrote: 'A lot of these rankings are based on solid methodologies and supported by reputable organizations. In some cases, the parameters of the rankings are based on hard data or facts, such as, number of steps to register a business or cost of a certain transaction. On the other hand, in many other cases the parameters are based on surveys circulated among a small number of "Experts" to rate and provide their feedback. However, what happens if these "Experts" were biased? or if it was in their interest to push their country's ranking up the list?' (italics added)

Extending this line of thinking in the opposite direction, what if 'Experts' assessing another country were biased against it, in which case that country's ranking would likely drop, isn't it? Or, even if they were neutral, there are methodological limitations that can come in the way of assigning proper ranking. This is spelt out in an Ipsos survey of trustworthiness of different professions carried out in May-June 2023. I should be happy because doctors are ranked highest!

But the point I am making is about methodology, and this is what the Ipsos site comments: 'These are the findings of a 31-country survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform and, in India, on its IndiaBus platform between 26 May and 9 June 2023. The results are comprised of an international sample of 22,816 adults...'

As far as India is concerned the sample 'represents a large subset of its urban population...' (italics added). The concluding remark is that 'The Global Country Average reflects the average result for all the countries and markets in which the survey was conducted. It has

not been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is not intended to suggest a total result.' Since a large segment of India's population is rural, it is clear therefore that the result of this survey does not give a true picture of the Indian situation in regard to trustworthiness of professions.



“The Mo Ibrahim Index which applies to the African region has a number of times placed Mauritius at No. 1 for the parameters that it considers. That obviously elates politicians, in particular the government of the day which takes the credit for that apparent achievement. However, for most people who go about their daily lives oblivious of such rankings, the social, economic, political, and institutional realities often seem to be in contradiction to these glorifying labels. Great to be numero uno, but how does this impact the overall living conditions and environment?”

Such considerations are a matter of concern for Indian analysts, among whom is Sanjeev Sanyal, Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, whose views are frequently sought given his key position. He has said, for example, that 'It is important to have clear benchmarks to measure socio-economic progress. However, a blanket application of global standards in India does not always present the true picture.'

Speaking at the launch of the Sovereign Risk Assessment Framework by CareEdge Ratings last year, he said that 'India should be confident enough to deconstruct the rest of the world on its own terms as a rising economic power, creating global norms and benchmarks in various fields,' and 'should no longer be bound by benchmarks that are decided by third parties, and in which the country has no role in framing.'

Further, 'For the very first time, an Indian rating agency (NB: CareEdge Ratings) will assign sovereign ratings to the rest of the world... This is an important thing for us as a rising economic power to get used to doing. All this while, we allowed other people to deconstruct us; it's time we get confident enough to deconstruct the rest of the world on our terms,' adding that the country also needs to come up with global norms in various other

fields like medical benchmarks and Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) standards.'

Anyone who has been involved in designing and conducting surveys, for example, knows that leading questions can be framed to suit the agenda of a survey. This is especially the case when the 'soft' social sciences are concerned, as opposed to the 'hard' physical sciences when more tangible variables, such as temperature, humidity, etc., are being measured. And reports and experts too can reflect bias. This is the reason that of late some UN reports are no longer looked up to as they used to be earlier.

A more comprehensive and detailed analysis on this theme is to be found in an article by the Chief Editor of MyIndMakers, Ramaharitha Pusarla, in its Current Affairs section on Apr 01, 2024, titled 'The Pretense is Shed; Puppet Masters of Vested Interests Coming out of the Woods.'

She points out how 'India has been a playground for foreign players... external agencies forged connections with influential media, academic, social and political organisations of democratic India.' Moreover, vested interests in cahoots with external agencies have rolled out concerted attempts to vitiate India, its polity, and its democracy with international media under its fold. Resultantly, *India began to suddenly slip in all rankings ranging from Poverty Index through Happiness Index to even Democratic Index (italics added), ...notwithstanding the stable and steady development enabling environment.*

The unabashed bias became so glaring that the common man began to mock the Western aptitude of giving a better rank to Palestine and Afghanistan, the seedbeds of terrorism as much happier places to live than India. According to the World Happiness Report, India is at 126th position among the 146 countries below its neighbours - Nepal, Bangladesh, and China. The Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) reports placed India among the top ten autocracies deeming it an "electoral autocracy". The sudden fall of India in all these indices from 2013 is glaring.

'The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) which relies on the annual reports of US-based think tanks like Freedom House, Pew Research, Human Rights Watch, and Reporters Sans Frontieres termed India a "Flawed Democracy".'

With reason, she queries the sudden interest of the US, Germany and lo and behold - even the UN! - in the arrest of the sitting Chief Minister of New Delhi in a mega liquor scam. He has now been jailed in Tihar jail where two of his other Cabinet ministers have been imprisoned for the same matter since several months, having been repeatedly refused bail. It's the same judiciary whose rulings have been cited on a number of occasions by our own political class to support some stand or the other they took.

She points out how 'India is now going full guns blazing against the Western hypocrisy reminding them of the cardinal rules of diplomacy and vociferously questioning the Western precedent of judging countries as their imperial moral compass.' She condemns this 'brazen interference of the West in the internal affairs of a sovereign country' which is 'uncalled for and reeks of unjustifiable moral constabulary.'

When it comes to rankings coming from external agencies, therefore, one has to take them with not a pinch but a *kalchul* of salt! And that too *gros dise!*

Of Wine, Wisdom, and Xavier Duval's Cornelian Dilemma

In the heart of ancient Athens, amidst the flickering glow of torches and the fragrant aroma of wine, two esteemed philosophers find themselves engrossed in a lively discussion. Socrates and Cephalus, seated comfortably at a cosy tavern table, share a convivial evening as they muse over the latest political gossip. And so begins a tale of wit and wisdom, where ancient philosophers navigate the complexities of modern politics with humour and insight. As they ponder the fate of Xavier Duval and the twists and turns of political alliances, they offer both amusement and enlightenment to those who listen. In the timeless setting of the Athenian tavern, where ideas flow as freely as the wine, the stage is set for a comedy of errors that transcends the ages.

By Plutonix

Setting: A cosy tavern in ancient Athens. Socrates and Cephalus are sitting at a table, enjoying some wine and olives.

Socrates: Ah, Cephalus, my dear friend! What a pleasure it is to share this delightful evening with you. Tell me, have you heard of the recent political turmoil regarding Xavier Duval's predicament?

Cephalus: Indeed, Socrates, the tavern walls have ears, and they've been buzzing with gossip about Duval's Cornelian dilemma.

Socrates: A Cornelian dilemma, you say? Pray, enlighten me, dear Cephalus. I'm intrigued by this term.

Cephalus: Well, Socrates, it seems that Duval finds himself in quite the pickle. On one hand, he's been offered a tempting proposition by the ruling MSM alliance, with promises of power and position. But on the other hand, he's torn, for he risks betraying his principles and the alliance he's formed with the Labour Party-MMM coalition.

Socrates: Ah, a classic case of conflicting desires and moral quandaries! Tell me, Cephalus, do you think Duval's situation resembles that of the mythical King Midas, who found himself cursed with the golden touch?

Cephalus: Indeed, Socrates, for just as King Midas found that his newfound wealth brought him more trouble than happiness, Duval must grapple with the weight of his decisions. Should he forsake his principles for the allure of power, or should he remain steadfast and true to his convictions?

Socrates: A dilemma indeed, my dear Cephalus. And yet, it brings to mind the teachings of our wise friend, Diogenes. He believed that true happiness lies not in wealth or power, but in living a virtuous and honest life.

Cephalus: Wise words, Socrates, and ones that Duval would do well to heed. But alas, the temptations of politics are many, and the path of righteousness is often fraught with obstacles.

Socrates: Indeed, Cephalus! But to come back to Duval's dilemma, to put it bluntly it seems he is caught between an alliance with the other opposition parties and a Deputy Prime Minister's seat on board an MSM alliance - just as a rock and a hard place!

Cephalus: Ah, Socrates, you always manage to find



humour in even the most dire situations. But tell me, do you think Duval is truly in a pickle, or is he simply trying to butter his bread on both sides?

Socrates: Ah, my dear Cephalus, Duval's predicament reminds me of the fable of the fox and the grapes. Just as the fox convinced himself that the grapes were sour after failing to reach them, perhaps Duval is convincing himself that leaving the coalition is for the best after failing to secure enough tickets from the Labour Party-led opposition alliance.

Cephalus: Quite the analogy, Socrates! But if Duval leaves the alliance, won't he be risking the wrath of the electorate?

Socrates: Indeed, Cephalus, for in the game of politics, one must tread carefully, lest they find themselves trampled by the donkeys of democracy!

Cephalus: Ha! Truer words were never spoken, Socrates! But tell me, do you think Duval's departure would spell doom for the Labour Party-MMM-PMMSD alliance?

Socrates: Ah, my dear Cephalus, in the turbulent sea of politics, alliances are but ships passing in the night. Who's to say whether Duval's departure would sink the ship or merely cause a ripple in the waters?

Cephalus: Wise words, Socrates! But if Duval does leave, do you think the Prime Minister would seize the opportunity to call for early elections?

Socrates: Ah, Cephalus, the appetite of political leaders for power is as insatiable as that of a hungry lion! If Duval leaves, I have no doubt the Prime Minister will pounce on the chance to flex his political muscles.

Cephalus: Well said, Socrates! It seems Xavier Duval's Cornelian dilemma has all the makings of a Greek tragedy, complete with drama, intrigue, and a healthy dose of comedic relief!

Socrates: Indeed, Cephalus! If only Xavier Duval had the wisdom of Socrates and the wit of Aristophanes, perhaps he wouldn't find himself in such a pickle!

Cephalus: Indeed, Socrates! But alas, we can't all be blessed with your unparalleled intellect and comedic genius.

Socrates: Oh, Cephalus, you flatter me! But tell me, do you think Duval's dilemma is more akin to a comedy of errors or a tragic farce?

Cephalus: Well, Socrates, if I were a betting man, I'd say it's a bit of both! After all, what's politics without a healthy dose of drama and a few slapstick mishaps along the

way?

Socrates: Quite right, Cephalus! Why, I daresay if Aristophanes were alive today, he'd have a field day lampooning the antics of our modern-day politicians.

Cephalus: Ha! Can you imagine the satirical plays he'd write about Xavier Duval's misadventures? I can already hear the laughter echoing through the streets of Athens!

Socrates: Indeed, my friend! But let us not forget that behind the laughter lies a serious question: how will Duval's decision affect the future of our beloved city-state?

Cephalus: Ah, Socrates, always the voice of reason amidst the chaos of politics! But fear not, my friend, for as long as we have philosophers like you to guide us, I have no doubt we'll weather any storm that comes our way.

Socrates: Well said, Cephalus! And now, let us raise our glasses once more, to Xavier Duval and the comedy of politics! May he find his way out of this mess with grace and humour.

Cephalus: Hear, hear! To Xavier Duval, the reluctant hero of our modern-day comedy of errors, and to the timeless pursuit of virtue in the face of temptation.

Interview: Yvan Martial

“Les élections arriveront plus vite que prévu Elles prendront par surprise l’opposition à Pravind Jugnauth”

Aujourd’hui, plusieurs observateurs pensent que l’existence de la démocratie, telle que nous la connaissons, est menacée. Parmi les critiques les plus fréquentes, il y a l’indifférence du peuple mauricien qui ne semble pas vouloir se mobiliser pour apporter les transformations nécessaires dans le paysage politique. Mais ce peuple, comme tant d’autres dans le monde, n’est-il pas anxieux et ne se recroqueville-t-il pas sur lui-même, se sentant impuissant face aux inégalités persistantes émanant de la domination des riches qui deviennent de plus en plus puissants et corrompus? Somme toute, les débats et les prévisions à propos des groupes ou des partis politiques qui dirigeront la République dans un proche avenir rendent plus visible l’asymétrie entre d’un côté, les détenteurs du pouvoir et ceux aspirant à prendre leur place, et de l’autre côté, les attentes réelles des mandants. Yvan Martial, identifie une difficulté contemporaine : celle du citoyen honnête qui n’ose pas appartenir à un parti politique, car il risque d’être berné par la machinerie au lieu de trouver dans cette démarche une certaine émancipation. Ses propos reflètent une tension certaine, à la limite du supportable.

Mauritius Times: Les élections approchent à grands pas. Bien que les données aient subi des changements significatifs depuis les dernières élections, peut-on néanmoins discerner les tendances pour 2024?

Yvan Martial: Elles arriveront plus vite que prévu. Elles prendront par surprise l’opposition à Pravind Jugnauth. Cette dernière devra improviser sa riposte. Un moindre mal. Plus lui donne-t-on du temps pour réagir et plus multiplie-t-elle ses bévues, hautement préjudiciables...

Nul changement significatif depuis 2014. Il y a toujours deux locomotives et une armada de wagons insignifiants. La locomotive rouge est de plus en plus poussive. La Covid-19 est passée par là. Le chauffeur de la locomotive est de moins en moins combattif. C’est ce qui fait peut-être sa force mais à son insu. Qui sait?

Une puissance étrangère - mais tellement ancestrale - pourrait miser sur cette faiblesse croissante pour espérer une résistance moindre à ses objectifs militaires et colonialistes. Les mensonges mauriciens répétés concernant la prétendue absence de toute base militaire à Agaléga gênent considérablement certains stratèges géopolitiques. Maurice ferait le jeu de Beijing, se lamente-t-on dans des capitales à peine étrangères.

Nous ne sommes pas au bout de nos surprises, surtout électorales. La saison liturgique se prêterait même à la possible résurrection de la locomotive à vapeur poussive. Laissons les naïfs continuer à croire que ce sont des Mauriciens qui préparent, gagnent ou perdent les Législatives, se déroulant sur leur territoire si peu national. N’oublions pas le temps quand nos astrologues et autres superstitieux de tous acabits couraient d’une consultation à

l’autre en terres ancestrales et nous revenaient avec des phalanges additionnelles pour enfiler un nombre croissant de bagues et autres pierres précieuses les unes plus voyantes que les autres.

Si nous voulons discerner des tendances électorales pour 2024, le moment est arrivé de sortir de nos placards le marc à café et nos autres boules de cristal à manier avec toute la superstition imaginable et sans modération. Mais tout cela en pure perte. Quels que puissent être les résultats des prochaines Législatives, pour le *Ti-Dimounn* mauricien ce serait toujours kif kif bourricot. Il lui faudra payer l’ardoise amère de ce folklore défiant toute logique.

Notre seule consolation: il y a électoral plus malheureux que nous. Pensons aux Américains qui devront subir un nouveau match Biden versus Trump. Nos retraités sont quand même plus fringants.

*** En quoi les élections de 2019 peuvent-elles nous éclairer, et quels enseignements les principaux partis politiques, surtout l’opposition, devraient-ils prendre en compte?**

En rien! Nous pouvons en revanche compter sur la prochaine campagne électorale pouvant commencer n’importe quand, hormis la date fétiche du 1er-Mai pour certains, pour abrutir et infantiliser davantage notre électoral. On peut même imaginer la



propagande télévisée s’apprêtant à mettre les bouchées quadruples. Nous formons plus que jamais une nation qui n’a même pas besoin de boëtte. Le mirage d’un hameçon se dandinant devant nos mirettes suffit pour que nous atteignons les phantasmes les plus titillants.

Rien n’a changé depuis 2014. Notre léthargie dépasse désormais les sommets les plus inaccessibles. Nous nous complaisons dans un cinéma politicard des plus ineptes. Tolérons-nous celui qui croit pouvoir nous diriger de droit divin car il serait sorti de cuisses jupitériennes? Et s’estime-t-il autorisé de choisir les irresponsables les plus haut placés parmi les eunuques les mieux émasculés de son harem politique, hélas inépuisable?

Il se trouve que ce type de choix a lieu parmi les moutons les plus bêlants. Plus est-on docile et mieux brille-t-on de mille feux au firmament de cette «popote» ministérielle?

Pardonnons à notre électoral son manque chronique de discernement. Il n’a guère l’embarras du choix. Comment lui reprocher de préférer la peste au choléra ou l’inverse? Comment ne pas être écoeuré devant deux locomotives électorales

concourant pour obtenir le titre suivant: «la plus incompétente qui soit»?

*** L’arithmétique électorale n’a pas toujours produit les résultats escomptés, comme l’ont démontré les élections de 2014. Si l’on se base sur les performances des partis de l’opposition lors des dernières élections, l’alliance PTR-MMM-PMSD (si elle est toujours d’actualité d’ici la fin de cette semaine eu égard aux sollicitations pressantes du MSM, dit-on, pour que le PMSD rejoigne l’alliance gouvernementale) devrait remporter les circonscriptions des régions urbaines sans grandes difficultés. De plus, avec le soutien du MMM, le PTR devrait être en mesure de défier efficacement le MSM dans les régions rurales afin d’assurer la victoire à cette alliance de l’opposition. Cependant, est-ce aussi simple que cela?**

Nous ne sommes pas capables de prévoir avec exactitude, avec 24 heures d’avance, s’il y aura ou non des pluies torrentielles et des inondations, à tel ou tel endroit précis d’une île de seulement 1 865 kilomètres carrés, et nous voudrions nous appuyer, avec autant d’assurance, sur une quelconque arithmétique électorale tellement imprévisible pour prédire des résultats électoraux tellement volatiles. Ne prenons pas nos rêves pour une quelconque réalité.

D’ailleurs, nous sommes assez naïfs pour exiger de notre Météo nationale, concernant des pluies diluviennes, ce qu’elle peut prévoir avec plus ou moins de succès concernant un temps venteux, avec des risques de rafales de plus de 120 kilomètres/heure.

“Nous ne sommes pas capables de prévoir avec exactitude, avec 24 heures d’avance, s’il y aura ou non des pluies torrentielles et des inondations, à tel ou tel endroit précis d’une île de seulement 1 865 kilomètres carrés, et nous voudrions nous appuyer, avec autant d’assurance, sur une quelconque arithmétique électorale tellement imprévisible pour prédire des résultats électoraux tellement volatiles. Ne prenons pas nos rêves pour une quelconque réalité...”

● Suite en page 9

'Rien n'a changé depuis 2014. Notre léthargie dépasse désormais les sommets les plus inaccessibles.

Nous nous complaisons dans un cinéma politicard des plus ineptes'

● Suite de la page 8

Ce temps venteux est général pour l'ensemble de l'île, pour une durée plutôt limitée. Il en va autrement pour la pluie. Elle peut tomber, ici, en abondance et pendant longtemps, sans causer la moindre nuisance, ni mort d'hommes, alors qu'ailleurs l'imprudence de certains peuvent leur être hautement préjudiciable, sinon fatale, même en cas de pluviosité moindre.

Nous sommes devenus un peuple tellement infantilisé : nous pensons qu'il faut qu'un gouvernement omnipotent nous interdise de nous aventurer dans un parking ou dans un tunnel souterrain ou sur une voie publique déjà submergée, pour ne pas risquer notre vie ou encore la survie d'un véhicule nous ayant peut-être coûté plus de deux millions de roupies. Couillons nous sommes et couillons resterons! Et il en sera de même tant que nous répèterons béatement «Ou même papa ! On même maman !»

De plus, serions-nous assez dociles pour accepter qu'un irresponsable de service se permette, en se drapant dans sa fausse dignité, de désigner un bouc émissaire pour tenter mais vainement de cacher son erreur incommensurable? Le courage manquerait-il au point où, dit-on, nous l'applaudissons, même quand il s'écrie: «*Pa moi ça ..Li ça !*» Cet adage si vil, si irresponsable, si indigne, ferait pourtant tristement florès, sans que les pairs de individu ne s'en émeuvent, prouvant par là qu'ils ne valent guère mieux... Pauvre pays Maurice. T'as même plus de larmes pour pleurer.

Je refuse systématiquement de perdre mon temps, qu'à tort ou à raison je considère de plus en plus précieux, à supputer de possibles résultats électoraux. Il y a des élections pour cela. Il me suffit d'attendre le jour du scrutin. D'attendre sans surprise le verdict du casse-boîte pour savoir à quelle sauce nous serons mangés, par notre classe politique, pendant le prochain lustre. Les résultats électoraux n'intéressent que les 60 principaux candidats de tout scrutin et la horde de parasites du plus bas étage, disposés par avance à se contenter de leurs restes.

L'espoir d'un électorat plus intelligent, plus talentueux, s'évanouit davantage d'un scrutin à l'autre. Je ne vois pas l'électrochoc pouvant renverser cette vapeur malodorante, ce triste reliquat d'une glorieuse démocratie mauricienne, nous ayant pourtant donné des Rémy Ollier, des Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, des Renganaden Seeneevassen...

Votre question se veut optimiste pour l'opposition surtout extraparlamentaire. La réalité est pourtant assez sombre. Et même si un devin pouvait, demain, prédire avec certitude que telle locomotive électorale devancera à coup sûr sa rivale, pareille annonce pourrait suffire pour provoquer un électrochoc d'une telle ampleur que l'électorat, dans sa sagesse infuse, décide de renverser du tout au

“Je profite surtout de cette occasion pour rendre un hommage appuyé à notre presse écrite, ressemblant de plus en plus à une peau de chagrin, malheureusement. Elle continue contre vents et marées à rendre les plus précieux services à notre société, en racontant, jour après jour, ce qui se passe de merveilleux dans notre pays tellement paradisiaque que tant d'étrangers envient notre bonheur unique d'être Mauriciens et si fraternels...”



tout cette prophétie divinatoire.

Je crains davantage la puissance étrangère capable de faire comprendre via des réseaux socioculturels bien élaborés que si l'électorat mauricien ne vote pas selon ses vœux tellement ancestraux, cela pourrait nous coûter fort cher à l'avenir. Nous sommes dans une démocratie. Le pire des systèmes gouvernementaux sauf que nous n'avons rien inventé de mieux depuis que notre Humanité se soit dressée sur ses pieds.

En matière de prédictions électorales, je respecte à la lettre l'adage voulant que qui se croit d'avance vainqueur et le proclame avec vantardise, risque fort de se retrouver dans le carreau cannes à l'heure du casse-boîte. Le simple fait de dire “Nous pli fort. Nous finn fini gagner !” fait de nous des perdants potentiels, pour la bonne raison que nous brisons le ressort permettant à nos troupes de se surpasser et d'emporter le morceau une fois la ligne d'arrivée franchie.

Pensons à ces sprinteurs cyclistes perdant une course d'avoir, à l'ultime seconde, lever trop tôt des bras fausement vainqueurs, au lieu de donner de toutes ses forces l'ultime coup de pédale victorieux. A fortiori dans tout enjeu électoral: ne jamais vendre la peau de l'ours avant de l'avoir occis. Voilà pourquoi je prédis toujours la victoire du parti politique que j'abhorre le plus. Cela rend sa victoire moins «margoze», moins dur à avaler!

*** Soit, mais peut-on envisager que le MSM se concentre sur une stratégie similaire: viser un maximum de gains, voire la totalité des sièges, dans les régions rurales, tout en ciblant un nombre significatif de sièges dans les zones urbaines pour former le prochain gouvernement. Selon vous, est-ce réalisable?**

L'unique chose m'intéressant dans la vie politique est le service que les politiciens peuvent rendre aux non politiciens, non pas en prenant de l'argent dans une poche et leur donner le change sous le prétexte fallacieux de largesses ministérielles, mais en les aidant à améliorer eux-mêmes la qualité de leur vie sociale.

Je pars du principe que tout village, tout quartier urbain, est un monde à part, avec une école ou un collège comme université de vie et centre de documentation, avec un dis-

pensaire pouvant assurer les premiers soins tellement précieux, avec une station de police pouvant assurer l'ordre et la bonne entente, avec un bureau de la Sécurité sociale pouvant rétablir l'égalité de chances en faveur des vrais pauvres (à ne pas confondre avec les fainéants et, pire encore, avec les parasites des plus tristes acabits). N'oublions pas qu'il faut des travailleurs sociaux bénévoles pour animer au mieux le quotidien de tout habitant, notamment en multipliant les compétitions en tous genres pour permettre à tout un chacun d'offrir le meilleur de lui-même, bref faire en sorte que ce village ou ce quartier urbain puisse devenir un coin paradisiaque sur terre où il fait bon d'être Mauricien et de vivre dans un monde fraternel.

Vous comprendrez qu'avec de pareilles considérations en tête, l'appartenance à un quelconque parti politique perd toute signification, toute importance. Ma seule pré-reen matière électorale est que tout électeur soit capable dans sa sagesse personnelle, à l'heure du vote et du passage dans l'isoloir, de plébisciter les candidats les plus serviables à l'ensemble des citoyens partageant son quotidien.

“Je refuse systématiquement de perdre mon temps, qu'à tort ou à raison je considère de plus en plus précieux, à supputer de possibles résultats électoraux. Il y a des élections pour cela. Il me suffit d'attendre le jour du scrutin. D'attendre sans surprise le verdict du casse-boîte pour savoir à quelle sauce nous serons mangés, par notre classe politique, pendant le prochain lustre. Les résultats électoraux n'intéressent que les 60 principaux candidats de tout scrutin et la horde de parasites du plus bas étage...”

*** Par ailleurs, l'alliance gouvernementale dispose de plusieurs ressources ou instruments politiques qui pourraient potentiellement influencer favorablement le déroulement des prochaines élections : une machine de propagande bien huilée, tant sur les réseaux sociaux qu'au niveau de la MBC-TV, une “warchest” considérable, selon les dires, et une marge de manœuvre certaine en ce qui concerne l'adoption d'autres mesures populistes... Quel sera l'impact de ces stratégies électorales, selon vous?**

Mais tout cela n'a valu que 37% des voix au MSM lors des Législatives du 7 novembre 2019, et peut-être moins, mais quand même suffisant pour remporter les prochaines élections générales en raison d'une triste atomisation des faiblesses de l'opposition parlementaire et extraparlamentaire... Je m'en console en sachant qu'il y a heureusement une multitude d'autres moyens de servir fidèlement et précieusement notre admirable population mauricienne.

Je profite surtout de cette occasion pour rendre un hommage appuyé à notre presse écrite, ressemblant de plus en plus à une peau de chagrin, malheureusement. Elle continue contre vents et marées à rendre les plus précieux services à notre société, en racontant, jour après jour, ce qui se passe de merveilleux dans notre pays tellement paradisiaque que tant d'étrangers envient notre bonheur unique d'être Mauriciens et si fraternels.

● Suite en page 10

'L'espoir d'un électorat plus intelligent, plus talentueux, s'évanouit davantage d'un scrutin à l'autre.

Je ne vois pas l'électrochoc pouvant renverser cette vapeur malodorante'



● Suite de la page 9

Et ce qui me rend encore plus admiratif de notre presse écrite tellement valeureuse, c'est que sa production quotidienne n'est nullement destinée à la poubelle. Sa vocation est de graver ses articles et autres bienfaits sur ses colonnes indestructibles ou presque.

Ce qui s'y raconte concernant hier et aujourd'hui servira encore demain de phares pour les générations à venir, comme nous ne cessons d'acquiescer de précieuses leçons de vie sociale et de fraternité, grâce aux innombrables qualités humaines de nos ancêtres. Nous avons de la chance de vivre dans un pays fabuleux où la fraternité n'est pas un vain mot et où notre presse écrite demeure - jusqu'à preuve du contraire - notre chantre préféré.

*** L'augmentation de la pension de vieillesse a sans aucun doute joué un rôle déterminant dans la victoire de l'Alliance Lepep en 2014. Mais, il est possible que l'impact d'une telle mesure ne soit plus aussi dominant qu'à ses débuts. Si tel est effectivement le cas, pensez-vous que des mesures telles que l'augmentation de la pension de vieillesse, le salaire minimum vital, etc., auront toujours un impact décisif sur le comportement électoral d'une large part de la population en 2024?**

La propagande télévisée nous abreuve chaque soir de ministres, vantant les fausses largesses ministérielles, en oubliant systématiquement de rappeler qu'elles sont payées par nous, contribuables et consommateurs! Ils oublient surtout de rappeler que notre roupie de 2024 vaut tout juste un sou d'avant l'Indépendance. La preuve? La boulette de gâteau-piment vaut désormais Rs4 pièce contre «ene cash» après les cyclones *Alix* et *Carol*. La paire de *dholl puri* se vendait à 10 sous pièce contre au moins Rs20 sous l'ère MSM.

A l'époque, il n'y avait pas un seul marchand de frites ou de *dholl puri* dans nos villages car les mères de famille les fabriquaient à foison pour toute la maisonnée. Nous retrouvons ces familles populaires dans nos *Fast Foods*, en train de consommer une nourriture encore moins saine mais qu'elle achète à prix d'or.

Depuis le cyclone Belal, le prix de la livre de pommes d'amour plafonne à des hauteurs insoupçonnables. Il y a pire encore. Le planteur de légumes devient une espèce en voie de disparition. Qui s'en soucie? Peut-être la Magistrature ayant infligé une amende de seulement un millier de roupies à un chapardeur de légumes... Comment

“En matière de prédictions électorales, je respecte à la lettre l'adage voulant que qui se croit d'avance vainqueur et le proclame avec vantardise, risque fort de se retrouver dans le carreau cannes à l'heure du casse-boîte. Le simple fait de dire “Nous pli fort. Nous finn fini gagner !” fait de nous des perdants potentiels, pour la bonne raison que nous brisons le ressort permettant à nos troupes de se surpasser... Voilà pourquoi je prédis toujours la victoire du parti politique que j'abhorre le plus. Cela rend sa victoire moins «margozé», moins dur à avaler!”

imaginer un ancêtre volant les légumes d'un autre cultivateur?

Mais réjouissons-nous. Nous ne connaissons pas encore cette violence urbaine commençant à désoler la population réunionnaise, après avoir rendu infernale la vie à Mayotte. Mais restons vigilants. Qui sait ce que les détenus mauriciens dans les prisons surpeuplées de l'île sœur peuvent apprendre de sinistre?

*** Des préoccupations persistent encore quant à l'équité des dernières élections, et là, il y a une campagne en cours contre le réenregistrement des cartes SIM. Est-ce de la paranoïa ou existe-t-il des risques sérieux associés à cet exercice de réenregistrement?**

On m'a raconté les mêmes mensonges au sujet de la nouvelle carte d'identité dite biométrique. Cela me fait penser aux mêmes mensonges qu'on débite actuellement au sujet de la base militaire indienne à Agaléga, au dire des journaux indiens les plus crédibles.

Dans les années 1960, les derniers colonialistes *British*

“La propagande télévisée nous abreuve chaque soir de ministres, vantant les fausses largesses ministérielles, en oubliant systématiquement de rappeler qu'elles sont payées par nous, contribuables et consommateurs! Ils oublient surtout de rappeler que notre roupie de 2024 vaut tout juste un sou d'avant l'Indépendance. La preuve? La boulette de gâteau-piment vaut désormais Rs4 pièce contre «ene cash» après les cyclones *Alix* et *Carol*. La paire de *dholl puri* se vendait à 10 sous pièce contre au moins Rs20 sous l'ère MSM...”

born et les ministres travaillistes de l'époque dont See-woosagur Ramgoolam nous assuraient que Diego Garcia ne serait qu'une base de télécommunications utile devant rendre de précieux services aux navigateurs et autres aviateurs se baladant dans cette partie du monde. Remercions Beekrumsing Ramlallah qui - seul à l'époque - osa dénoncer cette supercherie anglo-américaine aux dépens de nos frères et sœurs chagossiens.

Au tour des Agaléens d'être déjà condamnés à revivre le Chemin de Croix des Chagossiens. Qu'ils préparent leurs chiens à une éventuelle opération de gazage systématique. Aujourd'hui, Diégo est devenue une base nu-

claire et peut-être même un Guantanamo Bis ou Ter. Et pas question d'aller se rendre compte sur place de ce qui se passe sur cette partie intrinsèque du territoire mauricien. Il paraît que la faute reviendrait à l'absence de tout vol commercial entre Plaisance et nos îles Chagos. C'est oublier l'existence d'hydravions. Il n'y a pas que des ministres qui soient à Maurice des *parle mentères*.

*** Il est difficile de prédire si les élections de 2024 respecteront rigoureusement les principes démocratiques, et l'existence de mécanismes de contrôle pour garantir cela demeure incertaine. Êtes-vous confiant que les autorités compétentes ont pris la mesure des problèmes survenus en 2019 et qu'elles agiront en conséquence pour garantir que les prochaines élections législatives seront justes et équitables?**

Homme du 20e siècle, en marche vers le 21e, je persiste, contre vents et marées à croire que rien ne peut être préférable à notre ancien système électoral, avec fermeture des bureaux de vote à 18 heures, transfert des bulletins électoraux sous bonne garde (forte présence de la police et des agents des différents partis), veillée d'armes nocturnes autour de la salle de classe éclairée a giorno contenant les bulletins de l'ensemble d'une circonscription donnée, l'arrivée du personnel de la Commission électorale après une nuit de repos et procédant au dépouillement manuel des bulletins de vote, avec le compte-rendu des résultats partiels réguliers et informatifs. On prépare progressivement ainsi la population à tout éventuel électrochoc que pourrait causer un résultat tellement renversant que la méfiance ne pourrait qu'être ingérable.

J'ai encore moins confiance en tout décompte numérisé échappant si facilement à tout type de contrôle mais pouvant être manipulé aux antipodes. Des Mauriciens m'effraient car je sens en eux une prédisposition inguérissable au plaisir de gratter le dos de leurs futurs malheurs...



Nos ancêtres n'étaient pas de ceux à vouloir lâcher la proie pour l'ombre. Je ne sais pendant encore combien de temps je pourrais faire entièrement confiance en l'authenticité et la véracité de notre système électoral, encore qu'il y ait de la place pour d'utiles améliorations.

Mais si pareil malheur survenait, il me restera toujours la consolation de me plonger avec délice dans l'histoire fabuleuse de nos meilleures élections - bientôt bicentennaires - s'il nous faut remonter aux premières Municipales des temps modernes (1850). Il y a définitivement de quoi combler nos derniers vieux jours.

Why is Taiwan prone to earthquakes yet well-prepared to endure them?

Taiwan is no stranger to formidable earthquakes, yet their impact on the island's 23 million residents has remained relatively contained. On Wednesday, Taiwan was struck by its most potent earthquake in a quarter of a century, resulting in at least nine fatalities, hundreds of injuries, structural damage to buildings and highways, and disruptions in train services.

Taiwan's susceptibility to earthquakes is attributed to its location along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a zone of seismic activity encircling the Pacific Ocean where the majority of the world's earthquakes occur. This vulnerability stems from the accumulation of tension between two tectonic plates, the Philippine Sea Plate and the Eurasian Plate, often resulting in sudden seismic releases.

The island's rugged terrain exacerbates ground shaking, leading to landslides, as evidenced by several incidents near the epicenter of Wednesday's quake in eastern Hualien County. Falling debris from landslides struck tunnels and highways, causing fatalities and vehicle destruction.

How prepared is Taiwan for earthquakes?

Despite Wednesday's earthquake measuring 7.2 according to Taiwan's seismic monitoring agency (or 7.4 according to the U.S. Geological Survey) and causing damage in Hualien, Taipei experienced minimal losses despite strong tremors.



Earthquake in Taiwan. Pic - Getty Images

Taiwan's earthquake preparedness is lauded globally, with stringent building codes, a sophisticated seismological network, and widespread public education campaigns on earthquake safety. The government continually updates quake resistance standards for buildings, albeit at potentially higher construction costs, and offers subsidies for residents to assess their buildings' quake resistance.

In the aftermath of a 2016 quake in Tainan, which caused a high-rise apartment building to collapse, resulting in numerous casualties, individuals involved in

the building's construction were convicted of negligence.

Taiwan also emphasizes earthquake drills in schools and workplaces, with public media and cellphones regularly disseminating earthquake alerts and safety advisories.

These measures have significantly bolstered Taiwan's resilience to earthquakes, mitigating potential catastrophic damage and loss of life, according to experts.

Coping with earthquakes

Since 1980, Taiwan and its environs have experienced approximately 2,000 earthquakes with a magnitude of 4.0 or higher, including over 100 quakes surpassing magnitude 5.5, according to USGS data.

The most devastating recent earthquake struck on Sept. 21, 1999, with a magnitude of 7.7, resulting in 2,400 fatalities, around 100,000 injuries, and widespread destruction.

The last significant quake in Hualien County occurred in 2018, causing the collapse of a historic hotel and other structures.

Seismic activity is anticipated to persist for millions of years, underscoring the imperative of preparedness and resilience against ongoing seismic hazards.

Surge in temporary immigrants beyond Canada's capacity to 'absorb': Trudeau

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau acknowledged on Tuesday that the surge in temporary immigrants to the country was "beyond" what it was "able to absorb" and said his government wanted to get those numbers down.

"Over the past few years, we've seen a massive spike in temporary immigration whether its temporary foreign workers or whether its international students, in particular, that have grown at a rate far beyond what Canada has been able to absorb," he said, adding that in 2017, the percentage of the overall population comprising temporary immigrants was just 2, but it has ballooned to 7.5% presently, reports Hindustan Times.

The jump in immigration numbers has caused a housing affordability crisis in Canada, while also impacting services and infrastructure and has contributed to the plummeting political fortunes of Trudeau and the ruling Liberal Party.

At the time Trudeau first came into office, in 2015, the number of international students totalled 219,035. That number has surged since, with 684,385 study permits issued in 2023. Similarly for temporary foreign workers, according to data from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), there were just 1,955 in 2015; in 2023, that number sharply escalated to 167,65.

Under pressure, the government has attempted to temper the numbers. On March 21, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister Marc Miller announced the government's target to "decrease in our temporary residents population to 5% over the next three years."

Zimbabwe declares drought disaster amidst widespread hunger caused by El Niño

Zimbabwe declared a state of disaster Wednesday over a devastating drought that's sweeping across much of southern Africa, with the country's president saying it needs \$2 billion for humanitarian assistance.

The declaration was widely expected following similar actions by neighboring Zambia and Malawi, where drought linked to the El Niño weather phenomenon has scorched crops, leaving millions of people in need of food assistance, reports AP.

"Due to the El Niño-induced drought ... more than 80% of our country received below normal rainfall," President Emmerson Mnangagwa said in a speech calling for international aid. The country's top priority, he said, is "securing food for all Zimbabweans. No Zimbabwean must succumb to, or die from hunger."

El Niño, a naturally occurring climatic phenomenon that warms parts of the Pacific Ocean every two to seven years, has varied effects on the world's weather. In southern Africa, it typically causes below-average rainfall, but this year has seen the worst drought in decades.

The first few months of the year are traditionally known as the "lean period," when households run short as they wait for the new harvest. However, there is little hope for



Zimbabwe declared a state of disaster Wednesday over a devastating drought that's sweeping across much of southern Africa. Pic - The Christian Index

replenishing food stores this year, and Mnangagwa said that even more people than previously forecast will likely need food aid.

More than 60% of Zimbabwe's 15 million people live in rural areas, growing the food they eat, and sometimes small surpluses that can be sold to cover expenses such as school fees. With relatively little participation in the cash economy, many of those won't be able to buy food even when it's available in markets.

Zimbabwe, once a regional agricultural powerhouse and grain exporter, has in recent years relied more and more on aid agencies to avert mass hunger due to extreme weather conditions such as heat

waves and floods.

Much of Southern Africa is in the throes of a food crisis due to the ongoing drought. Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema declared the current drought a national disaster in February, saying that almost half of his country's staple corn crop had been destroyed.

Less than a month later, Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera said his country needed more than \$200 million in urgent humanitarian assistance over a drought that he said has affected 2 million households in 23 of the tiny country's 28 districts.

* Contd on page 12

Japan's royal family joins Instagram to engage younger audience

Japan's imperial family made an Instagram debut with a barrage of posts on Monday, hoping to shake off their reclusive image and reach out to younger people on social media.

The Imperial Household Agency, a government agency in charge of the family's affairs, posted 60 photos and five videos showing Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako's public appearances over the past three months.



The Instagram page of Japan's Imperial Household on a cellphone in Tokyo on Monday. Pic - AP

The agency said they wanted the public to have a better understanding of the family's official duties and that Instagram was chosen because of its popularity among youth, reports AP.

By Monday evening, their verified account Kunaicho_jp had more than 270,000 followers.

The first photo published was of the imperial couple sitting on a sofa with their 22-year-old daughter Princess Aiko, all smiling as they marked New Year's Day. Other postings also included the Imperial couple's meetings with foreign dignitaries, including Brunei Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah his wife.

The Japanese imperial family's social media debut comes 15 years after Britain's royal family joined X, formerly Twitter, in 2009.

Naruhito's father, Emperor Emeritus Akihito — who abdicated the throne in 2019 — and his wife were popular during their reign. But the royal family's fans largely belong to older generations.

Palace officials had been considering using social media to get more people interested in the family and their activities. Last year, the agency set up a team of experts to study the effects of using social media on the imperial family.

The agency had become cautious after the Emperor's niece Mako Komuro and her commoner husband faced a severe backlash on social media and in tabloids following concerns over her mother-in-law's financial situation, causing her marriage to be delayed. She also declined to receive a dowry as the public did not fully celebrate her union.

The former princess said, at the time, she suffered psychological trauma because of the media bashing, including those online.

Ex-PM Khan and wife suspended in graft case, but they won't be released

A Pakistani appeals court on Monday suspended a 14-year prison sentence for former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, in a corruption case, but the couple won't be released because they are already serving prison terms in other cases, officials said.

However, the court order was a legal victory for Khan, who was ousted from power in a no-confidence vote in April 2022. Khan now has more than 170 legal cases hanging over him.

The Islamabad High Court suspended the sentence after hearing an appeal from their lawyer, according to Zulfiqar Bukhari, the spokesperson for Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, reports AP.

The court ordered the release of the couple on bail but under the country's laws Khan and his wife won't be freed because Bibi is serving a prison term in another case and Khan has been convicted and sentenced in multiple cases.

The latest development came about two months after Khan and his wife were found guilty of retaining and selling state gifts in violation of government rules when he



Despite being in custody, former Prime Minister Imran Khan remains popular in Pakistan. Pic - AFP

was in power.

Khan remains popular in the country despite his conviction in multiple cases. Khan's PTI party made a strong showing in the Feb. 8 parliamentary elections but did not win a majority of the seats in the National Assembly, or lower house of the parliament, though PTI says the vote was rigged.

Indian-Americans in Congress raise red flag on hate crimes against Hindus

Citing an "alarming increase" in incidents of vandalism at Hindu temples, and suggesting that these incidents have led to "increased collective anxiety" among Hindu-Americans, five Indian-American members of the US Congress have demanded a briefing from the US Department of Justice (DOJ) about the status of investigations concerning "these crimes" and its strategy on dealing with hate crimes against Hindus, reports Hindustan Times.

This is perhaps first time that all members of the samosa caucus — the informal label the desi members use to self-identify their collective group — have raised a civil liberties issue that directly concerns the exercise of religious freedom of Hindu-Americans and hate crimes against them.

Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Shri Thanedar and Amy Bera sent the letter to Kristen Clarke, the US assistant attorney general for the civil rights division at DOJ on Friday.

In the letter, the Congressional leaders have noted an increase in incidents of vandalism at all religious places of worship, "including at Hindu mandirs".

"Attacks at mandirs from New



Representational image. Pic – India.com News Desk

York to California have contributed to increased collective anxiety among Hindu Americans. Leaders from these impacted communities have expressed there are unfortunately 'no leads' on suspects, leaving many to continue to live in fear and intimidation. Our communities remain concerned about law enforce-

ment coordination regarding these bias-motivated crimes, and they are left wondering if there is appropriate federal oversight to ensure equal protection under the law," the Indian-American leaders have said.

The leaders have also told DOJ that the "number of incidents and the closeness of the timing of incidents" raised "troubling questions about linkages and the intent behind them".

In recent years, Hindu-American groups have stepped up with their outreach on the Hill to convey

their point of view both on issues within the US and on developments within India that affect them.

Over three million Hindus live in the US and there are more than 1,000 temples.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

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L'économie européenne face aux défis chinois, russes et américains

Analyse et implications pour l'île Maurice

☞ Suite de la page 5

Cette situation place les entreprises européennes dans une position nettement désavantageuse.

2. La guerre en Ukraine et ses répercussions

L'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie en 2022 a déclenché une crise énergétique majeure en Europe. Les prix du gaz ont atteint des sommets historiques, faisant grimper les coûts de l'électricité et alimentant l'inflation. Cette situation a freiné la reprise économique post-pandémie et a contraint la Banque centrale européenne (BCE) à relever les taux d'intérêt, ce qui a encore ralenti la croissance.

L'Europe a également été contrainte de diversifier ses sources d'approvisionnement énergétique pour réduire sa dépendance à la Russie. Cela a entraîné des coûts supplémentaires à court terme et a mis en évidence la vulnérabilité du continent aux chocs géopolitiques.

3. Retour de Trump?

L'élection présidentielle américaine de novembre 2024 pourrait avoir des conséquences importantes pour l'économie européenne. Si Donald Trump revient au pouvoir, il pourrait imposer de nouveaux droits de douane sur les exportations européennes, comme il l'avait fait lors de son premier mandat. Cela déclencherait probablement une guerre commerciale, nuisant aux exportateurs européens et aux consommateurs des deux côtés de l'Atlantique.

Même sans un retour de Trump, les relations commerciales entre l'Europe et les États-Unis restent tendues. Les subventions européennes aux entreprises technologiques américaines ont irrité Washington, et il n'est pas exclu que



L'économie européenne sous attaque de toutes parts.
P - L'Express

les États-Unis ripostent par des mesures protectionnistes.

La combinaison de ces trois menaces crée une situation potentiellement catastrophique pour l'économie européenne. Une croissance stagnante, une inflation élevée, des pertes d'emplois dans les industries manufacturières et une restructuration douloureuse de l'économie sont autant de conséquences possibles. La tempête se prépare à l'horizon.

Les implications pour l'île Maurice

L'île Maurice, qui dépend fortement des exportations vers l'Europe et aussi du tourisme européen, est particulièrement vulnérable aux difficultés économiques du continent. Une baisse de la demande européenne pourrait

nuire aux exportations du secteur textile mauricien et réduire le nombre de touristes européens visitant l'île.

Pour faire face à ces défis, l'île Maurice ne peut pas se contenter de mesures défensives visant à renforcer sa résilience. Elle doit également adopter une stratégie proactive pour diversifier son économie et explorer de nouveaux marchés en Afrique et en Asie.

En outre, l'île Maurice doit investir dans des secteurs à forte croissance, tels que les technologies de l'information et de la communication, les énergies renouvelables et l'agriculture durable. Cela permettra de créer de nouveaux emplois et de réduire la dépendance vis-à-vis des secteurs traditionnels.

Une stratégie plus nuancée

L'île Maurice, face aux bouleversements géopolitiques mondiaux, doit développer une stratégie plus nuancée pour naviguer dans cet environnement complexe.

- Renforcer les liens avec l'Union européenne reste crucial pour l'aide au développement et l'accès au marché européen. Maurice a tout intérêt à entretenir des relations étroites avec ses partenaires traditionnels. Cependant, il ne doit pas mettre tous ses œufs dans le même panier.

- Développer des partenariats stratégiques avec des pays émergents comme la Chine et l'Inde peut ouvrir de nouvelles opportunités commerciales et des occasions d'investissement. Maurice peut ainsi diversifier ses relations économiques et réduire sa dépendance vis-à-vis de l'Europe.

- Promouvoir la paix et la sécurité régionales, cela est également essentiel. Une Afrique et une Asie stables seront des partenaires commerciaux plus fiables et offriront des opportunités de croissance à Maurice. L'île Maurice peut jouer un rôle actif dans la promotion de la paix et de la sécurité dans sa région.

En adoptant une approche proactive et équilibrée, l'île Maurice peut renforcer sa position sur la scène internationale et garantir sa prospérité future.

Sénégal: Un président polygame et deux Premières dames, une première dans l'Histoire du pays

Le Sénégal a été le théâtre d'un événement politique historique le 24 mars 2024, avec l'élection de Bassirou Diomaye Faye à la présidence. Cette victoire a suscité une attention particulière en raison de la polygamie ouvertement affichée du président, qui est apparu aux côtés de ses deux épouses, Marie et Absa, tout au long de sa campagne électorale. Cette situation sans précédent a déclenché un débat animé dans le pays, mettant en lumière la place de la polygamie dans la société sénégalaise et ses répercussions sur le rôle des Premières dames.

Pour de nombreux Sénégalais, l'accession de Faye à la présidence avec ses deux épouses est interprétée comme une affirmation et une célébration de la tradition de la polygamie, profondément enracinée dans la culture du pays. Le



Le 5e président de l'histoire du Sénégal qui a été élu à l'issue du scrutin du 24 mars 2024, a deux épouses: Marie Khone Faye et Absa Faye. P - YouTube

sociologue Djiby Diakhaté souligne que cette pratique est largement acceptée par de nombreux hommes, même si elle reste sujette à controverse, notamment aux yeux des femmes qui la considèrent comme injuste et discriminatoire envers elles. Par ailleurs, la présence de deux Premières dames au palais présidentiel a ravivé le débat sur cette question, suscitant des interrogations sur le protocole officiel et le statut des épouses du président.

Selon la publication «20 Minutes», l'absence de précédent historique d'un président polygame au Sénégal pose un défi pour le protocole officiel. La professeure d'histoire Penda Mbow souligne que toutes les règles protocolaires doivent être réexaminées pour tenir compte de cette situation inédite et garantir un traitement équitable aux deux épouses du président.

Un message de transparence

Pour d'autres observateurs, Bassirou Diomaye Faye assume ouvertement sa polygamie et la présente comme un modèle de transparence. Il encourage les autres hommes polygames à suivre son exemple et à sortir de l'ombre, affirmant que cela pourrait contribuer à une meilleure gestion des unions polygames et à une stabilité accrue sur le plan économique.

Toutefois, l'impact de la polygamie du président Faye sur la société sénégalaise reste incertain. Il est possible que cela encourage d'autres hommes à assumer ouvertement leur polygamie, ou au contraire, que cela suscite une réflexion plus approfondie sur les implications de cette pratique et ses effets sur les droits des femmes dans le pays. L'avenir révélera comment ce nouveau paysage politique

influencera l'évolution de la polygamie et les droits des femmes au Sénégal.

A l'île Maurice...

L'île Maurice, comme de nombreux pays, possède un paysage culturel diversifié influencé par diverses ethnies, religions et traditions. La polygamie n'est pas largement pratiquée ou acceptée ouvertement dans la société. Par conséquent, si un haut fonctionnaire gouvernemental devait reconnaître publiquement avoir deux épouses, cela pourrait remettre en question les normes sociales et susciter des discussions sur le rôle de la polygamie dans la culture mauricienne.

D'un point de vue légal, il pourrait y avoir des questions sur la manière dont le gouvernement gèrerait des questions telles que le protocole officiel, les rôles et responsabilités conjugaux et la reconnaissance légale des deux mariages. Maurice dispose de lois régissant le mariage et les affaires familiales, et toute déviation de ces normes nécessiterait une réflexion attentive et éventuellement des amendements à la législation existante.

Politiquement, la révélation d'un dirigeant ayant deux épouses pourrait avoir un impact sur la perception du public et sur la capacité du dirigeant à gouverner efficacement. Cela pourrait conduire à des débats sur les valeurs morales, l'égalité des sexes et la séparation de la vie personnelle et publique.

Dans l'ensemble, Maurice réagirait probablement avec un mélange de curiosité, de débat et d'examen si son président ou son Premier ministre devait avoir deux épouses. Cela nécessiterait des discussions sur les pratiques culturelles, les cadres juridiques et les valeurs sociales, entraînant potentiellement des conversations plus larges sur l'identité du pays et sa direction future.

A. Bartleby

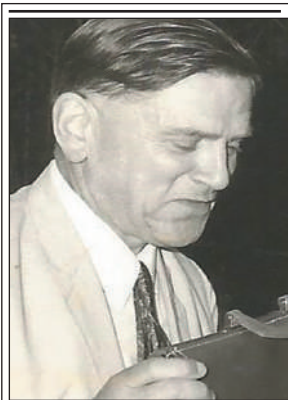
From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 266

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 18 September, 1959

• Men find it more easy to flatter than to praise. — Jean Paul Richter



Peter Ibbotson

Income Tax Report

The Government is determined, by implementing the Five-Year Plan, to raise the standard of life of the Mauritian worker. It is determined, as it has said, "to control and accentuate the Mauritian Revolution"; and to get rid of those dark patches in the body politic, and their shadows on the country's economy, which it listed in the pamphlet *'Mauritius Faces the Future'*.

The recently received annual report of the Income Tax Department for the year 1957-58 emphasizes the urgent necessity for an improvement in the standard of living for workers. The report demonstrates clearly the arbitrary and unjust distribution of wealth in Mauritius; the capitalist income structure stretches from well below the poverty line at the bottom to high and probably excessive rewards at the top. The report referred to shows that in 1957-58 there was one Mauritian paying tax on an income of over Rs 500,001; with 7 paying tax on an income of Rs 250,001 to 500,000; and 46 paying taxes on an income of Rs 100,001 to 250,000. But only 7,039 individuals are shown as paying any tax at all, which means that while 53 persons were waxing fat off their Rs 100,001 and more, thousands of workers were eking out a miserable existence on the meagre pittance doled grudgingly out by their employers.

Even with the 15% increase recommended by the Kirkaldy Tribunal, a Class I monthly employed field labourer (man) will not be getting more than Rs 90 per month as his basic wages; yet it is on the efforts of the field labourers that the prosperity of Mauritius ultimately depends. Rs 90 per month — less than Rs 1100 per year; far less than the minimum sum needed to keep body and soul together in decency and in a modicum of comfort. It is only three years since Father Dethise published his famous report on the expenditure of the workers of Port Louis. On food alone, he found that a married man with one child spent an average of Rs 93.39 a month; but the typical Mauritian worker has more than one child. Average monthly expenditure on food alone, Father Dethise found, was Rs 121.35 for a married man with 2, 3 or 4 children: and Rs 138.10 for a married man with 5 or more children. And remember, he arrived at his averages after careful examination of people's actual monthly budgets.

Here is one family's monthly food buying:

80 pounds of rice, 150 loaves, 12 bottles of milk, 1 pound of tea, 20 pounds of sugar, 2 tins of butter, 8 bottles of oil, 9 pounds of meat, 12 pounds of fish, and legumes, spices, fruits, and cakes totaling Rs 24.

That family is lucky in being able to afford some meat and fish; many families can't afford these essential items of diet and have to get along on rice and bread and vegetables — stodgy and lacking in dietetic balance. Small wonder that four-fifths of those seeking treatment from the health services are anaemic, especially when one remembers that milk, bread, and fish are of poor quality anyway.

The Income Tax report I have referred to shows that 7,039 people only were getting enough to be paying income

tax. But there are about 180,000 people in Mauritius who are in employment; so that at least 172,000 weren't earning enough to be paying tax. The average national income per head is about Rs 1,000; and each earner supports two dependents. That means that for a national average of Rs 1,000 per person, the national average income must be Rs 3,000 per earning inhabitant. But how many workers don't draw even Rs 3,000 a year? Tens of thousands.

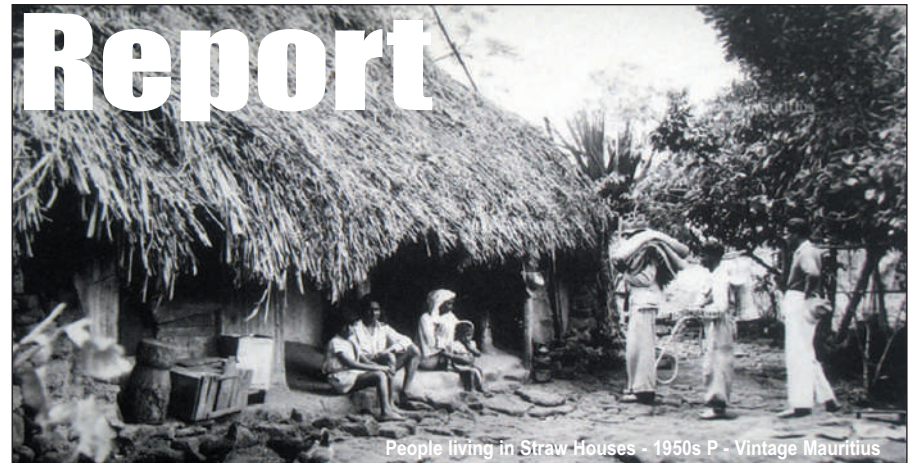
Yet at the same time we have the spectacle of a handful of taxpayers with incomes over Rs 100,000 a year; one of them even disposes of over Rs 500,000 a year taxable income!

Truly the distribution of the national income is utterly unjust and arbitrary. Truly the Government has a big job on its hands in trying to raise the standard of life of the low-paid workers. But its determination to do so is unshaken; and will remain unshaken despite the defection of any of its one-time supporters. But there is a long way to go.

The Income Tax report also demonstrates the superiority of the sugar plantations belonging to the sugar companies. From 1953 to 1957 the yield of small plantations has decreased: the total area under sugar has remained fairly constant. From 1953-54 to 1957-58 the total gross incomes accruing to individuals owning sugar plantations increased from Rs 7,659,393 to Rs 8,225,230 — say, by 8 per cent. But the total gross income accruing to companies owning sugar plantations increased during the same period from Rs 56,837,581 to Rs 75,360,757 — say, an increase of 60 per cent. Clearly the yield of sugar from the small planters' and the peasants' land is below the optimum; the advances in sugar production techniques are benefiting the big fellow but not the small man.

Yet this may not be altogether a bad thing. If the small proprietor's land is not getting the optimum profit from being planted with sugar, he may well turn to some other crop: foodcrops, perhaps, if the Government were to introduce a programme of assistance to agriculture similar to that in the UK, for which Hon. Ramlallah (Labour Party, Poudre d'Or) has already asked in Council. If there were to be a gradual turnover of small proprietors' land from sugar to food production, then Mauritius would have to spend less on importing food from abroad, while the reduction in area under sugar would not necessarily reduce the total output of sugar, since the Sugar Industry Research Institute is always at work on possible techniques designed to raise production per arpent.

In the current issue of *'African and Colonial World'* I have said that an annual sugar production of 750,000 tons (50 per cent above present levels) is well within the bounds of possibility inside five years assuming the acreage under sugar remains stationary. If production were to be stabilised at about 600,000 tons, then more land (given increased productivity per acre) would be released for food crops. "Whether it will be more economical to produce and export more and more sugar, or to restrict sugar production and import less food when more can be grown in Mauritius, re-



People living in Straw Houses - 1950s P - Vintage Mauritius

mains to be seen..." I added. I assume (rightly, I hope) that the economists of the sugar industry and the Government are carefully considering this problem.

When the Government is looking round for new sources of tax income, I hope too that they will give careful consideration to a form of death duties, which is another way of reducing the iniquitous unbalance of distribution of wealth.

Because it is no use just simply exhorting people to work harder. The carrot must be there too; in this case, the carrot of redistributed wealth, of fairer shares for all. The philosophy of the Labour Party is fairer shares for all; the way ahead is hard, but it will be trodden. At the forthcoming by-elections, the Party looks to the people to give once again an earnest of their faith in the Labour Party and the principles of social justice for which it stands, by voting for the Labour and Labour-supported candidates, who alone have faith in the people of Mauritius and in the possibility of a successful end to the Mauritius Revolution.

Promotions & Appointments in the Civil Service

The following promotions in and appointments to the Public Service during the week ended 27th Aug. 1959, are released from the Colonial Secretary's Office:

Promotions

- Messrs C. Mallet and C. Gopaul, Head Teachers, promoted Superintendents of Primary Schools.
- Mr L.R.B. Fanchette, Radio Monitor, Mauritius Broadcasting Service, promoted Senior Archives Assistant, Archives Department.
- Mr A.B.A. Ahmadi, Clerical Officer, promoted Assistant Producer, Mauritius Broadcasting Service.

Appointments

- Mr G. F. Cherval appointed Assistant Storekeeper, Health Department.
- Mr A. M. Thakoor appointed Messenger.
- Mr C. Perumal appointed Temporary Messenger.

Acting Appointment

- Mr C. A. Moutou, Executive Officer to act as Senior Executive Officer.

Published in MT - Issue 28 August 1959

Deepfakes are still new, but 2024 could be the year they have an impact on elections

● Cont. from page 2

In the meantime, policymakers have rediscovered their duty to regulate technology in the public interest.

AI and synthetic media

Regulatory discussions have added urgency now that AI tools to create synthetic media – media partially or fully generated by computers – have gone mainstream. These deepfakes can be used to imitate the voice and appearance of real people. Deepfake media are impressively realistic and do not require much skill or resources.

This is the culmination of the wider digital revolution whereby successive technologies have made high-quality content production accessible to almost anyone. In contrast, regulatory structures and institutional standards for media were mostly designed in an era when only a minority of professionals had access to production.

Political deepfakes can take different forms. The recent Indonesian election saw a deepfake video “resurrecting” the late President Suharto. This was ostensibly to encourage people to vote, but it was accused of being propaganda because it produced by the political party that he led.

Perhaps a more obvious use of deepfakes is to spread lies about political candidates. For example, fake AI-generated audio released days before Slovakia’s parliamentary election in September 2023 attempted to portray the leader of Progressive Slovakia, Michal Šimečka, as having discussed with a journalist how to rig the vote.

Aside from the obvious effort to undermine a political party, it is worth noting how this deepfake, whose origin was unclear, exemplifies wider efforts to scapegoat minorities and demonise mainstream journalism.

Fortunately, in this instance, the audio was not high-quality, which made it quicker



P - economictimes.indiatimes.com

and easier for fact checkers to confirm its inauthenticity. However, the integrity of democratic elections cannot rely on the ineptitude of the fakers.

Deepfake audio technology is at a level of sophistication that makes detection difficult. Deepfake videos still struggle with certain human features, such as the representation of hands, but the technology is still young.

It is also important to note the Slovakian video was released during the final days of the election campaign. This is a prime time to launch disinformation and manipulation attacks because the targets and independent journalists have their hands full and therefore have little time to respond.

If it is also expensive, time-consuming, and difficult to investigate deep fakes, then it’s not clear how electoral commissions, political candidates, the media, or indeed the electorate should respond when potential cases arise. After all, a false accusation from a deepfake can be as troubling as the actual deepfake.

Another way deepfakes could be used to affect elections can be seen in the way they are already widely used to harass and abuse women and girls. This kind of sexual harassment fits an existing pattern of abuse that limits political participation by women.

Questioning electoral integrity

The difficulty is that it’s not yet clear exactly what impact deepfakes could have on elections. It’s very possible we could see other, similar uses of deepfakes in upcoming elections this year. And we could even see deepfakes used in ways not yet conceived of.

But it’s also worth remembering that not all disinformation is high-tech. There are other ways to attack democracy. Rumours and conspiracy theories about the integrity of the electoral process are an insidious trend. Electoral fraud is a global concern given

that many countries are only democracies in name.

Clearly, social media platforms enable and drive disinformation in many ways, but it is a mistake to assume the problem begins

and ends online. One way to think about the challenge of disinformation during upcoming elections is to think about the strength of the systems that are supposed to uphold democracy.

Is there an independent media system capable of providing high quality investigations in the public interest? Are there independent electoral administrators and bodies? Are there independent courts to adjudicate if necessary?

And is there sufficient commitment to democratic values over self-interest amongst politicians and political parties? This year of elections, we may well find out the answer to these questions.

Eileen Culloty

Assistant Professor, School of Communications,
Dublin City University

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UNION OF EMPLOYEES OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND OTHER MINISTRIES

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the said association which has been scheduled for Friday, 26 April 2024, at 12:00 hrs at the seat of Government Teachers Centre, Quatre Bornes.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome address by the President
2. Reading and Approval of Last Minutes of Proceedings
3. Matters arising
4. President’s Report
5. Treasurer’s Report
4. A.O.B.

C. Deenoo
Secretary

5 April 2024

Emtel and Eutelsat Group join forces to build first ground station in the Indian Ocean

Emtel Ltd has partnered with Eutelsat Group, a specialist in low Earth orbit satellite constellations, to construct the first ground station in Mauritius. This partnership, benefiting both customers and businesses, aims to extend coverage of Eutelsat Group's low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation along the east coast of the African continent, Madagascar, and other island nations, including much of the Indian Ocean.

The Eutelsat Group's ground station in Mauritius will be connected by geographically diverse submarine cables, adding resilience to the network while making the ground station the largest consumer of international bandwidth in the country.

By enabling LEO satellites to provide high-speed, low-latency connectivity within a radius of 3,500 km around Mauritius, Eutelsat Group's ground station will help bridge the digital divide in Africa and the outer islands of Mauritius, while also improving connectivity for aircraft and ships crossing the Indian Ocean.

Kresh Goomany, Chief Executive Officer of Emtel, stated, "The Eutelsat Group's gateway represents a monumental opportunity to unlock limitless potential for the digital future of Mauritius and the Indian Ocean region. Today, I am thrilled to announce our unwavering commitment to transforming Mauritius into a thriving connectivity hub by collaborating and providing services to the largest satellite ground station in the Indian Ocean, which is a giant leap towards a more inclusive and connected world."

The availability of high-speed connectivity in the region will enhance air and maritime safety, support efforts against illegal fishing and piracy, enable emergency telemedicine for passengers and crews aboard aircraft and vessels, and contribute to improving passenger experience and crew well-being.

Through this partnership, coast guards and naval fleets operating in Mauritian waters and beyond will now have access to high-speed, low-latency connectivity, improving communications, coordination, and situational awareness, subsequently allowing maritime operations, including fishing patrols and rescue operations, to be faster and more efficient. Massimiliano Ladovaz, Chief Operations Officer of Eutelsat Group (a global leader in satellite communications, providing connectivity and broadcasting services worldwide), said, "We are delighted to collaborate



Kresh Goomany, CEO of Emtel at launch of eSIM Voyaz

with Emtel, marking another important milestone in enhancing connectivity services worldwide, particularly to the eastern part of the African continent and many island nations. Connectivity is absolutely essential for enhancing safety on land, at sea, and in the air. This expanded service not only reinforces our commitment to bridging the digital divide but also extends connectivity to the most remote and hard-to-reach regions in the world."

* * *

eSIM Voyaz by Emtel: Stay Connected, Limitless, and Affordable!

Emtel, one of the leading telecommunications network operators in Mauritius, recently launched its eSIM Voyaz by Emtel service, which will allow Mauritian travellers to access mobile data plans in over 150 countries worldwide at highly competitive prices compared to roaming services. With the eSIM Go-powered solution by Breeze, there's no need to juggle multiple SIM cards or worry about astronomical bills upon return. Thanks to the simple and convenient eSIM technology, switching between local plans based on the destination is now possible.

The new service - eSIM Voyaz by Emtel, powered by Breeze - offers a range of plans (1GB, 3GB, 5GB, 10GB, 20GB - depending on the destination) accessible in over 150 countries, with most benefiting from multi-network coverage and access to 5G.

"Emtel has always been at the forefront of technology and innovative services for its customers. We understand the need to stay connected with loved ones when abroad, as well as the impact of high data roaming fees, not to mention the challenge of obtaining a local SIM card upon arrival in the visited country. Hence, the launch of this eSIM Voyaz product, available even before departure abroad," emphasized Kresh Goomany, Chief Executive Officer of Emtel.

Mitch Fordham, Chief Revenue Officer and co-founder of eSIM Go, expressed his delight in supporting Emtel in its mission to simplify connectivity abroad for all travellers by providing the necessary technology through the 'Powered by Breeze' solution. Thus, we continue Emtel's tradition of technological innovation by solving cost-related issues for mobile roaming operators and their subscribers, especially in Mauritius."

Kresh Goomany added that "eSIM Voyaz makes staying connected easy and flexible while ensuring peace of mind. No more worries about high data roaming bills. And the best part is, you keep your existing WhatsApp number even abroad."

ABC Automobile Presents its Autofair 2024

ABC Automobile, the automotive division of the ABC Group, will host the ABC Automobile Autofair 2024 event on the weekend of April 6th (9:00 AM to 6:00 PM) and 7th (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM) at its pre-mises located on Route Militaire, Port-Louis. Open to the general public, this two-day "automotive extravaganza" promises to be a treat for car enthusiasts and buyers alike.

During these two dedicated days, leading automotive brands such as Nissan, Škoda Mauritius, Chery Mauritius, JMC, Ginza Motors, Eicher, UD, and Giant Bicycles Mauritius will showcase a wide range of models. From conventional gasoline-powered vehicles to electric, hybrid/e-POWER vehicles, as well as sedans, SUVs, trucks, and imported used cars, visitors will have the opportunity to explore and compare the various offerings presented by ABC Automobile.

In addition to the impressive lineup of vehicles, TyreXpert, specializing in tire sales and automotive maintenance products, and Fleetleader, an expert in fleet management solutions, will be present to showcase their dedicated services and solutions. The after-sales service departments will also be on-site, offering maintenance contracts to customers.

Throughout the event, a team of professionals will be available to provide advice and guide visitors through the range of products and services offered by ABC Automobile.

"ABC Automobile Autofair 2024 is the perfect opportunity for us to showcase our new models and services to automotive enthusiasts while continuing to serve our loyal customers. By organizing this event over the weekend, we provide an opportunity for those who are unable to visit us during the week to meet us," says Alain Ng, Chief Operating Officer of ABC Automobile.

To entertain the younger audience, a children's area with fun activities will be set up. Additionally, visitors will find food stalls on-site to cater to their refreshment needs.



Dean Ah-Chuen, CEO of ABC Motors. Pic - Business Magazine

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

You may feel a strong desire for adventure and exploration. Embrace this energy by seeking out new experiences and expanding your horizons. Whether it's traveling to a new destination, trying out a new hobby, or learning something new, embracing the unknown with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 10, 16, 21, 28, 35

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Focus on building a strong foundation for your future this week. Take practical steps towards your long-term goals and ambitions, and don't be afraid to put in the hard work necessary to achieve success. Trust in your abilities and stay disciplined in your pursuits.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 6, 11, 14, 17, 30

AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

This week is all about cultivating deeper connections with those around you. Whether it's spending quality time with friends and family or reaching out to someone new, prioritize building meaningful relationships. Trust that by fostering authentic connections, you will find love, support, and fulfillment.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 14, 19, 26, 33

PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Pay attention to your intuition this week, as it may be

YOUR STARS

trying to guide you towards new opportunities and experiences. Trust your inner wisdom and be open to following your instincts, even if they lead you down unfamiliar paths. Embrace the unknown with faith and optimism, knowing that you are being guided towards growth and fulfillment.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 13, 18, 25, 32

ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

You may find yourself in a contemplative mood. It's a good time to reflect on your goals and aspirations and consider any adjustments you may need to make to achieve them. Keep an open mind and be willing to explore new opportunities that come your way.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 12, 18, 22, 29, 36

TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Taurus, this week could bring some unexpected changes in your career or professional life. While this might feel unsettling at first, try to embrace these changes as opportunities for growth and development. Stay adaptable and be open to new possibilities.

Remember to take care of yourself and prioritize your well-being amidst any challenges that may arise.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 11, 17, 23, 30, 38

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

This week, Gemini, focus on nurturing your relationships with others. Whether it's spending quality time with loved ones or reaching out to someone you haven't spoken to in a while, connections with others will bring you joy. Don't be afraid to express your feelings and communicate openly with those close to you.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 15, 21, 27, 35

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Pay attention to your health and well-being this week. Make self-care a priority and take time to recharge your batteries. Incorporate healthy habits into your daily routine, such as eating nutritious meals, getting regular exercise, and getting enough rest. Remember to listen to your body and give yourself the care and attention you need to thrive.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 14, 20, 26, 33

LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

Leo, you may feel a surge of creative energy. Channel this creativity into projects or activities that bring you happiness. Trust your instincts and don't be afraid to think outside the box. Your unique perspective and ideas have the potential to make a significant impact.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 16, 24, 31, 39

VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Virgo, focus on creating a sense of balance and harmony in your life this week. Pay attention to areas where you may be feeling out of alignment and take steps to restore equilibrium. Whether it's decluttering your space, setting boundaries in your relationships, or practicing mindfulness.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 6, 13, 19, 25, 37

LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

You may find yourself drawn to matters of the heart. Whether you're single or in a relationship, focus on nurturing your emotional well-being and connecting with your innermost desires. Be open to exploring your feelings and expressing yourself authentically. Trust that by honouring your heart's desires, you will attract the love.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 12, 18, 22, 29, 36

SCORPION: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

You may encounter challenges or obstacles, but trust in your ability to overcome them. Stay determined and maintain a positive attitude, knowing that you have the power to prevail. Remember to take care of yourself both mentally and physically, and don't hesitate to seek support from loved ones if needed.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 11, 17, 23, 30, 38

Adults should aim for 10,000 daily steps to offset sitting down

You've probably heard that adults should aim for 10,000 daily steps. This one-size-fits-all approach provides a clear message, though it doesn't consider how varied human lifestyles and bodies are.

An international team of researchers has found that even the most sedentary among us could ward off the harmful effects of sitting by incorporating more steps into our day.

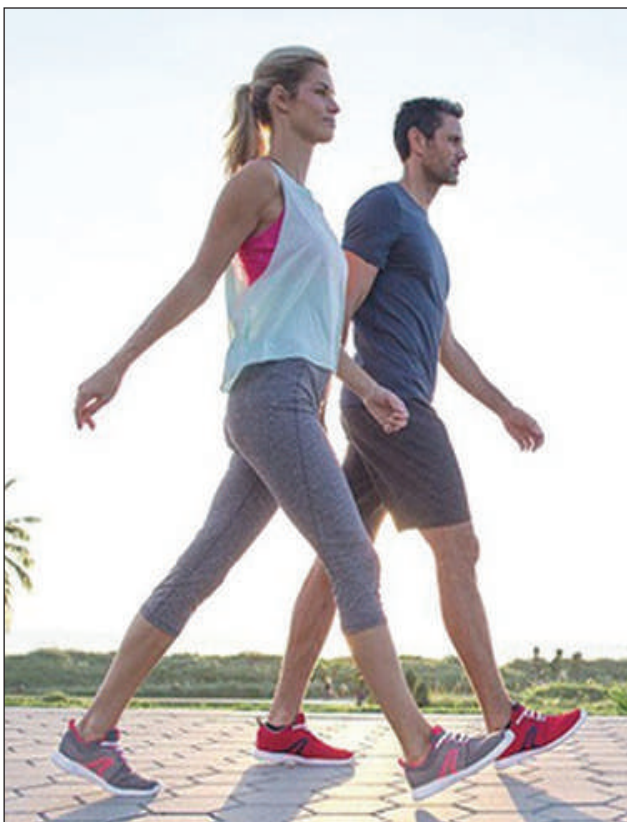
Sedentary lifestyles are increasingly common, and we know they're linked to higher odds of dying from cardiovascular disease (CVD), greater risk of cancer and diabetes, and a shorter lifespan. And those risks are lower for people with higher step counts and faster-paced walkers.

But until now, it hasn't been clear whether highly sedentary people might be able to offset those alarming health risks with daily steps.

The more steps that people in the new study took, no matter how sedentary they were otherwise, the less risk they had of CVD and even early death. So those of us with desk jobs are not totally doomed, though the researchers emphasize that it's still important to try to reduce sedentary time overall.

"All movement matters, and that people can and should try to offset the health consequences of unavoidable sedentary time by upping their daily step count," says population health scientist Matthew Ahmadi from the University of Sydney in Australia.

Ahmadi and colleagues analyzed data from 72,174



volunteers contributing to the UK Biobank, a large long-term dataset established in 2006 that will continue to track participants' health measures over at least 30 years.

There was an average of 6.9 years' worth of general health data for each participant included in the study. Participants had worn wrist accelerometers for seven days to estimate their physical activity levels, such as the number of steps they usually took and the time they usually spent sitting.

The median time spent sedentary was 10.6 hours each day, so those who spent more time than that were deemed to have 'high sedentary time', while those with fewer hours were deemed to have 'low sedentary time'.

Participants whose stats in the first two years might have been affected by poor health weren't included in this study, so the findings apply only to people who, for at least the first two years' worth of data, were generally healthy.

The team found between 9,000 and 10,000 daily steps were optimal to counteract a highly sedentary lifestyle, lowering incident CVD risk by 21 percent and mortality risk by 39 percent.

Regardless of a participant's sedentary time, the researchers discovered that 50 percent of the benefits kicked in at around 4,000 to 4,500 daily steps.

"Any amount of daily steps above the referent 2,200 steps per day was associated with lower mortality and incident CVD risk, for low and high sedentary time," Ahmadi and colleagues conclude.

"Accruing between 9,000 and 10,000 steps a day optimally lowered the risk of mortality and incident CVD among highly sedentary participants."



What did people use before toothpaste was invented?

People once used tooth powders made from crushed bone or shells to whiten their teeth. Others rinsed their mouth out with pee. Yuck!

I'm a dentist, so I know a bit about how toothpaste works and what we used before it was invented.

How does toothpaste work?

Toothpaste makes your mouth smell fresh and feel clean. If you brush your teeth two times a day, toothpaste also helps protect your teeth from forming holes or cavities. Let's look at these benefits one at a time.

That fresh feeling

Some toothpaste ingredients mix with your spit (or saliva) to make a soapy sudsy foam. The sudsy foam turns into slimy slop that you spit out.

Many toothpastes also have a slight sandy feeling to scrub stains off your teeth. This also helps remove the sticky, soft, white globs that grow on your teeth called plaque (pronounced plark).

Plaque is made from sticky bits of food and bacteria (tiny bugs). The bacteria in your plaque live, grow and multiply in your mouth. Some bacteria – such as *Streptococcus mutans* (pronounced strep-toe-cock-us mew-tans) – love to digest the sugary food you eat. Other bacteria in your plaque burp rotten-egg gases that make your breath smell.

No wonder we want to get rid of plaque with gassy bacteria.

Prevents cavities

Even worse, plaque bacteria poo out



Casezy idea/Shutterstock

diarrhoea (pronounced die-ree-a). That diarrhoea is "acidic", meaning it can dissolve your teeth to form holes. So we brush our teeth twice a day to get rid of as much bacteria and their diarrhoea as we can.

There are lots of special ingredients in toothpastes to prevent holes from forming that include:

- xylitol (pronounced zy-lee-toll). When bacteria in your plaque eat this, they get constipated and poo less acid
- fluoride (pronounced floor-ride).

Your teeth have tiny gaps on the surface that are so small you can only see them with a microscope. Fluoride fills these gaps to make your teeth strong. This is how fluoride protects against nasty bacteria poo from dissolving your teeth.

What did people use in the olden days?

People who lived a long time ago didn't know much about *Streptococcus mutans* and bacteria poo. They thought getting holes in teeth was part of growing

up. They were wrong. But they tried to make their teeth look whiter by using tooth powders.

People in ancient Egypt, China and India used their fingers to rub tooth powders on their teeth.

The first tooth powders were made of crushed animal bones, ox hooves, and egg, snail and oyster shells. Later, people added crushed charcoal (the black stuff you get when you burn bones or wood), powdered tree bark and flavouring herbs.

The ancient Romans cleaned their teeth with toothpaste made with pee.

Thank goodness things have changed.

Thank your lucky stars

The next time you brush your teeth, think of all those people in the olden days. They made tooth powders with bones and shells, and toothpaste with pee.

Luckily, we now have toothpastes that leave a better taste in your mouth and stop holes forming in your teeth.

But when you brush your teeth, remember to spit out the toothpaste. Don't rinse it away with water. We want to keep a bit in your mouth to protect your teeth from that nasty bacteria poo.

Arosha Weerakoon

Senior Lecturer and General Dentist, School of Dentistry, The University of Queensland



Partial disability

A man was being interviewed for a job. "Were you in the service?" the interviewer asks.

"Yes, I was a Marine," responds the applicant.

"Did you see any active duty?"

"I was in Vietnam for two years and I have a partial disability."

"May I ask what happened?"

"Well, I had a grenade go off between my legs and I lost both testicles."

"You're hired. You can start Monday at 10 a.m."

"When does everyone else start? I don't want any preferential treatment because of my disability."

"Everyone else starts at 7 am, but I might as well be honest with you. Nothing gets done between 7 and 10. We just sit around scratching our balls trying to decide what to do first."

* * *

A priest enters a pet shop to buy a parrot. "Are you sure it doesn't say profane words?" he asks the shop owner.

"Oh, absolutely, it's a very religious parrot," the shop owner replies. "Do you see those strings on his legs? When you pull the right one, he recites the Lord's Prayer, and when you pull on the left, he recites the 23rd Psalm."

"Wonderful, but what happens if you pull both strings?"

"I fall, you stupid fool!" screeches the parrot.

* * *

An animal rights activist bursts into a pet shop and places a bomb on the counter, declaring, "You have two minutes to vacate the shop before the place blows."

A tortoise in the back shouts, "You idiot!"

* * *

A woman decides to buy a parrot in a pet shop. The assistant shows her a beautiful Norwegian parrot.

"What about this one, madam? A beautiful bird for just £25."

"Why is it so cheap?" asks the woman.

"Well, it used to live in a brothel, and as a result, its language is a bit rough," explains the assistant.

The woman replies, "Oh, I'm broad-minded, and it will be a laugh having a potty-mouthed parrot." She buys the parrot and takes him home. Once in his new home, the parrot looks around and squawks at the woman, "New brothel and a new madam."

The woman laughs, "I'm not a madam, and this is not a brothel." A little later, her two teenage daughters arrive home.

"Unbelievable, a new brothel, a new madam, and now two new sex workers," says the parrot upon seeing the two teenagers.

"Mum, tell your parrot to shut up," complain the girls, but they all see the funny side and have a laugh at their new companion. A short while later, the woman's husband comes home.

"Incredible, a new brothel, a new madam, new sex workers, but the same old client. How's it going, Jonas?" says the parrot.

* * *

The two reasons why

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

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

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

* * *

I got hit in the head with a can of Coke today.

Don't worry, I'm not hurt. It was a soft drink.

* * *

I am looking for someone to brush their teeth with me.

I am really concerned after I found out that 9 out of 10 dentists say brushing alone won't reduce cavities.

* * *

I phoned my wife earlier and asked her if she wanted me to pick up Fish and Chips on my way home from work but she just grunted at me...

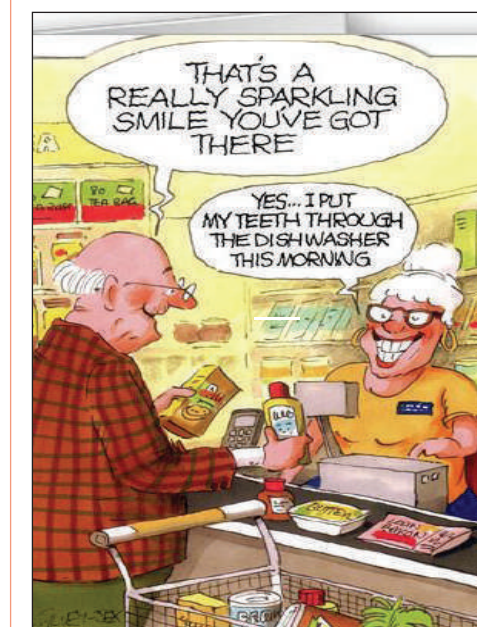
I think she still regrets letting me name the twins!

* * *

Today I gave up my seat on the bus to a blind person.

I was also fired from my job as a bus driver, no justice for the kind hearted in this world.

* * *



The attorney tells the accused, "I have some good news and some bad news."

"What's the bad news?" asks the accused.

"The bad news is, your blood is all over the crime scene, and the DNA tests prove you did it."

"What's the good news?"

"Your cholesterol level is good."

* * *

Attorney: "How was your first marriage terminated?"

Witness: "By death."

Attorney: "And by whose death was it terminated?"

Witness: "Guess."

* * *

Some improvements in hell

An engineer died and ended up in hell. Soon, he became dissatisfied with the level of comfort in hell and began designing and building improvements. After a while, they had flush toilets, air conditioning, escalators.

One day God called to Satan and said with a sneer, "So, how's it going down there in Hell?"

Satan replied, "Hey, things are great. We've got air conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

God exclaimed, "What? You've got an engineer? That's a mistake -- he should never have gotten down there in the first place. Send him back up here."

"No way," replied Satan. "I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him."

God threatened, "Send him back up here now or I'll sue!"

Satan laughed and answered, "Yeah, right. And just where are YOU going to get a lawyer?"

* * *

The Old Preacher

An old preacher was dying. He sent a message for his IRS agent and his lawyer, both church members, to come to his home. When they arrived, they were ushered up to his bedroom. As they entered the room, the preacher held out his hands



and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed.

The preacher grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything. Both the IRS agent and the attorney were touched and flattered that the old preacher would ask them to be with him during his final moment. They were also puzzled because the preacher had never given any indication that he particularly liked either one of them.

Finally, the lawyer asked, "Preacher, why did you ask the two of us to come?"

"The old preacher mustered up some strength, then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go, too."

* * *

The Panda

A panda bear walks into a restaurant and orders a meal.

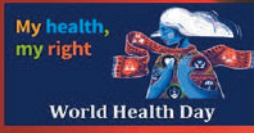
After eating he pulls out a gun, shoots the place to the ground, and runs away.

Quickly the bartender runs after him yelling, "HEY YOU CAN'T DO THIS!!!"


The panda turns around and yells "Yes I can. Look me up in the encyclopedia!"

So, the bartender looks up "Panda" in the encyclopedia, and it reads

"Panda: increasingly rare species of bear that can be found in the eastern part of Asia. It eats shoots and leaves."



My health, my right
World Health Day



Donate blood for others to live

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Venue: JSS Academy
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Time: 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

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Quotable Quotes

On the Beauty of the Sky

The beauty of the blue sky and the colourful sunrise and sunset are due to interactions between white light from our Sun and the atmosphere, and also due to sensitivity of our eyes to the colours of white light. (finally interpreted by our brain)

— *Anonymous*

Don't forget, beautiful sunsets need cloudy skies.

— *Paulo Coelho*

Only from the heart can you touch the sky.

— *Rumi*

My experiences remind me that it's those black clouds that make the blue skies even more beautiful.

— *Kelly Clarkson*

A sunrise or sunset can be ablaze with brilliance and arouse all the passion, all the yearning, in the soul of the beholder.

— *Mary Balogh*

May every sunrise hold more promise and every sunset hold more peace.

— *Umair Siddiqui*

There is never one sunrise the same or one sunset the same.

— *Carlos Santana*

Sunsets are so beautiful that they almost seem as if we were looking through the gates of heaven.



"I NEVER MET A SUNSET
I DIDN'T LIKE."

— *Unknown*

— *John Lubock*

Every sunrise is a message of God and every sunset His signature.

— *Swami Chinmayananda*

The secret to a good morning is to watch the sunrise with an open heart.

— *Anthony T Hincks*

The human spirit needs places where nature has not been rearranged by the hands of man.

— *Native American*

Life's Stories

Tata Steel Meeting

The Chairman of Tata steel held a weekly meeting with Tata Steel staff in Jamshedpur. During one session, a worker raised a serious issue: the quality and hygiene of toilets for the workers were very poor, while the cleanliness and hygiene of executive toilets were always excellent.

The Chairman asked his top executives how much time they needed to rectify the situation. The executives requested a month to address the issue.

However, the Chairman responded, "I would rather do it in a day. Send me a carpenter."

The next day, when the carpenter arrived, he simply ordered the signboards of the toilets to be swapped.

The signboard on the workers' toilet displayed "Executives," and the executives' toilet displayed "Workers."

The Chairman then instructed these signs to be changed every fortnight. Within three days, the quality of both toilets became comparable.

Moral: Problem identification requires critical thinking, but solving a problem just requires creative thinking. Remember: Leadership is something much more than being an Executive, as defined by Donna Ashworth

Aging Wisdom

I asked a friend who has crossed 70 and is heading towards 80 what sort of changes he is feeling in himself. He sent me the following:

1. After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children, and my friends, I have now started loving myself.

2. I have realized that I am not "Atlas". The world does not rest on my shoulders.

3. I have stopped bargaining with vegetable and fruit vendors. A few pennies more are not going to break me, but they might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.

4. I leave my waitress a big tip. The extra money might bring a smile to her face. She is toiling much

harder for a living than I am.

5. I stopped telling the elderly that they've already narrated that story many times. The story makes them walk down memory lane and relive their past.

6. I have learned not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. The onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.

7. I give compliments freely and generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer not only for the recipient but also for me. And a small tip for the recipient of a compliment, never, NEVER turn it down, just say "Thank You."

8. I have learned not to bother about a crease or a spot on my shirt. Personality speaks louder than appearances.

9. I walk away from people who don't value me. They might not know my worth, but I do.

10. I remain cool when someone plays dirty to outrun me in the rat race. I am not a rat, and neither am I in any race.

11. I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. It's my emotions that make me human.

12. I have learned that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. My ego will keep me aloof, whereas with relationships, I will never be alone.

13. I have learned to live each day as if it's the last. After all, it might be the last.

14. I am doing what makes me happy. I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to myself. Happiness is a choice. You can be happy at any time; just choose to be!

6 Rules you need to Win in Life:

1. Stop telling everyone everything. Most people don't care, and some secretly want you to fail.

2. Choose your buddies wisely. Surrounding yourself with better people is the quickest way to improve.

3. Have no expectations. Thank you for everything. To develop inner serenity, be appreciative for the simple things in life.

4. Do your best. Trust the process. The harder you work, the luckier you will get.

5. Control yourself, not others. Controlling yourself is the true power,

6. Learn to be less reactive. When you control your reaction, nobody can manipulate you.

DEMIC

Faith Story

A little boy and his father visited the country store to buy some groceries. Upon leaving the store, the owner offered the little boy some free sweets. "Get a handful of sweets," the merchant said to the boy.

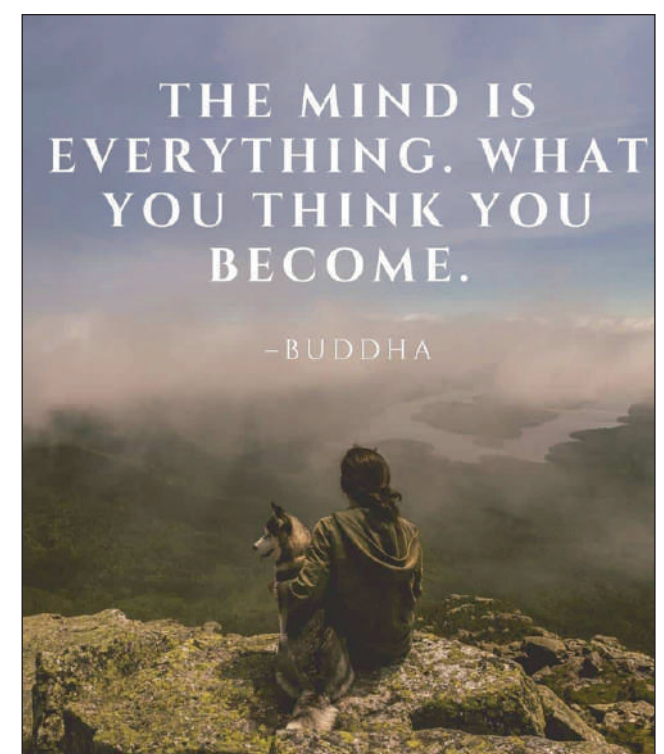
The boy hesitated and looked up at his father. The owner repeated himself: "Son, get a handful of sweets, it's free." Again, the boy did not move, continuing to look up at his father.

Finally, the father reached into the candy jar, got a handful of sweets, and gave them to his son.

As they walked back home, the father stopped and asked his son why he did not grab a handful of the free candy.

The boy, with a big smile on his face, looked into his father's eyes and said, "Because I know that your hand is bigger than mine."

So, whatever your needs are for today, please place them in god's hand, because his hand is bigger than yours. May you stay blessed forever.



THE MIND IS
EVERYTHING. WHAT
YOU THINK YOU
BECOME.

—BUDDHA

Things can be better

9 Unusual Ways to Increase Self-Discipline and Productivity in Less Than 30 Days

Boosting self-discipline and productivity can often feel like an insurmountable challenge. However, what if I told you there are some unconventional methods to ramp up your discipline and output in less than a month? You might be surprised to learn that it doesn't always require drastic lifestyle changes or excessive self-control. Sometimes, all it takes is making a few tweaks here and there, and the results can be outstanding.

In this article, Mia Zhang of The Vessel.io will share with you 9 unusual ways to skyrocket your self-discipline and productivity in just under 30 days. Trust me, you'll be surprised at how simple yet effective these strategies are.

Embrace the Pomodoro Technique: The Pomodoro Technique, developed by Francesco Cirillo, revolves around breaking your work into manageable, 25-minute chunks followed by a 5-minute break. Despite its simplicity, this technique is surprisingly effective. By working in short bursts and taking frequent breaks, you maintain mental agility, avoid burnout, and enhance your focus. Plus, adhering to a set work-rest schedule fosters self-discipline.

The magic of daily routines: Establishing a consistent daily routine can work wonders for your productivity and self-discipline. Whether it's waking up early, exercising, or meditating, sticking to a structured routine provides a sense of control and reduces anxiety. Find a routine that works for you and commit to it for less than 30 days – the results may surprise you.

Limit your choices: Decision fatigue is real – the more decisions you make, the more mental energy you expend. To combat this, try limiting your choices wherever



possible. Whether it's adopting a work uniform or meal prepping for the week, reducing decision-making can free up mental space for more critical tasks, ultimately boosting productivity.

Utilize the power of visualization: Visualizing your success can significantly impact your productivity and self-discipline. By creating mental images of achieving your goals or completing tasks, you enhance motivation, increase confidence, and improve focus. Visualization serves as a roadmap for your objectives, guiding you towards increased productivity.

Harness the power of positive affirmations: Positive affirmations are potent tools for reprogramming your thinking patterns and instilling positivity and self-belief. By affirming statements like "I am productive" or "I have self-discipline," you create a supportive mental environment conducive to increased productivity and

self-discipline.

Embrace failure as a stepping stone: Failure is an inevitable part of life, but it's also a valuable learning opportunity. Instead of viewing failure as a setback, see it as a stepping stone towards greater self-discipline and productivity. Each failure provides insight into what doesn't work and offers an opportunity for growth.

Disconnect to reconnect: Constant connectivity can hinder productivity and self-discipline. Taking regular breaks from digital devices allows you to regain control over your time and attention. Disconnecting from distractions fosters focus, enhances planning, and promotes presence in the moment.

Practise mindful meditation: Mindful meditation is a powerful practice for reducing stress, improving focus, and enhancing cognitive function. By incorporating regular mindfulness sessions into your routine, you can significantly impact your productivity and self-discipline in less than 30 days.

Make self-care a priority: Prioritizing self-care is essential for maintaining productivity and self-discipline. Whether it's getting enough sleep, eating healthy, or taking time to relax, self-care ensures you're in the best possible state to tackle tasks and challenges.

Increasing self-discipline and productivity doesn't always require conventional methods. By embracing these unusual strategies for less than 30 days, you can unlock your full potential and achieve remarkable results. Remember, it's about finding what works best for you and committing to your journey of self-improvement.

Diabetes Guide: Warning Signs of Type 2 Diabetes

Type 2 diabetes can often go undetected until it begins to significantly affect your health

When you have type 2 diabetes, your body struggles to convert the carbohydrates in food into energy effectively. This leads to elevated sugar levels in your blood, increasing the risk of heart disease, vision problems, nerve damage, and other serious complications. Surprisingly, about one-third of people with type 2 diabetes are unaware of their condition, as early symptoms can be mild.

Early Symptoms:

- Increased Thirst: Feeling thirsty frequently.
- Dry Mouth: Experiencing a persistent dry feeling in the mouth.
- Increased Appetite: Feeling hungry more often than usual.
- Frequent Urination: Needing to urinate frequently, sometimes as often as every hour.
- Unexplained Weight Changes: Experiencing unusual weight loss or gain without changes in diet or activity levels.

Later Symptoms

- Headaches: Persistent headaches may occur as blood sugar levels rise.
- Blurred Vision: Vision problems can develop as diabetes progresses.
- Fatigue: Feeling unusually tired or lacking in energy.

- Signs of Serious Problems.
- Slow-Healing Cuts or Sores: Wounds that take longer than usual to heal.
- Frequent Infections: Increased susceptibility to yeast or urinary tract infections.
- Itchy Skin: Particularly in the groin area, which may indicate a fungal infection.

Impact on your sex life

Diabetes can affect blood vessels and nerves in the genitals, leading to sexual difficulties such as loss of sensation or difficulty achieving orgasm. Women may also experience vaginal dryness, while men may face impotence.

Risk Factors

Certain lifestyle factors and medical conditions can increase your risk of developing type 2 diabetes, including:

- Unhealthy Diet: Consuming excessive red meat, processed foods, and sugary treats.
- Lack of Exercise: Leading a sedentary lifestyle.
- Obesity: Especially carrying excess weight around the waist.
- Smoking: Tobacco use increases the risk of diabetes and related complications.
- Family History: Having close relatives with diabetes increases your risk.



- Ethnicity: Certain ethnic groups, including Hispanics, African-Americans, and Asians, are at higher risk.

How is it diagnosed?

Your doctor can diagnose type 2 diabetes through blood tests, including the A1c test, which measures average blood sugar levels over several months. If symptoms are present, a random blood glucose test may also be performed to assess current blood sugar levels.

Management and Prevention

- Managing type 2 diabetes involves lifestyle modifications such as:
- Healthy Diet: Monitoring carbohydrate intake and maintaining a balanced diet.
- Regular Exercise: Engaging in physical activity for at least 30 minutes most days of the week.

- Stress Management: Practicing relaxation techniques such as deep breathing or meditation.
- Medication: In some cases, oral medications or insulin therapy may be prescribed to control blood sugar levels.

Complications

Untreated diabetes can lead to various complications affecting the heart, kidneys, eyes, nerves, feet, and oral health. Regular monitoring and management are essential to prevent these complications and maintain overall health.

Prevention

Type 2 diabetes can often be prevented through healthy lifestyle choices, including a balanced diet, regular exercise, and maintaining a healthy weight. Individuals at risk, such as those with prediabetes, should undergo screening and consider lifestyle changes or medication to prevent progression to diabetes.

Recognizing the warning signs of type 2 diabetes and taking proactive steps towards management and prevention are crucial for maintaining optimal health and well-being. Consult with your healthcare provider if you experience any symptoms or have concerns about your risk of diabetes.

Lok Sabha Election 2024

Kangana Ranaut, Hema Malini... to Govinda set to contest polls

In the upcoming general elections of 2024, a notable trend emerges as several celebrities from the Indian entertainment industry are gearing up to contest the Lok Sabha polls. Here are some of these celebrities, their constituencies, and a brief overview of their political journey as reported by Hindustan Times.



Kangana Ranaut: Constituency: Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

Kangana Ranaut, a prominent Bollywood actor, is making her electoral debut as the BJP candidate from the Mandi Lok Sabha constituency. Her nomination has sparked both support and opposition within the party, setting the stage for an intriguing electoral battle.

Govinda: Constituency: Undisclosed

Actor Govinda, who recently joined the Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde, may be fielded from Mumbai North West in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

Hema Malini: Constituency: Mathura, Uttar Pradesh

Hema Malini, a renowned actor and BJP leader, has been actively involved in politics for several years. She is set to contest from the Mathura Lok Sabha seat for the third consecutive time, bringing her charisma and experience to the electoral battleground. (PTI)

Shatrughan Sinha: Constituency: Asansol, West Bengal

Renowned for his candid opinions and political expertise, Shatrughan Sinha, a sea-

soned politician and former BJP member, is recognized for his extensive experience in the political arena. As part of the Trinamool Congress lineup, he is poised to contest from Asansol, his constituency.

Arun Govil: Constituency: Meerut, Uttar Pradesh

Arun Govil, best known for portraying Lord Rama in the TV series *Ramayan*, is set to contest from the Meerut constituency in Uttar Pradesh. His foray into politics marks a transition from his celebrated acting career to a new chapter of public service.



Ravi Kishan: Constituency: Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

Bhojpuri actor, Ravi Kishan, is set to contest from Gorakhpur, a seat he has held since the 2019 elections.

Shahid Kapoor on feeling like an outsider in Bollywood initially

In a recent interview, Shahid Kapoor admitted that it wasn't easy for him in the initial stage to make it to the top and he did feel like he was behind his contemporaries and even referred to himself being an 'outsider' despite being born in family of actors, reports : Bollywood Hungama.

Shahid who began his career as a background dancer said, "I also came from outside, actually, because I came from Delhi to Bombay with my mom, and then I struggled. I didn't have any channels."

He further added, Talent is not being

given an opportunity as much as it should, and I pride myself in the fact that I am here because of the work that I did and because of the actor that I learned to become, and whatever it is, I give to the craft."

Shahid was last seen in *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya* which released on February 9 this year and also starred Kriti Sanon alongside the actor.

The film has received a good response at the box office and followed an unusual love story of a human and a robot.



Bollywood Supermoms: Balancing Stardom & Motherhood

In the glitzy world of Bollywood, where fame and stardom often overshadow personal life, there exists a league of extraordinary women who effortlessly juggle their careers on the silver screen with the demands of motherhood. In the context of the Working Moms Day, it's time to shine a spotlight on these remarkable individuals who exemplify grace, resilience, and some tips for working moms. A report by Your Story.com:

Kareena Kapoor

Kareena Kapoor is a powerhouse performer who has graced the silver screen with her charm and talent for decades. Despite her illustrious career, Kareena prioritises her role as a mother to her adorable son, Taimur. From dazzling red carpet appearances to candid moments captured with her son, Kareena effortlessly balances her stardom with the joys of motherhood.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

A former Miss World and one of the most iconic faces in Indian cinema, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has seamlessly transitioned from reigning as a beauty queen to ruling the hearts of millions with her acting prowess.

Alongside her illustrious career, Aishwarya is a devoted mother to her daughter, Aaradhya Bachchan. Despite her hectic schedule, Aishwarya always ensures to spend quality time with her daughter, striking a perfect balance between her professional commitments and maternal duties.

Madhuri Dixit

The epitome of grace and elegance, Madhuri Dixit has captivated audiences with her mesmerising performances and enchanting smile. Despite achieving legendary status in Bollywood, Madhuri remains grounded and devoted to her family. As a mother to her two sons, Arin and Ryan, Madhuri effortlessly manages her professional commitments while cherishing every moment with her children.

Kajol

With her infectious energy and charis-

matic presence, Kajol has carved a niche for herself in the hearts of moviegoers worldwide. Beyond her stellar performances on screen, Kajol finds fulfilment in her role as a mother to her daughter, Nysa, and son, Yug. Despite the demands of stardom, Kajol prioritises her family, showcasing a fine balance between her illustrious career and motherhood.

Shilpa Shetty

Known for her impeccable style and fitness regime, Shilpa Shetty is a force to be reckoned with in Bollywood. Despite her busy schedule, Shilpa is a doting mother to her son, Viaan Raj Kundra.

Balancing her career as an actor, entrepreneur, and fitness enthusiast, Shilpa exudes positivity and inspires countless mothers to prioritise self-care while excelling in their professional endeavours.

Tip for the working moms

While these leading ladies have personal nannies in supporting cast to help share the burden of parenthood, there are still many takeaways that working moms can take from their juggling act.

Stay present in the moment: Amidst the whirlwind of schedules and commitments, make a conscious effort to stay present and fully engaged during your time with your children.

Prioritise family time: No matter how busy life gets, carve out dedicated time for your family. Whether it's a weekend getaway or a cosy movie night at home, prioritise these moments of togetherness and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Maintain open communication: Cultivate a culture of open communication with your children, where they feel comfortable sharing their thoughts, feelings, and experiences with you.

Find joy in simplicity: Amidst the glitz and glamour of Bollywood, find joy in life's simple pleasures.

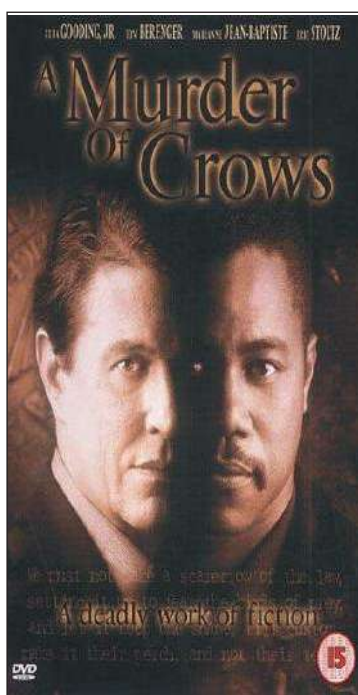
Practise self-care: Remember to prioritise self-care amidst work and family life demands.



Vendredi 5 avril - 20.30



Samedi 6 avril - 20.35



dimanche 7 avril - 21.40



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 5 avril

MBC 1

03.43 Tele: Gardener's Daughter
 04.15 Amour Secret / Amor Secreto
 05.02 Pasion Y Poder
 05.26 A Que No Me Dejas
 06.00 Serial: The Equalizer
 07.05 Film: The Mountain Men
 08.45 Serial: Wanted
 09.30 Tele: Amour Secret
 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter
 10.45 Tele: L'Envers du Paradis
 11.10 La Reina Del Flow
 12.34 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
 13.17 Fierce Angel
 13.50 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
 14.15 Serial: Treadstone
 15.31 Dark Beginnings of S.Holmes
 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
 18.31 Wagle Ki Duniya
 18.55 Swaran Ghar
 20.30 Film: Nouveau Job Pour Une Nouvelle Vie

MBC 2

06.00 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin
 06.15 Les Grandes Lignes
 07.19 Local: Evasion
 08.26 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
 08.56 Local: Generations J
 10.22 Local: J'ai Faim
 11.00 Local: Groov'in
 12.00 MRIC - Inove Moris
 12.15 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin
 12.34 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
 13.05 Emotion En Avant Plan
 14.00 Local: J'ai Faim
 16.42 Local: En Forme
 16.59 Local: La Sosiete
 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret
 19.45 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
 20.26 Lir - Ekri Kreol Morisien
 20.59 Local: Come On Let's Dance
 21.51 Local: La Sosiete
 23.08 Local: Voyage Au Feminin

MBC 3

05.00 Aastha TV
 07.25 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G
 07.36 Gadget Guru Ganesha
 08.00 Local: Amrit Vaani
 08.28 Satguru Kabir Ke Gyan
 08.41 Local Production
 09.22 Local: Hunarbaaz
 10.00 Serial: Agniphera
 12.00 Film: Babul
 15.00 Samachar
 15.29 Serial: Senhur
 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron...
 16.44 Serial: Bhakharwadi
 17.29 Serial: Radha Krishna
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.30 Local Production
 19.00 Local: Khel Khiladi
 19.30 Local Production
 20.30 Local: Vidrohi
 21.03 Bhojpuri Film: Dostana
 23.26 Serial: Mere Sai

Cine 12

06.00 Mag: SADC 6.52 Mag: Shift
 06.38 Mag: Carnet De Sante
 06.58 Magazine: Border Crossing
 07.24 Mag: Tomorrow Today
 07.49 Doc: Answer To Almost Everything
 09.00 The Dirty Business Of...
 11.16 Magazine: Eco India
 11.41 Mag: Japan Video Topics
 12.11 Mag: Carnet De Sante
 13.03 Doc: Answer To Almost
 14.14 The Dirty Business Of...
 15.00 D.Anime: Kids Songs
 16.03 D.Anime: Dinosaur Train
 16.32 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
 16.55 D.Anime: Akili And Me
 17.25 Mag: Eco India
 18.00 Doc: Be Afraid
 19.30 Doc: The Expanding Desert
 20.00 Tele: L'Amour A Mort
 20.30 Live: News
 20.50 Magazine: Skuld

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
 15.25 Film: Aur Pyar Ho Gaya
 With Bobby Deol, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Shammik Kapoor, Anupam Kher
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.33 Kundali Bhagya
 19.00 Udaariyaan
 19.36 Fanaa - Ishq Mein Marjawan
 19.56 Sasural Simar Ka 2
 20.25 Radha Krishna
 21.00 Anupamaa
 21.31 Mere Sai
 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
 22.30 Swaran Ghar
 23.03 Shaurya & Anokhi Ki Kahani
 23.30 Film: Aur Pyar Ho Gaya

samedi 6 avril

03.30 Serial: Airwolf
 04.45 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas
 06.30 Tele: Amour A Mort
 07.00 Serial: Briarpatch
 07.45 Serial: Rookie Blue
 08.30 NCIS : New Orleans / NCIS
 09.15 Serial: Pearson
 10.00 Serial: Airwolf/Supercopter
 10.50 Serial: Chicago Med
 11.30 Tele: Amour A Mort
 12.25 Under Pressure
 13.15 Sublime Mensonge
 15.20 Film: Long Weekend
 17.10 Telenovela: Tour De Babel
 18.31 Dance India Dance
 20.30 Cine Club
 20.35 Film: A Murder Of Crows
 22.15 Serial: The Bionic Woman
 23.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
 23.30 Le Journal
 00.15 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

06.00 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
 06.15 Local: Aktiv
 07.01 Local: Voyage Au Feminin
 07.35 Lir - Ekri Kreol Morisien
 08.03 Animalia Nos Amis Les...
 08.42 Local: Zanford Nou Pei
 08.58 Zanford Nou Pei
 08.58 Rodrig Prog : Ala Nou Vini
 09.29 Local: La Sosiete
 10.26 Rodrig: Nou La Ter
 11.01 Local: Come On Let's Dance
 12.15 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
 12.30 Animalia Nos Amis Les...
 13.09 En Firect De Plaisance Mall, Rose Belle
 16.23 Local: Come On Let's Dance
 17.33 Local: Ugaadi 2024
 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
 19.20 Mag De L'emploi Et Des Metiers
 20.00 Les Petits Genies
 22.10 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion

05.00 Aastha TV
 07.00 Tik Tak Tail 07.12 Kisna
 07.21 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G
 07.33 Gadget Guru Ganesha
 08.00 Hamar Fitness Challenge
 08.52 Local: Khel Khiladi
 10.36 Bade Acche Lagte Hai
 12.01 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
 12.22 Local Production
 12.50 Local: Khel Khiladi
 14.08 Local: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
 14.30 Mag: Discover Life
 15.00 Live: Samachar
 15.30 Hindi Film: Ahista Ahista
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan
 19.15 Virasat 19.30 Hunarbaaz
 20.00 Yeh Shaam Mastani
 21.00 Film: Code Name : Tiranga
 23.19 Puranya Pakwan
 23.47 Duniya Mein Is Saptah

06.00 D.Anime - Voltron
 07.06 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
 08.51 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little..
 09.34 Mag: Lab 360
 09.36 Serial: Lost & Found Music...
 11.27 Doc: The Expanding Desert
 11.58 Doc: Legendary Hotels
 12.41 Doc: Healthy Eyes
 14.06 Doc: A World Without Bees?
 15.00 Film: Robo-Dog
 16.27 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
 16.38 D.Anime: Romy & Boo
 16.50 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
 17.01 D.Anime: Spacepop
 17.26 D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1412
 18.00 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
 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: Harriet
 Avec Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom Jr, Joe Alwyn

08.00 Swaran Ghar
 09.49 Gadget Guru Ganesha
 10.12 Sasural Simar Ka 2
 12.00 Udaariyaan
 14.00 Anupamaa
 16.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.31 Film: Rocketry
 Stars : R. Madhavan, Simran, Rajit Kapoor
 20.48 Gadget Guru Ganesha
 21.13 Serial: Porus
 21.20 Serial: Crime Patrol

dimanche 7 avril

04.30 Tele - A Que No Me Dejas
 06.21 Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete
 06.45 Film: A Murder Of Crows
 08.30 Serial: New Amsterdam
 09.15 Film: Ghost In The Family
 10.45 Serial: Chicago Med
 11.30 Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete
 12.35 Film: Cowboy
 Avec Glenn Ford, Jack Lemmon, Anna Kashfi
 14.10 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme
 15.25 Film: Don't Let Go
 17.00 Tele: Tour De Babel
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 20.30 Film: Little
 Stars : Regina Hall, Issa Rae, Marsai Martin
 22.20 Serial: Being Human
 23.00 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
 01.25 Serial: Chicago Med

06.00 Rodrig: D'jam
 06.32 Local: En Forme
 06.51 Local: Saver Kil Tirel
 07.10 Pran Kont Ou La Sante
 08.27 Local: Les Petits Genies
 09.21 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion
 10.06 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
 10.34 Local: Glwar Dantan
 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
 12.01 Local: Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art
 12.22 Local: Les Petits Genies
 14.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
 15.00 Local: En Forme
 16.00 Special Programme To Celebrate The 15th Anniversaire Of Amgasop
 18.01 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
 20.00 Local: Tita Tita Nou Avanse
 20.30 Local: Le Challenge
 20.45 Local: Les Klips
 21.37 Local: Sa Lavi-La

05.00 Aastha TV
 07.00 Tik Tak Tail 07.08 Kisna
 07.20 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G
 07.32 Gadget Guru Ganesha
 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness...
 08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan
 08.52 Duniya Mein Is Saptah
 09.22 Hunarbaaz
 09.49 Yeh Shaam Mastani
 12.00 Hindi Film: Safari
 15.00 Live: Samachar
 15.24 Local: Puranya Pakwan
 18.00 Samachar
 18.30 Local: Planet Bollywood
 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi
 19.30 Local: Tohar Farmaish
 20.00 Yaadein 20.30 Porus
 21.00 Serial: Crime Patrol
 21.45 Serial: Naagin Season 4
 22.24 Serial: Bahubali
 23.07 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa

06.00 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Defenseur Legendaire
 09.34 Mag: Lab 360
 09.37 Lost & Found Music Studios
 10.30 Mag: In Good Shape
 11.22 Doc: Iran From Above
 13.40 Doc: Beneath The Waves
 14.06 Doc: Better Brain Health
 15.03 Film: L'Ecole Des Magiciens
 16.27 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
 16.38 D.Anime: Romy & Boo
 16.50 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
 17.01 D.Anime: Spacepop
 17.25 D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1412
 17.49 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
 18.40 Serial: Heartland
 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort
 20.30 Live: News
 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
 21.40 English Film: Esmé My Love
 With Audrey Grace Marshall

00.02 Sasural Simar Ka 2
 01.59 Udaariyaan
 04.00 Anupamaa
 06.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise...
 07.47 Tenali Rama
 08.01 Patiala Babes
 10.44 Kundali Bhagya
 12.29 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
 14.15 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
 18.39 Film: Jersey
 Stars : Shahid Kapoor, Mrunal Thakur, Pankaj Kapur
 20.44 Serial: Tenali Rama
 21.23 Sayings Radha Krishna
 21.25 Dance India Dance Little...
 22.12 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
 00.02 Serial: Patiala Babes

lundi 8 avril

03.29 Entre Justice & Vengeance
 04.12 The Gardener's Daughter
 04.34 Amour Secret / Amor Secreto
 05.21 Pasion Y Poder/ Passion & Power
 05.45 A Que No Me Dejas/Ne Me
 06.00 The Equalizer
 06.50 Mag: Red Carpet
 07.10 Dark Beginnings S.Holmes
 08.45 Serial: Heartland
 09.30 Tele: Amour Secret
 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter
 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
 11.10 Serial: La Reina Del Flow
 12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
 13.15 Fierce Angel
 13.35 Pasion Y Poder
 14.10 Serial: Heartland
 15.25 Film: Esmé My Love
 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar
 21.15 Serial: Rookie Blue

06.00 Nu Rasinn 06.52 Aktiv
 07.20 Tita Tita Nou Avanse
 09.03 Arsv MBC
 10.22 Mangleons Veg 11.10 Klips
 12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn
 13.08 Rodrig 14.00 Local: Elle
 14.30 Local: Arsv MBC
 15.13 Tita Tita Nou Avanse
 15.44 Local: Aktiv
 16.00 Les Klips
 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret
 19.20 Magazine de L'emploi
 19.30 Local: Konn Ou Drwa
 20.00 Local: Nos Aines
 20.35 Eclairage Economique
 20.50 Les Grands Moments
 21.20 Local: Radio Vision
 22.16 Lir - Ekri Kreol Morisien
 22.42 Local: Itinerer Moris
 23.00 Journal Kreol
 23.20 Le Rendez Vous...

05.00 Mag: Prog Aastha TV
 07.12 Serial: Kisna
 07.36 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G
 08.00 Planet Bollywood
 08.26 Tohar Rashi
 09.18 Local: Yaadein
 09.43 Serial: Bahubali
 10.22 Saaton Vachanwa Saath...
 11.30 Radha Krishna
 12.00 Film: Gopal Krishna
 15.30 Serial: Senhur
 16.01 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen
 19.00 Local: Darshan
 19.30 Excerpts - Shiv Abhishek
 20.10 Vaad Vivaad
 20.36 Film: Gora Aur Kala
 23.44 Serial: Mere Sai
 23.19 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
 23.15 Ved Ki Shikshaien

06.00 Magazine: SADC - Ep 536
 06.26 Mag: Arts Unveiled
 07.08 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
 09.24 Mag: Action Kidz
 09.31 Film: Pirates
 11.06 Mag: Lab 360
 11.15 Doc: A Mediterranean...
 11.41 Doc: Northern Lights
 12.29 Doc: Invisibles
 14.00 Film: Garfield, Le Film
 15.17 Dessin Anime: Tut! Tut!
 16.54 Mag: Action Kidz
 17.01 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
 17.43 Mag: Shift
 18.00 Magazine: Eco At Africa
 19.00 Mag: Africa 54
 20.01 Tele: Amour A Mort
 20.30 News
 21.40 Film: 47 Metres Down
 With Mandy Moore, Claire Holt
 23.16 Mag: Tomorrow Today
 23.40 Mag: Washington Forum

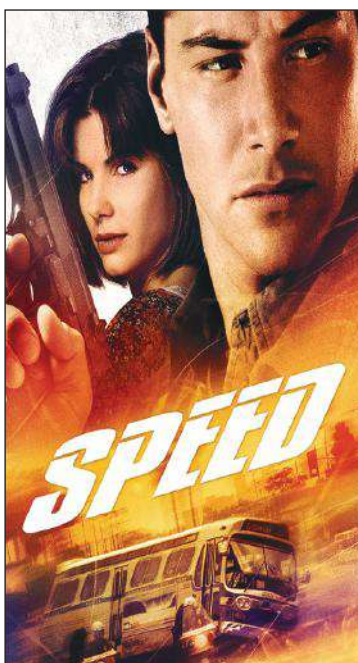
14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
 14.54 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
 15.21 Film: Rajaji
 18.00 Live: Samachar
 18.32 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
 19.00 Serial: Udaariyaan
 19.31 Fanaa Ishq Mein Marjawan
 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2
 20.30 Radha Krishna
 21.00 Anupamaa 21.31 Mere Sai
 22.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
 22.32 Swaran Ghar
 22.59 Shaurya & Anokhi Ki Kahani
 23.30 Film: Rajaji



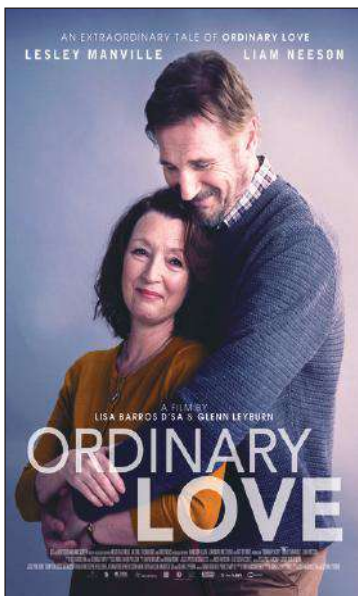
Mardi 9 avril - 20.30



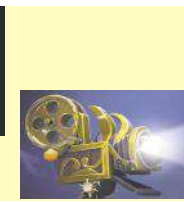
Mercredi 10 avril - 20.30



Jeudi 11 avril - 21.40



Programme TV



mardi 9 avril

MBC 1

- 03.06 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
- 03.49 The Gardener's Daughter
- 04.17 Amour Secret / Amor Secret
- 05.04 Pasion Y Poder
- 05.28 A Que No Me Dejas
- 06.01 The Equalizer
- 06.50 Hollywood On Set
- 07.15 Serial 08.00 Rookie Blue
- 08.45 NCIS 09.30 Amour A Mort
- 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter
- 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: Nouveau Job Pour Une Nouvelle Vie
- 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 20.30 Film: Speed

MBC 2

- 06.00 Feminin Pluriel
- 06.24 Konn Ou Drwa
- 06.49 En Forme
- 07.08 Local: Nos Aines
- 07.34 Eclairage Economique
- 08.05 Tous Egaux
- 09.34 Radio Vision
- 10.26 Local: Rodrig: Saver Lokal
- 10.42 Lir - Ekriir Kreol
- 11.08 Le Rendez Vous... Born
- 12.06 Feminin Pluriel
- 12.32 Local: Konn Ou Drwa
- 12.55 Local: Nos Aines
- 13.56 Tous Egaux
- 14.11 Rodrig Mo Pei
- 18.06 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 18.28 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.25 Le Magazine De L'Empli...
- 19.43 Son Ladan Mem
- 21.00 Paroles Agricoles

MBC 3

- 05.00 Mag: Prog From Aastha TV
- 07.07 Serial: Kisna
- 07.36 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G
- 08.00 Ved Ki Shikshaein
- 08.50 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
- 12.00 Film: Aastha Ki Shakti
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Badki Malkaain
- 16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 17.30 Radha Krishna
- 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Tark Vitark
- 19.00 Bhojpuri Dhamaka
- 19.30 Local: Navsamvatsar Utsav
- 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya
- 20.28 Film: Jai Santoshi Maa
- 22.31 Serial: Mere Sai
- 23.15 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 23.39 Local: Tark Vitark
- 00.05 Bhojpuri Dhamaka
- 00.35 Local: Navsamvatsar Utsav

MBC 5

- 06.00 Mag: Eco At Africa
- 06.32 Magazine: The 77 Percent
- 07.00 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 09.24 Mag: Action Kidz
- 09.31 Film: Ella Bella Bingo
- 10.47 Mag: Lab 360
- 11.52 Doc: The Expanding Desert
- 12.23 Doc: Glacier Express
- 13.05 Doc: Antarctica
- 14.00 Film: Coeur Vaillant 2
- 15.24 D.Anime: Tut! Tut!
- 15.32 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...
- 15.43 D.Anime: Romy & Boo
- 15.55 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
- 16.30 D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1412
- 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living
- 19.00 Mag: Made In Germany
- 19.31 Mag: Global Us
- 20.02 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
- 22.29 Doc: The Bridge Of Minor...

Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.21 Film: Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari
Starring: Manoj Bajpayee, Diljit Dosanjh, Fatima Sana Shaikh
- 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 Swarn Ghar
- 23.02 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 23.24 Film: Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari

mercredi 10 avril

- 02.08 Film: Speed
- 04.06 The Gardener's Daughter
- 04.28 Amour Secret / Amor Secret
- 05.15 Pasion Y Poder
- 04.51 Amour A Mort/Amar A Muete
- 05.15 Pasion Y Poder
- 05.39 A Que No Me Dejas
- 06.06 The Equalizer
- 07.18 Film: Cowboy
- 08.44 Serial: Heartland
- 09.30 Amour A Mort
- 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter
- 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 11.10 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: Speed
- 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 21.28 Film: The Monster

- 06.00 Plat Du Chef : Sive Ourit
- 06.16 Local: Son Ladan Mem
- 06.51 Speaker 1702, Le Naufrage
- 07.21 Priorite Sante
- 07.55 Paroles Agricoles
- 08.09 Mots & Ecrits
- 11.00 Music Tour 2022
- 12.00 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef
- 12.34 Speaker 1702, Le Naufrage
- 12.22 Son Ladan Mem
- 13.12 Priorite Sante
- 13.34 Paroles Agricoles
- 14.04 Local: Koze Zom
- 15.00 Nu Rasinn 16.28 Mots & Ecrits
- 16.52 Music Tour 2022
- 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 18.29 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.25 Le Magazine De L'Empli...
- 19.30 Mric - Inove Moris
- 20.32 Toc Toc Doc
- 20.47 Local: En Forme

- 05.00 Mag: Prog From Aastha TV
- 07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 07.08 Serial: Kisna
- 07.36 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G
- 08.00 Tark Vitark
- 08.27 Bhojpuri Dhamaka
- 10.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 12.00 Film: Ram Aur Shyam
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Senhur - Bhojpuri Serial
- 16.00 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana
- 17.30 Radha Krishna
- 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Yatra
- 19.00 Local: Kala
- 20.00 Virasat
- 20.15 Gyan Vigyan
- 21.00 Film: Jamai Raja
- 23.24 Serial: Mere Sai
- 00.26 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 00.54 Yatra 01.03 Kala
- 02.10 Local: Gyan Vigyan
- 02.36 Senhur

- 06.00 Magazine: Rev
- 06.26 Mag: Made In Germany
- 06.52 Mag: Japan Video Topics
- 07.00 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 09.24 Mag: Action Kidz
- 09.31 Film: Blinky Bill
- 11.08 Magazine: Rev
- 11.31 Magazine: Shift
- 13.46 Mag: Japan Video Topics
- 14.00 Film: The Big Slime Movie
- 15.21 D.Anime: Tut! Tut!
- 16.30 D.Anime: Magic Kaito 1421
- 17.01 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
- 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 19.30 Doc: Urban Forests
- 20.00 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 20.30 Live: News
- 21.46 Film: A Murder Of Crows
Stars : Cuba Gooding Jr., Tom Berenger, Marianne Jean-Baptiste
- 23.27 Magazine: Close Up

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.30 Film - Kisaan
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Sohail Khan, Arbaaz Khan
- 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 Swarn Ghar
- 23.02 Serial: Shaurya & Anokhi Ki Kisaan
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Sohail Khan, Arbaaz Khan

jeudi 11 avril

- 01.50 Serial: Billions
- 03.08 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
- 04.21 Amour Secret / Amor Secret
- 05.08 Pasion Y Poder
- 05.25 A Que No Me Dejas
- 06.01 The Equalizer
- 07.15 Serial: New Amsterdam
- 08.45 Serial: Pearson
- 09.30 Amour A Mort
- 10.20 The Gardener's Daughter
- 10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis
- 11.15 Serial: The Inbetween
- 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: A Murder Of Crows
- 17.15 The Gardener's Daughter
- 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 20.30 Film: Freaky Ali
Cast : Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Arbaaz Khan, Amy Jackson

- 06.00 Rodrig Spor
- 06.26 Local: MRA Customs
- 06.59 Local: En Forme
- 07.18 Toc Toc Doc
- 07.33 Agir Ensemble
- 08.45 Rodrig: Pran Kont
- 09.01 Proze Dime
- 09.30 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 11.08 Les Klips
- 12.00 Mric - Inove Moris
- 12.15 Rodrig Spor
- 12.41 Local: MRA Customs
- 13.18 Toc Toc Doc
- 13.33 En Forme : Vaastu
- 14.56 Proze Dime
- 15.22 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou La...
- 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 Local: Mots & Ecrits

- 05.00 Mag: Prog From Aastha TV
- 07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 07.12 Serial: Kisna
- 07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 08.00 Yatra 08.26 Kala
- 09.22 Virasat
- 10.00 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana
- 12.00 Film: Raja Harishchandra
- 15.30 Badki Malkaain
- 16.00 Agniphera
- 17.30 Radha Krishna
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.30 Ramcharitmanas Sandesh
- 19.00 Ramayan Satsang
- 19.30 Local Production
- 20.00 Hunarbaaz 20.30 Shiv Shakti
- 21.00 Yashomati Maiyya Ke...
- 22.00 Serial: Mere Sai
- 22.45 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 23.13 Amrit Vaani
- 23.26 Local: Bhajan Sandhya

- 06.00 Magazine: Afrimaxx
- 06.26 Doc: Prestige Project High...
- 06.52 Mag: Japan Video Topics
- 07.00 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 09.24 Mag: Action Kidz
- 09.31 Film: The Boy, The Dog And...
- 10.58 Mag: Lab 360
- 11.06 Magazine: Afrimaxx
- 12.29 Doc: Wild Isles
- 15.00 D.Anime: Kids Songs
- 17.19 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
- 18.00 Magazine: Eco India
- 18.30 Magazine: Shift
- 19.00 Mag: Border Crossing
- 19.30 Magazine: Tomorrow Today
- 20.01 Tele: Amour A Mort
- 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
- 21.40 Film: Ordinary Love
Avec Liam Neeson, Lesley Manville, David Wilmut,
- 23.14 Doc: The Answer To Almost

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 15.30 Film: Kisaan
Starring: Jackie Shroff, Sohail Khan, Arbaaz Khan
- 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 Swarn Ghar
- 23.02 Shaurya & Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 23.30 Film: Kisaan
- 02.00 Kundali Bhagya



Jeudi 11 avril - 15.30

Stars: Jackie Shroff, Sohail Khan, Arbaaz Khan



Jeudi 11 avril - 20.30

Stars: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Arbaaz Khan, Amy Jackson



Mauritian Multilingualism: Embracing Diversity, Enhancing Unity



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

For any change in the choice of languages to be officially accepted in Parliament, which is a representative body of the people of Mauritius, it should be brought up for public debate, and not monopolized by leaders of political parties, as was the case with the aborted plan for a Second Republic. The topic calls for a dispassionate and rational debate. For the sake

China imposed Mandarin without much ado on regional languages in a bid to simplify and unify communication among its people.

Do we derive our concept of a national language from European linguistic experts, who base their definition on a homogeneous race and culture, collective memory of their history, and a clear definition of what defines their civilization? To what extent can we speak of a nation in Mauritius? It is still in the pro-

guage? While Kreol is widely spoken and understood, its status as a fully developed language remains in progress. Classified as a dialect for decades, it has supplanted Bhojpuri, which once held widespread usage, due to the advocacy of ideologues and the waning interest within Bhojpuri-speaking communities. Nonetheless, Bhojpuri is recognized as a fully fledged language with a rich literary tradition in Eastern India, a heritage that has endured in Mauritius.

A national language reflects a shared history and culture. However, in a multi-ethnic society with a colonial legacy, history does not begin with the year of independence in 1968. Many individuals do not regard the 1840s as a pivotal moment in their intellectual and mental landscape.

In the 1990s, the proposal to mandate Oriental languages in schools sparked controversy in Mauritius. However, over time, acceptance of this idea has grown organically, without being enforced.

A utilitarian and materialistic approach falls short when it comes to languages. Merely having a common language does not automatically equate to a national language, nor does it serve as a unifying factor. Otherwise, civil rights would have been granted to Blacks in America in 1865, following the abolition of slavery, rather than waiting until the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

In multi-ethnic, post-colonial societies, there are languages we use and languages that resonate with us on a deeper level. English served as the sole official language in Parliament until French was introduced upon the request of some MPs who faced challenges with English, despite significant investments in English language education over decades. Additionally, Kreol often sneaks into parliamentary discourse, typically utilized by members to take jabs at opponents, shout, and insult without restraint.

If MPs and ministers continue to struggle with these two languages, it is indicative of deeper issues regarding their intellectual capabilities, rather than a mere linguistic preference. Thus, rather than fixating on the language of choice, which risks being weaponized and politicized, attention should be directed towards addressing the intellectual standards of elected officials, especially during electoral campaigns. Top of Form



P-Defimedia

of clarity, terms need to be properly defined. What do we mean by 'our national language'? Nation-building is a long-term process aimed at materializing the ideal of a 'nation'. If the concept of nation is being viewed through the lens of Western history, we better step back and ask ourselves the right questions.

For example, it took centuries and much infighting among several provinces before some form of political unity took shape to unite people of largely the same racial and religious identity in France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom. After achieving political unity, which gradually made the idea of being part of one nation acceptable, it took more than a century to implement the one-language policy for official use in Parliament and the educational system.

It was far from being a smooth ride for regional languages like Occitan and Breton in France, Welsh and Scottish in the UK, or Catalan in Spain to accept a backstage secondary status and allow one language to emerge above others. Bitter memories of past coercion on the people still prevail. In the 1960s, South Indians took to the streets to protest against any attempt to popularize Hindi and still bristle at the idea of Hindi gaining ground over decades. Communist

cess of being built; it is not yet a reality.

If we insist on putting the cart before the horse, we may find ourselves adopting the definitions of leftist ideologues and intellectuals in Mauritius regarding the status of Kreol. The latter are esteemed in opinionated circles in Creole-speaking French departments like Réunion and West Indian islands. Never mind that in these French departments, Creole is the only remnant of their island culture, as the French assimilation policy eradicated all other existing languages. Hence, there is a fervent effort to elevate its status and display it prominently on posters, road signs, and elsewhere. For everything else, they must accept the reality of owing the islands' high standard of living and infrastructure to French taxpayers' money.

Undeniably, there is an ethnic dimension to the language issue. It has become a matter of bestowing dignity upon the proletariat and recognizing their contribution to the initial economic development of the islands.

The endeavour to elevate the status of Kreol initially bore the stamp of a Marxist ideology within far-left circles in Mauritius. However, the question arises: does the existence of a Mauritian nation validate the notion of a national lan-

Tree of Knowledge

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Leaving a Relationship

One of the hardest decisions we ever make in life is leaving a long-term relationship that just isn't working. When attempts at repairing and working out issues aren't working, it may be time to examine moving on. We are emotional creatures, and when our heartstrings are tied to those of another, separating from that person can feel like an act of courage. It is not something most of us will take lightly, and many of us will struggle with our desire to stay in a relationship that is unfulfilling simply in order to avoid that pain. We may question whether the happiness we seek even exists, and we may wonder if we might be wiser to simply settle where we are, making the best of what we have.

On the one hand, we almost relish the idea that true happiness is not out there so that we can avoid the pain of change. On the other hand, we feel within ourselves a yearning to fulfill our desire for relationships that are vital and healing. Ultimately, most of us will follow this call, because deep within ourselves we know that we deserve to be happy. We all deserve to be happy, no matter where we find ourselves in this moment, and we are all justified in moving, like plants toward the light, in the direction that leads to our greatest fulfillment. First, though, we may need to summon the courage to move on from the relationship that appears to be holding us back.

Taking the first steps will be hard, but the happiness we find when we have freed ourselves from a situation that is draining our energy will outshine any hardship, we undergo to get there. Keeping our eyes trained on the horizon, we begin the work of disentangling ourselves from the relationship that no longer fits. Every step brings us closer to a relationship that will work, and the freedom we need to find the happiness we deserve.