

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream. -- C.S. Lewis



P 9

Interview: Dr Vinaye Ancharaz, International Economic Consultant

## 'An increasing number of our elderly voters are waking up to the reality of the money illusion...

... they realize that, despite their pensions doubling since December 2019, rising living costs make this increase insufficient to meet their needs'

### • 'The Mauritian economy has just come out of the woods...

... but I remain cautious due to several downside risks — now is not the time for complacency or indulgence'

#### Politics

## Election anxiety: A neuroscience perspective



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee P3

#### Eclairages

## Lutte anti-corruption : La leçon de Singapour



A. Bartleby P4

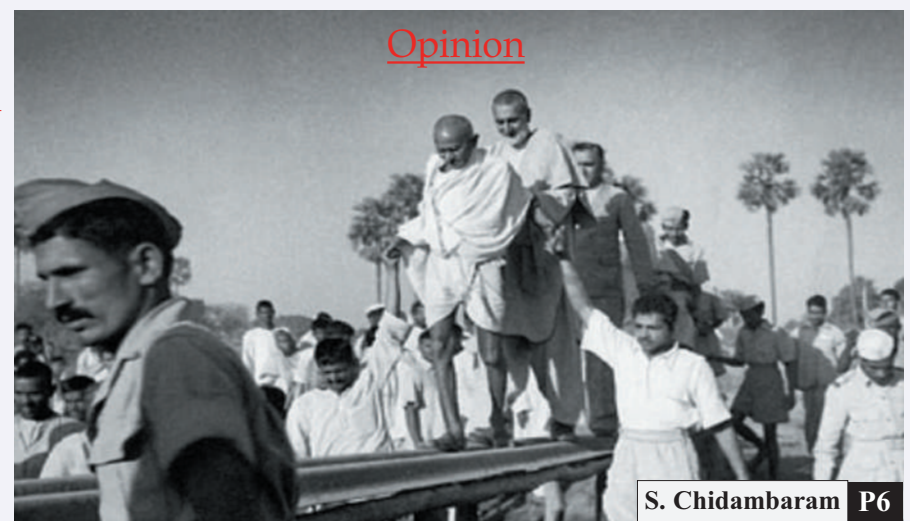
#### Breakfast with Bwana



Anil Madan P 7

## Kamala Harris for President

#### Opinion



S. Chidambaram P6

## The Spirit of Resistance: Lessons from Gandhi's Journey

# Will Populism Save the Economy or Government?

**R**ecent developments in Mauritius highlight a significant overlap between economic policy and political strategy, prompting important questions about the economy as elections approach. The Monetary Policy Committee's decision to lower the key interest rate by 50 basis points has sparked a lively debate among economists and political observers alike. While this move aims to provide relief to borrowers amid a climate of rising household debt, it also underscores a deeper political calculus that could have far-reaching implications for the nation's economic future.

In this week's interview, economist Vinaye Ancharaz highlights a significant backdrop to this decision: the recent cut in the Federal Reserve's interest rate and the government's controversial proposal to provide interest-free loans to young people. His critique reveals a common sentiment that the government's focus is increasingly on short-term political gains rather than sustainable economic strategies. With general elections looming, the modest rate cut could be seen as an attempt to placate the electorate by easing financial pressures on households. Yet, the broader economic context raises alarms.

Mauritius has experienced a concerning spike in household debt, which reached Rs 240 billion by the end of 2023. This alarming figure reflects a debt-to-income ratio of over 102%, placing immense pressure on household finances. While the interest rate cut will offer much-needed respite to borrowers, it also carries potential risks. The Governor of the Bank of Mauritius cites falling inflation as justification for this move; however, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts inflation could exceed the Bank's targets, fuelled by rising freight costs and salary increases. According to V. Ancharaz, lower interest rates might inadvertently discourage foreign investment, exerting further downward pressure on the rupee, which could counteract any benefits of cheaper borrowing.

The economic landscape is further complicated by the recent legal challenge from Business Mauritius regarding the government's salary realignment initiative. The expectation of salary adjustments for approximately 200,000 private sector employees has been met with resistance from employers concerned about the legality of the government's approach without passing through Parliament. This standoff not only raises questions about the stability of employer-employee relations but also the extent to which Cabinet or a Labour Minister can impose salary increases, remuneration orders and readjustments on an ad-hoc basis, weeks before general elections are due, throwing carefully constructed private company budgets and personnel recruitment plans in disarray. Most of them are not against the salary rises, some even paying interim allowances, but have been under pressure from political jockeying and will

rather wait until the matter is sorted out in courts. With the opposition maintaining a cautious stance, the ruling alliance risks alienating the very workforce it aims to win over through financial incentives.

The political manoeuvring extends beyond interest rates and salary adjustments. The Prime Minister's proposal to provide interest-free housing loans to youths aged 18 to 35 appears aimed at securing votes from a demographic that has historically been less engaged in the electoral process. However, the effectiveness of such measures remains questionable. Given that most home loan applicants are over 30, and need first to buy an increasingly out of reach plot of land, this initiative may not resonate broadly. Furthermore, the implementation of this proposal could place an undue burden on public finances, with projections suggesting it could cost Rs 40 billion over five years.

The forthcoming announcement regarding retirement pensions on International Day of Older Persons further illustrates the government's populist strategy. With plans to significantly increase pensions, the ruling alliance appears focused on securing the support of senior voters. However, the increasing awareness among seniors about the economic realities - such as inflation outpacing their pension increases and the devaluation of the national currency - could diminish the effectiveness of these promises. As many elderly voters grapple with the rising cost of living, mere financial incentives may not suffice to garner their support.

**O**ther potential measures, like a year-end bonus, which could serve as a sweetener for the electorate are also expected soon. Yet, imposing such a bonus amid ongoing salary adjustments could place additional strain on businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises already struggling with rising operational costs. As the government faces backlash from the private sector, the implications for employment and economic stability could be significant.

In this complex interplay of politics and economics, the role of the opposition remains critical. The Labour Party-MMM-ND-ReA alliance must manage a landscape full of challenges and opportunities. While it may be politically expedient to remain neutral on the salary realignment issue, a robust critique of the government's approach to wage policies could resonate with an electorate increasingly aware of economic disparities.

Ultimately, the question remains: will the government's short-term measures be sufficient to secure electoral support, or will voters prioritize long-term stability and sustainable economic policies? As Mauritius approaches a crucial election, current choices will impact the economy for years. The challenge lies not only in addressing immediate financial pressures but also in fostering a resilient economic framework that can withstand the political tides ahead.

## The Conversation



Pic: SiteSpect

## The Intelligence Age: Sam Altman's Manifesto and Its Oversights

*In a new manifesto, OpenAI's Sam Altman envisions an AI utopia – and reveals glaring blind spots*

**B**y now, many of us are probably familiar with artificial intelligence hype. AI will make artists redundant! AI can do lab experiments! AI will end grief!

Even by these standards, the latest proclamation from OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman, published on his personal website this week, seems remarkably hyperbolic. We are on the verge of "The Intelligence Age", he declares, powered by a "superintelligence" that may just be a "few thousand days" away. The new era will bring "astounding triumphs", including "fixing the climate, establishing a space colony, and the discovery of all of physics".

Altman and his company – which is trying to raise billions from investors and pitching unprecedentedly huge datacentres to the US government, while shedding key staff and ditching its nonprofit roots to give Altman a share of ownership – have much to gain from hype.

However, even setting aside these motivations, it's worth taking a look at some of the assumptions behind Altman's predictions. On closer inspection, they reveal a lot about the worldview of AI's biggest cheerleaders – and the blind spots in their thinking.

### Steam engines for thought?

Altman grounds his marvellous predictions in a two-paragraph history of humanity:

*People have become dramatically more capable over time; we can already accomplish things now that our predecessors would have believed impossible.*

**T**his is a story of unmitigated progress heading in a single direction, driven by human intelligence. The cumulative discoveries and inventions of science and technology – Altman reveals – have led us to the computer chip and, inexorably, to artificial intelligence which will take us the rest of the way to the future. This view owes much to the futuristic visions of the singularitarian movement.

Such a story is seductively simple. If human intelligence has driven us to ever-greater heights, it is hard not to conclude that better, faster, artificial intelligence will drive progress even farther and higher.

This is an old dream. In the 1820s, when Charles Babbage saw steam engines revolutionising human physical labour in England's industrial revolution, he began to imagine constructing similar machines for automating mental labour.

Hallam Stevens, Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies,  
James Cook 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*

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# Election anxiety: A neuroscience perspective



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

*In America, tensions rise in the final year of a mandate, but here, it feels like we're in a constant electoral campaign, with nonstop political chatter both in public and on social media, reflecting our heightened anxiety*

I haven't come across anybody mentioning let alone speaking about 'election anxiety' in our country, where talk about politics seems to be the national pastime. Which reminds me of what a friend from then Rhodesia who like me was studying in Calcutta (now Kolkata) in the mid-1960s once told us: 'The national game in England is football. In Africa instead we play politics!'

So, I was a little surprised when I came across the expression election anxiety for the first time in one of the medical websites that I consult regularly. This was in an article by a neuroscientist, Michael Merzenich, last month, 'Navigating Election Anxiety: How Worry Affects the Brain.' The opening lines read as follows:

'Once again, America is deeply divided before a national election, with people on each side convinced of the horrors that will be visited upon us if the other side wins.'

'Tis the season — and regrettably, not to be jolly but to be worried.

'As a neuroscientist, I am especially aware of the deleterious mental and physical impact of chronic worry on our citizenry. That's because worry is not "all in your head." Chronic mild stress drives a panoply of negative changes in your body and brain that add to your risk for physical and neurologic troubles. We modern humans live in a world of worry which appears to be progressively growing.'

It takes a neuroscientist to detail the chain of brain events associated with anxiety that has a deleterious impact on other parts of the body. But first, given that anxiety is primarily a mental problem, let us see what a psychologist and a psychiatrist have said about election anxiety earlier.

The psychologist wrote: 'The presidential election is taking a toll on the mental health of Americans. And that's according to recent surveys conducted before the attempt on one candidate's life and widespread calls for another to drop out of the race.'

'In a poll by the American Psychiatric Association, nearly three-quarters (73%) of respondents said they're feeling anxious about the election. Another poll by Myriad Genetics found that nearly 40% said they are feeling anxious and/or depressed about the election season, and a similar share said they are "checked out" by the amount of news and social media attention on politics and the upcoming election.'

As for the psychiatrist, he begins with: 'Instead of excitement about the upcoming election, many of my patients and friends — regardless of political affiliation — report they're terrified at the thought of the "other side" winning. Democrats tell me they fear Donald Trump will end our democracy; Republicans are afraid Kamala Harris will turn the United States into a socialist society without family values.'

'Watching the news leaves people from both parties exhausted, sad and scared about the future. Each half of the country is made to believe the other half is stupid, deeply misguided, immoral, dishonest or maliciously plotting to ruin the country they themselves love.'

It is noteworthy that these opinions come from and are about America, where they have both the resources and the interest to conduct such studies and surveys but given

that human nature is the same everywhere we can safely assume that their findings may well have a wider resonance in politics elsewhere too.

Maybe in future such surveys may be carried out in Mauritius also. At least in America things get heated up in the last year of the mandate, but here we seem to be in permanent electoral campaign. There is constant chatter about politics, politicians and elections among the public, but also an overload of bla-bla-bla on social media that is a reflection of our anxiety level.

Part of the anxiety in the US may probably be ascribed to the persistent rumours that there may be foreign interference in their election process, and which way this can tilt the results is uncertain. This uncertainty is leading to fear and further anxiety.

Another problem that has been flagged is voting by illegals that have crossed the southern border of the US by the millions apparently. In Mauritius too there was much worry about fraudulent voting by foreign workers in the last election, as well as tampering with the counting process. However, attempts to settle the matter legally have not resulted in any more clarity, and this gives rise to even more anxiety regarding future elections.

For the past several months there has been speculation about whether a partial election will be held, if so when, and if not, when will the Parliament be dissolved, and general elections held. So widely has this been talked about that one wonders if there was any anticipatory election anxiety component at all affecting the population over this period.

Or, for that matter, about the outcome of the next general elections. Past experience has shown that we end up with changes of regime that eventually repeat what they criticized in their predecessors. Under the circumstances,

**"...in America things get heated up in the last year of the mandate, but here we seem to be in permanent electoral campaign. There is constant chatter about politics, politicians and elections among the public, but also an overload of bla-bla-bla on social media that is a reflection of our anxiety level. Part of the anxiety in the US may probably be ascribed to the persistent rumours that there may be foreign interference in their election process, and which way this can tilt the results is uncertain. This uncertainty is leading to fear and further anxiety. Another problem that has been flagged is voting by illegals that have crossed the southern border of the US by the millions apparently. In Mauritius too there was much worry about fraudulent voting by foreign workers in the last election..."**



Pic - Smithsonian Magazine

**"Political actions generate anxiety about not only survival for some categories of the citizenry but also about the mode and quality of life for others. As Michael Merzenich, a neuroscientist, explains, 'worry stems from the brain's rather remarkable ability to foresee and reflexively respond to threat.' This results in what is known as the 'flight or fight' reaction or stress response that triggers specific regions in our brain to stimulate the production of the stress hormones cortisol, adrenaline and adrenaline in the body..."**

election anxiety may persist subliminally as people resign themselves to seeing more of the same thing, which they had expected would happen.

Two countries in which election anxiety certainly prevailed to a high degree are Bharat and the UK, which held general elections one after the other recently. In both countries post-election anxiety has substituted for the pre-election variety among their respective populations. In the UK, the massive victory of Labour Party is stressing not only the working class which it has turned against, as evidenced by police action in the recent widespread riots that targeted indigenous citizens and appeased the Labour electorate, but even the elite have raised their voices. Policy measures such as eliminating subsidies for heating to pensioners have given rise to a major concern about not only their comfort but their very survival as winter approaches.

Thus, political actions generate anxiety about not only survival for some categories of the citizenry but also about the mode and quality of life for others. As the neuroscientist explains, 'worry stems from the brain's rather remarkable ability to foresee and reflexively respond to threat.' This results in what is known as the 'flight or fight' reaction or stress response that triggers specific regions in our brain to stimulate the production of the stress hormones cortisol, adrenaline and adrenaline in the body.

In the immediate term, this raises the energy levels of the body, putting it into a hyperactive state to combat the threat perceived. In the long term, however, 'a deeply divided body politic is unequivocally affecting American brain health', leading to persistent worry and stress.

In turn the body too is impacted by such changes in the brain that can 'contribute to elevated blood sugar levels, to craving high-sugar foods, to elevated blood pressure, and to weaker immune responses. This all contributes to higher risks for cardiovascular and other dietary- and immune system-related diseases. And ultimately, to shorter lifespans.'

The political process is indeed a fraught one for both mind and body!

# Lutte anti-corruption: La leçon de Singapour

*L'ancien ministre des Transports S. Iswaran devant un procès pour corruption 9 mois suivant sa démission*

Par A. Bartleby

**L'**ancien ministre des Transports de Singapour, S. Iswaran, a comparu mardi dernier devant le tribunal pour le début de son procès, le premier pour corruption politique dans le pays en plus de quarante ans.

Iswaran, reconnu pour avoir contribué à l'implantation de la Formule 1 dans cette ville-État financière, a démissionné le 18 janvier 2024 après avoir été accusé de corruption. Cela marque un développement historique pour un pays qui se targue d'un gouvernement exemplaire.

Les accusations portées contre lui incluent des allégations selon lesquelles il aurait reçu des cadeaux d'une valeur de plus de 119 000 dollars de la part du milliardaire malaisien Ong Beng Seng en échange de l'avancement de ses intérêts commerciaux. Ces cadeaux comprenaient des vols en classe affaires, des séjours dans des hôtels de luxe et des billets pour le Grand Prix de Formule 1 ainsi que pour des matchs de la Premier League anglaise.

Ce procès est considéré par les observateurs comme l'un des plus significatifs sur le plan politique dans l'histoire de Singapour et pourrait nuire à la réputation du Parti d'action populaire (PAP) avant les élections générales attendues d'ici la fin de l'année prochaine, selon des rapports de l'AFP.

Iswaran a quitté le PAP après avoir reçu un avis formel des charges retenues contre lui, tout en plaçant non coupable. La majorité des 35 accusations portées contre ce ministre de 62 ans concernent la corruption, dont une liée à un contrat gouvernemental qui pourrait lui valoir jusqu'à sept



L'ancien ministre des Transports de Singapour, S. Iswaran, est apparu au tribunal le 24 septembre pour le début de son premier procès pour corruption politique en plus de quarante ans, ce qui a captivé une nation souvent citée comme une des moins corrompues dans le monde. Photo - AFP

ans de prison, mais il fait également face à une accusation d'obstruction à la justice.

Ong Beng Seng, l'un des hommes les plus riches de Singapour et directeur général de HotelProperties Limited, a été arrêté le même jour qu'Iswaran en 2023, mais n'a pas encore subi de sanctions. Le ministre des Transports est également accusé d'avoir accepté des bouteilles de whisky et des clubs de golf d'un directeur d'une entreprise de construction qui n'a pas été inculpé.

**L**a plupart des accusations contre Iswaran sont formulées sur la base d'une loi criminelle rarement utilisée, qui stipule qu'il est illégal pour les fonctionnaires publics d'accepter des objets de valeur de la part de personnes avec lesquelles ils travaillent officiellement.

Les avocats d'Iswaran soutiennent que les hommes d'affaires sont ses amis proches et qu'il pouvait accepter ces cadeaux à titre personnel. L'ancien ministre rejette les accusations et affirme son innocence dans sa lettre de démission.

L'ancien Premier ministre Lee Hsien Loong a déclaré au moment de la démission d'Iswaran qu'il s'était engagé à restituer l'argent perçu dans le cadre de son salaire et de ses indemnités depuis son arrestation.

Les ministres du Cabinet sont rémunérés à des niveaux comparables aux plus hauts revenus du secteur privé afin de dissuader la corruption. Lee a précédemment admis que son parti, le PAP, avait "subi un coup" après une série de scandales politiques.

L'année dernière, deux législateurs du PAP ont démissionné en raison d'une affaire. Avant cela, deux membres influents du Cabinet avaient été enquêtés pour avoir prétendument reçu des faveurs liées à la location de vastes bungalows de l'ère coloniale, mais avaient ensuite été blanchis.

Le Premier ministre Lawrence Wong, qui a succédé à Lee, a déclaré que la position anti-corruption du PAP est "non négociable".

Le dernier responsable politique à Singapour jugé pour corruption était WeeToon Boon en 1975, accusé d'avoir reçu des pots-de-vin d'une valeur de plus de 600 000 dollars, selon les médias locaux.

**C**ontrairement à ce qui se passe à Maurice, où les affaires de corruption impliquant des politiciens prennent souvent des mois, voire des années, pour être examinées, l'affaire Iswaran démontre une fois de plus que Singapour prend ces questions au sérieux : il a fallu seulement neuf mois aux autorités singapouriennes pour enquêter et porter des accusations contre l'ancien ministre des Transports.

En effet, la performance de l'ancienne ICAC, qui a maintenant été intégrée à la Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), et sa gestion d'un grand nombre d'affaires médiatisées ont été scrutées ces dernières années. La liste des affaires en attente d'enquête, telles que le scandale Dufry (2015), le scandale Alvaro Sobrinho (2018), ou encore celui du Sugar Insurance Fund Board (2018), souligne l'absence dans ce pays d'une agence d'investigation crédible capable de traiter les crimes en col blanc de manière indépendante. La FCC parviendra-t-elle à améliorer cette situation? Seul l'avenir nous le dira.

## Hezbollah et Israël : Vers une nouvelle guerre?



Conflic Israël-Hezbollah : le monde observe avec une inquiétude croissante la possibilité d'un conflit à grande échelle qui pourrait déstabiliser encore davantage une région déjà fragile. P - AFP

**D**epuis la mi-septembre, le conflit entre Israël et le Hezbollah libanais a connu une escalade vertigineuse. Cette tension, qui dure depuis près d'un an, a franchi un nouveau cap avec des échanges de frappes intenses.

Tout a commencé par deux jours de détonations de dispositifs de communication utilisés par le Hezbollah, des attaques attribuées à Israël, qui ont tué au moins 39 personnes et blessé des milliers d'autres. Le leader du Hezbollah a promis de riposter, et le 20 septembre, le groupe militant a lancé une salve de roquettes vers le nord d'Israël. Depuis lors, les deux camps ont intensifié leurs attaques, forçant des centaines de milliers d'Israéliens à se réfugier dans des abris anti-aériens et provoquant la fuite de dizaines de milliers de personnes

dans certaines régions du sud du Liban, où le Hezbollah est fortement implanté.

L'Organisation internationale pour les migrations a estimé que plus de 200 000 personnes ont été déplacées au Liban à cause du conflit, dont plus de 100 000 avant l'escalade récente. Selon l'agence de sécurité générale du Liban, plus de 31 000 personnes ont traversé la frontière vers la Syrie en seulement deux jours.

### Contexte et origine du Hezbollah

Le Hezbollah a été fondé en 1982 pendant la guerre civile libanaise, avec pour objectif initial de mettre fin à l'occupation israélienne du sud du Liban, qu'il a réussie à chasser en 2000. Depuis, le groupe a continué de lutter contre Israël, prônant la destruction de l'État israélien.

*Suite en page 5*

## Hezbollah et Israël: Vers une nouvelle guerre?

☞ Suite de la page 4

Soutenu par l'Iran, le Hezbollah est à la fois un groupe armé et un parti politique, avec des représentants au Parlement libanais et une présence significative dans le gouvernement.



Dégâts dans le village de Jiyeh, au sud de Beyrouth, après une frappe israélienne le 25 septembre 2024. P - AFP

Considéré comme la force paramilitaire la plus importante du monde arabe, le Hezbollah dispose d'une structure organisationnelle robuste et d'un arsenal important, revendiquant environ 100 000 combattants. Il est estimé qu'il détient jusqu'à 150 000 roquettes et missiles, dont des projectiles guidés capables de frapper n'importe où en Israël. Récemment, le groupe a introduit de nouvelles armes, notamment des drones explosifs.

### Efforts pour mettre fin au conflit

Les États-Unis, la France et d'autres alliés ont appelé à un cessez-le-feu immédiat de 21 jours pour favoriser la diplomatie. Cependant, le Premier ministre israélien, Benjamin Netanyahu, a déclaré que les frappes contre le Hezbollah continueraient «avec force» jusqu'à ce que les objectifs soient atteints, notamment le retour en toute sécurité des habitants du nord.

**L**e Hezbollah a affirmé, quant à lui, qu'il ne pourrait pas cesser ses frappes sur Israël tant qu'il n'y aurait pas de cessez-le-feu dans le conflit entre Israël et le Hamas, son allié régional.

Des responsables israéliens laissent entendre qu'une opération militaire contre le Hezbollah pourrait s'intensifier, avec des appels à une invasion terrestre du Liban. L'armée israélienne a renforcé ses forces le long de la frontière libanaise, ajoutant des brigades de réserve.

### Conséquences potentielles d'une guerre à grande échelle

Une nouvelle guerre pourrait être encore plus dévastatrice que celle de 2006, qui a causé des milliers de morts, tant côté libanais qu'israélien. Israël a déclaré qu'il pourrait transformer le sud du Liban en zone de combat, et les responsables israéliens ont évoqué la possibilité d'infliger des dommages équivalents à ceux causés dans la bande de Gaza.

Alors que la situation continue d'évoluer, le monde observe avec une inquiétude croissante la possibilité d'un conflit à grande échelle qui pourrait déstabiliser encore plus une région déjà fragile.

## Les chatbots IA prédisent les élections mieux que les humains

Selon Aaru, Kamala Harris gagnerait le vote populaire avec un écart de 4,2 points de pourcentage

**D**ans une primaire démocrate très suivie à New York en juin, le centriste George Latimer a battu le titulaire Jamaal Bowman par une large marge de 58,7 % contre 41,3 %. Avant le vote, deux étudiants de 19 ans, qui avaient abandonné leurs études à Manhattan, ont mené un sondage qui a prédit avec précision les résultats, à seulement 371 voix près. Leur secret? Ils n'ont interrogé personne. Au lieu de cela, ils ont demandé à des milliers de chatbots IA d'indiquer le candidat qu'ils préféraient.

Bienvenue dans le futur du sondage, selon Cam Fink et Ned Koh, co-fondateurs d'une entreprise de sept personnes appelée Aaru. Ils affirment avoir trouvé la formule magique pour prédire des résultats électoraux précis, surtout depuis que la plupart des sondages publics ont échoué à anticiper la victoire de Donald Trump en 2016. La clé, selon eux, est d'ignorer les humains dont ils essaient de capturer le comportement.

### Une nouvelle approche du sondage

Pour prédire les résultats électoraux, Aaru utilise des données de recensement pour reproduire les districts électoraux, créant des agents IA essentiellement programmés pour penser comme les électeurs qu'ils imitent. Chaque agent se voit attribuer des centaines de traits de personnalité, allant de leurs aspirations à leurs relations familiales. Ces agents naviguent constamment sur Internet, recueillant des informations pour imiter les habitudes médiatiques des humains, ce qui peut parfois modifier leurs préférences de vote.

**P**ar exemple, lorsqu'une tentative d'assassinat a visé Donald Trump, une grande partie des agents d'Aaru a immédiatement changé de préférence pour soutenir l'ancien président. Mais à mesure que des informations supplémentaires sur le tireur ont émergé, beaucoup d'entre eux ont réajusté leur position.

Les sondages reposent généralement sur les réponses d'environ 5 000 agents IA, et leur réalisation prend entre 30 secondes et 1,5 minutes. Aaru facture moins d'un dixième du coût d'un sondage réalisé



"Il y a d'énormes problèmes lorsqu'on utilise de vraies personnes. On ne sait jamais si quelqu'un dit la vérité..." P - Le Pelerin

auprès de véritables humains.

**F**ink a déclaré dans une interview que «d'ici les prochaines élections générales, aucun sondage traditionnel n'existera. Il y a d'énormes problèmes lorsqu'on utilise de vraies personnes. On ne sait jamais si quelqu'un dit la vérité.» La société a été engagée pour réaliser des sondages pour des entreprises du Fortune 500, des campagnes politiques, des *think tanks* et des comités d'action politique.

Dans un sondage, l'équipe d'Aaru a remarqué qu'un des agents IA avait déclaré qu'il allait voter pour Mickey Mouse. Craignant qu'un de leurs bots ne soit devenu incontrôlable, l'équipe a enquêté. L'agent avait une explication : «Je déteste Kamala et je déteste Trump. J'écris et je vote pour Mickey Mouse.»

### Ambitions et développements

Les co-fondateurs d'Aaru affirment avoir délibérément maintenu un profil bas. Cependant, Aaru ne cache pas ses ambitions. Un document de synthèse sur son site, pour l'instant peu fourni, déclare : «Dans deux ans, nous allons simuler l'ensemble de la planète — de la manière dont les cultures sont cultivées en Ukraine à l'impact sur la production de pétrole en Irak, en passant par le commerce dans le détroit de Malacca et les élections pour la mairie de Baltimore.»

Pour l'instant, la majorité des clients d'Aaru restent discrets sur l'utilisation de ses produits. Toutefois,

un *think tank* appelé Heartland Forward, créé et financé par la famille Walton (fondatrice de Walmart), a récemment engagé Aaru pour réaliser un sondage sur l'opinion des Américains dans neuf États concernant l'utilisation de l'intelligence artificielle.

### Précision et limites de l'IA

Bien que les modèles de langage comme ceux utilisés par Aaru soient sujets à des «hallucinations» — où ils peuvent donner des réponses erronées — ce problème peut être minimisé par les méthodes employées par Aaru. Ses modèles suivent des instructions détaillées et tirent leurs réponses de données réelles.

**A**aru instruit ensuite les bots à travers plusieurs étapes pour parvenir à leur réponse finale, une technique qui aide les agents à imiter le raisonnement humain et qui a prouvé son efficacité. Même si les modèles peuvent parfois se tromper, le sondage n'est pas une science exacte, et les enquêtes impliquant des humains sont souvent inexacts, en partie parce que les gens donnent parfois des réponses malhonnêtes.

À ce jour, Aaru projette que Kamala Harris gagnerait le vote populaire avec un écart de 4,2 points de pourcentage. L'apparente tentative d'assassinat contre Trump n'a eu presque aucun impact, selon les agents IA sondés.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 18

# The Spirit of Resistance: Lessons from Gandhi's Journey

*Gandhi's teachings remain relevant today, reminding us that non-violence and truth are powerful tools in the quest for justice. His life inspires ongoing efforts to combat oppression and inequality around the world*

S. Chidambaram

**M**ass mobilization and movements against injustice of all kinds have become even more necessary these days. On October 2, many will take a moment to reflect on the Mahatma and draw inspiration from his struggle to continue their fight for emancipation.

On January 30, 1948, at 4:30 PM, Mahatma Gandhi was on his way to the prayer ground in the large park near his home. A congregation of 500 was waiting for him for the evening prayer. As he approached the ground, he brought his palms together to greet the crowd. A man emerged from the crowd and fired two shots at him. Gandhi murmured, "Hey Ram," and a third shot rang out. On that Friday, Mahatma Gandhi died as a private citizen. He had no wealth, no property, no office title, nor any academic distinction. He had liberated his country from the British yoke, and India's liberation marked the beginning of the end of the British Empire.

Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat. In the coming days, many will reflect on the man who became a world symbol in the fight against oppression and poverty. It was in South Africa that Gandhi forged the tools and techniques to combat evil in the world. There he united all Indians — merchants, indentured labourers, Hindus, and Muslims — to fight against racism and oppression. His Satyagraha, which literally means insistence on truth, and his conception of non-violence were shaped

by the unique conditions of South Africa. For Gandhi, Satyagraha was a means of avoiding violence; it was also an infallible weapon that oppressed individuals could use to confront all forms of injustice.

By the time he returned to India in 1915, these techniques had been refined. Through Satyagraha and Ashahayoga, he developed methods of agitation that he placed at the service of the Indian National Congress. Once he became convinced that British rulers in India had become oppressive and unscrupulous, he began a relentless struggle to end British rule. He transformed the Indian National Congress from an elitist party into a mass national movement, solidified the organization, and brought in leaders from every level of Indian society. He mobilized untouchables, peasants, women, and upper-class workers from both the Hindus and the Muslims behind Congress, giving new momentum to Indian nationalism.

He explained to his people in "Hind Swaraj" the nature of British imperialism: "The English have not taken India. We have given it to them. They are not in India because of their strength, but because we keep them." He taught his people to rid themselves of the paralyzing fear that seized them. The essence of his teaching was fearlessness, truth, and action, and added to these, he always prioritized the welfare of the masses.

Thus, from 1920 to 1947, through a series of mass movements unparalleled in the history of British India, he broke the spell of British rule over Indians. However, throughout his struggles, he urged his people to regard the English as friends,

not enemies, advocating for resistance against the system, not the individuals who administered it.

In the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, his mass movements were met with great enthusiasm from the people. For example, in 1930, hundreds of government servants resigned their posts, and many legislators quit their councils. The boycott

moral force.

After India's independence, his techniques of Satyagraha have been employed in many places against violence, injustice, and oppression. In 1952, the ANC led by Nelson Mandela adopted non-violence in its Defiance Campaign against unjust laws in South Africa. Reflecting on the success of this campaign, Mandela wrote in his autobiography: 'The campaign freed me from any lingering sense of doubt or inferiority I might still have felt; it liberated me from the feeling of being overwhelmed by the power of the seeming invincibility of the white man and his institutions. But now the white man had felt the power of my punches, and I could walk upright like a



**“In the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, his mass movements were met with great enthusiasm from the people. For example, in 1930, hundreds of government servants resigned their posts, and many legislators quit their councils. The boycott of liquor was so successful that liquor revenue fell by 20 percent. The import of British cloth decreased from 100 crores to just 20 or 30 crores...In 1942, Gandhi's 'Quit India' movement created a revolutionary situation, and it is argued that if he had desired, the British would have been expelled that year. After 1942, the British concluded they could no longer stay in India, and before being driven out, it was preferable to 'divide and quit'”**

of liquor was so successful that liquor revenue fell by 20 percent. The import of British cloth decreased from 100 crores to just 20 or 30 crores. Congress proposed a resolution on fundamental rights and economic change by committing itself to liberties for the people, living wages, facilities for labour, reduced rents for peasants, a progressive income tax, and ownership of key industries. It was clear that Congress was striving to win Swaraj for the working masses and the unemployed who struggled for a square meal.

In 1942, Gandhi's 'Quit India' movement created a revolutionary situation, and it is argued that if he had desired, the British would have been expelled that year. After 1942, the British concluded they could no longer stay in India, and before being driven out, it was preferable to 'divide and quit.' Thus, Gandhi achieved independence for his country without firing a single shot but solely through

man and look everyone in the eye with the dignity that comes from not having succumbed to oppression and fear. I had come of age as a freedom fighter.' In the United States, Martin Luther King Jr. was also inspired by Gandhi's ideals.

In many countries, the philosophy of Satyagraha, non-violence, and non-cooperation has become integral to any liberation movement. In the present century, mass mobilization and movements against injustice of all kinds have become even more necessary, and on October 2, many will reflect on the Mahatma and draw inspiration from his struggle as they continue their fight for emancipation.

Gandhi's teachings remain relevant today, reminding us that non-violence and truth are powerful tools in the quest for justice. His life inspires ongoing efforts to combat oppression and inequality around the world.

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Anil Madan

# Kamala Harris for President

*Are we witnessing a Kamala Harris phenomenon? Is this a new movement that will last and gain traction?*

**K**amala Harris will not be the first person of partly African ancestry to become the President of the United States. That was Obama's breakthrough. Harris is not the first woman to be a major party's presidential nominee. Hillary Clinton holds that distinction. Obama won, Hillary Clinton lost. Harris is the first person of partly Indian origin to be a major party's nominee.

There have been two women vice presidential nominees, Geraldine Ferraro and Sarah Palin. Neither was elected. There have been two Catholic nominees, John F. Kennedy and Joseph R. Biden. Both were elected. Mike Pence, a Catholic was elected Vice President.

There is a tendency for those euphoric about such achievements by nominees to project victory. Often that is more hope than reality. In the 2024 election for President, the race is so close that it is difficult to say which side, Trump's or Harris's, is more about hope than reality.

What is significant is that Kamala Harris's campaign has become a movement and that since President Biden withdrew and endorsed her as presumptive heir, she has soared in the polls, caught Donald Trump, surpassed his numbers and then, ... well, we don't know quite what.

National polls in the US show that Harris is ahead by as much as 4 or 5 points. National polls also show that Trump is ahead by a few points. Which poll(s) should we believe? Well, that's hard to say for four reasons:

1. We don't know how the polls were conducted, i.e., what is the demographic that makes up those surveyed? It is easy to get skewed results if one selects a cohort of voters who are in groups tending to favour one candidate or the other. Many pollsters are for hire, so caution is the watchword.
2. How does one accurately find a "likely" voter at this stage of the campaign? Most people when asked, will say they intend to vote. But reality is another thing. Voter turnout in US presidential elections is notoriously low. In presidential election years, the turnout is in the low 60 percents, with 2020 hitting 66% of registered voters. If those who profess to be likely voters are no more likely to vote than the historic voter turnout shows, the margin of error of the polls is probably as high as 40% and not the 3-5% that we often are told it is.
3. What are the specific questions asked? It is well known that polls results can be skewed by how questions are phrased.
4. National polls don't really mean anything because ultimately, the presidential race is decided by the electoral college. It is well known that there are many states that are solidly leaning Blue or in favour of the Democratic nominee, and many that are solidly leaning Red or in favour of the Republican nominee. This leads to the oft-repeated caveat that the presidential race will be decided by the so-called swing states or "purple" states. Here "purple" conveys the notion that the state is neither solidly Red (Republican) nor solidly Blue (Democrat), but a mixture and hence, purple.

The result in these swing states often depends on



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris is welcomed by Democratic vice presidential nominee Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, before she delivers remarks at a campaign event, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2024, in Eau Claire, Wisc. AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast

**“There have been two women vice presidential nominees, Geraldine Ferraro and Sarah Palin. Neither was elected. There have been two Catholic nominees, John F. Kennedy and Joseph R. Biden. Both were elected. Mike Pence, a Catholic was elected Vice President. There is a tendency for those euphoric about such achievements by nominees to project victory. Often that is more hope than reality. In the 2024 election for President, the race is so close that it is difficult to say which side, Trump's or Harris's, is more about hope than reality. What is significant is that Kamala Harris's campaign has become a movement and that since President Biden withdrew and endorsed her as presumptive heir, she has soared in the polls...”**

voter turnout, or, in other words, how many of the “likely” voters turn out to be “actual” voters. A few thousand votes in Georgia, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nevada, and Arizona, could make the difference. And this is true regardless of how the vote goes in New York, Massachusetts, Illinois, California, Oregon, Washington, Texas, Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, Oklahoma ... well, you get the idea.

## A woman of colour

**K**amala Harris's candidacy is notable because she is a woman of colour running for the highest office. She has both an African American and an Asian background. She has experience as a prosecutor in California, as Attorney General of California, as a United States Senator, and as Vice President.

But she must also contend with those who claim that these accomplishments are not adequate preparation for being President, as well as with those who diminish her achievements by suggesting she obtained them through favoritism or chicanery.

Clearly, Kamala Harris has struck a chord with the American people. Or to be more precise, with the Democrats and a fair number of women, Independents, and a cohort of Republicans who believe that Trump is

reprehensible and a threat to American Democracy and to America's security. To the extent that her candidacy indeed represents a movement, it is about women's rights.

**A**s one listens to the campaign rhetoric of the two candidates, Trump presents a dark, dystopian view of today's America, along with dire predictions of decline — and worse, an American Armageddon, if you will — should he be defeated. This American Armageddon is augmented with his dark and dystopian view of a worldwide Armageddon, as he predicts World War III. Much of his rhetoric is laced with the same old xenophobia and hate mongering. The recent false accusations that Haitian immigrants were eating the cats and dogs of their neighbours have caused many to observe that these types of accusations have their

roots in the anti-Semitic propaganda of the Nazis. Trump's running mate, J.D. Vance has added false accusations that HIV and tuberculosis cases are “sky-rocketing” in Springfield. There is no empirical data to support these.

Trump's campaign during the 2016 presidential election was built on racist and xenophobic rhetoric with outlandish promises about what he would be able to achieve. He continues to promise housing and jobs for all, and even happiness to women.

As in 2016, his supporters are oblivious to the daily mouthfuls of falsehood that Trump and Vance emit.

In contrast, Harris has offered messages of hope and a future of opportunity for all Americans — a message of equal access to opportunity. More importantly, she has cast herself as a fighter for freedom for all Americans, and by implication, for all people in the world. Freedom includes the rights of women to make their own decisions about reproductive choices. The abortion question looms large in this election. But it must be remembered that in many Red or Republican states, whereas women may well vote to protect abortion rights, Trump remains to have a stranglehold on the Republican vote.

Is it important that Kamala Harris is a woman or a person of colour with African and Indian heritage? Her acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention is instructive. She did not mention her sex or her ethnicity. Some have observed that it was necessary to state the obvious. But not running as a woman candidate, or as a Black or Indian, is smart. Trump's efforts to smear her for only recently having claimed to be Black fell flat. He has not attacked her personally based on her gender, but he has falsely claimed that Democrats welcomed the overruling of the Roe v. Wade case which established a woman's right to abortion.

## The economy, and foreign policy

Two other areas need mention: the US economy, and foreign policy.

● Cont. on page 8

# Kamala Harris for President

● Cont. from page 7

Every presidential election turns, to some extent, on the economy, or more precisely pocketbook issues affecting the voting public. There are some polls suggesting that more people have confidence in Trump to handle the economy than in Harris. There is little empirical data to support such a contention. The economy has been doing quite well under President Biden with steady growth of GDP, the boiling rate of inflation reduced to a simmer, almost 16 million jobs created, and the Fed finally lowering interest rates while the stock markets continue to soar. Trump's plans for the economy include imposing tariffs on all imported goods and another tax cut for the wealthy and for corporations.



“Kamala Harris’s candidacy is notable because she is a woman of colour running for the highest office. She has both an African American and an Asian background. She has experience as a prosecutor in California, as Attorney General of California, as a United States Senator, and as Vice President. But she must also contend with those who claim that these accomplishments are not adequate preparation for being President, as well as with those who diminish her achievements by suggesting she obtained them through favoritism or chicanery. Clearly, Kamala Harris has struck a chord with the American people. Or to be more precise, with the Democrats and a fair number of women, Independents, and a cohort of Republicans...”

On foreign policy, Harris’s experience includes multiple engagements with foreign leaders. But most of this has been invisible to the American public and she gets no credit for it. Trump’s record on foreign policy is abysmal, but he doesn’t get enough blame for it. Trump’s efforts to dismantle NATO and rupture America’s alliances with European nations seem to have been forgotten as Biden has strengthened those ties and worked with NATO countries in supporting Ukraine. Biden’s botched withdrawal from Afghanistan masked the fact that it was Trump’s Secretary of State who signed the agreement to withdraw American troops from that country. Trump’s inexplicable embrace of Putin and his opposition to American support for Ukraine should disqualify him from the presidency, but his supporters seem not to care.

Perhaps the American public has grown weary of conflicts all around the world and the sad reality that America’s influence has waned to the point that we cannot do much about what is happening whether we are dealing with our allies or adversaries. The realization that Trump’s pronouncements on foreign policy are bluster and that Kamala Harris is not likely to be any more effective than Biden suggest that there is no clear winner on this score.

So, are we witnessing a Kamala Harris phenomenon? Is this a new movement that will last and gain traction? For a time, right after Biden announced that he would not run for reelection, it certainly seemed so. But lately, the lotus blossom has faded somewhat.

We have an old-fashioned horse race for President. It is just too close to call today.

Cheerz...  
Bwana



## THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA IN THE HIGH COURT OF UGANDA(HCT) AT KAMPALA CIVIL SUIT NO. HCT-00-CC-CS-0453-2023



NATIONAL CEMENT UGANDA LIMITED ..... PLAINTIFF  
VERSUS

IMAN AFRICA ENERGY GROUP ..... DEFENDANT  
Hearing Notice

To/Recipient(s): IMAN AFRICA ENERGY GROUP, NATIONAL CEMENT UGANDA LIMITED

Other Recipient(s): No Data

TAKE NOTICE that the hearing of this case has been fixed for the 08 Oct 2024 9:00 AM o'clock in the fore/afternoon or soon thereafter as the case can be heard in this court.

If no appearance is made on your behalf, by yourself/your pleader or someone authorised by law to act for you, the case will be heard in your absence.

Given under my hand and the Seal of this Court this 19 September 2024.



For: Anna B. Mugenyi  
JUDGE

Dr Vinaye Ancharaz, International Economic Consultant

# 'An increasing number of our elderly voters are waking up to the reality of the money illusion...

... they realize that, despite their pensions doubling since December 2019, rising living costs make this increase insufficient to meet their needs'

**I**n a rapidly changing economic landscape, recent developments have sparked significant discussions about the future of Mauritius's economy. The Monetary Policy Committee's recent decision to lower the key interest rate by 50 basis points has raised questions about its implications for borrowers and the broader economy. Dr Vinaye Ancharaz, an International Economic Consultant, shares his insights on this crucial decision and its potential impact on Mauritian society. With general elections approaching, the interplay between economic measures and political strategy is more relevant than ever. In this interview, Dr Ancharaz also addresses the anticipated salary realignments, proposed interest-free loans for young people, and the possible ramifications of a looming political shift.



**Mauritius Times:** Several significant events have recently unfolded that could have a notable impact on the economy in the coming months. One key development is the Monetary Policy Committee's decision on Monday to lower the key interest rate by 50 basis points. What are your thoughts on this decision?

**Dr Vinaye Ancharaz:** I have been expecting a cut in the key (formerly repo) rate for at least two reasons. First, the Federal Reserve slashed the Fed funds rate by 0.5% last week. Second, the recent government announcement of granting interest-free loans to youths aged 18-35, if re-elected, has unleashed a debate about the effectiveness of the proposal, with many arguing that it would have been better if the government reduced the key rate and capped borrowing rates. With the general elections approaching, I was expecting the rate cut to be more substantial. The rate cut makes little economic sense in the current conjuncture, but

**“An increasing number of our elderly voters are waking up to the reality of the money illusion. They recognize that, despite their pensions having doubled since December 2019, the rising cost of living means that this increase is hardly sufficient to make ends meet. They understand that simply having more money doesn't necessarily improve their financial situation. Many seniors are also aware of the rise of social scourges such as drugs, corruption and nepotism that impact their children's lives. No amount of pension will lure these people to vote for the government...”**

the government's recent manoeuvres have clearly shown that it is too fixated on political survival to care about good economics.

The rate cut will be welcomed by borrowers – and that means practically everybody, whether those with home loans or car leases or hire-purchase agreements. Household debt reached Rs 240 billion in December 2023, equivalent to 102.5% of income, with debt servicing absorbing 17% of household income. The rate cut will thus bring long awaited relief to debtors, after rising continuously from 1.85% to 4.5% between December 2021 and December 2022, and staying at that level until the drop on Monday.

The Governor of the Bank of Mauritius justified the rate cut, citing falling inflation rates over the past 18 months. Inflation at the end of 2024 is estimated at 4%, that is within the Bank's target range of 2%-5%. However, the IMF projects the inflation rate to be 4.9%, and with the recent increase in freight and salaries, inflation is likely to be higher than expected. So, it may be too early to settle for cheap money. The risk is that lower interest rates may discourage portfolio investment in Mauritius, leading to reduced foreign currency inflows and increasing downward pressure on the rupee. Further depreciation could drive up inflation, ultimately defeating the Bank's objectives.

**\* Another significant development is Business Mauritius' decision to challenge the salary realignment in the Supreme Court. What potential impacts do you foresee from this challenge?**

Some 200,000 employees in the private sector earning up to Rs 50,000 per month were expecting salary adjustments ranging from Rs 600 to Rs 2,925 at the end of this month, with back pay for July and August. The government gazetted the new salary structures on 13th September, allowing ample time to employers to effect the change in

their September payroll.

However, on Monday 23rd, Business Mauritius, called on its members to freeze payment of any salary adjustment pending further legal advice and, possibly, recourse to legal action at the level of the Supreme Court. Business Mauritius is concerned about the legality of the Remuneration Regulations issued by the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations. The Regulations did not evolve from the established process of tripartite consultations involving the National Remuneration Board (NRB) and the National Wage Consultative Council but were simply decreed by the Ministry.

In response, the Minister of Labour urged Business Mauritius to comply with the Remuneration Regulations, warning that failure to do so could result in legal sanctions. Clearly, this situation can do much damage to the government on the eve of elections – for it was hoping that the cash bonanza at the end of this month might encourage private sector employees to vote for the government alliance. This may still happen if

**“The Minister of Labour urged Business Mauritius to comply with the Remuneration Regulations, warning that failure to do so could result in legal sanctions. Clearly, this situation can do much damage to the government on the eve of elections – for it was hoping that the cash bonanza at the end of this month might encourage private sector employees to vote for the government alliance. This may still happen if the government succeeds in convincing the public that the private sector is being manipulated by the Opposition, as the Minister of Labour claimed during his press conference...”**

the government succeeds in convincing the public that the private sector is being manipulated by the Opposition, as the Minister of Labour claimed during his press conference. The Opposition has refrained from taking sides, and understandably so. Criticizing Business Mauritius' position is equivalent to supporting the government stance.

Politics aside, the status quo is the result of the government's minimum wage policy, which has pushed many companies to the brink. SMEs, in particular, are struggling to pay higher salaries, and the wage support that the government had promised when the national minimum wage (NMW) was raised to Rs 16,500 is not forthcoming. In any case, it makes little sense for the government to help enterprises foot their wage bill out of CSG contributions, which are paid by private sector employees themselves!

● Cont. on page 10

# 'The Mauritian economy has just come out of the woods...

... but I remain cautious due to several downside risks — now is not the time for complacency or indulgence'

● Cont. from page 9

\* As we approach the elections, various freebies or 'bribes' are likely to be announced by both sides, particularly by the incumbent government alliance. The latest in this series is the announcement by the Prime Minister to make housing loans interest-free for youths aged 18 to 35. What potential economic impact do you see from this measure? Additionally, do you think it will be enough to attract young voters to support the MSM-led alliance?

This proposal has sparked considerable debate. Some estimates suggest that implementing the measure could cost the government nearly Rs 40 billion over five years. However, whether it will actually be a vote-winner is debatable.

First, the target age group is not quite representative of the typical home loan applicant. Most borrowers are over 30, so the measure will impact only a small proportion of the youth. Second, the measure will surely come with conditions which are not specified at this stage. For example, to what loan amount will it apply? Capping the mortgage size will clearly reduce the proposal's effectiveness.

Finally, given the prevailing property prices, only those who own land, or are well-off to begin with, are likely to benefit from the measure while the rest of us will pay for it through taxes.

\* Furthermore, many anticipate that the Prime Minister will announce another significant commitment regarding retirement pensions on International Day of Older Persons, October 1st, an event the government is preparing for with considerable interest. Do you share this expectation?

There is little doubt that the Prime Minister will make yet another big promise of pension hike, if re-elected. With the BRP at Rs 15,000 for those aged 60-64 as from January 2025, I won't be surprised if the PM announces that the BRP will rise to Rs25,000 during their next term. With some 270,000 beneficiaries of the BRP, a further Rs10,000 increase in pensions will take a heavy toll on public finances, costing an additional Rs35 billion annually, and raising questions about financing and sustainability.

Such an announcement will surely have the effect of locking in many, but by no means all, of our senior citizens' votes in favour of the government alliance. However, I doubt

“I have said it repeatedly that the Mauritian economy has just come out of the woods. The IMF notes that our GDP per capita at the end of 2023 (\$11,417) was about the same as in 2019 before the pandemic (\$11,408). This means that, over the past three years, we have only made up for lost production. GDP grew at 6.4% in the first semester of the year, and economic prospects are positive, with growth projected at 6.5% for 2024, well above the IMF estimate of 4.9%. However, I remain cautious in the face of several downside risks, including geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation, and rising freight costs. This is certainly not the time for complacency or indulgence...”

if it will sway undecided voters or those who are not quite supportive of the government.

An increasing number of our elderly voters are waking up to the reality of the money illusion. They recognize that, despite their pensions having doubled since December 2019, the rising cost of living means that this increase is hardly sufficient to make ends meet. They understand that simply having more money doesn't necessarily improve their financial situation.

“Considering the backlash created by the recent salary adjustment, the private sector will most likely oppose the payment of a 14th-month gratuity. Imposing it on enterprises that have been buffeted by progressive salary increases in recent months could deal a major blow to much of the private sector. In the end, the proposal could apply only to government employees, which would limit its adverse economic impact. Its impact on a segment of electors that the MSM sees as its vote bank could be significant, nevertheless...”

Many seniors are also aware of the rise of social scourges such as drugs, corruption and nepotism that impact their children's lives. As parents, they know the pain of sending their children to study abroad and asking them not to return home. No amount of pension will lure these people to vote for the government.

\* There are also talks about an additional year-end gratuity representing a 14th month's pay for all employees, both in the public and private sectors. The announcement of this could constitute the government's trump card for the upcoming elections. However, it remains to be seen whether it would give the MSM-led alliance an edge over the Opposition at the polls. What are your thoughts on this?

I recall this proposal being mooted by the then Leader of the Opposition, Xavier-Luc Duval, in Parliament. But I understand that the proposal was neither discussed nor approved by Opposition members, and so it remains Mr Duval's pet idea. With the PMSD set to join an MSM-led alliance, it is likely that the proposal for a mandatory 14th month end-of-year bonus finds its way into the alliance's electoral programme. The MSM government is known for showering the public with cash, so such a proposal will hardly be surprising.

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In the end, the proposal could apply only to government employees, which would limit its adverse economic impact. Its impact on a segment of electors that the MSM sees as its vote bank could be significant, nevertheless.

\* Besides the freebies and populist measures, there have also been the usual share of questionable practices, the latest being the revelation by ReA about a pos-



sible nexus between the government, Silver Bank, and the Mercantile and Maritime Group, which supplies fuel to Mauritius. What are your thoughts on this matter?

Little is known about the reasons behind the fall of Silver Bank—until now. The investigation by ReA has explored its connections with the government, the STC, and the Mercantile and Maritime Group (MMG). In June 2023, the STC justified selecting MMG as its oil supplier by highlighting better credit terms and the agreement to be paid in rupees. This raised eyebrows since MMG has no established business in Mauritius, but there was little questioning of the arrangement.

It now appears that MMG may have been pressured into holding its rupee deposits at Silver Bank. Was this an attempt to give the bank a lifeline after uncovering systematic fraud in February 2023? Who benefited from this situation? Some power brokers close to 'Lakwizinn'? While these questions warrant further investigation by a proper commission of inquiry, it seems the STC's claim about MMG accepting payment in local currency is inaccurate, as around Rs30 billion transited through Silver Bank to be repatriated in US dollars.

ReA suggests that MMG would have put the STC in a difficult position on August 9 by allegedly refusing to offload its last oil shipment unless it was refunded a \$15 million security bond frozen at Silver Bank. If this is proven true, the government's questionable deals could have pushed the country to the brink of disaster last month.

\* Besides the Finance Minister's positive remarks on the performance of the Mauritian economy, the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius has also painted an optimistic picture, especially regarding its "robust performance" during this year's first quarter. Does this suggest that the economy is performing well enough to sustain the cost of social welfare measures in the coming years, or do you think they might be considering a fallback financing instrument, such as rental proceeds from the Americans for the Diego base?

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GDP grew at 6.4% in the first semester of the year, and economic prospects are positive, with growth projected at 6.5% for 2024, well above the IMF estimate of 4.9%. However, I remain cautious in the face of several downside risks, including geopolitical tensions, trade fragmentation, and rising freight costs.

● Cont. on page 11

# "Change is on the Way"

*'Triolet meeting signals strong support for the Opposition despite all kinds of pressures'*

● **Cont. from page 10**

This is certainly not the time for complacency or indulgence.

In the future, Mauritius could benefit from a massive windfall if the UK and the US offered compensation for retaining Chagos as a military base. However, I don't recommend using those funds to prop up social spending in the country or to lavish the population with gifts. It would be more prudent to set aside the bulk of the proceeds in a sovereign wealth fund that would come in handy during rainy days.

\* **Sitting governments often find it easy to promote and implement populist measures, confident that the opposition will feel embarrassed and thus reluctant to oppose them. What stance should the Labour Party-MMM-ND-ReA alliance take regarding the salary realignment decision?**

As I said before, the Opposition is quiet on the issue, maintaining a neutral stance. It would be politically risky for the Opposition to take sides. On the one hand, one can sympathize with Business Mauritius. The government has played politics with wages, forcing many enterprises into a precarious position. Many companies are shedding labour; others are delaying recruitment, and yet others are opting for foreign workers who, they believe, can do a lot more for the same wage. In the end, the repeated hikes in the national minimum wage, and the salary adjustments that they necessitated, have helped few workers at the low end of the ladder.

On the other hand, many companies benefit from a situation of inflation since they sell at higher prices. Banks have benefited from high interest rates over the past two years, churning out billions in profits. Hotels and the sugar industry have benefited from MIC money.

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Samad Ramoly

“Many companies benefit from a situation of inflation since they sell at higher prices. Banks have benefited from high interest rates over the past two years, churning out billions in profits. Hotels and the sugar industry have benefited from MIC money. One can argue that these companies have a moral obligation to pay the salary increases. However, many SMEs and export-oriented enterprises are incapable of paying the wage hikes. In the past, the government helped them pay increases in the national minimum wage. Should it also assist them in paying the salary adjustment?”

gation to pay the salary increases. However, many SMEs and export-oriented enterprises are incapable of paying the wage hikes. In the past, the government helped them pay increases in the national minimum wage. Should it also assist them in paying the salary adjustment?

From a strictly economic point of view, this isn't the role of the government. But shouldn't the government itself solve a problem that it created?

\* **To come back to the private sector's reaction to the salary realignment issue. This “very belated wake-up call” from a sector that has benefited from billions in taxpayer subsidies through the MIC, and coming at this late stage in the current government's mandate — could also signal a shift in the political climate. The private sector typically does not express its political views unless it is confident that there is little risk of retribution, right?**

I think it's a matter of perspectives. Yes, you might say that Business Mauritius is challenging the government

because it feels that the risk of retribution is low if there is an impending change in government. Perhaps the private sector is covertly backing the Opposition, which is what the Minister of Labour admonishes.

On the other hand, the private sector's position may be motivated by pure self-interest rather than by partisan politics. Would you blame the private sector for wishing a government that has done so much harm to them to go?

\* **Although there is still much uncertainty about the “rapport de forces” on the ground, what does the Triolet meeting of the Opposition alliance last Sunday suggest to you? Do you honestly believe that, after many months of unending negotiations to finalize the composition and terms of the alliance — despite not yet being aware of its electoral program — the Labour Party-MMM-ND-ReA alliance has what it takes to effectively challenge the governing alliance?**

I believe the Triolet meeting sends a strong message that change is on the way. This message was clear in the sheer number of people who showed up despite all kinds of pressures and the Opposition's limited means. The message was clear in the enthusiasm of the crowd as they welcomed the leader of the Alliance du Changement as the future Prime Minister. It was also evident in the leaders' call for change, which resonated deeply with those in attendance.

The meeting is a crucial one since it goes towards cementing Navin Ramgoolam's candidacy in constituency no.5 and serving as a catalyst for electoral campaigning in the rural areas. The presence of ReA on the stage was visual confirmation that the leftist party has now joined the Alliance du Changement and would bring its voice to the alliance's 'projet du société'.

## Opinion

# The Endless Road to Freedom

The scene that prompts slave hunter Madame La Victoire to chase the Maroons, the fugitive slaves, is sparked by the cries of a baby unsettled while being breastfed. These heartbreaking images of a mother on the run with her baby capture the essence of the movie: there is a limit to how much agony a human being can take before spiritedly seeking refuge and reparation. All this is masterfully staged in the dark forest with striking realism. When, in a dream, slave Massamba, Mati's father, brutally kills the slave owner, few viewers would remain unmoved. Director Simon Moutairou deserves praise for avoiding the easy path of depicting violence for violence's sake. He succeeds in conveying his motivation to raise awareness without resorting to an overkill. Sobriety conveys intense and lasting emotions more effectively.



Madame La Victoire's moral supremacism is a trap we can all fall into. When we live in a “tribe” with no bridges with the outside world, we only nurture affinities with our fellow human beings based on country of origin, ethnicity, religion, social

class and gender. As a result, we tend to lose hindsight, discernment and even empathy with the Other, making our own values sacred and cursing those of others. And if the elites aren't very enlightened, they'll plot the status quo for as long as possible. In a plural society, social links grow defiant when the sense of entitlement trickles down. On the other hand, the “rebellious” son expresses some truth about the fact that younger generations, equipped with new bearings, are often more prone to be more open-minded.

“Ni chaînes ni maîtres” is not a masterpiece, but it is a laudable attempt to offer us some riveting time. Jumping off the cliff to die as the climax of the ending, rather than enduring the slow death of the soul in captivity, brings a dignified relief. A deafening silence settled over the audience as the credits rolled as if to express liberation. A deserving ovation followed. French audiences, and many Mauritians, will clearly be more shaken by the movie's perspective, which breaks with historical taboos. As for other viewers, the perspective may be “trivialised” by countless narratives about the ambivalent legacy of other colonisers.

\* “Ni chaînes ni maîtres” is a French film directed by Simon Moutairou, released in 2024. It is the director's first feature film, focusing on slavery and marronage in Mauritius in the 18th century.

“Yes, you might say that Business Mauritius is challenging the government because it feels that the risk of retribution is low if there is an impending change in government. Perhaps the private sector is covertly backing the Opposition, which is what the Minister of Labour admonishes. On the other hand, the private sector's position may be motivated by pure self-interest rather than by partisan politics. Would you blame the private sector for wishing a government that has done so much harm to them to go?”

# What pathogen might spark the next pandemic?

## How scientists are preparing for 'disease X'



**Allen Cheng**  
Professor of  
Infectious  
Diseases, Monash  
University

**B**efore the Covid pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) had made a list of priority infectious diseases. These were felt to pose a threat to international public health, but where research was still needed to improve their surveillance and diagnosis. In 2018, "disease X" was included, which signified that a

pathogen previously not on our radar could cause a pandemic.

While it's one thing to acknowledge the limits to our knowledge of the microbial soup we live in, more recent attention has focused on how we might systematically approach future pandemic risks.

Former US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld famously talked about "known knowns" (things we know we know), "known unknowns" (things we know we don't know), and "unknown unknowns" (the things we don't know we don't know).

Although this may have been controversial in its original context of weapons of mass destruction, it provides a way to think about how we might approach future pandemic threats.

### Influenza: a 'known known'

Influenza is largely a known entity; we essentially have a minor pandemic every winter with small changes in the virus each year. But more major changes can also occur, resulting in spread through populations with little pre-existing immunity. We saw this most recently in 2009 with the swine flu pandemic.

**H**owever, there's a lot we don't understand about what drives influenza mutations, how these interact with population-level immunity, and how best to make predictions about transmission, severity and impact each year.

The current H5N1 subtype of avian influenza ("bird flu") has spread widely around the world. It has led to the deaths of many millions of birds and spread to several mammalian species including cows in the United States and marine mammals in South America.

Human cases have been reported in people who have had close contact with infected animals, but fortunately there's currently no sustained spread between people.

While detecting influenza in animals is a huge task in a large country such as Australia, there are systems in place to detect and respond to bird flu in wildlife and production animals.

It's inevitable there will be more influenza pandemics in the future. But it isn't always the one we are worried about.

Attention had been focused on avian influenza since



1997, when an outbreak in birds in Hong Kong caused severe disease in humans. But the subsequent pandemic in 2009 originated in pigs in central Mexico.

Coronaviruses: an 'unknown known'

Although Rumsfeld didn't talk about "unknown knowns", coronaviruses would be appropriate for this category. We knew more about coronaviruses than most people might have thought before the COVID pandemic.

We'd had experience with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome (MERS) causing large outbreaks. Both are caused by viruses closely related to SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID. While these might have faded from public consciousness before COVID, coronaviruses were listed in the 2015 WHO list of diseases with pandemic potential.

Previous research into the earlier coronaviruses proved vital in allowing Covid vaccines to be developed rapidly. For example, the Oxford group's initial work on a MERS vaccine was key to the development of AstraZeneca's COVID vaccine.

Similarly, previous research into the structure of the spike protein – a protein on the surface of coronaviruses that allows it to attach to our cells – was helpful in developing mRNA vaccines for Covid.

It would seem likely there will be further coronavirus pandemics in the future. And even if they don't occur at the scale of Covid, the impacts can be significant. For example, when MERS spread to South Korea in 2015, it only caused 186 cases over two months, but the cost of controlling it was estimated at US\$8 billion (A\$11.6 billion).

### The 25 viral families: an approach to 'known unknowns'

Attention has now turned to the known unknowns.

There are about 120 viruses from 25 families that are known to cause human disease. Members of each viral family share common properties and our immune systems respond to them in similar ways.

An example is the flavivirus family, of which the best-known members are yellow fever virus and dengue fever virus. This family also includes several other important viruses, such as Zika virus (which can cause birth defects when pregnant women are infected) and West Nile virus (which causes encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain).

The WHO's blueprint for epidemics aims to consider threats from different classes of viruses and bacteria. It looks at individual pathogens as examples from each category to expand our understanding systematically.

The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has taken this a step further, preparing vaccines and therapies for a list of prototype pathogens from key virus families. The goal is to be able to adapt this knowledge to new vaccines and treatments if a pandemic were to arise from a closely related virus.

### Pathogen X, the 'unknown unknown'

There are also the unknown unknowns, or "disease X" – an unknown pathogen with the potential to trigger a severe global epidemic. To prepare for this, we need to adopt new forms of surveillance specifically looking at where new pathogens could emerge.

**I**n recent years, there's been an increasing recognition that we need to take a broader view of health beyond only thinking about human health, but also animals and the environment. This concept is known as "One Health" and considers issues such as climate change, intensive agricultural practices, trade in exotic animals, increased human encroachment into wildlife habitats, changing international travel, and urbanisation.

This has implications not only for where to look for new infectious diseases, but also how we can reduce the risk of "spillover" from animals to humans. This might include targeted testing of animals and people who work closely with animals. Currently, testing is mainly directed towards known viruses, but new technologies can look for as yet unknown viruses in patients with symptoms consistent with new infections.

We live in a vast world of potential microbiological threats. While influenza and coronaviruses have a track record of causing past pandemics, a longer list of new pathogens could still cause outbreaks with significant consequences.

Continued surveillance for new pathogens, improving our understanding of important virus families, and developing policies to reduce the risk of spillover will all be important for reducing the risk of future pandemics.

### Tree of Knowledge



## Silence of the Heart

**I**t takes a sensitive ear to tune in to the silence of the heart, but it is there in each one of us.

We spend a lot of time attempting to put our feelings into words — to communicate to others our passions, our emotions, and our love. Often we are so busy trying to translate our heart's roar into language that we miss the most profound experience the heart has to offer, which is silence. Every poem arises from this silence and returns to it. When all the songs have been sung, the soliloquies delivered, and

the emotions expressed, silence is what remains. As each wave of feeling rises and then falls back into the silence, we have an opportunity to connect with the vast, open, powerfully healing wisdom at the soundless center of our hearts.

Our hearts may seem noisy and tumultuous so much of the time that we do not even associate them with silence. It takes a sensitive ear to tune in to the silence of the heart, but it is there in each one of us. We can begin to become aware of it in the same way we become aware of the negative space in a still life, the background of a photograph, or the open sky that contains the sun, clouds, moon, and stars. We are accustomed to tuning in to sounds that are "solid," so hearing the empty space that

contains these sounds takes a little practice.

We can bring our awareness into our hearts by simply breathing into the general area of our heart. The first thing we may notice is a feeling, like joy or sadness, and physical sensations, like tightness or tenderness. Acknowledge these as you continue to breathe and focus, listening attentively. Surround these feelings and sensations with breath and recognize that they are contained and held in an immeasurable substance like air, intangible, ineffable, but utterly real. This is the silence of the heart, and the more we listen for it, return to it, and accept it, the more we bathe and purify ourselves in the soundless center of our being.

## Modi refuses to give MAGA a desi boost, snubs Trump & skips meet

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has wrapped up his three-day official visit to the US without meeting Donald Trump days after Republican presidential nominee announced the meet at the Flint, Michigan rally.

Fox News reported that Modi was expected to make an appearance on Long Island on Sunday for Trump's rally. However despite Trump's comments India had denied any such meeting even before PM left for US. Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri confirmed that there is no "specific meeting at present" with the ex-President, reports HT.

During the visit Modi attended Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, addressed thousands of members of the Indian-American community in Long Island, met US tech giants and addressed the UN's Summit of the Future on Monday.



PM Modi cheers for US President at Howdy Modi mega event. Pic – The Economic Times

He also held bilateral discussions with world leaders on all three days.

But chose not to meet both the presidential candidates Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. The apparent snub comes days after Trump claimed in one of his rallies that his fantastic friend Modi will be coming to US to meet him.

"He's fantastic. I mean, fantastic, man. A lot of these leaders are fantastic," Trump told supporters at a town hall in Flint, Michigan on Tuesday.

### Modi dashes Trump's 'AbkiBaar, Trump Sarkar' hopes

Modi's move is in contrast to two earlier occasions when he had subtly endorsed a "Trump Sarkar."

Despite their 'friendship' being defined by a strong personal bond and shared political ideologies. Modi has often praised Trump's "America First" policy, which

aligned with his own "Make in India" campaign.

Their relationship made global headlines, especially during the "Howdy, Modi" rally in Houston in 2019. At that time, Trump was president running for his second term, and Modi, as a foreign leader, invited him on stage in front of 50,000 Indian-Americans, a key voting base for Trump. In a show of support, Modi even shouted, "Abki Baar, Trump Sarkar" (This time, Trump government).

In 2020, Modi hosted Trump at the "Namaste Trump" event in Ahmedabad, drawing over 100,000 people. These events were significant during Trump's re-election campaign and helped him send a message to his Hindu supporters in the U.S. However, this year, there was no repeat of the "Abki Baar Trump Sarkar" moment from Modi.

## Same-sex couples in Thailand can get married when equality law takes effect in January

Thailand's landmark marriage equality bill was officially written into law Tuesday, allowing same-sex couples to legally wed.

The law was published in the Royal Gazette after endorsement by King Maha Vajiralongkorn, and will come into effect in 120 days. This means LGBTQ couples will be able to register their marriage in January next year, making Thailand the third place in Asia, after Taiwan and Nepal, to allow same-sex marriage.

The bill, which grants full legal, financial and medical rights for marriage partners of any gender, sailed through both the House of Representatives and the Senate in April and June respectively, reports AP.

Thailand has a reputation for acceptance and inclusivity but struggled for decades to pass a marriage equality law. Thai society largely holds conservative values, and members of the LGBTQ community say they face discrimination in everyday life.

The government and state agencies are also historically conservative, and advocates for gender equality had a hard time pushing lawmakers and civil



Same-sex couples in Thailand can get married when equality law takes effect in January. Pic - Reddit

servants to accept change.

The legislation amended the country's Civil and Commercial Code to replace gender-specific words such as "men and women" with gender-neutral words such as "individual."

The government led by the Pheu Thai party has made marriage equality one of its main goals. It made a major effort to identify itself with the annual Bangkok Pride parade in June, in which thousands of people celebrated in one of Bangkok's busiest commercial districts.

## Kamala Harris takes massive lead over rival Donald Trump among young voters, new poll says

Kamala Harris has widened Democrats' advantage with younger voters, topping Donald Trump by 32 percentage points among likely voters between 18 and 29 years old, according to a poll by the Institute of Politics at the Harvard Kennedy School.

The poll showed Harris leading Trump 64% to 32% among young likely voters in a two-way hypothetical match up, reports Bloomberg.

"This poll reveals a significant shift in the overall vibe and preferences of young Americans as the campaign heads into the final stretch," said John Della Volpe, the Institute of Politics polling director.

A Harvard Youth Poll earlier this year showed President Joe Biden topping Trump by just 13 points among likely young voters in a multi-candidate field. By comparison, Harris leads Trump by 31 points in a multi-candidate field in the latest poll.

The Harvard Youth Poll surveyed 2,002 young people aged 18-to-29 from Sept. 4 to 16. The margin of error for the total sample is +/- 2.65 ppts.

## 5 executions being carried out in US in 1 week, who are the death row inmates?

As many as five executions are set to be carried out in the United States in a span of just one week. This is an unusually high number, and if finally carried out, this will be the first time in more than 20 years, that is since July 2003, that five were held in seven days, the nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center revealed. The executions are being carried out in Alabama, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas.

One of the executions – the one in South Carolina – has already been carried out. Freddie Owens was put to death for the 1997 murder of a convenience store clerk during a robbery. This was the first execution carried out in South Carolina in 13 years. Owens was put to death by lethal injection at Broad River Correctional Institution, reports HT.

If the five other death row inmates are executed, the US will have reached 1,600 executions since the US Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976.



Most states have the death penalty. Pic – Washington Post

### Who are the four remaining death row inmates awaiting execution?

Alabama is preparing to carry out the nation's second execution ever using nitrogen gas this week. Alan Miller was sentenced to death for the murders of three men during back-to-back workplace shootings in 1999. Alabama

became the first state to use the new procedure in January this year.

Texas is set to execute Travis Mullis, who killed his three-month-old son in January 2008. Mullis, who has a history of mental illness, repeatedly tried to waive his right to appeal his death sentence. He will be put to death by lethal injection.

Marcellus Williams will also receive the lethal injection this week in Missouri. He was accused of fatally stabbing a woman in the St. Louis suburb of University City in 1998.

Emmanuel Littlejohn is set to be put to death in Oklahoma this week, also by lethal injection, for his role in the 1992 shooting death of a convenience store owner during a robbery. While Littlejohn admitted that he was indeed involved in the robbery, he has claimed that he did not fire the fatal shot.

\* Contd on page 14

## 'Not dating': Elon Musk clarifies as internet pairs him up with Italy's Giorgia Meloni

The internet has labelled Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni as a "perfect couple" after the former praised her at an awards ceremony in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday.

Seeing the two together at the event, netizens exploded the internet with comments like, "I am totally shipping these two. Perfect" and "Now that is the kind of international power couple I can get behind." Some users also wrote, "That's Amore (That's love)."

"I wanna find someone that looks at me the same way Meloni looks at Musk," another user wrote, reports HT.

However, Musk silenced all the comments on Wednesday by replying to an X post that questioned if he and Meloni "would date".

To this, Musk wrote: "Not dating".



Elon Musk celebrated Giorgia Meloni with the Global Citizen Award, highlighting her strong EU support. Meloni warned against unchecked migration and stressed the need for political control over AI to prevent global imbalances. Pic – The Daily Guardian

This is not the first time the internet has paired the two leaders. In December last year, several posts on X (formerly known as Twitter) claimed that the two were together after Musk accepted Meloni's invitation to attend a political festival in Rome.

### Elon Musk's praise for Meloni

Bestowing an Atlantic Council Global Citizen Award on Giorgia Meloni, Elon Musk said it was an honour to

present the accolade to someone who is even "more beautiful on the inside than she was on the outside."

"She's also someone who is authentic, honest, truthful — and that can't always be said about politicians," he added.

Meloni received the award for her "strong support of the EU and becoming the first female prime minister of Italy".

Previously, the internet was occasionally flooded with Prime Minister Narendra Modi-Meloni memes, jokingly portraying the romance between the two prime ministers. Some posts even created an imaginary phone call between the two. Such memes went viral on social media, especially during the G20 Summit in India and then after the BJP fell short of a majority in the Lok Sabha elections.

Netizens also created a #Melodi - connecting Meloni and Modi's names.

In December of last year, Meloni used the hashtag on a selfie she posted with Modi after meeting him on the sidelines of the COP28 summit in Dubai. She also shared a similar picture with Modi in June this year.

## 'Go back, step down': Bangladeshi nationals protest against Muhammad Yunus in US



Bangladeshi nationals raise slogans during the protest against Mohammad Yunus. Pic - Agencies

A large group of Bangladeshi nationals in the United States staged a protest against Muhammad Yunus, who is leading Bangladesh's interim government, over the attacks on minorities in the country on Tuesday. The protests took place outside a hotel in New York where Muhammad Yunus is staying for attending the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.

Videos doing rounds on social media show the protesters chanting slogans such as "go back" and "step down". The demonstrators also held posters saying: "Sheikh Hasina our Prime Minister".

According to one of the protesters, Yunus came to power with "dirty politics", reports HT.

"Muhammad Yunus took the power unconstitutionally, illegally. He captured power with dirty politics, and a lot of people have been killed. So far, our elected PM, Sheikh Hasina, has not resigned. We request UN humbly that he did not represent Bangladeshi people here," the protester told news agency ANI.

Another protester said: "I am here to protest the illegal, unelected person representing 117 million people of Bangladesh...He is not elected, he has

been appointed by students. He doesn't care about minorities or anybody...He has illegally occupied the country."

Yunus took charge as the head of Bangladesh's interim government on August 8 after Hasina resigned and fled the country following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system. Over 200 people were killed in the incidents of violence that erupted across the country amid the political

crisis.

Shortly after Hasina's downfall, some protesters vandalised temples belonging to the minorities and carried out loot and arson attacks in the country.

### Muhammad Yunus in US

On Tuesday, Yunus attended a high-level meeting at an event on the sidelines of the 79th UNGA in New York. During the meeting, he stressed the urgent need for the repatriation of Rohingyas in Bangladesh, saying that the significant challenges the country has been facing are due to the presence of over 1.2 million displaced Rohingyas from Myanmar.

"Despite hosting the Rohingyas with great empathy, a densely populated Bangladesh has been incurring so much in terms of social-economic-environmental costs. These culminate in a series of traditional and non-traditional security risks for us. Much of our own development gains are at stake. Clearly, Bangladesh has reached its limits. Therefore, as much as Bangladesh engages in humanitarian aspects or ensuring justice, repatriation of the Rohingyas remains the only sustainable solution to the protracted crisis," he said.

## 1,000-year-old seed used to grow ancient Biblical tree, scientists claim it may cure cancer



© Sallon, Weeks, et al. / Communications Biology 2024  
Lost tree from the Bible is resurrected from 1,000-year-old mystery seed. Pic – Daily Mail

A mysterious ancient seed, dating back to a time between 993 AD and 1202, has grown into a 10 feet tall tree nearly 1,000 years after it came into existence. The seed, found in the Judean Desert between the West Bank and Israel, is likely to have belonged to a lineage of trees mentioned in the Bible, scientists say.

Named "Sheba", after a biblical queen, the ancient seed took 14 years to grow into a tree after it was discovered during an excavation in a cave in the late 1980s. Scientists believe the seed belongs to a now-extinct species of trees that existed in the region which is modern-day Israel, Palestine and Jordan, reports HT.

Scientists claim the fully-grown tree

could be the source of "tsori" (meaning balm) - a resin mentioned in the Bible for its healing powers. They claim the revival of the tree can unravel the mystery behind the Biblical balm.

The tree is also related to the Commiphora species that produce fragrant resins which some believe to be the source of another Biblical perfume called "Balm of Gilead".

"Our initial hypothesis was that 'Sheba' might be a candidate for the historical 'Judean Balsam,'" the scientists, but added that they refuted the idea as the tree lacks aromatic properties.

### Anti-cancer properties

Sheba has shown a range of medicinal properties. Chemical analysis of the ancient tree's leaves reveals that it contains active compounds with anti-inflamma-

tory and anti-cancer properties. Its stems and leaves have antioxidant and skin-smoothing properties.

"We believe these findings support our second hypothesis, that 'Sheba' ... may represent an extinct (or at least extirpated) [lineage] once native to this region, whose resin 'tsori' mentioned in Biblical texts was valuable, associated with healing but not described as fragrant," scientists said.

After performing DNA, chemical and radiocarbon analyses of the tree, scientists have found that it belongs to the family of myrrh and frankincense, two compounds also mentioned in the Bible and closely associated with Jesus.

From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

7th Year No 283

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 22 January, 1960

• Misfortunes have their dignity and their redeeming power. — George Stillman Hillard



Peter Ibbotson

## Island of Sweetness

One way and another, Mauritius gets into the papers. On January 8, for example, *The Times* carried a half-page advertisement for the Hawker-Siddeley Group (and other quality papers may have carried the same advertisement for all I know). It showed cane fields in the shadow of mountain peaks;



with a small map of Mauritius and a small picture of bags of sugar being carried on brawny shoulders.

Mauritius was headlined as "Island of sweetness and light", and the text accompanying the picture read "Sail south across the Indian Ocean and, 500 miles east of Madagascar, you'll come to the sweetest island in the world, Mauritius. Coral-reefed, palm-fringed, and beautiful. An island where half a million people live and work and read — by sugar! The entire economy of Mauritius depends on this one main crop. Sugar supplies work, trade, light and heat. For Mauritius, without fuel or any source of power, solved the problem of a one-crop economy by burning bagasse, the fibre that remains after the sugar cane is crushed. Bagasse is burnt to drive the turbines that supply power to the sugar crushers, and the same turbines provide a bonus of light and heat to the island."

Then follows the advertising puff for Hawker Siddeley turbines.

Whatever one may think of the references to an island of sweetness and light, and to the coral reefs and palm-fringes, one must admit that it is useful even in an advertisement — to have the basic problems of Mauritius spotlighted: the one-crop economy on which the whole island depends, and the lack of natural resources to provide power. But "the sweetest island in the world"! I'd like to hear the opinions of some of the army of unemployed, under-employed, or underpaid labourers on that!

Mauritius also figures in the January number of *Family Planning*, the quarterly journal of the Family Planning Association. Mrs Nina Mackenzie has written about her visit to East Africa and Mauritius on behalf of the FPA. After referring to the people who met her at the airport, Mrs Mackenzie goes on "Mauritius has a large sugar growing industry and the population is over 600,000 with an annual birth rate of 44 per thousand. In the report of the Committee on Population 1954 the birth rate was said to be the highest in the world. The FPA of Mauritius and its 26 branches are faced with this vast problem of over-population and I found that much publicity had been given to my visit. I was invited to broadcast and received much encouragement when I called on important officials in the Government."

Mrs Mackenzie goes on to say that she was able to meet different sections of the community and was made to feel how much her visit was appreciated. She refers to the problems facing the Mauritius FPA: "A much needed centre to be built at Port Louis; a paid social worker needed to travel around the island, a change of name to the Family Welfare Association thought to be more acceptable to the people and the Government; and the overwhelming need for more education and help to be given to the villagers...

with the constant thought of how to find sufficient money. The sugar industry is very rich but with most of the large estates owned by Roman Catholics an appeal to them for help did not seem possible."

The recurring theme in people's minds was, says Mrs Mackenzie, that "The Government must help." She feels that the Government will help, but in its own time. Meanwhile people should join the Association so that there is a strong association which "would be of inestimable value when the decision was taken." As in *News of Population* two months ago, Mrs Mackenzie refers to the glove-puppet play in Creole. "On leaving," she says, "I felt that my visit had helped to dispel that feeling of isolation which affects all family planning workers in remote parts of the world."

There has, of course, been a recent furore in the UK about family planning. The British Medical Association found itself the centre of a storm of controversy when it rejected a Family Planning Association advertisement. This the FPA wanted to insert in the BMA's annual *Getting Married*; before deciding whether or not to accept the advertisement for the monthly *Family Doctor*, the BMA has asked for the comments of its Roman Catholic members. It was widely said that the BMA had rejected the FPA advertisement at the instigation of Catholic members; commenting on this, *The Times* quite properly said that if this was indeed so, then the BMA was allowing a tiny minority to prevent the free flow of information. The majority of people in the country were in favour of family planning; yet the views of a tiny minority were to be allowed to prevail.

Letters to the editor of *The Times* revealed the fact that the Family Planning Association lets the Catholic Truth Society advertise its anti-birth control pamphlets in the quarterly *Family Planning*; but the Catholic Truth Society will not accept the FPA's advertisements in its quarterly *Catholic Truth*. Can this be because the FPA's case *for* family planning is better than the CTS's case *against* it?

\* \* \*

## Educating Young Nations

The name of Mr W.E.F. Ward is not unfamiliar to the older generation of teachers. He left Mauritius to become an educational adviser at the Colonial Office; later still he became editor of *Overseas Education*. He has just had published, by Allen and Unwin at 15 shillings, a new book on education in the colonies. Its title is that which I have given to this paragraph: *Educating Young Nations*. In just under 200 pages, Mr Ward deals with the problems which crop up when an education system originally devised on Western lines for a Western country is set to work in a country where the traditional culture is not Western. The

problems are both professional and human, and Mr Ward tackles both. Naturally, since his active teaching career was in the Gold Coast (now Ghana) followed by four and a half years as Director in Mauritius, he draws plentifully upon his experience in both countries. The index gives some idea of the frequency with which he refers to Mauritius:

"Mauritius 16, 21, 23, 25, 29, 30, 41, 44, 74, 75, 97, 141-3, 159, 160, 192."

The big gap between pages 97 and 141 is because in the intervening pages Mr Ward is dealing with technical and informal education, in both of which Mauritius is at present lacking — though it will not be lacking if the plans which Mr Beejadhur has in mind come to fruit.

One of the special problems with which Mr Ward deals is the problem of secondary school selection; he takes the reader back to 1941 when he changed the basis and organisation of the Standard Six examinations. He refers to work which has recently been done in Nigeria and Northern Rhodesia in evaluating the results of selection examinations especially in the light of the need to remedy the gross inequalities of opportunity which arise from social differences and differences in environment. "One child comes from an efficient school in a town; his parents... have had some education: he drinks clean water from the tap, and eats food which has been bought in a properly supervised market; he may go barefoot but it is on relatively clean pavements: his house had electric light and newspapers, perhaps a radio, perhaps even books. Another child comes from a poor school in a remote village, with illiterate parents; he is infested with internal parasites from his food, his drinking water, and the mud he walks in; and he may have no opportunity... of seeing a newspaper."

The existence of these two contrasting environments is one of the problems confronting the colonial administrator or the newly-fledged Ministers of a colony which has achieved constitutional emancipation. This social problem must be solved, just as must the educational problems. Mauritius has both types of problem to solve. The Government has to help to improve the lot of the unfortunate majority of the citizens; it has to provide opportunity for work, it is called upon to do this, that and the other to make life better for everyone. But it cannot do everything at once; and in any case, as we have more than once pointed out in these columns, the way to a better Mauritius will not be quick, will not be easy, will not be smooth. All the Government can offer for the immediate future is toil and sweat; but toil and sweat now will avoid the blood and tears in the future.

Those jeremiads who cannot understand what the government is doing, what it is getting at in its plans and preparations for the next 10 years, should read Mr Ward's book. They will learn that in the field of education, as in all other fields of constructive governmental activity, one cannot get quick returns which are lasting returns. No Government can succeed if it acts according to the philosophy of "Eat, drink, be merry, for tomorrow we die", or "Come day, go day, and the devil take the hind-most." On the contrary, the Government, like all prudent citizens, takes thought for tomorrow, and plans for the future. It often may look as though the Government is sitting back comfortably on its collective derriere and doing nothing, but this isn't ever the case. No matter what the Government's Destructive traducers may say, it isn't lazing about and doing nothing. On the contrary, it is in many instances doing for people what these people might reasonably be expected to do for themselves.

## Combating Money Laundering and Corruption US and Mauritius strengthen collaboration in the fight against complex financial crimes

In a significant step toward enhancing the fight against financial crime, the US Embassy in Mauritius, in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), has launched a week-long workshop focused on "Investigating and Prosecuting Complex Financial Crimes." The workshop, inaugurated at the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) Customs House, brought together key stakeholders from various Mauritian law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, including the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), and the Mauritius Police Force (MPF). The goal is to enhance the capabilities of these agencies in tackling financial crimes, including money laundering, corruption, and other transnational criminal activities.

US Ambassador to Mauritius and Seychelles, Henry Jardine, highlighted the importance of collaboration in his opening remarks. He underscored the shared commitment between the two nations to address the complexities of financial crime in an increasingly interconnected world. Ambassador Jardine noted the assignment of an FBI special agent to the US Embassy in Mauritius — the first such posting since its opening in 1968 — as a testament to the growing cooperation between the US and Mauritius. This FBI presence, in conjunction with the US Embassy in Seychelles, signifies a concerted effort to strengthen law enforcement capabilities across the Western Indian Ocean region.



Ambassador Jardine emphasized the evolving nature of financial crimes, from money laundering and corruption to cyber-enabled offenses, and the need for law enforcement to stay ahead of these threats through innovation and cooperation. The workshop, designed to foster inter-agency collaboration, is an essential platform for sharing knowledge and strategies to dismantle complex financial networks that often span multiple jurisdictions.

### FBI expertise and a Focus on Digital Financial Crimes

The FBI's participation brings a wealth of experience to the table, with subject matter experts providing training in forensic accounting, social media exploitation, and prosecution techniques. Leah Tanner, Supervisory Special Agent from the FBI, acknowledged the dedication of Mauritian officers and their critical role in addressing financial crimes, especially in the digital age, where emerging challenges such as cryptocurrency-related money laundering have become more prevalent.

This workshop also marks the beginning of a two-year program aimed at building investigative and prosecutorial capabilities across Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros. Multiple training sessions will be held as part of this program, which is supported by the US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). The broader goal is to enhance regional cooperation and ensure that law enforcement agencies are well-equipped to investigate and prosecute corruption and financial crimes effectively.

### Mauritius' Progress and Commitment

Mauritius has already made significant strides in combating financial crimes, particularly through the efforts of the MRA's Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Unit. Over the past financial year, this unit has successfully investigated 126 cases amounting to Rs2.8 billion, with further assessments for the current year totalling Rs1.8 billion.

MRA Director-General Sudhamo Lal emphasized the need for innovative tools and techniques in the fight against money laundering and financial crime, given the evolving risks posed by new technologies such as cryptocurrencies. He praised the collaboration with the US government, noting that the training provided by the FBI would empower local agencies to better detect and prosecute financial crimes.

The workshop is a promising start to what both Mauritius and the United States hope will be a sustained effort to combat financial crime in the region. The collaborative effort underscores the global nature of financial crimes and the need for cross-border cooperation to effectively address them.

## Forum

### London's Grenfell Tower Inferno

I am referring to the London's Grenfell Tower - the devastating fire that occurred on June 14, 2017, in a residential high-rise building in North Kensington, London. The fire started in a fourth-floor apartment and rapidly spread due to the building's external cladding, which was found to be highly flammable. The tragedy claimed 72 lives and left many others injured. A public inquiry into the devastating blaze blamed the disaster on failings by the government, construction industry and, most of all, the firms involved in fitting the exterior with flammable cladding. Not surprisingly, all 72 deaths in were avoidable.

It really does seem there's no human(e) or moral accountability when big profit is involved; nor can there be a sufficiently guilty conscience if the malpractice is continued, business as usual. 'We are a capitalist nation, after all,' the self-justification may go.

Then, such big businesses can get, or are getting, unaccountably even bigger, defying the very spirit of government rules established to ensure healthy competition by limiting concentrated ownership.

Still, there must be a point at which corporate greed thus practice will end up hurting big business's own monetary interests. Or is the unlimited-profit objective/nature somehow irresistible? It brings to mind the allegorical fox stung by the instinct-abiding scorpion while ferrying it across the river, leaving both to drown.

One can see corporate officers shrugging their shoulders and defensively saying their job is to protect shareholders' bottom-line interests. And the shareholders also shrug their shoulders while defensively stating they just collect the dividends and that the big bosses are the ones to make the moral and ethical decisions.

A very large and growing populace are increasingly too overworked, tired, worried and even angry about food and housing unaffordability thus insecurity for themselves or their family — largely due to insufficient income — to criticize or boycott Big Business/Industry for the societal damage it needlessly causes/allows, particularly when not immediately observable.

Indeed, so very many people, perhaps an all-time-high percentage, have to choose between which necessities of life they can afford.

Nevertheless, the more that such corporations make, all the more they want — nay, need — to make next quarterly. It's never enough, yet the corporate news-media, which make up virtually all of Western mainstream news media, will implicitly or explicitly celebrate their successful greed [a.k.a. 'stock market gains'].

**Frank Sterle Jr.**  
White Rock, B.C.  
Canada, V4B 4B5

### A propos State Lands

I've been a faithful reader of your weekly paper for a very great number of years, in fact, since the time I started my SC level studies.

I'm sorry to tell you that, as a former Minister of Housing and Lands, I take great exception to the fourth paragraph of your Editorial in *Mauritius Times* 20 September 2024, quote:

'Readers may recall the allegations made by the then-Opposition against the PMSD and the so-called "Festival de la Terre."

'Similar accusations were directed at a former minister of Housing and Lands, whose relative allegedly sold lease rights over a plot of State land to Chinese investors with the minister's approval.'

I verily and sincerely believe that this comment of yours may cause great prejudice to my good reputation as a former Minister of Housing and Lands. I would therefore appreciate, if you could in the name of Fairness and Justice, envisage a mise-au-point 'pour remettre les pendules à l'heure.'

If you don't want to reveal the name of that former Minister of Housing and Lands, at least, you could tell your readers under which government that minister served and during which period of time.

Kind regards,

**Eliezzer François JP**  
Leader MAM

*Editor's Note: We are not aware of any allegations against Mr Francois concerning state lands, unlike those directed at other politicians of various political affiliations. He can be assured that our editorial was not intended to target him in any manner.*

# The Intelligence Age: Sam Altman's Manifesto and Its Oversights

● **Cont. from page 2**

Babbage's "analytical engine" was never built, but the notion that humanity's ultimate achievement would entail mechanising thought itself has persisted.

According to Altman, we're now (almost) at that mountaintop.

## Deep learning worked – but for what?

The reason we are so close to the glorious future is simple, Altman says: "deep learning worked".

Deep learning is a particular kind of machine learning that involves artificial neural networks, loosely inspired by biological nervous systems. It has certainly been surprisingly successful in a few domains: deep learning is behind models that have proven adept at stringing words together in more or less coherent ways, at generating pretty pictures and videos, and even contributing to the solutions of some scientific problems.

So the contributions of deep learning are not trivial. They are likely to have significant social and economic impacts (both positive and negative).

But deep learning "works" only for a li-

imited set of problems. Altman knows this:

*humanity discovered an algorithm that could really, truly learn any distribution of data (or really the underlying "rules" that produce any distribution of data).*

That's what deep learning does – that's how it "works". That's important, and it's a technique that can be applied to various domains, but it's far from the only problem that exists.

Not every problem is reducible to pattern matching. Nor do all problems provide the massive amounts of data that deep learning requires to do its work. Nor is this how human intelligence works.

## A big hammer looking for nails

What is interesting here is the fact that Altman thinks "rules from data" will go so far towards solving all humanity's problems.

There is an adage that a person holding a hammer is likely to see everything as a nail. Altman is now holding a big and very expensive hammer.

Deep learning may be "working" but only because Altman and others are starting to reimagine (and build) a world composed of distributions of data. There's a danger here that AI is starting to limit, rather than expand, the kinds of problem-solving we are doing.

What is barely visible in Altman's celebration of AI are the expanding resources needed also for deep learning to "work". We can acknowledge the great gains and remarkable achievements of modern medicine, transportation (to name a few) without pretending these have not come at a significant cost.

They have come at a cost both to some humans – for whom the gains of global north have meant diminishing returns – and to animals, plants and ecosystems, ruth-

lessly exploited and destroyed by the extractive might of capitalism plus technology.

Although Altman and his booster friends might dismiss such views as nitpicking, the question of costs goes right to the heart of predictions and concerns about the future of AI.

Altman is certainly aware that AI is facing limits, noting "there are still a lot of details we have to figure out". One of these is the rapidly expanding energy costs of training AI models.

Microsoft recently announced a US\$30 billion fund to build AI data centres and generators to power them. The veteran tech giant, which has invested more than US\$10 billion in OpenAI, has also signed a deal with owners of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant (infamous for its 1979 meltdown) to supply power for AI. The frantic spending suggests there may be a hint of desperation in the air.

## Magic or just magical thinking?

Given the magnitude of such challenges, even if we accept Altman's rosy view of

human progress up to now, we might have to acknowledge that the past may not be a reliable guide to the future. Resources are finite. Limits are reached. Exponential growth can end.

What's most revealing about Altman's post is not his rash predictions. Rather, what emerges is his sense of untrammelled optimism in science and progress.

This makes it hard to imagine that Altman or OpenAI takes seriously the "downsides" of technology. With so much to gain, why worry about a few niggling problems? When AI seems so close to triumph, why pause to think?

What is emerging around AI is less an "age of intelligence" and more an "age of inflation" – inflating resource consumption, inflating company valuations and, most of all, inflating the promises of AI.

It's certainly true that some of us do things now that would have seemed magic a century and a half ago. That doesn't mean all the changes between then and now have been for the better.

AI has remarkable potential in many domains, but imagining it holds the key to solving all of humanity's problems – that's magical thinking too.

Hallam Stevens, Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, James Cook University



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Mauritius Times

# Le contrôle des économies par les milliardaires: Une alerte d'Oxfam

Un nouveau rapport d'Oxfam, basé sur des données de UBS, révèle que le 1 % des plus riches possède plus de richesse que les 95 % les plus pauvres de l'humanité réunis. (Les données UBS font généralement référence aux informations financières ou économiques fournies par UBS Group AG, une entreprise de services financiers mondiale basée en Suisse.) À l'approche du débat général de haut niveau de l'ONU, cette analyse souligne une réalité alarmante : les milliardaires exercent un contrôle sans précédent sur les économies mondiales.

Actuellement, un tiers des 50 plus grandes entreprises mondiales, représentant une capitalisation boursière de 13,3 trillions de dollars, est dirigé par un milliardaire ou a un milliardaire comme actionnaire principal. Ce phénomène exacerbe les inégalités, notamment entre le Sud et le Nord, puisque les pays du Sud global ne détiennent que 31 % de la richesse mondiale tout en abritant 79 % de la population mondiale.

## Un appel à l'action multilatérale

Oxfam appelle à une action multilatérale pour établir un nouveau cadre global sur la fiscalité, annuler les dettes et réviser les règles de propriété intellectuelle concernant les pandémies. Le rapport, intitulé «Le Multilatéralisme à l'Ère de l'Oligarchie Mondiale», met en garde contre l'influence croissante des ultra-riches et des méga-corporations sur les décisions politiques mondiales, au détriment de l'avancement des droits humains et de la lutte contre la pauvreté.

Amitabh Behar, directeur exécutif d'Oxfam International, souligne que «l'ombre de l'oligarchie mondiale plane sur l'Assemblée générale de cette année. Les ultra-riches et les méga-corporations qu'ils



Oxfam souligne que depuis 2020, les 1% les plus riches ont capté près des deux tiers de toutes les nouvelles richesses, soit près de deux fois plus que les 99 % les plus pauvres de la population mondiale. P - perspectivesmed.com

contrôlent façonner les règles mondiales pour servir leurs propres intérêts, au détriment des populations.» Ce rapport dépeint une tendance inquiétante vers une oligarchie mondiale où les très riches, souvent par le biais de leurs corporations monopolistiques, influencent les décisions politiques.

## Exemples d'inégalités extrêmes

Oxfam illustre comment les inégalités extrêmes érodent les efforts multilatéraux en présentant trois exemples récents:

**Les corporations et la coopération fiscale:** Le cadre inclusif de l'OCDE/G20 sur l'érosion de la base d'imposition et le transfert de bénéfices (BEPS) n'a pas atteint son plein potentiel. Les nouvelles règles ne généreront que des revenus

minimes pour les pays à faible revenu, et l'exclusion des services financiers des règles de l'OCDE est le résultat de pressions exercées par des pays disposant de secteurs bancaires puissants.

**Big Pharma et les Vaccins Covid-19 :** Les grandes entreprises pharmaceutiques résistent aux efforts visant à détruire leurs monopoles sur les technologies de vaccin, ce qui a entraîné des profits colossaux pendant la pandémie. Le refus de partager les technologies a conduit à des millions de morts supplémentaires.

**Créanciers privés et crise de la dette:** Les pays à faible revenu consacrent près de 40 % de leur budget annuel au service de la dette, une somme bien supérieure à celle dépensée pour l'éducation et la santé combinées. Une part importante de cette dette est due à des créanciers privés, qui exploi-

tent la vulnérabilité des nations en difficulté.

## Vers un multilatéralisme solidaire

Behar conclut en affirmant qu'«un multilatéralisme basé sur la solidarité est nécessaire pour inverser la tendance vers l'oligarchie mondiale. Certains leaders mondiaux montrent qu'ils reconnaissent cela et prennent position contre l'inégalité, mais nous avons besoin de nombreux autres pour faire preuve de ce courage.»

Dans un monde où les inégalités s'accroissent, la nécessité d'une gouvernance équitable et d'une fiscalité juste devient de plus en plus urgente. L'équité mondiale, la priorité à la santé publique et la capacité des pays à investir dans leur population bénéficieront à tous. Ce n'est pas une idée nouvelle, mais un appel ancien que les leaders, en particulier du Sud global, continuent de formuler.

Le rapport d'Oxfam met en lumière une réalité qui, bien que souvent discutée, nécessite une attention urgente. La prise de conscience de la concentration de la richesse est cruciale pour inciter les gouvernements et les citoyens à agir. La solution à ces inégalités ne peut être que collective.

Il est également essentiel de reconnaître que les grandes entreprises ne sont pas seulement des acteurs économiques, mais aussi des influenceurs politiques. Leur capacité à façonner des règles et des normes peut freiner le progrès social et environnemental. Ainsi, des réformes structurelles sont indispensables, incluant des changements fiscaux et des initiatives visant à renforcer la transparence et la responsabilité des entreprises.

Les dirigeants politiques ont un rôle fondamental à jouer. Leur courage et leur engagement à combattre l'inégalité peuvent inspirer des mouvements de base et encourager une solidarité internationale. La mobilisation des citoyens est également cruciale pour réclamer des changements; les voix individuelles, lorsqu'elles sont rassemblées, peuvent exercer une pression significative sur les décideurs.

A. Bartleby

## YOUR STARS

### SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

This week brings a sense of optimism and adventure. You may find yourself exploring new opportunities for travel, learning, or expanding your worldview. Open-hearted conversations with loved ones deepen your emotional connections.

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

### CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Focus on long-term goals rather than quick wins, and you'll make steady progress. However, personal relationships need attention — don't let your ambition overshadow the importance of emotional connection. Take time for relaxation.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 10, 16, 22, 27, 37

### AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

You may find yourself leading a team or working on a social cause that inspires you. However, your independent nature could create some tension in personal relationships—find ways to maintain your individuality while still nurturing emotional bonds. Financially, cautious planning is advised.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 12, 19, 23, 30, 35

### PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Creative projects flow easily, especially if you tap into your imagination and let your instincts guide you. Pay attention to your emotional health; escapism may be tempting, but face challenges head-on to find clarity. In relationships, a gentle, empathetic approach will help resolve any tensions.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 7, 13, 17, 25, 32

### ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

This week, your dynamic energy propels you forward. However, temper your eagerness with patience, especially in relationships. Impulsive actions could create misunderstandings. Financially, things may stabilize as you take calculated risks that pay off in the long run.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 9, 15, 21, 28, 36

### TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Steadiness is your strength this week. Financial gains could come through long-term investments or careful planning. In love, stability deepens, and romantic gestures are appreciated. If single, you might meet someone who shares your values.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 11, 18, 24, 29, 37

### GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Your social side will be in high demand as opportunities to network and collaborate arise. Career growth is supported through new connections and conversations. It's a busy week but balance your energy between work and social commitments to avoid burnout. Avoid overanalysing situations in relationships.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 8, 14, 20, 25, 32

### CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Family and home life take center stage this week, offering a chance to reconnect with loved ones. Professionally, nurturing your relationships with colleagues could lead to unexpected growth opportunities. Pay attention to your self-care; it's essential to recharge emotionally.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 10, 16, 22, 27, 38

### LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

Your natural confidence shines brightly this week, drawing attention to personal projects. Use your charisma to influence others and take the lead in creative ventures. However, be mindful of overextending yourself. In relationships, a little humility goes a long way in strengthening bonds.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 12, 17, 23, 30, 35

### VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

This week is an ideal time to review your daily habits and health practices. A disciplined approach to your responsibilities will clear the way for professional growth. At work, you'll have the chance to tackle unresolved issues but be careful not to nitpick. In relationships, seek balance between practicality and emotional expression.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 7, 13, 19, 26, 31

### LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Relationships, both personal and professional, are highlighted this week. Balance and compromise are key themes, so weigh all sides carefully before taking action. Success in business comes through teamwork but watch out for moments of indecision that could cause delays.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 9, 15, 21, 28, 34

### SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

You'll have profound realizations about your relationships and desires. Trust your instincts, especially when it comes to emotional matters. Professionally, your focus shifts to uncovering hidden opportunities — deep research or behind-the-scenes work will pay off. Stay patient with yourself and those around you; breakthroughs are coming.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 11, 18, 24, 29, 36

## EEG and the Future: Reading dreams and beyond as technology turns 100

As electroencephalography (EEG) marks its 100th anniversary, experts are reflecting on its impact and envisioning its future possibilities. Since its first recording in July 1924, EEG has been crucial for understanding brain function and diagnosing conditions like epilepsy, previously misclassified as personality disorders.

A recent survey, conducted by the University of Leeds, gathered insights from over 500 global experts with a combined 6,685 years of experience. The survey explored potential future developments for EEG, ranging from critical advancements to highly speculative ones. The results, published today in *Nature Human Behaviour*, reveal ambitious predictions for the next century.

### Future Innovations

Experts foresee several transformative innovations within the next generation. These include:

- Enhancing cognitive performance using EEG.
- Early detection of learning disabilities.
- Widespread use as a lie detector.
- Employing EEG as a primary communication tool for individuals with severe motor disabilities or locked-in syndrome.



Real-time diagnosis of brain abnormalities, such as seizures or tumors, is expected within 10-14 years. However, the feasibility of reading dreams or long-term memories remains speculative, with estimates suggesting it could be over 50 years away or closer to science fiction.

A surprising finding is the potential for personal, portable EEG devices within a generation. Dominik Welke, Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, envisions these devices becoming as common as smartphones, offering insights into physiological factors and potentially enhancing safety measures, such as monitoring driver or pilot vigilance.

### Technological Advances

EEG hardware, essentially unchanged since its incep-

tion, has become more affordable, portable, and user-friendly. This evolution, coupled with its non-invasive nature, could make EEG more accessible globally.

The anticipated use of EEG in gaming and virtual reality, predicted within 20 years, could also extend its benefits to traditionally excluded communities, particularly in low-income countries. Advances in AI and automation are expected to further enhance data analysis and speed up research.

Dr. Welke highlighted the potential of EEG to democratize neuroimaging, contrasting it with more expensive methods like MRI. "EEG could become a global tool for brain research, making neuroimaging accessible to a broader population."

### Ethical Considerations

Despite the optimism, the survey also raised ethical concerns. Experts warned of potential misuse by tech companies seeking to gather extensive data on users' preferences and emotions. Dr. Welke emphasized the importance of addressing cognitive freedom and mental privacy issues, alongside promoting responsible use of emerging technologies.

### Research Priorities

The survey identified key priorities for the EEG community, including robust, ethical, and inclusive practices. Professor Faisal Mushtaq of the University of Leeds stressed that combining EEG with AI and virtual reality could revolutionize human-computer interactions and advance scientific understanding over the next century.



## Why can't it always be summer? It's all about the Earth's tilt

*Phones that transmit odors sound like science fiction, but researchers are working on making them real.*

With its long days just itching to be spent by water doing nothing, summer really can be an enchanting season. As Jenny Han wrote in the young adult novel "The Summer I Turned Pretty": "Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August."

But all good things must come to an end, and summer cannot last forever. There's both a simple reason and a more complicated one. The simple reason is that it can't always be summer because the Earth is tilted. The more complicated answer requires some geometry.

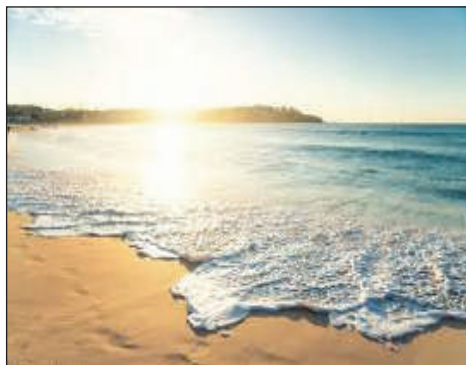
I'm a professor of geography and the environment who has studied seasonal changes on the landscape. Here's what seasons have to do with our planet's position as it moves through the solar system.

### Closeness to the Sun doesn't explain seasons

First, you need to know that the Earth is a sphere – technically, an oblate spheroid. That means Earth has a round shape a little wider than it is tall.

Every year, Earth travels in its orbit to make one revolution around the Sun. The Earth's orbit is an ellipse, which is more like an oval than a circle. So there are times when Earth is closer to the Sun and times when it's farther away.

A lot of people assume this distance is why we have seasons. But these people would be wrong. In the United States, the



Earth is 3 million miles closer to the Sun during winter than in the summer.

### Spinning like a top

Now picture an imaginary line across Earth, right in the middle, at 0° latitude. This line is called the equator. If you drew it on a globe, the equator would pass through countries including Brazil, Kenya, Indonesia and Ecuador.

Everything north of the equator, including the United States, is considered the Northern Hemisphere, and everything south of the equator is the Southern Hemisphere.

Now think of the Earth's axis as another imaginary line that runs vertically through the middle of the Earth, going from the North Pole to the South Pole.

As it orbits, or revolves, around the Sun, the Earth also rotates. That means it spins on its axis, like a top. The Earth takes one full year to revolve around the

Sun and takes 24 hours, or one day, to do one full rotation on its axis.

This axis is why we have day and night; during the day, we're facing the Sun, and at night, we're facing away.

But the Earth's axis does not go directly up and down. Instead, its axis is always tilted at 23.5 degrees in the exact same direction, toward the North Star.

The Earth's axis is tilted due to a giant object – perhaps an ancient planet – smashing into it billions of years ago. And it's this tilt that causes seasons.

### It's all about the tilt

So that means in June, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted toward the Sun. That tilt means more sunlight, more solar energy, longer days – all the things that make summer, well, summer.

At the same time, the Southern Hemisphere is tilted away from the Sun. So countries such as Australia, Chile and Argentina are experiencing winter then.

To say it another way: As the Earth moves around the Sun throughout the year, the parts of the Earth getting the most sunlight are always changing.

Fast-forward to December, and Earth is on the exact opposite side of its orbit as where it was in June. It's the Southern Hemisphere's turn to be tilted toward the Sun, which means its summer happens in December, January and February.

If Earth were not tilted at all, there would be no seasons. If it were tilted more

than it is, there would be even more extreme seasons and drastic swings in temperature. Summers would be hotter and winters would be colder.

### Defining summer

Talk to a meteorologist, climate scientist or author Jenny Han, and they'll tell you that for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, summer is June, July and August, the warmest months of the year.

But there's another way to define summer. Talk to astronomers, and they'll tell you the first day of summer is the summer solstice – the day of the year with the longest amount of daylight and shortest amount of darkness.

The summer solstice occurs every year sometime between June 20 and June 22. And every day after, until the winter solstice in December, the Northern Hemisphere receives a little less daylight.

Summer officially ends on the autumnal equinox, the fall day when everywhere on Earth has an equal amount of daylight and night. The autumnal equinox happens every year on either September 22 or 23.

But whether you view summer like Jenny Han or like an astronomer, one thing is certain: Either way, summer must come to an end. But the season and the magic it brings with it will be back before you know it.

### Stephanie Spera

Assistant Professor of Geography and the Environment, University of Richmond



## Bob's Secret to Success

**B**ob, a 65-year-old, extremely wealthy widower, strolls into the Country Club with a stunning 25-year-old blonde by his side. Her beauty and charm leave everyone in the room speechless. She clings to Bob's arm, hanging on his every word as if he's the most fascinating man in the world.

His buddies at the club are in shock. They pull him aside and ask, "Bob, how'd you land a girlfriend like that?"

Bob grins and says, "Girlfriend? She's, my wife!"

His friends are floored but can't resist asking, "How on earth did you convince her to marry you?"

Bob leans in with a sly smile and says, "I lied about my age."

They nod knowingly. "Ah, you told her you were 50?"

Bob chuckles and replies, "Nope, I told her I was 90."

\* \* \*

### World Happiness Day

- \* Today I donated my watch, phone, and \$500 to a poor guy. You don't know the happiness I felt when I saw him put his knife back in his pocket.
- \* I miss the times when I worked at the zoo. My boss fired me just because I left the lion's gate open. I mean, who would steal a lion?
- \* I was in a cab today, and the cab driver said, "I love my job. I'm my own boss. Nobody tells me what to do." Then I said, "Turn left."
- \* Why do supermarkets make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get to the pharmacy for their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?
- \* Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and yet get a diet coke?
- \* Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the countertops?
- \* Why does the sun lighten our hair but darken our skin?
- \* Why can't women put on mascara with their mouths closed?



- \* Why is "abbreviated" such a long word?
- \* Why do doctors and attorneys call what they do "practice"?
- \* Why is lemon juice made with artificial flavouring, and dishwashing liquid made with real lemons?
- \* Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- \* Why is the time of day with the slowest traffic called "rush hour"?
- \* Why do they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?
- \* You know that indestructible black box used on air planes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?
- \* Why don't sheep shrink when it rains, but sweaters made of wool do?
- \* Why are they called apartments when they're all stuck together?
- \* If flying is so safe, why do they call the airport the terminal?

\* \* \*

### The Blind Horse Deal

A city dweller was driving through the countryside when he noticed a horse standing in a field. He was quite taken with the animal, so he stopped his car to ask the farmer if the horse was for sale.

"I'm afraid not," replied the farmer.

"I'll give you one thousand pounds," said the city fellow.

"I can't sell this horse; he doesn't look good," replied the farmer.

"I know horses, and he looks fine. Let's make a deal for one thousand five hundred pounds."

"Well, all right, if you want him so badly."

The next day, the man returned, furious, shouting that he had been cheated. "You sold me a blind horse!"

"Well, I did tell you he didn't look good."

\* \* \*

### The Inspector and the Bull

A government inspector stopped at a farm and told the old farmer that he had to inspect his property.

The old farmer said, "OK, but try to avoid that field."

In a supercilious tone, the inspector replied, "I have authority from the government with me. See my card."

He shoved a plastic card in the farmer's face. "This card says I can visit any part of your farm."

The old farmer shrugged and went about his chores.

Later, he heard loud screams and saw the inspector running toward the fence, with the farmer's prize bull close behind, gaining on him. The farmer shouted, "Show him your card!"

\* \* \*

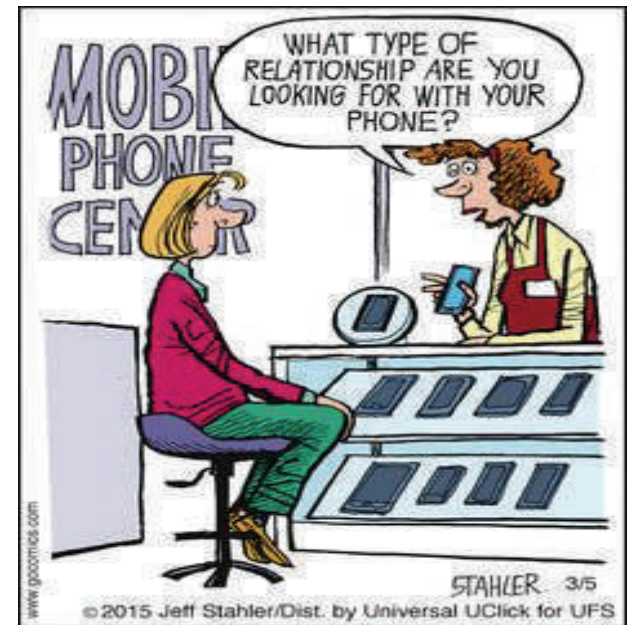
### The Priceless Pearl

An elderly couple was on a cruise, and the weather was really rough. They were standing at the stern of the ship, watching the moon, when a strong wind blew the old lady overboard.

The crew searched for days but couldn't find her, so the captain told the old man that they would notify him if they found her. A fortnight later, the old man finally received a message from the ship. It read:

"Sir, sorry to inform you, we found the dead body of your wife at the bottom of the ocean. We hauled her up to the deck, and attached to her buttocks was an oyster, inside of which was a pearl worth £25,000—please advise."

The old man messaged back: "Send the pearl and



bury her back overboard."

\* \* \*

### The Heartfelt Note

A 60-year-old man named Jack has a mild heart problem, so he goes to the hospital. They immediately perform heart surgery to install a stent, increasing his blood flow.

He is well enough to go home the next day. A week later, he meets with the cardiologist for a check-up, and the doctor asks, "So, Jack, how are you doing these days?"

"I'm great, doctor, never better. But I do have one problem. My wife won't have sex with me because she's afraid I'll have a heart attack and die."

The doctor smiles and writes a note on official hospital stationery. The note reads:

*Dear Mrs. Jack,*

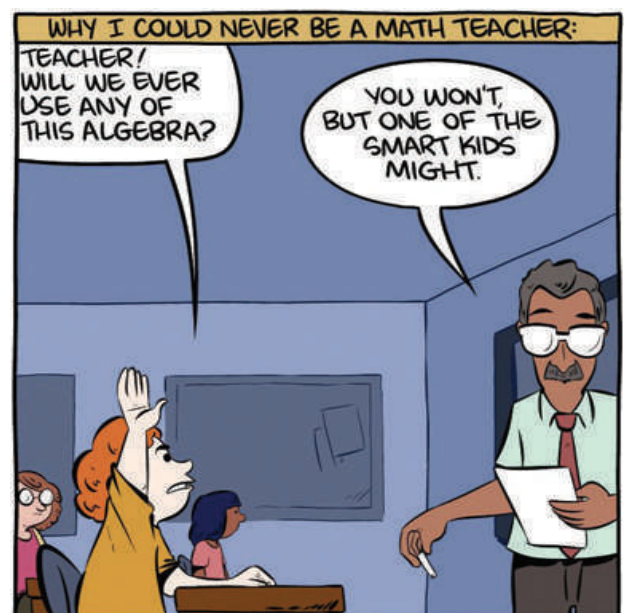
*Mr. Jack is now healthy enough to have sex. In fact, after we increased the blood flow with a stent, he will have harder erections, more endurance, and I wouldn't be surprised if he now wants sex two or three times a night! He's as healthy as a 30-year-old. So do not worry about having sex with him.*

"How's that?" asks the cardiologist.

"That's wonderful, but could you please make one small change?"

"What change?"

"Could you replace 'Dear Mrs. Jack' with 'To Whom It May Concern'?"



Life's Lesson

## Coming Out: I told my family I was gay

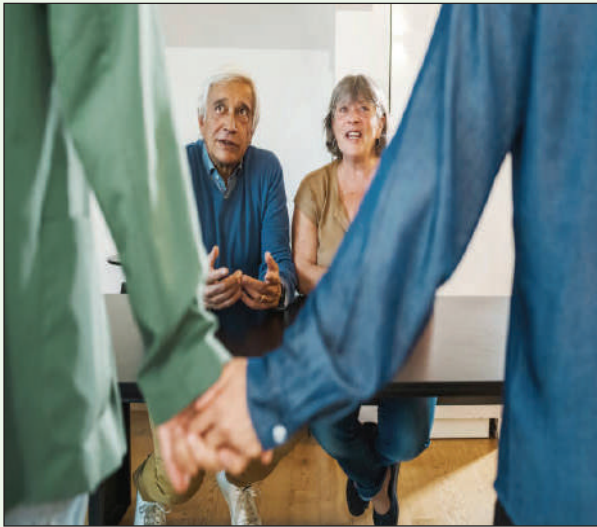
Four years ago today, I told my family -- my mom, dad, three sisters, and their families -- I was gay.

And I'm okay.

Saying those words out loud to my parents and siblings was more terrifying than it should have been.

And I'm okay.

I knew that saying those words would be an end and not a beginning, which is something I still grieve sometimes.



But I'm okay.

Except for a text message that I send Mom and Dad on occasion, I don't have any contact with my family. They have not reached out to me since 2022. I grieve that my parents don't get to enjoy my kids. Because my kids are just delightful. And Mom and Dad are missing out.

But it's okay. And I'm okay.

Last year, when my twin nieces turned 18, I sent them both text messages to wish them a happy birthday. Later, my sister (the twins' mom) texted me to never contact her daughters again. She then wrote that she was dead to me. One of the hardest parts of the story is that my family will never see how happy I am. They will never acknowledge the good work I've done. They won't ever get to walk with me in my pursuit of wholeness.

None of that is okay. But I'm okay.

A couple of months ago, on a Friday, my father had a stroke. Nobody called me to tell me that Dad was in the hospital. I found out the following Monday because somebody I went to high school with received the news on their church's prayer chain. If he hadn't reached out, I don't think I would have known.

Thankfully, my father's okay. And so am I.

The day after I told my family I was gay, I woke up with what a friend called "a vulnerability hangover". I felt exposed in a way that was unfamiliar and uncomfortable. But as I sat with those feelings, I also realized I felt free. I'd done the hard thing, the thing I never thought I'd ever do. I'd done it.

And I was okay.

It was scary. And it's been hard. I've certainly had to mourn and grieve the loss of my family.

But I'm okay. Some days, I'm more than okay. Occasionally, I'm pretty effing awesome. But almost always, I'm okay.

## 7 Habitudes qui Transforment les Garçons en Hommes

### 1. Prendre la Responsabilité

Les vrais hommes comprennent l'importance d'assumer la responsabilité de leurs actions et de leurs décisions. Cette habitude va au-delà du simple fait d'admettre qu'ils ont tort ; cela implique d'assumer les conséquences de leurs choix et de travailler à faire amende honorable. Ils ne trouvent pas d'excuses et ne blâment pas les autres pour leur situation. Au lieu de cela, ils affrontent les défis de front et utilisent leurs expériences comme opportunités d'apprentissage. En assumant leurs responsabilités, ils renforcent leur crédibilité et leur confiance auprès des autres, ce qui est fondamental pour toute relation significative. Cette pratique favorise la maturité et la responsabilité, ouvrant la voie à la croissance personnelle et professionnelle.

### 2. Développer l'Autodiscipline

L'autodiscipline est une habitude fondamentale que les hommes cultivent dans tous les domaines de la vie. Ils fixent des objectifs clairs et réalisables et établissent des routines efficaces pour les atteindre. Cela implique de donner la priorité aux avantages à long terme plutôt qu'aux plaisirs à court terme, comme maintenir un mode de vie sain, gérer judicieusement ses finances ou progresser dans sa carrière. En maîtrisant l'autodiscipline, ils développent la capacité de rester concentrés et résilients face aux distractions et aux revers. Cette habitude leur permet de faire des progrès constants vers leurs aspirations, conduisant finalement à une vie plus épanouie et plus utile.

### 3. En Quête d'une Croissance Continue

Les hommes sont déterminés à s'épanouir personnellement et à

apprendre tout au long de leur vie. Ils recherchent activement de nouvelles connaissances, compétences et expériences, sachant que la croissance est un processus continu. Ils relèvent les défis et sortent de leur zone de confort pour repousser leurs limites. Cette habitude inclut la lecture, la participation à des ateliers, l'apprentissage de nouveaux passe-temps ou la recherche de mentorat. En s'efforçant constamment de s'améliorer, ils deviennent plus adaptables et innovants, capables de naviguer dans un monde en constante évolution. Cet engagement améliore non seulement leur propre vie, mais a également un impact positif sur ceux qui les entourent.

### 4. Cultiver l'Intelligence Émotionnelle

L'intelligence émotionnelle est cruciale pour construire des relations solides et significatives. Les hommes développent une conscience de soi, leur permettant de comprendre leurs émotions et l'impact qu'elles ont sur les autres. Ils régulent efficacement leurs émotions, garantissant que leurs réactions sont appropriées et constructives. En faisant preuve d'empathie envers les autres, ils établissent des liens plus profonds et naviguent facilement dans les complexités sociales. Une communication efficace et une résolution mûre des conflits sont des aspects clés de cette habitude, favorisant un environnement de respect et de compréhension mutuels.

### 5. Faire Preuve de Respect

Les vrais hommes traitent les autres avec respect, quels que soient leur origine ou leur statut. Ils écoutent attentivement, valorisent les différents points de vue et traitent chacun avec dignité. Cette habitude

consiste à reconnaître la valeur inhérente de chaque individu et à se comporter d'une manière qui reflète cette compréhension. Le respect se gagne par des actions, non par des exigences, et les hommes qui font constamment preuve de respect construisent des réseaux solides et solidaires, tant sur le plan personnel que professionnel.

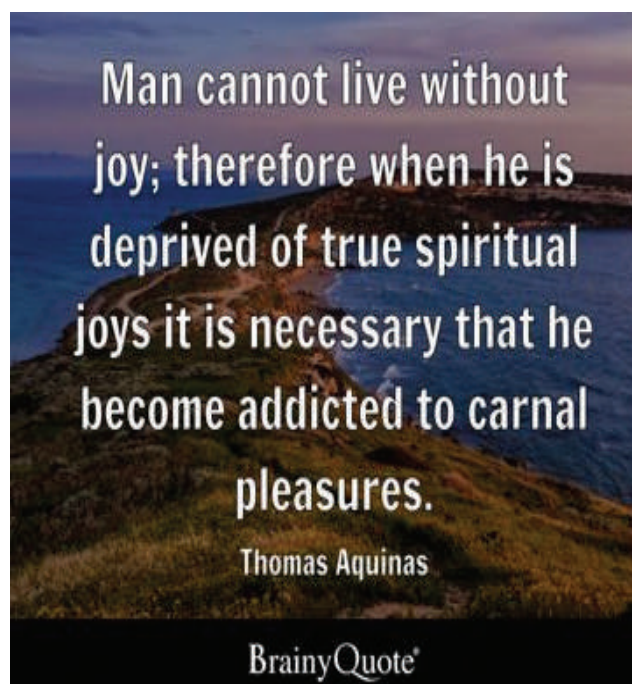
### 6. Pratiquer l'Intégrité

L'intégrité implique le respect de normes morales et éthiques élevées. Les hommes qui pratiquent l'intégrité agissent avec honnêteté, honneur et cohérence dans leur vie personnelle et professionnelle. Ils valorisent la confiance et sont fidèles à leur parole, garantissant que leurs actions correspondent à leurs valeurs et principes. Cette habitude construit une réputation de fiabilité et de respect, favorisant la confiance et l'admiration des autres.

### 7. Adopter le Leadership

Le leadership ne consiste pas seulement à occuper des postes de pouvoir ; il s'agit de prendre des initiatives et d'inspirer les autres. Les hommes qui adoptent le leadership prennent des décisions en toute confiance, assument la responsabilité de leurs résultats et motivent ceux qui les entourent à réaliser leur plein potentiel. Ils donnent l'exemple, démontrant les comportements et les attitudes qu'ils souhaitent voir chez les autres. Cette habitude implique de responsabiliser les autres, de contribuer positivement aux familles, aux lieux de travail et aux communautés, et de s'efforcer de créer un meilleur environnement pour tous.

L'intégration de ces habitudes transforme les garçons en hommes en favorisant la maturité, la responsabilité et la capacité d'influencer positivement leur environnement.



"Now, every time  
I witness a strong person,  
I want to know:  
What darkness did you  
conquer in your story?  
Mountains do not rise  
without earthquakes."

- Katherine MacKenett

Relationships

# A Candid Warning for Young Men

Men in your 20s, it's time to confront some hard truths. This decade is crucial for laying the foundation for the rest of your life. It's essential to get real and understand what's at stake. Here's some straightforward advice to help you navigate these formative years.

Focus on building your purpose

This is the time to discover and cultivate your purpose. Prioritize your goals and ambitions over relationships. Building a solid foundation for your future is far more important than catering to the demands of a transient relationship. Use your 20s to establish your career, explore your passions, and lay the groundwork for a successful future. Relationships can wait; your career and purpose cannot.

The odds are against your current relationship lasting

Understand that there's a high likelihood that the woman you're dating now will not be your lifelong partner. While relationships matter, don't invest all your energy into something statistically unlikely to last. Focus on personal development, allowing your relationships to complement—not dominate—your life. Be realistic about your dating prospects and prioritize your future.

Learn productive, marketable, and high-income skills

Your 20s are the ideal time to acquire skills that will secure your financial future. Learn something in demand that pays well—be it coding, finance, marketing, or a trade. Investing in your skill set now will pay dividends in your 30s and 40s. Avoid meaningless jobs that don't add



value to your career; focus on skills that will make you indispensable in the job market.

Avoid unplanned pregnancies

Don't make the mistake of getting someone pregnant in your 20s. This can drastically hinder your progress and multiply your challenges. Unplanned parenthood can strain your finances, time, and personal growth. Focus on responsible relationships and ensure you're ready for the responsibilities of parenthood before taking that step. A child is a lifelong commitment, and if you're not prepared, it could derail your plans.

Build strategic relationships

Never underestimate the power of networking. Form strategic connections with successful individuals and those with potential. Your network can open doors you never knew existed. Seek mentors, build friendships with like-minded people, and don't hesitate to reach out to those who inspire you. The relationships you cultivate can significantly impact your future, so choose wisely.

Live a healthy lifestyle

Health is wealth. Incorporate exercise, a balanced diet, and mental health practices into your daily routine. Read books, pursue education, and continuously expand your mind. A healthy body and mind are essential for sustained success. Don't take your health for granted — habits formed now will stick with you for life, so make sure they're good ones.

Avoid destructive habits

Steer clear of habits that can ruin your life. Avoid addictions to smoking, drugs, alcohol, promiscuity, and gambling. These vices can derail your progress and leave lasting consequences. Focus on building habits that enhance your life rather than destroy it. Destructive habits will only set you back and make achieving your goals more difficult.

Be patient with yourself

Your 20s aren't just about making money; they're about building the foundation for future wealth. Don't get discouraged if you don't have a substantial bank balance yet. Patience and perseverance are key. Keep working on yourself, and the financial rewards will follow. Remember, Rome wasn't built in a day, and neither will your empire.

Wisdom and patience

Above all, be wise. Use your 20s to set yourself up for success. Don't rush into things that can wait. This decade is for growth, learning, and laying the groundwork for a prosperous future. Stay disciplined, focus on your goals, and make wise choices. Patience is crucial.

Don't let a woman's love confuse your brain

First, don't let a woman's love cloud your judgment. While romance can be thrilling, it's easy to get caught up in illusions. Many relationships formed in your 20s don't last, so prioritize your personal growth and ambitions over fleeting romances. Remember, the "one" you think you've found may not be it. Invest your energy wisely.



That's Life

# The Limits of Wealth

Elon Musk's wife left him... Bill Gates' wife left him... Jeff Bezos' wife left him...

So, does money really secure a woman's love and loyalty?

These men are among the richest in the world, yet their immense wealth couldn't retain their wives' love and loyalty. If their trillions couldn't do it, what makes you think you can buy a woman's love and loyalty?

This should show you that keeping a woman requires more than just money. It's

not about trying to buy her loyalty or love.

Stop exerting yourself to keep her, stop trying to prevent her from leaving, and stop using all your efforts to confine her to you.

You're wasting your time, energy, and resources, which could be better spent on something meaningful.

Real women don't need your money to love you. They don't require you to try excessively hard to stay loyal and submissive. They don't need extravagant gifts to choose you. What they need is for their feelings and emotions to be with you and for you to respect them.

When these conditions are met, they will naturally fall in love with you for as long as it lasts.

The truth is, love and loyalty come naturally. It's not something you can force,

buy, or manipulate. Let them fall for you naturally, which only happens when you have strong charisma and a good attitude as a man.

Take this as wisdom: "Stop chasing shadows. If you believe all women are only impressed by money, you'll continue to attract only gold diggers."

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# Keanu Reeves: A True Gentleman's Tale

While shooting the movie *The Lake House*, Keanu Reeves overheard a conversation between two costume assistants about a woman who would lose her house if she didn't pay a sum of 20 thousand dollars. He deposited the amount into her account.

On his birthday in 2010, he went into a bakery alone and bought a cupcake with a single candle. While he ate it outside, he offered free coffee and bread to all customers. This was his luxury birthday.

With the earnings from the *Matrix* trilogy, he distributed 50 million dollars to the special effects personnel because, according to him, they were the real heroes of the films.

He almost never used stuntmen, except for very specific stunts, and for this reason, he recognized the work of his stuntmen by giving each of them a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

To this day, he regularly uses the subway and other public transportation systems, such as the bus, when necessary because it is practical, and he is never ashamed.

A large number of hospitals say they have received tens of millions of dollars from him.

He donated 90% of his salary from some films so that the production could hire other stars.

In 1997, a paparazzo found him on the street sitting next to a homeless man, listening to the homeless man's life story, and having breakfast with him.

All the good we know about Keanu Reeves was not told to us by him, but by those who benefited from him. He never declared anything.

For everything he has experienced, he could have had a sadder and more pessimistic view of life, but despite this, he chose to be something good among all the evil there is.

## Laapataa Ladies selected as India's official entry for the Oscars

Kiran Rao's *Laapataa Ladies* has been chosen as India's official entry for the Oscars 2025, as announced by the Film Federation of India on Monday.

This Hindi film, a light-hearted satire on patriarchy, was selected from a pool of 29 contenders, which included Bollywood hit *Animal*, Malayalam National Award winner *Aattam*, and Cannes winner *All We Imagine As Light*.

The 13-member selection committee, led by Assamese director Jahn timer Barua, unanimously decided on *Laapataa Ladies*, produced by Aamir Khan and Rao, to represent India in the Best International Film category at the Academy Awards.



Other films considered included the Tamil film *Maharaja*, Telugu titles *Kalki 2898 AD* and *Hanu-Man*, as well as Hindi films *Swatantraya Veer Savarkar* and *Article 370*.

Last year, the Malayalam superhit 2018: *Everyone is a Hero* was submitted.

### Laapataa Ladies' Oscar aspirations

Recently, Kiran expressed hope that the Film Federation of India (FFI) would choose the best film. "My dream would be fulfilled if it went to the Oscars. But it's a process, and I'm hoping *Laapataa Ladies* will be considered. I'm sure the best film will be selected, whoever they choose," Kiran told PTI.

*Laapataa Ladies* is a heartwarming and empowering story about two brides in rural India in 2001 who accidentally get swapped during a train journey. The film is produced by Rao's Kindling Productions and Aamir Khan Productions.

Released in March this year to universal acclaim from critics, *Laapataa Ladies* features Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, and Sparsh Shrivastav in lead roles, alongside Ravi Kishan, Chhaya Kadam, and Geeta Aggarwal Sharma.

## Amitabh Bachchan's financial crisis: A time when Bollywood laughed at Big B



Amitabh Bachchan, often revered as the "Shahenshah" of Bollywood, faced one of the most challenging periods of his life in the late 1990s and early 2000s. This was a time when financial ruin seemed inevitable, and the very industry that once celebrated his success turned its back on him, even mocking his plight, reports *Bombay Times*.

The trouble began when Bachchan ventured into the business world with his production company, Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited (ABCL). Despite his stature as a leading actor, the company incurred heavy losses from ventures such as the 1996 Miss World Pageant in Bangalore. These failures led to a mountain of debt, eventually spiralling to nearly Rs 900 million. Amitabh found himself in a position where he couldn't even afford to pay his watchman, a shocking reality for a man who had once ruled the box office.

During this tumultuous time, many in Bollywood reportedly laughed at his misfortune. Once a towering figure, he now faced ridicule from peers who had celebrated his past glories. In subsequent interviews, Amitabh reflected on this dark period, revealing that the industry had largely written him off. The isolation he felt during this time compounded his

struggles, making his recovery all the more challenging.

### How 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' saved him

Just as despair threatened to engulf him, a lifeline appeared in the form of the television quiz show *Kaun Banega Crorepati* (KBC). Initially hesitant about hosting a game show, Bachchan took the plunge in 2000. The show quickly became a phenomenon, revitalizing his career and significantly improving his financial situation. KBC not only helped him repay his debts but also re-established him as a beloved figure in Indian households.

In various interviews, Amitabh has credited KBC with pulling him out of financial turmoil, allowing him to regain his footing in the industry. With renewed focus, he took on acting roles that would further solidify his legacy.

### Amitabh Bachchan's comeback

Bachchan's remarkable comeback is one of the most inspiring stories in Bollywood history. After the success of KBC, he starred in hit films like *Mohabbatein*, *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham*, and *Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna*, reclaiming his status as a respected and influential figure in the entertainment industry. His debts were paid off, and he returned to the limelight with a vengeance.

In the years that followed, Amitabh restructured his career by embracing endorsements, television projects, and roles that reflected his evolving persona. His financial acumen ensured that he would never face a similar crisis again, eventually becoming one of the highest-paid actors in the industry.

Amitabh Bachchan's journey from near bankruptcy to becoming a billionaire is a powerful testament to resilience and determination. His story serves as a reminder that even in the darkest moments, perseverance can lead to extraordinary comebacks.

## Raj Kapoor's Heartbreak: Cigarette Burns and Bitter Tears after Nargis married Sunil Dutt



colleagues upon learning of her marriage to Dutt. In his anguish, Kapoor reportedly burned himself with cigarette butts to convince himself he wasn't dreaming, grappling with the reality of her departure.

Kapoor's personal life was also affected; his drinking became a problem. Krishna Raj Kapoor revealed to author Bunny Reuben, "Night after night, he'd come home drunk... He'd collapse almost unconscious in the bathtub, weeping bitterly. It was not for me. I knew he was weeping for her." A close friend noted, "Nargis was his only true love. He never spoke ill of her publicly. Instead, he blamed her brothers for driving a wedge between them. In private, he often lamented what he called 'a great betrayal.'"

Even two decades later, Kapoor discussed the heartbreak with Suresh Kohli as if it had just happened.

Despite his enduring feelings, Kapoor reportedly kept Nargis on hold, repeatedly promising he would marry her. Nargis grew increasingly restless, yearning to become a wife and mother—Mrs Raj Kapoor. The book also reveals that Nargis, valuing the sanctity of marriage, even sought advice from Morarji Desai, then Home Minister, on how she might legally marry Kapoor, who was already married and a Hindu.

No account of Raj Kapoor is complete without mentioning his muse, Nargis. Their long affair was a defining chapter in his life, and Kapoor was devastated when she married Sunil Dutt in 1958. Despite their years together and Nargis's consultations with politician Morarji Desai about the possibility of marrying Kapoor, she eventually chose a different path. Kapoor perceived her decision as a deep betrayal, as detailed in Madhu Jain's book, *The Kapoors: The First Family of Indian Cinema*, as reported by *Indian Express*.

According to the book, Kapoor expressed to journalist Suresh Kohli after their separation, "The world tells me I let Nargis down. It was she who betrayed me." The book describes how Kapoor broke down and wept bitterly in front of friends and



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**SERIAL**

	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 27 septembre</b>	07.27 Serial: Madam Secretary 08.50 Tele: Amour Secret 09.42 Film: Mamma Mia 11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Terre Nostra 13.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 14.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Hamlet & Hutch 17.10 Mag: Red Carpet 17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Film: A Date With Danger 22.06 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.30 Le Journal 00.23 Your Love Is My Fortune 00.49 Serial: Billions 01.44 Le Chemin Du Destin	06.14 Les Grandes Lignes 08.22 Local: Metie 08.37 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 10.29 Rodrig: J'ai Faim 12.00 Rodrig: Decouvertes 13.00 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 14.34 Local: J'ai Faim 15.53 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 16.44 Local: En Forme 18.00 Seiral: Passion And Power 18.30 Serial: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi... 19.43 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 20.05 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 20.32 Local: Lir - Ekrir Kreol 22.00 Local: La Sosiete 23.20 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 23.47 Rodrig: Nou La Ter 00.13 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig 00.27 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 00.46 Local: Retrovizer	07.00 Mag: Paradise Unexplored 08.01 Local: Amrit Vani 10.00 Serial: Agniphera 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Chudail Ma Ni Chundadi Starring: Dhawan Mewada, Disha Patel 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron 16.34 Serial: Bhakharwadi 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 19.56 Local: Khel Khiladi 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 21.00 Film: Ladab Ya Marab Starring: Viraj Bhatt, Mira Thappa 23.17 Serial: Mere Sai 00.29 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	06.25 Mag: Shift 06.38 Mag: Carnet De Sante 07.26 Mag: Tomorrow Today 07.52 Doc: The Dark Side Of Bright Nights 08.33 The Renewables Revolution 09.16 Doc: My Avatar And Me 10.45 Doc: Barbie - The Perfect... 11.27 Mag: Eco India 11.53 Mag: Shift 12.10 Carnet De Sante 12.25 Mag: Border Crossing 12.53 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.19 The Dark Side Of Bright... 14.08 The Renewables Revolution 14.48 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.12 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 15.33 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.40 D.Anime: Yo Yo 15.54 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.55 Serial: Doree 15.26 Film: Kaali Topi Lal Rumaal Starring Mithun Chakraborty, Kamal Sadanah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.01 Udaariyaan 19.32 Fanaa 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.31 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.01 Anupamaa 21.22 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 22.32 Swaran Ghar 22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Kaali Topi Lal Rumaal 02.01 Kundali Bhagya
<b>samedi 28 septembre</b>	03.53 Serial: Blue Bloods 04.39 The Gardener's Daughter 06.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 07.00 Serial: Heartland 08.30 Serial: Ultimate Countdown 09.15 Serial: Madam Secretary 10.00 Serial: Blue Bloods 10.49 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Under Pressure 13.10 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: La Planete Des Singes 17.00 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge 18.31 Enter: Dance India Dance... 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Film: Moulin Rouge! 22.31 Serial: Blue Bloods 23.13 Mag: Red Carpet 23.30 Le Journal 00.15 Serial: Sublime Mensonge	06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 06.47 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 07.30 Local: Lir - Ekrir Kreol 09.07 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 10.28 Rodrig Prog: Nou La Ter 11.01 Local: Come On Let's Dance 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 13.06 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 15.03 Local: La Sosiete 15.55 Local: Son Ladan Mem 16.42 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.02 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.05 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.40 Rodrig: Coin Zen 20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.32 Local: Mama Jazz 2024 21.32 Local: En Toute Intimite 21.58 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 22.49 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 23.00 Local: Journal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: MBC Production	07.48 Serial: Hamar Fitness 08.14 Local: Abhyas Yog 10.32 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 11.47 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.13 Local: Our Island Celebrates 14.06 Serial: Mati Ke Mol 14.05 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 14.30 Mag: Shanti Ka Anubhav 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Bade Ghar Ki Beti Starring Shammi Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, Meenakshi Sheshadri 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.00 Local: Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 19.15 Local: Finals National Sketch Competition 2024 20.00 Local: Bollywood Express 21.00 Film: Chehre Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Emraan Hashmi, Krystle D'Souza	06.00 Film: Miraculous New York 07.19 D.Anime: Sissi 09.39 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 10.05 Les Nouvelles Aventures... 10.11 Serial: Lost & Found Music 11.57 Mag: Recipes For Kids 12.17 Doc: Top Dive Sites 14.13 The Language Of Whales 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.07 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du Petit Pingouin 15.33 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.41 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.07 D.Anime: Sissi 16.22 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.44 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 17.04 D.Anime: Malory Towers 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 20.50 Doc: Urban Rats 21.40 Film: Killing Lionel 23.10 Doc: The Timber Mafia's...	08.00 Swaran Ghar 10.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.01 Udaariyaan 13.56 Anupamaa 16.00 Fanaa 18.30 Film: Pagalpanti Starring Anil Kapoor, John Abraham, Ileana D'Cruz  21.03 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.32 Porus 21.58 Swaran Ghar
<b>dimanche 29 septembre</b>	04.23 The Gardener's Daughter 06.11 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 06.37 Film: Moulin Rouge! 08.39 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 09.21 Film: Hamlet 10.50 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Film: 47 Metres Down 14.10 Serial: Zoo 15.20 Serial: Radhi Krishna 15.21 Film: Moulin Rouge! 17.30 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: The Illusionist 22.30 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 23.30 Le Journal 00.29 Serial: Sublime Mensonge 01.21 Serial: Chicago Med	07.09 Local: Saver Kiltirel 08.01 Local: Groove'in 08.53 Rodrig: Promnad 14.01 Local: Elle 15.00 Local: Les Grands Noms 15.59 Local: Nos Aines 16.30 Local: Metie 16.48 Local: Tous Egaux 17.03 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.03 Tele Gout De L'Amour 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.20 Local: Elle 20.03 Local: Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 20.30 Local: Le Challenge 20.44 Local: Les Klips 21.36 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 22.45 Local: Clin D'Oeil 23.00 Journal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Mangeons Veg 23.52 Rodrig: Komanter 00.59 Local: Nu Rasinn	07.00 Mag: Bharat Bhagya 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 12.00 Film: Sanam Cast: Sanjay Dutt, Vivek Mushran, Manisha Koirala 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Planet Bollywood 19.30 Local: Tohar Farmaish 19.38 Local: Yaadein 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.00 Serial: Keh Doon Tumhein 21.25 Serial: Naagin 22.10 Serial: Bahubali 23.19 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna 23.54 Local: Planet Bollywood 00.58 Local: Tohar Rashi 01.13 Local: Tohar Farmaish 02.05 Film: Sanam	06.31 D.Anime: Agent 06.52 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 08.09 D.Anime: Earth To Luna 09.15 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 09.39 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 10.14 Serial: Lost & Found Music... 10.57 Mag: Recipes For Kids 12.59 Doc: Urdan Rats 13.45 Doc: The Tsaatan 15.02 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.14 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 15.33 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.54 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.44 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 17.06 D.Anime: Malory Towers 17.35 Mag: In Good Shape 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Doc: Brilliant Corners 21.42 Film: Seberg	00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 01.45 Udaariyaan 04.05 Anupamaa 06.00 Fanaa 08.00 Patiala Babes 10.15 Kundali Bhagya 12.07 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 14.00 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 15.53 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.38 Film: Vaada Raha (2009) Starring: Bobby Deol, Kangana Ranaut, Dwij Yadav, Atul Agnihotri & Mohnish Behl 20.49 Serial: Mahabharat 21.10 Dance India Dance Super Moms 22.02 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 23.56 Patiala Babes
<b>lundi 30 septembre</b>	05.04 The Gardener's Daughter 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 07.30 Serial: The Equalizer 08.32 Tele: Amour Secret 09.25 Film: The Illusionist 11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.18 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.13 Serial: The Equalizer 15.25 Film: Romance En Ligne 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Les Dents De La Mer Cast: Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw, Richard Dreyfuss 21.59 Tele: Heartland 22.43 Tele: Terra Nostra	07.47 Local: Sa Lavi-La 10.04 Rodrig: Komanter 10.51 Local: Le Challenge 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.35 Local: Clin D'oeil 13.50 Local: Elle 14.16 Local: Arshiv MBC 15.00 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 15.48 Local: Les Klips 16.47 Local: Le Challenge 17.09 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Le Sens Et L'importance De La celebration De Navaratri 20.30 Business Connect 20.45 Local: Tous Egaux 21.00 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 21.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 22.27 Lire - Ekrir Kreol	07.00 Mag: India At Cannes 08.32 Tohar Rashi 08.47 Tohar Farmaish 09.13 Yaadein 09.37 Bahubali 10.17 Saaton Vachanwa Saath... 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Chhailla Babu 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.56 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaen 19.30 Local: Excerpts from Shiv Abhishek 20.40 Serial: Ramayan 21.03 Film: Harjaee With: Shammi Kapoor, Mala Sinha, R. Kapoor, Tina Munim 23.11 Serial: Mere Sai 00.03 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.29 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaen 00.55 Local: Hindi Sahitya Guest	06.25 Doc: Legendary Hotels 07.08 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.34 Doc: Europe Revealed... 09.45 Doc: Cobalt Rush 11.00 Doc: US And Them 11.26 Doc: Legendary Hotels 12.08 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.21 Doc: Artificial Immortality 15.01 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.07 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du... 15.12 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 15.33 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.37 D.Anime: Yo Yo 15.54 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.22 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.44 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 17.02 Serial: Malory Towers 17.38 Mag: Choices 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 21.00 Film: A Date With Danger	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.51 Doree 15.25 Film: Barah Aana Starring: Naseeruddin Shah, Vijay Raaz, Arjun Mathur  18.00 Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.05 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.33 Yashomati Maiyya Ke 21.09 Anupamaa 21.32 Mere Sai 22.00 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se

**mbc 1**

Mardi 1 octobre - 20.30

**CONTRE-JOUR****mbc 1**

Mercredi 2 octobre - 20.30

**CINE 2**

Jeudi 3 octobre - 21.00



# Programme TV

**SERIAL**

mardi 1 octobre

**MBC 1**

05.07 The Gardener's Daughter  
06.06 Serial: The Queen Of Flow  
08.39 Tele: Amour Secret  
09.35 Film: Les Dents De la Mer  
11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra  
13.18 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.10 Tele: Gout De L'Amour  
15.21 Film: A Date With Danger  
17.00 Mag: Close Up  
17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
18.00 Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.55 Serial: Doree  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: Contre-Jour  
22.32 Tele: Terra Nostra  
00.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
23.30 Le Journal

**MBC 2**

07.30 Local: Business Connect  
09.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante  
10.47 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol  
11.13 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei  
12.03 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel  
13.07 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
14.00 Local: Tous Egaux  
15.48 Local: Saver Lokal  
16.01 Rodrig Mo Pei  
17.02 Local: Le Mag  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.30 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi  
19.47 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
20.00 Local: Les Grands Moments  
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante  
21.31 Local: Le Mag  
22.23 Local: Mots Et Ecrits  
23.00 Local: Journal Rediffusion  
00.36 Local: Profil  
00.51 Local: Rodrig - D'Jam

**MBC 3**

07.28 Mag: Popular Hindi Songs  
08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaein  
08.59 Mag: Washington Forum  
09.40 Local: Vaad Vivaad  
10.50 Serial: Kundali Bhagya  
11.38 Serial: Radha Krishna  
12.01 Film: Main Tulse Tere Aangan Ki  
15.30 Sajana Baira Ho Gaile Hamar  
16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani  
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
18.00 Local: Tark Vitar  
19.00 Local: Samarpan  
19.14 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka  
20.15 Chikitsa Aur Swasthey  
20.57 Serial: Ramayan  
21.27 Film: Ek Haseena Do Deewane  
23.43 Serial: Mere Sai

**MBC 5**

07.00 Mag: Africa 54  
08.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
09.08 Mag: Washington Forum  
11.02 Mag: Eco Africa  
11.54 Mag: Africa 54  
12.22 Mag: In Good Shape  
13.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
14.00 Mag: Washington Forum  
14.28 Doc: Me, Choosing Life  
15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2  
15.05 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du...  
15.51 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis  
16.03 D.Anime: Sissi  
16.20 D.Anime: Miraculous...  
16.42 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go!  
17.03 Serial: Malory Towers  
18.00 Mag: REV  
18.45 Mag: Red Carpet  
19.00 Student Support Programme  
20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer  
21.16 Film: The Illusionist

**Bollywood TV**

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.55 Doree  
15.25 Film: Aladin  
Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Riteish Deshmukh  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.03 Udaariyaan  
19.33 Dharam Patni  
20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.37 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala  
21.07 Anupama  
21.35 Mere Sai  
22.04 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se  
22.34 Serial: Swaran Ghar  
23.04 Serial: Rajaa Betaa  
23.29 Film: Aladin  
Starring Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Riteish Deshmukh

mercredi 2 octobre

07.31 Serial: The Equalizer  
08.13 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer  
08.39 Tele: Amour Secret  
09.30 Film: Contre-Jour  
11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra  
13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
13.46 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.11 Serial: The Equalizer  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.25 Film: The Illusionist  
17.38 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.55 Serial: Doree  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.30 Film: Natural Selection  
22.11 Tele: Terra Nostra  
23.04 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
23.30 Local: Le Journal

07.15 Local: Priorite Sante  
08.08 Local: Mots Et Ecrits  
09.23 Local: Le Mag  
10.15 Local: Rodrig - D'Jam  
10.44 Local: Music Tour  
12.01 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef  
12.11 Local: Son Ladan Mem  
13.22 Local: Paroles Agricole  
14.42 Local: Mots & Ecrits  
15.58 Local: Glwar Dantan  
16.29 Local: Aktiv  
16.44 Local: Music Tour 2022  
18.00 Tele: Passion And Power  
18.30 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.20 Le Mag De L'emploi...  
19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor  
20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel  
20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
20.45 Local: En Forme  
21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble  
21.26 Local: Les Klips  
22.19 Local: Proze Dime

07.00 Mag: 76th British Academy..  
07.25 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood Hits  
08.00 Local: Tark Vitar  
08.30 Local: Samarpan  
09.00 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka  
09.35 Local: Gyan Vigyan  
10.15 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani  
12.00 Film: Nadaan  
Cast: Navin Nischol, Asha Parekh  
15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar  
15.56 Radha Mohan  
17.40 Radha Krishna  
18.30 Local: Yatra  
18.56 Local: Darshan  
19.22 Local: Ayush  
19.52 Local: Virasat  
20.07 Local: Gyan Vigyan  
20.30 Mag: Shanti Ka Anubhav  
21.00 Film: Aakhri Raasta Bhojpuri

08.43 Mag: Euromaxx  
09.13 Doc: The Tsaatan  
10.49 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
12.06 Mag: Made In Germany  
12.26 Mag: Global US  
13.24 Mag: Business Africa  
13.50 Mag: Euromaxx  
14.16 Doc: African Styles  
15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2  
15.05 Les Aventures Du Petit...  
15.34 D.Anime: Wonder Grove  
15.39 D.Anime: Yo Yo  
16.01 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis  
16.21 Serial: Miraculous...  
17.06 Serial: Malory Towers  
17.30 Mag: Rev  
18.00 Mag: Motorweek  
18.30 Mag: Travel  
18.45 Mag: Planet A  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer  
21.35 Film: Inglourious Basterds

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.50 Doree  
15.16 Film: Benaam Badshah  
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Juhi Chawla, Shilpa Shirodkar  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Kundali Bhagya  
19.02 Udaariyaan  
19.33 Dharam Patni  
20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.31 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala  
21.00 Anupama  
21.28 Mere Sai  
22.05 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se  
22.20 Swaran Ghar  
22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa  
23.58 Film: Benaam Badshah  
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Juhi Chawla, Shilpa Shirodkar  
02.09 Kundali Bhagya

jeudi 3 octobre

06.03 Tele: The Queen Of Flow  
08.16 Serial: Le Temps D'Aimer  
08.45 Tele: Amour Secret  
09.35 Film: Viceroy's House  
11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra  
13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
14.10 Serial: Gout De L'Amour  
15.25 Film: Devious Deeds  
17.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.56 Serial: Doree  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: Dasvi  
Stars: Abhishek Bachchan, Nimrat Kaur, Yami Gautam  
22.30 Tele: Terra Nostra  
00.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune

07.01 Local: En Forme  
07.31 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
11.00 Local: Les Klips  
12.06 Local: Rodrig Spor  
12.26 Local: Saver Kiltirel  
13.06 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
13.26 Local: Agir Ensemble  
14.37 Local: Proze Dime  
15.08 Rodrig: Kot Nou  
15.27 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi  
16.36 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
18.31 Tele: Amour Secret  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.15 Le Magazine De L'Emploi  
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
20.30 Emotion En Avant Plan  
22.00 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La  
22.48 La Journee Sous Le Regard..  
23.00 Journal Rediffusion  
23.20 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion

07.00 Mag: Sitaron Ke Jahan  
07.23 Aaj Aur Kal Bollywood  
08.00 Local: Yatra  
08.30 Local: Darshan  
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan  
11.43 Radha Krishna  
12.30 Film: Hari Darshan  
14.41 Popular Hindi Songs  
15.00 Samachar  
15.30 Sajana Baira Ho Gaile Hamar  
16.00 Agniphera  
17.30 Radha Krishna  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Local: Amrit Vani  
18.40 Local: Aradhna Ramayan Chanting Competition  
20.13 Local: Hunarbaaz  
20.39 Ramayan  
21.02 Shiv Shakti  
21.28 Yashomati Maiyya Ke...

07.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
08.40 Mag: Focus On Europe  
09.08 Doc: Secret Underworlds...  
11.02 Mag: Motorweek  
11.59 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
12.29 Doc: Punk Mum  
12.54 Doc: Submerged Universe  
13.16 Mag: Close Up  
13.46 Mag: Focus On Europe  
15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2  
15.05 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du...  
15.51 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis  
16.03 D.Anime: Sissi  
16.17 D.Anime: Miraculous...  
16.43 D.Anime: The Treasure...  
17.03 D.Anime: Malory Towers  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
18.45 Mag: Red Carpet  
19.00 Student Support Programme  
20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer  
21.00 Film: Femme Ou Demon

14.25 Radha Mohan  
15.00 Doree  
15.21 Film: Veer  
Stars: Salman Khan, Zarine Khan, Mithun Chakraborty, Sohail Khan, Jackie Shroff  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.30 Dharam Patni  
20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.24 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala  
21.02 Anupama  
21.34 Mere Sai  
22.01 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se  
22.29 Swaran Ghar  
23.05 Serial: Rajaa Betaa  
23.31 Film: Veer  
Stars: Salman Khan, Zarine Khan, Mithun Chakraborty, Sohail Khan, Jackie Shroff

**BTV**

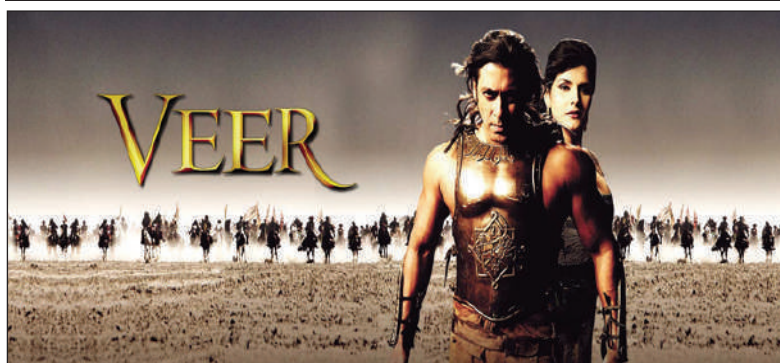
Jeudi 3 octobre - 15.25

Stars: Salman Khan, Zarine Khan, Mithun Chakraborty, Sohail Khan, Jackie Shroff

**mbc 1**

Jeudi 3 octobre - 20.30

Stars: Abhishek Bachchan, Nimrat Kaur, Yami Gautam





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

# Un esprit de continuité

L'intérêt national prime au-dessus de la politique partisane. Est-ce ainsi qu'il faut interpréter la composition du gouvernement, arrachée au forceps presque trois mois après les élections législatives en France? Tout le scénario électoral déclenché par la dissolution du gouvernement en juin s'apparente à une mauvaise farce. Le deuxième tour en France ressemble à une crapulerie dont le seul but serait de manipuler le système électoral en faisant 'barrage' aux élus du premier tour et de réunir dans une coalition des partis aux idées divergentes et opposées. Cette pantomime réussit, par diverses contorsions, à reconduire les mêmes partis au pouvoir.

## L'auto-flagellation dans la démocratie

Ce capharnaüm a poussé les ténors de la presse et autres experts à aller vite en besogne en qualifiant leur pays d'ingouvernable. L'auto-flagellation et l'exagération sont monnaie courante dans les démocraties.

En fait, le Président a bien pris acte que la France a basculé vers l'extrême droite depuis les élections européennes et qu'elle a gardé la même constance en termes de voix aux législatives. Il était donc hors de question de laisser un pays lourdement endetté connaître le sort du Venezuela si le parti d'extrême gauche, La France Insoumise, avait la voie libre pour choisir un Premier ministre.

## Le retour à l'autorité

D'autre part, la hausse de la criminalité, les agressions contre les forces de l'ordre et les meurtres à répétition sur les civils, commis par des gens issus de l'immigration, imposent un retour à l'autorité et à l'ordre public. Ce ministère a été perçu comme laxiste, à l'image du Labour Party en Angleterre, connu pour son manque de fermeté et son laxisme envers les malfrats qui menacent la sécurité de l'espace public.

Désormais, c'est un dur de la droite qui assume ce portefeuille. Le choix de postes clés confiés aux personnalités de la droite et à celles de Renaissance, parti du Président Macron, reflète un compromis entre les deux extrêmes. C'est une situation inédite qui pousse l'Élysée à faire preuve de pragmatisme en sélectionnant un Premier ministre de droite, et de ce fait, ne peut que s'incliner devant le choix des ministres effectué par le nouveau locataire de Matignon.

La question de l'intérêt national prend tout son sens face au verdict des urnes, qui est balayé d'un revers de la main. Et pourvu que le nouveau Gouvernement dure jusqu'à 2027!

## Les mesures "socialistes" à Maurice

Maurice traverse une phase de "socialisme accéléré" — ce que d'autres qualifieraient de "populisme", chacun selon ses affinités politiques — en cette année de campagne électorale. Ces mesures sont nécessaires et sensées afin de prendre en considération les aspirations et les intérêts de diverses franges de la société. Du taux zéro d'intérêt pour les 18 à 25 ans, plus abonnement internet sans frais, aux soins médicaux gratuits pour sportifs de haut niveau, c'est la jeune génération qui reçoit la part belle de ces mesures. Et c'est tant mieux que le plus grand nombre bénéficie des retombées financières qui maintiennent l'économie à flot.

Néanmoins, un vaste chantier demande à être



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exploité pour améliorer la qualité de la vie, politique sociale en vogue ces temps-ci. L'inauguration des gymnases lève le voile sur le grand vide en matière d'infrastructure sportive qui a perduré pendant des décennies. Les régions rurales restent les parents pauvres d'un encadrement digne aspirant à promouvoir sports, loisirs et santé. Ce sont de véritables laissés-pour-compte des autorités, et il va sans dire que cette situation est alarmante, d'autant plus que ces régions sont surpeuplées par l'accroissement des cités.

Alors que le pays traversait ses pires moments dans les années 70, les villages avaient quand même des clubs de ping-pong, de théâtre et quelques terrains de foot, destinés principalement à la population masculine. Hormis les terrains de foot, le théâtre et le ping-pong ont disparu définitivement du paysage rural.

- Y a-t-il eu un projet quelconque pour doter les villages d'un terrain ou d'une salle de badminton? Non.
- Un espace pour pratiquer un sport aussi basique que le ping-pong? Non.
- Des clubs de natation, des associations de basket ball, etc., pour filles et garçons? Rien.

Ne parlons pas de sports qui restent élitistes, comme le tennis et les sports nautiques, inaccessibles à la majorité de la population. Mais y a-t-il un espace ouvert du District Council, par exemple, avec un jardin fleuri, une fontaine d'eau apaisante et quelques bancs pour les passants, un endroit accueillant ouvert au public? Rien.

Ce vide est sidéral. Il y a un manque criant d'espaces publics alors que le besoin en logement grignote de plus en plus de terrain.

## Retards dans la politique sociale

La politique de promotion de la qualité de la vie accuse un retard flagrant depuis des décennies, et c'est l'épanouissement et le bien-être de la population qui en font les frais. Toutes les tranches d'âge méritent d'être prises en compte. La plage de Mont Choisy est pourvue d'un aménagement pour les amateurs de musculation et d'étirement, fréquenté principalement par des hommes.

Il faudrait aussi aménager les jardins d'enfants avec un coin pour les petits en bas âge, avec deux ou trois bancs où les parents peuvent les emmener pour se détendre après une journée de travail. Un espace de 60 mètres carrés pour un jardin d'enfants en bas âge, avec balançoire, toboggan, etc., et avec deux ou trois bancs, ferait le bonheur des enfants et des parents dans cette région.

Pour la énième fois, nous insistons sur le fait qu'il faudrait absolument développer des structures non lucratives mais qui contribueraient à l'épanouissement du grand public: petits, enfants, adolescents, garçons et filles, et adultes d'âge mûr. Ajoutons une piste de skateboard aux parcours de santé qui commen-

cent à sortir de terre un peu partout. Quelques bénévoles donnent des cours de yoga à leur domicile ou dans leur jardin. Des séances de yoga sur les plages publiques restent insuffisantes, et il manque certainement des moniteurs et monitrices de yoga. Une solution consisterait à recruter quelques professionnels de l'Inde.

Nous assistons à une phase intéressante d'une ambition affichée d'améliorer la qualité de vie de la population afin d'inclure le plus grand nombre. Il faut espérer que cette politique se concrétise dans un esprit de continuité et que le budget suive les déclarations d'intention.

Il demeure qu'il reste un vaste chantier à abattre dans le domaine médical afin d'améliorer l'accueil des patients et la qualité des soins dans les hôpitaux. Cela participe aussi de la qualité de vie des habitants.

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## Les valeurs démocratiques

Dans de nombreux pays, la démocratie est devenue un jeu d'arène d'une lutte pour l'amour du pouvoir, pour le pouvoir et l'ego des politiciens. Mais l'attachement aux valeurs de liberté et l'épanouissement du plus grand nombre par un partage de la prospérité reste, fort heureusement, le mot d'ordre. La France a fait le choix d'écarter le pire malgré les urnes. D'autres pays l'ont fait pour éviter les régimes obscurantistes qui se faufilent dans les partis politiques à l'apparence honorable. Quelques-uns continuent à verrouiller un système politique en écartant ou en éliminant des adversaires, et en opprimant leur peuple, qui commet la grande erreur de les élire par besoin de changement, irréfléchi ou par défaut.

La culture mauricienne a un ancrage fort dans les valeurs de liberté, du bien commun, la promotion de l'éducation et de la connaissance, l'esprit du bon sens et de la logique. Il est du devoir de chacun de veiller à ce que ce ne soit pas le Sri Lanka ni le Bangladesh ici.

Pour finir, stabilité et continuité d'une politique sociale raisonnable sont à souhaiter pour l'intérêt national.