

MAURITIUS TIMES

• We cannot be mere consumers of good governance; we must be participants; we must be co-creators. -- Rohini Nilekani

Interview: Jean Claude de l'Estrac

“Sans réforme, la faillite du plan de pension est assurée

Pravind Jugnauth avait souligné la nécessité d'une réforme dans son discours du budget de 2004”

- “Quel sera le rapport de force dans cinq ans? Personne ne peut le prédire...

On voit que Pravind Jugnauth se sent requinqué, même Padayachy sort de sa tanière”



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Pension Reform

When Necessity Clashes with Popularity

The extension of the pensionable age, a measure frequently undertaken by governments early in their mandate, is a global phenomenon driven by an undeniable demographic reality of ageing populations and declining birth rates, coupled in some cases with dire financial straits. This imbalance places immense strain on "pay-as-you-go" pension systems, where current workers' contributions fund current retirees, forcing governments worldwide to confront the politically fraught issue of reform. The unpopularity of raising the retirement age often compels new administrations to push through such changes swiftly, hoping the initial public outcry will subside over their term.

The reasons for this global shift are clear. People are living longer due to advances in healthcare and improved living conditions, leading to extended retirement periods. Simultaneously, falling birth rates mean fewer working-age individuals are contributing to the pension pot. This combination of factors creates significant financial deficits, threatening the long-term sustainability of national pension schemes. Increasing the pension age is seen as a necessary, albeit painful, lever to reduce the duration of pension payouts and extend the period of contributions.

Across the world, numerous countries have already implemented or legislated increases in their pensionable age. France, in 2023, controversially raised its retirement age from 62 to 64, a move aimed at stabilizing its pension system. Denmark is set to have one of the highest projected retirement ages, reaching 70 by 2040, having formally linked its official retirement age to life expectancy since 2006. Singapore is progressively raising its retirement age to 65 and re-employment age to 70 by 2030, with a notable survey indicating significant public support for these changes among its senior workers. The UK continues to review further increases, with some projections suggesting a state pension age of 71 by 2050. Brazil, Australia, and even China, in its first such increase in many years, have also recently implemented or announced higher retirement ages. Many OECD countries, including the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden, have adopted similar measures, often pegging increases directly to life expectancy to depoliticise the issue.

However, the necessity of these reforms does not diminish their unpopularity. Raising the pensionable age almost universally



sparks public opposition, protests, and social unrest. The reasons are deeply rooted in a sense of fairness and quality of life. Many workers, particularly those in physically demanding professions or who began their careers early, perceive it as unjust to be compelled to work longer, especially if their health or job prospects are already precarious. Opponents argue that working longer encroaches upon a "dignified senior life," reducing time for family and leisure. A lack of transparent public consultation or a perceived unilateral imposition of reforms can further erode public trust, as dramatically exemplified by the widespread and often violent protests in France in 2023. Unions organised mass strikes, bringing public services to a standstill, yet President Emmanuel Macron's government pushed the reform through using special constitutional powers. Even in economically healthy Denmark, the planned increase to 70 has sparked union-backed protests, with opponents decrying it as "completely unfair".

The ongoing situation in Mauritius vividly illustrates this dynamic. The Mauritian government's proposal to raise the pension payment age from 60 to 65, unveiled in the 2025/2026 budget, has met with public outcry. This measure, part of a broader economic reform package aimed at addressing the island's demographic and financial challenges, is intended to ensure the long-term viability of the pension system in a rapidly ageing population and challenging economic climate.

Recognizing the intense backlash, a ministerial committee, chaired by Paul Bérenger in the absence of Prime Minister

Navin Ramgoolam, met to consider attenuating measures. Discussions focused on potential exemptions for individuals whose health prevents them from working beyond 60, as well as for those in particularly arduous professions. Sugar industry labourers, whose work is physically demanding, and transport sector workers and other manual workers, facing arduous conditions, have been mentioned as candidates for such derogations. The report from these discussions will likely be put to the Cabinet, with a special session to be chaired by PM Ramgoolam next Monday to "finetune" the budget points and potentially announce complementary measures for the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) for the most vulnerable.

Trade unions are mobilizing against the pension reform. The General Workers Federation (GWF), along with other trade unions, has vehemently rejected the changes. The GWF president condemned the decision as "unjust, taken without consultation," noting it wasn't in the government's electoral manifesto. He argued that the universal pension is a fundamental social contract that shouldn't be unilaterally altered, especially as it disproportionately affects vulnerable workers in physically demanding jobs like factory workers, drivers, and public service employees. He also criticized the influence of external rating agencies like Moody's, suggesting an economic agenda dictated from outside at citizens' expense.

Different governments employ various strategies to manage these crucial, unpopular reforms. Gradual implementation,

phased over years or decades, is a common tactic to allow for adjustment and reduce immediate shock. Linking pension ages to life expectancy aims to depoliticise the issue and create an automatically adjusting system, as seen in Denmark. Some governments, like Singapore, offer comprehensive reform packages that include incentives for working longer, re-employment opportunities, or protections for vulnerable groups in arduous jobs. Effective communication and public engagement are paramount, as building trust and explaining the necessity and equity of reforms can lessen resistance. Conversely, a perceived lack of transparency or unilateral action, as witnessed in France can exacerbate protests. Fiscal management and economic context also play a role; reforms during strong economic growth may be more palatable due to the ability to offer compensatory measures. Furthermore, addressing concerns about older workers' health and work-life balance through adaptable work environments and training can support longer working lives. Finally, prioritizing social dialogue and consensus-building with trade unions and stakeholders, though challenging, often leads to more sustainable outcomes than imposed changes.

The demographic imperative for extending pensionable ages is undeniable, yet the political and social challenges remain immense. Governments face the unenviable task of balancing financial sustainability with social equity and public acceptance. Mauritius' current struggles with pension reform highlight this global problem: how to manage strong public opposition while building a sustainable system for the future. While increasing the pension age might fix a government's finances and address the sustainability of the pension system, its ultimate success depends on thoughtful implementation, particularly by engaging the public and allowing exceptions for vulnerable groups. Neither our dire financial straits nor Moody's ratings can be dismissed, and no reform will get unanimous consent, but the way forward is to find without undue delay a consensus that is acceptable for government and key stakeholders.

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Economic Crossroads

Tackling Debt, Pensions, and Public Trust

Jan Arden

In 2014, Mauritius presented a picture of economic stability. Public debt stood at approximately Rs 250 billion, or about 65% of GDP, a manageable figure given the nation's successful rebound from the global financial crisis. Our vital institutions and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), meticulously developed since independence and generally led by dedicated professionals, proved resilient, neither faltering nor failing the nation.

Even amidst global emergencies, our banking sector and major insurance firms thrived, and our national carrier, Air Mauritius, remained a symbol of pride and strength. Steady leadership at the helm guided us through challenging economic seas, crucially without resorting to excessive borrowing, unsustainable public debt, or the dangerous path of printing money.

The Economic Landscape Post-2015

This period of stability began to change significantly from 2015. The architects of the then-ruling party's victory, including seasoned Finance veteran Vishnu Lutchemnaraidoo and former Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth, were successively sidelined. The 2019 general elections saw the MSM, led by Pravind Jugnauth, and its allies secure victory with 37% of the vote, against 33% for the Labour Party and 21% for the MMM. A new political era had dawned, but its performance would later face severe sanctions from the electorate in 2024.

The true economic landscape inherited by the new government was laid bare by Finance technicians in the publicly released 'State of the Economy' report. This report starkly revealed the significant adjustments made to economic indicators and the extent to which the previous administration had driven the economy to a critical state. Public debt had alarmingly ballooned to a staggering Rs 640 billion, with debt servicing projected to demand nearly Rs 30 billion in 2025 alone. Simultaneously, the trade deficit had spiralled out of control, reaching approximately Rs 200 billion, creating an illusion of prosperity that belied the underlying fragility. The massive and opaque injection of printed money via the MIC/Bank of Mauritius fuelled inflation and led to consequential currency devaluation. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, our national flagship carrier, Air Mauritius, entered receivership.

During the pandemic, while dialysis patients and their distressed families endured suffering, and some tragically succumbed, emergency contracts to suppliers reportedly became a highly lucrative busi-

ness. Furthermore, the National Pension Scheme and Fund were controversially set aside, replaced by CSG (Contribution Sociale Généralisée) taxation on private sector employees and employers, with funds directed into government coffers, which, too, rapidly diminished. The scale of the problems left behind – from adjusted figures to allegations of murky and corrupt mismanagement – demands painstaking efforts from competent individuals now at the helm. It's a challenging road, but one that is crucial for rebuilding public trust and economic stability.

Budget Priorities: Reform and Public Sentiment

Difficult, if not drastic, measures were therefore expected in the first budget of Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, who also doubles as Minister of Finance. The key question was whether he and his team would dare to address an economy brought perilously close to "junk status" by Moody's ratings. Would they rise above popularity concerns to do what many, including the World Bank in 2021, knew was indispensable: manage the abysmal financial legacy, keep social justice afloat, and consolidate existing strengths while sketching new avenues of development?

Many analysts and Business Mauritius have largely lauded the general thrust of the budget. However, trade unions and the common person have primarily focused on the reform of the unsustainable Basic Retirement Pension (BRP), which proposes a progressive annual increase of the eligibility age by one year, aiming to reach 65 within five years. In parallel, an expert committee will analyze the rapid replacement of the CSG, with its private sector-only taxation, with a revamped National Pension Scheme formula.

The government's case is that this twin-pronged approach aims to make the pension system sustainable and align the eligibility age with most other countries within five years. There is no doubt that this is an emotive issue, and we can empathize with those whose retirement plans and expected



“The true economic landscape inherited by the new government was laid bare by Finance technicians in the publicly released 'State of the Economy' report. This report starkly revealed the significant adjustments made to economic indicators and the extent to which the previous administration had driven the economy to a critical state. Public debt had alarmingly ballooned to a staggering Rs 640 billion, with debt servicing projected to demand nearly Rs 30 billion in 2025 alone. Simultaneously, the trade deficit had spiralled out of control...”

lump sums will need rescheduling, and those whose manual jobs have left them with fragile health dispositions even by age 60. These individuals are not mere facts and statistics.

The Path Forward: Balancing Necessity with Nuance

A government by and for the people should be able to heed these concerns without sacrificing the need to reform an unsustainable pension system, where fewer and fewer working individuals will contribute to pay for an increasing number of retirees. If some less mechanistic thoughts were to adjust things, there may be a case for introducing some flexibility in an otherwise inevitable reform.

In France, the concept of “pénibilité” (arduousness) had to be introduced to salvage pension reform and make the pill easier to swallow. There have been suggestions that manual or heavy workers who wish to opt out at age 60 should have the opportunity to do so. Alternatively, the pha-

sing could be extended over ten years rather than five for classified manual workers, meaning an increase of one year in eligibility age every two years.

A major reform involving deeply emotional values and attachments has to be seen in a slightly longer-term perspective, as the government rightly points out. However, achieving greater social justice requires some “doigté” and finesse in defining policy objectives and their implementation. This is particularly true when the population perceives little or no corresponding effort, even if symbolic, to curb the expenses related to the salaries, perks, and pensions of our ruling classes.

Some analysts observed a disappointing low turnout at the recent municipal elections. If that interpretation is correct, then the ruling dispensation has no interest in exacerbating an obvious public malaise. The successful navigation of this reform will require not just economic rationale, but also astute political and social sensitivity.

The 3rd UN Ocean Conference: The Race to Save Our Seas

From the 9th to 13th June, around 60 heads of state will gather in an effort to halt the degradation of this vast marine ecosystem, which is essential to life on Earth. The over-arching theme of the Conference is “Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean”. The Conference aims to drive urgent action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. Over a couple of prior days, the world's marine scientists would have discussed the latest findings in workshops and made their recommendations on sustainability and the urgency of measures needed.

Sadly, but not surprisingly in Trump's universe, the world's most powerful economy, the USA, has refused participation in the discussions and resolutions around global warming, acidification, and overfishing, dismissing these concerns no doubt as fabrications of woke scientists or ideologues of leftist bent. As for us, our delegation headed by the PM himself is well accompanied. Alongside those concerns, they probably might be looking, either in the proceedings or on the sidelines of the Conference, to consider technical expertise and large financial investors to help our drive to a bluer economy and a safer marine environment.



L'impôt sur le revenu est-il assez progressif?

Dans le budget 2025-26, le ministre des Finances a introduit une réforme de l'impôt sur le revenu personnel (*Personal Income Tax*) qui remplace l'actuel barème gradué de l'impôt (avec dix taux d'imposition variant de 2% à 20%). A partir du 1er juillet 2025, le revenu personnel sera assujéti essentiellement à trois taux d'imposition : 0% sur les premiers Rs 500 000, 10% sur les Rs 500 000 suivants, et 20% sur le revenu au-delà de Rs 1 million. La nouvelle structure fiscale se veut plus progressive que la structure existante. L'est-elle vraiment ?

Avant de répondre à cette question, comparons le nouveau régime fiscal avec le régime existant (jusqu'au 1er juillet 2025).

Système existant

Comme le montre le tableau 1, le système existant contient 10 taux d'imposition de 2% à 20% avec une addition de 2% sur chaque tranche de revenu supérieure.

- La première tranche de revenu jusqu'à Rs 390 000 est frappée d'un taux d'imposition de 0%.
- Le taux d'imposition marginal (*Marginal Tax Rate - MTR*) supérieur est de 20% sur le revenu annuel de Rs 2 390 000 ou plus.

Dans ce tableau, nous avons calculé l'impôt sur le revenu brut (après l'exemption personnelle de Rs 390 000) sans tenir compte des déductions permises pour diverses dépenses (personne à charge, intérêt hypothécaire, prime d'assurance médicale, frais d'études universitaires, etc.).

Ainsi, un contribuable qui a un revenu brut de Rs 1 190 000 paie un montant d'impôt total de Rs 76 800. Toutefois, son taux d'imposition réel (*Effective Tax Rate - ETR*) sur le revenu annuel est de 6,5%. Ce taux d'imposition réel mesure le montant d'impôt payé en fonction du revenu global. Un contribuable qui a un revenu brut de Rs 3 millions paie un montant d'impôt total de Rs 394 800, soit un taux d'imposition réel de 13,2%.

Si l'on calcule l'impôt sur le revenu net (revenu brut moins les déductions permises), le taux d'imposition réel sera moindre significativement. Ce qui compte dans l'évaluation du fardeau fiscal du contribuable, c'est le taux d'imposition réel (ETR) plutôt que le taux d'imposition marginal (MTR).

Table 1: Tax Rates Before July 1, 2025						
Tax rate %	Income Bracket		Taxable amount	Tax amount	Cumulative Tax	Effective tax rate
	lower	upper				
0	0	390,000	0	0	0	0.0%
2	390,000	430,000	40,000	800	800	0.2%
4	430,000	470,000	40,000	1,600	2,400	0.5%
6	470,000	530,000	60,000	3,600	6,000	1.1%
8	530,000	590,000	60,000	4,800	10,800	1.8%
10	590,000	890,000	300,000	30,000	40,800	4.6%
12	890,000	1,190,000	300,000	36,000	76,800	6.5%
14	1,190,000	1,490,000	300,000	42,000	118,800	8.0%
16	1,490,000	1,890,000	400,000	64,000	182,800	9.7%
18	1,890,000	2,390,000	500,000	90,000	272,800	11.4%
20	2,390,000	3,000,000	610,000	122,000	394,800	13.2%
20	3,000,000	12,000,000	9,000,000	1,800,000	2,194,800	18.3%



“Aujourd’hui, le gouvernement rétablit la taxation des dividendes, mais elle s’applique à partir de la tranche de revenu supérieure à Rs 12 millions. Le seuil d’imposition des dividendes est très haut car tous les contribuables touchant moins de Rs 12 millions seront exemptés de l’impôt sur les dividendes. Les dividendes auraient dû être taxables pour tout le monde comme une source de revenu afin d’assurer un système équitable...”

Nouveau système

Le nouveau système d'impôt augmente l'exemption personnelle de Rs 390 000 à Rs 500 000, ce qui épargnera 44 000 contribuables de l'impôt. Un contribuable qui a un revenu annuel de Rs 1 million paiera un montant d'impôt de Rs 50 000, soit un taux d'imposition réel de 5%. Le taux d'imposition marginal de 20% s'applique au revenu supérieur à Rs 1 million. Un contribuable ayant un revenu annuel de Rs 3 millions paiera un montant d'impôt de Rs 450 000, soit un taux d'imposition réel de 15% (contre 13,2% sous le système existant). Son fardeau fiscal s'accroît légèrement sous le nouveau système. De même, un contribuable ayant un revenu annuel de Rs 12 millions paiera un montant d'impôt de Rs 2,2 millions, soit un taux d'imposition réel de 18,8% (contre 18,3% sous le système existant). Son fardeau fiscal augmente d'un demi pour cent (0,5 %).

A partir du revenu annuel supérieur à Rs 12 millions (incluant des dividendes), un impôt additionnel (*Fair Share Contribution*) de 15% s'ajoute au taux d'imposition marginal de 20%, ce qui porte le taux d'imposition marginal supé-

rieur à 35%.

Toutefois, un contribuable qui a un revenu annuel de Rs 15 millions paiera un taux d'imposition réel de 22%. Les contribuables aisés se plaindront sans doute du taux d'imposition marginal de 35%, mais il faut relativiser les choses. Il s'agit d'un taux d'imposition marginal sur la tranche de revenu supérieure à Rs 12 millions. Une innovation à noter: les dividendes redeviennent imposables pour les contribuables fortunés.

Table 2: Tax Rates After July 1, 2025						
Tax rate %	Income Bracket		Taxable amount	Tax amount	Cumulative Tax	Effective tax rate
	lower	upper				
0	0	500,000	0	0	0	0.0%
10	500,000	1,000,000	500,000	50,000	50,000	5.0%
20	1,000,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	200,000	250,000	12.5%
20	2,000,000	3,000,000	1,000,000	200,000	450,000	15.0%
20	3,000,000	12,000,000	9,000,000	1,800,000	2,250,000	18.8%
35	12,000,000	15,000,000	3,000,000	1,050,000	3,300,000	22.0%
35	15,000,000	20,000,000	5,000,000	1,750,000	5,050,000	25.3%

Note: Tax rate of 35 % applies to income including dividends

L'impôt sur le revenu est-il assez progressif?



“Dans un système juste et équitable, l'impôt devrait être payé par tout le monde selon leur capacité financière, et non pas leur âge. L'exemption fondée sur l'âge va à l'encontre du principe redistributif d'un système progressif. Le gouvernement se targue du fait que 80% des contribuables seront exemptés de l'impôt sur le revenu. Lorsque 20% des contribuables seulement paient l'impôt sur le revenu personnel, cela démontre un système inéquitable. On entendra dire que les plus riches financent l'Etat-Providence...”

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Le nouveau système d'impôt comporte essentiellement trois taux d'imposition (10%, 20% et 35%), ce qui simplifiera les calculs pour les contribuables. Le taux d'imposition marginal de 35% est une Taxe de Solidarité en ces temps de déficit budgétaire (9% du PIB) où les contribuables aisés sont appelés à faire une contribution supplémentaire pendant trois ans (du 1er juillet 2025 au 30 juin 2028).

La Taxe de Solidarité n'est pas une nouvelle idée. En 2022, l'ancien ministre des Finances Padayachy avait introduit une taxe de solidarité de 10% (en sus du taux d'imposition de base de 15%) sur le revenu annuel supérieur à Rs 3 millions (incluant les dividendes). Ce taux d'imposition marginal de 25% (10% + 15%) fut remplacé en 2023 par le taux d'imposition marginal de 20%. L'élimination de la taxe de solidarité avait pour résultat alors d'exclure les dividendes de toute taxation.

Aujourd'hui, le gouvernement rétablit la taxation des dividendes, mais elle s'applique à partir de la tranche de revenu supérieure à Rs 12 millions. Le seuil d'imposition des dividendes est très haut car tous les contribuables touchant moins de Rs 12 millions seront exemptés de l'impôt sur les dividendes. Les dividendes auraient dû être taxables pour tout le monde comme une source de revenu afin d'assurer un système équitable.

Dose de progressivité

Le taux d'imposition marginal de 35% introduit sans doute une dose de progressivité dans le nouveau régime fiscal. Mais son application est limitée dans le temps (trois ans). La temporalité ne devrait pas dicter l'application de la fiscalité si l'on veut un système progressif et équitable. L'impact de la réforme sur la capacité fiscale du pays sera atténué par l'exemption fiscale accordée aux contribuables de 18 à 28 ans sur leur revenu annuel jusqu'à Rs 1 million. Cette exemption leur permettra d'économiser Rs 50 000 en impôt par année.

Si cette exemption remplit une promesse électorale,

elle constitue néanmoins une discrimination positive fondée sur l'âge. Or, dans un système juste et équitable, l'impôt devrait être payé par tout le monde selon leur capacité financière, et non pas leur âge. L'exemption fondée sur l'âge va à l'encontre du principe redistributif d'un système progressif. Le gouvernement se targue du fait que 80% des contribuables seront exemptés de l'impôt sur le revenu. Lorsque 20% des contribuables seulement paient l'impôt sur le revenu personnel, cela démontre un système inéquitable. On entendra dire que les plus riches financent l'Etat-Providence.

Dans les pays développés membres de l'OCDE, le barème gradué comporte 5 ou 6 taux d'imposition avec un taux de base de 15% et un taux marginal d'imposition supérieur de 30% ou plus. Au Canada, par exemple, les taux d'imposition sont 15%, 21%, 26%, 29% et 33% selon les tranches de revenu. Et les contribuables les plus aisés de ce pays ne s'en plaignent pas.

Le nouveau système d'impôt aurait pu être plus progressif avec six taux d'imposition suivants:

- 0% sur les premiers Rs 500 000,
- 10% sur les Rs 500 000 suivants,
- 15% sur les Rs 500 000 suivants,
- 20% sur les Rs 500 000 suivants,
- 25% sur les Rs 500 000 suivants, et
- 30% sur la tranche de revenu supérieure à Rs 2,5 millions.

Assiette fiscale

En général, la politique fiscale d'un pays vise trois objectifs:

- (a) assurer l'équité fiscale entre les citoyens,
- (b) redistribuer les richesses en taxant davantage les riches, et
- (c) développer la capacité contributive de l'économie de façon optimale.

Une politique fiscale juste et efficace repose sur une assiette fiscale large qui comprend:

1. les sources des revenus (revenu d'emploi,

pension de retraite, revenu professionnel, revenu d'entreprise, dividendes, intérêts sur les investissements, revenu de location);

2. la propriété (sujette à une taxe immobilière nationale);
3. la consommation (la TVA sur les produits et services); et
4. la richesse (une taxe sur les plus-values sur la vente des biens mobiliers et immobiliers).

Le budget fait l'impasse sur les items 2 et 4, ce qui rétrécit considérablement la possibilité d'optimiser la capacité fiscale du pays pour subvenir aux dépenses sociales croissantes (Rs 65 milliards par an pour les prestations sociales). Le gouvernement engage une réforme de la retraite en relevant l'âge d'éligibilité à la pension de vieillesse de 60 ans à 65 ans graduellement pendant cinq ans, ce qui lui permettra d'économiser Rs 16 milliards par an (à la fin de 5 ans) au titre de la pension de vieillesse payable aux bénéficiaires de 60-64 ans. Cette mesure provoque déjà une levée des boucliers de la part des citoyens qui font des métiers pénibles (construction, hôtellerie, usines) et envisagent une retraite à partir de 60 ans.

Terrain moral

Le gouvernement se trouve sur un terrain moral glissant: comment peut-il nier le droit à la pension de vieillesse à de pauvres travailleurs de 60-64 ans alors qu'il maintient la pension parlementaire pour les députés?

Un député a droit à une pension à vie après deux mandats. Une personne qui est élue à 25 ans aura droit à une pension à partir de 35 ans. D'anciens présidents et vice-présidents touchent une pension d'au moins Rs 200 000 par mois sans payer aucune taxe. Le traitement préférentiel accordé à ces derniers est perçu comme une largesse injustifiable.

“Le gouvernement se trouve sur un terrain moral glissant : comment peut-il nier le droit à la pension de vieillesse à de pauvres travailleurs de 60-64 ans alors qu'il maintient la pension parlementaire pour les députés ? Un député a droit à une pension à vie après deux mandats. Une personne qui est élue à 25 ans aura droit à une pension à partir de 35 ans...”

Pour alléger le budget social, le gouvernement peut considérer deux options alternatives:

- (a) le ciblage économique de la pension de vieillesse en fonction du revenu en réservant la pension à ceux dont le revenu ne dépasse pas Rs 500 000 par an;
- (b) l'assujettissement de la pension de vieillesse à l'impôt lorsqu'elle est ajoutée à d'autres sources de revenu (pension de retraite au travail, revenu d'emploi, revenu d'entreprise).

Les gens qui ont la pension de vieillesse comme unique source de revenu seront automatiquement exemptés de l'impôt car leur revenu (Rs 15 000 x 13 = Rs 195 000) sera au-dessous du seuil d'exemption personnelle de Rs 500 000.

Même si une personne reçoit une pension de retraite au travail de Rs 20 000 par mois (Rs 20 000 x 13 = Rs 260 000), son revenu total de Rs 455 000 (Rs 195 000 + Rs 260 000) sera inférieur au seuil d'exemption.

Prakash Neerohoo

Beyond the Outcry

The Unavoidable Truth of Pension Reform

JMK

I watched Mr Pravind Jugnauth's press conference of June 11 with mixed amusement. At one point, he stated, as reported by *L'Express* of June 12, "*Mo finn toultan azirk couma enn Premie minis responsab. Mo pa pou met sapei-la dan enn precipis*" (I have consistently acted as a responsible Prime Minister. I won't let this country fall into an abyss.) Really, Mr ex-PM?

Isn't it because of his utter mismanagement of the economy in the past five years that we are "*dan enn precipis*" (in a precipice) today? The major part of his monologue was centred on the pension reform advanced in the 2025-2026 Budget. Riding the wave of popular discontent, he attacked the government's proposal to align the eligibility age to receive the basic retirement pension with the retirement age, that is, 65. But when the retirement age was extended to 65 in 2018, shouldn't the eligibility age for the pension have been increased to 65 too? Who was the PM then? Why didn't he do it? Is it because he knew the move would be politically suicidal?

It's easy to criticize, but I wished Mr Jugnauth could put some figures to back his argument – because, without them, they are empty and devoid of sense. Pension reform has always been a hard nut to crack. I can remember a World Bank report of 2004, that is over two decades ago, which underscored the unsustainability of the universal pension system and called for its modernization. The report observed:

"In an unchanged system, the demographic transition will be very costly... The projected high fiscal outlays [associated with payment of the BRP] entail significant risks. They could (i) compromise the fiscal position and economic stability of the country if financed through a budget deficit; (ii) crowd out much needed investments in social and productive infrastructure if expenditure envelopes remain unchanged; or (iii) jeopardize competitiveness of the economy through a strong increase in taxes. All such risks need to be avoided."

The World Bank went on to make several recommendations to save the welfare state. Regarding the BRP, three options were presented: "raising pensionable age, introducing means testing, and reducing the



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benefit level". Assessing these options critically, the report concluded that the first was most feasible and efficient. It was also consistent with "higher life expectancy and... the evolving employment patterns" characteristic of the modern Mauritian society.

More recently, a report by the IMF went in the same direction, offering three options to reform the BRP, namely "reducing generosity, tightening eligibility, and increasing incentives to remain in the labour market." In Mauritius, where the BRP is regarded by many as a *droit acquis* – an entitlement – the report advocated for a tightening of eligibility for the BRP by raising the retirement age or through targeting. The MSM-MMM government attempted targeting in 2004, leading to a national outcry and a crushing electoral defeat in the 2005 elections. Since then, "targeting" has become a taboo word.

The current government came to power on the back of a 60-0, synonymous of a *carte blanche* given by the people to translate its wishes into actions. Some people claim that the proposal to raise the pension-eligibility age did not appear in the Alliance du Changement's electoral manifesto and, so, is unfair. Others are questioning the constitutionality of the measure and are threatening to take the matter to court.

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the new income tax system with its 'fair share contribution', the dismantling of several parastatals or the revamping of the smart city scheme) nor many other measures that have also frustrated large segments of the population (for example, the indiscriminate increase in excise duties on motor vehicles or the hike in registration fees).

Admittedly, the Budget has paid lip service to the notion of 'economic renewal', one of the three pillars on which it rests (the others being a new social order, and fiscal consolidation). The sectoral measures look shallow; passing mention is made of food security; and SMEs have been largely forgotten. AI, research and innovation are cross-cutting recurring themes throughout the Budget, but the litmus test lies in their actual implementation.

All things considered, aligning the pension eligibility age with the retirement age is the right thing to do in a context where the BRP is under pressure of an ageing population. In 2000, 9% of the population was aged 60 or above. This ratio increased to 19% in 2021 and is projected to exceed 36% by 2060. The 2025-26 Budget has provided for a sum of Rs 81.45 billion to be spent on social benefits. This represents 34.6% of recurrent expenditure, meaning one out of every Rs 3 is spent on pensions. In a pay-as-you-go system, it is the taxes paid by the working population that help pay the pension to the elderly. As the population ages further, there will be fewer people

working to pay the pension of an increasing number of claimants. The universal free pension will thus come under heavy pressure in the future. One – rather extreme – way to see it is in terms of a choice between accepting to receive the BRP at 65, or to forever kiss goodbye to free pensions!

But why is the government adamant on such an unpopular measure? Even if the Budget Speech does not explicitly say it, the government is very concerned about the Moody's credit rating, which currently tinkers on the brink of 'non-investment grade'. In April this year, Moody's maintained the credit rating at Baa3 but downgraded the outlook from 'stable' to 'negative' on the back of the '*State of the Economy*' report, which revealed cases of data manipulation and, ultimately, the under-reporting of the public debt. The debt-GDP ratio is projected at 90% at the end of this financial year, compared to estimates of 76% by the previous regime. Moody's was considerate of the new government's will to deal with the debt overhang and, as such, did not impose a heavy penalty on the country.

Imagine Mauritius was downgraded by a notch. We would fall into 'junk status'. Foreign investors would be scared away; the cost of borrowing on international markets would soar, if the country manages to secure any loans, that is; and the country's reputation as an international financial centre would get a major blow. The economic fallout of this scenario would be a prolonged recession, unemployment (especially among youths in the global business sector) and acute foreign exchange shortage. This is the doomsday scenario that the government is trying to avoid by reforming the pension system to curb government spending, thus reducing the budget deficit, the borrowing requirement and, ultimately, the debt level.

In its report, Moody's exhorts the government to implement a fiscal consolidation plan over the next 12-18 months, which it says, it will be keenly monitoring. The proposed pension reform, alongside measures to cut spending across many budget lines and mobilize additional revenues, is thus a strong signal to Moody's that this government is serious about tackling the debt issue.

Backpedalling now will have consequences. Domestically, it will be perceived as weak leadership and exploited by the Opposition as such. At the international level, it will suggest that the government is incapable of undertaking tough reforms, giving reason to Moody's to downgrade our credit rating next year. It would be better if the government started a dialogue with affected stakeholders to explain the urgency of the reform and find a consensus on the issue. The proposed reform would be more acceptable if it were accompanied by targeting of the BRP and a review of the eligibility criteria for MPs to receive pensions. The government should show that the pension reform impacts everybody, not just common people who have waited long to receive what they believe is their due.

Jean Claude de l'Estrac

“Sans réforme, la faillite du plan de pension est assurée

Pravind Jugnauth avait souligné la nécessité d'une réforme dans son discours du budget de 2004”

La récente annonce du Gouvernement de reporter l'âge d'éligibilité à la «Basic Retirement Pension» (BRP) de 60 à 65 ans dans le Budget 2025-2026 a déclenché une controverse majeure. Cette décision, bien que présentée comme une nécessité pour la viabilité du système de pension, a suscité un vif mécontentement, particulièrement parmi ceux qui se sentent directement lésés. Mais que nous dit l'histoire sur la durée et l'impact de telles controverses, surtout lorsqu'elles ne sont pas structurées par un mouvement organisé? Et comment un gouvernement navigue-t-il entre des décisions impopulaires mais nécessaires, et la communication essentielle pour les faire accepter? Jean Claude de l'Estrac, homme politique et ancien diplomate mauricien, offre son analyse de cette situation complexe, explorant les paradoxes entre les réalités économiques et les perceptions psychologiques d'une population déjà sous pression.

Mauritius Times: Que nous enseigne l'histoire politique, que ce soit à Maurice ou à l'étranger, sur la durée d'une controverse, en particulier lorsque celle-ci ne s'est pas cristallisée autour d'un mouvement organisé et dirigé par des syndicats ou des forces politiques – comme celle causée par le report de l'âge d'éligibilité à la «Basic Retirement Pension» (BRP) de 60 à 65 ans, tel qu'annoncé dans le Budget 2025-2026?

Jean Claude de l'Estrac: L'histoire, en l'occurrence, ne peut nous servir de boussole. Chaque controverse provoque sa propre dynamique largement déterminée par le contexte. Dans le cas de la réforme du système de pension, il y a deux aspects totalement contradictoires à considérer.

D'une part, le mécontentement de ceux qui seront immédiatement affectés par le report de leur éligibilité à une pension est bien compréhensible. Il l'est d'autant plus que l'écart entre le salaire minimum et le montant de la pension est très faible. Pour ceux qui sont payés le salaire minimum, c'est presque une incitation à opter pour la pension le plus rapidement possible. C'est cette perspective qu'ils voient s'en-voier, et ils sont naturellement très remontés.

D'autre part, aucune personne de bonne foi ne peut contester le fait que le système actuel est voué à la faillite. La pension à 60 ans avait été établie à une époque où l'espérance de vie d'un pensionné n'était que de 62-65 ans. Elle est aujourd'hui de 74 ans en moyenne: 77 ans pour les femmes et 71 pour les hommes. Et il y a de moins en moins de contributeurs actifs pour payer de plus en plus longtemps un nombre de plus en plus grand de Seniors.

Sans réforme, la faillite du plan de pension est assurée.

«La communication est une science technique informative doublée d'une capacité de persuasion, d'une intelligence émotionnelle, d'une transmission sensible à la réussite de la réception. Je n'ai pas le sentiment que la communication du gouvernement repose sur ces desiderata. En revanche, en écoutant les porte-paroles du MSM qui montent au créneau, j'ai le sentiment qu'il y a un communicant à la manœuvre qui s'est assuré de la cohésion des éléments de langage...»

Pravind Jugnauth, alors Premier ministre adjoint et ministre des Finances, avait souligné la nécessité d'une réforme dans son discours du budget de 2004.

Reste la manière. Ce gouvernement est inefficace en matière de pédagogie et de communication. De plus, il s'est piégé en faisant, pendant la campagne électorale, des promesses qui n'étaient pas tenables, et il ne pouvait pas ne pas le savoir.

* **Cependant, le contraste est frappant : retarder la BRP pour les revenus futurs des citoyens tout en accordant des allocations rétroactives aux “Junior Ministers”. Ce “sacrifice” perçu du public face aux “avantages” pour les politiciens pourrait déclencher une colère généralisée. La question clé est de savoir pourquoi cela n'a pas encore mené à une mobilisation massive de l'opposition politique ou de la société civile. Est-ce un manque de leadership, d'unité, aux 60-0 de novembre 2024 ou d'autres facteurs?**

Vous avez l'air de regretter que les Mauriciens ne descendent pas dans la rue. Que voulez-vous? Des Gilets Jaunes locaux? Mais vous avez bien vu que cela n'a mené les protestataires français nulle part.

Vous parlez d'une mobilisation massive, mais elle est là. Si elle ne s'exprime pas par des manifestations de rue, elle est quand même bien réelle. Rarement en si peu de temps, un pouvoir aussi grandement plébiscité ne s'est heurté à autant d'insatisfaits ! Malgré le 60-0 récent!

Mais soyons justes. Il en est ainsi parce que le nouveau gouvernement a pris, courageusement, des décisions impopulaires qui sont dans l'intérêt du pays.

On peut arguer sur la forme de ces décisions, on peut regretter l'impréparation, on peut s'étonner de tant d'amateurisme, on peut déplorer le manque de consultations, y compris même des ministres, mais on ne peut pas ne pas reconnaître qu'en la circonstance, il a annoncé moult mesures qui sont nécessaires même si elles sont amères.

* **Même si “le budget n'est pas fait pour être populaire, mais pour sauver le pays”, comme le soutient le Premier ministre, est-ce précisément la gestion de l'affaire qui pose problème?**

Vous avez raison. Pour ce qui est des «explications», on constate une communication boiteuse et incohérente. Les anciens journalistes devenus «communicants», du jour au lendemain, sont en apprentissage.



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S'il est vrai que l'information et la communication sont des concepts proches, la communication est une science technique informative doublée d'une capacité de persuasion, d'une intelligence émotionnelle, d'une transmission sensible à la réussite de la réception. Je n'ai pas le sentiment que la communication du gouvernement repose sur ces desiderata.

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Reste la question de la «gestion». Si effectivement l'exemple vient d'en haut, la population n'a vu aucun signe de modération du train de vie de l'élite politique au pouvoir. Au contraire ! C'est comme jeter de l'huile sur un feu...

☞ Suite en page 8

“Quel sera le rapport de force dans cinq ans? Personne ne peut le prédire...”

On voit que Pravind Jugnauth se sent requinqué, même Padayachy sort de sa tanière”

« Sans réforme, la faillite du plan de pension est assurée. Pravind Jugnauth, alors Premier ministre adjoint et ministre des Finances, avait souligné la nécessité d'une réforme dans son discours du budget de 2004. Reste la manière. Ce gouvernement est inefficace en matière de pédagogie et de communication. De plus, il s'est piégé en faisant, pendant la campagne électorale, des promesses qui n'étaient pas tenables, et il ne pouvait pas ne pas le savoir... »

☞ Suite de la page 7

* Par ailleurs, étant donné le taux très élevé de maladies non transmissibles (MNT) à Maurice, il est crucial de reconnaître que de nombreux travailleurs mauriciens pourraient ne pas être physiquement capables de continuer à travailler après l'âge de 60 ans en raison de la détérioration de leur santé. N'est-il donc pas impératif que toute réforme des pensions tienne pleinement compte des réalités sanitaires des travailleurs mauriciens, permettant une retraite digne pour ceux qui sont incapables de continuer à travailler au-delà de 60 ans?

Vous évoquez la question du ciblage. Bien sûr que le gouvernement devrait comprendre la nécessité d'une certaine différenciation entre les diverses catégories de travailleurs. Cette formule existe déjà. Les employés des forces disciplinées, comme les policiers, par exemple, peuvent obtenir leur pension à 60 ans ou même avant s'ils ont effectué 25 ans de service.

Si le ministre des Finances faisait preuve de flexibilité sur cette question cruciale, je suis certain que la réforme sera mieux acceptée. Il faudra être prudent bien évidemment pour ne pas ouvrir les vannes de la surenchère.

Il faut, par ailleurs, sortir de l'idée que le discours du budget est une proposition définitive. Sinon à quoi servent les débats budgétaires au Parlement ? Et les parlementaires ne sont pas seuls à vouloir débattre des propositions dans le but de les améliorer. C'est cela justement la communication: émettre des idées et se préoccuper de leur réception.

* Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Bérenger ont tous deux affirmé que les deux à trois prochaines années seront “difficiles”. Par conséquent, ils ont appelé les Mauriciens à faire des sacrifices, lesquels porteraient leurs fruits au bout de trois ans. Est-ce réellement envisageable dans un délai de trois ans?

Je ne crois pas que l'on pourra régler tous nos problèmes économiques en un seul budget. On n'est pas près de sortir du tunnel creusé par l'ancien gouvernement. La question fondamentale est celle de l'émergence de nouveaux pôles de croissance. Par définition, c'est long à mettre en place. Et on n'est jamais sûr de la réussite.

D'autre part, je ne sens plus chez notre population l'esprit de discipline, de sacrifices, de travail qui avait caractérisé notre entrée dans le monde industriel. Il faudrait un leadership fort et vertueux pour secouer les Mauriciens, tous, les travailleurs comme les entrepreneurs, la fonction publique comme le secteur privé. Les années de Pravind Jugnauth ont ramolli les uns et les autres.

* Au-delà de la question des pensions, le pays est confronté à des problèmes économiques majeurs: une



dette publique avoisinant les 90% du PIB, un déficit budgétaire autour de 10%, un déficit commercial de 203,7 milliards de roupies, et une impression monétaire de 180 milliards de roupies qui a entraîné une dévaluation de la roupie. Face à ces défis, pensez-vous qu'un redressement significatif pourrait être accompli en moins d'un mandat gouvernemental complet? Ne faudrait-il pas plutôt envisager un horizon de temps plus long, étant donné l'ampleur des déséquilibres actuels?

Comme je viens de vous le dire, un seul budget ne suffira pas, et sans doute pas un seul mandat non plus. Mais quel sera le rapport de force dans cinq ans ? Personne ne peut le prédire aujourd'hui. On voit que Pravind Jugnauth se sent requinqué, même Padayachy sort de sa tanière. On verra si les déboires de l'Alliance du Changement seront les tremplins du MSM. Les malheurs de l'un ne font pas nécessairement le bonheur de l'autre.

* La création de nouveaux piliers économiques est cruciale pour l'avenir et exige un suivi rigoureux ainsi qu'une mise en œuvre efficace. Pour concrétiser ces ambitions, un dynamisme renouvelé et des compétences solides des secteurs public et privé sont indispensables. La question clé demeure : est-ce réellement envisageable de mobiliser ces ressources pour transformer ces ambitions en réalité?

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C'est la question clé en effet. Avons-nous suffisamment de ressources humaines pour mener à bien ces projets? Le gouvernement tiendra-t-il sa promesse de ne recruter que les plus compétents et les plus méritants à la tête des institutions publiques? On peut en douter. Les signaux sont brouillés. Il y a bien eu quelques nominations de personnes compétentes mais autant qui ne le sont pas et qui sont seulement là en récompense de leur loyauté envers les partis qu'ils soutiennent.

Ce qui grippe, par ailleurs, la machinerie gouvernementale et ralentit la bonne exécution des projets, c'est l'hypercentralisation des arbitrages et des décisions entre les mains du seul Premier ministre. Les gouvernements d'Anerood Jugnauth avaient été très performants pour deux raisons : un, il faisait absolument confiance à ses ministres, et deux, il prenait ses décisions on ne peut plus rapidement.

* Liée à la question des nominations, celle des salaires pratiqués dans certaines institutions publiques et entreprises d'État est perçue par les critiques comme exagérée. Comment réconcilier de tels salaires alors qu'on demande d'une part des sacrifices de la part de la population et que, d'autre part, il est nécessaire de retenir des compétences qui coûtent cher pour faire progresser le pays et ses institutions? On ne voit pas, par exemple, Andre Viljoen revenir à Air Mauritius pour le salaire d'un ministre...

« Les employés des forces disciplinées, comme les policiers, par exemple, peuvent obtenir leur pension à 60 ans ou même avant s'ils ont effectué 25 ans de service. Si le ministre des Finances faisait preuve de flexibilité sur cette question cruciale, je suis certain que la réforme sera mieux acceptée. Il faudra être prudent bien évidemment pour ne pas ouvrir les vannes de la surenchère... »

Exactement ! Je ne sais pas qui a dit «if you pay peanuts, you get monkeys»! Le marché du travail, en particulier pour les hauts cadres, est un marché international. Maurice est condamné à s'aligner sur ces normes si elle veut recruter les meilleurs et les retenir.

Une part des raisons de l'exode de nos jeunes les plus brillants s'explique par la médiocrité des propositions salariales, y compris parfois dans le secteur privé.

Pour le secteur public n'en parlons pas. Je connais des jeunes de la diaspora qui sont venus tâter le terrain ici et qui sont repartis pour cette raison.

* L'avenir de l'accord sur les Chagos reste incertain avec les réserves exprimées par les 'Lords' britanniques. Le “package” financier obtenu ne semble pas aussi attrayant qu'espéré, surtout au regard des défis économiques et financiers auxquels le pays est confronté. De plus, la question de la souveraineté, qui semble partagée plutôt que complète, soulève des interrogations. Pensez-vous que cet accord réponde réellement aux attentes et aux besoins du pays, tant sur le plan économique que sur celui de la pleine souveraineté?

Voilà un autre dossier où j'entends beaucoup de commentaires mal informés.

☞ Suite en page 9

☞ Suite de la page 8

Essayons d'être aussi clairs que possible. Voyons les trois aspects essentiels de l'affaire. Le premier concerne la souveraineté. Oui, la reconnaissance enfin par la Grande Bretagne de la souveraineté historique de Maurice sur l'archipel des Chagos est une grande avancée.

Mais compte tenu de la présence continue de la base anglo-américaine sur la principale île de l'archipel, Diégo Garcia, l'exercice de cette souveraineté est limité.

Le représentant du gouvernement britannique à la Chambre des Lords vient d'affirmer catégoriquement que Londres conserve la «souveraineté opérationnelle» à Diégo. Et pas seulement. Dans les autres îles de l'archipel, les initiatives mauriciennes seront sous stricte surveillance des Anglais et des Américains.

C'est ce qui me fait dire que notre souveraineté n'est pas «absolue», elle est partagée. Pouvons-nous faire autrement? Je ne le crois pas.

Le deuxième concerne l'aspect financier. Le montant du loyer payé est un des plus faibles payés par Londres — par Washington, plus concrètement — pour une base considérée comme une des plus impor-

Chagos: "Notre souveraineté n'est pas 'absolue', elle est partagée"

Pouvons-nous faire autrement? Je ne le crois pas"

tantes de la stratégie militaire américaine. Ce ne sont pas Rs 10 milliards par an qui sauveront notre économie, ils représentent à peine 2% du déficit budgétaire.

Le troisième concerne le retour des Chagossiens dans leurs îles natales. Je suis très sceptique. La seule île où ils auraient pu

s'installer, c'est Diégo, un territoire américain ultra moderne doté de toutes les facilités d'une grande ville.

Mais c'est la seule île de l'archipel où il leur est interdit de résider. Pour l'instant, et pour longtemps je crains, les autres îles resteront inhabitables.

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* Une dernière question: il semble que le gouvernement de l'Alliance soit stable et qu'il n'y ait aucun signe de tension interne. N'est-ce pas là le 'changement' et la 'rupture' avec le passé politique, souvent marqué par des dissensions entre ces deux grands partis, que les Mauriciens attendaient aussi?

Oui, il paraît bien que l'entente entre les deux principaux dirigeants du Parti Travailiste et du MMM semble parfaite même si le comportement irascible de Bérenger, Premier ministre adjoint omniprésent provoque des tensions avec les ministres.



Dr Vinay Ancharaz appointed Executive Director of the NPCC

The wheels of government turn slowly, or so the common criticism goes. In Mauritius, the current administration faces increasing scrutiny for what's perceived as an undue delay in appointing CEOs and heads of crucial public institutions. These roles are vital arteries of the economy, touching everything from financial services and industry to education and social welfare. Yet, the prolonged silence in these critical positions is raising eyebrows and fostering impatience among the public and various economic sectors.

However, a deeper look reveals a nuanced picture, one that speaks volumes about the lessons learned from past governance. The preceding government, unfortunately, became notorious for appointments that often prioritised political loyalty or shared affiliation over genuine competence. The result was a parade of "square pegs in round holes" — individuals who, despite their political connections, consistently delivered poorly and, in some alarming instances, oversaw questionable governance within the very institutions they were meant to lead. The ripple effect of such ill-suited appointments can be devastating, leading to ineffi-

ciencies, erosion of public trust, and a tangible drag on national progress.

It appears the current government is meticulously navigating this delicate terrain, opting for a more cautious, deliberate approach to head-hunting. This calculated pace suggests a commitment to identifying and selecting truly meritorious candidates who possess the requisite expertise and leadership qualities to effectively deliver on their mandates within parastatal bodies and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). While the wait is undoubtedly frustrating for many, it signals a potential shift towards meritocracy, a crucial step if the nation is to truly unlock its economic potential and improve public service delivery.

The imperative to place the **right people in the right places** cannot be overstated. Public institutions are not mere extensions of political parties; they are stewards of national resources and drivers of essential services. Their effectiveness directly impacts the daily lives of citizens and the country's standing on the global stage. Appointing individuals based on political favouritism rather than demonstrable skill sets is a recipe for stagnation, corruption, and ultimately, failure. It undermines institutional integrity, demoralises dedicated civil servants, and deters genuine talent from aspiring to public service.

This is why recent appointments, such as that of Vinay Ancharaz as the Executive Director of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), validate the government's more considered approach. More similar appointments are said to be in the pipeline, and it is to be hoped they will augur a new beginning in public administration and the delivery of its services.

Vinay Ancharaz is a respected economist with a robust academic background and extensive international experience. His career, which began in 1994 as a Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of Mauritius, spans

two decades of teaching and research in international trade, economic development, and public policy. His work during this period included crucial studies on regional economic integration, inclusive growth, and trade policies. This academic foundation provided him with a deep theoretical understanding and a strong analytical toolkit.

In 2016, Vinay Ancharaz transitioned into international economic consultancy, collaborating with numerous global institutions and regional organisations. His expertise in productivity, competitiveness, value chains, structural reforms, and sustainable development became highly sought after. He is particularly renowned for his command of econometric and analytical tools, coupled with a rare ability to demystify complex research findings for a broad audience.

Vinay Ancharaz holds a Master in Business Administration from Imperial College of London and a Doctorate in International Economics from Brandeis University in the United States. His profound knowledge extends to African economies, the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries, and the complexities of public policy formulation in island contexts. He has contributed to numerous studies on economic transformation, regional and multilateral trade agreements, and productive diversification. While he had a brief foray into politics in the 2019 general elections, his primary professional identity remains firmly rooted in economics and development.

His appointment to the NPCC comes at a critical juncture for the national economy, where productivity is a central concern. The NPCC is expected to play a pivotal role in enhancing the productivity of all sectors, from public bodies to privately run enterprises, as productivity is a key driver in today's interconnected global economy. Under his leadership, the expectation is that the NPCC will be effectively repositioned as a key player in promoting economic efficiency, innovation, and overall business competitiveness.

Rebuilding Institutional Integrity

Strategic Appointments: The Imperative of Expertise in Public Office



'Who controls the present controls the past'

What Orwell's '1984' explains about the twisting of history to control the public

When people use the term "Orwellian," it's not a good sign.

It usually characterizes an action, an individual or a society that is suppressing freedom, particularly the freedom of expression. It can also describe something perverted by tyrannical power.

It's a term used primarily to describe the present, but whose implications inevitably connect to both the future and the past.

In his second term, President Donald Trump has revealed his ambitions to rewrite America's official history to, in the words of the Organization of American Historians, "reflect a glorified narrative ... while suppressing the voices of historically excluded groups."

Such ambitions are deeply Orwellian. Here's how.

Author George Orwell believed in objective, historical truth. Writing in 1946, he attributed his youthful desire to become an author in part to a "historical impulse," or "the desire to see things as they are, to find out true facts and store them up for the use of posterity."

But while Orwell believed in the existence of an objective truth about history, he did not necessarily believe that truth would prevail.

Winners write the history

During World War II, the Nazis broadcast reports on German radio describing nonexistent air raids over Britain.

Orwell knew about those reports and wrote: "Now, we are aware that those raids did not happen. But what use would our knowledge be if the Germans conquered Britain? For the purposes of a future historian, did those raids happen, or didn't they?"

The answer, Orwell wrote, was, "If Hitler survives, they happened, and if he falls, they didn't happen. So with innumerable other events of the past ten or twenty years. ... In no case do you get one answer which is universally accepted because it is true: in each case you get a number of totally incompatible answers, one of which is finally adopted as the result of a physical struggle. History is written by the winners."

As Orwell wrote in "1984," his final, dystopian novel, "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."

Power, Orwell appreciated, allowed those who possessed it to create their own historical narrative. It also allowed those in power to silence or censor opposing narratives, quashing the possibility of productive dialogue about history that could ultimately allow truth to come out.

The Ministry of Truth

The desire to eradicate counternarratives drives Winston Smith's job at the ironically named Ministry of Truth in "1984."

The novel is set in Oceania, a geographical entity covering North America and the British Isles and which governs much of the Global South.

Oceania is an absolute tyranny governed by Big Brother, the leader of a political party whose only goal is the perpetuation of its own power. In this society, truth is what Big Brother and the party say it is.

The regime imposes near total censorship so that not only dissident speech but subversive private reflection, or "thought crime," is viciously prosecuted. In this way, it controls the present.

But it also controls the past. As the party's protean policy evolves, Smith and his colleagues are tasked with sys-



George Orwell's '1984' has some lessons for 2025. Pic - Getty Images

tematically destroying any historical records that conflict with the current version of history. Smith literally disposes of artifacts of inexpedient history by throwing them down "memory holes," where they are "wiped ... out of existence and out of memory."

At a key point in the novel, Smith recalls briefly holding on to a newspaper clipping that proved that an enemy of the regime had not actually committed the crime he had been accused of. Smith recognizes the power over the regime that this clipping gives him, but he simultaneously fears that power will make him a target. In the end, fear of retaliation leads him to drop the slip of newsprint down a memory hole.

The contemporary U.S. is a far cry from Orwell's Oceania. Yet the Trump administration is doing its best to exert control over the present and the past.

Down the memory hole

The Trump administration has taken unprecedented steps to rewrite the nation's official history, attempting to purge parts of the historical narrative down Orwellian memory holes.

Comically, those efforts included the temporary removal from government websites of information about the Enola Gay, the plane that dropped the atomic bomb over Hiroshima. The plane was unwittingly caught up in a mass purge of references to "gay" and LGBTQ+ content on government websites.

Other erasures have included the deletion of content on government sites related to the life of Harriet Tubman, the Maryland woman who escaped slavery and then played a pioneering role as a conductor of the Underground Railroad, helping enslaved people escape to freedom.

The administration also directed the removal of content concerning the Tuskegee Airmen, the group of African American pilots who flew missions in World War II.

In these cases, public outcry led to the restoration of the deleted content, but other less high-profile deletions have been allowed to stand.

Over the past several months, many of Trump's opponents have bemoaned the fecklessness of the Democratic Party in mounting an effective opposition to the president's agenda.

Critics on the right and even some on the left denounced as little more than a stunt New Jersey Sen. Corey Booker's marathon 25-hour speech on the US Senate floor detailing

the constitutional abuses of Trump's first few months.

But while words are no substitute for action, in the face of a regime that is intent on stifling voices of dissent, from media outlets to law firms, to university campuses, through a combination of formal censorship and informal coercion and bullying, the act of speaking out matters.

Booker's protest will be written into the Congressional Record and remain a part of the nation's contested history.

So too will the meticulous recounting of the administration's constitutional abuses in publications such as *The Atlantic* and *The New York Times*. The existence of such a record allows the potential for a critical historical narrative to be written in the future.

But the administration is also looking ahead.

Repressing thought

Current proponents of the "anti-woke" agenda at both the federal and state level are focused on reshaping educational curricula in a way that will make it inconceivable for future generations to question their historical claims.

Orwell's "1984" ends with an appendix on the history of "Newspeak," Oceania's official language, which, while it had not yet superseded "Oldspeak" or standard English, was rapidly gaining ground as both a written and spoken dialect.

According to the appendix, "The purpose of Newspeak was not only to provide a medium of expression for the worldview and mental habits proper to the devotees of [the Party], but to make all other modes of thought impossible."

Orwell, as so often in his writing, makes the abstract theory concrete: "The word free still existed in Newspeak, but it could only be used in such statements as 'This dog is free from lice' or 'This field is free from weeds.' ... political and intellectual freedom no longer existed even as concepts."

The goal of this language streamlining was total control over past, present and future.

If it is illegal to even speak of systemic racism, for example, let alone discuss its causes and possible remedies, it constrains the potential for, even prohibits, social change.

It has become a cliché that those who do not understand history are bound to repeat it. As George Orwell appreciated, the correlate is that social and historical progress require an awareness of, and receptivity to, both historical fact and competing historical narratives.

Air India plane crash: London-bound flight with 242 on board crashes in Ahmedabad

Air India's flight AI 171, a Boeing 787-8, crashed into a residential area near the airport in Ahmedabad minutes after taking off yesterday five minutes after taking off at 1:38pm local time.

According to Air India, the Boeing aircraft had 242 passengers and crew members. Of the total passengers onboard, 169 were Indian nationals, 53 British nationals, 1 Canadian national, and 7 Portuguese nationals.

"The injured are being taken to the nearest hospitals. We have also set up a dedicated passenger hotline number 1800 5691 444 to provide more information," the airlines said in a post on X. "Air India is giving its full cooperation to the authorities investigating this incident."

Dramatic visuals shared on social media showed massive plumes of black smoke rising near the Ahmedabad airport, reports HT.

Prime Minister Modi said that the accident is "heart-breaking beyond words". "The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected," he wrote on X.



King Charles and Queen Camilla are left "desperately shocked" by the horrific Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad on Thursday. Their official statement shared by The Royal Family's X account reads: "My wife and I have been desperately shocked by the terrible events in Ahmedabad this morning. Our special prayers and deepest possible sympathy are with the families and friends of all those affected by this appallingly tragic

incident across so many nations, as they await news of their loved ones. I would like to pay a particular tribute to the heroic efforts of the emergency services and all those providing help and support at this most heartbreaking and traumatic time."

In addition to the British monarch, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said his "thoughts are with the passengers and their families at this deeply distressing time."

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney also addressed the tragedy in a statement shared on X that reads: "Devastated to learn of the crash of a London-bound Air India plane in Ahmedabad, carrying 242 passengers — including one Canadian. My thoughts are with the loved ones of everyone on board."

The aircraft was under the command of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal and First Officer Clive Kunder. Captain Sumeet Sabharwal had 8,200 hours of flying experience, and the co-pilot had 1,100 hours of flying experience.

It is the first such crash in India since 2020 when an Air India Express plane overshot a tabletop runway at Kerala's Kozhikode, skidded off the runway, plunged into a valley nose-first, leaving 21 passengers dead.

"No Kings" movement to counter Trump's military parade on army's 250th anniversary



No Kings' Trump protests in Oregon. Pic - Statesman Journal

As Washington D.C. prepares for a large-scale military parade marking the U.S. Army's 250th anniversary on June 14th, a nationwide protest movement dubbed "No Kings" is mobilizing to counter what they describe as an authoritarian display and a "wasteful and un-American" spectacle. The parade, significantly expanded at President Donald Trump's insistence and coinciding with his 79th birthday, is estimated to cost between \$25 million and \$45 million.

The "No Kings" protests, organized by the 50501 Movement (representing "50 states, 50 protests, one movement"), are planned for nearly 2,000 cities and towns across the United States. Organizers emphasize that their demonstrations will not take place in Washington D.C., instead aiming to "make action everywhere else the story of America that day." A flagship march and rally is scheduled for Philadelphia.

The movement's core message is a rejection of what they perceive as the Trump administration's authoritarian tendencies, billionaire-first politics, and the "militarization of America's democracy." They accuse the administration of defying courts, deporting Americans, attacking civil rights, and enriching wealthy allies, while comparing Trump's actions to those of a king rather than a democratically

elected president. The "No Kings" website boldly states, "The flag doesn't belong to President Trump. It belongs to us. On June 14th, we're showing up everywhere he isn't — to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings."

The military parade itself is set to be a grand affair, featuring thousands of soldiers in historic uniforms, both vintage and modern equipment including 60-ton M1 Abrams battle tanks, and aerial displays. While officially commemorating the Army's quarter-millennium milestone, critics argue that Trump's personal desire for such a display, inspired by France's Bastille Day parade, has transformed it into a self-serving event.

Public sentiment appears divided, with a recent AP-NORC poll indicating that 60% of Americans, including a significant majority of Democrats and Independents, believe the parade is not a good use of government funds. Concerns also extend to the potential politicization of the military, with some veterans condemning the perceived "misuse of military power." Trump has previously warned that protesters attempting to disrupt the parade in D.C. "will be met with very big force," a statement that has drawn comparisons to authoritarian regimes.

The "No Kings" movement has committed to non-violent protests, focusing on rallies, speeches, and public demonstrations to highlight their opposition to the administration's policies and the nature of the parade. As the nation prepares for both a large military display and widespread dissent, June 14th is shaping up to be a day of contrasting narratives about American power, democracy, and national identity.

Netanyahu's government survives no-confidence vote amid conscription dispute



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government narrowly averted collapse today as the Knesset rejected an opposition-backed bill to dissolve parliament and pave the way for snap elections. The vote, which saw 61 lawmakers oppose the motion and 53 in favour, marked a significant win for Netanyahu, whose fragile coalition has been under strain from an ongoing dispute over military conscription for ultra-Orthodox Jews.

The opposition, a mix of centrist and leftist parties, had hoped to capitalize on growing discontent among ultra-Orthodox factions within Netanyahu's government. These parties, crucial to the coalition's stability, had threatened to support the dissolution bill due to a contentious issue surrounding the exemption of deeply religious Jews from mandatory military service.

However, local media reported on Thursday morning that most ultra-Orthodox lawmakers ultimately agreed not to support the opposition's proposal. This last-minute shift secured the coalition's immediate survival, leaving the opposition to wait another six months before they can introduce a similar bill.

The core of the dispute revolves around a long-standing ruling that exempts ultra-

Orthodox men who dedicate themselves to the full-time study of sacred Jewish texts from military service. This exemption, a relic from Israel's early days when the ultra-Orthodox community was tiny, has become a hot-button issue, particularly as the military seeks additional manpower amidst the nearly 20-month war in Gaza.

Netanyahu faces pressure from his own Likud party to draft more ultra-Orthodox men and impose penalties on those who evade service. This stance is a red line for ultra-Orthodox parties like Shas and United Torah Judaism (UTJ), who are integral to his coalition and demand a law guaranteeing their members permanent exemption.

Ahead of the vote, reports indicated that officials from Netanyahu's coalition were engaged in intense negotiations with ultra-Orthodox leaders to find common ground on the conscription issue. In what appeared to be a tactical move to buy more time for these discussions, the coalition filled the Knesset's agenda with bills aimed at delaying the dissolution vote.

Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich had vehemently argued against dissolving the government during wartime, calling it an "existential danger" to Israel's future. He stressed the "national and security need" for ultra-Orthodox participation in the military, asserting that "history will not forgive anyone who drags the state of Israel into elections during a war."

Netanyahu's government, formed in December 2022, is one of the most right-wing in the country's history, relying on the alliance between his Likud party, far-right groups, and the ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties. The departure of these religious parties would undoubtedly lead to the government's collapse.

* Contd on page 12



China heightens military activity around Taiwan

Taiwan's Ministry of Defence said it detected 10 sorties of Chinese aircraft and seven Chinese vessels operating around its territorial waters as of 6am (local time).

In a post on X, Taiwan's MND said, "8 out of 10 sorties entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

Earlier on Wednesday, 43 sorties of PLA aircraft and 6 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected in the region, reports ANI.

Meanwhile, three Taiwanese non-governmental organisations participated in a tabletop exercise on Tuesday that simulated dramatic escalations in Chinese military activity near Taiwan in 2030, including Chinese naval ships invading Taiwan's territorial seas, according to a Focus Taiwan report.

Focus Taiwan reported that the two-day exercise, which focused primarily on China's "grey zone" coercive actions that fall short of open conflict, was jointly hosted by the Taipei School of Economics and Political Science Foundation, an educational foundation; the Taipei-based think tank Centre for Peace and Security; and the Council on Strategic and Wargaming Studies (CSWS), a research institute.

Several former defence officials attended the event, including former Chief of the General Staff Lee Hsi-min, retired US Navy Admiral Michael Mullen, former US Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair, former Japanese Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff Shigeru Iwasaki, and former Chief of Staff of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Tomohisa Takei, according to a Focus Taiwan report.

Most G7 members ready to lower Russian oil price cap without US

Most countries in the Group of Seven nations are prepared to go it alone and lower the G7 price cap on Russian oil even if U.S. President Donald Trump decides to opt out, four sources familiar with the matter said.

G7 country leaders are due to meet on June 15-17 in Canada where they will discuss the price cap first agreed in late 2022. The cap was designed to allow Russian oil to be sold to third countries using Western insurance services provided the price was no more than \$60 a barrel.

The European Union and Britain have been pushing to lower the price for weeks after a fall in global oil prices made the current \$60 cap nearly irrelevant.

The sources, who declined to be named, said the EU and Britain are ready to lead the charge and go it alone, backed by the other European G7 countries and Canada, reports Reuters.

They said it is still unclear what the U.S. will decide, though the Europeans are pushing for a united decision at the meeting. Japan's position also remains uncertain, they said.

"There is a push among European countries to reduce the oil price cap to



\$45 from \$60. There are positive signals from Canada, Britain and possibly the Japanese. We will use the G7 to try to get the U.S. on board," one of the sources said.

The White House had no immediate comment. During the G7 finance ministers meeting in the Canadian Rockies last month, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent remained unconvinced there was a need to lower the cap, according to sources.

However some U.S. Senators may endorse the idea, including Lindsay Graham, who in recent weeks told reporters he supports lowering the cap. Graham is pushing a hard-hitting new set of Russia sanctions that could impose steep tariffs on buyers

of Russian oil.

Russia's largest export grade, Urals, trades at around a \$10 a barrel discount to the Dated Brent benchmark out of Baltic ports. Brent futures have been trading below \$70 a barrel since early April.

Sources said Washington's buy-in was not essential to lower the cap owing to Britain's dominance in global shipping insurance, and the

EU's influence on the Western rules-abiding tanker fleet.

The U.S., however, does matter when it comes to dollar-denominated payments for oil and its banking system.

The EU and its Western allies have been progressively cracking down on Russia's shadow fleet of tankers and related actors, which work to circumvent the cap.

The pressure has started to hurt Moscow's revenues and Western allies hope this will push more of the oil trade back under the cap. Russia's state-owned oil producer Rosneft reported a 14.4% slump in profits last year.

North Korea will always stand with Russia, Kim Jong Un tells President Putin

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said in a message to Russian President Vladimir Putin that his country will always stand with Moscow, state media reported on Thursday. In a message for Russia Day, a patriotic holiday celebrating Russia's independence, Kim called Putin his "dearest comrade" and praised their bilateral

relations as a "genuine relationship between comrades-in-arms," KCNA reported.

"It is an unshakable will of the government of the DPRK and of my own steadfastly to carry on the DPRK-Russia relations," Kim was quoted as saying. The DPRK stands for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

KCNA reported on Wednesday that Kim had sent congratulations on Russia Day to Putin. Earlier this year, Pyongyang for the first time confirmed that it had sent troops to fight for Russia in the war in Ukraine under orders from leader Kim Jong Un after months of silence.

Iran issues cryptic 'we are ready' warning as tensions with US rise

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in a cryptic post on the social media platform 'X', declared, "We are Ready." The statement came amid US intelligence's report that Israel has been making preparations for a strike against Iran's nuclear facilities.

The United States is also anticipating potential retaliatory strikes by Iran on American targets in neighbouring Iraq. As a precautionary measure, the US government advised some American citizens to leave the region, reports HT.

The development follows a failed round of negotiations between the US and Iran over Tehran's nuclear program. US President Donald Trump maintained a hardline stance on Thursday, stating, "They can't have a nuclear weapon. Very simple. They can't have a nuclear weapon. We're not going to allow that."

Trump added, "US military personnel are being moved out (of some countries of the Middle East) because it could be a dangerous place and we will see



what happens...We have given notice to move out."

US, Iran to resume nuclear deal talks

Despite heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran, diplomatic efforts remain underway, with a high-level meeting scheduled for this weekend, according to a report.

According to a US official cited by the news agency, special envoy Steve Witkoff is expected to meet Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi in Oman on Sunday to discuss Tehran's anticipated response to a recent American proposal concerning a nuclear agreement.

Earlier this week, Iran announced it would soon present a counter-proposal to the United States, rejecting the current American offer as "unacceptable." Trump, however, has signalled that negotiations are ongoing, and Washington remains open to dialogue.

The Republican President is continuing his efforts to negotiate a new nuclear deal with Iran aimed at curbing the country's controversial uranium enrichment activities. Trump has warned that failure to reach an agreement could lead to military action.

Washington has justified its move by pointing to Iran's support for militant groups across the Middle East, including Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Houthis in Yemen.

From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

7th Year No 308

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 22 July, 1960

• More inability aggravates our guilt. -- S.J. Scott

The student believes that the Eskimos live in the north pole or that Everest is the highest mountain in the world or that the surface of the moon is a desert though the shadow on it looks like vegetation. The student believes in these things not because he has any evidence but because his teacher has told him so. The student is a victim of suggestibility. In his case the suggestion has been in a healthy direction but in many cases, especially in the political field, that art is sometimes successfully applied by unscrupulous people in order to harm their opponents or for self aggrandisement.

The man in the street is more often swayed by the quack, the agitator and the political adventurer than by the competent specialist. In twenty-nine words Hitler summed up the mighty strength of propaganda:

"Through the skilful and persistent application of propaganda an entire people can be shown heaven as hell and equally the most miserable life can be made to seem paradise."

True to this theory, Hitler set up into motion a vast, complicated and scientific machine of propaganda which put a whole nation in a state of frenzy, made them murder in cold blood about six million Jews, got themselves killed by the millions for a HOLY cause and for their Führer. Even adolescents were made to mount cheerfully on the scaffold for Hitler. An organisation of adolescents, the *Hitlerjugend*, or *HJ* (Hitler Youth), which was formed by Baldur von Schirach was subjected to such a brainwashing that in the words of Admiral Raeder "the noble destiny of the German Youth was to die for Hitler" and that the founder of *HJ* has "planted into the young generation the great tradition of death for a holy cause, knowing that with their blood they will lead the way towards the freedom of their dreams."

In his 'monumental' work *Mein Kampf*, Hitler puts a great weight on psychological warfare. An agitator who is capable of communicating an idea to the masses, said Hitler, has to be a psychologist, even though he be but a demagogue. Commenting on that statement, Mr A.J. Mackenzie, a great authority on Nazism, warned the Allies long before the Second World War that it was the greatest mistake they were making for dismissing Hitler as 'but a demagogue'. The last war proved Mackenzie's warning right. But it was too late to mend. Humanity had suffered the greatest blow in its history.

What is happening in Mauritius in the political and psychological fields can to some extent be compared with the rise of Nazism. The complacency and inactivity, both of the Government and of the majori-

Timely Warning



'Through the skilful and persistent application of propaganda an entire people can be shown heaven as hell...' Hitler's Propaganda. Pic - Histoire-image Org

ty parties — Labour Party and Comité d'Action Musulman — in the field of education of the masses are disturbing. The political and psychological climate is being putrefied by propaganda of an insipid nature. A campaign of lies and hatred is being systematically carried out. The ignorant public is being led to believe that the Ministers go on picnicking to London every three months on public expense, that the Government is out but to help and protect the rich and oppress the poor, that the civil servants, especially the Police, are making the miseries of the small man worse.

Demagogy has reached a height not known in the history of this island. But the surprising thing about it is that neither the Govt nor the party in power is taking up the challenge. No one seems to be prepared to come forward with a vigorous campaign to check the brainwashing propaganda of these people. Many of their intelligent opponents dismiss them as 'but demagogues' who will cool down when tired. Exactly the same thing was told when NMU started his campaign of lies and hatred. Though NMU floundered, as it is the fate of all demagogues, but the deadly virus of communalism and hatred which he freely sowed in the quiet atmosphere of the island has taken deep root. How long will it flourish, no one can predict.

People in office tend to create a feeling of complacency about such things, sometimes through no fault of theirs. They have so much useful things to do that they don't take heed of what is being said

against them or against their government. But there are those who deliberately close their eyes and ears to what is going on around them in the hope that all will be well. They rely much more on time to heal the wounds inflicted by demagogues than on their own efforts and pretend that their good work is the best reply to the nefarious propaganda of their opponents. To some extent, that argument is valid; however, living in an age dominated by psychology, one must, whether we like it or not, effectively 'sell' their work through well-planned and intelligent publicity

The Mau Mau uprising which came out as a bolt from the blue to the world was not an isolated incident which sparked off all of a sudden. It took years for the storm to gather, but the Kenyan government was slow to appreciate the dark clouds, pregnant with violence and terror, which hanged menacingly over its head. The commission headed by Mr F.D. Corfield which inquired into the origins and growth of the Mau Mau movement summed up in his report — *Historical Survey of the Origins and Growth of Mau Mau* — the Government of Kenya's failings in matters of security in the following terms:

"The major deficiency disclosed is without any doubt the lack of a properly constituted body, not only to assess the import of the many reports received but also to keep matters of intelligence policy under constant review... Without the freedom afforded them by a liberal Government, Jomo Kenyatta and his associates would have been

unable to preach their calculated hymn of hate..."

The Report was categorical in its condemnation of the complacent attitude adopted by the Kenya Government in presence of the danger which menacingly loomed over its head: "A mass of intelligence reports covering all aspects of subversion had flowed into the Central Government in Nairobi. Although these reports may have lacked precision which might have enabled the Government to take more active steps against the main instigators of Mau Mau, the view can in my opinion no longer be held that lack of intelligence was the main reason which permitted the movement to develop so rapidly without the full knowledge of the Government. The basic intelligence was in fact there, but what was not there was the full appreciation of the import of potentialities of this knowledge." Further, Mr Corfield remarked that the Government of Kenya had built around itself prior to the rising a "wall of self-deception".

Can these criticisms apply to some extent to our Government and to the parties in power? One has to consult the Report on the disturbance which broke out in 1937 in which five persons were killed. The report stated that the Government was taken unaware. At that time too those in power had built around them a "wall of self-deception". It cost the life of five persons and material loss of hundreds of thousands for the Government to wake up to the gravity of the situation. Is Government intelligence unaware as to the height to which public contempt is being raised by systematic brainwashing? Do those in office ever bother to know what is being dished out to the ignorant mass, who in the absence of a rebuttal are easily digesting the nonsense?

The Mau Mau uprising cannot be attributed to only the nefarious activities of the Kikuyu leaders. Any serious uprising has a nucleus of legitimate grievances around which it gradually grows and takes shape. A progressive government will find out the cause of discontent, however small, and do its best to remedy it. But at the same time, it will denounce the agitators and weed them out by all constitutional means. No efficient government will tolerate agitators and demagogues to sow the seed of hatred and sap the country's march towards progress. The Mau Mau uprising and its growth should provide our government and the parties in power with a lesson. Some peace-loving people honestly think that we are getting panicky over trifles. We would have wished that future developments proved this statement true. But the history of all uprisings has shown that an attitude of indifference and complacency always aggravate the situation.

Water Management

“Eau 24/7: Défis et Solutions”*Unlocking the Flow – Virendra Proag's Essential Guide to Water Management*

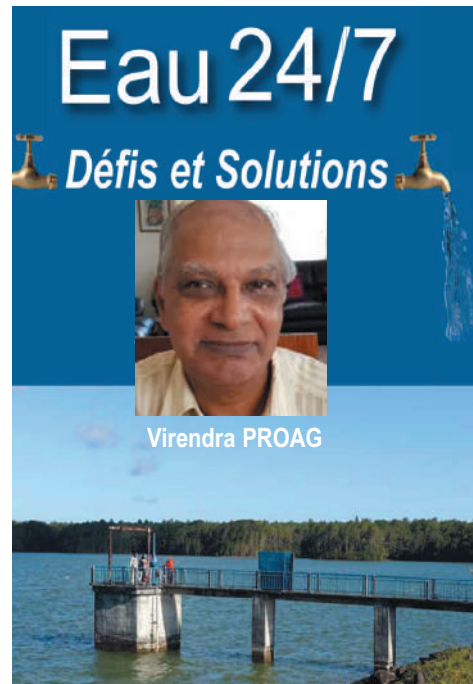
The common Kreole lament, “L’année alé, l’année vini, pena dilo...” (Year after year, no water...), particularly prevalent during dry spells, highlights a persistent challenge in Mauritius and Rodrigues. Despite occasional heavy rains causing floods, a culture of water wastage often leads to severe scarcity. This paradox is at the heart of Virendra Proag’s new book, ‘Eau 24/7: Défis et Solutions’ (Water 24/7: Challenges and Solutions), which aims to demystify water management and pave the way for continuous supply.

V. Proag wrote ‘Eau 24/7’ to shed light on the often “hidden or obscure” aspects of water resource management. His goal was to make a complex, technical subject engaging and accessible, avoiding jargon while ensuring easy comprehension. He achieves this through dialogues and relatable scenarios, primarily featuring female characters — a tribute to his late wife and mother.

The book begins with the fundamental question, “Why isn’t the water flowing?” This simple query unveils a series of potential issues. V. Proag introduces two sisters, Satya and Amsha, whose curiosity drives the narrative, prompting their mother (the author’s proxy) to explain the intricacies of water distribution. The common complaint of no water at home, even during heavy rainfall, points to deeper systemic problems.

The Evolution of Water Infrastructure: From Basic Supply to Buffer Systems

The mother’s explanation starts with a basic



Virendra PROAG

canal connecting a river to a house, quickly progressing to the necessity of filtration and disinfection for water quality. This leads to a discussion on managing varying river flows, especially during dry periods. The solution, she explains, lies in long-term storage through barrages and reservoirs, acting as a “savings account” for water — storing excess during abundant rain for use during scarcity.

However, storage alone doesn’t guarantee con-

tinuous supply, particularly during peak demand. This introduces the concept of a buffer or service reservoir: a smaller, strategically located tank designed to absorb sudden surges in demand. The author uses a “bumper car” analogy to illustrate its role in smoothing out abrupt fluctuations in water usage. The conversation naturally extends to the ubiquitous rooftop water tanks in Mauritian homes, a tradition born out of necessity during the regular water cuts of the 1960s. He explains how these domestic storage solutions became ingrained, highlighting the population’s resilience in coping with intermittent supply.

Identifying Vulnerabilities: The Weakest Link in the Chain

V. Proag uses the idiom of the “weakest link in the chain” to show how a robust water supply system can be compromised by a single point of failure. Through detailed tables, he outlines potential problems at every stage:

Resource Vulnerabilities: Reduced river flow during droughts or damaged pipelines from falling trees or landslides can compromise the source.

Treatment Plant Issues: Clogged filters from sediment buildup or malfunctioning chlorination systems can affect water quality and flow.

Distribution Network Challenges: The extensive pipe network to homes is susceptible to leaks, bursts, and maintenance issues, disrupting supply to many subscribers.

Internal Household Problems: Even within homes, faulty taps or internal plumbing can prevent water from reaching the consumer.

Each problem includes a brief explanation of its impact and potential solutions, emphasizing the need for regular maintenance, monitoring, and strategic planning.

Towards Water 24/7: Solutions for a Sustainable Future

A significant part of the book explores solutions. V. Proag acknowledges the staggering 60% water loss in Mauritian networks, questioning whether increasing resources or addressing these losses should be the priority. The book delves into vital topics:

Optimizing Distribution Networks: Discussing how different network types can minimize the impact of repairs on consumers.

Reservoir Capacity: Emphasizing the ideal capacity of service reservoirs to meet daily demand.

The Cost of Water: A nuanced discussion on the true cost of water, distinguishing it from its price and value, advocating for fair tariffs that discourage wastage.

Technological Advancements: Chapters dedicated to sensors, automation, SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems, and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in water management. Proag suggests these technologies can revolutionize water monitoring, leak detection, and overall operational efficiency, especially with potential future labor shortages.

The book concludes by returning to the hydrological cycle, posing the rhetorical question of why precautions against drought are only taken at the last minute. This cyclical understanding reinforces the need for proactive, continuous water management.

“Eau 24/7” is more than a technical guide; it’s a testament to Virendra Proag’s dedication to improving water access. Through relatable dialogues, clear explanations, and a hopeful vision, it aims to empower Mauritian and Rodriguan citizens with the knowledge to understand and advocate for a sustainable water supply.

Empowerment

Education as Emancipation: The Journey of Mauritian Hindu Women*Sheila Rughoonundon’s book, ‘They Dared: Education = Empowerment’*

In an compelling exploration of historical narratives and personal journeys, Sheila Rughoonundon’s book, ‘They Dared: Education = Empowerment’, launched recently, offers a profound look into the evolution of Hindu women in Mauritius through the lens of education. This revised and significantly expanded edition of her 2000 work, ‘La femme indo-mauricienne... son cheminement’, illuminates lived experiences, charting the path of Hindu daughters from immigrant backgrounds to their eventual emancipation. The testimonies within the book span from around 1855 up to Mauritius’s Independence in 1968, re-vealing how, despite formidable challenges, the young women forged their own paths to success and empowerment.

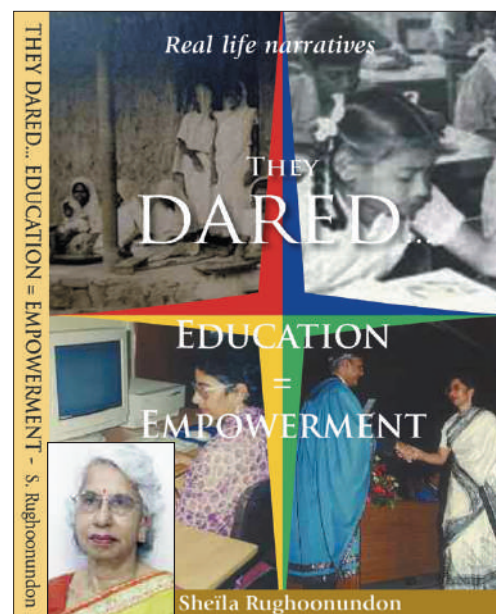
After her husband’s passing five years ago, Mrs Rughoonundon was inspired to revise her book. “Why not revisit the book?” she asked herself, subsequently expanding it to nearly double its original length. The new edition, titled ‘They Dared: Education = Empowerment’, builds upon her initial research and notes, now integrating a political context at the start of each chapter. This addition enriches the narrative by showing the influence of politics on personal testimonies and broader societal forces. The book’s structure allows for reading cover-to-cover or by specific

chapters, offering insights into how Hindu families prioritized education despite challenging circumstances.

The crucial role of men and the drive for formal diplomas

Sheila Rughoonundon’s book primarily focuses on Hindu women, yet she emphasizes the inseparable roles of genders in this journey. Her research indicates that “it was the men who allowed their daughters or wives to go to college.” While girls were traditionally prepared for marriage, a formal diploma became a valuable asset, making an educated woman a “good match.” This highlights a pragmatic community approach where traditional values co-existed with the emerging understanding of education as a tool for social mobility and advantageous marriage.

Early immigrant families in Mauritius faced limited educational access, with few spots in existing Catholic and Protestant schools. While some Hindu boys studied in India, their degrees were often unrecognized back home, leading to unemployment. This spurred an innovative solution: villagers opened their own colleges throughout both rural and urban areas. These new institutions allowed both boys and girls to pursue education. As Independence neared, many



Hindu girls had completed primary education, some even reaching Form V, enabling them to find work. This grassroots educational movement was crucial in empowering Hindu girls, paving their way into the workforce and wider societal involvement.

A personal revelation: The spark of inspiration

Sheila Rughoonundon’s commitment to this topic stemmed from a deeply personal revelation about her own mother’s unacknowledged academic brilliance. Growing up, she often heard her mother claim she was ranked first among all girls on the island in school. “We didn’t believe her, because to us, she was a housewife.”

This scepticism vanished during a trip to the

archives. “One day, I went to the archives, and while leafing through newspapers, I saw my mother’s name. And indeed, she had been ranked first in the entire island,” she recounts. This discovery was transformative, fundamentally shifting her perception of her mother and inspiring her to examine the achievements of other women around her.

This personal discovery ignited her passion to meticulously document the journeys of other Hindu women, recognizing the countless un-sung stories of resilience and achievement.

Education as the Gateway to Emancipation

Through education, Hindu women carved a path towards emancipation, becoming vital pillars of the Mauritian economy today. For her research, Mrs Rughoonundon relied on her mother’s invaluable assistance in identifying successful Hindu women, such as the first Hindu female rector of Queen Elizabeth College. While acknowledging that some of her elderly interviewees have since passed away, their stories, carefully preserved in her writings, will endure for posterity.

‘They Dared: Education = Empowerment’ serves as a powerful reminder that the journey towards emancipation in a colonised nation was far from easy. It also underscores the en-during importance of education as a tool for progress and societal transformation. By tracing the courageous strides of Hindu women, Sheila Rughoonundon’s work not only celebrates their past achievements but also inspires future generations to embrace the power of knowledge. The book is currently available in bookstores, offering readers a unique and compelling historical tapestry.

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EDB reserves the right not to make any appointment following this advertisement.

28 May 2025

YOUR STARS

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

Travel plans or learning prospects excite—double-check details before committing. A friend may need honest but gentle advice. Energy soars — clear overdue tasks. Romance is light-hearted for singles; coupled Sagittarians enjoy spontaneous outings. Stay flexible.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 6, 13, 22, 30, 35

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Career matters intensify — a boss or partner may test your patience. Stay calm, show competence. Family needs your presence. Sleep troubles may linger — try relaxation rituals.

Love feels serious — discuss future plans with care.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 10, 18, 23, 31, 37

AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

New learning, courses, or spiritual insights beckon—embrace them. Unexpected messages or tech deals delight you. Social life shifts as friends reveal true colours. Romance could bring surprises. Avoid tech overload — rest your eyes.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 11, 16, 24, 28, 40

PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Emotions rise sharply — creative expression eases tension. A financial issue with a partner needs review. Secrets or dreams may reveal truths. Romance brings tenderness if you stay honest. Avoid junk food — your body craves pure nourishment.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 17, 20, 26, 34

ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

Your energy peaks early in the week, making this ideal for tackling big projects or launching new ideas. However, impatience could lead to mistakes—slow down. A colleague or friend may need your guidance. In love, clarity avoids misunderstandings. Health: balance activity with rest.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 14, 21, 27, 34

TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Finances stabilize, but unnecessary spending tempts you. Stick to plans. At home, minor tensions clear by midweek, restoring harmony. Singles may meet someone intriguing; couples reconnect with warmth. Body and mind seek relaxation — try quiet nature time or meditation.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 28, 32, 35, 36

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

This is your creative week—perfect for writing, networking, or brainstorming. A message from afar surprises you. Some friends may test your patience; stay light-hearted. Romance feels playful but don't make hasty promises. Health: guard against stress-related headaches.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 13, 19, 26, 32

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Domestic matters take the spotlight—home repairs or family talks may demand attention. Career plans slow temporarily; patience is needed. A forgotten friend reconnects. Romance stirs midweek, but emotions run high — stay grounded.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 15, 23, 30, 37

LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

Expect invitations, surprises, and social excitement! Popularity soars but so do demands on your time—choose wisely. Creative projects sparkle now. At work, minor disputes resolve if handled diplomatically. Romance thrives on humour and playfulness. Energy stays high.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 12, 17, 24, 31, 38

VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Practical tasks multiply — finances, chores, errands. A colleague's offer may ease your load. Family offers support but avoid nitpicking. Love life seems distant — reconnect with simple gestures. Lower back or joint stiffness possible — light exercise helps.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 10, 16, 20, 28, 34

LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

A great time for creative expression — art, fashion, writing. Friends bring joy and unexpected news. Romance lifts your spirits; single Libras attract admirers. Work may bore you briefly—focus on small victories. Watch spending — luxury temptations arise.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 8, 14, 25, 29, 39

SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

Old wounds resurface, giving you a chance to heal or forgive. Keep secrets safe, privacy matters. Financial caution is wise now—avoid risky moves. Romance deepens if you open your heart. Meditation or quiet reflection calms your nerves.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 11, 15, 21, 33, 36

How can you help your child learn to self-regulate?

Parents of course want to protect their children from difficulty. But sometimes this desire to 'help' kids can hamper their development



Self-regulation in children, a critical aspect of healthy development, refers to the ability to manage emotions, reactions, and behaviors in challenging situations.
Pic - Dr Mona Delahooke

Throughout our lives, we need to be able to manage our thoughts and behaviour. We need to do this to reach various goals and to get along with others – even if other distractions and impulses get in the way.

This is our ability to self-regulate, and it starts to develop between the ages of three and five.

My colleagues and I have been researching what parents can do to help children learn to self-regulate. What are the dos and don'ts?

Why is self-regulation important?

A child's ability to self-regulate has a huge impact on shorter-term outcomes such as making and keeping friends, engaging in school and making academic progress.

Self-regulation allows children to keep going with a task or situation when things are tough, and to keep their emotions and behaviour focused on reaching the goal.

For example, when playing a game with friends, a child who can self-regulate can wait their turn, stay within the rules, and keep playing even when they are losing. A child with low levels of self-regulation may become easily upset and show frustration, and in some cases be dysregulated. This can include meltdowns.

But there can also be impacts later in life. Low levels of self-regulation at preschool age have been associated with a range of problems in adulthood, such as gambling,

substance abuse, poor health, poor sleep and weight issues.

The capacity to self-regulate emerges from around three years of age, when the brain undergoes rapid physical growth. The period of peak growth is typically between three to five.

The capacity to self-regulate is not only influenced by genetics, but also by children's environment and their experiences. This is where parents come in.

Jumping in to 'help'

Naturally, parents want to protect their children from difficulty. But sometimes this desire to protect and "help" kids can hamper their development.

Children experience challenges all the time – this may be opening a water bottle, trying to find a certain toy in their bedroom, or tying their shoelaces. As parents, we can often rush to fix the problem straight away.

But it is important for children's brain development to experience and cope with challenges. When parents let children face a tricky task, they can learn to think flexibly, create solutions and persist toward the goal. It also teaches them they can handle things themselves.

Persistence when playing a game can translate to persistence when tying their shoelaces, and in time, fewer meltdowns.

What should parents do instead?

This is not to say you should ignore your child if they are very distressed and stuck up

a tree, or have fallen and seriously hurt themselves.

But there are many other occasions when you can wait, or help in less obvious ways.

For example, if a child is struggling to find the right puzzle piece, parents should wait for the child to either ask for help or show visible signs of frustration.

If possible, start just by using guiding words to help, rather than taking a hands-on approach. You could try encouragement, questions, hints and suggestions to lead your child to a solution. For example, "have you tried all the pieces yet?"

Or if they are playing with Lego, parents may remind the child of their last success or ask them "what does the diagram show?", they might give a hint such as "I sometimes need to go back some steps to find where I went wrong", or maybe more directly, "how about we look through the steps together?"

This type of guidance means the child is still the one solving the problem.

Step up your approach

If the child is still stuck, parents can use their hands to offer more guidance.

When completing a section of a puzzle, a parent may move some pieces closer to the child to draw their attention to them.

If needed, a more direct approach would be to identify the piece the child is looking for, and hand it to the child so that they can put it in and remain active in completing the task.

The child may not have the piece the right way round, so the parent should revert to using verbal guidance for encouragement or suggest turning the piece to see if it fits.

Kids are still in charge

The key thing to remember is the child should be guiding your approach to helping them.

Don't intervene without them asking you, and don't offer full support straight away.

You can use encouragement, hints and suggestions, and then hands-on help. Keep offering your child the chance to work elements out for themselves. And know their way of solving the problem might be different from yours.

By Natalie Day, Postdoctoral research fellow, Early Start, University of Wollongong

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

Think it's easy to be macho? Psychologists show how 'precarious' manhood is

Manhood is a "precarious" status -- difficult to earn and easy to lose. And when it's threatened, men see aggression as a good way to hold onto it. These are the conclusions of a new article by University of South Florida psychologists Jennifer K. Bosson and Joseph A. Vandello. The paper is published in 'Current Directions in Psychological Science', a journal of the Association for Psychological Science.

"Gender is social," says, Bosson. "Men know this. They are powerfully concerned about how they appear in other people's eyes." And the more concerned they are, the more they will suffer psychologically when their manhood feels violated. Gender role violation can be a big thing, like losing a job, or a little thing, like being asked to braid hair in a laboratory.

In several studies, Bosson and her colleagues used that task to force men to behave in a "feminine" manner, and recorded what happened. In one study, some men braided hair; others did the more masculine -- or gender-neutral -- task of braiding rope. Given the options afterwards of punching a bag or doing a puzzle, the hair-braiders overwhelmingly chose the former. When one group of men braided hair and others did not, and all punched the bag, the hair-braiders punched harder.

When they all braided hair and only some got to punch, the non-punchers evinced more anxiety on a subsequent test.

Aggression, write the authors, is a "manhood-restoring tactic."

When men use this tactic, or consider it, they tend to feel they were compelled by outside forces to do so. Bosson and her colleagues gave men and women a mock police report, in which either a man or a woman hit someone of their own sex after that person taunted them, insulting their manhood (or womanhood). Why did the person get violent? When the protagonist was a woman, both sexes attributed the act to character traits, such as immaturity; the women also said this about the male aggressors. But when the aggressor was a man, the men mostly believed he was provoked; humiliation forced him to defend his manhood.

Interestingly, people tend to feel manhood is defined by achievements, not biology. Womanhood, on the other hand, is seen primarily as a biological state. So manhood can be "lost" through social transgressions, whereas womanhood is "lost" only by physical changes, such as menopause.



Who judges manhood so stringently? "Women are not the main punishers of gender role violations," says Bosson. Other men are.

Bosson says that this area of research gives psychological evidence to sociological and political theories calling gender a social, not a biological, phenomenon. And it begins to demonstrate the negative effects of gender on men -- depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, or violence.



How does a person become famous when they're just a kid?

It's not unusual in the social media era for young people to become famous. But fame is complicated -- especially when you're still growing and forming your identity.



First, consider what kind of fame you want. Some kids, such as Blue Ivy Carter or Suri Cruise, are known for having famous parents -- in their cases, singer Beyoncé and actors Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise. That's something you can't really control.

Maybe you want to be a star athlete, like basketball player Caitlin Clark or skateboarder Sky Brown. If you're good at a sport, practicing a lot will make you even better, and you might get famous.

Or maybe you want to be a famous musician. Singer LeAnn Rimes won her first Grammy Award at age 14. Justin Bieber was discovered on YouTube when he was 12. If you work hard at playing an instrument or singing, you increase your chances of getting noticed.

A newer way to become famous is to be a social media influencer -- a person who gets paid, either with money or with stuff, to help sell things on social media. A 2023 survey of 1,000 Gen Zers -- people

in their early teens to mid-20s -- found that 57% wanted to become influencers.

I study social media and teach a social media class at the University of Tennessee. I also have a side gig as an influencer. My posts have gone viral and been seen hundreds of millions of times all around the world. I post silly and serious things about my life on Instagram and TikTok.

Here are some things to know about fame at a young age.

There wasn't always a youth culture

Before modern times, people didn't pay much attention to children in the way that we do now. There were a few exceptions, such as composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, who played music as a child for kings and queens in the 1700s, but they were rare.

Things changed a lot as the U.S. population boomed after World War II. Businesses realized that young people

were a big market, and a new, youth-focused culture developed. Movies, TV shows and songs were increasingly made for young people, featuring young people.

Now, thanks to social media and the internet, kids can get famous without being star athletes or actors. If you can make videos, sing songs, tell jokes or share art from your phone or computer and people like what you post, they might share it with others. Some kids become famous just by being really good at explaining things or showing their everyday lives.

For example, Anastasia Radzinskaya, an 11-year-old Russian American girl who shares content about children's songs and games, has 1.5 million followers on Instagram. Ethan Gamer, a video game influencer, started appearing on YouTube in 2013 at age 7.

Pros and cons

Being a famous kid can offer a lot of benefits. You might get to appear on TV or in movies, wear cool clothes, or hang out with famous athletes or celebrities. You might also get to make money that you could use to support your family, pay for a high-quality education or fund causes that you care about, such as protecting nature or feeding hungry people.

But there also are downsides. Famous kids often have to work a lot and don't have much time to hang out with friends. Also, people may say hurtful things about you on social media, which is something you can't control.

Being famous can pressure people to act or dress in certain ways. Handling attention and criticism from strangers can be stressful for any young person, and

fame makes the challenge much harder.

Should you try to be an influencer?

For me, influencing can be fun and creative. It's cool to make a video and know that lots of people around the world are enjoying it.

Another plus is that the skills you need to be an influencer -- communicating clearly, producing digital content and helping other people find cool new products -- can be valuable as you grow up, no matter what job you have.

However, most influencers don't make enough money to do it full time -- they do it as a side gig while working a real job. If you are a kid, school should be your full-time job.

You also should expect to get rejected a lot before you start developing an audience. This can make you emotionally strong in the long run, but it still hurts when you share your work and no one seems to notice. Most influencers put in years of effort to learn the skills that help make them successful.

You're likely to get negative responses that can hurt your feelings. You will need your parents' help to manage online feedback and know how to react to all kinds of responses, positive and negative.

It's definitely possible for kids to be famous today, but that doesn't mean that every kid should try. What's important is to do things that you enjoy, even if the whole world isn't watching.

Matthew Pittman

Associate Professor of Advertising and Public Relations, University of Tennessee



Missing Car, Missing Memory

As a woman was leaving the bank, she suddenly remembered she had forgotten the car keys inside.

She went back and asked everyone, but no one had seen the keys. She searched her purse again.

"Oh no! I left the keys in the car!"

She ran to the parking lot in a panic -- only to find the car missing!

She called the police, reported the car stolen, gave them the license plate number, and admitted the keys were left inside.

Trying to calm down, she nervously made the hardest call of her life -- to her husband. Stammering, she told him the car had been stolen.

He thundered back, "I dropped you at the bank -- you didn't take the car!"

She sighed in relief and thanked God, then asked him to come pick her up.

Her husband replied, "Sure, I'll come... just as soon as I convince the police I didn't steal your car!"

The Wedding Aisle Revelation

A newly married man goes to meet a priest at the local church.

He greets the priest and says, "Father, I need to talk to you."

"Is it a confession, my son?" asks the priest.

"No, Father," the man replies. "I need to clarify something."

The priest takes the man to his private chamber.

"Tell me, my son. What is it?"

"Father, why do some women try to change men after marriage? My friends keep teasing me about it."

Smiling, the priest replies, "My son, as the bride walks down the long aisle, she excitedly registers three



stimuli: the altar, the choir, and the sound of the hymn being sung. Aisle, Altar, and Hymn. She becomes mesmerized.

Aisle, Altar, Hymn.

Aisle, Altar, Hymn.

Aisle, Altar, Hymn.

Finally, as she stops beside the groom, she is already saying to herself: "I'LL ALTER HIM."

What He Did in Texas

A grizzly-looking man -- well-built, with guns hanging from his waist -- walks into a tavern.

He heads straight to the bartender, orders three shots, and downs them one after the other. He scans the room, and the people shift uncomfortably. The tension is thick. Then, without a word, he walks out, and the atmosphere gradually returns to normal.

Just as things begin to settle, the doors burst open. The man storms back in, guns drawn, and shouts, "My horse is missing! I'm going to order three more shots -- and if it's not back where I left it before I finish, I'll do what I did in Texas."

Now, the tension is palpable. The bartender, hands trembling, begins pouring the drinks as slowly as he can, throwing anxious looks around the room.

The man finishes his second drink when someone rushes in and whispers something to him. He grunts in satisfaction and stands up.

As he's about to leave, the bartender calls out hesitantly, "No disrespect, sir... but what exactly did you do in Texas?"

The man pauses, then says, "Oh, nothing. I just walked home."

The Tea Joke

My favourite Soviet-era joke:

Three Russian men were sent by their company to attend a convention in Moscow. All three shared a hotel room. Two of them cracked open a bottle of vodka, but the third just wanted to sleep.

The two drinkers got louder and louder as the bottle emptied, telling each other political jokes. The third was kept awake and got angry.

He went outside for a smoke. On his way back to his room, he stopped at the desk and said, "Please send a pot of tea up to room 23."

The two drunks were still being loud. The third man went in, looked at them, then leaned over to the light socket and said, "Comrade Major, please send some tea to my room."

The other men thought this was hilarious... until

there was a knock on the door, and a waiter with a pot of tea.

They became completely silent, and the third man fell asleep.

When he woke up in the morning, he was alone. He went to the front desk and asked where his roommates were.

"Well, the KGB came this morning and took them away."

The man was horrified, "Why did they spare me?!?"

"The Comrade Major thought the tea joke was very funny."

The Mysterious Haircut

A man walks into a barbershop and asks the barber, "What's the wait time?"

The barber says, "About two and a half hours." The guy leaves.

A couple of days later, he shows up again with the same question. The barber says, "About an hour and a half." The guy leaves again.

About a week later, the guy shows up once more -- "How long for a cut?" The barber states, "About two hours." The guy leaves again.

The barber tells his buddy Fred, "Follow this guy and see where he goes. He's come in three times, asks how long for a haircut, then leaves."

Fred comes back a few minutes later, and the barber asks, "So, did you follow him?"

Fred says, "I sure did!"

"So where the heck did, he go?" asked the barber.

"Your house!" said Fred.



CC'ing the Manager -- Including the Problem Emails

I work in client services, mostly just relaying info between clients and our internal teams. My manager isn't usually super involved, but last month she said, "Can you cc me on every client email? Just for transparency." I said sure, so I cc'd her on literally everything -- including the emails where clients asked why she missed their meetings or where I had to explain delays caused by her not sending over files.

A few days later, she starts replying to someone with "Let's take this offline." One client shot back, "This wouldn't be an issue if you'd shown up."

She hasn't mentioned cc'ing since, but if she does... I've got drafts ready.



Before it's too late...

50 Profound Realizations for a Fulfilling Life

In a world that constantly pulls us in a million directions, it's easy to lose sight of what truly matters. Manoj Chenthamarakshan's insightful list, "50 Things to Realize Before It's Too Late," serves as a powerful reminder to prioritize, reflect, and live with intention. This collection of wisdom emphasizes mindfulness, gratitude, and purposeful living, urging readers to embrace essential truths before time slips away.

The Essence of a Well-Lived Life

At the heart of these realizations lies the understanding that life is short and unpredictable. This isn't meant to invoke fear but rather to inspire us to make the most of every moment. Chenthamarakshan highlights that happiness is a choice, a mindset we cultivate daily through positive focus and gratitude. He reminds us that time is a limited resource, urging us to use it wisely and invest in what truly resonates with our values.

Prioritizing Self and Relationships

A recurring theme is the importance of self-awareness and self-care. We are encouraged to recognize that we



Pic - Becoming Minimalist

can't please everyone and that our health is our wealth. Taking ownership of our lives and decisions is crucial, as is understanding that we are responsible for our own lives. The author stresses the futility of comparing ourselves to others, advocating instead for celebrating our unique strengths and focusing on our individual journeys. Forgiveness of self and others is presented as a vital tool for healing and moving forward, along with the understanding that we can't change the past, only learn from it.

Significantly, Chenthamarakshan underscores that relationships are key to happiness. Nurturing positive connections with family, friends, and community can provide immense joy and a sense of belonging.

Embracing Growth and Resilience

The list champions a mindset of continuous growth

and resilience. Failure is seen not as an end, but as a stepping stone to success, an opportunity to learn and adapt. We are reminded that we can't control everything that happens, but we can control our responses to challenges. The importance of practicing gratitude is highlighted as a way to shift perspective and appreciate what we have.

Recognizing that we are stronger than we think and life is unpredictable prepares us to navigate its inevitable twists and turns with adaptability. We learn that we can't change others, only our reactions to them, and that everyone makes mistakes – including ourselves. This encourages self-compassion and discourages being too hard on yourself.

Living Authentically and Purposefully

Chenthamarakshan encourages us to focus on the present moment, as it's all we truly have. He stresses that money can't buy happiness, urging us to build meaningful relationships and pursue passions instead. The message to not give up on your dreams is a powerful call to perseverance, reminding us that you can always start again no matter the setbacks.

Ultimately, we should realise that we are enough, to not let others define our self-worth, and to focus on our own path. It serves as a powerful testament to the idea that life is precious, make the most of it.

Ten Lessons from Paulo Coelho's The Archer

“The Archer” by Paulo Coelho is a profound and poetic guide to living with purpose and discipline. Through a dialogue between a master archer, Tetsuya, and a boy seeking wisdom, Coelho uses the art of archery as a powerful metaphor for balance, focus, and fulfillment. His timeless lessons emphasize embracing the journey, learning from failure, and discovering one's true path. Ten Lessons from *The Archer*...



Find Your Own Bow - Everyone possesses unique strengths and talents. Success begins with identifying the tools and paths that resonate with your true self.

Know Your Target - Your target represents your life goals. To move with purpose, define what you're aiming for and align your efforts accordingly.

Prepare with discipline - Mastery doesn't come overnight. Just as an archer perfects their form, you must approach your craft with patience, practice, and per-

sistence.

Respect the process - The journey is as meaningful as the destination. Growth, learning, and transformation occur in the doing -- not just the outcome.

Become one with the bow and arrow - True effectiveness comes from harmony. Align your thoughts, emotions, and actions with your intentions to move forward with clarity.

Learn to let go - Once the arrow is released, it's beyond the archer's control. In life, act with intention -- then surrender the result without fear or regret.

See failure as a teacher - Missing the mark is part of the process. Each failure offers a lesson that sharpens your awareness and deepens your wisdom.

Cultivate balance and focus - Like a steady hand and clear mind in archery, inner calm and concentration are essential for navigating life's complexities.

Share what you learn - Wisdom is meant to be passed on. Just as Tetsuya teaches the boy, your experiences can light the way for others.

Trust the invisible thread - Between the bow, the arrow, and the target lies intention. When intention is clear and true, your actions will carry purpose and power.

The Archer is a graceful parable that distills life's complexities into simple, profound truths. Through poetic metaphor and spiritual insight, Coelho reminds us that mastery isn't about perfection -- it's about presence, persistence, and meaning in every step of the journey.

Stray Thoughts Your Partner's Phone

By Cody Bret

This picture might not seem like much - just a phone on a table. But for those who've been hurt by an unfaithful partner, it speaks volumes.

Believe it or not, there is someone out there who will hand you their phone while driving and say, "Can you check that text, babe?"

Someone who'll leave it face-up

beside you at dinner without a second thought.

They'll give you their passcode without hesitation -- because they have nothing to hide. Because you're the only one in their life. Because they're proud to show you that when they say, "I love you," they truly mean it.

And when that day comes, you won't even feel the need to go through their phone. Because trust won't be a question -- it'll be a feeling that lives in your bones.

Take this to heart: Someone who truly values you will never put themselves in a position to lose you.

Life's Heroes The Unsung Voyage of Mary Ann Brown Patten

Imagine being 19, pregnant, and stranded in the middle of the ocean -- while your husband, the ship's captain, lay gravely ill. That was the reality for Mary Ann Brown Patten, the first woman to command an American merchant ship in the 19th century.

Born on April 6, 1837, in Chelsea, Massachusetts, Mary Ann was never content with the sidelines. At 16, she married Captain Joshua Adams Patten of the clipper ship *Neptune's Car*. But unlike most women of her time, she immersed herself in his world -- learning navigation, chart reading, and ship management. Skills that would later become her lifeline.

In 1856, during a grueling 123-day voyage from New York to San Francisco, disaster struck. Captain Patten fell critically

ill with tuberculosis. The first mate had already been dismissed for negligence, and the second mate lacked the experience of leading.

So Mary Ann did the unthinkable. She took command.

For 56 days, she steered the ship through violent storms, faced down a potential mutiny, and brought the vessel safely to port -- all while caring for her dying husband and carrying their unborn child.

Her courage and leadership stunned the maritime world. She became a legend. But not a celebrated one.

Despite her extraordinary feat, Mary Ann received no official recognition. No awards. No headlines. She quietly returned home, only to fall ill herself -- likely contracting tuberculosis from nursing her husband. She died in 1861, just 25 years old.

Mary Ann Brown Patten's story was nearly lost to history. But today, she stands as a symbol of resilience, intellect, and defiance in the face of adversity.

She didn't just command a ship -- She commanded history.

Beyond the Physical: Cultivating Deep Desire and Connection

Many people often view intimacy as purely physical, focusing on techniques and performance. However, true connection and desire go far beyond the superficial. It's about understanding and engaging with a woman on a deeper level, fostering an intense longing that transcends the momentary. When you master this art, you won't just be desired; you'll become an indispensable presence in her life.

Here's how to cultivate a profound connection and make her yearn for your touch, not just in the bedroom, but in her heart and soul:

Confidence: The irresistible force

Confidence is incredibly attractive. A woman isn't just looking for a partner; she's drawn to a man with a strong sense of self. Walk into a room with assuredness. Look into her eyes with a quiet conviction that communicates your genuine interest and presence. This isn't about arrogance, but about a calm, self-possessed demeanour that naturally draws her in.

Engaging her mind before her body

Physical intimacy often begins long before any touch. The way you engage her mentally and emotionally sets the stage. This can involve subtle glances, lingering touches, or soft whispers that build anticipation and connection. Before any physical intimacy, speak to her in



True connection and desire go far beyond the superficial. P - Shutterstock

a way that ignites her imagination and makes her feel truly seen and desired. Think about how your words can create an atmosphere of excitement and surrender.

The power of anticipation

Rushing can diminish the experience. Building anticipation is key to creating deep desire. Take your time, allowing moments to linger. By drawing out these moments, you heighten her desire, making the eventual connection all the more profound and cherished.

Guiding the experience with intent

A woman often appreciates a man who knows how to confidently lead the experience. This means being present and intentional in your actions. It's about taking charge in a way that makes her feel safe and cherished, allowing her to fully relax and immerse herself in the moment. This guidance isn't about force, but about a gentle yet firm control that allows her to feel completely comfortable in your hands.

The art of affirmation and direction

Clear communication and confident direction can be incredibly stimulating. A woman can find it attractive when a man knows what he wants and expresses it with assurance. This means giving gentle cues and affirmations that deepen the connection. It's about creating a dynamic where she feels understood and eager to respond, not out of obligation, but out of genuine desire.

The cornerstone of lasting connection

The result of this approach is a bond that goes beyond the fleeting. She won't just miss your presence; she'll deeply long for it. She won't just desire your touch; she'll need it. And she won't just give herself to you; she'll feel a profound sense of belonging. This is how you cultivate a deep and lasting connection, making a woman truly devoted to you in her mind, heart, and soul.

A Guide to Mindful Parenting

Wish Our Parents Had Read...

Have you ever found yourself reflecting on your childhood and wondering how it continues to shape your interactions and relationships today? Psychotherapist Philippa Perry, in her insightful book, "The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read," delves into this very question, exploring the profound influence of our early experiences on our parenting styles, personal relationships, and overall emotional well-being.

Perry's work challenges us to disrupt unhealthy generational cycles, cultivate greater emotional awareness, and nurture more profound connections with our children. The core message is not about achieving perfect parenting, but rather about the transformative power of presence and a willingness to learn and grow.

Here are some invaluable lessons distilled from the book, offering a roadmap to more conscious and connected parenting:

1. Parenting is more about you than your child

This foundational lesson asserts that your own upbringing significantly influences how you parent. Unresolved emotions or unaddressed patterns from your childhood can unconsciously seep into your reactions and interactions with your child. Developing self-awareness is the crucial first step to breaking these generational patterns and fostering a healthier



Raising emotionally secure children. Pic - HealthyChildren.org

dynamic.

2. Connection matters more than perfection

Perry argues that children don't need faultless parents; what they truly need are parents who are present and emotionally available. Instead of striving for an unattainable ideal of perfection or trying to avoid every mistake, the focus should be on cultivating and maintaining a strong, open, and loving bond with your child.

3. Emotional intelligence starts with the parent

Children are astute observers, and they learn how to navigate their own emotions by watching you. When parents model healthy emotional regulation – acknowledging feelings without suppressing them or reacting impulsively – they provide their children with essential coping mechanisms for life.

4. Listening is more powerful than fixing

Often, children don't seek immediate solutions; their primary need is to feel heard and understood. Instead of rushing to correct their feelings or dismiss their concerns, the book encourages validating

their emotions and creating a safe, non-judgmental space for them to express themselves openly.

5. Your reactions shape their self-worth

Harsh criticism or dismissive responses can leave a lasting and detrimental impact on a child's self-esteem. The lesson here is to pause before reacting out of frustration and instead respond with empathy and understanding, fostering a sense of worth in your child.

6. Apologizing to your child strengthens your relationship

Many parents mistakenly believe that admitting mistakes to their children weakens their authority. In reality, apologizing demonstrates humility, teaches children that mistakes are a normal part of life, and, crucially, shows them the importance of repairing relationships.

7. Behaviour is a form of communication

Instead of interpreting challenging behaviour as mere defiance, "The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read" encourages viewing it as a signal of unmet needs. Children often act out when they

feel unheard, overwhelmed, or disconnected. Addressing the underlying emotions is far more effective than simply correcting the behaviour itself.

8. Your words become their inner voice

The language you use when speaking to your child directly influences their developing inner monologue. Encouraging and compassionate language helps them build a healthy self-image, while harsh words can inadvertently sow seeds of self-doubt.

9. Punishment doesn't teach, understanding does

While punitive discipline might temporarily halt unwanted behaviour, it often fails to teach children why they should act differently. Perry advocates for using discipline as an opportunity to guide, explain, and support growth, fostering genuine understanding rather than just compliance.

10. Parenting is a lifelong learning process

There isn't one single "right" way to parent, and the journey is constantly evolving. The final lesson emphasizes the importance of remaining open to learning, reflecting on your approach, and being willing to adjust it. This continuous process of growth benefits not only your relationship with your child but also your own personal development.

By fostering a deeper understanding of ourselves and prioritizing genuine connection over rigid control, we are empowered to raise emotionally secure children and cultivate more meaningful bonds in all aspects of our lives. This prompts a crucial question for all of us: How can we begin to transform our interactions today to create a more compassionate and connected tomorrow?

From Real-Life Scare to Bollywood Silver Screen: The Story Behind 'Runway 34'

Imagine being 35,000 feet in the air, aboard a plane carrying 150 souls, with a mere 250 kg of fuel remaining, while thunder and torrential rain rage outside. This terrifying scenario wasn't a work of fiction; it was the harrowing real-life incident that inspired the 2022 Bollywood film 'Runway 34', starring Ajay Devgn and Amitabh Bachchan.

The film, initially titled 'May Day', is based on the extraordinary experience of Captain Vikrant Khanna in 2015. While an experienced pilot proud of his abilities, it was amidst a perilous situation that his quick thinking, despite reported overconfidence, ensured the safety of everyone on board, crafting a story ripe for the big screen, reports India TV News.

The incident unfolded on the morning of August 18, 2015, when Jet Airways flight 9W-555 departed Doha, Qatar, for Kochi, Kerala. Carrying 141 passengers and 8 crew members, the flight's destiny took an unexpected turn upon reaching Kochi. Due to severe inclement weather, the aircraft was unable to land. Consequently,



the flight was diverted to Thiruvananthapuram, only to encounter equally challenging weather conditions there.

Facing dire circumstances, the pilots initiated a 'May Day' call. After multiple failed landing attempts, the flight finally touched down at Thiruvananthapuram airport with

critically low fuel – reportedly as little as 250 kg, though some media outlets cited 350 kg. Crucially, a Boeing 737, the aircraft type, typically requires a reserve of 1500 kg of fuel. According to a Hindustan Times report, the flight had 4,844 kg of fuel upon entering Kochi airspace. Subsequent landing attempts saw the fuel dwindle rapidly: 4,699 kg, then 3,919 kg, and finally 2,644 kg. The flight was ultimately diverted to Thiruvananthapuram as it required 3,306 kg of fuel to reach Bengaluru, its next viable alternative.

Reports indicate that Captain Khanna proceeded with the landing amidst these adverse conditions, reportedly ignoring repeated warnings and cautions. Despite limited visibility, the pilot successfully landed the flight on the seventh attempt, averting a potential catastrophe.

While newspaper headlines lauded the pilots as heroes for their life-saving actions, an inquiry was subsequently launched. Both pilots were ultimately removed from their positions for allegedly risking the lives of 150 individuals.

Ajay Devgn not only starred in 'Runway 34' alongside Amitabh Bachchan and Rakul Preet Singh but also directed the film. The movie also marked the Bollywood debut of popular YouTuber CarryMinati, bringing this gripping true story of extraordinary aviation survival to a wider audience.

Bollywood Reacts with Grief to Tragic Gujarat Plane Crash



The Indian film fraternity has expressed profound shock, grief, and offered heartfelt prayers following the tragic crash of an Air India plane near Ahmedabad airport on Thursday. Actors Akshay Kumar, Sunny Deol, Riteish Deshmukh, Parineeti Chopra, Randeep Hooda, Sonu Sood, and Kangana Ranaut were among those who took to social media to convey their condolences and concern.

Air India flight AI 171, bound from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, crashed shortly after takeoff outside the airport. The flight was carrying 242 passengers.

Akshay Kumar, expressing his immediate reaction, posted on X (formerly Twitter), "Shocked and speechless at the Air India crash. Only prayers at this time."

Sunny Deol conveyed his devastation, writing, "Praying with all my heart for sur-

vivors — may they be found and receive the care they need. May those who lost their lives rest in peace, and may their families find strength in this unimaginable time."

Riteish Deshmukh echoed similar sentiments, stating he was "heartbroken and in shock after hearing about the tragic plane crash." He added, "My heart goes out to all the passengers, their families, and everyone affected on the ground. Holding them all in my thoughts and prayers during this incredibly difficult time."

Actress Parineeti Chopra shared her empathy for the victims' families: "Can't imagine the pain of the family members of the ill fated Air India flight today. Praying for God to give them strength during this time."

Randeep Hooda also posted his condolences, saying, "Heartbreaking to hear about the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. My thoughts and prayers are with all those affected. Hoping for survivors and strength for the rescue teams. May the departed rest in peace, and may their families find the strength to endure this immense loss."

Sonu Sood's message was succinct but poignant: "Prayers for Air India flight that crashed in Ahmedabad after take off to London."

Actor-politician Kangana Ranaut described the news as "extremely tragic and painful." She concluded her statement by praying, "I pray to God for everyone's safety, may God provide strength to all affected families in this hour of crisis."

The outpouring of grief from Bollywood reflects the collective shock felt across the nation following the devastating incident.

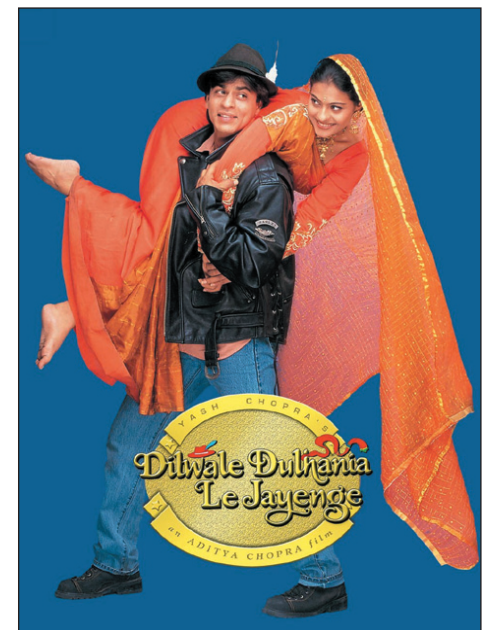
Kajol puts an end to 'DDLJ' and 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' sequel talk

"No one wants to know what happened after the train"

Bollywood actress Kajol, known for her iconic roles in 90s blockbusters like 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' (DDLJ) and 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai', has firmly shut down any speculation regarding sequels to these beloved films. As she prepares for the release of her upcoming horror film 'Maa', Kajol believes that some stories are best left to the audience's imagination.

In a recent interview with Pinkvilla, Kajol addressed persistent suggestions for a 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 2', envisioning her and Shah Rukh Khan's characters rekindling their romance later in life. However, the actress expressed reservations about the idea. "The thing is, that Kuch Kuch Hota Hai was great because it was a different set of people, it was a different world," she explained. "You still had people who believed in that kind of love. Like that eternal, once in a lifetime kind of love. If you ask someone today, they say that if this (relationship) doesn't work out, we have ten other options standing on that track over there so it's difficult in today's time to conceive a story that has the same belief pattern." While she is not keen on a sequel, Kajol did express an interest in doing a "mature love story" with Shah Rukh Khan in a new cinematic offering.

Kajol was even more resolute when discussing 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge', categorically stating her disinterest in a sequel. "Like I can't imagine a DDLJ 2. Like what happened after the train? No one wants to know," she asserted. Playfully, she added, "Do you really want to know if they fought over the diapers or not? It's just wonderful that it's just left at the end and you know that the train left

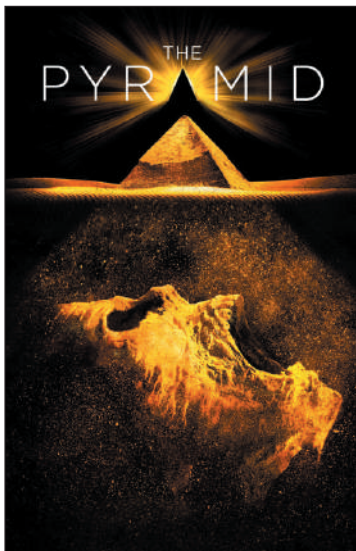


and it said 'the end'. Now you can just leave it to imagination. They lived happily ever after, it's one sentence, it's not a marriage so it's perfect." Her comments highlight a preference for preserving the romantic idealism of these classic narratives.

During the same conversation, Kajol, who has a 34-year-long career with a selective filmography, revealed that she has no regrets about turning down roles. When asked if she had ever refused a film that later became a major hit, she candidly responded, "Yes, lots of times. Prime example of 3 Idiots. Those films were theirs. The one who has that in their destiny, they are the ones who get it." This pragmatic outlook underscores her contentment with her career choices and her belief in destiny within the film industry.



Vendredi 13 Juin - 20.30



Samedi 14 Juin - 21.15



Dimanche 15 Juin - 21.45



Programme TV



vendredi 13 juin

MBC 1

05.08 Serial: Terra Nostra
08.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.00 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer
09.30 Film: Les Dents De La Mer 2
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
14.00 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Tele: Living To Love
17.13 Doc: Not About Music
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.00 Serial: Doree
19.30 Le Journal
20.30 Film: The Pyramid
21.54 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
23.30 Le Journal
00.08 Serial: Alex Rider
00.50 Serial: Chicago Med

MBC 2

06.00 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
06.27 Local: En Forme
07.30 Rodrig: Promnad
10.45 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
11.05 Local: Glwar Dantan
12.00 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
13.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
15.15 Local: En Forme
15.51 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
16.00 Rodrig: Promnad
17.00 National Innovator Hall...
18.00 Tele: La Desalmada
19.19 Local: Mag De L'emploi...
19.30 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
19.40 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
20.30 Fashion FX & Lifestyle
22.00 Local: La Sosiete
22.24 Local: Ecriture Mauricienne
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: En Forme
23.33 Mon Jardin Ma Maison

MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Rozgar Se Kamyabi Tak
08.00 MBC Production
10.00 Local: Ramayan
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Apne Rang Hazaar
Starring: Sanjeev Kumar, Leena Chandavarkar, Danny Denzongpa
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron
16.18 Serial: Mithai
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.32 MBC Production
20.30 Serial: Vidrohi
21.00 Film: Farz
Cast: Ritesh Pandey, Mani Bhattacharya, Umesh Singh
23.26 Serial: Mere Sai
00.22 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

Cine 12

06.25 Mag: Carnet De Sante
07.10 Mag: Tomorrow Today
09.27 Doc: My Name Is Happy
11.22 Mag: Eco India
11.48 Mag: Carnet De Sante
12.07 Ammunition From The Sea
14.30 Serial: Hiccup And Sneez
14.54 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
15.16 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.20 D.Anime: Yétili
15.40 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
16.02 Momolu Et Ses Amis
16.17 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
17.08 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
17.45 Doc: Odd Neighbours
18.00 Doc: Musher, L'appel De...
19.00 Other: Student Support...
19.28 Mag: Euromaxx
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.54 Les Merveilles De La Nature
21.49 Doc: Great Barrier Reef

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
14.55 Serial: Doree
15.30 Film: Dhanwaan
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Manisha Koirala, Karisma Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.01 Udaariyaan
19.32 Dharam Patni
20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.31 Shrimad Ramayan
21.01 Anupamaa
21.31 Mere Sai
22.01 Serial: Dhruv Tara
22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
22.59 Serial: Mahabharat
23.30 Film: Dhanwaan
Cast: Ajay Devgn, Manisha Koirala, Karisma Kapoor

samedi 14 juin

04.20 Serial: Blue Lights
05.20 Tele: Terra Nostra
06.27 Tele: All The Flowers
09.44 Serial: Nautilus
07.34 Serial: Under Pressure
08.13 Serial: Elementary
09.04 Serial: Heartland
09.47 Serial: Blue Lights
10.44 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.32 Tele: All The Flowers
12.00 Le Journal
12.30 Tele: Barbarita
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.25 Film: Abyss
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Local: Deba Klima
21.15 Film: La Planete Des Singes: Suprematie
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Serial: The Last Kingdom

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.29 Local: Tous Egaux
07.55 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
09.18 Local: La Sosiete
10.26 Local: J'ai Faim
11.00 Fashion FX & Lifestyle
12.00 Local: Palette
14.00 Local: Animalia
15.00 Local: Retrouvizer
15.30 Local: J'ai Faim
16.00 Local: Tous Egaux
18.00 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.19 Local: Mag De L'emploi...
19.40 Rodrig - Kot Nou
20.00 Local: National Innovator...
20.36 Local: Music Tour 2025
21.30 Local: En Toute Intimite
22.00 Festival Internasional Kreol
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.20 Local: Tous Egaux
23.34 Local: Saver Kiltirel

05.00 Film: Farz
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
12.22 MBC Production
14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Film: Dahleez
Cast: Jackie Shroff, Raj Babbar, Meenakshi Sheshadri
18.10 Live: Samachar
18.40 MBC Production
21.00 Film: Kohra
Cast: Arman Kohli, Ayesha Jhulka, Pran
23.05 MBC Production
01.19 Film: Kohra
Cast: Arman Kohli, Ayesha Jhulka, Pran

06.00 D.Anime: Rainbow Rangers
06.45 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
08.02 D.Anime: Wonder Grove
09.11 D.Anime: The Psammy Show
09.23 D.Anime: Llama Llama
11.57 Doc: Metro World Tour
12.56 Doc: Odd Neighbours
14.54 Film: Sinbad: La Legende Des Sept Mers
16.08 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
16.19 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!
16.43 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
16.55 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
17.37 Doc: Odd Neighbours
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Country Dreams
19.00 Doc: Little Gourmet
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.53 Tele: Living To Love
22.26 Doc: Healing Gardens
22.50 Doc: The Masters Of Rome

08.00 Dharam Patni
10.15 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
12.08 Udaariyaan
14.02 Anupamaa
16.35 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
17.30 Vidrohi
18.30 Film: Khoobsurat



With: Sanjay Dutt, Urmila Matondkar, Om Puri, Farida Jalal
21.03 Gadget Guru Ganesha
21.21 Keh Doon Tumhein

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03.08 Tele: Living To Love
03.52 Tele: Terra Nostra
04.44 Tele: All The Flowers
05.11 Film: La Planete Des Singes...
07.26 Serial: Blue Lights
08.24 Film: Abyss
10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune
11.30 Serial: All The Flowers
12.34 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins
14.30 Doc: Ageless Gardens
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: La Planete Des Singes: Suprematie
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Radha Krishna
18.32 Serial: Sa Re Ga MA Pa
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Serial: Ce Soir Avec Vince
20.45 Film: Anna And The King
23.11 Mag: Red Carpet
23.30 Le Journal

06.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel
06.41 Emotion En Avant Plan
07.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
08.45 Local: Artizan
08.56 Local: Les Petits Genies
10.26 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
12.05 Local: Nos Aines
13.05 Local: Nou Later Nu Lamer...
14.00 Local: La Sosiete
15.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
16.30 Local: National Innovator...
17.00 Local: Deba Klima
18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance
19.00 Journal Kreol
20.00 Local: Le Challenge
22.00 Local: Les Klips
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin
23.34 Local: Arsiv MBC
23.59 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif

05.00 Mag: Eco India
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
08.52 MBC Production
10.40 Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Hum Dono
Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malinee
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.47 MBC Production
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
19.00 MBC Production
20.31 Serial: Porus
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol
22.15 Serial: Naagin
22.57 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile...
23.44 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
01.06 MBC Production
04.56 Film: Hum Dono

06.00 D.Anime: Rainow Rangers
09.03 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly
09.45 Serial: Paddles!
11.00 Mag: In Good Shape
11.26 Doc: Country Dreams
11.52 Doc: Afrimaxx
12.21 Doc: Healing Gardens
13.00 Doc: The Masters Of Rome
15.00 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
16.51 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois
17.03 D.Anime: Espoirs Secrets
17.45 Doc: Odd Neighbours
18.00 Visionary Garden's
18.30 Doc: Going Beyond
19.22 Doc: Little Gourmet
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: All The Flowers
21.45 Film: Hollow In The Land
Cast: Dianna Agron, Shawn Ashmore
23.25 Doc: Legendary Hotels

00.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
02.46 Udaariyaan
04.34 Anupamaa
06.44 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
07.47 Serial: Tenali Rama
08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
10.05 Kundali Bhagya
12.03 Rajaa Betaa
13.47 Doree
16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
18.38 Film: Raeeszada
Cast: Shashi Kapoor, Asha Parekh, Govinda, Sonam
20.34 Tenali Rama
21.00 Mahabharat
21.43 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs
22.41 Rajaa Betaa
00.25 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey

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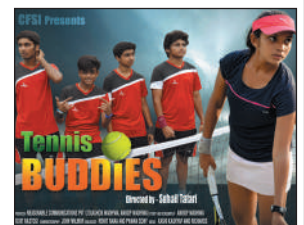
04.12 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
04.36 Tele: All The Flowers
05.00 Tele: La Desalmada
05.26 Tele: Terra Nostra
06.21 Tele: The Queen OF Flow
08.37 Tele: All The Flowers
09.01 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.55 Film: The Boat
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.10 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.40 Tele: La Desalmada
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Film: Commando
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.00 Samachar
18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.07 Serial: Doree
20.10 Serial: Quantico
21.00 Serial: Elementary
21.42 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie

07.18 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
09.00 Local: En toute Intimite
10.30 Local: Plat Du Chef
11.00 Rodrig: Les Klips
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.03 Local: En Toute Intimite
15.50 Local: Les Klips
16.46 La Journee Sous Le Regard
16.51 Local: Le Challenge
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
20.33 Local: Tous Egaux
20.45 Local: Proze Dime
21.16 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.20 Local: Itinerer Moris
23.32 Rodrig: Kot Nou
23.58 Les Grandes Lignes

05.00 Live: DDI Live
06.59 Mag: Eco India
08.00 Local: Humni Ke Sitare
08.43 Ek Mulakaat Varun Jain Ke Saath Dob
09.40 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
10.24 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Sherni
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: Padosan
Cast: Sunil Dutt, Saira Banu, Mehmood

06.25 Doc: Odd Neighbours
08.51 Doc: Legendary Hotels
09.31 Doc: Chasing Immortality
10.26 Doc: Chile: The Land Of All...
11.09 Doc: Elementary Particles
12.21 Doc: Little Gourment
12.49 Doc: Metro World Tour
13.44 Doc: Legendary Hotels
14.30 Serial: Hiccup And Sneez
14.54 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
15.16 D.Anime: Early Learning
15.20 D.Anime: Yétili
15.34 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
17.03 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
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
21.06 Film: Texas Nous Voila
22.46 Mag: Tomorrow Today
23.12 Doc: Punk Mum

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.51 Doree
15.25 Film: Tennis Buddies
Starring: Dakshita Patel, Madhu Anand, Divya Dutta



18.00 Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dharam Patni
20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
20.30 Shrimad Ramayan

mbc 1
Mardi 17 Juin - 20.10



CINE 2
Mercredi 18 Juin - 21.05



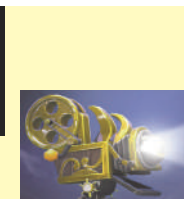
CINE 2
Jeudi 19 Juin - 21.08



Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 17 juin

mercredi 18 juin

jeudi 19 Juin

MBC 1

06.44 Tele: The Queen Of Flow
07.33 Serial: Quantico
08.43 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.35 Film: Texas Nous Voila
11.31 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.45 Tele: La Desalmada
15.25 Film: Les Dents De La Mer
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.58 Serial: Doree
19.30 Le Journal
20.10 Film: Breaking In
21.40 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Tele: The Last Kingdom
00.51 Serial: Chicago Med
01.31 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent

MBC 2

07.05 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
10.30 Local: Mangeons Veg
11.00 Local: Proze Dime
12.00 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.53 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
14.25 Local: Coin Jardin
14.30 Local: Tous Egaux
15.32 Local: Mangeons Veg
16.32 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
19.30 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig
20.00 Local: Son Ladan Mem
20.30 Local: Priorite Sante
21.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles
22.13 Upclose And Personal...
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol

MBC 3

08.00 Ved Ki Shikshahein
10.07 Kundali Bhagya
11.38 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Bade Ghar Ki Beti
Cast: Shammi Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, Meenakshi Sheshadri
15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna
15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
15.50 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
16.12 Serial: Dharam Patni
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Tark Vitark
20.30 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Film: Ek Phool Do Mali
Cast: Sanjay Khan, Sadhna
23.29 Serial: Mere Sai
00.27 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
00.50 Local: Tark Vitark

MBC 5

06.00 Mag: Eco Africa
07.56 Mag: Travel
08.11 Mag: Tomorrow Today
08.35 Doc: Punk Mum
09.01 Doc: Europe Revealed...
10.30 Mag: Eco Africa
11.31 Mag: Africa 54
11.58 Mag: In Good Shape
14.54 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
15.16 D.Anime: Early Learning
17.05 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
17.34 Doc: Odd Neighbours
18.00 Mag: Rev
18.30 Mag: Shift
18.42 Mag: Mapped Out
19.30 Doc: Global US
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.54 Tele: Seref Meselesi
22.18 Mag: Initiative Africa
22.48 Les Merveilles De La Nature
23.42 Mag: Euromaxx

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Doree
15.30 Film: Dabangg
Cast: Salman Khan, Sonakshi Sinha, Arbaaz Khan, Sonu Sood
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.03 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dharam Patni
20.00 Na Umr Ki Seema Ho
20.29 Shrimad Ramayan
21.07 Anupama
21.24 Mere Sai
21.56 Dhruv Tara
22.52 Mahabharat
23.23 Film: Dabangg
Cast: Salman Khan, Sonakshi Sinha, Arbaaz Khan, Sonu Sood

06.11 Serial: The Queen Of Flow
07.38 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Milliards
08.26 Tele: All The Flowers
09.45 Film: Breaking In
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.21 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.06 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.40 Tele: La Desalmada
14.10 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait...
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Tele: Seref Meselesi
17.00 Mag: Red Carpet
17.30 Tele: Lying Heart
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.55 Serial: Doree
19.30 Journal & La Meteo
21.10 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani
21.05 Serial: Nautilus
22.00 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
22.45 Doc: Not About Music

07.20 Local: Evasion
08.45 Local: Priorite Sante
09.33 Local: Le Mag
10.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
11.01 Local: Profil
11.16 Local: Fee Main
11.30 Local: Le Petits Genies
13.45 Local: Priorite Sante
14.42 Local: Evasion
15.00 Local: Deba Klima
16.46 Local: Music Tour
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: Instriman Mizikal
20.33 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
21.15 Local: En Forme
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.20 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
23.33 Fashion FX & Lifestyle
00.25 Local: Le Challenge

06.59 Books Beyond Borders
08.00 Local: Tark Vitark
10.00 Dharam Patni
11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Maa Beta
Cast: Manoj Kumar, Ameeta, Vijay Dutt
15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
16.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Yatra
20.16 Local: Kaam Daam
21.00 Film: Hote Hote Pyar Ho Gaya
Cast: Tushar Dalvi, Kishori Godbole, Vaibhav Mangle, Tarun Khanna
23.38 Serial: Mere Sai
00.05 Wagle Ki Duniya
00.28 Local: Yatra

06.00 Mag: Rev
07.51 Doc: Metro World Tour
08.25 Les Merveilles De La Nature
09.18 Mag: Euromaxx
09.44 The Trade In Human Skulls
10.29 Blood, Sweat and Greens
11.48 Mag: Shift
13.02 Doc: Metro World Tour
14.54 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
15.42 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
17.05 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
17.41 Doc: Odd Neighbours
17.48 Doc: Japan Video Topics
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.30 Mag: Business Beyond
18.45 Mag: Planet A
19.30 Doc: Visionary Gardens
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
21.05 Film: Pyewacket
22.36 Mag: Close Up
23.02 Mag: Focus On Europe
23.28 Doc: Madrid-Morocco

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Doree
15.30 Film: Nirbhay
Cast: Mithun Chakraborty
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Kundali Bhagya
19.02 Udaariyaan
19.33 Dharam Patni
20.00 Na Umr Ki Seema Ho
20.31 Shrimad Ramayan
21.00 Anupama
21.25 Mere Sai
21.57 Dhruv Tara
22.21 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
22.51 Serial: Mahabharat
23.21 Film: Nirbhay
Cast: Mithun Chakraborty

05.10 Tele: Terra Nostra
06.04 Tele: The Queen Of Flow
08.13 Serial: All The Flowers
08.39 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
09.35 Film: Retour Vers Le Futur 3
11.30 Tele: Lying Heart
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
13.15 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
13.42 Tele: La Desalmada
14.15 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance
15.30 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins
17.15 Tele: Lying Heart
19.00 Live: Samachar
19.30 Le Journal Televisé
20.10 Film: Sanam Teri Kasam
Cast: Harshvardhan Rane, Mawra Hocane
22.39 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
23.30 Le Journal

07.31 Rodrig Spor
08.02 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
09.00 Local: Agir Ensemble
10.32 Local: Saveurs Plus
11.02 Local: Vivaldi Music School
12.00 Local: Plasma
12.21 Local: Glwar Dantan
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.31 Local: Instriman Mizikal
14.00 Local: Toc Toc Doc
15.30 Fashion FX & Lifestyle
16.22 La Journee Sous Le Regard
16.30 Local: Le Mag
19.05 Journal Kreol
19.20 Local: Le Mag De L'Emploi
19.30 Rodrig Prog: Decouvertes
20.00 Local: Instriman Mizikal
20.33 Local: Education
21.00 Lisa Ducasse A L'IFM...
22.39 Local: Le Mag
23.31 La Journee Sous Le Regard

07.00 Mag: Eco India
08.00 Local: Yatra
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
12.00 Film: Saaya
Cast: Shatrughan Sinha, Poonam Dhillon, Danny Denzongpa
15.00 Samachar
15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile...
16.00 Ramayan
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.31 Local: Amrit Vani
18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
20.35 Serial: Ramayan
21.00 Serial: Shiv Shakti
21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nanlala
21.52 Serial: Mere Sai
22.48 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
23.10 Local: Amrit Vani

06.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
07.59 Mag: Close Up
08.35 Mag: Focus On Europe
09.07 Doc: Madrid-Morocco
11.09 Mag: Afrimaxx
11.41 Mag: Planet A
13.09 Mag: Close Up
13.36 Mag: Focus On Europe
14.30 Serial: Hiccup And Sneez
14.54 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
15.36 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
17.09 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Doc: Healing Gardens
18.50 Doc: Little Gourmet
19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
20.50 Doc: Metro World Tour
21.08 Film: Prometheus
23.10 Doc: From North Korea...
23.50 Doc: Hitler's Reich

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Doree
15.30 Film: Swarg
Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Govinda, Juhi Chawla, Madhavi, Neena Gupta, Paresh Rawal
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Kundali Bhagya
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Dharam Patni
20.00 Na Umr Ki Seema Ho
20.24 Shrimad Ramayan
21.02 Anupama
21.34 Mere Sai
22.01 Dhruv Tara
22.29 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
23.05 Mahabharat
23.31 Film: Swarg
Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Govinda, Juhi Chawla, Madhavi, Neena Gupta...



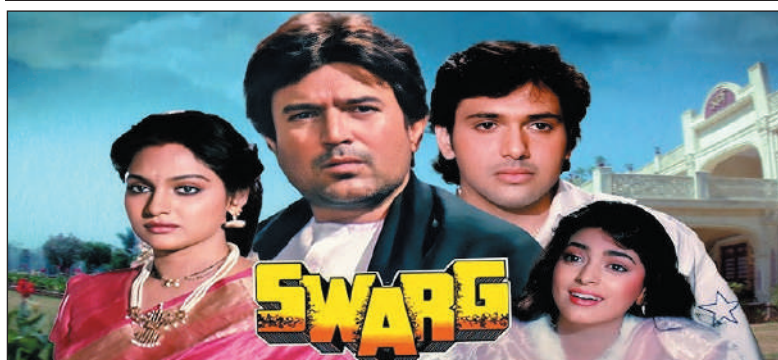
Jeudi 19 Juin - 15.30

Stars: Rajesh Khanna, Govinda, Juhi Chawla, Madhavi, Neena Gupta, Paresh Rawal



Jeudi 19 Juin - 20.10

Stars: Harshvardhan Rane, Mawra Hocane





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Tourisme, l'autre face

Les nuages s'amoncellent au-dessus de leur tête en ce début d'hiver, une transition saisonnière tant attendue par les habitants. Désormais, une grisaille épaisse s'installe durablement dans les chaumières, à un tel point que le bon peuple se met à souhaiter le retour du soleil. Les réseaux sociaux, Facebook et TikTok en tête, resteront fidèles au peuple pendant toute la traversée d'un long tunnel hivernal. Bon courage! Voici que certains songent à une petite escapade à Maurice, histoire de changer d'air. Première raison : la proximité de la destination. Cinq jours à l'hôtel pour décompresser complètement, pratique pour la classe moyenne aisée, cadres et fonctionnaires. Que répondez-vous à ceux qui cherchent un avis sur la possibilité de séjourner en famille dans un bungalow ou une maison? À vos risques et périls.

C'est le propos d'un voisin français qui s'est fait voler Rs10000 dans un appartement à Grand Baie le soir même de son arrivée à Maurice. Sa réaction est tout à fait compréhensible.

Une autre catégorie qui a tourné le dos à l'île est celle qui s'est trouvée prise dans des altercations verbales violentes avec des gens du pays. En avril dernier, alors que nous dégustions de l'eau de coco fraîchement coupée et un jus de fruit frais sur la plage de Grand Baie, devant nos yeux ébahis se déroula une scène effarante. Sur le parking étroit, une voiture de location conduite par un étranger accompagné de sa famille essayait de se frayer un passage lorsqu'une Mauricienne d'une quarantaine d'années à moto se tourna vers lui et déversa un flot d'injures, terminant par 'mama'. Le touriste hocha la tête en signe de désapprobation; le vendeur de noix de coco en fit de même, se tourna vers les clients présents en déplorant ce genre d'incident:

ceux de la Réunion qui n'ont pas de sérieux problèmes financiers. Cependant, les gens ordinaires aux petits salaires louent volontiers des maisons et appartements en groupe et en famille dans des endroits aussi improbables pour les vacances tels que Beau Bassin, Rose-Hill et Quatre Bornes. L'opulence et le luxe dont jouit une catégorie socio-professionnelle des Mauriciens les surprend. Comme, par exemple, un couple de médecins professionnels qui a six voitures de luxe et autant de jardiniers qui se prélassent sous les arbres à tour de rôle. Ces touristes... «Plus jamais Maurice!»

C'est l'avis non-négociable de ceux qui ont subi l'esprit de vengeance des Mauriciens. Ces Mauriciens sont plutôt 'éduqués', voire très éduqués, dans le sens qu'on donne à une éducation formelle. Les hommes de ce pays remportent la palme de la vengeance. Il se trouve que, souvent, leurs cibles - ici à la Réunion - sont des gens très éduqués et ne mâchent pas leurs mots sur l'image que renvoie le pays depuis quelques années.

Exemple: Un homme brillant de la Réunion qui a côtoyé le milieu politique et approché un politicien de haut niveau à Maurice il y a des années et a ensuite publié un rapport dans *Le Monde Diplomatique*. Une demande d'explication sur un incident banal lors d'un séjour à Maurice se termina par des menaces d'un des responsables de l'hôtel. De retour à la Réunion, son ordinateur fut piraté et l'adresse mail récupérée par le malfaiteur. Il était consterné et sidéré qu'un incident puisse prendre une telle proportion.

'Mais ils sont malades là-bas! lâcha-t-il sur un ton exaspéré en me racontant sa mésaventure. Je ne pus qu'acquiescer. Prétendre le contraire serait malhonnête. Des griffes au clavier de l'ordinateur en évitant le sabre, ce pays est devenu un nid de guêpes. Qui s'y frotte s'y pique. Un repoussoir!

Le débat intellectuel n'est pas encouragé, il n'y a aucune plateforme pour l'accueillir. Un véritable étouffoir. Voilà ce qu'on peut répondre à ceux qui ont été la cible de certains «mâles» enragés de Maurice.

Ne parlons pas de la honte qu'on ressent lorsqu'il faut répondre à ceux qui vous interrogent sur l'ampleur de la cybercriminalité révélée dans des articles de presse à la Réunion en décembre 2024, articles biaisés pondus sur le modèle de leurs confrères à Maurice.

Pour finir, le film américain *Sigmund Freud* avec le formidable Anthony Hopkins passera sur le grand écran ces jours-ci.

La psychanalyse est quelque peu démodée à notre époque, commente une amie.

Non. C'est quelque peu dépassé dans la critique littéraire. Mais elle reste bien d'actualité dans les relations internationales, entre grands et petits pays, dans l'analyse des comportements divers, le rôle de l'inconscient et les névroses de tout genre au sein d'une société. Elle invite à l'introspection, et lève le voile sur un paysage mental hivernal dont les 'malades' ont grand besoin.



— Est-ce que c'est en sécurité? s'enquiert une dame plutôt aisée.

Le temps de la promotion touristique par patriotisme est révolu. Il faut dire la vérité au risque d'avoir sur la conscience une éventuelle mésaventure de ces braves gens sur le sol mauricien.

— Si vous partez en vacances avec ordinateurs et iPhones, c'est risqué.

Les premiers à s'en méfier, ce sont ceux qui vous accueillent: le personnel, femme de ménage et jardinier, et puis... il y a les autres qui sont aux aguets, qui surveillent et guettent la moindre occasion pour vous dérober.

On préfère dire la vérité par scepticisme sur une hypothétique prise de conscience d'un changement de mentalité que la disette touristique provoquée par la Covid aurait laissée pendant deux ans. Est-ce que les grandes difficultés économiques éprouvées par toutes les activités périphériques liées au tourisme ont suscité une remise en question du comportement passé vis-à-vis du touriste? Pas si sûr...

Y a-t-il eu un discours des responsables du tourisme à la télévision nationale sur ce sujet? C'était nécessaire.

— Moi, je ne mettrai plus jamais les pieds à Maurice.

— Regardez ça, c'est comme ça qu'on traite les touristes ici.

Ce genre de scène est comme un coup de poignard à chaque fois qu'on en est témoin. Aucune retenue, aucune indulgence vis-à-vis du visiteur de passage, aucune considération pour l'image du pays. Un tempérament surchauffé, une vulgarité sans borne donnée en spectacle en plein jour.

Et que dire du fils de 19 ans d'une connaissance française qui eut le malheur d'avoir comme voisine, dans une résidence à Grand Baie, une jeune mère célibataire avec deux enfants en bas âge et d'une agressivité à fleur de peau?

Ayant déjà la main leste sur ses petits dès le matin, la jeune Mauricienne, au lieu de régler d'une manière raisonnable un différend sur la saleté qu'elle laisse dans le couloir, n'eut d'autre réaction que de sortir ses griffes. Le jeune homme se trouva avec des marques ensanglantées sur le visage. Lorsque je me rendis sur les lieux, la mère de 35 ou 36 ans de la jeune femme m'accueillit avec des propos menaçants du genre:

— «Ki ou été ou, sorte deor, nou gueté!»

Une invitation à la bagarre avant même que je puisse me garer.

La Thaïlande a remplacé Maurice chez

Tree of Knowledge Before the World Wakes

The first moments of day, before our mind is fully awake, can be a wonderful time for meditation

Just before the coming of the pale rays of dawn, Mother Nature exists in a state of flux. Earth's energy is stable, free of the disordered vibrations that are a by-product of humanity's comings and goings. In these first moments of day, when the sun's golden light is just peeking over the horizon, our animal mind remains in the land of slumber though we ourselves are awake. Deep sleep has washed away the impurities of existence that accumulated within us, so our mental, physical, and emotional potential is heightened.

To meditate in this peaceful yet energetically charged in-between time is to connect with the divine in an extremely intimate fashion. We discover a new kinship with the universal life force during morning meditations because our awareness becomes a mirror for earthly consciousness. We wake as the world wakes, quietly embracing the joy of being and setting the tone for a serene, fulfilling day.

In the first glorious glow of morning, the light, air, and energy flowing around us speak in hushed tones of the activity to come. While we recognize that another day of being means becoming once again immersed in the challenges of action and reaction, we also understand that we can draw upon the unique energetic qualities of daybreak for comfort, creativity, and vigour. There is bliss in the simple knowledge that we have been given the gift of another day of existence.

We are inspired by sights and sounds of the sun's gentle ascension. Birds serenade the luminosity, which grows richer by the minute. And though we may feel a residual lethargy, our vitality returns as our meditation helps us to become one with the stirring of other beings rubbing the sleep from their eyes. At the start of each day, our destiny has not yet been written, and so there is nothing we cannot do.

How we choose to meditate is less important than our choice to attune ourselves to the spirit of wakefulness that travels around the world each and every day. Even the briefest moment of quiet contemplation in the muted light of the sun can put all that is yet to come into perspective. As a consequence of our daybreak reflections, our lives are imbued with the same stability, tranquility, and increased awareness that humanity has long associated with the stillness of early morning.