

MAURITIUS TIMES

• Freedom is the right to choose – to choose one's beliefs, one's way of life, one's destiny. – Nelson Mandela

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"We are committed as a government to leaving a lasting legacy"

'We are all aware that we must meet the public's expectations for change. We will do whatever it takes to deliver results, come what may'

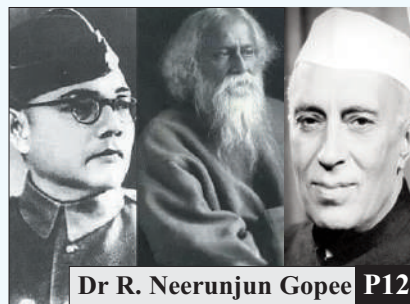


• 'We are a country at a crossroads.

With an ageing population and many of our youths and professionals leaving the country, we are heading towards a not so bright future if we do not take corrective measures...'

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Storm Clouds Ahead: Global Tensions, Local Challenges

The intensive two-day visit of Indian PM Modi as guest of honour to our National Day celebrations, was undoubtedly pregnant with significant moments ranging from the spiritual to the more mundane. The obvious chemistry between our political leaders, including the President, who hosted the State Banquet and had the privilege of conferring PM Modi with Mauritius' highest distinction, the Grand Commander of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, seemed to click and give credence to the birth of a new era of strategic partnership, a Maha Sagar as coined by the Indian PM.

In 2015, on his last official visit, Narendra Modi was still freshly elected as India's PM and so was SAJ, and both had numerous matters on their plate, which may explain the rather low-key event which left little lasting memories beyond the MOU towards infrastructure development on Agalega as part of the Indian PM's SAGAR initiative towards taking our relations to a budding strategic partnership.

10 years down the road in 2025, PM Modi is a sophisticated world statesman, ably helped by his astute and smart Minister of External Affairs Dr S. Jaishankar, India is on course to be the world's third largest economy and is undisputedly a naval/military power with thousands of miles of coastline on the Ocean we share and which is the object of much interest by many world powers.

The multi-polar world we live in is far more turbulent, where competition and cooperation have to constantly navigate choppy waters, the more so with President Donald J. Trump breathing fire and fury onto every conceivable Western ally and partner of the US including Canada, Europe and BRICS. His unilaterally decided and declared tariff wars have already sent New York stock markets into a nose-dive, losing trillions in dollar values in the past couple of weeks. As Canada, Mexico, the EU and China announce retaliatory tariffs and other strong counter-measures, an isolationist Trump, even under growing pressure of his nervous Wall Street billionaire friends, may have difficulties backing down without considerable egg on his face. There are real fears of a global economic recession, nobody could have predicted or wanted, except perhaps Vladimir Putin.

We need to remind ourselves that the Chagos deal concerning retrocession of our sovereignty looks to be still on the table after the Trump-Starmer meeting at the White House, but yet unsigned with the request for a US observer seat at our final negotiations with the UK. With the US administration running to the multiple fronts President Trump opens every week, it is doubtful if our best negotiators can say for certain when the clouds of uncertainty will settle down and the Chagos deal closed. Yet it is vitally important for the UK and Mauritius to put this issue behind us and look forward to a new era of cooperation for the developmental challenges ahead of us are both broad and deep.

As for fears of a global recession, these may yet be averted by Trump's billionaire donor club or the GOP's



Pic - Vecteezy

prospects in the upcoming midterm elections. However, jitters in Europe could have obvious repercussions on trade, as well as on our manufacturing and tourism industries — or even MK — all of which are still tottering on the post-Covid slope of recovery. Depleted reserves across agencies like STC, CEB, and CWA, low resilience at the Bank of Mauritius, a tenuous relationship with Moody's, billions in unpaid bills (including metro light rail and SADC contributions), and a legacy of towering debt hardly leave us in good stead for any potential stormy weather ahead — or even for rainy days, it seems, when an hour of heavy rain turns some towns into water-skiing stations.

Where did the billions go to? ask irate citizens demanding greater and faster accountability. Why have the MCIT, CCID and FCC not recruited dozens of investigators (some may be retired, others foreign sourced) to help handle the hundreds of files sleeping in dusty drawers? If government claims mafiosos were at the helm for years, the population is likely to ask pertinent questions. Where are enquiries about the shady deals at BoM and the infamous MIC, created to plug budget deficits, help key operators from going bust but also used to dole out billions in a frenzied splash to family, friends and cronies? Our investigative agencies are surely best placed to balance the need for greater transparency on the progress of enquiries with the necessity to protect the latter, but some fortnightly briefing by a central communicator about key progress elements would not be amiss.

After the intense flurry of activity around our National Day celebrations and PM Modi's visit, government will

certainly (or should) have its hands full with the lack of nominations at dozens of parastatals and agencies, including qualified chairmen and board members. Four months after taking office, this can look slow, even if one understands the need for some caution to avoid misfits. A few weeks down the road after that will come the municipal elections, long disregarded and postponed by the MSM and its allies. While the Alliance du Changement faces little risk of an upset given the current state of Opposition parties and figures — still reeling and on the ropes — candidate selection within its four-party alliance and the demands of campaigning will require significant time and resources. However, this does mean the agenda may become overly political in the coming weeks. Hopefully, though, some departments will still manage to get quiet work done on the economic planning front.

Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah
Aug 1954-Sept 2000

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

*This epaper has been produced with
the assistance of*

**K.Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally
& Kersley Ramsamy**

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India's Syncretism and Tolerance

Despite not being a "little India," our deep historical, cultural, and people-to-people ties with this economic giant inspire confidence that political dialogue can elevate our special relationship to new heights

Jan Arden

India's vastness, democratic values, tolerant Hindu ethos, and rich diversity are a legacy of millennia of history, predating the Vedic age and the Harappan civilization. The Harappans exemplified equitable trade in agricultural produce, building materials, silk clothing, and jewelry craft, fostering mutually beneficial development without land or resource grabs. Their metaphysical and spiritual belief in a Supreme Being did not necessitate forced conversions.

When that civilisation ended, probably through geological rifts and the drying up of the once mighty Saraswati River, many of their peoples migrated east, south or to the higher slopes of today's Iran. What was left was exposed to multifold experiences and events over recent centuries when a divided sub-continent failed to resist successive invasions by Turko Afghan and Mughal forces before suffering the indignities of colonisation by a more ruthless and conniving trading and merchant empire: the Brits. The Mughals, like previous invaders of the country, grew fond of India's opulent wealth and were in the process of becoming Indianised ceasing to regard themselves as strangers, notes Reginald Reynolds in his pre-War book «White Sahibs in India»:

«Akbar, the grandson of Babar, founder of the Mughal Empire, ruled from 1542 to 1605 over the greater part of India and maintained complete religious toleration. Already the Mughals, like previous invaders of the country, were in the process of becoming Indianised: they had ceased to regard themselves as strangers and had no home but India. Cultural forces had also been at work for years to blend the rival traditions of race and religion into what was slowly becoming a synthesis of Indian character.»

Regardless of whether that view was simplistic or naive, Portuguese missionaries denounced Akbar's perceived atheism, accusing him of "the common fault of the atheist, who refuses to make reason subservient to faith." Despite this, Akbar, a doubter with limited formal education, was the greatest political strategist of his age and arguably a benevolent despot. He bears a striking resemblance to Cyrus the Great, the beloved Persian ruler and founder of the first recorded empire, whose contributions have been overshadowed by Western focus on Greece as the cradle of civilization.

Orthodox Moslems did not like Akbar either, as a contemporary historian noted: «[by listening to local erudites and theologians] there grew gradually... the conviction in Akbar's heart that there were sensible men in all religions, and men endowed with

miraculous powers, among all nations. If some true knowledge was thus everywhere to be found, why should truth be confined to one religion?» Akbar's successors were pressured to end that syncretic legacy and some became cruel despots, leaving deep scars that linger to this day.

Yet under Bharat's vast welcoming umbrella, many alternative viewpoints of the Universe or sets of beliefs have found root or room to grow over centuries: Sikhism, Jainism and Buddhism being most often cited. The degree of spiritual freedom expressed so powerfully at the recent Kumbh Mela where hundreds of millions of all Hindu denominations converged at Prayagraj, is unparalleled.

India has made room for communities persecuted elsewhere from early Christians to Zoroastrians fleeing intolerance in their lands and many will proudly point to their economic growth into conglomerates as evidence of that tolerant Hindu ethos which makes India a fantastic land of opportunities for all who care to set aside their narrow victimhood or disruptive narratives. Hindu renaissance is neither aggressive, nor threatening as some portray, it is more simply a powerful reconnect with its ancient roots, without having to justify itself.

Today's Bharat against all odds and the West's largely biased narratives, has reinvigorated democracy at home, with more than 800m voters at Lok Sabha elections and invited its citizens under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi - elected massively for a third term in 2024 - to focus on the ideals of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayaas" ("Together with all, development for all").

In a speech to the judiciary (2021), PM Modi declared his attachment to the Indian Constitution: "On the strong foundation of separation of power, we have to pave the path of collective responsibility, create a roadmap, determine goals and take the country to its destination." His unassuming lifestyle and unrelenting drive to stamp out corruption in various Indian states has earned him grudging respect even from his most vocal critics. He is also a remarkable statesman able to talk with and hug leaders of the G7 or the G20, navigating the strong crosscurrents of the Ukraine conflict or the warring Middle-East complexities, with consummate deftness, while having largely restored pride to its enterprising diaspora across the globe.

Narendra Modi's visit to our shores as chief guest of our National Day celebrations has been a considerable honour bestowed both on Dr Navin Ramgoolam personally and on the country at large as Bharat has



“Narendra Modi's visit to our shores as chief guest of our National Day celebrations has been a considerable honour bestowed both on Dr Navin Ramgoolam personally and on the country at large as Bharat has been a steadfast ally in our progress. From hospitals to academia, from major infrastructure (e.g. the Metro, as yet unpaid for or the Agalega infrastructure) to maritime and helicopter patrol vessels, from IT industry, capacity building to national security, from geopolitical alignment on the Chagos issue to economic partnerships, the repertoire of Indian assistance and collaboration has undoubtedly been vast and multi-pronged, for which the nation can be immensely grateful...”

been a steadfast ally in our progress. From hospitals to academia, from major infrastructure (e.g. the Metro, as yet unpaid for or the Agalega infrastructure) to maritime and helicopter patrol vessels, from IT industry, capacity building to national security, from geopolitical alignment on the Chagos issue to economic partnerships, the repertoire of Indian assistance and collaboration has undoubtedly been vast and multi-pronged, for which the nation can be immensely grateful.

The fact that we share deep historical, cultural and people-to-people ties with an economic giant whose voice is heard and respected in many international fora (e.g. green energy, environment), though we may not be « little India », we are confident that the personal talks between our political leaders can take that special relationship to new horizons.

Mauritius has an extensive economic maritime zone to patrol and evaluate for undersea resources, and we will certainly need technical and logistical assistance that traditional allies like France and India can provide. Few, if any, countries would have gifted us the infrastructures developed on Agalega. We do not see the need to keep a

shroud of secrecy and opacity over the Memorandum of Understanding, since it is in both countries' legitimate interests. Through shared intel, improved logistics, or capacity-building, both can play an essential role in helping our services effectively prevent or deter drug trafficking in the region.

The damage done to our relationships with France over the handling of the Wakashio shipwreck, the distinct lack of cooperation in finally extraditing drug operative Franklin, and the abrupt end to the Mangalore oil supply contract must be set aside as we forge ahead. IT and financial sector collaboration can and should take us out of the era of reliance on property sales as the only new pillar of growth with a necessary revamp of the EDB's role, functions and oversight. Both France and India can also provide expert advice or assistance in a drive to uproot endemic corruption in our public procurement processes or to stem social media misuse that raises tensions.

At the time of writing, the main thrusts of this new era of India-Mauritius cooperation are not known but we are confident that chemistry and history aiding, we can confidently look to the future even on choppy waters.

Revisiting the Foundation: Mauritius' Constitution in the 21st Century

Long-term prime ministers risk building empires, as the previous government's last decade showed



Mauritius Constitutional Conference, London, 26 June - 7 July 1961

LEX

The Mauritian Constitution, adopted in 1968, has served as the bedrock of the nation's governance for over five decades. However, as society evolves, technology advances, and global norms shift, the question arises: is it time for a comprehensive re-evaluation? This analysis delves into the critical aspects of Mauritius' constitutional landscape, examining the need for reform, the lessons from international examples, the challenges posed by technological advancements, and the ongoing debates surrounding key political and institutional structures. Ultimately, we explore whether Mauritius is prepared to forge a constitutional framework fit for the 21st century.

*** Would you say that our Constitution, adopted at Independence in 1968, has effectively served the country and its people? And 57 years later, is it time for a comprehensive overhaul rather than continuing with piecemeal amendments that cater to specific political agendas?**

A Constitution is not a static instrument. When drafted, the founding fathers incorporated what they deemed the best options for the country at that time. However, as time progresses, loopholes emerge, new issues arise, people's needs evolve, and institutions may deviate from their intended functions. Therefore, a Constitution requires periodic review.

In Mauritius, numerous amendments have either solidified certain rights, such as the near-impossibility of postponing general elections, or created opportunities for abuse by concentrating excessive power in the hands of an individual.

After 57 years, a comprehensive review of the Constitution is overdue. The government, as stated by Attorney General Gavin Glover, has expressed a desire to undertake this task. The crucial factor is who will be responsible for the study and implementation of constitutional amendments.

*** It is said that Kenya's constitutional revisions serve as a successful example that could provide valuable lessons for Mauritius, as they offer stronger protections for rights compared to many other African countries. What are your thoughts on this?**

Every country has a Constitution designed for its own unique situation. Professor De Smith played a key role in creating the 1968 Constitution. He taught many of our political leaders, like Sir Satcam Boolell and Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, at the London School of Economics, where they studied law.

You can't just take one country's constitution and expect it to work perfectly for another. It's better to look

at different constitutions and pick out the best ideas. Simply copying and pasting would be a most dangerous exercise.

*** Are there specific areas in our Constitution that are now outdated or in need of revision to better align with contemporary values and aspirations — for instance, the recognition of same-sex marriage and the protection of LGBT rights?**

Mauritius is a signatory to several international conventions on human and economic rights, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Many of the rights enshrined in these conventions are not explicitly reflected in the Mauritian Constitution. A study should be conducted to explore how these rights can be incorporated. For instance, the right to privacy is not explicitly stated. Furthermore, the legal framework regarding discrimination is limited in scope. While the rights of women and children are protected through various legislations, they are not constitutionally entrenched.

Prior to October 2023, Section 250 of the Criminal Code criminalized sodomy. Following a Supreme Court ruling, this law was repealed, effectively decriminalizing same-sex sexual activity. The question of whether this right should be explicitly included in the Constitution is a sensitive matter that could spark religious debate.

*** How do global trends and technological advancements — such as AI, data analytics, and the influence of digital platforms on election outcomes — necessitate a reevaluation of the Mauritian Constitution?**

Technological advancements, including artificial intelligence and data collection, undeniably encroach upon individual privacy without informed consent, a concern currently lacking constitutional safeguards. The 'Moustass Leaks' during the last electoral campaign serve as a prominent example.

The manner in which these issues should be addressed within the Constitution requires meticulous consideration. Existing rights, such as freedom of expression and its inherent limitations, must be upheld. Conversely, the potential for abuse created by social media platforms necessitates regulation, and individuals should have access to swift redress mechanisms. These are complex matters demanding careful deliberation.

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Anil Madan

The Consequences of Retreat from Leadership

The shifting US policy towards Europe raises the likelihood of nuclear proliferation, evidenced by discussions of France extending its nuclear umbrella to Germany and UK preparations for potential US withdrawal from the Trident missile program

It is difficult to overstate the degree of shock and betrayal that Zelensky and Ukraine, not to mention European countries and Britain felt when the Trump administration pulled the rug out from under Ukraine's heroic defensive struggle against Russia's illegal and unprovoked war.

Andriy Zagorodnyuk was Ukraine's Defense Minister from 2019 to 2020. In an essay for *Foreign Affairs*, he wrote: "Russia's immediate objectives are clear: legitimizing its occupation, avoiding accountability for war crimes, evading economic collapse, exerting influence over Ukraine's security arrangements. Meanwhile, its long-term strategic goals remain unchanged: to subjugate Ukraine, weaken the Western security architecture, and establish a multipolar world dominated by a handful of powerful nations. A deal with the Trump administration that sidelines Ukraine would hasten both Russian short-term and long-term objectives while validating aggression as a legitimate strategy. If Putin emerges victorious after standing on the brink of failure solely because of a sudden shift in US policy, it will reshape global security in dangerous ways."

Whether President Trump's actions intended such a consequence, or whether he simply did not calculate the impact of his new policy approach in such stark terms, the reality is that we are witnessing a seismic shift in the way that Europeans and Britain think of Continental security without the US as a partner. To be sure, European and British leaders are both wistful about losing America's unconditional security backing, and at the same time, resolute about not faltering and being left defenseless.

Gaza and USAID

Aside from Europe and Ukraine, there are two other areas in which US policy has undergone a dramatic shift, one with apparently intended consequences, and the other not clearly so. The first is President Trump's announced intention for the US to take ownership of the Gaza strip, clean it of the rubble that is left, redevelop it and manage it into the future. The second is that the Trump administration said it is eliminating more than 90% of the foreign aid contracts of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and some \$60 billion in assistance worldwide, including assistance for humanitarian and health initiatives.

The reaction of Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank, and of the Arab countries has been resoundingly negative. Trump's intention to displace the Gazans from the strip while reconstruction is underway, is viewed as a nonstarter by the Gazans and neighbouring Egypt and Jordan. Only the Israeli right-wingers are enthusiastic supporters. The Gazans view any displacement from the strip as a likely permanent evacuation that will ultimately result in loss of their homes. Regardless of Trump's statement



Pic - Sky News

“Writing in *Foreign Affairs*, Gideon Rose offers this: “Why did France get the bomb when it was already covered by the American nuclear umbrella? Because French President Charles de Gaulle simply didn't trust Washington to live up to its security guarantees. Extended deterrence was a shame, he felt, and for Paris to be truly secure, it had no choice but to acquire a nuclear capability of its own. As he put it in 1963, ‘American nuclear weapons remain the essential guarantee of world peace... But it remains that American nuclear power does not necessarily respond immediately to all the eventualities concerning Europe and France...’”

that the US will own the strip, they see the threat of annexation by Israel as being exponentially increased if Trump's plan becomes reality. In effect, the Arab countries that have put forward their own plan for reconstruction have said NO to American leadership in this regard.

It is not clear how effective the Arabs will be in redeveloping Gaza and achieving a rapprochement between Israel and the Gazans which will necessarily involve curbing Hamas. Failure to end attacks by Hamas on Israel risks a new round of destruction if Israel should retaliate as it did after October 7, 2023. This is a delicate situation since Israel's cooperation will be needed if Gaza is to be rebuilt. It is difficult to imagine that an armed Hamas militia will be ignored by Israel. Nor is it realistic to believe that Israel will allow reconstruction of Gaza without ensuring that the tunnel structure is dismantled and no longer in existence.

What does seem clear is that the Arab countries are quite content to challenge American leadership in a way never done before.

The ending of American foreign aid around the world is likely not only to hurt the recipients of American largesse, but also to be a boon to China which continues to invest heavily around the world. America's abandonment of the poor, hungry and sick of the world and ending its support of so many programs that have extended soft diplomacy and goodwill around the world, mark a sorry retreat of

America's leadership. This will be a public relations coup for China and squander the goodwill built over the past seventy-five years.

The consequences of abandoning Ukraine and withdrawing American support that has long been thought of as the underlayment which holds up the Western alliance are profound. The most obvious is, of course, whether Ukraine can survive without American support. Following the debacle at the White House when Zelensky was berated by Trump and Vance, the US cut off supplies of military aid and as well intelligence support to Ukraine. Now that Zelensky has declared his willingness to accept an American ceasefire plan, that aid has been restored. This suggests that Trump does not intend to abandon Zelensky, but we have no comfort about making any predictions in that regard.

Nuclear Umbrella and Proliferation

Perhaps just as important is the likelihood that the changes we are seeing in US policy toward Europe will result in nuclear proliferation. There is already talk that President Macron is willing to extend France's nuclear umbrella to Germany and there are calls in the UK for Prime Minister Starmer to prepare for the eventuality that Trump may end cooperation on the Trident missile program which undergirds Britain's deterrence.

Writing in *Foreign Affairs*, Gideon Rose offers this: “Why did France get the bomb when it was already covered by the American nuclear umbrella? Because French President Charles de Gaulle simply didn't trust Washington to live up to its security guarantees. Extended deterrence was a shame, he felt, and for Paris to be truly secure, it had no choice but to acquire a nuclear capability of its own. As he put it in 1963, ‘American nuclear weapons remain the essential guarantee of world peace... But it remains that American nuclear power does not necessarily respond immediately to all the eventualities concerning Europe and France. Thus... [we have decided] to equip ourselves with an atomic force that is unique to us.’ The French called this the *force de frappe* — the ‘strike force.’”

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“If the upshot of a temporary ceasefire is that Russia simply rearms and regroups, the US will likely have missed an opportunity to work a meaningful peace through more pressure on Russia. Whereas Britain and some European countries have mentioned favourably the concept of stationing peacekeeping troops in Ukraine once a ceasefire is achieved, it is not clear that without a nuclear deterrent, these would keep Putin at bay. There seems little chance that either France or Britain will threaten a nuclear response in defense of Ukraine...”

Revisiting the Foundation Mauritius' Constitution in the 21st Century



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*** Key constitutional issues debated in recent years include the abolition of the Best Loser system, the requirement to declare one's community for electoral purposes, electoral reforms favouring proportional representation, concerns over potential instability from such changes, the concentration of power in the Prime Minister's office, and proposals for term limits. Addressing these challenges is a major undertaking. Is Mauritius mature enough to resolve them effectively?**

The Best Loser system was implemented to address concerns among minority groups, who feared political marginalization by the Hindu majority following independence. Has this system achieved its intended purpose? Can a member of Parliament who belongs to the so-called minority groups claim he can be elected only with only the votes of his own community. This is sheer nonsense. It is debatable whether a Member of Parliament from a minority community can legitimately claim to be elected solely by the votes of their own community. To suggest such a notion is inaccurate. It is time to reconsider the necessity of the Best

“Most institutions, with the exception of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the judiciary, are subject to political influence. Once appointed, the heads of these institutions often feel obligated to their political patrons. A mechanism should be incorporated into the Constitution to facilitate the removal of those who fail to perform their duties effectively. The defunct Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) serves as a shameful example...”

Loser system if the goal is to foster a sense of national unity.

A prime minister should be subject to term limits, ideally not exceeding three terms, regardless of individual term length. When a prime minister remains in power for many years, they may be tempted to build their own empire with the help of their stooges. This can lead to corruption and favouritism, which harms good governance. The last ten years of the previous government is a telling example.

*** The framers of the 1968 Constitution could not have foreseen a scenario where investigative agencies and quasi-judicial institutions would be weaponised to intimidate political opponents as we have witnessed during the past 10 years. Does this mean there are no safeguards in place to prevent or counter such abuses?**

A Constitution cannot anticipate all potential situations. When the framers drafted the Constitution, they expected that those appointed to head certain key institutions, such as the position of Commissioner of Police, would uphold their duties impartially. Unfortunately, this expectation has not been met.

Most institutions, with the exception of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the judiciary, are subject to political influence. Once appointed, the heads of these institutions often feel obligated to their political patrons. A mechanism should be incorporated into the Constitution to facilitate the removal of those who fail to perform their duties effectively. The defunct Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) serves as a shameful example.

*** How effective has the judiciary been in curbing Executive overreach? Many perceive that, unlike the Indian Supreme Court's proactive stance in defending fundamental rights, the Mauritian judiciary has been less assertive. Is this due to differences in judicial culture, or does it reflect weaknesses in the system of checks and balances?**

The Supreme Court's power to intervene in constitutional matters is prescribed within the Constitution. Judges are obligated to comply with constitutional dictates. Judges apply the law and contribute to its development through judicial interpretation. However, they cannot utilize their judicial power to legislate.

That being said, the Supreme Court has an impressive record of defending and upholding human rights in areas such as liberty, freedom of expression, discrimination, and LGBTQ+ rights.

*** The drafting of the 1968 Constitution involved not only local political input but also contributions from British and Indian sources, developed over a lengthy process. Today, do we have the capacity to undertake and successfully complete this exercise on our own?**

Yes, we can, but it would be helpful to get advice from experienced people from other countries, especially on constitutional and human rights issues. Learning from international experience is very important in these areas.

LEX

Breakfast with Bwana



Pic Daily Mail

“Perhaps just as important is the likelihood that the changes we are seeing in US policy toward Europe will result in nuclear proliferation. There is already talk that President Macron is willing to extend France's nuclear umbrella to Germany and there are calls in the UK for Prime Minister Starmer to prepare for the eventuality that Trump may end cooperation on the Trident missile program which undergirds Britain's deterrence...”

The Consequences of Retreat from Leadership

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Rose also recounts that John Mearsheimer (an American political scientist and international relations scholar) warned that Ukraine should not give up its nuclear arsenal in exchange for a supposed security guarantee. Mearsheimer postulated that Ukraine would eventually need to counter Russian revanchism and that maintaining a nuclear capability was the least problematic way of doing that. “Ukraine cannot defend itself against a nuclear-armed Russia with conventional weapons, and no state, including the United States, is going to extend to it a meaningful security guarantee,” he wrote. “Ukrainian nuclear weapons are the only reliable deterrent to Russian aggression.” But fears of nuclear proliferation outweighed fears of future wars, so post-Soviet Ukraine ended up with a purely conventional military.

Extending this argument to today's Germany, one can see that reliance on France or Britain to provide a credible nuclear deterrent is fraught. The cost of acquiring nuclear weapons may be prohibitive but the cost of not doing so may be deadly.

As for Ukraine, if the upshot of a temporary ceasefire is that Russia simply rearms and regroups, the US will likely have missed an opportunity to work a meaningful peace through more pressure on Russia. Whereas Britain and some European countries have mentioned favourably the concept of stationing peacekeeping troops in Ukraine once a ceasefire is achieved, it is not clear that without a nuclear deterrent, these would keep Putin at bay. There seems little chance that either France or Britain will threaten a nuclear response in defense of Ukraine. Ultimately, Ukraine's only defense may be to acquire some sort of nuclear capability. The thought of that is frightening, but it highlights the proliferation problem.

Cheerz...
Bwana

Interview: Jyoti Jeetun, Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning



Mauritius Times: During his visit to Mauritius, you had the opportunity to interact with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has played a pivotal role in elevating India's global standing and is leading its transformation toward becoming the world's third-largest economy by 2030. You've also notably reached out to him on social media, advocating for strategic partnership based on stronger economic ties. Beyond protocol and formalities, what do you see as the key significance of his state visit to Mauritius at this particular moment?

Jyoti Jeetun: Let's set the scene.

We are a small nation of 1.2 million people, and we have had the privilege of welcoming a global leader of the biggest democracy in the world to our small country. It is especially significant because some 70% of our population are of Indian origin. Whilst our ancestors arrived here more than five generations ago, the bond we share with India is still very powerful, be it in terms of language, culture or values.

The emotion one could feel during this visit is difficult to describe. And Prime Minister Modi delivered some very

“India is the land of opportunities given its projected growth trajectory. Prime Minister Modi is himself from incredible Gujarat, one of the fastest growing states in India, where the language of business and enterprise is spoken by one and all. It is in this perspective that the economic ties between our nations, particularly in financial services, can become the cornerstone of a strong long-term partnership. We have the benefit of having as ally an economic giant in the making with powerful historical, cultural and emotional bonds...”

“We are committed as a government to leaving a lasting legacy”

‘We are all aware that we must meet the public's expectations for change. We will do whatever it takes to deliver results, come what may’

In this week's interview with *Mauritius Times*, Jyoti Jeetun, the newly appointed Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning, shares her insights on Mauritius' evolving economic landscape. She discusses the significance of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, the country's untapped potential in trade and investment with India and China, and the crucial role of economic planning in shaping a sustainable future. With a background in business leadership, she also reflects on the challenges of transitioning to public office and her vision for revitalizing entrepreneurship, streamlining the public sector, and solidifying Mauritius' position as a global financial hub.

powerful rhetoric. What I retained is that we are all a big family as he called it, “*Hum sab ek hi Parivar ke to hai*”. Many people I met said they were moved to tears by the power of his words. Leaving politics aside, he was able to connect with our emotions as a nation, validating the bond between our two nations.

Now, let's look at India today — an emerging superpower in a world where geopolitical dynamics are shifting toward the East. Not only do we share a vast ocean, but we are also strategically located in the middle of the Indian Ocean where global geopolitics is at play. It is widely believed that the next conflict area is likely to be the Indian Ocean, which is why we see that this area has been of huge interest in recent years.

Now, we may be a small nation of just 1.2 million people, whilst India is the country of 1.4 billion people. But we share the same ambition for economic development and prosperity for our respective citizens. We aspire to achieve social and economic mobility for our people, just as Prime Minister Modi has outlined through the ambitious goals of the *Vikshit Bharat Abhiyan*.

This brings us to the significance of our relationship with India today. India is the land of opportunities given its projected growth trajectory. Prime Minister Modi is himself from incredible Gujarat, one of the fastest growing states in India, where the language of business and enterprise is spoken by one and all.

It is in this perspective that the economic ties between our nations, particularly in financial services, can become the cornerstone of a strong long-term partnership. We have the benefit of having as ally an economic giant in the making with powerful historical, cultural and emotional bonds. It is up to the private sector in Mauritius to seize these opportunities as they arise, while the government plays a facilitating role in supporting this collaboration.

*** Mauritius' ties with India are rooted in deep historical, cultural, and ancestral bonds, further reinforced by**

shared democratic values and strategic partnerships in investment and maritime security. However, it appears that Mauritius has yet to fully capitalize on the potential of its free trade agreement with India - as well as with China. What approach do you suggest for Mauritius to unlock the full advantages of its relationship with these two countries?

Indeed, we are at a very exciting time when the global economic power is shifting to the East. We, meaning the government and the private sector, cannot let this train pass by and miss it.

We have to jump on this train and look for every opportunity out there where we can do business. Whether it is inward investments to India and China or outward investments from these countries (for example to the African continent), we can be a key investment partner that brings value to India, China and Africa.

We will need to explore every opportunity that is mutually beneficial and connect the dots. We will need to tap on our strengths in financial services and services in general to ensure we maximize on these opportunities. And for all that we need to go out and market ourselves big time.

“Rebuilding the foundations of our economy will require tenacity and audacity from each and every one. Our vision is that we should aim to move away from this consumption-driven economy which is a recipe from hell. We are a country which imports most of what it consumes and *de surcroit* most of it in US dollars. We need to reduce our dollar dependency and start trading with India in Indian Rupees for example...”

*** You now hold the dual ministerial portfolio of Financial Services and the reinstated Economic Planning — a portfolio that was disbanded many years ago. This suggests that the current government has recognized the renewed importance of economic planning. What role do you see economic planning playing in shaping the country's future?**

Post the financial crisis, post Covid and the Ukraine war, nations and enterprises are grappling in unknown territories, uncharted waters. The world has become highly unpredictable and uncertain, not to mention the rapid pace of technological advancement, where innovations today can become obsolete by tomorrow.

In such an environment I strongly believe that you need to have a compass and know broadly which direction you are going and how you will get there. Our goal is to rebuild strong foundations for this country. Build a vision and a roadmap for the execution of that plan with clear targets and achievable goals.

● Cont. on page 8

'Social justice is essential in any society, but we must be cautious not to foster a culture of dependency'



● Cont. from page 7

This will allow us to align our national efforts, efficiently deploy our limited resources in an optimal manner and be future ready. The Government Programme 2025-2029 has demonstrated that our historical economic model is no longer fit for purpose. As Raghuram Rajan has so well said, we need to "break the mould".

Rebuilding the foundations of our economy will require tenacity and audacity from each and every one. Our vision is that we should aim to move away from this consumption-driven economy which is a recipe from hell. We are a country which imports most of what it consumes and *de surcroit* most of it in US dollars. We need to reduce our dollar dependency and start trading with India in Indian Rupees for example.

We will need to re-consider the sustainability of our traditional sectors, which have served us well in the past, but which no longer have competitive advantage. How do we reinvent these sectors? There is an array of potential new emerging sectors, however it is important to study each opportunity and assess their feasibility before allocating the limited resources that we have.

I believe that Economic Planning is

about working with the different ministries and putting a shared vision to ensure there is no sub-optimality in allocation of resources. I have said this before, but I must emphasize once again that the initiative to reinstate the Ministry of Economic Planning originated from the Prime Minister himself. And I am extremely flattered and inspired to have been entrusted with leading this critical mission. We are committed as a government to leaving a lasting legacy.

* **Having transitioned from a successful career as a CEO to your current ministerial role, what challenges have**

“As ministers, we must work through the civil service for implementation, which presents significant challenges. There is a lack of “*devoir de resultats*” or “*devoir de performance*”. The culture differs notably from the private sector in terms of performance expectations. There are multiple layers of bureaucracy, with a tendency toward delegation lower down and file-passing, while outcome tracking and monitoring systems remain insufficient...”

you faced in this transition, and how has your business background influenced your approach to economic planning? Many would argue that having a business-minded leader brings practical advantages to economic policy-making. How do you see your private sector experience shaping the country's economic future?

In the private sector what matters is business acumen, what matters is performance, and what matters is the end result. From that perspective, there is another mould to break, that of the public sector. We have been elected to a programme for change and people are expecting results, and rightly so. Without our public officials, we would be unable to implement the government's vision. We may have an excellent strategy, but as they say, the devil lies in the details and execution.

But as ministers, we must work through the civil service for implementation, which presents significant challenges. There is a lack of “*devoir de resultats*” or “*devoir de performance*”. The culture differs notably from the private sector in terms of performance expectations. There are multiple layers of bureaucracy, with a tendency toward delegation lower down and file-passing, while outcome tracking and monitoring systems remain insufficient. Speaking candidly, the accountability frameworks are not as robust as they could be.

The argument is always “we have to follow the procedures” as if in the private sector there are no procedures, and no internal and external audits. Following procedures is no reason to not deliver in a timely, efficient and effective manner. Every day lost is tax-

payers' money wasted, but who cares? I am sure many public servants are highly competent but are crushed by this system. We need to empower them and ensure the system works toward performance results rather than serving the interests of a few.

Just yesterday, Keir Starmer, the UK Prime Minister, announced a restructuring of the civil service to save money and improve efficiency. We should not forget that while private sector enterprises are forced to adapt and keep pace with the times, the public sector has always lagged behind. We are determined to bring about changes in the public sector to drive efficiency.

And here is some good news. Many of my colleagues in Government come from the private sector as well and there is quasi unanimity about the culture in the public sector. We are all aware that we must meet the public's expectations for change. Therefore, we will do whatever it takes to deliver results, come what may.

The Finance and Audit Bill currently under consideration in Parliament is reintroducing performance-based budgeting. This marks the first step toward accountability and results. So, *à bon entendeur!*

* **Would you say that sufficient synergy has been established among key institu-**

“I have been saying this throughout my campaign: aspiring for a job in government or the municipality is fine, but what will really bring prosperity is that we become *une nation d'entrepreneur*. This requires a generational shift in attitude, but we have to start somewhere — by bringing in role models, providing training, and creating opportunities within the right environment for entrepreneurs to thrive. Success breeds success...”

tions, including the Ministry of Finance, to ensure strategic economic planning translates into concrete action and demonstrably fulfils the government's commitments?

A high-level Steering Committee has been set up by the Prime Minister for the monitoring of results in the context of the Government Programme. Control and monitoring are essential, and there is a commitment from the highest level to deliver the change program to the people. This is a sort of Delivery Unit that was put in place by Tony Blair and the model was then followed by several countries.

I have always been a team player, and I am determined to involve as many departments as necessary to ensure that future economic strategies are consulted with, discussed and that there is a plan for implementation. I am not here to build sandcastles but to ensure that there is a clear implementation strategy and process for future generations.

* **In a recent podcast, you highlighted a concerning trend where many Mauritians now prefer government employment over entrepreneurship or private sector careers. How can we revitalize the spirit of the 'nation entrepreneur' that once drove our economic success, and what policy measures might reverse this shift toward government dependency while fostering innovation in these key growth sectors?**

Over the years, there has developed in this country a culture which is ‘*get yourself a government job*’ which means a secure source of income and a perception that it does not require too much effort. I have been saying this throughout my campaign: aspiring for a job in government or the municipality is fine, but what will really bring prosperity is that we become *une nation d'entrepreneur*. This requires a generational shift in attitude, but we have to start somewhere — by bringing in role models, providing training, and creating opportunities within the right environment for entrepreneurs to thrive. Success breeds success.

I have a younger sister who did not perform well academically. She was married, with two young children and an ailing father-in-law to care for. Since she couldn't take up a job due to her domestic commitments, we encouraged her to start her own enterprise.

She began in her back kitchen, working alone and traveling by bus to deliver her products. Today she is a thriving woman entrepreneur, employs a dozen people, has invested in modern production and processing facilities as well as refrigerated delivery van. She is supplying supermarket chains and exporting her products. She is constantly innovating and adapting to changing market conditions.

We need to create more awareness in every corner of the island, showcase the success stories, provide information and training, and facilitate access to finance.

● Cont. on page 9

'We are a country at a crossroads.'

With an ageing population and many of our youths and professionals leaving the country, we are heading towards a not so bright future if we do not take corrective measures...'

● Cont. from page 8

We also need to ensure a business environment where they have access to markets including fair procurement opportunities in the private and public sectors.

*** In light of the numerous challenges currently facing Mauritius, particularly the economic impacts of global inflation and geopolitical instability, what policy recommendations would you offer to foster resilience and stability?**

We need to fix our economic model and implement necessary reforms to ensure we are not living beyond our means. Remember, as a high-income country, we no longer have access to significant aid from international development partners. This makes it imperative for us to build economic resilience.

We have a dynamic and thriving private sector — not just the traditional private sector. We must leverage our bilateral ties to foster stronger economic partnerships through trade and investment.

We need to become a nursery for enterprise creation. We are a nation of highly educated individuals who can excel in service industries, just as we have in financial services, where many start-ups and self-employed professionals thrive. As a government, my goal is to facilitate growth and entrepreneurship so that businesses can generate jobs and drive our economy forward.

We are a country at a crossroads. With an ageing population and many of our youths and professionals leaving the country, we are heading towards a not so bright future if we do not take corrective measures and bold actions. We need a larger workforce, and there is no magic bullet. We must retain more professionals in the country and invest in training and capacity building to ensure upskilling and re-skilling. And take the tough decision of opening controlled immigration in certain sectors. Growth at the national level is being subdued due to shortage of skills. We need strategic decisions and bold reforms, and this is exactly what we are doing. We have to steer the ship in the direction that will create growth and employment. Economic prosperity for more people.

We also need to ensure that our limited financial resources are directed toward those who need them any society, but we must be cautious



“The origin of the financial services sector only goes back to some 30 years ago. Today it is the first pillar of the economy contributing to over 13% of GDP and employing directly nearly 20,000 people, mostly in well-paid jobs. This is perhaps the only industry which has grown to become the first pillar of the economy thanks to the pioneers, thanks to the entrepreneurs, many of whom did not come from the traditional private sector... The only barrier to entry is our own ambition...”

not to foster a culture of dependency among those who are capable of working. Policy reforms will be required to ensure we are not heading towards the iceberg or rocking the boat.

*** Another key sector in the Mauritian economy and that is on the way to become one of the most important engines of growth is the financial services. What are your key priorities for the financial services sector, and how do you plan to enhance Mauritius' position as an international financial hub?**

This question is very timely. This week, I had a Consultative Workshop with some 140 players in financial services comprising key government organisations, many entrepreneurs and leaders from the industry — banks, insurance, global business, accounting firms, law firms, tax advisors, fund managers, development partners and industry associations.

The origin of the financial services sector only goes back to some 30 years ago. Today it is the first pillar of the economy contributing to over 13% of GDP and employing directly nearly 20,000 people, mostly in well-paid jobs. This is perhaps the only industry which has grown to become the first pillar of the economy thanks to the pioneers, thanks to the entrepreneurs, many of whom did not come from the traditional private sector. And contrary to our traditional economic sectors, this is the sector with the most potential, as the opportunities and markets are vast. The only barrier to entry is our own ambition.

So, we took a day out and debated around core themes. What are our key challenges and how do we address these? Improving operational efficiency within our regulatory organisations is critical as there are many competitors out there from established centres like Singapore and Dubai to newly emerging ones like Rwanda, GIFT City, Egypt, etc.

Then what is the roadmap for the future? We reflected on our market segments and where we are positioned. We have lost the first position as FDI driver to India since the tax treaty was amended in 2017. We need to continue tapping on the investment flows to India. We need to grow our market share of the India business. We will be focusing a lot

on this. As India grows, so will the opportunities for Mauritius financial sector.

We also need to be in a pole position regarding investment flows in Africa. Be it in terms of climate or sustainable finance to the continent, we are well positioned to tap on the potential. Many DFIs, sovereign wealth funds and private equity firms that are investing on behalf of large pension funds are looking into Africa. We need to attract them to do more business with us. This will be the other key focus area.

We will also be working on innovation in terms of products in the Fintech space and the use of blockchain.

Then there is the issue of visibility and branding.



Mauritius has not been promoting itself well. We came out of the grey list. We need to let the world know that we exist, that we are a FATF compliant jurisdiction and that we are open to business. This is a highly competitive world with both established and emerging new financial centres all aggressively competing. From China to India, from Africa to Europe and the US, we need to meet the business leaders and promote our financial centre. We also need to bring more of these leaders to get to know Mauritius through flagship annual events — not just our financial centre but our beautiful country and all that it offers to international clients in terms of beautiful beaches, great food and why not some golf.

We need to be bold in our ambitions. We are putting in place an auda-

“We must retain more professionals in the country and invest in training and capacity building to ensure upskilling and retraining. And take the tough decision of opening controlled immigration in certain sectors. Growth at the national level is being subdued due to shortage of skills. We need strategic decisions and bold reforms, and this is exactly what we are doing. We have to steer the ship in the direction that will create growth and employment. Economic prosperity for more people...”

cious roadmap. The sector contributed 13.3% of GDP last year. Our aim is to increase the share to 15% over the next couple of years. And continue to build the momentum towards making the sector reach the bar of 20%. We know it is doable. The opportunities are out there.

*** How is Mauritius evolving from being perceived as merely a financial conduit to becoming a substantive value-adding investment partner in the Africa-Asia golden triangle?**

Indeed, we need to move to the next level in terms of value creation and not be limited to being a mere conduit for investment flows or become a back office for shared services for global firms. This is another key area of focus. Having more businesses setting up their headquarters in our financial centre, having more banks being established here and having more capital being raised here will all add to that value creation and take us to the next level.

We are in a very privileged position with two of the world's largest economic powers, India and China being at our doorsteps.

I am very confident that these are reachable goals. The quality of the high calibre presence during the workshop convinces me that operators have a deep hunger to grow their operations. I am going to invest fully into achieving these goals. I am fully committed to maximizing opportunities and delivering decisive results.



Vinaye Dey
Ancharaz

Rethinking Mauritius-India Economic Relations

While India's technical assistance and aid have made a significant impact on socio-economic development in Mauritius, and are welcome, trade and investment between Mauritius and India are skewed in favour of the latter. Whether the CECPA could help achieve more balanced trade and investment relations between the two countries remains to be seen

The official visit of the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, to mark the 57th Independence Day celebrations of the Republic of Mauritius is good opportunity to take a critical look at the bonds between the two countries with a view to strengthening them. These ties are rooted deep in history and culture and span many sectors. This article focuses on the economic relations between Mauritius and India.

Cooperation between Mauritius and India in the economic domain has been formally implemented through a panoply of agreements, including Indo-Mauritian Joint Commissions and, most recently, the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA), which came into force on 1 April 2021.

In theory, the CECPA represents a major opportunity for Mauritian exporters and investors to penetrate the large yet elusive Indian market. In practice, Mauritius' exports to India are negligible, and survey findings suggest that exporters have a fear of venturing into large markets since they lack the capacity to meet demand on a sufficient scale. If this does not change, the CECPA would do little to redress the trade imbalance between the two countries.

On the other hand, one doubts if the accord was driven by purely economic imperatives. Political-economy considerations are likely to have trumped any economic rationale, especially for a small country like Mauritius, which coincidentally also signed a free trade agreement with China (MCFTA) that came into effect on 1 January 2021. These events can hardly be dismissed as mere coincidence. Mauritius, it seems, has become the unfortunate battlefield in which the war for economic supremacy between India and China is being fought.

India's choice of Mauritius as the first African country with which to sign a trade pact is hardly surprising. Historical ties

aside, India may be eyeing Mauritius as gateway into Africa, an idea that Mauritius has also tried to sell to the Chinese – without much success up till now, it seems, given that the much-touted Jin Fei project is left in ruins. Will the CECPA suffer a similar fate?

This article is in two parts. Part I presents a brief analysis of Indo-Mauritian economic relations, focusing on trade, investment and aid flows between the two countries. Part II critically assesses the potential of the CECPA to enhance such relations in favour of Mauritius, thereby leveraging their power to boost sustainable development on the island.

India in Mauritius: a brief historical background and recent developments

India's presence in Mauritius is ubiquitous – the result of sustained cooperation between the two countries ever since newly-independent India established diplomatic relations with Mauritius, still under British rule, in 1948. Cultural and educational exchanges have been a key aspect of such cooperation, with the setting up of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute back in 1976, the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture in 1987, and more recently, the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre and the World Hindi Secretariat. India's assistance in the health sector is also gratefully acknowledged. The Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital, the Subramania Bharati Eye Hospital and the new ENT hospital were all financed through generous grants from the Government of India.

Moreover, India has a significant com-



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Technical assistance

Less visible are technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives. Mauritius is a major beneficiary of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, which has provided training to thousands of public officers, including the police, coast guard and defence forces. Thousands of Mauritians have also studied in Indian universities under scholarships offered by the Government of India, or at their own cost. Notably, Indian-trained Mauritian doctors have made significant contributions in the health sector, and Indian doctors are now a common feature in both public and private health care institutions. More generally, Mauritius has benefited

from Indian expertise in diverse areas, including maritime security, agriculture, fisheries management, science and technology, and education and health.

Aid

India's foreign aid policy has been rather subtle. For instance, it was not until 2008 at the India-Africa Forum Summit that India pledged to scale up its aid and lending to Africa, and this, largely in response to China's inroads into the continent, as signalled by the 2006 Beijing Declaration. However, Mauritius has been an outlier in India's aid policy. Both because of the cultural affinity between India and Mauritius and their mutual economic interests, negotiations for loans and grants from India have taken place regularly (at 2- to 3-year intervals) and in a structured manner since the first Indo-Mauritian Joint Commission held in 1979.

India has financed projects such as airport development, the construction of the cybercity in 2001, various schools and training centres, hospitals, sewerage projects, a science centre and an international conference centre, to name but a few. Before 2015, Indian aid was mostly in the form of grants; project costs were low; and India generally shied away from actually implementing the projects. This ensured greater local ownership of the projects, higher value added and a larger multiplier effect on the domestic economy.

All this changed after 2015. In May 2016, India offered a line of credit of \$353 million to finance a series of projects, including notably the metro, which would attract further financing from India over the years, the last installment being a line of credit of \$300 million and a grant of \$25 million in August 2022 for the third phase of the metro project. So far, the project has reportedly entailed investments amounting to Rs 20 billion. However, only a thorough audit would pin down the exact cost of the metro project and shed light on its feasibility.

The implementation of the light rail project marked a paradigm shift in India's infrastructure financing in Mauritius. Never before had a project been so big in scale, nor had India implemented any project it financed. Infrastructure works for the metro project were undertaken by Larsen and Toubro, an Indian firm, using mostly Indian workers and imported materials. This significantly reduced the multiplier effect of such a massive public investment project on the Mauritian economy. One can only hope that, in future projects of similar scale, the government of Mauritius negotiates the terms of engagement such that their economic impacts are maximized.

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Rethinking Mauritius-India Economic Relations

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Investment

The Double Tax Avoidance Treaty (DTAT) that Mauritius signed with India back in 1983 would turn out to be a major factor in Indo-Mauritian investment relations at the dawn of the new millennium. With Mauritius emerging as an international financial centre in the 2000s, Indian investors began using the country as a platform to set up and register companies, which would then invest out of Mauritius into India, thus qualifying for tax holidays available to foreign investors. This led to a sharp increase in Mauritian FDI into India.

For several years, Mauritius was the leading investor in India, ahead of powerhouses like the US and Singapore. Between 2000 and 2023, cumulative outward FDI from Mauritius into India reached \$175 billion, representing one-quarter of India's total FDI inflows over this period. However, FDI flows have dropped from \$15.7 billion in 2016-17 to Rs 6.1 billion in 2022-23. This sharp decline is due to a significant amendment to the DTAT in 2016 aimed at curbing the practice of round-tripping, which cost the Indian government billions in foregone tax revenues. The amendment was a major blow to the global business sector, which had come to thrive on Indian business.

Conversely, Indian FDI into Mauritius is rather small. Between January 2019 and September 2024, India has invested a total of Rs 4.3 billion in Mauritius, just 3.1% of the country's total FDI inflows over this period. Indian investments in Mauritius have generally streamed into sectors of key importance to the economy, such as textile and clothing, ICT, hotels, health care, and financial services.

Indian firms have contributed both to consolidating Mauritius' advantage in traditional sectors such as clothing and tourism, and in gearing the economy towards new avenues like ICT. FDI from India in spinning and weaving activities have helped Mauritius bridge its fabric gap and build a vertically integrated clothing industry capable of meeting stringent rules of origin for exports to the EU and the US.

India's recent investments in higher education and health care are in line with Mauritius' vision to develop the island into hubs of all sorts, including knowledge and medical hubs. Finally, India played an instrumental role in the setting up of the BPO sector, which today is in need of another big push. It is expected that, if India could leverage Mauritius as a gateway into Africa, Indian FDI flows to Mauritius could increase substantially. However, there is a risk that such investment is biased towards the real estate sector, which currently accounts for over two-thirds of all FDI into Mauritius.

Trade

Trade between Mauritius and India is lopsided and totally in India's favour. Merchandise imports from India

“The analysis so far suggests that, while India's technical assistance and aid have made a significant impact on socio-economic development in Mauritius, and are welcome, trade and investment between Mauritius and India are skewed in favour of the latter. Whether the CECPA could help achieve more balanced trade and investment relations between the two countries remains to be seen...”

increased sharply in the early 2000s to a peak of nearly Rs 40 billion in 2013 (see Figure 1). Imports have, since, hovered around Rs 30 billion, on average, recovering after a massive 42% decline in the pandemic year of 2020. Yet India remains the third largest supplier to the Mauritian market, after China and the UAE. Key imports from India include mineral fuels (accounting for 16% of total imports from India), pharmaceutical products (10%), motor vehicles (10%), cotton (9%), and cereals, notably rice (6%). Petroleum products were, by far, the single biggest import item from India between 2006 and mid-2019 when the supply contract with India's Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited was terminated. While the share of oil in India's exports to Mauritius has consequently shrunk, mineral fuels still dominate Mauritius' imports from India.

Conversely, Mauritius' merchandise exports to India have been flat and negligible since 2000 but have increased slightly to around Rs 2 billion in recent years. This increase in exports is hardly any cause for celebration, though. Scrap metals (iron, aluminum and copper) are Mauritius' main exports to India, accounting for just over half of total exports to India in 2024. Mauritius also exports some medical and surgical devices, vanilla and clothing to India, but these exports are tiny in value and are eclipsed by scrap metals and paper.

The gap between exports and imports remains glaring by any standard. At its peak in 2013, Mauritius imported 74 times more from India than it exported to the subcontinent. In 2024, this ratio was 16 to 1, still worryingly high. India alone accounts for 14% of Mauritius' overall trade deficit.

India's dominance also extends to services trade, an area where Mauritius has historically registered a surplus. Yet, with respect to India, Mauritius shows a deficit, with a



“In May 2016, India offered a line of credit of \$353 million to finance a series of projects, including notably the metro, which would attract further financing from India over the years, the last installment being a line of credit of \$300 million and a grant of \$25 million in August 2022 for the third phase of the metro project. So far, the project has reportedly entailed investments amounting to Rs 20 billion. However, only a thorough audit would pin down the exact cost of the metro project and shed light on its feasibility. The implementation of the light rail project marked a paradigm shift in India's infrastructure financing in Mauritius. Never before had a project been so big in scale, nor had India implemented any project it financed. Infrastructure works for the metro project were undertaken by Larsen and Toubro, an Indian firm, using mostly Indian workers and imported materials...”

tendency to widen in recent years as Mauritius' exports of accounting and financial services to India have declined.

Preliminary conclusion

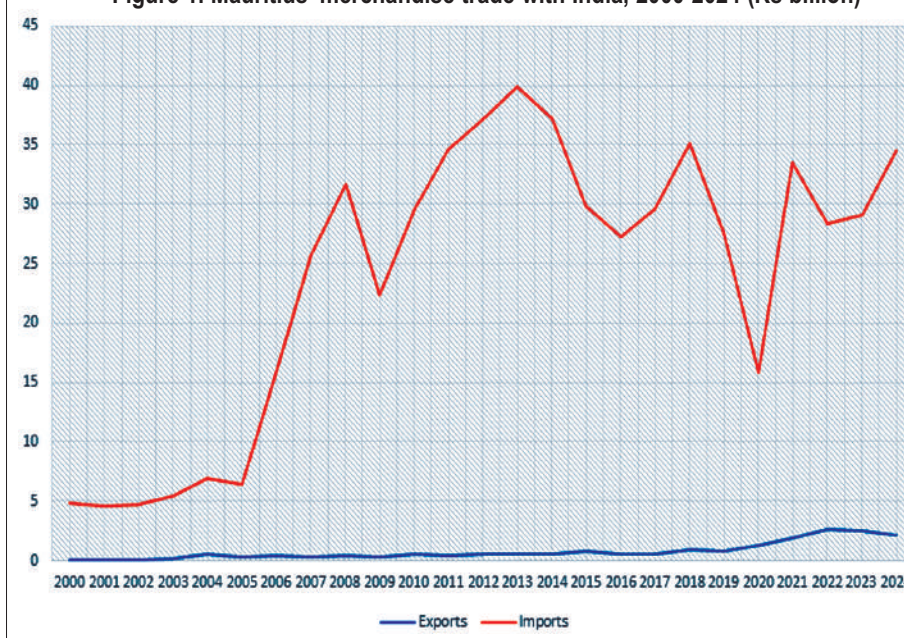
The analysis so far suggests that, while India's technical assistance and aid have made a significant impact on socio-economic development in Mauritius, and are welcome, trade and investment between Mauritius and India are skewed in favour of the latter. Whether the CECPA could help achieve more balanced trade and investment relations between the two countries remains to be seen. Part II of the article will delve into this question, and offer some insights based on preliminary analysis of the Agreement.

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Vinaye Dey Ancharaz

Figure 1. Mauritius' merchandise trade with India, 2000-2024 (Rs billion)





India: Encounters and Connections

What a great honour indeed that the Prime Minister of the largest democracy in the world and country, India, which also has the largest population at over 1.4 billion should grant us the immense privilege of once again visiting our tiny island, barely the size of a large district in India,

*Namo namah Pradhanmantri
Shri Narendra Modiji, swagatam.
(Respectful salutations, Prime Minister
Shri Narendra Modi ji, welcome!)*

His first visit as PM was in 2015, but he had been to this 'mini-India' 27 years earlier, in 1998, along with Union Minister Shri Murli Manohar Joshi, attending the International Ramayana Conference that was being held at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute. He was not as yet an elected politician.

I was also present at that Conference, and was fortunate to meet him with Rajendra Arun, who himself was from India and had settled in Mauritius and was a well-known scholar of the Ramayana, and probably two others whose names I do not remember. We had a conversation as we sipped tea in a small room next to the auditorium where Shri Yashwant Pathak, Vishwa Hindu Parishad coordinator in North America and Europe, was delivering his speech.

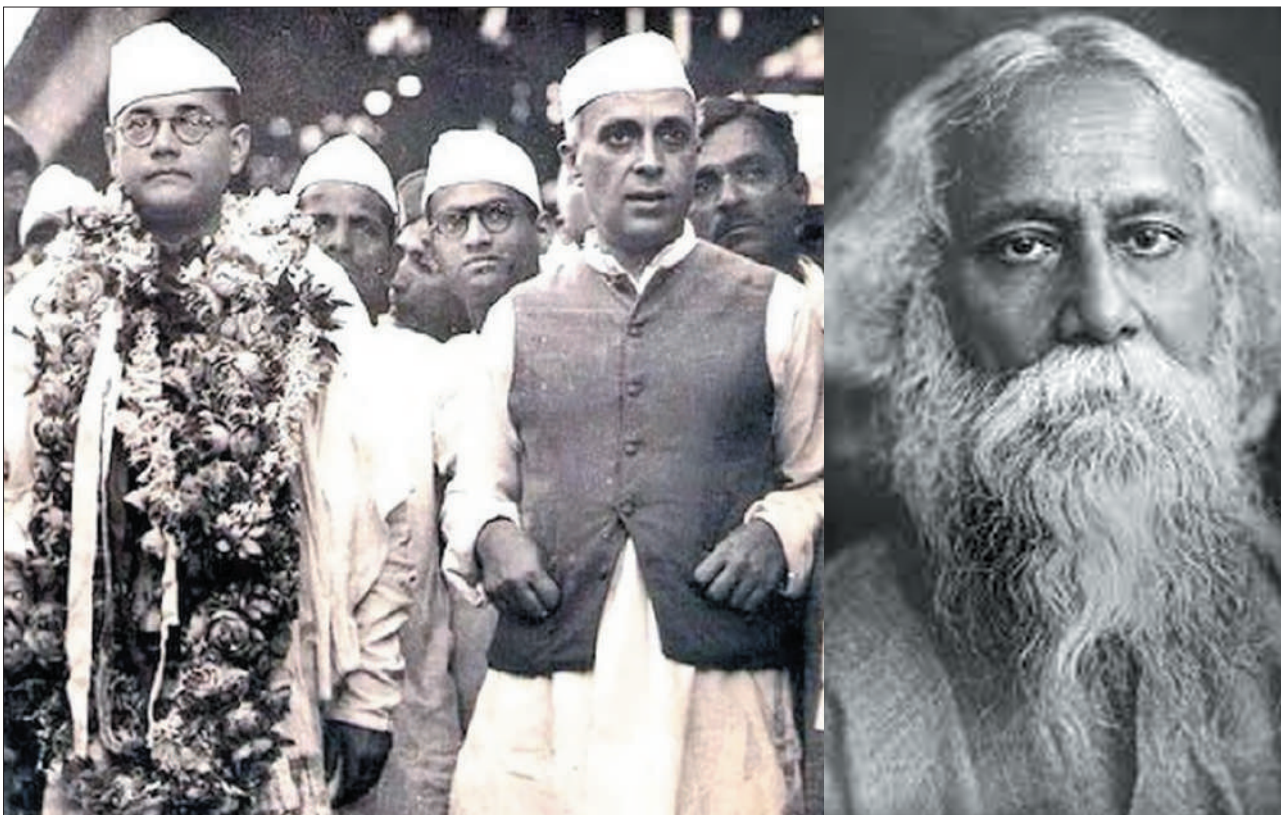
About twenty minutes later it was Shri Modi's turn to talk, and we all went in to listen to him. In those days my comprehension of Hindi was somewhat limited, and I could understand only about 50-60% of the words he spoke. But I got the essentials of his message. My take-away from his speech was twofold: his powerful, almost mesmerizing oratory and next, the fact that whereas all other speakers had interspersed their talk with English expressions, Modiji's speech was entirely in pure or *shudh* Hindi. Now I can understand the totality of his addresses in Hindi.

It was therefore quite natural that I should take an interest in his political career, especially from the time he was elected as Prime Minister in 2014. Whereas his first visit hadn't received as much coverage in the Indian press, this time round both the local and Indian media (with reporters from India on ground) is awash with every detail of this brief visit of less 48 hours. Areas of cooperation in various sectors between our two countries will be recalled, and emphasis laid on the strategic convergence of interest in the Indian Ocean from a maritime security and safety point of view.

So, I will leave it to the experts and analysts to elaborate on these, and instead focus on my personal relationship with Indian and things Indian, which reveal the more grounded aspects of our mutual bonds. I am sure this will resonate with many of us of Indian ancestral origin, who may have equally enriching tales of their own.

My earliest memory goes back to my childhood. In our sitting room there were framed pictures of Subhash Chandra Bose and Jawaharlal Nehru in black and white, and a painted colour portrait of Rabindranath Tagore. It was much later that I was to learn more about them.

There were also two large metal trunks kept under the old-style bed of my Dada (paternal grandfather) that con-



From left to right: Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

tained several brass utensils, such as large *thalis*, *lotas*, *catoras*, etc., which were taken to be used on special occasions such as pujas. The smaller sized ones were used on a daily basis.

I believe that my Dada had been to India in the 1920s. Sadly, I never got to talk to him about that before he passed and picked up only bits and pieces. He used to talk in Bhojpuri with the daughters-in-law and relatives who used to come. We children could understand but were not as fluent in speaking it. I improved when at the Royal College Curepipe I had classmates from Nouvelle-France who were more fluent. My spoken Bhojpuri became better when I was posted at the SSRN Hospital in 1972.

But also, at the RCC, Professor Ram Prakash who had come to Mauritius to introduce Indian languages in schools, I believe after the publication of the Ward Report, started to take us for one period every Friday afternoon as from Form IV until Upper VI.6, a total of five years. In line with the Rector H.B. Bullen's initiative, he set up and presided the Indian Cultural Society which, like the several other societies, used to meet once a week after class where we got to know more about Indian thinkers, philosophers, poets, writers and other aspects of Indian culture.

That's when I got to know more about Rabindranath Tagore, the illustrious son of Bengal who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for his work 'Gitanjali'. He had sent the English version that he had translated himself from Bengali to his friend the Irish poet and writer W.B. Yeats. The latter, according to what I have read, thought this was Nobel material. He also wrote an introduction to the book.

My connect with Tagore was 'renewed' when I went to study medicine in Kolkata (then Calcutta) in 1965, where his songs collectively known as Rabindra Sangeet used to be played daily on the radio, and I heard live singing by girl classmates when we once went on a picnic to Kalyani Garden by train from the city. They also dis-

played their dancing skills.

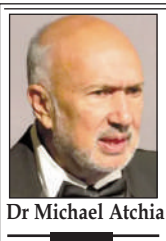
I had wanted to become a doctor, and the only way was to obtain a scholarship - short of becoming laureate which we already knew was going to be either Fan Lun or Fayolle: it was Fan Lun. When the results were out, I accordingly looked around as it was. A friend from RCPL had gone to Germany, and I tried my luck there as well, and was optimistic, and would leave sometime in August/September.

However, I had applied for the Indian scholarship too and was called for the interview in April 1965. I faced the High Commissioner of India Mr Mani, and Mr Derek Hollingworth who was delegated by the Ministry of Education. Before that he was at the RCC teaching history I think but had not been my teacher. I was selected and won an ICCR scholarship. From the very pleasant exchange that we had - the interview was more a like a friendly dialogue - I think that the fact that I had won the first prize in an essay competition organized by the Indian High Commission in October 1964 was a positive help in my winning the scholarship. The prize giving was held in early December with Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam presenting the prizes. Mr Mani, shortly after the interview began, had remarked, 'oh, you're the one who won the first prize.' The rest, as the saying goes, was for me history.

So I went to Calcutta, by a 48-hour train journey from Mumbai (then Bombay), after reaching there by an Air India flight from Nairobi via boiling hot Aden, landing in the early hours of the morning to face the stifling, humid heat of the city.

Point is, I had never chosen Calcutta in my application, opting for Patna, Bombay or Madras.

From Calcutta, my karmic journey took me to New Delhi for my internship. I got married there, and Delhi became my second home. I know that when I reincarnate that will be in India...



Dr Michael Atchia

From Gujarat to Mauritius: Gandhi, Modi, Atchia

From Porbandar town in Porbandar province came the most illustrious son of India, Mohandas K. Gandhi, the Mahatma Gandhi.

On his way to South Africa, Gandhi made a short stop in Mauritius (from 29 October to 15 November 1901). He was welcomed by fellow countrymen from Gujarat who had settled as traders in Mauritius and who organised his stay in the colony, including my grandfather A. I. Atchia. Despite his main mission being in South Africa, Gandhi enquired about the conditions of life of people of Indian origin living and working in Mauritius and met many of them. Seeing their dismal condition, Gandhi asked Manilal Doctor (1881-1956), an Indian-born London-educated lawyer, to go to Mauritius to represent the Indo-Mauritians in court and increase their awareness about human rights. He edited a newspaper here and later travelled to other countries, including Fiji and Aden. Gandhi's lessons on non-violence and his fight for human rights were then — and remain now — an example for the world!

From Vadnagar village in Mahesana province comes Narendra Modi, long-time Premier of the State of Gujarat...

... responsible, it is said, for the economic miracle of Gujarat, and then Prime Minister of the Republic of India since 2014, as leader of the BJP. He came to Mauritius for the first time — as chief guest on the occasion of the

anniversary of our independence — on 12 March 2015. And again today, 12 March 2025, as chief guest for the 57th anniversary of the independence of Mauritius. Since Modi took over in 2001, Gujarat's economy has vastly improved and continues to do so. As PM of India, he has made numerous reforms, both economic and structural, as well as playing a vital role in world affairs.

From Barbodhan village, Surat province, came many traders and other migraprefabricatedus, including Major Atchia (Amode Ibrahim Atchia)...

... a local pioneer in the field of technology: hydro-power at Réduit (1906), solar energy (salt-making at Roche-Bois), wind energy (for pumping seawater), as well as in pre-fabricated concrete, ice-making and, with his chain of cinemas, in the entertainment field.

Other families included the well-known names of Rawat, Kalla, Jeewa, Patel, and Ghanty. They either sailed from the port of Surat or from Bombay to come here from the mid-19th century.

From early times, Barbodhians were interested in trade and commerce and travelled to foreign lands, undertaking

long sea voyages. People left Barbodhan in the early 19th century to settle in Burma, where they established many businesses and were great entrepreneurs. Then, from the 1840s, many other emigrants from Barbodhan came to Mauritius, where they were later responsible for introducing hydroelectric power, as well as being involved in other trading and business concerns. The first Muslim mayor in Mauritius was originally from Barbodhan. Despite the fact that Barbodhan is only a small village, its people have made valuable contributions to societies around the world.



Mahatma Gandhi leading satyagrahis during the historic march to Dandi in March 1930. (National Gandhi Museum) Pic - Hindustan Times

Some common surnames attributed to the village and still found in Mauritius are:

Atcha/Atchia/Attcha; Adiya/Adia/Arya; Nalla, Kala/Kalla; Patel/Patail; Ghanchi; Essa/Esal/Isa; Rawat/Ravat; Raja, Rajah, Rajjab; Jeewa/Jeeva/Jiva, Jina; Makda, and Mulla; Attan, Ameji; Shah, Shaikh; Gulzar...

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Francis had before now refused to make any concessions to his age or increasingly fragile health, which saw him begin using a wheelchair three years ago. Pic – Philstar.com

Pope Francis marks 12 years as pontiff while hospitalized at 88

Pope Francis celebrated his 12th anniversary as head of the Catholic Church on Thursday, seemingly out of danger after a month-long hospital stay. However, his health remains a major concern for the future of his papacy.

The 88-year-old was critically ill with pneumonia in both lungs after being admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital on February 14. His condition has since stabilized, and the Vatican is now discussing when he might return home.

Yet, this prolonged and serious hospitalization — the longest of his papacy—has raised doubts about his ability to continue leading the Church's 1.4 billion followers, reports AFP.

Slowing down

Despite increasing frailty, Pope Francis had previously refused to slow down, maintaining a rigorous schedule and traveling extensively, including a 12-day tour of the Asia-Pacific last September. However, experts suggest his recovery could take weeks due to his age and pre-existing conditions, including the partial removal of a lung in his youth.

"The rest of his pontificate remains uncertain, even for Francis himself," said Father Michel Kubler, a Vatican expert. "He doesn't know what his life will be like when he returns to the Vatican and may consider resignation if he can no longer cope."

Though he has previously left open the possibility of stepping down—following Benedict XVI's historic resignation in 2013—Francis has more recently insisted the role is for life.

While hospitalized, he has delegated Masses to senior cardinals but continued working intermittently, signing decrees and meeting close aides. Still, his absence has impacted preparations for the 2025 Jubilee, expected to bring 30 million pilgrims to Rome.

With Easter just weeks away, many question whether he can manage a full schedule of events. "This marks the end of the pontificate as we have known it," Kubler said.

Unfinished reforms

From the start, Pope Francis distinguished himself from his predecessor by embracing a simpler, more inclusive Church. He implemented sweeping reforms, from overhauling Vatican finances to expanding the role of women and welcoming LGBTQ and divorced members.

However, key initiatives, such as the ongoing Synod on the Church's future, remain unfinished. Traditionalists continue to push back, particularly after the Vatican's 2023 decision to allow non-liturgical blessings for same-sex couples sparked controversy, especially in Africa.

"Whether people like him or not, he has shifted the dial," a Vatican source said. "But much remains unresolved."

When will NASA astronaut Sunita Williams return to Earth?

NASA and SpaceX postponed the launch of a replacement crew of four astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS) on Wednesday, delaying the long-awaited return of US astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams.

The Crew-10 mission, set to launch from Florida aboard a SpaceX rocket, was intended to replace the current crew on the ISS and facilitate the return of Wilmore and Williams, who have been stranded in space for nine months following their trip on Boeing's faulty Starliner spacecraft.

NASA announced that the launch was called off due to a hydraulic system issue with the Falcon 9 rocket's ground support clamp arm. The space agency said that launch teams are working to resolve the issue before setting a new launch date, reports Hindustan Times.

When will Sunita Williams return to Earth now?

NASA has announced a revised launch target for no earlier than 7.03 pm EDT (2303 GMT) on Friday (4.33 am IST on Saturday) after postponing Wednesday's attempt due to high winds and rain forecast along Dragon's flight path.

NASA said that if the Crew-10 mission launches on Friday, the Crew-9 mission, carrying astronauts Wilmore and Williams, is expected to depart the International Space Station (ISS) on Wednesday, March 19.

The mission was moved up by two weeks following calls from US President Donald Trump and his adviser, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, to bring Wilmore and Williams back earlier than originally scheduled.

Wilmore and Williams, both experienced astronauts



NASA astronaut Sunita Williams. Pic – Business Today

and U.S. Navy test pilots, have seen their mission extend far beyond the planned eight-day stay on the ISS. Their Starliner spacecraft returned to Earth without them last year.

What were Wilmore and Williams doing in ISS?

NASA said Wilmore and Williams have been engaged in research and maintenance aboard the ISS alongside other astronauts and remain safe.

During a March 4 call with reporters, Williams expressed her excitement about reuniting with her family and pets after returning home.

The two astronauts originally arrived at the ISS in June as part of Boeing's first crewed test flight of the Starliner spacecraft. However, after encountering propulsion system failures in space, NASA determined that using the Boeing craft for their return would be too risky. As a result, plans were made to bring them back to Earth using a SpaceX capsule.

Google Play warns not to download these free apps

Google is stepping up its security game, reinforcing the Play Store's defences as the risks of side-loading apps continue to grow. "Chrome users are protected against the identified malicious URLs by Google Safe Browsing. Based on our current detection, no apps containing this malware are found on Google Play," Google told Forbes.

Earlier this month, Google cracked down on fake apps lurking in its Play Store, but a new threat has emerged — what if the Play Store itself is fake?

"Android users are automatically protected against known versions of this malware by Google Play Protect, even when apps come from sources outside of Play," Google assured.

Industry-favourite malware detector CTM360 reveals a massive campaign tricking users into downloading malware through counterfeit Play Store websites. These sites

closely mimic Google's official platform, making it easy for unsuspecting users to fall into the trap, reports Hindustan Times.

How fake apps are hijacking devices and stealing data

People are baited to fraudulent pages through social media ads and messages which insist they download apps that appear to be free or even offer exclusive deals. These apps seem legitimate, but in fact, they are carriers of Trojan malware meant to steal the data of users.

CTM360 has discovered over 6,000 such fake Play Store pages. The malware isn't just stealing banking credentials — it's monitoring clipboard activity, logging keystrokes, and allowing attackers to exploit victims' data for further malicious activities.

Dubbed 'PlayPraetor', the campaign takes its name from Roman officials who wielded control over citizens, much like how this Trojan hijacks infected devices, extracting

personal data such as login credentials and clipboard information. The scammers have even registered domain names that resemble official websites to make their ruse more convincing. Some sites go a step further, mimicking government agencies and public service portals to increase the chances of success. When users click the fake Play Store download button, they unknowingly install the Trojan.

They disguise the malicious apps themselves, giving them the same icons and the same names as legitimate apps. Like with many other attacks like these, these fake apps abuse permissions, especially Android's Accessibility Services, which, in this case, allows them to literally hijack a device. It includes capturing screen content, capturing keystrokes to steal login details or private keys and monitoring continuous clipboard items to scoop cryptocurrency addresses or passwords.

* Contd on page 15



Former Philippine President Duterte. Pic- OCCRP

Former Philippine President Duterte handed over to ICC

Philippine police this week arrested former President Rodrigo Duterte in connection with the International Criminal Court (ICC)'s ongoing investigation into his violent "war on drugs." The 79-year-old was arrested on March 11 at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport after returning from Hong Kong, not long after The Hague-based court issued a warrant for his arrest. He was then quickly flown to The Hague to face charges related to his bloody anti-narcotics drive, which led to anywhere between 12,000 and 30,000 deaths.

The ICC authorized an investigation into the drug war killings in 2021. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. initially refused to cooperate with the ICC, saying that it had no jurisdiction over the Philippines. But as the political feud between the Marcoses and Dutertes has deepened, the administration has shifted its tone on the ICC probe. Its decision to implement the court's arrest warrant is likely to raise the political temperature ahead of midterm elections due in May, with unforeseen but potentially destabilizing implications.



Employees of Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings on Feb. 20 inside the area under the Unit 5 reactor pressure vessel, which survived the earthquake-triggered tsunami in 2011, at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Futaba town, northeastern Japan. Pic - Taipei

14 Years on, Japan continues Fukushima cleanup

Tuesday marked the 14th anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan. The "3/11" disaster sparked an unprecedented effort to

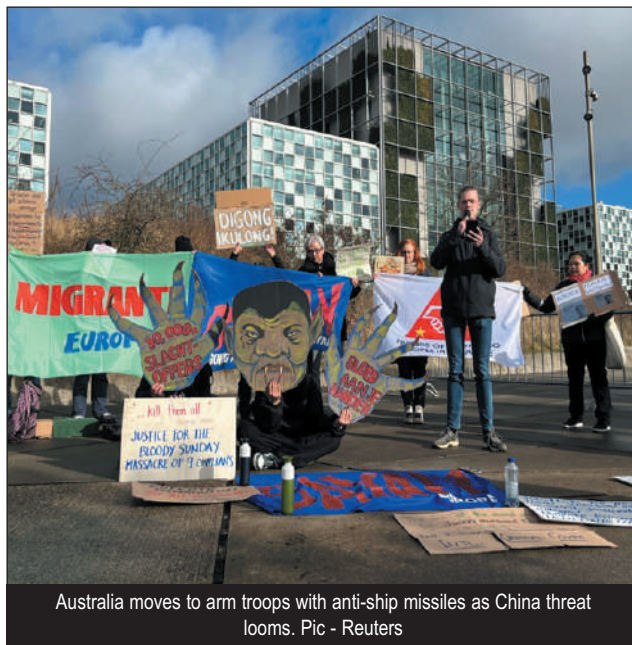
cleanup and decommission the plant – one of the most complex and ambitious undertakings in environmental and technological history. With a 40-year timeline, the plant's final decommissioning is progressing slowly but steadily, largely through the use of entirely new technology.

* * *

Was the Taliban-US deal worth it?

Last weekend marked the five-year anniversary of the Taliban-US deal that paved the way for the US withdrawal from Afghanistan. Enough time has passed to meaningfully ask whether the deal was worth it – and if so, who benefitted. Certainly the Taliban are the biggest winners, as they now enjoy uncontested rule over all of Afghanistan. Ordinary Afghans, however, have little to celebrate; the war may be over but an economic crisis makes survival a continued struggle. Meanwhile, neighboring Pakistan has seen a massive surge in terrorist attacks, an issue that has soured ties with the Taliban.

* * *



Australia moves to arm troops with anti-ship missiles as China threat looms. Pic - Reuters

Australia ramps up missile defenses amid China tensions

Australia is fast-tracking long-range missile deployments as China's growing naval presence raises security concerns. The government plans to equip troops with advanced anti-ship missiles and radars, with a final decision expected by year's end.

One contender, Lockheed Martin's Precision Strike Missile, could reach 1,000km when fired from HIMARS launchers, which Australia will receive by 2026-27. Meanwhile, China's recent naval exercises near Australia have disrupted air traffic and heightened tensions.

Canberra will invest AUD\$74 billion over a decade in targeting technology, long-range strikes, and missile defense. Australia joins U.S. allies like Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines in bolstering missile arsenals to counter China's growing military influence.

The US is pressuring Australia to increase defense spending beyond its current 2% of GDP. Experts warn that prolonged conflict in the Indo-Pacific would require deep missile stockpiles and production capacity.

As China projects more power into the region, Australia's mobile missile systems offer a cost-effective deterrent. "It's a truck," said retired Major General Mick Ryan. "You park it under a tree, fire, and move back. They won't find you."

G7 seeks unity amid rising tensions over Trump's policies

Foreign ministers of the world's leading Western democracies convened in La Malbaie, Canada, on Thursday, aiming to project a united front despite growing tensions stemming from US President Donald Trump's stance on Ukraine and his imposition of tariffs on key allies. The meeting, part of Canada's G7 presidency, brought together representatives from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States, along with the European Union, in what was traditionally a forum of consensus.

A key priority for Washington's partners was to receive a briefing from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio following his discussions in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where Ukraine signaled its willingness to support a 30-day ceasefire agreement. The outcome of these discussions could set the stage for future negotiations with Russia. However, concerns persist over Washington's approach, as the US has opposed a declaration aimed at curbing Russia's so-called shadow fleet—an illicit shipping network used to bypass sanctions—while pushing for stronger language on China.

Unlike previous G7 statements that heavily focused on Ukraine and condemned Russia, the initial draft of the final communique was noticeably softer, with only four carefully worded paragraphs addressing the conflict. This shift reflects Trump's recalibrated foreign policy, which prioritizes bringing Russia and Ukraine to the negotiation table over maintaining a hardline stance on Moscow.

Trade tensions escalate

Further straining ties, Trump's decision to impose 25% tariffs on steel and aluminum imports has sparked immediate retaliatory measures from Canada and the EU. Secretary Rubio reaffirmed Washington's commitment to its trade policies, stating on social media:

"Under @POTUS's leadership, we are going to use forums like the G7 to counter our adversaries and stand by our allies. America First!"

Despite reassurances, America's closest partners remain wary of Trump's economic strategy. Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly vowed to challenge the US stance, promising to "coordinate a response with the Europeans and put pressure on the Americans."

As tensions within the G7 mount, speculation has grown over Trump's suggestion to reinstate Russia into the group, effectively reviving the G8. Moscow's membership was suspended in 2014 following its annexation of Crimea, and many European allies remain opposed to its return. However, Trump's recent overtures toward Russia signal a potential shift in US policy that could redefine global diplomatic alignments.

US-Canada relations at a low point

Perhaps the most strained relationship at the summit is between the US and Canada. Trump's repeated threats to impose tariffs on all Canadian imports, coupled with his offbeat remarks about annexing Canada as the "51st US state," have placed unprecedented pressure on diplomatic ties. When questioned about the issue, Rubio sought to downplay tensions, stating, "It is not a meeting about how we're going to take over Canada."

Nevertheless, Ottawa remains on high alert. As Canada and other US allies attempt to navigate a shifting geopolitical landscape, this year's G7 summit stands as a critical test of transatlantic unity in the face of Trump's unpredictable policies.

From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

7th Year No 296

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 29 April, 1960

• How enormous appear the crimes we have not committed. — Mme Necker

Nairac - The Democrat

Sir Georges Edouard Nairac will be remembered in Mauritian history for his political activities in the earlier part of his career, when he was at the forefront of progressive movements

By D. NAPAL

Sir Georges Edouard Nairac, who passed away a few days ago, at the ripe old age of 84, had a brilliant professional career, ending up with his occupation of the much-coveted post of Procureur General and of Chief Judge. Throughout his long and fruitful life, what captures the attention of students of our history is the role he played in politics between 1908 and 1925.

Sir Georges Edouard Nairac started his political career by his close association with the militant members of the *Action Libérale*, the political party which became the terror of the Conservatives in the early years of the present century. This democratic party was born of the agitation made by Rene Merandon, Dr Eugene Laurent, Anatole de Boucherville and other left-wing personalities of the day (if I am allowed to use this term as a democratic party in the present sense of the term did not exist then) to bring in a Royal Commission of Enquiry to inquire into the finances of the country.

The planters of the colony, through the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, applied to the Secretary of State for a loan to help them to tide over their financial difficulties. Lord Elgin, the then Secretary of State for the Colonies, stated that the information before him did not justify a loan. He advised that as a preliminary to a loan, a Royal Commission should enquire into the finances and administrative conditions of the Colony. The planters would not hear of a Royal Commission. The experience gained by the Royal Commission of 1872 was still fresh in their memory. That Commission had laid bare many of the sores in the relations between agricultural employers and employees. The planters, of course, would not welcome the idea of any such Royal Commission Enquiry. The arch-conservative of these days, Henry Leclezio (later Sir) moved in Council that the Council did not feel justified in inviting the appointment of a Commission.

It was in these circumstances that an island-wide campaign in favour of a Royal Commission of Enquiry as a preliminary to obtaining a loan from Great Britain was made by the prominent members of the *Action Libérale*.



Throughout his long and fruitful life, what captures the attention of students of our history is the role Sir Georges Edouard Nairac played in politics between 1908 and 1925. Pic - Galerie de peinture mauricienne-Potomitan

Sir Georges Edouard Nairac played a prominent part in this campaign. While deponing before the Royal Commission of 1909, Nairac made some very original and startling suggestions — for example the reduction of the Governor's salary, the selling of part of Reduit Gardens, and reduction in the number of judges and magistrates. He advocated for the establishment of a proportional and progressive income

tax, which would initially be a "taxe de superposition" and gradually evolve into a "taxe de remplacement". He also pronounced himself in favour of the institution of an agricultural bank — a suggestion also made by Manilal M. Doctor and others who deponed before the Commission. One of the reasons which he put forward while urging the necessity of an Agricultural Bank was that such a bank would prove helpful to the small planters. Our own times have fully justified his stand.

There was a split in the *Action Libérale* on the question of retrocession of the island to France, an idea born after World War I. The election of 1921 was fought on

the retrocession issue. In Port Louis the pro-retrocession candidates were Dr Edgar Laurent and Dr Maurice Cure. J. E. Nairac and J. Tranquille were the anti-retrocession candidates who opposed and beat them. The next year a movement for the revision of the Constitution was started. Strangely enough, the movement was started by people outside the Council. J.E. Nairac lent his support to the movement, pledged himself to the revision of the Constitution and in 1925 brought in Council a motion urging representative government — a form of government established by the constitutional changes of 1948.

Nairac's motion was "to ensure a more extensive representation of the community and give it a larger share in the management of the affairs of this Colony."

I believe that Sir Georges Edouard Nairac will be remembered in Mauritian history for his political activities in the earlier part of his career, when he was at the forefront of progressive movements.

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Follow the Water: Searching for a Lunar Oasis

New research may help astronauts locate viable water sources on the moon

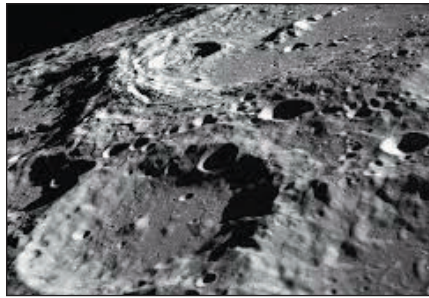
As humankind envisions living off-planet—on the moon, Mars, and beyond—the question of sustaining life centres on oxygen, food, and water. We know there's lunar water, but how do we find it? In craters? Shadowed regions?

Poles? Knowing where to look is crucial for lunar habitation, a once sci-fi dream.

Researchers at UC San Diego may aid this reality, providing a guide for missions like NASA's Artemis, which seeks lunar exploration and habitation. Their work appears in a PNAS special issue, "Water on the Moon and Mars," featuring Artemis I.

The team included Mark Thiemens, UC San Diego Distinguished Professor, and Maxwell Thiemens, a Vrije Universiteit Brussel research fellow and Scripps alumnus.

In 1967, Nobel laureate Harold Urey and James



Arnold, UC San Diego faculty, received Apollo 11 lunar samples. Urey theorized lunar water, especially in polar shadows. Today, lunar water is thought to originate from:

- indigenous sources,
- solar winds (hydrogen reacting with lunar oxygen), or
- comet deposition.

Like Earth civilizations near water, lunar bases will need water. Knowing the origin helps determine optimal base locations.

To study lunar water origin, Morgan Nunn Martinez, a UC San Diego graduate, extracted water from Apollo 9 lunar rocks. Through "thermal release," samples were heated to 50, 150, and 1,000 degrees Celsius, revealing surprisingly "wet" rocks.

Lower temperatures released loosely bound water, while 1,000 degrees Celsius released tightly bound, embedded water.

The process collected gas water molecules, purified to oxygen, and measured three oxygen isotopes.

Isotopes, atoms with varying neutrons, reveal a substance's origin and age.

Like space forensics, astronomical objects have unique signatures. Oxygen isotope measurements reveal water origins.

Data showed lunar water likely originated from the moon or comets, not significantly from solar winds.

"This research uses advanced measurements and supports common sense ideas about lunar water — much has been there since the beginning, with more added by comets," stated Maxwell Thiemens. "Solar wind-derived water appears less productive."

Though not the focus, Martian samples were also measured. If Artemis succeeds in lunar colonization, it bodes well for Mars.

"This work provides NASA with clues about lunar water," stated Mark Thiemens. "Artemis's goal is Mars. Our research shows likely more Martian water than lunar."

Of course, locating the water is only the first step. Being able to extract it from lunar rocks and soil in quantities large enough to sustain life will require further technological advancements and discovery.



Is ranch dressing a liquid or a solid? A physicist explains

A physicist explains that the short answer is both ... and neither.

Imagine you're eating dinner. You try to pour some ranch dressing onto your plate to dip your veggies into. You tip the container upside down, but nothing comes out. Seems like a solid.

So you shake the bottle up and down, and a big blob of dressing plops out and hits your plate. Seems like a liquid.

But the dressing doesn't spread all over the plate, like milk or any other liquid would if you spilled it. Rather, it maintains some shape, kind of like the veggies on your plate. Seems like a solid.

But every time you plunge your solid carrot or celery into the blob of dressing, it distorts the shape of the blob a bit. You can even smear and spread the blob around, but the shape and stiffness of the celery isn't affected by this game. Seems like a liquid.

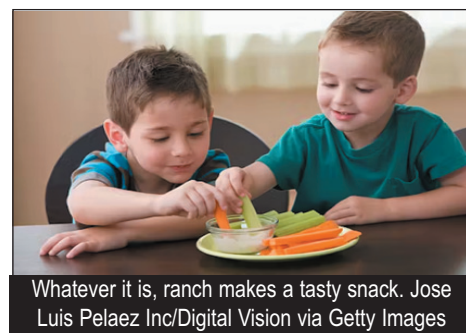
So, is ranch dressing a liquid and a solid? Or is it neither?

I'm a professor of physics and biophysics, and my research focuses on understanding squishy materials that have both liquid and solid properties. Physicists call these materials soft matter. In my lab, we investigate what makes biological materials such as skin and snot squishy — and how we can create bio-inspired materials that have the same fascinating properties. I also host a social media channel, Physics Mama, where my two boys and I ask and answer questions about the physics of everyday life.

The basic states of matter

To figure out what's going on with ranch dressing, you need to understand what the different states of matter are and what makes each one unique. "Matter" is just the scientific word for "stuff," and it is anything that is made up of the microscopic building blocks called atoms and that has mass.

You probably learned in school that



Whatever it is, ranch makes a tasty snack. Jose Luis Pelaez Inc/Digital Vision via Getty Images

there are three states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. Think ice cube, a puddle of water and fog. Maybe you also learned about a fourth state, known as plasma.

These different states are defined by how the extremely tiny molecules making up the matter interact with each other. These molecules are so small that you can't see them with your naked eye. But their invisible interactions determine the properties of the materials that you can see.

Molecules in a solid are physically attached to each other in a way that keeps them from moving around relative to each other. This is what makes solids rigid and able to keep a fixed shape.

The molecules in a liquid, on the other hand, are not connected to each other. They can move around, slide past each other and mix themselves up. This freedom of movement is what allows a liquid to take the shape of whatever container it is in.

The molecules in a gas are completely free to move around without really bumping into the other molecules in the gas too much. Like a liquid, a gas will take the shape of any container it is in and has no fixed shape. But unlike liquids and solids, gases can also change their size or volume.

A plasma is similar to a gas but has

much more energy. This energy causes the electrically charged parts of the molecules, called protons and electrons, to break apart. The Sun and stars are examples of plasma, as is the material that makes neon signs glow.

Elasticity and viscosity

While solids hold their shape, they are not completely rigid. The connections between the molecules behave like tiny springs, which makes solids elastic. If you push on a solid, it will deform — but it will bounce back to its original state when you stop pushing, kind of like your mattress when you bounce on your bed. Of course, this happens at the molecular level, so you can't see it happening.

And even though liquids easily change shape, they do resist this change due to the friction between the liquid molecules as they try to move past each other. This friction is called viscosity. Liquids such as honey or syrup are much more viscous than liquids such as milk or water, making them harder to stir. Imagine trying to swim in a swimming pool of honey — delicious but difficult.

A fifth state

Ranch dressing is actually a fifth state of matter known as soft matter. Soft matter can have properties of both liquids and solids, so materials scientists say it is viscoelastic — a combination of viscous and elastic. Other common examples of soft matter include yogurt, cookie dough, shampoo, toothpaste, silly putty, snot, slime and frosting.

These substances aren't quite solid and aren't quite liquid — they're a little of both. You can pour shampoo out of a bottle, but if you put a bit between your fingers and pull them apart, it will stretch between your fingers. Cookie dough can hold its own shape, but if you push on it, it deforms and

doesn't bounce back.

Many viscoelastic materials exhibit shear thinning, which means that their viscosity decreases the more you agitate them. This is why shaking your bottle of ranch dressing or ketchup allows you to pour it out — even though before shaking it was too solid-like to leave the bottle. It's also why yogurt that seems quite solid and able to maintain its shape becomes more liquid-like when you stir it quickly.

Squishy materials can also exhibit shear thickening — they become more rigid the harder you try to deform them. This is how Oobleck, a simple mixture of cornstarch and water, works. You can slowly pour it and submerge your hand in it, like any other liquid, but if you squeeze it or shake it up it solidifies.

A different kind of molecule

The reason these squishy materials have both liquid and solid properties is that they're made of polymers: long, chainlike molecules. These long chains get all tangled up, like a bowl of spaghetti, so they are sort of connected, like the molecules in a solid, but also sort of free to move past one other, like molecules in a liquid.

Most store-bought ranch dressing contains xanthan gum, which is a natural polymer used to thicken and stabilize many foods.

So the next time you try to pour your ranch dressing out of the bottle, you can imagine the xanthan gum polymers all tangled up with one another, making the dressing act like a solid. When you shake the bottle, you're disentangling the polymers so they slide and flow past each other, allowing the dressing to flow easily out of the bottle and onto your plate.

Rae Robertson-Anderson
Professor of Physics & Biophysics,
University of San Diego



Alphabetical Ejection

An airplane is flying over the United States at night.

The pilot says: "Ladies and gentlemen, the plane is losing altitude and all the baggage must be thrown out."

A little later, the pilot says "We're still losing altitude, we must throw anything out that is in the cabin."

The plane continues its descent despite more things being thrown out.

Pilot: "Still going down - we must throw out some people."

At this point there's a big gasp from the passengers!

Pilot: "But to make this fair, passengers will be thrown out in alphabetical order. So... A... any Africans on board?"

No one moves.

"B... any Blacks on board?"

No one moves.

"C... any Coloureds on board?"

Still, no one moves.

"D... any Darkies?"

En ti piti Mauricien demande sorpa: "Pa...ki nou ete?"

Dad: "Zordi mon p'tit, nou Zulu!"

* * *

When I see lovers' names carved into a tree, I don't think it's sweet. I just wonder how many people bring a knife on a date.

* * *

I dreamt I was forced to eat a giant marshmallow. When I woke up, my pillow was gone.

* * *

Doctor: "I'm sorry, but you suffer from a terminal illness and have only 10 to live."

Patient: "What do you mean, 10? 10 what? Months? Weeks?!"

Doctor: "Nine."

* * *

A man asks a farmer, "Would you mind if I crossed your field? I need to catch the 4:23 train."

The farmer replies, "Go ahead. If my bull sees you, you'll catch the 4:11 one."

* * *

Two elephants see a naked man. One elephant says, "I really don't get how he can feed himself with that thing!"

* * *

My dog used to chase people on bikes. It got so bad, I had to take his bike away.

* * *

Wife: "Since you've started dieting, you've become such a passionate kisser!"

Husband: "Passionate? I'm just looking for food remains."

* * *

Little Johnny gave his grandma a fancy toilet brush for her birthday.

Weeks later, he asks, "Gran, where's the toilet brush

I gave you?"

Grandma replies, "Darling, I'm sorry, but it was too scratchy. I went back to using toilet paper."

* * *

Doctor: "Did you come to see me with an eye problem?"

Patient: "Wow, yes! How did you know?"

Doctor: "Because you came in through the window instead of the door."

* * *

Police officer: "Can you identify yourself, sir?"

Driver: *[pulls out a mirror]* "Yes, it's me."

* * *

I haven't spoken to my wife in years. She hates being interrupted.

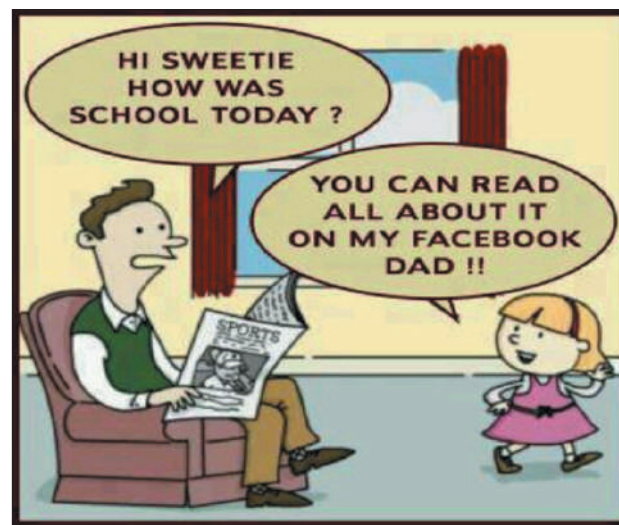
* * *

My wife's cooking is so bad, we pray after the meal.

* * *

What do you get when you cross a cow and a shark? I don't know, but I wouldn't want to milk it.

* * *



I'd like to buy a new boomerang, please. Also, how do I throw the old one away?

* * *

Two flies sit on a pile of poop.

One says, "Want to hear a joke?"

The other replies, "Sure, but nothing gross this time - I'm eating!"

* * *

Coco Chanel said, "Put perfume where you want to be kissed." But wow, does that burn!

* * *

When my wife starts singing, I go outside to garden. That way, the neighbours know there's no domestic violence.

* * *

At a first date:

He: "I work with animals every day!"

She: "Oh, how sweet! What do you do?"

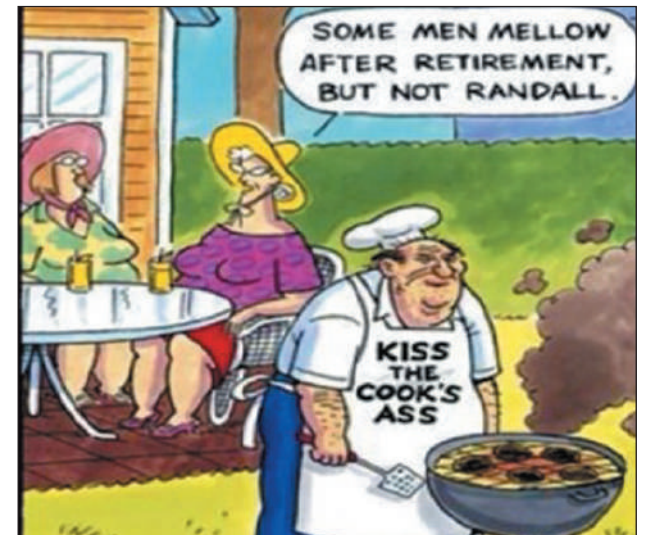
He: "I'm a butcher."

* * *

The Pulpit Challenge

Once there was a newly ordained priest who joined the staff of a large, well-to-do parish. His boss, the senior priest, had been officiating for many years and was steeped in wisdom.

The young priest prided himself on his achievements, having won several prizes for preaching in seminary. He was particularly proud of his efforts in



the pulpit, so he told his boss one day, "Father, there is not a subject in this world that I could not, at the drop of a hat, find a biblical text for and then be able to preach my sermon on."

The senior priest put his junior to the test. "Well, young man, don't you be preparing any sermon for mass next Sunday. Instead, when you get into the pulpit, you will find a sealed envelope which I will have placed there. Inside the envelope, there will be a single sheet of paper on which I will have written one word topic. I rely on you to find any fitting text," he said.

The young priest looked forward to the test with relish. On that Sunday, he ascended the stairs into the pulpit. His boss was squirming with anticipation. The young man opened the envelope, glanced at the sheet of paper on which was written the one word (constipation), and proclaimed, "And Moses swallowed two tablets and went down the mountain."

* * *

Television Healing

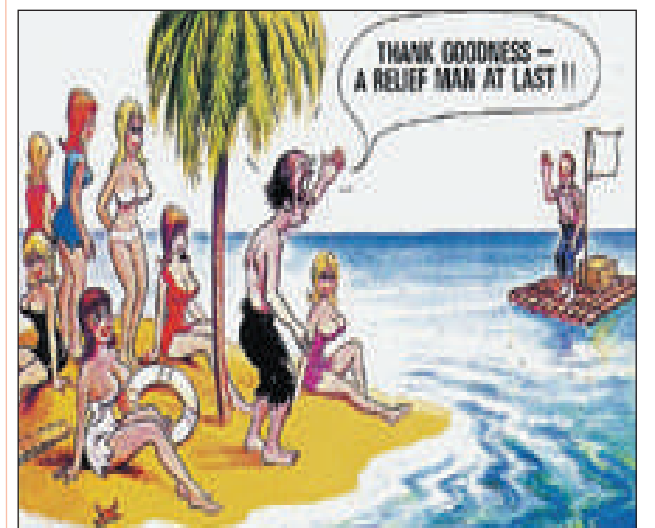
An elderly couple was watching one of the preachers on TV one night.

"My friends, I'd like to share my healing powers with everyone watching this program. Place one hand on top of your TV and the other hand on the part of your body where you feel any pain, and I will heal you," said the preacher.

The old lady had been suffering from terrible stomach pains, so she placed one hand on the TV and the other on her stomach.

Meanwhile, the husband approached the TV, placing one hand on the top of the TV and the other on his groin.

With a frown, his wife said, "Joe, he's talking about healing the sick, not raising the dead."



That's Life

Classmates and the Trickery of Life

There is something both amusing and tragic about classmates.

When we are young, sitting side by side on stiff wooden desks, life feels fair. We wear the same uniforms, complain about the same teachers, and dream the same big dreams. We believe, with the foolish confidence of youth, that effort will always equal success -- that the class topper will top in life, that the struggler will always struggle.

But life is not a classroom. Life is a trickster, a mischievous storyteller that thrives on plot twists.

Years later, we meet again -- at weddings, funerals, ordinations, airports, or by chance in a supermarket aisle. And suddenly, we see what no textbook ever taught us.

The boy who never did his assignments now owns a



mansion. The one who won every academic prize is still searching for relevance.

The quiet one commands boardrooms, while the debate champion sits in silence, waiting for an opportunity that refuses to come.

And we ask ourselves: *How did this happen?*

Nobody told us that life does not follow the rules of

the classroom. That hard work matters, but so does luck. That intelligence is valuable, but connections often matter more. That some rise not because they are the best, but because they were in the right place at the right time.

Life does not grade us like exam scripts. It rolls the dice, and sometimes, the results are baffling.

Yet, amid all the unpredictability, there is one beautiful certainty -- when classmates meet again, the years disappear.

Titles don't matter.

Bank accounts don't speak.

We laugh over forgotten nicknames, joke about teachers we swore we'd never forget but now barely remember.

For a brief moment, we return to a time when we were just young, hopeful, and dreaming -- before life stepped in with its unexpected script.

And maybe that is the real lesson: success is not just about who has more, but about who still has a heart that remembers.

Life & Love

To the Man I Loved Too Much

By Gabrielle G.

I sat there, her book in my hands, feeling as though Gabrielle G. had peered into my own heart. Her words were raw, vulnerable, and achingly familiar. Every page whispered truths about love, heartbreak, self-doubt, and the journey to rediscovering oneself. I didn't just read her poetry -- I lived it.

To the Man I Loved Too Much is a poignant collection of poetry and prose that resonates deeply with anyone who has ever loved, lost, and struggled to find their worth. Here are seven profound lessons I took away from Gabrielle's heart-wrenching yet empowering work.



1. Loving too much can be dangerous

"I gave so much of myself that I forgot to leave anything for me."

Love, while beautiful, can become destructive when it erases your sense of self. Gabrielle reminds us that loving without boundaries can lead to losing our identity. True love should never come at the cost of self-preservation.

2. Unrequited love reflects self-worth

"I let them love me halfway because I didn't think I deserved more."

One of the book's hardest truths is that unrequited love isn't just about the other person -- it's a mirror of how much we believe we deserve. Gabrielle's words gently challenge readers to reassess their self-worth and stop settling for less.

3. Heartbreak Can Be a Catalyst for Growth

"In losing you, I found me."

Through pain, Gabrielle rediscovers parts of herself she once abandoned. Her journey reminds us that heartbreak, while excruciating, often becomes the turning point for self-growth and transformation.

4. You Can't Make Someone Love You

"I twisted myself into shapes I thought you'd admire, but you never even noticed."

One of the toughest lessons is realizing that no amount of effort, compromise, or sacrifice can force someone to love you. Love must be freely given, not earned or begged for. This realization encourages us to stop chasing and start attracting what we truly deserve.

5. Self-Love Is the Greatest Love Story

"I took all the love I tried to give you and poured it back into myself."

Gabrielle's journey ultimately leads her to self-love. She teaches us that the love we desperately seek from others is something we can give ourselves. The book serves as a powerful reminder that healing begins with self-nurturing.

6. Closure Comes from Within

"I waited for your apology, but I found my peace without it."

True closure doesn't always come from the person who hurt us. Sometimes, it's a choice -- to let go, find peace within, and move forward, even without the apology we thought we needed.

7. Pain Can Be Transformed into Art

"Out of my broken pieces, I built something beautiful."

Gabrielle G.'s book *To the Man I Loved Too Much* is a deeply personal yet universal exploration of love, loss, and self-discovery. It reminds us not to lose ourselves in others, to honour our worth, and to embrace heartbreak as a path back to the most important relationship of all -- the one with ourselves.

"But love, I've come to understand, is more than three words mumbled before bedtime. Love is sustained by action, a pattern of devotion in the things we do for each other every day."

— Nicholas Sparks



"Happiness is a choice. You can choose to be happy. There's going to be stress in life, but it's your choice whether you let it affect you or not."

VALERIE BERTINELLI



When you hit a groove, it's not you; it's the spirit world. The spirits whisper the ideas in your brain and prod you along. They're the ones that are really happy.

Tommy Chong

BrainyQuote

Health Tips

Is Your House Making You Sick?

Your home should be your sanctuary, a safe haven from the outside world. But what if the very place you seek comfort in is actually making you ill? From invisible gases to everyday dust, numerous household items can harbour hidden dangers. This article explores 10 common culprits and provides practical tips to safeguard your health.

1. Mold: The Silent Invader

Mold thrives in damp environments, releasing spores that can trigger allergies, respiratory issues, and even serious lung infections in vulnerable individuals. Combat mold by addressing leaks, maintaining humidity levels below 50% using air conditioning or dehumidifiers, and cleaning affected areas with soap and water or a diluted bleach solution.

2. Radon: The Invisible Threat

Radon, a radioactive gas released from soil and rock, can seep into homes through cracks and openings. As it's odourless and colourless, testing is crucial. If elevated levels are detected, hire a certified contractor for remediation.

3. Carpets: Dust and Irritant Traps

Carpets accumulate dust, mold, dust mites, and other allergens. Consider hard flooring or washable throw rugs. If you must have carpets, vacuum regularly with a HEPA filter and steam clean annually.



4. Cockroaches: Allergy and Asthma Triggers

Cockroach droppings and body parts can trigger allergies and asthma. Maintain a clean and dry environment, especially for fabrics and carpets.

5. Carbon Monoxide: The Silent Killer

Carbon monoxide, an odourless and colourless gas produced by appliances, can be deadly. Install carbon monoxide detectors and ensure proper ventilation. If you experience symptoms like headaches, dizziness, or nausea, seek fresh air immediately and call 911.

6. Humidifiers: Balancing Moisture and Hygiene

While humidifiers add moisture, excessive humidity can promote mold and bacteria growth. Clean and dry

your humidifier daily and monitor humidity levels with a hygrometer.

7. Curtains: Dust and Allergen Magnets

Curtains can harbour dust mites, pet dander, and mold. Opt for blinds or washable curtains and clean them regularly.

8. Household Cleaning Products: Chemical Irritants

Many cleaning products contain irritants and potentially harmful chemicals. Choose products with low or no VOCs, fragrances, and flammable ingredients. Ensure proper ventilation when cleaning.

9. Air Conditioning and Heating Systems: Maintaining Air Quality

These systems can influence moisture, dust, and germ levels. Ensure proper installation, regular servicing, and filter changes. Consider HEPA filters and professional duct cleaning.

10. Lead Paint: A Danger in Older Homes

Homes built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint. Chipped or peeling paint can release lead dust, which is harmful, especially to children. A professional can test for lead and advise on remediation.

By identifying and addressing these potential hazards, you can create a healthier and safer living environment for yourself and your family.

Relationships

Chameleoning: 5 Signs to Look Out For

The evolving landscape of modern relationships has introduced new terminology, with 'chameleoning' emerging as a term popularized by Gen Z. This phenomenon describes subtle yet impactful behaviour that can affect relationship dynamics.

Chameleoning refers to the tendency to change one's personality, behaviour, and even opinions to adapt to different social settings or impress a partner. While some levels of adjustment is natural in relationships, excessive changes can be unhealthy, leading to a loss of individuality and authenticity.

Chameleoning often stems from a need for acceptance, fear of rejection, or a desire to avoid conflict. In romantic relationships, this behavior can create a façade that hinders emotional intimacy and trust. Over time, it may result in dissatisfaction and confusion as partners struggle to understand each other's true selves.

Common Causes of Chameleoning

- **Low self-esteem** – A belief that one's true self is not acceptable or worthy of love.
- **Fear of rejection** – Anxiety about being abandoned or judged.
- **Desire to maintain harmony** – Avoiding conflict by always agreeing with



the partner.

- **Lack of personal identity** – Uncertainty about one's own values, interests, and beliefs.

Identifying these tendencies and addressing their root causes is essential for fostering authentic relationships. Self-awareness and open communication help individuals maintain their true identity while nurturing a meaningful connection with their partner.

5 Signs of Chameleoning

1. **Constantly Changing Interests and Preferences**

Frequently altering hobbies, opinions, or tastes to align with a partner's may indicate a lack of personal authenticity. True compatibility thrives on mutual respect for differences, not blind conformity.

2. Fear of Disagreement

Always agreeing with a partner and avoiding conflicts, even when holding different views, can be a red flag. Healthy relationships require open discussions and respectful disagreements.

3. Suppressing Emotions

Hiding true feelings or avoiding emo-

tional expression to keep the peace can lead to emotional detachment. Genuine intimacy is built on honesty and vulnerability.

4. Feeling Lost or Confused

Struggling to recognize one's identity outside the relationship may suggest an overdependence on the partner. Maintaining a sense of self is crucial for personal and relational well-being.

5. Seeking Constant Validation

Relying excessively on a partner's approval for self-worth can indicate chameleoning behavior. Building confidence and self-acceptance independently fosters a healthier dynamic.

Breaking the Cycle

To overcome this tendency, individuals should:

- Practice **self-reflection** to understand their values and desires.
- Develop **healthy boundaries** to maintain personal identity.
- Foster **open communication** to express their true thoughts and emotions.
- Cultivate **self-confidence** through independent interests and self-care.

By embracing authenticity, partners can build relationships rooted in mutual respect, understanding, and emotional depth.

Aishwarya Rai: The Most Feminine Face?

Facial analysis reveals what makes her ‘most beautiful woman in the world’

Aishwarya Rai has long been regarded as one of the most beautiful women in the world. Crowned Miss World in 1994, she quickly transitioned into a highly successful career in cinema, becoming a global icon. A recent facial analysis using a facial recognition tool has now shed light on what makes Aishwarya Rai’s face stand out in the realm of beauty. Hindustan Times reports that the study reveals that her uniquely feminine features are the primary reason why she is often dubbed the “most beautiful woman in the world.”

In a recent post by Qoves Studio, a detailed analysis of Aishwarya’s facial features was presented, revealing why her appearance is considered a paragon of beauty. The video focused on her **arched eyebrows, low hair-line, full lips, and exceptionally large eyes** — all of which are key components that contribute to her facial femininity.

Her side profile, noted for its **upright, flat forehead**, was also mentioned as a characteristic that enhances the overall feminine aesthetic of her face. This combination of features, in line with well-studied principles of facial



aesthetics, has made Aishwarya’s face a template for what many consider the epitome of female beauty.

Facial Femininity: A Cornerstone of Beauty

The concept of “facial femininity” is often regarded as a cornerstone in the study of beauty. Aishwarya Rai’s face ranks among the most “highly feminine faces”

according to the facial analysis. Her features, in particular, adhere to symmetry and proportions that are often associated with attractiveness, which may explain why her face continues to captivate audiences globally.

Fan Reactions: A Timeless Beauty

The online response to the analysis has been overwhelmingly positive, with fans expressing their admiration for Aishwarya’s beauty and impact. Fans also acknowledged Aishwarya’s remarkable career beyond her stunning looks.

As one of the most successful Miss Worlds in history, she is known not only for her work in Bollywood but also as the face of L’Oréal and a regular presence at the Cannes Film Festival. Her humanitarian efforts and the way she treats others have further cemented her place as a global role model.

A Glorious Film Career

Aishwarya’s journey in the entertainment industry began with her acting debut in Mani Ratnam’s 1997 Tamil film **Iruvar**, followed by her Bollywood debut in **Aur Pyaar Ho Gaya** in the same year. She quickly established herself as a leading actress with memorable performances in films like **Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam**, **Devdas**, and **Jodhaa Akbar**.

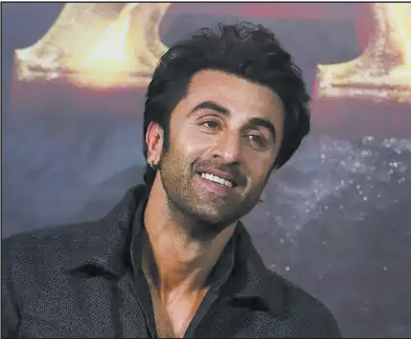
Today, Aishwarya continues to captivate audiences with her unparalleled elegance, acting talent, and her ability to balance both her personal and professional life with grace.

From Flops to Fame: Bollywood’s Superstar Stories

In the dazzling world of Bollywood, the path to stardom isn’t always paved with instant success. For every glittering premiere and box office triumph, there are tales of early stumbles, of debuts that fizzled, and of initial rejections that threatened to extinguish the brightest of flames. From the legendary Amitabh Bachchan to the contemporary brilliance of Ranbir Kapoor, these are the inspiring journeys of superstars who rose from the ashes, proving that in the heart of Hindi cinema, even a flop can be the prelude to an unforgettable legacy.

Amitabh Bachchan

Even the Shahenshah of Bollywood had a rocky start. Amitabh Bachchan’s debut, *Saat Hindustani* (1969), failed at the box office. However, he became a megastar with hits like *Zanjeer* (1973), *Sholay* (1975), and *Deewaar* (1975).



Ranbir Kapoor

Ranbir’s first film, *Saawariya* (2007), underperformed, especially against *Om Shanti Om*. But he bounced back with *Wake Up Sid*

(2009), *Rockstar* (2011), and *Barfi!* (2012).

Katrina Kaif

Katrina’s debut, *Boom* (2003), was a disaster, but she later became a top actress with *Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya* (2005) and *Namastey London* (2007).



Shahid Kapoor

Ishq Vishk (2003) did okay, but Shahid faced several flops before gaining stardom with *Jab We Met* (2007), *Haider* (2014), and *Kabir Singh* (2019).

Akshay Kumar

Akshay’s first film, *Saugandh* (1991), didn’t make an impact, but *Khiladi* (1992) established him as an action star. He continued his success with *Hera Pheri* (2000), *Rowdy Rathore* (2012), and *Sooryavanshi* (2021).

Salman Khan

Salman’s first film, *Biwi Ho To Aisi* (1988), went unnoticed, but *Maine Pyar Kiya* (1989) made him a star. Hits like *Hum Aapke Hain Koun*

(1994), *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* (2015), and the *Tiger* series followed.

Shraddha Kapoor

Shraddha’s debut, *Teen Patti* (2010), failed, but she found success with *Aashiqui 2* (2013). Other hits include *Ek Villain* (2014), *Chhichhore* (2019), and *Stree* franchise.

Kareena Kapoor Khan

Kareena’s debut, *Refugee* (2000), wasn’t a hit, but she soon rose to fame with *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* (2001), *Jab We Met* (2007), and *Good Newwz* (2019).

Madhuri Dixit

Madhuri’s first film, *Abodh* (1984), flopped, but *Tezaab* (1988) made her a superstar. Other hits include *Dil* (1990), *Hum Aapke Hain Koun* (1994), and *Devdas* (2002).



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

Aishwarya, a former Miss World, started with a flop, *Aur Pyaar Ho Gaya* (1997). She later delivered blockbusters like *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* (1999), *Devdas* (2002), and *Jodhaa Akbar* (2008).

BollyBytes

John Abraham slams actors over inflated fees

John Abraham has taken a strong stance against actors in Hindi cinema who demand exorbitant fees and maintain costly entourages, which he believes are damaging the industry. Filmmakers like Karan Johar and Farah Khan have previously voiced concerns over rising entourage costs. Now, John adds to the debate, urging actors to reconsider their demands.

John Abraham on actors’ fees



Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter India, John was asked about actors charging one (1) billion rupees per film and stylists demanding Rs200,000 per day. Calling it “mental,” he said, “It’s already hurting Hindi cinema. At this point, we shouldn’t be paying actors such massive fees because the films don’t justify these budgets. Loading a film with entourage costs is ridiculous. I don’t know if it’s the actors or their agents driving this mindset. Being in a bubble is one thing, but you need to step out and see the real world. If people are feeding your ego, wake up and smell the coffee. As an industry, we are really suffering.”

A Call for Change

John advised actors to take accountability. “Actors must admit we are in a deep black hole and work behind the scenes to improve the industry. If films make a profit, then actors should share in that success, but we’ve already earned millions. How much more will you suck the system dry? That said, producers also share the blame for offering such obscene amounts.”

The debate over actors’ fees and ballooning film budgets has intensified as big-budget Hindi films continue to struggle at the box office.



Vendredi 14 mars - 20.35



Samedi 15 mars - 20.10



Dimanche 16 mars -21.40



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 14 mars

MBC 1

06.42 Serial: Briarpatch
07.47 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi
08.40 Film: Meet Joe Black
11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Wildflower
13.26 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
14.00 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Tele: Living To Love
16.49 Mag: Close Up
17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Serial: Doree
19.30 Le Journal
20.35 Film: Arachnophobia
22.14 Tele: Wildflower
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Serial: Billions
01.26 Serial: Le Chemin Du Destin
01.56 Mag: Red Carpet

MBC 2

06.00 Nou Later Nou Lamer...
06.26 Local: En Forme
07.30 Rodrig: Nou La Ter
10.35 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
12.45 Local: Metie
13.05 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou Rises
14.00 Rodrig: Komanter
14.18 Local: Artizan
15.30 Local: Saver Lokal
17.00 Local: La Sosiete
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.30 Les Riches Pleurent
19.25 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir...
19.45 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
20.57 Local: Dance Fever
22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: En Forme
23.34 Local: Couleur Marine
00.26 Local: Saver Lokal

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Tenali Rama
07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha
08.10 Local: Amrit Vani
10.00 Local: Holi Chowtaal & Dhamaal
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
12.00 Film: Haseenon Ka Devata
Starring: Sanjay Khan, Rekha, Bindu, Helen
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol
20.00 Local: Khel Khiladi
20.30 Serial: Vidrohi
21.00 Film: Kati Patang
Cast: Rajesh Khanna
23.34 Serial: Mere Sai
00.21 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
00.44 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar

Cine 12

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing
09.19 Doc: The Happy Worker
10.53 Mag: Eco India
11.19 Mag: Shift
11.36 Mag: Carnet De Sante
12.17 Mag: Tomorrow Today
13.39 Doc: Beethoven's Ninth
14.21 Doc: Bee-Keeping
15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
15.13 Idefix et Les Irreductibles
15.36 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
16.18 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.03 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze
17.30 Mag: Eco India
18.00 Doc: Reversing Extinction
18.42 Mag: Rev Special
19.28 Mag: Vous Et Vous
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.50 We Come From The Cedar...
21.31 Doc: Urban Rats
22.18 Doc: Humans

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
14.55 Serial: Doree
15.30 Film: Happy Bhaag Jayegi
Cast: Abhay Deol, Diana Penty, Jimmy Shergill
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.01 Udaariyaan
19.32 Dharam Patni
20.01 Mithai
20.31 Shrimad Ramayan
21.01 Anupamaa
21.31 Mere Sai
22.01 Keh Doon Tumhein
22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa
23.30 Film: Happy Bhaag Jayegi
Cast: Abhay Deol, Diana Penty, Jimmy Shergill

samedi 15 mars

03.56 Serial: Briarpatch
04.32 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani
06.30 Tele: All The Flowers
06.56 Serial: Pearson
08.34 Serial: For Life
09.15 Serial: Briarpatch
09.45 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani
10.45 Serial: F.B.I
11.30 Tele: All The Flowers
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Barbarita
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.21 Film: Arachnophobia
17.04 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge
18.00 Live: Samachar
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Mortal Engines
22.13 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani
23.05 Mag: Red Carpet
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Tele: Entre Justice Et Vengeance

06.00 Local: Couleur Marine
06.44 Local: Retrovizer
07.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard..
08.30 Local: Animalia
10.00 Local: Dance Fever
10.25 Local: Dance Fever
12.05 Rodrig: Koze Zom
13.05 Local: Nos Aines
13.32 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
13.46 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
14.35 Local: Retrovizer
14.45 Local: Tous Egaux
15.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard..
16.00 Local: Dance Fever
18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.20 Local: Magazine De L'Emploi
19.40 Rodrig: Kot Nou
20.08 Local: Les Petits Genies
20.34 Local: Music Tour 2025
21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite
22.00 Rodrig Prog: D'Jam

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
13.00 Babaji Hansraj Raghuvanshi
14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
14.30 Mag: Talaash
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Film: Gharan
Cast: Govinda, Neelam, Shreeram Lagoo, Tanuja Samarath, Rishi Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Radha Krishna
19.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
21.00 Film: Udanchhoo
Cast: Ashutosh Rana, Rajneesh Duggal
23.08 Local: Puranya Pakwan

06.00 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
07.50 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
08.35 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
09.29 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes
09.49 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
10.41 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover...
12.40 Doc: We Come From The...
13.18 Doc: Urban Rats
15.08 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
15.12 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles
16.17 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.02 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze
17.30 Doc: Superfood Berries
18.05 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Top Div Sites
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.50 Tele: Living To Love
22.24 Doc: Saving The Temples...
23.05 Doc: A World Without Bees?
23.48 Doc: Legendary Hotels
00.34 Doc: The Renewable Revolution Pioneering

08.00 Dharam Patni
10.02 Mithai
12.00 Udaariyaan
13.50 Anupamaa
16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
17.36 Vidrohi
18.30 Film: Raksha Bandhan
With: Akshay Kumar, Bhumi Pednekar, Manu Rishi Chadha



20.15 Gadget Guru Ganesha
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein

dimanche 16 mars

02.48 Serial: F.B.I
03.41 Tele: Living To Love
05.10 Tele: Terra Nostra
06.26 Film: Mortal Engines
08.35 Serial: Airwolf
09.16 Film: 47 Metres Down
10.48 Serial: F.B.I
11.30 Tele: All The Flowers
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Film: The Darjeeling Limited
15.22 Film: Dream Horse
17.09 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge
18.00 Samachar
19.18 Sayings Radha Krishna
19.30 Le Journal Televisé
20.10 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer
22.03 Serial: Airwolf
22.47 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
23.30 Le Journal
00.08 Tele: Entre Justice Et Vengeance

06.24 Local: Coin Jardin
07.05 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
09.05 Local: Les Petits Genies
09.34 Local: Music Tour 2025
10.30 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Proze Dime
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
15.01 Emotion En Avant Plan
17.05 Local: Les Petits Genies
17.30 Local: En Toute Intimite
18.05 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.24 Local: Info En Langue...
19.33 Local: Glwar Dantan
20.00 Local: Lettre Pastorale
20.30 Local: Le Challenge
20.45 Local: Les Klips
21.37 Extraits De La Conference...
22.03 Local: Exceptionnelles

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan
10.40 Serial: Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Tanu Weds Manu Returns
15.00 Samachar
15.20 Radha Krishna
15.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare
20.31 Serial: Porus
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.15 Serial: Naagin
22.25 Serial: Bahubali
23.05 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
01.18 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare
04.55 Film: Tanu Weds Manu Returns

08.39 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
09.08 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
09.35 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes
09.46 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
10.10 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi
10.50 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover
11.45 Mag: In Good Shape
12.13 Mag: Afrimaxx
12.40 Doc: Saving The Temples...
15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
15.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
15.58 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
16.18 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.06 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze
17.30 Mag: In Good Shape
18.00 Doc: Ageless Gardens
18.30 Doc: Submerged Universe
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: All The Flowers
21.40 Film: Victor Frankenstein
Cast: Daniel Radcliffe, James McAvoy

00.00 Mithai
01.49 Udaariyaan
03.53 Anupamaa
05.50 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
07.41 Tenali Rama
08.12 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
09.55 Kundali Bhagya
12.03 Rajaa Betaa
14.00 Doree
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.38 Film: Super 30
Cast: Hrithik Roshan, Mrunal Thakur, Nandish Singh Sandhu
20.44 Tenali Rama
21.00 Mahabharat
21.56 Dance India Dance Super...
22.41 Rajaa Betaa
00.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey

lundi 17 mars

03.05 Tele: Wildflower
03.49 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
05.08 Tele: Terra Nostra
06.01 Serial: Amour Secret
08.26 Tele: All The Flowers
08.52 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
09.40 Serial: Columbo
11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Wildflower
13.15 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Samachar
15.20 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer
17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
18.00 Samachar
18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.07 Serial: Doree
20.15 Serial: Hawaii
21.00 Serial: For Life
21.45 Tele: Wildflower

07.05 Local: Itinerer Moris
09.13 Local: Lettre Pastorale
10.34 Local: Plat Du Chef
11.00 Rodrig: Les Klips
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.29 Local: Glwar Dantan
14.55 Local: Exceptionnelles
15.25 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef
15.44 Local: Les Klips
16.51 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.07 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
19.30 Le Magazine De L'emploi
19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.30 Local: Tous Egaux
20.45 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
21.42 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
22.15 Local: Bricolo Ecolo
22.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.20 Local: Itinerer Moris

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
07.00 Tenali Rama
07.12 Gadget Guru Ganesha
07.23 Lambu G Tingu G
08.00 Humni Ke Sitare
09.40 Serial: Bahubali
10.20 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
11.30 Radha Krishna
12.00 Film: Johar In Bombay
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Serial: Radha Krishna
15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
17.30 Radha Krishna
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Ved Ki Shikshahein
20.30 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Film: Chhote Sarkar
Cast: Govinda, Shilpa Shetty
23.27 Serial: Mere Sai
00.13 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

06.25 Doc: Submerged Universe
07.18 Mag: Arts Unveiled
08.30 Doc: GYM Boys-Why Young...
09.17 Prosperity Without Growth
10.51 Doc: Flying Hands
11.34 Doc: Ageless Gardens
11.57 Doc: Submerged Universe
13.02 Mag: Arts Unveiled
13.19 The Secret Of The Stone Age
15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
15.12 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles
15.35 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
16.17 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.04 D.Anime: Hiccup And Sneeze
17.30 Saving Beavers And Pond...
18.00 Mag: Eco Africa
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
21.05 Film: Bowfinger
Cast: Barry Newman, John Cho

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.51 Doree
15.25 Film: Haathi Mere Sathi
Starring: Bhuvan Arora, Sheeba Chaddha, Rana Daggubati



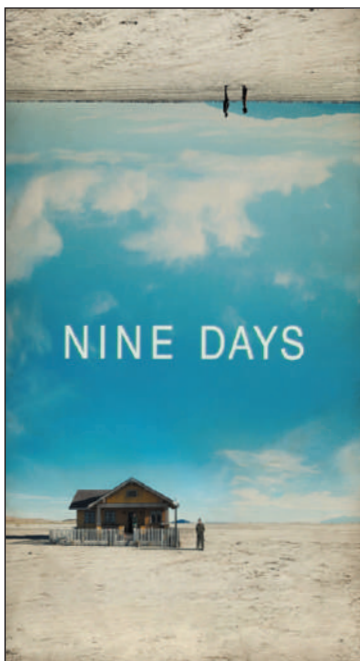
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dharam Patni
20.05 Mithai
20.33 Shrimad Ramayan
21.09 Anupamaa



Mardi 18 Mars - 20.10



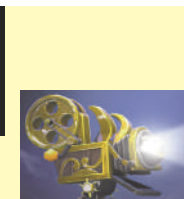
Mercredi 19 Mars - 21.20



Jeudi 20 Mars - 22.03



Programme TV



mardi 18 mars

MBC 1

05.46 Tele: Amour Secret
07.30 Serial: Hawaii
08.12 Tele: All The Flowers
09.35 Film: Bowfinger
11.31 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Wildflower
13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
13.40 Tele: La Desalmada
15.25 Film: The Boat
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.58 Serial: Doree
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Battleship
22.18 Tele: Wildflower
23.03 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
00.59 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin

MBC 2

07.05 Local: Memwar Dan Ros
10.30 Local: Mangeons Veg
10.59 La Route Des Epices
12.00 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
13.10 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.35 Local: Bricolo Ecolo
14.05 Rodrig Prog: Feminin Pluriel
14.55 Local: Fee Main
15.25 Local: Mangeons Veg
16.45 La Journee Sous Le Regard
16.55 Local: Le Mag
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.29 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
19.04 Journal Kreol
19.24 Le Magazine De L'Emploi
20.20 Local: Metie
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante
21.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles
21.35 Local: Le Mag
22.40 Local: Profil
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard

MBC 3

07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama
07.26 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G
10.07 Kundali Bhagya
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
12.01 Film: Agni Rekha
15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna
15.30 Serial: Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Tark Vitark
20.30 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Film: Anurodh
Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Simple Kapadia, Vinod Mehra
23.26 Serial: Mere Sai
00.14 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
00.36 Local: Tark Vitark
01.03 Humni Ke Sitare

MBC 5

06.00 Mag: Eco Africa
07.23 Mag: In Good Shape
07.49 Mag: Rev Special
08.04 Mag: Tomorrow Today
11.38 Mag: The 77 Percent
12.32 Mag: In Good Shape
13.15 Mag: Tomorrow Today
13.41 Mag: Washington Forum
15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
15.12 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles
15.56 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
16.16 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.03 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze
18.00 Mag: REV
18.30 Mag: Healthy Living
18.45 Mag: Red Carpet
19.30 Mag: Global US
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
21.32 Tele: Seref Meselesi
22.18 Mag: Business Africa
22.41 Mag: Euromaxx

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Doree
15.30 Film: Tell Me O Khuda
Cast: Esha Deol, Arjan Bajwa, Sudhanshu Pandey
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.03 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dharam Patni
20.06 Mithai
20.29 Shrimad Ramayan
21.07 Anupama
21.29 Mere Sai
22.04 Keh Doon Tumhein
22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
23.04 Rajaa Betaa
23.30 Film: Tell Me O Khuda
02.00 Kundali Bhagya
02.30 Udaariyaan
03.00 Dharam Patni
03.30 Mithai

mercredi 19 mars

05.08 Serial: Amour Secret
06.48 Serial: Columbo
08.06 Tele: All The Flowers
09.30 Film: Battleship
11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
13.14 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada
14.15 Serial: Seref Meselesi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Tele: Seref Meselesi
16.03 Serial: Columbo
17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Serial: Doree
19.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
20.10 Serial: Under Pressure
21.00 Serial: The Last Kingdom
21.50 Tele: Wildflower
22.40 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune

07.08 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
08.15 Local: Metie
09.30 Local: Le Mag
10.50 Local: Profil
12.00 Local: Inspiration
12.39 Local: Son Ladan Mem
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Ragard
13.35 Local: Priorite Sante
14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.22 Local: A Nou Kwi
16.00 Local: Glwar Dantan
16.20 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
17.00 Local: Music Tour
18.00 Tele: Passion And Power
18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor
20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc
21.30 Local: Les Klips
22.30 Local: Mots & Ecrits
23.18 La Journee Sous Le Regard

07.00 Tenali Rama
07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha
07.33 Lambu G Tingu G
08.00 Local: Tark Vitark
10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
12.00 Film: Aag Aur Daag
Cast: Joy Mukhejee, Rakhee
15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
16.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Yatra
20.30 Talaash
21.00 Film: Pati Patni Aur Bhootni
Cast: Yash Kumar, Richa Dixit
22.56 Serial: Mere Sai
23.44 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.06 Local: Yatra
00.32 Local: Theatre Staging Of Ram Leela

07.06 Mag: Made In Germany
07.28 Mag: Global US
08.05 Business Africa
09.29 Doc: So Long, Superstores
11.26 Mag: Healthy Living
12.25 Mag: Global US
13.44 Doc: Glacier Expres
15.10 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
16.18 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
17.03 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.30 Mag: Business Beyond
18.45 Mag: Planet A
19.00 Student Support Prog...
19.30 Doc: A Mediterranean...
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.30 Live: News
20.50 Mag: Choices
21.05 Film: Nine Days
23.13 Mag: Close Up
23.39 Mag: Focus On Europe
00.05 Doc: Reclaiming History

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Doree
15.30 Film: Main Krishna Hoon
Cast: Juhi Chawla, Paresh Ganatra, Namit Shah
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.02 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dharam Patni
20.00 Mithai
20.31 Shrimad Ramayan
21.00 Anupamaa
21.28 Mere Sai
22.05 Keh Doon Tumhein
22.20 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa
23.30 Film: Main Krishna Hoon
Cast: Juhi Chawla, Paresh Ganatra, Namit Shah
02.00 Kundali Bhagya
02.30 Udaariyaan

jeudi 20 mars

06.01 Tele: Amour Secret
08.10 Serial: All The Flowers
08.45 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
09.30 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer
11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Wildflower
13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada
14.15 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance
15.25 Film: The Cimarron Kid
17.18 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.56 Serial: Doree
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Milenge Milenge
Stars: Shahid Kapoor And Kareena Kapoor
22.10 Tele: Wildflower

06.45 Local: Metie
08.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
08.30 Local: Dance Fever
10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
12.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits
13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.31 Local: Rodrig Spor
14.27 Local: Agir Ensemble
14.57 Local: Dance Fever
17.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.10 Local: Le Mag
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
18.31 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Rodrig Prog: Komanter
20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
20.30 Local: Mots Et Ecrits
21.00 Local: Le Mag
21.55 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
22.40 Local: Metie
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard

07.00 Tenali Rama
07.23 Lambu G Tingu G
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
12.00 Film: Yeh Raat Phir Na Aayegi
Cast: Prithviraj Kapoor, Biswajeet, Sharmila Tagore, Mumtaz
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile...
16.00 Ramayan
17.30 Radha Krishna
17.48 Local: Amrit Vani
18.00 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
19.32 Local: Satguru Kabir Ka Gyan
20.02 Local: Hunarbaaz
20.35 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Serial: Shiv Shakti
21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nanlala

06.00 Mag: AFRIMAXX
08.57 Doc: Reclaiming History
10.23 Doc: My Body, My Gut
11.09 Mag: Afrimaxx
12.05 Mag: Arts Unveiled
13.12 Mag: Close Up
13.38 Inside The Exotic Butterfly
15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
15.12 Idefix Et Le Irreductibles
15.35 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
15.56 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget
16.40 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
16.55 Serial: Hiccup And Sneeze
17.30 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Mag: Shift
18.42 Mag: Carnet De Sante
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
22:05 Film: L'armee Des 12 Singes

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Doree
15.25 Film: Shubh Mangal Saavdhan
Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana, Bhumi Pednekar
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dharam Patni
20.00 Mithai
20.24 Shrimad Ramayan
21.02 Anupamaa
21.34 Mere Sai
22.01 Keh Doon Tumhein
22.29 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
23.05 Rajaa Betaa
23.31 Film: Shubh Mangal Saavdhan
Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana, Bhumi Pednekar



Jeudi 20 Mars - 15.30

Stars: Ayushmann Khurrana, Bhumi Pednekar



Jeudi 20 Mars - 20.10

Stars: Shahid Kapoor And Kareena Kapoor





Kul Bhushan

From darkness to light

Don't blow out, light up birthday cake

Everyone at the party shouts, 'Happy Birthday' and you blow out the candles to wild clapping, singing and hugging. This Western ritual has become the norm for almost all birthday celebrations all over the world. As you blow out the candles which also represent the flame of life, have you ever wondered if there is another way of celebrating birthdays?

Yes, there is. Just turn this ceremony upside down when you light up a candle instead of blowing it out. Let's follow the ancient Hindu mantra — *Tamso Maa Jyotir Gamaya* or Lead me from darkness to light. Just as the only remedy for darkness is light, the only solution to ignorance is knowledge. This prayer does not request health, wealth, status, or happiness, but rather the knowledge of our true nature. In essence, liberation.



Now all this may sound very serious but it's not, especially the manner in which it is practised. Let's try it. Just switch off the lights or dim the lights if it is evening. Then recite this short mantra in a sing-song style and light a candle or a lamp. As the light comes on, everyone claps and cheers. Hold on, it's not over yet. Now all the other guests at

the party have their chance. Each one gets a small lamp which he/she lights and makes a wish for the birthday boy/girl. Now it depends what you are wishing for: May you live a hundred years, may you enjoy robust health, may you find your true love, may you travel the world and so on and on. Here you need imagination after the obvious ones are over.

Now these small lamps are arranged around the cake before it is cut and shared by all. As the plate becomes empty, the lamps are still burning and so these lamps are taken to new spots to light up the entire party place.

Another unique aspect of this birthday celebration is that the cake is not decorated with the number of years that have already passed. Normally, the cake displays the figure(s) of the years gone by. Here the cake has the number of years left to celebrate the century of the person who is celebrating. In other words, everyone is looking forward to the number of years still to come, not counting the years gone by. This implies the good times ahead.

As this procedure was followed with cheers and laughter, almost all the guests were enthused and remarked that they, too, will start with this system to bring new energy into their birthday parties dubbed From Darkness to Light.

And musing over darkness, have you wondered how darkness disappears once light enters a room. Go into a dark room and no matter how hard you try, you cannot pull or push away darkness because you can't grab it, drag it, pull it or push it out. Then light a candle or switch on the light and the darkness vanishes at once. It is the same for day and night as darkness takes over when the sun sets and remains supreme until the sun rises again.

Osho has the last word on darkness: "Gautam Buddha has called his ultimate state of being, nirvana. Even Buddhists have not thought of it as darkness, because the very word produces bad associations in us. But nirvana means exactly "darkness"; literally it means blowing out the candle. But what does it mean? Blowing out the candle, what remains then? Eternal deathless, abysmal darkness."

Tree of Knowledge

This too shall pass



We can benefit from times of constriction and difficulty, as they help us grow and learn

It can be challenging to maintain a positive attitude and a measure of faith when you are in the midst of difficult times. This is partly because we tend to think that if the universe loves us, we will experience that love in the form of positive circumstances. However, we are like children, and the universe is our wise mother who knows — better than we do — what our souls need to thrive. Just as a young child does not benefit from getting everything they want, we also benefit from times of constriction and difficulty because those moments and events help us grow and learn. If we keep this in mind and continue to trust that we are loved even when things are hard, we can endure those times with grace.



This period of time in history is full of struggles for a lot of human beings, and you may feel less alone knowing that you are not being singled out. There are extreme energy changes pulsing through the universe at every level, and we are all part of the growing process — and the growing pains. It helps if we remember that life is one phase after another, and this arduous time will inevitably give way to something new and different. When we feel overwhelmed, we can comfort ourselves with the wise saying, "This too shall pass."

At the same time, if you truly feel that nothing is going right for you, it's never a bad idea to examine your life and see if there are some changes you can make to alleviate some of the difficulty. Gently and compassionately exploring the areas giving you the most trouble may reveal things you are holding on to and need to release unprocessed emotions, unresolved transitions, or negative ways of looking at yourself or reality.

As you take responsibility for the things you can change, you can more easily surrender to the things you can't, remembering all the while that this phase will, without doubt, give way to another.

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IRRIGATION AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES UNION PLAINE DES PAPAYES

Reg. No. 357

Affiliated to the Federation of Public Sector and Other Unions
Democratic and Progressive Unions Federation

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Irrigation Authority Employees Union which will be held on Friday, 11th April 2025, at 9:30 AM at the Irrigation Authority Office Compound in Plaines des Papayes.

AGENDA:

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the last AGM
 2. Matters Arising
 3. Amendments to Rules (if any)
 4. Treasurer's Report
 5. Motions (if any)
 6. Appointment of Executive Members
 7. Appointment of Auditors
 8. Any other Business
- Members who wish to submit a motion should write to the secretary of the Union no later than Friday, April 4, 2025.

Secretary

S. Bhagooli