

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• The goal is to reduce the size and scope of government spending, not to focus on the deficit. The deficit is the symptom of the disease. -- Grover Norquist



P 9

Interview: Dharam Gokhool

## Budget 2024-25: 'People are realizing there are no free lunches...

...ultimately, they'll have to foot the bill with more or higher taxes'

**'Xavier Duval finds himself at a crucial crossroad. Difficult decisions must be made.**

Will he compromise his principles and align with the MSM, or will he adhere to them?'

Opinion

## Third time victory for PM Modi: A mandate for continuity



Dr R. Neerunjun Gopee P8

Eclairages

Scandale des emplois fictifs

## La Cour de cassation confirme la condamnation de l'ex-PM français Francois Fillon



A. Bartleby P4

Analyse

Budget 2024-25 et rapport du FMI

## L'économie est à un tournant critique



Prakash Neerohoo P3

Breakfast with Bwana

## Climate Change Warnings: Is the End of the World Nigh?



Anil Madan P7



# Budget 2024: Striking the Right Balance!

The recent Indian elections offer valuable insights and lessons that transcend national boundaries and resonate with political landscapes globally. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in alliance with a number of regional parties under the NDA umbrella, secured a third consecutive term, yet fell short of the ambitious target of 400+ seats. This outcome, coupled with regional electoral shifts, underscores several critical dynamics pertinent to both emerging and established democracies.

Firstly, the electoral results highlight the complexity of voter behaviour and the inherent challenges of maintaining an overwhelming majority. The BJP's sustained push in the South and East (particularly Tamil Nadu and West Bengal), failed to deliver tangible benefits in seats and even received a staunch push-back in Bengal. Some analysts ask whether that focus was a wise move if it came at a reduced attention to the BJP's backyard, so to speak, losing seats in Rajasthan and getting a drubbing in UP by the Samajwadi Party. As for Maharashtra, the internal divides between factions again lost seats for the BJP. Nevertheless, the excellent BJP reception in Orissa and the Kashmir Valley among others would have provided some satisfaction in an atmosphere where defeat was almost snatched from the jaws of a predicted NDA victory.

Many factors obviously reflect the evolving regional sentiments and the diverse demands of a varied Indian electorate, most notably an insufficient attention to rural distress and unemployment, exemplified by farmer protests and a resistance to the Agniveer scheme which proposes to restrict youth access to Army/Navy/Air Force training opportunities and postings. The Modi 3.0 cabinet, with Bihar and Telangana input, should help redress the course for 2029. A single-party rule, by the BJP for the past ten years, has come at a cost, namely, a lack of wider input from more stakeholders and an anti-incumbency feeling, which if it does not affect PM Modi's personal image, has nonetheless worn thin over time. The BJP also failed to prepare for and adequately respond to what could be expected to be the Opposition's main narrative of freebies and goodies distribution, without a word about wealth creation or creators.

\* \* \*

In Mauritius as well, although not a prominent factor, the rural-urban divide persists in the political landscape, and it's rarely overcome. Political parties must remain agile and responsive to these subtleties, recognizing that one-size-fits-all strategies may not resonate uniformly across diverse demographic and cultural landscapes. Anti-incumbency and the phenomenon of "wear and tear of power" are other crucial lessons. Prolonged tenure in governance, particularly by a

closed shop of a high-handed single party, often leads to a gradual erosion of support and popularity, a reality faced by many mainstream parties worldwide, both in the past and posing a threat to contemporary ones in our own country. This decline can stem from accumulated dissatisfaction, unmet expectations, and the natural desire for change. The experiences of a few of our mainstream parties illustrate this pattern, emphasizing the need for parties to continuously renew their vision and address the evolving needs of their constituents.

The influence of economic conditions on electoral outcomes cannot be overstated. Economic hardships such as poverty, rising living costs, and diminished prospects often dominate voter concerns, as evidenced in recent elections in India. The potential benefits of major infrastructure projects may fail to generate enthusiasm for these projects if the opposition consistently draws attention, justifiably, to more pressing concerns of the population. Similarly, short-term 'feel-good' measures or freebies can influence voter decisions up to a point, but not beyond. Furthermore, the targeting of opposition leaders through investigations might be employed to influence electoral outcomes. These tactics can be countered strategically, as can short-term voter benefits, by emphasizing long-term policies and integrity. It's also essential to address any attempts to tarnish leaders' reputations by fostering transparency and accountability within their ranks.

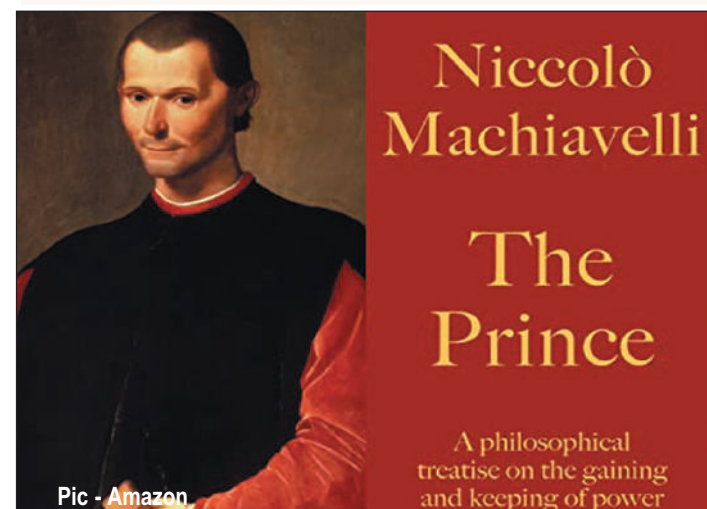
Finance Minister Padayachy's last Budget will be pivotal in shaping or reshaping public perception ahead of elections. The government may resort to expansionary fiscal policies, even if it involves printing more money, to deliver immediate benefits to sway voters. While such measures might offer short-term electoral gains, they risk long-term economic stability, highlighting the perennial tension between electoral strategy and fiscal prudence. Public sector debt, already sky-high if all SPVs and government-guaranteed debts are factored in, will be particularly scrutinized by economic specialists to see how far any populist approach may endanger longer-term growth and development.

Beyond economic concerns, the government's handling of social problems will also significantly impact voter decisions. Issues such as healthcare, education, and social justice are increasingly at the forefront of voter priorities. Law and order is not felt positively and drugs have permeated all corners of the land. A government's performance in these areas can shape public perception and influence electoral outcomes as much as economic policies. Winning elections requires more than just offering freebies and relying on state-engineered propaganda.

## The Conversation

# Republics Fail Through Complacency

500 years ago, Machiavelli warned the public not to get complacent in the face of self-interested charismatic figures



A United States president sought to remain in office after his term ended, maintains a worshipful following and has declared he will operate as a dictator only on "day one" if reelected. His cunning and manipulation of American politics and its legal system have, so far, blocked efforts to hold him accountable.

That sort of activity has been called "Machiavellian," after Renaissance writer Niccolò Machiavelli, who lived from 1469 to 1527. He wrote a notorious little treatise called "The Prince," in which he advises sole rulers – his phrase for authoritarians or dictators – as well as those who aspire to sole rule to use force and fraud to gain and maintain power.

But scholars of Machiavelli like me know there is much more to his analysis. His 16th-century writings discuss not only princely rule but also republican governments, in which citizens select leaders directly or indirectly for specified terms. He instructs republican citizens and leaders, including those of the United States, to recognize how vulnerable the governments they cherish are and to be vigilant against the threats of tyranny. Machiavelli's advice is as relevant now as it was then.

## Machiavelli's republican experience

Machiavelli knew from experience and his extensive reading that there was a long history of nations with republican governments falling victim to ambitious individuals who sought to subvert their nations' practices and institutions so they could rule alone and unchecked, with all others serving at their behest and on their authority.

For example, he was from the city-state of Florence in what is now Italy. Florence had had a republican tradition for centuries, but about 30 years before Machiavelli's birth, banker and politician Cosimo de' Medici had subverted that system. Cosimo had used his family's wealth to propel himself to political power by exerting influence over officeholders so that he was the ultimate decision-maker.

Vickie B. Sullivan, Professor of Political Science,  
Tufts University

## Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah - Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor-in-chief: M. Ramlallah / Senior Editor: Dr RN Gopee

This epaper has been produced with the assistance of

Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy

Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis  
Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313

mtimes@intnet.mu



www.mauritiustimes.com



facebook.com/mauritius.times







Prakash Neerohoo

Budget 2024-25 et rapport du FMI

# L'économie est à un tournant critique

**L**e ministre des Finances présentera le budget 2024-25, le cinquième et le dernier du deuxième mandat du présent gouvernement, aujourd'hui, au Parlement avec pour toile de fond une campagne électorale marquée par des promesses populistes de part et d'autre sur l'échiquier politique.

Alors que l'économie a connu un rebondissement après la pandémie (2020-2022) avec une croissance de 4,9% projetée pour 2024, certains clignotants sont toujours au rouge (un déficit au compte courant de la balance des paiements de 4,5% du PIB, une dette publique de 79% du PIB, un déficit fiscal primaire de 5% du PIB, un taux d'inflation consolidé de 5%, etc.) et font peser des risques à moyen terme sur le pays.

Les attentes populaires focalisent sur les mesures nécessaires pour alléger le coût de la vie, devenu plus cher sous l'effet de l'inflation galopante causée elle-même par la dépréciation inexorable de la roupie. Dans ce contexte, la tentation serait forte pour le gouvernement de privilégier le court terme avec des mesures électorales, quitte à augmenter le déficit budgétaire et l'endettement national, et de sacrifier le long terme, lequel exige de la rigueur économique dans la gestion des finances nationales.

## Critique implacable du FMI

Le rapport du FMI sur l'économie mauricienne est venu à temps pour nous rappeler la dure réalité économique et les risques qui se pointent à l'horizon. Une fois n'est pas coutume. Ce rapport, sous l'article IV de la Consultation Annuelle, constitue une critique implacable de la gestion économique du pays fondée sur une analyse objective.

Dans le passé, le FMI nous avait habitués à des rapports techniques qui faisaient usage d'un langage modéré, voire diplomatique, pour décrire les problèmes économiques afin de ne pas froisser le gouvernement mauricien. Cette fois-ci, le FMI a fait un diagnostic non complaisant de la situation économique pour déceler les

**“Alors que l'économie a connu un rebondissement après la pandémie (2020-2022) avec une croissance de 4,9% projetée pour 2024, certains clignotants sont toujours au rouge (un déficit au compte courant de la balance des paiements de 4,5% du PIB, une dette publique de 79% du PIB, un déficit fiscal primaire de 5% du PIB, un taux d'inflation consolidé de 5%, etc.) et font peser des risques à moyen terme sur le pays...”**



**“Les attentes populaires se focalisent sur les mesures nécessaires pour alléger le coût de la vie, devenu plus cher sous l'effet de l'inflation galopante causée elle-même par la dépréciation inexorable de la roupie. Dans ce contexte, la tentation serait forte pour le gouvernement de privilégier le court terme avec des mesures électorales, quitte à augmenter le déficit budgétaire et l'endettement national, et de sacrifier le long terme, lequel exige de la rigueur économique dans la gestion des finances nationales...”**

vraies causes des problèmes macroéconomiques et suggérer des solutions. Le FMI ne mâche pas ses mots pour dire certaines vérités économiques.

A première vue, le rapport apparaît comme un audit de l'état des lieux de l'économie, fondé sur une évaluation objective tout en permettant au gouvernement de répondre aux constats faits par les experts du FMI. Mais, en fin de compte, le FMI a émis une opinion avec réserve (sous-entendant, dans le jargon de l'auditeur, un non-satisfecit) sur le bilan financier global du pays. Ce n'est pas une coïncidence que le FMI a appelé le gouvernement à appliquer rigoureusement les normes internationales de comptabilité dans le secteur public (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) pour assurer la transparence financière, plus particulièrement pour les fonds spéciaux hors-budget qui servent à financer des dépenses publiques.

Le FMI a suggéré des pistes de solutions pour réduire les dépenses publiques, augmenter le revenu fiscal, alléger la dette nationale, améliorer la gestion financière dans le secteur public et entreprendre des réformes dans d'autres domaines (secteur bancaire, pension de retraite, etc.).

Aujourd'hui, le ministre des Finances a le choix entre deux voies:

- poursuivre la politique laxiste qui est responsable des déficits budgétaires annuels, des dépenses publiques fara mineuses sans garantie d'efficacité ni de productivité, et de l'endettement national croissant, ou
- changer de cap pour redresser la barre, adopter la rigueur budgétaire et mettre le pays sur la voie du développement

harmonieux et durable dans les limites d'une politique fiscale élargie et équitable.

Entre autres problématiques soulevées par le FMI, quatre nous paraissent très pertinentes. L'analyse du FMI rejoint la nôtre sur ces quatre problématiques que nous avons déjà analysées dans des articles précédents, notamment :

1. la réforme des retraites
2. la réforme fiscale
3. la dette nationale
4. la Banque de Maurice et le MIC

## La réforme des retraites

Dans plusieurs articles (voir nos éditions du 29 janvier 2024 et du 22 mars 2024), nous avons souligné que la politique de sécurité sociale est financièrement insoutenable.

Le FMI propose que l'âge d'éligibilité pour la pension de vieillesse [Basic Retirement Pension (BRP)] soit graduellement rehaussé de 60 à 65 ans afin de rendre la BRP soutenable en ciblant cette prestation sociale pour les retraités les plus vulnérables. Selon le FMI, cette mesure apportera une économie potentielle de 1,4% du PIB (Produit Intérieur Brut).

Selon nos calculs, l'économie potentielle sera de Rs 14,5 milliards par année (Rs 13,500 x 13 mois x 82 692 bénéficiaires âgés de 60 à 64 ans). Avec le vieillissement de la population, accompagné d'un ratio de dépendance de 20% pour le troisième âge, la politique sociale coûtera de plus en plus cher. Déjà la BRP et les pensions aux veuves, invalides orphelins coûtent Rs 58, 5 milliards par année pour 310 643 bénéficiaires.

Dans notre article «Pensions de vieillesse: Une bombe à retardement» publié le 22 mars 2024, nous avons mentionné deux options de réforme comme suit:

- “(a) Il faudra accorder la pension de vieillesse à partir de 65 ans (au lieu de 60 ans) en alignant l'âge d'éligibilité pour la pension sur l'âge de retraite du travail, comme c'est le cas dans la plupart des pays. Une exemption est souhaitable pour ceux qui ont pour seule source de revenu la pension de vieillesse après 60 ans. Ceux qui travaillent jusqu'à l'âge de 65 ans peuvent être dispensés de la pension de vieillesse jusqu'au moment de leur retrait de la vie professionnelle.
- “(b) Il faudra récupérer une partie de la pension de vieillesse par voie d'impôt sur le revenu auprès des bénéficiaires qui ont d'autres sources de revenu (exemples : la pension de retraite au travail, les dividendes ou le revenu de location), et ce, au-delà de l'exemption personnelle de Rs 390 000 par an.”

Bien que la proposition du FMI soit conforme aux normes internationales en matière de retraite, il n'est pas sûr que les partis politiques la voient d'un bon œil en cette année électorale. Quant à la fiscalisation de la BRP pour ceux ayant plusieurs sources de revenu, les partis n'en sont pas partisans non plus. Donc, la facture de la politique sociale deviendra plus lourde dans les années à venir, à moins que la politique fiscale soit réformée pour trouver de nouvelles sources de revenu.

A juste titre, le FMI propose que la Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG) soit réformée afin de payer la CSG seulement aux employés qui contribuent à ce fonds. A ce sujet, nous avons écrit :

«Il faudra augmenter les taxes directes (impôts sur les revenus) et indirectes (TVA) pour payer une facture sociale plus élevée. Cette option est fondée sur le postulat rationnel qu'il ne faut pas compter sur la Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG) pour financer la pension de vieillesse. Cette taxe sur les salaires devrait être mise dans une caisse de retraite séparée pour payer la pension de retraite aux employés du secteur privé. Il faudra la traiter comme un plan de pension contributif géré par un organisme indépendant du gouvernement, comme c'était le cas avec le Fonds National de Pension.»

La pratique de verser la CSG dans la caisse de l'État (Consolidated Revenue Fund) pour financer le paiement des pensions de retraite et des allocations sociales diverses (ex: CSG Income Allowance de Rs 2 000) va à l'encontre de l'intention statutaire de ce fonds.

● Suite en page 7



## Scandale des emplois fictifs

# La Cour de cassation confirme la condamnation de l'ex-PM français François Fillon

Par A. Bartleby

**E**n avril dernier, la Cour de cassation française a confirmé la condamnation de l'ancien Premier ministre François Fillon dans l'affaire des emplois fictifs qui a ruiné sa candidature présidentielle de 2017, mais a ordonné un nouveau procès pour déterminer sa peine.

François Fillon, 70 ans, avait été condamné en appel le 9 mai 2022 à quatre ans de prison, dont trois avec sursis, et à une amende de 375 000 euros. Un nouveau procès pour la détermination de la peine aura lieu dans les prochains mois devant la cour d'appel de Paris.



François Fillon définitivement jugé coupable dans l'affaire des emplois fictifs. P - Le Monde

L'homme politique conservateur a été reconnu coupable d'avoir fourni un emploi fictif d'assistante parlementaire à son épouse, Penelope Fillon, qui lui a permis de percevoir des millions d'euros de fonds publics. Penelope Fillon avait été condamnée en appel en 2022 à deux ans de prison avec sursis pour détournement de fonds et à payer la même amende que son époux.

Tous deux ont également été condamnés à rembourser 800 000 euros à l'Assemblée nationale, qui avait indemnisé Penelope Fillon pour son poste d'assistante parlementaire de son époux.

Selon les directives de la justice française, il est peu probable que François Fillon passe du temps derrière les barreaux et pourrait se voir ordonner de porter un bracelet électronique à la place.

Le couple a toujours insisté sur le fait que Penelope Fillon avait effectué un véritable travail de circonscription.

### Yogida Sawmynaden jugé non coupable

**C**e phénomène d'emplois fictifs a inspiré des cas similaires ailleurs dans le monde, certains ont été reconnus coupables tandis que d'autres ont bénéficié du doute en l'absence de preuves tangibles ou de témoignages crédibles. A Maurice, l'ancien ministre Yogida Sawmynaden a été jugé non coupable dans l'affaire de l'emploi fictif de "clerk" de circonscription ("constituency clerk"). Il faisait face à deux accusations formelles de "forgery of private writing" et "making use of forged private writing".

Pour rappel, dans son jugement, la magistrate Anusha Rawoah a relevé des incohérences dans la version de Simla Kistnen. « Son témoignage ne peut être cru et sa version disant qu'elle n'a eu aucun dialogue avec l'accusé ne tient pas. » Elle a noté, en outre, la présence de Simla Kistnen à

des réunions organisées par Yogida Sawmynaden et sa visite au Citizens' Advice Bureau où l'accusé recevait des mandants.

Elle a également cité le jour où Soopramanien Kistnen a disparu et le nombre d'appels effectués par le ministre de l'époque à Simla Kistnen. Elle estime que Simla Kistnen n'a pas témoigné de manière claire et cohérente sur la façon dont elle aurait appris qu'elle était employée comme "constituency clerk". Autre élément retenu: ses aveux selon lesquels elle aurait menti dans son affidavit déposé devant la Cour suprême. « Sa version est truffée d'incohérences et ses lacunes inexplicables, prises dans leur ensemble, affectent sa crédibilité. Elle ne m'a pas semblé être un témoin de vérité. L'accusation n'a pas établi de cas prima facie contre l'accusé », observe la magistrate.

De ce fait, l'accusation formelle de "forgery in private writing" contre Yogida Sawmynaden a été rayée. La deuxième accusation de "making use of forged private writing" ne tient pas la route non plus selon la magistrate, qui lui accorde le bénéfice du doute.

Par ailleurs, on apprend que Me Rama Valayden, avocat de la veuve de Soopramanien Kistnen, a transmis une correspondance au Directeur des Poursuites publiques (DPP), Me Rashid Ahmine, suite au jugement dans le procès intenté contre l'ex-ministre Yogida Sawmynaden.

### Quelles leçons à tirer de ces cas ?

**L**a confirmation de la condamnation de Fillon par la Cour de cassation et la décision de la cour intermédiaire mauricienne de déclarer Sawmynaden non coupable illustrent des trajectoires judiciaires contrastées, mais soulignent toutes deux l'attention minutieuse que les systèmes judiciaires accordent à la preuve et à la crédibilité des témoins.

Dans le cas de François Fillon, l'insistance sur des emplois fictifs qui ont coûté des millions d'euros de fonds publics à l'État français continue de ternir la réputation des politiques impliqués et de renforcer l'exigence de comptes à rendre pour les responsables publics. La décision de la Cour de cassation de confirmer sa condamnation tout en ordonnant un nouveau procès pour la détermination de sa peine montre une volonté de maintenir une rigueur judiciaire tout en offrant une possibilité de réévaluation équitable de la sanction.

En Maurice, le jugement de non-culpabilité de Yogida Sawmynaden, fondé sur des incohérences dans les témoignages clés et une absence de preuve prima facie, met en évidence les défis auxquels sont confrontés les systèmes judiciaires lorsqu'ils traitent des accusations de fraude et de corruption. Ce cas rappelle également l'importance de la fiabilité et de la cohérence des témoignages dans l'établissement de la vérité judiciaire.

Ces affaires nous rappellent que, malgré les différences contextuelles et géographiques, la quête de justice et de responsabilité demeure universelle. Les systèmes judiciaires doivent maintenir leur impartialité et leur rigueur afin de préserver la confiance du public dans les institutions démocratiques, garantissant ainsi que la vérité et l'équité demeurent des valeurs fondamentales.



Les électeurs semblent à l'aise avec Modi et le BJP, mais pour la première fois en une décennie, l'Inde dispose d'une opposition puissante. Pic - Geo.tv

## Inde: Un retour surprenant à la politique de coalition

**L**e Parti Bharatiya Janata (BJP), sous la direction du Premier ministre Narendra Modi, s'est affirmé comme le principal parti de la chambre basse du Parlement indien, qui comprend 543 sièges, en remportant 240 sièges lors des élections les plus récentes. Cependant, le BJP a perdu plus de 60 sièges et n'a pas réussi à franchir le seuil des 272 sièges nécessaires pour obtenir une majorité parlementaire à part entière, une caractéristique qui avait défini sa dernière décennie au pouvoir. Pendant ce temps, le Congrès National Indien (Congrès) dirigé par Rahul Gandhi a remporté 99 sièges, soit une augmentation de 47 sièges.

La coalition NDA menée par le BJP a les chiffres pour former un gouvernement, mais non sans négociations avec les alliés. Le BJP a connu des revers dans le "Hindi heartland", en particulier en Uttar Pradesh (UP), de plus en plus considéré comme le bastion du BJP. La perte d'un siège en UP, où le Ram Mandir a été inauguré il y a quelques mois par Modi, a constitué une grande déception pour le parti.

Notamment, la part de vote du BJP en pourcentage est restée à peu près la même depuis les élections de 2019. Les électeurs semblent à l'aise avec Modi et le BJP. Cependant, le bloc d'opposition INDIA a consolidé et augmenté significativement sa part de vote.

INDIA, avec Rahul Gandhi du Congrès comme visage de la coalition, a trouvé un moyen de se connecter avec les électeurs malgré la puissante base de soutien, les levées de fonds et l'assaut sur les médias sociaux du BJP. Pour la première fois en une décennie, l'Inde a une opposition puissante. Gandhi, le descendant de la famille emblématique de l'Inde, a commencé à réécrire le récit d'un héritier politique réticent, marchant à travers l'Inde, parfois pieds nus, pour galvaniser sa base.

Si les négociations de coalition se sont déroulées sans heurts, le NDA au pouvoir comptera deux leaders chevronnés pour cimenter leur héritage aux côtés du Premier ministre. Chandrababu Naidu du TDP s'est sans doute imposé comme le Premier ministre en chef orienté vers la croissance et la technologie dans l'État de l'Andhra Pradesh.

➔ Suite en page 5



# Inde: Un retour surprenant à la politique de coalition

☞ Suite de la page 4

Nitish Kumar, huit fois ministre en chef de l'État du Bihar du JD(U), a fait carrière en se retrouvant toujours du côté gagnant de la politique.

## À quoi s'attendre du nouveau gouvernement de coalition?

**A**u cours de la dernière décennie, le gouvernement Modi a détenu des majorités parlementaires permettant de mener des politiques sans opposition significative, renforçant ses qualifications en tant qu'administrateur technocratique non influencé par le processus politique. Selon des observateurs politiques indiens, des chiffres plus réduits au Parlement obligeront Narendra Modi à faire des compromis, en lieu et place de la gestion descendante qui a caractérisé ses 23 années combinées en tant que Premier ministre et ministre en chef de l'État du Gujarat.

Néanmoins, les politiques économiques du gouvernement de coalition au cours du troisième mandat consécutif, avec Modi en tant que Premier ministre, devraient avoir une grande continuité avec celles du gouvernement sortant. Modi et Naidu devraient être sur la même longueur d'onde sur plusieurs politiques visant à stimuler l'investissement national et étranger.

Il y a quelques mois, l'administration BJP précédente avait défini un programme de 100 jours axé sur des priorités telles que la création d'emplois, la fabrication nationale et la croissance des infrastructures physiques et numériques. Ces priorités devraient rester les mêmes.

Pendant la période au pouvoir de Narendra Modi, le pays a progressivement commencé à connaître une croissance économique robuste après des progrès inégaux pendant la pandémie: 7,2 % pour l'exercice fiscal 2022-2023 avec des augmentations de 6,8 % en 2024 et de 6,5 % prévues par le FMI pour 2025. Mais la croissance de l'Inde a été inégale, l'inflation est élevée selon certains, et le



Narendra Modi revendique la victoire, en arrivant au siège de son parti le BJP à New Delhi, le 4 juin 2024 - P - Reuters - Adnan Abidi

pays fait face à une pénurie d'emplois pour les travailleurs agricoles se déplaçant vers les villes à la recherche d'opportunités. Selon une enquête récente du Centre pour l'Étude des Sociétés en Développement, le chômage était la principale préoccupation pour 27 % des répondants.

Le cercle restreint du BJP comprend ces réalités et est susceptible de travailler avec les partenaires sur des politiques visant à créer des emplois dans le secteur manufacturier. On soutient que le Bihar et l'Andhra Pradesh recevront une attention accrue à l'avenir, et le gouvernement fédéral pourrait prendre des mesures pour répondre aux défis économiques de ces États.

## Une politique étrangère équilibrée entre les États-Unis, la Chine et le Sud global

**L**a coalition de Narendra Modi est susceptible de maintenir une politique étrangère "multi-alignée" qui équilibre les relations de l'Inde avec une variété d'acteurs mon-

diaux, conformément à la perception largement répandue à New Delhi que l'Inde occupe une "position géopolitique avantageuse" dans un monde multipolaire.

**L'**Inde continuera probablement à approfondir ses relations avec les États-Unis, son partenaire le plus important, et les alliés américains. Les États-Unis sont essentiels pour répondre aux préoccupations de l'Inde concernant la Chine et sont un contributeur crucial au développement économique et technologique. La coopération bilatérale sur la défense et les technologies critiques et émergentes devrait reprendre rapidement.

Dans le même temps, on s'attend à ce que l'Inde s'associera avec d'autres pays sur une base de cas-par-cas en fonction de ses intérêts nationaux. Les liens de longue date de l'Inde avec la Russie et l'Iran seront sans doute préservés et continueront d'évoluer pour s'adapter aux relations croissantes avec les États-Unis, l'Europe et les États du Golfe. Tout en établissant des ponts avec les économies industrialisées et riches, Narendra Modi renouvellera probablement les efforts pour positionner l'Inde en tant que leader du Sud global à travers son leadership dans des forums multilatéraux comme le G20, les BRICS et l'Organisation de Coopération de Shanghai, ainsi que son rôle de pionnier dans le mouvement de l'infrastructure publique numérique.

Il sera important de voir comment la Chine évaluera la force du nouveau gouvernement indien et si Pékin choisira de tester la coalition naissante le long de leur frontière contestée de plus de 2 100 miles.



La famille Gandhi dans le confort de l'opposition. P - Asialyst

**R**ahul Gandhi n'a pas réussi à remporter une élection générale pour son parti. Il n'a jamais été ministre. Pourtant, il est le visage le plus marquant de l'opposition, principalement en raison de son héritage politique.

Son arrière-grand-père, Jawaharlal Nehru, fut le premier Premier ministre de l'Inde indépendante. Sa grand-mère et son père furent également Première et Premier ministres. Tous deux ont été assassinés à sept ans d'intervalle.

Le parti du Congrès de la famille a gouverné l'Inde pendant plus de cinq décennies. Sa domination a pris fin en 2014 après une défaite écrasante face au BJP. Narendra Modi accuse souvent Rahul Gandhi de pratiquer une

## Rahul Gandhi, le "prince gâté", est désormais le principal challenger de Narendra Modi

politique dynastique, le qualifiant de "prince gâté".

**R**ahul Gandhi a fréquenté les meilleures écoles, a étudié aux États-Unis et a travaillé à Londres avant de retourner en Inde en 2002. Il a toujours été perçu comme un homme réservé qui ne s'intéressait pas à la politique. Beaucoup pensaient que sa sœur Priyanka était destinée à prendre la relève sur le plan politique.

Surprenant certains, en 2004, il s'était présenté comme député pour la circonscription d'Amethi dans l'État d'Uttar Pradesh. Il a gagné, et est entré à la chambre basse du Parlement indien.

Rahul Gandhi a fait appel à la base élargie du parti et a été considéré comme le leader du Congrès dès 2014. Il est devenu formellement président du parti en 2017.

Lorsque le parti a subi sa pire défaite en 2014, ne remportant que 44 des 543 sièges de l'Inde, il est devenu une cible de moquerie pour le BJP. Être appelé des noms comme "pappu" ou simplet continuait à le hanter. Les experts suggéraient que ses compétences en communication et ses absences fréquentes du Parlement le faisaient passer pour un leader peu sérieux.

Si les élections de 2014 ont été mauvaises, celles de 2019 n'ont pas été beaucoup meilleures: cette fois, le Congrès a remporté 52 sièges. M. Gandhi a personnellement assumé la responsabilité de la défaite et a démissionné de son poste de leader.

Il a également perdu son propre siège dans sa circonscription familiale d'Amethi, dans l'État septentrional d'Uttar Pradesh. Cependant, la loi indienne permet aux candidats de se présenter dans deux circonscriptions lors d'une élection, il est donc resté député après avoir remporté un siège dans l'État du Kerala, dans le sud du pays.

Rahul Gandhi n'est peut-être plus officiellement le leader du Congrès, mais il a tout de même été actif lors de ces élections. En plus de se présenter à Wayanad au Kerala, il a prononcé des discours enflammés lors de rassemblements, il a participé à des cortèges et il a tenu des réunions avec des militants et des sympathisants du parti.

**I**l a également voyagé dans d'autres pays, donné des conférences dans des universités prestigieuses et organisé des tournées pour rencontrer les communautés indiennes du monde entier.

L'homme surnommé "prince gâté" a failli aller en prison. L'année dernière, M. Gandhi a été condamné à deux ans de prison après avoir lié le nom de famille du Premier ministre à celui de deux hommes d'affaires également appelés Modi et recherchés par les autorités indiennes.

M. Gandhi affirme que les accusations portées contre lui sont politiquement motivées. Pour l'instant, la Cour suprême a suspendu sa condamnation.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 11





Anil Madan

# Climate Change Warnings: Is the End of the World Nigh?

**T**he juxtaposition was exquisite. Reports of a heat dome that is already scorching parts of Mexico and spreading across states in the southwest and south of the US — one that is forecast to shatter heat records and endanger the lives of elderly and other vulnerable people — come on the heels of the release by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) of its Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update covering the years 2024-2028. And there is the second annual Indicators of Global Climate Change report, under the auspices of the University of Leeds, stating that at present rates of carbon release, the world will put enough carbon into the atmosphere within five years to raise the global average temperature above the 1.5° C threshold agreed as one the world must not violate, at the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

A statement from Leeds University explained that analysis shows that the remaining carbon budget, or how much carbon dioxide can be emitted before we reach the 1.5° C level of temperature increase, is only around 200 gigatons, which represents about five years' worth at current emission levels.

Sensational headlines followed. The Mirror, a UK tabloid had this as part of a headline: "Five Years to Save the Planet ...". A report from UPI was headlined: "WMO: 80% chance Earth will exceed Paris Climate Agreement warming limits in next five years."

Well, not quite. The WMO stated that the likelihood that Earth's average temperature will temporarily surpass the 1.5° C threshold in the next five years has risen to 80%. This is to say that the chance that at least one of the next five years through 2028 will see us exceeding the 1.5° C Paris Climate Agreement (2015) threshold, has risen steadily (to 80%) since its signing when such a chance was close to zero. It is not clear what the word "temporarily" is intended to convey other than that the temperature will fluctuate.

As the WMO report was issued, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said: "We are playing Russian roulette with our planet." More on that later.

## Assessing rising temperatures and emissions trends

**T**here are, of course, significant concerns raised by these reports. The Leeds report notes that the rate of increase of warming has risen to 1.19° C over the past decade (2014-2023) which is an increase over the 1.14° C for the 2013-2022 period. The difference may appear minuscule, but in terms of the available carbon budget to exhaust before reaching the Paris Climate Agreement threshold of 1.5° C, it makes a huge difference — leaving about five years' worth of fuel burning, as they say. But then, the temperature increase is not attributable solely to fossil fuel burning.

The Leeds University report notes that its total emissions numbers include what it refers to as non-methane short-lived climate forcers or SLCFs. Emissions of all SLCFs were reduced in 2022 relative to 2019 but rebounded again in 2023. The primary driver of the increase in 2023 is an anomalous biomass burning year, mostly related to the unprecedented 2023 Canadian fire season, with a smaller contribu-



Pic - Truthout

“One estimate is that fossil fuel emissions represent 70% of all greenhouse gases (GHGs). The question remains whether we can reduce fossil fuel consumption enough to make a difference in the short run. In a previous piece on climate change, I noted that I have not seen evidence that reducing fossil fuel consumption to zero will reverse the temperature increases that we have seen, but perhaps continued consumption at present rates will lead us to a tipping point... My point was, and remains, that we do not have the technology or resources to replace fossil fuels rapidly enough to make a difference...”

tion from a continued recovery from Covid-19. Under these assumptions, 2023 was a record year for emissions of organic carbon (driven again by a very active biomass burning season) and ammonia (driven by a steady background increase in agricultural sources, plus a contribution from biomass burning).

**O**ne estimate is that fossil fuel emissions represent 70% of all greenhouse gases (GHGs). The question remains whether we can reduce fossil fuel consumption enough to make a difference in the short run. In a previous piece on climate change, I noted that I have not seen evidence that reducing fossil fuel consumption to zero will reverse the temperature increases that we have seen, but perhaps continued consumption at present rates will lead us to a tipping point.

A friend wrote to me about those comments and said he disagreed because he believes there are solutions out there and some are being implemented. I pointed out that I did not say that we should abandon efforts to reduce fossil fuel burning. In fact, I specifically said that I am all in favor of deploying alternate energy solutions where possible. I am not a fan of nuclear power, but I could be convinced that the enormous risks that unmanageable nuclear waste poses to the world may be worth taking if it represents a reversal of the tipping point. I am also 100% a supporter of continuing research into developing alternative and clean energy production.

My point was, and remains, that we do not have the technology or resources to replace fossil fuels rapidly enough to make a difference. This cannot be doubted when we consider that the US, China, and India, propose to continue consumption at current rates (or more) for the foreseeable future. We may well find a solution by 2050, or 2060, or 2070 when the US, China, and India, respectively, promise to be at zero net carbon. In the meantime, the tipping point will have come.

What we do need are urgent steps to mitigate the effects of the soaring heat waves and climate disasters that have

become all too frequent. And there is scant attention being paid on this score. This is a worldwide failing.

## Not gloom and doom

But all is not gloom and doom. In 2022, 40.6% of the US electricity generation was from “clean” - generation, up from less than 1% a decade ago. But when you consider total energy use, not just electricity, wind and solar represented less than 5% of the total energy used by Americans in 2020.

In 2022, about 16% of China's and 10.5% of India's energy consumption was from renewable resources. Obviously, there is much room for growth of renewable sources for these three largest emitters of GHG. Progress may have been slow, but it is accelerating.

**A**s extreme weather events produce record-breaking temperatures, floods and wildfires, there is a tendency to sensationalize the entire subject. So, last Tuesday, the heat dome produced record temperatures in Texas that exceeded 110° F. Heat warnings have been issued in California, Arizona, Nevada, Arkansas, Texas and more.

But the WMO did not say that we are going over the tipping point within five years. What their report said is that at least one year between 2024 and 2028 will beat 2023 as the warmest on record.

Getting back to Guterres, he said: “We need an exit ramp off the highway to climate hell.” But while he allowed that the good news is “we have control of the wheel,” he warned that the battle to slow the rate of increase in Earth's temperature and keeping it within the Paris Climate Agreement limit, will be won or lost in the rest of this decade of the 2020s.

The WMO notes that its report highlights the need for, and urgency of action on climate. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that the world's average temperature on land and at the oceans' surface set a global record in 2023.

“We must urgently do more to cut greenhouse gas emissions, or we will pay an increasingly heavy price in terms of trillions of dollars in economic costs, millions of lives affected by more extreme weather and extensive damage to the environment and biodiversity,” WMO's Deputy Secretary General Ko Barrett said. He noted that behind these statistics, lies the bleak reality that the world is way off track to meet the Paris Climate Agreement goals.

## Climate Change by the Numbers

Here are some numbers to think about.

The global mean temperature in 2023 was about 1.45° C above the 1850-1900 average, close to the 1.5° threshold. 2023 is the warmest year on record, because of long-term climate change and the effect of 2023/2024 El Niño episode. Global sea level increased to a new high of 4.3 inches (110 mm) in 2023, since the beginning of the satellite altimetry measurement in 1993.

It is well to keep in mind that as the WMO explains, climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent human-induced changes in the composition of the atmosphere, ocean or in land use.

“Anthropogenic” or “human-induced climate change” results from human activities which are already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. These can include:

- burning of fossil fuels,

● Cont. on page 7





"Il faudra accorder la pension de vieillesse à partir de 65 ans (au lieu de 60 ans) en alignant l'âge d'éligibilité pour la pension sur l'âge de retraite du travail, comme c'est le cas dans la plupart des pays. Une exemption est souhaitable pour ceux qui ont pour seule source de revenu la pension de vieillesse après 60 ans..."

### Budget 2024-25 et rapport du FMI

## L'économie est à un tournant critique

#### ● Suite de la page 3 La réforme fiscale

Le FMI estime que le revenu fiscal à Maurice, qui représente 21% du PIB en 2022-23, est inférieur à son potentiel dans la proportion de 6% du PIB. Dans les pays de l'OCDE, le revenu fiscal est en moyenne de 33% du PIB. Le gouvernement accepte que le pays puisse potentiellement accroître le revenu fiscal jusqu'à 25% du PIB.

Pour augmenter le revenu fiscal, le FMI propose:

- (a) Que le seuil à partir duquel le revenu personnel annuel devient assujéti à l'impôt sur le revenu soit abaissé.

À Maurice, le revenu net imposable (le revenu brut moins les déductions diverses) n'est pas taxé sur les premières Rs 390 000 (un seuil d'exemption). Donc, une personne ayant un revenu brut de Rs 500 000 par an est exemptée d'impôt après des déductions de Rs 110 000.

- (b) Que les taux d'imposition marginaux supérieurs soient augmentés.

En d'autres mots, le FMI propose une fiscalité directe progressive. Dans son budget 2023-24, le gouvernement avait aboli l'impôt uniforme de 15% pour le remplacer par un impôt progressif de 2% à 20% selon les tranches de revenu à partir de Rs 390 000 par an. Dans un article «L'impôt sur le revenu est-il vraiment progressif» publié le 9 juin 2023, nous avons souligné que la nouvelle structure d'impôt n'était pas assez progressive parce que le gouvernement avait aboli le taux d'imposition marginal de 40% (taux uniforme de 15% plus la taxe de solidarité de 25%) sur le revenu annuel de plus de Rs 3 millions. La nouvelle structure a causé un manque à gagner en revenu fiscal direct de Rs 3,5 milliards. Dans les pays de l'OCDE, les taux d'imposition marginaux supérieurs varient de 30% à 50%.

- (c) Que l'impôt sur le revenu des sociétés opérant dans le secteur offshore soit réformé.

Cet impôt est de 3% comparé à l'impôt de 15% pour les sociétés locales en général (sauf pour les compagnies d'exportation). L'OCDE a proposé un impôt global minimal de 15% sur les sociétés. Tôt

ou tard, Maurice devra se plier à cette exigence lorsqu'elle entrera en vigueur.

#### La dette nationale

Le FMI propose que la dette publique (Rs 538 milliards pour 2023-24) soit réduite en limitant les dépenses extrabudgétaires effectuées à travers les fonds spéciaux créés par le gouvernement pour des buts spécifiques (Covid Fund, National Resilience Fund). Le ratio dette publique/PIB est de 78,3% en 2023-24, soit légèrement sous le plafond de 80%. Pour le réduire davantage, il faudra augmenter le revenu fiscal et réduire les dépenses publiques.

Le FMI note que le risque de «stress souverain» (insolvabilité nationale) est élevé en raison de la dette publique, des besoins d'investissement capital, des passifs éventuels (*contingent liabilities*) liés à la recapitalisation de la BOM et la dette extérieure, et des risques associés au vieillissement de la population et au changement climatique.

#### La BOM et la MIC

Le FMI propose que la MIC (Mauritius Investment Corporation), une société créée par la BOM (Banque de Maurice) avec un capital de Rs 80 milliards pour venir en aide aux compagnies privées ayant besoin de fonds de roulement, soit transférée à une société d'investissement de l'Etat.

Dans un article «MIC: Un changement de vocation pour la Banque centrale», publié le 26 mai 2020, nous avons souligné la confusion de rôles entre la BOM (un régulateur bancaire) et la MIC (un investisseur). Une telle relation entre parties liées (une société de portefeuille contrôlant une filiale) faisait de la BOM un régulateur-opérateur, agissant ainsi *ultra vires* à la loi (Bank of Mauritius Act).

Le plus grave, c'est que la MIC a donné Rs 52 milliards à 52 entités privées sous forme de prise de participation à leur capital ou d'obligations remboursables selon des critères peu connus, y compris les Rs 25 milliards investis dans l'actionnariat d'Airport Holdings Ltd. L'évaluation des actions achetées par la MIC et des obligations remboursables porte un risque de pertes.

Prakash Neerohoo

### Breakfast with Bwana

## Climate Change Warnings: Is the End of the World Nigh?

#### ● Cont. from page 6

- deforestation,
- land use and land use changes,
- livestock management,
- fertilization,
- waste management, and
- industrial processes.

The additional good news is that the UN's 2023 Emissions Gap Report found that greenhouse gas emissions are projected to increase by 3% in 2030, which is an improvement from the 16% increase projected at the time the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015. But emissions remain, for

scientists have noted that July 4 last year was the hottest-ever day on record for average global temperature. The twelve months through October 2023 was the hottest period since record-keeping started in 1850.

NOAA data show the average recorded temperature in 2023 was almost 59° F, which is more than 2+ degrees higher than the global average for the 20th century.

Guterres ended his speech with a somewhat goofy statement. He decried fossil fuel companies as the "godfathers of climate



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres: "We need an exit ramp off the highway to climate hell...". Pic - Getty Images

now, above levels needed to meet goals for limiting global temperature increases.

Meanwhile Guterres continues to bang the drums about climate change. He said that last month was "the hottest May in recorded history."

The WMO report arrived the same day the UN Secretary-General gave remarks at New York's American Museum of Natural History where he was blunt about the news on World Environment Day, which he called "the hottest May in recorded history." He added that we are not heeding the message that our planet is sending us. "We're not only in danger, we are the danger," he said. "But we are also the solution."

"The truth is, global emissions need to fall 9% every year until 2030 to keep the 1.5-degree limit alive," Guterres said.

The WMO predicts further reductions in sea-ice concentration through the next five years in the Barents Sea, the Bering Sea, and Sea of Okhotsk. Climate

chaos" and said that they should be banned in every country from advertising. He called on news and tech media to stop enabling "planetary destruction" by taking fossil-fuel advertising money. Perhaps this is well-intentioned but what this is likely to achieve is more profit for fossil fuels companies if they eliminate their advertising expenditures. Perhaps what Guterres was getting at is the fact that fossil fuel companies in the US and Britain spent millions of dollars in promoting natural gas as an answer to the climate crisis.

It is clear that a ban on advertising would not survive a First Amendment (freedom of speech and expression) challenge in the US. Perhaps, free speech considerations in Britain as well, would preclude enforcement of such a ban. In any event, it is not clear that people will cut using fossil fuels to power their homes or vehicles simply because ads promoting natural gas disappear.

Cheerz...  
Bwana





Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Third time victory for PM Modi: A mandate for continuity

**F**or the third time consecutively, PM Modi has led his party BJP to victory in India's general election that ended last weekend, with results being declared on Tuesday June 4 in the evening. It is only the second time ever that a sitting PM has won the general election in India, the previous candidate to achieve this being its first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962.

Modi repeats at national level what he did in Gujarat in the state elections – there too winning three times as Chief Minister, acquiring a rich experience in governance and development which prepared him for assuming the wider responsibilities of leading the country, beginning in 2014.

An electoral win for the third time by a sitting PM is considered to be a historical feat, and rightly so! Modi 3.0 will lead Bharat again.

As usual, several media houses conducted exit polls on the eve of the results being declared, even including a 'poll of polls'. All of them excitedly concluded to a 'massive' win for the outgoing BJP, almost approximating the '400 paar' slogan that was the BJP's war cry. But they forgot that slogans are just that: slogans – obviously meant to motivate cadres and set an ideal objective that may or may not in practice be attained: for that is abundantly clear from previous records.

In fact, this was so in 2004, when the psephologists – those who specialize in predicting poll results – anticipated a clear win for BJP led by PM Vajpayee. This did not materialize, for the exact opposite happened, despite the fact that under his watch the country had made significant economic progress. 'It's the economy, stupid!' was then being believed. But clearly the economic and developmental record of Vajpayee was not enough to convince the electorate.

I remembered this episode in Bharat's recent history, and so I was more cautious in my assessment and did not subscribe to the euphoria that had invaded media rooms following the exit poll announcements, and I shared my view with some friends, who also felt likewise.

So we took the results in our stride as it were, keeping in view past realities and the current context and circumstances where all kinds of undercurrents and negative narratives were at play.

The final tally gave us reason to have tread more carefully.

Thus, in the Lok Sabha of 543, the BJP obtained 240 seats, with the main opposition party the Congress at 99 seats - not able to go beyond 100 for the third time in succession, as pointed out by the BJP spokesperson, Shehzad Poonawala. Both parties contracted pre-electoral alliances – respectively NDA (National Democratic Alliance) and INDIA, at 294 and 232 seats each, the remaining 17 seats reckoned as 'Other'.

At the BJP's headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday evening, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared victory for the NDA, saying that 'today's victory is the victory of the world's largest democracy,' which gives him a mandate for continuing to move forward with his agenda.

The two key allies of Modi in the NDA are the Telugu



**A third mandate for BJP: 'Indian democracy, despite being chaotic and noisy, functions effectively, despite the negative narratives and criticisms that are labelled against it by local naysayers and their acolytes in the global ecosystem that are not comfortable with the unstoppable rise of Bharat – with a projected GDP growth of 8.3% – ever since Modi assumed power ten years ago. And that is likely to continue as the NDA gets into gear.' Pic - NDTV**

Desam Party (TDP) led by Chandrababu Naidu in Andhra Pradesh state with 16 seats and Janata Dal (United) -JDU, led by Nitish Kumar which won 12 seats in Bihar state. Smaller groups make up the rest of the seats.

It was an election of stupendous proportions both in terms of the sheer numbers and the logistics involved to conduct the process. There were almost 970 million voters out of a population of 1.4 billion, and votes were cast by more than 640 million people under the supervision of nearly 15 million personnel. Some stray incidents of violence took place, predictably in West Bengal which is notorious for its Marxist-Communist past and the destructive Naxalite movement which erupted in the late 1960s – and which I 'lived through' as a medical student in Calcutta at that time. Sadly, that violent streak has been carried over!

Despite the protest by the opposition for resorting to conventional voting by paper ballot, the Supreme Court of Bharat ruled in favour of electronic voting, using the Electronic Voting Machine or EVM – as happened too in the previous two general elections, efficiently and successfully.

The opposition entered three petitions in the Supreme Court prior to the completion of the election, alleging tampering with EVMs, and one of the members made allegations of influence peddling of the District Magistrates by the Home Minister Amit Shah.

In a press conference, the Election Commissioner strongly rebutted these allegations, and invited the

member to come up with concrete evidence of the alleged influencing of District Magistrates. This would be duly analysed and he gave the guarantee that if proven the EC would take appropriate action.

But in fact, the opposition went further to threaten that if the results didn't come up to their expectations, the 'country would be set on fire'! In a panel discussion, one the most well-known analysts Suhel Seth, a brand specialist who is from West Bengal squarely condemned those who were planning to take to the streets. He challenged them to answer whether this is the kind of democracy they wanted to project for their country, instead of having recourse to due legal process for any genuine grievances that they might harbour post the election.

But interestingly, after the results were declared, Congress party President Mallikarjun Kharge told reporters: 'This is public's victory and a win for democracy!' – with no criticism of the EVM system, as the INDIA Alliance had bagged an honourable score.

This shows that Indian democracy, despite being chaotic and noisy, functions effectively, despite the negative narratives and criticisms that are labelled against it by local naysayers and their acolytes in the global ecosystem that are not comfortable with the unstoppable rise of Bharat – with a projected GDP growth of 8.3% - ever since Modi assumed power ten years ago. And that is likely to continue as the NDA gets into gear.

Now we have to bide our patience as we trust that NDA will fulfill its mandate.



Dharam Gokhool

# Budget 2024-25: 'People are realizing there are no free lunches...

...ultimately, they'll have to foot the bill with more or higher taxes'



**F**ollowing the recent Indian elections, the need to decipher lessons from the outcomes is vital. While the BJP-led NDA Alliance secured a majority under PM Modi's leadership, the Opposition INDIA alliance, led by Rahul Gandhi, made significant progress. These results highlight the unpredictability of electoral preferences, challenging exit polls' reliability and reaffirming democracy's reliance on voters. As Mauritius potentially approaches its own elections, today's budget presentation may shed light on the MSM-led government's electoral strategy. Dharam Gokhool, former Labour government minister, shares insights into the economic and social factors shaping the electoral landscape.

the ballot box.

During his two mandates, Prime Minister Modi delivered on many of his key manifesto promises like generous welfare programmes but was not able to tackle socio-economic challenges like joblessness, rising prices, growing inequality that hurt the common people the most.

His closeness with the business sector created the perception that corporate interests were being favoured at the expense of people's interests, and the Opposition successfully exploited this perception to its advantage. It contributed to erode people's trust in Modi's government and resulted in significant loss of seats for his party.

Secondly, Indian democracy, since the painful days of its independence, has been built on secular principles, with tolerance and peaceful coexistence as its main foundation stones. Divisive politics have limits and, when stretched too far, can backfire in the long run. In UP, the home to the Ram Mandir, consecrated on January 24, surprisingly, did not provide BJP with the traction it expected, and it suffered severe setbacks.

Thirdly, when governments stay in power for too long, the risks associated with abuse or misuse of power increases and people opt for a change. This is the anti-incumbency syndrome which can also adversely impact on a government's chances of retaining power. After two successive mandates, it is likely that the Modi government also suffered from the anti-incumbency factor as it has happened in many other democracies.

Fourthly, once again, as in many other cases, we find that exit polls are not reliable indicators of the people's

**“The Mauritian political current landscape with some 50% of the electorate sitting on the fence could be an indication of a certain degree of disillusionment with mainstream political parties. On the other hand, it could also be an indication of what we call the extra-Parliamentary parties' inability to attract this large chunk of undecided voters to their fold. But all is not lost for mainstream political parties...”**

voting preferences. Pollsters and psychologists are not able to read voters' minds with accuracy. It is the ballot box that continues to hold the secret of electoral outcomes.

And finally, the results also show that we must not lose faith in democracy and that people are the ultimate guardians of democracy. They decide and will keep politicians under control through checks and balances. Their support will contribute to recalibrate the INDIA alliance and hopefully restore and strengthen the democratic credentials of India.

**\* There could also be an element of “wear and tear of power” behind the mediocre electoral performance of mainstream parties in many countries, which could explain the gradual erosion of support and popularity of a leader or political party as a result of being in power for an extended period. Both the Labour Party, the MMM and the MSM have had that bitter experience here, and it seems they have yet to fully grasp that lesson. What do you think?**

In any system, human or biological, renewal or regeneration is essential, otherwise the system loses its dynamism and relevance. The system will fall prey to a phenomenon known as entropy. A state of disorder, decay and death.

The same principle applies to political systems and parties that persist with outdated practices. Indeed, in many countries, political parties have become victims of the “wear and tear of power,” losing support and popularity. This decline has created opportunities for new players to emerge as alternatives and competitors.

The Mauritian political current landscape with some 50% of the electorate sitting on the fence could be an indication of a certain degree of disillusionment with mainstream political parties. On the other hand, it could also be an indication of what we call the extra-Parliamentary parties' inability to attract this large chunk of undecided voters to their fold.

But all is not lost for mainstream political parties. Their leaders have a significant opportunity to undertake major re-engineering programmes within their establishments to stop the erosion of support and popularity. Will they take up the challenge to rethink, reboot, and rebound? That remains an unanswered question in the minds of many.

● Cont. on page 10

**Mauritius Times:** While the context may differ, there are valuable lessons to be learned from the results of the Indian elections announced last Tuesday. What can we learn from these election outcomes?

**Dharam Gokhool:** The BJP-led NDA Alliance of PM Modi, running for a third mandate secured the majority needed to form its third consecutive government, but it fell short of its goal of winning a substantial majority of 400+ seats. Additionally, the party made gains in the South but lost ground in the North. The Opposition INDIA alliance, led by Rahul Gandhi, made significant progress both in the North and South, and Congress secured a total of 99 seats, propelling Rahul Gandhi as a serious challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Although the context is different, and it may take some time to digest all the facts and figures to get a clearer picture of what happened and why, already a few preliminary lessons can be drawn.

Firstly, in a democracy, people are sovereign, and they can make and unmake governments and governments stay in power so long as they uphold the trust of the people. Otherwise, voter discontent finds its voice in

**“During electoral campaigns, recourse to freebies has now become a standard political practice and to a certain extent, can and do influence voter behaviour. But it would be a mistake to assume that a government would automatically reap political dividends by merely distributing freebies seasonally. That would be tantamount to taking voters for granted...”**



# 'Xavier Duval finds himself at a crucial crossroad. Difficult decisions must be made.

Will he compromise his principles and align with the MSM, or will he adhere to them?'

● Cont. from page 9

\* Factors such as resolute leadership, pragmatic governance, and meritocracy have contributed to the victories of Lee Kuan Yew's People's Action Party in all Singaporean elections post-independence. But it's crucial to have an informed electorate, rather than an opportunist and fickle one that's easily swayed by freebies, to achieve such electoral dominance. That is not always available everywhere, including in Mauritius, wouldn't you agree?

During electoral campaigns, recourse to freebies has now become a standard political practice and to a certain extent, can and do influence voter behaviour. But it would be a mistake to assume that a government would automatically reap political dividends by merely distributing freebies seasonally. That would be tantamount to taking voters for granted and ignoring their more fundamental and legitimate longer concerns like improving the quality of life of their families and children.

For example, doubling old-age pensions during the 2019 elections did not sway the electorate massively in its favor; otherwise, it would have scored a higher percentage of votes than 37%. Now, with rising inflation, diminishing purchasing power, and growing indebtedness at both the national and household levels preoccupying the minds of the electorate, if the government decides to dish out more freebies, they will be welcome. However, it is unclear how much this will sway electoral preferences.

People are realizing that there are no free lunches and that, in the end, they will have to foot the bill through more or higher taxes and more sacrifices while scarce public funds are being mismanaged. They may also have to bear the social consequences of a breakdown in law and order or the proliferation of drugs, which freebies would not address. In this case, freebies could very well be inversely correlated with electoral dominance. Many Mauritians are now familiar with the electoral *"mot d'ordre"*: *'Prend zot l'argent, mais pas vote zotte.'*

\* Minister Padayachy's Budget in the lead-up to the next elections will be presented today. The public's perception of this last Budget will be crucial for the MSM-led government. What more can it offer, even if it requires printing more money, to help sway the electoral outcome?

After 10 years of being at the helm of the government and consistently presenting socially oriented budgets to reap political dividends, even if the government realizes

“Padayachy's track record on vital issues such as climate emergency, food security, and technological innovations has been far from impressive. In light of the prevailing morose mood among a large portion of the population and the absence of the “feel-good” factor, coupled with the urgent need to steer the economy away from further irreparable damage, he will likely find himself in a catch-22 dilemma...”



that it is time to change course and reorient the economy towards more productive investments, reducing public debt, tackling inflation, and strengthening the value of the rupee against foreign currencies, I do not see Padayachy taking any risks that would jeopardize the political prospects of the MSM during the next elections. It will inevitably be more of the same accompanied by more “tap latab”.

This is the last Budget of Padayachy. So far, he has not been able to produce a grand strategy to propel Mauritius to a higher level of prosperity, nor has he been able to add any new revenue-generating or job-creating pillars. His track record on vital issues such as climate emergency, food security, and technological innovations has been far from impressive.

In light of the prevailing morose mood among a large portion of the population and the absence of the “feel-good” factor, coupled with the urgent need to steer the economy away from further irreparable damage, Padayachy will likely find himself in a catch-22 dilemma as his tenure as Minister of Finance draws to a close.

\* In light of the recent election results in India and the factors influencing that outcome, there's a possibility the government might reconsider its electoral strategy to achieve the desired results. Apart from the routine inauguration of infrastructural projects, it's probable that Opposition leaders will face inquiries or further investigations by the CCID or the FCC. Do you believe such tactics will be effective?

Already political opponents are in the firing line of the institutions you have mentioned. Others are under the scrutiny of BIG Brother, courtesy of the NSS.

Similar manoeuvres were resorted to by the Central CID in India. According to BBC, NDA faced “accusations of stifling dissent, with leading opposition figures jailed on what they say are trumped-up charges”. Not only BJP suffered setbacks in many of its strongholds, but seven out of 10 Union ministers from the BJP who fought from UP lost their seats, and the list of the casualties includes such stalwarts like Smriti Irani from Amethi. Four other Union Ministers who retained their seats did so with

“People are realizing that there are no free lunches and that, in the end, they will have to foot the bill through more or higher taxes and more sacrifices while scarce public funds are being mismanaged. They may also have to bear the social consequences of a breakdown in law and order or the proliferation of drugs, which freebies would not address...”

reduced margins.

In the South African elections, similar charges of repression against political opponents were levelled at ANC. The ANC suffered severe losses with its vote share dipping to 40 percent, from 57% obtained in 2019.

We should also not forget that the Mauritian political culture is rooted in the spirit of fair play and the principle of *“Morisien pas content dominere”*. The writings are on the wall for those who are tempted to resort to repressive tactics. They should not be surprised at all by the boomerang effects of such tactics during and after elections.

\* In what ways do you think the opposition parties might respond to the government's tactics of offering short-term benefits to voters or to tarnish the image and reputation of Opposition leaders if it decides to go for the kill?

If we scrutinize the 10-year track record of the alliance in power, opposition parties have more than enough political ammunition to corner the government. Economic mismanagement has resulted in the declining purchasing power of voters, heavy indebtedness of both households and the Treasury, proliferation of drugs, various scandals, a drift towards autocracy, the capture of state institutions, the erosion of meritocracy, and the upsurge of cronyism, among other issues. Not that the government does not have some achievements to its credit, but the political liabilities weigh much heavier against it.

The opposition's response should be well-articulated around a credible list of candidates, a people-centric electoral manifesto, responsible campaigning, leveraging social media, and staying connected to ground realities. It's important to bear in mind that the exercise of power and its misuse or abuse generally attract voter sanction, as seen recently in India and South Africa.

\* Xavier Duval has left mainstream Opposition alliance, and he has yet to publicly disclose any potential future alliance partner. What according to you will be Xavier's ultimate move?

Xavier did a very good job as Leader of the Opposition, and his adept handling of the Speaker's bullying tactics earned him a lot of public esteem. When he left the MSM government due to his strong disagreement with the Prosecution Commission Bill and its questionable motivations, he gained widespread public respect as a defender of democracy across the political spectrum.

The Financial Crime Commission (FCC) appears to be a revised version of the Prosecution Commission Bill, and there should be no illusion about its agenda. Some visible signs of its intentions are already emerging.

● Cont. on page 11



# 'There should be no illusion about the FCC's agenda. Some visible signs of its intentions are already emerging'



● Cont. from page 10

Xavier finds himself at a crucial crossroad in his political career. These are moments when difficult decisions must be made. Will he compromise his principles and align with the MSM, or will he adhere to them?

Politics should prioritize public interest. When politics deviates from this, personal interest takes precedence. Jim Collins, in his book "How the Mighty Fall," outlines five reasons for failures, among which he highlights "the undisciplined pursuit of more." But more in whose interest? To answer this question, Xavier must listen to his inner voice before making his ultimate move.

**\* Beyond economic concerns and social issues do you think there are other factors that may play a significant role in shaping the electoral outcome?**

A multitude of factors will influence the choices of voters, extending beyond mere economic and social concerns. Democracy and freedom will hold significance, particularly among the younger generation. Families will ponder whether their children will have a better future in Mauritius. Concerns about elderly care and compassion will weigh heavily. Additionally, issues such as law and order, meritocracy, social justice, food security, and environmental emergencies will resonate with everyone.

**"People should be able to connect with a clear and optimistic vision for the Republic of Mauritius after 56 years of independence. Just imagine if SSR and his team did not have a vision for post-independence Mauritius. That ethos of shaping the future of a strong, united nation forging ahead with confidence should be revitalized. The upcoming elections should serve as a wake-up call for all Mauritians..."**

**"The Financial Crime Commission (FCC) appears to be a revised version of the Prosecution Commission Bill, and there should be no illusion about its agenda. Some visible signs of its intentions are already emerging. Xavier finds himself at a crucial crossroad in his political career. These are moments when difficult decisions must be made. Will he compromise his principles and align with the MSM, or will he adhere to them?"**

There's a spectrum of issues, ranging from core to peripheral, specific to cross-cutting, that will shape voter decisions. We should not underestimate the voters' ability to make responsible choices that benefit the country and its people. Gone are the days when voters could be viewed as the fixed deposits of political parties.

**\* Governments, organizations, and communities that perform well often develop strategic plans and long-term visions to guide their actions and shape their future trajectory. Lately, however, it seems we've become overly preoccupied with determining the outcomes of upcoming elections. Do you believe the lack of focus on long-term planning and vision can indeed pose significant risks to both stability and development, or do you think we will survive regardless?**

We cannot afford to leave our destinies to uncertainties. There must be a degree of continuity and sustainability regardless of changes in governments. Medium- and long-term strategic planning is not just an option; it is a vital necessity in today's world.

In the past, there was a Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, which has since been scrapped. Over the past decade, has the government implemented an Economic Development strategy? Shouldn't the protection of our biodiversity and the preservation of our national assets be our priorities? Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are being conducted without proper due diligence. Does this not amount to the criminal destruction of our scarce and vulnerable ecosystem?

There is an urgent need to integrate these disjointed pieces into a coherent whole that is responsive to current and emerging challenges. People should be able to connect with a clear and optimistic vision for the Republic of Mauritius after 56 years of independence. Just imagine if SSR and his team did not have a vision for post-independence Mauritius. That ethos of shaping the future of a strong, united nation forging ahead with confidence should be revitalized.

The upcoming elections should serve as a wake-up call for all Mauritians who believe in our common destiny as one people, one nation, striving for peace, justice, and shared prosperity through sustainable socio-economic development.

The political manifestos of parties vying for power in the upcoming elections will offer clear indications of how the future of the country will be managed and where voters will place their trust. This will be a defining moment for our democracy.

## Éclairages

# Élections européennes: les enjeux

● Suite de la page 5

**P**rès de 400 millions de citoyens de l'Union européenne sont appelés aux urnes pour élire les députés européens dans l'un des plus grands événements démocratiques mondiaux. Les partis d'extrême-droite espèrent gagner du pouvoir face à la hausse du coût de la vie et au mécontentement des agriculteurs, tandis que les guerres à Gaza et en Ukraine préoccupent les électeurs.



400 millions de citoyens de l'Union européenne sont appelés aux urnes pour élire les députés européens.  
P - Conversation

Les élections se tiennent tous les cinq ans dans les 27 États membres. Le nombre de députés élus par pays varie selon la population, de six pour Malte, le Luxembourg et Chypre à 96 pour l'Allemagne. En 2020, après le Brexit, le nombre de députés est passé à 705. Cette année, le Parlement comptera 720 députés, avec 12 pays recevant des sièges supplémentaires.

Le Parlement européen est le seul organe de l'UE élu directement par les citoyens. Il vote des lois sur divers sujets et approuve le budget de l'UE. Les députés jouent un rôle crucial dans le système de freins et contrepoids en approuvant la nomination des commissaires européens.

## Les principaux enjeux

L'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie domine les préoccupations, avec des sujets clés comme la défense, la sécurité, l'économie, l'emploi, la santé publique, le changement climatique et l'avenir de l'Europe.

Les groupes d'extrême-droite, les Conservateurs et réformistes européens (ECR) et Identité et démocratie (ID), pourraient devenir les troisième et quatrième plus grands groupes politiques au Parlement. Toutefois, leur capacité à influencer l'agenda de l'UE reste incertaine.

## Après les élections

Les députés éliront leur président lors de la première session plénière en juillet, suivie de la nomination du président de la Commission européenne. Ursula von der Leyen, l'actuelle présidente, pourrait être reconduite, mais elle devra obtenir un large soutien.

A. Bartleby





Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Britain's main opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer. Pic - AFP

## UK poll predicts biggest ever Labour Party win

**B**ritain's opposition Labour Party could be on the path to the biggest election victory in its history, pollsters YouGov said on Monday, predicting a thumping 194-seat majority.

The poll, which looked at voting estimates across all UK constituencies, predicted that Labour could win 422 out of 650 seats in the July 4 election, reports AFP.

The Conservatives under Prime Minister Rishi Sunak were predicted to win 140 seats by the YouGov poll, which was carried out for Sky News television.

Labour's victory would be bigger than its former leader Tony Blair's majority in 1997 and could see the party now led by Keir Starmer gain 222 seats after its bitter defeat at the last vote in 2019.

The Tories, however, were predicted to lose 232 seats across the country.

This latest poll will likely make grim reading for Sunak after failing to budge polls suggesting a sizeable Labour lead following nearly two weeks of intensive campaigning.

The smaller opposition Liberal Democrat party was expected to quadruple its seats to 48.

The findings were revealed moments after Brexit figurehead Nigel Farage announced he was taking over as leader of the anti-immigration Reform UK party and standing as a candidate in the election. The poll predicted Reform would win no seats.

Projections also showed that seats held by some big Tory government names were under threat, including those belonging to finance minister Jeremy Hunt and defence minister Grant Shapps.

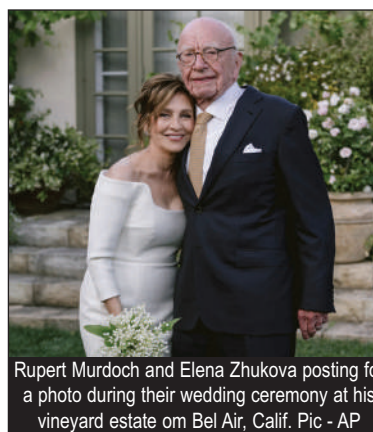
## Rupert Murdoch, 93, ties the knot for the 5th time

**M**edia magnate Rupert Murdoch, 93, has married for the fifth time, his corporation, News Corp, confirmed Sunday.

Murdoch and Elena Zhukova, a 67-year-old Russian-born retired molecular biologist, wed Saturday in a ceremony at his vineyard estate in Bel Air, California. Photographs of the newly married couple were released by News Corp. The couple announced their engagement in March.

Murdoch was most recently married to model and actor Jerry Hall. They were wed in 2016 and divorced in 2022, reports AP.

Zhukova is the ex-wife of Alexander Zhukov, a billionaire energy investor and Russian politician. Their daughter, Dasha, was previously married to Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, who used to own the



Rupert Murdoch and Elena Zhukova posing for a photo during their wedding ceremony at his vineyard estate in Bel Air, Calif. Pic - AP

Premier League soccer club Chelsea.

Last fall, Murdoch stepped down as leader of both Fox News' parent company and his News Corp media holdings. His son, Lachlan, took his place in a media empire that spans continents and helped to shape modern American politics.

In 1952, Murdoch inherited a newspaper in his native Australia from his father. Over decades, he built a news and entertainment enterprise that became prominent in the United States and Britain, including ownership of such notable newspapers as The Times of

London and The Wall Street Journal.

Fox News Channel, the 24-hour network founded in 1996, has profoundly influenced television, becoming a popular news source among many conservative U.S. audiences and politicians.

## Expect the cost of your airfare to continue to rise

**T**he cost of your next flight is likely to go up. That's the word from the International Air Transport Association, which held its annual meeting Monday in Dubai, home to the long-haul carrier Emirates.

While carriers recover from the groundings worldwide from the coronavirus pandemic, industry leaders told journalists that there are several costs likely to push those ticket prices ever higher, reports AP.

Part of that comes from worldwide inflation, an ongoing problem since the pandemic started. Jet fuel costs, roughly a third of all airline expenses, remain high. Meanwhile, a global push for the aviation industry to decarbonize has more carriers fighting for the little amount of so-called sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF, available in the market.

"The airlines will continue to do

everything they can to keep costs in control as much as possible for the benefit of consumers," said Willie Walsh, the director-general of the International Air Transport Association, an industry-trade group. "But I think it's unrealistic to expect that airlines can continue to absorb all of the costs. ... It's not something we like to do, but it's something we have to do."

Also pressuring the industry is a pandemic hangover in aircraft production as well, they say. Carriers now keep older planes that burn more fuel flying longer. There also aren't enough new aircraft to expand routes and increase supply to bring down overall prices.

That warning comes as the IATA estimates that globally airline revenue will reach nearly \$1 trillion in 2024, a record high. There will be

4.96 billion travelers on airplanes this year, with total expenses for carriers reaching \$936 billion — another record high. But industry profits also are expected to be nearly \$60 billion this year.

In particular, Emirates, a main driver for Dubai's economy, saw record profits of \$4.7 billion in 2023 off revenues of \$33 billion.

The Emirates' results track with those for its base, Dubai International Airport. The world's busiest airport for international travelers had 86.9 million passengers last year, surpassing numbers for 2019 just before the coronavirus pandemic grounded global aviation.

The airport now plans to move to the city-state's second, sprawling airfield in its southern desert reaches in the next 10 years in a project worth nearly \$35 billion.

## Fauci's Covid-19 revelations: from 'lab leak theory' to 'US needs to prepare for next...'

**I**n a riveting congressional hearing, Dr Anthony Fauci, the prominent US government scientist, made major revelations about the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic and claims of a cover-up. With unwavering candour, Fauci addressed a myriad of contentious issues surrounding the virus, declaring, "Nothing to hide." As the first day of grilling came to an end, he left the room after shaking hands with multiple White House staffers, while Ranking Member Raul Ruiz thanked him for his testimony and service to the country.

### 'Dr Fauci did not fund research'

In his final remarks, Raul Ruiz emphasized that Fauci was not at fault for supporting the research that caused the Covid-19 pandemic, nor was he involved in any falsehoods regarding gain-of-function research in China's Wuhan.

Furthermore, Ruiz declared that Fauci wasn't behind any effort to suppress the lab leak theory.

In a heated exchange with Republican Rep. Nicole Malliotakis regarding the origins of Covid-19, Fauci said that thinking the virus came from a lab wasn't automatically a conspiracy theory. However, he pointed out that some people twisted that idea into conspiracy theories. "What is conspiracy is the kind of distortions of that particular subject, like it was a lab leak and I was parachuted into the CIA like Jason Bourne and told the CIA that they should really not be talking about a lab leak," Fauci said.

### Fauci recalls threats and harassment

The leading US research scientist recounted how he and his family dealt with death threats during his tenure as the

director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"Everything from harassments from emails, texts, letters of myself, my wife, my three daughters. There have been credible death threats leading to the arrest of two individuals — and credible death threats mean someone who clearly was on their way to kill me. And it's required my having protective services essentially all the time," he said.

### The US needs to be more prepared for the next pandemic

During the testimony, Democratic Representative Robert Garcia, who lost his parents to Covid-19, commended Dr Anthony Fauci for his policies that have saved lives throughout the pandemic and labelled him as an 'American hero.' Fauci acknowledged that while some progress



Dr. Anthony Fauci arrives for a closed-door interview with the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic at the U.S. Capitol. Pic - AFP

has been made, there are still areas where the country falls short in handling health crises. He said: "I think one of the things that was really a problem with the response was the degree of divisiveness that we had in the country about a lack of a coherent response where we were having people, for reasons that had nothing to do with public health or science, refusing to adhere to public health intervention measures."

\* Contd on page 13



## Remembering D-Day: Key facts and figures

**T**he June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Nazi-occupied France was unprecedented in scale and audacity, using the largest-ever armada of ships, troops, planes and vehicles to punch a hole in Adolf Hitler's defenses in western Europe and change the course of World War II.

With veterans and world dignitaries gathering in Normandy to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the landings, here's a look at some details about how the operation unfolded, reports AP.

### Who took part

Nearly 160,000 Allied troops landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944. Of those,

73,000 were from the United States and 83,000 from Britain and Canada. Forces from several other countries were also involved, including French troops fighting with Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

The Allies faced around 50,000 German forces.

More than 2 million Allied soldiers, sailors, pilots, medics and other people from a dozen countries were involved in the overall Operation Overlord, the battle to wrest western France from Nazi control that started on D-Day.

### Where and when

The sea landings started at 6:30 a.m., just after dawn, targeting five code-named beaches: Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, Sword. The operation also included actions inland, including overnight parachute landings on strategic German sites and U.S. Army Rangers scaling cliffs to take out German gun positions.

Around 11,000 Allied aircraft, 7,000



World War II. Pic – NewsNation

ships and boats, and thousands of other vehicles were involved.

### Victims on all sides

A total of 4,414 Allied troops were killed on D-Day itself, including 2,501 Americans. More than 5,000 were

wounded.

In the ensuing Battle of Normandy, 73,000 Allied forces were killed and 153,000 wounded. The battle — and especially Allied bombings of French villages and cities — killed around 20,000 French civilians.

The exact German casualties aren't known, but historians estimate between 4,000 and 9,000 men were killed, wounded or missing during the D-Day invasion alone. About 22,000 German soldiers are among the many buried around Normandy.

### Survivors

Inevitably, the number of survivors present at major anniversary commemorations in France continues to dwindle. The youngest survivors are now in their late 90s. It's unclear how many D-Day veterans are still alive. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs says it doesn't track their numbers.

## Tokyo metropolitan government's dating app to promote marriage

**T**o promote marriage and address chronically low birthrate, the Tokyo metropolitan government is releasing its own dating app with an emphasis on strictness to prevent problems associated with other match-making services.

The new fee-based app, operated by a private contractor, is expected to become available this summer. It is rare for a local government to develop a match-making app, Tokyo officials said.

The app's registration process will be thorough.

In addition to a photo ID, users will have to provide an income certificate and show they are single through their family register or other official document, reports The Asahi Shimbun.

Users will also be required to enter 15 items of personal information, including height, educational background and occupation, which will be disclosed to potential matches.

An interview with the app's operators will be mandatory for registration.

On top of that, users will be required to sign a pledge stating that they are using the app to find a marriage partner, rather than seeking a casual relationship.

Tokyo officials said the demanding requirements are needed to prevent credibility problems that have plagued existing dating apps run by private operators.

A 2021 survey by Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting Co. found that 60 percent of dating app users reported misrepresentation of marital status, false profiles and other issues with potential matches.

Nevertheless, dating apps remain increasingly popular.



Tokyo creates dating app to promote marriage, address chronically low birth rate. Pic – K-Selection

According to a survey by Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Co. last fall, dating apps and workplace encounters were the most common way for couples to meet. The apps account for 25 percent of couples who married within a year.

Tokyo's unmarried rates for 50-year-old people are the highest in the country, at 32 percent for men and 24 percent for women.

However, 67.4 percent of Tokyo residents who want to get married are not actively looking for a partner, according to a 2021 survey by the metropolitan government.

Tokyo officials stressed they do not intend to create barriers for users based on income level.

However, the requirement may work against some male users.

"Generally speaking, men with low incomes are less likely to find a partner on dating apps," said Saki Ito, who runs dating app review website Match Up.

Female users of dating apps tend to seek men with higher incomes, Ito added.

## Meet Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore, NASA astronauts onboard Boeing's Starliner

**T**he National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Boeing Starliner launched toward the International Space Station (ISS) from the Cape Canaveral Space Station in Florida in a test flight on Wednesday after multiple delays. This was the third attempt since early May, after a pair of rocket-related problems, most recently last weekend, reports Hindustan Times.

The Starliner spacecraft is carrying two veteran NASA astronauts, Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, and is expected to reach the ISS around 9:45 pm (IST) on Thursday.

### Who is Sunita Williams?

Sunita Williams, an Indian-American astronaut, is a former Navy helicopter pilot with experience in flying more than 30 different rotary aircraft. During the first Gulf War, Williams was deployed as part of a helicopter combat support squadron and was later flown in support of Navy disaster relief operations in Florida following Hurricane Andrew.

In 1998, Williams was selected for the NASA astronaut program. She began her journey by first flying to the space station aboard a space shuttle and then making a return visit as a Soyuz passenger, riding along with two cosmonauts. During her second ISS mission in 2012, Williams became only the second woman designated as commander of the station.

She also had set a world record for the most time spent by a woman in orbit outside a spacecraft, logging a total of 50 hours and 40 minutes combined during seven spacewalks.

An avid athlete, Williams became the first person to complete a marathon in



Astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore. Pic - NDTV

space in 2007, competing virtually in the Boston Marathon from orbit on the space station's treadmill to go the distance in four hours and 24 minutes, reported Reuters. Later, in 2012, she completed the first triathlon in space.

According to reports, Williams has spent a total of 322 days in space so far.

### Who is Butch Wilmore?

Butch Wilmore is a retired US Navy captain who has completed four operational deployments flying fighter jets off the decks of aircraft carriers, including 21 combat missions during the first US Gulf War in the 1990s. He has also served as a Navy test pilot and flight instructor.

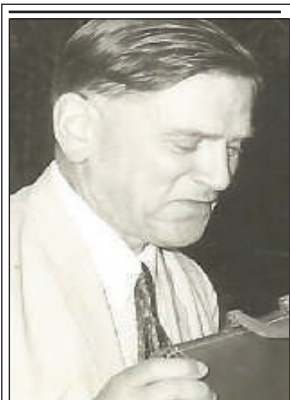
Wilmore joined the NASA astronaut corps in 2000. He first flew to the space station as a NASA space shuttle pilot in 2009, and returned to the orbiting laboratory in 2014 - launched aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft with two cosmonauts.

So far, Wilmore has spent 178 days in space and conducted four spacewalks, reported Reuters.

He also holds advanced degrees in electrical engineering and aviation systems.



• The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. — Tertullian



Peter Ibbotson

## Workers Have Not Shared

**T**he Commission which investigated the purchasing power of the rupee considered especially the fall or rise in the purchasing power in the years 1952-1957. They came to the conclusion, as demonstrated in a chart in their report (where it appears as Figure III), that the purchasing power of the rupee *inside Mauritius* had

hardly altered during the years in question. It had, in fact, gone up very slightly; so slightly as to be almost imperceptible.

That means, then, that overall prices had not risen during the years in question; that you could still buy for 100 rupees in 1957 the same goods as you had bought for 100 rupees in 1952. We learn from the figure referred to that the purchasing power of the rupee remained steady all throughout 1955 and 1956 and rose by the almost imperceptible amount (4 per cent) in 1957. However, we find that the cost of living, as revealed in official documents, went up during the period in question; and went up very perceptibly. If the purchasing power of the rupee remained static in 1955 and 1956, how was it that the cost of living went up? Or, if the cost of living went up, how did the purchasing power of the rupee remain static? Can the Commission explain this?

And, if the purchasing power of the rupee went up by 4 per cent in 1957, how was it that the cost-of-living index for that year showed an increase over the index for 1957? If the rupee would buy a little bit more in 1957 than in 1956, as the Commission would have us believe, then surely the cost-of-living index should have showed a fall in 1957 compared with 1956? But, from the mass of detailed figures given in the *Yearbook of Statistics*, it is clear that the cost-of-living index for 1957 shows no fall compared with 1956. But, in the hindsight of the Commission's chart, one would have expected such a fall.

**A**nother remark of the Commission's is most exceptionable. On page 7 of their report, they say "the last 10 years have in fact been a continuous period of moderate boom condition". There has been a boom — but its effect has been confined almost exclusively to what the Commission calls "the upper and middle classes", to whose "increased prosperity" particular attention is drawn. As regards the working classes, the Commission merely notes that there has been "a substantial degree of redistribution of income affecting the poorer classes" leading to greater demand for various consumer goods — food, clothes, cigarettes, drink, etc.

Let us examine, however, working-class wages and see if, during the years 1952-1957, which the Commission had under particular review, the workers benefitted from the "moderate boom conditions." As everyone knows, the labourers in the sugar industry are the backbone of the economy of Mauritius. Until recently they produced a ton of sugar for every inhabitant of the island; the population started leaping up, production per person has slightly decreased, but still five sixths of a ton of sugar for every person in Mauritius. And, of course, the level of wages paid in the sugar industry determines the level of wages paid in other branches of productive and distributive industry.

So let us look at wages in the sugar industry during this "moderate boom" in which the proceeds of the sugar crop have gone up from 238 million rupees (1952) to 300 million

rupees (1957). The most highly paid field labourers are the handful of Class 1 men labourers whose wages in the years 1952 to 1957 are tabulated below

Year	Monthly Workers	Daily Workers
1952	Rs 69.50	Rs 3.60
1953	Rs 70.50	Rs 3.67
1954	Rs 70.50	Rs 3.67
1955	Rs 79.38	Rs 3.66
1956	Rs 81.19	Rs 3.61
1957	Rs 87.57	Rs 3.90

The apparent jump in the wages of the monthly employed workers between 1954 and 1955 is due to the fact that the figures for 1955 and after include the end-of-crop bonus payable to monthly workers. I have not, however, the figures of the end-of-crop bonus for the earlier years. If we exclude this bonus from the years 1955-1956 and 1957, we find wages of Rs 68.51, Rs 67.60 and Rs 73.30 respectively. What therefore is the percentage increase in the wages (basic plus cost-of-living allowance) of the Class 1 men field labourers in the years under review? For the monthly employed man, an increase of Rs 3.80 on a wage of Rs 69.50, an increase of no more than 5½ per cent. The daily-paid Class 1 man has seen his wages rise by 30 cents on a wage of, originally, Rs 3.60 — that is, by a little less than 8½ per cent. But the total proceeds of the sugar crop rose by 62 million rupees, from 238 million to 300 million — that is, by as much as 26 per cent! (If we compared the rise in wages against the rise in crop proceeds between the years 1952 and 1956, the comparison would be even more loaded in favour of the employers and against the workers; not only were wages considerably lower in 1956 than in 1957, but crop proceeds were quite considerably higher).

It is possible, of course, that the meagre increases in wages grudgingly granted since 1957 and squeezed out of miserly employers by the Kirkaldy Tribunal have slightly redressed the invidious comparison of the rise accruing to the workers and the rise accruing to the employers as a result of the prosperity of the sugar crop — but the basis of the argument remains unaltered. And that is, that while there may have been a "moderate boom" in Mauritius over the years 1952 and 1957, this boom profited the employing classes to a great and perceptible extent, but barely made one iota of difference to the workers. The base of the island's prosperity in general goes up in value by 26 per cent — the workers' share of that increased prosperity goes up by 5.5 or 8.5 per cent! Is this fair? Is this just? To both questions (they are not mere rhetorical questions) the answer is "No, it is neither fair nor just — but it is capitalism."

\* \* \*

### Capitalism has failed in Mauritius

**I**said last week that capitalism had failed in Mauritius. What I have just written amply demonstrates its failure. We are constantly assured by the apologists of capitalism and private enterprise that increased productivity means increased prosperity for all — but does the record of the wages paid in the sugar industry, wages paid out of the total crop proceeds which have gone up only because total production has also gone up, bear out this claim?

If it were true that increased productivity, reflected as it would be in the case of the Mauritius sugar industry by increased crop proceeds, meant increased prosperity for all,

then we would expect the wages paid to go up commensurately with the increase in crop proceeds, i.e. with the results of increased production. But in fact, this has just not happened. Wages have gone up slightly, we find; but the dividends paid to shareholders have gone up far more (I refer, of course, to percentage increases); but if everyone had fair shares, wages and dividends would increase, percentage-wise, the same.

The Commission finds it a matter of congratulation that during the years 1952 to 1957 the purchasing power of the rupee should have remained steady. Inflation has, it appears, not reached Mauritius. The danger is that this so-called steadiness in value of the purchasing power of money may be used by the employers as an excuse (but they will call it a reason) for not raising wages. They will say: "But there's no need to raise your wages. There has been no rise in costs — your money will buy the same this year as it would buy last year, and the year before, and the year before that. There just aren't any grounds for putting up your wages." But, of course, this would be a valid line of argument only if (and it's a big IF) the level of wages in the first place had been a decent level.

**I**n the sugar industry, of course, it wasn't a fair wage in 1938 or in 1948, or in 1958; and since the level of wages in general depends on the level of wages in the sugar industry, that means that wages in Mauritius have never been related to any fair and just standard. The 1938 wage was fixed on the assumption that the wife would work part-time and so eke out the man's wage which was fixed at a figure lower than the sum needed to buy the minimum quantity of food, etc., which the Labour Department thought a labourer's family ought to buy; and in addition, the labourer was expected to supplement his below subsistence wages by work on his allotment or garden. In other words, the pre-war basis of wage determination was three quarters of your minimum subsistence requirements paid by your employer, three-sixteenths earned by your wife, and one-sixteenths met out of keeping a few chickens or a cow. And that 1938 mentality still prevails; wages are still related to this long out-of-date heartless system.

There are no grounds for complacency that the rupee has maintained its purchasing power over the period studied by the Commission. Nor, in view of the record of wages paid in the sugar industry as against the record of crop proceeds, can it be said that the "moderate boom conditions" have helped the working class. If the workers had been getting adequate wages in 1952, no-one would have grumbled at the smallness (5½ percent or 8½ percent) of the increases in wages up to 1957. If the workers had been getting fair and decent wages in 1952, it would have been a matter for congratulation that the rupee had its purchasing power during 1952-1957. But they weren't getting decent wages in 1952; the wage increases up to 1957 were pitifully inadequate, and these pitiable increases could have been acceptable only if the purchasing power of the rupee had gone up tremendously.

In view of the striking falls in the cost of imported goods, it should have been expected that prices in Mauritius would have gone down, so that everyone would have been able to buy more for his rupee. But prices in Mauritius didn't go down despite the fall in import prices, and no-one was, overall, able to buy more for his 1957 rupee than he could buy for his 1952 rupee. So, I repeat (and I will examine this problem of falling import prices unaccompanied by equivalently falling internal prices next week) that in view of all the Commission's findings considered together, private enterprise and capitalism have failed Mauritius, and ought to be replaced by their antithesis — public enterprise and Socialism.





Kul Bhushan

# “Work is Rest, Work is Play, Work is Worship”

**W**hen you are at work at your job, you pine for rest. When you have non-stop rest with no job, you pine for work. This is how your mind operates all the time without any respite. So, adopt a new slogan, ‘Work is Rest’ and also its opposite, ‘Rest is Work’. That’s what I did when I started off on my twin careers in 1966 as an educationist and a journalist with much work but no rest. So, the solution was to interchange work and rest. My nameplate had the official titles faced the visitors while my personal slogan faced me to inspire me at all times.

The idea originated from the bestselling novel, 1984, by George Orwell, which made a profound impact on me during my journalism course. This famous novel was introduced and taught by Sir Tom Hopkinson, a renowned editor, who had written a book on Orwell. From this novel and Hopkinson’s observations, many new mind-blowing slogans emerged: ‘War is Peace’ and ‘Peace is War’. How come? Simple, when a war is going on, all efforts are for peace but when there is peace, preparations for war or preventing a war are in full swing. Similarly, ‘Love is Hate’ and ‘Hate is Love’. Just think about this as well: when you love someone so much, an element of hate creeps in as well and when you hate a person so much, you end up loving some aspects of his/her personality.

How did this slogan emerge into my life after over half a century? A few weeks ago, a young lady friend rang me for help as she was desperately looking for a job. As a trained journalist, she was sure that I could get her a job as she presumed, I knew some editors. I informed her that I had no contacts with any editor and advised her to switch over to Public Relations where plenty of scope existed. Within a few days, she rang back excitedly informing me that she had secured a job as a PR professional. Great!

“Feel so full,” she messaged a couple of weeks later, “Need a break. Getting no time for even to go for a walk. God help me. I miss the trees, the freedom.” My brief response, “Work is Rest.” And she got it!

Recalling my admiration for Orwell, I dug up the nameplate and reminisced over it when it was a constant reminder to me on my desk. After a decade in the mid-Seventies, I was overwhelmed by Osho’s vision, who has a



Work was termed as worship in Osho’s city, Rajneeshpuram, Oregon, USA. Osho disciples used to say, “I am worshipping in the garage.” Or, “I am busy worshipping in the kitchen,” And it was worship for him. So, from “Work is Rest”, I moved to ‘Work is Play’ and on to ‘Work is Worship’. Pic - Britannica

totally opposite view on work. He says, “Work is Play.”

How come? Plenty of examples of ‘Work is Play’ came to mind. First, the professional sportsmen and sportswomen who make millions, indeed billions, while playing football, golf, tennis, cricket, boxing, car racing, and almost all other sports. Some examples of billionaires from different sports are: Tiger Woods (golf), Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi (football), Magic Johnson (basketball), Michael Schumacher (Formula One Car Racing), Roger Federer (tennis), Floyd Mayweather (boxing), and the list goes on.

Then there are the entertainers who amass millions as singers, musicians, dancers, actors, comedians, and others. Not only millionaires, but pop singers have become billionaires, the latest one being Taylor Swift while others include Rihanna, Paul McCartney, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Jay-Z, Diddy, and others.

When your profession becomes your passion, your work becomes play. It is Leela, the eternal Hindu concept of this world as a playful happening where winning or losing is not in your hands. In real life, if you have an unattainable goal which consumes your total energy and effort, you work without rest. You keep on looking for new openings, new

strategies, new solutions to attain your goal. This is an outward effort and when you achieve your goal, you are ecstatic but if you fail, you are depressed. However, Leela implies that you accept success or failure with the same gratitude. Thus, work has become play, a sports match you played with your full energy but the outcome is not in your hands.

But Osho points over the physical horizon when he says, “Work as play, work as enjoyment, work as worship — then it is beautiful; it has a grace to it. Work as an economic activity is ugly. Then you become a part of the marketplace. You are thinking only in terms of what you are going to get out of it. Then you are never here-now. You are always in the result, and the result is in the future. Never be result-oriented — that is the misery of the human mind — be present-oriented. And you are not going to get your innermost being through work. You are going to get it by being present, by being aware.”

If done without monetary gain, work becomes meditation and transforms into worship. When people join any ashram or monastery, they are given some work to maintain the establishment. This is in addition to the

time they spend in prayer or meditation. As they work on mundane tasks such as farming, cooking, or cleaning, they gradually go into the no-mind and connect with their inner self. Now their work has become worship. If you work to help the needy or the deprived and contribute your effort, energy, and time, this work becomes prayer. If your heart goes out to a hungry orphan and you provide him with food or you are touched with the loneliness and the pain of a senior citizen and you give him/her company and see the smile coming back, it is prayer for you. When you volunteer for any such task or project without any monetary benefit, you are not merely helping the deprived, you are also helping yourself as your task becomes your prayer.

In fact, work was termed as worship in Osho’s city, Rajneeshpuram, Oregon, USA. Osho disciples used to say, “I am worshipping in the garage.” Or, “I am busy worshipping in the kitchen,” And it was worship for him. So, from “Work is Rest”, I moved to ‘Work is Play’ and on to ‘Work is Worship’.

*Anand Kul Bhushan is a writer, journalist, UN media consultant and workshop/meditation leader.*

## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Sagittarius, adventure and learning are highlighted this week. Early in the week, seek out new experiences and expand your horizons. Whether it’s through travel or education, you’ll find joy in exploration. Financially, be cautious with impulsive purchases.

**Lucky Numbers:** 9, 14, 20, 27, 35, 38

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Capricorn, this week is about career advancement and ambition. Stay disciplined and focused to make the most of these chances. Personal relationships may take a backseat, so communicate your needs clearly. Spend the weekend organizing and planning for the future.

**Lucky Numbers:** 10, 15, 21, 29, 36, 39

### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Aquarius, this week emphasizes social connections and community involvement. Early in the week, engage in group activities and share your innovative ideas. You’ll find support from unexpected quarters. Be mindful of your health; stress management is crucial.

**Lucky Numbers:** 11, 16, 22, 28, 33, 37

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces, focus on your inner world and spiritual growth this week. Early in the week, take time for meditation and self-reflection. Your dreams might offer valuable insights. Over the weekend, connect with nature and engage in creative pursuits to rejuvenate your spirit.

**Lucky Numbers:** 12, 17, 23, 30, 32, 40

### Aries: March 21 - April 19

You’ll feel a strong desire to initiate new projects but be cautious not to overextend yourself. Collaboration will be key, so lean on your team for support. Midweek, unexpected opportunities may arise — be prepared to seize them. Over the weekend, focus on self-care.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 9, 11, 17, 29, 34

### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Early in the week, review your budget and consider making adjustments. A promising investment opportunity might come your way but do your due diligence before committing. Relationships might feel a bit strained; clear communication is essential. Spend the weekend indulging in your favourite hobbies to restore balance.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 6, 12, 19, 25, 38

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Gemini, this week is all about communication and connection. Use this time to network and build new relationships. Midweek, you might face a challenging decision; trust your instincts. The weekend is perfect for catching up with old friends and enjoying light-hearted fun.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 8, 13, 21, 27, 35

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Early in the week, you might feel the need to declutter and reorganize your living space. Family matters will require your attention — be patient and listen carefully. Professionally, avoid making impulsive decisions. Spend the weekend nurturing your emotional well-being through relaxation and introspection.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 10, 14, 22, 30, 36

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Harness this energy to tackle any projects that require innovative thinking. Early in the week, you might receive recognition for your hard work, boosting your confidence. Be mindful of your spending, as unexpected expenses could arise. The weekend is ideal for engaging in artistic pursuits or enjoying cultural events.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 7, 15, 23, 31, 37

### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

It’s a great time to start a new fitness regimen or refine your daily schedule. Pay attention to detail, especially in your work; small errors could lead to bigger issues. Relationships might feel demanding, so set boundaries to protect your time and energy. Spend the weekend practicing mindfulness and relaxation techniques.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 11, 16, 24, 32, 39

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Libra, your focus this week is on partnerships and collaborations. Early in the week, work closely with others to achieve common goals. Balance will be crucial, so avoid over-committing. Financial matters may require careful attention — review your expenses and plan accordingly. The weekend is perfect for romantic endeavours or deepening connections with loved ones.

**Lucky Numbers:** 7, 12, 18, 26, 33, 40

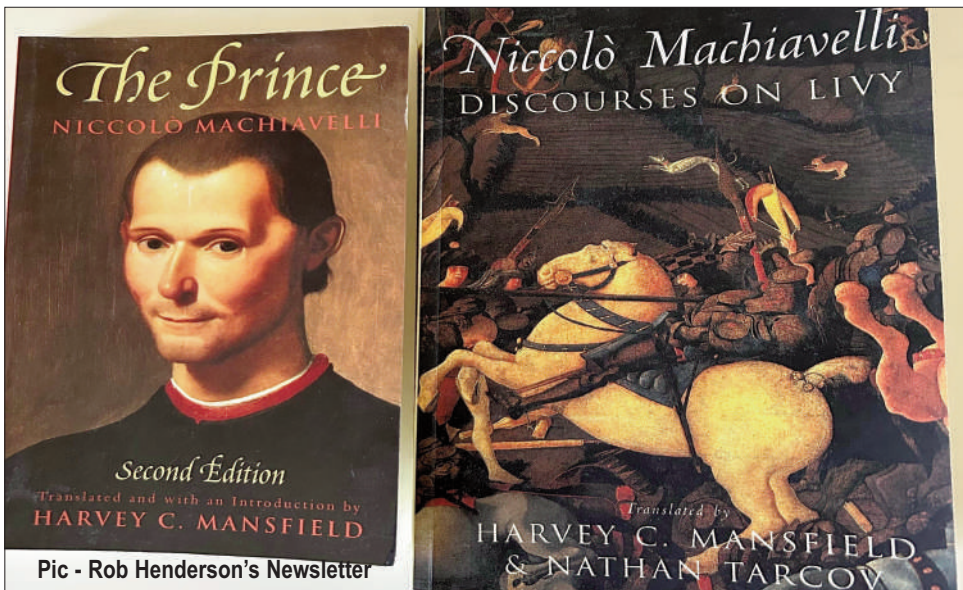
### Scorpio: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Scorpio, this week calls for introspection and personal growth. Early in the week, you may feel the urge to retreat and reflect on your goals. Trust your intuition as you navigate complex emotional landscapes. Spend the weekend engaging in activities that promote self-discovery and healing.

**Lucky Numbers:** 8, 13, 19, 28, 34, 38



# Republics Fail Through Complacency



Pic - Rob Henderson's Newsletter

## ● Cont. from page 2

Cosimo's descendants inherited his political power. They briefly lost their grip on power just long enough for Machiavelli to participate for about a decade as an official and diplomat in a restored republic. Machiavelli was in office when the republic collapsed with the return of the Medici family to power.

Removed from office, Machiavelli wrote "The Prince." He prefaced it with a dedicatory letter to the young member of the Medici whom the family had designated as the new ruler of Florence. Commentators have long disagreed about what Machiavelli sought by so obviously pandering to an autocratic ruler.

## The 'Discourses,' Machiavelli's republican writing

That puzzle is all the more perplexing because elsewhere Machiavelli expresses his commitment to republican government. He wrote another book, less well known and much less pithy than "The Prince," entitled "Discourses on Livy." In the "Discourses," Machiavelli uses the work of the ancient Roman historian Livy to examine how the Roman republic was overthrown by a single leader.

At its founding, Rome was a kingship, but when subsequent kings became tyrannical, the Roman people overthrew the monarchy and established a republic, which had a remarkable history and lasted almost 500 years.

The Roman republic collapsed in 44

BCE when Julius Caesar declared himself dictator for life. Machiavelli wrote that Julius Caesar was the first tyrant in Rome, with the result that Rome was never again free.

Julius' immediate successor Octavius, who assumed the name Caesar Augustus, ruled as the first of a long line of emperors.

## Lessons from the demise of the Roman republic

The key lesson of Machiavelli's examination of Roman history in the "Discourses" is this: **A republic is fragile. It requires constant vigilance on the part of both the citizens and their leaders.**

That vigilance is difficult to maintain, however, because over generations, citizens and leaders alike become complacent to a key internal threat that haunts this form of government. Specifically, they fail to grasp early enough the anti-republican designs of exceptionally ambitious citizens among them who harbour the desire to rule alone.

Machiavelli provides instructive examples of how Rome failed to protect its republican practices and laws against such a threat. When the republic was young, Rome allowed candidates to nominate themselves for high offices. This practice worked well because only worthy candidates put themselves forward. Later, however, the practice of self-nomination allowed into office those who wanted to promote their own popularity rather than respond to the needs of their country.

Machiavelli said that leaders and citizens

devoted to the republic should have closed off this easy route to power to such candidates. But Rome failed to act. Because of its complacency, Caesar was able to build on the popularity that his predecessors had amassed and to transform Rome into a tyranny.

## The point of no return

If republican citizens and leaders fail to be vigilant, they will eventually be confronted with a leader who has accumulated an extremely powerful and threatening following. At that point, Machiavelli says, it will be too late to save the republic.

Machiavelli uses the examples of Caesar's assassination in Rome and Cosimo's exile from Florence to underscore this lesson. In each case, the supporters of their respective republic, finally perceiving the danger of tyranny, initiated an attack on the people's idol. In each case, that effort led not to a restoration of republican freedom but rather to its elimination.

In Rome, Augustus used the public's sympathy and devotion for the martyred Caesar to seal the republic's demise. In Florence, Cosimo himself was welcomed

back from exile to become Florence's leading man.

## The fate of the American republic

For Americans, the question is whether, as a result of public complacency, the republic will be lost. Will the American republic fall to the same perils that Machiavelli identified in ancient Rome and Renaissance Florence?

Perhaps an opportunity exists to breathe new life into the nation's republican practices and institutions. Perhaps there is still time to reject through elections those who seek office only to enhance their own power.

Or perhaps it is so late that even that approach will not work. Then, Americans would be left to mourn the demise of their republic and to affirm Machiavelli's counsel that republics fail through complacency. Such an outcome for one of history's most exemplary republics would stand as a wretched testament to Machiavelli's political insight.

**Vickie B. Sullivan, Professor of Political Science, Tufts University**

## Mauritius Times

Even if you are receiving a free copy of the paper from your contacts or WhatsApp/Email groups

## YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

As a reader-funded newspaper, the Mauritius Times relies on the support of those who are in a position to help.

We know that you are fully conscious of the important role of an independent media, so even if you are receiving a free copy of the paper from your contacts or WhatsApp/Email groups, your support in the form of a subscription or patronage will allow us to pursue our mission and protect our editorial independence. That is why we would kindly request you to consider becoming a regular subscriber by sending us your contribution.

**Our Annual Subs Rate amounts to Rs 1500.**

**Your support, however much you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.**

## Payment Options - Any one of the following

1. By cheque drawn to the order of **The Prakash Ramlallah Foundation**. Kindly post the cheque to our postal address as above.
2. Via MCB Juice to the following Phone No **5 782 9861**.
3. Bank transfer, paid to **The Prakash Ramlallah Foundation**, to any one of the following bank accounts:

Bank	Account No	Swift Code	IBAN
MCB	000448214277	MCBLMUMU	MU71MCBL0901000448214277000MUR
SBM	50300000703075	STCBMUMU	MU17STCB1101000000703075000MUR
SBI	156000504401	INILMUMU	MU47INIL0801156000504401000MUR

Please send us your personal details - Name, Postal Address, Email and Telephone / Mobile number by email or WhatsApps for immediate processing of your subscription.

Another option is to subscribe by going to our Google Form by clicking on the link below:

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**

Please know that we are at your disposal for any clarification and assistance that you may require. You may please contact us on:

Tel - 5 2929 301 - 5 782 9861 - 212 1313 -- Email: [mtimes@intnet.mu](mailto:mtimes@intnet.mu)

Pearl House - 4th Floor - Room 406, Sir Virgil Naz St -- Port Louis

Thank you so much.  
Mauritius Times

## Publish Your Notices in Mauritius Times Digital Editions

- Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- General Assembly
- Applications for Building and Land Use Permits
- Corporate - Company Notices

Send Your Notices + Proof of ID by Email or WhatsApp No - 5 2929301

Payment: Bank Transfer or by Juice No. 5782 9861

Contact us: Tel: 212 1313 -- 5 2929301  
Email: [mtimes@intnet.mu](mailto:mtimes@intnet.mu)



# Life expectancy increased as world addressed major killers

Life expectancy has seen a significant increase of 6.2 years since 1990, as per a recent study published in The Lancet. Over the past three decades, progress in reducing mortality from leading causes such as diarrhea, lower respiratory infections, stroke, and ischemic heart disease has been instrumental in driving this improvement. However, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 disrupted this progress in numerous regions, marking the first time deaths from COVID-19 were compared to other causes globally.

Despite the setbacks posed by the pandemic, researchers found that the super-region comprising Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Oceania witnessed the largest net gain in life expectancy between 1990 and 2021 (8.3 years). This achievement was primarily attributed to declines in mortality from chronic respiratory diseases, stroke, lower respiratory infections, and cancer, with effective management of the COVID-19 pandemic contributing to preserving these gains. South Asia followed with the second-largest increase in life expectancy among super-regions (7.8 years), driven by significant reductions in deaths from diarrheal diseases.

Dr. Liane Ong, co-first author of the study and Lead Research Scientist at the Institute for Health Metrics and



displacing long-standing killers like stroke to become the second-leading cause of death worldwide. Notably, Latin America and the Caribbean, along with sub-Saharan Africa, experienced the most substantial loss of life expectancy due to COVID-19 in 2021.

Examining the reasons behind improvements in life expectancy across regions, the study identified sharp declines in deaths from enteric diseases, lower respiratory infections, stroke, neonatal disorders, ischemic heart disease, and cancer as significant contributors. These reductions were most pronounced between 1990 and 2019, underscoring the impact of ongoing efforts to combat

Evaluation (IHME), emphasized the nuanced insights provided by the research, highlighting both remarkable achievements in preventing deaths from certain diseases and the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study also revealed how COVID-19 reshaped the global mortality landscape,

various health challenges.

Regionally, Eastern sub-Saharan Africa saw the largest increase in life expectancy, rising by 10.7 years between 1990 and 2021, attributed primarily to the control of diarrheal diseases. Meanwhile, East Asia recorded the second-largest gain, with significant progress in reducing deaths from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

The study, part of the Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) 2021, offers insights into mortality patterns, causes of death, and shifts in disease burden globally. It underscores the need for targeted interventions to address emerging health threats while building on successes in combating prevalent diseases.

By identifying areas with the most significant health gains and persistent challenges, the research provides valuable guidance for public health initiatives aimed at improving global well-being. Efforts to prevent and treat diseases, strengthen immunization programs, and address disparities in healthcare access are crucial steps toward achieving lasting improvements in health outcomes worldwide.



## Why do astronomers look for signs of life on other planets based on what life is like on Earth?

*It's hard to look for something you've never seen before – and that might not even exist. But you have to start somewhere.*

Have you ever played hide-and-seek in a new place? It's much harder than playing at home. You only know the obvious hiding spots: under the bed, in the closet, behind the couch. The trick is trying to think of hiding spots you can't even imagine. How do you search in places you never thought could be hiding spots?

That is kind of what scientists like me do when we look for alien life; we're trying to think of new ways to look for life. In the meantime, we're looking for life by looking for life like us because that's what we can imagine.

### Looking nearby

The closest place to look for extraterrestrial life is on planets within our solar system.

NASA's Viking 1 mission began orbiting Earth's neighbor Mars back in 1976. Looking for life on Mars was one of the most important scientific questions for the mission. The spacecraft included a lander that could go to the planet's surface to see if there were any life-forms in the dirt there.

Scientists knew that life on Mars could be really different from life on Earth, so they didn't look for specific life-forms or molecules. Instead, they tried to design experiments to look for what life does, rather than what it makes.

For example, plants and some other life-forms on Earth do photosynthesis, a process that uses sunlight and carbon dioxide in the air to gather energy and grow. The Viking 1 scientists designed the lander to look for signs of photosynthesis happening on Mars.

To do that, the lander scooped up some dirt, shined a light on it and made measurements to see if any of the carbon dioxide in the air was transferred into the dirt. This experiment did not show any signs of



No sign so far of an alien civilization nearby. janiecbros/E+ via Getty Images

photosynthesis in Mars' dirt.

The lander had two other experiments that looked for evidence of organisms growing in the dirt on Mars. One used carbon dioxide gas and another one used sugar and amino acid molecules that life-forms on Earth like to eat.

The combination of these three experiments and other measurements led most scientists to agree that there probably is not life on the surface of Mars, at least life that does something like photosynthesis or eats sugar. But we still don't know if there are signs of ancient life-forms on Mars, or even current life deep below the surface.

The Viking lander experiments were the most direct tests for life on other planets. In terms of a game of hide-and-seek, though, these experiments were basically like looking in the closet: It's a pretty obvious hiding spot, but you should check there just in case. Even so, it took scientists a long time to interpret the results.

### Looking far away

Looking for life outside the solar system is even harder and requires different techniques.

The closest exoplanet – a planet orbiting a star that is not our Sun – is Proxima Centauri b, and it's more than 2 million, million miles (that's 2 followed by 13 zeros) away from Earth. These distant worlds are so far away that scientists are not going to send landers to do experiments on them for a long time.

Looking for life on exoplanets is kind of like trying to play hide-and-seek in your neighbor's house, but you only get to look through the windows and can't go inside. You might get lucky and get just the right angle to spot someone hiding, but you can't know all the spots you're not able to see.

Tools like the new James Webb Space Telescope can reveal the size of exoplanets, how close they are to their stars, and maybe the gases in their atmospheres. But that's it. How would you look for life with that?

Astronomers have thought about looking for life on exoplanets by looking for oxygen. They started with this strategy because on Earth, life-forms made most of the oxygen in our atmosphere. Maybe oxygen on another planet was made by alien life.

We've learned, though, that there are other ways to make oxygen that don't involve life. So now, astronomers don't look for just oxygen – instead they're on the hunt for a planet that has oxygen along with water and other gases, like methane and carbon dioxide. Together, these combinations might indicate life because we don't think planets without life would have them. But we're still uncertain about that, too!

Looking for life by looking for these gases is kind of like looking behind the couch in our hide-and-seek game. Do we know anyone is going to be there? No. But we only get to look through the windows, and we can imagine people hiding behind couches. We might as well try – where else

would we even look?

### What game are we playing?

There are two big differences between playing hide-and-seek and looking for aliens.

First, when you're playing hide-and-seek, you usually know that you're playing with someone else. We have no idea if there are aliens out there to find! It's possible there's no other life out there, and it's possible there are aliens right next door. Until we find examples of life besides our own, we won't know how common life is in the universe.

The second difference is that most scientists don't think alien life is hiding from us; it's just that we haven't spotted it yet. There are some ideas that more advanced civilizations might avoid being detected, but researchers don't think that's happening in our solar system.

Most astronomers and astrobiologists know that if we only look for life that's like Earth life, we might miss the signs of aliens that are really different. But honestly, we've never detected aliens before, so it's hard to know where to start. When you don't know what to do, starting somewhere is usually better than nowhere.

Looking for life using experiments like the Viking lander or searching for oxygen might not help. But we might get lucky. And even if we're not, we'll get to cross a couple of obvious possibilities off the list. Then we can focus on the harder question of imagining something we've never thought of before.

**Cole Mathis**

Assistant Professor of Complex Adaptive Systems, Arizona State University





## Looking at picture of wife

**W**ife: "You always carry my photo in your handbag to the office, why?"

Husband: "Darling, when there is a problem. No matter how difficult, I look at your picture and the problem looks easy to solve."

Wife: "You see how miraculous and powerful I for you am."

Husband: "Yes, I see your picture and say to myself, 'What other problem can be greater than this one?'"

\*\*\*

### In Hell

**A** man in hell asked devil: "Can I make a call to my wife?"

After making the call, he asked the cost of the call to devil.

Devil: "Nothing, hell to hell is free!"

\*\*\*

### Husband borrowed Rs 250 from his wife

**A**fter a few days, he again borrowed Rs 250.

Seeing some money in her husband's purse, she asked him to return the money.

When asked how much, the wife said that he owes her Rs 4100.

Upon request, below is the working given by the wife:

1) Rs 250

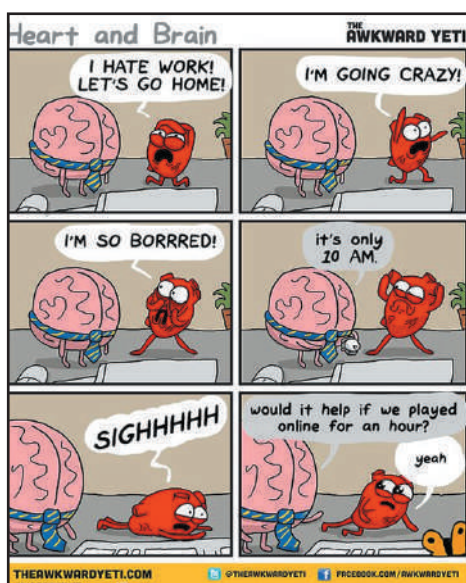
2) Rs 250 Total Rs 500

Husband is still searching for the school where she learned maths.

Later

Husband gave her Rs 400 back and asked how much balance he has to pay.

She wrote:



Rs 4100 –  
Rs 400  
Rs 100

He gave Rs 100 back.

Both lived happily ever after. Only maths died.

\*\*\*

**A** manager calls four of his employees into his office. "I'm really sorry, but I have to sack one of you."

The Black employee steps forward and says, "I'm a protected minority. Fire me and I'll sue you for racial discrimination."

The female employee steps forward and says, "I'm a woman. Fire me and I'll sue you for gender discrimination."

The oldest employee says, "Fire me, son, and I'll hit you with an age discrimination lawsuit so fast it will make your head spin."



They all turn to the helpless young male employee, who thinks for a moment, then says, "I am gay."

\*\*\*

• My wife thinks freedom of the press means no-iron.

• When the best actions are chosen by other actors, it's called Oscars; when the best actors are chosen by the people, it's called elections.

• A husband, the owner of a new car, was hesitant to allow his wife to drive his precious possession, even to the nearby neighbour's home.

After she insisted, he finally warned her as she took the wheel, "Remember, if you are involved in an accident, the press will mention your age."

• Several women appeared in court, each accusing the other of creating trouble in the apartments where they lived.

The judge called for orderly testimony. "I'll hear the oldest first," he decreed. The case was dismissed for lack of evidence.

• The stockbroker's secretary answered the phone one morning.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Kapoor is on another line."

"Oh, I'd only like to know if he's bullish or bearish at the moment."

"He's talking to his wife right now, so I'd say he is sheepish," the secretary replied.

• A police recruit was asked during the

interview, "What would you do if you had to arrest your own wife?"

He answered, "Call for backup."

• A Sunday school teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small girl replied, "They could not get a babysitter."

• Someone asked an old man: "Even after 50 years you still call your wife 'darling,' 'honey,' 'luv,' what's the secret?" Old man: "I forgot her name and I'm scared to ask her."

• A recently fired stock trader said: "This is worse than divorce. I have lost everything, and I still have a wife."

• A husband and wife are like two tires of a vehicle; if one is punctured, the vehicle can't move further. Moral: Always keep a spare tire.

• What's the similarity between chewing gum and begum (wife)?

Both are sweet at the beginning and become tasteless, shapeless, and sticky in the end.

\*\*\*

**J**ack and Peter went fishing and caught a lot of fish before returning to shore.

Jack: "I hope you remember the spot where we caught all these fish."

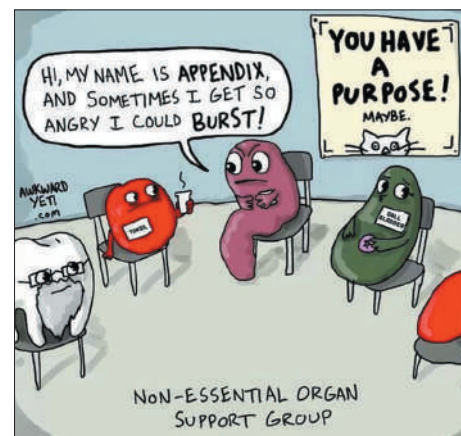
Peter: "Yes, I marked an X on the side of the boat to remember it."

Jack: "You idiot, how do we know we'll get the same boat next time?"

\*\*\*

Jack went to the doctor with two red ears. The doctor asked what happened.

Jack replied, "I was ironing a shirt when the phone rang. Instead of picking up the phone, I accidentally picked up the iron and stuck it to my ear."



"Oh dear," said the doctor, examining in disbelief, "but what happened to your other ear?"

Jack replied, "The scoundrel called back."

\*\*\*

### The Confessional

**F**ed up with people making fun of him, Prem decided to change religion. He joined a priest in a church as his assistant.

One day, the priest was called away for an emergency. Not wanting to leave the confessional unattended, he asked Prem (now known as D'Costa) to cover for him. Prem told him he wouldn't know what to say, but the priest told him to stay



with him for a while and learn what to do.

Prem joined the priest and followed him into the confessional.

A few minutes later, a woman came in and said, "Father, forgive me for I have sinned."

The priest asked, "What did you do?"

The woman replied, "I committed adultery."

The priest asked, "How many times?"

The woman said, "Three times."

The priest instructed her, "Say two Hail Marys and put \$5 in the charity box."

A few minutes later, a man entered the confessional.

He said, "Father, forgive me for I have sinned."

The priest asked, "What did you do?"

The man replied, "I committed adultery."

The priest asked, "How many times?"

The man said, "Three times."

The priest instructed him, "Say two Hail Marys and put \$5 in the charity box."

Prem, a quick learner, told the priest that he understood the job and the priest could leave. Prem was now alone.

A few minutes later, another woman entered and said, "Father, forgive me for I have sinned."

Prem asked, "What did you do?"

The woman replied, "I committed adultery."

Prem asked, "How many times?"

The woman said, "Once."

Prem replied, "Go and do it twice more, as we have a special offer this week: three times for \$5."





## Short Stories

## The Fight with Fate

Once, a small village farmer found himself owing a large sum of money to a village moneylender. The moneylender, an old, unmarried man, harbored a desire to marry the farmer's beautiful daughter. One day, the farmer approached the moneylender, pleading for more time to repay the loan. Feigning anger at first, the moneylender eventually proposed a bargain. He offered the farmer a choice: either face punishment for his debt or allow the moneylender to marry his daughter, thereby waiving the debt entirely.

Both the farmer and his daughter were appalled by the proposal. The farmer couldn't repay the money quickly, and he certainly didn't want his daughter to wed the old, cruel moneylender.

Sensing their hesitation, the cunning moneylender suggested leaving the decision to fate. He pre-



sented an attractive condition: he would place a black and a white pebble in a bag, and the daughter would choose one. If she picked the black pebble, she would marry the moneylender, and her father's debt would be forgiven. If she picked the white pebble, she wouldn't have to marry him, and the debt would still be forgiven. Refusal to choose would result in the farmer's imprisonment.

The moneylender even called nearby villagers as witnesses to

ensure no party reneged on their word. However, the sharp-eyed daughter noticed the moneylender had picked two black pebbles instead of one of each. Undeterred, she reached into the bag and, without looking, let the pebble fall among the others on the path.

Apologizing for her clumsiness, she suggested that if they found the remaining pebble in the bag, they would know which one she had picked.

Caught in his deceit, the moneylender couldn't confess in front of the villagers. With the black pebble in the bag, it appeared as though the daughter had chosen the white one. Thus, she avoided marrying the moneylender, and her father's debt was forgiven. The villagers witnessed the event, ensuring the moneylender upheld his promise.

The girl turned an apparently impossible situation into a highly advantageous one, demonstrating that there's always a solution to problems if you don't give up hope.

avoid being inundated by noise.

**The Icarus Paradox:** What leads to success can also precipitate downfall through overconfidence. Remain vigilant against complacency and adapt to changing circumstances.

**The Failure Paradox:** Failure is integral to eventual success, serving as a catalyst for growth. Embrace failure as a stepping stone towards achievement and resilience.

**The Shrinking Paradox:** Growth often necessitates temporary setbacks or reductions. Shedding unnecessary burdens enables sustained progress and development.

**The Tony Robbins Paradox:** Acknowledging one's limitations can confer a competitive advantage. Foster self-awareness to make informed decisions and avoid overconfidence.

**The Death Paradox:** Contemplating mortality enriches the experience of life. Embrace the inevitability of death as a catalyst for living with purpose and urgency.

**The Say No Paradox:** Success arises from focused attention on essential tasks, not from overcommitment. Prioritize meaningful endeavors and guard against excessive obligations.

**The Talking Paradox:** Effective communication begins with attentive listening. Cultivate the power of silence to enhance the impact of your words.

**The Connectedness Paradox:** Despite increased digital connectivity, genuine human connection often diminishes. Prioritize meaningful interactions and presence over virtual engagement.

**The Taleb Surgeon Paradox:** External appearances are not always indicative of competence. Value substance over superficial attributes when assessing capability.

**The Looking Paradox:** Ceasing the search can sometimes lead to discovery. Embrace serendipity and remain open to unexpected opportunities.

**The Fear Paradox:** Confronting fears is essential for personal growth. Embrace discomfort as a pathway to expanded horizons and self-discovery.

**The Constant Change Paradox:** Adaptability is key to navigating life's inevitable changes. Embrace change as a constant force, fostering resilience and agility.



## Egg, Carrot, and Coffee Beans

A young woman, overwhelmed by life's struggles, confided in her mother about her hardships, expressing a desire to give up. Her mother, without a word, led her to the kitchen and filled three pots with water. Into the first pot, she placed carrots, into the second, eggs, and into the third, ground coffee beans.

As the pots boiled, the mother remained silent. Once done, she removed the carrots and eggs, placing them in a bowl, and poured the coffee into a cup. Turning to her daughter, she asked what she saw.

The daughter replied, "Carrot, egg, and coffee."

The mother urged her to inspect the items closely. The carrots had softened, the eggs had hardened, and the coffee had transformed the water into a fragrant drink.

"What does this mean, mother?" the daughter asked.

The mother explained that each item had faced the same adversity—boiling water—but reacted differently. The carrot, once strong, became weak; the egg, once fragile, became hardened; and the coffee beans, unique, changed the water into something aromatic.

The mother posed a question to her daughter: In difficult situations, are you like the carrot, egg, or coffee beans?

Just as the coffee beans transformed adversity into something positive, so too can people overcome struggles and turn them into opportunities for growth and positivity.

## THE MOST powerful PARADOXES of life



**The Growth Paradox:** Growth often takes longer to manifest than anticipated, yet when it arrives, it does so swiftly. Recognizing this prompts a shift in approach.

**The Persuasion Paradox:** Effective persuasion stems not from argumentation but from observation, attentive listening, and thoughtful inquiry. Prioritize persuasion over argumentation.

**The Effort Paradox:** Achieving apparent effortless-ness demands substantial initial effort and practice. Recognize that simplicity often belies extensive preparation and practice.

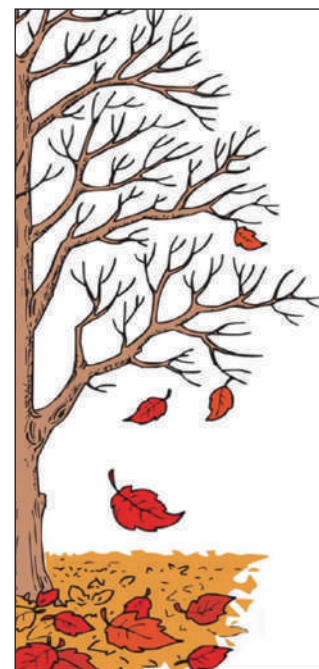
**The Wisdom Paradox:** As knowledge expands, so does awareness of one's ignorance. Embrace the vastness of the unknown as an invitation to continual learning.

**The Productivity Paradox:** Longer work hours do not necessarily correlate with increased productivity. Establishing focused, time-limited work sessions fosters efficiency and effectiveness.

**The Speed Paradox:** Strategic slowing down facilitates greater speed and efficiency in the long run. Deliberate actions allow for optimal resource allocation and heightened focus on impactful endeavors.

**The Money Paradox:** Success often emerges from lessons learned through financial setbacks. Embrace risk-taking and learning opportunities, understanding that losses can pave the way for gains.

**The News Paradox:** Consuming excessive news can paradoxically diminish one's understanding. Recognize the value of discernment in information consumption to



If you feel like you're losing everything, remember that trees lose their leaves every year and they still stand tall and wait for better days to come.



## Healthy Living

# Defeat Germs Throughout Your Home

**D**o you think your washing machine is one of the cleanest places in your house? Think again. Dirty laundry can fill your washer -- and future loads of laundry -- with bacteria and viruses. To keep it fresh, run your washer empty with a cup of bleach once a week. To kill germs, wash and dry your laundry at the highest temperature the fabric can stand. Here are more tips to healthier living as advised by Brunilda Nazario, MD of WebMD.

### Thoroughly Clean Your Towels

If only one person is using a towel, wash it once a week. Wash after each use if someone is sick. Wash gym towels after each workout. Wash kitchen towels separately from underwear and bathroom towels. Replace hand towels every few days, or every time you have guests. Hang towels to air dry. Don't reuse any in a heap on the floor.

### Eliminate Bedroom Germs

Wash all bed linens at least once a week in hot water -- more often if someone is sick. Wash soiled items -- like clothes with grass stains -- separately from other laundry, especially sheets. Keep food and snacks out of bedrooms. Crumbs attract mold and bacteria.

### Sanitize Your Family Room

Germs hang out where you do -- especially spots everyone touches like telephones, coffee tables, TV remotes, and video controllers. Clean them often with disinfectant wipes. Use a damp microfiber cloth to gently wipe dust from your flat screen TV. Vacuum crumbs and clean spills right away, so bacteria doesn't grow in your carpets and furniture.

### Clean Knobs and Railings

Germs spread quickly on doorknobs, cabinet handles, railings, faucets, light switches, and lamps. Sanitize these surfaces once a week with disinfecting wipes or a disinfecting cleaner. Do it more often if someone in your family is sick or if you have guests. This will help kill



viruses like COVID-19 and the flu.

### Disinfect Your Office Area

Computer keyboards, desktops, and telephones are breeding grounds for germs, especially if you share equipment or eat while you work. Shake out your keyboard often, or use a vacuum attachment to remove junk. Then use a wipe to disinfect it. Or, get a skin for your computer keyboard and don't forget to wash it. Wipe your computer screen with a damp microfiber cloth.

### Sanitize Kids' Rooms

Kids get and spread germs easily. Once a week, wipe down all surfaces in your child's room with disinfecting wipes or spray. If you have a baby, be sure to really clean the diaper changing area, crib rails and slats, and plastic toys. Leave the disinfectant on for at least 30 seconds and then wipe well with moist paper towels or a clean, wet cloth.

### Sanitize the Kitchen Sink

Forget the bathroom. The kitchen sink is the second germiest place in the house. The kitchen sponge is No. 1. Bacteria from raw meats and other foods flourish and grow in your sink. Scrub it with a disinfecting cleanser every day. And that sponge? Wet it and zap it in the microwave for two minutes each day to help kill any E. coli and salmonella lurking there.

### Keep Countertops Clean

Clean your kitchen counters every day after you prepare food. First, wash them with hot soapy water to

get rid of any gunk and grime you can see. Then use a solution of 1/2 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water (or whatever is recommended for your countertops) to sanitize them. Let them air dry. To help keep your counters germ-free, don't put your purse, laptop, phone, mail, or anything else on top of them.

### Tackle the Fridge

Keep your fridge clean by washing the inside walls, doors, and shelves with hot soapy water every few months. To get rid of smells, use a mix of half water and half white vinegar. Or, wash with a mixture of baking soda and water, then let the fridge air out for a few hours. Always clean up refrigerator spills right away.

### Scour the Bathroom

Make an all-purpose bathroom cleaner by mixing two tablespoons of dish liquid, two tablespoons ammonia, and one quart of warm water. Use this for the tub, sink, floors, and shower. Rinse with clean water. A baking soda paste can help get rid of marks in the sink or tub. Using a squeegee on shower walls after each shower helps stop mold and mildew from growing.

### Put a Lid on Toilet Germs

Leaving the lid up when you flush can spread fecal matter and germs all over your bathroom, even to your toothbrush. To limit nasty germs, clean your toilet bowl weekly -- and keep the lid down. Use a wet cloth and an all-purpose cleaner to wash the lid, seat, and outside of the bowl. Then use a toilet brush and the cleaner to scrub inside the bowl.

### Create Your Own Eco-Friendly Cleaner

Diluted bleach is best for disinfecting against germs. But for everyday cleaning, you can't beat white distilled vinegar. Mix one part white vinegar and nine parts water in a spray bottle or bucket. It will safely clean most surfaces and remove grease. Plus, it's safe to use around kids and pets.

### Don't Overlook Carpets

When you walk through your house wearing shoes, you're tracking in everything you've stepped on outside, including E. coli and other bacteria that can cause illness. For the cleanest floors and carpets, and the least mess, leave your shoes at the door. If you do wear shoes inside, vacuum carpets and wash floors once a week.

## 8 Tips for Newlyweds to navigate the Initial Months of Marriage

**T**he early stages of marriage often bring a mix of bliss and challenges. It's natural to face difficulties during the first two years, but there's no need to panic. By recognizing and understanding these transitions, couples can work together to build a solid foundation for their future. The first year can feel particularly challenging due to the many adjustments as partners settle into their new roles. Researchers emphasize that how couples manage this adjustment period significantly impacts the longevity of their marriage.

A.Dhingra, mental health coach and founder of Cocoweave International Coaching, shared some tips with HT Lifestyle to help make the initial days of marriage smoother and more relaxing.

**1. Good communication:** Communication is key in any relationship. Expressing feelings, expectations, and concerns honestly will strengthen your bond. Listening to and understanding your partner's perspective is equally important.

**2. Prioritize quality time together:** Balancing work and personal life is cru-



cial. Spending quality time together shows your partner's importance, strengthens your connection, and keeps the romance alive.

**3. Support each other's goals:** Mutual support for each other's career aspirations, personal ambitions, and long-term plans is vital. Encouraging one another's dreams builds a strong partner-

ship.

**4. Have patience and practice forgiveness:** Marriage will have its bumps. Being patient and adjusting to new roles and responsibilities can smooth your journey. Learn to forgive and let go of mistakes.

**5. Practice gratitude:** Regularly

appreciate each other's efforts and qualities. This fosters a positive and supportive environment.

**6. Find humour:** Laughter strengthens bonds and helps overcome obstacles. Finding humour in everyday situations can ease tension and bring you closer.

**7. Establish boundaries:** Setting boundaries can prevent misunderstandings. Discuss topics like finances and personal space, and respect each other's boundaries while nurturing your bond.

**8. Maintain romance:** Keep the romance alive with expressions of love and care, like spontaneous date nights or small gifts. Regular communication and aligning goals can help sustain romance and support harmonious living.

The initial months of marriage are a time for adjustments, growth, and building a life together. Always prioritize communication, understanding, and mutual support to create a strong foundation for your marriage.





## Upcoming Bollywood movies releasing in June 2024: Munjya & more

From the anticipated Prabhas starrer *Kalki 2898 AD* to a diverse range of films, Bollywood is set to captivate audiences this June, according to Filmfare.

### Blackout - June 7

Directed and written by Devang Shashin Bhavsar, *Blackout* blends crime, thrills, and comedy. Vikrant Massey, Mouni Roy, and Sunil Grover lead the cast in a tale where an accidental encounter with a truck full of gold and cash plunges a man into a whirlwind of trouble, courtesy of the mafia gang that owns it.

### Munjya - June 7

*Munjya*, a horror comedy starring Sharvari Wagh, Abhay Verma, Mona Singh, and Sathyaraj, promises a mix of laughter and chills. When a boy accidentally releases a mischievous spirit, local women face a series of spooky encounters, prompting the community to find a way to restore peace.

### Ghudchadi - June 8

Produced by Bhushan Kumar, *Ghudchadi* is a dramedy featuring Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon, Parth Samthaan, and Khushalii Kumar. Directed by Bijoy Gandhi, the film explores a blend of drama and comedy.

### Chandu Champion - June 14

Kabir Khan directs *Chandu Champion*, a biopic portraying the inspiring journey of Murlikant Petkar, India's first Paralympic gold medalist. Kartik Aaryan steps into the titular role, narrating the tale of perseverance, passion, and triumph over adversity.

### Ishq Vishq Rebound - June 21

A sequel to the 2003 hit *Ishq Vishq*, this romantic drama features Rohit Saraf, Pashmina Roshan, Jibraan Khan, and Naila Grewal. Directed by Nipun Avinash Dharmadhikari, the film revisits love and relationships with a contemporary twist.

### Kalki 2898 AD - June 27

Written and directed by Nag Ashwin, *Kalki 2898 AD* delves into the realms of sci-fi adventure and drama. Depicting a modern-day avatar of Lord Vishnu's quest to protect the world from evil, the film stars Prabhas, Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan, and Kamal Haasan in pivotal roles.

## From Bollywood Firebrand to Politics

# Kangana Ranaut prepares for new role in Lok Sabha

Kangana Ranaut, who sparked a nationwide debate on nepotism in Bollywood, was given security after comparing the Maharashtra government to PoK, and faced a Twitter ban for comments on violence in West Bengal, is now entering Parliament as the BJP's MP from Mandi.

The 37-year-old, who was sued for defamation by industry veteran Javed Akhtar, is known for her acerbic comments as much as her films. As she makes headlines beyond entertainment, Ranaut's transition to politics has captivated public interest.

Ranaut defeated Congress candidate Vikramaditya Singh by 74,755 votes in her home state of Himachal Pradesh. As she steps into the Lok Sabha, many are curious if she will maintain her outspoken nature or adopt a more subdued approach in the lower house. If her track record is any indication, she is likely to remain vocal.

On Tuesday, as election trends pointed to her victory, the four-time National Award winner expressed her gratitude: "Heartfelt gratitude to all the people of Mandi for this love and trust... This victory belongs to all of you. This is the victory of your trust in Prime Minister Modi and BJP, this is the victory of Sanatan and in the honour of Mandi."

Ranaut was not the only actor seeking votes. Joining her were fellow BJP debutant Arun Govil, elected from Meerut, two-time Mathura MP Hema Malini, and TMC's Shatrughan Sinha from Asansol. However, Ranaut garnered the most attention, running her campaign as the "daughter of the soil" and gaining public sympathy after derogatory comments from opposition leaders regarding her acting background and constituency.

In an industry where actors often conceal their political affiliations, Ranaut has been a vocal supporter of the BJP and Prime Minister



Narendra Modi, describing herself as a fan of the leader. She has been a prominent voice supporting the ruling party on issues such as the Citizenship Act in 2019-20 and farmers' protests in 2020-21. Her Twitter altercation with Diljit Dosanjh remains a notable public discourse.

Akhtar's defamation case against Ranaut, over her remarks that he had threatened her, is still ongoing. After she compared the Maharashtra government to PoK, her Mumbai office was demolished by the BMC, escalating tensions between the state and Centre in September 2020. Subsequently, she was provided Y-grade security by the Union Home Ministry. In 2021, her comments on post-poll violence in West Bengal led to her Twitter ban, after which she moved to Instagram to continue sharing her political views.

Ranaut has won the National Award four times: Best Supporting Actress for "Fashion," Best Actress for "Queen," "Tanu Weds Manu Returns," and a third time for "Manikarnika" and "Panga." Named a Padma Shri recipient in 2020, she was only 17 when she debuted in Bollywood with Anurag Basu's "Gangster" in 2006, a critical and commercial hit. She continued to deliver strong performances in films like "Woh Lamhe...", "Life in a... Metro," and "Fashion."

Ranaut's role in "Once Upon a Time in Mumbaai" and her lead in "Tanu Weds Manu" cemented her status as a leading actress. However, after a period of struggle, it was 2014's "Queen" that re-established her as a star. She received praise for her double role in "Tanu Weds Manu Returns" and was recognized for her views on feminism and industry issues.

In 2015, Ranaut spoke about her mistreatment in the industry, highlighting the struggles of actresses dependent on producers and heroes. Her controversial 2017 appearance on Karan Johar's "Koffee With Karan," where she accused Johar of nepotism, sparked a public debate on the issue.

Ranaut's high-profile disputes, including her public spat with "Krrish 3" co-star Hrithik Roshan and controversies surrounding her films "Manikarnika" and "Simran," have kept her in the headlines. She ventured into the South Indian film industry with J Jayalalitha's biopic "Thalaivii."

Despite her headline-grabbing career, Ranaut's latest release "Tejas" did not fare well at the box office. As she embarks on her political journey, the question remains whether her outspoken nature will serve her well in the political arena.



**CONTACT US**  
57809413 - 5 7829861 - 5 2929301  
email: drrouget@gmail.com

## FOR RENT

4000 Sq Ft Building  
In Excellent Condition  
within less than 5 mins  
from New Supreme  
Court Building

**Ideal for**  
Office - Mini  
Clinic - Medical  
Lab - Archives  
& Chambers

Parking Spaces &  
Alarm System Available

## DASAUTO CO LTD

Tel: 248 3693 / 5850 1922 / 5256 4837

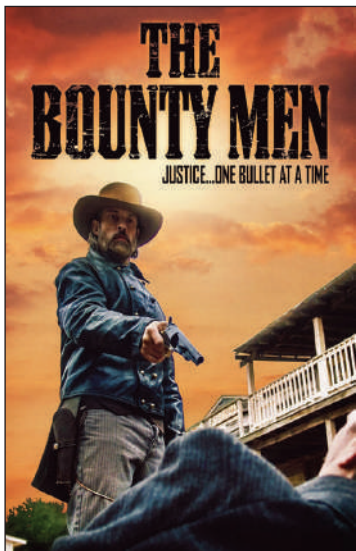
### BMW SPECIALIST GARAGE

Servicing & General Repairs  
Mechanical & Electrical Problems  
Diagnosis & Coding & Programming  
Engine Overhaul/Oil &  
Water Leakages/Suspension

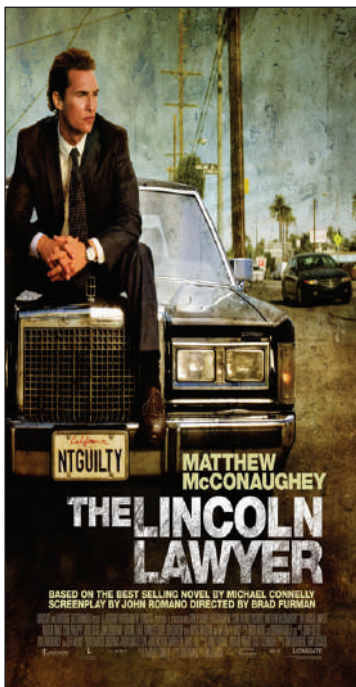




Vendredi 7 juin - 21.15



Samedi 8 Juin - 20.30



Dimanche 9 Juin - 20.30



## Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 7 juin

## MBC 1

06.01 Tele: Tour De Babel  
07.10 Film: Stormboy  
08.40 Le Livre Perdu Des Sorti...  
09.35 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
10.00 Tele: Amour Secret  
10.23 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
11.10 Tele: La Reina Del Flow  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.40 Tele: Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
13.25 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.15 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Budget Speech 2024/2025  
17.40 Emotion En Avant Plan  
18.45 Other: Radha Krishna  
18.55 Le Journal  
21.15 Film: The Bounty Men  
22.35 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
01.30 The Gardener's Daughter

## MBC 2

06.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
08.46 Local: Generations J  
10.22 Local: J'ai Faim  
11.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion  
11.45 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin  
12.26 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
12.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
15.00 Tradiksion Diskour Bidze  
17.15 Loca Production  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.30 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.00 MBC Prod  
19.30 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
20.00 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...  
21.03 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
21.55 Local: La Societe  
23.00 Le Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.20 Local: Retrovizer  
23.35 Local: Parkour  
00.00 Local: Couleur Marine

## MBC 3

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
08.01 MBC Prod: Amrit Vaani  
10.07 Serial: Agniphera  
12.00 Film: Daal Me Kaala  
Starring: Nimmi, Kishore Kumar, Abhi Bhattacharya  
14.15 Live: Samachar  
14.55 Live Budget Speech 2024  
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
19.38 Local: An Evening With Mohammed Rafi  
20.30 Serial: Vidrohi  
21.00 Film: Hamar Lalkar  
23.40 Serial: Mere Sai  
00.45 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

## Cine 12

06.30 Mag: Shift  
06.38 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
06.53 Mag: Border Crossing  
07.54 Doc: Tomorrow Today  
08.35 Doc: In The Land Of The...  
09.16 Doc: Dogs & US  
10.05 Doc: From Refugee To Mayor  
10.47 Doc: Shift  
11.00 Mag: Eco India  
11.39 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
12.15 Mag: Border Crossing  
12.27 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
15.00 D.Anime: Giant  
15.26 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers  
15.48 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
16.10 Les Nouvelles Aventure De...  
16.20 D.Anime: Robin Des Boix  
16.32 The New Adventure Of...  
16.54 Mag: Lab 360  
17.02 D.Anime: Words And Sounds  
17.28 Tje Gardener's Daughter

## Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan  
15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
15.23 Film: Sanam Teri Kasam  
Starring Harshvardhan Rane, Mawra Hocane, Vijay Raaz  
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 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se  
22.32 Swarn Ghar  
22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa  
23.29 Film: Sanam Teri Kasam  
Starring: Harshvardhan Rane, Mawra Hocane, Vijay Raaz

samedi 8 Juin

03.50 Serial: Pearson  
04.44 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
06.30 Tele: Amour A Mort  
07.00 Serial: Zoo  
07.45 Serial: Seal Team  
08.30 Serial: NCIS  
09.15 Serial: Pearson  
10.05 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  
17.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Enter: Dance India Dance...  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer  
22.28 Serial: Blue Bloods  
23.06 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
07.10 Local: Voyage Au Feminin  
07.52 Local: Itinerer Rodrig  
09.25 Local: La Societe  
10.42 Local: Couleur Marine  
12.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
12.46 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik  
13.58 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...  
14.24 Local: Zafan Nou Pei  
14.37 Local: Rodrig: Ala Nou Vini  
16.00 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
16.11 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
16.32 Local: Retrovizer  
18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.40 Rodrig: Coin Zen  
20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies  
20.29 Local: Deba Klima  
21.29 Local: Glwar Dantan  
22.01 Local: 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  
10.38 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
12.20 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
12.46 Local: Khel Khiladi  
13.12 An Evening With Mohammed Rafi  
14.06 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Film: Sangram  
Starring Ajay Devgn, Ayesha Jhulka, Karishma Kapoor, Amrith Puri  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
19.00 Duniya Mein Is Saptah  
21.00 Film: Force 2  
Starring John Abraham, Sonakshi Sinha, Tahir Raj Bhasin  
23.10 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
23.51 Local: Virasat  
00.07 Local: Gyan Vigyan

06.00 D.Anime: Llama Llama  
06.45 D.Anime: Stan Lee's  
09.42 Mag: Lab 360  
09.46 Serial: The Avatars  
10.45 Mother In The Boardroom  
12.27 Doc: Glarcier Express  
14.33 Doc: Cool & Clever  
15.00 D.Anime: Giant  
15.24 Serial: Rainbow Rangers  
15.48 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
16.10 Les Nouvelles Aventures De...  
16.20 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois  
16.54 Magazine: Lab 360  
17.02 Serial: Apple Tree House  
18.10 Mag: In Good Shape  
20.01 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
20.30 Live: News  
20.50 Serial: The Queen Of Flow  
21.40 Film: The Mustang  
23.20 Doc: Wild Isles  
00.02 Doc: My Body, My Sense Of Smell

08.00 Swarn Ghar  
10.19 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
12.16 Udaariyaan  
14.04 Anupamaa  
16.00 Fanaa  
18.31 Film: Raabta  
Starring Deepika Padukone, Rajkumar Rao, Kriti Sanon



20.54 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
21.06 Porus  
21.28 Crime Patrol  
22.16 Swarn Ghar

dimanche 9 juin

04.31 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
06.15 Tele: Amour A Mort  
06.40 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer  
08.40 Serial: New Amsterdam  
09.21 Film: 47 Metres Down  
10.52 Serial: Chicago Med  
11.34 Tele: Amour A Mort  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.40 Film: Au Mepris Des Lois  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.25 Film: The Mustang  
17.10 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa  
19.23 Sayings Radha Krishna  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: 1917  
Avec George MacKay, Dean-Charles Chapman, Mark Strong  
22.24 Serial: New Amsterdam  
23.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

07.06 Local: Saver Kiltirel  
08.40 Local: Les Petits Genies  
09.56 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL  
10.49 Local: Nu Rasinn  
11.50 Rodrig: Coin Zen  
12.49 Local: Glwar Dantan  
13.15 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion  
14.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL  
15.00 Local: Finals National Skatch competition 2024  
17.00 Prod: Deba Klima  
18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.20 Local: Elle  
20.00 Local: Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse  
20.30 Le Challenge  
20.45 Local: Les Klips  
22.30 Local: Clin D'Oeil  
23.00 Journal Kreol  
23.20 Local: Arsiv MBC: Fer Roule  
23.46 Local: Mangeons Veg

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness Challenge  
08.23 Local: Puranya Pakwan  
12.00 Film: Naam  
With Nutan, Kumar Gaurav, Sanjay Dutt  
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  
20.30 Serial: Porus  
21.00 Serial: Crime Patrol  
21.45 Serial: Naagin Season 4  
22.28 Serial: Bahubali  
23.01 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa  
Saath Nibhaib Sajna  
00.37 Local: Tohar Rashi  
01.29 Local: Yaadein

06.00 D.Anime: Giant  
06.25 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super...  
07.13 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs  
09.45 Mag: Lab 360  
09.49 Serial: The Avatars  
10.38 Mag: D.I.Y.  
10.50 Mag: In Good Shape  
11.58 Mag: Afrimaxx  
12.29 Doc: Wild Isles  
13.53 Doc: Naples Under The...  
15.01 D.Anime: Giant  
15.26 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers  
15.48 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
16.20 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois  
16.31 D.Anime: The New Adventure  
16.53 Mag: Lab 360  
16.54 Serial: Apple Tree House  
17.29 Serial: Superstore  
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
20.00 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
20.50 Serial: The Queen Of Flow

00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
01.56 Udaariyaan  
04.12 Anupamaa  
06.02 Fanaa  
08.00 Tenali Rama  
08.15 Patiala Babes  
10.02 Kundali Bhagya  
12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
14.03 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se  
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya  
18.38 Film: Hum Kisi Se Kum Nahin  
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan  
21.07 Tenali Rama  
21.19 Dance India Dance Little Masters  
22.13 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2

lundi 10 Juin

05.09 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
06.01 Tele: Tour De Babel  
08.45 Serial: Heartland  
09.31 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
10.00 Tele: Amour Secret  
10.25 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
13.10 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.50 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.15 Serial: Heartland  
15.21 Film: Extortion  
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.55 Serial: Swarn Ghar  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.40 Serial: Zoo  
21.24 Serial: Seal Team  
22.06 Serial: NCIS  
22.45 Entre Justice Et Vengeance

07.16 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse  
08.42 Local: Clin D'Oeil  
10.41 Local: Le Challenge  
11.00 Local: Les Klips  
12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
13.54 Local: Elle  
14.35 Local: Arsiv MBC  
15.08 Rodrig Prog: Komanter  
15.23 Local: Tipa Tipa Nu Avance  
16.00 Local: Aktiv  
16.52 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: Nos Aines  
20.45 Local: Tous Egaux  
21.01 National Innovation...  
22.33 Local: Danyel Waro, Leker Maloya

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
09.48 Serial: Bahubali  
10.27 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa...  
12.02 Film: Raja Harishchandra  
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: Hindi Sahitya  
20.00 Local: Charcha  
20.30 Film: Kahin Din Kahin Raat  
Starring: Biswajeet Chatterjee, Sapana, Pran Sikand/Director: Darshan Sabharwal  
22.43 Serial: Mere Sai  
23.51 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
00.11 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaen  
00.37 Local: Hindi Sahitya...  
01.29 Local: Charcha  
01.55 Serial: Senhur

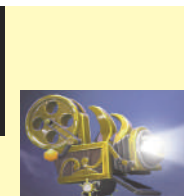
06.00 Mag: SADC  
08.21 Doc: Northern Lights  
09.04 Doc: Growing Up In Mongolia  
09.50 Doc: Legendary Hotels  
10.34 Doc: A Passion For helping  
11.05 Doc: Birds - Beyond Flight...  
11.50 Mag: Arts unveiled  
12.21 Music Under The Swastika  
14.33 Doc: Healthy Living  
15.00 D.Anime: Giant  
15.26 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers  
15.48 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
16.10 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou  
16.18 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois  
16.30 D.Anime: The New Adventure  
17.20 Mag: Lab 360  
17.30 Serial: Tree House  
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent  
18.55 Student Support Prog..  
20.01 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
22.05 Film: The Hunt

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan  
15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
15.25 Film: Judwaa  
Starring: Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Rambha  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.31 Fanaa  
20.08 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.29 Radha Krishna  
21.06 Anupamaa  
21.34 Mere Sai  
22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se  
22.28 Swarn Ghar  
23.06 Serial: Rajaa Betaa  
23.30 Film: Judwaa  
Starring: Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Rambha



**mbc 1**  
Mardi 11 Juin - 20.30**mbc 1**  
Mercredi 12 Juin - 15.12**CINE 2**  
Jeudi 13 Juin - 21.40

# Programme TV

**SERIAL**

mardi 11 juin

**MBC 1**

06.00 Tele: Tour De Babel  
06.54 Mag: Hollywood Best Film  
07.25 Serial: Zoo  
07.59 Serial: Seal Team  
08.45 Serial: NCIS  
09.30 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
09.54 Tele: Amour Secret  
10.25 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
11.11 Tele: La Reina Del Flow  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.44 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.10 Tele: Gout De L'Amour  
15.25 Film: The Lion Woman  
17.30 The Gardener's Daughter  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar  
20.30 Film: Les D moiselles De Rochefort

**MBC 2**

07.12 Local: Nos Aines  
09.32 Local: Danyel Waro, Leker...  
09.58 Rodrig: Saver Lokal  
10.17 Rodrig: Mo Pei: Kafe Rodrig  
12.33 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel  
13.32 Local: Nos Aines  
13.56 Local: Business Connect  
15.12 Local: En Forme  
15.30 National Innovation...  
17.02 Local: Le Mag  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.26 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi  
19.42 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
20.00 Local: Generations J  
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante  
21.04 Local: Le Mag  
21.52 Local: All Day Music Day  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.21 Local: Music Tour 2022  
00.22 Local: Profil

**MBC 3**

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen  
08.26 Local: Hindi Sahitya  
08.52 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek  
09.32 Local: Charcha  
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya  
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Moojrim  
Starring: Joy Mukherjee, Kumud Chhugani  
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  
19.15 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka  
20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya  
20.30 Film: Janwar  
22.41 Serial: Mere Sai  
23.45 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

**MBC 5**

06.03 Mag: Eco Africa  
08.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
09.02 Mag: Washington Forum  
10.59 Mag: Eco Africa  
11.28 Mag: The 77 Percent  
11.56 Mag: Africa 54  
12.24 Mag: In Good Shape  
13.35 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
14.06 Doc: Washington Today  
15.00 D.Anime: Giant  
15.26 Serial: Raindow Rangers  
15.48 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter  
16.10 D.Anime: Caillou  
16.30 D.Anime: The New Adventure  
17.20 Mag: Lab 360  
17.30 Serial: Apple Tree House  
18.00 Mag: Rev  
18.45 Mag: Red Carpet  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
20.01 Tele: L'Amour A Mort

**Bollywood TV**

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.58 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
15.23 Film: The Camp  
Starring Sonali Kulkarni, Rakesh Bedi, Sanjay Mishra, Suresh Chatwal, Krishna Bhatt  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.03 Udaariyaan  
19.33 Fanaa  
20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.29 Radha Krishna  
21.08 Anupama  
21.30 Mere Sai  
22.08 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se  
22.30 Serial: Swaran Ghar  
23.06 Serial: Rajaa Betaa  
23.30 Film: The Camp  
Starring Sonali Kulkarni, Rakesh Bedi, Sanjay Mishra, Suresh Chatwal, Krishna Bhatt

mercredi 12 juin

07.21 Film: 47 Metres Down  
08.53 Serial: Heartland  
09.32 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
09.55 Tele: Amour Secret  
10.25 The Gardener's Daughter  
10.50 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
11.15 Tele: La Reina Del Flow  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel  
13.50 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.15 Serial: Heartland  
15.20 Film: Les D moiselles De Rochefort  
17.32 The Gardener's Daughter  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.41 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani  
21.30 Film: The Dead Don't Die  
23.02 Entre Justice Et Vengeance

07.15 Local: Generations J  
08.03 Local: Mots & Ecrits  
08.41 Local: All Day Music Day  
09.31 Local: Le Mag  
10.28 Local: Koze Zom  
11.00 Local: Music Tour 2022  
12.02 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef  
12.29 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
13.20 Local: Priorite Sante  
15.00 Prod: Deba Klima  
16.23 Le Journee Sous Le Regard  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.30 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi  
19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor  
20.26 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
20.55 Local: Agir Ensemble  
21.30 Local: Les Klips  
23.29 Local: Proze Dime  
23.58 Local: Come On Let's Dance

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
07.08 Serial: Kisna  
08.26 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka  
08.56 Talk With Dr Omanand Ji  
09.26 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya  
10.00 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
11.32 Serial: Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Maa Beta  
Starring: Manoj Kumar, Ameeta, Vijay Dutt  
15.30 Serial: Senhur  
16.00 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana  
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Yatra  
19.00 Local: Kala  
20.00 Local: Virasat  
20.15 Local: Gyan Vigyan  
21.00 Film: Saathi Sanghati  
23.35 Serial: Mere Sai

06.41 Mag: Red Carpet  
08.35 Mag: Initiative Africa  
09.32 Doc: The Bitter Sweet Deal  
10.14 Doc: Marvel  
11.28 Mag: Healthy Living  
11.43 Mag: Red Carpet  
11.58 Mag: Made In Germany  
13.35 Doc: Business Africa  
14.08 Doc: Euromaxx  
15.00 D.Anime: Giant  
15.26 Serial: Rainbow Rangers  
15.49 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter  
16.11 Les Nouvelles Aventures...  
16.32 D.Anime: The New Adventure  
16.54 D.Anime: Words And Sounds  
17.20 Mag: Lab 360  
17.30 Serial: Apple Tree House  
18.00 Mag: Motorweek  
18.30 Mag: Unseen  
18.45 Mag: Planet A  
20.01 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
21.40 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer

14.25 Radha Mohan  
15.18 Film: Kal Ki Awaz  
Starring: Dharmendra, Raj Babbar, Amrita Singh, Pratibha Sinha, Farida Jalal  
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 Serial: Rajaa Betaa  
23.01 Serial: Rajaa Betaa  
23.31 Film: Kal Ki Awaz  
Starring: Dharmendra, Raj Babbar, Amrita Singh, Pratibha Sinha, Farida Jalal  
02.11 Kundali Bhagya  
02.40 Udaariyaan

jeudi 13 juin

08.05 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani  
08.45 Serial: Madam Secretary  
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: The Lincoln Lawyer  
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: Nawabzaade  
Stars: Dharmesh Yelande, Punit Pathak, Raghav Juyal  
22.20 Tele: Entre Justice Et Vengeance

07.11 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
09.03 Local: Proze Dime  
11.00 Local: All Day Music Day  
12.06 Local: Rodrig Spor  
12.29 Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
12.55 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
13.15 Local: En Forme  
14.00 Local: Klip Seleksion  
16.00 Come On Let's Dance  
16.57 Local: En Forme  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.31 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.20 Rodrig - Li Bon Ou Konnin  
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
20.30 Emotion En Avant Plan  
21.01 Local: Le Mag  
21.52 International Jazz Day  
23.32 Local: Generations J  
23.21 Rodrig: Sa lavi La  
01.06 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer

07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail  
07.20 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
08.27 Local: Kala  
08.53 Local: Ayush  
09.17 Local: Virasat  
09.34 Local: Gyan Vigyan  
10.03 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana  
11.27 Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Taj Mahal  
Starring: Pradeep Kumar, Bina Rai, Veena  
15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain  
16.00 Serial: Agniphera  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Amrit Vaani  
19.06 Local: Kabir Jayanti 2024  
19.32 Local: Hanuman Chalisa...  
20.30 Local: Shiv Shakti  
21.00 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya  
21.30 Mag: Dharam Yatra

07.24 Doc: Our Future Cities  
08.32 Mag: Close Up  
09.27 D-Day And The Tremendous...  
10.59 Mag: Motorweek  
11.51 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
12.48 Doc: Cape Verde  
13.30 Mag: Close Up  
13.56 D-Day And The Tremendous  
14.38 Mag: Healthy Living  
15.00 D.Anime: Giant  
15.24 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers  
15.46 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter  
16.11 Les Nouvelles Aventures...  
16.20 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois  
17.20 Mag: Lab 360  
17.30 Serial: Apple Tree House  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
18.30 Mag: Shift  
20.01 Tele: L'Amour A Mort  
21.40 Film: Gladiator  
Avec : Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix...

14.25 Radha Mohan  
15.16 Film: Zamaana Deewana  
Stars: Jeetendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Shah Rukh Khan  
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  
23.02 Serial: Rajaa Betaa  
23.31 Film: Zamaana Deewana  
Stars: Jeetendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Shah Rukh Khan  
02.12 Kundali Bhagya  
02.41 Udaariyaan



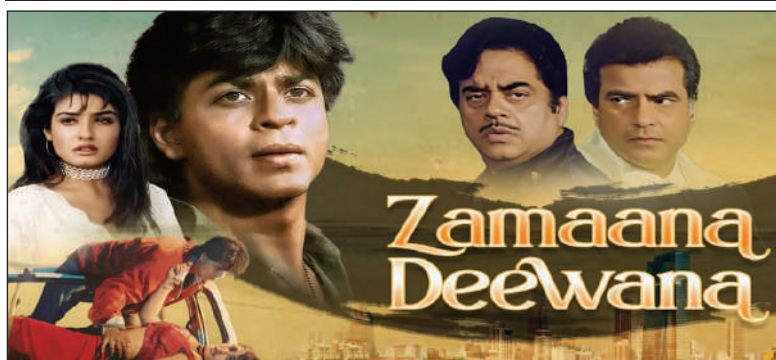
Jeudi 13 Juin - 15.30

Stars: Jeetendra, Shatrughan Sinha, Shah Rukh Khan



Jeudi 13 Juin - 20.30

Stars: Dharmesh Yelande, Punit Pathak, Raghav Juyal







Nita Chicooree-Mercier

# Is Mauritius on the right track?

**T**wo key components of prosperity are free enterprise and workers' rights. Easing the process of starting businesses has opened avenues for those eager to invest capital. A new phenomenon is business partnerships that cut across family bonds and ethnicity, driven by motivation, skills, and efficiency.

Traditional economic power holders, from the sugar industry to real estate magnates, often stick with their kin or partner with South African and European businessmen. However, others have tested the limits of family businesses and crossed the line to partner with individuals from different ethnic backgrounds.

Hundreds of vegetable plants are sold to retailers weekly.

Another entrepreneur started a nursery unit, supplying other nurseries, selling to hotels, and renting plants for special events, expanding his customer base with new residences cropping up. It is a full-time job, and he is quite satisfied and happy about being self-employed.

A widowed woman in Fond du Sac cultivates wild hibiscus, locally known as La Roselle, known for its anti-diabetic properties. She hires a Bangladeshi worker when needed to clean the ground and pick the flowers. She sells homemade juice and jam to bakeries, advertises them on social media, and

It enhances workers' self-worth and dignity, reduces the inequality gap, and has a direct psychological feel-good effect. Is that an insignificant contribution to social justice? Above partisan politics and power struggles, the well-being of the developing nation should top all priorities.

\* \* \*

**T**he call to prioritize political identity is an appeal to the public to value national interests and think in terms of a unified people living in one country. It is a commitment to strengthening nation-building and setting aside differences in political ideology, economic outlook, ethnicity, religion, and regional interests. The aim is to join hands with the central government and work for the general upliftment of the people in an increasingly polarized society.

The Indian Prime Minister chooses his words carefully as he gears up for a third term in office, against the backdrop of divisive forces claiming sectarian interests. The message of unity sent by Narendra Modi carries spiritual significance. He undertakes a pilgrimage to Kanyakumari and meditates to mark the great responsibility he is entrusted with at this historical juncture, as his government has taken Bharat to unprecedented heights over the past ten years.

This message implies that the concept of nationhood is deeply embedded in the country's millennia-old civilization.

\* \* \*

**M**embers of the European Union are heading towards the polls to elect their representatives to the European Parliament. What is negatively portrayed as far-right wing is predicted to secure seats in several countries where citizens are increasingly vocal in rejecting Brussels' policies that impact their lives.

Political parties with strong nationalist agendas aim to change rules in hard-hit economic sectors, foster re-industrialization, protect local agriculture, and above all, take control of migration matters. Their motto is: Countries have borders, nations have specific cultural identities, and people are sovereign. All these concepts are anathema to the EU ideology.

Once again, opponents demonize nationalism, sovereignty, patriotism, and frontiers, evoking the spectre of Mussolini, Hitler, and others to scare voters ahead of the June 9th elections. Will it work this time around?



You meet people who turn a plot of land into a thriving business. Large-scale agriculture keeps families busy all week with the help of a few employees. Work starts at 5 am and ends at 1 pm.

**“A widowed woman in Fond du Sac cultivates wild hibiscus, locally known as La Roselle, known for its anti-diabetic properties. She hires a Bangladeshi worker when needed to clean the ground and pick the flowers. She sells homemade juice and jam to bakeries, advertises them on social media, and receives public orders.**

**The entrepreneurial spirit and resilience of our compatriots are impressive. You meet people who regularly upgrade their skills or turn to different sectors. A young man who worked as a pastry cook in a hotel now runs his own business, supplying pastries to restaurants and hotels...”**

receives public orders. The entrepreneurial spirit and resilience of our compatriots are impressive.

You meet people who regularly upgrade their skills or turn to different sectors. A young man who worked as a pastry cook in a hotel now runs his own business, supplying pastries to restaurants and hotels.

- “I work for myself now,” Valentino proudly tells you.

Another individual started in low-paying jobs, took courses in accountancy, and now employs a few accountants. He has partnered with two other businessmen to open a classy restaurant. A young lady took over a real estate agency after the owner's demise instead of closing it down. She acquired all the necessary skills to run the business herself. There may be unemployment among doctors, lawyers, and engineers, but not if you have an incentive for entrepreneurship.

\* \* \*

**W**hat is the direct consequence of the minimum wage? Firstly, it makes unscrupulous employers think twice before exploiting their employees.

## Tree of Knowledge



P - bestlifeonline.com

## Revealing Your True Self

*Our true selves exist whether we acknowledge them or not, often buried under learned behaviour.*

**I**dentify is an elusive concept. We feel we must define ourselves using a relatively small selection of roles and conscious character traits, even if none accurately represents our notion of “self.” The confusion surrounding our true nature is further compounded by the fact that society regularly asks us to suppress so much of our emotional, intellectual, and spiritual vibrancy. Yet we are, in truth, beings of light — pure energy inhabiting physical bodies, striving for enlightenment while living earthly lives. Our true selves exist whether we acknowledge them or not, often buried under fears and learned behavior. When we recognize our power, our luminosity, and our divinity, we cannot help but live authentic lives of appreciation, potential, fulfillment, and grace.

At birth and throughout your childhood, your thoughts and feelings were more than likely expressions of your true self. Though you may have learned quickly that to speak and act in a certain fashion would win others' approval, you understood innately that you were no ordinary being. There are many ways you can recapture the authenticity you once articulated so freely. Meditation can liberate you from the bonds of those earthly customs that compel you to downplay your uniqueness. Also, communing with nature can remind you of the special role you were meant to play in this lifetime. To realize your purpose, you must embrace your true self by letting your light shine forth, no matter the consequences.

Rediscovering who you are apart from your roles and traits takes time and courage. If, like many, you have denied your authenticity for a long while, you may find it difficult to separate your true identity from the identity you have created to cope with the world around you. Once you do find your authentic self, you will be overcome by a wonderful sense of wholeness as you reconcile your spiritual aspect and your physical aspect, as well as your inner- and outer-world personas. As you gradually adjust to this developing unity, your role as a being of light will reveal itself to you, and you will discover that you have a marvelous destiny to fulfill.