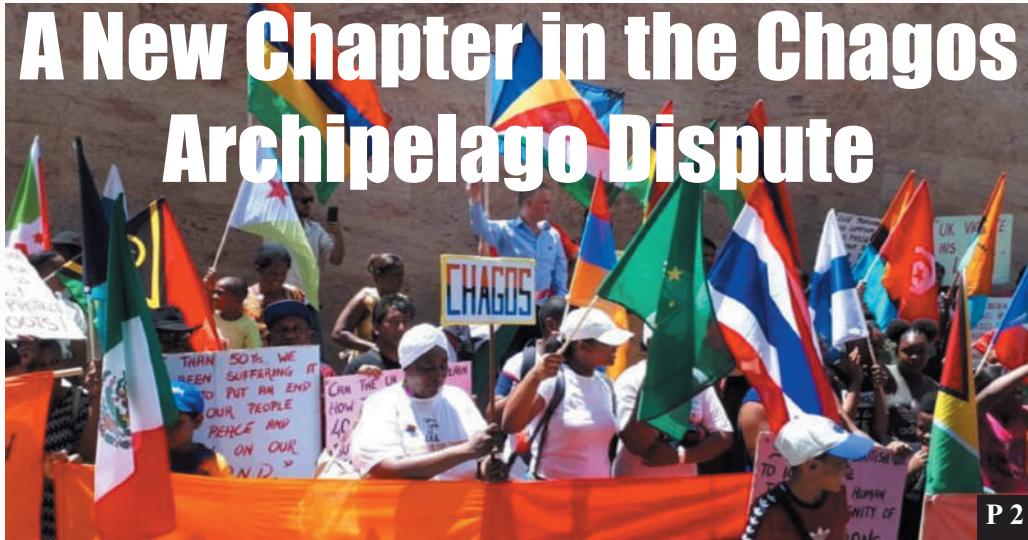


# MAURITIUS TIMES

• Be the change that you wish to see in the world. — Mahatma Gandhi

## A New Chapter in the Chagos Archipelago Dispute



Interview : Avinaash Munohur

### Quelle volonté de changement chez les Mauriciens?

“Ce sera là la plus grande leçon de cette élection générale”

- **Diego Garcia ‘deal’: ‘Nous avons là les moyens d'une transformation profonde de notre pays’**

‘Une aubaine de taille si elle nous permet de drastiquement moderniser nos infrastructures routières, portuaires, aéroportuaires et digitales’



P9



Prakash Neerooho P3

P - informalnewz.com

Analyse

### Promesses électorales

## Que vaudra une pension de vieillesse de Rs 20 000 en 2029 ?



Breakfast with Bwana

## Attack and Risk: Israel's Dilemma

P - Dall'E - ET - Reuters - Amwaj Media

Anil Madan P5



A. Bartleby P6

### Eclairages

## Élections - “Comptage le jour même” : on repassera...



Dr R. Neerunjun Gopee P 8

Opinion

## Care of the elderly

[Edit Page](#)

# A New Chapter in the Chagos Archipelago Dispute

**O**n October 3, 2024, the governments of the Republic of Mauritius and the United Kingdom announced a historic political agreement concerning the Chagos Archipelago, including the strategically significant Diego Garcia. This agreement, which partially resolves the decades-long dispute over sovereignty, was the subject of a joint statement by the British and Mauritian Prime Ministers.

There is no doubt that this is a milestone, achieved after years of sustained efforts, lobbying, and diplomatic pressure by successive Mauritian governments since independence, bolstered by support from the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Union, and other Global South nations. Mauritius had already made significant strides in 2019, when the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion stating that the UK should relinquish control of the islands, acknowledging that the forced displacement of the Chagossian population in the 1970s to make way for a US military base had been wrongful. This victory was the result of a bold decision by former Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth to bring the case before the ICJ and, later, a crucial vote at the UNGA which Mauritian diplomacy won against intensive lobbying from the UK. Additionally, former Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam deserves credit for challenging the UK's creation of a Marine Protected Area around the Chagos Islands in 2010 before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in Hamburg - an initiative that would open the way for further legal challenges at the international level.

There is now a new geopolitical landscape in this part of the world, and a new player in the Chagos imbroglio and the broader great power competition in the Indian Ocean: India. Once seen as opposed to the US presence in Diego Garcia, India is now a member of the Quad and is perceived as a close ally of the US, largely due to its heightened threat perceptions of China in the Indian Ocean. India is also viewed as "a key enabler for US strategic and operational interests" in the region, and its role as a facilitator in resolving the Chagos sovereignty and the Diego naval US base issues seems evident. This may explain the joint statement's reference to India's "full support and assistance" in reaching the political agreement between the UK and Mauritius. What all this means is that the conditions have today been set for resolving, albeit partly this long-standing dispute between Mauritius and the UK.

**H**owever, the complexities and nuances of the agreement cannot be overlooked. While the joint statement presents a promising vision of cooperation and mutual respect, the recognition of Mauritius's sovereignty over the whole of the Chagos Archipelago is a significant concession by the UK, which has long controlled the islands. Yet, the framework of the agreement introduces a 99-year period during which the UK exercises Mauritian sovereignty rights over Diego Garcia, the site of one of the most important US military bases. This dual arrangement raises fundamental questions about the balance between Mauritian sovereignty and the strategic interests of the UK and US in the region. It also circumvents, neatly some might say, the need for a formal lease agreement for the



P - Jean Marc Poche/AFP

UK/US naval base of Diego but makes reference to some form of financial compensation. As the joint statement explains: "For an initial period of 99 years, the United Kingdom will be authorised to exercise with respect to Diego Garcia the sovereign rights and authorities of Mauritius required to ensure the continued operation of the base well into the next century." In practice, this means that while Mauritius will technically hold sovereignty over Diego Garcia, the UK will continue to manage and control the island and its military operations as if it were its own territory for the duration of the agreement. Jurists will ponder why a formal lease between sovereign Mauritius and the UK/US base at Diego has been side-stepped but this delicate balance between formal sovereignty and practical control over such a strategically important location is a core complexity of the deal.

**A**nother significant aspect of the agreement is the commitment to addressing the historical injustices faced by the Chagossians. The establishment of a UK-administered trust fund for the welfare of the Chagossian community and plans for resettlement programs reflect an acknowledgment of past wrongs. However, the success of these initiatives depends on the sincerity of implementation and sustained support from the UK. The promises made need to be fulfilled with genuine commitment, resources, and long-term planning to ensure the welfare of the Chagossians and the restoration of their rights.

As the UK sets out at last to recognise its legal misdeeds following the illegal excision and deportation of Chagossians, there is no mention of retroactive compensation either of the latter, wherever they and their descendants may now be scattered, nor the cumulative deprivation of Mauritius sovereign fishing and other rights for over half a century. In addition, the revival of the notorious Marine Protected Area which the UK had unilaterally established and was condemned at the UNCLOS in 2010, raises intriguing questions on our sovereign access or travel to our Chagos islands without having to seek UK

authorisation.

**M**oreover, the economic partnership established by the agreement includes a UK pledge of financial support and infrastructure development, which could positively impact Mauritius's economy. However, this raises concerns about potential dependency and external influence on domestic policies. No mention is made whether the Diego naval base will henceforth employ Chagossians or Mauritians in general, nor whether supplies would be sourced from here. The real challenge will be in ensuring that this partnership remains mutually beneficial, without compromising Mauritius's autonomy or economic stability.

Finally, it is important to note that the "political agreement" between the UK and Mauritius is still subject to the finalisation of a treaty and supporting legal instruments. Both sides have expressed their intent to complete this process as quickly as possible, but this raises an important question: is a caretaker government in Mauritius, during the interim period before a duly elected government takes office, empowered to enter into a treaty with a foreign power — no matter how friendly — that will bind the country for another 99 years? This issue warrants serious consideration and further scrutiny before any final agreement is signed.

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Prakash Neerohoo

## Promesses électorales

# Que vaudra une pension de vieillesse de Rs 20 000 en 2029?

**L**e pays a connu la semaine dernière une nouvelle phase de la surenchère électoraliste en prévision des prochaines élections législatives. Après que l'Alliance du Changement (l'Opposition) a fait certaines promesses mesurées et ciblées pour les personnes âgées samedi dernier, le gouvernement a fait monter les enchères le lendemain en faisant de nouvelles promesses qui défient toute rationalité économique.

En cette campagne électorale où l'enjeu des élections est hautement stratégique pour le pays (le changement ou le statu quo), tous les partis succombent à la tentation de l'électoralisme afin de maximiser leurs chances aux élections. Les partis du gouvernement veulent à tout prix préserver le pouvoir, quitte à promettre monts et merveilles à un électoral désabusé face à la cherté du coût de la vie. L'Opposition parlementaire s'engage elle aussi dans un certain clientélisme politique, sachant que les promesses ciblées à des groupes sociaux spécifiques ont un impact certain sur les intentions de vote dans un pays où l'électoral est plus préoccupé par son sort quotidien que par de grands enjeux de société (modèle de développement, Etat de droit, démocratie). Est-ce que l'électoral mauricien n'a pas assez de maturité politique pour voir grand et réclamer un projet de société alternatif?

Dans cette foire d'empoigne, les implications financières et économiques des promesses électorales sont nécessairement reléguées au second plan. Le gouvernement joue son va-tout et adopte la devise "Après moi, le déluge" dans une version de la politique de la terre brûlée qui consiste à enlever toutes les cartes à l'Opposition. Pour sa part, l'Opposition essaye d'être circonspecte dans son approche comme un gouvernement alternatif qui hériterait d'une poêle chaude en l'état actuel des finances publiques, marqué par un déficit budgétaire élevé de Rs 63 milliards pour 2024-25 et une dette publique de Rs 575 milliards (85% du PIB).

### Compétition des promesses

Examinons ces nouvelles promesses. L'Opposition en a fait quatre:

- Une deuxième pension pour les veuves et les personnes atteintes d'invalidité à partir de l'âge de 60 ans (en sus de la pension de vieillesse).
- L'abolition de l'impôt sur le revenu sur la pension de vieillesse.
- La gratuité des médicaments pour les personnes du troisième âge en cas d'indisponibilité dans les hôpitaux.
- Le paiement rétroactif à compter de juillet 2024 de la somme additionnelle de Rs 1,000 que les bénéficiaires de la pension de vieillesse de la tranche d'âge de 60-64 ans doivent recevoir à partir de janvier 2025 (c'est-à-dire une pension de Rs 15 000 contre Rs 14 000 actuellement).

Pour ne pas se laisser devancer par l'Opposition, le gouvernement a annoncé deux promesses plus généreuses:

- La pension de vieillesse à Rs 20 000 dans un prochain mandat (2025-2029).
- La gratuité des médicaments pour les personnes qui les achètent dans une pharmacie privée sur l'ordonnance d'un médecin.



P - Sunday Times

D'ici les prochaines élections, les partis politiques dévoileront sans doute d'autres promesses pour rester en compétition électoraliste. Le gouvernement, notamment, annoncera probablement le paiement du 14e mois de salaires en décembre 2024 et une baisse des prix des carburants (essence et diesel) avant le scrutin. Il réserve ces deux dernières cartes comme un coup de massue à ses adversaires.

Entre autres promesses, la pension de vieillesse est la carotte la plus attrayante électoralement vu le nombre de bénéficiaires (266 402 en juin 2024). La question est de savoir quand le gouvernement, s'il est réélu, paiera la pension de vieillesse de Rs 20,000 aux personnes âgées de 60-89 ans? On sait que la pension de vieillesse de Rs 13,500, promise aux élections de 2019, a été payée en avril 2024, soit cinq ans plus tard. Si l'on prend le passé comme un précédent, l'actuel gouvernement, s'il est reconduit au pouvoir, paierait la pension de vieillesse de Rs 20 000 en décembre 2029, soit dans le même délai de cinq ans.

Table 1: Social Benefits 2025-2029

Age (yrs)	From Jan 1, 2025	From Dec 1, 2029	Increase Rs	Rate of increase	Annual Amount (Rs)
Pensioners:	Monthly Rs	Monthly Rs			13 months
60-64	15,000	20,000	5,000	33%	260,000
65-74	16,000	20,000	4,000	25%	260,000
75-89	17,500	20,000	2,500	14%	260,000
90-99	25,210	25,210	0	0%	327,730
100+	30,210	30,210	0	0%	392,730
Beneficiaries:					
Orphans	15,000	20,000	5,000	33%	260,000
Invalids	15,000	20,000	5,000	33%	260,000
Widows	15,000	20,000	5,000	33%	260,000

Au tableau 1 (*Social Benefits 2025-2029*), nous voyons que ce montant de Rs 20 000 en décembre 2029 représenterait une hausse de 33% par rapport au montant de Rs 15 000 en janvier 2025. Au lieu d'attendre cinq ans, il suffirait de payer une augmentation annuelle de Rs 1 000 en cinq ans pour porter la pension à Rs 20 000 en 2029, comme indiqué au tableau 2 (*Pension increase over 5 years*). Ce scenario est tout à fait faisable.

Dans les pays où la pension de vieillesse est indexée sur le taux d'inflation annuel, le rattrapage du pouvoir d'achat pour les pensionnés ne pose pas de gros problème. C'est pourquoi cette question n'est jamais un enjeu politique ou électoral.

Table 2: Pension increase over 5 years

	Year	Pension	Increase	Rate
Jan	2025	15,000		
Dec	2025	16,000	1,000	7%
Dec	2026	17,000	1,000	6%
Dec	2027	18,000	1,000	6%
Dec	2028	19,000	1,000	6%
Dec	2029	20,000	1,000	5%

### Valeur réelle de la pension

Dans l'absolu, la somme de Rs 20 000 (Valeur Future) paraît énorme en 2024, ce qui a une portée psychologique certaine auprès de l'électoral ciblé. Mais on devrait calculer la valeur réelle de cette somme en 2029 selon une formule mathématique (voir la note en bas de la page) qui tient compte d'un taux d'inflation annuel de 6% entre 2025 et 2029. Durant la période de 2019 à 2024, le taux d'inflation cumulatif a été de 30%. Si l'on prend un taux d'inflation cumulatif de 30% en cinq ans, il faudra actualiser la somme de Rs 20 000 par un facteur d'actualisation annuel de 5,93% pour avoir une Valeur Présente de Rs 15 000 en 2025.

● Suite en page 4

Promesses électorales

# Que vaudra une pension de vieillesse de Rs 20 000 en 2029?



P - Défi Media

**● Suite de la page 3**

**A**insi, avec l'inflation cumulée de 30% en cinq ans, soutenue par la dépréciation constante de la roupie, la somme de Rs 20 000 en 2029 ne vaudra que Rs 15 000 en valeur réelle. Il n'y aura pas donc de changement dans le pouvoir d'achat, à moins que l'inflation ne soit réduite drastiquement (disons à 2% annuellement). La maîtrise de l'inflation est peu probable sous l'actuelle politique économique qui vise à déprécier la roupie afin de renchérir les prix de vente qui rapportent plus de TVA (15% de taxe) dans la caisse de l'Etat et d'engranger des gains monétaires sur la conversion des devises étrangères en roupies, lesquels gains renflouent les réserves en roupies de la Banque centrale.

Le tableau 3 (*Cost of Social Benefits*) indique les coûts financiers de la pension de vieillesse et des allocations sociales aux orphelins, veuves et invalides, qui représentent 80% du budget du ministère de la Sécurité sociale. A elles seules, ces prestations sociales coûteront Rs 81,4 milliards en 2029 contre Rs 64,5 milliards en 2025 (soit une hausse de 26%) selon une estimation conservatrice basée sur le nombre de bénéficiaires existant en juin 2024. Et cela sans compter un doublement probable de la prestation aux veuves et aux invalides, comme promis par l'Opposition.

Avec le vieillissement de la population et, partant, l'accroissement du ratio de dépendance (20% actuellement pour ceux âgés de 65 ans ou plus), le nombre de bénéficiaires de la pension de vieillesse sera plus élevé en 2029. La population senior est actuellement de 15% et elle atteindra 30% en 2030. Ainsi le budget des pensions de base non-contributives crèvera le plafond.

**Bombe à retardement**

Du point de vue économique, la pension de vieillesse et autres prestations sociales universelles constituent une bombe à retardement qui nous éclatera au visage si les mesures appropriées ne sont pas prises pour améliorer la capacité fiscale du pays (mesurée par le montant total des taxes en proportion du Produit Intérieur Brut).

**M**aurice a un ratio taxes/PIB de 20% alors que les pays riches de l'OCDE ont un ratio de 35% à 40%. Dans ces pays, l'assiette fiscale est large, variée et progressive avec des impôts et taxes sur les revenus (particuliers et sociétés), la propriété, la consommation et le capital (dividendes et taxe sur les plus-values). Le régime fiscal mauricien est étroit et concentré sur les taxes indirectes régressives (TVA et taxes d'accise), qui représentent 67% du

montant total des revenus fiscaux contre 33% aux taxes directes. L'impôt sur les revenus n'est pas assez progressif avec un taux d'imposition marginal supérieur de 20% alors que le taux marginal maximal est de 40% à 50% dans les pays riches.

Sans une amélioration de la capacité fiscale de l'économie, le pays s'endetterait davantage pour financer toutes les promesses susmentionnées si elles devaient être réalisées par un prochain gouvernement, ce qui porterait la dette publique à 100% du PIB (contre 85% actuellement). Faute d'un ciblage des prestations sociales envers les groupes sociaux vulnérables économiquement, il est nécessaire d'assujettir toutes les sources de revenu à l'impôt sur le revenu net (le revenu brut moins l'exemption fiscale personnelle de Rs 390,000 et les déductions permises pour les personnes à charge, l'assurance médicale, les intérêts hypothécaires, etc.).

**O**r, la proposition d'exempter la pension de vieillesse de l'impôt sur le revenu bénéficierait aux contribuables riches (âgés de 60 ans ou plus) qui ont d'autres sources de revenu telles que le revenu d'emploi, le revenu professionnel, le revenu d'entreprise, le revenu de location, les dividendes et les intérêts sur les placements. Avec l'exemption fiscale personnelle de Rs 390 000 par an, les pensionnés ayant la pension de vieillesse comme unique source de revenu sont déjà exemptés de l'impôt sur le revenu. Seuls ceux qui ont une deuxième ou troisième source de revenu tombent dans le filet du fisc.

Maintenant si l'on augmente le seuil d'exemption personnelle de Rs 390 000 à Rs 1 million, comme le propose l'Opposition, la majorité des salariés et pensionnés du pays (probablement 90% des contribuables) seront exemptés de l'impôt sur le revenu. Pour les millionnaires se trouvant dans les 10% des contribuables nantis, l'impôt sur la pension de vieillesse est marginal. Ils ne sont pas susceptibles de voter pour ou contre un parti dépendant de l'impôt sur la pension de vieillesse,

**Médicaments gratuits**

**S**elon quelle logique économique veut-on défiscaliser les salariés et pensionnés jusqu'au plafond de Rs 1 million tout en leur promettant des avantages sociaux (pensions, médicaments gratuits, etc.) plus généreux? La promesse de l'Opposition de rendre gratuits les médicaments aux personnes âgées (60 ans ou plus) n'est pas déraisonnable en soi car cette politique d'aide aux seniors existe dans d'autres pays.

Au Canada, les gouvernements provinciaux fournissent des médicaments génériques gratuits aux personnes du 3e âge à partir de 65 ans et les médicaments non-génériques sont couverts par un plan d'avantages sociaux (financé par des primes égales payées par le retraité et l'ex-employeur sponsorisant le plan de pension) ou un plan d'assurance médicale. A Maurice, la gratuité promise couvrirait les médicaments génériques et non-génériques.

La proposition du gouvernement de rendre les médicaments gratuits pour toutes les personnes qui les achètent dans une pharmacie privée paraît illogique économiquement. Selon une estimation, les ventes de médicaments par

les pharmacies privées sont de l'ordre de Rs 4 milliards par année. Lorsqu'un produit est gratuit pour tous, il y a un risque de surconsommation. Il y a 40 ans le scientifique Ivan Illich avait dénoncé la surmédicalisation de la santé dans son livre «Limits to Medicine». Même si un médecin devrait prescrire le médicament acheté dans une pharmacie privée, il y aurait toujours le risque de prescrire trop de médicaments.

**L**es pharmacies privées auraient un intérêt commercial à vendre plus de médicaments. Les cliniques privées, qui pullulent comme des champignons dans le pays, s'arrangeraient avec leurs médecins pour satisfaire les besoins de leurs patients.

La proposition de la gratuité des médicaments pose tout un problème de logistique opérationnelle avec les questions suivantes:

1. Est-ce que le patient paiera la note et réclamera ensuite un remboursement à l'Etat?
2. Est-ce que la pharmacie privée enverra une facture à l'Etat pour se faire rembourser pour tout médicament fourni gratuitement au patient?
3. Est-ce que le patient aura une carte de santé unique qui servira à enregistrer tous les achats faits en son nom sur un compte individuel pour surveiller s'il y a des abus ou non?
4. Est-ce qu'il y aura une bureaucratie efficiente avec des protocoles et des contrôles internes fiables pour traiter les demandes de paiement ou de remboursement sans aucun risque de fraude ou de corruption?
5. Est-ce que l'Etat exercera un contrôle sur les prix d'importation des médicaments pour éviter tout risque de surfacturation par les pharmacies? On connaît le cas du médicament anti-Covid Molnupiravir vendu à l'Etat par un importateur pour Rs 79 l'unité contre le prix d'importation de Rs 9 l'unité.

**Table 3: Cost of Social Benefits as of Dec 1, 2029**

Category	Number in June 2024	Pension Rs	Monthly amount (Rs)	Amount for 13 Mths (Rs)
Orphans	248	20,000	4,960,000	64,480,000
Invalids	28,086	20,000	561,720,000	7,302,360,000
Widows	17,064	20,000	341,280,000	4,436,640,000
Subtotal A	45,398		907,960,000	11,803,480,000
<b>Pensioners:</b>			<b>Rs</b>	<b>Rs</b>
60-64	83,230	20,000	1,664,600,000	21,639,800,000
65-74	123,135	20,000	2,462,700,000	32,015,100,000
75-89	54,818	20,000	1,096,360,000	14,252,680,000
90-99	5,051	25,210	127,335,710	1,655,364,230
100 yrs +	168	30,210	5,075,280	65,978,640
Subtotal B	266,402		5,356,070,990	69,628,922,870
Total A+B	311,800		6,264,030,990	81,432,402,870

**Footnote:**

We use the mathematical formula  $FV = PV (1+r)^n$  where: FV is future value (20,000), PV is present value (15,000), r is interest rate of 5.93% and n is number of years (5). We find PV by discounting FV by a discount factor of 5.93% over five years.

Prakash Neerohoo



Anil Madan

# Attack and Risk: Israel's Dilemma

*Can Israel respond forcefully to Iran's attack and not lose the support of its allies?*

**I**ran's second direct attack on Israel unleashed about 180 ballistic missiles. Most missed. Or were intercepted. An Israeli air base was damaged and in tragic irony, the lone person Iran killed was a Palestinian.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard justified the attack not only as retaliation of the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran last July, but curiously also as a response to the killing of Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah, not on Iranian soil, but in Beirut last week. Major General Patrick Ryder, speaking for the Pentagon said that the US had assisted Israel in knocking out missiles fired into Israel, and that the number of ballistic missiles fired by Iran was twice that of Iran's April attack.

## The US Response and President Biden's Dilemma

President Biden is caught between recognizing Israel's right to respond and trying to avoid an all-out regional war. He has consulted with G7 member countries in an apparent effort to impose additional sanctions on Iran. He said: "We'll be discussing with the Israelis what they're going to do, but all seven of us (G7 countries) agree that they have a right to respond but they should respond proportionally."

It is not clear what Biden, his administration, or the G7 countries consider an acceptable "proportional" response under the circumstances. Israel has long threatened to strike Iran's nuclear sites. But when asked if he would back such a strike now, Biden said emphatically: "The answer is no." However, he did promise that more sanctions would be imposed on Iran. Adding that he would speak soon with Netanyahu, Biden said: "Obviously, Iran is way off course."

**P**ress reports abound that the US has cautioned Israel against targeting Tehran's nuclear facilities, warning that such actions could escalate regional instability. Secretary of State Blinken has expressed concern about the potential for further escalation in the Middle East with his European counterparts. Naftali Bennett, a former Israeli Prime Minister, called for a decisive strike on Iran's nuclear sites to "fatally cripple this terrorist regime." Matthew Miller, a State Department spokesman said: "Israel has a right to respond... but we don't want to see any action that would lead to a full-blown regional war."

It is not clear why the US fears a regional war. Iran and its two major proxies, Hamas and Hezbollah are already at war with Israel, and a somewhat marginal proxy, the Houthis are also involved. Iran has no other allies in the Middle East that it can entice into a war with Israel. Of course, there are lingering concerns about what Russia and China might do in supporting Iran.

The US has sent mixed messages in this regard. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan promised "severe

**“One of the risks of an attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities is that it would spur the regime to hasten the development of nuclear weapons. Last April, this is exactly what the head of the IRGC Nuclear Command, Brigadier General Haghtalab, promised would happen if Israel attacked. One of the risks of not attacking Iran’s nuclear facilities is that Israel probably cannot count on restraint by the Ayatollah’s and thus the existential threat to Israel’s existence is stark...”**

consequences" for Iran and stated in a briefing that the US would "work with Israel to make that the case." However, Sullivan did not specify what those consequences might be, and he did not urge Israel to exercise restraint as President Biden did after Iran's drone and missile attack last April.

While members of the Israeli government and its spokespersons have promised that retaliation is in the offing, Prime Minister Netanyahu approach included both a promise of severe consequences, and a striking appeal to the Iranian people.

Netanyahu promised that Iran would pay for its missile attack against Israel. He said: "Iran made a big mistake tonight - and it will pay for it," and he warned: "Whoever attacks us, we attack them." Israeli Defense Minister Gallant echoed his Prime Minister's promise: "Iran has not learned a simple lesson - those who attack the state of Israel, pay a heavy price." Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Danny Danon, added: "We will act. Iran will soon feel the consequences of their actions. The response will be painful."

## Netanyahu's Message to Iran

Netanyahu also took the unusual step of recording a video message to the Iranian people. It was a speech that a politician running for office might make. Of course, we cannot know how many Iranians will have access to Netanyahu's speech. Or indeed, whether it is likely to resonate with the disaffected average Iranian.

Netanyahu's message was that the oppressive theocratic regime is plunging the Middle East deeper into darkness and deeper into war, bringing the "noble Persian people" closer to the abyss. He accused the regime of wasting billions of dollars on futile wars across the Middle East instead of improving their lives. He castigated the regime for wasting vast sums of money on nuclear weapons and foreign wars instead of having invested it in education, improving your health care, building Iran's infrastructure, water, and sewage facilities.

"When Iran is finally free — and that moment will come a lot sooner than people think — everything will be different," Netanyahu promised, thus hinting that Israel might bring about regime change. Offering a vision of hope, he said: "Our two ancient peoples, the Jewish people and the Persian people, will finally be at peace. Our two countries, Israel and Iran, will be at peace. When that day comes, the terror network that the regime built in five continents will be bankrupt, dismantled. Iran will thrive as never before. Global investment. Massive tourism. Brilliant technological innovation based on the tremendous talents that exists inside Iran. Doesn't that sound better than endless poverty, repression and war?"

**A**s if rallying the Iranian people to rise, Netanyahu exhorted them: "Don't let a small group of fanatic theocrats crush your hopes and your dreams. You deserve



From left top: People take cover behind vehicles under a bridge along the side of a highway in Tel Aviv amid Iranian missile barrage. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei at a gathering in Tehran. Israeli army tanks are deployed in northern Israel near the border with Lebanon and projectiles being intercepted by Israel above Tel Aviv (right). P- AFP

better. Your children deserve better. The entire world deserves better. I know you don't support the rapists and murderers of Hamas and Hezbollah, but your leaders do. You deserve more. The people of Iran should know – Israel stands with you. May we together know a future of prosperity and peace."

## Israel's Strategic Options and Risks

Given this background, what options does Israel have? Obviously, striking Iran's nuclear installations seems like a dream scenario. The frequent threats made by the Iranian regime to destroy Israel must be taken more seriously than ever now that Iran has twice attempted direct missile and drone strikes. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said the attack was "in accordance with the United Nations Charter," after what it described as "a period of restraint" following an "attack on the sovereignty" of Iran - referring to the killing of Haniyeh on Iranian soil. Any claim that Iran was entitled to retaliate for the killing of Nasrallah is spurious.

**O**ne of the risks of an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities is that it would spur the regime to hasten the development of nuclear weapons. Last April, this is exactly what the head of the IRGC Nuclear Command, Brigadier General Haghtalab, promised would happen if Israel attacked.

One of the risks of not attacking Iran's nuclear facilities is that Israel probably cannot count on restraint by the Ayatollah's and thus the existential threat to Israel's existence is stark.

## Iran's nuclear installations

In the past, the US has not shown any willingness to participate with Israel in any attack on Iran, let alone on its nuclear installations. Biden's dismissal of support for an attack by Israel on Iran's nuclear facilities as a response to the latest missile attack is clearly not seen as proportional by Biden and obviously, if Israel is going to attack Iran's nuclear installations, it will be on its own.

● Cont. on page 12

# Élections - “Comptage le jour même” : on repassera...

Par A. Bartleby

Dans un rapport en date du 18 septembre 2024, l'Office du Commissaire Électoral (OEC) de Maurice rappelle que, depuis plusieurs années déjà, il appelle à l'implémentation d'un dépouillement des votes immédiatement après la fermeture du scrutin. Actuellement, Maurice se distingue comme le seul pays de la Communauté de Développement de l'Afrique Australe (SADC) et du continent africain à effectuer le comptage des voix le jour suivant les élections.

Opter pour un dépouillement le jour même des élections législatives nationales pourrait offrir de nombreux avantages.

- Cette approche permettrait d'éliminer des logistiques complexes, telles que les mesures de sécurité et le transport des urnes scellées sous escorte policière depuis les bureaux de vote jusqu'aux centres de comptage.
- Actuellement, ces opérations nécessitent un grand déploiement de véhicules et d'agents de police armés.
- De plus, le dépouillement le jour même permettrait une proclamation plus rapide des résultats. Le rapport Sachs, publié en 2002, recommandait déjà un comptage immédiat après le scrutin pour renforcer la crédibilité et l'intégrité du processus électoral.

Le processus consultatif pour cette réforme a débuté le 14 mai 2024 et s'est achevé le 13 août 2024. Au cours de cette période, l'OEC a rencontré divers acteurs, y compris des partis politiques, le Commissaire de police, les fédérations d'employés de l'État et d'autres parties prenantes, afin de discuter des défis associés

au comptage le jour même.

## État actuel du comptage des votes

Actuellement, le processus de comptage des voix s'effectue le jour suivant le scrutin. Les étapes sont rigoureusement suivies: à la fermeture des bureaux, les urnes sont scellées en présence des agents électoraux, puis transportées sous escorte policière vers les centres de comptage. Après une nuit dans une salle de garde, les urnes sont ouvertes le lendemain, et le dépouillement commence en présence des candidats et de leurs agents.

Ce système, bien qu'organisé, présente certaines faiblesses, notamment le risque de manipulation pendant le transport des urnes et l'incertitude qui peut entourer la sécurité des résultats pendant la nuit.

La mise en œuvre d'un dépouillement le jour même pourrait résoudre plusieurs problèmes logistiques et sécuritaires. En éliminant le besoin de transporter les urnes et en permettant un comptage immédiat, les résultats pourraient être proclamés beaucoup plus rapidement, renforçant ainsi la confiance du public dans le processus électoral.

Il faut savoir que le comptage le jour même est déjà une pratique courante dans de nombreux pays, notamment au Canada et en Nouvelle-Zélande. Par exemple, lors des élections générales canadiennes, le dépouillement des votes a lieu immédiatement après la fermeture des bureaux de vote, permettant des résultats préliminaires dans les heures qui suivent la fin du scrutin. Cela renforce non seulement la transparence, mais minimise également les risques de contestation des résultats.

## Défis à surmonter

Malgré ces avantages, le passage à un comptage le jour même soulève des défis



Le rapport Sachs, publié en 2002, recommandait déjà un comptage immédiat après le scrutin pour renforcer la crédibilité et l'intégrité du processus électoral. - Le Défi

considérables, souligne l'Office du Commissaire Électoral.

- Parmi ceux-ci, on note la fatigue humaine des agents électoraux après de longues heures de travail.
- Garantir leur sécurité après une nuit de comptage devient également une préoccupation majeure.
- L'augmentation du nombre de bureaux de vote, qui passerait de 1 365 pour les élections des conseils de village à 2 239 pour les élections législatives nationales, complexifie davantage la logistique.
- De plus, la question de la gestion des bulletins de vote douteux demeure cruciale. Actuellement, c'est le 'Returning Officer' qui a le dernier mot sur leur validité, mais sa capacité à le faire en présence de tous les candidats dans chaque bureau de vote est limitée.

Toutefois, le processus de consultation a révélé que la plupart des parties prenantes se prononcent en faveur d'un système où les urnes ne seraient pas déplacées après la fermeture des bureaux de vote. Cependant, des préoccupations subsistent quant à l'anonymat des votes et à la possibilité

d'erreurs pendant le dépouillement.

Face aux défis logistiques et aux préoccupations soulevées par le processus électoral actuel, l'Office du Commissaire Électoral plaide pour une réforme qui permettra un dépouillement le jour même des élections. Bien que cela représente un changement significatif, les avantages potentiels pour la transparence et l'intégrité du processus électoral sont indéniables.

Si cette option ne peut être mise en œuvre efficacement, il sera crucial de maintenir des mesures de sécurité supplémentaires pour garantir la confiance du public dans les résultats électoraux, tout en respectant les traditions établies qui ont façonné le paysage politique de Maurice.

Bien que le chemin vers un comptage des votes le jour même soit semé d'embûches, la volonté de progresser vers une gestion électoral plus transparente pourrait transformer la perception de la démocratie à Maurice. En s'inspirant de meilleures pratiques internationales, le pays pourrait renforcer la confiance de ses citoyens dans un processus électoral, qui n'a jamais été autant remis en question qu'après les élections de 2019.

## La confiance des Mauriciens en la liberté des médias diminue, selon un sondage d'Afrobarometer



Près de 86% des citoyens pensent que les médias devraient avoir le droit de publier toutes sortes d'idées sans contrôle gouvernemental. P - Getty Images

**U**n nouveau sondage d'Afrobarometer révèle que la confiance des Mauriciens dans la liberté de la presse est en déclin. Bien que la majorité des citoyens continuent de soutenir l'indépendance des médias et leur rôle de chien de garde face au gouvernement, seule une faible majorité perçoit désormais les médias comme étant "quelque peu" ou "complètement" libres, marquant un changement drastique comparé à quatre ans de cela.

La télévision et la radio restent les principales sources d'information des Mauriciens, bien que les médias sociaux aient pris de l'importance, leur utilisation ayant doublé au cours des dix dernières années.

## Principales conclusions

**Diminution de la perception de la liberté des médias :** Seulement 52 % des Mauriciens considèrent que leurs médias sont "quelque peu" ou "complètement" libres de toute censure ou ingérence gouvernementale, contre 69 % en 2020, soit une chute de 17 points de pourcentage.

**Forte demande pour une presse libre:** Près de 86 % des citoyens pensent que les médias devraient avoir le droit de publier toutes sortes d'idées sans contrôle gouvernemental, tandis que seulement 11 % estiment que le gouvernement devrait avoir le pouvoir de censurer les publications.

**Rôle de surveillance des médias soutenu:** Une majorité écrasante de 86 % est d'avis que les médias doivent enquêter et signaler continuellement les erreurs et les actes de corruption du gouvernement.

**Sources d'information:** Près de 96 % des Mauriciens déclarent obtenir des informations à la télévision au moins quelques fois par semaine, suivis de la radio (94 %) et des médias sociaux (88 %).

**Croissance des médias sociaux:** L'usage des réseaux sociaux comme source d'information a doublé en dix ans, soulignant un changement significatif dans les habitudes médiatiques des Mauriciens.

## La MBC-TV: un outil puissant de propagande

Ce rapport souligne une tendance préoccupante pour la liberté de la presse à Maurice.

\_suite en page 7

## La confiance des Mauriciens en la liberté des médias diminue, selon un sondage d'Afrobarometer

☞ Suite de la page 6

Alors que la demande pour une presse indépendante reste forte, la perception publique de la liberté des médias a considérablement chuté. Cela peut refléter une intensification des pressions exercées sur les journalistes ou une augmentation des tentatives de contrôle de l'information.

Ce climat pourrait avoir des répercussions sur la qualité de la gouvernance si les médias sont perçus comme moins capables de remplir leur rôle de surveillance. De plus, l'essor des réseaux sociaux en tant que source d'information pose des questions sur la régulation de ces plateformes et leur rôle dans la propagation de l'information.

En conclusion, bien que la majorité des Mauriciens reste favorable à une presse libre et vigilante, les chiffres

actuels révèlent un besoin urgent de protéger et de renforcer la liberté de la presse à Maurice pour éviter une érosion plus marquée de la confiance des citoyens.

Par ailleurs, l'importance des sources d'information est soulignée par le fait que près de 96 % des Mauriciens déclarent s'informer via la télévision au moins quelques fois par semaine, suivis de la radio (94 %) et des médias sociaux (88 %). Cela montre l'influence considérable que peut avoir la télévision nationale, en particulier la MBC-TV, sur la population, notamment l'électorat.

Voilà pourquoi les gouvernements successifs ont maintenu leur contrôle sur cette station de télévision, en tant qu'outil puissant de propagande au service du pouvoir en place, et un redoutable obstacle pour les partis d'opposition



Près de 96 % des Mauriciens déclarent s'informer via la télévision au moins quelques fois par semaine, faisant ainsi de la MBC-TV un puissant outil de propagande au service du pouvoir en place. P - Freepik

cherchant à renverser le régime. Cette situation perdure malheureusement.

## L'Inde joue un rôle discret mais essentiel dans la résolution du dossier des îles Chagos

**L**'Inde a joué un rôle discret mais crucial dans la décision du Royaume-Uni de céder la souveraineté des îles Chagos à la République de Maurice, selon des médias indiens. Cette information met en lumière l'importance croissante de l'Inde sur la scène internationale, en particulier en ce qui concerne les questions de décolonisation et des relations diplomatiques dans l'océan Indien.

Kadambini Sharma de NDTV rapporte que des sources affirment que l'Inde a fermement et systématiquement soutenu la nécessité d'éliminer les derniers vestiges de la colonisation. L'implication directe de l'Inde dans les négociations entre la République de Maurice, le Royaume-Uni et les États-Unis était connue de ceux qui étaient proches des cercles politiques mauriciens, et ce, à un niveau élevé. Cela souligne le rôle actif de l'Inde dans des affaires qui pourraient avoir un impact sur sa stratégie géopolitique régionale.

Il semble que l'influence croissante de l'Inde sur la scène internationale ait contribué à faire évoluer les discussions de manière positive, en grande partie grâce au Sommet du G20 de septembre 2023, qui a rassemblé les dirigeants des États-Unis, du Royaume-Uni et de la République de Maurice. Le G20, en tant que plateforme mondiale, a permis de discuter en coulisses de questions cruciales, renforçant ainsi les liens entre ces nations.

Le rôle de New Delhi a été mentionné dans la déclaration conjointe du Royaume-Uni et de la République de Maurice. Cette déclaration a indiqué: «Pour parvenir à l'accord politique d'aujourd'hui, nous avons



Le sommet du G20, qui s'est tenu à New Delhi en septembre 2023, devait rassembler le Premier ministre indien Narendra Modi, le président américain Joe Biden et l'ancien Premier ministre britannique Rishi Sunak

bénéficié du plein soutien et de l'assistance de nos partenaires proches, les États-Unis d'Amérique et la République de l'Inde.»

Selon des sources, l'Inde a constamment encouragé les deux parties à négocier «avec un esprit ouvert et dans le but d'atteindre des résultats mutuellement bénéfiques». Il est largement reconnu que l'issue finale représente une victoire pour toutes les parties impliquées et renforcera la sécurité à long terme dans la région de l'océan Indien. Ce point est crucial car la sécurité maritime est un enjeu majeur, compte tenu des tensions géopolitiques croissantes dans l'océan Indien.

Dans son message saluant cet accord, New Delhi a déclaré: «L'Inde a toujours soutenu la revendication de souveraineté de la République de Maurice sur les Chagos, en accord avec sa position de principe sur la décolonisation, son soutien à la souveraineté et à l'intégrité territoriale des nations, ainsi que son partenariat ancien et étroit avec la République de Maurice.»

Le Royaume-Uni a été sous pression pendant des décennies pour restituer les îles Chagos. En février 2019, la Cour internationale de Justice avait déclaré que le contrôle britannique des îles Chagos était illégal. Trois mois plus tard, les Nations Unies ont largement soutenu une résolution exigeant que le Royaume-Uni abandonne son contrôle sur ces îles. Cette pression internationale a joué un rôle crucial dans l'évolution de la situation.

Cependant, le Royaume-Uni a résisté, évoquant la base de Diego Garcia, une installation clé utilisée pour les opérations américaines dans l'océan Indien et le golfe

Persique. La base est stratégique pour les États-Unis, ce qui complique les négociations de souveraineté. La décision d'aujourd'hui est intervenue après deux ans de négociations, que les deux nations ont qualifiées de respectueuses, menées en tant qu'États souverains égaux. Cet accord politique est soumis à la finalisation d'un traité et de documents juridiques de soutien, que les deux parties se sont engagées à compléter dans les plus brefs délais.

Au cours de la dernière décennie, New Delhi a maintenu une attention soutenue sur sa stratégie maritime dans l'océan Indien, cherchant à contrer l'influence croissante de la Chine. Du point de vue indien, la République de Maurice occupe une place stratégique dans cette stratégie, étant perçue comme la clé de l'océan Indien sud-ouest et un point d'accès vers l'océan Atlantique. L'importance géopolitique de Maurice en fait un partenaire clé pour l'Inde dans ses efforts pour établir un équilibre de pouvoir dans la région.

## Singapour: L'ancien ministre des Transports condamné à un an de prison

Comment le juge a-t-il décidé de la peine d'Iswaran?

**L**e 3 octobre 2024, l'ancien ministre des Transports de Singapour, S.Iswaran, a été condamné à un an de prison pour avoir accepté des biens de la part de deux hommes d'affaires et pour avoir entravé la justice en remboursant le coût d'un vol qu'il avait emprunté. Lors de cette audience, le juge Vincent Hoong a exprimé ses remarques sur la peine durant une session de 40 minutes, relevant plusieurs arguments de la défense et affirmant que les peines demandées étaient «manifestement insuffisantes».

Dans un jugement écrit de 94 pages, publié après l'audience, le juge a expliqué en détail chaque partie de sa décision. Voici un décryptage des éléments clés de cette affaire, proposé par «Channel News Asia», notamment la nature de l'accusation portée contre Iswaran, l'objectif de l'article 165 du Code pénal et la manière dont la peine est déterminée.

### Qu'est-ce que l'article 165?

L'article 165 du Code pénal est une infraction rarement utilisée. Il interdit à un fonctionnaire public d'accepter ou d'obtenir, ou d'accepter d'obtenir, tout bien de valeur de la part de quelqu'un qui pourrait être lié à des affaires ou des procédures le concernant ou liées à ses fonctions officielles. Les sanctions peuvent aller jusqu'à deux ans de prison, une amende, ou les deux.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 12



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Care of the elderly

**A**ccording to the WHO website, the International Day of Older Persons, commemorated on 1 October each year, is meant 'to raise public awareness about the opportunities and challenges with ageing populations and to mobilize the families, community groups and stakeholders to address the difficulties faced by older people.'

This year's theme is '*Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide*' and 'encourages governments, policy makers and social services across the world for a concerted and sustained action to address the physical, social, psychological and health needs of older persons. The commemoration also underscores the importance of promoting healthy living conditions for elderly that respect the dignity, beliefs, needs, and privacy of older persons, and for the right to make decisions about their care and quality of their lives.'

Improvements in public health and medical care along with individual practice of a healthier lifestyle mean that people are living longer. Thus, the proportion of the elderly population keeps increasing, and brings with it the concerns raised above relating to them. How these are addressed in different countries varies according to their historical, social and cultural contexts, but what is certain is the need for robust support systems that involve the family, the community and the state.

Broadly speaking, we can identify a few settings where we find the elderly.

For a start, what we could call self-care, namely those who are physically and mentally fit, living alone or as a couple either by choice or by the force of circumstances, such as – this being increasingly the case – children being abroad, or living separately sometimes not too far away if they are lucky. Many prefer their own accommodation – it could be the house they have always lived in for sentimental and practical reasons, or an apartment to which they have shifted to reduce the burden of domestic chores such as cleaning or maintaining a yard. They have sufficient means and are able to look after themselves.

An example is the case of a 94-year-old lady who

**“**The Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew had put his foot down as regards such homes, on the grounds that this was not part of our Asian culture. Instead, he insisted that families should take care of their elderly at home, where their presence benefited children and grandchildren. And to this end, he gave a special tax incentive to the families. Perhaps Mauritius, where the Singapore model is often quoted, should give some thought to this idea...”



ing, and on days when she didn't feel like doing so, she would notify the management and have her meal in the common dining room. In addition to participating in the regular gatherings held in a common room, she also entertained her son and his family, and her friends in her studio. Some years later, health problems made her shift to a home for the elderly, where I chanced to visit her a few months before she left us.

Homes for the elderly are, for good or bad, part of contemporary social reality in the developing and developed world. Wherever they exist, even in the most advanced countries, in a significant percentage of them there are complaints about the quality of care, often because of a lack of qualified personnel. Just a few days ago I read about a case in the US where the family of an elderly lady who had died from an infected pressure sore was awarded a substantial compensation by a court because the home didn't follow the proper protocol of changing her position in bed at regular intervals.

I believe that the Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew had put his foot down as regards such homes, on the grounds that this was not part of our Asian culture. Instead, he insisted that families should take care of their elderly at home, where their presence benefited children and grandchildren. And to this end, he gave a special tax incentive to the families. Perhaps Mauritius, where the Singapore model is often quoted, should give some thought to this idea.

On the other hand, the electoral promise of the nascent opposition alliance that, if they come to power, the pension of the widows and the allowance of the handicapped would not be suppressed when they start receiving their old age pension is a salutary and long overdue move.

On another note, the measure announced to pay for the medicine bills in private clinics is a very risky one that has serious logistical, financial, economic and national health expenditure implications that it doesn't appear have been sufficiently thought through. The possibility of what is known as 'therapeutic overkill' – excessive and unnecessary treatments especially in end-of-life situations with unwarranted prolongation of stays, over and above the 'diagnostic overkill' that is already rampant - is a genuine matter for debate and discussion... Such a proposal may be financially manageable in a short term, but is not sustainable in the long term..."

recently passed. She lived alone in her own house; her two children who lived a few km away took turns to be with her during the day and had arranged for a carer at night. Another lady in the south whom I was delighted to meet several years ago was a centenarian whose only child, a son, had passed away some years prior in an unfortunate work accident. She was hale and hearty, didn't even use specs, and there was a kindly soul who stopped by every Saturday to whom she would give money to do her shopping.

There are many more such lovely people I have been privileged to know, but I will come to the next category of those who have medical conditions that are stable and controlled by regular attention to them. They have a minimum of ailments that don't interfere with their normal functioning, also in their own accommodation with sufficient means, with access to home help as required. They too have a similar family context, but as in the first category they also have their own peer group in a limited social circle which is mutually supportive and engage in common activities.

The key to this kind of living is to have discipline, regular habits, and consume everything in moderation.

Then there are those who need institutional care, either for health or social reasons. This means staying in homes for the elderly or in retirement facilities where these exist. I am familiar with one such facility where a relative of mine had put up. She had been a consultant pathologist in London, worked a few more years after retirement, then shifted to another town where her son was consultant paediatrician. She rented a single room studio in a retirement complex a short distance from her son's home. She had house help, but did her own cook-

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Healthcare costs are spiralling all over the world for many reasons that we cannot go into here, and do not necessarily result in better outcomes, so there is a lot to reflect on in advance. Such a proposal may be financially manageable in a short term, but is not sustainable in the long term, entrapping as it will future generations in a burden of intolerable debt.

A better approach is to consider incentivizing people to pursue healthier lifestyles and establish a state driven scheme for monitoring using the existing Primary Health Care network of Health Centres and Mediclinics. This raises the possibility of generating employment for a dedicated cadre for this purpose, which is a more positive fallout, but also has the potential of reducing the need for more and more medications.

As the saying goes, making haste slowly is definitely well-advised here.

Avinaash Munohur

**Mauritius Times:** Il semble clair que nous sommes dans la dernière ligne droite avant les élections générales. Comment envisagez-vous ces élections?

**Dr Avinaash Munohur:** Au lendemain d'une annonce aussi importante et historique que la reconnaissance de la souveraineté mauricienne sur les Chagos, nous devons forcément considérer que la donne a changé. Maintenant, il appartiendra au Premier ministre de capitaliser sur le «deal» conclu.

Est-ce qu'il a les moyens de financer ses promesses électorales? Si c'est le cas, alors il aura un avantage certain sur l'opposition, surtout qu'il a su se positionner comme un Premier ministre qui honore sa parole.

Si ce n'est pas le cas, alors ces élections seront compliquées. D'un côté, Pravind Jugnauth devra composer avec un bilan qui s'étale sur presque 10 années, avec des réussites et des accomplissements certains mais également des scandales et des ratés - notamment de la part de ses ministres et députés. De l'autre côté, l'opposition parlementaire devra tenter de convaincre du bien-fondé d'une alliance qui n'a jamais bien fonctionné dans le passé.

Il est également indéniable que les partis extra-parlementaires vont avoir un impact sur la décision. Ces partis, à défaut d'avoir de vraies chances de prise de pouvoir, se positionnent sur des idées nouvelles qui font vivre le processus démocratique et qui permettent de nourrir un peu le débat politique. Depuis quelques élections, certains de ces

# Quelle volonté de changement chez les Mauriciens?

“Ce sera là la plus grande leçon de cette élection générale”

**A** lors que le pays s'approche des élections générales, l'atmosphère politique à Maurice est à la fois électrique et chargée d'incertitudes. Les enjeux sont multiples et complexes, tant pour le gouvernement sortant que pour l'opposition. Dr Avinaash Munohur, un observateur avisé de la scène politique, partage ses réflexions sur cette période cruciale. Après environ dix ans au pouvoir, Pravind Jugnauth se retrouve confronté à un bilan mixte, oscillant entre succès notables et controverses. Parallèlement, l'opposition devra s'efforcer de regagner la confiance d'un électoralat qui cherche des perspectives nouvelles. La dynamique des partis extra-parlementaires apportant de nouvelles idées au débat, bien que minoritaires, pourrait également influencer le résultat final. À travers cette interview, nous explorerons les défis et les implications des prochaines élections, tout en examinant la nécessité d'une réflexion profonde sur notre modèle de gouvernance.

partis démontrent même leur capacité à faire des scores importants.

Dans une situation où les choses sont extrêmement serrées, ces partis ont le pouvoir de faire pencher la balance d'un côté ou de l'autre dans plusieurs circonscriptions, notamment celles des zones urbaines.

Il n'est pas impossible que nous nous retrouvions dans une situation où aucun bloc n'obtiendra une majorité claire et que des tractations postélectorales pourraient bien avoir lieu pour former une majorité, ce qui pourrait produire une situation d'instabilité politique qui n'est pas souhaitable pour le pays. Mais nous ne sommes pas encore là.

Encore une fois, si le PM sait capitaliser sur le «deal» des Chagos, alors les choses seront radicalement différentes. Ce «deal» pourrait s'avérer une aubaine de taille si elle nous permet de drastiquement moderniser nos infrastructures routières, portuaires, aéroportuaires et digitales. Nous aurons, dans ce cas, les moyens d'une transformation profonde de notre pays.

\* L'opposition affirme que ces prochaines élections seront tout aussi cruciales que celles de 1967, bien que le contexte politique et social ait évolué. Partagez-vous cet avis?

Absolument pas. Le monde a changé. Maurice a changé. Les enjeux sont radicalement différents, et nous vivons dans un contexte politique et économique qui ne ressemble en rien à ce que nous avons pu connaître lors des élections précédentes. Utiliser la comparaison avec 1967 ne semble servir qu'à une tentative de jouer sur une rhétorique dont l'objet est de masquer le manque de propositions solides pour l'avenir. La comparaison ne tient absolument pas, ce qui ne veut pas dire que ces élections ne sont pas importantes. Elles sont capitales à bien des égards.

Mettant les questions économiques et institutionnelles de côté pour un moment, l'un des grands enjeux de ces élections est celui du renouvellement du personnel poli-

tique, et notamment des leaders politiques. L'électoralat avait fait le choix du renouveau et de la jeunesse en 2019, envoyant un message clair aux leaders du PTr et du MMM quant à leur propre position. Est-ce que ce même électoralat reconduira ces deux vieux loups à nouveau au pouvoir sans que ces derniers ne montrent la voie du renouvellement ou bien fera-t-il encore confiance à un Pravind Jugnauth dont l'un des arguments de poids pour ces élections sera le renouvellement de son équipe - près de 60 % de nouveaux si on en croit ses récentes déclarations?

Nous le saurons bien assez tôt, mais quoi qu'il en soit, beaucoup de Mauriciens et notamment cette fameuse majorité silencieuse - qui ne s'exprime ni sur les réseaux

« L'un des grands enjeux de ces élections est celui du renouvellement du personnel politique, et notamment des leaders politiques. L'électoralat avait fait le choix du renouveau et de la jeunesse en 2019, envoyant un message clair aux leaders du PTr et du MMM quant à leur propre position. Est-ce que ce même électoralat reconduira ces deux vieux loups à nouveau au pouvoir sans que ces derniers ne montrent la voie du renouvellement ou bien fera-t-il encore confiance à un Pravind Jugnauth... »

sociaux et ni dans les meetings - attendent encore de voir les candidats proposés aux postes clés avant de finaliser leur décision.

\* Le point de vue de l'opposition sur l'importance des prochaines élections découle sans doute de ses préoccupations concernant le régime de gouvernance, jugé autoritaire, instauré par l'actuel gouvernement. Ce n'est pas exagéré, n'est-ce pas?

Cette tendance qui a commencé depuis le début des années 2000 n'a pu être inversée pour l'instant. Et si nous regardons un peu autour de nous, puisque Maurice n'est pas l'unique pays qui existe dans le monde, nous constatons facilement que cette même tendance existe dans à peu près toutes les démocraties modernes. La montée des extrêmes — droite et gauche —

en Europe, le trumpisme et le wokisme aux États-Unis, ainsi que les mouvements islamistes au Proche Orient et au Moyen-Orient, sont des signes puissants que quelque chose ne va plus.

Il ne faut d'ailleurs pas être un génie pour se rendre compte que la forme sociale-démocrate de la démocratie libérale est en crise, et qu'un retour vers ce régime de gouvernance dans la forme qui fut la sienne dans la seconde moitié du 20eme siècle relève du “wishful thinking”. Notre époque est en fait marquée par la résurgence et la radicalisation des idées extrêmes. Ces dernières trouvent leurs sources dans les inégalités socio-économiques mondiales, mais également dans le fait que nous n'avons plus de certitudes sociales, culturelles et économiques communes. C'est là la face négative de la révolution digitale, où toute fausseté devient une vérité absolue si on la répète suffisamment.

C'est là d'ailleurs, selon moi, le plus grand défi actuel de la démocratie : comment endiguer l'impact des “fake news” et des “deep fakes” dans leur capacité à impacter les gens et leur capacité à influencer les opinions et les jugements? Toute réponse à cette question implique forcément un type de contrôle des réseaux sociaux qu'aucun Etat n'est actuellement capable d'appliquer sans entraver les principes de la liberté d'expression.

Mais pour revenir au gouvernement, comme je le disais plus tôt, il n'a pas su enrayer cette tendance, qui était déjà bien en place avant. Comment reculer sur tout cela? Il faut forcément que des hommes et des femmes de bonne volonté s'engagent et poussent pour des propositions qui sachent répondre aux défis actuels en matière de bonne gouvernance. Les leaders politiques ont également la responsabilité de pousser ces idées et de renouveler leurs équipes avec des gens capables et intègres.

Finalement, c'est uniquement par la volonté du peuple que ce genre de changement peut advenir et le peuple n'a démontré - pour le moment du moins - aucune envie de changement. Bien au contraire, l'électorate se complaît dans l'alternance actuelle.

☞ Suite en page 10

# Diego Garcia 'deal': 'Nous avons là les moyens d'une transformation profonde de notre pays'

'Une aubaine de taille si elle nous permet de drastiquement moderniser nos infrastructures routières, portuaires, aéroportuaires et digitales'

☞ Suite de la page 9

\* Il est toutefois essentiel de reconnaître qu'un immense travail de réforme et de consolidation est nécessaire en matière de gouvernance, que ce soit au niveau de nos institutions, de la justice, de l'État de droit, de la lutte contre la corruption, du système électoral ou même de notre Constitution. C'est un vaste chantier, n'est-ce pas?

Le chantier est immense effectivement. Mais comme toute entreprise d'envergure, il faut le prendre par étapes. Déjà, il me semble qu'il est essentiel d'identifier les priorités absolues en matière de réformes institutionnelles et proposer un "roadmap" clair et précis sur les politiques qu'il faut mettre en place pour les entamer. Le problème fondamental se trouve ici dans le fait que nous n'avons pas de directions claires et précises en réalité.

La lutte contre la corruption, le renforcement des institutions, un système électoral modernisé s'inscrivent dans une vision sociétale plus large et répondent à une question essentielle: quelle société désirons-nous créer? Or, je constate que cette question fondamentale est totalement absente du débat public.

C'est là que le bât blesse car nous ne voyons pas ces propositions émerger. Nous sommes bien plutôt pris dans une plainte permanente, chose qui ne mène nulle part. Mais les solutions existent. Cela fait des années que je parle de réformer le mode d'existence et de financement des partis politiques, par exemple, avec des propositions concrètes et faciles à implémenter. Est-ce qu'un parti politique a pris ces propositions - qui fonctionnent parfaitement bien ailleurs - au sérieux?

Il en va de même pour la lutte contre la corruption lors de l'attribution des marchés publics. Il est extrêmement simple de mettre en place aujourd'hui un système en ligne pour toutes les soumissions et les évaluations. Les soumissions peuvent être anonymes et un système à points peut apporter l'objectivité nécessaire à l'évaluation de différents dossier.

Dans ce cas de figure, c'est la soumission qui obtient le plus de points qui est naturellement choisie. Si une autre proposition est choisie à la place de celle qui récolte le plus de points, alors ce choix doit être obligatoirement justifié devant un comité indépendant. Ce système fonctionne parfaitement en France ou à Singapour par exemple. Pourquoi pas à Maurice?

C'est par l'accumulation de réformes de ce type que nous arriverons à transformer la culture actuelle qui facilite trop souvent le copinage. Parce que c'est bel et bien de cela

**«On ne peut pas multiplier les ajustements salariaux et les pensions de manière significative tous les ans. Ceci envoie un mauvais signal aux entreprises et à l'investissement. Comment inverser la tendance?»**

**La clé de voûte à ce problème reste celui de la productivité dans le contexte du vieillissement de la population. Il est essentiel de se tourner vers les nouvelles technologies qui permettent l'automatisation des tâches afin de contrer le manque de main d'œuvre là où c'est possible de le faire...»**



qu'il s'agit, d'une culture nationale où les politiciens ne sont qu'un maillon d'une chaîne dont les électeurs font également partie. Toute personne ayant vécu une élection de l'intérieur sait parfaitement bien de quoi je vous parle.

\* Pour l'instant, nous sommes seulement confrontés à la surenchère de propositions sociales et gratuites des deux camps politiques. La question qui se pose concerne les coûts de cette surenchère et son impact sur l'économie à long terme, ainsi que sur notre société. Est-ce 'sustainable'?

C'est justement à cause de cette surenchère que je parle de culture nationale. C'est malheureusement le mode sur lequel se négocie une élection à Maurice. Vous remarquez que je ne parle pas de «gagner une élection» mais de «négocier une élection». Cette subtile différence vous dit tout ce dont vous avez besoin de savoir sur la culture électorale mauricienne.

L'électorat est tellement habitué à des politiques de la gratuité qu'il semble aujourd'hui incapable de penser en dehors de ce cadre. Encore une fois, il n'y a là rien de nouveau. La mise en place de cette culture a commencé à la fin des années 1970 avec l'éducation gratuite, le 13ème mois de bonus salarial, le transport gratuit, etc.

Ces politiques nous ont plongés dans une situation où l'attente devient réelle à l'approche d'une élection, et tout parti politique - souhaitant se donner une réelle chance de gagner - doit se plier à cet impératif. Un exemple récent est la liste de propositions de l'Alliance du Changement concernant les pensions. Ces propositions ont tout de suite été suivies par la réplique du Premier ministre.

Comme par hasard, les partisans de l'opposition ont tout de suite trouvé que le PM mettait l'économie dans une situation précaire, alors qu'ils ne trouvaient rien à redire sur les propositions de leur camp. Il y a une grande hypocrisie dans tout cela, mais il y a surtout un grand pragmatisme au fond.

Le pragmatisme est que les deux camps savent parfaitement bien que la majorité de l'électorat attend des propositions qui vont dans le sens de la gratuité. Les deux camps savent aussi qu'il ne réagit pas aux propositions de réformes institutionnelles et de progrès économique de manière aussi

enthousiaste qu'il réagit aux propositions où il a un gain financier immédiat à obtenir...

C'est, selon moi, un immense échec de notre politique d'éducation, qui, certes, délivre des diplômes — qui peuvent parfois même servir à obtenir un emploi — mais qui ne permettent pas à la majorité des citoyens de développer une pensée critique, ni de saisir les enjeux et les idées actuelles. Cela explique également le niveau souvent affligeant du débat politique à Maurice.

Mais pour revenir à votre question, est-ce que cette surenchère aura un impact négatif sur l'économie dans le long terme? L'équation est très simple au fond. Il faut produire de la richesse pour la redistribuer. Si on redistribue plus que ce que l'on produit, alors on doit s'endetter. Le niveau d'endettement de l'économie mauricienne n'a cessé de croître ces dernières années. Il y a bien évidemment eu la Covid qui a forcé le gouvernement à soutenir les entreprises et l'emploi, mais la réalité est que la productivité ne cesse de baisser à Maurice depuis au moins deux décennies.

**«Le pragmatisme est que les deux camps savent parfaitement bien que la majorité de l'électorat attend des propositions qui vont dans le sens de la gratuité. Les deux camps savent aussi qu'il ne réagit pas aux propositions de réformes institutionnelles et de progrès économique de manière aussi enthousiaste qu'il réagit aux propositions où il a un gain financier immédiat à obtenir...»**

L'endettement en lui-même ne signifie rien, c'est la capacité à soutenir l'endettement qui compte. Et la capacité à soutenir l'endettement est directement liée à la productivité. Et le moyen privilégié par lequel nous contrôlons actuellement cette baisse de la productivité est par la libéralisation du secteur de l'immobilier qui compte pour 47% des FDI et par l'importation des savoir-faire.

De ce point de vue, l'immigration permet de contrer les effets du vieillissement de la population et du "brain drain". Mais ce modèle n'est pas "sustainable", ce qui nous met en face d'un immense défi si nous souhaitons renforcer notre économie : comment faire pour produire plus? Et comment faire pour que moins de jeunes actifs produisent plus pour payer plus de bénéfices sociaux?

\* Donc, dans ce climat de surenchère politique, aucun parti ne s'attaque aux véritables enjeux pour le pays. Aujourd'hui, à la veille d'une élection générale qui sera importante pour Maurice, quelle est votre opinion?

Ce n'est pas tout à fait juste de dire qu'aucun parti ne s'attaque aux véritables enjeux pour le pays. Il serait plus juste de dire que le niveau du débat politique ne permet pas de parler des véritables enjeux et d'en débattre ouvertement. Ceci ne signifie pas que les partis politiques ne sont pas conscients de ces enjeux et du fait qu'ils soient dans l'impossibilité d'être en accord sur ces mêmes enjeux.

Prenons le cas de Diego Garcia qui est d'actualité. Il est clair que cet exemple précis dépasse toute sensibilité partisane et plusieurs gouvernements qui se sont succédé ont tenté d'arriver à une solution favorable pour la République de Maurice.

☞ Suite en page 11

**« Nous sommes pris dans un mouvement mondial de changement de civilisation. La globalisation, telle que nous la connaissons, se transforme à vitesse grand V avec un rééquilibrage des rapports de force sur l'échiquier géopolitique. Nous sommes appelés à composer encore plus avec les super puissances émergentes que sont l'Inde et la Chine, qui vont structurer à elles seules l'avenir de notre région du monde. Notre sécurité nationale, mais aussi l'avenir de notre économie, en dépendent entièrement... »**



#### \_suite de la page 10

Les choses se sont accélérées à partir des élections de 2014, du fait d'un travail politique et diplomatique d'envergure. Nous étions d'ailleurs très proches d'une résolution à la fin de l'année dernière. Mais le remaniement ministériel opéré par Rishi Sunak a retardé l'échéance.

Vous avez comme cela des dossiers qui dépassent les intérêts partisans et qui relèvent bien plus de la souveraineté nationale. Et heureusement, pour ces dossiers, l'on arrive à un consensus entre les différents bords politiques. Nous avons trop souvent tendance à uniquement voir les choses en noir à Maurice. Il serait bon de développer une vision plus objective et équilibrée, une vision qui nous permette de faire la part des choses entre ce qui doit être laissé aux passions électorales et ce qui doit être préservé de l'opinion gratuite et inculte.

Certes tout ne fonctionne pas comme il le faudrait, mais tout n'est pas désastreux non plus. Dans une globalisation qui s'affole et où les guerres se multiplient, les fondamentaux de notre économie restent plus ou moins stables - ce qui est déjà beaucoup.

Pour ma part, je pense - et je n'ai eu de cesse de le répéter dès le début de la pandémie de la Covid - que nous sommes pris dans un mouvement mondial de changement de civilisation. La globalisation, telle que nous la connaissons, se transforme à vitesse grand V avec un rééquilibrage des rapports de force sur l'échiquier géopolitique. Nous sommes appelés à composer encore plus avec les super puissances émergentes que sont l'Inde et la Chine, qui vont structurer à elles seules l'avenir de notre région du monde. Notre sécurité nationale, mais aussi l'avenir de notre économie, en dépendent entièrement.

A partir de ce constat, il est clair que nous devons revoir certaines de nos stratégies nationales afin d'augmenter notre résilience. Notre économie repose actuellement sur trois secteurs principaux : le tourisme, l'immobilier et les finances. Ces trois secteurs sont solides mais restent exposés aux incertitudes globales. La crise actuelle de la cherté de la vie nous démontre à quel point il est important de revoir notre stratégie agricole afin de réduire l'insécurité alimentaire et à quel point nous devons absolument augmenter la capacité de notre port. Il est essentiel de faire du port de Maurice un centre de transit régional pour les mar-

**« Il n'est pas impossible que nous nous retrouvions dans une situation où aucun bloc n'obtiendra une majorité claire et que des tractations post-électorales pourraient bien avoir lieu pour former une majorité, ce qui pourrait produire une situation d'instabilité politique qui n'est pas souhaitable pour le pays. Mais nous ne sommes pas encore là. Encore une fois, si le PM sait capitaliser sur le « deal » des Chagos, alors les choses seront radicalement différentes... »**

# 'Nos libertés ne vont pas disparaître, mais elles vont évoluer.'

Tout comme vont évoluer les capacités des États à nous contrôler et à nous surveiller'

\* Par ailleurs, il y a également la question de l'état de la démocratie dans le monde. Compte tenu de ce qui se passe dans différents pays, y compris le nôtre, diriez-vous que nous sommes condamnés à voir nos libertés disparaître au profit d'un État qui surveillera tous nos faits et gestes?

Vaste sujet qui requiert une réflexion profonde. Il ne faut pas oublier que ce que nous appelons la démocratie est un modèle de gouvernement qui a émergé dans un contexte historique précis et grâce à des développements techniques et technologiques qui deviennent aujourd'hui obsolètes. Ainsi, la crise de la démocratie ne relève pas uniquement de la volonté de quelques autocrates, mais c'est plutôt un signe que nous avons basculé dans un autre contexte historique, qui a ses propres avancées techniques et technologiques.

Je suis de ceux qui pensent, par exemple, que la révolution digitale aura un impact aussi profond que l'invention de l'écriture ou la découverte de la machine à vapeur sur nos vies. En fait, nous sommes au tout début d'une révolution industrielle qui sera drivée par le numérique, et cette révolution industrielle va produire d'autres formes d'organisations sociales et va appeler à inventer d'autres formes de relations entre l'individu et l'État.

**Il est indéniable que la distance entre les gagnants et les perdants de l'économie ne cesse de grandir à Maurice. Encore une fois, c'est une tendance mondiale et personne n'a de réponse toute faite à ce problème. De manière pragmatique, encore une fois, le Gouvernement tente de contrer cette tendance en multipliant les aides sociales. Nous pouvons deviner que des subsides pourraient venir compléter ces aides sociales afin de soulager le portefeuille des ménages. Mais ces solutions ne sont pas soutenables dans le long terme...»**



Mais ces solutions ne sont pas soutenables dans le long terme...»

De ce point de vue, je ne crois pas à un retour à la forme sociale-démocrate de la démocratie. Une autre forme émergera dans les décennies à venir. Et cette autre forme portera en elle d'autres formes de ce que nous appelons la liberté.

Nos libertés ne vont pas disparaître, mais elles vont évoluer. Tout comme vont évoluer les capacités des États à nous contrôler et à nous surveiller. C'est là une conséquence directe du simple fait de l'avancement technologique. Et personne n'y échappera. C'est une partie du fantasme orwellien qui se réalise déjà. Nous sommes en tout cas dans l'impératif d'une grande vigilance si nous souhaitons conserver nos libertés tout en nous adaptant à cette nouvelle donne technologique.

\* Une dernière question: Les Mauriciens sont-ils prêts pour un changement sur le plan politique?

Pour être simple et direct: ils le feront savoir par les urnes d'ici quelques semaines! Et ce sera la plus grande leçon de cette élection générale d'ailleurs : il sera possible de comprendre où en sont les Mauriciens quant à leur volonté de changement et de progrès.

# Attack and Risk: Israel's Dilemma



● Cont. from page 5

Critical parts of Iran's nuclear installations are said to be deep underground, and at depths that even the bunker busting bombs that Israel used in Gaza would be ineffective. And there are layers of defense that would need to be penetrated for a strike on nuclear installations to be successful and effective.

It is highly unlikely that Israel could fly bombers to Iran, have them deposit bombs and return to home base without a refueling stop. Is inflight refueling a possibility? Yes, but most likely Israel would have to acquire that capacity from the US. Would the US loan or lease long-range bombers to Israel? Not for attacks on nuclear installations, if President Biden's emphatic "no" stands. Any

Israeli attack then would most likely have to be with missiles. Israel does have intermediate range ballistic missiles, but certainly not anything capable of destroying the deep underground structures that Iran has built.

**N**or would Israeli air strikes destroy the knowledge and knowhow that the Iranian regime has built over the years that its nuclear program has been in effect. And certainly, Israel would not destroy the objective of the Ayatollahs to end the very existence of the Jewish state.

Perhaps it is in recognition of these realities that Netanyahu invoked the prospect of regime change with his words: "When Iran is finally free — and that moment will come a lot sooner than people think — everything will be different."

Israel has shown that its intelligence capabilities are formidable and that its ability to penetrate defenses and take out people is

to be feared. Indeed, the Iranians must know this because it was reported that the Supreme Leader was moved to a secure location in the immediate aftermath of the Nasrallah assassination.

Clearly, Israel will retaliate. A strike on Iran's nuclear facilities has too many risks, the major ones being ineffectiveness and the prospect of spurring on even more intense efforts to develop and stockpile nuclear warheads by the Ayatollahs, and the loss of support among Israel's allies. As might be expected, Iran has threatened Israel with even more devastation if it responds and promised the same for any countries helping Israel.

It does not seem too much of a stretch, therefore, to believe that Israel's allies, all seven of the G7 members would be happier without Iran's theocrats running that nation.

Who knows what Israel's immediate response is going to be? Surely regime change must be in the mix.

Cheerz...  
**Bwana**

## Éclairages

☞ Suite de la page 7

Avant l'affaire d'Iswaran, peu de cas de l'article 165 avaient été enregistrés. On note seulement trois poursuites antérieures liées à cet article, qui ont eu lieu avant l'indépendance de Singapour et concernaient des policiers impliqués dans des affaires de corruption. L'article 165 fait partie du Chapitre 9 du Code pénal, qui traite des infractions commises par ou à l'encontre des fonctionnaires publics. Le juge Hoong a souligné que l'article 165 vise à protéger l'intégrité des institutions publiques. Contrairement à l'article 161, qui exige une preuve de l'intention de corruption, l'article 165 nécessite simplement que le fonctionnaire ait connaissance de la connexion entre le donateur et ses fonctions officielles.

### L'article 165 et infraction de corruption

L'objectif de l'article 165 diffère de certaines charges en vertu de la loi sur la prévention de la corruption. Selon le juge Hoong, il n'est pas nécessaire qu'un échange réciproque ait eu lieu pour que l'infraction soit constituée. De plus, la poursuite n'a pas besoin de prouver que l'auteur a agi avec une intention corruptible lors de l'acceptation du bien de valeur.

Les peines pour des infractions aux articles 5 ou 6 de la loi sur la prévention de la corruption peuvent atteindre sept ans de prison et des amendes allant jusqu'à 100 000 dollars de Singapour, ce qui est plus sévère que celles prévues par l'article 165.

Le juge Hoong a souligné que l'infraction porte atteinte à la confiance envers les institutions publiques. Si le public perçoit que les fonctionnaires peuvent être influencés par des offres de biens de valeur, cela sape la confiance et l'intégrité des institutions. «Les personnes qui occupent un poste public se voient conférer un statut et un pouvoir pour servir l'intérêt public, et accepter des cadeaux de personnes ayant un lien avec

## Singapour: L'ancien ministre des Transports condamné à un an de prison

leurs fonctions officielles constituent un abus de pouvoir», a déclaré le juge.

Étant donné que l'article 165 vise à préserver l'intégrité des institutions publiques, la dissuasion générale est au cœur de la détermination de la peine. Le juge a ainsi rejeté l'argument de la défense selon lequel la dissuasion générale aurait «une application limitée» dans le cas d'Iswaran, simplement parce que de telles infractions ne sont pas courantes.

### Comment la peine d'Iswaran a-t-elle été déterminée?

Le juge a indiqué qu'il n'y avait pas de précédents rapportés à Singapour concernant une infraction à l'article 165 pour orienter la peine. Cependant, des orientations pouvaient être tirées des affaires traitées sous la loi sur la prévention de la corruption, en tenant compte des différences contextuelles et des éventuelles sanctions. Pour arriver à une sentence, le juge a d'abord déterminé la «position punitive par défaut» pour l'infraction, en se référant aux peines aux deux extrêmes du spectre des sentences possibles, puis ajustées en fonction des facteurs aggravants ou atténuants.

Il a souligné que la perception que l'infraction se produit est en elle-même un type de préjudice, en raison de l'importance de la confiance et de la confiance dans les institutions publiques.

Iswaran a également restitué la somme de 380 305,95 dollars de Singapour à l'État un jour avant son procès prévu, ce qui se rapporte à la restitution de gains illégaux. Cependant, le juge a jugé que ces actions n'étaient probablement pas suffisantes pour remédier aux dommages causés à la confiance publique.

Finalement, le juge a déterminé que la



L'approche de Singapour en matière de lutte contre la corruption est souvent décrite comme rigoureuse et efficace, mais elle soulève également des interrogations. P - AFP

peine d'emprisonnement serait «proportionnelle à la culpabilité de l'accusé» et qu'elle ne serait «pas écrasante, compte tenu des perspectives et des antécédents de l'accusé».

En conclusion, le juge a déclaré que la dissuasion générale est la principale considération dans la détermination de la peine pour les infractions en vertu de l'article 165. Il a appliqué les lignes directrices du Comité consultatif sur la détermination des peines, accordant à Iswaran une réduction de 10 % de sa peine pour tous les chefs d'accusation retenus, sauf pour celui impliquant un vol à bord d'un avion privé.

S. Iswaran n'a pas indiqué s'il envisageait de faire appel de sa peine.

### Approche de Singapour en matière de lutte contre la corruption

L'approche de Singapour en matière de lutte contre la corruption est souvent décrite comme rigoureuse et efficace, mais elle soulève également des interrogations quant à sa transparence et à son équité.

**Une stratégie de "zéro tolérance":** Singapour adopte une politique de "zéro tolérance" envers la corruption, ce qui est louable. Cependant, alors que la dissuasion est essentielle, il est crucial que les peines soient proportionnelles aux infractions commises pour éviter une perception d'injustice.

**Manque de clarté dans la définition des infractions:** La rareté des cas traités sous l'article 165 soulève des questions sur la clarté des lois et leur application. L'absence de précédents rend l'application de la loi parfois arbitraire et peut créer un climat d'incertitude pour les fonctionnaires.

**Importance de la perception publique:** La confiance du public dans les institutions est essentielle, mais cela nécessite également une communication claire et transparente sur la manière dont les décisions judiciaires sont prises. Le processus doit être perçu comme juste et équitable pour maintenir cette confiance.

**Nécessité de la formation continue:** Les fonctionnaires publics doivent recevoir une formation continue sur l'éthique et les comportements appropriés pour éviter les infractions. L'éducation et la sensibilisation sont tout aussi importantes que les sanctions pour construire une culture de l'intégrité.

**Rôle des médias et de la société civile:** Une presse libre et une société civile active sont essentielles pour surveiller et dénoncer la corruption. L'absence de ces éléments peut mener à un environnement où les abus de pouvoir passent inaperçus.

En somme, bien que Singapour ait réalisé des progrès significatifs dans la lutte contre la corruption, une réflexion continue sur ses politiques et ses pratiques est, selon beaucoup de Singapouriens, nécessaire pour s'assurer qu'elles restent justes, transparentes et efficaces.

A. Bartleby

## Iran's rumoured 'kill list' topped by PM Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel defence minister

### BREAKING NEWS NETANYAHU VOWS REVENGE



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Pic - YouTube

A poster being widely circulated on X claims that Iran has an 'execution list' with several 'Israeli terrorists' that the country plans to eliminate amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The list of people that Iran plans to target, according to the X post, is topped by Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

The list, which is being circulated on social media by several Iranian X handles, has not been acknowledged by the government but the whispers from within Iranian military intelligence suggest that Netanyahu is the top target, reports Hindustan Times.

Other leaders from Israel who have been named in the list are Chief of General Staff Herzi Halevi and his deputy, Amir Baram, and the heads of the Northern, Southern, and Central Command - Major Generals Ori Gordin, Yehuda Fox, and Eliezer Toledani - and military intelligence chief Aharon Haliva.

The list also mirrors a poster shared by the Israeli military last month after it had eliminated top commanders of the Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force. The poster had the names of 11 Hezbollah commanders who were killed in a strike against the military group in Lebanon, reported The Times of Israel.

This list started circulating on social media shortly after a top Israeli minister said that the country should target Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei next, after the killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah.

"We should expect to strike government centres and possibly eliminate figures like Khamenei," a senior Israeli officer told The Jerusalem Post, hinting at the next course of action in the Iran-Israel conflict.

Iran launched a massive missile attack against Israel in response to the killing of Nasrallah, launching nearly 200 ballistic missiles at the country targeting its military establishments. Israel reported no casualties from the attack, while some of its facilities suffered some structural damage.

## Who is Claudia Sheinbaum? 5 things about Mexico's first female president

Claudia Sheinbaum's presidency is a historic milestone for Mexico. As the first female to hold the position in over 200 years of the nation's independence, the 62-year-old has shattered the glass ceiling in politics, creating a momentous occasion.

**Here are five things to know about the politician.**

### 1. A climate scientist

She has a background in science and a PhD in energy engineering. In an interview, she said, "I believe in science."

### 2. Former mayor

Before being elected as the president, she was the mayor of Mexico City. According to AP, during the pandemic, she took an approach for her city of nine million people, which was different from what former president López Obrador adopted at



Claudia Sheinbaum, current president of Mexico, is the first female to grace the position in more than 200 years of the nation's independence. Pic - HT

a national level.

### 3. First speech as head of state

"It's time for transformation, it's time for women," she said in her first speech as the president. "I'm a mother, a grandmother, a scientist and a woman of faith, and from today, by the will of the Mexican people, the president," she added.

### 4. 'Leftist' background

According to AP, Sheinbaum has

a far more "leftist" background than her predecessor, Obrador. Reportedly, during her university days, she was a part of several leftist youth groups. Her parents were part of Mexico's 1968 student movement.

### 5. 100 pledges

During her speech at the iconic Zocalo square, the president took 100 pledges. It included expanding public healthcare, providing education, building one million new homes, and capping prices for key goods.

Sheinbaum's government is set to present its first budget on November 15. Critics will scrutinise the budget to determine whether she will uphold her commitment to "reduce the fiscal deficit to 3.5% of gross domestic product from 5.9%."

## Russia's Lavrov says stands alongside China on Taiwan, other issues

Russia stands alongside China on Asian issues, including the criticism of the U.S. drive to extend its influence and "deliberate attempts" to inflame the situation around Taiwan, its foreign minister said in an interview published on Thursday.

Sergei Lavrov, in an essay published in the government newspaper Rossiiskaya Gazeta, also praised Beijing's approach to the war in Ukraine and said both countries wanted to eliminate the problems that Moscow says lie behind the conflict.

Writing to mark the Russia's 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations with China, Lavrov said Moscow and Beijing held close positions "in assessing the risks associated with the advance of the West in the Asia-Pacific region".

"The United States and its satellites deliberately stir up the situation in the Strait of Taiwan," Lavrov wrote.

"In violation of the 'One China' principle that they recognise, they are strengthening ties with the island's administration.

Russia's position on the Taiwan issue has been unchanged support for China's territorial integrity, expressed at different levels, including at the very top," he said.

Lavrov was referring to a core Chinese government policy that states Taiwan is part of China, reports Reuters.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has repeatedly vowed to bring democratically governed Taiwan under Beijing's control, by force if necessary. Taiwan's government rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims, saying

## Melania Trump sides with Kamala Harris' abortion stance

Melania Trump is ready to share her strong support for reproductive rights in her upcoming memoir, Melania. As highlighted in a copy obtained by The Guardian, the former first lady asserts that a woman's "fundamental right of individual liberty" includes the authority to terminate a pregnancy if she chooses. For days now, the former first lady has been busy promoting her book despite being absent from Trump's 2024 campaign events.



Melania Trump and Kamala Harris. Pic - FirstPost

She has previously voiced her stance on multiple topics, including the scrutiny surrounding her modeling career and the FBI raid at Mar-a-Lago, among others. However, her position on abortion contradicts Trump's views, particularly in light of his recent comments about a federal abortion ban and the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, reports Hindustan Times.

"Restricting a woman's right to choose whether to terminate an unwanted pregnancy is the same as denying her control over her own body," the former FLOTUS allegedly wrote in her new book, a copy of the same was obtained by the Guardian ahead of its upcoming release. "I have carried this belief with me throughout my entire adult life," she added.

"Why should anyone other than the woman herself have the power to determine what she does with her own body?" she asks in her book titled Melania, which Trump was seen promoting during his political rallies in the days leading up to the November elections, though he mentioned not being aware of its contents.

"It is imperative to guarantee that women have autonomy in deciding their preference of having children, based on their own convictions, free from any intervention or pressure from the government," Melania's strong support for abortion rights is striking, especially considering her relationship with the Republican candidate campaigning for anti-abortion stance.

only the island's people can decide their future.

This week, Xi said in a speech that Taiwan is an integral part of China's territory, while pledging to "resolutely oppose any separatist activities seeking 'Taiwan independence'". He added that "complete national reunification is an irresistible trend," the official Xinhua news agency reported.

\* Contd on page 14

## Viral post gives the real reason why JD Vance 'won' the debate, 'his Indian wife'

A viral tweet has hilariously "unmasked" JD Vance's secret debate weapon! Following the first—and likely only—debate between Tim Walz and the Ohio senator ahead of the presidential elections, an X post has taken the internet by storm. It puts a fun twist on Vance's strong debate skills, attributing them to the spirited discussions he has at home. With over a million views and thousands of reshares, the post suggests that his Indian lawyer wife, Usha Chilukuri, and her profession might just be how he practised for some great debates!

### Internet knows how Vance is so good at debating

An X account called, Dr. Parik Patel, BA, CFA, ACCA Esq., known for their witty commentary, quipped on X (formerly Twitter), "The reason JD Vance is so good in debates is because he has to argue with his Indian lawyer wife every day."

The tweet quickly went viral, with social media users joining in to express their views on the playful nod. While the debate was a close match—CBS News reported that



Democratic vice presidential candidate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and his wife Gwen Walz. Pic – The Daily Guardian

42% of viewers believed Vance won, compared to 41% siding with Walz, reports Hindustan Times.

Fans of the tweet are now crediting the Indian-American attorney as the real MVP behind Vance's debate performance! An X user quipped that Vance, who impressed voters with his poised arguments, "may just have had some extra 'practice' at home, thanks to his formidable lawyer wife."

"I'd like to see JD Vance debate Kamala Harris," another added, noting it would be interesting to see him clash with an opponent who also shares Indian heritage just like his wife. A third commenter remarked, "Indian

wife and a Harvard-educated lawyer? Hahaha! An Indian lawyer on top of that! He practises so much!" Epic! Why did you share his secret?

### Who won the vice-presidential debate between Vance and Walz?

The debate stood out for its focus on substantive issues, contrasting sharply with the earlier presidential debate between Harris and Trump, where personal attacks dominated. The senator was pretty open about saying he used to criticise Donald Trump, admitting he was actually wrong about him, but he dodged any questions about Trump's claims about the 2020 elections being stolen by Biden.

Both candidates talked about abortion, with Walz sticking to his record as Minnesota's governor and Vance trying to find a middle ground that matched Trump's views during his campaign. Trump then said he would definitely veto a nationwide ban on abortion on Truth Social, flipping his past views.

When asked if they'd back Israel going for a surprise attack on Iran, both candidates talked about how important it is for Israel to defend itself without giving a straight answer. The running mates while addressing the devastating storm Helene even had a differing opinion on the climate change and control.

## Melania Trump's chilling admission about Donald Trump: 'My worst fear... and it happened'

Melania Trump is finally addressing the failed assassination attempt on her husband, Donald Trump, after keeping tight-lipped following the second incident near their Mar-a-Lago estate, which resulted in the arrest of a man with an AK-47-style gun. In a rare interview on Fox News's Hannity, she alluded to the threats he faces, and shared her feelings about the intense scrutiny surrounding his presidency.

This comes after a copy of her new memoir, obtained by The Guardian, detailed her pro-abortion stance, echoing the position of the Harris-Walz team opposed to Trump's.

### Melania Trump 'not surprised' by Trump's assassination attempt

"I saw how they treated him, how the media was against him," the former First Lady remarked after host Sean Hannity questioned her views on Trump's threats and how it came as no 'surprise' for her. She reflected on her feelings during Donald Trump's first impeachment while he was still in office. "I think they are afraid of his strength, and he was leading this country with peace through strength," she added. So as soon he announced that he was running for the presidency, everything really changed. And I saw it, and I said, you know, this will not be very pleasant."

Melania, who's about to drop her memoir titled "Melania", has previously shared a synopsis condemning the FBI's 2022 raid on Mar-a-Lago, labeling it a big invasion of privacy and a warning for the American people. The promotional video for her memoir combines the text of the Fourth Amendment with impactful music and visuals of the Trump family's Florida residence.

"So I always said to him, 'What is next?' the former model added in her statement to Fox News. "In one way, you're not surprised, and with every event that happened, I kept thinking, 'What's next? What are they trying to do?' You always fear the worst, and then it happened," she continued. This marks a rare moment where the 54-year-old has openly discussed the assassination attempts or even mentioned Trump or the elections this season. She has largely stayed out of the limelight and his campaign, not attending debates or rallies. She only issued an official statement following the first assassination attempt during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, months ago.

## Catholic reform debate launched by Pope Francis leans away from ordained roles for women



Catholic reform debate launched by Pope Francis leans away from ordained roles for women. Pic – Telegraph Herald

As the second phase of Pope Francis' reform project began on Wednesday, the debate seemed to shift away from allowing women to take on ordained roles in the Catholic Church, focusing instead on expanding their leadership in other areas. This phase comes with an agenda prioritizing calls for women to assume more positions of responsibility within the Church.

Pope Francis presided over an opening Mass at St. Peter's Square, alongside 368 bishops and laypeople, who will meet behind closed doors for three weeks to discuss the Church's future and how to better meet the needs of Catholics today. Meanwhile, advocates for women's ordination staged a flash mob with the motto: "Don't Kick the Can, Women Can Be Priests."

Some contentious issues, such as ministering to LGBTQ Catholics and ordaining women as deacons, were left off the agenda after facing resistance during last year's session of the synod. These topics are being studied by parallel working groups, which provided updates on their

progress during the synod's opening session on Wednesday night.

In a highly anticipated report, Vatican doctrine chief Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández indicated that the conversation about women's roles was shifting away from ordination to focus on actual examples of women leading Catholic communities and exercising power without ordination. He noted that Pope Francis does not believe the Church is ready to discuss women's ordination as deacons yet.

"We know the public position of the pontiff, who does not consider the issue mature," Fernández told the synod. He emphasized that before addressing the possibility of women becoming deacons, other more pressing issues related to women's participation in the Church need to be explored.

Fernández referenced influential Catholic figures like Joan of Arc, Dorothy Day, and St. Teresa of Avila, suggesting that women can have a significant impact in the Church without formal ordination. The aim is to create more spaces for women to play decisive roles.

Pope Francis launched this reform process in 2021 with the goal of creating a more inclusive, humble, and welcoming Church, where lay Catholics have a greater voice alongside the male priesthood. The two-year consultation process sparked both hopes and concerns about the possibility of real change.

In his address on Wednesday, Pope Francis urged participants to set aside personal agendas and genuinely listen to one another. "Otherwise, we will end up locking ourselves into dialogues among the deaf," he warned, emphasizing the need to listen to each other and to the voice of God.

From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago7<sup>th</sup> Year No 284**MAURITIUS TIMES**

Friday 29 January, 1960

- *Criticism is like champagne, nothing more execrable if bad, nothing more excellent if good.* — Charles Caleb Colton



Peter Ibbotson

**Boycott S.A. Products**

**T**his is the British Labour Party's "Africa Year". As part of its activities to encourage the African, the Labour Party has asked its members to join in a boycott of South African produced goods.

This boycott, which the British TUC has also supported (in fact the TUC preceded the Labour Party in so doing), is being undertaken as a protest against the *apartheid*.

policies of the South African government. It is felt that a boycott of South African products will have an effect on the prosperity of, in particular, the South African farmer; and it is among the farmers and rural-dwelling whites generally that the South

African Government has considerable support.

The United Kingdom imports over £90 million worth of goods of all kinds from South Africa. One third of this is food and food products, fruit, for example, wine, and tinned fish. The fruit is mainly tinned or fresh, particularly oranges. The Labour Party and

TUC hope that members will refrain from buying products from South Africa, and will buy similar goods which have come from other countries. For example, South African sherry can be replaced by sherry from Cyprus or Australia; tinned fruit by similar fruit from Australia; table wines by French or Australian table wines; oranges by buying extra from Israel, and so on.

The opponents of the boycott produce two arguments against. They say, first, that the boycott will harm the African himself, by causing (if successful) unemployment on the farms. To this there are two answers. First, the farmer needs a number of workers to keep his farm in working order, whether or not he sells his produce. Unemployment may result, but not total unemployment. But, more important, the boycott has been asked for by the Africans themselves. The idea of the boycott originated in South Africa; the African National Congress has sought support for it all over the world wherever South African goods are imported and there is a chance of support forthcoming. The Congress has received the support in South Africa itself of a number of liberal white organisations.

The second argument is completely opportunist. If you disapprove of the South African government's *apartheid* policies so much that you are prepared to undertake trade sanctions against it, they say, why don't you also boycott goods from other countries where there are equally detestable policies being pursued by the governments?

Some people answer, "But we do boycott other countries' goods; we don't, for example, ourselves buy any sherry from Spain because we dislike the Fascist bestiality of Franco's regime."

Others say: "But we do choose our goods very carefully — we don't buy anything that comes from Formosa, for example." Others, however, answer this argument on the principle involved. They say: "A trade boycott aimed at South Africa is a boycott aimed at a country where such a Commonwealth country, and a friend of the UK's, and friends are more likely to take notice of such a boycott than a non-Commonwealth country would be."

The South African Government has said that if the boycott assumes significant proportions, then South Africa would have to consider cutting down her imports from the UK. Already, however, UK exports to South Africa show signs of falling, and were doing so before the boycott gained prominence. But if British workers did suffer because of their support for the boycott (which, remember, has been called for as a weapon against *apartheid*), it would not be the first time that British workers have been prepared to suffer themselves in support of a social principle. During the American Civil War, Lancashire cotton workers had no work for nearly three years because England would not buy cotton from the slave-owning Southern States and blockaded the Southern ports to prevent the export of cotton from the South.

I have no hesitation in saying that Mauritians too, like Englishmen, in the main are opposed to racial discrimination. *Apartheid* stinks in the nostrils of all decent Mauritians. There are no inferior or superior races; all races are, as races, equal. All members of the human family, whatever their race, are equal as persons, equal in human dignity. Policies which derogate from the human dignity of anyone should be combated by whatever means are possible and appropriate. Papal encyclicals have thundered against racial discrimination in the past, but it still goes on. Perhaps a trade boycott, on the material plane, may be more lastingly effective!

A boycott of South African goods in Mauritius would have great repercussions in the Union. And the Union Government could not retaliate with a threat to reduce South Africa's imports from Mauritius. Look at the figures for 1958, for example. In that year, Mauritius imported goods to the value of Rs 17.75 million; but South Africa imported from Mauritius goods valued at only Rs 220,000. Mauritius thus spent Rs 17.5 million more in South Africa than the Union spent in Mauritius.

What are Mauritius imports from South Africa which add up to this sum of Rs 17.75 million? For 1958 they were:

Food	Rs 6,188,878
Beverages and tobacco	Rs 575,884
Inedible raw materials (not fuels)	Rs 21,695
Fuel, lubricants, etc.	Rs 1,417,636
Oils and fats	Rs 1,502,241
Chemicals	Rs 1,334,478
Manufactured goods	Rs 4,133,524
Machinery	Rs 1,769,770
Miscellaneous	Rs 799,023

Most of the food is produced by farmers in whom lies the greatest strength of the Nationalist Government. It is the farmers who dictate the *apartheid* policy. If *apartheid* rebounds because of the boycott, the farmers will squeal, and the Government will have to change its *apartheid* tune.

What happens if there is a boycott in Mauritius — as I hope there will be — of South African goods? South Africa sells live and dead poultry to Mauritius; beef, pork,

bacon, sausages, tinned meat, milk (fresh, evaporated and condensed), cheese, eggs, fish, maize, oranges, grapes, jam, fruit of all kinds, wine and many other foods.

Alternative sources of supply are available in almost every case, and at no or very little more cost. Live poultry — Australia; beef — Madagascar and Kenya; pork — Kenya; dressed poultry — Australia & Holland; bacon — Denmark; tinned meat

— Kenya and Tanganyika; meat extracts China and Hong Kong; fresh milk, development of own dairy herds; evaporated and condensed milk — Australia and UK.; cheese-Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Holland; eggs — China; fish (tinned) — many countries including the USSR and Poland;

maize — Tanganyika; apples — Australia; wines — Australia and Cyprus; and so on. It should be possible to restrict the import of goods from South Africa to coal; other goods can be bought in other countries. Oranges? you ask. In 1958, half a million kilos of oranges were imported; one kilo per head during the year.

The details are irrelevant, in the main, however, what matters is that Mauritius has the chance to play a part in the boycott of South African goods, and a chance therefore to play a part in the fight against *apartheid* and for human dignity.

**Boycott South African Products!****In the Civil Service****Promotions and Appointments**

The following list of promotions in and appointments to the Public Service during the week ended 21st Jan, 1960, are released from the Colonial Secretary's Office:

**Promotions**

Mr I. Raghoobar, Overseer/Timekeeper, promoted Inspector Grade I, Public Works and Surveys Department.

Messrs M. Geoffroy and J. Alizart, Inspectors Grade II, promoted Inspectors Grade I, Public Works and Surveys Department.

Mr M.E. Derblay, Overseer/Timekeeper, promoted Assistant Surveyor, Public Works and Surveys Department.

Mr J. de la Roche, Guard, promoted Head Guard, Fisheries Branch.

**Appointments**

Messrs S. Dhoopun, S. Subramanien and F.A.T. Wang Fan appointed Clerical Officers

Mrs F. Marie, appointed Typist.

Miss J. Seenevassan, appointed Temporary Typist.

**Acting Appointments**

Mr J.L. Nairac, Deputy Director, to act as Director Public Works and Surveys Department.

Mr J.L. de Marasse Enouf, Senior Engineer, to act as Deputy Director, Public Works and Surveys Department.

Mr L.A.P. Vallet, Executive Engineer, to act as Senior Engineer, Public Works and Surveys Department.

# How the Middle East conflict could influence the US election

*Arab Americans look more likely to vote for Trump than Harris in the upcoming US election*

**A**s we near the first anniversary of the October 7 attack on Israel, the conflict in the Middle East has escalated significantly. Iran just launched nearly 200 missiles on Israel, and Israel has continued its fight against Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Hamas in Gaza.

In addition to the assassination of top Hezbollah commanders, including its leader Hassan Nasrallah, Israel has struck hundreds of targets in southern Lebanon, the Bekaa and the suburbs of Beirut in the past few days. It has also expanded the conflict to include a limited ground invasion into Lebanon.

Meanwhile, despite ongoing efforts by the US, the possibility of some kind of ceasefire in Gaza and the wider region seems ever more remote.

After the Iranian missile strikes, a US state department spokesman said: "We are not going to give up on reaching a ceasefire in Gaza because we believe it is the best way to free the hostages." But he later added, referring to Hamas, "you need both parties to engage and right now we have a refusal to engage by one of those parties".

It looks more and more likely that there will be no political win for President Joe Biden in the Middle East before the November 5 election, as his team had clearly been hoping. Some argue that this is partly because Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is hoping that Donald Trump wins in November, and that he could then draw the US into a confrontation with Iran.

## Ceasefire blocked

The US seemed to be making some headway on a ceasefire in July. But then came the assassination of Hamas political leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran (which Israel has not admitted to).

Some have argued that this was not only an attempt to draw Iran into the conflict, but a clear blow to the chances of a ceasefire. The more pragmatic Haniyeh was soon replaced by the more extremist Hamas commander, Yahya Sinwar.

**T**he US was again hopeful of a peace deal in September, but Netanyahu torpedoed the deal with last-minute demands. These included for armed men be barred from returning to northern Gaza during an eventual ceasefire, and that Israel retain control of the Philadelphi Corridor, a narrow band along Gaza's border with Egypt.

Reports suggested that Netanyahu was deliberately undermining negotiations and using delay tactics over the summer. But what is the political purpose of delaying peace?

Netanyahu is banking on Trump winning the election, and having a US partner that is easier to manipulate than Biden. Netanyahu has boasted that he was able to convince



Pic - cdnuploads.aa.com.tr

Trump to exit the Iran nuclear deal, a historic deal engineered by the Obama administration in 2015 to lift economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme. It was considered by many to be a step towards global peace.

Trump's controversial decision to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem — which Palestinians also claim as their capital — was also a symbolic win for Netanyahu and the Israeli right.

## Arab-American voting patterns

Despite Trump's unconditional support for Israel, many Arab Americans are more likely to vote for Trump (or at least vote against Kamala Harris) in November.

**J**ewish American voters have traditionally tended to vote for the Democratic ticket, with about 70% of Jewish citizens identifying as Democrats. This is important as there are sizeable Jewish communities in swing states such as Pennsylvania (with 433,000), Florida (with 672,000), and Georgia (with 141,000).

Recent polls show that 72% of Jewish voters back Harris against Trump. And while 75% of American Jews claimed that Israel is important to them, it ranked only 9th on a list of 11 issues in terms of importance to shaping their vote.

The same can't be said for the Arab-American communities, who have been devastated by the conflict in Gaza (and now Lebanon) and are angered by Biden's response to Israel. While the US has used diplomatic pressure to agitate for a ceasefire, it also recently sold Israel another US\$20 billion (£15.08 billion) in fighter jets and other weapons. This is one of the largest military packages since the beginning of the Gaza war.

Given a list of ten issues and asked to choose the three most important, 60% of Arab Americans polled chose Gaza, and 57% said the war in Gaza would influence their vote. This may explain why nearly 80% of Arab American voters have an unfavourable view of Biden (based on a poll taken in May). Only 55% have an unfavourable view of Trump.

Though Arab-Americans don't necessarily like Trump, they cannot stomach sup-

porting an administration that failed to prevent the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. They may either not vote or vote for a third-party candidate.

**A**nd Netanyahu is banking on this issue affecting the election in Trump's favour. Arab Americans constitute a critical voting bloc in swing states, such as Pennsylvania (126,000 Arab Americans) and Michigan (392,000 Arab Americans).

It's likely that the Jewish American vote from 2020 to 2024 won't change, but Arab Americans supported Biden nationally with 64% support in 2020, and in the key state of Michigan provided Biden with almost 70% support. This could tip the balance against Harris in a state that Biden won with only 154,000 votes.

Many Arab American voters are not convinced that Harris represents a departure from Biden — and in a poll conducted by the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Michigan in August, only 12% of Muslim American voters in that state support Harris.

These voters are demanding a ceasefire.

But we won't see a ceasefire anytime soon. Prior to the October 7 attacks on Israel, Netanyahu was fighting for his own political survival. Netanyahu, who is still on trial for criminal charges for fraud, bribery and breach of trust, has repeatedly discredited democratic institutions and was resisting public pressure to step down. After the attacks in Lebanon, Netanyahu is now rebounding in the polls in Israel. Netanyahu is facing less internal pressure for a ceasefire in Gaza, and is gaining more confidence that aggression will pay off.

**I**n our view, the more aggressive Netanyahu's government is (both in Lebanon and in Gaza), the greater the likelihood that Trump will be elected. This all works perfectly for Netanyahu as it could allow him to look beyond Lebanon and target his biggest obsession: Iran.

*By Natasha Lindstaedt, Prof, Department of Government & Faten Ghosn, Prof, Department of Government, University of Essex*

## Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.  
Mauritius Times

# How Spreading Misinformation is Like a Nuclear Reaction

In the current digital age, spreading misinformation is easier than ever. The internet's anonymity and advanced tools allow bad actors to distort the truth, making it challenging to distinguish reality from fiction. Understanding how falsehoods spread is crucial for effective countermeasures. Researchers in American Institute of Physics (AIP) Advances have created a new rumour model based on nuclear reactions, offering fresh perspectives on the dynamics of misinformation.

Existing models often liken rumour spread to contagious diseases but miss important behavioural factors. Wenrong Zheng highlights that traditional models treat rumour spread as a passive infection, ignoring the psychological influences at play. In the new model, individuals act as carriers, deciding whether to spread rumours based on personal interests.

This innovative perspective underscores the significance of rationality among internet users in curbing misinformation. The research suggests that higher



education levels facilitate questioning of dubious information. Additionally, the study advocates for proactive monitoring by governments and media to swiftly address and correct emerging rumours, thereby empowering rational citizens to inhibit misinformation spread effectively.

## Key Takeaways:

- Rumor Dynamics:** The new model compares rumours to neutrons in nuclear fission, illustrating how they can trigger a chain reaction among individuals.
- Behavioural Factors:** Unlike traditional models, this approach accounts for the psychological and behavioural influences on individuals when they encounter rumours.
- Role of Education:** Educated individuals are better equipped to critically assess and challenge misinformation.
- Proactive Measures:** Governments and media should engage in real-time monitoring of information to address and correct rumours promptly.

By understanding these dynamics, we can better equip ourselves and society to combat the pervasive issue of misinformation in the digital age.



## Is it bad to listen to music all the time? Here's how tunes can help or harm

*Listening to music and doing homework can be in harmony – as long as you turn down the volume.*



Keep the volume of your personal listening device at or below 60%. vm/E+ via Getty Images

Music surrounds us. It can be a companion throughout the day – listening on the way to school or work, checking out a favorite artist with friends, hearing it live at concerts and sporting events, enjoying or enduring it in stores and restaurants, and then listening again in the evening to unwind.

As meaningful and uplifting as music can be, it might also help you while studying, working on school projects and doing homework. As a clinical assistant professor of audiology, I can tell you the research shows that music can increase your focus and even motivate you.

This connection depends somewhat on the individual. Some people need silence while doing homework. Human brains are limited in their ability to multi-task, and some people are better at doing two things at once compared with others. The style of music, the activity you're doing and the effort it takes to complete the work also matter.

### Some types of music work better than others

Numerous studies have discovered how music can affect study and work habits:

1. Listening to instrumental or familiar music in the background competes less with a study assignment than music with lyrics or unfamiliar music. Instrumental music also seems to interfere less with reading comprehension and assignments requiring verbal and visual memory than does music with lyrics.

2. One study showed soft, fast music had a positive impact on learning, but loud and fast, loud and slow, and soft and slow hindered learning.

3. Upbeat music with a higher tempo may help when you're doing something requiring movement or motivation, such as exercising or cleaning your room.

4. The more difficult your task is – for

instance, memorizing material, problem-solving or learning something new – the more likely the music is distracting and people often need to turn it off.

But before listening to your favorite sounds while studying, don't miss an important detail: the volume.

### The damage begins early

Whether listening through speakers, headphones or earbuds, too high a volume can damage your hearing. It's known as noise-induced hearing loss, and it happens more often than you might think – those high-volume sounds can destroy tiny, delicate hair-like structures in the inner ear that help you hear.

Inner-ear damage can occur from a single exposure to an extremely loud sound or from repeated exposure to loud sounds over months or years. While some parts of the ear can repair themselves, the inner ear cannot fix itself.

Close to 1 in 5 Americans ages 12 to 19 – about 17% – demonstrate signs of noise-induced hearing changes in one or both ears, which could eventually lead to hearing loss.

### Volume, time, distance

How dangerous a sound is to your hearing depends on three things: the volume of the sound, the length of time you listen, and how close you are to the sound.

Sounds are measured in decibels, or dB, and the dBA scale reflects how the human ear hears sound.

Typically, sounds at or below 70 decibels are safe for listening. Conversations generally register at about 60 dBA, city traffic at about 80 dBA.

Sounds that may be harmful include lawn mowers, at roughly 95 dBA, rock concerts, at around 120 dBA, and fireworks, at about 140 dBA.

The World Health Organization suggests a sound allowance for weekly exposure, based on loudness. For example, you could listen to a 75 dBA sound for 40 hours per week. But listen to something at 89 dBA and that time allowance is drastically reduced, to about an hour and a half.

Signs you've been exposed to a dangerously loud sound include muffled

hearing, ringing in the ears and difficulty having a conversation from 3 feet (1 meter) away.

Although your hearing generally returns to normal after such an experience, there is a cost. This temporary shift in hearing could lead to permanent harm to inner-ear structures and ultimately damage your hearing.

### How to stay safe

Technology not available even a few years ago can now alert you of a risky listening environment. A sound-level meter app measures the sound around you to determine whether it's too loud. So can some smartwatches.

If listening through speakers, the sound-level app can warn you if your tunes are creeping toward too loud. When wearing headphones or earbuds, keep it at or below 60% of the volume allowed by your device. One rule of thumb: If someone else can hear the sound emanating from your headphones or earbuds when they are an arm's length away from you, the volume is too loud.

Use high-quality, noise-canceling headphones or earbuds to hear the audio at a safer, lower level. Some headphones also have volume limitations.

Use hearing protection, such as disposable earplugs or earmuffs, when you're around loud sounds, such as concerts, fireworks or a lawn mower.

You can also simply decrease listening time. Taking breaks lets you avoid overexposure.

Follow these tips and you should be able to enjoy your favorite music, games and conversations for decades to come. Pay attention to what music helps your concentration rather than distracts you, and your schoolwork might benefit, too.

Jillian Hubertz

Clinical Assistant Professor in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences, Purdue University



## The Dentist's Last Extraction

A dentist ran out of anaesthetic just before the last extraction of the day was scheduled. He provided his nurse with a large needle, instructing her to jab it hard in the patient's behind when he gave the signal, so it would take the patient's attention away from the tooth.

Everything happened in an instant. The nurse, patient, and pliers were in place. As the dentist gave the signal, the nurse pressed the needle into the patient's bottom while the dentist extracted the tooth.

Later, the dentist asked the patient, "Did it hurt much?"

The patient hesitated and replied, "I didn't hardly feel it come out, and those are really deep."

\* \* \*

### The Architect, Artist, and Engineer

An architect, an artist, and an engineer were discussing their preferences for spending time with their wife or mistress.

The architect mentioned that he was happy with his wife.

The artist stated that he preferred to spend more time with his mistress because of the passion and mystery he found there.

The engineer said he liked both. "If you have a wife and a mistress, they'll each assume you are spending time with the other woman, and you can go to your office and complete your work."

\* \* \*

### The Scientist, Engineer, and Mathematician

A scientist, an engineer, and a mathematician were staying in a hotel when a fire broke out in their



respective rooms.

The scientist woke up, saw the fire, and pulled out his calculator. He began working out fluid dynamics equations. After a while, he threw down his pencil, got a graduated cylinder from his drawer, measured out a precise amount of water, and extinguished the fire, not a drop wasted. He then went back to sleep.

The engineer woke up, saw the fire, ran into the bathroom, turned on the taps full blast, flooded the entire room, and thus put out the fire.

The mathematician woke up, saw the fire, ran over to his desk, and began working through theorems, hypotheses, and equations. After a while, he put down his pencil and exclaimed, "I have proof that I can put out the fire," and then went back to sleep.

\* \* \*

### Men will always be Men

Wife : How much do you love me?

Husband : I love U so much, I can't measure.

Wife : No just tell me...

Husband : Okay, I am like a cell phone & you are my SIM card, I am nothing without you...

Wife : Wow ! That's so romantic...

Husband (to himself): Thank God she doesn't know, this is a Chinese phone, with 4 SIM cards...



\* \* \*

### The Untrained Maid

Around the beginning of the 20th century, a society lady ran into the employment office one day and demanded a maid "right now".

It seems she's having a dinner party that night and her maid quit.

The guy at the agency explains that all the girls he has right now have just gotten off the boat from Ireland and are untrained. The lady says she'll train the girl but needs someone right away.

The agency man asks for volunteers, and Molly comes forward. She agrees to go and be trained.

Well, the dinner party comes and goes, and although some of the guests seemed to disappear now and then, everything works out just fine. Molly does a great job.

The next morning, the lady is walking down the upstairs hall and sees Molly in one of the guest rooms. It looks like she's making the bed, but she's just standing there.

Curious, the woman walks in and looks over Molly's shoulder. There on the bed lies a condom.



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The lady turns bright red and tries to laugh it off. "Why Molly," she says, "Surely you have those in Ireland, don't you?"

Molly swallows nervously and says, "Surely we do, madam, but we don't skin 'em in Ireland like you do to animals!"

\* \* \*

### Stinging an Idiot

A man comes running to the doctor, shouting and screaming in pain. "Please doctor, you've got to help me. I've been stung by a bee."

"Don't worry," says the doctor, "I'll put some cream on it."

"You will never find that bee. It must be miles away by now."

"No, you don't understand!" answers the doctor, "I'll put some cream on the place you were stung."

"Oh! It happened in the garden in the back of my house."

"No, no, no!" says the doctor, getting frustrated. "I mean on which part of your body did that bee sting you?"

"On my finger!" screamed the man in pain. "The bee stung me on my finger and it really hurts."

"Which one?" asks the doctor.

"How am I supposed to know? All the bees look the same to me!"

\* \* \*

### The Lonely Goalie

A blonde gets a job as a physical education teacher for 14-year-olds.

On her first day, she comes to watch the kids playing soccer. She watches as they all get together and start playing. However, she quickly notices a boy at the end of the field standing alone, while all the other kids are running around having fun.

She takes pity on him and decides to speak to him.

"You ok?" she says kindly.

"Yes," he replies.

"You can go and play with the other kids, you know," she says encouragingly.

"It's best I stay here," he says.

"Why's that, sweetie?" asks the compassionate teacher.

The boy gives her a weird look and says,

"Because I'm the goalie."

Life's Lesson**"I have no patience for anyone who does not deserve my patience"**

By Meryl Streep



**"**I no longer have patience for certain things, not because I've become arrogant, but simply because I reached a point in my life where I do not want to waste more time with what displeases me or hurts me.

"I have no patience for cynicism, excessive criticism, and demands of any nature. I lost the will to please those who do not like me, to love those who do not love me, and to smile at those who do not want to smile at me. I no longer spend a single minute on those who lie or want to manipulate.

"I decided not to coexist anymore with pretense, hypocrisy, dishonesty, and cheap praise. I do not tolerate selective erudition nor academic arrogance. I do not adjust either to popular gossiping.

"I hate conflict and comparisons. I believe in a world of opposites, and that's why I avoid people with rigid and inflexible personalities. In friendship, I dislike the lack of loyalty and betrayal.

"I do not get along with those who do not know how to give a compliment or a word of encouragement. Exaggerations bore me, and I have difficulty accepting those who do not like animals.

"And on top of everything, I have no patience for anyone who does not deserve my patience."

**Men, avoid these 9 types of women**

**A**s a man, it's never your duty to protect your woman from other men trying to approach her, or flirt with her. It's 100% your woman's responsibility to create boundaries against men who want to encroach on her space. The moment your woman begins to entertain these external male figures, your job is not to protect her from them, question her, beg, or try to stop her. No, absolutely not.

There is nothing you can do about a woman whose interests lie elsewhere. You will only hurt yourself if you try to change her. When a woman disrespects you by flirting with another man or allowing another man access to her life, your best reaction is to walk away and return her to where she belongs.

The boyfriend should be grateful she revealed her true nature before marriage. As a man, avoid these types:

**1. Promiscuous women:** These women constantly seek attention and validation from different men, making it nearly impossible to maintain a stable, trustworthy relationship. They lack loyalty and will bring nothing but heartache.

**2. Party girls:** Women who prioritize partying and nightlife over a stable relationship are not fit for serious commitment. Their reckless behaviour and poor decision-making lead to turmoil and instability, dragging you down with them.

**3. Materialistic women:** If she values material

**D**onald Miller provides practical advice and strategies for small business owners looking to expand and succeed in their ventures. Here are 10 key lessons from his book:

**1. Clarify Your Message:** One of the most important aspects of growing a small business is having a clear and compelling message. Miller emphasizes the importance of refining your brand story so that potential customers understand what you offer and why it matters to them.

**2. Understand Your Customer:** Knowing your target audience is crucial for any business. The book highlights the importance of understanding your customers' needs, desires, and pain points so that you can tailor your products or services to meet their expectations.

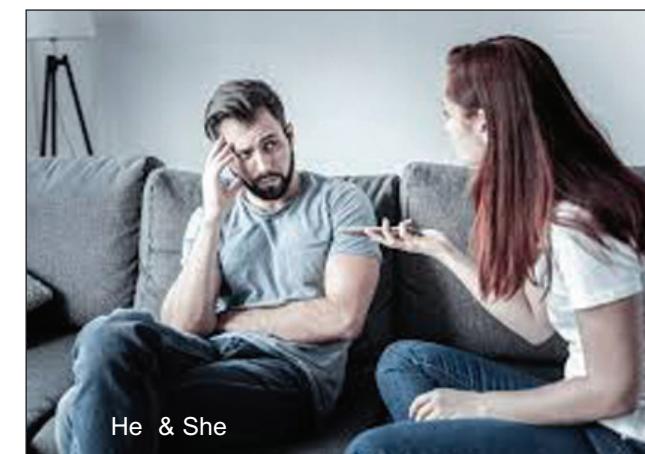
**3. Build a Sales Funnel:** Miller discusses the importance of creating an effective sales funnel that guides potential customers from awareness to purchase. A well-designed sales funnel helps you systematically attract, engage, and convert leads into loyal customers.

**4. Focus on Key Metrics:** To grow your business, it's essential to track and analyze key performance indicators (KPIs). Miller advises business owners to focus on metrics that directly impact growth, such as customer acquisition cost, lifetime value, and conversion rates.

**5. Create a Scalable Process:** Growth requires scalability. Miller emphasizes the need to develop processes that can be easily replicated and scaled as your business expands. This includes everything from marketing strategies to customer service protocols.

**6. Invest in Your Team:** Your team is one of your most valuable assets. Miller encourages business owners to invest in their employees by providing training, fostering a positive work culture, and empowering them to contribute to the company's growth.

**7. Leverage Technology:** Technology can be a



leadership.

**6. Violent women/women with anger issues:** These women can be unpredictable and potentially dangerous. Their inability to manage their emotions can lead to frequent conflicts and even physical altercations. They are a liability you can't afford.

**7. Women obsessed with social media, male attention, and validation:** These women crave constant external validation, which can undermine the stability of your relationship. Their need for attention can lead to jealousy, insecurity, and infidelity. They are never satisfied with what you give them.



powerful tool for growing your business. Miller advises small business owners to adopt tools and platforms that can automate tasks, streamline operations, and enhance customer experience, allowing them to focus on strategic growth.

**8. Prioritize Customer Experience:** Providing an exceptional customer experience is key to retaining customers and generating word-of-mouth referrals. Miller suggests that businesses should consistently exceed customer expectations and make every interaction positive and memorable.

**9. Adapt and Innovate:** The business landscape is constantly changing, and adaptability is crucial for growth. Miller encourages business owners to stay open to new ideas, innovate in response to market changes, and be willing to pivot when necessary.

**10. Set Clear Goals:** Finally, having clear, measurable goals is essential for driving growth. Miller advises business owners to set specific objectives, develop a roadmap to achieve them, and regularly review progress to ensure they stay on track.

These lessons from *How to Grow Your Small Business* offer actionable insights for entrepreneurs looking to build and expand their businesses in a sustainable and effective way.

**8. He & She**

possessions over meaningful connections, she will never be satisfied with what you provide. Her insatiable desire for luxury and status can lead to financial strain and emotional disconnect. She's likely to leave you the moment someone with deeper pockets comes along.

**4. Women with a bad past:** A history filled with problematic behaviours and poor choices can be a red flag for future issues. These women carry emotional baggage and unresolved issues that will negatively impact your relationship. You don't need someone else's drama in your life.

**5. Uncooperative women:** Women who refuse to be cooperative or show respect will only bring conflict and strife. A harmonious relationship requires mutual respect and understanding, which these women lack. They will constantly challenge your authority and undermine your

**YOUR LIFE IS YOUR OWN**

Don't waste it trying to be what others expect you to be. Don't sacrifice your happiness to make everybody happy. Don't give up on your dreams to build other people's dreams.

**YOUR LIFE IS YOUR OWN BE WHO YOU WANT TO BE.**



## Dealing with technology

# How to Break Your Phone Habit

A number of apps can show you how much time you spend on your phone and how long you're in each app. Even if you don't think you're on your phone too much, seeing the cold, hard numbers may inspire you to put it down. Here's how you can cut down the habit with tips medically reviewed by Nayana Ambardekar, MD of WebMD...

**1. Turn Off Alerts** It's easier to ignore your phone if it doesn't buzz every few seconds with a text, email, or social media update. They'll all be there, no matter how long you wait to check your phone, and you might feel better and more productive if you let them linger a bit. If you can't afford to miss important messages—like those from your spouse or child—you can customize your settings so that only specific texts come through.

**2. Put a Rubber Band on Your Phone** This serves as a reminder to turn off the part of your brain that acts without thinking. If a rubber band is too annoying, consider using a screensaver that asks, "Do you really need to get into your phone?" It might save you from spending 45 minutes mindlessly scrolling through pictures of farmhouses—especially if you realize you don't even like farmhouses.

**3. Get an Alarm Clock** Using your phone's alarm to wake up in the morning can lead to getting sucked into checking emails, texts, and social media. An alarm clock keeps your phone out of your hands for a little while longer. Other strategies include charging your phone overnight in another room and setting a specific time to check it in the morning.



**4. Go Cold Turkey** Some experts suggest going without your phone for three days. This can help you break bad habits and find healthier activities to replace phone use. You can gradually ease back into using your phone—starting with just calls and texts at designated times—then decide if you want to engage in other activities again.

**5. Tech-Free Time** If you can't imagine life without your phone for three days, set aside specific times in your household that are phone-free (you may want to include other digital devices as well). This could be an hour or so each evening before dinner or every Sunday afternoon. Use this time to go for a walk, play cards, or engage in board games—anything that encourages conversation and interaction.

**6. Plan Some Offline** Fun Try simple activities like reading a book or going to the park with your dog. There's no need to post pictures of these moments on social media. Instead, invite friends to meet you for coffee or a jog, and see them in person. Let them know you're turning off your phone; they may decide to do the same.

**7. Create Phone-Free Zones** Taking your phone into the bathroom isn't ideal—not just for hygiene reasons but also because it's beneficial to keep your phone out of certain areas of your life. Consider creating phone-free

zones for meetings, playtime with your kids, and driving. This practice can help you get used to being without your phone for short periods.

**8. Use 'Do Not Disturb'** Many smartphones have a setting that allows you to limit certain functions during specific times of the day. For example, you could silence all calls and alerts between 5 and 9 p.m. and after midnight.

**9. Get Rid of Apps** Those games are designed to keep you coming back for more, but you can break that cycle by deleting them. You may find that you can manage calls, texts, and emails from your phone while checking social media on your computer instead.

**10. Helpful Tools** Some apps can help limit your phone usage by locking you out of certain features during specified times or after you've spent a particular amount of time on them. Others offer encouragement or reward you with free time after you've completed activities, like walking 5,000 steps in a day.

**11. Talk the (Right) Talk** You're more likely to leave your phone in your pocket if you say, "I don't check my phone at dinner," rather than, "I can't check my phone at dinner." The word "can't" suggests denial, while "don't" implies a choice, which can affect your mindset.

**12. Manage Expectations** If you want to spend less time on your phone but are concerned that people will think you're rude or will get upset if you don't respond quickly, communicate your intentions. Let them know you're trying to break your phone habit, and it might take longer for you to reply.

**13. Trade Your Smartphone for a 'Dumbphone'** If the temptation of a pocket-sized computer is overwhelming, consider switching to a cellphone that can only make calls and send texts. It won't have apps or internet access, making it less distracting. Plus, it's typically much less expensive and may be just what you need to regain control over your time.

mantra. You can achieve 30 minutes of daily activity without a gym membership through simple lifestyle changes.

### Get Your Blood Sugar Checked

Fasting blood sugar measures sugar levels after not eating for 8 hours. Normal levels are below 100; 126 or higher indicates diabetes. Aim to get this test at least every 3 years.

### Get Screened for Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer often grows for years before spreading but is curable if detected early. The American Cancer Society recommends screening starting at age 45 for men with average risk. Unfortunately, many do not get screened, despite high incidence rates.

### Check for Hepatitis C

The CDC advises everyone aged 18 and older to get tested for hepatitis C, which is spread through blood contact. Many people carry the virus without knowing it, and early detection is crucial.

### Learn About Prostate Cancer Screening

Prostate cancer screening is controversial. While some early detection can save lives, it may also identify cancers that won't cause problems if left untreated. The American Cancer Society recommends discussing screening options with your doctor starting at age 50.

### Get a Flu Shot and Other Immunizations

Influenza is a leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. The CDC recommends annual flu shots for those over 50 and individuals with chronic conditions. Other recommended immunizations include:

- **Shingles vaccine (Shingrix):** For healthy adults aged 50 and older.

- **Pneumococcal vaccine:** Recommended for individuals aged 65 and older.

## Men's Health

# Should men take better care of their cars than themselves?

Health maintenance is just as crucial, and it's vital to prioritize your health

Routine health maintenance is essential for men. Regular checkups and screenings can catch potential health issues early, leading to better outcomes. By taking charge of your health, you can significantly enhance your quality of life and overall well-being. Matthew Hoffman, MD of WebMD lists down a few things that men should do for better health.

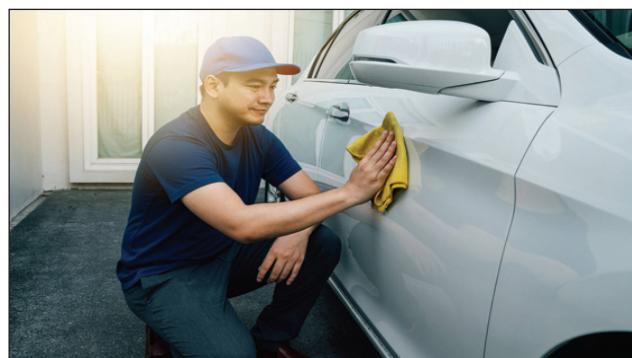
### Know Your Cholesterol Levels

Cardiovascular disease, primarily heart attacks and strokes, is the leading cause of death for men. While the death rate has decreased, high cholesterol remains a major preventable risk factor.

The American Heart Association recommends checking your cholesterol starting at age 20 and then every 4 to 6 years. A total cholesterol score below 200 is normal; scores above 240 are concerning. If your cholesterol and heart disease risk are high, your doctor may discuss treatment options.

### Check Your Blood Pressure

High blood pressure often has no symptoms until



significant damage occurs. Normal blood pressure is below 120/80, while readings of 130/80 and higher may require medication. High blood pressure can lead to serious health issues, including heart attacks and strokes, so aim to have it checked at least once a year.

### Refresh Your Diet

Both the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society advise eating more fruits and vegetables. A diet rich in plant-based foods can prevent diseases and promote better health by lowering saturated fat and calorie intake. Strive to make plant-based foods the focus of your meals.

### Step on the Scale

Three out of four Americans are overweight or obese. Your body mass index (BMI) helps assess your weight status:

- Normal: BMI 18.5 - 24.9
- Overweight: BMI 25 - 29.9
- Obese: BMI 30 or higher

Being overweight increases your risk for diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. "Move more, eat less" is a good



## These 7 Bollywood films will make you want to explore the world

Bollywood films often captivate audiences not just with their engaging stories but also with their stunning settings. Here are seven Bollywood films that will ignite your wanderlust and inspire you to explore new destinations:

### 1. Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara

This film takes you on a mesmerizing road trip across Spain, showcasing its breathtaking landscapes. It encourages viewers to embrace adventure, confront their fears, and create unforgettable memories with friends.

### 2. Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge

A timeless classic that transports you to the

where she discovers freedom, self-confidence, and joy. *Queen* illustrates that traveling alone often leads to profound self-discovery.

### 6. Dil Dhadakne Do

Set on a luxurious Mediterranean cruise, this film explores personal independence and family dynamics while inspiring wanderlust with its stunning views of Turkey, Greece, and Italy's coastlines.

### 7. Jab Harry Met Sejal

This film takes viewers on a delightful tour across Europe, including Prague's charming castles and Amsterdam's vibrant streets. The movie encourages deeper exploration of the continent's rich culture and history.

These films not only entertain but also motivate you to venture beyond your familiar surroundings and embrace the wonders of the world.

picturesque locations of Europe and the vibrant plains of Punjab. This iconic love story makes you yearn for beautiful destinations around the world.

### 3. Tamasha

Set against the stunning backdrop of Corsica and the bustling cities of India, *Tamasha* inspires viewers to explore their own identities while venturing into new and intriguing places.

### 4. Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani

With its enchanting scenes in Manali, Udaipur, and Paris, this coming-of-age film encourages you to embrace life's adventures and embark on spontaneous trips to experience different cultures.

### 5. Queen

Follow Rani's solo journey through Paris and Amsterdam,



## Kartik Aaryan on being an outsider in Bollywood: 'Have to fight to be treated equally'

Kartik Aaryan, one of Bollywood's prominent stars who doesn't come from a film industry background, has opened up about the challenges of being an outsider in the industry. In a recent interview with GQ India, Aaryan discussed the pressures he faced and his journey toward addressing mental health issues.

**On being an outsider:** Despite his success, Aaryan revealed that breaking into Bollywood as an outsider posed significant challenges. He shared, "It's harder to get the opportunities or your work recognized when you're not from the industry, and that does end up affecting you. You have to learn everything from scratch, find your own footing, and fight to be treated equally."

**On Mental Health:** Aaryan also expressed his desire to discuss his personal struggles with mental health to help break the stigma surrounding it. He reflected on how his career might have differed if he had received the same opportunities as those with industry connections. "It's taken a lot of introspection and inner work to realize that being an outsider is not a weakness. Everything that I have done so far is a product of my own hard work," he added.

**Upcoming Projects:** On the professional front, Aaryan is set to star as Rooh Baba in the highly anticipated *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3*. The film, which also features Vidya Balan, Madhuri Dixit, and Triptii Dimri, is the third installment in the *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* franchise. Directed by Anees Bazmee and produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar under T-Series Films, and Murad Khetani under Cine1 Studios, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3* promises to continue the success of its predecessors.

Kartik Aaryan's candid reflections not only shed light on the struggles of outsiders in Bollywood but also highlight his commitment to personal growth and mental well-being.

## BollyBytes



## Bobby Deol on wife Tania Ahuja: "She's the best thing that happened to me"

Bobby Deol recently expressed his profound admiration for his wife, costume designer Tania Ahuja, calling her the "best thing that happened" to him. In an interview with Humans of Bombay, the actor praised Tania for her steadfast support through the highs and lows of his career, describing her as his "backbone."

"She's the best thing that happened to me," Bobby

Deol said. Reflecting on his Bollywood journey, he acknowledged how fortunate he is to have Tania by his side. "I honestly feel that if it were someone else, they might have left by now. She stood by me and always believed in me. She is just amazing. She takes care of (all three). I always tell her she has three boys, and I behave like the youngest," he added.

Bobby Deol and Tania Ahuja, who married in 1996, are parents to two sons, Aryaman and Dharam. When asked how he knew Tania was the one, Bobby Deol responded, "I just knew. Something just happens. Everybody looks for that one person in their life. Things could have gone wrong, and no relationship is perfect. It's all about love, trust, and companionship. When you have your happiest or weakest moments, who do you want to be with? That counts."

In the same interview, Bobby Deol opened up about his struggles with alcohol addiction. He revealed, "During my low phase, when I hit the bottle, I didn't realize I'd drown in alcohol. I was torturing myself, and my family was worried. But the turning point was thinking about my kids—what kind of father was I being to them as an alcoholic? Something snapped within me, and I knew I needed to get out of this."

On the professional front, Bobby Deol was last seen in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Animal*, alongside Ranbir Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, and Triptii Dimri. The actor is set to make his debut in upcoming films like *Kanguva* and will also star with Alia Bhatt and Sharvari Wagh in YRF's spy actioner *Alpha*.

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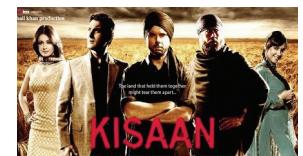


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MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 4 Octobre</b>				
07.27 Serial: Madam Secretary 08.50 Tele: Amour Secret 09.35 Film: Femme Ou Demon 11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Terre Nostra 13.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 14.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Monolith 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 21.14 Film: The Right Mom 22.41 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.30 Le Journal 00.23 Your Love Is My Fortune 00.49 Serial: Billions 01.40 Le Chemin Du Destin	06.14 Les Grandes Lignes 08.15 Local: Metie 08.33 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 10.29 Rodrig: J'ai Faim 12.00 Rodrig: Decouvertes 13.00 Local: Evasion 14.21 Local: J'ai Faim 15.53 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 16.57 La Journee SOUS Le Regard 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 00.51 Local: Retrovizer	07.00 Y Factor - Food Wastage 08.01 Local: Amrit Vani 10.14 Serial: Agniphera 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Bhakti Mein Shakti Starring: Dara Singh Randhawa, Satish Kaul, Bharat Bhushan 14.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 16.00 Serial: Isharon 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: Agneepath Starring: Viraj Bhatt 23.30 Serial: Mere Sai 00.22 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	06.25 Mag: Shift 06.38 Mag: Carnet De Sante 07.26 Mag: Tomorrow Today 07.52 The Battle Of The Hurtgen... 08.33 The Renewables Revolution 09.16 Doc: Iran From Above In... 10.45 Doc: Tsunamis 11.27 Mag: Eco India 11.53 Mag: Shift 12.10 Carnet De Sante 12.25 Mag: Border Crossing 12.53 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.23 The Battle Of The Hurtgen... 14.08 The Renewables Revolution 14.48 Mag: Travel 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.12 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 15.33 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.40 Film: Miraculous New York 16.36 D.Anime: The Treasure Island 17.01 D.Anime: Malory Towers	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.55 Serial: Doree 15.26 Film: Uvaa Starring Jimmy Shergill, Archana Puransingh 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.01 Udaariyaan 19.32 Dharam Patni 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.31 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.01 Anupamaa 21.31 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.27 Swaran Ghar 22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Uvaa 01.36 Kundali Bhagya
<b>samedi 5 Octobre</b>				
03.07 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: Hooten & The Lady 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: Titanic avec: Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet 23.30 Le Journal 00.15 Serial: Sublime Mensonge	06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 07.09 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 07.58 Local: Lir - Ekrir Kreol 09.07 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 10.34 Rodrig Prog: Nou La Ter 11.05 Local: Come On Let's Dance 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 13.21 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: Groov'in Mama Jazz 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: Lavi Zoli An XXL	07.48 Serial: Hamar Fitness 08.14 Local: Abhyas Yog 10.32 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 11.47 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 13.00 Dhwani Sitar Recital... 14.05 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 14.30 Mag: Talaash 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Jai Santoshi Maa Starring Nushrratt Bharuccha, Latit Tiwari, Sanjay Swaraj 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: Luv Phir Kabhie Starring Saurabh Roy, Arijita Roy, Meghna Patel & Narendra Bedi	06.00 D.Anime: Giant 07.19 D.Anime: Sissi 09.22 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 13.58 Doc: Better Brain Health 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.07 D.Anime: Denis Et Moi 15.08 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 15.33 D.Anime: Yo Yo 15.49 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.03 D.Anime: Sissi 16.17 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.40 D. Anime: The Treasure... 17.04 D.Anime: Malory Towers 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 20.50 Doc: Of Whales And Turtles 21.40 Film: Don't Breathe 2 23.18 Doc: Life On US	08.00 Swaran Ghar 10.13 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.01 Udaariyaan 13.56 Anupamaa 16.00 Fanaa 18.30 Film: Flight Starring Mohit Chadda, Ishita Sharma, Pawan Malhotra
<b>dimanche 6 Octobre</b>				
03.10 The Gardener's Daughter 04.43 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 05.10 Film: Titanic 08.17 Serial: Wanted 09.21 Film: Borrowed Time 10.50 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Film: Femme Ou Demon 15.20 Serial: Radhi Krishna 15.21 Film: Speed 17.15 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: The Assault 21.57 Serial: Wanted 22.41 Serial: Sublime Mensonge 23.33 Le Journal 01.10 Serial: Chicago Med 01.51 Mag: Red Carpet	07.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 08.24 Local: Groove'in Mama Jazz 09.50 Local: Saver Kiltirel 14.01 Local: Elle 15.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 15.35 Local: Messe Du Tourisme 17.15 Local Aktiv 17.35 Local: En Toute Intimite 17.05 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: Arsiv MBC-Fer Roule 00.11 Local: Mangeons Veg 00.35 Local: Nu Rasinn	07.00 Mag: Ayodhyadham 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 12.00 Film: Raju Chacha Cast: Kajol, Ajay Devgan, Rishi Kapoor 15.00 Samachar 16.00 Local: Durgotsav 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Planet Bollywood 19.30 Local: Tohar Farmash 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 Nibhail Sajna 23.54 Local: Planet Bollywood 00.58 Local: Tohar Rashi 01.13 Local: Tohar Farmash 01.20 Film: Raju Chacha	06.46 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 08.09 D.Anime: Earth To Luna 09.15 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 09.43 Les Nouvelles Aventures De... 09.52 Serial: Lost & Found Music... 10.37 Mag: Recipes For Kids 12.13 Mag: Afrimaxx 13.25 Doc: Life On Us 15.02 Les Nouvelles Aventures De... 15.29 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.33 D.Anime: Yo Yo 15.48 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.38 D.Anime: The Treasure Island 17.03 D.Anime: Malory Towers 17.30 Mag: In Good Shape 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Doc: By Train Along The East 21.42 Film: Three Doors From Paradise	00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 01.45 Udaariyaan 03.45 Anupamaa 05.41 Fanaa 08.00 Patiala Babes 10.00 Kundali Bhagya 12.07 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.38 Film: Kismat Konnection Starring: Shahid Kapoor, Vidya Balan, Vishal Malhotra
<b>lundi 7 Octobre</b>				
05.04 The Gardener's Daughter 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 07.30 Serial: The Equalizer 08.38 Tele: Amour Secret 09.35 Film: Mamma Mia 11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terre Nostra 13.18 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.13 Serial: The Equalizer 15.25 Film: Viceroy's House 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 2 Cast: Mark Gruner, Roy Scheider, Lorraine Gary 22.11 Tele: Heartland 22.53 Tele: Terra Nostra	07.47 Local: Sa Lavi-La 10.04 Rodrig: Komanter 10.43 Local: Le Challenge 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.35 Local: Clin D'oel 13.50 Local: Elle 14.16 Local: Arsiv MBC 15.17 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 15.58 Local: Les Klips 16.50 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 Local: Spotlight 20.30 Eclairage Economique 20.45 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 21.34 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 22.27 Lire - Ekrir Kreol 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Mag: Rangoli 08.02 Local: Planet Bollywood 08.29 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 09.29 Yaadein 09.55 Bahubali 10.35 Saaton Vachanwa Saath... 11.35 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Badi Maa 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.56 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaein 19.30 Local: Excerpts from Shiv Abhishek 20.40 Serial: Ramayan 21.03 Film: Daal Me Kaala With: Kishore Kumar, Nimmi 23.11 Serial: Mere Sai 00.03 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.29 Local: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 00.55 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaein	06.25 Doc: Legendary Hotels 07.08 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.34 Doc: Europe Revealed... 09.45 Looking For Life On Mars 10.32 Doc: Apart-Mothers In Us... 11.40 Doc: Legendary Hotels 12.26 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.34 Europe Revealed Energy... 15.01 Les Nouvelles Aventures... 15.07 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 15.28 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.33 D.Anime: Yo Yo 15.40 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 15.54 D.Anime: Sissi 16.15 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.37 D.Anime: The Treasure Island 17.02 Serial: Malory Towers 17.30 Doc: I Compute, Therefore... 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.00 Film: The Right Mom	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.51 Doree 15.25 Film: Kisaan Starring: Jackie Shroff, Sohail Khan, Arbaaz Khan
				



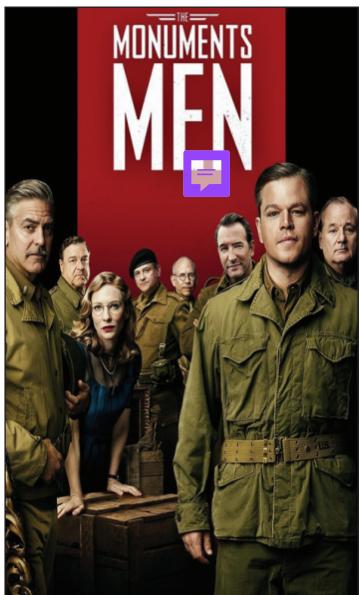
Mardi 8 octobre - 20.30



Mercredi 9 octobre - 20.30



Jeudi 10 octobre - 21.00



# Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 8 octobre</b>				
05.07 The Gardener's Daughter 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 08.39 Tele: Amour Secret 09.35 Film: Les Dents De la Mer 2 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 15.30 Film: The Right Mom 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: Fear Of Rain 22.08 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.01 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.30 Le Journal	07.30 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 09.35 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.40 Local: Lir - Ekrir Kreol 11.04 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei 12.03 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 13.07 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Tous Egaux 15.29 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: Metie 20.30 Local: A Sustainable Island 21.31 Local: Le Mag 22.23 Local: Mots Et Ecrits 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 23.19 Local: Music Tour 00.15 Local: Profil	07.28 Serial: Hollywood Songs 08.00 Local: Tark Vitark 08.26 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 09.52 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.01 Film: Maan Abhimanyu 15.21 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.47 Serial: Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Yatra 12 Jyotirling 19.00 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 20.15 Local: Gyan Vigyan 20.32 Mag: Shanti Ka Anubhav 21.00 Film: Zaroor Kaunno Baat Ba Bhojpuri 23.22 Serial: Mere Sai 00.14 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 Mag: Africa 54 08.43 Mag: Tomorrow Today 09.08 Mag: Washington Forum 11.06 Mag: Eco Africa 12.00 Mag: Africa 54 12.32 Mag: In Good Shape 13.24 Mag: Tomorrow Today 14.00 DOC: Albania's Last Trains 14.49 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De... 15.05 D.Anime: Denis Et Moi 15.47 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.03 D.Anime: Sissi 16.20 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.38 D.Anime: The Treasure Island 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: Don't Breathe 2	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.25 Film: Saina Starring: Parineeti Chopra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.06 Mithai 20.29 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.34 Serial: Swaran Ghar 23.04 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.21 Film: Saina Starring: Parineeti Chopra 01.52 Kundali Bhagya 02.21 Udaariyaan
<b>mercredi 9 octobre</b>				
07.31 Serial: The Equalizer 08.13 Tele: Le Temps D'aime 08.39 Tele: Amour Secret 09.30 Film: Monolith 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: Fear Of Rain 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: The Monuments Men 22.13 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.04 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.32 Local: Le Journal	07.05 Local: Metie 08.16 Local: Mots Et Ecrits 09.28 Local: Le Mag 10.20 Local: Rodrig - D'jam 10.49 Local: Music Tour 12.01 Local: Son Ladan Mem 12.13 Local: Metie 13.00 Local: Paroles Agricole 14.21 Local: Mots & Ecrits 16.17 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.48 Local: En Forme 17.03 Local: Music Tour 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: Encounter 21.11 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.37 Local: Les Klips 22.33 Local: Proze Dime	07.23 Bollywood Songs 08.26 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 09.26 Chikitsa Aur Swasthey 09.52 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 11.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Maan Abhimanyu Cast: Raj Kiran, Kavita Kiran, Yunus Parvez, Rameshwari 15.21 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.47 Radha Mohan 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yatra 12 Jyotirling 19.01 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 19.52 Local: Virasat 20.16 Local: Gyan Vigyan 20.30 Mag: Shanti Ka Anubhav 21.00 Film: Zaroor Kaunno Baat Ba Bhojpuri 23.22 Serial: Mere Sai	08.43 Mag: Euromaxx 09.13 Doc: Notre Dame De Paris 10.49 Doc: Japan Video Topics 12.06 Mag: Made In Germany 12.26 Mag: Global US 13.24 Mag: Initiative Africa 13.50 Mag: Euromaxx 14.16 Doc: Notre Dame De Paris 15.05 D.Anime: Denis Et Moi 15.29 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.34 D.Anime: Yo Yo 15.39 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.01 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.14 Serial: Hunter & Hunter 17.02 Serial: Malory Towers 17.30 Mag: Rev 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Travel 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.16 Film: The Demon's Child	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.16 Film: Lootere Starring: Sunny Deol, Juhi Chawla, Naseeruddin Shah, Chunky Pandey, Anupam Kher, Pooja Bedi, Ajit Vachani 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 20.31 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.00 Anupamaa 21.28 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.20 Swaran Ghar 22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.58 Film: Lootere Starring: Sunny Deol, Juhi Chawla, Naseeruddin Shah...
<b>jeudi 10 octobre</b>				
06.03 Tele: The Queen Of Flow 08.16 Serial: Le Temps D'Aimer 08.45 Tele: Amour Secret 09.35 Film: The Assault 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: The Demon's Child 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: Hum Do Hamare Do Stars: Rajkummar Rao, Kriti Sanon, Paresh Rawal 22.30 Tele: Terra Nostra 00.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune	07.18 Local: Toc Toc Doc 07.31 Local: Agir Ensemble 11.00 Local: Les Klips 11.48 Local: Rodrig Spor 12.40 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.06 Local: Encounter 13.26 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.37 Local: Proze Dime 14.53 Rodrig: Kot Nou 15.21 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 16.38 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 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.00 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 22.48 La Journee Sous Le Regard.. 23.00 Journal Rediffusion 00.15 Tele: Rodrig: Klip Seleksion	07.00 Mag: Devi Durga DDI Mag 07.25 Popular Hindi Songs 08.00 Local: Yatra 12 Jyotirling 08.15 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 09.15 Local: Virasat 09.31 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Ghar Dwaar Cast: Tanuja Samarth, Sachin Pilgaonkar, Raj Kiran 15.30 Sajwan Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.56 Agniphera 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.41 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.01 Excerpts From Durga Pooja 19.52 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 20.54 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.20 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala	07.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 08.40 Mag: Focus On Europe 09.12 Doc: Cured By Camel... 11.02 Mag: Motorweek 11.59 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.29 Doc: Bee-Keeping 12.54 Doc: Submerged Universe 13.21 Mag: Close Up 13.46 Doc: Cured By Camel... 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De... 15.05 D.Anime: Denis Et Moi 15.51 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.03 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.13 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.36 D.Anime: The Treasure... 17.03 D.Anime: Malory Towers 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.45 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.00 Film: US French	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.31 Film: Bewafaa Stars: Anil Kapoor, Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 20.24 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.02 Anupamaa 21.34 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Swaran Ghar 23.05 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.31 Film: Bewafaa Stars: Anil Kapoor, Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

# Fuite d'eau. Chasse aux Marrons

**E**n cette période de sécheresse et de réservoirs insuffisamment remplis, la Central Water Authority (CWA) semble ne pas accroître sa vigilance en ce qui concerne les fuites d'eau à travers l'île.

Depuis plus d'un an, les habitants d'une localité située derrière la boîte de nuit 'Les Enfants Terribles' à la Pointe-aux-Canonniers attirent l'attention de la CWA sur une fuite d'eau dans la rue, espérant que les tuyaux défectueux soient réparés.

La première intervention des agents de l'organisme public a consisté à colmater le tuyau de manière amateur, entraînant une fuite persistante.

Au fil du temps, la perte d'eau s'est transformée en un ruisseau vaseux, véritable repaire de moustiques.

Plusieurs appels lancés vers la CWA se soldent par des réponses expéditives et évasives, comme par exemple: «Nous allons passer demain. Nos techniciens s'occupent du problème.» Pourtant, personne n'est jamais venu dans le quartier.

Est-ce que le pays peut se permettre une perte d'eau permanente sans que les autorités concernées ne lèvent le doigt ? C'est incompréhensible. Ce manque de respect vis-à-vis du public, par des réponses infantilisantes et faussement rassurantes, est inadmissible de nos jours.

Selon certains observateurs de la gouvernance, il existe un laxisme, une attitude de je-m'en-foutisme, et un laisser-aller dans le comportement de certains services publics depuis quelques mois. Ce genre de désinvolture semble même délibéré en cette période de campagne électorale. La conscience professionnelle de certains fonctionnaires est remise en cause dans ce cas flagrant d'incompétence.

Alors que d'autres services publics font preuve d'une efficacité remarquable et d'une attitude positive envers la qualité du service, il ne manque jamais de brebis galeuses pour ternir le tableau...

Le ministère concerné est vivement sollicité pour prendre au sérieux les cas de fuites d'eau dans toute l'île. Il s'agit avant tout de respecter l'élément naturel qu'est l'eau, si vitale et sacrée pour la survie des habitants.

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## Priviléges d'un autre temps

L'accès à la plage a été réglementé pour permettre au public d'emprunter un passage tous les deux cents mètres entre les bungalows qui parsèment l'île, afin que les habitants des régions côtières puissent profiter du paysage littoral. Or, cette autorisation est bafouée à maintes reprises pour interdire le passage au public. Des cas de non-respect de cette loi existent aussi ailleurs que dans le nord de l'île.

Un accès légal, établi par acte notarial, permet aux propriétaires des terrains sur un périmètre s'étendant jusqu'à



Passage bloqué par un mur et des tôles ondulées servant de portes

la route côtière de la Pointe-aux-Cannonniers d'y accéder. Cependant, un terrain situé dans les environs de l'hôtel Le Canonnier a été octroyé à un groupe immobilier étranger pour la construction d'une résidence haut de gamme. Sans l'avis de qui que ce soit, ce groupe a construit un mur tout le long des terrains des autres, empiétant sur le passage qui devait être commun jusqu'à la route côtière, puis a fermé l'accès par un autre mur, au lieu de laisser le passage libre comme stipulé par la loi. Les propriétaires de ce groupe sont injoignables, et ceux présents sur le chantier n'exécutent que les tâches qui leur sont confiées. Silence, on développe!

C'est inacceptable. Nous connaissons le rapport de force qui prévaut lorsque les autorités doivent trancher entre les intérêts financiers d'un groupe au budget extrêmement important et ceux des citoyens ordinaires. Elles ne sont ni enthousiastes ni pressées d'intervenir. Faut-il toujours attendre que les propriétaires de terrains et de maisons fassent des pétitions pour que les autorités locales et le ministère interviennent ? Tel ne doit pas être le cas normalement... Les autorités concernées ont tout intérêt à obliger le groupe immobilier à respecter la loi. N'y a-t-il pas eu suffisamment d'exemples dans le passé du mécontentement des citoyens ? Faut-il rajouter encore et encore de nouveaux cas ?

Et il ne manquerait plus que ça ! Deux petites superficies de Crown Land donnant directement sur la plage et jouxtant les bungalows sont actuellement inaccessibles au public. Ces personnes se sont permises de fermer l'accès à ce terrain libre, qui ne leur appartient pas, par un grand portail cadenassé surplombé par une caméra de surveillance. Ainsi, elles s'érigent illégalement en propriétaires d'un espace public. Une première tentative des proches de cette famille, qui occupent l'autre bungalow, de commencer une construction sur ce terrain libre a rencontré une vive contestation des habitants du quartier.

En fermant l'accès par un portail, ces propriétaires retiennent l'exclusivité d'un espace libre, en plus de leur bungalow personnel, qui leur offre une vue magnifique sur

les îles du nord. L'autre terrain appartenant au Crown Land n'est pas verrouillé par un portail, mais les propriétaires de chaque côté font comme si cet espace leur appartenait, selon les bruits qui circulent aux alentours.

Il a fallu plus de quinze ans pour qu'un passage, maintenant libre, soit finalement ouvert au public.

Tantôt, c'était la propriétaire qui décidait d'exercer son contrôle sur ce passage en fermant le portillon avec un cadeau.

Tantôt, c'étaient les autorités qui faisaient la sourde oreille aux demandes des forces vives pour faire respecter la loi.

De l'autre côté de la plage, la propriétaire d'un bungalow avait eu l'idée maléfique de faire verser de l'eau bouillante sur les jeunes arbres plantés par l'État, afin d'empêcher les autres de se prélasser sur la plage publique. Elle a finalement dû se résigner à respecter la loi.

Cela montre combien il est difficile de faire évoluer les mentalités.

Nous demandons aux autorités que justice soit faite et que la loi soit appliquée en ce qui concerne les deux espaces libres qui donnent sur la plage. Nous ne voulons pas d'une justice à géométrie variable selon que l'on soit puissant ou non. Les personnes qui ont construit dans ce quartier l'ont fait grâce au fruit de leur travail, à un coût exorbitant. Elles ne sont pas héritières des privilégiés de l'époque coloniale.

Nous estimons que le gouvernement ne doit pas céder ces espaces aux particuliers richissimes pour les besoins sans fin de l'immobilier. On pourrait aménager un jardin d'enfants sur l'un des terrains, et laisser le public se relaxer, méditer et profiter du calme et de la vue magnifique sur les îles lointaines sur l'autre terrain. Est-ce trop demander ?

Il est temps d'éviter de rester cloîtrés dans une mentalité d'une autre époque : les temps ont changé. C'est le message que les propriétaires des bungalows, qui profitent de ces lieux depuis plus d'un siècle, devraient comprendre. La démographie explose, il faut savoir partager. Il est temps d'éviter d'éprouver les nerfs et la patience des habitants en les obligeant à recourir à moult pétitions. C'est une question de bon sens et de logique ou non ?

Faut-il rajouter que les nouveaux locataires des résidences de luxe dans le lotissement paient une bagatelle de Rs 100 000 pour un appartement ? Les locaux, ainsi que les nouveaux résidents, ont droit à une certaine considération.

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## Tree of Knowledge

# Finding Deep Strength

When we look back on our lives, we see that we have survived many trials...

We have all faced moments in our lives when the pressure mounts beyond what we feel we can handle, and we find ourselves thinking that we do not have the strength to carry on. Sometimes we have just gotten through a major obstacle or illness only to find another one waiting for us the moment we finally catch our breath. Sometimes we endure one loss after another, won-

dering when we will get a break from life's suffering. It does not seem fair or right that life should demand more of us when we feel we have given all we can, but this is the way life works.

When we look back on our lives, we can see that we have survived many trials and surmounted many obstacles, often to our own amazement. In each of those instances, we had to break through our beliefs about how much we could handle and go deeper into our hidden reserves. Think of it like a frozen lake: It appears impenetrable, but when we break through it, we find a deep reservoir. When we break through the thought that we don't have more to give or to even fall back on, we can find a well of energy and inspiration trapped beneath. Sometimes we break through by cut-

ting a hole in our resistance with our willpower, and sometimes we melt the ice with compassion for our predicament and ourselves. Either way, each time we break through, we reach a new understanding of the strength we store within ourselves.

When we find ourselves up against that barrier of thinking we cannot handle our situation, we may find that the kindest choice is to love ourselves and our resistance too. We can simply accept that we are overwhelmed, exhausted, and stretched and offer ourselves loving kindness and compassion. If we can extend the unconditional warmth of a mother's love to ourselves, before we know it, the ice will begin to melt.

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