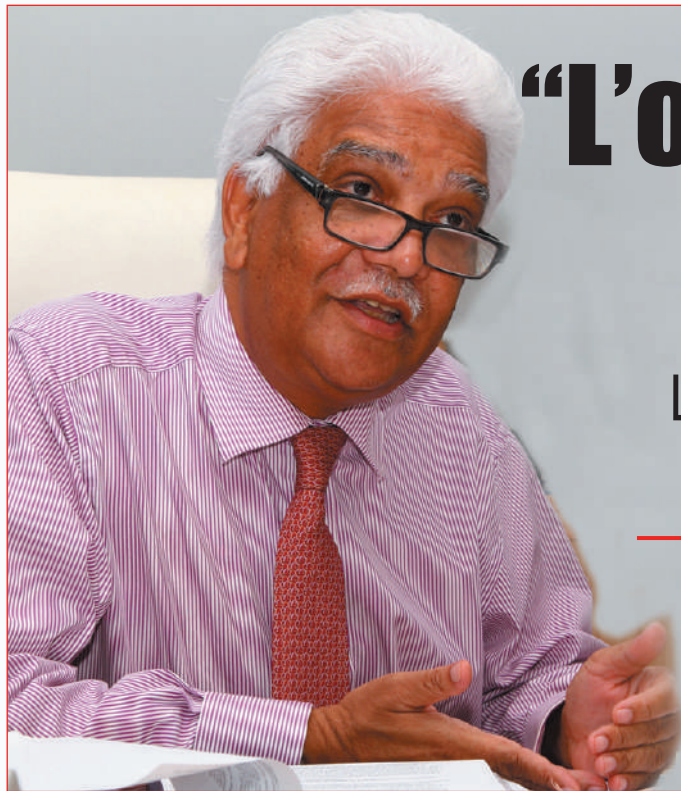


# MAURITIUS TIMES

• "Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value." — Joe Biden



Interview: Jean Claude de l'Estrac

## "L'opposition ne manquera pas de munitions..."

Le gouvernement MSM a été une véritable usine de fabrication de casseroles"

• 'Pravind Jugnauth et ses alliés savent bien qu'ils seront face à forte partie et ils ne veulent prendre aucun risque'

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## Le pays est déjà pris d'une fièvre électorale



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## Le génie des Facebook Ads de retour : Brad Parscale, évangéliste de l'IA



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Breakfast with Bwana

## Trouble Brewing In Space

The consequences for the earth's climate and its population in the event of nuclear detonations in space are terrifying. A nuclear winter could result and end life on a significant portion of the earth.

Encounter

Sudhamo Lal,

Director-General of the MRA

"Mauritius has a lot to share with the outside world in terms of social welfare and economic justice in its tax system"



'Targeting political opponents are against our core values of integrity, fairness, transparency and accountability'

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# The Air Mauritius Saga

**A**t a time when numerous social difficulties, including the rising cost of living, the proliferation of the drug scourge, the ineffectuality of authorities to safeguard our streets, or the culture of opacity surrounding key decisions, demand our attention, we cannot draw away from the goings-on at our national carrier, Air Mauritius.

No week has gone by without another sad story of passenger flight delays or cancellations due, it seems, to a combination of factors such as proper maintenance, unavailability of engine spares, lack of qualified personnel, and uncertain quality of substitute leased aircraft to compensate for newish planes the company disposed of as scrap. Inevitably, irate customers and their families, missed connections or appointments, disappointed or angry tourists have hogged headlines almost since the end of the pandemic two years ago.

Readers will recall the sequence of events leading us to 2014. Prior to the pandemic, the finances of the national carrier we were all proud of had already nosedived so perilously that it had to be brought into the ward of voluntary receivership. The plane fleet was dismantled and several sold under the supervision of the ruling regime's best high-flier, Sattar Hajee Abdoula. Pilots, stewards, and ground personnel were sacked to streamline payroll, many having to forego their retirement pensions.

The authorities injected more than Rs 10 billion of public funds into the company while it regrouped Air Mauritius and a dozen separate airport entities under one fully owned government mega umbrella, Airport Holdings Ltd, although we understand that their various Boards and structures were left in place for operational matters. Appointed or promoted newbies, reportedly close to the higher political strata, many with little experience or knowledge of their ambit and responsibilities, were brought in when tourism and travel rebounded post-pandemic. Omertà remained the Pied Piper's tune as, despite the billions of injected public funds, no

questions could be asked or answered in the National Assembly. The name and reputation of the company, and by extension, the country, were taking a battering.

Matters took a turn for the worse when last year's recruited CEO of Air Mauritius, praised as the right man to steer us out of the mess, had to be suspended or dismissed after a few months of what must have been a jocular heady life at the top with allegedly cosy relations with some suppliers. Whether this was due to poor due diligence, incompetent management of the recruitment process, or simply the criss-crossing of wires in the new management maze between MK and Airport Holdings Ltd, the credibility gap was widening, approaching a yawning ravine.

With an unflappable and unshaken belief in their acumen, the upper echelons found themselves selecting another CEO who, this time, had no previous experience in carrier, flight, or ground operations — a fact perhaps seen as a refreshing virtue! He, too, now finds himself like the proverbial kangaroo caught in the glare of headlights, as details of his vacation trip to South Africa, flying first class, emerged this week and adding to public scepticism. As the PR machinery works to quell controversies, unanswered questions linger.

Should we just shrug it off as another bout of jolly but notoriously incompetent high-fliers running the show while hundreds of ordinary personnel face continued wrath at the frontlines? These questions remain unanswered, leaving a sense of unease in the public consciousness.

In the USA, Democrats and Liberals ask whether every shocking outcry of past President Trump should be normalized when right-wing MAGA cult followers dismiss every ghastly occurrence as "oh, it's just more of Trumpian style and rhetoric? A contrario, "Indignez-vous" was the clarion cry of philosopher Stephane Hessel around 2010 calling, in his best-seller, on youth to refuse injustices and stand or march pacifically for noble causes and ideals.

## The Conversation

# Some defections are not consequential, others can lead to monumental change

*Four of the most consequential political defections in British history*



The Gang of Four launch the SDP. Pic - Alamy

**T**he hitherto Conservative MP for Dover, Natalie Elphicke, has sensationally defected to the Labour Party. This has sent shockwaves through Westminster, as Elphicke was a figure on the right of the Conservative Party.

In addition to embarrassing Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, this defection has caused significant disquiet within Labour, where many MPs and activists feel her prior stances on a range of issues jar with Labour policies.

Elphicke's move came just days after Daniel Poulter, Conservative MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich, had also defected to Labour. But these two are far from the first to cross the aisle in this way.

We don't yet know if Elphicke's move will be consequential in the long term and she isn't standing in the next election, so this could be little more than a short sharp shock. But history shows us defections can lead to monumental change. These are four such examples.

## 1. The Peelites leave the Tories

Robert Peel was prime minister from December 1834 to April 1835 and later from August 1841 to June 1846. He is arguably one of the most significant figures in British political history. Prior to his premiership, he served as home secretary and founded the London Metropolitan Police (hence the collo-

quial name "Bobbies"). But he was also instrumental in the creation of the modern Conservative Party from its predecessor, the Tory Party.

Peel was a believer in free trade at a time when many in his party were protectionists who sought to keep prices high for domestic producers. For his backbenchers, the most sacred of these tariffs were the corn laws, restrictions on grain imports that benefited landowners.

In the autumn of 1845, a potato blight swept across Ireland destroying successive potato crops — leading to a famine that ultimately killed approximately one million people. Peel argued that this necessitated the repeal of the corn laws, which he did in 1846.

Peel's opponents within his party believed — likely correctly — that Peel was cynically using the famine as a pretext to justify repeal. The parliamentary party split and Peel resigned.

A third of the party continued to back Peel but, over time, this rump dwindled to a handful. In 1859, these members coalesced with the Whig and Radical MPs into a single Liberal party under Lord Palmerston.

**Chris Smith, Course Director,  
History, Coventry University**

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## Elections générales 2024

# Le pays est déjà pris d'une fièvre électorale

Aditya Narayan

**D**epuis les meetings politiques du 1er mai, une fièvre électorale s'est emparée du pays en vue des prochaines élections législatives qui devraient définitivement avoir lieu cette année. Il y avait beaucoup de spéculation sur la date probable des prochaines élections générales, compte tenu de l'intention déclarée du gouvernement d'aller jusqu'au bout de son mandat de cinq ans, commencé en novembre 2019.

Il est certain aujourd'hui que les prochaines élections auront lieu avant la date de la dissolution automatique de l'Assemblée législative prévue pour le 21 novembre 2024, soit cinq ans après la première séance de la présente mandature. Dans cette perspective, on constate une forte mobilisation dans tous les camps politiques qui enchaînent des meetings publics, des congrès régionaux, des réunions interpartis sur la liste des candidats et l'annonce de promesses électorales.

En effet, le plan initial du gouvernement de compléter son mandat de cinq ans a été déjoué par la démission de l'ex-ministre Vikram Hurdoyal de son siège de député dans la circonscription no. 10 (Montagne Blanche/Grande Rivière Sud-Est) le 13 février dernier. Bien que l'on ignore toujours les raisons de cette démission plus de 90 jours plus tard, le gouvernement a été contraint légalement de lancer la procédure en vue de tenir une élection de remplacement du siège laissé vacant.

## Partielle incertaine

Ainsi, le 12 mai dernier, le président de la République a émis un «writ» pour tenir une élection partielle dans la circonscription no.10 au plus tard le 9 octobre 2024, avec le dépôt des candidatures (*Nomination Day*) fixé au 11 juillet 2024. En vertu d'un règlement sous la loi électorale (*The Representation of The People Regulation* de 1987), le gouvernement aura usé du délai maximal de 240 jours depuis la démission de l'ex-député pour déclencher la procédure d'organisation d'une partielle.

**C**e fait indique qu'il n'y a aucun empressement de tenir la partielle le plus vite possible. S'il le voulait, le gouvernement aurait pu tenir la partielle le 11 août 2024, soit dans un délai raisonnable de six mois. En poussant l'échéance de la partielle au 9 octobre 2024, il suscite de forts doutes sur son intention réelle. En effet, tenir une partielle le 9 octobre 2024, soit à 40 jours de la dissolution du Parlement survenant le 21 novembre 2024, cela n'est pas logique car le député élu éventuellement ne siègera que pour 40 jours avant de briguer une nouvelle élec-



**“L'Opposition a déjà couvert un vaste champ de revendications populaires en proposant, entre autres mesures, l'accès à l'Internet gratuit aux ménages, le transport public gratuit pour tous, le congé de maternité d'un an, la baisse des prix des carburants, la pension supplémentaire aux invalides et aux veuves qui touchent la pension de vieillesse, l'abolition de l'impôt sur les revenus de moins de Rs 1 million et l'exemption de l'impôt sur la pension de vieillesse. Qu'est-ce que le gouvernement proposera de nouveau qui n'a pas encore été encore pensé? Une nouvelle augmentation des prestations sociales dans le prochain mandat avec la pension de vieillesse à Rs 15 000...?”**

tion.

Le gouvernement aura beau donner l'impression qu'il va respecter le calendrier de la partielle, il ne prendra pas le risque de perdre une élection partielle 40 jours avant la dissolution du Parlement. Il va donc fort probablement dissoudre le Parlement le 11 juillet 2024 après le vote du budget 2024-25, publier le «writ» pour des élections générales le 12 juillet 2024, fixer le dépôt des candidatures au 27 juillet 2024 et organiser des élections générales le 11 août 2024.

Il a le choix alternatif de dissoudre le Parlement le 10 août 2024, publier le «writ» pour des élections générales le 11 août 2024, fixer le dépôt des candidatures au 25 août 2024 et organiser des élections générales le 9 septembre 2024, et ce, dans les délais minimaux prescrits

**“L'opposition extra parlementaire jouerait les trouble-fêtes aux dépens de l'Opposition parlementaire en grappillant des voix dans les villes. Les partis de gauche ReA et Lalit ne se sont pas encore positionnés par rapport aux deux forces bipolaires, mais ils risquent de perdre de leur influence sans un positionnement stratégique sur l'échiquier. Entre le statu quo défendu par le gouvernement sortant et le désir de changement incarné par l'Opposition parlementaire, les petits partis n'arrivent pas à offrir une troisième voie (alternative) aux deux camps opposés...”**

dans *The Representation of The People Act* de 1958.

**E**ntre ces deux options (le 11 août ou le 9 septembre 2024), le gouvernement optera sans doute pour la première date pour appeler le pays aux urnes aussitôt après avoir fait voter le budget 2024-25, lequel contiendra des mesures populistes pour attirer l'électorat. Depuis l'annonce des 20 mesures proposées par l'alliance de l'Opposition PTR-MMM-Nouveaux Démocrates, lesquelles ont frappé l'imagination populaire par leur nature audacieuse, le gouvernement se démène comme un diable pour y répondre. Tantôt ses porte-parole affirment que les propositions de l'Opposition sont démagogiques et irréalistes, tantôt ils soutiennent que le gouvernement peut les rendre caduques dans son prochain budget en se les appropriant.

## Copier-coller

Même si le gouvernement reprend à son compte les propositions de l'Opposition dans un exercice de «copier-coller», il devra faire mieux pour faire monter les enchères. Il devra faire preuve de beaucoup d'imagination pour formuler de nouvelles promesses qui soient innovantes et populaires.

L'Opposition a déjà couvert un vaste champ de revendications populaires en proposant, entre autres mesures, l'accès à l'Internet gratuit aux ménages (375 000 au nombre), le transport public gratuit pour tous, le congé de maternité d'un an, la baisse des prix des carburants (diesel et essence), la pension supplémentaire aux invalides et aux veuves qui touchent la pension de vieillesse, l'abolition de l'impôt sur les revenus de moins de Rs 1 million et l'exemption de l'impôt sur la pen-

sion de vieillesse.

Qu'est-ce que le gouvernement proposera de nouveau qui n'a pas encore été encore pensé? Une nouvelle augmentation des prestations sociales dans le prochain mandat avec la pension de vieillesse à Rs 15 000 en 2025 ou Rs 20 000 ultérieurement? Une révision attendue des salaires dans la Fonction publique en 2025? Des tarifs d'eau et d'électricité gratuits pour ceux au bas de l'échelle? Une allocation-chômage aux chômeurs? Jusqu'où ira-t-il dans la surenchère électorale?

L'enjeu des prochaines élections est vital pour le gouvernement ainsi que pour l'Opposition parlementaire. Le gouvernement joue son va-tout afin préserver le pouvoir, quitte à pratiquer une politique de la terre brûlée en promettant monts et merveilles à une population désabusée. L'opposition parlementaire joue sa dernière chance d'accéder au pouvoir après deux échecs consécutifs en 2014 et 2019. Les deux camps se livreront une bataille féroce dans une lutte bipolaire que l'opposition extra parlementaire essaiera d'atténuer tant bien que mal pour se faire une place au soleil.

## Troisième voie

Les partis d'opposition extra parlementaire réunis sous la bannière de «Linion Morisien» se gargarisent du slogan «Ni Navin ni Pravind» qui ne fait pas mouche. L'alliance PTR-MMM-ND a réussi la gageure de rassembler une bonne foule le 1er mai pour se présenter comme la seule alternative viable et crédible au gouvernement sortant. Le PMSD, après son départ de cette alliance, cherche sa voie en multipliant les contacts avec tous les partis.

● Suite en page 16



Par A. Bartleby

Elections

# Le génie des Facebook Ads de retour: Brad Parscale, évangéliste de l'IA

**B**rad Parscale, l'opérateur de campagne numérique qui a contribué à l'élection présidentielle de Trump en 2016 en utilisant massivement les publicités sur Facebook, revient sur le devant de la scène en tant qu'évangéliste de l'intelligence artificielle.

Il promet que sa nouvelle plateforme alimentée par l'IA révolutionnera non seulement les sondages, mais aussi les campagnes électorales. Ses outils alimentés par l'IA, a-t-il vanté, surpasseront les grandes entreprises technologiques et ouvriront la voie à une vague de victoires conservatrices dans le monde entier.

Ce n'est pas la première fois que Parscale proclame que les nouvelles technologies stimuleront les campagnes de droite. C'est le gourou du numérique qui s'était associé au scandaleux Cambridge Analytica et a contribué à propulser Trump à la Maison Blanche, il y a huit ans.

Parscale affirme que sa société, Campaign Nucleus, peut utiliser l'IA pour générer des e-mails personnalisés, analyser des montagnes de données pour évaluer les sentiments des électeurs et trouver des électeurs persuasibles, puis amplifier les publications sur les réseaux sociaux des influenceurs "anti-woke", selon un examen effectué par «l'Associated Press» des déclarations publiques de Parscale, de ses sites web d'entreprise, de ses présentations, de ses documents marketing et d'autres documents non publiés auparavant.

## Risques émergents de désinformation

Les risques émergents de désinformation alimentée par l'IA sont préoccupants alors que les populations de nombreux pays se rendent aux urnes. Depuis l'année dernière, Campaign Nucleus et d'autres entreprises liées à Parscale ont été rémunérées à hauteur de plus de 2,2 millions de dollars par la campagne Trump, le Comité national républicain et leurs comités



Brad Parscale était le gourou du numérique derrière la victoire surprise de Donald Trump aux élections de 2016. Depuis, il est devenu un évangéliste sur le pouvoir de l'intelligence artificielle pour transformer la façon dont les républicains mènent leurs campagnes politiques. P - cncb.com

d'action politique et de collecte de fonds connexes, selon les archives des finances de campagne.

La capacité de Parscale à utiliser l'IA pour cibler microscopiquement les partisans et les inciter à contribuer financièrement pourrait s'avérer cruciale pour la campagne de Trump et d'autres organisations de collecte de fonds.

Au-delà de Trump, Parscale a déclaré avoir utilisé l'IA pour dynamiser les candidats et les causes conservateurs dans le monde entier, notamment en Israël, dans les Balkans et au Brésil.

Parscale n'est pas le seul à utiliser l'apprentissage automatique pour donner un avantage aux candidats en prédisant, ciblant et motivant les électeurs susceptibles de voter et de faire des dons. Les politiciens de tous niveaux expérimentent les chatbots et d'autres outils d'IA générative pour rédiger des discours, des copies publicitaires et

des appels à la collecte de fonds.

Certains démocrates ont exprimé leur inquiétude d'être dépassés par les républicains sur l'IA, tout comme ils l'ont été sur la publicité sur les réseaux sociaux, il y a huit ans. Jusqu'à présent, la campagne Biden et d'autres démocrates ont déclaré qu'ils utilisaient l'IA pour les aider à trouver et à motiver les électeurs et à mieux identifier et combattre la désinformation.

## L'IA capable de bouleverser les élections dans le monde entier

Les experts électoraux s'inquiètent de la capacité de l'IA à bouleverser les élections dans le monde entier grâce à des deep-fakes convaincants et à d'autres contenus susceptibles de tromper les électeurs. Les services d'IA générative gratuits ou peu coûteux se sont développés en sophistication, et les responsables craignent qu'ils ne soient utilisés pour discréditer un candidat ou inciter les électeurs à éviter les urnes,

sapant ainsi la confiance du public dans ce qu'ils voient et entendent.

Trump a qualifié l'IA comme étant "tellement effrayante" et "dangereuse". Sa campagne, qui a évité de mettre en avant le rôle de Parscale, a déclaré dans un communiqué par courrier électronique qu'elle n'utilisait pas les outils fournis par une société d'IA quelconque.

"La campagne utilise un ensemble d'outils algorithmiques propriétaires, comme de nombreuses autres campagnes à travers le pays, pour aider à distribuer les e-mails de manière plus efficace et empêcher les listes d'inscriptions d'être remplies de fausses informations", a déclaré le porte-parole de la campagne, Steven Cheung.

Alors que les consultants politiques exagèrent souvent leurs tactiques pour décrocher de nouveaux contrats, ils peuvent aussi être intensément secrets sur les détails de leur travail pour éviter d'aider les rivaux. Cela rend difficile de suivre précisément la manière dont Parscale déploie l'IA pour la campagne Trump, ou de manière plus générale.

Parscale a déclaré que Campaign Nucleus pouvait envoyer des e-mails personnalisés aux électeurs et utiliser l'analyse des données pour prédire les sentiments des électeurs. La plateforme peut également amplifier les influenceurs "anti-woke" qui ont de grands suivis sur les réseaux sociaux, selon les documents et les vidéos de sa société.

Parscale a déclaré, il y a deux ans dans un podcast, qu'il avait reçu plus de 10 000 demandes concernant Campaign Nucleus de presque tous les pays avec un parti conservateur. Plus récemment, il a déclaré que son équipe était active dans plusieurs pays, notamment en Israël, où il "aidait beaucoup dans la guerre contre le Hamas".

# The Cat is Out of The Bag

**A**près neuf longues années d'attente, le procès intenté par l'ancien gouverneur de la Banque de Maurice (BoM), Rundheersing Bheenick, contre l'État, le Commissaire de police et Heman Jangi, l'ancien Assistant Commissaire de Police (ACP) en charge du Central CID (CCID), pour arrestation arbitraire et autres "fautes graves", arrive enfin à son dénouement. Les révélations ont surgi lors du témoignage de l'ancien cadre de la BoM, Jayendra Kumar Ramtohol, qui s'est exprimé mardi dernier. Il a exposé les circonstances dans lesquelles il avait été appelé à faire une déclaration préalablement conçue avec l'aide d'un Senior Counsel.

Jayendra Kumar Ramtohol, ancien Chef de la Division des Services Corporatifs à la BoM, a révélé que l'affaire Bheenick avait pris racine lors d'une réunion de la BoM le 10 février 2015, en présence de Ramesh Basant Roi et de Yandraduth Googoolye, alors Premier Vice-Gouverneur. Il

avait été convenu que Ramtohol ferait une déclaration à la police au nom de la banque concernant les documents emportés par Rundheersing Bheenick - une déclaration préparée à l'avance.

## Déposition modifiée

L'ancien cadre bancaire a également révélé que lors de sa déposition aux Casernes Centrales, certains mots avaient été modifiés pour correspondre au jargon policier. Alors que sa déclaration originale concluait par "un certain nombre de documents étaient introuvables et auraient pu être emportés par M. Rundheersing Bheenick", l'ancien ACP Heman Jangi aurait présumément ordonné de la réécrire en ces termes : "La banque a des raisons de croire que M. Rundheersing Bheenick a détourné les documents."

☞ Suite en page 5



Les révélations entourant la déposition contre Manou Bheenick mettent à nu les dynamiques de pouvoir au sein de la machinerie étatique



# The Cat is Out of The Bag

☞ Suite de la page 4

Ces manipulations présumées suggèrent une tentative de changer le sens et la portée des déclarations de l'ancien cadre.

Lors de son témoignage mardi, Heman Jangi a vigoureusement nié les accusations de manipulation de la déposition de Ramtohl ou de favoritisme envers sa fille qui a obtenu un poste en tant que Bank Officer Grade 1 à la BoM, affirmant avoir agi dans le cadre de ses fonctions en tant que responsable du CCID.

## Au cœur des dynamiques de pouvoir: un examen critique des allégations

**L**a saga en cours autour de la déposition contre Manou Bheenick met en lumière des problèmes plus profonds au sein des couloirs du pouvoir. Au cœur de cette controverse se trouve un récit de manipulation, d'influence, et de potentiel abus de la machinerie étatique.

Le témoignage de Jayendra Kumar Ramtohl dessine un tableau de coercition et de préméditation, où la frontière entre procédure légale et influence indue s'estompe. De plus, la révélation de la modification présumée de la déposition de Ramtohl pointe vers un effort calculé visant à altérer le récit et potentiellement incriminer Bheenick. En manipulant le contenu de la déclaration, on aurait pu cher-

cher à déplacer la faute et à ternir la réputation de l'ancien gouverneur.

L'implication présumée d'un Senior Counsel ajoute une autre couche de complexité à l'affaire. Bien que leur objection à la manipulation de la déposition démontre une forme de responsabilité éthique, leur acquiescement ultérieur met en lumière l'influence généralisée des dynamiques de pouvoir. Dans un système où la loyauté et l'allégeance l'emportent souvent sur les principes de justice, même les professionnels du droit peuvent se retrouver compromis.

Alors que l'affaire se déroule, elle sert de rappel flagrant de la fragilité des institutions démocratiques face aux intérêts enracinés et à l'érosion des normes éthiques. La poursuite de la justice ne doit pas être éclipsée par des vendettas personnelles ou des agendas politiques ou inavouables. Il est impératif que les allégations de fautes fassent l'objet d'une enquête approfondie et que les responsables soient tenus pour responsables, quel que soit leur position ou leur influence.

En fin de compte, les révélations entourant la déposition contre Manou Bheenick mettent à nu les dynamiques de pouvoir au sein de la machinerie étatique et soulignent le besoin urgent de réformes systémiques pour sauvegarder les principes de justice, de transparence et de respon-



sabilité. Ce n'est qu'en s'engageant résolument envers ces principes que la confiance du public pourra être restaurée et que l'intégrité de la gouvernance démocratique pourra être préservée.

# Les Sud-Africains perdent confiance dans l'ANC

## à mesure que l'inégalité des revenus s'aggrave

**L'**Afrique du Sud se rendra aux urnes le 29 mai, trois décennies après la fin de l'apartheid. Le Congrès national africain est au pouvoir depuis lors, mais les sondages prédisent que le parti perdra sa majorité, de nombreux électeurs étant mécontents de son incapacité à résoudre les inégalités.

Lorsque le Congrès national africain (ANC) est arrivé au pouvoir sous la direction de Nelson Mandela, il a promis d'améliorer la vie des Sud-Africains noirs après des décennies d'apartheid - un système de ségrégation raciale institutionnalisée qui a existé de 1948 à 1994.

Trente ans plus tard, l'Afrique du Sud souffre de l'un des pires taux d'inégalité des revenus au monde.

Alors que l'ANC nie avoir besoin d'une coalition, les sondages indiquent qu'une fin de sa gouvernance unipartite est probable.

## Chômage et pauvreté

Bien que le chômage record et une économie en difficulté soient des problèmes majeurs pour les électeurs, l'ANC met en avant le système de protection sociale de l'Afrique du Sud - une rareté dans les économies à revenu intermédiaire - comme une réalisation phare.

"Ces subventions et ces allocations font bien plus que donner aux gens ce dont ils ont besoin pour vivre", a déclaré le président Cyril Ramaphosa en février. "C'est un investissement dans l'avenir."

Pourtant, le soutien à l'ANC diminue alors que le système de sécurité sociale du pays craque, avec plus de 24 millions - plus



Plus de 60% de la population vit dans la pauvreté, selon la Banque mondiale, tandis qu'une décennie de stagnation économique a fait grimper le chômage à plus de 32%. P - IOL

d'un tiers de la population - ayant besoin d'aide.

## Échecs économiques

La sécurité sociale et la prospérité économique étaient le socle de la politique de l'ANC lorsqu'il est arrivé au pouvoir en 1994. L'Afrique du Sud était alors l'économie la plus dynamique du continent.

Aujourd'hui, des zones comme le quartier de Sandton à Johannesburg, avec ses gratte-ciels et ses maisons luxueuses, montrent une forme de succès économique dont ne bénéficie qu'une minorité des 60 millions d'habitants du pays.

Plus de 60% de la population vit dans la pauvreté, selon la Banque mondiale, tandis qu'une décennie de stagnation économique a fait grimper le chômage à plus de 32%, près de 10 points de plus qu'il y a 30 ans.

Les politiques de l'ANC ont "enrichi

quelques élites tout en maintenant des millions de personnes dans la pauvreté", rapporte l'Institut sud-africain des relations raciales. "Elles découragent l'emploi, la croissance et l'investissement. Il est temps d'envisager une alternative."

Pour Thabo Mbeki, président de l'Afrique du Sud de 1999 à 2008, le système de protection sociale n'était jamais censé être un remède, mais un moyen de développer une économie inclusive favorisant l'emploi.

Mais selon Michael Sachs, économiste au Centre sud-africain d'études sur l'inégalité: "Si ces problèmes sociaux continuent de s'aggraver et que la seule réponse du gouvernement est de fournir plus d'allocations sociales, alors à terme, cela deviendra insoutenable."

Sachs affirme également que, bien qu'il y ait suffisamment de ressources pour sou-

tenir les bénéficiaires prévus - comme les enfants et les retraités -, le gouvernement ne peut pas gérer le chômage galopant et la stagnation économique.

## Changement en vue?

**L'**avenir économique de l'Afrique du Sud pourrait dépendre de l'identité du partenaire de coalition choisi par l'ANC.

La Democratic Alliance (DA), de centre-droit et pro-entreprise, est le plus grand parti d'opposition et pourrait être ouvert à des discussions sur une coalition avec l'ANC.

Mais pour les analystes sud-africains, cela serait maladroit. Le principal objectif du DA est la création d'emplois. Il souhaite assouplir les lois du travail et s'éloigner de l'action positive visant à corriger les discriminations de l'ère de l'apartheid.

Le DA a également accusé l'ANC des problèmes du pays.

Pourtant, il semble prêt à éviter ce que son leader, John Steenhuisen, qualifie de "coalition de l'apocalypse" entre l'ANC et les Combattants pour la liberté économique (EFF) marxistes dirigés par Julius Malema.

L'EFF a exprimé le désir de prendre le portefeuille des finances s'il devait s'allier à l'ANC, avec des demandes supplémentaires de redistribution des terres et de nationalisation des mines et des banques.

Son manifeste électoral appelle à doubler les avantages sociaux, à accorder une nouvelle allocation aux diplômés universitaires au chômage et à étendre davantage les services publics gratuits pour les pauvres.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 16





Anil Madan

# Trouble Brewing In Space

*The consequences for the earth's climate and its population in the event of nuclear detonations in space are terrifying. A nuclear winter could result and end life on a significant portion of the earth.*

**I**s Russia developing an antisatellite nuclear weapon? US officials assert that just days before Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Russia launched a satellite known as Cosmos-2553 which is designed to test components for an antisatellite system, or weapon if you will, that could be equipped to carry a nuclear device. Earlier this year, Russia rejected the charge, calling it a fabrication.

To be clear, the satellite launched in 2022 does not have a nuclear device or weapon onboard. The Biden administration, members of Congress, and industry experts who track such matters have been increasingly concerned that Russia has long been engaged in developing nuclear antisatellite capability. A nuclear device would have the capacity to render useless hundreds, if not thousands, of satellites in the low Earth orbit region.

The term low Earth orbit (LEO) is generally defined as an orbit around the Earth with a period of 128 minutes or less — so as to make at least 11.25 orbits per day — and within an altitude not more than about one-third the radius of the Earth, about 2,000 kilometers or 1,200 miles. The term LEO region or low Earth region is used to describe the area of space within the altitude ranging from 100-1,200 miles. Objects passing within this orbit region present a collision risk to the many LEO satellites that have been launched since man began space exploration and the commercial use of space.

LeoLabs is a company that provides satellite tracking and collision avoidance services in LEO. It describes LEO as a dynamic environment. The company reports that in 2007—almost 50 years from the dawn of the Space Age, the number of cataloged objects in LEO crossed the 10,000-object mark. That averages to about 200 objects per year. By 2021, the 20,000-object mark was crossed, taking about 15 years to double the number of space objects from the preceding 50 years, or an annual average of about 650+ objects. By 2022, the



P - Credit: Mic of Orion

**“It is widely known that the Pentagon has become more and more reliant on satellite-based technology including communications and targeting capabilities via GPS in recent years. The vulnerability of US commercial satellites to incapacitating attacks is a serious concern because they typically are not equipped to withstand attacks, particularly nuclear detonation in space. And the US military has increased its reliance on satellite and communications capabilities provided by private companies. And, of course, the consequences for the earth's climate and its population in the event of nuclear detonations in space are terrifying ...”**

number of objects had increased to above 21,000. LeoLabs notes that while operational payloads accounted for most of this growth, approximately 70% of objects in LEO are still space debris, including derelict rocket bodies and nonoperational payloads, as well as fragments from hundreds of dead satellites.

In 2020, the World Economic Forum (WEF) reported that there were nearly 6,000 satellites circling Earth. About 60% of these were defunct satellites or space junk and 40% were operational. The firm Euroconsult, according to the WEF estimated that 990 satellites will soon be launched every year and by 2028, there could be 15,000 satellites in orbit.

The Wall Street Journal reports that LeoLabs estimates that as of the end of April, there were almost 6,700 American satellites operating in LEO. China had 780 satellites there, while Russia had 149. In-

cluded in these totals are the Starlink satellites that provided Internet connectivity for Ukraine since Putin's invasion in 2022.

US officials, notably Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control Mallory Stewart, and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy John Plumb recently expressed concerns about Russia's development of a nuclear antisatellite (ASAT) weapon capable of making LEO unusable.

Referring to the Cosmos-2553 satellite, they asserted that Russia possesses a test satellite in an unusually high radiation orbit. They dismiss as not plausible Russia's claims that the satellite is for electronic testing because it is in an atypical orbital deployment for a scientific satellite.

The fear is that these types of satellites could be used to deploy nuclear devices that if exploded in LEO, would disrupt, and possibly destroy satellite communications capabilities of civilian, commercial and military assets. These include US military satellites as well as commercial assets including Starlink.

Assistant Secretary of State Plumb has described a nuclear weapon in space as indiscriminate, one without national boundaries, one that doesn't distinguish between military satellites, civilian satellites, or commercial satellites, destroying them all.

LeoLabs has this stark warning in a 2022 article on its website: “The United States, India, Russia, and China have proven their ability to physically destroy a satel-

lite by testing anti-satellite weapons (ASAT). These tests have resulted in thousands of pieces of space debris in LEO. Fragments from the 2021 Russian ASAT test, for example, continue to cause dangerous conjunctions: we observed ~3,000 in August alone. While there is a US-led movement to ban kinetic ASAT tests on orbital targets, the risk remains. There is also the possibility of a cyber-attack which could render a satellite non-operational. Russia's threats against Space X's Starlink satellites during the war in Ukraine, for example, have illustrated how real this risk is.”

Cosmos-2553 remains in orbit around the Earth. The US officials claim that Russia has been secretly operating it as a research and development platform for components of the new space weapon system. Russia has not yet deployed the weapon and has not tested any nuclear devices in space.

A few months ago, US Congressional Representative Mike Turner, a Republican from Ohio, who is Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee referred to a serious national security threat and called on President Biden to declassify intelligence about it. The White House confirmed in a statement that Russia was pursuing a troubling antisatellite capability. But White House spokesman John Kirby emphasized that there was no immediate threat to the US and that no nuclear weapon had been deployed by Russia in space.

Russian denials came from on high with Putin himself declaring that Russia is categorically against the placement of nuclear weapons in space. On the other hand, various Putin acolytes have issued thinly veiled nuclear threats against Ukraine, Europe, NATO countries, and even the US. According to US officials, the Kremlin has rebuffed American efforts to engage in direct discussions on this subject.

It is widely known that the Pentagon has become more and more reliant on satellite-based technology including communications and targeting capabilities via GPS in recent years. The vulnerability of US commercial satellites to incapacitating attacks is a serious concern because they typically are not equipped to withstand attacks, particularly nuclear detonation in space. And the US military has increased its reliance on satellite and communications capabilities provided by private companies.

And, of course, the consequences for the earth's climate and its population in the event of nuclear detonations in space are terrifying. A nuclear winter could result and end life on a significant portion of the earth.

Whereas the immediate issue here is about a Russian satellite, China too is now more active in space and its capability for the military use of space remains an ever-present concern.

Cheer...  
Bwana

**“LeoLabs is a company that provides satellite tracking and collision avoidance services in low Earth orbit (LEO). It describes LEO as a dynamic environment. The company reports that in 2007—almost 50 years from the dawn of the Space Age, the number of cataloged objects in LEO crossed the 10,000-object mark. That averages to about 200 objects per year. By 2021, the 20,000-object mark was crossed, taking about 15 years to double the number of space objects from the preceding 50 years, or an annual average of about 650+ objects. By 2022, the number of objects had increased to above 21,000. LeoLabs notes that while operational payloads accounted for most of this growth, approximately 70% of objects in LEO are still space debris...”**





Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Chinmaya Shankaram

*Birth anniversaries of Swami Chinmaya and Adi Shankaracharya*

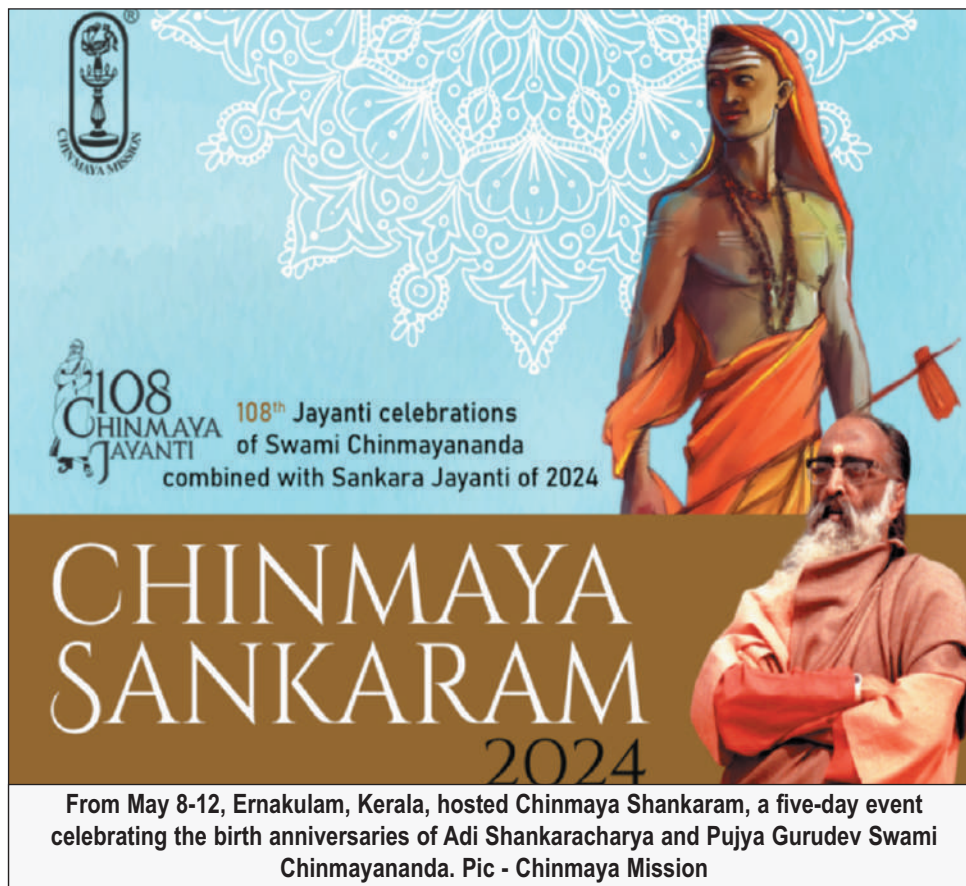
On May 8-12 a five-day mega-programme, Chinmaya Shankaram, was held in the district of Ernakulam in Kerala, India, to commemorate the jayantis or birth anniversaries of two legendary spiritual masters who were born there: Adi Shankaracharya on May 12, 788 AD and Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda on May 8, 1916.

The programme comprised various cultural activities and talks by Swamis and other eminent personalities, as well as the inauguration of a new Chinmaya Vidyapeeth (University) on 60-acre campus where Indian Knowledge Systems will be taught along with contemporary knowledge. The launch ceremony of the Chinmaya Shankaram was done by Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, Governor of Kerala, an outstanding Islamic and Vedic/Sanskrit scholar – whose interventions whether in English or Hindi are a treat to listen to and reveal his encyclopaedic and empathetic understanding of the human condition.

Among the swamis who spoke were Swami Mitrananda, Swami Tejomayananda, former Spiritual Head of Chinmaya Mission Worldwide, and the current Head Swami Swaroopananda all of whom I have met and closely interacted with in Mauritius during their visits here. So, it was nice to see familiar faces discoursing on different aspects of the life and teachings of these two great luminaries, who were both responsible for a cultural and spiritual renaissance of Sanatana Dharma during their respective lifetimes.

As far as Swami Chinmayananda is concerned, he was born Balakrishna Menon. He lost his mother at the age of five and was brought up in a large matriarchal family typical of Kerala. By the time his father, a prominent judge, remarried, he was already on the way to Lucknow University. He graduated in English literature and law, took an active part in student politics in the struggle for independence, was at one time jailed only to emerge as a journalist with an incisive pen before a visit to the sage of Arunachal, Ramana Maharishi, triggered in him the inspiration to seek the truth of the Vedas.

He went to the Himalayas and in 1949 he was granted *sanyasa* by Swami Sivananda: thus did Balakrishna Menon become Swami Chinmayananda. He decided to take the message of the Vedas far and wide until he passed in 1993, and the technique he developed was *jnana yagna*: public discourses on the Bhagavad Gita and other scriptures held over a period of five days. These are still immensely popular, along with the spiritual camps, Bal Vihar classes for children, study groups as well as the wealth of publications which continue to guide and inspire. Chinmaya Mission



From May 8-12, Ernakulam, Kerala, hosted Chinmaya Shankaram, a five-day event celebrating the birth anniversaries of Adi Shankaracharya and Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda. Pic - Chinmaya Mission

activities worldwide also include community service such as village improvement projects, educational institutions up to tertiary level, and vocational schools. There are about 350 Chinmaya Mission Centres worldwide, including the one in Mauritius headed by Swami Pranavananda.

In contrast, Adi Shankaracharya was born in village Kalady to a modest couple who prayed very devoutly to get a child. Like Swami Chinmayananda, he became orphaned at an early age: his father died when he was three years old. His mother sent him to a gurukula school – a traditional institution where Vedic knowledge is imparted. He turned out to be a prodigy, mastering the scriptures by the age of eight. He then returned to his home, looking after his mother and continuing his studies – his father had left a large collection of books.

However, given his exceptional nature, he had a burning desire to embrace *sanyasa* i.e. to give up the material world and engage in spiritual pursuit. For this he needed to find a guru. His mother was reluctant to let go of him, but finally relented. For two months this 8-year old walked alone towards the north, living on alms, at night resting under a tree, or in a temple or pilgrim's centre - until he found his guru, Gobindapada Acharya who was living in a cave near one the banks of the Narmada river.

He stayed with the guru for a full three years and mastered all the scriptures and techniques of yoga. Before his guru sat in meditation then gave up his physical body and attained *mahasmadhi*, he advised Sankara to complete his mission of imparting Vedic

knowledge to all and to proceed to Kasi, (as Varanasi was then known). There, he took up abode near the Viswanath Temple near the famous Manikarnika Ghat and spent his time explaining the Vedantic texts and teaching the scriptures. He propounded the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta, namely that: Brahman is the one and Ultimate Reality that underpins existence, and the only means to lead us to the goal of Realisation of this Truth is to overcome all sense attractions.

This is the goal of the Vedanta, the body of spiritual wisdom which contains the principles and details the paths and techniques available to the traveller on life's inward journey seeking to achieve the goal, known as *sadhana*: they have been summarized by Shankaracharya in his *Sadhana Panchakam*. The Vedanta is based on the Vedas (from the Sanskrit *vid*, meaning knowledge) which are in four parts; it is a compilation of the end-ports of the Vedas, which are the conclusions arrived at by the rishi-munis (sages), hence Vedanta: Ved (from the Vedas) and anta (the end).

When he was barely 12 years old, the admirers, disciples and devotees of Shankara who included learned pundits and priests, conferred on him the title of Acharya – teacher. Thus did Shankara become Shankaracharya. Proceeding further, he travelled all over Bharata from south to north, east to west, establishing four mutts or spiritual centres which exist to this day. He wrote profusely, compiling *bhashyas* or commentaries on the Upanishads, the Brahma Sutras and the Bhagavad Gita, as well as composing many hymns and books which are in use to this day.

All this was done during his short life of only 28 years! A life in which on many an occasion he performed what would be considered as miracles by the uninitiated but were the expression of his extraordinary yogic powers that manifested from a very young age.

A classic *magnum opus* of Vedanta of Adi Shankaracharya is the *Vivekachudamani*, or 'The Crest Jewel of Discrimination', which many of us have had the opportunity and privilege of studying under Swami Pranavananda. Discrimination here used in the sense of transcendental discernment or *viveka* by the trained 'Inner Eye'. This is the insight conveyed by the universal mantra:

*Asatomasadgamaya  
Tamasomajyotirgamaya  
Mrityormamritamgamaya*

(From the unreal lead us to the Real/ From darkness lead us to Light/From death lead us to Immortality) – which we recite at the end of all pujas.

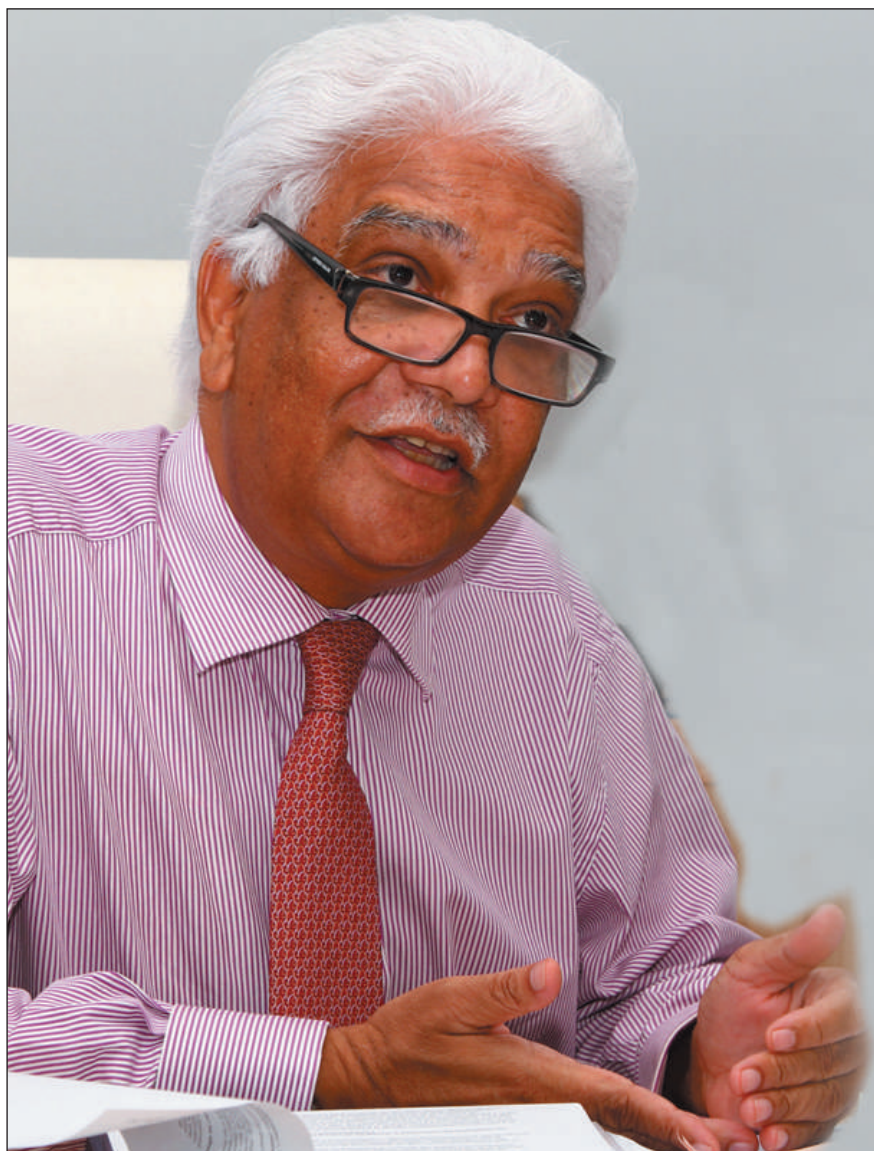
*Harih Om Sri Gurubhyoh Namah. Om Shanti*



Interview: Jean Claude de l'Estrac

# “L'opposition ne manquera pas de munitions...”

## Le gouvernement MSM a été une véritable usine de fabrication de casseroles”



**J**ean Claude de l'Estrac, dans l'interview qui suit, livre ses réflexions perspicaces sur les dynamiques pré-électorales à l'approche des prochaines législatives. Alors que les spéculations fusent sur la possibilité d'une élection partielle au No. 10, il nous invite à dépasser les conjectures et à nous concentrer sur l'état réel des forces politiques sur le terrain. Ses analyses éclairent les enjeux majeurs qui façonnent le paysage politique mauricien, des manœuvres stratégiques des partis aux questions cruciales telles que le financement politique.

veulent prendre aucun risque.

Mais je ne suis pas sûr que l'on puisse arguer d'un glissement de terrain de l'alliance gouvernementale. J'ai une autre lecture de la situation. Je pense, au contraire, que l'alliance gouvernementale a utilisé tous les moyens du pouvoir pour consolider sa base électorale au cours de ces dernières années. Je le crédite aujourd'hui, grosso modo, de la même force qu'aux élections de 2019, allons dire entre 38 et 40%. Son problème, c'est que l'alliance Travailliste-MMM a le potentiel de faire 5 à 10 points supplémentaires, en cas de synergie optimum. Ce résultat dépendra beaucoup de la cohérence de leur argumentaire politique.

Ce point est crucial; les élections de 2014 ont démontré que cette alliance est capable de perdre une élection imperdable...

\* Quoi qu'il en soit, en plus du contrôle absolu exercé par l'alliance gouvernementale sur l'appareil d'État, notamment sur la MBC-TV, une machine de propagande très efficace, le gouvernement disposerait également d'une certaine marge de manœuvre budgétaire grâce aux "Special Funds" pour financer d'autres mesures populistes lors du prochain exercice budgétaire, ainsi que de la carte Duval. Quel impact ces stratégies électoralistes auront-elles sur l'électorat?

**‘Ce n'est pas, que l'on sache, Ramgoolam qui a abandonné Xavier Duval. Il semble que Duval ait fait une erreur, peut-être en raison de conseils mal avisés’**

puter le rapport de forces alors qu'elles ne sont pas encore totalement alignées et qu'il existe toujours beaucoup d'impondérables. Nous

ne verrons plus clair qu'après le *Nomination Day* même si nous voyons bien se dessiner les contours des deux blocs principaux qui vont s'affronter, l'un autour du MSM, l'autre autour du Parti Travailliste.

Une ou deux autres formations se préparent à présenter des candidats. Elles ne peuvent pas prétendre obtenir une majorité, mais elles vont provoquer une dispersion des voix qui sera, objectivement, au détriment de l'alliance Travailliste-MMM.

\* Mais même si c'est encore trop tôt pour se faire une idée précise du rapport de forces sur l'échiquier politique, les mesures très controversées prises par les autorités pour entraver la mobilisation des sympathisants de l'alliance PTr-MMM lors de leur rassemblement à Port Louis le 1er mai dernier ont révélé un sentiment de panique au sein de l'alliance gouvernementale. Craignent-ils que le terrain soit en train de glisser?

La peur panique est un syndrome commun à tous les gouvernements sortants à l'heure du règlement des comptes. Dans le cas présent, Pravind Jugnauth et ses alliés savent bien qu'ils seront face à forte partie et ils ne

Le principal impact est d'ordre financier. Les diverses augmentations de salaires ou d'allocations octroyées au cours des derniers mois ont effectivement soulagé beaucoup de monde.

**“Je crédite le MSM aujourd'hui, grosso modo, de la même force qu'aux élections de 2019, allons dire entre 38 et 40%. Son problème, c'est que l'alliance Travailliste-MMM a le potentiel de faire 5 à 10 points supplémentaires, en cas de synergie optimum. Ce résultat dépendra beaucoup de la cohérence de leur argumentaire politique. Ce point est crucial; les élections de 2014 ont démontré que cette alliance est capable de perdre une élection imperdable...”**

Elles ont permis à l'alliance gouvernementale d'engranger des dividendes électoraux, de consolider sa base, peut-être de l'élargir un peu. On peut prévoir qu'elle maintiendra cette même stratégie à l'occasion du prochain budget sans se préoccuper des conséquences macroéconomiques à plus long terme. Après Paddy, le déluge...

**Mauritius Times:** Au-delà des interrogations et des spéculations sur la tenue d'une élection partielle au No. 10, la véritable question que nous devrions nous poser est de savoir quel est le rapport de forces sur le terrain à quelques mois des prochaines législatives. Quelle est votre opinion sur cette question?

**Jean Claude de l'Estrac:** Vous me demandez là de prédire le résultat des élections. Il est prématuré de sup-

**“L'opposition portera l'essentiel de ses attaques sur les manquements à la bonne gouvernance, les faits de société, la prolifération de la drogue et l'insécurité qui en découle, les allégations de corruption, le gaspillage de l'argent public, la politisation des institutions et le népotisme. Elle ne manquera pas de munitions. Le gouvernement MSM a été une véritable usine de fabrication de casseroles. Mais difficile de dire à ce stade, comment l'électorat réagira...”**

● Suite en page 9



# 'Pravind Jugnauth et ses alliés savent bien qu'ils seront face à forte partie et ils ne veulent prendre aucun risque'

● Suite de la page 8

Vous avez raison de souligner que contrairement à ce que prévoit la loi, la MBC qui est censée se montrer «*independent and impartial*» est une machine de propagande gouvernementale. Ce n'est pas nouveau, mais c'est pire que jamais.

Lors de la campagne électorale, nous verrons probablement émerger deux thèmes majeurs, l'un promu par l'alliance gouvernementale, l'autre par l'opposition Travailliste-MMM.

Pravind Jugnauth et ses alliés joueront à fond sur les mesures sociales introduites.

L'opposition portera l'essentiel de ses attaques sur les manquements à la bonne gouvernance, les faits de société, la prolifération de la drogue et l'insécurité qui en découle, les allégations de corruption, le gaspillage de l'argent public, la politisation des institutions et le népotisme. Elle ne manquera pas de munitions. Le gouvernement MSM a été une véritable usine de fabrication de casseroles.

Mais difficile de dire à ce stade, comment l'électorat réagira face à ces deux logiques.

**\* On ne sait pas exactement à quoi Paul Bérenger faisait allusion lorsqu'il parlait récemment de développements imminents sur le plan politique et qu'un Travailliste serait malgré tout Premier ministre dans le prochain gouvernement en cas de victoire. Pensez-vous que le Parti Travailliste aurait intérêt à envisager un Plan B au cas où les attaques du MSM s'avéreraient efficaces?**

Je ne sais pas à quoi faisait référence Paul Bérenger. Vous semblez insinuer que cela pourrait concerner Ramgoolam. Peut-être aussi à un événement positif. Mais en tout état de cause, il faut toujours prévoir un plan B, en politique plus qu'ailleurs.

Mais sur un plan essentiellement tactique, je ne vois pas l'intérêt pour Jugnauth de créer une circonstance qui forcerait le Parti Travailliste à se trouver un autre leader. J'imagine qu'il lui sera plus facile de combattre un Ramgoolam qui traîne quelques casseroles qu'un leader neuf sans passé gouvernemental et sans passif.

**\* Ce dont le MSM a grandement besoin dans une lutte qui pourrait être serrée, c'est d'assurer dès le départ une large victoire dans les circonscriptions rurales. Malgré l'opinion presque unanime des analystes politiques sur l'improbabilité d'une élection partielle au No.10, le MSM pourrait envisager cette démarche s'il est assuré, par le biais des services de renseignements et des sondages, d'une victoire certaine au No.10. Cela pourrait lui procurer un "boost" électoral déterminant. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

Votre raisonnement n'est pas farfelu mais je n'y crois pas.

“Sur un plan essentiellement tactique, je ne vois pas l'intérêt pour Jugnauth de créer une circonstance qui forcerait le Parti Travailliste à se trouver un autre leader. J'imagine qu'il lui sera plus facile de combattre un Ramgoolam qui traîne quelques casseroles qu'un leader neuf sans passé gouvernemental et sans passif...”

“Au fait, je vois dans cette prochaine joute deux stratégies asymétriques: le MSM cherche à obtenir le maximum de sièges dans les circonscriptions rurales et espère grappiller quelques élus en milieu urbain; l'alliance Travailliste-MMM cherche à obtenir le maximum de sièges en milieu urbain et à arracher quelques élus en milieu rural...”



Les hommes politiques n'aiment pas prendre de risques. C'en est un et très grand. C'est vrai que si le MSM devait organiser et remporter cette élection partielle, il bénéficierait d'un grand "boost" électoral, mais l'inverse serait catastrophique pour lui.

Au fait, je vois dans cette prochaine joute deux stratégies asymétriques: le MSM cherche à obtenir le maximum de sièges dans les circonscriptions rurales et espère grappiller quelques élus en milieu urbain ; l'alliance Travailliste-MMM cherche à obtenir le maximum de sièges en milieu urbain et à arracher quelques élus en milieu rural.

**\* Au-delà du fait que les prochaines élections seront déterminantes pour les leaders des principaux partis politiques, elles pourraient également ouvrir la voie à l'émergence d'une nouvelle génération de leaders et de politiciens. Voyez-vous cette perspective se réaliser et trouvez-vous cela rassu-**

rant?

Pour les leaders des deux partis de l'opposition parlementaire, ce sont les élections de la dernière chance ; il n'y aura pas de suite.

Mais, lors de ce prochain spectacle, les leaders des nouvelles formations seront, en quelque sorte, des vedettes américaines. Ils joueront en première partie, mais à la fin les grosses vedettes occuperont toute la scène. Il leur faudra attendre le prochain tour.

**\* Cette alliance entre le PTr et le MMM sera-t-elle viable dans un contexte de partage du pouvoir, et Navin Ramgoolam a-t-il fait une erreur en abandonnant le soutien représenté par le PMSD, autrefois son "allié naturel"?**

Je ne vois pas se dessiner un partage du pouvoir. Les tiraillements et les difficultés de l'alliance PTr-MMM sur les investitures ont pour toile de fond la détermination de Ramgoolam à s'assurer d'une majorité d'élus à l'intérieur de l'alliance. Il n'est pas du genre à partager le pouvoir. Je crois que les dirigeants du MMM ne se font pas d'illusion.

Mais, bien entendu, une alliance exige, de part et d'autre, des compromis. Le contexte de fin de clap pour les deux leaders les incitera probablement à des accommodements plutôt qu'à des affrontements suicidaires pour l'un comme pour l'autre.

“Les tiraillements et les difficultés de l'alliance PTr-MMM sur les investitures ont pour toile de fond la détermination de Ramgoolam à s'assurer d'une majorité d'élus à l'intérieur de l'alliance. Il n'est pas du genre à partager le pouvoir. Je crois que les dirigeants du MMM ne se font pas d'illusion. Mais, bien entendu, une alliance exige, de part et d'autre, des compromis...”

Pour revenir au PMSD, ce n'est pas, que l'on sache, Ramgoolam qui a abandonné Xavier Duval. Je pense que l'on verra bientôt les vraies raisons pour lesquelles Duval a choisi de se retirer. Je crois que c'est lui, mal conseillé, qui a commis une erreur.

**\* Quelle opinion faites-vous du "Political Financing Bill" sachant que ce document a été rendu public à quelques mois des prochaines législatives? Et qu'en est-il de l'évaluation de la pertinence de ces propositions?**

Je comprends la méfiance de l'opposition concernant le "Political Financing Bill", mais je regrette l'incapacité des partis politiques à trouver un consensus sur cette question si fondamentale pour le fonctionnement de la démocratie. Ce blocage fait parfaitement le jeu du pouvoir en place qui fait financer une grosse part de ses campagnes avec l'argent public sous couvert de manifestations officielles.

Sur le fond, je trouve absolument absurde qu'un Etat confie au seul secteur privé le financement des partis politiques, acteurs essentiels de la vie démocratique de la nation. J'estime que le financement des partis devrait être d'abord une obligation de l'Etat, quitte à chercher une contribution supplémentaire du secteur privé selon des règles de stricte transparence.



## AstraZeneca Covid vaccine related to another rare but deadly blood clotting disorder

A week after British-Swedish pharma company AstraZeneca withdrew its Covid-19 vaccines worldwide, the organisation announced on Thursday that its vaccine, made in collaboration with Oxford University, was found to increase the risk of a rare but deadly blood clotting disorder known as vaccine-induced immune thrombocytopenia and thrombosis (VITT).

VITT is not unknown and it emerged as a new disease after the administration of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, known as Covishield in India and Vaxzevria in Europe, during the peak of the Covid-19 outbreak in 2021, reports Hindustan Times.

The reason for VITT was found to be "an unusually dangerous blood autoantibody directed against a protein termed platelet factor 4 (or PF4)".



The reason for VITT was found to be "an unusually dangerous blood autoantibody directed against a protein termed platelet factor 4 (or PF4)". Pic – Zee Business

In the studies conducted in 2023, researchers from Canada, North America, Germany, and Italy described an almost identical condition featuring the PF4 antibody, which proved fatal in certain instances after contracting a natural adenovirus infection, commonly associated with the common cold.

In a new research, Australia's Flinders University along with other experts found that PF4 antibodies in adenovirus infection-associated VITT as well as classic adenoviral vector VITT were sharing similar molecular fingerprints.

Professor Tom Gordon from Flinders told IANS that the "findings have the important clinical implication that lessons learned from VITT are applicable to rare cases of blood clotting after adenovirus (a common cold) infections, as well as having implications for vaccine development".

On Thursday as per *Reuters*, AstraZeneca revealed that the vaccine's Covid-19 prevention treatment successfully lowered the risk of infection among individuals with compromised immune systems, meeting the primary objective of the late-stage trial.

The company stated that sipavibart, a long-acting antibody therapy, demonstrated a "statistically significant reduction" in symptomatic Covid-19 cases among immunocompromised patients, *Reuters* reported.

## The Maldives is shifting towards China. Here's what you need to know

In the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean lies the Maldives, an archipelago renowned for its pristine beauty and turquoise waters. But beyond its idyllic facade, this nation of islands is now at the centre of a geopolitical storm, as it navigates a significant shift in its alliances, moving away from its traditional partner India and towards China.

Once a steadfast ally of India, the Maldives' recent alignment with China has raised eyebrows and stirred concerns about the implications for regional dynamics, particularly in the context of the broader China-India relationship.

In the past, the Maldives and India shared a close bond, with India serving as the Maldives' primary partner since gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1965. However, the election of Maldives President Abdulla Yameen in 2013 marked a turning point. Yameen's administration accelerated ties with China, culminating in the signing of a free trade agreement with Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2017.

Since then, the Maldives has deepened its engagement with China, particularly through its participation in China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Infrastructure projects financed by Chinese loans, such as the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge, have become emblematic of this burgeoning relationship. Chinese investments now constitute a significant portion of the Maldives' public debt, highlighting the economic implications of this realignment.

President Mohamed Muizzu's ascent to power further solidified the Maldives' pivot towards China. Muizzu, who campaigned on an "India-Out" platform, has actively sought to reduce the Maldives' economic dependence on India. His administration's decision to request the replacement of Indian military personnel with civilian technicians underscores this strategic shift.

Yet, amidst these geopolitical manoeuvres, the Maldives faces internal tensions and economic uncer-



Drivers cross the China-funded Sinamalé Bridge, also called the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge. Pic - AFP

ainties. Muizzu's pro-China stance has sparked divisions within the country, particularly among its Muslim-majority population.

Moreover, the Maldives' reliance on tourism, which accounts for a significant portion of its GDP, has become a point of contention. Indian PM Narendra Modi's call for Indian tourists to visit the nearby Lakshadweep islands, coupled with a subsequent drop in Indian tourist bookings to the Maldives, highlights the economic risks associated with geopolitical realignments.

The Maldives' pivot towards China is not an isolated phenomenon but part of a broader trend in the region. Island nations across the Pacific, from the Solomon Islands to Kiribati and Nauru, have increasingly embraced China, drawn by promises of economic investment and development.

For China, these partnerships serve as a means to advance its strategic interests, while also isolating Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a renegade province. The diplomatic shifts away from Taiwan towards China, exemplified by these island nations, underscore Beijing's growing assertiveness on the international stage.

## Thailand to recriminalise cannabis as PM vows to get tough on drugs

Thailand's Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin says the country will re-list cannabis as a narcotic by the end of the year, in a stunning U-turn just two years after becoming one of the first countries in Asia to decriminalise its recreational use.

He wants to outlaw the drug again amid concerns that the lack of regulation has increased crime and made it available to children.

The move comes despite the rapid growth of the domestic retail sector for marijuana, with tens of thousands of shops and businesses springing up in Thailand in the past two years in an industry projected to be worth up to \$1.8 billion by 2025.

Cannabis was decriminalised for medical use in 2018 and recreational use in 2022 under a previous government, but critics say its liberalisation was rushed through, causing huge confusion about rules and regulations, reports *Reuters*.

Mr Srettha's comments followed a meeting with agencies involved in narcotics suppression, where he vowed to take a tough stand on illicit drugs. He ordered authorities to deliver results and show "clear progress" in the next 90 days.



Thailand decriminalised the recreational use of cannabis two years ago. Pic - Reuters

"Drugs is a problem that destroys the future of the country, many young people are addicted," he said. "We have to work fast, to confiscate assets (of drug dealers) and expand treatment."

He also asked authorities to redefine what constitutes drug possession under the law, from "small amount" to "one pill", to enable tougher enforcement by authorities.

Prasitchai Nunual, secretary-general of Thailand's Cannabis Future Network, said re-criminalising cannabis would be a bad move for the economy and would deal a big blow to small businesses and consumers.

"If scientific results show that cannabis is worse than alcohol and cigarettes then they can re-list it as a narcotic. If cannabis is less harmful, they should list cigarettes and alcohol as narcotics too."



## South Africa: Divorce amendment Bill signed into law

President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed into law the Divorce Amendment Bill, which amends the Divorce Act of 1979 to recognise Muslim marriages and safeguard the interests of Muslim women and children of Muslim marriages in the event that marriages are dissolved.

Currently, Muslim couples who choose to marry according to Islamic law can only be afforded the statutory protection of the South African legal system as it pertains to civil spouses if they, in addition to their marriage under Islamic law, register a civil marriage.

"The amended legislation addresses shortcomings in the Divorce Act of 1979, which differentiated between people married in terms of the Marriage Act and people married according to Muslim rites, especially women, reports SAnews.gov.za.

"The amendments enacted by the President provide for a definition of a Muslim marriage in the Divorce Act of 1979; the protection and safeguarding of the interests of



dependent and minor children of a Muslim marriage; the redistribution of assets on the dissolution of a Muslim marriage and forfeiture of patrimonial benefits of a Muslim marriage," the Presidency said on Thursday.

The new legislation is a response to an earlier Constitutional Court judgment that recognised the need for and importance of protecting Muslim women and children of Muslim marriages, particularly when a Muslim marriage is dissolved.

## Police arrest brother and lawyer of Peru's president over alleged influence peddling

Peruvian authorities arrested President Dina Boluarte's brother and her lawyer Friday over influence-peddling accusations, a day after the South American country's government disbanded a police unit that assisted prosecutors in investigating the president's inner circle.

A judge signed off on the arrests, according to a copy of the warrant obtained by The Associated Press. The document accuses the president's sibling of working to appoint government officials in exchange for money and an agreement to gather signatures to register a political party.

The developments mark the latest step in mounting pressure on Boluarte, who became president in December 2022 when she replaced then-president Pedro Castillo. He was dismissed by Parliament and is now imprisoned while being investigated for alleged corruption and rebellion, reports AP.

## Vodou grows powerful as Haitians seek solace from unrelenting gang violence



Voodoo attracting more believers as gang violence surge in Haiti. Pic - Africanews

In the heart of Haiti, amidst the backdrop of unending gang violence and political turmoil, the rhythmic beats of Vodou drums echo through the chaos. Shunned and persecuted for centuries, Vodou is now emerging as a powerful force, offering solace and protection to those grappling with the devastating consequences of rampant violence.

For generations, Vodou practitioners have been marginalized and vilified, their beliefs dismissed as superstition and witchcraft by politicians and intellectuals alike. Yet, in the face of relentless gang warfare that has left countless dead, injured, and displaced, the tide is turning. Increasingly, Haitians are turning to Vodou for refuge, seeking guidance and assistance from the spirits in their time of need.

The scale of the violence is staggering. More than 360,000 people have been rendered homeless, major ports and airports have been

shuttered, and essential supplies such as food and medication are dwindling. The toll on human lives is immeasurable, with over 2,500 Haitians killed or injured in just the first three months of this year, according to the United Nations.

In the midst of this turmoil, Vodou offers a glimmer of hope. Believers gather to sing, dance, and invoke the spirits, finding strength and resilience in their rituals. Sherly Norzéus, on the brink of tragedy as armed men surrounded her car, turned to Papa Ogou, the god of war and iron, for protection. Miraculously, she emerged unscathed, a testament to the power of Vodou in times of crisis.

Rooted in the history of Haiti, Vodou traces its origins to the enslaved people who brought it from West Africa. It played a pivotal role in the Haitian Revolution, offering spiritual guidance and solidarity to those fighting for freedom from slavery. Despite centuries of perse-

cution, Vodou endured, embodying the resilience of the Haitian people.

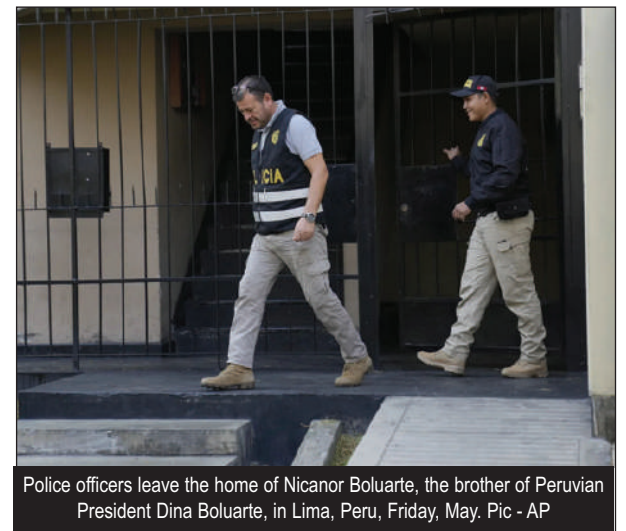
Today, Vodou is experiencing a resurgence, attracting new believers disillusioned with the failures of the government and the church. In the face of injustice and inequality, Vodou offers a sanctuary, a community bound by shared beliefs and a deep connection to the ancestral spirits.

Yet, the road ahead is fraught with challenges. Stigmatized and misunderstood, Vodouists continue to face discrimination and prejudice in Haitian society. For many, embracing Vodou means risking ostracism and condemnation from their peers.

But for Kadel Bazile, a civil engineer who turned to Vodou in his darkest hour, the choice was clear. "What I find here is spirituality and fraternity," he explains. "Being here is like being with family."

As Haiti grapples with its deepening crisis, Vodou offers a beacon of hope, a source of strength and resilience in the face of adversity. With each beat of the drum and each invocation of the spirits, Haitians find solace, courage, and protection, standing defiant in the face of violence and injustice.

In the words of Erol Josué, a singer and Vodou priest, "There's a lot of substance in Vodou that can lead to a renaissance of Haiti." As the country confronts its challenges, Vodou stands as a symbol of resistance and resilience, a testament to the enduring spirit of the Haitian people.



Police officers leave the home of Nicanor Boluarte, the brother of Peruvian President Dina Boluarte, in Lima, Peru, Friday, May. Pic - AP

The warrant also granted the prosecutors' request to keep both men incommunicado for 10 days, a legal manoeuvre that authorities typically reserve for cases they deem highly serious.

The president's brother faces charges of conspiracy and influence peddling for allegedly appointing prefects — local officials who track social conflicts in remote areas — in exchange for money and the gathering of signatures to register the Citizens for Peru party.

"I am innocent," Nicanor Boluarte told reporters as he left his house handcuffed and wearing sunglasses, a facemask and a baseball cap. He is the second to last of 12 siblings, and the president is the youngest of all.

Prosecutors accuse Castañeda of interfering with the investigation into Nicanor Boluarte by offering certain benefits to members of the now-disbanded police unit, which focused on tax probes.

Before his arrest at his home, Castañeda had advised President Boluarte in an investigation into her use of luxury watches and fine jewellery that she did not list in a mandatory asset declaration form.

Prosecutors, according to the warrant, allege the purpose of the conspiracy was to "obtain economic resources and recruit members to finance" and set up the "Citizens of Peru" political party, which would then "be used as a platform to maintain power in the state apparatus and, thereby, obtain illicit profits."



Sudhamo Lal, Director-General of the MRA

# “Mauritius has a lot to share with the outside world in terms of social welfare and economic justice in its tax system”

**I**n this week's Encounter, we spoke with Sudhamo Lal, the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA). Recently honoured as a Grand Officer of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean (GOSK), Mr Lal's leadership has been instrumental in transforming revenue administration in Mauritius. Under his watch, the MRA has achieved remarkable milestones in tax collection efficiency and has displayed adaptability in providing financial assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr Lal's insights shed light on the MRA's commitment to transparency, fairness, and innovation in tax administration.

**\* Beyond its primary function of tax administration and collection, the MRA has displayed adaptability by effectively disbursing various government allowances since the onset of the Covid pandemic. What factors do you think have contributed to the MRA's proficiency in both domains?**

Tax administration has been our main responsibility since the MRA was set up in July 2006. Our “proficiency” in tax administration, if I can use your own words, can be attributed to the systems and processes that have been put in place from 2006 onwards to change the face of tax administration in Mauritius, to putting the right persons in the right places to lead the tax administration reform and to MRA's strategy of continuous innovation and digitalisation.

Regarding our “proficiency” in providing financial assistance, we have relied on those same factors which have



**“In the last financial year, we raised assessments of Rs 12 billion on non-compliant taxpayers which would relate to some Rs 40-50 billion of undisclosed income/turnover”**

contributed to the success of our tax collection strategy. Indeed, we have been able to respond to the call of Government during the Covid-19 pandemic and thereafter, based on the following key MRA attributes:

- (a) an excellent IT infrastructure and digitalised systems and processes;
- (b) a pool of high quality, flexible, adaptable IT and tax professionals;
- (c) strong leadership, commitment and teamwork across the organisation;
- (d) dedicated staff working for long and odd hours; and capacity to shift to the work from home mode at any point in time.

**\* As the Director-General of the MRA, could you please outline the measures being implemented to enhance transparency and accountability in tax administration?**

I would say that there are very few organisations that are as transparent and accountable as the MRA. As members of the press may testify, we are always open and timely in attending to their queries, clarifications or request for assistance.

In our annual press conference we attempt to provide maximum information on our macro level performance, our Annual Report provides detailed information/analysis on our achievements, we regularly participate in radio/TV programmes and attend to all sorts of questions from the press and the public, we provide online guides/leaflets/explanatory videos on every new scheme or main tax measure introduced and we issue communiques in newspapers almost every week to update our stakeholders on issues that may be of interest to them. Our endeavour is to operate in a spirit of full transparency and accountability for the benefit of all our stakeholders.

I must also admit that as a public sector body, we are subject to in-depth scrutiny on our performance and operations. We spend time and resources in improving our operations following the annual audit exercise by the National Audit Office and subsequent meetings of the Public Accounts Committee, provide inputs in relation to Parliamentary Questions at the National Assembly, undergo periodic reviews by the OECD, IMF, etc.

So far, I believe that we have fared well in terms of our accountability and performance reviews. I would like to men-

tion that the MRA is an ISO-Certified organisation which implies that all our processes are documented and reviewed every year by the Mauritius Standards Bureau to check compliance with the established standards.

Going forward, we are coming up with an innovative project known as the E-Tax Account which is a new electronic platform that will further enhance transparency and accountability. It will *inter alia* enable taxpayers and the MRA to exchange correspondence electronically, ensure that both parties can view all correspondences exchanged and provide for expeditious replies to queries through an automated monitoring process, etc.

**\* Addressing equity and fairness in tax administration across various income brackets and societal sectors is crucial. How do you balance the need for revenue generation with considerations of social welfare and economic justice in tax policy and administration?**

The balancing of revenue generation with social welfare and economic justice is more of a matter of tax policy than tax administration and can better be replied by our policy makers from the Ministry of Finance.

**“Out of a working population of around 550,000 persons, only some 165,000 persons, that is, 30% pay income tax. We can safely say that the low income earners and a major part of the middle income earners are exempted from income tax; 80% of our personal income tax receipts is received from 36,000 taxpayers. Therefore, the rich pay most of the income taxes...”**

However, I would like to say, on the basis of my personal experience as a tax professional examining tax systems for several decades, that Mauritius has a lot to share with the outside world in terms of social welfare and economic justice in its tax system.

Let me take the example of Value Added Tax. It is estimated that we are losing some Rs 10 billion of VAT revenues from various types of exemptions granted under the VAT Act. In fact, many experts claim that Mauritius has one of the longest list of exempt/zero-rated products in the world. But our policy makers have designed the VAT system in such a way to ensure that basic foodstuffs and other essential consumption products, medical services, educational products are outside the ambit of VAT to protect the poor, the vulnerable and the low income earners.

Similarly, in our income tax system, the ideal regime from a tax administration perspective may have been a single income exemption threshold for all taxpayers. But our policy makers have provided more equity and fairness in the income tax system with higher deductions based on the number of dependents the taxpayer has.

Furthermore, the very fact that taxpayers can deduct expenses, such as interest on housing loans or tertiary educational expenses for their child, from their tax returns reinforces the view that there are social considerations in the formulation of tax policy. But, these income tax deductions are expensive as we could have raised an additional Rs 1 billion if they were not granted.

☞ Cont. on page 13



# 'Targeting political opponents are against our core values of integrity, fairness, transparency and accountability'

☞ Cont. from page 12

**\* The persistent challenge of wealthy individuals utilizing tax havens to shelter funds remains a concern globally. Are you satisfied with the level of international cooperation and collaboration in effectively addressing this issue?**

Indeed, in the recent Global Tax Evasion Report 2024 of the EUTAX Observatory, mention is made that *"global billionaires have effective tax rates equivalent to 0% to 0.5% of their wealth, due to the frequent use of shell companies to avoid income taxation"*. Hence, the Noble Prize Winner Joseph Stiglitz mentions in his Foreword to that Report that *"billionaires may not yet have achieved immortality, but they have certainly become more agile at avoiding the taxman"*.

International tax evasion by the wealthy individuals is a universal concern which requires the cooperation of each and every country. You need not be surprised to learn that taxation of the global billionaires was on the agenda for discussion during the last month G-20 Ministers meeting.

I personally believe that international cooperation through the Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) has been the real breakthrough in the fight against tax evasion by wealthy individuals. Today, 126 countries, including Mauritius, have committed to AEOI. Going by latest statistics in the Global Tax Evasion Report 2024, offshore tax evasion has declined by a factor of about three in less than 10 years and there is, therefore, ground to be satisfied. However, this does not imply that we should rest on our laurels. Instead, the global efforts to fight international tax evasion must be ongoing.

**“It is estimated that we are losing some Rs 10 billion of VAT revenues from various types of exemptions granted under the VAT Act. In fact, many experts claim that Mauritius has one of the longest list of exempt/zero-rated products in the world. But our policy makers have designed the VAT system in such a way to ensure that basic foodstuffs and other essential consumption products, medical services, educational products are outside the ambit of VAT to protect the poor, the vulnerable and the low-income earners...”**

**\* Regarding the significant deposits and investments made by Mauritians abroad - more than Rs100 billion, it would seem -, have investigations been conducted by the MRA to determine any potential tax evasion, such as undeclared income or assets?**

The MRA, after the end of each financial year, receives a lot of information from third party sources locally such as purchase of property, motor vehicles, contract for goods and services, deposits in bank accounts, etc.

We also receive bank account information on residents from foreign competent authorities. This information is key for the MRA to select cases for examination on a risk based approach and therefore improving tax compliance.

I must emphasise that third party data – both local and overseas - has enabled the MRA to uncover a number of tax evasion cases. In the last financial year, we raised assessments of Rs 12 billion on non-compliant taxpayers which would relate to some Rs 40-50 billion of undisclosed income/turnover.

**\* What policy measures or regulations do you sug-**

**gest to discourage the affluent from utilizing tax havens and encourage domestic investment?**

Regarding the transfer of money overseas to tax havens, I think that the OECD has come a long way to address the same, particularly, through the Common Reporting Standards which requires jurisdictions to share automatically bank information with the competent revenue authority where the depositor of the funds resides.

Given the extent of the work of the OECD and its implications, including the resources which each jurisdiction has to devote to comply with the OECD requirements, I would not suggest any further policy measures or recommendations for the time being.

However, there are some proposals which are being considered at international level such as introducing a new global minimum tax for the world's billionaires equal to 2% of their wealth, institute mechanisms to tax wealthy people who have been long-term residents in a country and choose to move to a low-tax country and creation of a Global Asset Registry to better fight tax evasion.

As regards policy measures to encourage domestic investment, I believe that the focus should be on non-tax incentives. In fact, there is evidence that tax is not a major consideration for investment when compared to other more important factors such as political stability, infrastructure, cost of electricity, connectivity, time to obtain licences and permits, etc.

**\* There's always the persistent concern about institutions being manipulated to target political opponents of the regime. Allegations of such actions have been made against the MRA. How do you address these accusations?**

At the MRA we are committed to our core values of integrity, fairness, transparency and accountability and the concerns you have raised are against these values.

In any case, whatever decisions the MRA takes in relation to a taxpayer is not an end in itself. Any such MRA decision can be contested at the level of other independent authorities such as the Assessment Review Committee, the Supreme Court or the Privy Council.

There is no point for the MRA to raise fictitious assessments when appeals against these assessments will be allowed by the appellate bodies resulting into the reputation and credibility of the MRA being adversely impacted.

**\* Looking forward, what are the MRA's priorities and strategies for effectively tackling emerging challenges in tax administration and enforcement?**

At the MRA we are always looking for opportunities and strategies to enhance tax compliance. In this digital world, there is potential for expanding and improving the use of data, data analytics, artificial intelligence, machine learning and social media information to detect non-compliance, illicit activities and improve customer service. To this end, we have dedicated officers browsing the internet daily to track informal sector operators. We have also recruited Assistant Data Scientists in our Tax Risk Management Unit (TRMU) to tap the new potential of data analytics.

I have mentioned the E-Tax Account for a revolutionary electronic exchange of correspondence and data with taxpayers. We are also working on a debt recovery software module that will enhance our capacity to recover tax debts over time. Similarly, our Central Electronic Monitoring System, which is under implementation will ensure a real



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time monitoring of bets in the gambling sector and is expected to assist the MRA in tackling tax evasion in the sector.

Over the longer term we will have to work hand in hand with the Government to discuss policy changes that will ensure that foreign suppliers do not provide services to our citizens VAT-free when our local traders have to charge VAT on these same services. Similarly, a move to a digital and cashless economy will help to address certain tax evasion issues. Some countries are already ahead of us in using taxation to promote a cashless economy and the challenge for us will be to convince our policy makers to move in this direction in a phased manner.

In the field of tax and customs administration, there are always challenging times ahead. As a revenue authority, we should always endeavour to come up with the right strategies and tools that will ensure that we tackle these challenges and continue to make great strides forward.



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# MAURITIUS TIMES

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• *Le vrai peut quelquefois n'être pas vraisemblable. — Nicolas Boileau-Despréaux*

## A Good Book

By Indra Nath

**T**he Editor of *Renouveau* deserves thanks for 'Vers Une Entité Mauricienne', a book which contains the speeches of the fifteen orators from the five sections of our population made last year at Rose Hill, Curepipe and Port Louis. Three members, including a girl, from each of the sections - the French, the Coloured, the Chinese, the Muslims and the Hindus - took part in three forums organised by the 2nd Tamil Scouts and the J. I. C. of Rose-Hill. That the book fulfils a long-felt need, is certain and that it will bring our people closer, is expected. The introduction is written by R. P. Henri Souchon, who has spared no pains in giving an impressive account of the very formation and the various activities of the movement of 'Entité Mauricienne.' I appreciate the very concept of Mauritian Unity and I know that our people do take greater interest in it. On the 23rd Instant a forum was organised at Rose-Hill and, in the audience, I found people from all sections of our population. Then on the 24th instant this question cropped up in the Brains' Trust held at the British Council. Hon. Beejadhur, Hon. Walter and Hon. Wilson spoke on it to the satisfaction of all.

I find some of the speeches make an interesting reading. The contribution of the Hindu friends is substantial. One of them has traced the history of the Hindu community and explains its concept of 'Entité Mauricienne' and its contribution to it. He believes in Mauritian Unity, but stresses on the point that all communities should be given equal rights, no culture be considered inferior, no religion be ridiculed. He further says that politics should not be turned into communal strife and people should learn or appreciate another's culture, religion and language. But do we find cultural or religious equality? He answers: "I regret to have to say that in Mauritius we tend to think that one culture is inferior to another." Another one believes that fanaticism in religion is doing greater harm to Mauritian unity. But what is Mauritian unity? One of them says: "My concept of 'Entité Mauricienne' is therefore this: I visualize a Mauritian society where all religions, all languages and all cultures will flourish side by side."

The views of the French friends are good. They have shown a spirit of mutual understanding and one of them deplores the fact that the French have maintained their superiority. This is bad. The sooner it is given up the better. In fact, there are many things which can bring us closer, if we show some appreciation and tolerance. One of them says: "Les années que j'ai passées au Collège Royal m'ont permis de connaître la mentalité et la pensée des diverses communautés de l'île. Je me suis familiarisé avec leurs coutumes, et en ayant pour camarades des écoliers qui n'étaient pas de ma communauté, j'ai compris que

j'avais plus en commun avec eux qu'avec des petits Français." I am persuaded that he has been very frank. I wish other friends could do the same.

The Coloured friends are of opinion that culture, religion, and language have separated us. They are one in condemning anything which tends to divide the people. One of them believes that his community is well-placed to bring about Mauritian unity, but he does not hesitate to say that French should be our common language. I gave my opinion as regards language in my last article. I believe that if French is the common language, we shall be divided. I am in favour of English. Ours is a British colony and in the light of our multi-racial population, I think English should remain our common language. This will help further the cause of Mauritian unity. My friend is a young promising scholar. He can be of great help to the country. I wish he could think wisely of our language problem. It should be our duty to try to come to a meeting point.



The Muslim friends have made some noteworthy remarks. One of them has traced the history of his community. He thinks that multi-racial associations can help the cause of Mauritian Entity. This is logic. How can we think of unity if we are separated on racial, religious and cultural grounds? He further insists that all the labourers should have security of service and they should get good pay. This point is very important. So long this is not done, the workers won't feel that they are the members of the Mauritian Community. Besides, there must be mutual appreciation of all cultures. One of them has rightly said: "Ce n'est que lorsque nous essayerons tous de connaître de respecter les coutumes, les cultures, les religions qui ne sont pas les nôtres que nous pourrons marcher vers 'Une Entité Mauricienne'..." This is what we should do. Another one has pointed out colour and social prejudices. There is no denying the fact that these things do exist. A section of the population should stop thinking that they are or should be more privileged and the differences which separate the rich and the poor should be removed.

The Chinese friends have suggested many things. One of them has traced the history of his community and has stressed its contribution to Mauritian life. He advocates mutual understanding and tolerance and suggests that civics should be taught in our schools. I agree with him. As long as this is not done our children will lack social behaviour. All children should be instructed to respect our cultures and religions. Another one is of opinion that there should be good distribution of wealth. This is the key to 'Entité Mauricienne'. If one section of the population is exploited, we must not think of Mauritian Unity.

• *Government must always be a step ahead of the popular movement. — Count Arnim*

## Help the Movement for Colonial Freedom

By Fenner Brockway

**T**he Conservative victory in the general election is a serious blow to us and to the colonial peoples. All members and affiliates of the Movement for Colonial Freedom (MCF) will realise the great importance of intensifying our work. We have to be sure that our activity gets results, so that our opposition to Tory misrule in the colonies effectively blunts their attack on the colonial people and forces them to reverse their policies. This is a big job. It means that there must be unified and energetic campaigning by all the progressive forces in this country.

The policies and activities of the Labour Party are particularly important. Many of us will hope that the Labour Party, as the largest Opposition party, will not only oppose Tory misrule in the House of Commons (where the large Tory majority will mean that the fight cannot be decisive), but should also take the fight against Tory colonial policy into the country — into the towns and villages, into the streets, and even on to the doorsteps and sitting-rooms of the public.

This sort of campaigning cannot be carried out on the colonial question in isolation. It is not only that the attention of the public cannot be aroused effectively even by the most massive separate campaign; the attack on colonialism inevitably raises, by chain-reaction, the other aspects of imperialism at home and abroad, of which colonialism is but one.

For instance, since so many colonies are used as military naval and air bases, colonial policy is obviously bound up with Defence policy: British support for NATO, SEATO and the Baghdad Pact brings colonial policy right into the centre of the issues of Defence which, in turn, is only part of British foreign policy generally.

Similarly, the present "prosperity" (which the latest figures in "National Income and Expenditure 1959" show to be a modest rise, averaging 20% in real incomes for most people over the last 9 years) is largely built on the 'luck' of cheap import prices, which have hit the colonies and other underdeveloped countries hard, and which will lessen their capacity to buy British goods in the future. Whereas the Labour Party was right to stress, in its colonial policy, that Britain's future depends on the raising of living standards in the underdeveloped countries, the fact is that living standards are still falling back in these countries.

Automation and other technical changes, which together amount to a new Industrial Revolution, are inevitably going, in the next few years, to present an enormous problem. If production does not increase rapidly, many people will become unemployed; but if production does increase rapidly, who will buy the increased volume of goods? Will the Tory "solution" be, as in America, to pile up even more armaments?

The real solution must include both devoting more of this increased production to increasing the living standards of the British people, particularly of the poorer sections, and to raising the living standards of the millions in the underdeveloped countries, so that these people can increase their purchasing power. In fact, the two hand in hand. Thus, the attack on colonialism can only be developed to its maximum as part of a general attack on capitalism and imperialism.

For the MCF, as an organisation, our responsibility is to intensify our work in the colonial field, linking our efforts to the efforts of others in the wider movement wherever possible, in order to provide them with the most potent "ammunition" on the colonial question. In this way, we shall best fulfil our dual responsibility to the peoples of the colonial and underdeveloped countries and to the British people.



# Some defections are not consequential, others can lead to monumental change



Keir Starmer welcomes Natalie Elphicke, a new recruit from the Tory party.  
Alamy/Stefan Rousseau

● Cont. from page 2

## 2. Oswald Mosley: Conservative, Labour, fascist

Oswald Mosley is best remembered as the leader of the New Party, which became the British Union of Fascists. In 1936, he and his Blackshirts famously attempted to march through the London's East End, where they were met by Jewish, socialist, communist and trade unionist counter-protestors. The resulting clash, known as the Battle of Cable Street, saw 150 people arrested and an estimated 175 injured.

The battle was the culmination of a significant journey for Mosley, who moved between party affiliations on multiple occasions. In 1918, he successfully stood for parliament in Harrow as a Conservative but soon became disenchanted with the party and opposed to its policy regarding Ireland. He reviled the violence of the Black and Tans – typically former British servicemen recruited into the Royal Irish Constabulary – against the Irish public.

In 1920, Mosley crossed the floor and sat as an independent MP. In 1923, the Conservatives fell far short of a majority in

parliament. Labour became the second largest party and soon formed a government. Mosley decried his fellow Conservatives as a “panic-stricken plutocracy” and joined Labour two months later.

In 1929, Mosley joined the government formed by Labour leader Ramsey MacDonald formed with the support of the Conservatives and

was tasked with tackling unemployment. The Great Depression hit soon after and he drew up the Mosley memorandum, a nationalist document highly critical of laissez-faire economics. The ideas were rejected, and Mosley resigned from the cabinet in May 1930. His rhetoric increasingly turned fascist, calling for an “iron spirit and will”, and by 1931 he had formed the New Party.

## 3. Winston Churchill rats and re-rats

Perhaps the most famous parliamentarian and prime minister of all time, Winston Churchill, was not always the titan of second world war Conservative politics we remember him as. He first entered parliament as an MP in 1900 as a Conservative, having unsuccessfully stood for election the year before. However, he had an uneasy relationship with his party as it adopted protectionist economic policies, and he was an advocate of free trade.

In 1904 the government brought forward the aliens bill which aimed to reduce the flow of Jewish migrants, fleeing persecution from the Russian empire, from entering the country. Churchill opposed

the bill and on May 31 he crossed the floor and joined the Liberals. However, his time with the Liberal party was not to last. Churchill lost his seat in the 1922 general election.

In 1924, Churchill made a deal with the Tory leader Stanley Baldwin and stood once more as a Conservative candidate. In the words of his future assistant private secretary, Jock Colville: “They had said you could rat but you couldn't re-rat”. Churchill had nevertheless managed it. As we all know, he still went on to lead Britain through the existential crisis of the second world war.

## 4. The gang of four leaves Labour

In 1981, the Labour Party under Michael Foot decided to change the rules on party leadership elections, notably by

giving 40% of the votes to trade unions.

This, in addition to other leftward shifts, appalled members of the Labour right. Four key people – David Owen, Shirley Williams, William Rodgers and Roy Jenkins – drafted the Limehouse declaration, expressing their opposition to Foot's approach.

This “gang of four” soon gained the support of additional MPs and on March 2, 12 Labour MPs resigned the party whip to form the new Social Democratic Party (SDP). In all, 13 Labour MPs and one Conservative MP joined the party. By the 1983 general election, the SDP had joined forces with the Liberal Party to form the SDP-Liberal alliance.

The alliance won a significant share of the popular vote in the 1983 general election – some 25.4%. This contributed to a Conservative landslide for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, cementing her authority and ability to reshape the country.

Chris Smith, Course Director, History,  
Coventry University

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Thank you so much.  
Mauritius Times

## Hanuman Maha Yaagam May 2024

### Sri Venkateswara Devasthanam Trust

*Om Sri Hanumantaya Namah*

The President, members, and the Acharyas of the Sri Venkateswara Devasthanam Trust kindly invite you along with your family, relatives and friends to attend and participate in **the Hanuman Maha Yaagam** at the Sri Prasanna Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple, from Tuesday 28 May 2024 to Saturday 01 June 2024.

*May Lord Hanuman shower His Blessings upon you!*

- ☞ **Tuesday 28 May: 4.30 pm to 9 pm**
- ☞ **Wednesday 29 May: 9 am to Noon & 5 pm to 8.30 pm**
- ☞ **Thursday 30 May: 8 am to Noon & 5 pm to 8.30 pm**
- ☞ **Friday 31 May: 9 am to 12.30 & 5 pm to 9 pm**
- ☞ **Saturday 1 June: 7 am to noon & 5 pm to 9 pm**

**Officiating priest: Archaka Anantha Goutham & Archaka Krishnamacharyulu**

Contact Archaka on 58124585 or Sri Ashok on 54910297



## Le mystère du meurtre de Kistnen: La vérité surgira-t-elle un jour ?

Par A. Bartleby

**L**e meurtre de Soopramanien Kistnen, ancien chef agent du MSM dans la circonscription de Moka et Quartier Militaire (n°8) lors des élections générales de 2019, continue de hanter les esprits et de soulever des questions brûlantes. Lors d'une PNQ adressée au Premier ministre mardi dernier, le sujet a été de nouveau mis en lumière, laissant entrevoir une vérité enfouie qui pourrait ne jamais éclater au grand jour sans une impulsion décisive d'un nouveau gouvernement.

Le rappel de l'affaire remonte à octobre 2020, lorsque le corps carbonisé d'un citoyen de ce pays a été découvert dans un champ de canne à sucre à Telfair, Moka. Depuis, l'enquête est restée dans une impasse apparente, la police ayant initialement conclu à un suicide, malgré les protestations douloureuses de la veuve. C'est grâce aux efforts inlassables des "Avengers", sous la direction de Rama Valayden, que l'affaire n'a pas sombré dans l'oubli.

Une enquête judiciaire subséquente, ordonnée par l'ancien Directeur des Poursuites Publiques (DPP), Satyajit Boolell, a révélé un enchevêtrement de lacunes et de pratiques douteuses dans l'enquête policière. Des motifs de meurtre prémédité ont été avancés, mettant en lumière le rôle trouble de certains enquêteurs, les circonstances étranges entourant l'autopsie, et la disparition de preuves cruciales telles que des téléphones por-

tables et des enregistrements vidéo. De plus, des liens supposés ont été établis entre le meurtre et des acquisitions médicales d'urgence en 2020, soulignant des ramifications politiques potentielles.

Outre l'indignation et la douleur partagées par la famille du défunt, l'intérêt des médias et de la société civile pour cette affaire découle de la suspicion généralisée



Maurice de Kistnen : saura-t-on la vérité? P - Défi

selon laquelle il y avait plus qu'un simple crime. Ce sentiment a été corroboré par l'enquête judiciaire, révélant une rupture grave dans la culture et les pratiques de gouvernance de longue date qui avaient établi Maurice comme une destination crédible de l'État de droit.

Alors que Maurice se prépare pour de prochaines élections générales, il est impératif que la justice soit rendue et que la vérité soit révélée. Les enquêtes en suspens et les affaires non résolues doivent être traitées avec urgence, indépendamment des changements politiques, afin de restaurer la confiance dans le système judiciaire et préserver l'intégrité démocratique du pays.

## Analyse

### Elections générales 2024

## Le pays est déjà pris d'une fièvre électorale

### ● Suite de la page 3

Eventuellement, il se joindrait à une alliance avec le MSM pour se rendre «utile» dans les villes et fournir au gouvernement la caution urbaine dont il a besoin dans sa stratégie de reconquête du pouvoir.

L'opposition extra parlementaire jouerait les trouble-fêtes aux dépens de l'Opposition parlementaire en grappillant des voix dans les villes. Les partis de gauche ReA et Lalit ne se sont pas encore positionnés par rapport aux deux forces bipolaires, mais ils risquent de perdre de leur influence sans un positionnement stratégique sur l'échiquier. Entre le statu quo défendu par le gouvernement sortant et le désir de changement incarné par l'Opposition parlementaire, les petits partis n'arrivent pas à offrir une troisième voie (alternative) aux deux camps opposés.

On doute fort que le budget 2024-25, le dernier et cinquième du gouvernement sortant, puisse lui donner le «extra electoral mileage» qu'il espère recueillir dans la ligne droite vers des élections générales. L'Opposition parlementaire a pris une avance avec ses vingt mesures audacieuses, lesquelles seront sans doute peaufinées dans un manifeste électoral plus étoffé. La tentative du gouvernement de faire voter un projet de loi sur le financement politique, qui vise à légaliser la mainmise des compagnies privées sur les partis politiques, est vouée à l'échec car l'Opposition ne lui donnera pas les trois quarts de majorité nécessaire pour amender la

Constitution. Elle témoigne en tout cas d'une volonté de consacrer l'influence corruptrice de l'argent sur la politique, ce qui est malsain pour la démocratie.

### Etat-Providence

Les propositions de l'Opposition ont donné lieu à un débat sur les coûts de l'Etat-Providence dans la République de Maurice. Certains observateurs se demandent, à juste titre, si l'Etat a les moyens économiques d'une politique sociale généreuse qui englobe l'éducation gratuite, la santé gratuite, les diverses prestations sociales, le transport public gratuit, etc. Déjà les prestations sociales (pension de vieillesse, pension aux veuves et pension aux invalides) coûteront Rs 58 milliards par an avec les augmentations entrées en vigueur le 1er avril 2024.

Il va de soi qu'aucun gouvernement ne pourra financer de telles largesses sans prendre les mesures nécessaires :

- exploiter davantage la capacité contributive (taxes et impôts) de l'économie pour augmenter les revenus de l'Etat,
- diminuer les gaspillages de fonds dans les secteurs non-prioritaires, et
- revoir les priorités en matière de dépenses publiques.

Il ne suffira pas de miser sur une croissance économique accrue pour soutenir une politique sociale généreuse en ces temps d'incertitudes géopolitiques dans le monde.

Aditya Narayan

## YOUR STARS

### SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

Next week brings a focus on learning and exploration. Whether through travel, education, or new experiences, your thirst for knowledge is strong. This is a favourable time to expand your horizons and step out of your comfort zone. Relationships benefit from shared adventures.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 9, 11, 21, 27, 39

### CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Capricorn, financial and emotional investments come into focus next week. It's an ideal time to manage debts, savings, or joint resources. You may also delve deeper into personal relationships, seeking greater intimacy and understanding. Professional efforts require strategic planning and persistence.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 10, 17, 22, 28, 35

### AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

Next week, Aquarius, partnerships and collaborations are in the spotlight. Whether in personal or professional contexts, teamwork and cooperation

are essential. Be open to compromise and listen to others' perspectives. Financially, review shared resources and ensure mutual agreements are clear.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 8, 15, 20, 25, 32

### PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Pisces, health, and daily routines are highlighted next week. Professionally, attention to detail and organization will be crucial. Relationships may require you to be more present and supportive. Maintain a balance between work and relaxation to avoid burnout.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 11, 16, 24, 30, 37

### ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

This is an excellent time to start new projects or dive into hobbies that you're passionate about. Be mindful of impulsiveness in decision-making, especially in your professional life. Relationships may require a bit more patience and understanding.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 9, 14, 21, 27, 34

### TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

You might find yourself drawn to domestic tasks or making improvements around your living space. Financially, it's a good time to review your budget and

make any necessary adjustments. Relationships may bring some surprises, so stay open and adaptable.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 12, 18, 23, 29, 35

### GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Your social calendar is likely to be full, and networking opportunities could lead to exciting prospects. However, be wary of spreading yourself too thin. Focus on meaningful conversations and prioritize your time.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 7, 13, 19, 26, 31

### CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

You might find new ways to increase your income or better manage your resources. It's also a good period for reassessing your personal values and how they align with your current lifestyle. In relationships, open and honest discussions will deepen bonds.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 10, 17, 22, 28, 36

### LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

Leo, the spotlight is on you next week. This is your time to shine in personal and professional areas. However, balance your desire for attention with humility. Engage in self-care and take time to recharge to maintain your energy levels. Relationships thrive on mutual respect and admiration.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 8, 15, 20, 25, 32

### VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

You may feel the need to retreat and recharge. Use this time for reflection and to address any lingering emotional issues. Professionally, tying up loose ends will prepare you for new opportunities. In personal relationships, practice empathy and understanding.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 11, 16, 24, 30, 37

### LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Collaborative projects are favoured, and you may find yourself in a leadership role. Financially, it's a good time to review your goals and make strategic plans.

Balancing social commitments with personal downtime will be crucial for maintaining harmony.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 9, 14, 21, 27, 33

### SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

Opportunities for advancement may arise, but they will require determination and strategic thinking. Stay focused on your long-term goals and avoid power struggles. Personal relationships benefit from your intensity and loyalty but remember to balance work with quality time with loved ones.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 12, 18, 23, 29, 34



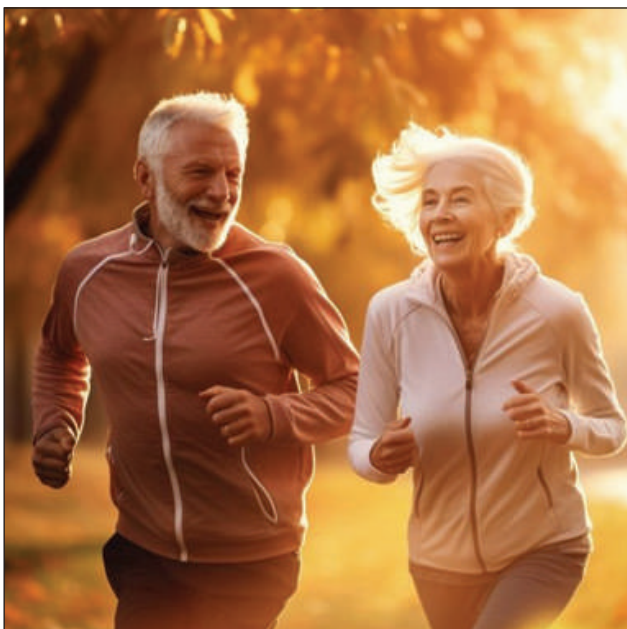
# Stay active to boost quality of life while aging, study suggests to middle-aged women

*Data from more than 10,000 Australian women showed a significant link between regular exercise during middle age and physical health in later life*

Consistent adherence to physical activity guidelines throughout middle age is associated with a higher health-related quality of life in women, according to a new study publishing on May 2 in the open-access journal PLOS Medicine by Binh Nguyen of the University of Sydney, Australia, and colleagues.

The evidence for an association between physical activity and health-related quality of life has been based primarily on cross-sectional studies and short-term randomized controlled trials. Few longitudinal studies have measured physical activity at more than one time point and examined the long-term causal effects of exercise.

In the new study, researchers used data collected at three-year intervals beginning in 1996 from 11,336 participants in the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health. Women were born between 1946 and 1951, making them 47 to 52 years old at the study outset. Participants were classified as either meeting WHO physical activity guidelines — of 150 minutes of activity a week — consistently throughout the fifteen-year exposure period, not initially meeting the guidelines but starting to meet them at age 55, 60, or 65, or never meeting the guidelines. Health-related quality of life was assessed using the physical health composite score



(PCS) and mental health composite score (MCS) from the Short Form 36 Health Survey, which includes 36 questions about functional health and well-being.

On average, people who consistently met physical activity guidelines and those who first started to meet guidelines at age 55 had a three-point higher PCS (46.93 [95% CI 46.32 to 47.54] and 46.96 [95% CI 45.53 to 48.40], respectively), compared to those who did not meet physical activity guidelines (43.90 [95% CI 42.79 to 45.01]). The effect of physical activity on the PCS was significant even after controlling for socioeconomic factors and pre-existing health diagnoses. However, there was no significant association between physical activity and MCS.

"Combined with existing evidence, this study contributes to growing evidence of the benefits of maintaining or adopting an active lifestyle in midlife," the authors say. "An important public health message is that being active for as many years as possible, even if women start to meet physical activity guidelines in their mid-50s, could have important health benefits in terms of physical health, especially in physical functioning."

The authors add, "Our study shows that it's important for women to be active throughout midlife to gain the most benefits for physical health in later life. Ideally, women should increase their activity levels to meet the guidelines by age 55."



## Why is blood red?

*Our blood is red because of something called haemoglobin, which helps carry oxygen around our bodies.*

Blood is inside our body, but we see it on the outside when we bleed, like when we get a cut or a nose bleed.

Blood is red because of something called haemoglobin. Haemoglobin is red and this makes our blood red.

But what is haemoglobin for? Well, we need haemoglobin to carry oxygen in our blood.

This might sound a bit complicated, so let's look more closely at why we need oxygen, and why we need haemoglobin to carry oxygen in our blood.

### Everyone needs oxygen to stay alive

We need oxygen for our body to work.

Our body is made up of millions and millions of tiny cells. All the cells in our body need oxygen from the air we breathe and nutrients from the food we eat.

Cells use oxygen and nutrients to make energy so they can do their job. For example, cells in our muscles need energy to move us, and our brain cells need energy so we can learn.

Every time you take a breath in, you breathe oxygen



You might bleed if you fall over in the playground and scrape your knee.  
A3pfamily/Shutterstock

into your lungs. Our heart pumps blood to the lungs to pick up this oxygen.

The heart then pumps the blood with this oxygen to all our body's cells.

After the blood drops off oxygen for the cells to use, it travels back to the heart and lungs to pick up more oxygen again.

Our cells need oxygen all the time because they are always working.

### So where does haemoglobin come in?

Oxygen travels in blood to our cells in tubes called blood vessels. But oxygen doesn't dissolve very well in blood.

If we just had oxygen on its own in our blood, we could get air bubbles. These bubbles would stick to the sides of the blood vessels. This means the oxygen could get stuck and not travel to our cells.

Luckily, haemoglobin carries oxygen in our blood so it doesn't form air bubbles and get stuck.

We can think of this like trying to move a stone down a river. A stone can't float down a river because it will sink to the bottom. But if we put the stone in a container that floats, the container can float down the river and carry the stone with it.

Haemoglobin is like a red coloured container for oxygen. It's our oxygen carrier.

So, because we have red haemoglobin in our blood to carry oxygen, our blood is red.

### Blood can be bright red or dark red

When haemoglobin carries more oxygen, it is a brighter shade of red.

This means blood travelling from the heart and lungs



BonNontawat/Shutterstock

to the cells with lots of oxygen is bright red.

After haemoglobin drops off its oxygen to the cells, it is a dull, dark red. This means blood travelling back to the heart and lungs with less oxygen is darker red.

We can see some of our veins (the blood vessels that carry blood back to the heart) just under our skin. For example, on the back of our hands.

The blood in these veins can appear a green-blue colour. That's because we are looking at this blood through our skin. This changes what colour we see.

But we know when we bleed, our blood is not blue or green — it's definitely red.

### Not all animals have red blood

An octopus can have blue blood and some lizards even have green blood.

This blue and green blood is also because of the colour of their oxygen carrier. These animals don't have red haemoglobin like we do. They have a blue or green oxygen carrier. This makes their blood blue or green.

If you could choose to have blood of any colour, what colour would you choose?

**Theresa Larkin**

Associate professor of Medical Sciences,  
University of Wollongong





## Case of Mistaken Identity

A police officer, though scheduled for all-night duty at the station, was relieved of duty early and arrived home four hours ahead of schedule, at 2 in the morning.

Not wanting to wake his wife, he undressed in the dark, crept into the bedroom and started to climb into bed. Just then, his wife sleepily sat up and said, "Mike, dearest, would you go down to the all-night drug store on the next block and get me some aspirin? I've got a splitting headache."

"Certainly, honey," he said, and feeling his way across the dark room, he got dressed and walked over to the drug store.

As he arrived, the pharmacist looked up in surprise, "Say," said the druggist, "I know you - aren't you a policeman? Officer Fenwick, right?"

"Yeah, so?" said the officer.

"Well, what the heck are you doing all dressed like the Fire Chief?"

\*\*\*

### Married life after 50

During check-in at the airport for a non-stop long-haul flight, the airline staff was very apologetic to the husband and said: "I am sorry, sir, the flight is really full today. We couldn't allot you and your wife adjacent seats. Your seat number is 14A and madam's is 42H."

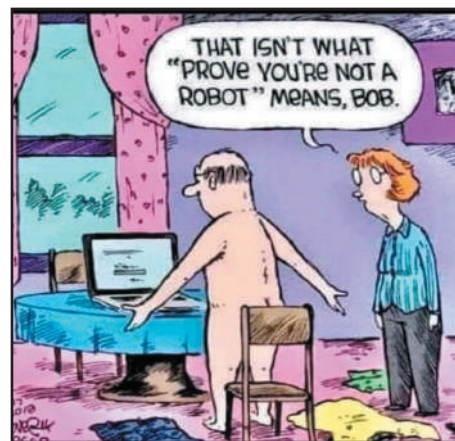
Husband: "Oh, thanks. Do I have to pay anything extra to you for this favour?"

Staff: "No sir, madam has already paid."

\*\*\*

### Hi-tech women

Three women, two younger and one senior citizen, were sitting naked in a sauna. Suddenly, there was a beeping sound. The young woman pressed her forearm, and the beep stopped. The others looked at her questioningly.



'That was my pager,' she said. 'I have a microchip under the skin of my arm.'

A few minutes later, the phone rang. The second young woman lifted her palm to her ear. When she finished, she explained, 'That was my mobile phone. I have a microchip in my hand.'

The older woman felt very low-tech. Not to be outdone, she decided she had to do something just as impressive. She stepped out of the sauna and went to the bathroom. She returned with a piece of toilet paper hanging from her rear end. The others raised their eyebrows and stared at her.

The older woman finally said... 'Well, will you look at that... I'm getting a fax!!!'

\*\*\*

### Breakfast Banter

An Englishman is having breakfast in Paris one morning (coffee, croissants, bread, butter, and jam) when a Frenchman, chewing bubble gum, sits down next to him. The Englishman ignores the Frenchman who, nevertheless, starts a conversation.



Frenchman: "Do your English folk eat the whole bread?"

Englishman: "Of course."

Frenchman: (after blowing a huge bubble) "We don't. In France, we only eat what's inside. The crusts we collect in a container, recycle them, transform them into croissants, and sell them to England." The Frenchman has a smirk on his face.

The Englishman listens in silence.

The Frenchman persists: "Do you eat jam with the bread?"

Englishman: "Of course."

Frenchman: (cracking his bubble-gum between his teeth and chuckling). "We don't. In France, we eat fresh fruit for breakfast, then we put all the peels, seeds, and leftovers in containers, recycle them, transform them into jam, and sell the jam to England."

After a moment of silence, the Englishman then asks: "Do you have sex in France?"

Frenchman: "Why of course we do," he says with a big smirk.

Englishman: "And what do you do with condoms once you've used them?"

Frenchman: "We throw them away, of course."

Englishman: "We don't. In England, we put them in a container, recycle them, melt them down into bubble-gum, and sell them to France."

\*\*\*



### A Scottish Bargain

A Scottish guy wanted a donkey for his young son. He spotted an advert for one for sale so went along to have a look at it.

When he got to the farm, the farmer told him, 'I'm really sorry...I'm afraid the donkey died last night...'

'OK...so how much are yee asking for it?'

'Sorry? I just told you it's dead!'

'Aye...I heerd yee...so how much d'ye want fer it?'

Very patiently the guy explains very slowly. 'The....donkey...is ...dead'.

'AYE...I heerd yee!... Look...I'll give yee £20.00 for it... noo is it a deal or no?'

So the farmer asks (as you might), 'What the hell are you going to do with a dead donkey?'

'I'll sell it!...'

'b..b...you can't sell a dead donkey!'

'Watch me.'

So, he loads up the dead donkey and goes on his way.

A month or so later the farmer bumped into the guy at the local market.

'How did you get on with the donkey?'

'I did very well... I got over £6000 fer it!'

'WHAT!? How the hell did you do



that!?'

'I sold raffle tickets at £10.00 each... I sold 650 of 'em!'

'Sweet Jesus! Didn't anybody complain that the poor bugger was dead?'

'Aye... the guy that won did... So I gave him a refund'.

\*\*\*

The pope is early for his flight. He asks his driver on his way to the airport if he could drive around for a while because they have time to kill, and he hasn't driven a car since becoming the pope.

Naturally, he's a bit rusty, so he's driving poorly, when suddenly he sees police lights behind him. He pulls over and when the officer comes up to the window his eyes go wide. He says to the pope, "Please wait here," and goes back to his car to radio the chief.

**Cop:** "Chief, we have a situation. I've pulled over an important figure."

**Chief:** "How important? A governor or something?"

**Cop:** "No sir. He's bigger."

**Chief:** "So, what? a celebrity or som thing?"

**Cop:** "More important, sir."

**Chief:** "A major politician?"

**Cop:** "No sir, he's much more important."

**Chief:** "Well, who is it?!"

**Cop:** "Well actually I'm not sure. But the pope is his driver."





Life can be better

## Train Your Mind to Be Successful

In the pursuit of success, many seek out strategies, techniques, and shortcuts to reach their goals faster. Yet, amidst the myriad of self-help books, there are some gems that stand out for their profound insights and practical wisdom. "Train Your Mind to Be Successful: Attract and Get Anything You Want in Life" is one such book, offering seven powerful lessons that can transform the way you approach success and fulfilment. Let's delve into these lessons and uncover their significance:

**1. Mindset Matters:** At the core of any achievement lies the mindset of the individual. This book underscores the importance of cultivating a positive and growth-oriented mindset. By believing in yourself and your abilities, you lay the foundation for success. Your mindset shapes your reality, influencing how you perceive and respond to challenges. By adopting a mindset focused on growth and possibility, you unlock your potential and attract opportunities for success.

**2. Goal Setting and Planning:** Setting clear and specific goals is essential for directing your efforts towards meaningful outcomes. This book emphasizes the importance of not only defining your goals but also creating a plan to achieve them. Breaking down your goals into actionable steps enables you to make progress consistently. By envisioning your desired future and

charting a course to get there, you empower yourself to turn dreams into reality.

**3. Tapping into the Power of Belief:** Belief is a potent force that can propel you towards your aspirations. The book stresses the significance of believing in your capacity to achieve your goals. Through visualization and affirmation, you harness the power of your subconscious mind to manifest your desires. However, it's crucial to recognize that belief alone is not sufficient; it must be accompanied by diligent effort and perseverance.

**4. Cultivating Positive Habits:** Success is not merely a destination but a journey guided by your habits. This book advocates for the cultivation of positive habits that align with your goals. Establishing a robust morning routine, practicing gratitude, and surrounding yourself with uplifting influences are instrumental in fostering a conducive environment for success. By nurturing habits that support your growth and well-being, you pave the way for sustainable achievement.

**5. Learning from Failure:** Failure is an inevitable part of the journey towards success. Rather than fearing failure, this book encourages embracing it as a valuable learning experience. Each setback provides an opportunity for growth and refinement. By reframing failure as a stepping stone towards success, you develop resilience and tenacity. Instead of being deterred by obstacles, you approach them with a mindset of curiosity and adaptability.

**6. Taking Action:** While positive thinking sets the stage for success, action is the catalyst for transformation. The book emphasizes the importance of taking



consistent and purposeful action towards your goals. Even in the face of challenges and uncertainties, it's essential to persevere and maintain momentum. By taking decisive steps forward, you create momentum and progress towards your desired outcomes.

**7. Personal Growth and Development:** The journey towards success is not only about achieving external milestones but also about personal growth and development. Cultivating a mindset of continuous improvement is paramount. Seeking feedback, embracing challenges, and expanding your knowledge are integral to this process. By investing in your growth and evolution, you position yourself for long-term success and fulfillment.

By adopting these seven powerful lessons, you can cultivate a mindset and lifestyle conducive to achieving your goals. Remember, success is not merely about what you accomplish but who you become in the process. With the right mindset and approach, you have the power to attract and manifest anything you desire in life.

## Thoughts to Live by

### You could try something else

"You are born, go to school, and attend university in search of a husband.

You get married - even if he is the worst man in the world - just so that others can't say no one wants you.

You have children, grow old, and spend the end of your days watching passersby from a chair on the sidewalk, pretending to know everything about life yet unable to silence the voice in your heart that says:

"You could try something else."

-- Paulo Coelho

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### A Perfect Man

Rises promptly at 5 am every day.

Engages in daily exercise.

Makes his own bed without fail.

Maintains cleanliness in his room.

Dedicates himself sincerely to his work.

Abstains from consuming alcohol.

Assists in household chores, including cooking.

Avoids engaging in late-night activities.

Displays unwavering punctuality.

Commits to daily prayers.

Devotes time to reading.

Retires to bed promptly at 9 pm.

**These men are found mostly in jail.**

\* \* \*

## The Ripple Effect of Your Actions

### By Worthy Words

Your children learn from you.

You're nice, they are nice.

You're nasty, they are too.

You're happy, they are happy.

You're sad, they are sad.

Your kids copy you, this is not

genetic - its learned.

They're taught by you.

Think about it.

Be a better person to create better people.....

It starts with You.

## To Whom It May Concern

I don't know who needs to hear this,  
But everything is manageable;  
Your life doesn't have to fall to pieces,  
And your hopes and dreams are tangible.

Sometimes it's hard to see it—  
When your mind is clouded with depression;  
But please listen to these words,  
'Cause this is my confession.

Now, I won't say I'm any better,  
Oh, I still have my bitter days—  
When everything seems pointless,  
And the poison seeps into my veins.

But I've learned to let my sorrows sleep  
On the thawing earth beneath my feet;  
I've learned to smile instead of weep  
*I finally found my sense of peace.*

*Denise O'Connor*

## Try Something New

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

Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, and Mark Zuckerberg tried new stuff. Life is a big experiment. If you adventure, you might either win or learn a new lesson. But if you don't try something new, you'll always work for those who dare the unknown. So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Do one thing

every year that scares you to death. Refuse to be held back by the fear of failure.

Don't just build castles in the air while warming your couch. Thinking and doing are not synonymous. Creativity is thinking up new things. Innovation is doing new things. The line between dreamers and doers is action.

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



Health & Diet

# Why Isn't Everyone on This Diet?

This top-rated plan may help lower your blood pressure and cholesterol levels, while aiding in weight loss. Here's how to get started.

**DASH Diet for Heart Health:** The DASH Diet can help lower your blood pressure and cholesterol levels, making it beneficial for heart health. DASH stands for Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension, or high blood pressure. Even if you don't have high blood pressure, the DASH Diet is worth considering as it promotes a healthier way of eating and may assist in weight loss without leaving you feeling deprived. By focusing on vegetables, fruits, and low-fat dairy products while reducing fats, cholesterol, and sweets, the DASH Diet, as medically reviewed by Melinda Ratini, MS, DO of WebMD offers a balanced approach to nutrition.

**Cut the Salt:** Reducing sodium intake to either 2,300 or 1,500 milligrams a day is essential for managing blood pressure. Opt for low- or no-sodium foods, limit processed foods, and be cautious of cured, smoked, or pickled foods.

**Get your grains:** Whole grains like whole wheat



bread, brown rice, and oatmeal provide fiber, which aids in lowering cholesterol and promoting satiety. Aim for six to eight servings a day.

**Load your plate with vegetables:** Vegetables are low in calories and fat, making them ideal for blood pressure control. Consume four to five servings a day.

**Don't Forget Fruits:** Fruits offer fiber, vitamins, potassium, and magnesium, all beneficial for heart health. Aim for four to five servings daily.

**Have Some Yogurt:** Low- and no-fat dairy products are rich in calcium and protein, important for maintaining healthy blood pressure levels. Aim for three servings daily.

**Go for Lean Meats and Fish:** Choose lean meats, skinless chicken, and fish, limiting servings to six or fewer per day.

**Add Nuts and Legumes:** Nuts, seeds, and legumes provide magnesium, protein, and fiber. Enjoy up to five servings per week.

**Cut Back on Fats and Oils:** Limit fats and oils to two to three servings per day, opting for healthier options like olive or canola oil.

**Watch the Sweets:** Limit sweets to five or fewer servings per week, opting for low-fat options.

**Get Enough Potassium:** Potassium-rich foods like potatoes, sweet potatoes, bananas, avocados, and spinach are essential for managing blood pressure.

**Getting Started on DASH:** Keep a food diary to assess your current diet, then gradually make changes to align with the DASH Diet principles. Aim for around 2,000 calories a day and consult your doctor for personalized advice.



Men's Health

## A Nap a Day

*Napping isn't just for babies. Studies show that an afternoon nap is great for adults, too*

There's no need to feel lazy for indulging in daytime sleep. A short nap in the mid-afternoon can boost memory, improve job performance, lift your mood, make you more alert, and ease stress. Cozy up to these nap benefits as written by Alison Sherwood of WebMD.

**1. It can improve your memory** Studies have shown that sleep plays an important role in storing memories. A nap can help you remember things learned earlier in the day as much as a full night's sleep. Napping works to keep you from forgetting things like motor skills, sense perception, and verbal recall, too.

**2. You may be able to connect the dots easier** Not only can napping help you remember things you've just learned,

but it could help your brain draw connections between things you find out. In one study, nappers found it easier to put together information they got earlier in the day.

**3. It might help you climb the corporate ladder** When you do a task over and over throughout the day, your performance gets worse as the day goes on. Studies show that a nap can help keep you more consistent.

**4. It may lift your mood** If you're feeling down, try taking a nap to lift your spirits. Napping, or even just resting for an hour without falling asleep, can brighten your outlook. Experts say relaxation that comes from lying down and resting is a mood booster, whether you fall asleep or not.

**5. Need to be more alert?** Nap If you start to feel a bit sleepy right after lunch, you're not alone. The post-lunch struggle is real. A 20-minute nap can help you battle heavy eyelids.

**6. Small naps bring big benefits** A nap as short as 10 minutes can be

beneficial, but keep your nap to 30 minutes or less so you don't wake up feeling more tired. That grogginess you can feel after a nap is called sleep inertia. The longer you nap, the more likely you are to have that feeling. The worse it is, the more time you'll need to wake up and transition back to work.

**7. Naps are better than caffeine** If you're feeling tired but have work or studying to get done, you may be better off taking a nap than sipping a coffee. Compared to caffeine, napping can bring better memory and learning.

**8. Long night ahead?** If you know you won't get much sleep for a night or two (due to travel, for example) you're better off preparing with a nap ahead of time than powering through with caffeine. The longer the nap, the better. If you have to resort to caffeine, drinking small amounts often is better than one large cup of joe.

**9. They can ease stress** If you're under a lot of pressure, a nap can release stress and improve your immune health. Experts believe that a 30-minute nap can do the trick.

**10. They're good for your heart** A nap can even help your ticker. A study found that people who napped for 45 to 60 minutes had lower blood pressure after going through mental stress. So a nap can help your body recover from pressure-filled situations.

**11. They can make you more creative** Ever wake up with a great idea? REM sleep, which typically starts 70 to 90 minutes after you fall asleep, activates parts of your brain associated with imagery and dreaming. A nap with REM sleep can help you combine ideas in new ways to come up with answers.

**12. They can help your little ones,**

**too** Many preschool-age children stop napping long before they enter kindergarten. Fact is, naps are critical for learning and development at that age. Children who nap regularly are better able to recall things they learned. Since short-term memory stores are limited at that age, younger kids need more frequent sleep. It's an important part of how the brain hangs on to memories.

**13. Make them a habit** While certain benefits of napping can be had by anyone, there's some evidence that naps only improve certain types of learning when the person takes them regularly. This includes the ability to tell the difference between similar things like images or textures.

**14. When should you nap?** Most people will find an afternoon snooze to be the most natural and helpful. Some say sleep is better between 2 and 3 p.m., when humans naturally have a dip in alertness. The time that works best for you will depend on how rested you are to begin with. If you're well-rested, a slightly later nap is better. If you're behind on sleep, you'll want to nap earlier.



### FOR RENT

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from New Supreme  
Court Building

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**Clinic · Medical**  
**Lab · Archives**  
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email: drrouget@gmail.com



# From Singham Again to Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3: 9 Upcoming Bollywood Movies in 2024

Bollywood movies in 2024 will be a mix box of different genres. We see *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* and *Stree 2* returning with that typical but humorous combination of horror-comedy that makes for a good family entertainer. We also see *Singham Again* returning with quite a long list of celebrated actors. Meanwhile, Rajkummar Rao has made 2024 into his year with *Srikanth* already receiving praises. However, he still has a lot for the audience with *Mr and Mrs Mahi* and *Stree 2*.

## 1. Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3

After *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* performed extremely well at the box office, meeting the expectations of the first part of the legendary horror comedy, makers are now ready to come again with another part filled with screams and laughter. While we do not know the exact date, the anticipated release is around Diwali this year. It is worth seeing whether the third part will carry forward the fame or sink its boat as many sequels have done previously. Anees Bazmee will continue the direction with this part along with Kartik Aaryan in the lead role, although the female and other cast will change for this part.

## 2. Singham Again

After *Singham Returns*, we get *Singham Again*. While the title could have been improved with a little bit more creativity, the ensemble cast is out of the world exciting. This time, we will get to see Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Ajay Devgan, Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor, Tiger Shroff, and Jackie Shroff – all of them sharing the screen. The amount of talent concentrated in the movie is crazy and we are looking forward to the thrill of Rohit Shetty's action thriller with these celebrated actors. The film will be released on Independence Day, i.e., 15th August.

## 3. Stree 2

After Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao warmed (or not?) our hearts with their performance in the horror comedy, they reprise their roles once again for *Stree 2*. Set to release on 30th August, the trailer brings something different this time. The short trailer shows that instead of walls written with "O Stree Kal Aana " or (O Stree, come tomorrow), they are engraved with "O Stree Raksha Karna " or (O Stree, protect us) hinting at another danger that awaits the town.



The central plot is with "sar kate ka aatank", or terror of the headless man, showing that he could be the antagonist this time. Anyhow, the movie sounds promising, much gloomier, and, of course, packed with a little bit of fun.

## 4. Chandu Champion

Directed by Kabir Khan, *Chandu Champion* tells us the story of a man whose unwavering spirit made him close to winning a gold medal for India in the Olympics. *Chandu Champion* is a biographical drama based on the life of paralympic medalist Murlikant Petkar, who brought India's first gold medal. Kartik Aaryan will take the lead role, and we will see him at the cinema on 4th June.

## 6. Bhaiyya Ji

After we saw Manoj Bajpayee and Apoorv Singh Karki together in *Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai*, they are seen collaborating again in the upcoming movie *Bhaiyya Ji*. From the trailer, we can gather that the film is concentrated on one man – as it says, he is the law and the crime, the ruler and the ruler; he is the father of Robin Hood.

Called "Bhaiyya Ji", an endearment term that Indians use for someone they respect and hold in authority– he is from Bihar, and apparently, someone has murdered his brother. Manoj Bajpayee is the perfect person for the character, and the trailer has enough evidence of this.

What is left to see is how well the movie plays out and hooks the audience. It is scheduled to be released on 24th May.

## 7. Mr and Mrs. Mahi

We get to the heartwarming part of Bollywood with Janhvi Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao– *Mr and Mrs. Mahi*'s trailer has a lot going on. A tribute to Dhoni's endearing nickname "Mahi," the movie follows two couples, both

named Mahi, as the husband tries to make the wife a cricketer to realise his dream, which he was never able to achieve. The trailer seems interesting, especially with a new concept. However, it has given away too much already.

The fights between the couple, the family tensions, and the eventual becoming of a cricketer– these are hinted at in the trailer. It would be worth seeing if that's how the movie plays out. It will be

released in cinemas on 31st May.

## 8. Chhota Bheem and The Curse of Damyaan

Do you know that our favourite childhood characters from Dholakpur are making their debut on the big screen? Yes, it is true – *Chhota Bheem* and his gang are coming in a new movie that will be released on 24th May. Although not an animated movie, the budding artists in the film seem to be promising good entertainment as they fight against evil and protect Dholakpur.

## 9. Srikanth

This year is Rajkummar Rao's, and we are here for it. Released on 10th May, *Srikanth* has already gathered praise from critics and audiences alike. The movie is based on the life of *Srikanth Bolla*, a visually impaired businessman who never gives up on creating a place in this world, which leads to him becoming a founder of Bolland Industries. Although the movie is only streaming in cinemas, we added it because, as the movie tagline rightly said, *Srikanth* is coming to open everyone's eyes, and we thought you guys had to know!

## BollyBytes

# Shabana Azmi: 'Heroes need to be ready to play second fiddle'

gives shout out to Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt for leading change for women in Bollywood: It's good sign

Shabana Azmi is happy that the position of women is changing in showbiz. In a recent interview, she complimented actors Deepika Padukone and Alia Bhatt for pitching in the change by picking important parts in commercial films, reports Hindustan Times.

In an interview with MidDay, Shabana, who is completing five decades in the film industry this year, shared that it is a great time for actors to dive into the commercial world of Bollywood, where diverse roles are being scripted for women as well as actors of all age groups. She has worked with Alia on *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*.

## Evolving role of women in the industry

Shabana made her debut in 1974 with *Ankur* where she was noticed for her exceptional acting skills, following which the actor went on to do projects such as *Nishant* and *Godmother*. She was noticed for pushing boundaries of women's representation on screen, and the actor now admits a lot has



changed since then.

"The scenario has improved vastly. Earlier, it was only left to parallel cinema to give women substantial roles. Today, look at the roles Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone are doing in mainstream films. I believe if change has to happen, it should reflect in mainstream cinema, or you are preaching to the converted," she said in the interview.

"That there are so many women on the set today in positions of authority is a good sign. Since there are so many female writers now, I hope it will lead to more women-centred content," she was quoted. When asked about the issue of pay disparity, which several female stars have consistently spoken about in the past," said the 73-year-old actor, adding, "It will (change) when women-centric films start making money at the box office. Heroes need to be ready to play second fiddle like women did all these years".

## Optimistic about pay disparity

The actor also spoke about pay disparity in the industry, where she said that she is optimistic about pay equality seeping in. "It will [change] when women-centric films start making money at the box office. Heroes need to be ready to play second fiddle like women did all these years," she said.





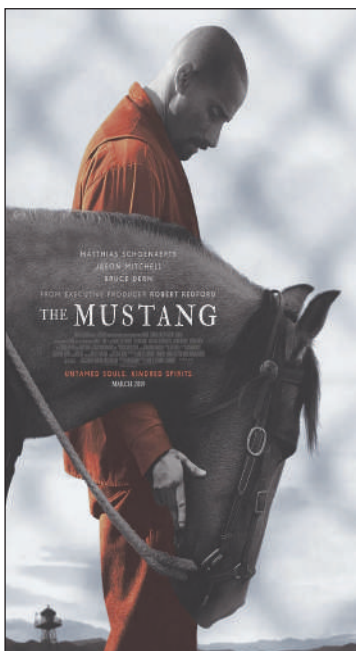
Vendredi 17 mai - 21.15



Samedi 18 mai - 21.00



Dimanche 19 mai - 21.52



# Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 17 mai

## MBC 1

06.00 Film: The Guns Of Navarone  
08.46 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des Sortilèges  
09.30 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
10.00 Tele: Amour Secret  
10.20 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
11.15 Tele: La Reina Del Flow  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.40 Tele: Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
13.25 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.50 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.15 Serial: Treadstone  
15.21 Film: Backtrack  
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar  
21.30 Film: Geet Gawai  
22.39 Tele: Sublime Mensonge  
00.15 Entre Justice Et Vengeance

## MBC 2

06.22 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
08.25 Local: Artizan  
10.24 Local: J'ai Faim  
10.59 Local Production  
12.02 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin  
12.20 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
12.46 Emotion En Avant Plan  
15.01 Local: J'ai Faim  
15.14 Local: Artizan  
15.20 Local: Generations J  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.30 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.30 Prod: MRIC  
20.00 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...  
21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
22.00 Local: La Societe  
23.00 Le Journee Televisé  
23.20 Local: Voyage AU Feminin  
23.45 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif  
00.09 Local: Retrovizer

## MBC 3

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
08.01 MBC Prod: Amrit Vaani  
10.07 Serial: Agniphera  
12.00 Film: Koshish  
Starring: Sanjeev Kumar, Jaya Badhuri, Asrani  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Serial: Senhur  
16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
16.45 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
19.00 Local: Khel Khiladi  
19.30 Local: The Singing Diva  
20.30 Serial: Vidrohi  
21.00 Film: Vachan  
23.12 Serial: Mere Sai  
00.14 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
00.37 Serial: Senhur  
01.03 Local: Mati Ke Mol

## Cine 12

06.30 Mag: Shift  
06.41 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
07.28 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
07.54 Mag: A Mediterranean...  
08.19 Doc: Twin Sisters  
09.06 Doc: From North Korea  
09.48 Doc: Adam And I  
10.40 Mag: The War Diary  
11.37 Mag: Eco India  
12.18 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
12.38 Mag: Border Crossing  
13.34 Doc: Twin Sisters  
15.00 D.Anime: Kids Songs  
15.06 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!  
15.19 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles...  
15.37 D.Anime: Romy & Boo  
15.48 D.Anime: The Jungle Book  
16.00 D.Anime: Riley Rocket  
16.25 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Defen...  
16.48 Mag: Action Kidz  
16.55 Serial: Malory Towers

## Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan  
15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
15.17 Film: Uunchai  
Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Kundali Bhagya  
19.01 Udaariyaan  
19.25 Fanaa  
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.25 Radha Krishna  
21.01 Anupamaa  
21.30 Mere Sai  
22.01 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se  
22.25 Swaran Ghar  
22.59 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani  
23.29 Film: Uunchai

samedi 18 mai

03.15 Serial: Pearson  
04.38 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
06.31 Tele: Amour A Mort  
06.55 Serial: Zoo  
07.40 Serial: Rookie Blue  
08.25 Serial: NCIS  
09.10 Serial: Pearson  
09.55 Serial: Blue Bloods  
10.45 Serial: Chicago Med  
11.30 Tele: Amour A Mort  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Serial: Under Pressure  
13.15 Tele: Sublime Mensonge  
15.25 Film: 47 Metres Down  
16.48 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Enter: Dance India Dance...  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: Force Of Nature  
22.09 Serial: Being Human  
22.52 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
07.24 Local: Voyage AU Feminin  
08.27 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...  
09.30 Local: La Societe  
10.27 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif  
12.00 Prod: MRIC - Inove Moris  
12.14 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik  
12.30 Local: Lir - Ekir Kreol...  
13.06 Local: Voyage AU Feminin  
13.37 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...  
14.08 Local: Ala Nou Vini  
15.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
16.26 Local: Retrovizer  
18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.20 Magazine De L'Emploi  
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies  
20.29 Local: Deba Klima  
21.29 Local: Glwar Dantan  
22.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion  
23.00 Le Journal  
23.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
08.26 MBC Prod: Mati Ke Mol  
10.11 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo  
12.25 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
12.45 Local: Khel Khiladi  
14.10 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Film: Himmat  
Starring Sunny Deol, Tabu, Shilpa Shetty  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.45 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
19.54 Local: Hunarbaaz  
21.11 Film: Ram Shastra  
Starring Jackie Shroff, Manisha Koirala, Deepti Bhatnagar  
23.39 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
00.05 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah  
00.20 Local: Virasat  
00.34 Local: Khoobsurat

06.00 D.Anime: Llama Llama  
06.45 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers  
09.43 Mag: Lab 360  
10.02 Serial: Sept Nains et Moi  
11.47 Mag: Healthy Living  
12.09 Doc: Life On Us  
14.30 Doc: The Expanding Desert  
15.00 D.Anime: Kids Songs  
15.04 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!  
15.24 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...  
15.48 D.Anime: The Jungle Book  
16.05 D.Anime: Riley Rocket  
16.27 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Defen...  
16.47 Mag: Action Kidz  
16.54 Serial: Malory Towers  
18.10 Mag: In Good Shape  
20.01 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
20.30 Live: News  
20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow  
21.40 Film: The Dead Don't Die  
23.18 Doc: Illegal Leather

08.00 Swaran Ghar  
10.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
12.08 Udaariyaan  
14.00 Anupamaa  
16.00 Fanaa  
18.31 Film: Khiladiyon Ka Khiladi



Starring Rekha, Akshay Kumar, Raveena Tandon, Brian Adams  
20.50 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
21.06 Porus  
21.27 Crime Patrol  
22.12 Swaran Ghar

dimanche 19 mai

04.40 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
06.30 Tele: Amour A Mort  
06.50 Film: Force Of Nature  
08.35 Serial: New Amsterdam  
09.25 Film: 47 Metres Down  
10.52 Serial: Chicago Med  
11.34 Tele: Amour A Mort  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.40 Film: Major Dundee  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.25 Film: Downton Abbey  
17.25 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa  
19.16 Sayings Radha Krishna  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: The Mustang  
Avec Matthias Schoenaerts, Jason Mitchell  
22.06 Serial: Being Human  
22.49 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

07.12 Local: Saver Kiltirel  
08.12 Local: Les Petits Genies  
09.54 Local: Glwar Dantan  
10.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL  
11.01 Local: Nu Rasinn  
12.02 Rodrig Prog  
12.30 Local: Les Petits Genies  
14.00 Local: Elle  
14.30 En Direct Et L'Eglise De Sainte Therese  
16.38 Local: Mots & Ecrits  
16.49 Prod: Deba Klima  
18.00 Tele Gout De L'Amour  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.20 Local: Elle  
20.30 Local: Le Challenge  
21.38 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi La  
22.30 Local: Clin D'Oeil  
23.00 Journal Kreol  
23.20 Local: Arsiv MBC  
23.36 Local: Mangeons Veg

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness Challenge  
08.23 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
12.00 Film: Dil Hi To Hai  
With Jackie Shroff, Divya Bharati, Gulshan Grover, Amjad Khan, Kader Khan  
16.53 Local: Ekta  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Planet Bollywood  
19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi  
19.23 Local: Tohar Farmaish  
20.00 Local: Yaadein  
20.23 Serial: Porus  
21.38 Serial: Naagin Season 4  
22.21 Serial: Bahubali  
23.01 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna  
00.30 Local: Tohar Rashi  
01.22 Local: Yaadein

06.23 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers  
06.47 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super...  
07.10 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs  
09.46 Mag: Lab 360  
10.11 Serial: Sept Nains et Moi  
10.35 Mag: D.I.Y.  
10.50 Mag: In Good Shape  
11.58 Mag: Afrimaxx  
12.29 Doc: Illegal Leather  
13.59 Doc: Thank You For The Rain  
15.01 D.Anime: Kids Songs  
15.18 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles...  
15.36 D.Anime: Romy & Boo  
15.46 D.Anime: The Jungle Book  
16.29 D.Anime: Voltron, Le Defen...  
16.47 Mag: Action Kidz  
18.10 Doc: Tea-New Ideas For A...  
18.40 Serial: Heartland  
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
20.00 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow

00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
01.56 Udaariyaan  
04.00 Anupamaa  
05.53 Fanaa  
08.00 Tenali Rama  
08.15 Patiala Babes  
10.02 Kundali Bhagya  
12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
14.03 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se  
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya  
18.38 Film: Dil Ne Jise Apna Kaha  
Starring: Salman Khan, Preity Zinta, Bhoomika Chawla

20.45 Tenali Rama  
20.59 Dance India Dance Little Masters  
21.52 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2

lundi 20 mai

05.51 Serial: Airwolf  
06.40 Film: Mr. Smith Au Senat  
08.50 Serial: Heartland  
09.35 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
10.00 Tele: Amour Secret  
10.25 The Gardener's Daughter  
11.10 Tele: La Reina Del Flow  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
13.17 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.15 Serial: Heartland  
15.21 Film: Memories Of War  
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Serial: Zoo  
21.15 Serial: Rookie Blue  
22.15 Serial: NCIS  
22.45 Entre Justice Et Vengeance

07.07 Local: En Forme  
08.33 Local: Clin D'Oeil  
10.45 Local: Le Challenge  
11.00 Local: Les Klips  
12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
13.00 Local: La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur  
13.54 Local: Clin D'Oeil  
14.07 Local: Elle  
15.08 Rodrig Prog: Komanter  
15.23 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance  
16.53 Local: Les Klips  
17.45 Local: Le Challenge  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.30 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi  
19.30 Local: Konn Ou Drwa  
20.00 Local: Proze Dime  
20.30 Local: MRA  
21.01 Local: Metie  
21.16 Local: Tous Egaux

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
09.56 Serial: Bahubali  
10.35 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa...  
12.02 Film: Sherni (1988)  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
16.00 Kundali Bhagya  
17.31 Serial: Radha Krishna  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.29 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen  
19.00 Local: Pravachan  
19.30 Local: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek  
20.13 Local: Charcha  
20.45 Film: Haseenon Ka Devta  
Starring: Sanjay Khan, Rekha and Helen  
22.54 Serial: Mere Sai  
23.58 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
00.22 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaen  
00.48 Local: Pravachan  
01.14 Local: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek

06.00 Mag: SADC  
08.31 Doc: Northern Lights  
09.14 Doc: Europe Revealed  
10.01 Doc: My Family War And I  
10.43 Doc: Beneath The Waves  
11.14 Doc: Tea-New Ideas....  
11.39 Doc: Nepal  
12.22 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
12.53 Doc: Cuba's Fading...  
13.45 Doc: Northern Lights  
14.28 Doc: Beneath The Waves  
15.00 D.Anime: Kids Songs  
15.18 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou  
15.31 D.Anime: Romy & Boo  
15.46 D.Anime: The Jungle Book  
16.09 D.Anime: Riley Rocket  
16.22 D.Anime: Voltron...  
16.45 Mag: Action Kidz  
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent  
18.55 Student Support Prog..  
21.40 Film: 1941

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan  
15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
15.30 Film: Bewafaa  
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Anil Kapoor, Manoj Bajpayee  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.31 Fanaa  
20.08 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.36 Radha Krishna  
21.06 Anupamaa  
21.34 Mere Sai  
22.04 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se  
22.35 Yeh Teri Galiyan  
23.06 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani  
23.30 Film: Bewafaa  
Stars: Akshay Kumar, Anil Kapoor, Manoj Bajpayee

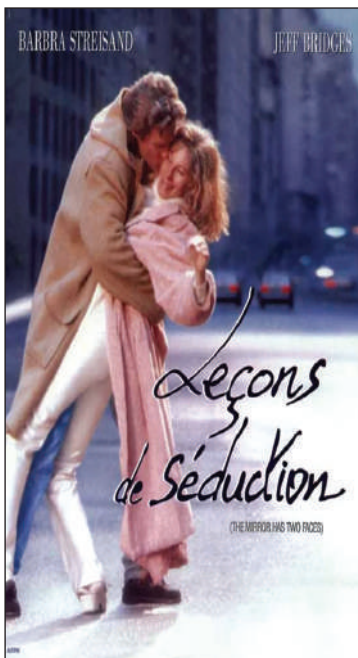


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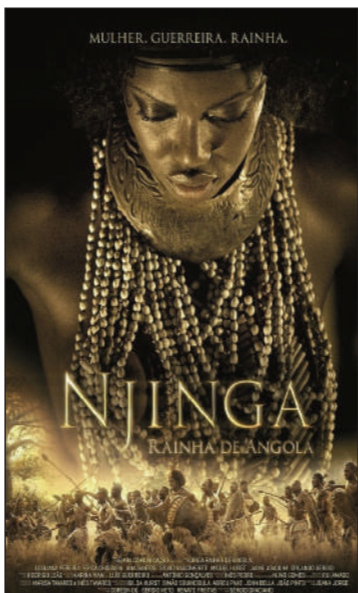
Mardi 21 Mai - 20.30

**mbc 1**

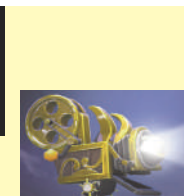
Mercredi 22 Mai - 15.12

**CINE 12**

Jeudi 23 Mai - 20.50



# Programme TV

**SERIAL**

mardi 21 mai

**MBC 1**

06.00 Serial: Airwolf  
06.45 Mag: Hollywood On Set  
07.15 Serial: Zoo  
07.59 Serial: Rookie Blue  
08.45 Serial: NCIS  
09.30 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
09.54 Tele: Amour Secret  
10.25 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.50 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.10 Tele: Gout De L'Amour  
15.25 Film: 1941  
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar  
20.30 Film: Intrusion  
22.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance

**MBC 2**

07.10 Local: Proze Dime  
09.40 Rodrig: Decouverte  
Prodiksyon Savon  
10.32 Local: Lir - Ekir Kreol  
10.47 Rodrig: Saver Lokal  
12.02 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel  
13.20 Local: MRA  
13.57 Local: Metie  
14.44 Local: Intinerer Moris  
15.19 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif  
15.50 Rodrig: Saver Lokal  
16.57 Local Prod: Aktiv  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.30 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi  
19.47 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
20.00 Local: An Eta Dalert  
20.34 Local: Priorite Sante  
21.04 Local: Africa Day  
Celebrations  
21.30 Local: Les Grandes Lignes

**MBC 3**

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayan  
08.26 Local: Pravachan  
08.52 Excerpts From Shiv  
Abhishek  
09.32 Local: Charcha  
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya  
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Rajnigandha  
Starring: Amol Palekar, Vidya Sinha  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain  
16.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Tark Vitark  
19.00 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka  
20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya  
20.30 Film: Brahmachari  
23.03 Serial: Mere Sai  
00.08 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
00.30 Local: Tark Vitark

**MBC 5**

06.03 Mag: Eco Africa  
08.31 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
09.02 Mag: Washington Forum  
10.59 Mag: Eco Africa  
11.25 Mag: The 77 Percent  
11.51 Mag: Africa 54  
12.24 Mag: In Good Shape  
13.38 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
14.02 Mag: Washington Forum  
15.00 D.Anime: Kids Songs  
15.04 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!  
15.23 D.Anime: Messy Goes To  
Okido  
15.35 D.Anime: Romy & Boo  
16.10 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs  
16.23 D.Anime: Voltron...  
16.46 Mag: Action Kids  
17.19 Serial: Malory Towers  
18.00 Mag: Rev  
18.45 Mag: Red Carpet  
19.00 Student Support Prog...

**Bollywood TV**

14.51 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
15.12 Film: Prem Granth  
Starring Rishi Kapoor,  
Madhuri Dixit, Anupam Kher  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.03 Udaariyaan  
19.33 Fanaa  
20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.38 Radha Krishna  
21.08 Anupama  
21.37 Mere Sai  
22.08 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se  
22.38 Serial: Swaran Ghar  
23.06 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki...  
23.30 Film: Prem Granth  
Starring Rishi Kapoor, Madhuri  
Dixit, Anupam Kher  
02.21 Kundali Bhagya  
02.45 Udaariyaan  
03.03 Fanaa

mercredi 22 mai

07.15 Film: Texas  
08.45 Serial: Heartland  
09.30 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
09.55 Tele: Amour Secret  
10.20 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.15 Serial: Heartland  
15.25 Film: Intrusion  
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.41 Serial: Alex Rider  
21.30 Film: Leçons De Seduction  
23.30 Le Journal  
00.15 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
00.58 The Gardener's Daughter

07.05 Local: An Eta Dalert  
08.23 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
09.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits  
09.30 Local: Le Mag  
10.24 Local: Koze Zom  
11.03 Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art  
12.00 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef  
12.18 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
12.56 Local: Priorite Sante  
13.44 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
14.44 Local: Profil  
15.00 Prod: Deba Klima  
16.56 Le Journee Sous Le Regard  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.30 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi  
19.30 MRIC - Inove Moris  
20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
20.45 Local: Agir Ensemble  
21.15 Local: Africa Day Concert...  
22.30 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
07.20 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G  
08.26 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka  
08.56 Local: Ayush - Benefits  
09.22 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya  
10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
11.32 Serial: Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Mome Ki Gudiya  
Starring: Ratan Chopra, Tanuja,  
Premnath, Jeevan, Helen  
15.30 Serial: Senhur  
16.00 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar  
Aana  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Yatra  
19.00 Local: Meri Maa  
20.00 Local: Virasat  
20.15 Local: Gyan Vigyan  
21.00 Film: Tu Diya Aur Baati Hum  
23.35 Serial: Mere Sai  
00.38 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

06.44 Mag: Red Carpet  
08.45 Mag: Initiative Africa  
09.42 Doc: SOS Amazon  
10.24 Doc: Robert Wilson  
11.38 Mag: Healthy Living  
11.53 Mag: Red Carpet  
12.13 Mag: Made In Germany  
13.05 Doc: Town To Glory  
14.30 Mag: Euromaxx  
15.00 D.Anime: Kids Songs  
15.03 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!  
15.19 Les Nouvelles Aventures...  
15.25 D.Anime: Messy Goes To...  
15.37 D.Anime: Romy & Boo  
15.45 D.Anime: The Jungle Book  
16.08 D.Anime: Riley Rocket  
16.25 D.Anime: Voltron  
16.47 Mag: Action Kidz  
17.21 Serial: Malory Towers  
17.51 Doc: Japan Video Topics  
18.00 Mag: Motorweek  
21.40 Film: Force Of Nature

14.25 Radha Mohan  
15.24 Film: Zamane Se Kya  
Darna  
Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Raveena  
Tandon, Alok Nath  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.30 Fanaa  
20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.30 Radha Krishna  
21.06 Anupamaa  
21.36 Mere Sai  
22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se  
22.31 Swaran Ghar  
23.31 Film: Zamane Se Kya  
Darna  
Starring Sanjay Dutt, Raveena  
Tandon, Alok Nath  
02.11 Kundali Bhagya  
02.32 Udaariyaan

jeudi 23 mai

06.06 Serial: Airwolf  
07.18 Serial: New Amsterdam  
08.05 Serial: Alex Rider  
08.44 Serial: Pearson  
09.30 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
09.54 Tele: Amour Secret  
10.21 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.10 Serial: Gout De L'Amour  
15.21 Film: Le Cavalier De La Mort  
17.15 The Gardener's Daughter  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.56 Serial: Swaran Ghar  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: Mrs. Chatterjee Vs  
Norway  
Stars: Rani Mukerji, Jim Sarbh...

07.10 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
09.20 Local: Rodrig Prog  
10.48 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
12.06 MRIC - Inove Moris  
12.16 Local: Saver Kiltirel  
12.59 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
13.40 Local: Proze Dime  
14.03 Local: Klip Seleksion  
16.03 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou  
17.51 MRIC - Inove Moris  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.31 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.24 Le Magazine De L'Emploi  
20.00 Local: Fete Des Meres  
20.30 Local: Mots & Ecrits  
21.01 Local: Africa Day 2019  
22.18 Local: Artizan  
22.25 Local: Generations J  
23.00 Le Journal  
23.20 Local: Sa Lavi La

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
07.32 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
08.27 Local: Meri Maa  
08.53 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
09.19 Local: Virasat  
09.34 Local: Gyan Vigyan  
10.03 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar  
Aana  
11.27 Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Ambaa  
Starring: Anil Kapoor,  
Meenakshi Seshadri  
15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain  
16.00 Serial: Agnipheera  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Amrit Vaani  
19.06 Local: Maha Maya  
19.32 Local: Vaad Vivaad  
20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz  
20.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
21.00 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya

07.28 Doc: Does The Lynx Have...  
08.32 Mag: Close Up  
09.27 Doc: 1945 - Women As Spoils  
10.59 Mag: Motorweek  
11.40 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
12.37 Doc: Southern Japan By Rail  
13.20 Mag: Close Up  
13.51 Mag: Focus On Europe  
14.17 Doc: 1945 - Women As Spoils  
15.00 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!  
15.24 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles  
Aventures De Caillou  
15.32 Messy Goes To Okido  
15.46 D.Anime: Romy & Boo  
15.55 D.Anime: The Jungle Book  
16.06 D.Anime: Riley Rocket  
16.31 D.Anime: Voltron...  
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers  
18.30 Mag: Shift  
21.40 Film: Njinga, Reine D'Angola

14.25 Radha Mohan  
15.21 Film: Soorma  
Stars: Diljit Dosanjh, Taapsee  
Pannu, Angad Bedi  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.30 Fanaa  
20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.30 Radha Krishna  
21.02 Anupamaa  
21.30 Mere Sai  
22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se  
22.37 Swaran Ghar  
23.14 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki  
Kahana  
23.39 Film: Soorma  
Stars: Diljit Dosanjh, Taapsee  
Pannu, Angad Bedi  
02.01 Kundali Bhagya  
02.29 Udaariyaan  
03.04 Fanaa



Jeudi 23 Mai - 15.30

Stars: Diljit Dosanjh, Taapsee  
Pannu, Angad Bedi

Jeudi 23 Mai - 20.30

Stars: Rani Mukerji, Jim Sarbh,  
Bodhisattwa Majumdar



# Religious diversity is exploding – here's what a faith-positive Britain might actually look like



Christopher Wadibia  
Junior Research Fellow  
in Theology, University  
of Oxford

**T**he future of the UK's Inter Faith Network (IFN), a long-standing charity that promotes dialogue and cooperation between Britain's religious groups, is in doubt after the government announced it was withdrawing funding for the group. Communities secretary Michael Gove has cited concerns that a member of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), with which the government has suspended cooperation since 2009, has been appointed an IFN trustee.

In response to Gove's letter, the IFN has said it had never been advised "to expel the MCB from membership". It also said that while the government might choose not to engage with the MCB, doing so "is not a sensible option open to the IFN if it is to achieve the purposes for which the government funds it in the first place".



Pic - The Christian Science Monitor

Founded in 1987, the IFN represents Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and Zoroastrian faith groups. In the charity's 37-year history, religious pluralism in the UK has grown exponentially – and is still growing despite an overall decline in religiosity.

This underlines the importance of the interfaith dialogue the charity exists to promote. Indeed, the government-commissioned Bloom review of England's growing religious pluralism, published in 2023, made a similar point when examining how the government might best acknowledge the value different faith groups bring to society.

## The UK's increasingly diverse faith landscape

**I**n 2018, the Pew Research Centre published "Being Christian in Western Europe," a survey of religion in 15 western European countries. The majority of the adults surveyed in 14 of the 15 countries considered themselves "non-practicing Christians".

The survey found that the UK had roughly three times as many non-practicing Christians (55%) than church-going Christians (18%). It concluded that the notion of Christian identity remains a meaningful religious, political, and sociocultural marker.

It also noted that many people have "gradually drifted away from religion, stopped believing in religious teachings, or were alienated by scandals or church positions on social issues."

The rising number of people who subscribe to no religion belies the fact that the Christian proportion of the population is changing too. In 2023, British journalist Tomiwa Owolade reported on how demographic shifts are reshaping churches across the UK. Between 1980 and 2015, churches saw a 19% rise in attendance by non-white worshippers.

"Without immigration," he wrote, "the decline of Christianity would be even more profound: it is largely white British people who are abandoning their faith."

Recent migration from Hong Kong has seen the Chinese Christian community in the UK grow substantially. As of 2023, there

are about 115,000 Chinese Christians worshipping at over 200 churches across the UK.

Newly arrived Chinese Christians bring with them a belief in the importance of Bible reading. They are strengthening Church of England congregations in cities including Manchester, Liverpool and Bristol.

This highlights how migrant populations in the UK and more broadly in western Europe wield increasing influence in terms of spirituality and belief. Between 2011 and 2021, the proportion of the population of England and Wales that identifies as Muslim has grown, from 4.8% (2.71 million people) to 6.5% (3.87 million).

Other fast-growing religious groups in the UK include Shamanism, whose followers have increased from 650 people in 2011 to at least 8,000 in 2021. Its emphasis on all things in nature – from people to the environment – being treated with dignity and respect distinctively appeals to the growing number of people in the UK who live with climate anxiety.

## How the government engages with faith groups

**U**ntil now, UK politicians have largely only engaged with local faith groups in public when it has been politically expedient to do so. A primary motivation has often been to not be criticised by detractors for excluding communities on the basis of religion. This approach is underpinned by an Enlightenment theory of secularism, which sees engaging with issues of religion as unworthy of the looming headaches such engagement might cause.

The 2023 Bloom review, by contrast, calls for government to build constructive relationships with faith groups. "It should be the government's responsibility," Bloom writes, "to equip all civil and public servants with the basic factual knowledge to be able to recognise and understand the diverse religious life of the population."

Appointed in 2019 by Boris Johnson, who was then prime minister, Colin Bloom was commissioned to explore what the government could do to better acknowledge and support the contribution faith groups make to society. He investigated how to better promote shared values and tackle harmful practices and how to promote both freedom of religion and freedom of speech. He also looked at how government officials might improve their faith literacy.

To be faith literate is to understand how belief systems differ and how those distinct from your own shape other people's attitudes, values, and experiences. In a bid to boost equality, Bloom recommends that government workplaces and educational settings adopt the term "faith-sensitive".

As opposed to the flattening out of difference that a "faith-blind" approach can take, promoting faith-sensitivity encourages people in positions of authority to acknowledge, understand and treat with respect diverse belief systems.

The language the UK government uses on faith-related subjects matters. It models – for everyone living in the UK – how to best engage with diverse manifestations of belief.

I would argue that Bloom's emphasis on a faith-sensitive government approach does not go far enough. It implies that the government's priority should be to not cause offense. Even better would be a "faith-positive" approach that actively ascribes value to the contributions faith communities can make to everyday British life.

Back in 2001, the IFN said, "Greater awareness about the faith of others is crucial as we enter the 21st century in the UK because ignorance is a major contributor to prejudice and even to conflict." Two decades on, the shocking rises in incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia, in recent months, point to how urgently that remains true.

Early 20th century English writer G.K. Chesterton once affectionately wrote, "Let your religion be less a theory and more a love affair." He was offering a framework to help British Christians better understand their faith. A similarly faith-positive approach to all of Britain's belief systems would both recognise and value quite what people of faith can bring to wider British society.

## Tree of Knowledge



# Things We Can't Control



P - medium.com

**W**e develop grace as we learn, with the guiding hand of the universe, life will unfold exactly the way it should.

The idea of trusting the universe is a popular one these days, but many of us don't know what this really means and we often have a hard time doing it. This is partly because the story of humankind is most often presented as a story about struggle, control, and survival, instead of one of trust and collaboration with the universe. Yet, in truth, we need to adhere to both ideas in this life.

On the one hand, there is much to be said about exerting control over our environment. We created shelter to protect ourselves from the elements. We hunted for animals and invented agriculture to feed ourselves. We built social infrastructures to protect ourselves and create community. This is how we survive and grow as a civilization. However, it is also clear that there are plenty of things that we cannot control, no matter how hard we try, and we often receive support from an unseen force – a universe that provides us with what we cannot provide for ourselves.

It is a good idea to take responsibility for the things in life that we can control or create. We work so we can feed, clothe, and shelter our loved ones and ourselves. We manifest our dreams and visions in physical form with hard work and forethought. But at a certain point, when we have done all that we can, we must let go and allow the universe to take over. This requires trust. It requires a trust that runs deeper than just expecting things to turn out the way we want them to. Sometimes they will, and sometimes they won't. We develop equanimity and grace as we learn to trust that, with the guiding hand of the universe, life will unfold exactly the way it should. We are engaged in an ongoing relationship with a universe that responds to our thoughts and actions.