

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• All labour that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence. -- Martin Luther King, Jr

## Eulogy

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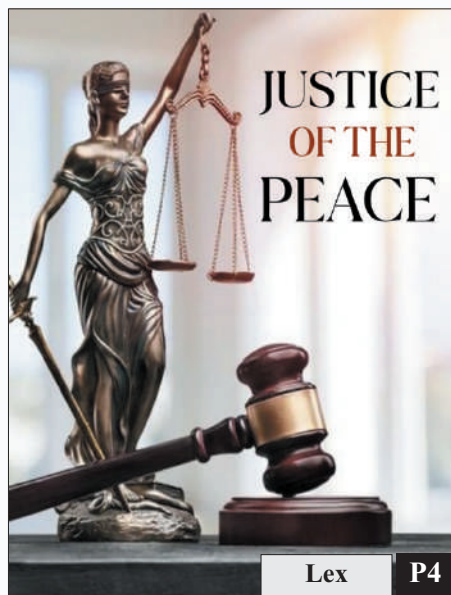
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ce qu'il désirait. A son tour de s'asseoir sur le réchaud ardent”

• ‘Nous savons que les alliances électorales sont faites pour finir en divorce...

...demain ou après-demain, le MMM aura de nouveau besoin du MSM’

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# Drugs, Control, and the Cannabis Question

**T**he quiet but dangerous spread of drugs in Mauritius is a slow-motion disaster, and the damage to society will probably be much worse than we currently think. This week's parliamentary debates on the new National Agency for Drug Control (NADC) bill shows that the country is at a crucial point in its long and difficult fight against this widespread threat. What past investigations revealed, the Prime Minister's recent strong statements about drug busts, and the very need for a new central agency all indicate a deep-rooted problem that requires not just more effort, but a completely new way of dealing with it.

The reports from the Rault and Lam Shang Leen Commissions of Inquiry painted a disturbing picture of compromised institutions, where the very entities tasked with combatting drugs were seemingly undermined from within. Years ago, the shocking arrest of four MPs in Amsterdam clearly showed how deeply the illegal drug trade can reach, even to the highest levels of society. These revelations highlighted a critical vulnerability: when the gatekeepers themselves become corrupted, the floodgates are left wide open. Sir Anerood Jugnauth's actions following the Rault Report demonstrated the political will required to confront the issue head-on, a stark reminder of the potential electoral consequences of inaction.

Even though the Prime Minister's recent statements emphasized successful drug seizures and arrests, they actually revealed how big the drug problem really is. Billions of rupees worth of drugs intercepted and thousands apprehended offer little comfort when the unknown quantity that evades detection could be exponentially larger. The estimated proceeds of this illicit industry, potentially representing several percent of the national GDP, paint a grim picture of an underground economy that rivals legitimate sectors, wielding immense financial power capable of further corrupting the system.

The fundamental question that arises is whether Mauritius can truly win this fight, or if the drug cartels have become so deeply embedded within the fabric of society that the battle is already lost. The fact that these cartels can seemingly embarrass a significant portion of law enforcement officials raises serious doubts about the effectiveness of current strategies. Furthermore, the worrying idea that some politicians in power in the recent past might have obtained shady money from these gangs raises serious doubts about the commitment of part of the political establishment to tackle this issue head-on.

**C**ommon sense dictates that without a radical and sustained escalation of countermeasures, the situation will only worsen, potentially spiralling beyond control. The fact that we're now hearing about how widespread the drug problem is locally deserves a closer look. Why is this information coming out now, after the problem seems to have been growing for years? Could powerful vested interests have knowingly tolerated this growth for their own enrichment? The intelligence-gathering apparatus of Mauritius, with its various agencies, surely possesses, or should possess, detailed information on individuals whose opulent lifestyles far exceed their declared income. The critical question remains: are these individuals being shielded, and are powerful, mafia-like drug gangs operating with impunity, posing a direct threat to the nation's peace and stability?

The Lam Shang Leen Report explicitly identified the porous nature of Mauritius's entry points for drugs – the port, the airport, and the coastline patrolled by speedboats.

The question then becomes: are the security measures at these crucial junctures truly robust and impervious to corruption? Is there genuine and effective two-way cross-border cooperation with neighbouring islands to stem the flow of illicit substances? The vast sums of "dirty money" generated by the drug trade necessitate sophisticated money-laundering mechanisms, often disguised within seemingly legitimate businesses like gambling establishments, casinos, fast-food outlets, and distribution networks. It is difficult to believe that these activities remain entirely opaque to the nation's investigative agencies.

**T**he debate surrounding the National Agency for Drug Control bill signifies a recognition at the highest levels that a more coordinated and comprehensive approach is necessary. Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam's emphasis on a balanced and multidisciplinary strategy, encompassing prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and accountability, is a welcome departure from a purely repressive approach. The inclusion of the Drug Users Administrative Panel, adopting a human rights-based approach, also signals a potentially more progressive way of dealing with drug users, acknowledging the complexities of addiction as a public health issue.

However, the Prime Minister's cautious stance on the legalisation of cannabis warrants careful consideration in light of global trends and emerging scientific evidence. As highlighted by Lindsay Smith Rogers of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the global landscape of cannabis policy is rapidly evolving, with numerous jurisdictions legalising medical and recreational use. While acknowledging the need for further research on the risks and benefits, the potential for taxation, regulation, and removal of the product from the illegal market are significant public health considerations.

The distinction between medical and recreational use is increasingly blurred, with many individuals using cannabis for self-medication. While rigorous scientific evidence for all medicinal applications is still emerging, promising results have been observed for conditions like seizures, nausea, and appetite stimulation. The complexity arises from the myriad of cannabinoids, terpenes, and routes of administration, necessitating extensive research to fully understand the potential benefits and risks.

The risks associated with cannabis use, including the potential for cannabis use disorder and mental health consequences, particularly for adolescents with a family history of psychosis, cannot be ignored. However, legalisation also presents potential benefits, such as taking cannabis out of the control of criminal enterprises, implementing quality control and labelling, and potentially reducing the disproportionate criminalisation of occasional users under existing drug laws.

Ultimately, the establishment of the National Agency for



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Drug Control represents a crucial step in centralising and coordinating the fight against drugs in Mauritius. The agency's mandate to implement the National Drug Control Master Plan and National Action Plan, and to oversee strategies related to HIV/AIDS, signifies a more holistic approach. However, the success of this agency will hinge on its independence, its resources, and, most importantly, the unwavering political will to confront corruption at all levels and dismantle the powerful drug networks that have taken root in Mauritian society.

The Prime Minister's assertion that the impunity of drug barons will end under his government must be translated into concrete action. The reorganisation of the Forensic Science Laboratory to expedite results is a positive step, but it must be accompanied by a comprehensive overhaul of intelligence gathering, law enforcement, and the judiciary to ensure that those involved in the drug trade, regardless of their position or influence, are brought to justice.

**T**he fight against the hydra-headed monster of drug proliferation requires more than just a new agency; it demands a fundamental societal commitment to transparency, accountability, and an unwavering determination to reclaim the integrity of its institutions and the future of its people. The time for decisive action is now, before the cancerous growth of the drug trade metastasizes beyond the point of effective intervention. The nation watches, with a mixture of hope and trepidation, to see if this new initiative can finally sever the hydra's heads and restore health and security to Mauritian society.

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## Eulogy

# Fraternity, Compassion, and Justice: Pope Francis, the People's Pope

Jan Arden

**P**ope Francis passed away at 88 on Monday after a couple of months of ailing health, on the day following his last Easter appearance, an event that has deeply saddened the Catholic world, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to them as the traditional nine-day mourning are under way. Yet, in the corridors of conservatism that has generally been the hallmark of the Vatican, this was no ordinary Pope. His words, travels, moral, reli-

gious and spiritual presence kept challenging us, of all faiths and political dispositions, to the quest for greater fraternity, compassion, mercy and social justice in a world torn asunder by power conflicts, unbridled capitalism and global competition for limited resources.



**“As a Jesuit, the Argentinian-origin Pope was steeped in simplicity, if not a spiritual humility that made him, days after taking his eminent office, prefer a modest Vatican suite meant for cardinals rather than the more opulent papal residence, riding by special bus rather than a papal motorcade of limos, paying his own hotel bills or his future burial costs and even in his simpler wardrobe, unsettling an establishment more accustomed to familiar perks, pomp and pageantry. The faithful called him the People's Pope in a papacy that lasted 12 years...” P - euronews.com**

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**“Despite the shadows of the sex scandals that clouded the Church, Pope Francis was a tireless pilgrim of hope as his 47 globe-trotting apostolic visits abroad took him to 68 countries and spread his steadfast message to every continent and almost every corner of the earth, including a memorable stop-over in Mauritius. A few brief words won't do justice to the scope and span of the world forays of Pope Francis. With his customary humility, he turned his eminent pulpit into the high moral voice of the downtrodden, the poor, those battered by life...”**

While these and his other attempts to reform the Vatican establishment may have caused flutters among Vatican watchers and the College of Cardinals familiar with the hushed networks within the Vatican, they rejoiced many within the wider circle of the faithful in St. Peter's ministry on Earth. Insiders know he did not have an easy time with several difficult issues that fell to him, where his

straightforward views, expressed in simple words, became indispensable. Secularists and those of Catholic faith and dogma alike knew he had to address the shocking revelations and cover-ups surrounding sexual predators in ordained robes preying on the innocence and trust of children, the vexed question of celibacy and the role of women in the Church, and the rights of members of the LGBTQ+ community to be treated as human beings, not as deviants.

With compassion and a sense of universal values inherited from his mentor, St Francis of Assisi, he did not shirk from taking a clear stance on those controversies. Several centuries earlier, Saint Francis had expressed the essence of fraternity as one that allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person, regardless of physical proximity, regardless of where he

or she was born or lived, and, we would add today, regardless of race, gender or religious beliefs.

\* \* \*

## Globalisation of indifference

**T**he outpouring of condolence messages from world leaders testifies to the fact that Pope Francis's words and tireless pilgrimages around the world, particularly to many difficult zones, had a far wider reach than mere preaching to his followers. He challenged them, and us, to seek deeper universal fraternity based on compassion, mercy, and social justice.

In a world where horrendous conflicts persist in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip, where migration and poverty pose intractable problems, where unbridled capitalist greed and wealth accumulation define success, where the concerns of the Global South are ignored, and where the planet's fragile environment demands concerted action from world leaders, his simply expressed words urged us, regardless of faith or belief, to reflect on the deeper universal values we should cherish. He also prompted us to consider the individual actions we can take to advance a more compassionate and just society.

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A few brief words won't do justice to the scope and span of the world forays of Pope Francis. With his customary humility, he turned his eminent pulpit into the high moral voice of the downtrodden, the poor, those battered by life, endearing him to many millions and constantly reminding world leaders of the message of hope and compassion in a world ruled by brutal economic and military forces.

Among his many admonitions, the following quote about social media and now AI making instant hits with the young, is of universal interest: “That is how [the manipulators] of various ideologies operate: they destroy (or deconstruct) all differences so that they can reign unopposed. To do so, however, they need young people who have no use for history, who spurn the spiritual and human riches inherited from past generations and are ignorant of everything that came before them.” It leads to a slow globalisation of indifference, a roadmap for disenchantment and disillusion on which clever manipulators thrive, pushing their unavowable and darker agendas.

We could go on for volumes but his formidable yet humble and attaching personality can best be summed up by this quote: “It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity.”

\* \* \*

## Impact of climate change on local environment

**O**n the question of the global climate change and our planetary environment, Pope Francis was equally clear and forceful. With his landmark encyclical in 2015, *Laudato Si'*, the Pope set out, in 180 pages, his vision of “climate change [as] a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political”, and warned of the “grave social debt” owed by the rich, already developed economies to the poor or developing countries struggling to get their foot on the ladder.

We began to understand the dramatic impact of global climate change on our local environment some ten years ago, and since we cannot be confident that the billions earmarked over the previous few years have been wisely spent or have had a positive effect on flash floods, overflowing drains, uncertain water resources, flood-prone areas, or the environmental impact of accelerated ‘betonage’ on our agricultural landscape.

It is not simply an accounting question of monies spent correcting for mistakes or follies of our building permit system but raises far deeper questions on our relationships with the land and seas our forefathers left us and those we will leave behind for generations to come.

Are we on the right track when a major infrastructure project like a metro line can be declaimed from an Environment Impact Assessment or a strategic one on public transport? Are environmental issues given sufficient prominence when permits for smart or less smart developments, when handled only at district levels or when promoters are invited to submit their own EIAs?

Are the incoming authorities satisfied with the corrective measures taken in the wake of the Wakashio environmental disaster to prevent any future recurrence of “stray ships” barging onto our shores or beaches?

There are many other questions that NGOs and concerned citizens will have, but there is no doubt that including the environmental perspective from professional urban and land planners is a growing necessity that extends beyond the material perspective.

# From Electoral Rhetoric to Legal Reality: Challenges in Enforcing Accountability

*Under the MSM, arrests were made without due evidence. The new government must affirm that justice requires investigation, evidence, and due process — not arbitrariness*

**I**n the wake of the electoral victory of the Alliance du Changement, the electorate has placed its trust in the new government to deliver on its promises of accountability, transparency, and reform. However, as the months pass, public impatience is growing over the perceived slow pace of investigations and actions taken against those suspected of corruption and misconduct. The public expects swift and decisive action, but the government must balance this demand with the critical need for due process and fairness in legal proceedings.

From the pursuit of justice in high-profile cases, such as the murder of Soopramanien Kistnen, to the implementation of robust anti-corruption measures and the enforcement of the rule of law, the challenge remains: how can the government deal with these complexities while upholding the principles of justice and fairness that form the foundation of a democratic society? Lex explores the legal frameworks, challenges, and potential reforms necessary to meet these expectations and ensure that accountability is not only promised but delivered.

## LEX

\* The electorate, having voted for the Alliance du Changement based on their commitment to bring about positive change in the country and promote accountability, now expects decisive action and accountability for those suspected of wrongdoing. There is growing public impatience regarding the perceived slow progress in holding individuals accountable. How can the government balance the public's demand for swift action with the need for due process and fair trials for any individual implicated?

During the electoral campaign, politicians promised that, in the event of victory, defeated MSM politicians would be sent straight to jail. This was a mistake, and they got carried away by their passion. They should have recognized that Mauritius is a country committed to the rule of law.

What occurred during the MSM's time in power was a complete disregard for the rule of law and constitutional principles, with people being arrested without a prima facie case.

The politicians currently in the majority should now explain to the public that citizens cannot be arrested arbitrarily. Investigations must take place, evidence must be gathered, and due process must be followed. It's important to convey that

while the MSM was focused on political vengeance, the Alliance du Changement is committed to upholding the rule of law.

\* To what extent does the concept of reasonable suspicion protect individuals from arbitrary arrest in a democratic society?

The principle of individual liberty is a cornerstone of both democratic societies and human rights. Deprivation of liberty is a serious matter and can only be justified if it is lawful and necessary. Any deprivation of liberty is subject to judicial scrutiny.

Article 5 of the Constitution states that no person shall be deprived of their personal liberty except as authorized by law, and only upon reasonable suspicion of having committed, or being about to commit, a criminal offence.

Arrest is an exception to the right to personal liberty. The responsibility to justify an arrest lies with the person making the arrest. They must cite the specific law under which the arrest is being made and demonstrate that the power to arrest was properly exercised. An arrest cannot be made based merely on an allegation or vague suspicion; the suspicion must be reasonable.

"Reasonable suspicion" is a key safeguard in relation to police powers of arrest under both the Constitution and relevant laws. This requirement ensures that the power of arrest is not exercised



**“Ministers and politicians, in particular, must adhere strictly to the principles of good governance and integrity. It is not the role of a minister to interfere in the daily operations of public institutions. Public procurement and the awarding of contracts are governed by established procedures, typically managed by civil servants. Ministerial interference in these processes is unjustifiable — unless there is a hidden agenda or personal interest in the outcome...”**

arbitrarily. While the threshold for establishing reasonable suspicion is low — there is no need for a prima facie case before an arrest can occur — it is crucial that the safeguards in place prevent the unnecessary arrest of innocent individuals.

\* On the other hand, what legal avenues remain available to ensure a thorough and impartial investigation into the murder of Soopramanien Kistnen, particularly in light of possible political connections?

The case has been pending for an unusually long time, raising serious concerns about whether any meaningful outcome will emerge from further investigations. From the outset — when the police hastily concluded that Kistnen had taken his own life — it appears there was a lack of genuine effort to pursue the matter with the rigour it deserved.

This is troubling, especially given that investigative procedures are well established and well within the competence

of the police. The lingering question is whether political interference played a role in hindering a proper investigation.

\* One would expect the current government to ensure that all investigations and any resulting legal proceedings are conducted with full transparency and in strict adherence to the rule of law. This is essential for maintaining public trust and avoiding any perception of political vendetta. That should not be a tall order — should it?

Indeed, “reasonable suspicion” that a criminal offence has been committed presupposes the existence of facts or information that would lead an objective observer to believe that the individual in question may have committed an offence.

When a police officer — or any authority vested with the power of arrest — acts, they must consider the full context.

☞ Cont. on page 5



## Soopramanien Kistnen's murder

# 'The lingering question is whether political interference played a role in hindering a proper investigation'

☞ Cont. from page 4

This includes not only the available evidence but also the explanations offered by the suspect and the possible motives of the complainant or declarant.

Any suspicion held by the police must be balanced against factors that may favour the suspect. Ignoring the suspect's explanations altogether may lead to the conclusion that the suspicion was neither reasonable nor based on just cause. In such cases, the arrest would likely breach section 5(1)(e) of the Constitution, which protects against unlawful deprivation of personal liberty.

**\* Are there legal protections in place for whistleblowers who might come forward with information related to alleged wrongdoing?**

Unfortunately, Mauritius lacks a comprehensive legal framework dedicated to the protection of whistleblowers. While the Financial Crimes Commission Act has provisions to protect the identity of individuals who report corruption, these measures are limited in scope and do not constitute a full whistleblower protection regime.

Additionally, while law enforcement agencies — such as the police — do rely on informants to detect and investigate crimes, this informal reliance does not offer robust legal safeguards for those who risk coming forward with sensitive or politically charged information.

**\* What are the potential legal challenges and limitations the government might face in pursuing these investigations and prosecutions?**

One of the primary challenges lies in the complexity of financial crimes. These offences often involve intricate networks of transactions, layered through multiple entities and jurisdictions, making investigations time-consuming and resource-intensive.

While the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) is vested with broad investigative powers, dealing with the complexities of financial records — especially when they span several years or involve sophisticated concealment tactics — can significantly delay the process.

Moreover, certain investigations may require access to information or witnesses located in foreign jurisdictions. In such cases, the authorities must rely on international cooperation mechanisms provided under mutual legal assistance treaties.

**\* What legal reforms, if any, could be implemented to strengthen anti-corruption measures and prevent similar issues from arising in the future?**

In truth, the need may not be for additional laws, but for integrity and accountability in the enforcement of existing ones. The effectiveness of anti-corruption frameworks ultimately hinges on the honesty and independence of those entrusted with public institutions.

Ministers and politicians, in particular, must adhere strictly to the principles of good governance and integrity. It is not the role of a minister to interfere in the daily operations of public institutions. Public procurement and



Pic - Channelnews.mu

**“What occurred during the MSM's time in power was a complete disregard for the rule of law and constitutional principles, with people being arrested without a prima facie case. The politicians currently in the majority should now explain to the public that citizens cannot be arrested arbitrarily. Investigations must take place, evidence must be gathered, and due process must be followed. It's important to convey that while the MSM was focused on political vengeance, the Alliance du Changement is committed to upholding the rule of law...”**

the awarding of contracts are governed by established procedures, typically managed by civil servants. Ministerial interference in these processes is unjustifiable — unless there is a hidden agenda or personal interest in the outcome.

Moreover, civil servants and leaders of public or semi-public bodies must act with independence and professionalism. Blind obedience to political directives undermines the rule of law and erodes institutional credibility. Strengthening a culture of accountability, rather than introducing more legislation, may be the most effective way forward.

**\* What are the legal protocols and international cooperation mechanisms that could be leveraged if evidence of wrongdoing extends beyond national borders?**

Mauritius has a robust legal framework for international cooperation in criminal matters, primarily through the Mutual Assistance in Criminal and Related Matters

Act 2003. This Act, which came into force in September 2003, enables Mauritius to both provide assistance to foreign states and international tribunals in criminal investigations and related matters, as well as to receive such assistance in return.

Under this law, Mauritius can assist in investigating and prosecuting serious offenses that have transnational elements, such as money laundering, corruption, or other financial crimes. Similarly, the Act facilitates the sharing of evidence and the execution of requests for extradition, allowing for a more effective response to criminal activities that cross borders.

**\* Considering the promise of a “politique de rupture,” what specific legal and institutional changes can the government implement to demonstrate a clear departure from past practices and foster a culture of accountability?**

The enactment of a Fiscal Responsibility Act would be highly beneficial. In a 2003 research paper, the World Bank explained that fiscal responsibility laws are designed to help institutions and governments avoid irresponsible fiscal behaviour that may offer short-term advantages but would ultimately be collectively damaging.

Fiscal policy without political responsibility will not work in practice. Political forces play a key role in shaping financial policies, and a lack of vision often leads to the accumulation of government debt, in line with long-term political trends and political economy incentives that promote further debt accumulation. While legislation on fiscal policy would establish rules and norms for government management of public finances and spending, there may be situations that require some flexibility in adhering strictly to the rules outlined in fiscal policy legislation.





Sada Reddi

# The Future of Education: The Task Ahead

*Whenever the middle class withdraws from state institutions, whether in education or health, it leads to a decline in standards for the wider population and contributes to the erosion of the welfare state*

At a recent book launch at Hennessy Park Hotel, Prime Minister Dr N. Ramgoolam expressed the wish to see a human and liberal education that contributes to the development of the individual and his well-being in a holistic manner. A few days earlier, at the national forum on education, Minister of Education Mahend Gungapersad stated his intention to usher in a new era in education, where children will be equipped to face the vicissitudes of life.

Since the advent of the new government, various pronouncements by the minister have expressed his determination to overhaul the educational system and frequently refer to equitable access to quality education, inclusive education, and an educational system with an environment that is welcoming and supportive for all learners.

This is not surprising, as Education ministers worldwide, and here in Mauritius too, have been advocating inclusive education. However, inclusiveness has been interpreted differently in different countries and environments, ranging from providing education for all at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels to providing education for all learners in the same school.

All these issues came into consideration - directly and indirectly - at the national forum attended by thousands of educators, rectors, managers, and directors from more than 1,000 educational establishments catering to early education, primary, secondary, and vocational sectors.

While many feel that the conference could have been organized and structured differently, giving different stakeholders more opportunities to discuss issues in some depth and share their ideas, nevertheless, the 200 recommendations made at the conference, in addition to proposals made online as well as the few papers diligently prepared by dedicated educators, will provide a solid base for reforming the educational system.

Others may deplore the absence of papers by academics, but this is not a serious flaw, as there are very few up-to-date action research projects on the Mauritian educational system, and the few that exist have been published and are familiar to stakeholders.

One must always remember that action research in our schools faces many bureaucratic hurdles from the ministry, and the few works on local education often rely on data smuggled from teacher trainees for researchers, which are not always reliable.

Overall, the national gathering of educators and managers at various levels has provided the minister with the legitimacy to embark on and implement reforms. However, in the 200 recommendations publicly approved, there was no opportunity to rank their importance or establish priorities in



**“It is well known that many political decisions imposed in the past have been failures. The setting up of Form VI and Form I to V state colleges had to be abandoned, as one example. Regionalization and the abolition of ranking - intended to reduce pressure on pupils for their well-being - merely transferred competition from the national to the regional level, with the emergence of regional star colleges. At present, Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) and National Certificate of Education (NCE) examinations have intensified pressure for primary to secondary pupils, giving a strong boost to the private tuition industry...”**

each subsector. There were even criticisms that the recommendations in one breakout session emanated from only one person.

With the ministry being tasked with drawing up the list of priorities for the short, medium, and long term, there is always the risk that priorities established by the ministry may run counter to what the stakeholders have in mind. Anyway, one will have to wait for the budget to know which priorities have been accepted and what level of funding they will receive for the year to come.

As many observers have highlighted, the major task ahead is implementation. In the first place, it will require the collaboration and support of several ministries, such as Planning, Finance, Health, Social Integration, and others. The reason is simple and obvious: the education system is a microcosm of society, and our society is generally sick, with societal problems invading our schools as never before and overwhelming our education personnel at all levels.

For example, the Minister of Health has reported that 50,000 to 100,000 people are enrolled in methadone treatments. More than 1,000 people were arrested for drugs between December 2024 and March 2025. Corruption, indiscipline, and violence are rife in our society, and in a small country, they have impacted the population, generating anxiety and stress. All these problems have impacted our school system.

The minister thus faces an uphill task, and despite his goodwill and determination, there is a lingering doubt about whether his

ministry will be able to cope with the challenges unless there is an overhaul of the ministry itself and a drastic change of mindset in the personnel. What led to that doubt is not the unjustified criticisms or allegations sometimes levelled at officials, but the strong evidence of inefficiency and waste pointed out by the Director of Audit. This does not concern only one ministry, but all our institutions.

A reading of the report of the National Audit Office shows many of the failings, some justified, others not, and provides specific recommendations to address the various issues. For example, a project to provide internet connectivity in 162 schools resulted only in connectivity in 47 classrooms, and the Rs 140 million allocated in the budgets for 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 remained unutilized. The ministry's response to this failure was the complexity of the projects, financial constraints, and the interdependence of the ministry on other ministries for implementation.

While the audit report clinically lists the shortcomings of the Ministry of Education that need to be addressed, ministry officials are not always to blame, as often political decisions are imposed on them to implement without due consideration of implications, consequences, or even resources, both financial and human.

It is well known that many political decisions imposed in the past have been failures. The setting up of Form VI and Form I to V state colleges had to be abandoned, as

one example. Regionalization and the abolition of ranking - intended to reduce pressure on pupils for their well-being - merely transferred competition from the national to the regional level, with the emergence of regional star colleges. At present, Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) and National Certificate of Education (NCE) examinations have intensified pressure for primary to secondary pupils, giving a strong boost to the private tuition industry.

Prevocational education is another failure, though it was intended as a step towards inclusive education. It is well known that at the management meetings of the ministry, there was strong opposition to the Extended Programme, but opposition was overruled by ministerial decision, resulting in much harm to the lives of thousands of pupils. Similarly, the Foundation Programme is just another initiative from one environment hastily copied and pasted into other diversified environments, but this time there will be no summative evaluation, so any failure of the programme will be hidden from public view, and those who do not reach the level to join IVTB courses will be left in the wilderness.

Luckily, parents know what is best for their children, and many informed parents have found it better for their children to repeat Grade VI rather than register for the Foundation Programme. Currently, in many state colleges, there are very few pupils in Grade VII, and only a few in Grades VIII and IX. They are taught by subject specialists, while ex-prevocational teachers, turned into facilitators, teach life skills. It is hoped that working with a smaller number of pupils will enhance their educational outcomes by offering quality teaching and personalized support to help them reach their full potential.

The overall decline in the quality of education over the past decade, coupled with a desire to spare children unnecessary stress and pressure, has led middle-class parents to turn to private education — explaining the exodus from state schools. Whenever the middle class withdraws from state institutions, whether in education or health, it leads to a decline in standards for the wider population and contributes to the erosion of the welfare state. At present, reversing this trend will be difficult—unless prompted by an economic downturn.

It is hoped that the minister will mobilize all available resources — including advice from the Education Planning Committee, input from other directors and inter-ministerial collaborators, and, importantly, the voices of parents and students — to plan effectively for the future. With a declining student population, he must seize every opportunity to realize his vision of an inclusive education system.



Yvan Martial

# “Le Changement voulait le Changement. L'électorat lui a donné

*ce qu'il désirait. A son tour de s'asseoir sur le réchaud ardent”*



« François attend davantage de chacun d'entre nous. Il interpelle notre monde. Ce monde marqué par des génocides et pas seulement à Gaza, au Soudan, en Ukraine. Un monde dominé par deux irresponsables, Trump et Poutine. Ils pourraient ne pas avoir grand-chose à envier à Caligula, à Néron, à Napoléon, à Adolf Hitler, à Josef Staline. Ils semblent n'avoir de comptes à rendre à personne sur Terre. Ils tiennent pourtant les Nations Unies entre leurs serres en forme de veto. Pauvre Franklin Roosevelt. Heureusement nous n'avons pas à les juger... »

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Notre monde, dérivant sur une planète gangrénée par notre folle surconsommation de plastique et autres produits pétroliers. Unique planète. Sans *stepney*. Un monde s'acharnant à son autodestruction, parce que sacrifiant à de faux dieux, ayant pour noms égoïsme forcené, le plus matérialiste qui soit, loi de la jungle la plus débridée, etc.

Le pape François est mort? Qu'en savons-nous? Il est certes autant question, ces jours-ci, de «résurrection» que d'œufs de Pâques. La prudence est donc de mise. D'autant plus qu'il n'a pas encore été mis au tombeau. Soyons patients.

Le pape François est mort! La belle blague. Il veut vivre dans nos cœurs. Il vit si nous voulons qu'il survive en nous. Si nous voulons qu'il éclaire notre vie. Il n'est jamais plus agissant et charismatique. Il continue à nous montrer le chemin menant à notre Dieu et Père infiniment clément et miséricordieux. Tout dépend de chacun d'entre nous. C'est une question de conviction pouvant changer notre vie.

Nous y croyons ou nous n'y croyons pas. La foi s'offre à tous. Il dépend de nous de l'accepter ou de la refuser. Il ne faut pas comprendre pour croire. Il faut croire pour comprendre. Nous avons le droit, la liberté, de refuser cet incomparable cadeau de Pâques. A l'heure du choix, à refaire à chaque instant de notre vie, le sourire bienveillant du pape François nous accompagne. Patiemment. Toujours respectueux de notre liberté d'accepter ou de refuser. Mais notre réponse engage notre éternité.

Quoi demander de plus au pape François? Il reçoit enfin son invitation à prendre la place qui, par la grâce de Jésus le Palestinien, lui revient dans la Maison de son Père des Cieux et Sauveur de toute humanité. Peut-être aux côtés de notre Bon Père Laval, au chevet duquel il a prié pour nous, le 9 septembre 2019. Je le devine suppliant le pardon de ses péchés, de n'avoir pu faire que ce qu'il pouvait faire.

A ses funérailles, les Grands de ce Monde - malheureusement méprisables pour beaucoup - se bousculent, se disputent les premières places. C'est l'endroit “in” où il faut être. Le “must”! Ils volent simplement les places, devant revenir à un rescapé de Lampedusa, au Mexicain que Trump refoule en Pauvreté. La place devant revenir à cette mère palestinienne, nouvelle *Mater Dolorosa*, à qui on remet la dépouille de son enfant, assassiné par un missile israélien. A cette maman du Soudan, folle de douleur car elle n'a plus une goutte de lait à offrir à son enfant déshydraté et martyrisé par la faim la plus tenaillante. L'Africain prend plaisir à martyriser son frère africain, dans l'indifférence la plus générale.

Les Grands de ce monde volent la place de ce Mauricien que la drogue synthétique transforme en zombie, tandis que la pieuve la plus mafieuse étend, avec gloutonnerie, ses tentacules aux quatre coins de notre pays. Ils volent la place de ceux qui, à l'instar de Jésus le Nazaréen, nouent leur tablier pour se mettre fraternellement au service de notre Humanité souffrante, les nurses, les institutrices, les assistantes sociales, celles qui mettent toute leur joie à essuyer toute larme glissant sur les joues de l'île Maurice souffrante, au bord de la désespérance.

Les Grands de ce Monde volent la place des pauvres de ces périphéries, tellement chères au pape François. Mais il est tellement bon qu'il saura voir dans le cœur de ces Accapareurs de Premières Places la mèche qui fume encore et qu'il ne convient pas d'éteindre avant que tout ne soit consumé.

« Le gouvernement du Changement (PTTr-MMM-ND-ReA) a tout intérêt à donner entière liberté à cette *Financial Crimes Commission*, héritée du régime MSM de Pravind Jugnauth. Il sait trop bien qu'elle profite servilement de l'occasion qui lui est fournie de tomber à bras raccourcis sur de possibles méfaits passés du régime précédent, se chiffrant quand même à coups de milliards, et sauver leur misérable personne. Cette FCC me paraîtrait plus crédible car vraiment indépendante, si elle avait le courage d'enquêter sur certains coffres-forts bourrés de devises étrangères... »

Le pape François, qui a si bien ravivé notre foi en notre Humanité tellement pécheresse, n'est heureusement pas le seul prophète capable de secouer notre cocotier planétaire et faire nos tomber nos plus vilaines habitudes égoïstes. Il fait partie de la cohorte des Charles de Foucaud, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Mère Teresa, l'Abbé Pierre (je refuse obstinément de lui lancer la première pierre).

● Suite en page 8

**D**imanche 20 avril 2025, le pape François, premier souverain pontife originaire de l'hémisphère sud, a tenu à rencontrer la foule, pour la plus grande joie des milliers de fidèles rassemblés sur la place Saint-Pierre. Il nous a quittés le lundi de Pâques, à l'âge de 88 ans, dans sa résidence du Vatican. Il laisse derrière lui l'empreinte d'un homme animé par une volonté de réforme profonde. Sa disparition a suscité une intense réflexion chez Yvan Martial, observateur de la société, ici comme ailleurs. Le vieux débat sur le bien et le mal, le paradis et l'enfer, resurgit, mettant en lumière ce qui demeure essentiel dans le monde contemporain: l'amour.

**Mauritius Times:** La signification mondiale du pontificat réformateur et engagé du pape François, premier pape sud-américain et jésuite, qui s'est élevé contre les ravages du néolibéralisme, a plaidé pour plus de justice sociale et a défendu l'environnement, est soulignée par la présence attendue de nombreux dirigeants à ses obsèques. Comment cela illustre-t-il l'influence continue de l'Église catholique dans un monde de plus en plus sécularisé?

**Yvan Martial:** La mort du pape François nous interpelle. Elle est invitation à un sursaut qualitatif. Que changera-t-elle en mieux dans notre vie? Sans réaction à pareille exhortation, nous restons vautrés dans notre médiocrité.

François attend davantage de chacun d'entre nous. Il



# 'Nous savons que les alliances électorales sont faites pour finir en divorce...'

... demain ou après-demain, le MMM aura de nouveau besoin du MSM'

● Suite de la page 7

Nous serons tous jugés sur l'Amour que nous portons à notre prochain au sens le plus large du terme.

Le pape François ne vit plus au Vatican. Il veut être présent dans notre vie. Être notre compagnon de route. Ouvrons-lui notre cœur. Osons mettre nos pas dans les siens. Ils nous mèneront à notre Dieu et Sauveur.

**\* L'Église catholique conserve-t-elle, selon vous, l'autorité morale pour influencer les décisions politiques à l'échelle internationale, et également dans le contexte particulier de Maurice ?**

L'Église, voulue et léguée par Jésus le Palestinien, comme moyen privilégié, voulu de toute éternité par Dieu, notre Père clément et infiniment miséricordieux, ne peut répondre à votre question.

Elle n'existe pas pour faire la volonté du FMI ou de la Banque mondiale mais pour faire celle de son fondateur, le Jésus des Évangiles, Jésus ce Palestinien encore et toujours crucifié. Elle existe pour transmettre au monde d'aujourd'hui, comme à celui d'hier et de demain, le message évangélique de Dieu, se faisant homme pour que nous devenions comme Dieu. Mais pour que cela se fasse, nous devons accepter sa gracieuse invitation.

Pour ne pas être hideux mensonge, contrefaçon la plus grossière, notre amour de Dieu doit se manifester par notre amour de notre prochain. Qui prétend aimer Dieu qu'il ne voit pas, sans aimer son frère qu'il voit, est le plus fiefé des menteurs.

En revanche, il appartient «aux décisions politiques» internationales mais aussi locales, personnelles et individuelles d'accepter en toute liberté ce message évangélique, à notre disposition depuis le début de l'ère chrétienne mais préparé depuis le commencement du Monde, valorisant d'autres messages spirituels et mystiques connus ou à découvrir.

Rien de plus simple que ce message: aimer les autres comme Dieu nous aime. Jusqu'à quel point? En acceptant au besoin toutes les crucifixions possibles et imaginables. Encore que nous sommes plus habitués aux pendants. C'est donc à nos décideurs politiques d'ici et d'ailleurs qu'il faut demander dans quelle mesure ils acceptent ce message évangélique tellement salvifique pour être le guide de leurs décisions administratives.

Et puisque nous parlons du pape François, c'est le moment de nous souvenir de la prière de son saint patron d'Assise : Soyons des Artisans de Paix. Là où il y a la haine, l'offense, la discorde, le mensonge, le doute, le désespoir, les ténèbres, la tristesse, que nous mettons l'amour d'autrui, le pardon, la réconciliation, la Vérité, la foi, l'espérance, la Lumière, la joie. Cessons de vouloir être consolés, compris,



pour devenir des consolateurs, des compatissants car c'est en se donnant qu'on reçoit. En s'oubliant qu'on se trouve. En pardonnant qu'on obtient le pardon, en mourant qu'on ressuscite. Comme le pape François. Ne perdons pas notre temps à faire l'examen de conscience des dirigeants politiques du monde comme ceux de notre pays. Nettoyons plutôt notre conscience des diableries qui s'y nichent avec notre complicité.

**\* Mais, en observant le décalage grandissant entre l'idéal moral et éthique des religions et les actions concrètes, on constate une perception que les hommes religieux sont de moins en moins écoutés, un phénomène visible mondialement et aussi à Maurice, comme l'illustrent les événements de ces dernières années. Votre opinion ?**

A qui la faute si nous n'écoutons pas assez les hommes religieux les plus prophétiques, les plus charismatiques, de notre temps? Il appartient à chaque lecteur de *Mauritius Times* de se demander s'il est suffisamment à l'écoute de ceux et celles, capables de sanctifier notre manière de vivre chacune des journées qu'il nous est donné de vivre, surtout dans un pays aussi fraternel et religieux que le nôtre.

Nous ne pouvons sauver le Monde. Sauvons au moins notre vie et faisons ainsi la moitié du chemin. Les autres ne le font pas. C'est leur problème. Pas le nôtre. Faisons courageusement ce que nous pensons devoir faire et laissons les autres, laissons Dieu, faire l'autre partie du boulot.

Mais attention ! Il y aura toujours un méchant Diable à venir nous souffler à l'oreille que ce charabia, c'est de la connerie et qu'il vaut mieux surfer sur une trompeuse euphorie. Dieu nous aime tant, bien que nous soyons ses créatures et qu'il nous tire du néant, qu'il respecte notre Liberté de lui dire non, de préférer le Diable qui nous incite à faire le mal que nous détestons pour ne pas faire le bien que nous désirons pourtant.

Notre époque est-elle pire ou meilleure que celles nous ayant précédés ou qui nous suivront? La question est impertinente. Laissons Dieu juger les hommes de notre temps comme ceux des mondes passés ou à venir. Demandons-nous plutôt si nous menons la Vie que nous voulons vivre. Notre ange gardien est-il fier de nous? Ou le faisons-nous rougir de honte?

**\* Ce qui est particulièrement déprimant pour nous à Maurice, c'est ce que révèlent les reportages de presse concernant les enquêtes menées par la *Financial***

***Crimes Commission* (FCC). Les affaires portant sur des milliards de roupies suggèrent un pillage des fonds publics d'une ampleur inédite. Bien qu'il faille accorder aux suspects la présomption d'innocence, ces révélations sont profondément préoccupantes, non ?**

Ne soyons pas dupes. Le gouvernement du Changement (PTTr-MMM-ND-ReA) a tout intérêt à donner entière liberté à cette *Financial Crimes Commission*, héritée du régime MSM de Pravind Jugnauth. Il sait trop bien qu'elle profite servilement de l'occasion qui lui est fournie de tomber à bras raccourcis sur de possibles méfaits passés du régime précédent, se chiffrant quand même à coups de milliards, et sauver leur misérable personne. Cette FCC me paraîtrait plus crédible car vraiment indépendante, si elle avait le courage d'enquêter sur certains coffres-forts bourrés de devises étrangères.

**« Pour que nos institutions, et pas seulement financières et inquisitoriales, soient libres et indépendantes, il ne faut plus que leurs dirigeants soient nommés par le seul Premier ministre. Optons plutôt pour une commission permanente de recrutement de cadres supérieurs, composée de membres nommés par (1) le Premier ministre (avec droit de voix prépondérante), (2) le chef de l'opposition, (3) le chef juge, (4) le président de la République alias le PM, (5) le principal syndicat de hauts fonctionnaires, (6) le coordonnateur du secteur privé. Alors nous aurons peut-être la chance de ne plus avoir affaire à de lamentables bœni-oui-oui, à des esclaves de la pire espèce... »**

Nous plébiscitons une classe politique, la nôtre, connue pourtant pour ses mensonges les plus éhontés. Les 60 zéros du 10 novembre 2024 n'échappent nullement à cette règle. Relisons les journaux de la mi-2005, ceux de cette campagne électorale s'achevant par une victoire travailliste (Alliance sociale), une alliance MSM-MMM-PMMSD mais du seul Maurice Allet. Que n'ont pas dégobillé, sur Bérenger et Pravind Jugnauth, les Navin Ramgoolam, Shakeel Mohamed, Anil Bachoo et autres harangueurs sur caisse à savon. Ils sont plusieurs à poursuivre Bérenger pour diffamation et à lui réclamer des cinquantaines de millions.

Nous savons que les alliances électorales sont faites pour finir en divorce. Demain ou après-demain, le MMM aura de nouveau besoin du MSM, comme en 1991, comme en 2000, comme en 2013 («Bhai Anerood ne sois plus réduit au Réduit. Viens m'aider à sauver notre pays d'un naufrage nommé Navin Ramgoolam !») De même, le PTTr aura besoin du MSM, comme avant 2010, avant le triste épisode *MedPoint*. Il sera toujours plus facile de dégoter la paille dans l'œil de l'adversaire plutôt que d'enlever la poutre obstruant l'œil de l'hypocrite que nous ne cessons jamais d'être.

Pour que nos institutions, et pas seulement financières et inquisitoriales, soient libres et indépendantes, il ne faut plus que leurs dirigeants soient nommés par le seul Premier ministre.

● Suite en page 9

**« Nos dirigeants politiques ne sont pas tous exécrables. Mais nous, électeurs, nous ne savons pas plébisciter les meilleurs candidats. Nous sommes un électoralat-esclave car nous ne savons pas être un électoralat-maître. Nous méritons les gouvernements que nous élisons tristement. Les uns après les autres. Plus couillons que nous tu meurs! Des politiciens mentent comme ils respirent. Il suffit de contempler leurs parcours en zigzags éhontés. Ils se permettent les pires vilénies car ils se croient intouchables... »**



# 'Soit l'opposition s'entend pour faire cause commune, soit elle s'atomise et fait le jeu du Pouvoir'

## ● Suite de la page 8

Optons plutôt pour une commission permanente de recrutement de cadres supérieurs, composée de membres nommés par (1) le Premier ministre (avec droit de voix prépondérante), (2) le chef de l'opposition, (3) le chef juge, (4) le président de la République alias le PM, (5) le principal syndicat de hauts fonctionnaires, (6) le coordonnateur du secteur privé.

Alors nous aurons peut-être la chance de ne plus avoir affaire à de lamentables béni-oui-oui, à des esclaves de la pire espèce, ne sachant que caresser dans le sens du poil.

\* **L'ampleur potentielle de ces malversations mises en lumière par les enquêtes de la FCC soulève une question cruciale : comment de telles irrégularités ont-elles pu passer inaperçues auprès des services d'audit interne, des auditeurs externes des institutions concernées, et du National Audit Office lui-même?**

La réponse est fort simple. Nos dirigeants politiques ont tout intérêt à nommer, aux postes de commandes, des lavettes, ne sachant que *bêler «ou mem papa! Ou mem mama!»,* au lieu de désigner les meilleurs capitaines disponibles, capables, aumoment propice, d'empêcher le naufrage de notre bateau *Mauritius*.

Nos dirigeants politiques ne sont pas tous exécrables. Mais nous, électeurs, nous ne savons pas plébisciter les meilleurs candidats. Nous sommes un électoral-esclave car nous ne savons pas être un électoral-maître. Nous méritons les gouvernements que nous élisons tristement. Les uns après les autres. Plus couillons que nous tu meurs! Des politiciens mentent comme ils respirent. Il suffit de contempler leurs parcours en zigzags éhontés. Ils se permettent les pires vilénies car ils se croient intouchables. Avant de retourner moisir *dan caro kann*. Ils sont incapables de suivre une ligne droite.



« Le Changement voulait le Changement. L'électorat lui a donné, le 10 novembre 2024, ce qu'il désirait. A son tour de s'asseoir sur le réchaud ardent de toutes les saloperies héritées du précédent régime. Tu as voulu le Pouvoir. Prends-le et prends-en bien du plaisir. Tâche seulement de ne pas répéter les mêmes conneries que ton prédécesseur... »

Leurs propos sont menteries et fourberies. Ils sont même passés maîtres dans l'art de se mentir à soi-même. Ils mentent tellement qu'ils finissent par prendre leurs mensonges pour des vérités, sous prétexte que lors d'un scrutin, nous les avons plébiscités pour éviter à notre pays un malheur national encore plus catastrophique.

\* **Les arrestations successives de l'ancien ministre des Finances, Renganaden Padayachy, ont suscité des**

**accusations de persécution politique de la part du leader de l'opposition parlementaire, Joe Lesjongard. L'attente de la population quant à d'éventuelles autres arrestations est palpable. Il est à espérer que les autorités agiront avec discernement, évitant ainsi les cafouillages de l'ICAC...**

La Justice et, plus particulièrement, le devoir de rendre compte de toute gestion de fonds publics, ressemblent davantage à un rouleau compresseur, la lenteur comprise, que du scalpel du chirurgien le plus habile. Il ne faut pas l'introduire dans un magasin de porcelaine. Encore moins dans une verrerie. Il semblerait que Joe Lesjongard n'ait gardé aucun souvenir de l'arrestation de Navin Ramgoolam en février 2015. *Batte rande na pa fer mal!*

\* **Outre les scandales présumés du régime précédent, dont les enquêtes relèvent exclusivement des institutions d'investigation, le Gouvernement de l'Alliance du Changement a de nombreuses priorités. Quelle est votre évaluation de ses actions à ce jour et de la philosophie qui les sous-tend?**

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Je n'attends rien de notre classe politique. Je rêve seulement d'un gouvernement rendant à nos hauts fonctionnaires l'entière responsabilité d'assurer le meilleur service civil possible et imaginable, en devant rendre compte à nos députés et ministres.

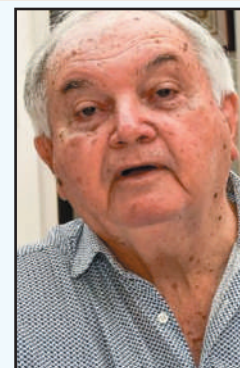
Mais je les sais toujours à la merci d'ingérences politiciennes les plus démotivantes. Il en est ainsi depuis l'Indépendance. Nous ne progressons pas. Nous

nous enlisons dans la médiocrité. Un ancien recteur d'un collège d'Etat a dit: «Il est plus facile de gagner des élections générales que d'obtenir le renvoi d'un élève indiscipliné».

Des médecins doivent accepter qu'un ministre octroie le droit à un quinquaiiller de commander des vaccins dont le pays a urgemment besoin. En politique comme en toute bataille, la victoire revient au camp faisant moins d'erreurs que l'adversaire. Les

réformes les plus urgentes sont systématiquement renvoyées aux calendes grecques. Nos politiciens préfèrent la moisissure du *Karo Kann* plutôt que de modifier un système électoral, imposé par un colonisateur, anglais de surcroît, et refuser même la plus petite dose de représentation proportionnelle. Elle permettrait pourtant une opposition plus coriace et empêcherait le Pouvoir de faire les 400 coups. Nous en reparlerons

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quand nous aurons enfin appris à voter plus intelligemment.

\* **Il est vrai que la portée des propositions énoncées dans le programme gouvernemental est vaste et potentiellement transformatrice. Cependant, cela soulève une question fondamentale quant à la faisabilité d'un programme aussi ambitieux dans le cycle politique actuel. Le Gouvernement vous semble-t-il en mesure de tenir ses promesses dans ces conditions?**

Nous sommes en plein dialogue de sourds. Manifestes électoraux, discours-programmes sont des litanies de pieuses intentions, avec lesquelles on pave les pires enfers. Ceux qui nous sont destinés.

Des ministres accaparent tous les pouvoirs, en dépit de leur incompétence incurable, de peur de perdre une miette de la part du lion qui, pensent-ils, leur revient de droit divin ou presque.

Nous Mauriciens, nous savons mettre de l'ordre chez nous. Mais nous nous désolons parce que cela ne suffit pas. La rue reste malpropre. Le pays ressemble toujours à la cour du roi Pétaud.

Nos journaux fourmillent de suggestions et de propositions de meilleure gouvernance, les unes plus salvifiques que les autres. Mais cela tombe dans l'oreille d'un sourd. Comment imaginer un seul ministre prenant lecture de cette interview et concédant qu'il pourrait y avoir une parcelle de vérité? Il est dans sa Tour d'Ivoire. Pourquoi voulez-vous que je m'intéresse à ses divagations. Mais tout train du plaisir finit par arriver à sa gare terminus. Bienvenue alors dans *Karo Kann*.

\* **Par ailleurs, l'issue des défis juridiques potentiels auxquels Pravind Jugnauth et ses principaux lieutenants**

**pourraient être confrontés reste incertaine. Dans ce contexte, quelles sont les perspectives du MSM pour se repositionner en tant que concurrent sérieux face au PTr et au MMM?**

La Démocratie a autant besoin d'opposition que de Pouvoir. Le devoir de toute presse démocratique, en tant que contre-pouvoir attiré, est de toujours prendre parti pour toutes les oppositions possibles et imagi-

nables et pas seulement politiques. Elle doit multiplier les occasions de faire entendre les voix de tous nos contrepouvoirs. Elle doit nous apprendre à résister au Pouvoir en place et déjà trop puissant. Elle doit se surpasser pour faire comprendre à la population qu'il y a toujours une alternative possible à cette mainmise du pouvoir politique tellement héréditaire, tellement dynastique.

\* **Compte tenu du paysage politique actuel, les partis extraparlamentaires dirigés par Rama Valayden, Nando Bodha et Roshi Bhadain ont-ils une réelle opportunité d'accroître leur influence?**

Nos partis politiques extraparlamentaires doivent respecter la règle du jeu. Notre système électoral demeure absolument bipolaire, en raison d'un refus obstiné de tous nos gouvernements successifs, depuis l'Indépendance, à introduire une dose, même minime, de représentation proportionnelle, dans notre système électoral.

Dans un système bipolaire, il n'y a de la place que pour le Pouvoir et pour une unique Opposition. Soit celle-ci se bat pour constituer cette unicité, pouvant lui procurer la crédibilité voulue, soit elle permet au Pouvoir de devenir davantage totalitaire.

Toute Troisième Force n'a, à ce jour, que prouver son indécrottable faiblesse. Soit l'opposition s'entend pour faire cause commune, soit elle s'atomise et fait le jeu du Pouvoir. Nous finirons par croire qu'il suffit au diable de semer requise au sein d'une opinion tristement émietlée pour rester durablement au pouvoir à Maurice, même si, de temps en temps, il préfère changer les diabolins fourchus à son service. Le diable qui empoisonne notre pays Maurice est allergique à la représentation proportionnelle. C'est là tout le drame de notre pays bien aimé.





Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Encouraging Reading Books From A Young Age

In an age where the electronic screen in the form of the smartphone in the hand has become a universal phenomenon, available to all age-groups as early as toddlers! – it would seem an anachronism to write about reading books. It is a fact that reading in electronic format has become so ubiquitous now as to replace the actual reading of material in the traditional form of print – books, magazines, newspapers.

Versions of the latter, including some of the most prestigious titles in the world, have had to close down and go digital instead. This is true for our local newspapers also, which are now read mostly in digital form, a trend which gained traction during the Covid pandemic and has since become standard. No doubt this is a reality we cannot get away from and represents the future mode for the current and coming generations.

Those of us of the earlier generations still clamour for print versions, and many subscribers to this paper known to me used to ask me when the print version would become available again once the Covid pandemic had passed.

It is also a fact that many bookshops have closed down, which is indeed a pity. Because the electronic format may replace but is no substitute for a book. The former can disappear at the touch of a click, but a book is forever! A book is like an old, trusted friend. To whom you can go back again and again.

As the Roman philosopher, statesman, and writer said, 'A room without a book is like a body without a soul.'

The electronic format undoubtedly presents certain advantages, such as quasi-instantaneous and widespread access across the world to a larger audience. However, the pleasure of reading a book can never be matched by doing so with the digital equivalent. Curling up with a book in your lap as you doze off, especially on winter evenings, is not the same as doing so with a tablet or a laptop – besides the fact that this can be positively dangerous!

When I see the millions of people looking down at smartphones in their hands, most of the time, head bent forward and the back somewhat stooped, I am given to wonder whether at some time in the distant future if this trend continues, we will have generations born with hunched backs and heads down instead of looking up, and shortened fingers! A kind of unintended consequence of science and technology, which the French geneticist Albert Jacquard described as '*les effets pervers de la science*' in an article with the same in *Le Monde Diplomatique*. In this case a physical habit would have become a hereditary trait, in line with Darwin's Theory of Evolution. Though I hope not...

In our time as schoolchildren, at both pri-



Pic - National Day Calendar

**“In our time as schoolchildren, at both primary and secondary levels, books were our prized and precious possessions, carefully covered and passed down to younger siblings. Our teachers used to make us read aloud from them, and reciting poems learnt by heart not only sharpened our memories but also improved our articulation. At the college, there used to be a library period once a week, when we would all go to the library and read in silence, choosing from magazines that were neatly displayed on a rack, or from books that lined the bookshelves in rows. Books on all subjects, catering to everybody's taste. I genuinely feel that this custom, that is the library period, should be introduced again if it is not done. And also reading aloud, and reciting poems...”**

mary and secondary levels, books were our prized and precious possessions, carefully covered and passed down to younger siblings. Our teachers used to make us read aloud from them, and reciting poems learnt by heart not only sharpened our memories but also improved our articulation.

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I genuinely feel that this custom, that is the library period, should be introduced again if it is not done. And also reading aloud, and reciting poems. They will make for more rounded personalities in the students and reduce the risk of mental health issues which plague modern society, according to frequent reports that one comes across.

I include magazines as well as books, many of which have influenced the course of human events. One such book is 'Nineteen Eighty-four' by the English writer George Orwell, which I had read many years ago from the library and read afresh when I

bought a copy some years ago.

And just a few days back, while clearing a box of magazines, I picked up an old issue of *The New Yorker* (January 18, 1999) which carried a long article on him. Going through it, I learnt for the first time that he had a career as a journalist too. It was interesting to read that he 'showed what can only be described as intellectual heroism' and that because of 'his unpalatable opinions', he had 'restricted access to mainstream publications' – most of his commentaries were written for *Tribune*, an influential but small-circulation weekly newspaper backed by the Labour Party's star heavyweight, Aneurin Bevan.

Aneurin Bevan was the architect of the National Health System, and the current Labour Party there is a caricature of the original one, but that's another story.

It was also quite revealing to read, further, 'when he (Orwell) argued, in the columns of the *Tribune*, that the mass-circulation newspapers forced slop on their readership,' a correspondent responded that 'it was really the readership forcing slop on the newspapers.' Hence tabloids and page 3 scandals that make the headlines, I wondered.

It is noteworthy that restriction to mainstream access didn't stop him from becoming one of the most famous and widely read authors, to this day, in the world, with his two most well-known books, 'Nineteen Eighty-four' that came after 'Animal Farm' (1945).

I am sure that readers will have their own favourites. One of the websites that I visit regularly is 'BigThink' which has recently come up with a new feature, introduced as follows: 'Hi, I'm Kevin Dickinson, and welcome to the first issue of Big Think Books! Every month, I get the privilege of exploring the ideas and authors changing how we understand our world. But I don't just want to tell you what's new on the shelves; I want readers to engage with the conversations these books spark and the questions they leave us with. If you're someone who loves to read and indulge their curiosity, you're in the right place.'

Similarly, the science magazine *Nature* carries every month an online review of five recently published science books which allows one to keep up with ideas and questions to ponder.

Nothing better than to conclude with some quotations about books and reading:

'One glance at a book and you hear the voice of another person, perhaps someone dead for 1,000 years. To read is to voyage through time.' – Cosmologist Carl Sagan

'Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.' – Napoleon Bonaparte

'Writing and reading decrease our sense of isolation. They deepen and widen and expand our sense of life: They feed the soul. When writers make us shake our heads with the exactness of their prose and their truths, and even make us laugh about ourselves or life, our buoyancy is restored. We are given a shot at dancing with, or at least clapping along with, the absurdity of life, instead of being squashed by it over and over again. It's like singing on a boat during a terrible storm at sea. You can't stop the raging storm, but singing can change the hearts and spirits of the people who are together on that ship.' – Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*

'Books and doors are the same thing. You open them, and you go through into another world.' – Jeanette Winterson

'Literature is the safe and traditional vehicle through which we learn about the world and pass on values from one generation to the next. Books save lives.' – Laurie Anderson

'The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries.' – Rene Descartes

'That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet.' – Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Namesake*

'You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive.' – James Baldwin

'A book is a gift you can open again and again.' – Garrison Kellor





Vina Ballgobin

# Maintenir l'anglais au Parlement mauricien:

## Un impératif pour la préservation des langues-cultures

Singapour se distingue par son multilinguisme et multiculturalisme dans la vie privée, tout en privilégiant l'anglais dans la sphère publique, préservant ainsi son fragile équilibre social

**M**odifier la Constitution d'un pays requiert beaucoup de discernement de la part des adultes, la vieille génération. Nous savons tous que la nouvelle génération est différente au point qu'une députée de l'Assemblée nationale est capable de négliger complètement les lois applicables au Parlement pour satisfaire son désir. Cette situation ne surprend pas vraiment tous ceux qui côtoient la jeune génération. Aujourd'hui, l'élite – toutes communautés confondues – quitte très vite le pays après les études secondaires, et ce, avec la bénédiction des parents. Par conséquent, un autre segment de la population, avec des expériences et des formations variées, accède à des postes dans divers domaines, y compris la sphère politique. Les attitudes et les comportements sont parfois déconcertants.

Mais les anciens sont tenus de persévérer et d'utiliser le dialogue pour faire entendre raison aux jeunes... Dans ce contexte, revenons à cet évènement malencontreux qui a eu lieu au Parlement pour essayer d'y voir plus clair. Commençons par la terminologie pour éviter les malentendus.

### Quelques définitions

**Langue sans culture.** En théorie, un système linguistique sans culture peut exister mais ce serait alors un système très basique qui a besoin de transformations dans la durée pour devenir une langue. Il y a des étapes importantes à franchir pour que cette langue quitte le statut de «charabia» pour acquérir celui de «langue-culture».

**Langue-culture.** Quand un système linguistique est bien développé, il est normalement associé à une «communauté linguistique» et à sa «culture».

**Langue artificiellement créée.** Dans l'histoire des langues, il y a eu la création de langues par certains individus pour des raisons souvent liées à la satisfaction de leur propre convenance ou par idéalisme. Toutefois, pour la majorité des êtres humains, ces langues sont artificielles et ressenties comme telles. Sans locuteurs suffisants (sauf pour les militants en nombre limité qui s'évertuent à l'employer et à l'imposer), une langue nourrie artificiellement demeure une langue marginale.

Il n'y a aucune comparaison possible entre une langue qui se développe naturellement dans un environnement donné et une langue gonflée par toutes sortes d'artifices pour réduire sa pauvreté linguistique. Par ailleurs, le développement culturel est maigre car la langue fabriquée se heurte systématiquement à une opposition farouche à son adoption. Il serait prétentieux de penser que cette «langue artificielle» arrivera à détrôner d'autres «langues-cultures naturelles». Bref, le développement de ce type de «langue-culture artificielle» prend beaucoup de temps faute de locuteurs, d'interactions dynamisantes et du rejet de la majorité.

**Langue véhiculaire.** Une «langue véhiculaire» permet une communication entre «communautés linguistiques» différentes.

**C**ertaines langues naissent naturellement dans un contexte de relocalisation volontaire ou forcée. Le cas des langues créoles est connu. Leur développement est associé à un environnement de contrainte et à l'obligation de communiquer dans cette langue. Par la suite, cette langue s'est développée et est devenue la «langue-culture» d'une «communauté linguistique».

Dans certaines anciennes colonies, il y a une majorité appartenant à cette «communauté linguistique». En Haïti,

95% de la population est d'origine africaine. Ayant perdu les «langues-cultures ancestrales» à cause de l'imposition de cette langue, les locuteurs les ont remplacées par le kreol haïtien, devenu leur «langue-culture». Ce pays demeure l'un des plus pauvres et des plus corrompus de la planète. Le taux d'alphabétisation est peu élevé et le niveau en anglais est extrêmement bas.

Dans d'autres pays comme à l'île Maurice, après l'abolition de l'esclavage, les travailleurs engagés utilisaient plusieurs langues de leur pays d'origine (l'Inde) reflétant la «langue-culture» de chaque «communauté linguistique». Les Indo-mauriciens entretiennent un lien privilégié avec ces «langues-cultures» (par communauté linguistique mais aussi collectivement) et utilisent le kreol comme «langue véhiculaire» pour communiquer avec les autres sur le sol mauricien.

### «Langue-culture» imposée dans un contexte multilingue

Depuis l'indépendance de notre pays, une politique de «multilinguisme stratégique» a été employée. Ce type de politique linguistique accorde une place à chaque «langue-culture» sans compromettre la survie des autres «langues-cultures» en présence sur le sol mauricien. Passons maintenant aux problèmes qui surviennent dans ce type de contexte multilingue et multiculturel quand la classe politique décide de bousculer la population en affichant une volonté d'accorder une position de supériorité soit à une «langue» ou à une «langue-culture» en particulier.

**Volonté assimilationniste.** Dans l'histoire des langues, la France est un des pays qui a imposé la langue de la Cour (du Roi) sur son territoire à l'époque où il existait une monarchie. Il y avait alors la volonté d'imposer une langue au détriment des autres langues en présence sur le sol français. Ce genre de tentative était étroitement associé à un besoin de pouvoir et de domination d'un groupe sur un autre. Ainsi, tout avait été calculé pour accorder de plus en plus de place à la «langue imposée politiquement»; cette langue a dominé dans toutes les sphères et a gagné en prestige – administration, éducation, politique, médias.

**Assimilation linguistique.** Lentement mais sûrement, les autres «communautés linguistiques» ont été contraintes de procéder à un «language shift» (un «transfert linguistique» aussi nommé «assimilation linguistique») pour s'adapter au contexte de communication changeant. D'une génération à l'autre, la langue de communication familiale a été modifiée pour donner plus de chances à ses enfants de réussir leur mobilité sociale et, de ce fait, les langues communautaires ont disparu les unes après les autres. Plusieurs parlers locaux et régionaux ont disparu après quelques générations, faute de locuteurs.

**Programmation de l'érosion culturelle et de l'homogénéisation.** Lorsque la «langue-culture» d'une «communauté linguistique» est en danger et que la volonté politique (d'une élite) s'acharne sur la population pour imposer la «langue-culture» de son choix, c'est une planification cal-



« Les Mauriciens, eux aussi, souhaitent protéger toutes les «langues-cultures» ancestrales de la République, y compris la «langue-culture kreol» des descendants d'esclaves et d'esclaves marron car [beaucoup] de peuples autochtones, qui associent leur condition sociale défavorisée à leur culture, ont tendance à croire que cela ne vaut pas la peine de sauvegarder leur langue. Ils renoncent à leur langue et à leur culture dans l'espoir de vaincre la discrimination, d'accroître leurs revenus, d'acquérir une plus grande mobilité ou de se faire une place sur les marchés mondiaux'... »

culée de «language loss» («langue perdue», «langue oubliée») de plusieurs «langues-cultures».

La tendance à imposer une «langue véhiculaire» dans tous les domaines renvoie à transformer le statut de cette «langue-culture propre à une communauté linguistique». Progressivement, tous les locuteurs au sein de la population finissent par y être assimilés et ils adoptent aussi les valeurs, les us et coutumes, les traditions, et la manière de penser au détriment de leurs propres connaissances culturelles. L'assimilation à une religion – la religion de l'élite – met souvent un terme à la paix dans certaines régions du monde. Il y a parfois eu le génocide d'une «communauté linguistique» entière.

**P**rogressivement, la «langue-culture» imposée par la classe politique pousse à la destruction des «langues-cultures» locales. Les nouvelles générations modifient leur manière d'être pour se sentir à l'aise dans la vague assimilationniste. Bien entendu, au fil du temps, il ne reste plus aucun savoir relatif aux «langues-cultures» des autres «communautés linguistiques» par manque de locuteurs.

**Effacement de l'identité communautaire.** La volonté d'assimilation à une langue par son imposition politique laisse à penser que le groupe politique en question veut – en son âme et conscience – apporter une transformation identitaire chez les plus jeunes. Étant donné que leur propre «langue-culture» est volontairement et consciemment stigmatisée, ces jeunes éprouvent un sentiment de honte et finissent par refuser de s'y identifier. Le rejet de la «langue-culture ancestrale», de la religion et des pratiques religieuses suit rapidement.

L'Histoire nous apprend qu'une «langue véhiculaire» qui conserve une fonction de communication inter groupes n'est pas un danger pour les autres «langues-cultures». Mais une «langue véhiculaire» qui prend trop de place dans tous les domaines est une menace pour le maintien de l'écologie des «langues-cultures» en contexte multilingue et multiculturel.

☞ Suite en page 15



# Deadly Kashmir attack risks India military escalation against Pakistan

**T**uesday's bloodshed in Pahalgam - where at least 26 tourists were killed in a hail of gunfire - marks the deadliest militant attack in Indian-administered Kashmir since 2019.

The victims weren't soldiers or officials, but civilians on holiday in one of India's most picturesque valleys. That alone makes this strike both brutal and symbolic: a calculated assault not just on lives, but on a fragile sense of normalcy the Indian state has worked hard to project in the disputed region.

Given the fraught history of Kashmir - claimed in full by both India and Pakistan but ruled by each only in part - India's response is likely to be shaped as much by precedent as by pressure, reports Soutik Biswas of BBC.

For starters, Delhi has swiftly taken a series of retaliatory steps: closing the main border crossing, suspending a critical water-sharing treaty, and expelling diplomats.

More significantly, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has vowed a "strong response," pledging action not just against the perpetrators but also the masterminds behind the "heinous acts" on Indian soil.

The question, analysts say, is not whether there will be a military response - but when, and how calibrated it will be, and at what cost.

"We are likely to see a strong response - one that signals resolve to both domestic audiences and actors in Pakistan. Since 2016 and especially after 2019, the threshold for retaliation has been set at cross-border or air strikes," military historian Srinath Raghavan told the BBC.

"It'll be hard for the government to act below that now. Pakistan will likely respond, as it did before. The risk, as always, is miscalculation - on both sides."



Heavy security outside the hospital treating tourists injured in the Pahalgam militant attack. Pic - Getty

Mr Raghavan is alluding to two previous major retaliations by India in 2016 and 2019.

**A**fter the deadly Uri attack in September 2016, where 19 Indian soldiers were killed, India launched what it called "surgical strikes" across the de facto border - also known as the Line of Control (LoC) - targeting what it said were militant launch pads in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

And in 2019, after at least 40 paramilitary personnel were killed in Pulwama, India hit an alleged militant camp in Balakot with airstrikes - its first such strike deep inside Pakistan since 1971. Pakistan responded with air raids, leading to a dogfight and the brief capture of an Indian pilot. Both sides showed strength but avoided full-scale war.

Two years later, in 2021, they agreed to an LoC ceasefire, which has largely held - despite recurring militant attacks in Indian-administered Kashmir.

**M**ichael Kugelman, a foreign policy analyst, believes that the combination of high fatality levels and the targeting of Indian civilians in the latest attack "suggests a strong possibility of an Indian military response against Pakistan, if Delhi determines or merely assumes any level of Pakistani complicity".

"The chief advantage of such a reaction for India would be political, as there will be strong public pressure for India to respond forcefully," he told the BBC.

"Another advantage, if a retaliation successfully takes out terrorist targets, would be restoring deterrence and degrading an anti-India threat. The disadvantage is that a retaliation would risk a serious crisis and even conflict."

## What are India's options?

Covert action offers deniability but may not satisfy the political need to visibly restore deterrence, says Christopher Clary of the University at Albany in the US.

That leaves India with two possible paths, he notes.

First, the 2021 LoC ceasefire has been fraying, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could greenlight a return to cross-border firing.

Second, airstrikes or even conventional cruise missile strikes, like in 2019, are also on the table - each carrying the risk of a retaliatory spiral, as seen in the air skirmishes that followed then.

One of the gravest risks in any India-Pakistan crisis is that both sides are nuclear-armed. That fact casts a long shadow over every decision, shaping not just military strategy but political calculations.

"Nuclear weapons are both a danger and a restraint - they force decision-makers on both sides to act with caution. Any response is likely to be presented as precise and targeted. Pakistan may retaliate in kind, then look for an off-ramp, says Mr Raghavan.

"We've seen this pattern in other conflicts too, like Israel-Iran - calibrated strikes, followed by efforts to de-escalate. But the risk is always that things won't go according to script."

# Pope Francis's body draws huge crowds as public tributes continue in Vatican



Pallbearers, next to Swiss Guards, carry the coffin of the late Pope Francis as it is transported from the chapel of Santa Marta to St Peter's Basilica. Pic - AFP

**H**uge crowds were expected yesterday for a glimpse of Pope Francis's body on the second day of public tributes, after St Peter's Basilica stayed open almost all night to accommodate the crowds.

Close to 20,000 people filtered past the Catholic leader's red-lined wooden coffin in the first eight hours of the lying in state on Wednesday.

Instead of closing at midnight, it

allowed people in until 5:30 am on Thursday morning, before reopening at 7:00am, the Vatican said.

Italy is preparing a massive security operation for the funeral in front of St Peter's, with world leaders including US President Donald Trump and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky due to join hundreds of thousands of mourners, reports AFP.

Francis died on Monday after 12 years as head of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics, during which time he made a name for

himself as a pope of the marginalised.

Mourners queued for up to four hours on Wednesday to say their goodbyes to Francis, who was dressed in his papal vestments - a red chasuble, white mitre and black shoes - and held a rosary.

Each mourner was ushered past the casket within seconds, many hurriedly catching the moment on their smartphones.

## Security operation

Francis, an energetic reformer who became pope in 2013, died on Monday aged 88 after suffering a stroke.

His death at his residence in the Casa Santa Marta in the Vatican came less than a month after he was released from five weeks in hospital with double pneumonia.

**I**talian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was among those who paid respects on Wednesday, and scores of world leaders and dignitaries plan to attend the funeral.

They include Argentine President Javier Milei and Britain's Prince William, although Russia - which has for centuries had icy ties with the Vatican - said it would send its culture minister.

Authorities, who expect up to 170

foreign delegations, have ramped up security for the funeral.

Italy's civil protection agency estimates that "several hundred thousand" people will descend on Rome on what was already set to be a busy weekend due to a public holiday.

## No conclave date yet

After the funeral, Francis's coffin will be taken to his favourite church, Rome's papal basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore.

His will requested that he be interred in the ground, his simple tomb marked with just one word: Franciscus.

Following that, all eyes will turn to the process to choose Francis's successor.

Cardinals from around the world are returning to Rome for the conclave, which will begin no fewer than 15 days and no more than 20 days after a pope's death.

Only those under the age of 80 - currently some 135 cardinals - are eligible to vote.

Cardinals have agreed that the traditional nine days of mourning for the pope, the so-called "novemdiales", will begin on Saturday and conclude on May 4.





A recent Reuters/Ipsos survey shows that public approval of Donald Trump has taken a sharp hit. Pic - NPR

## Are Trump's supporters turning against him?

A new poll has revealed growing discontent among Donald Trump's supporters as his administration nears its first 100 days in office.

While Trump began his second term with a strong economic agenda, a recent Reuters/Ipsos survey shows that public approval has taken a sharp hit. Before President Trump was re-elected, millions of Americans were hopeful that he would address inflation and ease recession fears. However, the latest poll suggests that those hopes have been significantly shaken.

### Why the First 100 Days Matter

The first 100 days are crucial for any US President—even in a second term—as they offer a snapshot of the administration's priorities, decisions, and public response. This period is often used to set the tone for the rest of the term, with Presidents typically marking the milestone with major announcements.

### Public Sentiment on the Economy Dips

For President Trump, these initial 100 days have been marked by increasing skepticism over his economic leadership. According to the Reuters/Ipsos survey, only 37% of respondents believe he is handling the economy well.

This is a significant drop from the 42% who supported his economic vision when he was sworn in earlier this year. Scott Lincicome, an economics expert at the CATO Institute, warned, "There's a big risk ahead for Trump—it could only get worse from here."

### Recession Fears Take Center Stage

Concerns about a potential recession have intensified. A majority of respondents now believe the US is on the verge of a full-blown economic downturn. Alarming, 56% of those surveyed said they disapprove of Trump's approach to managing the economy.

The survey paints a complex picture of a president who retains significant influence but faces mounting challenges as he attempts to navigate economic turbulence and fulfill campaign promises.

As the 100-day mark approaches, all eyes are on the White House for signs of a course correction—or further erosion in public trust.

# 100 Days of DOGE: Chaos Over Efficiency

At the Social Security Administration (SSA), experienced claims processors have been replaced by reassigned officials from other agencies. Many of these new arrivals lack the necessary skills, causing delays for disabled and elderly Americans dependent on these benefits. An SSA official defended the changes, claiming that reassigned staff had "vast knowledge," but the result has been longer wait times and inefficiency.

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has also faced challenges under the overhaul. After President Donald Trump ordered workers back to overcrowded offices, internet access became unreliable, forcing staff to use personal hotspots. This led to crashes at the height of tax season, worsening the situation. These are just two examples from a broader trend at multiple federal agencies under Trump's initiative to streamline government, spearheaded by Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

Nearly 100 days into the project, there are numerous reports of inefficiency and chaos. According to Reuters, the efforts have resulted in purchasing delays, higher costs, poor decision-making, longer wait times for the public, and the loss of scientific and technological talent. Jessica Riedl, a fellow at the Manhattan Institute, criticized DOGE, stating it has saved only \$5 billion and may ultimately cost more than it saves.

These issues span across 14 agencies and were highlighted in interviews with federal workers, union representatives, and governance experts. Despite these setbacks, White House spokesman Harrison Fields defended DOGE, claiming it had modernized technology, prevented fraud, and saved billions. However, specific examples of improved efficiency remain scarce.

Musk has confirmed he will step back from overseeing DOGE next month, ending his 130-day mandate. While his team has claimed significant cost-cutting, there is little concrete evidence to support these assertions. For example, DOGE's website, which reports \$160 billion in savings, has been criticized for errors and inconsistencies.

Some of DOGE's cost-cutting measures have led to severe disruptions. Nearly 500,000 government credit cards were canceled, leaving employees in regional offices unable to make necessary purchases. At the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, it took a scientist a month to obtain \$200 worth of dry ice to preserve samples—an item typically bought locally. The delays resulted in additional shipping costs and wasted time.

Similarly, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



100 days of DOGE: lots of chaos, not so much efficiency. Pic - Reuters

(CDC) has been unable to use expensive equipment due to a ban on outside vendor communications, impacting critical research. For instance, a \$500,000 chemical analysis instrument at the CDC sat unused for months because training sessions with the vendor were prohibited.

One major casualty of DOGE's reforms is the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). DOGE has slashed more than 80% of USAID's humanitarian programs and plans to close all of its overseas offices by September, with staff cuts affecting over 260,000 civil servants. These measures are part of a broader push to eliminate inefficiencies, but many experts argue that the cuts are counterproductive, especially when agencies like the Inspector General's office, tasked with identifying waste, have also been targeted.

Critics argue that while waste and fraud can certainly be reduced within the federal government, DOGE's blanket approach may be causing more harm than good. For example, Christi Grimm, who was fired as the Health and Human Services Inspector General, had identified \$14.5 billion in potential recoveries over three years. The elimination of her office is a clear signal of the administration's disregard for such watchdog efforts.

Musk's team has also disbanded the 18F unit, a team known for streamlining government technology. The unit saved the Pentagon \$500 million in a single project by identifying redundant work.

After 100 days, DOGE's mission remains controversial, with significant disruptions and a lack of clear evidence of improved efficiency. Whether the long-term savings will outweigh the chaos remains to be seen.

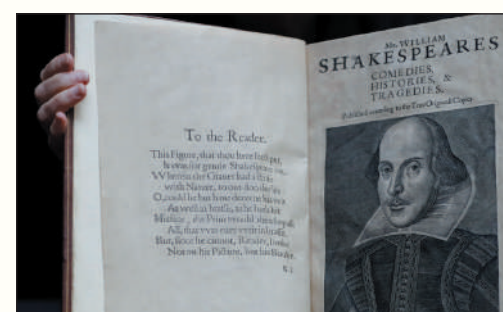
## A set of first editions of Shakespeare's plays could fetch \$6 million at auction

A set of the first four editions of William Shakespeare's collected works is expected to sell for up to 4.5 million pounds at auction next month.

Sotheby's auction house announced the sale on Wednesday, Shakespeare's 461st birthday. It said the May 23 sale will be the first time since 1989 that a set of the First, Second, Third and Fourth Folios has been offered at auction as a single lot, reports AP.

The auction house estimated the sale price at between 3.5 million and 4.5 million pounds.

After Shakespeare's death in 1616, his plays were collected into a single volume by his friends John Heminges and Henry Condell, actors and shareholders in the



A set of first editions of Shakespeare's plays could fetch \$6 million at auction. Pic - NPR

playwright's troupe, the King's Men.

The First Folio — fully titled "Mr William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories & Tragedies" — contained 36 plays, of which half were published there for the first time. Without the book, scholars say, plays including "Macbeth," "The

Tempest" and "Twelfth Night" might have been lost. Sotheby's called the volume "without question the most significant publication in the history of English literature."

About 750 copies were printed in 1623, of which about 230 are known to survive. All but a few are in museums, universities or libraries. One of the few First Folios in private hands sold for \$9.9 million at an auction in 2020.

The First Folio proved successful enough that an updated edition, the Second Folio, was published in 1632, a third in 1663 and a fourth in 1685.

Although the First Folio is regarded as the most valuable, the third is the rarest, with 182 copies known to survive. It is believed the third book's rarity is because some of the stock was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666.

The Third Folio included seven additional plays, but only one — "Pericles, Prince of Tyre" — is believed to be by Shakespeare.



## From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

5th Year No 302

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 10 June, 1960

● Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgement. — Jesus



B. Ramlallah

**T**he pollution of air is often caused by sugar factories, which emit bagasse soot during the crop season, stone crushers, lime kilns, diesel motor vehicles, and locomotives. In the past, very little care was taken to abate that nuisance. Later, when we exerted pressure, some factories made some efforts, but in vain. What we want is a sustained and studied effort to solve that problem.

We have written to the Director of Medical Services and to the Minister of Health in that connection almost half a dozen times and raised the matter in Council. During our last visit to the UK, we were introduced to Dr J. S. Carter by Mr Wm. Voigt of the COI. Dr Carter is the Officer in Charge of the air pollution problem in the UK. He was very sympathetic to our problems and gave us a lot of literature in connection with air pollution, which we have sent to the Minister of Health.

At the beginning of this year, we wrote to him and requested him to consider the appointment of a committee along the lines advocated by the World Health Organisation to look after air pollution and which will also recommend to him the passing of proper legislation against air pollution. We are pleased that the Minister has appointed a committee with the following terms of reference:

(a) To investigate the nature, causes, and effects of the pollution of air by smoke, grit, dust, and other impurities from factories, stone crushers, and other industrial plants; (b) To advise the Minister on any practical ways and means of preventing air pollution and getting rid of pollution already existing.

The composition of the committee will be as follows:

**Chairman:** The Deputy Director of Medical Services.

**Members:** The Director of Agriculture; a representative of the Mauritius Sugar Producers Association; a representative of Societe de Chimistes; the Deputy Director of Public Works; a medical man; a barrister; and a member of the Legislative



Pic - Wikipedia

Council.

The composition of the committee is fairly well balanced and represents to some extent the interests of all sections of the community interested in industry and in public health.

Air pollution by smoke, dust, grit, and mineral substances is a common phenomenon in industrialised countries, especially in the United Kingdom. The harm caused to health and property by these substances is great.

Mr A. R. Meetham, a British authority on air pollution, writing on the disastrous effects caused by air pollution, said: "Rainwater loses its purity; ash and other solids fall continuously to the ground; the air contains a suspension of fine particles which penetrate indoors, to be deposited on walls, ceilings, curtains, and furniture; our clothing, our skins, and our lungs are contaminated; metals corrode; buildings decay and textiles wear out; vegetation is stunted and blackened; sunlight is lost; germs multiply; our natural resistance to disease is lowered. In a hundred and one ways, the miasma of atmospheric pollution is lowering our vitality and enjoyment of life."

How much that picture fits the conditions which prevail at Goodlands during the crop season and in other places which are affected by bagasse soot? All European countries which are affected by that problem have long realised its danger, and they are taking rigid and active steps to get rid of that nuisance.

sance. The campaign against air pollution is now an international concern.

The World Health Organisation has sponsored a world campaign against atmospheric pollution. An International Committee has been set up recently in Geneva to carry out a world campaign against the growing menace of air pollution. In an interim report published some time ago, the Committee called for a mobilisation of world public opinion through a broad programme of education to inform people of the nature and causes of air pollution, its harmful effects on health, etc. The Committee has proposed that national air pollution councils be set up in every country to supervise all aspects of an anti-air-pollution drive in the nation.

**O**ne of the important functions of these Councils would be to advise on the form and scope of special legislation deemed necessary to combat air pollution.

The Government of the UK has already set up a Clean Air Council. The composition of the Council reflects the hope expressed by Government that it would prove a valuable means of securing effective consultations between the Government and the various interests on whose cooperation the success of the clean air policy would depend. But the Government does not only rely on voluntary effort; it has also made air pollution a legal concern. The Clean Air Act, which came into force at the beginning of 1957, has made air pollution a criminal offence.

To enforce that Act, the Staff of the Alkali Works Division, which operates under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, has been considerably increased. Under the Alkali Works Regulation Orders, factories and plants liable to pollute the air are compelled to be registered annually. For example, factories manufacturing sulfate of soda or sulfate of potash, cement, sulphuric, muriatic, and nitric acid, sulfate of ammonia, and works that include iron and steel, copper, aluminium, electricity, gas and coke ceramic, lime, and scores of noxious and offensive gases must be registered. They are inspected regularly to find out whether the provisions of the Alkali, etc., Works Regulations and Clean Air Act are enforced. During the year 1958, 7,142 inspections were made at factories and works, and 1,793 quantitative analyses were made of gases evolved from the process in operation.

## Welfare Work

**B**ack from Europe, we wrote some articles on hospital management in the UK and in Mauritius. Our stay as a patient at St. Stephen's Hospital provided us with an opportunity to learn something about the inner workings of a hospital.

Our article, "Inside a British Hospital," which was devoted to that hospital, was widely read by laymen as well as by doctors. The comments on it were quite encouraging indeed.

In order to improve the relations between the public and the hospital staff, we have already suggested that an advisory committee be constituted to advise the Health Ministry on the best way to manage hospitals. Each hospital should have its own committee.

Many kind-hearted people would like to help the patients in and out of hospitals if they were given the opportunity. We have already suggested that an association similar to the National League of Hospital Friends of the UK should be constituted.

We have received some literature about the numerous activities of that great organisation, of which H. M. the Queen is the Patron. The Secretary of the League, Miss O. Williams, in a letter which we reproduce below, sums up the activities of the League:

"Mr. Halton, the Secretary of St. Stephen's Hospital, Fulham, has shown me the articles you have written both on your visit to an English Hospital and to a British Hospital in Mauritius, in which you mention that you would like to know more about the National League of Hospital Friends.

The National League of Hospital Friends is the representative organisation of local Leagues of Hospital Friends which have been formed to serve the needs of either one particular hospital or a group of hospitals in a particular town or district.

As you will have read, before we had our National Health Service, a very large number of our hospitals were Voluntary Hospitals — hospitals built and maintained by contributions made voluntarily by local people — and when the hospitals were nationalised, it was found that many of the former supporters of

the voluntary hospitals were anxious to continue their work and to carry into the new Hospital Service some of the traditions of the old.

I am enclosing a copy of the constitution on which most of the local League of Friends are based, together with a copy of a Memorandum which briefly describes their objects and functions.

Copies of our Reports may be of interest to you, as may be the stencilled copy of a Broadsheet which describes the activities of many of the Leagues — these examples are typical of the work of the 'League Movement' as a whole.

**T**here are now affiliated with the National League some 520 local Leagues serving between them approximately 1100 hospitals — between them approximately recruited 760,000 individual 'friends,' of whom perhaps some 17,000 are giving some form of personal service to the hospitals and to the patients. Libraries, Canteens, Trolley Shops, Telephone Trolleys, Linen Rooms, Visiting, Car Service, etc., are all forms of voluntary and personal service undertaken by League

members.

**A**ll kinds of hospitals can benefit from Association with a League of Friends — The Great Teaching Hospitals, District Hospitals, the tiny Cottage Hospitals, T.B. Sanatoria, Mental Hospitals, Colonies for the Mentally Defective, and Hospitals and Homes for the Aged and Chronic Sick.

Our affiliated membership does not give a true picture of the extent of the 'Movement,' as there are a number of Leagues not affiliated to us, and also in some hospitals, it has not been found necessary to form a League as such because such other voluntary bodies as the Womens' Voluntary Services, the British Red Cross, and Toc H., etc., are already giving very much the same service as would a League of Friends.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if there is any further information I could give you."

We hope that some people will take the responsibility of forming an association similar to the UK League. We are confident they will meet with a wide response.



# Maintenir l'anglais au Parlement mauricien...

☞ Suite de la page 11

De ce fait, pour l'UNESCO, il est impératif de maintenir les «langues-cultures» sur le plan mondial car la perte d'une «langue-culture» signifie la disparition programmée des connaissances linguistiques et culturelles qui y sont associées. Au début du 21e siècle, dans le rapport intitulé *Vitalité et Disparition des Langues*, un groupe d'experts de l'UNESCO écrit ce qui suit:

«La diversité linguistique est indispensable au patrimoine de l'humanité. Toutes les langues, quelles qu'elles soient, offrent un témoignage unique du génie culturel des peuples. La mort d'une langue représente donc une perte pour l'humanité tout entière.»

Par conséquent, l'UNESCO recommande aux États membres et aux communautés linguistiques dans le monde entier de sauvegarder le patrimoine linguistique de l'humanité et d'apporter le soutien nécessaire à l'expression, la création et la diffusion du plus grand nombre possible de langues. Il s'agit d'encourager la diversité linguistique à tous les niveaux et favoriser l'apprentissage de plusieurs langues dès le plus jeune âge.

Or, pour réussir ce pari, il faut que tout le monde au sein de la population, incluant les hommes et les femmes politiques, et l'élite intellectuelle comprennent ce besoin urgent de préserver toutes les langues et toutes les cultures. Malheureusement certaines considérations égoïstes perdurent à l'île Maurice et ailleurs dans le monde.

**Le MMM: Une approche cohérente de marginalisation de l'écologie, qu'elle soit naturelle ou linguistique?**

L'histoire politique mauricienne révèle une constante dans l'approche du parti MMM face à des enjeux fondamentaux liés à l'équilibre de notre nation. Souvenons-nous de quelques faits.

**Vallée de Ferney.** Le gouvernement de l'époque, auquel le MMM participait aussi, voulait faire passer une autoroute dans la vallée à l'endroit où se trouve la dernière parcelle de forêt et des oiseaux en danger de disparition. Malgré une mobilisation citoyenne de grande envergure, le gouvernement de l'époque n'a pas accepté de trouver une alternative. C'est un changement du gouvernement qui a mené à la protection de la flore et de la faune, et donc à la protection du patrimoine naturel mauricien en 2005.

Alors que les environnementalistes étaient satisfaits de ce résultat, les écologistes, eux, se sont aussi battus pour les chauffeurs de taxi afin de trouver une autre voie praticable à la place de l'autoroute tueuse de flore et de faune endémiques.

**Le Morne Brabant, site patrimoine mondial.** Sous un gouvernement en alliance avec le MMM, le dossier pour l'obtention de la mention «patrimoine mondial» a été envoyé aux instances de l'UNESCO. Et là, la population a appris avec surprise (à travers les médias) que le dossier était trop faible pour que le pays puisse prétendre obtenir cette reconnaissance mondiale.

Encore une fois, c'est un changement de régime politique qui a permis au Morne Brabant d'obtenir son label tant attendu non seulement par la communauté des créoles descendants d'esclaves, mais aussi par la majorité des Mauriciens qui s'est ralliée autour des citoyens engagés sous la houlette de Georges Ayan, Karl Lamarque et Jack Bizall (Voir Front commun pour sauver le Morne Brabant, «Mauritius Times» du 30 mai au 5 juin 2008) pour défendre envers et contre tous, en 2008, ce patrimoine chargé culturellement et historiquement.

L'élite politique du MMM avait brillé par un silence éloquent tandis que les promoteurs du téléphérique se demandaient probablement ce qui pouvait bien pousser les citoyens mauriciens à se transformer en écologistes déterminés à ce



« Dans les années 1968, les militants brandissaient un slogan «une langue, une nation». Pourtant, la théorie assimilationniste a été employée pour contrer la langue des colons avec les résultats que l'on connaît sur le continent africain. Il est aussi connu que les partis de gauche/d'extrême gauche font du «scientific planning». Toutefois, s'ils continuent de penser naïvement qu'une langue commune à tous apportera une cohésion sociale immuable, ils gagneraient à se pencher sur des exemples du contraire qui abondent dans le monde. Ils devraient aussi réfléchir au fait que les autres «communautés linguistiques», multiculturelles par essence, ont tout à fait le droit de ne pas partager leurs perceptions, aujourd'hui largement dépassées... »

point...

**Le kreol comme medium d'enseignement.** Un ministre de l'Éducation du MMM avait décidé d'imposer le kreol comme médium d'enseignement en milieu scolaire. Alors que toutes les recherches indiquaient que les citoyens mauriciens attribuent une fonction spécifique au kreol dans le paysage linguistique - c'est une «langue véhiculaire» -, ce débat a mobilisé les militants créolistes contre les citoyens-écologistes.

Face à ces derniers, le ministre de l'Éducation a instauré une commission pour vérifier s'il y avait «une demande sociale urgente» d'introduire le kreol comme médium d'enseignement (comme l'avait fait un sociolinguiste mauricien à ce moment-là). Il se trouve qu'il n'y avait aucune demande de cette nature car, environ dix ans plus tard, le même sociolinguiste remarque que le kreol a encore du chemin à faire pour trouver sa place au niveau de l'école (voir «ION News» du 28 octobre 2015).

Subséquent, le gouvernement a introduit le kreol comme «langue-culture ancestrale», étant étroitement associée à la «communauté linguistique» des descendants d'esclaves, marginalisés pendant longtemps. Ces derniers souhaitent étudier leur «langue-culture» au même titre que d'autres groupes ethniques étudiaient la leur. Le sentiment d'appartenance à la «langue-culture ancestrale» est toujours très forte dans un milieu multilingue et multiculturel. Des efforts sont faits pour promouvoir et faire connaître cette «langue-culture» localement et internationalement.

**Le kreol au Parlement.** Une MP, issue du parti MMM souhaite imposer le kreol, perçu comme «langue véhiculaire» par la majorité des Mauriciens, dans le Temple de la Démocratie. Ce faisant, se rend-elle compte qu'elle pousse avec une vigueur politique inouïe la volonté d'étouffer d'abord, dans le court terme, la «langue-culture» de la communauté des descendants d'esclaves et, dans le moyen

terme, les «langues-cultures» des autres communautés en présence sur le sol mauricien?

Sachant ce qui s'était passé précédemment avec la Vallée de Ferney et le dossier du Morne Brabant, il est aussi très important de se poser la question qui suit: Quel pourrait bien être l'objectif ou les objectifs derrière cette détermination politique affichée?

**Première hypothèse.** La «langue-culture ancestrale» de la «communauté kreol» serait visiblement moribonde ou perdue ou inexistante dans le paysage linguistique mauricien. Il est fort probable que certains promoteurs n'attendent que cela - la disparition de cette «langue-culture», ce qui entraînera certainement la disparition des souvenirs, de la mémoire, et de tout ce qui donne une telle valeur et un tel poids culturel à la montagne du Morne Brabant. Y aurait-il des projets de développement - téléphérique ou autre - en attente?

**Deuxième hypothèse.** Imaginons la transformation de la «langue véhiculaire kreol», langue de communication entre groupes ethniques présents sur le sol mauricien, déposée de culture, en langue-culture d'imposition dans une perspective assimilationniste. Viserait-elle la surimposition par une volonté politico-économique de cette «langue véhiculaire» au détriment de toutes les autres «langues-cultures»? Si oui, pourquoi? Pourquoi vouloir déposséder le pays de son multiculturalisme? Les citoyens mauriciens doivent-ils redoubler de vigilance?

**Troisième hypothèse.** Est-ce que c'est une manœuvre concoctée par un groupe socio-économique à forte influence sur le classe politique pour être une vendetta contre ceux qui ont voulu l'indépendance après maintes années aux côtés des Britanniques (qui, eux, avaient garanti le respect des langues-cultures de chaque «communauté linguistique» suite à la prise de possession en 1810)? Y aurait-il là une volonté d'une «rétrocession» déguisée pour porter une hégémonie à la française, avec une exclusion totale de l'anglais dans le moyen terme pour adopter le français et le «kreol langue véhiculaire artificiellement créée par une élite» (donc, très proche du français)? L'Histoire se répète, dit-on souvent...

**Quatrième hypothèse.** Au Parlement, il ne s'agit pas uniquement de donner des informations. Il faut utiliser ses capacités d'analyse critique pour argumenter. Or, quand on écoute la chaîne parlementaire, les MP mauriciens et rodriguais communiquent bien en anglais. En admettant qu'une minorité de MP a un problème de communication en anglais, faut-il chercher une solution facile pour eux en propulsant le kreol au Parlement sans considérer les implications associées à cette volonté de défier l'écologie linguistique mauricienne?

Puisque tout MP doit nécessairement maîtriser l'anglais, langue internationale par excellence, -et donc, si une telle minorité existe au Parlement mauricien -, n'a-t-elle pas tout à gagner pour sa propre carrière si elle prend des «crash courses» pour affiner ses compétences orales (et écrites) en anglais?

**Cinquième hypothèse.** Dans les années 1968, les militants brandissaient un slogan «une langue, une nation». Pourtant, la théorie assimilationniste a été employée pour contrer la langue des colons avec les résultats que l'on connaît sur le continent africain. Il est aussi connu que les partis de gauche/d'extrême gauche font du «scientific planning». Toutefois, s'ils continuent de penser naïvement qu'une langue commune à tous apportera une cohésion sociale immuable, ils gagneraient à se pencher sur des exemples du contraire qui abondent dans le monde. Ils devraient aussi réfléchir au fait que les autres «communautés linguistiques»,

Vina Ballgobin

☞ Suite en page 16



tout en privilégiant l'anglais dans la sphère publique, préservant ainsi son fragile équilibre social

**R**egarding the protection component, Ms Mullaiah-Moonosamy stated, "It includes a suite of insurance coverages starting from 20 rupees per day. Aimed at making business risk management more adaptable, LadyBiz combines health insurance for hospitalization, including surgery, life insurance, 24/7 accident insurance, as well as insurance against fire, floods, theft, public damage, and other perils."



# Why don't we remember being babies?

**H**ave you ever wondered why you can't recall your earliest years, despite how much we learn and experience during that time? This phenomenon, known as infantile amnesia, has long puzzled scientists. Researchers have traditionally believed that the hippocampus -- the part of the brain responsible for encoding memories -- is too underdeveloped in infancy to store long-term memories. However, a new study from Yale University suggests that might not be the case.

## Infants can form memories, but do they last?

In a study published in *Science* on March 20, 2025, researchers used brain imaging to observe how infants between four months and two years old process memories. The study found that when an infant's hippocampus was more active upon seeing a new image, they were more likely to recognize it later.

To test memory retention, researchers showed infants images of faces, objects, or scenes. Later, after presenting several other images, they displayed a previously seen image alongside a completely new one. If the infant looked at the familiar image longer, it indicated recognition.

"When babies have seen something just once before, we expect them to look at it more when they see it again," explained Nick Turk-Browne, a Yale psychology professor



and senior author of the study. "So in this task, if an infant stares at the previously seen image more than the new one next to it, that can be interpreted as the baby recognizing it as familiar."

## Brain activity confirms memory encoding

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), the research team measured activity in the infants' hippocampus while they viewed the images. They discovered that the greater the hippocampal activity when an infant first saw an image, the more likely they were to recognize it later. The strongest encoding occurred in the posterior hippocampus, which is also responsible for episodic memory in adults.

Interestingly, this effect was more pronounced in infants older than 12 months, suggesting that episodic memory begins developing around a year of age.

## Different types of memory in infants

Turk-Browne's previous research has shown that even younger infants, as early as three months old, exhibit a different type of memory called statistical learning. This type of memory helps infants recognize patterns and structures in their environment, which is crucial for learning language, visual recognition, and understanding daily routines. Statistical learning is processed in the anterior hippocampus, which develops

earlier than the region responsible for episodic memory.

This suggests that infants first develop memory systems that help them recognize patterns before they begin forming memories of specific events.

## Why don't we remember our earliest years?

If babies can form memories, why do we forget them later in life? Researchers propose two main possibilities:

1. Memories fade over time and are never stored in long-term memory.
2. Memories remain but become inaccessible, possibly due to changes in how the brain retrieves information as we grow.

Turk-Browne suspects the second theory may be true. In an ongoing study, his team is testing whether children can remember home videos taken from their perspective as babies. Early results suggest these memories may persist until preschool age before fading.

## Could infant memories still exist in our minds?

The new findings align with recent animal studies that suggest infantile amnesia may be a retrieval problem rather than a failure of memory storage. If true, this raises an intriguing possibility: What if our earliest memories still exist in some form, locked away deep in our brains?

"We're beginning to entertain the radical, almost sci-fi possibility that these memories may endure into adulthood, despite being inaccessible," said Turk-Browne.

This research provides a groundbreaking perspective on early childhood memory, opening the door for future studies that could uncover new ways to retrieve our earliest memories -- perhaps even those from infancy.



# Why don't humans have hair all over their bodies? A biologist explains our lack of fur

*Human beings don't have a thick coat of fur like many other mammals do. Scientists think it has to do with something else that comes out of skin: sweat.*

**H**ave you ever wondered why you don't have thick hair covering your whole body like a dog, cat or gorilla does?

Humans aren't the only mammals with sparse hair. Elephants, rhinos and naked mole rats also have very little hair. It's true for some marine mammals, such as whales and dolphins, too.

Scientists think the earliest mammals, which lived at the time of the dinosaurs, were quite hairy. But over hundreds of millions of years, a small handful of mammals, including humans, evolved to have less hair. What's the advantage of not growing your own fur coat?

I'm a biologist who studies the genes that control hairiness in mammals. Why humans and a small number of other mammals are relatively hairless is an interesting question. It all comes down to whether certain genes are turned on or off.

## Hair benefits

Hair and fur have many important jobs. They keep animals warm, protect their skin from the sun and injuries and help them blend into their surroundings.

They even assist animals in sensing their environment. Ever felt a tickle when something almost touches you? That's your hair helping you detect things nearby.

Humans do have hair all over their bodies, but it is generally sparser and finer



Some mammals are super hairy, some are not. Ed Jones/AFP via Getty Images

than that of our hairier relatives. A notable exception is the hair on our heads, which likely serves to protect the scalp from the sun. In human adults, the thicker hair that develops under the arms and between the legs likely reduces skin friction and aids in cooling by dispersing sweat.

So hair can be pretty beneficial. There must have been a strong evolutionary reason for people to lose so much of it.

## Why humans lost their hair

The story begins about 7 million years ago, when humans and chimpanzees took different evolutionary paths. Although scientists can't be sure why humans

became less hairy, we have some strong theories that involve sweat.

Humans have far more sweat glands than chimps and other mammals do. Sweating keeps you cool. As sweat evaporates from your skin, heat energy is carried away from your body. This cooling system was likely crucial for early human ancestors, who lived in the hot African savanna.

Of course, there are plenty of mammals living in hot climates right now that are covered with fur. Early humans were able to hunt those kinds of animals by tiring them out over long chases in the heat -- a strategy known as persistence hunting.

Humans didn't need to be faster than the animals they hunted. They just needed to keep going until their prey got too hot and tired to flee. Being able to sweat a lot, without a thick coat of hair, made this endurance possible.

## Genes that control hairiness

To better understand hairiness in mammals, my research team compared the genetic information of 62 different mammals, from humans to armadillos to dogs and squirrels. By lining up the DNA

of all these different species, we were able to zero in on the genes linked to keeping or losing body hair.

Among the many discoveries we made, we learned humans still carry all the genes needed for a full coat of hair -- they are just muted or switched off.

In the story of "Beauty and the Beast," the Beast is covered in thick fur, which might seem like pure fantasy. But in real life some rare conditions can cause people to grow a lot of hair all over their bodies. This condition, called hypertrichosis, is very unusual and has been called "werewolf syndrome" because of how people who have it look.

In the 1500s, a Spanish man named Petrus Gonsalvus was born with hypertrichosis. As a child he was sent in an iron cage like an animal to Henry II of France as a gift. It wasn't long before the king realized Petrus was like any other person and could be educated. In time, he married a lady, forming the inspiration for the "Beauty and the Beast" story.

While you will probably never meet someone with this rare trait, it shows how genes can lead to unique and surprising changes in hair growth.

**Maria Chikina**

Assistant Professor of Computational and Systems Biology, University of Pittsburgh





**Laughter is the Best Medicine**



## Keep smiling always....

I asked my new girlfriend what sort of books she's interested in.

She said - Cheque books duly signed.

\*\*\*

The easiest way to make your old car run better is to check the prices of new cars.

\*\*\*

Q: What's the difference between a good lawyer and a great lawyer?

A: A good lawyer knows the law.

B: A great lawyer knows the judge.

\*\*\*

Definition of Nurse: A beautiful woman who holds your hand for one full minute and then expects your pulse to be normal.

\*\*\*

Boss: We are very keen on cleanliness. Did you wipe your feet on the mat as you came in?

New employee: Yes, sir.

Boss: We are also keen on truthfulness. There is no mat.

\*\*\*

Q: Why don't dogs marry?

A: Because they are already leading a dog's life!

\*\*\*

Q: What's the similarity between mother & wife?

A: One woman brings you into the world crying & the other ensures you continue to do so throughout your life.

\*\*\*

What's the difference between a good secretary and a personal secretary?

One says, "Good morning, boss."

The other says "It's morning, boss."

\*\*\*

### The Talking Dog

A man walks into a bar with his dog and says to the bartender, "This is the most talented dog in the world. He can talk!"



The bartender, sceptical, asks, "Really? Let's see it." The man turns to his dog and asks, "What's on top of a house?"

The dog replies, "Roof!"

The bartender rolls his eyes, "That's not talking; that's just a trick."

The man tries again, "What's the opposite of smooth?"

The dog answers, "Rough!"

The bartender remains unimpressed, "I've seen parrots do better."

Frustrated, the man tries one more time, "Who's the greatest baseball player of all time?"

The dog instantly says, "Ruth!"

The bartender, amazed, hands them both a beer. As soon as they finish, he says to the man, "You know, your dog really is something special. What does he do for a living?"

The man chuckles and says, "He's a therapist."



\*\*\*

### A Lawyer Came to the Barber

One day, a barber gave a priest a haircut. When the priest tried to pay, the barber waved him off.

"No charge, you do God's work."

The next morning, the barber found a dozen Bibles on his doorstep.

Later, a policeman came in for a cut. Again, the barber refused payment.

"No charge, you protect the public."

The next morning, he found a dozen doughnuts at his door.

Then a lawyer came in for a trim. Same deal, no charge.

"You serve the justice system," said the barber.

The next morning, he opened his shop...

and found a dozen lawyers lined up for free haircuts.

\*\*\*

A businessman was interviewing candidates for the position of manager of a large division. He devised a simple test to find the most suitable candidate. He asked each applicant, "What is two plus two?"

The first interviewee was a writer. His answer was, "Twenty-two."

The second was a social worker. She replied, "I'm not sure, but I'm so glad we had the opportunity to discuss it."

The third applicant was an engineer. He pulled out a



slide rule and said, "It's somewhere between 3.999 and 4.001."

Next came an attorney. He said, "In the case of Jenkins vs. the Department of the Treasury, two plus two was proven to be four."

Finally, the businessman interviewed an accountant. He asked, "What is two plus two?" The accountant stood up, closed the door, returned to his seat, leaned across the desk, and said in a low voice, "How much do you want it to be?"

He got the job.

\*\*\*

Q: What is the definition of "accountant"?

A: Someone who solves a problem you didn't know you had in a way you don't understand.

\*\*\*

Q: Why do accountants make good lovers?

A: They're great with figures.

\*\*\*

A Mafia Godfather, accompanied by his attorney, enters a room to confront his former accountant.

The Godfather demands, "Where's the three million bucks you embezzled from me?"

The accountant stays silent.

The Godfather repeats, "Where's the three million bucks you stole from me?"

The attorney interrupts, "Sir, the man is a deaf mute and cannot understand you, but I can interpret for you."

The Godfather snaps, "Well, ask him where my damn money is!"

The attorney uses sign language to ask the accountant where the three million dollars are.

The accountant signs back, "I don't know what you're talking about."

The attorney translates to the Godfather, "He doesn't know what you're talking about."

The Godfather, furious, pulls out a 9mm pistol, presses it to the accountant's temple, cocks the trigger, and growls, "Ask him again where my damn money is!"

The attorney signs to the accountant, "He wants to know where it is!"

The accountant signs back, "OK, OK! The money is hidden in a brown suitcase behind the shed in my backyard!"

The Godfather asks, "Well... what did he say?"

The attorney responds, "He says... go to hell... that you don't have the guts to pull the trigger."



Stray Thoughts

## In an Instant, a Life is Lived!



In the movie *Scent of a Woman*, there is an unforgettable scene where the protagonist, played by Al Pacino, invites a young woman to dance.

She hesitates, saying: "I can't, my fiancé will be here any moment."

To which he replies: "In an instant, life is lived!"

Then, he leads her into a mesmerizing tango.

This brief yet powerful moment carries one of the film's most profound messages.

Many people spend their lives chasing time yet never seem to catch it.

Others are so focused on the future that they forget to embrace the present, the only time that truly exists.

We all have the same 24 hours each day. The difference lies in how we choose to use them.

Seize every moment, for as John Lennon wisely said:

**"Life is what happens while we are busy making other plans."**

Enjoy this wonderful life!

**Rumi and Sufi Community**

Life can be better...

## Not every battle needs to be fought



Helen Mirren once said: "Before arguing with someone, ask yourself: is this person mentally mature enough to comprehend the concept of a different point of view? Because if not, then there's absolutely no point. Not every argument is worth the energy you expend. Sometimes, it doesn't matter how clearly you articulate yourself; the other person isn't listening to understand - they're listening to react. They're frozen in their perspective, unwilling to consider another point of view, and engaging with them only harms you."

There's a difference between healthy debate and pointless argument. Conversing with someone who is open-minded, who values growth and understanding, can be enlightening - even if you

disagree. But trying to reason with someone who refuses to look beyond their beliefs, that's equivalent to talking to a wall. It doesn't matter how much logic or truth you present; they'll twist your words, deflect, or dismiss them, not because you're wrong, but because they're unwilling to see another side.

Maturity isn't about who wins the argument - it's about knowing when an argument isn't worth having. It's realizing that your peace is more valuable than proving someone wrong. Not every battle needs to be fought. Not everyone deserves your explanation. Sometimes, the strongest thing you can do is walk away - not because you have nothing to say, but because you know some people aren't willing to listen."

## The Wisdom of Sai Baba: A Collection of Quotable Insights

- If you have a strong purpose in life, you don't have to be pushed. Your passion will drive you there. Be passionate, but patient.
- Whatever happened, happened for the good. Whatever is happening, is happening for the good. Whatever will happen, will also happen for the good.
- I hope you wake up with love—love for life, love for others, and most importantly, love for yourself.
- If we all do one random act of kindness daily, we just might set the world in the right direction.
- Everyone is jealous of what you've got; no one is jealous of how you got it. People see the trophies, not the training ground.
- People only saw the decisions I made, not the choices I had! How often do we judge others or get judged without knowing the full story?
- The worst distance between two people is misunderstanding.
- Everything you want in life is waiting for you outside your comfort zone and inside your effort zone. Just need to make a move.
- Waking up early is always beneficial, whether it is from sleep, ego, or misunderstanding.
- When you make big life decisions, don't listen to the people closest to you; listen to the people closest to your goals.
- Plan well before we start the journey in every walk of life. Remember the carpenter's and tailor's rules: Measure twice, but cut only once.
- Never enjoy others' troubles. Otherwise, God may get confused and gift those troubles to you, because God gives us what we enjoy. Always be happy.
- Lovely times of life will not return, but the lovely relationships and missing memories of lovely people will stay forever in our hearts.
- The things we say about others also say a lot about us.
- Confidence is better than perfection, because perfection means doing the best, but confidence means knowing how to handle the worst.
- Time is the only currency you spend without ever knowing your balance. Use it wisely.
- There are different kinds of fear that don't let you grow in life: the fear of the unknown, the fear of people's opinions, the fear of your own, the fear of failure, the fear of success. Trying to avoid all these fears keeps you in a comfort zone. Not taking risks is the biggest risk of your life.
- Every situation in life is temporary. So, when life is not at its best, remember it will not last forever; better days are sure to come. And when life is good, stay in the present and enjoy each moment to its best!
- If your aim is only to reach the target, then learn from a DSLR camera (Digital Single-Lens Reflex): whenever it focuses on the target, everything else gets blurred.
- Listen to everyone and learn from everyone, because nobody knows everything, but everyone knows some thing.
- Anger is a feeling that makes your mouth work faster than your mind; anger doesn't solve anything, it builds nothing, but it can destroy anything.
- Achievement always comes to the person who is looking for it, but not to the person who is just waiting for it.
- A free mind can freely find accurate and creative solutions for every problem.
- An opportunity is like a biscuit dipped in tea: a little delay, and it's gone!
- Prayer changes everything.
- Every problem is like a big door. Surely there is a solution like a small key which can open it easily. Find the key; life is simple.
- Positive thoughts are not enough; there have to be positive feelings and positive actions.
- When you are wrong, admit it. When you are right, be quiet.
- If you do not use today better than yesterday, then why do you need tomorrow?
- Working hard for something we don't love is called stress, but working hard for something we love is called passion. Do what you love, or love what you do.
- A beautiful life does not just happen; it is built daily by prayer, humility, sacrifice, and love. May that beautiful life be yours always.
- Leadership is more about taking the team ahead than putting oneself in the front. The best leader is like a shepherd who stands behind and moves the flock forward.





He & She

## Is he ready for a woman like you?

**D**o you settle for a man who needs training on how to treat a woman, or do you wait for the one who already embodies awareness and connection, even in the smallest details of life?

Many decent men lack emotional awareness but are willing to learn — if you choose to be their teacher. However, stepping into this role shifts the dynamic from passion to mentorship, which can erode attraction.

A man who struggles to read emotional nuances will likely miss your sexual cues as well. If you take on an unaware man, be prepared to spell out everything — verbally and directly, in life and in the bedroom.

The rarest kind of man is one who intuitively understands your emotions, thoughts, and desires. But *rare* does not mean *imaginary*. Just as some women embrace their sexuality beyond societal expectations, there are men deeply connected to intimacy and presence.

Men often believe they are the more sexual gender — until they meet a woman fully secure in herself. Ironically, a woman becomes most sexually powerful when she no longer *needs* a relationship. Her sexuality is no longer tied to external validation but rooted in her own self-awareness.

A confident woman is always *on* — emotionally, spiritually, sexually. She needs a partner who mirrors her strength and integrity, a man whose actions align with his words. Their connection isn't defined by a beginning or an end; it simply is.

Imagine a man who understands that foreplay isn't just about physical touch — it's in the tone of his voice, the thoughtfulness behind his gestures, and the unwavering presence he brings to his purpose, his community, his family, and you.

Graham R. White

## Wellness

# 15 Ways to Be Happier

**W**e all have those days when we feel a little down, but the good news is, you don't have to wait for happiness to find you. In fact, science shows that certain actions can actually trick your brain into feeling better. Whether it's through building new connections, practising gratitude, or getting moving, small, intentional changes can make a huge difference. Ready to feel happier? Here are 15 simple ways to lift your spirits and put a little more joy into your daily life.

**Put Some Pep in Your Step:** Scientists say walking tall with swinging arms helps you feel more positive. Even if you're not feeling happy, a spirited stroll can help you fake it till you make it, advises WebMD..

**Slap on a Smile:** Want to lift your spirits? Lift the corners of your mouth. When you smile like you mean it, you can change your brain's chemistry and feel happier.

**Volunteer:** Find ways to get involved in your community or help out a friend in need. You'll help yourself, too. It can improve your mental health and well-being. Win-win.

**Make New Friends:** It makes you feel good to spend time with people who care about you. So be open to new relationships, whether it's someone you meet at the office, gym, church, or park. But be sure to maintain those lifelong connections, too. Studies show the more connected you are, the happier you are.

**Count Your Blessings:** Write down everything that's good in your life. When you make an effort to look on the bright side, it helps you stay focused on the positive.

**Break a Sweat:** It can take as little as 5 minutes for exercise to put you in a better mood. Moving your body also has good long-term effects: Regular exercise helps keep depression at bay.

### Forgive and Forget

Are you holding a grudge? Let it go. Forgiveness frees you from negative thoughts and makes more room in your life for inner peace. And that brings you happiness.

### Practice Mindfulness

Meditate for an hour a week. It'll give you a dose of joy, peace, and contentment. It'll also create new pathways in your brain to make it easier for you to feel joy.

**Turn on Some Tunes:** Music can have a powerful effect on your emotions. Pick your favorite music mix and get into the groove. You'll get a real feel-good vibe.



**Get the ZZZs You Need:** Most adults need 7 or 8 hours of sleep each night to stay in a good mood. You're more likely to be happy when you get enough shut-eye.

**Remember Your "Why":** When you have a sense of purpose -- why you work, exercise, or do something good for someone else -- it gives your life meaning. In the hurry of a busy day, it's easy to lose sight of that. So take a moment to bring it to mind. Happiness is about more than momentary pleasure. It's also in the satisfaction of pursuing your goals.

**Challenge Your Inner Critic:** You know that inner voice that loves to point out everything that isn't so great? Try to notice when it takes control of your mood. Sometimes it has a good point and is letting you know about something that needs your attention. But other times, it's wrong, or it makes things seem worse than they are. Ask yourself, "Is this true?"

**Tackle Your Goals:** Ask yourself if they are realistic and within your reach now -- or at least, things that you can start to work toward. Then get really specific about what the goal is -- not "to work out more" but "to walk 30 minutes a day, three times this week," or "I'll have a salad for lunch twice this week." Write it down, and reward yourself for every step you take toward that goal!

**Seek Positive People:** "Emotions are contagious," as the saying goes. So, you want people in your life who are confident, upbeat, and healthy. You'll probably find that it rubs off on you, leaving you feeling better. And then you can pass that on, too.

## Good things that can go bad (if you overdo them)

*Too much of a good thing? That's where balance matters most*

**T**oo much of a good thing can turn... not so good. From healthy habits to everyday essentials, here are 12 things that are great in moderation — but can backfire when taken too far.

**Exercise:** Staying active is key to good health, but overtraining can cause injuries, hormonal imbalances, or burnout. If you're constantly tired, irritable, or can't sleep well, it might be time to rest.

**Sleep:** While rest is essential, sleeping over 8 hours regularly may raise your risk for heart problems and affect your focus, weight, and blood sugar.

**Antibiotics:** They fight infections, but overuse can lead to drug-resistant bacteria. Only take them when prescribed.

**People-Pleasing:** Helping others feels good — until it drains you. Learn to say "no" when needed to protect

your time and mental health.

**Sex:** A healthy sex life is great, but when it dominates your thoughts or disrupts daily life, it could signal a deeper issue. If it interferes with relationships or routines, seek guidance.

**Handwashing:** Essential for hygiene, but too much can irritate your skin and make it more vulnerable to germs.

**Healthy Eating:** Even nutritious food can be harmful if you overeat. Extra calories — no matter how "clean" — can lead to health issues like diabetes, heart disease, and weight gain.

**Water:** Staying hydrated is important, but overhydration can be dangerous. It may cause a rare condition called hyponatremia, which lowers sodium levels and can be life-threatening.

**Work:** Loving your job is fine, but being constantly "on" can damage relationships and mental health. Balance is key.

**Screen Time:** Smartphones are convenient but overuse can hurt sleep, mood, and social connections. Set boundaries to unplug and recharge.

**Vitamins:** More isn't always better. Overdosing on certain vitamins can cause anything from stomach cramps to serious health risks. Stick to the recommended daily amounts.

**Friendships:** Strong social ties are great, but trying to maintain too many can be overwhelming. Quality matters more than quantity — and your brain can only handle so many close connections.

**Bottom line:** Even good habits can go bad in excess. The secret? Moderation.



## Bolly Bytes

# The Queen of Smart Investments: She surpasses Alia & Deepika!

While Alia Bhatt and Deepika Padukone continue to dominate Bollywood's silver screen, the title of the richest actress in the industry belongs to none other than veteran star Juhi Chawla!

According to the Hurun Rich List 2024, Juhi Chawla has emerged as Bollywood's wealthiest actress, with an astounding net worth surpassing Aishwarya Rai Bachchan! What's even more surprising? Juhi hasn't been an active part of Bollywood for years, with her last major hit dating back to 2009. So, what's fuelling her fortune? Punepulse reports...

Unlike many of her contemporaries, Juhi Chawla's wealth isn't just from films — it's her sharp business acumen that has



taken her to the top.

The actress co-owns Shah Rukh Khan's IPL franchise, which was purchased in 2007 and is now valued at a staggering \$1.1 billion!

- Red Chillies Group: As a co-founder of Shah Rukh Khan's entertainment empire, Juhi enjoys a significant stake in one of Bollywood's most powerful production houses.

- Saurashtra Cement Ltd: A major asset under her husband's Mehta Group, adding to her robust investment portfolio.

Juhi Chawla has also cemented her wealth in real estate, owning:

- A plush multi-storey home in Malabar Hills, one of Mumbai's most elite neigh-

bourhoods.

- A heritage bungalow in Porbandar, a nod to her Gujarati roots.

Not just that, she's also ventured into the hospitality industry with high-end restaurants:

- Gustoso – A chic Italian fine-dining spot.

- Rue du Liban – A lavish Lebanese restaurant.

Juhi Chawla's financial empire proves that Bollywood stardom isn't the only path to wealth. With her smart investments, strategic business ventures, and a knack for identifying high-value opportunities, she stands as one of Bollywood's most savvy entrepreneurs.

## From Stars to Supermoms

*Bollywood actresses who shine bright with their babies*

In the glitzy world of Bollywood, where glamour and fame often take centre stage, many of the industry's brightest stars are also shining in their roles as loving mothers. While their on-screen personas often captivate millions, it's their journey into motherhood that showcases a different kind of strength, resilience, and tenderness. Read on how some of Bollywood's leading ladies have seamlessly balanced their careers with their newfound roles as supermoms, giving us a glimpse of their beautiful, real-life stories. A report by Tomes of India...



### Kareena Kapoor Khan with Taimur and Jeh

Kareena Kapoor Khan, often regarded as one of Bollywood's most fashionable and dynamic actresses, redefined motherhood in the industry. When she was pregnant with her first son, Taimur, she did so while continuing to work and making maternity fashion chic and trendy. Since then, she has been the proud mother of two — Taimur and Jeh — and has never shied away from sharing real and relatable parenting moments with her fans. Whether it's a candid family vacation, her daily routines with her boys, or the challenges of raising young children, Kareena's social media offers a delightful peek into her life as a mom. Her candid posts reveal not just her stylish side but also her unbreakable bond with her kids.

### Anushka Sharma and Vamika

Actress Anushka Sharma, known for her stellar performances in films and her impeccable fashion sense, embraced motherhood in 2021 with the birth of her



daughter, Vamika, alongside her cricketer husband Virat Kohli. In a move that resonated deeply with her fans, the couple requested privacy when it came to sharing their daughter's images with the world. Anushka has, however, offered fans little glimpses into her life as a mom, radiating warmth and pure joy with every post. Whether she's spending quality time with Vamika or sharing snippets from her personal life, Anushka proves that a career in the spotlight doesn't mean sacrificing the simple, beautiful moments of motherhood.

### Alia Bhatt and Raha Kapoor

Alia Bhatt, one of Bollywood's most beloved actresses, entered a new chapter of her life when she and husband Ranbir Kapoor welcomed their daughter, Raha, in 2022. The couple's joyous news made headlines, but they initially chose to shield their little one from the limelight. Over time, however, Alia shared heartwarming glimpses of Raha with fans, showcasing her playful, doting side. Despite the demanding nature of her career, Alia has been vocal about balancing her professional commitments and motherhood, effortlessly navigating the delicate dance between being a hands-on parent and a boss lady. Whether it's a photoshoot or a movie premiere, Alia manages to make it all look so effortless, proving that she truly can do it all.

### Dia Mirza and Ayaan Azaad

Dia Mirza's journey to motherhood is one of incredible strength and resilience. In 2021, she gave birth to her son, Ayaan, who arrived prematurely and spent several months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The actress has been incredibly open about her experiences, offering her followers a raw and honest look into the emotional rollercoaster of motherhood. From her struggles in the NICU to her eventual joy at bringing her son home, Dia's story has inspired many. She has become a

beacon of hope for those facing difficulties in their own journeys of parenthood, showcasing that motherhood, though challenging, can also be filled with moments of immense strength and love.

### Neha Dhupia and Her Two Little Ones

Actress Neha Dhupia, who is known for her effortless beauty and bold personality, has seamlessly managed to balance a busy career and motherhood with grace. She and her husband, Angad Bedi, are parents to a daughter, Mehr, and a son, Guriq. Neha has been incredibly open about the ups and downs of parenting two young children while maintaining her professional life. From sleepless nights to school runs, Neha tackles it all with her signature style and candidness. She's been a role model for many women, showing that it's possible to juggle the demands of motherhood with a thriving career in the public eye.



## Cinema Sirsa (Castel)

### New Movie : Ground Zero

Starring: Emraan Hashmi, Sai Tamhankar & Zoya Hussain

#### Schedule:

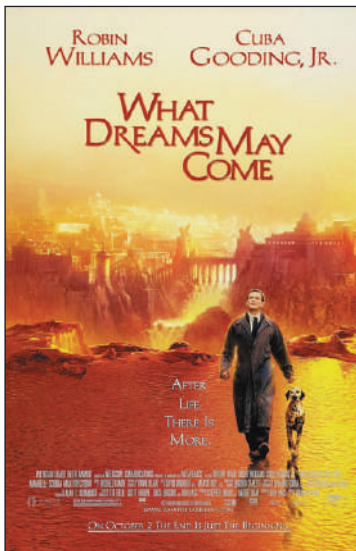
- Friday, 25 April 2025 – 20:15 (Debut)
- Saturday, 26 April 2025 – 13:15 / 20:15
- Sunday, 27 April 2025 – 13:15 / 16:15 / 20:15
- Monday to Wednesday, 28 to 30 April 2025 – 13:15 / 20:15
- Thursday, 01 May 2025 – 13:15 / 16:15 / 20:15
- Friday & Saturday, 02–03 May 2025 – 13:15 / 20:15
- Sunday, 04 May 2025 – 13:15 / 16:15 / 20:15

Ticket Price: Rs 250 (Adult & Child)





Vendredi 25 Avril - 20.10



Samedi 26 Avril - 20.10



Dimanche 27 Avril -20.10



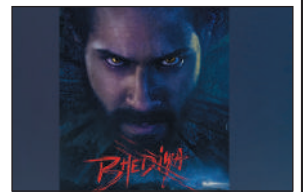
## Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 25 avril</b>	06.02 Serial: Amour Secret 08.47 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.16 Tele: L'Amour A Mort 09.38 Film: Last Knights 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 20.30 Film: What Dreams May Come 22.18 Tele: Wildflower 23.03 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.30 Le Journal	06.00 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 06.29 Local: En Forme 08.04 Rodrig: Decouverts 10.30 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 11.07 Local: Glwar Dantan 12.00 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 13.29 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 15.00 Local: Sur Prise 15.28 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 16.24 Rodrig: Nou La Ter 16.59 Local: La Sosiete 18.00 Tele: La Desalmada 19.19 Local: Mag De L'emploi... 19.51 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 20.00 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 20.30 Dance Fever Masters 21.51 Lir- Ekirir Kreol Morisien 22.20 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: En Forme	07.00 Mag: Y Factor 07.27 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 08.00 D.Anime: Yeh Hai Omi 10.00 Local: Ramayan 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Rangilo Rasiklal Starring: Samarth Sharma, Jaydeep Shah 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol 19.00 A Tribute To Bollywood... 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 21.00 Film: Tu 16 Baras Ki Main 17 Baras Ka Cast: Yash Kumar 15.21 Serial: Mere Sai 00.03 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	06.25 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 07.34 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 09.06 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 10.37 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 11.51 Mag: Tomorrow Today 12.21 Doc: The Lithium Ion 13.04 Mag: Healthy Living 13.30 Film: Ferdinand 15.00 D.Anime: Yétili 15.28 D.Anime: Word Party 15.41 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.49 D.Anime: Madagascar 16.23 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 17.11 Serial: The Worst Witch 17.30 Serial: Intelligence 18.00 Doc: Flavours 18.52 Doc: Japan Video Topics 19.28 Mag: Vous Et Vous 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.50 Doc: Panoramas 21.42 The True Story Of Pirates	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.55 Serial: Doree 15.30 Film: Junglee Cast: Vidyut Jammwal, Pooja Sawant, Asha Bhat 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: Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Junglee Cast: Vidyut Jammwal, Pooja Sawant, Asha Bhat
<b>samedi 26 avril</b>	03.38 Serial: Heartland 04.21 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani 06.12 Tele: All The Flowers 06.36 Serial: Nautilus 08.16 Serial: For Life 09.11 Serial: Heartland 09.54 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani 10.45 Serial: Seal Team 11.30 Tele: All The Flowers 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Film: Thinspiration 16.50 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge 18.00 Live: Samachar 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: La Planete Des Singes: Les Origines 21.50 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani 23.34 Le Journal 00.09 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 00.56 Serial: Heartland	06.00 Local: Couleur Marine 06.29 Local: Tous Egaux 08.04 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 10.32 Local: J'ai Faim 11.07 Local: Dance Fever Masters 12.00 Local: Prodiksion Alimantanter 13.24 Local: Animalia 14.52 Local: Retrouvizer 15.28 Local: J'ai Faim 16.00 Local: Tous Egaux 16.14 Local: Son Ladan Mem 18.00 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 19.19 Local: Mag De L'emploi... 19.41 Rodrig - Coin Zen 20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.30 Local: Music Tour 2025 21.20 Local: Glwar Dantan 22.00 Rodrig: D'Jam 22.27 Local: Proze Dime 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol	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 A Tribute To Bollywood... 14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 14.30 Mag: Shanti Ka Anubhav 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Film: Shiv Shastri Balboa Cast: Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Jugal Hansraj 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.00 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 21.00 Film: Gadar: Ek Prem Katha 23.56 Local: Puranya Pakwan 00.22 Local: Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 00.37 Local: Khoobsurat Nayasiam	06.00 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 07.50 Film: God With Us 09.23 Film: Rufus Et Le Royaume D'Alyne 10.39 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 11.21 Film: Ice Age 13.00 Doc: Madam Chutney 13.30 Film: Shelly: En Route Ver L'or 14.59 D.Anime: Yétili 15.14 D.Anime: Word Party 15.37 D.Anime: Madagascar 16.10 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 16.32 D.Anime: Miraculous 16.53 Serial: The Worst Witch 17.21 Serial: Intelligence 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 19.00 Mag: Eco Africa 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.50 Tele: Living To Love 22.23 Doc: La Verie Histoire... 23.17 Doc: The Golden Fiber	08.00 Dharam Patni 10.17 Mithai 12.00 Udaariyaan 13.50 Anupamaa 16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 17.36 Vidrohi 18.30 Film: Bhediya With: Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon 20.55 Gadget Guru Ganesha 21.07 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.29 Crime Patrol 22.24 Porus
<b>dimanche 27 avril</b>	03.34 Mag: Red Carpet 03.49 Tele: Living To Love 05.19 Tele: Terra Nostra 06.45 Film: La Planete Des Singes 08.30 Serial: Airwolf 09.16 Film: Thinspiration 10.45 Serial: Seal Team 11.30 Tele: All The Flowers 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Film: La Prophetie De L'Horloge 15.25 Film: Assault On Va-33 16.50 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge 18.00 Samachar 19.18 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal Televisé 20.10 Film: Marie Antoinette 22.09 Serial: Airwolf 22.54 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 23.30 Le Journal 00.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance	06.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 06.38 Emotion En Avant Plan 07.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard.. 08.41 Local: Artizan 08.56 Local: Les Petits Genies 10.26 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 12.05 Local: Proze Dime 13.05 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 14.00 Local: Exceptionnelles 15.00 Finals Of ESU Public Speaking Union 16.45 Local: Tous Egaux 17.03 Local: Les Petits Genies 18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 19.00 Zournal Kreol 20.00 Local: Le Challenge 20.15 Local: Les Klips 21.15 Local: Happy Singers 22.00 Local: Exceptionnelles 22.36 Local: Clin D'Oeil 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 08.52 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 09.22 Local: Desi Beats 10.30 Mahabharat 12.00 Film: Sherdil 15.00 Samachar 15.20 Radha Krishna 15.22 Local: Puranya Pakwan 16.59 Local: Desi Beats 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare 19.02 Local: Tohar Rashi 20.31 Serial: Porus 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.20 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.06 Serial: Naagin 22.57 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 23.39 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man... 01.51 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare	07.53 Film: Le Royaume Des Elfes 09.23 Film: Caillou: The Brevest... 10.30 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 11.25 Mag: In Good Shape 11.51 Doc: Top Dive Sites 12.43 Doc: By Train Along The... 13.30 Film: Le Royaume De Terracotta 15.16 D.Anime: Word Party 15.31 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.34 D.Anime: Slugterra 16.01 D.Anime: Spacepop 16.34 D.Anime: Miraculous 17.00 Serial: Intelligence 17.34 Doc: Saving Beavers And Pond Turtles 18.00 Doc: The Power Of Peatlands 18.30 Doc: Submerged Universe 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: All The Flowers 21.40 Film: Palm Beach	00.00 Mithai 01.59 Udaariyaan 04.04 Anupamaa 06.34 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 07.41 Tenali Rama 08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 10.05 Kundali Bhagya 12.03 Rajaa Betaa 14.00 Doree 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.38 Film: Rashtra Kavach Cast: Aditya Roy Kapoor, Sanjana Sanghai 20.41 Tenali Rama 21.00 Mahabharat 21.44 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs 22.57 Rajaa Betaa 00.20 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
<b>lundi 28 avril</b>	03.44 Tele: Wildflower 04.08 Tele: All The Flowers 04.37 Tele: La Desalmada 05.06 Tele: Terra Nostra 06.01 Serial: Amour Secret 08.27 Tele: All The Flowers 08.51 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.45 Serial: Columbo 11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 13.15 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: La Desalmada 15.00 Samachar 15.20 Film: Palm Beach 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: A Spy Among Friends 21.55 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie	07.18 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 08.41 Local: Metie 10.30 Local: Plat Du Chef 11.00 Rodrig: Les Klips 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.54 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 15.41 Local: Les Klips 15.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 16.40 Local: Le Challenge 16.33 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.07 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.00 Tele: La Desalmada 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Nos Aines 21.10 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 21.41 Local: Mama Jazz Makhatini 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.33 Rodrig: Kot Nou 23.56 Local: Memwar Dan Ros	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Humni Ke Sitare 08.25 Tohar Rashi 08.39 Varun Jain In Concert 09.40 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 10.22 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man... 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Ghar Ek Mandir 15.00 Samachar 15.21 Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.50 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Ved Ki Shikshahein 20.36 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Ab Kya Hoga Cast: Shatrughan Sinha, Neetu Singh, Govardhan Asrani 23.00 Serial: Mere Sai	06.25 Doc: Submerged Universe 08.40 Doc: The Future Of Travel 09.26 Doc: Twin Sister 10.09 Doc: Project Enlightenment 10.51 Shaking Up The Art World 12.30 Mag: Healthy Living 13.15 Doc: Flavours 14.49 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.12 D.Anime: Akedo 15.35 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 17.19 Serial: Intelligence 18.00 Mag: Eco Africa 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.30 Live: News 21.05 Film: Tower Block Cast: Sheridan Smith, Jamie Thomas King 22.39 Mag: Tomorrow Today 23.05 Mag: Washington Forum	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.51 Doree 15.25 Film: Meri Nimmo Starring: Anjali Patil, Karan Dave 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.05 Mithai 20.33 Shrimad Ramayan 21.09 Anupamaa 21.30 Mere Sai



With: Varun Dhawan, Kriti Sanon  
20.55 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
21.07 Keh Doon Tumhein  
21.29 Crime Patrol  
22.24 Porus

00.00 Mithai  
01.59 Udaariyaan  
04.04 Anupamaa  
06.34 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani  
07.41 Tenali Rama  
08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey  
10.05 Kundali Bhagya  
12.03 Rajaa Betaa  
14.00 Doree  
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya  
18.38 Film: Rashtra Kavach  
Cast: Aditya Roy Kapoor, Sanjana Sanghai  
20.41 Tenali Rama  
21.00 Mahabharat  
21.44 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs  
22.57 Rajaa Betaa  
00.20 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey



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



**mbc 1**

Mardi 29 Avril - 20.10

**INVINCIBLE**  
LE CHEMIN DE LA RÉDEMPTION**CINE 12**

Mercredi 30 Avril - 21.20

**mbc 1**

Jeudi 1 Mai - 15.25

**Programme TV****SERIAL**

mardi 29 avril

**MBC 1**

06.00 Tele: Amour Secret  
07.13 Serial: Hawaii  
08.23 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour  
09.15 Film: First Man  
11.31 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
13.15 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada  
15.25 Film: Marie Antoinette  
18.00 Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
18.58 Serial: Doree  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.25 Film: Invincible: Le Chemin De La Redemption  
21.48 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
22.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
23.30 Le Journal  
00.05 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani  
01.04 Serial: F.B.I

**MBC 2**

07.05 Local: Memwar Dan Ros  
10.49 Local: Business Connect  
11.08 Local: Mama Jazz...  
12.00 Entrepreneurat Au Feminin  
13.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
13.31 Local: Bricolo Ecolo  
14.07 Rodrig Prog: Feminin Pluriel  
15.01 Local: Fee Main  
15.30 Local: Mangeons Veg  
16.25 Local: Business Connect  
16.55 Local: Le Mag  
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada  
18.29 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour  
19.04 Journal Kreol  
19.20 Le Magazin De L'Emloi  
20.00 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**

08.00 Serial: Ved Ki Shikshahein  
10.07 Kundali Bhagya  
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
12.01 Film: Main Tulsii Tere Aangan Ki  
15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna  
15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa 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: Sunghursh  
Cast: Dilip Kumar, Vyjayanthimala  
22.53 Serial: Mere Sai  
23.41 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
00.03 Local: Tark Vitark  
00.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitaare

**MBC 5**

06.00 Mag: Eco Africa  
07.46 Mag: Planet A  
08.04 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
08.29 Mag: Washington Forum  
08.59 Doc: Farming In America  
10.23 Doc: Legendary Hotels  
11.36 Mag: The 77 Percent  
12.02 Mag: Africa 54  
15.03 D.Anime: The Psammy Show  
15.18 D.Anime: Akedo  
17.05 Serial: Perfect  
17.15 Serial: Intelligence  
18.00 Mag: Rev  
18.30 Mag: Healthy Living  
18.45 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
19.30 Doc: Global US  
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers  
20.50 Tele: Seref Meselesi  
22.18 Mag: Business Africa  
22.44 Doc: Panoramas  
23.40 Mag: Euromaxx

**Bollywood TV**

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.55 Doree  
15.30 Film: English Vinglish  
Cast: Sridevi, Adil Hussain, Mehdi Nebbou  
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 Mahabharat  
23.31 Film: English Vinglish  
Cast: Sridevi, Adil Hussain, Mehdi Nebbou  
02.00 Kundali Bhagya  
02.30 Udaariyaan

mercredi 30 avril

05.18 Serial: Amour Secret  
06.56 Serial: Columbo  
08.30 Tele: All The Flowers  
09.45 Film: Invincible: Le Chemin...  
11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
13.15 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada  
14.15 Serial: Seref Meselesi  
15.25 Tele: Seref Meselesi  
16.10 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  
21.01 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani  
21.56 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie  
22.45 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune

07.08 Entrepreneurat Au Feminin  
08.26 Local: Priorite Sante  
09.30 Local: Le Mag  
10.27 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef  
11.01 Local: Profil  
11.16 Local: Fee Main  
11.29 Local: Le Petits Genies  
13.25 Local: Priorite Sante  
14.02 Local: Paroles Agricole  
15.24 Rodrig: Saver Lokal  
16.33 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
17.30 MRIC: Regional Innovation..  
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada  
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.20 Local: Le Mag De L'Emploi  
20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel  
20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc  
21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble  
21.35 Local: Les Kliips  
22.31 Local: Mots & Ecrits  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard

08.00 Tark Vitark  
08.26 Local: Humni Ke Sitare  
08.52 Chikitsa Aur Swasthey  
09.22 International Dance Day  
10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani  
12.00 Film: Tawaif  
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Ashok Kumar, Rati Agnihotri  
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  
19.00 Local: Ayush  
20.30 Shanti Ka Anubhav  
21.00 Film: Chintu Ji  
22.49 Serial: Mere Sai  
23.41 Wagle Ki Duniya  
00.04 Local: Yatra  
00.04 Local: Ayush  
00.54 Local: Mati Ke Mol

06.00 Mag: Rev  
07.46 Mag: Business Africa  
08.15 Doc: Panoramas  
09.11 Mag: Euromaxx  
09.37 Doc: By Train Through...  
10.19 Doc: The Truth Behind...  
11.31 Mag: Healthy Living  
13.20 Doc: Panoramas  
15.03 D.Anime: Thhe Jungle Book  
15.22 D.Anime: Word Party  
17.05 Serial: Perfect  
17.30 Serial: REV  
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx  
18.30 Mag: Transforming Business  
18.45 Mag: Planet A  
19.30 Doc: From Gray To Green  
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers  
21.05 Film: The Mummy  
23.08 Mag: Close Up  
23.34 Mag: Focus On Europe  
00.00 Doc: Hotel Metalurg

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.50 Doree  
15.30 Film: Housefull 2  
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Mithun Chakraborty, Akshay Kumar, J. Abraham...  
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: Mahabharat  
23.30 Film: Housefull 2  
Cast: Rishi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Mithun Chakraborty, Akshay Kumar, J. Abraham...  
02.00 Kundali Bhagya

jeudi 1 mai

06.01 Tele: Amour Secret  
08.26 Serial: All The Flowers  
08.49 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour  
09.37 Film: Viceroy's House  
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 Fault In Our Stars  
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: Refugee  
Stars: Jackie Shroff, Suniel Shetty, Abhishek Bachchan, Kareena Kapoor  
23.30 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie

07.08 Local: En Toute Intimite  
08.02 Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
09.00 Local: Agir Ensemble  
10.32 Local: Saveurs Plus  
11.02 Local: Les Kliips  
12.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits  
12.27 Local: En Toute Intimite  
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
13.31 Local: Saver Kiltirel  
14.10 Local: En Forme  
15.30 Local: Saveurs Plus  
17.03 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada  
18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.20 Local: Le Mag De L'Emploi  
20.30 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
21.00 Local: Le Mag  
21.44 Local: Music Tour 2023  
22.40 Local: Metie  
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard

07.00 Mag: Eco India  
08.00 Local: Yatra  
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan  
12.00 Film: Swarg  
Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Govinda, Juhi Chawla, Madhavi, Neena Gupta, Paresh Rawal  
15.00 Samachar  
15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile...  
16.00 Ramayan  
17.30 Radha Krishna  
18.31 Local: Amrit Vani  
18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya  
19.03 Local: Sri Rama Katha  
19.29 Local: Darshan Indian...  
20.35 Serial: Ramayan  
21.00 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nani  
22.00 Serial: Mere Sai  
22.52 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

06.00 Mag: Afrimaxx  
07.54 D.Anime: Kids Songs  
08.04 Film: La Legende De Mangolo  
09.32 Film: Snoopy Et Les Peanuts  
11.01 Mag: Rev Special  
12.02 Doc: Legendary Hotels  
13.00 Film: C.I.A.P.E  
14.19 Film: Sherlock Holmes  
15.39 D.Anime: Slugterra  
16.06 Film: Miraculous New York  
17.39 Mag: Afrimaxx  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
18.30 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
18.45 Mag: Unseen  
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers  
20.50 Serial: Columbo  
22.05 Film: What Dreams May Come  
23.57 Doc: La Vraie Histoire...

14.25 Radha Mohan  
15.00 Doree  
15.11 Film: Hum  
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth, Govinda  
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 Mahabharat  
23.31 Film: Hum  
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth, Govinda  
02.18 Kundali Bhagya



Jeudi 1 Mai - 15.30

Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Rajinikanth, Govinda



Jeudi 1 Mai - 20.10

Stars: Jackie Shroff, Suniel Shetty, Abhishek Bachchan, Kareena Kapoor







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# Could Trump be leading the world into recession?

The IMF has drastically scaled back growth forecasts for the US and a host of other economies for 2025

**G**rowth forecasts for the US and other advanced economies have been sharply downgraded by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the wake of dramatic swings in US president Donald Trump's economic policy. But could the uncertainty and the turmoil in financial markets eventually be enough to push the world into a recession?

The IMF says that global growth has already been hit by the decline in business and consumer confidence as "major policy shifts" by the US unfold. These are leading to less spending and less investment.

It also predicts further damage from the disruption in global supply chains and inflation caused by tariff increases.

But while the IMF forecasts a sharp reduction in world economic growth in 2025 and 2026, it is not projecting a recession – for now.

However, it says the chances of a global recession have risen sharply from 17% to 30%. And there is now a 40% chance of a recession in the US.

The head of the IMF, Kristalina Georgieva, has blamed the slowdown on the ongoing "reboot of the global trading system" by the US. She said this is leading to downgrades in growth estimates, while volatility in financial markets is "up" and trade policy uncertainty is "literally off the charts".

As part of the IMF forecasts, growth projections for the world's richest countries in 2025 have been sharply reduced. In the US it is down 0.5% to just 1.8%, while growth in the euro area is projected to be just 0.8%. Japan will be growing by even less at 0.6%. Germany – the EU's largest economy – is projected to have no growth at all.

And for the UK, growth has been cut by 0.5%, to a very weak 1.1%, which is in line with forecasts from March. This is well below the 2% projected at the time of the last budget in the autumn. And despite the adjustments made in the UK's spring statement, the downgrade is likely to mean more tax increases, spending cuts, or both.

Some developing countries are doing much better, with India projected to have one of the highest annual GDP growth rates at 6.2% in 2025. Meanwhile, China's growth forecast has been cut sharply due to the effect of US tariffs. It is now projected by the IMF to be down by 1.3% to just 4%.

Other poorer developing countries will also

be negatively affected, but most will continue to grow at a faster pace than major industrial nations.

What the forecast underscores is that the era of rapid globalisation, spurred by trade and integration of financial markets, seems to be coming to an end.

Its rapid spread since the 1950s, which accelerated in the 1980s, led to a huge expan-

Americans depend on their stock market holdings to pay for their defined-contribution pensions. But even more worrying is the effect on the US Treasury bond market, which has been a safe haven in times of trouble. Foreign investors are now shunning US bonds, driving up interest rates for US government debt and unsettling financial institutions.

Added to the problem is the sharp drop in the value of the US dollar. Trump says he wants a weaker dollar, presumably to make US exports cheaper. But it also raises the price of imported goods and could fuel inflation. Ultimately, it could threaten the role of the US dollar as the world's reserve currency.

Potentially, big swings in normally steady financial markets can presage some of the same wobbles that led to the global financial crisis of 2008. That crisis threatened the solvency of the global financial system – although we have not reached that point yet.

Winners and losers

So what is the most likely outcome of the trade war, and the loss of a single hegemonic economic power? One example is what happened when Britain lost its dominant role in manufacturing and finance after the first world war.

Attempts at rebuilding a global economic order failed, and other major countries (led by Germany and the US) reverted to autarky, stepping back from the international trading system and worsening the Depression of the 1930s.

Just as Trump is trying to do, countries reverted to competitive devaluations. Each tried to make its exports cheaper than those of its rivals, ultimately to no avail. The world was divided into rival trading blocs, and it is conceivable that the US, the EU and China could form three such blocs in future.

**T**he last financial crisis, in 2008, was mitigated by prompt and cooperative action by central banks and governments. They injected trillions to stabilise the financial sector, but even now the damaging effects of this crisis on national growth rates is plain to see.

The IMF has made it clear that it is not just the detail of the tariffs, but erratic US economic policy, that is the main culprit for the potential recession. The rising cost of servicing US debt as investors lose confidence is also raising the cost of the large public debts of other advanced economies, including the UK. This puts more pressure on public spending.

Let's hope that whatever the turmoil, we will not be repeating the mistakes of the past.



Pic - Newsweek

sion of the world economy. But it created winners and losers, both between nations and within them.

The Trump administration's answer to this is massive tariff increases hitting countries that stand accused of "ripping off America". The tariffs have several contradictory objectives, including raising money pay for tax cuts; acting as a bargaining chip to open foreign markets to American goods; and encouraging manufacturers to relocate to the US.

**T**ump has swung between these objectives, and backed down when market reaction became too fierce. These swings have destabilised trade and investment, as well as business and consumer confidence.

Tariffs do not change the fact that many countries can produce the goods Americans want, more cheaply and often more efficiently. And the looming trade war could mean US exporters are hit with retaliatory tariffs, making it even harder to sell American goods abroad.

The inflationary effect of tariffs – raising the price of imported goods – could reverse the recent successes of central banks in taming inflation. It could even force them to raise interest rates – something Trump is fiercely against.

A more immediate effect of Trump's erratic policy-making has been turmoil in financial markets. The US stock market has fallen sharply since Trump announced his tariff plan, currently down by nearly 15% (a loss of more than US\$4 trillion (£2.99 trillion) for shareholders).

This matters for the US economy, as most

## Tree of Knowledge

### Aging Gracefully



*As we cultivate our life, our beauty becomes as much about what we are creating and doing as it is about our appearance*

**W**e tend to associate youth with beauty, but the truth is that beauty transcends every age. Just as a deciduous tree is stunning in all its stages – from its full leafy green in the summer to its naked skeleton during winter and everything in between – human beings are beautiful throughout their life spans.

The early years of our lives tend to be about learning and experiencing as much as we possibly can. We move through the world like sponges, absorbing the ideas of other people and the world. Like a tree in spring, we are waking up to the world. In this phase of life, our physical strength, youth, and beauty help open doors and attract attention. Gradually, we begin to use the information we have gathered to form ideas and opinions of our own. As we cultivate our philosophy about life, our beauty becomes as much about what we are saying, doing, and creating as it is about our appearance. Like a tree in summer, we become full, expressive, beautiful, and productive.

When the time comes for us to let go of the creations of our middle lives, we are like a tree in autumn dropping leaves, releasing our past attachments and preparing for a new phase of growth. The children move on, and careers shift or end. The lines on our faces, the stretch marks, and the gray hairs are beautiful testaments to the fullness of our experience. In the winter of our lives, we become stripped down to our essence like a tree. We may become more radiant than ever at this stage because our inner light shines brighter through our eyes as time passes. Beauty at this age comes from the very core of our being – our essence. This essence is a reminder that there is nothing to fear in growing older and there is a kind of beauty that comes only after one has spent many years on Earth.