

# MAURITIUS **TIMES**

• "We must consult our means rather than our wishes." — George Washington

## Popularity Poll

*Opinions will waver, change and fluctuate over the coming months as the regime tries to avoid shooting itself further in the foot in the harsh times ahead and the Opposition ponder their strategies for change*

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## Orwellian Ministry of Truth



*The war in Ukraine shows how daily spin doctoring and propaganda repeatedly rehashed and recycled by the media and political leaders can systematically mask and occult the truth. There are also clear signs of a 'Ministry of Truth' culture in Mauritius as well.*

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## Beautiful life, blighted lives

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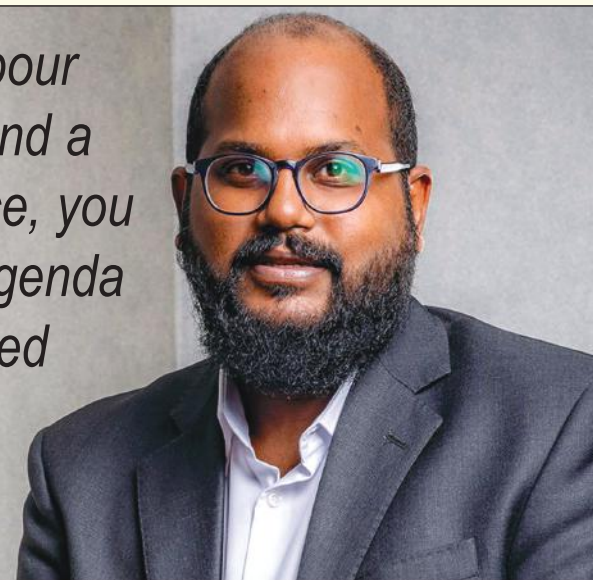
## Interview: Kugan Parapen

The MTC-GRA tussle was inevitable

## No one finances elections for fun

*When you pour millions behind a political alliance, you expect your agenda to be fulfilled*

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# Navin Ramgoolam's Biggest Challenge

**E**ven if there is no better instrument than elections to express the people's will in a democracy, opinion polls at times constitute an efficient way to measure views on a burning issue affecting society or on forthcoming elections at a point in time. Not always so however, for polls can turn out to be disappointingly off the mark, particularly so on small sample sizes or if people are wary of venting their real feelings or prefer to answer what they feel the interviewer wants to hear. In fact, opinion polls are no substitute for a vote, which goes beyond intentions.

There is also sufficient evidence on the ground to prove that voting decisions are not formed cumulatively across the passage of time to a general election. They are often crystallised towards the very end of an electoral campaign, sometimes in the final week before elections are held. That happened nearly on the eve of the 2000 elections when the decision to form an MSM-MMM alliance (called the MedPoint alliance) overturned the situation overnight against the Labour Party, which could not quite make out why it had been defeated so heavily contrary to its expectations.

Five years later, on the eve of elections once again, the MSM-MMM had the bitter taste of the same kind of overturning position when Rashid Beebeejaun was presented by the Labour Party as Deputy Prime Minister, the effect of which was to shake up the very foundation of what had heretofore been considered as an MMM stronghold. The outcome of elections is also decided on who the protagonists on the two opposing sides of the major political configurations happen to be. That is why political parties have engineered the coming together of unexpected forces at the very last minute to win at elections and this is a truth far removed from what opinion polls can paint at some point of time or other, in the present case two years before the actual polls are taken.

The opinion poll published by Le Mauricien Ltd/ Straconsult Ltd with a sample size of 600 is admittedly no more than a snapshot taken end February 2022 and March 2022. As such it reflects intentions of the chosen sample polled up prior to the events that have hogged headlines in recent weeks without a break - the rising cost of living and public protests, the CEB-Terragen conflict, the MTC-GRA tussle about the organisation of horse racing, the controversy surrounding the deportation of a Slovak national. Its conclusions however do mirror the trend that has been observed down the years about the gradual decline of mainstream (so-called traditional) parties and their leaders and more importantly the alliances that these parties have lately tried to sell to the electorate, beginning as from 2014.

In broad terms, the Le Mauricien/Straconsult poll found a strong majority of 68% rejects the political alliances that are being proposed for the time being, 49% say they do not know which political alliance to choose,

16% are in favour of other alliances that have not been proposed, etc. As for their preferences in terms of alliances, it is the current MSM-Ganoo-Obeegadoo government alliance which scores the highest with 11% of respondents, 7% are in favour of an LP-PMSD alliance, only 5% would support an enlarged LP-MMM-PMSD-Bhadain-Bodha alliance, 3% for an MSM-MMM one, and 2% in favour of either a LP-MMM or MSM-PMSD alliance. The L'Alliance de l'Espoir in its present configuration receives the support of only 1% of respondents!

That was to be expected, as we had hinted in an earlier editorial, since when it comes to politics, and contrary to what Aristotle had postulated, the whole is not always greater than the sum of its parts. The two major mainstream parties (MMM and Labour Party) neutralize each other in the game of numbers of supporters they manage to bring together such that their combined force will produce a lower than expected electoral result. Electoral arithmetic simply does not work in that instance, and that is why, contrary to what is generally believed, the MSM's leader ardent wish is to see the LP and the MMM come together with the Duvals, Bhadaïns and Bodhas, the more so since it now takes only 37% of national votes, unlike the earlier 44% or more, to win general elections and form a government - call it a minority government if you wish or whatever! - but that's what is required to capture the State and rule the roost as it is presently the case.

We mentioned in that earlier editorial of 21 Jan 2022 that the Labour Party, though itself diminished but with a faithful core base to this day, remains the best and only option that could challenge the MSM in the rural constituencies - No 5 to 14 - which elect parties to power. Whether that would require a leadership change or some Jonny-come-lately with the right profile is for the Labour Party to decide. Some may well query whether meritocracy within the LP has been upended, but the leadership issues have always been and remain for the Party to decide, hopefully democratically, taking account of many factors including the ability to lead the party - in a stable alliance or otherwise - to electoral victory at the next polls.

2024 will constitute the biggest challenge in the political career of Navin Ramgoolam. Winning past elections when the electoral arithmetic worked in some cases is one thing, winning 2024 in the face of a resilient adversary, a past master in ethno-caste politics, with allegedly a formidable war chest and that is not averse to making an abusive use of the tool that the MBC-TV has become for propaganda purposes, nor to distributing pre-election freebies to the electorate at taxpayers' cost, will prove to be one of the two major challenges Navin Ramgoolam will have to face in coming years, the other being to ensure the continuing relevance of the LP in Mauritian politics.

## The Conversation

### Trusting societies are overall happier – a happiness expert explains why

*Trust in others in society plays a large role in what makes people there – and elsewhere – happy*



**H**uman beings are social animals. This means, almost as a matter of logical necessity, that humans' quality of life is largely decided by the quality of their societies.

Trust is one key factor that helps shape societies – specifically, if individuals feel a basic level of trust in others, outside of their immediate friends and family, they are happier.

People lead better, happier and more satisfying lives when people in their communities share high levels of trust.

Finland is the happiest country in the world, for the fifth year in a row, according to the latest annual United Nations World Happiness Report, released in April 2022. The report uses data from Gallup world polls and measures the way people feel about their lives. It is not a coincidence that Finland also has one of the world's highest levels of trust among people, known as interpersonal trust.

"Research has linked trust with economic growth, democracy, tolerance, charity, community, health, and happiness," Lane Kenworthy, a political scientist and sociologist, writes.

As a scholar of happiness, I have written extensively about the nature and causes of happiness. My work, and research by others, confirms the general idea that greater levels of trust among people lead to more happiness.

There are specific reasons trust and happiness are so deeply connected.

#### How trust encourages happiness

The first reason is that people's quality of life improves when they can reasonably assume the goodwill of others in their day-to-day lives. This kind of generalized trust may also promote other, more specific kinds of trust, such as trust in government.

*Benjamin Radcliff, Professor of Political Science, University of Notre Dame*

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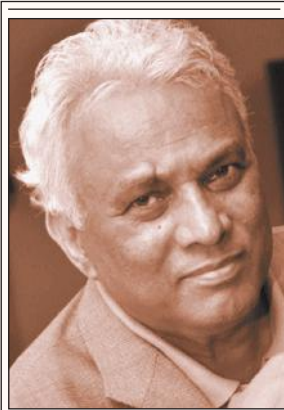
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Mrinal Roy

# Orwellian Ministry of Truth

*The war in Ukraine shows how daily spin doctoring and propaganda repeatedly rehashed and recycled by the media and political leaders can systematically mask and occult the truth. There are also clear signs of a 'Ministry of Truth' culture in Mauritius as well.*

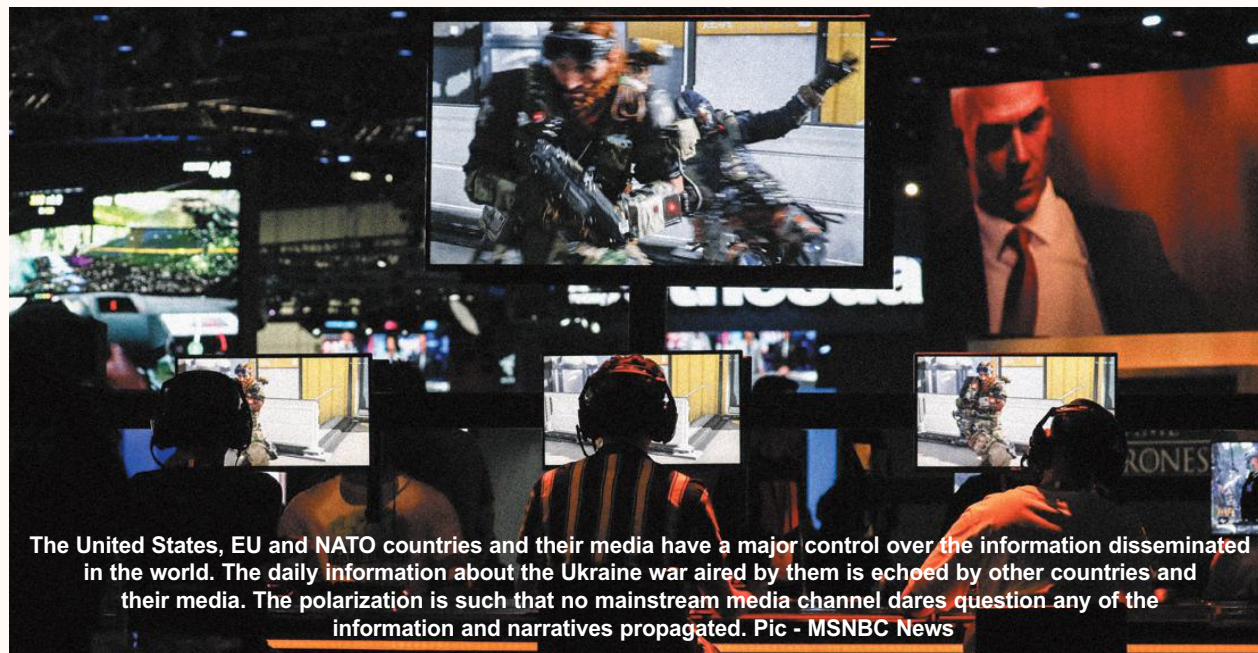
**T**he war in Ukraine is a major eye opener for the world and people in general on the insidious role of government propaganda and a compliant media in shaping the tenor and thrust of narratives regarding the evolution of the war. It has also exposed a skewed international order sullied and undermined by double standards in respect of fundamental principles and basic standards of equity. It also shows how daily spin doctoring and propaganda repeatedly rehashed and recycled by the media and political leaders can systematically mask and occult the truth.

The profound divide over the war between the US, Europe, NATO countries, Ukraine and Russia has polarized information about the war. In this propaganda battle, the United States, EU and NATO countries and their media have a major control over the information disseminated in the world. The daily information about the war aired by them is echoed by other countries and their media. The polarization is such that no mainstream media channel dares question any of the information and narratives propagated.

Across the world, governments want to control the tenor of information. Despite paying lip service to freedom of opinion and free speech, they are allergic to criticisms and chary of independent media channels and all forms of alternative media on the internet. Social media companies like Twitter and Facebook have been censoring any posts that question the official narrative on the Ukraine conflict.

## US 'Disinformation Governance Board'

The control over the content of information and the media message is taking an ominous form in the United States with the announcement made by the White House and the Department of Homeland Security last week that an inter-agency team named 'Disinformation Governance Board' has been set up to coordinate department activities related to disinformation aimed at the US population and infrastructure. It is quite revealing that Nina Jankowicz, a disinformation expert with experience working on Ukraine and Russia issues, was chosen to helm the board. Critics have promptly likened the 'Disinformation Governance Board,' to the 'Ministry of Truth' from George Orwell's 1984.



The United States, EU and NATO countries and their media have a major control over the information disseminated in the world. The daily information about the Ukraine war aired by them is echoed by other countries and their media. The polarization is such that no mainstream media channel dares question any of the information and narratives propagated. Pic - MSNBC News

**“It is flabbergasting that the US government wants to arrogate to themselves through the 'Disinformation Governance Board' the contentious right to decide and designate what the 'truth' is... There is a justified apprehension that the hidden intent of this disingenuous proposal is to groom and shepherd people to 'gobble and accept what they are told' and doctor algorithms to sway public opinion...”**



George Orwell - Pic - Insider

It is flabbergasting that the US government wants to arrogate to themselves through the 'Disinformation Governance Board' the contentious right to decide and designate what the 'truth' is. This would mean a dangerous letdown of basic democratic values in a country where the First Amendment of the US Constitution guarantees fundamental freedoms concerning religion, expression, assembly and the right to petition. There is a justified apprehension that the hidden intent of this disingenuous proposal is to groom and shepherd people to 'gobble and accept what they are told' and doctor algorithms to sway public opinion.

## Outcry

As expected, there is a legitimate outcry against this contested proposal by many outside the mainstream media, the more so as governments and private corporations have a history of not divulging key information through questionable stratagems or decried confidentiality clauses, etc. It is noteworthy that Republican Senator Rand Paul from Kentucky told Alejandro

Mayorkas, the Homeland Security Secretary at a Senate hearing last week that 'Americans don't need his new Disinformation Governance Board to know what is true' and claimed that 'the US government was the 'largest propagator of disinformation in the history of the world.'

Elon Musk's \$44 billion takeover of Twitter and his declared commitment to uphold people's absolute right to free speech risk upset the apple cart. The Elon Musk Twitter avatar could therefore become the *de facto* platform for dissent and contestation of government narratives and policies.

Government narratives invariably distract public attention away from the real issues which need to be addressed. The daily reports and hype about war crimes, schools being bombed, children and civilian casualties or Ukrainian citizens being sent to Russia against their will shift attention away from the core reality that tens of billions of dollars worth of high tech weaponry, supersonic missiles and other support provided by the US, Europe and NATO countries to Ukraine will prolong the war and destruction of Ukraine, add to the woes of Ukrainian civilians and the widespread distress and misery caused to billions of people across the world who are being forced to bear the adverse impact of the war on escalating costs of energy, groceries and basic commodities and the erosion of their purchasing power. The arms manufacturers are having a bonanza.

\* \* \*

## Signs of desperation

**T**here are also clear signs of a 'Ministry of Truth' culture in Mauritius as well.

The hullabaloo and profuse legalese being trumped up in the protracted debate relating to the Slovak Peter Uricek distracts attention from the burning question of how he was granted a three-year Occupation Permit in April 2019 to work for a company with hardly any contribution to the national economy by the Economic Development Board despite being blacklisted as an illegal drug dealer and manufacturer since 2015 by the Slovak authorities and being the object of a Red Notice by Interpol. It is only when his Occupation Permit came for renewal in April 2022 that his Resident Permit was revoked.

● Cont. on page 8



# Popularity Poll

*Opinions will waver, change and fluctuate over the coming months as the regime tries to avoid shooting itself further in the foot in the harsh times ahead and the Opposition ponder their strategies for change*

Jan Arden

The recent publication in *Le Mauricien* of a Straconsult poll conducted we assume by phone over 600 respondents has obvious limitations (notably a low 95% confidence level) but it does provide some broad-brush picture of the current state of the Mauritian mind with regard to political horizons still more than 2 years away.

Quite naturally then, although more than 80% express a keen desire to vote, more than 60% of respondents have not made up their minds and more than a third report not feeling close to any political party. Not much of a surprise but the political *état-majors* will be deciphering the photography and each party and party leader can find some solace in its ratings, notably the MSM and the PM which remain top of mind, partly as a result of intensive coverage of government activities. Pravind Jugnauth heads the list of preferred future PM at 21% followed by the LP leader Navin Ramgoolam at 12% and may bask in that glow, while his advisory entourage might be more worried of such dismally low personal levels after seven years in office since 2015 and two years of prime ministership gone. Carrying conviction in only one in five Mauritian hearts is somewhat sobering.

As for scores of alliances particularly in the Opposition, the *l'Espoir* formula has failed to impress if such an instant image is to be relied upon, while many events, discussions and months remain ahead. The fact that the MSM-led alliance in power has shrugged off overdue municipal elections is understandable according to the same image where they head the list but with only 11% of support nationally, hardly the sort of basaltic solidity you would want

to gamble on after two years of prime ministership in alliance with a number of MMM defectors.

But then opinions will waver, change and fluctuate over the coming months as the regime tries to avoid shooting itself further in the foot in the harsh times ahead and the Opposition, traditional and non-traditional, ponder their strategies for change and overcoming voter insecurities.

\* \* \*

## No-Confidence Motion

The objectives of motions of no-confidence are rarely to topple governments but are a last resort for an Opposition that feels unable to use Parliament in a rather corroded Westminster system either for serene debates on major policy issues or for questioning government on its policies and practices under the current difficult context.

We can expect the mover of the motion, the Leader of the Opposition, to focus on the difficult conditions of the working and middle classes or the elderly, the cascading rises of food and pharmaceuticals, the billions of wasteful or unnecessary projects that could be shelved, the corruption cases that are yet to be concluded and the taxes and public sector borrowings that have rocked the roof. Inflation has hit double digits while public sector debt is at 100% of GDP and debt servicing according to the Director of Audit has ballooned to an unprecedented Rs 112 billion. As a past Finance Minister and chartered accountant, he would have the most recent statistics, facts and figures at hand and will no doubt be ably supported by other Opposition speakers.

Government benches, including the current Finance Minister, will rise boisterously to the defence of government's



“The IMF again repeats its formal invitation for the BOM to “relinquish ownership of the MIC, the MIC to return undisbursed financing to the BOM, and avoid quasi-fiscal financing. BOM’s ownership of the MIC weighs on the BOM’s independence and blur the separation of monetary and fiscal policies.” This paper has repeatedly been equally scandalised by the opaque operations of the BOM-MIC and the free use made of its special or other reserves to the tune of Rs 158 billion, when nobody quite knows how much has been used for budget support or dealt out and how much remains undisbursed...”

policies and macro-economic management under the pandemic, relying on the rear-view mirror, whatever positive notes can be extracted from latest reports and trends from international organisations (IMF, World Bank, OECD....) or rating agencies. It won't be much of a surprise if government tries its level best to leverage Covid-19 and other external factors at its behest while raking the past rather than its own deliverables since it took office.

Meantime the “IMF Staff 2022 Article IV Mission to Mauritius” is available in Executive summary format on its website and would likely be used by both sides of the House. A few choice bits: “While most sectors have returned to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity and the tourism sector is gradually recovering, inflation has picked up substantially... The mission expects tourist arrivals to reach about 60 percent of pre-pandemic levels in 2022...” The latter forecast is well short of the pick-up rate in neighbouring tourism destinations and of government targets of 1m tourist arrivals in 2022.

As expected, there are also pressing or major recommendations, for instance: “In face of increasing fuel and food prices, the mission recommends protecting the vulnerable population with targeted transfers through social safety net programs while avoiding broad-based subsidies benefiting

all income levels.” It would not have escaped most readers that these have been constant themes of social activists, NGOs, trade unions, independent voices and Opposition figures for the past few months.

But bankers and financial specialists will note that in line with its previous scandalised report about BOM credibility and the MIC contraption last year, the IMF again repeats its formal invitation for the BOM to “relinquish ownership of the MIC, the MIC to return undisbursed financing to the BOM, and avoid quasi-fiscal financing. BOM’s ownership of the MIC weighs on the BOM’s independence and blur the separation of monetary and fiscal policies.” This paper has repeatedly been equally scandalised by the opaque operations of the BOM-MIC and the free use made of its special or other reserves to the tune of Rs 158 billion, when nobody quite knows how much has been used for budget support or dealt out and how much remains undisbursed and should be refunded to the BOM immediately.

Otherwise, we can expect all Ministers to protest their good faith, but the motion will have been an opportunity for both sides of the House to state their political case in the midst of brewing social restlessness and economic uncertainties facing the country.

## The Slovak commotion

An answer to a PQ on 10th May from the PM has dispelled a lot of hot air that had been unnecessarily swirling around the lawful or unlawful “extraction” of the Slovak national wanted in his country since 2015 for criminal activities related to drug trafficking. The confusion that the preceding communique from the PMO failed to avoid would have certainly benefited from the more substantive explanations provided in Parliament by the PM. The rationale and mechanisms leading to the lapse of the Slovak’s loss of residency status would have been clearer for all concerned and his delivery to awaiting Slovak authorities perhaps amply justified without necessarily ignoring the

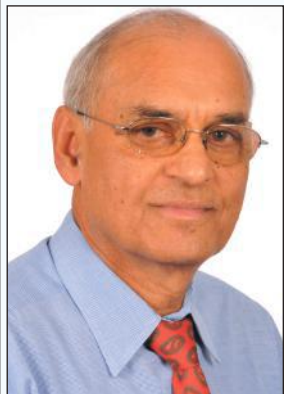
Court order against deportation or extradition as stated by the PM.

However, we must flag the explanations how two examinations of usual databases, conducted in April 2019, either by the EDB or the PIO, allowed a criminal wanted by Slovak authorities since 2015 to wander around freely and with necessary Occupation Permits on the island for three long years. This seeps out of the PQ answer “From information received from Slovak Authorities, for the period 2015 to 2018, P. U. and his criminal group provided precursors in the form of pills for the...” Would not a simple check with Slovak authorities, an EU member state, have brought up in 2019 the

criminal record of the fugitive? Were there no press reports in his own country on the fellow from 2015? How could it moreover escape the attention of the EDB that the employer of the Slovak was apparently his own company (Eurocola) and there would be obvious grounds to suspect his motivations and EDB’s perspicacity if that were the case.

It may be left to the judicial inquiry to clarify these aspects and make recommendations for substantive changes to the standard verifications conducted before Occupation or Residence Permits are granted to foreign nationals and any periodic follow-up that should occur during their stay. We cannot be a sunny place for shady residents as our learned Attorney General pointed out, but neither should we fail to investigate failings, if any.





Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Beautiful life, blighted lives

Except for the bare minimum so as to keep abreast of events, I have switched off watching the news about the war in Ukraine, so sickening are the graphics of death and destruction, both of which were totally unavoidable and unnecessary. Except for a leadership that a large body of sane opinion increasingly considers as having been trapped in a proxy war which is benefiting only the military industrial complex, which is made up essentially of five big global companies that have seen their stock-market shares and profits going up from very soon after the war began.

The biggest losers in this war are the people of Ukraine and their devastated country. Putin, contrary to all the rumours that had been circulating about his presumed illness, looked quite healthy when he gave an address recently as Russia paraded its military might. 75 days into the war and despite setbacks, he appears to be more than ever determined to continue pounding Ukraine and will not stop at anything until he feels that he has won, never mind that Ukraine might be completely razed at the end of it all.

Zelensky, who better than most should have had the farsightedness to gauge Putin, still believes that he is fighting for liberal democracy, for liberalism. When he surveys his destroyed country, will he still feel like that? Will the parents who have lost their children, the wives who have become widowed, the children who have become orphans, the women and children who have left



Death and mourning in Ukraine: Mountains of corpses found in devastated cities of Ukraine. Pic - PressWire18

**“Zelensky still believes that he is fighting for liberal democracy, for liberalism. When he surveys his destroyed country, will he still feel like that? Will the parents who have lost their children, the wives who have become widowed, the children who have become orphans, the women and children who have left the comfort of their homes to overnight become refugees in alien lands – will they too feel alike, that the desolation that is left was worth the sacrifice and loss that they have suffered?”**

the comfort of their homes to overnight become refugees in alien lands – will they too feel alike, that the desolation that is left was worth the sacrifice and loss that they have suffered? It will be too late then.

But liberalism itself, like the other ‘-isms’ that have preceded – such as socialism, capitalism, communism, nationalism - has been found to be flawed. Reference,

for example, the article ‘Liberalism Isn’t Dead—but It’s Very Sick’ by James Traub, columnist at *Foreign Policy* and non-resident fellow at New York University’s Center on International Cooperation.

It is therefore better to leave these confused minds to their own devices and focus more on how beautiful life is.

## The Truth of Life

This is what we did a couple of weeks ago with Brahmachari Vignesh of Chinmaya Mission Chennai who has come over for a short stay to conduct some sessions at the local branch of Chinmaya Mission. The hostess had invited a small group of friends for a satsang to be conducted by Br Vignesh – *sat* means truth, *sang* means together: the topic was therefore an enquiry into the Truth of Life. What is life, how do we go about discovering its ultimate purpose?

There was no prescription, only exploration and an invitation to share views and thoughts about life, in the spirit of the Hindu scriptures, the Vedas, to wit that *vade vade jayate tattvabodha*; through dialogue and debate the truth emerges. Br Vignesh only made comments and guided the discussion in a process that would allow everyone to discover the truth of themselves by drawing from the crucible of the veritable fragrance of ideas that were presented. Everybody came out enriched and a better person, with a clearer perspective and an urge to explore further.

As I reflected on our exchanges afterwards, I could summarise for myself four categories into which one could place definitions of life:

- physico-chemical, according to Irish physicist JD

Bernal as far as I can recollect: ‘life is a dynamic equilibrium in a polyphasic system.’

- biological, as it is now understood: at its most fundamental, life is simply the capacity to self-replicate, that is to make multiple copies of one self by oneself. Any organism that can do that is said to be living. That is why viruses baffle us: they are neither living nor non-living, lying at the intersection between the two realms. The advent of Covid-19 has upped the debate about whether a virus is living or non-living – because it cannot replicate by itself but needs to use another living organism to do so, by hijacking the multiplying mechanism of the latter that is found in its cells. The Covid-19 virus does that using human lung cells.
- existential: everyone, educated or non-educated, at some stage in his life journey asks: who am I? where do I come from? what happens after death?

**“The life well lived can only be about shared joys and happiness, selfless service whenever possible, and not causing willful harm. It is love that is the driving force for these sentiments and actions. Unfortunately, it is the missing ingredient in a world soaked in hate and bent on wars and their killing fields...”**

- experiential – perhaps the one which has the widest range of perspectives because every individual can frame a definition from his/her own experience.

In fact, the experiential dimension is the usual starting point for any enquiry into life, from what we observe in the world around us and what we undergo within as we use these observations to organize our lives at individual level. From that vantage point scientists delve into the biological then the physico-chemical level to bring knowledge that leads to the development of technology and practical applications which enhance material comfort.

Thinkers such as our rishis (sages), poets and philosophers surf on other planes and come up with gems that induce deep reflection. These two among myriads will suffice as examples:

‘Life is what happens to you when you are busy making other plans.’

‘Life is a series of moments, miracles and experience. Enjoy every moment, Enjoy the miracle, and Learn from the experience.’

The life well lived can only be about shared joys and happiness, selfless service whenever possible, and not causing willful harm. It is love that is the driving force for these sentiments and actions. Unfortunately, it is the missing ingredient in a world soaked in hate and bent on wars and their killing fields.

Dr R. Neerunjun Gopee





Anil Madan

# Anticipating The Next Pandemic

*There is no guarantee that the next pandemic will involve a respiratory virus. The recent proliferation of rodents in Australia suggests that a virus or bacterium carried by such animals might be the next threat we face*

The journal *Foreign Affairs* recently republished a 2005 article by Michael T. Osterholm titled *Preparing For The Next Pandemic*. A version of his article also appeared that same year in the *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM). Osterholm is a professor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and Director of its Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy. He is well known to Americans as a frequent commentator on the Covid-19 pandemic since 2020. Osterholm had a dire warning: "Can disaster be avoided? The answer is a qualified yes. Although a coming pandemic cannot be avoided, its impact can be considerably lessened."

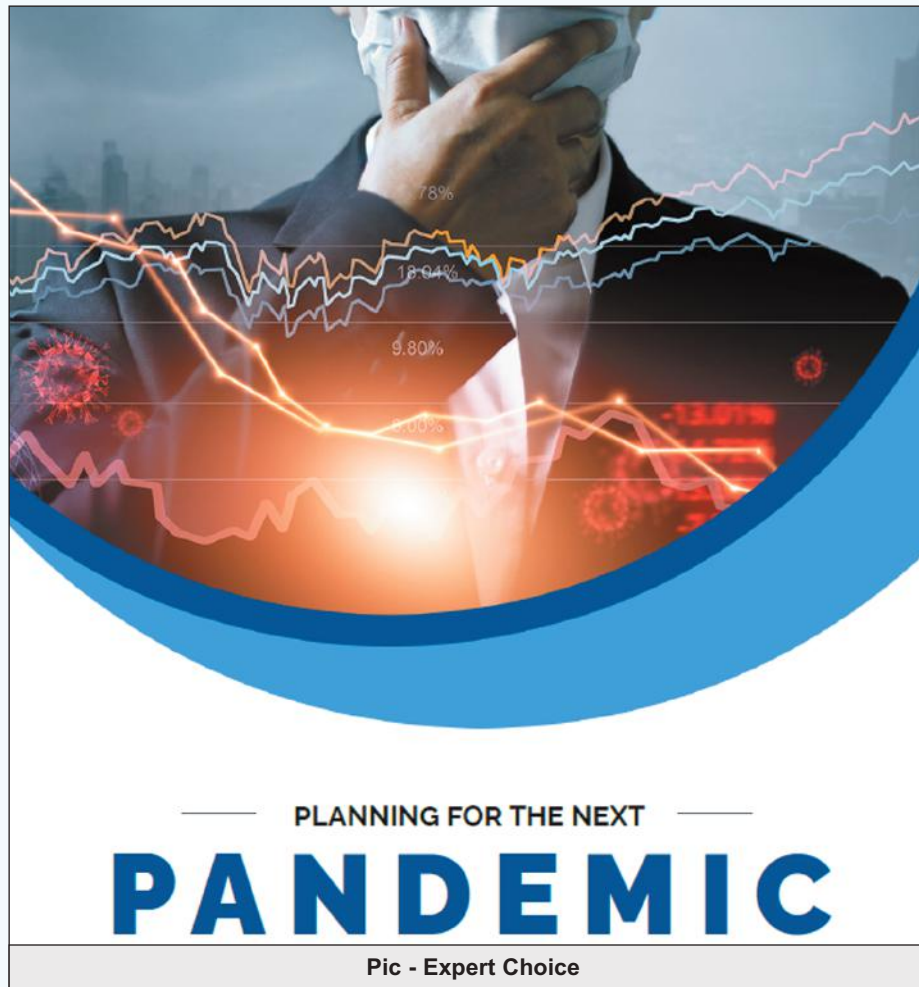
We should not lose sight of the fact that Osterholm was predicting that a strain of the H5N1 influenza virus would cause the next pandemic although he did allow that it could be caused by a novel strain. He reasoned that the increasing incidence of H5N1 infections in both humans and animals, near misses with respect to sustained human-to-human transmission and increases in the pathogenicity of the H5N1 Z genotype due to ongoing genetic changes, and a sort of perfect storm mix of people, pigs, and poultry in Asia was akin to having a laboratory capable of generating the next virulent strain.

Osterholm pointed out that in 1968, when the most recent influenza pandemic occurred, China's population was just over half of its 2005 population of 1.3 billion. Its pig population had increased from 5.2 million to 508 million and its poultry population from 12.3 million to 13 billion. Undoubtedly, the numbers of pigs and poultry have increased exponentially since although population has been somewhat stabilized at 1.4 billion. The rest of Asia was seeing similar changes, Osterholm postulated and he added that the exponential growth in foreign travel meant that we must accept that a pandemic is coming.

And so, it did.

Attentive readers will note that my column is titled 'Anticipating The Next Pandemic' rather than referring

**“Prof Michael T. Osterholm pointed out that in 1968, when the most recent influenza pandemic occurred, China’s population was just over half of its 2005 population of 1.3 billion. Its pig population had increased from 5.2 million to 508 million and its poultry population from 12.3 million to 13 billion. Undoubtedly, the numbers of pigs and poultry have increased exponentially since although population has been somewhat stabilized at 1.4 billion. The rest of Asia was seeing similar changes, Osterholm postulated and he added that the exponential growth in foreign travel meant that we must accept that a pandemic is coming...”**



## PLANNING FOR THE NEXT PANDEMIC

Pic - Expert Choice

**“The experts really don’t know what they are maybe dealing with in the future. There is no guarantee that the next pandemic will involve a respiratory virus. The recent proliferation of rodents in Australia suggests that a virus or bacterium carried by such animals might be the next threat we face. We remain woefully unprepared...”**

to preparing for the next pandemic. This is intentional.

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has released many recommendations aimed at combating the current pandemic and preparing for future health crises. These are well intentioned but of dubious value. In a September 2021 press release, David J. Skorton, MD, AAMC president and CEO is quoted as saying: "It is not a matter of *if* there will be another pandemic, it is a question of *when* and how well-prepared the nation will be to protect communities against the next national public health emergency."

This is, of course, reminiscent of Osterholm in 2005.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the World Health Assembly requested the Director-General of WHO to initiate an impartial, independent, and comprehensive review of the international health response to Covid-19 and of experiences gained and lessons learned from that, and to make recommendations to improve capacities for the future. Out of this was

created the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. In May 2020, that panel presented its initial report and then followed up six months later, in November 2021 with another report. This was mostly a lament about vaccine inequity. But then the so-called Independent Panel was comprised mostly of aging politicians.

What are we to make of the reports of distinguished healthcare professionals who tell us that the next pandemic is inevitable? Not very much, I submit. Vaccine inequity is a well-recognized problem, but it is not an issue that comes into play until *after* a pandemic is already in place.

In other words, it says nothing about *preventing* a pandemic.

Likewise, the AAMC's recommendations include such blandishments as: "The White House must lead the national pandemic response and ensure coordination among departments and agencies," and "The federal government must engage industry and research universities at the outset of the next public health emergency and commit to purchasing diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines in

advance." As one can see, these have nothing to do with prevention of the next pandemic.

Nor did Osterholm suggest that one might consider reducing the population of pigs or poultry in China. Obviously, I say this somewhat tongue-in-cheek but to point out that given the economics of the poultry and pork industries, there is no solution here.

What is even more frustrating is that the experts really don't know what they are maybe dealing with in the future. There is no guarantee that the next pandemic will involve a respiratory virus. The recent proliferation of rodents in Australia suggests that a virus or bacterium carried by such animals might be the next threat we face.

We remain woefully unprepared.

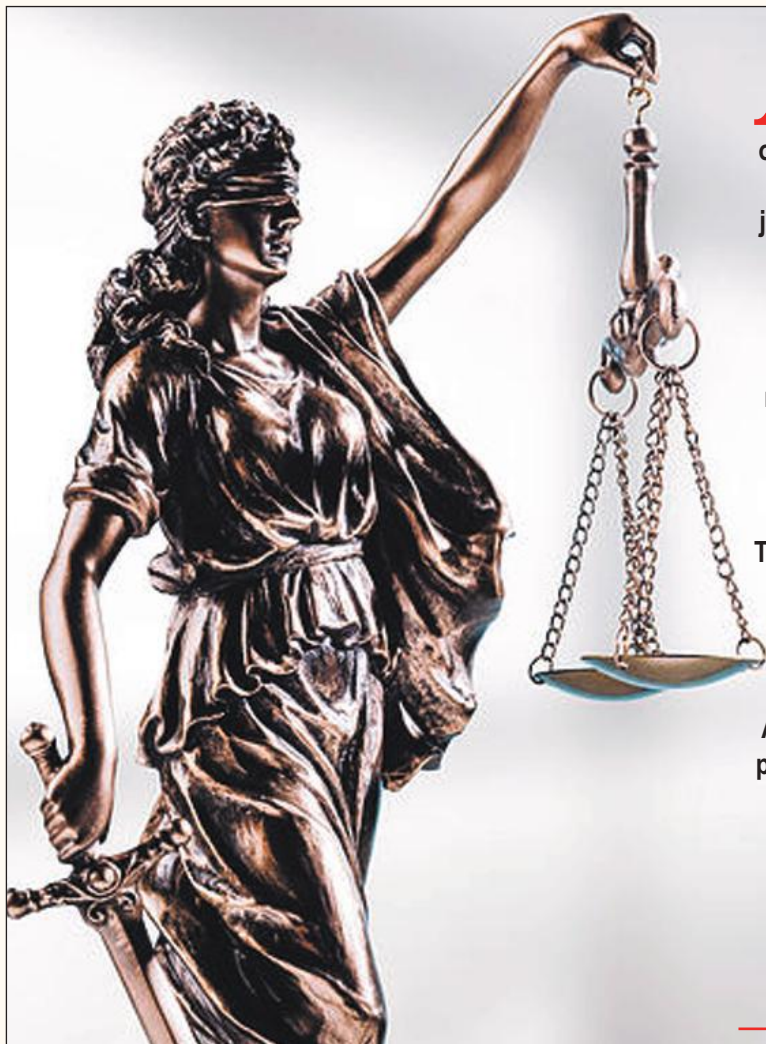
Cheerz...

Bwana



## Judicial Inquiry into 'Removal' of Peter Uricek

# “The DPP’s decisions cannot be dictated or motivated by statements made by politicians whoever they may be”



**A** considerable fuss has been created around the recent “extraction” of a Slovak national and his handing over to waiting Slovak authorities despite a restraining order from a Supreme Court judge. Official communiques from the PMO or reports in the press have muddled waters to the extent that the Office of the DPP, upon referral by the judge, has instituted a judicial inquiry by a district magistrate to hear all parties, conduct any investigations and report on the matter. Lex provides some insight over the legal questions at issue.

The latest development in this matter is that the Attorney General has obtained last Wednesday a stay order of the judicial inquiry. In the absence of all the facts contained in the motion of the Attorney General at the time of writing, but presumably based on the argument that the DPP would not have in law the power to order the inquiry, we will examine more comprehensively the issues involved next week with more facts forthcoming in the next few days.

LEX

\* It would seem the matter relating to the “lawful removal”, as qualified by the PMO’s communique, dated 28 April 2022, of Peter Uricek who was the object of an Interpol Red Notice and wanted for prosecution in the Slovak Republic for criminal activities in that country, will not be laid to rest any time soon in light of the DPP’s decision to request the District Magistrate of Port Louis ‘South’ to carry out an “inquiry and examination” into his ‘removal’. Why is it so important to have this inquiry?

Simply because there has been a blatant flouting of the rule of law that is supposed to exist in our country. The flouting resides in the contempt shown for the Order of Judge Maghooa and for the removal of the foreign national from the jurisdiction of the District Court where extradition proceedings were ongoing. The government seems to be basking in the comfort that the removal was lawful. But the Order of Judge Maghooa was also to prohibit removal as well as deportation and extradition pending the extradition proceedings.

\* There have been comments about the fact that the DPP relied on Section 64 of the District and

Intermediate Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act, to set up the judicial inquiry, rather than the law on which he relied for the Kistnen inquiry. Why does this matter?

A judicial inquiry is an inquiry where there is no accused. It is held in cases where a person has committed suicide; has been killed by another, or by an animal or by machinery or an accident; has died under circumstances raising a reasonable suspicion that some person has committed an offence; or has died in prison or while in custody of the Police.

Section 64 provides that the Director of Public Prosecutions may also require a Magistrate to carry out an inquiry and examination into any offence. I insist any offence.

\* How far can this judicial inquiry go, and what are its limits, if any?

A judicial inquiry is fact finding exercise wherein the inquiring magistrate has a latitude to ask questions and order further investigations or production of evidence in the form of documents and summon witnesses and visit

any spots that may be relevant to the inquiry. A judicial inquiry can only be ordered in the cases provided for by law. Other inquiries are conducted by the police.

\* The DPP’s decision to call for a judicial inquiry has been taken following the Judge’s order, made on 28 April 2022, “for any action he (the DPP) deems appropriate”. Was the DPP duty-bound to act on the Judge’s order, or could he have decided to let the matter rest?

No. The DPP must have studied the facts and circumstances surrounding the referral of the Order by the judge as well as the facts and circumstances surrounding the removal of the foreign national and must have concluded that there may be a possible offence, hence the directing of the inquiry.

“We should not speculate on whether the DPP was satisfied or not with the explanations. An independent DPP is and should be impervious to political statements or justifications. His duty is to look at the facts brought to his attention, study them and take decisions. The DPP’s decisions cannot be dictated or motivated by statements made by politicians whoever they may be...”

\* The Judge’s order came on the same day the Slovak National was ‘removed’ from the Mauritian territory, and two days prior to the issue of the PMO’s communique on 30 April 2022. Is it possible that the Judge could have taken a different course of action had he taken cognizance of the explanations of the PMO?

No. The lawyers of the government should have gone to the judge any time, day or night, and place any new facts before him and move for a rescission of the Order. It is as simple as that. Once the interim order would have been discharged or rescinded, the next step would have been to put a stop to the extradition proceedings and deport the foreign national. As it is, the Order of the judge was flouted and the jurisdiction of the magistrate hearing the extradition proceedings was also flouted.

\* What other options were available to the Judge in this matter? Could he have ordered the Commissioner of Police to submit explanations about the ‘removal’ of the Slovak national?

Of course. He could have immediately summoned the Commissioner of Police, the Director of Civil Aviation, the Passport and Immigration Officer for explanations and justifications for breaching his Order.

● Cont. on page 8



# Signs of desperation

● Cont. from page 3

As in the case of Alvaro Sobrinho, the Peter Uricek three-year permit once again exposes the incompetence with which the due diligence exercises are carried out. It is such ineptitude and absence of rigour which exposed the feet of clay and systemic strategic deficiencies of our financial jurisdiction.

In a desperate bid to garner funds by all means, an Occupation Permit, which is a combined work and residence permit, is granted to a 'professional' earning a monthly basic salary of at least MUR 60,000. It is therefore crucial that the tenor of these questionable schemes be overhauled and more rigorous control and due diligence protocols are in place in strict compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and EU norms, now that Mauritius has recast its jurisdiction to eliminate its strategic deficiencies and been removed from both the FATF grey and the EU black list.

## Still want some more

The decried Independent Power Producers (IPP) contracts have hit the headlines to haunt government once again. The patently leonine and carved-in-stone contracts are still not good enough. The raging debate between government and the opposition regarding Terragen's decision to stop energy production yet again distracts attention from more fundamental issues and principles relating to the production of energy, a public utility, in the country.

Despite the government rhetoric that '60% of the country's energy needs will be produced from green sources by 2030 and that the use of coal will be totally phased out by 2030', the reality is that with the dwindling share of bagasse in the production of energy by the

power plants, the IPPs do not have a leg to stand on without using highly polluting coal which represented the lion's share (39.5%) of energy source in the country in 2020. It must be remembered that highly polluting coal, apart from having health damaging side effects, emits nearly twice more carbon dioxide than natural gas and about one and half times more than gasoline. The IPPs produced around 59.2% of the total electricity generated, and the Central Electricity Board (CEB) the remaining 40.8% in 2020.

If the country is to resolutely eliminate coal use and phase out fossil fuels in line with COP 26 commitments to prevent an impending climate change catastrophe, it is high time to chart a clear roadmap as to how and with what renewable and green energy mix will the objective of producing 60% of the country's energy needs from green sources be achieved by 2030. It is equally important that the shareholding of power producers of a prime public utility is no longer ring fenced by a handful but opened up to include a wider public shareholding and investment funds.

## Rhetoric versus decisive action

Too often the government has catalogued the flawed policies and failures of previous governments to distract attention from its own patent inaction to address socio-economic problems currently faced by the people in a



“Despite the government rhetoric that ‘60% of the country’s energy needs will be produced from green sources by 2030 and that the use of coal will be totally phased out by 2030’, the reality is that with the dwindling share of bagasse in the production of energy by the power plants, the IPPs do not have a leg to stand on without using highly polluting coal which represented the lion’s share (39.5%) of energy source in the country in 2020. It must be remembered that highly polluting coal, apart from having health damaging side effects, emits nearly twice more carbon dioxide than natural gas and about one and half times more than gasoline...”

context of continuously rising prices, falling purchasing power, deteriorating economic fundamentals, a flawed economic model and a crippling mode of governance.

A 'Ministry of Truth' culture and contrived narratives cannot sweep the distress and misery of people under the carpet. This is therefore not the time for hollow rhetoric but competent and decisive actions to address the core concerns of the people and the many ills which hobble the prospects of the country. Not to do so is to reap the whirlwind.

Mrinal Roy

# 'Let us wait and see how long the police inquiry into the Soopramanien Kistnen case will take, which will hopefully be expedited'

● Cont. from page 7

\* On the other hand, would the decision of the DPP, who did take cognizance of the PMO's communique, to call for a judicial inquiry suggest that he would also not be satisfied with the PMO's explanations?

We should not speculate on whether the DPP was satisfied or not with the explanations. An independent DPP is and should be impervious to political statements or justifications. His duty is to look at the facts brought to his attention, study them and take decisions. The DPP's decisions cannot be dictated or motivated by statements made by politicians whoever they may be.

\* Once the inquiry is over and the case file is submitted to the DPP, what action can be taken against any party or institution that may have gone against the interim order issued by the judge against the 'removal' of Peter Uricek from Mauritian territory?

We cannot read in the mind of the

DPP. He will decide after the magistrate submits to him the conclusions of the inquiry.

\* On the basis of the facts that have come in the public domain so far - from press reports but especially from the PMO's communique or even the DPP's -, without prejudging the findings of the judicial inquiry, what could be the outcome of such an inquiry in such circumstances?

It will be for the magistrate to decide on the facts placed before him/her and not on rumours or political statements or the views or conclusions of members of the legal profession or of the public.

\* Soopramanien Kistnen died in mysterious circumstances in October 2020. A first investigation apparently ascribed the death to suicide. Public and media pressure kept the issue alive, and the DPP instituted a judicial inquiry into this case, and this exercise has been completed. But the truth has to this day not emerged. What happens next after the inquiry shall have sub-

mitted its findings?

The matter relating to Soopramanien Kistnen has been referred to the police for investigation in light of the conclusions of the magistrate. Let us wait and see how long the police inquiry will take, which will

hopefully be expedited.

As for the matter relating to the Slovak national, we cannot speculate on the outcome of the judicial inquiry. The DPP will decide in light of the findings of the magistrate.

LEX





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## Amid global concerns over Sri Lanka crisis, president's promise

Stopping short of announcing his resignation, Sri Lanka president Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Wednesday said that the country will get a new Prime minister and a new cabinet "within this week", two days after his brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, stepped down as the country's premier. The country - on the verge of bankruptcy - remains enveloped with violence after Mahinda Rajapaksa announced his decision to step down earlier this week. Rajapaksa - once the country's most powerful political family - are facing a decline amid huge public anger and accusations of misgovernance. Meanwhile, rights groups have expressed grave concerns amid action against demonstrators, reports Hindustan Times.

Here are a few points on Sri Lanka crisis:

1. "I am taking steps to appoint within this week a new Prime minister who has the trust of a majority in parliament, who can win over the confidence of the people and a new Cabinet to control the current situation, to stop the country from falling into anarchy and to continue the government's functions that are at a standstill," Gotabaya Rajapaksa said in a televised address on Wednesday.

2. As he promised a "young cabinet without any Rajapaksas", the 72-year-old



Sri Lanka's defense ministry ordered security forces on Tuesday to shoot anyone causing injury to people or property. Pic - AP

further added: "I will make way for the new Prime minister to present a new program of work and implement it." Earlier, the opposition had ignored his invite to form a unity government. Gotabaya Rajapaksa has been blamed for the country's current economic challenges as people struggle to meet basic needs, which he had linked to international factors.

3. The South Asian country was compelled to suspend \$7 billion in foreign

loans this year out of \$25 billion due by 2026 amid the worst-ever economic crisis. Its total foreign debt is \$51 billion, news agency AP reported.

4. "None of our officers has a desire to take over the government. It has never happened in our country, and it is not easy to do it here," The Defense Ministry's top official, Kamal Gunaratne, was quoted as saying by AP.

5. Mahinda Rajapaksa is being pro-

tested at a naval base in Trincomalee on the northeastern coast, Navy commander Nishantha Ulugetenne has said. Thousands of protesters had tried to break into his residence on Monday, prompting security officials to evacuate the former prime minister and his family.

6. Amid huge unrest, security forces have been told to shoot those who damage public property. A strict curfew has been extended in a bid to quell demonstrations. Nine people - including a lawmaker - have died this week and over 200 have been injured.

7. "Authorities in Sri Lanka must immediately rescind the emergency regulations and shooting orders that provide excessive powers to the police and military, and take immediate steps to respect, protect and fulfill the human rights of peaceful protestors," rights group Amnesty International said.

8. While India has said it extended \$3.5 billion to the crisis-hit neighbour, it also denied reports on New Delhi sending troops to Colombo. "The High Commission would like to categorically deny speculative reports in sections of media and social media about India sending her troops to Sri Lanka," the foreign ministry said.

## North Korea registers first-ever Covid case, Kim Jong orders nationwide lockdown

North Korea confirmed its first-ever Covid cases on Thursday and declared a "serious emergency", with leader Kim Jong Un ordering lockdowns across the country.

The nuclear-armed country had never admitted to a case of Covid-19 and the government had imposed a rigid coronavirus blockade of its borders since the start of the pandemic in 2020, reports AFP.

But samples taken from patients sick with fever in Pyongyang "coincided with Omicron BA.2 variant", said the official Korean Central News Agency.

Top officials, including leader Kim Jong Un, held a crisis politburo meeting on Thursday to discuss the outbreak and announced they would implement the "maximum emergency epidemic prevention system".

Kim "called on all the cities and counties of the whole country to thoroughly lock down their areas," KCNA reported, although details of the restrictions were not immediately given.

Kim told the meeting that the goal was to "quickly cure the infections in order to eradicate the source of the virus spread," according to KCNA.

"For Pyongyang to publicly admit



North Korea reports first suspected coronavirus case. Pic - Voice of America

omicron cases, the public health situation must be serious," Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul said.

"Pyongyang will likely double down on lockdowns, even though the failure of China's zero-Covid strategy suggests that approach won't work against the Omicron variant."

### No vaccines

North Korea has turned down offers of vaccinations from the World Health Organization, and China and Russia.

Accepting vaccines through the WHO's Covax scheme "requires transparency over how vaccines are distributed," Go Myong-hyun, researcher at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies told AFP.

North Korea is surrounded by

countries that have battled -- or are still fighting to control -- significant outbreaks of Omicron.

South Korea, which has high rates of vaccination, has recently eased almost all Covid-19 restrictions, with cases sharply down after an Omicron-fuelled spike in March.

Neighbouring China, the world's only major economy to still maintain a zero-Covid policy, is battling multiple Omicron outbreaks. Major Chinese cities, including the financial capital Shanghai, have been under strict lockdowns for weeks.

It appears North Korea will try to avoid China's extreme measures like "virtually imprisoning residents in apartments", said Cheong Seong-chang of the Sejong Institute.

But even more limited lockdowns would create a "severe food shortage and the same chaos China is now facing," he said.

Seoul-based specialist site NK News reported that areas of Pyongyang had already been locked down for two days, with reports of panic buying.

## Russia-China pact most direct threat to world order: EU chief

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday termed Russia's invasion of Ukraine the "most direct threat" to the world order. She also spoke about Russia's "worrying" pact with China.

The commission President made the remarks in Tokyo where the top EU officials have gone for an annual round of talks. The talks come amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine which is nearing three months, with most of the West rallying against Moscow and urging it to exercise restraint in Ukraine.

Russia "is today the most direct threat to the world order with the barbaric war against Ukraine, and its worrying pact with China", news agency AFP quoted her as saying after her meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida along with European Council President Charles Michel.

On Beijing's increasing muscular stance in Asia which was also on the agenda, Charles Michel said, "Our cooperation in Ukraine is critical in Europe, but it's also important in the Indo-Pacific and we also want to deepen our consultation on a more assertive China."

Tokyo recently joined the European Union and Group of Seven nations in imposing trade sanctions on Russia, cramping Moscow's ability to export its oil and gas. This came even as Japan's strong dependence on energy imports, including purchases from Russia, reports Hindustan Times.

Last week Kishida said Japan would "in principle" ban Russian oil but it has been more reluctant to disengage from some projects.

\* Contd on page 10



## NATO to welcome Nordic nations Sweden, Finland as Ukraine fights off Russia

Finland is expected to announce its intention to join NATO with Sweden likely to follow soon after, diplomats and officials said, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine reshapes European security and the Atlantic military alliance.

NATO allies expect Finland and Sweden to be granted membership quickly, five diplomats and officials, paving the way for increased troop presence in the Nordic region during the one-year ratification period.

In the wider Nordic region, Norway, Denmark and the three Baltic states are already NATO members, and the addition of Finland and Sweden would likely anger Moscow, which says NATO enlargement is a direct threat to its own security, reports Reuters.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has cited the issue as a reason for his actions in Ukraine, which has also expressed a desire to eventually join the western alliance.

Moscow has repeatedly warned Finland and Sweden against joining NATO, threatening "serious military and political consequences".

Asked on Wednesday if Finland would provoke Russia by joining NATO, President Sauli Niinisto said Putin would be to blame. "My response would be that

you caused this. Look at the mirror," Niinisto said.

On the frontlines, Ukraine on Wednesday said it had pushed back Russian forces in the east and shut gas flows on a route through Russian-held territory, raising the spectre of an energy crisis in Europe.

Ukraine's armed forces' general staff said on Wednesday it had recaptured Pytomnyk, a village on the main highway north of the second-largest city of Kharkiv, about halfway to the Russian border.

The advance appears to be the fastest that Ukraine has mounted since it drove Russian troops away from the capital Kyiv and out of northern Ukraine at the beginning of April.

If sustained, it could let Ukrainian forces threaten supply lines for Russia's main attack force, and put rear logistics targets inside Russia within range of artillery.

But Russian forces were regrouping to prevent further advances, and had crossed the Donetsk River, where fighting was underway, the Ukraine general staff said on Thursday.

In Vilkhivka, another village near Kharkiv recaptured by Ukrainian forces in early April, resident Tatyana Pochivalova returned to find her home blasted to ruins.



In the south, Ukraine's military said early on Thursday it had destroyed two tanks and an ammunition depot in the Russian-controlled Kherson region.

Wednesday's move by Ukraine to cut off Russian gas supplies through territory held by Russian-backed separatists was the first time the conflict has directly disrupted shipments to Europe.

Gas flows from Russia's export monopoly Gazprom to Europe via Ukraine fell by a quarter after Kyiv said it was forced to halt all flows from one route, through the Sokhranovka transit point in southern Russia.

Ukraine accused Russian-backed separatists of siphoning supplies.

Should the supply cut persist, it would be the most direct impact so far on European energy markets. The implications for Europe, which buys more than a third of its gas from Russia, were not immediately clear.

Russian forces have also continued to bombard the Azovstal steelworks in the southern port of Mariupol, last bastion of Ukrainian defenders in a city.

Ukraine says it is likely that tens of thousands of people have been killed in Mariupol. Ukrainian authorities say between 150,000 and 170,000 of the city's 400,000 residents are still living there amid the Russian-occupied ruins.

## Sherpa woman climbs Everest for 10th time, breaks own record

A Nepali Sherpa broke her own record as the most successful female climber of Mount Everest by reaching the summit of the world's highest peak Thursday.

Lakpa Sherpa and several other climbers took advantage of favorable weather to reach the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) summit early in the morning, her brother and expedition organizer Mingma Gelu said. He said she was in good health and was safely descending from the peak.

Sherpa, 48, never got a chance to get a formal education because she had to start earning a living by carrying climbing gear and supplies for trekkers. Thursday's successful ascent was her 10th — the most times any woman has climbed Everest — and she has always said she wanted to inspire all women so they too can achieve their dreams, reports AP.

A native of Nepal, Sherpa lives in the U.S. with her three children in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Another Nepalese Sherpa guide, Kami Rita, reached the summit for the 26th time Saturday, breaking his own record for the most climbs of Everest. Rita led a group of Sherpa climbers who fixed ropes along the route so that hundreds of other climbers and guides can make their way to the top of the mountain later this month.



Nepalese female climber Lhakpa Sherpa. Pic- [cdn.editorji.com](http://cdn.editorji.com)

Hundreds of foreign climbers and an equal number of Sherpa guides are set to attempt climbs of Everest in May, the month when weather conditions in the Himalayan peaks are most favourable for climbing.

## 'Help us': Trapped Ukrainian commander's desperate appeal to Elon Musk

As Russia continues to bombard the strategic port city of Mariupol — home to the sprawling Azovstal steel mill where many Ukrainian troops remain trapped following weeks of resistance, a commander in the war-torn nation has now written to Elon Musk, the world's richest man, urging him to intervene.

Serhiy Volyna, who said he created a Twitter account for the sole purpose of reaching out to Musk, wrote, "People say you come from another planet to teach people to believe in the impossible". Volyna is a commander of the 36th Separate Marine Brigade.

"Our planets are next to each other, as I live where it is nearly impossible to survive. Help us get out of Azovstal to a mediating country. If not you, then who?"

He called on "every person on the planet Earth" to help ensure Musk saw his appeal.

Elon Musk — an avid Twitter user who has also now finalised a deal to buy the social media platform for \$44 billion — is always in the news for his quirky tweets. In recent times, especially after Russia invaded Ukraine, people are using the platform to find news and support, reports Hindustan Times.

Musk, who has more than 92 million followers, has previously used the platform to challenge Russian President



Tesla boss Elon Musk. Pic - API

Vladimir Putin to "single combat" over Ukraine.

Last month, the Tesla chief responded to the Ukrainian plea for internet service by activating his Starlink satellite broadband service. He also sent equipment to help bring connectivity to areas hit by Russian military attacks.



Kugan Parapen

“The MTC-GRA tussle was inevitable

# No one finances elections for fun

*When you pour millions behind a political alliance, you expect your agenda to be fulfilled”*

**Mauritius Times:** There are a lot of hot issues at the moment. There are those relating to energy and the CEB-Terragen conflict, the MTC-GRA tussle about the organisation of horse racing, the rising cost of living and public discontent, the controversy surrounding the deportation of a Slovak national... all of which the government is having to grapple with without a break. We do not know why all this is happening now, but the government seems determined so far not to give way. What is your reading of what's actually happening, and the government's response to them?

**Kugan Parapen:** Of the multiple issues you mention, there is a distinction that can be made. The energy crisis, the rise in the cost of living and the growing public discontent are part and parcel of the ongoing economic crisis. On the other hand, the MTC-GRA tussle about the organisation of horse racing is not related to the rest and has more to do with politics, or rather cronyism. Lastly, the deportation of a Slovak national is another reminder of the erosion of democratic principles in Mauritius. Aggregated together, we have an overall picture of our society in a nutshell.

On the social front, one has to wonder as to whether magma is about to become lava? Leftist political forces in this country have warned the population of the upcoming economic and social chaos for many years but their repeated warnings have mostly fallen upon deaf ears. The so-called extremists of the left, who have been marginalised by most of the mainstream media and laughed at by the neo-liberal political parties, had long predicted

“The energy crisis, the rise in the cost of living and the growing public discontent are part and parcel of the ongoing economic crisis... The MTC-GRA tussle about the organisation of horse racing is not related to the rest and has more to do with politics, or rather cronyism. Lastly, the deportation of a Slovak national is another reminder of the erosion of democratic principles in Mauritius. Aggregated together, we have an overall picture of our society in a nutshell...”



**K**ugan Parapen needs no introduction as an outspoken activist on several fronts and one of the leading economic voices of *Resistans ek Alternativ* (REA). The party's views on economic development priorities, its long challenge of the communal descriptors in our electoral system, are well recognized and he carried a honourable 4% of votes at the November 2017 by-election in Belle-Rose/Quatre-Bornes constituency. We invited him to share his views on the state of the country and government when the atmosphere is loaded with disenchantment, social turmoil and economic uncertainties, and, as expected, he minces not his words.

the downfall of the Mauritian economy. And we can now say that things will get worse if the ills of our economy are not treated at source.

Years of palliative pseudo-economic policies have masked the real issues of our economy from the population but the day of reckoning seems to have arrived. With the debt ceiling having been effectively reached, if not breached, one has to wonder whether the game is nearly over for our debt-binging government?

Many seasoned political observers point to the fact that whenever the population feels impoverished, the ruling government becomes very unpopular. For years, the purchasing power of the population has been eroding but that was more on a relative basis than an absolute one. For example, it is statistically proven that the share of the wealth created that accrues to the labour force has been consistently falling over the last 50 years at the expense of the owners of capital. It is also indisputable that the tax burden carried by the population is disproportionate to that borne by the wealthy. Such relativism unfortunately does not resonate much with the working class. Absolutism however does.

The government's response to the inflation crisis has

been mostly muted so far. And it comes as no surprise. In the years leading to the pandemic, the government had already raided the reserves of the State to finance their electoral promises. We warned then that the country was about to face an economic cyclone with very weak foundations. It is true that rising prices is a global phenomenon but few other countries will experience the magnitude of increase in prices as Mauritius will. Our structural trade imbalances have led to a significant depreciation of the local currency over the last few years and combined with the rising commodity prices, it has created a rather toxic economic environment.

With respect to the MTC-GRA tussle, it was inevitable given the political setup. No one finances elections for fun. When you pour millions behind a political alliance, you expect your agenda to be fulfilled. In this instance, the victim seems to be a historical establishment and may be that is why it is getting so much attention. But this has been happening time and again. Some finance political parties so that they can destroy wetlands to erect a hotel. Others set their eyes on public beaches. Cronies exist at all levels of society. Think of all the juicy state contracts that are allotted under a mandate. Cronyland!

**\* The CEB-Terragen Ltd tussle has again brought to our attention the unresolved issue of energy generation by the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) on terms and conditions that are considered to be both onerous and unusual. Why do you think successive governments have been unable to resolve this issue?**

Crony capitalism knows no barriers. What have our local neo-liberals not said about capitalism? They praise the invisible hands of demand and supply in public and resort to corrupting the allocating mechanism in the shadows.

All IPPs form part of conglomerates who contribute millions year in year out to the coffers of political parties, be it the governing party or opposition mainstream parties.

● Cont. on page 12



# 'Governments since independence have been the 'sirdars' of the ruling economic class.

*If we dissect the anatomy of victorious electoral alliances down the years, we will find that most, if not all of them, surfed on populist measures'*

● Cont. from page 11

Successive governments cannot be thought of as problem solvers for the simple reason that they are part of the problem.

It is not that they have been unable to resolve the energy issue, it is them who have created the issue in the first place. Be it Jugnauth, Ramgoolam or Berenger, they have all contributed to privatise the energy sector of the country. They have all, at some point or other, under their prime ministership, signed off lucrative contracts with the IPPs. Further down the line, they have extended these contracts when they were close to expiring.

There is a reason why the left does not differentiate among these mainstream parties - their modus operandi are exactly the same when it comes to financing. They all eat on the same immoral plate. And we expect them to bite the hand that feeds them? It would seem that crony capitalism abides by an invisible hand after all...

**\* But the suspension of electricity production by Terragen Ltd apparently due to the rise in prices of coal has brought home the risks to our energy security when 60% of the electricity the CEB distributes to the public comes today from the IPPs. Those are risks worth addressing at the earliest lest we do not want to be held hostage by any business interest, isn't it?**

A key industry like the energy industry should never have been privatised in the first place.

It is widely known that the energy industry is one of the most non-cyclical industries for an economy. Irrespective of the stage of the economic cycle, energy consumption patterns remain more or less intact. Pre-IPP, the Central Electricity Board was producing all of the energy requirements of the society. It should have remained the same.

I am a staunch advocate of the principle that economic needs should not be privatised at any cost as opposed to economic wants. Access to economic needs is the locus of human dignity and it is the duty of any responsible and caring government to ensure that all members of society can satisfy those needs in the most efficient manner.

Efficiency has often been associated with profit maximisation because it incorrectly assumes efficiency has to do with business interest only. From a societal perspective, efficiency has a whole different meaning. Efficiency pertains to welfare maximisation for society rather than profit maximisation. And what better way to optimise welfare than to ensure that access to basic needs is done in an efficient manner, that is, in a cost-effective way.

From my understanding, Terragen Ltd has evoked a 'force majeure' to terminate the contract. How can a rise in the price of raw materials (in this case, charcoal) be a 'force majeure'? Or are there loopholes in the contract?

In any case, it would seem the era of privatisation of profits and socialisation of losses is still on. It remains to



**“The support for the government and even the Prime Minister are also at very low levels. Typically, if you support the government, you would want to say it out loud when your party is in power. The fact that only a small proportion of the electorate openly supports the government suggests in my opinion that the unpopularity of the regime is deep rooted...”**

**“Governments since independence have been the 'sirdars' of the ruling economic class, trying to imitate them along the way. If we dissect the anatomy of victorious electoral alliances down the years, we will find that most, if not all of them, surfed on populist measures which garnered the adherence of the population. Think free transport or higher pensions, for example. When was the last time the population voted for a progressive economic programme?”**

**“Years of palliative pseudo-economic policies have masked the real issues of our economy from the population but the day of reckoning seems to have arrived. With the debt ceiling having been effectively reached, if not breached, one has to wonder whether the game is nearly over for our debt-binging government?”**

be seen how the government reacts to the situation and my gut feel tells me the answer will lie somewhere in the budget.

**\* As regards public discontent about the erosion of their purchasing power, Government has not been more forthcoming in terms of concrete measures to mitigate the hardships of less-well-off sections of the population, except for the importation and price subsidies being granted to commodity importers and retailers. Can it do more?**

Of course, it can do more. It should do more given the hardships faced by the population, especially those at the bottom of the ladder. It is all a matter of willingness. In so many countries around the world, the government has been very reactive in the face of soaring fuel prices. Some have reduced the tax levied at the petrol pump while others have provided a rebate to consumers.

In Mauritius, no immediate action has been taken. Under the prime ministership of Pravind Jugnauth, more than five additional rupees have been levied per litre of fuel. That was done in a context when oil prices were at historical lows. The tide has now turned and the population is being pinched very hard by the opportunistic tax policies implemented in previous years.

Furthermore, vehicle drivers are still contributing towards the purchase of vaccines. When will this come to an end? Finally, the State levies 15% of Value Added Tax on the different levies slapped on fuel prices. This must be one of the most ridiculous and abusive policies ever. In effect, the State is taxing taxes! One for the textbooks!

**\* Public debt is going up, yet the government seems unable to get its priorities right: billions will go into what are considered to be white elephants, many more have gone into the MIC for distressed companies; there is also unchecked depreciation of the rupee. What do you anticipate might happen if there is no reorientation in policy in the forthcoming Budget 2022-23?**

Young professionals are fleeing the country as they see no future for them and their children here. One could argue that some migration has always taken place over the years but the trend seems to have accelerated over recent months. While I would not go as far as saying that it is akin to rats leaving a sinking ship, I still believe this fact to be an excellent barometer of where we are heading.

The Mauritian economy is flawed and has been for a while now. Without any reorientation, the economy will crash. Many are flaunting the fact that Mauritius now boasts the highest income per inhabitant in Africa as a major achievement. Does the population feel rich? Do the people who took to the street to protest against rising prices feel rich? Do civil service officers feel rich? Do pensioners feel rich? If none of these feel rich, the legitimate question to ask then is where is the wealth? Not in the gentrified camp for sure!

● Cont. on page 13



# 'Mauritius now boasts the highest income per inhabitant in Africa. Does the population feel rich?'

## Do civil service officers feel rich? Do pensioners feel rich?'

● Cont. from page 12

**\* But it would however be too much to expect a drastic change in policy with general elections approaching and with the focus shifting towards the election campaign likely to start next year itself and whatever goodies will be given out. What do you think?**

The political class has been a fervent adept of TINA (There Is No Alternative) as far as economic models are concerned. It would be naive to think that they can reinvent themselves now.

In so many ways, governments since independence have not really crafted a sustainable economic model for the country. Rather, they have been the 'sirdars' of the ruling economic class, trying to imitate them along the way. In all honesty, bringing forward real impactful change is maybe beyond most of them.

If we dissect the anatomy of victorious electoral alliances down the years, we will find that most, if not all of them, surfed on populist measures which garnered the adhesion of the population. Think free transport or higher pensions, for example. When was the last time the population voted for a progressive economic programme?



**“All IPPs form part of conglomerates who contribute millions year in year out to the coffers of political parties, be it the governing party or opposition mainstream parties. It is not that successive governments have been unable to resolve the energy issue, it is them who have created the issue in the first place. Be it Jugnauth, Ramgoolam or Berenger, they have all contributed to privatise the energy sector of the country...”**

**\* It is highly unlikely that Xavier Duval's motion of no confidence would pass in Parliament. But do you think it's necessary and properly timed?**

In any worthy democracy, a motion of confidence is a shrewd move when the socioeconomic situation is tense and uncertain. It forces the bearers of power under a representative democratic system to show their hands and decide whether they want to continue to support the incumbent government or withdraw that support.

Of course, such an exercise will most likely prove futile in our local context as far as change of allegiance is concerned. Nevertheless, I feel it is important to have on record the members of the majority in this conjuncture. Further down the line, none of them will be able to absolve from their collective responsibility.

In any case, the parliament has hardly been a temple of democracy in recent times and the futility of the motion

**“When you pour millions behind a political alliance, you expect your agenda to be fulfilled. In this instance, the victim (MTC) seems to be a historical establishment and may be that is why it is getting so much attention. But this has been happening time and again. Some finance political parties so that they can destroy wetlands to erect a hotel. Others set their eyes on public beaches. Cronies exist at all levels of society...”**



of no confidence can hardly match the futility of the parliament itself.

**\* If we go along with the survey results of Weekend/Straconsult, published last Sunday, the current ruling alliance should not have cause for worry: it's still way ahead of the main opposition parties. What's your own assessment of the 'rapport de forces' on the ground?**

That is one way to look at it.

Another perspective is that the support for the government and even the Prime Minister are also at very low levels. Typically, if you support the government, you would want to say it out loud when your party is in power. The fact that only a small proportion of the electorate openly supports the government suggests in my opinion that the unpopularity of the regime is deep rooted.

That does not necessarily translate in support for mainstream opposition parties but among those who did not express any support for a particular party (the most popular category by the way), it is very unlikely that they would actually vote for the government should elections be behind the door.

**\* Again, if you give some credit to the survey, the leaders of the different mainstream leaders have cut a very poor figure. It's nowhere near the public rating of political leaders of Europe or Asia. At the recent French presidential elections, for example, Macron beat Le Pen with 58.5% of the votes to her 41.5%, even if turnout was 72.0%, the lowest in a presidential election run-off since 1969. The survey results would suggest that there's some hard thinking that our political parties would do well to undertake in light of the very low confidence they seem to enjoy from the electorate. What do you think?**

The political establishment is progressively being ousted from power around the world.

It is worth remembering that both political powerhouses of French politics (Les Republicains/Valerie Pécresse and Le Parti Socialiste/Anne Hidalgo) could not score more than 5% during the first round of the French presidential elections. In the United States, Donald Trump has stormed the Republican camp. In Italy, Spain and many other European countries, traditional parties are no longer relevant. To some extent, recent events in

Sri Lanka do suggest that winds of change are strengthening.

The demise of many traditional parties has to do with disillusionment of the electorate who feel they have been hung out to dry. The latest survey in Mauritius does point in that direction. A careful and alternative analysis of electoral results over the last three general elections in Mauritius shows a progressive shift of the electorate away from the traditional parties. This trend should accelerate in the coming years...

## To Our Readers

### Subscribe to the Mauritius Times

67 years ago, *Mauritius Times* was founded with a resolve to fight for justice and fairness and the advancement of the public good. It has never deviated from this principle no matter how daunting the challenges and how costly the price it has had to pay at different times of our history. We are determined not to abandon this line of action, which is the cardinal principle of our *raison-d'être*. This is what has given *Mauritius Times* a unique standing in the local publishing world.

Our production circumstances have changed since last year with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we have had to move to the digital platform. We have since March 2020 freely circulated the paper via WhatsApp and by email, besides making it available on our website.

Readers will no doubt appreciate that it takes a lot of time, hard work, money and the continued support of our contributors to produce the *Mauritius Times* - as we have done without interruption in these last 67 years.

We are so grateful that our voice and readership extend far beyond our actual subscription base of loyal well-wishers. But we now need to expand that base of readers who value our independence and commitment to continue improving the paper and reach new audiences.

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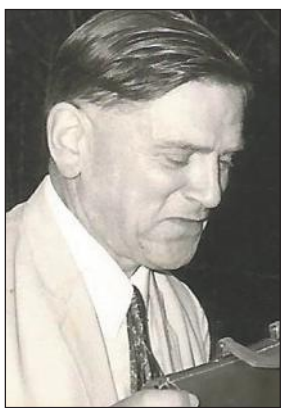
5th Year No 191

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 4 April, 1958

• *The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse.* — Edmund Burke

# The Police Report



Peter Ibbotson



**I**t is clear from the report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Police that the commission was long overdue. Not

because the Commission found justification for the many charges levelled against the Police by Hon. Bissoon-doyal, but because of the many recommendations which the Commission has found fit to make concerning a wide variety of matters — matters which, if the recommendations are implemented, will all help to increase the efficiency of the Police Department and improve the relationship between Police and Public. No Police Force can function efficiently unless it enjoys the respect and confidence of the public, and clearly (from what the Commission has said and from what the many witnesses said — according to the press reports at the time) the Mauritius Police does not enjoy either.

Complaints that the Police act with partiality, either on grounds of race or colour, were, said the Commission, sometimes justified. In paragraph 26 we read: "We did get a clear impression that some classes of persons appeared to be given a privileged position at times." One has to read between the lines to discover who these privileged classes are, but of course the Commission dare not say so outright. What it does say is: "In 1956 there were 10,802 motor vehicles registered and 10,708 persons prosecuted for traffic offences" (paragraph 24). Later we read paragraph 92: "the standard (*of driving - P.I.*) in respect of private vehicles left a good deal to be desired, and although the records show a multiplicity of offences by Public Service Vehicle drivers the latter were, in the main, careful and responsible". The clear inference is that bus and lorry drivers, who are of course Indo-Mauritians or Coloured almost to a man, are prosecuted for traffic offences whereas many private drivers are not prosecuted for the same offences. And in paragraph 95 we read of speeding and careless driving (cutting in and cutting out) especially along the Route Royale at peak periods. And whose cars are they which use the Route Royale at these times particularly? The commercial and agricultural magnates travelling between their offices in Port Louis and their homes in Curepipe, Vacoas, Quatre Bornes — it is their cars which are among those singled out for special reference in this paragraph.

Although the Police appear very industrious in prosecuting for traffic offences, this industry is clearly at the expense of efficiency in other directions. Paragraph 91, for example, criticises the Police in these words: "We examined a number of cases involving serious and fatal

accidents and we were by no means convinced that in such cases a careful and accurate picture was presented in the subsequent police reports. Quite apart from any prosecution for either wilful or negligent acts it is important that an investigation should be as thorough and detailed as possible to support any civil claim which may be justified by the consequences, and in this respect the Police certainly have some responsibilities".

It cannot be too often emphasised that the duty of the police is to see justice administered, not simply to secure conviction. In this connection, I have had many letters from readers who have said that a constable's promotion is helped by the number of successful prosecutions he is responsible for; and the fact that every registered vehicle is, on average, involved in one prosecution in a year adds support to my correspondents' letters.

In the *Mauritius Times* last year, during the sitting of the Commission into the Police, I referred at length to the case of the late Mr H.V. Orange who was knocked down by a car which failed to stop and whose injuries proved fatal. This case is only one which bears out the Commission's criticism of police enquiry methods. Another case which substantiates complaints of police laxity in making enquiries related to an accident in Desforges Street, Port-Louis on February 10 at 6.30 pm (18 30 hours) or thereabouts. Behind a parked car, two cyclists were followed by a car driven by a young man. The car hit the rear cyclist and carried him forward so that he hit the front cyclist. Both cyclists were carried forward and made contact with the parked car. Their cycles were badly damaged; they themselves were taken to hospital where, after waiting over an hour, they were given anti-tetanus injections and sent along to the Police Station where they were kept a further two hours. "But," says my informant, "the exasperating thing is the Police ignore the real driver who caused the accident."

Many of the Commission's recommendations are designed to bring Mauritian police practice in line with British police practice. This is all to the good. The British police are looked up to all over the world; at least, the police of England, Wales and Scotland are. The police of Northern Ireland are on a different footing, being armed agents of the semi-Fascist government of Northern Ireland which enjoys the dubious distinction of being one of the only two police states (South Africa is the other) in

the British Commonwealth. The police of Great Britain is efficient beyond compare; even when below strength, it keeps crime well under control. Few criminals elude detection and punishment for long. One very important factor in the success of the police in the UK is that the police forces of Great Britain enjoy the confidence and respect of the general public. They can do so in Mauritius too, if by their actions *at all times* they set out to *earn* it.

Many witnesses before the Commission made allegations of corruption in the police. The Commission recognised the danger of such corruption being possible; and to lessen the risk of corruption it recommended higher salaries for all ranks. It recommended, too, legislation to control the activities of those blood-sucking parasites, the moneylenders. To deal with corruption first. In England, there have been two cases very recently where policemen have been alleged to be corrupt. One was in Brighton; it will be recalled that two members of the Brighton CID received prison sentences and the Chief Constable, though found not guilty by the jury, was nevertheless verbally castigated by the judge when he passed sentence on the two detectives. Then there is the case of the Chief Constable of the Worcester City Police, suspended by the city police authorities pending investigation of his conduct as treasurer of the Police Club by senior policemen from another area. On another plane, a city recently criticised its chief constable for his conduct in private life. All these cases show how jealous British police authorities are of the good name of their police forces. And the same should be the case in Mauritius. It should be the duty of the Commissioner of Police thoroughly to investigate all charges of corruption (of however trivial a nature — even accepting a cigarette as a bribe not to report a cyclist for riding without a front light) against any of his men, and to publish the results of such investigations promptly. People should know not merely that justice has been done, but that justice has been seen to be done.

All the professional and technical recommendations, which if implemented as they should be will make the Mauritius Police a model of the British local police force, are praiseworthy. One hopes that they will be implemented, and that very quickly. One hopes too that the cadet system will be operated fairly and not become another field of favouritism; we do not want the *filis de papa* in the police force as well as in the sugar industry. The recommendation about moneylenders should also be given effect very quickly.

Control over the moneylender is something which the *Mauritius Times* has sought for a long time; I have before now written about it in the Mauritius press. Legislation along British lines, setting a maximum chargeable rate of interest, is long overdue. And the suggestion that a policeman borrowing from a moneylender should be reported to the Commissioner is excellent. The policeman has a position to maintain: in all he does he must be punctilious that he does not bring the good name of his force into disrepute and going to a moneylender is one of the surest ways of dragging the good name of any profession into the mud. I repeat if the recommendations of the Police Report are carried out Mauritius will have a far better Police Force.



# Trusting societies are overall happier – a happiness expert explains why



Trust in other people and in public institutions is one key predictor of happiness.  
Pic - Universal Group via Getty Images

## ● Cont. from page 2

In Finland, trust in other people – and in public institutions – is exceptionally high. In 2019, Finnish people reported high levels of trust in police, the government and one another.

Only 2.8% of people reported that crime was a major worry, demonstrating a lack of concern about trusting other people.

Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland and the Netherlands followed Finland as the happiest countries in 2021, according to this analysis. Like Finland, these countries have extremely high levels of both trust and happiness.

In a high-trust environment, people go about their lives with the easy assurance that others around them are generally honest and even benevolent. These sorts of strong human connections have been shown to promote happiness.

By comparison, in a low-trust environment, people are suspicious. They feel they must always be on guard, in case other people attempt to deceive, exploit or take advantage of them.

Afghanistan ranked as the least happy country in the 2022 World Happiness Report.

In 2019, two years before the Taliban overtook the country, Afghans reported feeling low satisfaction in public services like water quality, roads, health care and education. Most of those surveyed in Afghanistan also said in a 2019 Gallup world poll that corruption in government and business was endemic.

It takes no great insight to understand why high-trust societies tend to be happier than places where trust is low. People find it easier to build or strengthen connections to others when they generally trust everyone, from their acquaintances to their spouses.

## Emotional energy

Trust also promotes happiness in more subtle ways.

Everyone has a limited amount of emotional energy. The more trusting a society is, the fewer emotional resources we must devote to everyday interactions. The less someone has to worry about being pickpocketed, for example, the more emotional energy they have

available to spend time nurturing relationships with family, friends, co-workers and neighbours.

Research has shown that investment in community and these kinds of relationships is likely to pay off in the form of a happier life.

## Equality matters

Finally, it is also important to consider how happiness is distributed among individuals across society. This is known as happiness equality.

Evidence strongly suggests that lower levels of happiness inequality within a society promote higher levels of average life satisfaction. The more equal a society's distribution of happiness, the happier people tend to be.

So, if more trust produces more happiness equality, and more happiness equality means higher levels of happiness itself, then trust should, once again, promote greater happiness.

A variety of factors are at work behind this connection. The most obvious one, perhaps, is that people generally care about the well-being of others.

Efforts to reduce inequality of happiness are likely to raise happiness for all.

This dynamic creates a cycle – the more we take the happiness of others into consideration, the more we appreciate life.

*Benjamin Radcliff,  
Professor of Political Science,  
University of Notre Dame*



## Royal College Port-Louis Alumni Association

Royal College Port-Louis, Cassis, Port Louis  
Reg No: 9809

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **Royal College Port-Louis Alumni Association** is inviting all its members to its Annual General Meeting, which will be held at Tamil League, Réduit, on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 18:30.

#### AGENDA:

1. Reading and Approval of minutes of AGM 2020
2. Combined President's Report 2020-2021
3. Combined Treasurer's Report 2020-2021
4. Approval of Financial Accounts 2020 & 2021
5. Election of Management Committee members for the year 2022
6. Appointment of two Auditors
7. Motion for "amendments to the Rules of the Association", for
  - a. The creation of a new membership category: Lifetime Honorary Member for former students of age sixty-five and above requiring no membership admission fee nor annual membership subscription fee, effective subject to the approval of the Registrar of Association. Lifetime Honorary Members will have no voting rights at General Meetings.
  - b. The holding of the General Meetings, including Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings, with the possibility of member participation using web conferencing technology. Attendance of members, participating to the General Meetings via web conferencing technology, will be verified and certified by the Secretary and Assistant Secretary.
  - c. Voting at General Meetings can also be via visual and verbal confirmation from members should participation to the General Meetings be via web conferencing technology.
  - d. The option to record the proceedings of General Meetings where web conferencing technology has been used for participation of members.
8. Motion for an exceptional annual membership fee waiver for Year 2021 for members compliant as at 31 December 2021 in view of the sanitary situation prevailing in Mauritius and limited activities of the Association during 2021.
9. AOB

Members, who will not be able to attend the Annual General Meeting, may vote by proxy through another member. The proxy form will be available on the Association's website [<https://www.rcplaa.org>] and via the Association's communication channels. Scanned copies of the signed proxy forms will need to be submitted to the Secretary via email at [rcplalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:rcplalumniassociation@gmail.com) by latest Monday 16th May 2022.

Important note: The Annual General Meeting will follow strict Covid-19 sanitary protocols and will be restricted to a maximum of 50 attendees. Members, wishing to attend the meeting in person, are requested to confirm their participation, by latest Sunday 15th May 2022, via email to the Secretary, at [rcplalumniassociation@gmail.com](mailto:rcplalumniassociation@gmail.com).

Secretary

12 April 2022

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## Early English lessons have lasting effects

An international research team has examined how English lessons in primary school affect language proficiency in this subject in secondary school. Children who started learning English in the first grade of primary school performed significantly better in listening and reading comprehension in grade nine than children who started in grade three. The study was a continuation of an earlier paper that had only covered the period up to the seventh grade and couldn't find any such learning advantage.

The team headed by Prof Markus Ritter from Ruhr-Universität Bochum (RUB) and Dr Nils Jäkel from the University of Oulu, Finland, in cooperation with Dr Michael Schurig from the Technical University of Dortmund, describes their findings in the journal 'System'.

The study included data from around 3,000 students who participated in a longitudinal study conducted in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, between 2010 and 2014. The same data had also been used in the previous study, the results of which the researchers had published in 2017.

The previous study had found: Children who had started English lessons earlier in primary school performed worse in reading and listening comprehension in grade seven than children who had not started English lessons until grade three.



However, the new analysis showed: In grade nine, the early starters in English performed better than the late starters in English.

Additional background variables such as gender, language of origin or cognitive abilities could not account for the difference between the poorer performance in the seventh grade and the late learning gains in the ninth grade.

### Transition between school types decisive

"We believe the most plausible explanation is that lessons following the transition period in secondary school have been increasingly adapted to the needs of children who start to take English lessons at an early stage," concludes Nils Jäkel, formerly at RUB. "This explanation is in line with research that considers the transition between school types to play a key role in the long-term success of English language education across school boundaries." With this in mind, it is crucial to optimise the didactic coordination and alignment of English classes at the intersection of school types. In addition, it may be that pupils benefit in the long run from more implicit language lessons in primary school.

## Excess sugar consumption costs Canada's health-care system \$5 billion each year

Imagine if the real cost to society of the food you buy at the grocery store was built right into each product's price. Everything with added sugar would cost a whole lot more, according to University of Alberta researchers in a new study in 'The Canadian Journal of Public Health'.

They peg the economic burden of excessive sugar consumption in Canada at \$5 billion a year, thanks to the direct and indirect costs related to 16 chronic diseases. The researchers call on governments to use taxation, subsidies, education and other measures to encourage healthier eating habits, saying it is "an area of urgent need for action" in the post-Covid-19 pandemic era.

"This pandemic has brought us more unhealthy lifestyles -- on the nutrition side, on the physical activity side and on screen time for kids. If we do not act now, we should expect more chronic diseases such as Type 2 diabetes in the years ahead," said principal investigator Paul Veugelers, Prof in the U of A's School of Public Health.

Both Canada's Food Guide and the



World Health Organization recommend we consume less than 10 per cent of our daily energy intake as "free sugar" from foods made with added sugar and naturally sweet juices, honey and syrup. For additional health benefits, less than five per cent is recommended.

Treatment and management of chronic diseases accounts for 67% of all health-care costs in Canada with an annual price tag of up to \$190 billion. The researchers estimated that limiting free sugar consumption to less than 10% of energy intake could reduce the prevalence of diabetes by 27%.

"Diabetes is just a very expensive condition to manage and to treat. It can occur at an early age, and you can live with it for a long, long time. Kidney issues, dialysis, amputation, those are just a few gruesome examples of where that disease trajectory can go," said Veugelers.

Forty countries and cities around the world have already introduced a special tax on sugar-sweetened beverages such as pop as a disincentive to consumption, building on lessons from tobacco control measures.



## Is it OK to listen to music while studying?

Research suggest it's probably fine to listen to music while you're studying - with some caveats.

It's a good question! In a nutshell, music puts us in a better mood, which makes us better at studying – but it also distracts us, which makes us worse at studying.

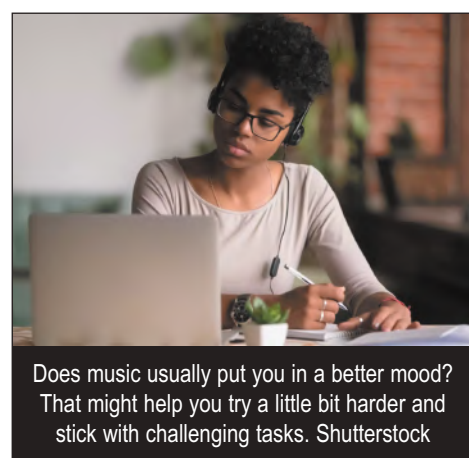
So if you want to study effectively with music, you want to reduce how distracting music can be, and increase the level to which the music keeps you in a good mood.

### Music can put us in a better mood

You may have heard of the Mozart effect – the idea that listening to Mozart makes you "smarter". This is based on research that found listening to complex classical music like Mozart improved test scores, which the researcher argued was based on the music's ability to stimulate parts of our minds that play a role in mathematical ability.

However, further research conclusively debunked the Mozart effect theory: it wasn't really anything to do with maths, it was really just that music puts us in a better mood.

Research conducted in the 1990s



Does music usually put you in a better mood? That might help you try a little bit harder and stick with challenging tasks. Shutterstock

found a "Blur Effect" – where kids who listened to the BritPop band Blur seemed to do better on tests. In fact, researchers found that the Blur effect was bigger than the Mozart effect, simply because kids enjoyed pop music like Blur more than classical music.

Being in a better mood likely means that we try that little bit harder and are willing to stick with challenging tasks.

### Music can distract us

On the other hand, music can be a distraction – under certain circumstances.

When you study, you're using your "working memory" – that means you are holding and manipulating several bits of information in your head at once.

The research is fairly clear that when there's music in the background, and especially music with vocals, our working memory gets worse.

Likely as a result, reading comprehension decreases when people listen to music with lyrics. Music also appears to be more distracting for people who are introverts than for people who are extroverts, perhaps because introverts are more easily overstimulated.

Some clever work by an Australia-based researcher called Bill Thompson and his colleagues aimed to figure out the relative effect of these two competing factors - mood and distraction.

They had participants do a fairly demanding comprehension task, and lis-

ten to classical music that was either slow or fast, and which was either soft or loud.

They found the only time there was any real decrease in performance was when people were listening to music that was both fast and loud (that is, at about the speed of Shake It Off by Taylor Swift, at about the volume of a vacuum cleaner).

But while that caused a decrease in performance, it wasn't actually that big a decrease. And other similar research also failed to find large differences.

So... can I listen to music while studying or not?

To sum up: research suggest it's probably fine to listen to music while you're studying - with some caveats.

It's better if:

- \* it puts you in a good mood
- \* it's not too fast or too loud
- \* it's less wordy (and hip-hop, where the words are rapped rather than sung, is likely to be even more distracting)
- \* you're not too introverted.

Happy listening and good luck in your exams!

**Samantha Lawler**

Assistant professor of astronomy,  
University of Regina





**LAUGHTER**  
*is the best medicine*

**You will walk today!**

I went to a Inter-Religion Integration Seminar.

The Bishop came, laid his hands on my hand and said, "By the will of Jesus Christ, you will walk today!"

I smiled and told him I was not paralysed.

The Rabbi came, laid his hands on my hand and said, "By the will of God Almighty, you will walk today!"

I was less amused when I told him there was nothing wrong with me.

The Mullah came, took my hands and said, "Insha Allah, you will walk today!"

I smiled and told him there's nothing wrong with me.

The Hindu Sadhu came and said, "Beta, you will walk on your legs today."

I said, "Babaji - nothing wrong with my legs."

The Buddhist Monk came, held my hands and said, "By the will of The Great Buddha, you will walk today!"

I rudely told him there was nothing wrong with me.

After the seminar, I stepped outside and found my car had been stolen.

I believe in all religions now...

\*\*\*

### Why do you go to the balcony?

Wife: Why do you go to the balcony when I sing? You don't like to hear or what?

Husband: It's not that. I want the neighbours to see that I am not beating my wife.



\*\*\*

Wife: I wish I was a newspaper so I would be in your hands all day.

Husband: I too wish that you were a newspaper so I could have a new one every day.

\*\*\*

A wife to her husband

Wife: "Honey, what are you doing?"

Husband: "I'm reading our marriage certificate."

Wife: "What for?"

Husband: "I'm looking for the expiry date..."

\*\*\*

### When a wife was asked

What book do you like the best?

She answers: My husband's cheque book.

\*\*\*

Wife is dreaming in the middle of the night and suddenly shouts:

Wife: Up! Quick! My husband is back!

Man gets up, jumps out of the window, hurts himself, and then realizes: Damn, I am the husband!

\*\*\*

Husband to wife: 'I hear you've been telling everyone that I'm an idiot.'

Wife: 'Sorry, I didn't know it was a secret.'

\*\*\*

There was once a wife so jealous that when her husband came home one night and she couldn't find hairs on his jackets she yelled at him:

Wife: Great, so now you're cheating on me with a bald woman!

\*\*\*

Two husbands were having a conversation.

First guy (proudly): My wife's an angel!

Second guy: You're lucky, mine's still alive.

\*\*\*

### Mary Lou

A husband came home from work and his wife slapped him.

"What was that about?" he cried.

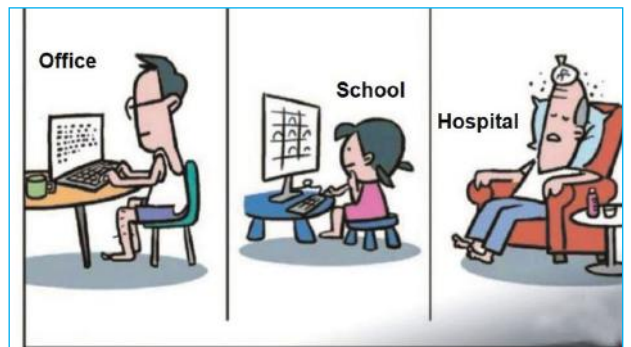
"I found a piece of paper in your pants last night with the name 'Mary Lou' written on it," she said, steaming. "You'd better have a damned good explanation."

"Calm down, honey," he replied. "Remember last week when I went to the races? Mary Lou was one of the horses I bet on, that's all."

The next day when he came home from work, his wife slapped him again.

"Now what?" he cried.

"This morning, your horse called!"



Home become office. Home become school. Now home become hospital... 🤔

\*\*\*

### Texts to wife on cell

Husband: HI, what r u doing Darling?

Wife: I'm dying!

Husband jumps with joy but types 'Sweet Heart, how can I live without you?'

Wife: You idiot! I'm dying my hair.

Husband: Bloody English Language!

\*\*\*

### A dinner conversation that went wrong

Wife: What would you do if I died? Would you get married again?

Husband: Definitely not!

Wife: Why not – don't you like being married?

Husband: Of course, I do.

Wife: Then why wouldn't you remarry?

Husband: Okay, I'd get married again.

Wife: You would? (With a hurtful look on her face).

Husband: (makes audible groan).

Wife: Would you sleep with her in our bed?

Husband: Where else would we sleep?

Wife: Would you replace my pictures with hers?

Husband: That would seem like the proper thing to do.

Wife: Would she use my golf clubs?

Husband: No, she's left-handed.

Wife: ...silence...

Husband: Shit.

\*\*\*

### Consequences of American lifestyle

Wife rushed into her house screaming to her husband.

Husband: Darling, Come quick! Your kids and my kids are beating our kids.

## Life's Lesson

# Let's celebrate life - every moment, every day!

Sometimes, I feel I want to go back in time...

Not to change things, but to feel a couple of things twice.

Sometimes, I wish I was a baby for a while...

Not to be walked in the pram but to see my Mother's smile.

Sometimes, I wish I could go back to school...

Not to become a child but to spend more time with those friends I never met after school.

Sometimes, I wish I could be back in college...

Not to be a rebel but to really understand what I studied.

Sometimes, I wish I was a fresher at my work...

Not to do less work but to recall the joy of the first pay cheque

Sometimes, I wish I could marry again all over...

Not to change the partner but to 'feel' the ceremony

better

Sometimes, I wish my kids were younger...

Not because they grew fast but to play with them a bit more.

Sometimes, I feel I still had some more time to live...

Not to have a longer life but to know what I could give to others.

Since the times that are gone can never come back, let's enjoy the moments as we live them from now on... to the fullest.

Poet unknown



## Life's Lessons

## Intelligence and Wisdom

**I**ntelligence leads to arguments. Wisdom leads to settlements.

Intelligence is power of will. Wisdom is power OVER will.

Intelligence is heat, it burns. Wisdom is warmth, it comforts.

Intelligence is pursuit of knowledge; it tires the seeker. Wisdom is pursuit of truth; it inspires the seeker.

Intelligence is holding on. Wisdom is letting go.

Intelligence leads you. Wisdom guides you.

An intelligent man thinks he knows everything. A wise man knows that there is still something to learn.

An intelligent man always tries to prove his point. A wise man knows there really is no point.

An intelligent man freely gives unsolicited advice. A wise man keeps his counsel until all options are considered.

An intelligent man understands what is being said. A wise man understands what is left unsaid.

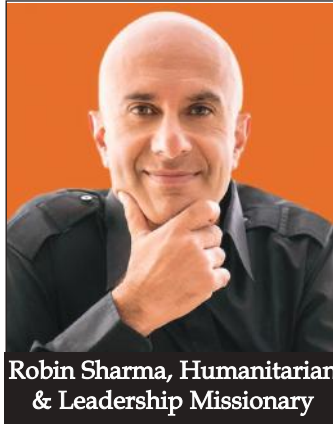
An intelligent man speaks when he has to say something. A wise man speaks when he has something to say.

An intelligent man sees everything as relative. A wise man sees everything as related.

An intelligent man tries to control the mass flow. A wise man navigates the mass flow.

An intelligent man preaches. A wise man reaches.

Intelligence is good but wisdom achieves better results.



Robin Sharma, Humanitarian & Leadership Missionary

**I**'ve had a love affair with reading since I was a teenager.

Reading is a conversation with the author. It increases your hope, enriches your knowledge, and refines your wisdom. It helps you inhabit new universes and assists you in living more intelligently, happily and beautifully.

I can't—in this moment—think of a finer investment than buying great books. For the price of a few cups of coffee, you get a parcel of pages with information upon them that can transform your life. Forever.

Right now, I'm in the garden, enjoying early Springtime and reading a wonderful book. Just read these lines from page 195: "I take a book to meet a friend. I take a book to meet an enemy. My mind is made of books. My marriage is made of books. My children fall asleep every

## The 5 books I give away most

night clutching books."

When I was a kid, our home was filled with vast piles of books. On history and psychology. On sociology and health. On personal development and cooking... A home with book lined shelves is a very special home.

A wise man once told me: "Eat three times a day and you'll be fed. Read three times a day and you'll be wise."

All this brings me to the 5 books I love to give as gifts:

### 1. 'The Prophet' by Kahlil Gibran

This book has been a balm during hard times and a blessing during good ones. It's magnificently hand-crafted by the Lebanese poet who wrote it and is a must for anyone serious about leading life excellently. And soulfully.

### 2. 'The Giving Tree' by Shel Silverstein

The first time I read this book to my children (when they were tiny) I wept, it's that precious. The book celebrates loyalty, honour and love. Read it today.

### 3. 'The Alchemist' by Paulo Coelho

When I was much younger, I'd bring a copy of this masterpiece with

me on vacations. The first time I read it I thought it was simple. The 8th time I read it I thought it was genius. It's a book about being true to yourself. And making your dreams real. I give this book away all the time. I'm grateful to now call Paulo a friend.

### 4. 'Jonathan Livingston Seagull' by Richard Bach

Oh my, what a wise book! It's about leaving the flock and rising higher and continuing versus surrendering and knowing the gifts we carry deep within us. It's more than a book about a bird. It's a manual for a rich and brave life.

### 5. 'As You Think' by James Allen

In a world with too much divisiveness, negativity and outright hatred, this work is about a simple and noble virtue: being positive. I've loved this book for many years, and it's helped me become a better man. It's very layered so read it many times. And give away as many copies as you can.

Ok. That's it for today. Hope this helps...

...and if you're in a place in your business and life where you'd like to learn how to set world-class goals that you then bring to life in the most powerful and elegant ways, then please keep reading...



The rich industrialist was horrified to find the fisherman lying beside his boat, smoking a pipe.

'Why aren't you out fishing?' asked the industrialist.

'Because I have caught enough fish for the day.'

'Why don't you catch some more?'

'What would I do with them?'

'You could earn more money. Then you could have a motor fitted to your boat to go into deeper waters and catch more fish. Then you would have enough money to buy nylon nets. These would bring you more fish and more money. Soon you would have enough money to own two boats... maybe even a fleet of boats. Then you would be a rich man like me.'

'What would I do then?'

'Then you could sit back and enjoy life.'

'What do you think I'm doing right now?'

From *Timeless Simplicity* by John Lane

## Short Stories

### The Donkey and the Wolf

**O**ne fine day a donkey was happily grazing on the hills that he did not notice when a wolf had crept up near him. As he lifted up his head to take a break from eating, he saw the wolf that was waiting to attack and eat him.

The donkey knew he would have to think fast if he wanted to save himself. He started crying loudly as if he was badly hurt. The wolf didn't understand what could have suddenly happened to the donkey, so he asked the donkey what the matter was.

"A thorn has pierced my foot; will you help me take it out?" he asked the wolf.

"Why will I do that?" replied the wolf.

"Well, I am requesting it for your benefit. The thorn stuck on my foot is very sharp, so that when you eat me, it will get stuck in your throat and it will not come out. You will have to suffer through immense pain because of the thorn", said the

Being quiet is one of the most difficult things you will ever do...and it can heal you! Silence helps the person to go within and hear their inner voice. Most of the time our inner wisdom is drowned out by the chattering mind. Most people project all of their energy out of their body into the world so much so that they lose touch with the body's inner wisdom.

Silence is a place of great power and healing.

donkey. "But if you remove the thorn first and eat me second, everything will be alright", he added.

The wolf got worried for this throat and thanked the donkey. The wolf approached the donkey to take off the thorn from the donkey's foot. As he went near the donkey to take out the thorn, the donkey kicked him with all his might and ran away from

there as quickly as possible.

The wolf was astounded and did not realize what had happened. He realized that he had lost a few of his teeth. The wolf cursed himself for his foolishness and limped away.

*Moral: Always use your presence of mind to take care of difficult situations and do not listen to others without first using your brain.*



## Diet & Weight Management

# Things you should do at night to lose weight

**W**hen you're trying to lose weight, eating healthful foods and working out regularly are important things to do. But there are also small changes you can try at night to help you slim down, as advised by WebMD.

**Keep evenings busy:** Some-times people overeat at night because they're bored. If that's you, try to fit in some activities before bed. Walking, journaling, chatting with a friend, or reading a book can help distract you from binge eating. Picking up a new hobby -- like painting, playing music, or knitting -- is another great way to distract yourself from chowing down when you're bored.

**Sleep well:** Believe it or not, getting enough sleep can help you when you're trying to lose weight. Having a schedule that you stick to and getting the right amount of shut-eye can help a lot.

### **Work out (but not too late!)**

Physical activity in the early evening can be helpful. Just make sure it's not too vigorous. High-intensity exercise like interval training could affect the quality of sleep you get. It can also make it harder to fall asleep at bedtime. Don't work out too late, either. Stop at least an hour before you go to sleep.

**Don't eat before bed:** If you have dinner or snack too close to bedtime, it might hinder your weight loss efforts. Although the actual time doesn't really matter, many people who eat late at night choose high-calorie foods, which brings

weight gain. Late meals and snacks can also make it harder for you to fall asleep. Aim to stay out of the kitchen from a couple of hours before bedtime until you wake up the next morning.

**Pack your lunch for the next day:** Instead of going out for your midday meal, save some money and pack your lunch the night before. Eating out usually means more fat and sodium. But when you pack your own food, you'll have healthier options. Go for proteins like almonds or chicken/turkey slices, whole grains, low-fat dairy, and plenty of fruits and vegetables.

**Stick to a schedule:** If you notice you're overeating at night, it could be because you haven't eaten enough during the day. The best way to combat that is to make sure that you eat your meals regularly. That way, your body will know when to anticipate food. Eating a snack between lunch and dinner is totally fine, too -- just try not to overdo it.

### **Turn off the TV**

Although you might like to watch television during dinner, screen time while you eat could cause you to accidentally overindulge. It can distract you from how much and what you're eating.

### **Brush and floss right after dinner**

To encourage yourself to avoid night-time eating, make it a habit to brush and floss your teeth after dinner. If your teeth are already clean, you'll probably think



twice before grabbing a snack close to bedtime. Remember to wait at least 60 minutes before brushing—especially if you have had something acidic like lemons, grapefruit or soda.

### **Ease stress**

Stress can lead to weight gain. Try to take time to relax at night. Deep breathing techniques and mindfulness meditation are great ways to chill out. Lowering your stress levels can also do wonders for the

quality and amount of sleep you get.

### **Turn the lights out**

Sleeping in a dark room is another habit to add to your list. It helps you get better sleep. If you're trying to lose weight and get better ZZZs, Cover the windows to block out light. (Try blackout curtains if your blinds don't block light well.) and put your phone and laptop away at least 30 minutes before bedtime. An eye mask can help, too.

## Relationship

# Why are there so many lies in your relationship?

**L**ies are never okay. No matter how small or harmless a lie is, it's still a lie. Lying can destroy relationships within a fraction of a second because relationships are built on the foundation of trust and honesty. And when your partner is leaning towards dishonesty and refraining from telling you the truth, it is important for you to find out why they have been doing so. Nobody likes being lied to. But let's find out why they have been doing so. Here are some reasons why your partner has been lying to you so much recently.

### **\* Infidelity**

They are probably cheating on you. If enough evidence points out the truth that they are not faithful to you and are with other people, then this is a good enough reason why your partner may be straying away from you and is also lying.

### **\* Financial secrets**

Your partner has been trying to hide



financial problems from you. This may be the case where they are super worried about their financial condition and they don't want you to worry more. They also may not want you to know about their borrowed money or gambling habits.

### **\* Doing something wrong**

Your partner may be in some trouble that they don't want you to know about. It may include getting into bad business, family problems and many other issues that they are probably not comfortable sharing with you.

### **\* Protecting secrets**

Your partner may be protecting a few secrets of their own or someone else. If it's the latter's and they are persistent on not sharing it with you, then it is a good sign because they have promised the other person to not share their secret with anybody else. This means your partner is trustworthy.

## Appartement à louer - long terme



Appartement meublé de 3 c.a.c, climatisé, cuisine équipée, piscine et parking, sécurité (24/24) à Trou aux Biches - Complexe Fleury sur Mer  
Tel: 57809413 - 57530881

### To Rent

Fully furnished and air conditioned 3-bedroom apartment at Fleury sur Mer Complex, Trou aux Biches for long-term.  
Parking and 24 hour security, swimming pool  
Tel: 57809413 - 57530881



## New Serial

## Patiala Babes: An interesting tale that supports emancipation of women

**S**ony TV has recently launched *Patiala Babes*, a modern-day story about a daughter helping her mother through the digital age life.

Created and directed by Rajita Sharma under the production house 'Katha Cottage,' *Patiala Babes* feature the progressive relationship between Minnie played by Ashnoor Kaur and her mother, Babita.

Minnie aspires to be a travel photographer because she dreams of travelling the world. Her mother, Babita, is a woman with traditional views and has no idea how the world has changed, and people function.

If you talk Punjab, you can't ignore wife abandonment by wealthy NRI men, which is a major issue across the villages of the granary of India. Well, something similar is the story of the new Sony TV drama, *Patiala Babes*, where Babes, aka Babita (Paridhi Sharma), is dumped by her England-based khasam, Ashok (Bhanujeet Sudan), for another woman, Mitali (Hunar Hali), reports IWMBuzz.

As always, the wronged woman has to be picture perfect. Babes has willingly stayed away from her hubby for 17 long years, to take care of her invalid in-laws and nagging, selfish *nanad* (husband's sister), who lives with them with her good-for-nothing hubby. The family is complete with Babes' idealistic father-in-law and stereotypical mother-in-law. The makers have done their homework and have added *jagrata*, an essential of Punjabi life.

Babes' only support system is her daughter, Mini (Ashnoor Kaur), who has just finished high school and now wishes to pursue her dream career of a globe-trotting adventure photographer. Being very social media (SM) savvy, she loves to post pictures online. Not only this, Mini even effectively uses the threat of SM badmouthing to bring a cheating cooler repair man to heel.

Mini also funnily spurns off the proposal of her



best friend's elder bro. The tension on Babes' face when she hears about Mini getting propositioned was fun and very reflective of *desi* middle class family fears, of their daughters and sisters going astray.

Paridhi, who had attained fame with *Jodha Akbar*, is playing the devout sacrificing mother well. Indian society is still very conservative, and many women will identify with her trials and tribulations, for a woman is still expected to put her happiness last.

Ashnoor (*Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai* fame) is also just right for the chirpy, fun-loving daughter's role. Her dialogues with God are fun and show how today's youth is trying to balance religiosity and modernity in its own unique ways. Like any daughter, she too wants her father's love and attention, which alas, she never gets.

Bad guy Ashok knows that he is wrong, hence does not have the courage to admit his mistakes face to face and emails a voice message to his sister which is heard by all.

In a bid to further paint his character black, the writers create a situation in which he is forced to come back to India and now wants to move in with his new woman, not caring a fig about what will happen to his legally-wedded wife and daughter...

## Gautam Rode: The lockdown taught me to be calmer, take it easy

**A hobby that you picked up amid the lockdown?**

I started doing online shopping a lot. I forgot how it felt to shop in malls and stores. That's become my hobby, and my parents, wife and everyone else is after my life to get it under control!

**A quote that defined that period for you?**

Health is wealth.

Gautam shares his post-lockdown lessons

**What did that period teach**

**you?**

It taught me that money or materialistic things are not important. You never know how long you'll live once the ailment catches you, so it's all about your family and loved ones. Spend time with them, take care of them, take care of your health, and that's all that matters in life.

**Looking back, do you think the lockdown changed you in any way?**

It changed my perspective about life. Earlier, it was all about

work, running around, working and shooting. Now I am calmer. I take things easy with a calm mind.

**One thing that you miss now about the lockdown?**

During the lockdown, I watched everything on OTT platforms. Now when we are back to the old routine and have to go for meetings, sometimes I miss watching the TV. That is one thing. And as a family, we used to spend a lot of time together, I miss that, too.

## YOUR STARS

**Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21**

You may be holding yourself responsible for the outcome of a past relationship. At times, you may feel as if you've gone over the edge with your emotions and sensitivity. By facing your anxieties front on right now, you may build a safe sanctuary and attract the attention you need.

**Lucky Numbers: 3, 12, 19, 23, 36, 40**

**Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19**

In the office, or possibly with a frequent acquaintance, a romantic meeting may be taking place. Start the discussion by introducing yourself and talking about your interests. The more you open your mind, the more you'll be surprised at the future possibilities.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 20, 24, 26, 30, 31**

**Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18**

Take advantage of the chance to improve your own well-being. Even if you're in a relationship, it's crucial to put your mental health first right now, regardless of whether you're single or not. If you're feeling a sense of disappointment or displeasure at how things are, it may be time to establish some limits.

**Lucky Numbers: 15, 16, 20, 31, 34, 35**

**Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20**

If you're committed and ready to take the plunge then do it now. You may breathe a sigh of relief knowing that everyone in your family is on the same page when it comes to making long-term plans for the future. Any misunderstanding will be quickly resolved.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 9, 14, 16, 20, 21**

**Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19**

If you are single, you may be preparing for a friend's forthcoming nuptials. Enjoy this moment since you'll get to meet some interesting individuals who might inspire you to fall in love. Be open to share your feelings when someone knocks on your door.

**Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 10, 14, 30, 31**

**Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20**

If you maintain the same level of resolution and dedication, your present relationship has the potential to blossom into something wonderful. Take advantage of the opportunity and inform your partner about your long-term goals. The best way to approach your family is to work together as a team.

**Lucky Numbers: 8, 9, 10, 16, 20, 21**

**Gemini: May 21 - June 20**

Distractions of any kind should be avoided at all costs. Keep in mind that any immediate pleasure would be dwarfed by the long-term harm that would result. It's in your best interest not to look for comfort outside of your existing relationship; doing so will just cause you more problems.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 17, 19, 21, 23, 30**

**Cancer: June 21 - July 22**

Finding a partner will be easier after you have a clearer idea of what you want in a relationship. If you're single, you may be feeling discouraged by the lack of progress in your love life lately. Spend the time reflecting on what you actually want in a mate.

**Lucky Numbers: 15, 16, 20, 21, 24, 38**

**Leo: July 23 - Aug 22**

You may be able to locate something that pulls you closer to your sweetheart if you search deep enough into your mind. You could believe you know what you want from a relationship, but you might be surprised. Delving inside might be particularly gratifying.

**Lucky Numbers: 12, 17, 18, 26, 30, 31**

**Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22**

Today, your social panorama will expand. Right now, being with people will seem quite satisfying. As your friendships are joyful, and positive, they may help you enhance your relationships. This could be through just asking your pals for assistance in finding a new companion.

**Lucky Numbers: 3, 19, 25, 27, 38, 40**

**Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22**

You won't encounter any big obstacles and may anticipate to receive the results you've worked so hard for. Make plans for the future and keep your spirits up. You have worked hard to get here and it is time to taste success.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 6, 11, 20, 21, 30**

**Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov**

When it comes to getting what you want from your loved one, things may happen faster than you thought. Whether you're looking for a long-term relationship or simply a casual fling, don't be afraid to try new things and meet new people.

**Lucky Numbers: 11, 20, 27, 34, 35, 37**



## South vs Bollywood Debate:

# «For the next 5-8 years, South Indian films will dominate the box office» predicts astrologer



The way Indian cinema works has changed dramatically in recent years. Bollywood films will always be successful, but Southern cinema has taken control, as seen by numerous examples. South Indian cinema, whether it's the *Baahubali* franchise, *RRR*, or *KGF Chapter 2*, has become the new schiz. Koimoi asked renowned astrologer Pandit Jagannath Guruji of Bengaluru if Southern cinema will eclipse Bollywood, and here's what he had to say.

Recently, South Indian cinema has been gaining momentum unseen for a long time. While Bollywood films have had a few hits in comparison to their previous performances. Commercial Hindi films starring superstars like Akshay Kumar (*Bachchan Paandey*) or Ranveer Singh (*83*) have failed to rake in *moolah*. There also has been a recent debate between South vs Bollywood that began with a comment of Kichcha Sudeep on the national language and Ajay Devgn

opposing it. Adding to it all, even Mahesh Babu ended up saying that B'Town cannot afford him, further triggering South vs Bollywood debate.

Pandit Jagannath Guruji, who has made several predictions that have come true, whether for celebrities, politics, or cricket, believes that South Indian cinema is here to stay for the foreseeable future for a while.

"For the next 5 to 8 years, South Indian films will dominate the box office." The major reason as per astrology, why Bollywood is lagging behind is because of the impact of Rahu. The transit of Shani has weakened Bollywood cinema. "It won't be as powerful as Southern cinema," Pandit Jagannath Guruji predicted.

Another logical reason why South Indian cinema shines is the insanely large and devoted fanbase of south actors. Whether it is Prabhas, Mahesh Babu or Ram Charan, celebs there are treated as Gods, and everyone admires them for their calm demeanour.

## DP had her share of insecurities when she stepped into Bollywood

### 'My South Indian accent was frowned upon'

After making her debut with a Kannada movie, Deepika Padukone stepped into Bollywood with Farah Khan's *Om Shanti Om* where she was cast opposite Shah Rukh Khan. Following this, she got offered several films, and she delivered many hits like *Love Aaj Kal*, *Bachna Ae Haseeno* and *Housefull*, at the beginning of her career. But the actor had her share of insecurities when she stepped into Bollywood.



Recently, in an interview with 'Vogue', Deepika said though she never had to struggle with gender bias in the industry, she had her own share of challenges. She said, "Coming from a sports background meant I did not have a natural inroad into Bollywood. My South Indian accent was also frowned upon and I initially worried about being written off because of it."

However, now the actor has achieved a lot in her film career and is all set to take her place as one of the jury members at the 75th Cannes Film Festival. Going forward, Deepika, who has also turned a pro-

ducer, wants to depict mental health in the right way in the movies. She said, "If mental health is depicted in the right way, it can have far-reaching consequences for a country like India, where the conversation around mental health has only just begun."

Besides making the right films on the issue, the actor also wants to bring about a change on a film's set by making a mental health therapist available on the sets. She has brought this change on an individual level as she had a therapist available on the set of her films *Chappak* and *Gehraiyaan*.

## When Salman Khan said Sidharth Malhotra wasn't cut out for Bollywood

With some hits and misses, Sidharth Malhotra has managed to make a mark in Bollywood. However, in a conversation with 'Film Companion', Sidharth recalled how Salman Khan was not sure if he would be able to make a career in the film industry. In the interview, which was taken six years ago, Sidharth said the superstar had suggested him to try his luck on television because "Hindi cinema needs" are different, reports Indian Express.



Tagging it as a "weird story", Sidharth said he had met Salman Khan at his house party, which he hosted after wrapping up a season of *Bigg Boss*. At the time, Sidharth had not made his debut in Bollywood. The actor, who was accompanied by a friend, said Salman initiated the conversation and was keen to know what he was up to.

"He didn't know who I was. So, he asked me what I do. My friend told him I was doing *Student of The Year*. He said, 'Oh alright, alright. So, you are doing Karan's film.' I was very quiet because it was my first casual interaction with a star I am a fan of. As the night went on, there were certain conversations during which he was like, 'I'm not really sure. Let's see. I want to see what you're all about,' Sidharth said, hinting that Salman thought he is not cut out for Bollywood. Sidharth revealed that Salman advised him to try his luck on television.

However, Sidharth took the comments positively. He said instead of getting offended, he thought about how Salman Khan noticed him and made a point to share his comments on him. "It did not affect my confidence. I did tell him this conversation later on," Siddharth smiled. He shared that after that party, he met Salman during the promotions of *Student of The Year*. The team had visited the sets of *Bigg Boss*. Salman, who remembered his conversation with Sidharth, claimed that all his comments on the actor were made to push him to do better.

On the work front, Sidharth has joined Rohit Shetty's cop universe. He will be seen in Amazon Prime Video's *Indian Police Force*.



## Cinema Sirsa

Castel - Tel Nos - 6867356 / 6971613 / 59119396 / 57069330

New Movie

**Jayeshbhai Jordaar**

(Featuring Ranveer Singh and Shalini Pandey)

Sunday 15 May 2022 - 13:15/16:15/20:15

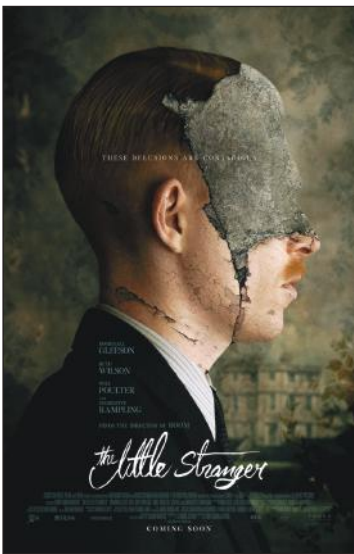
Monday 16 May 2022 to Thursday 19 May 2022 - 13:15/20:15

Please note that ticket prices are Rs225 on a uniform basis.





vendredi 13 mai - 21.15



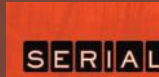
samedi 14 mai - 21.00



dimanche 15 mai - 21.15



# Programme TV



vendredi 13 mai

samedi 14 mai

dimanche 15 mai

lundi 16 mai

## MBC 1

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
 09.00 Doc: High Velocity  
 09.45 Local: Proze Dime  
 10.30 Mag: Check In  
 12.00 Le Journal  
 12.25 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
 13.15 Local Production  
 14.30 D.Anime: The Twisted...  
 15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Contre  
 15.38 D.Anime: Briko  
 17.10 Serial: Hi Opie!  
 17.30 D.Anime: Kid's Planets  
 18.00 Live: Samachar  
 18.30 Serial: Surya Puran  
 18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi  
 19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
 20.10 Les Grands Noms Inter...  
 21.55 Serial: Pulse  
 23.20 Le Journal  
 00.00 Mag: Eye On SADC

## MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
 10.00 Serial: Band Khirkiyan  
 11.18 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai  
 12.00 Film: Nannu Dochukunduvate  
 14.18 Mag: DDI Mag  
 15.00 Live: Samachar  
 15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi  
 15.43 Serial: Bommarillu  
 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
 16.26 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin  
 16.47 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin  
 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
 17.30 Serial: Chhanchhan  
 18.01 Serial: The Demi-Gods...  
 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
 20.00 Serial: Dil Ruba  
 20.44 Local: Anjuman  
 21.10 Local: Urdu Programme -  
 22.05 DDI Live

## MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing  
 07.58 Doc: Secrets Des Plantes  
 08.46 Doc: Castles  
 10.10 Doc: Argentina  
 12.17 Mag: Red Carpet  
 13.06 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
 14.27 Doc: The Return Of Whales..  
 16.27 Doc: What Did The Big Bang  
 18.21 Mag: World Stories  
 19.00 Student Support Prog...  
 19.33 Doc: Expedition Yangtze  
 20.45 Doc: World Heritage  
 20.48 Doc: Rush In Atlantic  
 21.41 Doc: Volcano Stories  
 22.08 Doc: Guardians Of Nature  
 23.00 Doc: Baywatch On Four Paw  
 23.42 Mag: World Stories  
 23.54 Doc: World Famous Writers  
 00.27 Mag: Euromaxx  
 00.49 Doc: Expedition Yangtze  
 01.46 Doc: World Heritage

## Cine 12

01.28 Film: Spinning Man  
 03.44 Film: Mercenary  
 05.16 Tele: Marimar  
 05.39 Tele: Rubi  
 06.45 Film: Spinning Man  
 09.00 Serial: 19-2  
 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
 11.00 Serial: Blacklist  
 12.00 Film: Mercenary  
 13.31 Tele: Marimar  
 14.45 Film: Spinning Man  
 16.40 Serial: 19-2  
 17.24 Serial: Rookie Blue  
 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
 19.34 Serial: Mustangs FC  
 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
 20.30 Serial: Zoo  
 21.15 Film: The Little Stranger  
 23.06 Tele: Marimar

## Bollywood TV

07.00 Film: Eena Meena Deeka  
 Star: Vinod Khanna, Rishi Kapoor, Juhi Chawla  
 11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna  
 12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa  
 12.22 / 21.30 - Mere Sai  
 12.46 / 22.00 - Agnihera  
 13.13 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
 13.55 / 22.30 -  
 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
 14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
 15.00 / 21.46 -  
 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
 15.25 Film: Jaagruati  
 Starring: Salman Khan, Karisma Kapoor  
 18.00 Live: Samachar  
 18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
 19.00 Udaariyaan  
 19.28 Bhakharwadi

06.22 D.Anime: Gon  
 06.45 D.Anime: Oum Le Dauphin...  
 06.57 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...  
 07.19 D.Anime: Tempete De Boule...  
 07.37 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien  
 08.21 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier  
 08.29 D.Anime: Garfield Originals  
 08.32 D.Anime: Cat & Keet  
 08.46 D.Anime: Les Triples  
 09.00 D.Anime: Panda Fanfare  
 09.25 Serial: Hank Zipzer  
 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil  
 12.00 Le Journal  
 15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte  
 15.34 D.Anime: Briko  
 17.15 Mag: Human Nature  
 18.00 Samachar  
 18.30 Enter: Taare Zameen  
 19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
 21.10 Film: The Snowman  
 23.10 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Aboadh  
 Star: Mohan Choti, Sheela David, Madhuri Dixit  
 10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
 11.05 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo  
 12.00 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare  
 12.30 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
 12.46 Serial: High School  
 15.00 Live: Samachar  
 15.20 Film: Jamai Raja  
 Stars: Hema Malini, Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit  
 17.56 Mag: DDI Mag  
 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
 20.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha  
 20.30 Serial: Porus  
 21.00 Film: Ghost  
 Starring Sanaya Irani, Shivam Bhaargava

06.00 Doc: Baywatch On Four...  
 06.42 Mag: World Stories  
 06.57 Mag: Our Vocies  
 07.25 Mag: Euromaxx  
 07.54 Doc: Expedition Kachgar  
 10.14 Doc: Guardians Of Nature  
 11.48 Mag: World Famous Writers  
 12.15 Mag: Euromaxx  
 12.59 Doc: Expedition Kachgar  
 15.00 Student Support Prog...  
 17.34 Doc: Sweet Magic  
 18.08 Mag: In Good Shape  
 18.35 Mag: The 77 Percent  
 19.00 Mag: Check In  
 20.30 Local: News (English)  
 20.45 Doc: World Heritage  
 20.50 Doc: Hotels  
 21.42 Doc: Skuld  
 22.34 Doc: Secluded Treasures...  
 23.15 Doc: Sweet Magic  
 23.46 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
 23.49 Mag: In Good Shape

01.19 Film: The Little Stranger  
 03.10 Serial: Powers  
 03.53 Serial: L.A.'S Finest  
 04.41 Serial: Reckoning  
 05.26 Tele: Tanto Amor  
 06.08 Serial: Zoo  
 08.30 Serial: The Night Shift  
 09.10 Serial: L.A.'s Finest  
 10.40 Film: Meteor  
 12.15 Serial: Powers  
 13.30 Serial: Blacklist  
 15.05 Tele: Muneca Brava  
 16.25 Serial: Zoo  
 17.04 Film: Chair De Poule 2  
 19.12 Serial: Mustangs FC  
 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
 20.30 Series: Zoo  
 21.15 Film: Gemini Man  
 Avec Will Smith, Mary Elizabeth Winstead  
 23.12 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasionos

04.05 Radha Krishna  
 04.36 Anupamaa  
 05.03 Mere Sai -- Shradha Aur...  
 05.43 Agnihera  
 06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan  
 10.00 Motu Patlu  
 10.07 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
 11.55 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
 13.43 Serial: Anupamaa  
 14.00 Anupamaa  
 15.46 Pavitra Rishta  
 18.00 Samachar  
 18.30 Film: Sapnay  
 Star: Arvind Swamy, Prabhu Deva, Kajol  
 20.30 Serial: Motu Patlu  
 20.28 Serial: Namah  
 21.03 Serial: Naagin Season 3  
 21.44 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

06.00 D.Anime: Kung Fu Panda  
 07.00 D.Anime: Cosmic Quantum...  
 07.55 D.Anime: Akili And Me  
 08.29 D.Anime: Garfield Originals  
 10.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil  
 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
 11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
 12.00 Le Journal  
 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor  
 13.21 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
 15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte  
 15.35 D.Anime: Briko  
 16.49 D.Anime: Robot Trains  
 17.15 Mag: Human Nature  
 17.45 Local Prod: Rodrig  
 18.00 Live: Samachar  
 18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani...  
 19.30 Le Journal  
 20.20 Local: Groov'in  
 21.10 Film: The Shallows  
 23.00 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Uphaar  
 11.03 Serial: Azhagu  
 11.24 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi  
 11.45 Serial: Surya Puran  
 12.06 Film: Baaghi  
 14.07 DDI Magazine  
 15.20 Mooga Manasulu  
 15.42 Serial: He Mann Baware  
 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
 Starring: Bharathi, Badekilla, Pradeep, Naresh Eswar..  
 16.30 Local: Yaadein  
 16.58 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
 20.06 Serial: Porus  
 20.46 Serial: CID  
 21.29 Serial: Naagin Season 2  
 Starring: Mouni Roy, Karanvir Bohra...

06.00 Mag: Happiness Is On The...  
 07.02 Mag: The 77 Percent  
 07.28 Mag: Check In  
 09.45 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into...  
 10.41 Doc: Secluded Treasures...  
 11.25 Doc: Sweet Magic  
 11.30 Mag: Happiness Is On The...  
 11.59 Mag: In Good Shape  
 12.31 Mag: The 77 Percent  
 14.18 Doc: World Heritage  
 14.23 Doc: Hotels  
 15.15 Doc: Skuld  
 15.41 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
 18.35 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
 19.00 Mag: Salad Area  
 20.01 Doc: Planet Home  
 20.30 Live: News (English)  
 20.50 Doc: The Last Of The Sea...  
 21.43 Doc: La Route De La Soie  
 22.50 Doc: Screen Generation  
 23.32 Doc: Sweet Magic

01.16 Film: Gemini Man  
 Avec Will Smith, Mary Elizabeth Winstead  
 03.13 Serial: Dynasty 2  
 03.53 Film: The Snowman  
 05.47 Tele: Tanto Amor  
 06.29 Serial: Zoo  
 07.11 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery  
 08.30 Serial: Killjoys  
 09.21 Film: Gemini Man  
 11.18 Film: CHair De Poule 2  
 12.44 Serial: Dynasty 2  
 14.53 Serial: Blacklist  
 15.33 Tele: Muneca Brava  
 17.00 Serial: Zoo  
 17.53 Serial: Dynasty 2  
 18.36 Serial: L'Agence Tous Risque  
 19.36 Serial: Mustangs FC  
 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
 20.30 Serial: Scorpion  
 21.15 Film: Get Out

01.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2  
 01.57 Bhakharwadi  
 04.00 Anupamaa  
 06.00 Pavitra Rishta  
 08.11 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
 10.03 Kundali Bhagya  
 12.00 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
 13.47 Agnihera  
 16.01 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
 17.00 Punar Vivaah  
 18.00 Live: Samachar  
 18.03 Film: Mumbai Se Aaya Mera Dost  
 Starring: Abhishek Bachchan, Lara Dutta...  
 20.48 Naagin Season 3  
 21.50 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
 23.35 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
 00.26 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
 03.03 Kundali Bhagya  
 04.53 Agnihera

06.00 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil  
 07.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
 07.55 Local: Music Tour 2022  
 09.00 Doc: The Ghosts Of Warsaw  
 10.15 Local: Artizan  
 11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
 11.34 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
 12.00 Le Journal  
 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor  
 13.15 Local: Nu Rasinn  
 15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte  
 17.05 Serial: Backstage  
 17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours  
 18.00 Live: Samachar  
 18.30 Serial: Mere Sai  
 18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi  
 19.30 Le Journal  
 20.15 MBC Production  
 21.10 Film: Extortion  
 Avec: Eion Bailey, Barkhad Abdi...

07.00 DDI Live  
 10.00 Kundali Bhagya  
 12.06 Film: Meri Adalat  
 Starring Mithun Chakraborty, Suvarna Mathew, Johnny Lever  
 14.20 DDI Magazine  
 15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi  
 15.42 Serial: Bommarillu  
 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
 16.24 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin  
 16.42 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin  
 17.57 Serial: The Demi-Gods...  
 18.30 Mag: DDI Mag  
 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
 20.00 Programme In Telugu  
 20.30 Film: Kartikeya  
 Starring Nikhil Siddharth, Swati Reddy Tanikella Bharani Rao Ramesh..

07.00 Mag: Salad Area  
 07.58 Doc: Planet Home  
 08.24 Doc: World Heritage  
 10.30 Doc: Screen Generation  
 12.11 Mag: Salad Area  
 13.18 Doc: Planet Home  
 14.38 Doc: The Last Of The Sea...  
 16.32 Doc: Sweet Magic  
 18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
 19.00 Student Support Prog...  
 19.33 Mag: In Good Shape  
 20.45 Doc: Castles  
 20.48 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
 21.41 Mag: Global 3000  
 22.08 Mag: Washington Forum  
 22.33 Doc: Push - For A Basic...  
 23.15 Doc: China's New Silk Road  
 23.57 Mag: Eco@Africa  
 00.27 Mag: The 77 Percent  
 00.49 Doc: Persons  
 00.52 Mag: Africa

02.22 Film: Get Out  
 04.43 Film: The Shallows  
 06.09 Tele: Marimar  
 06.28 Tele: Rubi  
 06.51 Serial: Scorpion  
 08.15 Film: Mercenary  
 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
 11.00 Serial: Blacklist  
 12.00 Film: The Shallows  
 13.30 Tele: Marimar  
 13.54 Tele: Rubi  
 14.45 Film: Mercenary  
 16.47 Serial: Scorpion  
 18.11 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
 19.39 Serial: Mustangs FC  
 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
 20.30 Serial: Chicago PD  
 21.15 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe  
 22.59 Tele: Marimar

08.00 Taare Zameen Par  
 10.47 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna  
 11.17 / 21.00 - Anupamaa  
 11.48 / 21.30 - Mere Sai  
 12.15 / 22.00 - Agnihera  
 13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
 13.13 / 22.30 -  
 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
 14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maike Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
 15.00 / 21.46 -  
 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
 15.21 Film: Dancer  
 Starring: Akshay Kumar and Kirti Singh  
 18.00 Live: Samachar  
 18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
 19.00 Udaariyaan  
 19.31 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
 20.30 Radha Krishna

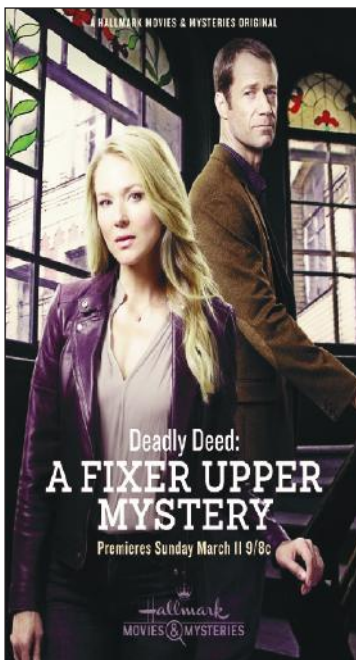




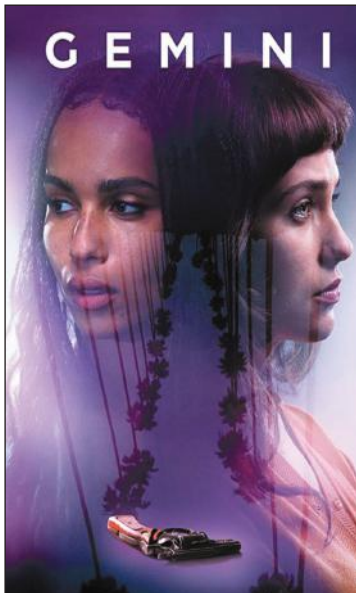
mardi 17 mai - 21.10



mercredi 18 mai - 21.15



jeudi 19 mai - 21.15



# Programme TV



SERIAL



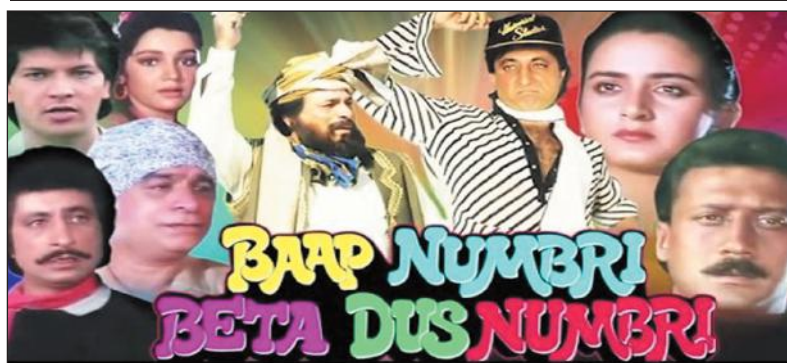
	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 17 mai</b>	06.00 Local: Rodrig 07.30 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison 08.30 Local Prod: Rodrig Prog 10.30 Mag: Art.21 11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous... 11.35 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna... 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Prod: Come On Lets Dance 14.33 D.Anime: The Twisted Whis... 15.20 D.Anime: L'heure Du Conte 17.05 Serial: Backstage 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 21.10 Film: Squadron 303 Stars: Piotr Adamczyk, Kirk Barker	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: CID 12.00 Film: Anita Starring: Manoj Kumar, Sadhana, I. S. Johar, Kishen Mehta, Sa 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Bommarillu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin 16.49 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And Semi-Devils 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Local: Tamil Programme 20.30 Film: Kal Aaj Aur Kal Star Prithviraj Kapoor, Raj Kapoor...	06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa 06.26 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.55 Mag: Luana's Kitchen 09.17 Mag: Washington Forum 10.25 Doc: China's News Silk... 14.29 Mag: Washington Forum 15.31 Doc: China's New Silk... 16.17 Mag: Eco@Africa 18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto... 18.30 Mag: Check In 19.03 Student Support Prog... 19.30 Doc: Persons 20.30 Live: News 20.45 Doc: Castles 21.40 Mag: Euromaxx 22.08 Mag: Close Up 22.32 Local: Rodrig 23.14 Mag: The Global Auto... 23.40 Mag: Healthy Living 23.55 Mag: Red Carpet 00.10 Doc: Persons	01.45 Film: Chair De Poule 2 03.11 Serial: Blacklist 03.53 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe 05.37 Tele: Marimar 06.01 Tele: Rubi 07.04 Film: Chair De Poule 2 09.00 Serial: 19-2 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: Blacklist 11.46 Film: Nana's Secret Recipe 13.30 Tele: Marimar 13.54 Tele: Rubi 14.45 Film: Chair De Poule 2 16.41 Serial: 19-2 17.20 Serial: Chicago PD 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 21.15 Film: Salt Avec: Angelina Jolie, Liev Schreiber...	06.50 Film: Dancer Starring A. Kumar and K. Singh 11.32 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna 11.59 / 20.57 - Anupamaa 12.30 / 21.27 - Mere Sai 13.09 / 22.07 - Agniphera 13.30 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.56 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes 14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 14.53 / 22.25 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.28 Film: Hum To Mohabbat Karega Starring Bobby Deol, Karisma Kapoor, Johnny Lever 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Udaariyaan 19.30 Bhakharwadi 20.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2
<b>mercredi 18 mai</b>	07.15 Local: Profil 07.30 Local: Priorite Sante 08.09 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 09.00 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 10.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous Actre... 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Local Production: Groov'in 15.20 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte 15.35 D.Anime: The Story OF Book... 17.10 Serial: Backstage 17.30 Mag: The World Is Yours 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.55 MBC Production 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 MBC Production 21.25 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery E2 Starring: Jewel Kilcher, Colin Ferguson, Erin Karpluk, Ron Lea, Colin Lawrence, and Jason...	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki 12.00 Film: Karm Yodha Starring Raj Babbar, Dimple Kapadia, Jaaved Jaferi 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.23 Aamhi Doghi 15.46 Bommarillu 16.07 Sondha Bandham 16.25 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin 16.49 Serial: Chhotki Bheem 17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.31 Serial: Kulvadh 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods... 18.30 Local: DDI Magazine 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.06 Programme In Marathi 21.00 Film: The Dragon's Snake Fist Star: Dragon Lee, Yuen Qiu, Gam Kei-Chu	06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto... 06.26 Mag: Healthy Living 06.41 Mag: Red Carpet 08.46 Doc: Castles 09.43 Mag: Euromaxx 15.57 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 17.08 Mag: Healthy Living 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous 19.00 Student Support Prog... 19.35 Mag: The Inside Story 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.45 Doc: Castles 21.40 Les Montagnes Du Monde 22.49 Mag: Focus On Europe 23.47 Mag: Motorweek 23.54 Mag: Vous Et Nous 00.21 Doc: Persons 00.24 Mag: Arts.21 00.50 Mag: The Inside Story 01.16 Doc: Skuld	01.28 Film: Salt 03.38 Film: Squadron 303 05.24 Tele: Marimar 06.12 Serial: Chicago PD 06.33 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 09.00 L'Agence Tous Risques 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.35 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.01 Serial: Blacklist 12.00 Film: Squadron 303 13.40 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: Salt 16.42 L'Agence Tous Risques 17.24 Serial: Chicago PD 18.09 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.30 Serial: Mustangs FC 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: Rookie Blue 21.15 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery 23.04 Telenovela: Rubi 23.28 L'Agence Tous Risques	07.00 Film: Hum To Mohabbat... 11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna 12.00 / 20.26 - Anupamaa 12.30 / 20.02 - Mere Sai - Shrad... 13.01 / 20.46 - Agniphera 13.29 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 13.51 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes 14.32 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 14.47 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.25 Film: Tum Milo To Sahi Starring Nana Patekar, Dimple Kapadia, Suniel Shetty 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna
<b>jeudi 19 mai</b>	06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion 06.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 06.59 Local: Itinerer Moris 07.45 Local: Rodrig Prog 08.15 Local: Elle 10.30 Mag: In Good Shape 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor 13.15 Local: Music Tour 2022 14.35 D.Anime: The Twisted Whiskers Show... 15.35 D. Anime: Briko 17.10 Serial: Backstage 17.35 Mag: The World Is Yours 18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs... 20.20 Film: Lootcase Starring Kunal Khemu, Rasika Dugal, Vijay Raaz	07.00 DDI Live 10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha 11.07 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas... 12.00 Film: Koshish 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Serial: Aamhi Doghi 15.43 Serial: Bommarillu 16.04 Serial: Sondha Bandham 16.27 Serial: Wafa Lazim To Nahin 16.48 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin 17.05 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala 17.40 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And... 18.30 Serial: Ghar Pahucha Da... 19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.59 Local: Profil 21.14 Film: Gemini With Lola Kirke, Zoë Kravitz, Greta Lee, Nelson Franklin...	06.00 Mag: Motorweek 06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous 06.52 Doc: Persons 08.14 Doc: Castles 10.19 Doc: Beyond Men And Mas... 11.33 Local: Vous Et Nous 12.58 Doc: Skuld 12.55 Doc: Castles 15.05 Mag: Focus On Europe 16.35 Mag: Vous Et Nous 17.35 Mag: The Inside Story 18.00 Mag: Eco India 19.00 Student Support Prog - G7 19.30 Doc: Secret Des Plantes 20.30 Local: News (English) 20.48 Doc: Castles 21.40 Doc: Snapshots 22.07 Doc: The Côte D'Azur 23.15 Mag: Eco India 23.41 Mag: Shift 23.54 Mag: Red Carpet	01.18 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery 02.43 Serial: Blacklist 03.38 Film: Badland 05.17 Tele: Marimar 05.41 Tele: Rubi 07.34 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery 09.00 Serial: Timeless 09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 10.37 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 11.00 Serial: Blacklist 11.41 Film: Badland 13.33 Tele: Marimar 14.45 Film: Fixer Upper Mystery 16.40 Serial: Timeless 17.21 Serial: Rookie Blue 18.05 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo 19.00 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You 19.36 Serial: Mustangs FC 20.05 Tele: Missing Bride 20.30 Serial: Rookie Blue 21.15 Serial: Knight Rider	07.00 Film: Tum Milo To Sahi Starring Nana Patekar, Dimple Kapadia, Suniel Shetty 11.56 / 20.11 - Anupamaa 12.32 / 20.32 - Mere Sai 13.01 / 21.09 - Agniphera 13.35 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan 14.05 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes 14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo 15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein 15.30 Film: Baap Numbri Beta Bus Numbri Star: Kader Khan, Shakti Kapoor, Jackie Shroff Farha, Aditya Pancholi 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 18.59 Udaariyaan 19.29 Bhakharwadi

**BTV** Jeudi 19 mai - 15.30

Stars: Kader Khan, Shakti Kapoor, Jackie Shroff, Farha, Aditya Pancholi

**MBC 1** Jeudi 19 mai - 20.20

Star: Kunal Khemu, Rasika Dugal, Vijay Raaz





# Consumérisme: J'achète, donc je suis



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Un double handicap affectant le coût de la vie de la majorité des gens: Maurice consomme beaucoup plus que ce qu'il produit, et une taxe forte à l'importation leur fait payer les appareils électroménagers, les voitures, les téléphones et les ordinateurs à un prix beaucoup plus élevé que les pays riches en Occident et ailleurs. Compte-tenu du salaire qui est quatre à cinq fois moins élevé que les

salariés de ces pays, une pression constante s'exerce sur le porte-monnaie des ménages. L'insularité est un autre facteur qui augmente la facture des plus aisés dès qu'ils souhaitent voler vers d'autres cieux.

Depuis deux décennies, lorsqu'on évoque la vie chère même dans les pays jouissant d'une économie relativement prospère, c'est, au fond, une question de salaires qui stagnent alors que de nouveaux gadgets inondent le marché et qu'un marketing agressif les rend attrayants et indispensables: les divers modèles de téléphones portables, de tablettes et des incontournables ordinateurs que les parents sont amenés à acheter pour leurs enfants, pour ne citer que ces exemples.

Les salaires peinent à suivre le rythme des produits innovants sur le marché. Par ailleurs, une fabrication locale de réfrigérateurs, de téléviseurs, d'ordinateurs, de téléphones et de voitures est peu envisageable dans un avenir proche ou lointain.

L'amélioration du niveau de vie avait été légitimement accueillie avec joie dans les années 90. Le consumérisme s'est installé progressivement dans la vie des gens, suivie d'une propension à s'habituer à des dépenses inutiles. Par la suite, la machine consumériste s'est accélérée à un rythme effarant à Maurice.

La psychologie des consommateurs, adultes et enfants, est bien étudiée par les experts en marketing dans le pays le plus avancé et à l'avant-garde de toute innovation, les Etats-Unis. Bien entendu, tout ce qui vient de l'Amérique, le meilleur comme le pire, se répand comme un incendie à travers le monde.

Toutes sortes d'anecdotes amusantes circulaient à cette époque. Certaines ménagères s'étaient procuré un four électrique qu'elles n'utilisaient jamais soit parce que les plats cuisinés au four ne faisaient pas partie de la tradition, ou qu'elles avaient peur que l'appareil n'explose!

D'autres achetaient le moindre petit gadget électrique, l'ouvre-boîte, le sèche-cheveux, etc. Il y a suffisamment de soleil toute l'année pour se passer d'un sèche-cheveux, l'ouvre-boîte est vite rangé dans les tiroirs quand les vieilles habitudes prennent le dessus...

Au début, la voiture était un confort et un moyen pratique de déplacement. Bien mérité, se disait-on, après tant d'années de privations. Cette tendance avait mis un terme aux longs trajets dans des autobus bruyants, et aux marches pénibles sous le soleil brûlant de l'été. Au fil des ans, la voiture est devenue un symbole de statut social, un objet à étaler dans le voisinage et devant le grand public. Et gare à celui qui a le malheur d'égratigner la voiture neuve! Un constat décevant...

Faut-il ajouter que le secteur automobile est très lucratif pour les coffres de l'Etat, vu la taxe mirobolante à l'importation et le fait que les autorités encouragent le public à en acheter davantage. La génération de jeunes cadres trentenaires dépensent à gogo: produits cosmé-



« Le supermarché est le haut lieu de consommation où on se montre avec le caddie rempli à craquer. J'achète, donc je suis. Le centre commercial a la fonction polyvalente de salon d'exposition de tableaux, de salon du livre et, aussi de lieu de rencontre et de lèche-vitrines pour jeunes en quête de vie, de bruit, du monde et de liberté. Ils préfèrent cela à la famille collée à leurs baskets durant des sorties... familiales. Certainement, ceux qui trouvent répugnant et vulgaire la fréquentation des supermarchés où les besoins superficiels s'étalent à perte de vue, représentent une infime minorité... »

tiques dernier cri, vêtements à n'en plus compter, collection de chaussures et repas sur commande, et changement de voiture après à peine quelques années. Il paraît que s'ils sont invités à participer à des réunions des associations culturelles, ils s'attendent à ce qu'on leur serve un verre de vin... La modernisation ou l'occidentalisation mal comprise.

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Quant au mode de consommation alimentaire, n'en parlons pas. Il y a une catégorie des gens, principalement les hommes dans la quarantaine, l'âge où la tyrannie se réveille, qui exigent viande ou poisson tous les jours, un désir inconscient de rattraper les privations alimentaires de leurs parents et de leurs grands-parents issus des milieux très modestes. Et même, sacrilège, le jour des

fêtes religieuses, pour les plus voraces. L'inconscience des parents à servir des boissons sucrées à leurs enfants pendant le repas est incompréhensible. La boisson « soft power » américaine (qui fait des trous dans l'estomac) s'est bizarrement invitée sur les tables des convives où un repas végétarien est servi lors des mariages!

Les ouvriers des milieux populaires ont comme particularité l'étrange habitude de ne boire de l'eau que très rarement, selon leurs propres aveux. Une boisson sucrée, toujours la même, un plat acheté au snack du coin à midi, et une bière le soir. C'est sur la table du chirurgien à l'hôpital que le réveil est brutal.

Tous ces travers révèlent une inconscience dans le mode de consommation et le choix alimentaire. Le comportement moutonnier, effet secondaire du capitalisme, qui consiste à se glisser dans la foule pour paraître comme les autres asservit plus qu'il n'émancipe.

Faute de prise de conscience de cette mauvaise pente, le réveil s'est fait, d'abord, par les dégâts d'une crise sanitaire à travers le monde, et ensuite, par une crise énergétique et alimentaire à l'échelle planétaire, cadeau post-Covid par le bras-de-fer musclé des Etats-Unis avec la Russie en Ukraine. Covid-19 a secoué et a ramené au bon sens le grand public quant aux besoins essentiels et, principalement locaux, en alimentation.

Le secteur agricole s'est attelé à la tâche de produire plus et mieux pour nourrir la population. Mais il y a encore du chemin à faire pour tendre vers une alimentation saine en diminuant le taux de pesticides dans les fruits et légumes.

La flambée des prix en raison des cyclones et des pluies abondantes continueront de vider le porte-monnaie des ménages. Un retour à la normale d'ici deux mois soulagera tout le monde. Mais c'est surtout une révolution qu'il faudrait dans les habitudes alimentaires pour revoir de fond en comble ce qu'on met dans son estomac et aussi une sensibilisation accrue aux conditions favorisant une bonne santé. Commençons par une diminution radicale de l'huile dans la cuisine de tous les jours, voire même une absence totale d'huile dans certains plats.

Le prix du pétrole à la pompe risque fort de nous obliger à revoir la facture hebdomadaire. Le chamboulement dans la chaîne d'approvisionnement dans le monde, la hausse des prix de viande importée (qu'en est-il des élevages locaux, annoncés il y a quelques années?), la pénurie de blé et toutes les hausses successives des prix poussent à repenser non seulement les enjeux économiques mais aussi idéologiques à long terme.