

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• *“It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it”. -- Benjamin Franklin*

Interview: Rabin Bhujun



## «Il y aura un tsunami quand des preuves indiscutables d'une faute seront fournies...

Sans celles-ci, on n'a que des pistes de travail pour l'heure»

☞ See Page 9



## The Clamour for a New Beginning

National security is too important a matter to be a one-man decision. No one can arrogate himself the right to decide on such a vital matter

By Mrinal Roy  
☞ See Page 3



Opinion

## SAFE: Have the authorities brewed a storm?

By Jan Arden ☞ See Page 4



Qs & As

## Immigration Bill

«Decision makers, whatever their status, cannot and are not allowed by law to possess absolute discretion»

By LEX ☞ See Page 6

# Cyber Warfare and Mauritius' Strategic Interests

No government appears to have been so weakened during these last 50 years as the current one in the wake of the revelations made by the former CEO of Mauritius Telecom about the alleged "sniffing" operation conducted by a team of Indian technicians at the Baie Jacotet Submarine Cable Landing Station (BJLS). Weakened, but not on its knees yet, the more so since the "tsunami" predicted by Sherry Singh that would lead to the collapse of the MSM-led government has not materialized despite the daily media and opposition blitzkrieg. If there are good reasons to militate for the ousting of the government from power as we have highlighted in these columns on numerous occasions, the blatant anti-India sentiments -- as evidenced on social media platforms and in the selective media attacks and parliamentary questions - are paradoxically what will comfort the MSM leadership that its continuation in office until the end of its current mandate will be ensured by those in the electorate who feel indirectly targeted by such attacks.

No wonder therefore that the Prime Minister has in his public statements and in Parliament stuck to his guns as regards his decision to allow the "survey" conducted at the BJLS. Not a whimper of protest has been heard from the SAFE consortium, nor from the diplomatic enclave here -- though one would expect the necessary reports and briefings are being regularly despatched to their respective governments back home. The only official comment so far has been from the official spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Arindam Bagchi, in response to a question from a journalist of 'The Wire' during the Ministry's weekly media briefing, that the statement of Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth (in response to the first PNQ on this matter) was "good enough from India's perspective".

As matters stand, no tangible proofs have been forthcoming locally, whether from former CEO of Mauritius Telecom or from the opposition, about any "sniffing" operation having been conducted, except for "data capture" as indicated by the former Chief Technical Officer of Mauritius Telecom in his report to the acting CEO following Sherry Singh's resignation. However, some details have filtered from sections of the Indian media, in particular from 'The Print', about the alleged involvement of India's external intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) with the survey conducted at the Baie Jacotet Landing Station. In fact, there has been growing concern about the potential for Huawei-installed equipment to conduct espionage for the Chinese government. There have been concerns in India since early last year about the People Liberation Army using internet infrastructure built by Huawei in Mauritius to conduct digital espionage against India and Western targets across the Indian Ocean, reported 'The Print' yesterday. It adds that 'the push to install Huawei surveillance equipment in Mauritius was part of a larger effort that saw similar systems being set up by China in

73 cities across 52 countries, including France, Germany, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Mexico. Numerous countries also allege that the company's products may purposely contain security holes that could be used for spying purposes. But this has been denied by the company, which says that the decision by some EU countries to ban Huawei from supplying 5G infrastructure is based on "political motivation".

Whether Mauritius has played a role in India's and other Western powers' efforts to counter China's alleged espionage activities in the Indian Ocean, by facilitating the Indian IT technicians' access to the Baie Jacotet Landing Station, for the purpose of tapping the submarine cable landing points and collect data for analysis, is unlikely to come out in public now or in the future. This however appears to be viewed as a normal and necessary practice in the intelligence community. As pointed out by 'The Print', the British communications-intelligence service GCHQ, as well as the United States National Security Agency, are known to have tapped submarine-cable landing points to collect vast amounts of data for analysis.

Is more likely to come out from the audit ordered by the new Board of Mauritius Telecom into the "transactions" made under the direction of ex-CEO Sherry Singh during his tenure, who we assume reported to the Chairman/CabSec and the previous MT Board? There are also indications, or at least pressure from certain quarters to have a review of the integrity of the Safe City Huawei-installed equipment. Some Middle-East states have invited Huawei to enhance their CCTV surveillance systems with features to enable tracking and keeping close check on their own local populations. The total absence of any form of judiciary or independent oversight over the Safe City CCTV operations here had previously been questioned when such cameras or the storage capacity of the whole system were found wanting in the unsolved Kistnen murder case.

Independently or whether we are or have been dragged into a cyber warfare and espionage situation on scales that go beyond our shores, we can be concerned about whether the extensive Safe City program at a cost of near Rs 20 billion, has the only objective of preventing or catching occasional thieves on the run. Barring as yet unexplained national security considerations, every citizen is entitled to some degree of privacy, his or her bank accounts or mail exchanges respected as confidential and protected from the prying eyes of any Big Brother.

More importantly, all this matter should bring to the fore the issues relating the country's long-term strategic interests and our diplomatic agenda to serve those interests. Are we shifting from our time-tested equidistant diplomacy in view of the new realities taking shape in the world, in particular in the region? Advancing Mauritius' long-term strategic interests should prevail over other considerations.

## The Conversation

### 3 reasons why women leaders actually matter for women

Four different female presidents led three Asian nations in recent decades. What does their legislative record tell us about the impact women leaders can have on women's lives?



Indonesia's first and only female president Megawati Sukarnoputri at a campaign rally in 1999. Pic - Jonathan Perugia/AP

There are currently just 30 female presidents and prime ministers worldwide. Moldova and Barbados are the only two countries where women occupy both the positions of president and prime minister, while Bangladesh is the only nation where a woman has led for more years than a man over the last half century.

Clearly, women leaders matter as a question of gender equity, but as my research shows, they may also matter to women in other ways.

I looked at four different female presidents in three different political systems: the Philippines' first female president, Corazon Aquino (1986-1992) and its second female leader, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (2001-2010); Indonesia's first and only female president, Megawati Sukarnoputri (2001-2004); and Sri Lanka's Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga (CBK).

CBK, who was Sri Lanka's fifth president from 1994 to 2005, followed in the footsteps of her mother, Sirimavo Bandarnaike, the world's first female elected head of government in 1960.

I was interested in the difference these women leaders made on women's lives through the law. However, I did not want to blindly place a positive spin on the impact women have as presidents.

My research used the Gender Legislative Index, which relies on human evaluators and machine learning to determine how well laws advance women's rights. The index indicated whether the laws enacted during these leaders' tenures were "good" for women.

Of course, "women" are not a monolithic category with the same interests and needs. And nor are women leaders all the same. But there are three reasons why women leaders may matter more to women.

#### 1. Bringing women up the ladder

Appointment powers are central to presidential leadership. President Macapagal Arroyo herself acknowledged to me that President Aquino had "paved the way" for her, in multiple ways.

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● Cont. on page 15

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# The Clamour for a New Beginning



Mrinal Roy

*National security is too important a matter to be a one-man decision. No one can arrogate himself the right to decide on such a vital matter*

**N**ational security matters and policy cannot be decided by only one person. It is a very serious business. They are necessarily decided in a structured national forum with the guidance and informed advice of top members of the Executive and relevant experts from defence and diverse key

national agencies.

In the US, all national security matters are decided by the US National Security Council (NSC) established by the National Security Act of 1947 as amended in 1949. The NSC is a high-powered forum for national security and foreign policy decision making by the US President in consultation with his senior national security advisors and cabinet officials and is the President's principal arm for coordinating these policies across federal agencies.

The NSC is chaired by the President and its regular attendees are the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defence, the Secretary of Energy, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Representative of the United States to the United Nations, the Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, the Chief of Staff to the President and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the military advisor to the Council, and the Director of National Intelligence is the intelligence advisor. Counsel to the President and the Legal Advisor to the NSC are invited to attend every NSC meeting.

The heads of other executive departments and agencies as well as other senior officials such as the Covid-19 Response Coordinator and the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate are invited to attend meetings of the NSC as and when required. Similar high-level Councils decide on national security matters and policies in countries across the world. National security is therefore too important a matter to be a one-man decision. No one can arrogate himself the right to decide on such a vital matter in a country on his own.

## Mounting evidence

The survey/sniffing affair and the allegations of data capture by a team of foreign technicians given access to the MT high security Baie Jacotet Submarine Cable Landing Station belonging to a broad consortium of countries following instructions given by the PM to the ex-CEO of Mauritius Telecom, a private company, has caused an uproar in the country and raised a host of legitimate questions. How could such a patently free hand be given to a foreign team under the nose of the regulatory body, the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) in stark violation of the ICTA laws?

The newly nominated Chairman and Board of Mauritius Telecom (MT), which held its first meeting this

week, have offered no explanation and comment on this unacceptable government interference to enable access in a highly protected area of a private sector company to survey a high security international communications cable. They have ordered a forensic audit of MT.

The truth cannot be buried. The detailed technical report of the Chief Technical Officer submitted to the previous Board of MT, revealed in the press this week, confirms the extent and volume of data capture at the MT high security Baie Jacotet Submarine Cable Landing Station. Any computer scientist can explain to Ministers blindly parroting a lot of bunkum that the volume of data detailed in the technical report can be downloaded in a laptop. In the light of the grave public revelations made regarding data capture, people expected prompt explanations and clarifications from the PM to allay their legitimate apprehensions and the pervasive angst in the country.

## More questions

The long-awaited PM's statement this week and the related TV programme on the survey/sniffing affair raises new questions. What has been the result of the analysis of the data samples obtained from the survey? Was there evidence of any security risks or breach? Which sovereign country outsources its national security issues? Going forward, we need, as a sovereign nation, to train MT engineers to carry out regular security surveys and sampling of data inhouse and have the required software to analyze the data collected.

During the TV programme focusing on the survey/sniffing affair, there were contrary to our diligently built strong diplomatic ties and goodwill with China and other countries having diplomatic missions in Mauritius unwarranted innuendos and unsubstantiated comments by a newly-appointed member of the MT Board on Huawei. Orange SA (France Telecom), the 40% shareholder of MT, does not seem to have had such reservations on Huawei equipment.

We should remember that the common stance of the US and the EU on China, considered as a competitor and a systemic rival, and the sabre-rattling over Taiwan are part of a larger tug of war for geopolitical, commer-



**“The status quo is untenable. The key question is: Is a nondescript hotchpotch coalition of ideologically diverse political parties a credible alternative for the future in the face of the array of daunting challenges faced by the country in terms of fixing the economy, overhauling the economic model, implementing long overdue reforms, re-establishing good governance, transparency and accountability...? In view of their past record, who and which party can have a meaningful role to play in a new dawn for the country?”**

cial and economic supremacy. The collateral victims of this geopolitical war and related contrived narratives spun are Chinese companies such as Huawei.

The truth is that despite the anti-Huawei propaganda, Huawei continue to lead the global market in telecommunication equipment in 2021, covering 28.7% of the market share in sales revenue, followed by Ericsson, Nokia, ZTE and Cisco, according to a report by Dell'Oro, a Silicon Valley-based telecom information and service provider.

In Africa, Huawei's competitive pricing has made it the leading telecommunications provider, with the firm accounting for up to 70% of the continent's 4G networks. Tenders to source telecoms equipment in Mauritius must be a transparent process. Costs and competitiveness as well as efficiency of equipment and the costs of internet and other services for the end user are important factors of the tender process.

● Cont. from page 14

# SAFE: Have the authorities brewed a storm?

Jan Arden

Each week brings new developments in the SAFE survey imbroglio that has spelled an immense cloud of suspicion around the country's leadership and its standing. For once, the head of government was caught in the frontline when the allegations of Mauritius Telecom's ex-CEO of 1st July failed to elicit a proper response or even a counter-strategy despite a coterie of advisors. Was it about "security" as he initially said or national security we may never know, neither who briefed the PM about such security issues nor when or at what level were such highly technical issues raised or discussed at his national security levels before sending PMO's request for technical information in October 2021.

In his various snippets of information after some functions, the PM clumsily dragged the Indian PM Modi's name into the saga of Baie Jacotet Landing Station (BJLS). The public statements about exchanges reportedly between himself and PM Modi is rarely witnessed, particu-

**“Curiously, neither the SAFE consortium nor its Operational Command in South Africa have as yet seen fit to lodge a request for information about the whole BJLS affair from the local authorities. It is doubtful whether the full light will ever be shown on matters which may be related to international espionage or were meant to serve other purposes using the global internet highways and whether the authorities have been trapped into a cyber affair with implications far beyond our shores...”**

larly if security issues were at stake and this protocol gaffe has quite predictably opened a can of worms that has Mauritius Inc inflamed. If the Chief Technical Officer Report on the Indian tech mission leaked in the press is to be trusted, the "survey" was in real fact a more substantive data capture of internet traffic on the MT ports to SAFE-BJLS for purposes yet to be clarified. Neither is it known at this stage who on the Indian side (public or private sector) will analyse the captured data, uploaded onto laptops or pen drives, and the destinatories of whatever report should be expected after such analysis from the Indian technical team that had been commissioned by the PM.

We also have to wonder whether Orange appointed MT Board members,

probably not our variant of political nominees, would have failed to sniff out such security issues or the disquiet that had been relayed to the PM and subsequently to the ex-CEO of MT since October 2021. It is a somewhat tall order to believe that their social, professional or other antennae over several months would not have tuned in to major issues or planned happenings at MT and if so, would they have failed to keep France Telecom headquarters or the French diplomatic mission and/or the French Foreign Affairs ministry abreast of developments in the pipeline?

Curiously, neither the SAFE consortium nor its Operational Command in South Africa have as yet seen fit to lodge a request for information about the whole BJLS affair from the local authorities. It is

doubtful whether the full light will ever be shown on matters which may be related to international espionage or were meant to serve other purposes using the global internet highways and whether the authorities have been trapped into a cyber affair with implications far beyond our shores and from which disentanglement may prove tricky. It has been reported that the Mauritian Attorney General has hot-footed it to New Delhi, officially for grain and food purchases, but, in all likelihood, to consider how best to limit repercussions or prevent further damage to the national interests, reputation and security partnership of both countries in this SAFE saga.

Meantime the CCID inquiry, being concerned with breach of ICTA Act or criminal defamation by the ex-CEO Sherry Singh, will have a tough time deciding who was cognizant of the "survey" operation at the Baie Jacotet Landing Station and what was the chain of command for such an operation. The revoked Chairman and Mauritian Board members of MT may be invited by CCID to provide their version of events and what they really knew of the security issue raised by the PM reportedly since October 2021. As a collateral damage, the whole affair, now reported in overseas media, could place heavy interrogation marks on future consortium-led international optic cable upgrades or developments transiting through Mauritius, particularly if the current underwater SAFE cable itself may be nearing the end of its useful life.

## Security concerns: Western nations crack down on Huawei

There have been over the past decade numerous concerns raised in many Western capitals about the role of Chinese Corporate Entities (CCEs) and the likes of Huawei, ZTE (a partially state-owned technology company that specializes in telecommunication), Vivo or TikTok, in potential industrial or espionage on behalf of the People's Liberation Army government in Beijing.

Huawei, in particular, now the world's biggest back-office supplier of telecoms and internet equipment and software, has been accused essentially on two fronts: (a) leaving surreptitious back-doors open for their maintenance personnel or for malicious software to offload data of interest, and (b) the use of software "patches" with malicious and often sophisticated self-destruct features to achieve the same objectives. These patches would come as regular part of their maintenance agreements after

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commissioning of a "clean" system that passes all of a country's security tests.

It would seem serious concerns began in all Western national security circles ten years ago when Australian intelligence officials detected a sophisticated intrusion into their country's telecommunications systems, through an apparently legitimate software update from Huawei that was allegedly loaded with malicious code that reprogrammed the infected equipment to record all the communications passing through it before sending the data to China.

Both the Chinese government, Huawei and their supporters in much of Africa or Asia, many of whom cannot afford more expensive alternatives, or some who like the Huawei software enhancements that enable their governments to monitor their populations rather closely, have systematically denied the Western concerns as lacking substance or as forming part of a trade war on China.

What particularly angered the Chinese authorities was that Australia decided to share that 2012 security breach with most Western security services, and both countries have since locked horns consistently.

Huawei dominates the more than \$90 billion global telecommunications equipment market, where it competes against Sweden's Ericsson and Finland's Nokia



and there are obviously major trade and security issues at stake as the next generation of 5G networks are being considered. As matters stand, the US, Australia, Sweden and the UK have all banned Huawei from their 5G networks, and about 60 countries signed on to a US Department of State program where they've committed to avoiding Chinese equipment for their telecommunications systems.

The extent to which Huawei is involved in our telecoms network or the CCTV cameras in the context of the Safe City project with undisclosed features (facial or voice recognition for instance) has not been a matter of concern here to date. There is no reason as yet to suspect that it might be of interest to our national security as both Mauritius and China have always strived to maintain cordial and trusting relationships.

Jan Arden

# Increasingly insecure world



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

**T**wo days ago, I met a young couple who live in San Diego, California, who are here for a brief holiday. The husband is Mauritian and his wife is American, and they have a daughter who is in 9th grade. On completing 12th grade, she will be joining university. Mum is keeping the options open but has a preference for Europe, because she feels that it is no longer the same America that she has known in her younger days.

She is concerned about safety in civilian life, because 'there are far too many guns. Far too many young people possessing guns.' She mentioned the 18–24-year-old boys, who somehow or the other pick up or get involved in a fight, and will pull out a gun. And you can't prevent them from possessing one, or two, or several – because the law allows them.

Sometime before they flew down, there was shooting in a locality - 'downtown' - where they have often gone for meals, known to be a quiet place. For whatever reason, there was a shoot out, and two decent people who had come from out of town for a conference were killed as they were having lunch in a restaurant.

'It takes place at random,' she continued, 'but random can be anywhere, anytime.' And who knows that you or one of yours may be at the right place, but at the wrong time?

Violence is endemic in our world, but in civilian life it is now more common. Or perhaps we feel so because communication has expanded so much and become so easy that every incident around the world is reported, so it seems more frequent. Nearly 35 years ago, I was doing a last-minute shopping at Galeries Lafayette in Marseille on the evening of my departure from there. When I reached back to the doctors' residence, I learnt that there had been a terrorist explosion at Galeries Lafayette in Paris! What if... I shuddered to think!

Fast forward to about 10 years ago and I am at the Sandton Centre in Johannesburg, at the bank during a lunchtime break. Suddenly there's commotion and noise heard further away in the Centre: there's been an attack. We hurry back to our conference venue.

\* \* \*

**L**ast week in San Diego the lady stepped out of the house to be whacked in the face by a heat wave of 41 degrees Celsius: *du jamais vu*, temperatures so high, a phenomenon that has become common only recently, over the past few years. And so too in Europe, sweltering under the same range of temperatures, causing heat waves with deaths in the hundreds, and wildfires. Elsewhere, it's floods, hurricanes.

It is now firmly established by the UN's International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that it is human activities that are collectively responsible for increasing carbon emissions, leading to heating up of the earth's atmosphere and climate change, and thus the aberrant extremes of weather we are having to endure, all over the world. No country is spared. Haven't we in tiny



**“Traditionally, as I read during my HSC days, the human population is kept in check by war, famine, and disease. Now we have all three: war in Ukraine causing famine in Africa, and if not checked may spread elsewhere too. Disease: well, the Covid pandemic is not going to be over soon, and no one knows when. Like the Ukraine war what! However, because of advances in medicine, health and its determinants, the world population is still growing. That should not blind us to the fact that where wars are ongoing innocent people are dying, leaving families to grieve...”**

Mauritius been shivering for the past several weeks in the continuous, unusually cold and rainy weather that had gripped us? Imagine people in Port Louis complaining that it is cold: this confirms what we in the highlands have been feeling: unusually cold. Our poor old bones, as we say *fraicheur la rentre dans lézo!* – 'the cold penetrates into the bones!'

Alas, the insecurities brought about by climate change are compounded by the man-made ones. The live example is the global convulsion being felt as a result of the war in Ukraine, with threats of disruption of supplies of wheat, cooking oil, petrol and gas. The effects are already being felt across the globe, and countries are turning selfish, ignoring pledges taken for curbing emissions to mitigate climate change. Thus, Germany, the country most affected by the cut-off of Russian gas (now down to 20%) and facing the prospect of a grim, heatless winter, has re-opened coal plants to ensure that its citizens do not succumb because of lack of home heating.

And why the war? Because of superpower rivalry that has morphed into antagonism and then into an open no-holds-barred conflict between European nations and Russia, Ukraine being the proxy for the Russo-American ideological 'cold warring' that had never ended despite Gorbachev's glasnost and perestroika. A demonstration, if need be, on live as it were, of

**“American base in Diego Garcia; France in Reunion; China's maritime footprint in the Indian Ocean region in key ports: Hambatota in Sri Lanka, Gwadar in Pakistan, and Doraleh in Djibouti, and more recently Tanzania; and now we hear about a late entrant, India in Agalega. And of course, other countries also have a maritime presence, such as UK, Japan, Australia both for ensuring SLOCs and for combating piracy. Does the region become more or less insecure? An open question...”**

the folk wisdom that I overheard being distilled one morning at the Jan Palach *la foire* (open market) before it became bus terminus, an elderly man telling an elderly lady vendor: *'Croire moi madame, la vie la li pas compliqué sa, c'est nous humain qui complique li!*' – 'believe me, madam, life is not really complicated, it is we humans who complicate it.' Q.E.D. Ukraine currently.

Traditionally, as I read during my HSC days, the human population is kept in check by war, famine, and disease. Now we have all three: war in Ukraine causing famine in Africa, and if not checked may spread elsewhere too. Disease: well, the Covid pandemic is not going to be over soon, and no one knows when. Like the Ukraine war what! However, because of advances in medicine, health and its determinants, the world population is still growing. That should not blind us to the fact that where wars are ongoing innocent people are dying, leaving families to grieve.

And insecurity is growing even more because of belligerent superpowers which are extending their reach across the oceans, the Indo-Pacific and the Indian Ocean being the new 'playing grounds' which are being coveted. As a paper from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace notes, 'At the heart of the geopolitical struggle in the Indian Ocean is the ability to sustain a military presence near the key choke points connecting its trade routes. Such a presence gives countries the power to protect and disrupt these valuable maritime channels — known as Sea Lines of Communications (SLOC) protection and SLOC interdiction in naval terms — during times of peace and war.'

American base in Diego Garcia; France in Reunion; China's maritime footprint in the Indian Ocean region in key ports: Hambatota in Sri Lanka, Gwadar in Pakistan, and Doraleh in Djibouti, and more recently Tanzania; and now we hear about a late entrant, India in Agalega. And of course, other countries also have a maritime presence, such as UK, Japan, Australia both for ensuring SLOCs and for combating piracy.

Does the region become more or less insecure? An open question.

## Immigration Bill

# “Decision makers, whatever their status, cannot and are not allowed by law to possess absolute discretion”

**T**he Immigration Bill, which supersedes the previous Act, has been passed this week in Parliament granting, in one of its clauses, an absolute discretionary power to the head of government to deprive any citizen by naturalisation of his citizenship status. Since no reason would need to be given either, this could restrict severely the deprived person's ability to have legal recourse. Lex opines whether this clause and the absolute powers granted to any executive officer meets our constitutional provisions, comparable UK/UE practices or our international obligations.

LEX

\* The Immigration Bill (No. XII of 2022), whose main object is “to consolidate and strengthen the law with regard to the admission and stay of non-citizens in the country” is being criticised in some quarters for the discretionary power it gives to the Home Affairs minister (usually held by the Prime Minister) to “deprive (in his absolute discretion and without giving any reason) any person of his citizenship of Mauritius, if he has reliable information and is satisfied that it is in the interest of defence, public safety or public order”. How do you react to what would amount to sweeping and unaccountable powers that are being vested in the Prime Minister?

Decision makers, whatever their status, cannot and are not allowed by law to possess absolute discretion. Absolute discretion does mean that the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is ousted. The decision of the man, who believes he holds absolute discretion to deprive an individual of his citizenship, is reviewable by the judiciary.

\* Given the way the it has been drafted and the discretionary powers being vested in the Prime Minister, do you think the amended law would pass the test of constitutionality?

The law may stand the test of constitutionality with the caveat that the decision emanating from the exercise of absolute discretion is definitely reviewable by the courts.

\* There are however some freedoms that are or may be restricted by law in the interests of defence, public safety or public order. Which consideration is likely to prevail in the Mauritian context: the interests of justice or those of defence, public safety, public order? What has been the general trend in that regard?

Absolute freedom does not exist anywhere. All freedoms are subject to derogations. Our Constitution provides that the fundamental rights are subject to such limitations of that protection as are contained in those provisions, being limitations designed to ensure that the enjoyment of those rights and freedoms by any individual does not prejudice the rights and freedoms of others or the public interest. All the freedoms may be derogated from provided they are justifiable in a democratic society.

\* If a Prime Minister were to come forward and state that he cannot in the interests of defence, public safety, public order or national security divulge

the reasons behind an executive decision - be it in relation to immigration or any other issue, will our Courts go along with that?



## “The decision of the man, who believes he holds absolute discretion to deprive an individual of his citizenship, is reviewable by the judiciary”

Certainly not. Confidentiality would in many instances give way to human rights considerations. For example, if a citizen has been deprived of his citizenship and he is given no reasons, how on earth will he be able to access the courts of law to challenge that decision? By not giving reasons, the Prime Minister would be denying or putting severe limits on the right of access to a court of law that an individual has and this a fundamental right.

\* Does this mean that had the Prime Minister refused to divulge any details about the survey carried out at Baie Jacotet Landing Station in the interest of national security, that would have been the end of the story?

The most sensible thing the Prime Minister should have done right from the word go was to make a statement in Parliament or to the nation on TV that the survey was ordered as he had received reliable information that there might be a cyber attack or a terrorist attack on Mauritius without giving the details that would compromise any investigation or national security. He should also have alerted the partners of the Consortium about his action. All this would have been perfectly in order.

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Unfortunately, the whole incident has been turned into a political storm.

By refusing to give any clue of any possible cyber or terrorist attack, the Prime Minister has opened wide the avenues of speculation and insinuations.

\* To come back to the Immigration Bill, Section 39 (4) of the Bill proposes to amend the Passport Act, the subsection (2) of which states: ‘A stateless person, or, where regulations are made under subsection (1), a national or citizen of a country specified in the regulations shall not be allowed to enter Mauritius unless he has obtained a visa.’ What happens to those that are rendered stateless resulting from the application of the amended Passport Act? What avenues of redress do they have?

A stateless person is a citizen of nowhere. Without a nationality, stateless persons are without the recognition or protection of any country. There are two UN Convention on Statelessness: first, the UN Convention of 1954, and second the 1961 Convention. Mauritius is not a party to any of these Conventions.

As explained by the UNHCR: “The 1954 Convention is designed to ensure that stateless people enjoy a minimum set of human rights. It establishes the legal definition of a stateless person as someone who is “not recognized as a national by any state under the operation of its law.”

Simply put, this means that a stateless person is someone who does not have the nationality of any country. The 1954 Convention also establishes minimum standards of treatment for stateless people in respect to a number of rights. These include, but are not limited to, the right to education, employment and housing. Importantly, the 1954 Convention also guarantees stateless people a right to identity, travel documents and administrative assistance.”

● Cont. on page 14



The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared monkeypox a global health emergency on Saturday. Pic- shiningbd.com

## Monkeypox: Europe, US worst hit; account for 95% of the diagnosed cases, says WHO

Europe and the Americas have been affected the most by the monkeypox outbreak, said Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Wednesday.

These two regions have reported 95% of the diagnosed cases, he said, warning against stigma and discrimination in monkeypox messaging.

Over 18,000 monkeypox cases have been reported to the WHO from 78 countries. More than 70 per cent of these came from the European region and 25 per cent from the Americas, reports ANI.

He said that 98 per cent of the reported cases have been among men who have sex with men, stressing that stigma

and discrimination can be "as dangerous as any virus and can fuel the outbreak."

"As we have seen with Covid-19 misinformation," it can spread rapidly online, he said, "so we call on social media platforms, tech companies and news organizations to work with us to prevent and counter harmful information."

Last Saturday, the WHO officially declared monkeypox a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). A PHEIC is the highest level of alert that the United Nations (UN) health body can give.

The WHO has been urging countries to take the monkeypox outbreak seriously by taking the steps needed to stop transmission and protect vulnerable groups. "The best way to do that is to reduce the risk of exposure and make safe choices," he said.

Meanwhile, Canada, the European Union and the US have already approved the vaccine called MVA-BN (Modified Vaccinia Ankara - Bavarian Nordic) for use against monkeypox, and two other vaccines are also being assessed. However, due to the lack of data on the effectiveness and dosage of the vaccines, the WHO currently does not recommend mass vaccination against monkeypox. It also urges all countries that are administering such vaccines to collect and share critical data on their effectiveness.

## Singapore, US, Mauritius, Netherlands and Switzerland emerge as top five countries for FDI equity inflows into India



Pic- Livemint

Singapore, USA, Mauritius, Netherlands and Switzerland have emerged as top five countries for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India in the financial year 2021-22, an official Indian release said on Thursday (28 July).

Around 27.01 per cent of the FDI equity inflows in India were from Singapore, followed by USA (17.94 per cent), Mauritius (15.98 per cent), Netherlands (7.86 per cent) and Switzerland (7.31 per cent).

Top five sectors receiving highest FDI Equity Inflow during FY2021-22 are Computer Software and Hardware (24.60 per cent), Services Sector (Fin., Banking, Insurance, Non Fin/Business, Outsourcing, R&D, Courier, Tech. Testing and Analysis, Other) (12.13 per cent), Automobile Industry (11.89 per cent),

Trading (7.72 per cent) and Construction (Infrastructure) Activities (5.52 per cent).

Top five states receiving highest FDI Equity Inflow during FY2021-22 are Karnataka (37.55 per cent), Maharashtra (26.26 per cent), Delhi (13.93 per cent), Tamil Nadu (5.10 per cent) and Haryana (4.76 per cent), the ministry said.

During FY2021-22, FDI has been reported from 101 countries, whereas, it was reported from 97 countries during previous FY 2020-21, it added.

According to the ministry, the Indian government has implemented several reforms under the FDI policy regime across sectors such as insurance, defense, telecom, financial services, pharmaceuticals, retail trading, e-commerce, construction and development, civil aviation, and manufacturing etc.

Despite the ongoing pandemic and global developments, India received the highest annual FDI inflows of \$84,835 million in FY21-22 overtaking last year's FDI by \$2.87 billion. Earlier, FDI inflows increased from \$74,391 million in FY19-20 to \$81,973 million in FY 20-21, the ministry said.

## Rishi Sunak says Liz Truss risks tipping millions into 'economic misery' in acrimonious head-to-head debate

Rishi Sunak has warned Liz Truss risks tipping millions into "economic misery" and fueling inflation with her economic proposals, as the pair trashed each other's policy platforms in an acrimonious debate.



Hitting out at the foreign secretary's £30bn-plus tax cut plans, the former chancellor claimed there was "nothing Conservative" about her approach, with the party having "absolutely no chance" of winning the next election, reports The Independent.

Ms Truss accused Mr Sunak of "scaremongering" and "Project Fear" - a term Brexiteers used to dismiss the economic warnings of the Remain camp in 2016.

She also criticised Mr Sunak over his stance on China, saying that the Treasury was just last month calling for closer bilateral and economic ties with the country.

Both candidates also ruled out a role for Boris Johnson in their future government. They were asked about the potential of a political comeback for Mr Johnson after The Telegraph reported that the PM had told Lord Cruddas on Friday that he "wants to fight the next general election as leader of the Conservative Party."

## Scores of Sri Lankans, on boats, flee to Tamil Nadu amid economic crisis

Scores of Sri Lankans, fleeing their economically distressed nation, arrived in India's Tamil Nadu, including at least six people from two families on Wednesday, officials were quoted in a report. Sri Lanka's parliament has extended the state of emergency imposed earlier in July as protests continued to grow amid months of a financial crisis that led to a food, fuel and power shortage.

Of the six people who escaped to Tamil Nadu the previous day, three of them were children, according to news agency PTI. The families had left their hometown of Jaffna in Sri Lanka and reached India by a boat, reports Hindustan Times.

Officials then rescued them from an islet and took them to the Mandapam refugee camp, PTI stated.

Over the past few months, many Sri Lankans - most of them Tamils - have left the island nation to enter India through Tamil Nadu as they were unable to survive the crisis, with prices of essential commodities and fuel skyrocketing there.

They were dropped near Rameswaram island by boatmen and



A demonstrator waves a Sri Lankan flag near police barricades during a protest march towards the Presidential secretariat office in Colombo. Pic - BBC

rescued by the Indian Coast Guard and brought to Dhanushkodi to be handed over to the police.

Last week, seven people belonging to two families in Lanka arrived in the state.

### State of emergency in Sri Lanka

The 'emergency' was declared on July 18 by Ranil Wickremesinghe, who was still the acting president at the time, under the Public Security Ordinance in the interests of public security, the protection of public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community, according to

reports.

With Wednesday's parliamentary sanctioning, the state of emergency will now be in force until August 14.

During a debate in Sri Lanka's Parliament, the Opposition lawmakers accused Wickremesinghe of ordering a crackdown on the peaceful protesters by using the state of emergency. The government was blamed for unleashing a crackdown on protesters who had forced the resignation of the Rajapaksa family.

## North Korea's Kim Jong Un threatens US, S. Korea with 'nuclear war deterrent'



Kim said U.S.-South Korea military drills targeting North Korea show the U.S.'s "double standards" and "gangster-like" aspects. Pic - New York Post

**N**orth Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned he's ready to use his nuclear weapons in potential military conflicts with the United States and South Korea, state media said Thursday, as he unleashed fiery rhetoric against rivals he says are pushing the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war.

Kim's speech to war veterans on the 69th anniversary of the end of the

1950-53 Korean War was apparently meant to boost internal unity in the impoverished country amid pandemic-related economic difficulties. While Kim has increasingly threatened his rivals with nuclear weapons, it's unlikely that he would use them first against the superior militaries of the U.S. and its allies, reports Hindustan Times.

"Our armed forces are completely

prepared to respond to any crisis, and our country's nuclear war deterrent is also ready to mobilize its absolute power dutifully, exactly and swiftly in accordance with its mission," Kim said in Wednesday's speech.

He accused the United States of "demonizing" North Korea to justify its hostile policies. He said U.S.-South Korea military drills targeting North Korea show the U.S.'s "double standards" and "gangster-like" aspects because it brands North Korea's routine military activities — an apparent reference to its missile tests — as provocations or threats.

Kim also alleged the new South Korean government of President Yoon Suk Yeol is led by "confrontation maniacs" and "gangsters" who have gone further than previous South Korean conservative governments. Since taking office in May, the Yoon government has moved to strengthen Seoul's military alliance with the United States and bolster its capacity to neutralize North Korean nuclear threats including a preemptive strike capability.



Yang Huiyan: Asia's richest woman lost more than half her fortune in China's property crunch. Pic - Fox Metro News

## Asia's richest woman's \$24 bn net worth plunges by half

**A**sia's wealthiest woman lost more than half her fortune over the past year as China's real estate sector was rocked by a cash crunch, a billionaire index showed Thursday.

Yang Huiyan, a majority shareholder in Chinese property giant Country Garden, saw her net worth plunge by more than 52 percent to \$11.3 billion from \$23.7 billion a year ago, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Yang's fortune took a major hit on Wednesday when the Guangdong-based Country Garden's Hong Kong-listed shares fell 15 percent after the company announced it would sell new shares to raise cash, reports AFP.

Yang inherited her wealth when her father -- Country Garden founder Yang Guoqiang -- transferred his shares to her in 2005, according to state media.

She became Asia's richest woman two years later after the developer's initial public offering in Hong Kong.

But she is now barely holding onto that title, with chemical fibres tycoon Fan Hongwei a close runner-up with a net worth of \$11.2 billion on Thursday.

Chinese authorities cracked down on excessive debt in the property sector in 2020, leaving major players such as Evergrande and Sunac struggling to make payments and forcing them to renegotiate with creditors as they teetered on the edge of bankruptcy.

China's banking regulator has urged lenders to support the property sector and meet the "reasonable financing needs" of firms as analysts and policymakers fear financial contagion.

The property sector is estimated to account for 18-30 percent of the country's GDP and is a key driver of growth in the world's second-largest economy.

Analysts have warned that the industry is mired in a "vicious cycle" that would further dampen consumer confidence, following the release of dismal Q2 growth figures that were the worst since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Compiled by Doojesh Ramlallah

## What are the long-term consequences of our increased alcohol intake during lockdown?

**T**housands of extra alcohol-related deaths and hospital admissions are set to be reported over the coming 20 years as a result of increased drinking habits acquired during the pandemic, new research suggests.



A study from the University of Sheffield, commissioned by NHS England, found that while lighter drinkers cut their consumption during lockdown, heavier drinkers drank more and may never return to where they were, leading to serious health complications for many.

The research examined how alcohol-related hospitalisations and deaths are likely to increase post-Covid. It found that, in a worst-case scenario, there will be 972,382 additional hospital admissions and 25,192 additional deaths, at a cost of £5.2 billion to the NHS, in the next 20 years.



A Russian military truck drives past an unexploded munition during Ukraine-Russia conflict in the Russia-controlled village of Chornobaivka, Ukraine July 26, 2022. Pic - Reuters

## Kyiv says Russian forces have captured Ukraine's second largest power plant

**R**ussian forces have captured Ukraine's second biggest power plant and Moscow is undertaking a "massive redeployment" of troops to three southern regions, a senior adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Wednesday.

Russian-backed forces had earlier announced the capture of the Soviet-era, coal-fired Vuhlehirsk power plant, reports Reuters.

"They achieved a tiny tactical advantage - they captured Vuhlehirsk," presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovych said in an interview posted on YouTube.

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Interview: Rabin Bhujun

# “Il y aura un tsunami quand des preuves indiscutables d'une faute seront fournies...

## Sans celles-ci, on n'a que des pistes de travail pour l'heure”

**L**es allégations de *sniffing* ont donné l'occasion à la population de se rendre compte des dangers représentés par l'espionnage moderne dans le monde contemporain. La sécurité du pays et de la région tout comme les enjeux géopolitiques et les alliances entre les grandes puissances au niveau international demeurent l'affaire des spécialistes. Les Mauriciens ne sont pas dupes et vaquent plutôt avec calme à leurs propres préoccupations du moment. Rabin Bhujun, journaliste, nous en parle.



**Mauritius Times: L'affaire du 'survey' à la station d'atterrissage du câble SAFE de Baie Jacotet est très complexe. Mais il semble qu'on commence à y voir un peu plus clair et que cela dépasserait les intérêts de la petite île Maurice et aurait un lien vital dans un contexte géopolitique particulier. Quelle lecture faites-vous de cette affaire trois semaines après les révélations de l'ancien CEO de Mauritius Telecom?**

**Rabin Bhujun :** Vous avez raison de dire qu'on y voit «un peu plus clair» et j'insiste sur le « peu». A vrai dire, nous sommes toujours dans une séquence de communication habilement dirigée jusqu'ici par Sherry Singh et son cercle de soutiens.

Reconnaissons le talent de l'ancien patron de Mauritius Telecom pour le *storytelling*. Il y a eu le timing de sa démission ; sa première interview à Radio Plus qui a mis le feu aux poudres, ses éléments de langage («*third party*», «*sniffing*») largement repris tels quels dans la presse et par les politiques; ensuite l'interview ratée de *l'express* qui l'a conduit à faire un exercice de rattrapage de nouveau chez Radio Plus.

Il est évident que c'est Sherry Singh qui a fourni, directement ou indirectement, aux journalistes les différentes pièces du puzzle dont on parle depuis trois semaines. Nous sommes donc dans sa phase de communication - dépasser le «*narrative*» - qui lui sied.

Il faut se hâter de préciser que nous sommes en pré-

« Si des preuves factuelles et irréfutables ne sont pas apportées pour démontrer que Pravind Jugnauth a agi contre les intérêts de la nation dans l'affaire Baie du Jacotet, la question du « survey » ne sera qu'une tempête de plus que le Premier ministre aura surmonté - surtout s'il arrive à défaire le statut de héros que se donne Sherry Singh... »

sence de pièces du puzzle mais certainement pas en possession de suffisamment d'éléments pour comprendre tous les tenants et aboutissants de ce feuilleton qui s'annonce long.

**\* Justement, qu'est-ce qu'il y a au-delà de ce « narrative » dont vous parlez?**

Il y a bien évidemment la géopolitique. Un «*narrative*» local et politique est déjà bien installé à ce sujet : Il présente l'Inde de Narendra Modi comme une puissance colonisatrice et hégémonique à l'égard de Maurice. Sherry Singh a, avec raison, choisi de construire sa version autour cette menace indienne en présentant Pravind Jugnauth comme un vassal du Premier ministre de la Grande Péninsule. Cette prémisse convainc déjà de nombreux Mauriciens, ils n'ont donc eu aucun mal à conclure que les Indiens nous espionnent pour leur propre compte ou pour le compte du gouvernement mauricien.

C'est toutefois un tableau simpliste qui ne tient pas compte du fait que nous nous trouvons dans une région avec des enjeux géopolitiques et géostratégiques considérables. L'océan Indien est une ère d'influence et de conquête au sein de laquelle l'Inde et la Chine se livrent à une âpre rivalité. La Chine possède toutefois un atout dont l'Inde ne dispose pas: ses géants de la télécommunication et des réseaux. Un d'eux, Huawei, a fourni une très large part des solutions télécoms aux opérateurs privés et publics à Maurice. Mauritius Telecom est très lourdement dépendante de ce géant chinois pour son fonctionnement quotidien. Par ailleurs, Huawei est aussi l'épine dorsale de notre système national de surveillance: Safe City.

Cet entrisme technologique, véritable – et dangereux – *soft power* dans laquelle excelle la Chine, a été identifié comme une menace majeure à leur sécurité nationale par de nombreux pays. Ce qui a conduit le Royaume Uni, le Canada, l'Australie ou encore les USA à adopter une ligne très agressive à l'égard des géants chinois des télécoms.

Ce lundi, Rishi Sunak, qui brigue le poste de leader

du Parti conservateur britannique et donc de Premier ministre en Grande Bretagne, a tenu des propos peu diplomatiques à l'égard de la Chine. Dans une publication sur sa page LinkedIn, il a signifié son intention de «*build a new international alliance of free nations to tackle Chinese cyber-threats and share best practice in technology security*» s'il se retrouve à 10, Downing Street.

« Certains stratèges peu futés pensent que le traditionnel tandem PTR/PMSD pourrait faire l'affaire face à Pravind Jugnauth. C'est un pari risqué, même fou car la seule vraie chance de l'opposition réside dans sa capacité à s'unir pour affronter l'alliance que dirigera Pravind Jugnauth lors des prochaines législatives. Si le chef du MSM affronte une opposition dispersée, il pourra toujours prétendre obtenir 35 ou 37 sièges... »

**\* Où se situe donc Maurice dans tout cela ?**

La Grand Péninsule dispose d'alliés objectifs qui estiment que l'entrisme technologique de la Chine est au service d'un axe Chine-Russie-Pakistan-Corée du Nord. Par opposition donc, l'axe Inde, USA, Royaume-Uni, Australie s'est constitué son propre réseau d'alliés.

On n'a aucun mal à imaginer dans quel camp Maurice a choisi de se ranger.

Tout comme on peut aisément conclure que le chef du gouvernement s'est sans doute retrouvé face à une requête, d'un ou de plusieurs membres de cet axe, pour qu'un audit soit effectué afin d'évaluer le niveau de sécurité de l'ensemble du réseau télécom de Maurice à partir du moment où le câble Safe touche terre à Baie du Jacotet.

☞ Suite en page 10

☞ Suite de la page 9

Enfin, je ne m'étonne pas que le Premier ministre ait laissé une équipe indienne, externe à Mauritius Telecom, conduire cet audit. Mieux vaut tard que jamais, car il a peut-être dû se rappeler des «*serious concerns*» très diplomatiques qui avaient été communiquées, il y a plusieurs années au sujet de la menace d'entrisme technologique. Il n'y avait eu aucune réaction du gouvernement à l'époque. Il faut dire que Huawei était alors un «*trusted partner*» de Maurice, pour reprendre les mots prononcés par Pravind Jugnauth lors de sa visite chez le géant chinois en septembre 2018.

**\* Avez-vous l'impression que le gouvernement et, en particulier, le Premier ministre sont en train de reprendre les choses en main après ce qui apparaît comme une gestion maladroite depuis l'éclatement de l'affaire?**

Pas du tout. Vous êtes même indulgent quand vous dites que la gestion de cette affaire a été maladroite. Elle a été calamiteuse! La ligne de défense du gouvernement, tenue par quelques députés et ministres complètement dépassés, a été ridicule. Notre ministre de l'Intérieur et Premier ministre a jusqu'ici choisi la solennité d'une déclaration à la nation, ce mercredi, à la radiotélévision nationale pour admettre qu'il y a un «*problème*» lié à la «*sécurité nationale*», ce qui a nécessité un audit d'une équipe externe, et donc indépendante de Mauritius Telecom. L'Attorney General et un des membres du nouveau conseil d'administration de Mauritius Telecom se sont ensuite chargés d'en dire un peu plus. En pointant notamment du doigt la dépendance de Maurice sur les solutions réseaux et équipements de Huawei.

Ces atermoiements et cette manière de verser dans la demi-mesure explique le malaise bien réel qui s'est installé au gouvernement suite à la démission et aux accusations de Sherry Singh. En fait, des élus – des simples députés aux ministres – ne comprennent rien à ce qui s'est passé ni ne savent quoi répondre face aux interrogations légitimes. Jugnauth ne leur dit rien, ou si peu, se contentant de quelques formules éculées pour signifier sa volonté d'en découdre avec Sherry Singh, comme il l'a fait de nouveau à la télévision nationale ce mercredi.

**\* Faut-il toutefois reconnaître que ce qui est apparu comme une gestion maladroite au départ s'explique par le fait que le Premier ministre ne peut pas, pour des raisons évidentes, tout dire?**

Il est certain que le Premier ministre a sans doute une marge de manœuvre limitée par rapport à ce qu'il peut dire sur une question avec deux dimensions aussi sensibles: la sécurité nationale et les relations diplomatiques.

Il faut aussi rappeler que Sherry Singh a fait partie du premier cercle de Pravind Jugnauth depuis qu'il est revenu au pouvoir en 2014. A ce titre, il est certain que Sherry Singh et Pravind Jugnauth ont collaboré étroitement sur une série de sujets sensibles dont celle des télécommunications qui a conduit à la position hégémonique de Huawei à Maurice.

Au-delà de l'aspect sensible lié à la sécurité nationale, je fais partie de ceux qui pensent que Pravind Jugnauth ne peut, non plus, se permettre de tout dire, parce qu'il s'incriminera aussi à un certain degré. Après tout, c'est sous son autorité que Sherry Singh a agi pendant des années. Accuser l'ancien CEO de MT de quelconques agissements répréhensibles reviendrait, pour Pravind Jugnauth, d'admettre qu'il a laissé faire ce dernier. Ce qui est tout aussi grave car se pose alors la question de savoir pourquoi il l'a laissé faire?

**\* On se posait des questions quant aux motivations réelles de l'ancien CEO de Mauritius Telecom depuis le début de cette affaire. Sherry Singh se**



## 'On sent chez Navin Ramgoolam, une sorte de regain de forme. Cela se voit et s'entend'

« S'il y a bien une chose qui ne sera pas un problème pour Pravind Jugnauth, c'est sa capacité à financer généreusement sa prochaine campagne électorale. Quant au contexte, oui, la situation économique s'améliore. Mais on a beaucoup de retard à rattraper et l'embellie économique ne sera pas éclatante... »

« L'océan Indien est une ère d'influence et de conquête au sein de laquelle l'Inde et la Chine se livrent à une âpre rivalité. La Chine possède toutefois un atout dont l'Inde ne dispose pas : ses géants de la télécommunication et des réseaux. Un d'eux, Huawei, a fourni une très large part des solutions télécoms aux opérateurs privés et publics à Maurice. Mauritius Telecom est très lourdement dépendante de ce géant chinois pour son fonctionnement quotidien... »

« Au-delà de l'aspect sensible lié à la sécurité nationale, je fais partie de ceux qui pensent que Pravind Jugnauth ne peut, non plus, se permettre de tout dire, parce qu'il s'incriminera aussi à un certain degré. Après tout, c'est sous son autorité que Sherry Singh a agi pendant des années. Accuser l'ancien CEO de MT de quelconques agissements répréhensibles reviendrait, pour Pravind Jugnauth, d'admettre qu'il a laissé faire ce dernier... »

**disait animé par un esprit patriotique, mais les 'posts' qui circulent sur les réseaux sociaux et ses intentions politiques, dévoilées par lui-même peut-être trop hâtivement, risquent de décrédibiliser sa démarche. Votre opinion?**

Je laisse à d'autres la mission d'effectuer des analyses savantes sur sa capacité à créer un parti politique, de fédérer l'électorat ou encore de savoir s'il est bien né pour occuper le poste de Premier ministre.

A mon sens, ce sont des considérations secondaires, car là n'est pas le problème. J'ai une autre explication plus pragmatique au sujet du désir, aussi soudain qu'intense, de l'ancien chef de MT de se lancer dans l'arène politique et de ne pas y occuper un simple rôle de figurant.

A mon avis, Sherry Singh a choisi d'annoncer des prétentions politiques à dessein et selon un calcul simple. Il a voulu se donner une carrure d'opposant politique pour ne pas être cantonné au rôle d'ancien membre émérite de la cuisine des Jugnauth. Il a réussi, me semble-t-il, un exercice de *rebranding* pour qu'on ne le décrive plus comme un ancien sous-fifre frustré et porteur de casseroles du Premier ministre, mais plutôt comme un courageux opposant capable de le remplacer.

Ce *rebranding* a également un autre avantage: On ne traite pas un opposant politique comme on traiterait un ancien allié qui se retrouve hors des arcanes du pouvoir. Ainsi drapé de cette nouvelle aura, Sherry Singh peut commodément accuser Pravind Jugnauth de vouloir nuire à l'ascension d'un opposant politique, si jamais le chef du gouvernement et sa police, se prennent à adopter une ligne dure à son égard.

Le *rebranding* est réussi, le «*politicien*» Singh reçoit même le soutien des différents partis qui le traitaient, il y a encore quelques mois, de tous les noms et l'accusaient de tous les péchés de la terre. Chapeau l'artiste!

**\* Par ailleurs, le battage médiatique autour de cette affaire - quoique très sérieuse - et en particulier de la part de certains titres de presse et les discours de certains politiciens de l'opposition pourraient produire un effet contraire à ce qui avait été envisagé au départ. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

Nous vivons à l'ère du spectacle numérique, caractérisée par une confusion généralisée, même dans les médias d'information, par rapport à ce qui est important ou trivial. A quoi accorder davantage d'importance? Au nombre de *views* et de personnes connectées pour regarder un *live* sur Facebook? Ou la somme d'information, d'éclairage et de contradictions apportées lors d'un exercice rigoureux et avant tout journalistique?

Le feuilleton Sherry Singh a deux dimensions. D'une part, c'est un phénomène médiatique en soi, dans lequel les *social media engagement metrics* sont roi, car ils engendrent des revenus publicitaires sonnants et rébuschants pour les médias qui arrivent à négocier un «*live*» avec le repentir de service.

Et, d'autre part, l'aspect crucial de la sécurité des données informatiques et des diverses correspondances qui transitent par le pays chaque jour.

☞ Suite en page 11

# 'Si le chef du MSM affronte une opposition dispersée, il pourra toujours prétendre obtenir 35 ou 37 sièges avec à peine 35% des suffrages'

☞ Suite de la page 10

La première dimension est triviale et mène invariablement à de petites querelles entre médias voulant obtenir leur part d'audience...et donc du butin publicitaire. Les uns allant jusqu'à s'accuser mutuellement de ne pas approfondir le sujet ou de faire des salamalecs à Sherry Singh. Il y a pire, dans un *spin off* du feuilleton Sherry Singh, un ministre et un journaliste se lancent maintenant des défis en bombant le torse. Le spectacle est assuré!

Ni le discours des hommes politiques ni les travers des médias ne doivent toutefois nous détourner de la seconde dimension de cette affaire. Nous devons savoir exactement pourquoi ce «survey» a été effectué et quelles ont été ses conclusions. C'est à l'aulne de ces deux éléments que nous pourrons alors juger si l'attitude de Sherry Singh était justifiée et justifiable ou si Pravind Jugnauth mérite d'être botté hors du pouvoir sans tarder.

**\* Toutefois, le "tsunami" espéré et qui devait balayer le gouvernement Jugnauth du pouvoir ne s'est pas produit jusqu'ici. Qu'est-ce qui explique cela, selon vous?**

Quand il y a ce genre d'emballement médiatique et de l'opinion, chacun doit, paraît-il, se ranger dans le camp du politiquement correct et aller dans le sens du courant alarmiste. Je pense toutefois qu'il faut relativiser ce qu'on a découvert jusqu'ici et ne pas en tirer des conclusions hâtives et irrévocables.

Le «questionnaire» envoyé à Mauritius Telecom n'est



« Les spéculations vont même très loin, la possibilité que les communications d'ambassades locales aient pu être interceptées a été évoquée. C'est une grave accusation portée par des personnes qui ne savent pas qu'il existe quatre Broadband Network Gateway (BNG): Port-Louis, Rose-Hill, Floréal et Flacq... le BNG de Floréal ne dessert pas que quelques résidences d'ambassadeurs mais près d'un quart du pays. C'est ce qui explique peut-être pourquoi un certain calme règne dans les chancelleries... »

pas choquant, en soi. L'objectif semblait être d'effectuer un état des lieux des opérations à la *landing station* de Baie du Jacotet. Deux minutes de «*data capture*» sur un échantillon de 10 circuits dédiés à internet – sur le total des 47 alloués à Maurice sur le câble SAFE – est, convenons-en, plus préoccupant. Toutefois nous sommes là en présence du constat externe de l'ancien CTO de MT. Nous n'avons toujours pas d'indications précises sur ce qui a été fait de ces données et ce qu'ils ont révélé.

Les spéculations vont même très loin, la possibilité que les communications d'ambassades locales aient pu être interceptées a été évoquée. C'est une grave accusation portée par des personnes qui ne savent pas qu'il existe quatre Broadband Network Gateway (BNG) : Port-Louis, Rose-Hill, Floréal et Flacq. Ce sont des sortes de ronds-points ou centrales de distribution de notre internet local. Ainsi le BNG de Floréal ne dessert pas que quelques résidences d'ambassadeurs mais près d'un quart du pays, soit des centaines de milliers d'abonnés internet. C'est ce qui explique peut-être pourquoi un certain calme règne dans les chancelleries, alors que la

« Sherry Singh a choisi d'annoncer des prétentions politiques à dessein et selon un calcul simple. Il a voulu se donner une carrure d'opposant politique pour ne pas être cantonné au rôle d'ancien membre émérite de la cuisine des Jugnauth. Il a réussi, me semble-t-il, un exercice de *rebranding* pour qu'on ne le décrive plus comme un ancien sous-fifre frustré et porteur de casseroles du Premier ministre, mais plutôt comme un courageux opposant capable de le remplacer... »



presse fait état d'un prétendu «*malaise*» parmi elles. Pendant ce temps certains médias s'emballent avec des titres volontairement racoleurs et alarmistes. Je leur en suggère ce qui suit: «Nous ne savons rien, mais nous vous disons tout».

**\* En l'absence de réponses précises, on ne peut pas reprocher aux Mauriciens de spéculer, n'est-ce pas?**

Au jeu des spéculations, on peut aussi avancer que le «survey» avait pour but d'établir l'existence de «*backdoor*» qui dupliquent certaines données et communications entrant et sortant de Maurice pour les renvoyer vers un pays étranger... qui ne serait pas l'Inde. Cette théorie n'a rien de farfelu.

En 2018, le quotidien français *Le Monde* avait relaté comment l'ensemble des données informatiques du siège de l'Union Africaine, à Addis Abeba, était envoyé en toute clandestinité vers Beijing chaque soir jusqu'à ce qu'un «survey» des informaticiens de l'organisation panafricaine les aident à mettre à jour cette vaste opération de rensei-

Or, c'est la dégringolade du pouvoir d'achat qui demeure le seul et véritable problème que tous les Mauriciens moyens subissent indifféremment de leurs préférences politiques ou de leur intérêt pour la saga Sherry Singh. Rien ne permet de prédire une réelle amélioration du pouvoir d'achat des Mauriciens, vu les incertitudes sur la question de l'approvisionnement, des coûts des denrées et de l'énergie ainsi que de la relative faiblesse de la roupie. Un rebond soudain de la cote de popularité du gouvernement n'est donc pas pour demain.

**\* Du côté de l'opposition, les choses sont toujours bloquées en raison du désaccord sur le leadership d'une alliance élargie de l'opposition. Voyez-vous un regain de forme depuis l'éclatement de l'affaire de "survey"?**

On sent chez Navin Ramgoolam, une sorte de regain de forme. Cela se voit et s'entend. Ce regain conduit un certain nombre de ses sympathisants et lui à penser que le Parti Travailleur doit pouvoir disposer d'une majorité d'investitures au sein de l'entente élargie de l'opposition, et cela, dans des circonscriptions «*gagnables*».

Or, dans une entente PTr/MMM/PMSD avec l'attelage Bodha et Bhadain, les tickets sont chers et il n'est pas dit que le consensus règnera au sujet des prétentions des rouges.

Face aux protestations, certains stratèges peu futés pensent que le traditionnel tandem PTr/PMSD pourrait faire l'affaire face à Pravind Jugnauth. C'est un pari risqué, même fou car la seule vraie chance de l'opposition réside dans sa capacité à s'unir pour affronter l'alliance que dirigera Pravind Jugnauth lors des prochaines législatives. Si le chef du MSM affronte une opposition dispersée, il pourra toujours prétendre obtenir 35 ou 37 sièges avec à peine 35% des suffrages.

**\* Un événement chasse rapidement l'autre à Maurice. La campagne électorale a toutefois été déjà déclenchée, bien plus tôt qu'on ne l'attendait. Peut-on prédire à ce stade ce que sera l'impact de toute cette affaire de 'survey' sur l'ensemble de l'électorat au bout de 18 mois?**

Si des preuves factuelles et irréfutables ne sont pas apportées pour démontrer que Pravind Jugnauth a agi contre les intérêts de la nation dans l'affaire Baie du Jacotet, la question du «survey» ne sera qu'une tempête de plus que le Premier ministre aura surmonté - surtout s'il arrive à défaire le statut de héros que se donne Sherry Singh.

Une actualité en chassant une autre, dans six mois, on parlera alors d'une autre «*gate*» ou du dernier faux-pas d'un ministre de son gouvernement. Le spectacle politique, à Maurice, ne connaît pas la crise.

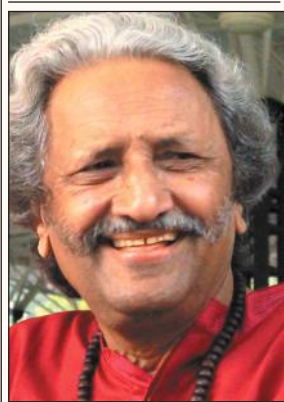
gnements économique, politique et militaire.

Ce type de précédents doit nous mener à la prudence. Il y aura un tsunami quand des preuves indiscutables d'une faute seront fournies. Sans celles-ci, on n'a que des pistes de travail pour l'heure.

**\* Il est évident que la riposte du MSM viendra en temps et lieu. Ce parti saura utiliser l'appareil d'Etat à bon escient. Il disposerait aussi des moyens considérables pour financer sa campagne électorale, et il misera sans doute sur une amélioration de la situation économique avant 2024. Ce n'est pas sûr qu'il soit arrivé au bout du rouleau, non?**

S'il y a bien une chose qui ne sera pas un problème pour Pravind Jugnauth, c'est sa capacité à financer généreusement sa prochaine campagne électorale.

Quant au contexte, oui, la situation économique s'améliore. Mais on a beaucoup de retard à rattraper et l'embellie économique ne sera pas éclatante au point de déclencher une amélioration considérable du pouvoir d'achat des Mauriciens.



Kul Bhushan

# President Murmu: A Poor Tribal Girl Becomes President of India

“It is the power of India’s democracy that a girl born in a poor tribal home could reach the topmost constitutional post,” said Ms Droupadi Murmu, aged 64, after she was sworn in as the 15th and the youngest President

of India on 25 July 2022. This statement highlighted her journey from a hamlet in Odisha’s Mayurbhanj district, one of the most underdeveloped in India, to the imposing Rashtrapati Bhavan (President’s Mansion) on New Delhi.

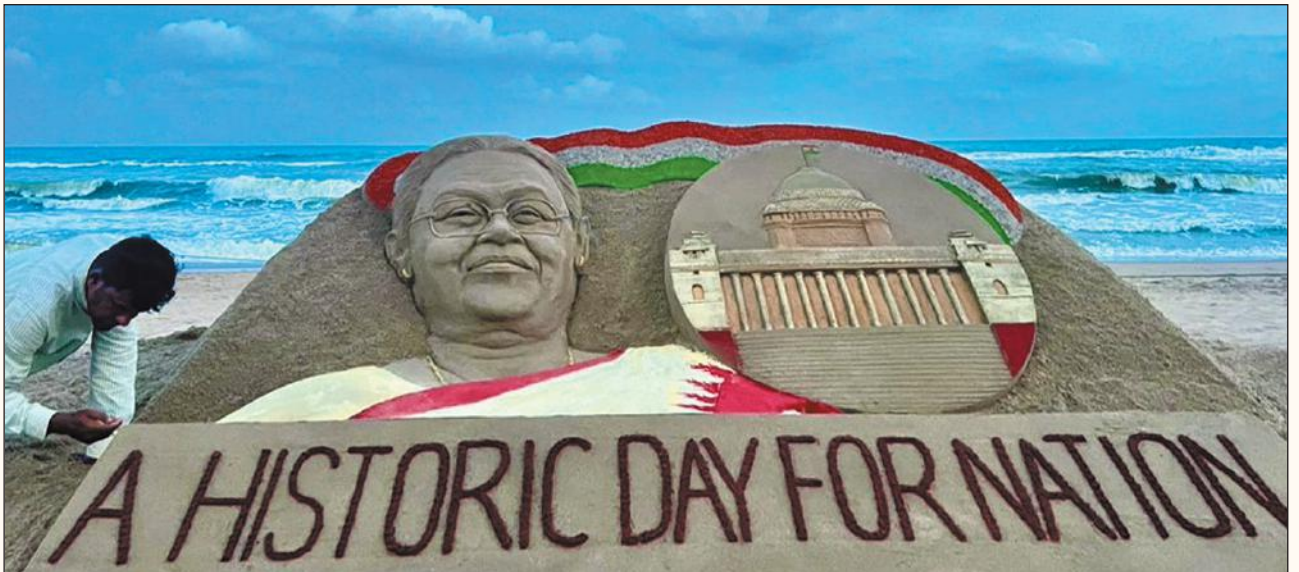
After she signed the formal oath of office, she closed her eyes for some seconds and remained still as hundreds of VIPs in the huge hall wondered what was happening. She went into deep meditation. This is the bedrock of her tempestuous life which brought her to this position.

During a tumultuous period in her personal life after she was defeated in a crucial election, she lost three of her closest family members in six years; her eldest son, Laxman Murmu, in 2009; her younger son, Sippun Murmu, in 2013; and then her husband, Shyam Charan Murmu, in 2014 in a series of unfortunate incidents. Deeply involved in her political career at that time, she struggled with severe depression. Then she took time off to meditate with Brahma Kumaris to restore her balance and face life again.

“Look no further for your Monday Motivation. Above all else, she is a person of extraordinary courage and a commitment to serve. Her inner strength has enabled her to withstand all the challenges life has thrown at her. I join in saluting her. A moment of intense pride for India,” tweeted Anand Mahindra, the Mahindra Group Chairman.



“Artist Jagjot Singh Rubal gives finishing touches to a painting of Droupadi Murmu, India’s first tribal president, in Amritsar district.”



“Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik marks the swearing-in day of President Droupadi Murmu with this sand sculpture on the Puri beach.”

All tribes in the seven North East state are elated by President Murmu’s rise to the highest constitutional post and people belonging to the tea-tribe community are optimistic that Murmu will take steps to ensure granting of the Scheduled Tribe status to them. They also live in Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand. Many watched her oath taking ceremony on national television and celebrated this achievement with boisterous song and dance by traditional folklore dancers in no less than 130,000, yes, a hundred and thirty thousand villages. This has immense political significance in the coming general election in 2024 because most, if not all, tribes may well vote for the ruling party.

The tribes look forward to getting their constitutional rights and economic uplift. “Besides being an *adivasi*, a woman and the youngest President, she’s also a person with great insights on education and rights of the downtrodden and has a career fighting for that,” tweeted Srijanpal Singh, former advisor to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.

Draupadi Murmu was born on June 20, 1958, in Uparbeda village of Mayurbhanj district in Odisha in a Santali tribal family to Biranchi Narayan Tudu. Both her father and grandfather were village heads under the Panchayati Raj Systems. The Santhals are one of the largest tribes mostly living in West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Assam and Jharkhand. She started school in her village Uparbeda in Odisha’s Mayurbhanj district. She later went to a high school in the neighbouring town and obtained a degree from the state’s prestigious Rama Devi University. Before entering politics, President Murmu worked as a teacher at Sri Aurobindo Integral

Education Centre, Rairangpur where she taught school subjects. Later she became a junior professor and a researcher. Then she was appointed a junior assistant in Odisha Irrigation Department.

Murmu joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1997 and was elected as the councillor of the Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat. In 2000, she became the Chairperson of Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat and also served as the National Vice-President of BJP Scheduled Tribes Morcha. Elevated to a minister in 2000, she had different portfolios until 2004. In 2009, she contested the Lok Sabha election from Mayurbhanj constituency but lost.

On May 18, 2015, Murmu became the Governor of Jharkhand, as the first woman Governor of Jharkhand and also the first female tribal leader from Odisha to be appointed as a Governor of the Indian State. She remained the Governor of Jharkhand until July 2021. In June this year, she was declared as the candidate for the President of India by the ruling BJP party and went on to win with a thumping majority with extensive cross voting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described President Murmu’s swearing-in as a watershed moment for India. “The entire nation watched with pride as Smt. Droupadi Murmu Ji took oath as the President of India. Her assuming the Presidency is a watershed moment for India especially for the poor, marginalised and downtrodden. I wish her the very best for a fruitful Presidential tenure,” he tweeted.

In her first tweet as President, Murmu greeted the country with “Johar, Namaskar” and said Indians’ wishes would give her strength to fulfil her duties in the country’s highest office. “Johar” is a traditional greeting among tribals. She has not forgotten her tribal roots and is expected to uplift their lives.

*Kul Bhushan worked as a newspaper Editor in Nairobi for over three decades and now lives in New Delhi*

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 198

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 23 May, 1958

• "My religious sense did not allow me to speak a rash or profane word of anything that the soul of man holds or has held as sacred." — Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan



B. Ramlallah

# Our New Constitution

**O**ur Constitution has at long last been approved by the Secretary of State. Soon it will have the Royal assent and after the passage of local legislation. It will have the force of law. The registration of electors will then take place and finally the election will be held — perhaps to the satisfaction of

"impatient" future candidates and perhaps also to the dislike of some who are well satisfied with what and where they are.

Our new Constitution is far from being the ideal one. If we are not altogether happy about the ministerial system it inflicts upon us, we are certainly happy that it gives every adult Mauritian the right of participating in the political life of the island. For over two centuries the toiling-moiling class has been agitating for the recognition of its rights and when today every adult Mauritian finds himself with the right to vote placed in his hands, he cannot but feel that he is witnessing the consummation of an epic struggle. At this glorious moment it would but be the peak of ingratitude to forget those who fell in the struggle and those who are today carrying the torch of freedom alight.

At the risk of appearing a wee bit commonplace we aver that a Constitution is not an end in itself but a means to an end — a glorious end indeed. Adult suffrage and semi-responsible government are not all what

we have been clamouring for. We want better wages, better housing, better health and better education. Ballot papers have never assuaged the hungry. Nor have they ever cured the sick. But they can be instrumental in securing a happier life. It remains to be seen whether a change in our status will be followed by a fruitful change in our standard of living.

\* \* \*

## At the Health Department

**T**he 1958-59 budget provides for three new posts of Chief Executive Officers for the Health Department. It appears that Government in concurrence with the Head of the Health Department intends placing a Chief Executive Officer at each of the three largest hospitals viz., Civil, Victoria and Mental. These Chief Executive Officers are going to assume the purely administrative duties of the hospitals — duties carried out quite efficiently since the very establishment of those institutions up to now by senior officers of the nursing profession.

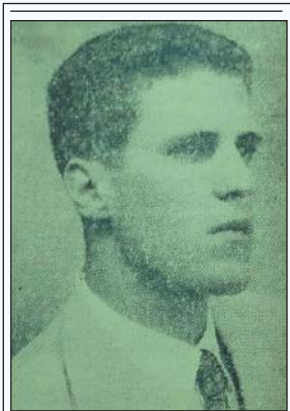
The nursing profession as a whole rightly resents the changes contemplated by Government for the simple reason that these changes do imply that the Senior dressers now performing most of the administrative duties in the hospitals are much below the mark — which is certainly a fallacy. What, then, can be Government's motive in now introducing clerical officers in the administration of hospitals?

We do not in the least suggest that the Senior dressers are perfect models of hospital administrators

and that the way they are performing their jobs does not leave room for improvement. On the contrary, we are of opinion that much can and should be done to ameliorate the administration of hospitals and one of the surest ways of doing it is to relieve the Stewards of a multitude of extraneous duties such as preparing paysheets of the whole personnel of the hospitals, keeping account of revenue, directly controlling the stores and so many other insignificant and cumbersome duties. We feel that if the Senior dressers who are now performing the administrative duties are elevated to a rank equivalent to that of Chief Executive Officer in the respective hospitals and assisted with competent junior clerical officers the administration of hospitals is bound to improve.

What we advocate sounds better in two respects. First, if a member of the nursing profession is appointed to the post of CEO in a hospital, the hospital is going to benefit from a continuity of policy because, being a member of the nursing profession, the officer will not be subject to frequent transfers to other departments. Moreover, the CEO at the top of the administration of a hospital should know to a certain extent the ins and outs of the nursing profession.

Secondly, the elevation of the post of Senior dresser to the level of a CEO within the nursing profession will give more incentive to the profession as a whole. And incentive is something which is glaringly lacking in that profession. The importance of the nursing profession cannot be underestimated, and it will certainly be in best interest of the public at large that members of that profession are not frustrated of their legitimate aspirations. Nor should their merits go unrecognized.



M. André Regnard

## Genèse du Forum 'Vers Une Entité Mauricienne' Discours de M. André Regnard

**V**ers le milieu du dix-huitième siècle, je dirai plus exactement à la fin du dix-huitième siècle, alors que la révolution française désorganisait la vie établie en France, la plus importante phase de l'immigration française à Maurice et créait la population blanche de l'île.

Grands administrateurs des biens sucriers de l'île d'une part, grands constructeurs et bâtisseurs d'autre part, ils détenaient entre leurs mains les destinées du pays. Ils étaient les seuls alors à commander ; et cela étaient normal: l'esprit d'initiative leur appartenait, personne ne leur faisait concurrence dans le domaine intellectuel et le domaine matériel était complètement entre leur mains.

A l'heure actuelle où les autres communautés ont

réussi, par leur labeur et leur ténacité, à se mettre à l'égalité avec la communauté blanche, les blancs ont gardé, de cette période où eux seuls étaient maîtres, un esprit de commande, dégénéré, dans la plupart des cas, en une sorte d'orgueil racial ; de sorte qu'ils restent maintenant avec ce que j'appellerai un complexe de supériorité.

Ceci étant établi, il importe de savoir maintenant la façon dont les blancs doivent s'y prendre pour contribuer à la création de cette Entité Mauricienne dont il est question ici ce soir. Je crois que ce qu'il faudrait, c'est que tout tourne autour de cette idée: la "présence blanche". Présence un peu dans tous les milieux d'où elle est aujourd'hui absente. Il est en effet intolérable de penser alors que toutes les autres communautés de l'île semblent décidées à rayonner, la communauté blanche, elle, se contente d'une petite vie tranquille enfermée dans sa tour d'ivoire. Il faudrait que les blancs puissent, par exemple, se rendre assez populaires, inspirer assez de confiance au peuple, afin de se

faire élire au Conseil Législatif.

Je déplore l'absence des blancs dans les services gouvernementaux et dans une organisation comme la Youth House. Il serait désirable que la présence blanche se fasse sentir dans ces domaines non pas que les blancs y soient représentés avec cet esprit qui les a toujours incités à dominer envers et contre tout, mais simplement qu'ils y soient représentés comme une communauté parmi les autres communautés. Si cela pouvait se réaliser, ce serait à mon avis un grand pas de fait vers l'accord qui doit nécessairement régner entre les différentes communautés de l'île.

On est en droit de se demander à présent, quand est-ce que tout cela se réalisera? Ce ne sera certainement pas pour l'immédiat; il faut que tout effort fait dans cette direction sache compter avec le facteur temps. Le temps, ce grand médecin qui guérit bien nos blessures et qui saura, j'en suis sûr, aider puissamment à bâtir l'édifice au haut duquel brillera l'Entité Mauricienne.

# The Clamour for a New Beginning

● Cont. from page 3

## Safeguarding our own interests

On the sidelines of the serious survey/sniffing affair, there have been many glib pontifications and loose speculations about the geopolitical designs of countries in the region. We need to have the intellectual rigour and independence to have an objective take on crying ground realities and geopolitical game plans. We should remember that war planes from the military base on Diego Garcia were used to bomb Afghanistan and Iraq.

The proxy war in Ukraine is having dire consequences on fuel and food prices across the world and causing tremendous hardships in Africa and developing countries in general. Unlike the Indian Sepoys and the Senegalese Tirailleurs who had to fight the wars of the colonial powers in World War I and World War II and in Algeria, we need as free citizens of independent countries not to align ourselves with any bloc or country but to above all fight for and safeguard our own interests in a world which is patently multipolar. Hungary is not applying EU sanctions on Russia because this would be extremely damaging to its economy.

“Unlike the Indian Sepoys and the Senegalese Tirailleurs who had to fight the wars of the colonial powers in World War I and World War II and in Algeria, we need as free citizens of independent countries not to align ourselves with any bloc or country but to above all fight for and safeguard our own interests in a world which is patently multipolar. Hungary is not applying EU sanctions on Russia because this would be extremely damaging to its economy...”

In an article which appeared in the website Devex last week, it is reported that Europe and Africa are increasingly split over the war in Ukraine and EU diplomats posted in Addis Ababa in a candid assessment have recognized that the EU is losing the battle for hearts and minds in Africa over the conflict. The head of the European Union delegation to the African Union and other European diplomats based in Addis Ababa have therefore argued in a confidential document for a more ‘transactional’ approach to foreign aid that would tie funding for African countries to their willingness to work ‘based on common values and a joint vision.’ Past colonial shenanigans and arm twisting ploys die hard.

## New leadership

The current political upheaval requires clarity about what we want as a nation for the future. The status quo is untenable. The key question is: Is a nondescript hotchpotch coalition of ideologically diverse political parties a credible alternative for the future in the face of the array of daunting challenges faced by the country in terms of fixing the economy, overhauling the economic model, implementing long overdue reforms, re-establishing good governance, transparency and accountability, meritocracy, bridging inequality, promoting work ethics and assuring the independence of institutions and regulatory bodies, etc.? In view of their past record, who and which party can have a meaningful role to play in a new dawn for the country?

At a time when the British Conservative Party is having an exemplary leadership race from a refreshingly diverse initial field of 10 candidates, is it not high time for the major parties aspiring to play a national role to open up to the wide pool of highly qualified and bright young Mauritians having the expertise and competence to tackle today’s multiple and diverse challenges and organize a leadership race to respond to the clamour of the people for a new beginning for the common good? The country and the people would not have it any other way.

Mrinal Roy

## “Decision makers, whatever their status, cannot and are not allowed by law to possess absolute discretion”

● Cont. from page 6

Though Mauritius is not a party to the UN 1954 Convention, nonetheless the authorities would be under an obligation to provide all necessary assistance to a stateless person in view of the fact that Mauritius has ratified other international conventions on human rights. There is also the Declaration on the Human Rights of Individuals who are not nationals of the country in which they live and adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1985 that requires States to respect the human rights of such persons.

\* There appears to be generally no disagreement on the need to check any abuse that was possible under the previous Immigration Act for the purpose of contracting ‘marriages of convenience’. Do the amendments meet the need of the hour or is there potential for executive abuse therein?

This is correct. There are individuals that seek to obtain the citizenship of this country by contracting a marriage of convenience. That particular amendment is salutary and necessary. It is also universally well known that the so-called brides and bridegrooms contract such marriages for monetary gains. Contraction of marriages of convenience has become a flourishing business.

\* How do these proposed amendments stand with regard to legislation or jurisprudence in the UK or the EU generally or with respect to any international covenants we may have subscribed to?

The European Courts abhor the idea of absolute discretion. Our courts have



“If a citizen has been deprived of his citizenship and he is given no reasons, how on earth will he be able to access the courts of law to challenge that decision? By not giving reasons, the Prime Minister would be denying or putting severe limits on the right of access to a court of law that an individual has and this a fundamental right...”

endorsed the European jurisprudence in this field. If ever a citizen who has been deprived of his citizenship, the courts will no doubt follow the European case law on the matter.

\* If families are broken up through these powers, what possible recourse do the Mauritian partner and children have? Do they face the dilemma of having to follow their spouse overseas in a form of consequential expulsion if they wish to maintain their family unit?

Family life includes the right to have and maintain family relationships. It covers your right not to be separated from your family and to maintain contact if your family is split up. To decide if a relationship is covered by family life, what matters is the closeness of the relationship rather than the legal status. This right, which also covers the protection of the privacy to life, is protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Mauritius is a party.

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# 3 reasons why women leaders actually matter for women



President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga meets South Africa's President Nelson Mandela at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 1997. Pic - Max Nash/AP

● Cont. from page 2

Aquino had invited Macapagal-Arroyo to join her government as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Cabinet members directly influence what bills are introduced into the national legislature. Yet women have traditionally held fewer ministerial posts. Those held were often positions with discernible “feminine” characteristics or “low-prestige” portfolios, such as ageing, children and the family.

Of the four women I studied, like female leaders in Latin America, three appointed more women to their cabinets than the male leaders who preceded them. President Megawati, whose female appointees matched her predecessor, was the exception.

Aquino was known for appointing empowered political women to her administration such as Dr Lourdes Reynes Quisumbing, the country's first female Secretary of Education and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, appointed head of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation. Defensor-Santiago later ran for president (unsuccessfully) and was the first Southeast Asian elected to the International Criminal Court.

Among Kumaratunga's seven female appointees, one was responsible for housing, construction and development, a significant portfolio in Sri Lanka.

Arroyo appointed a remarkable 12 women cabinet members (compared to two under her predecessor). Such female appointees potentially (although not necessarily) open the door to better representation of women's interests.

## 2. Legislating for women

Few women leaders in history have been acknowledged as advocates for women. Yet in certain fields, laws may be enacted at a faster pace when women's groups mobilise more resources to exploit a window of opportunity.

Indonesia's Elimination of Violence in the Household Act, signed into law by President Megawati in 2004, took seven years to enact. As a point of contrast, Indonesia's Marriage Law (Law No. 1/1974), which regulated polygamy and forced marriage and better protected women's assets, was debated for 75 years before passing.

In Sri Lanka, CBK managed the Asian tsunami at the tail-end of her tenure. In the post-tsunami recovery, she focused on widows, livelihood assistance for women and the appointment of women in disaster management committees at all levels.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was a senator when she authored a bill to combat violence against women. It was eventually re-tabled and expanded into the Philippines' Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act, which she signed into law in 2004. Yet Macapagal-Arroyo's role in the law's enactment is often brushed over by women's groups.

## 3. The significance of 'Madam' President

The role model effect is hard to prove but everywhere I turned, informants noted the significance of having a woman lead. As the first female presidents of their nations, Aquino, Kumaratunga and Megawati shifted norms around politics, which had been seen as a place exclusively for men and inappropriate for women.

The utterance of “She” or “Madam” means far more than a simple shift in gender pronoun. Sri Lanka's “mother-daughter duo” as president and prime minister was a stark contrast to Sri Lanka today. Male leader, President Rajapaksa, recently fled the country after severe economic mismanagement, only to be replaced by another man, the former prime minister (Ranil Wickramasinghe) – hardly a new beginning.

While comparisons have their limitations, the 11 years of leadership under CBK were a period of relative stability for a nation that has been plagued by increasingly repressive (male) leaders in recent years.

But the role mode effect of a female leader can only last so long. For women leaders to be part of a nation's future and not just its history, parties need to invest in enabling women currently engaged in politics to rise and successfully contest for the top job.

## Not just a question of gender

There is something distinct about women's leadership. Yet, in the

words of one of Sri Lanka's leading female Muslim activists, “the choice of leaders, their capacity and their leadership, depends on many qualities which are more human than women or men”.

It is important to acknowledge that there were setbacks for Filipino women's reproductive health under Presidents Aquino and Macapagal Arroyo, such as the latter promoting non-scientific natural family planning.

In Indonesia meanwhile, a gender equality quota – whereby 30% of a party's candidates must be women – was described as the most important law introduced during President Megawati's tenure. However, she was its primary opponent and only signed the bill into law when she feared the loss of the “women's vote” in 2004. (An election which she did, in fact, lose.)

It remains to be seen what the current crop of female leaders will mean for millions of women.

Finland's Sanna Marin, who leads a five-party coalition all headed by women,



The then Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, right, is greeted by former president Fidel Ramos, as former president Corazon Aquino, centre, looks on in 2003. Pic - Bullit Marquez/AP

has called for more gender-responsive laws. Meanwhile Barbados' Mia Mottley shifted the parameters of debate in her nation with a recent powerful climate change speech.

Mottley's question, “when will leaders lead?” might just inspire the current cohort of female leaders to do more and to do better for fellow women.

Ramona Vijayarasa - Research Fellow,  
University of Technology Sydney

## 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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## Why uncertainty makes us change our behaviour -- even when we shouldn't

People around the world dramatically changed their shopping behaviours at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Faced with new uncertainty, shoppers began stocking up on basic household items -- especially toilet paper -- to account for the new unknown. This buying frenzy led to shortages, even though, in most cases, there would have been enough to go around if people only purchased what they needed.

According to a study led by UNSW Sydney, reactive behaviour like this isn't unusual, but a common way to handle unexpected uncertainty.

In fact, unexpected uncertainty is such a powerful motivator for change that it often prompts us to adjust our behaviour -- even when it's not good for us.

"When people experience an unexpected change in their environment, they start looking for ways to lessen that uncertainty," says lead author of the study Dr Adrian Walker, who completed this research as part of his PhD in psychology at UNSW Science. "They can change their behaviour and decision-making strategies to try and find



a way to regain some sense of control.

"Surprisingly, our study found that unexpected uncertainty caused people to change their behaviours even when they would have been better off sticking to an old

strategy."

The behavioural study, published in 'The Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition', is the first to show the type of uncertainty we experience -- that is, whether it is expected or unexpected -- plays a key role in our reaction.

Dr Walker says the pandemic -- and our different responses to it -- is a large-scale example of unexpected uncertainty.

"Everything changed very suddenly at the start of Covid-19," he says.

"Many of us were suddenly all working from home, changing how we shop, and changing how we socialise. The rules we were living by beforehand no longer applied, and there was -- and still is -- no clear answer about when or how the pandemic will end.

"Different people tried all sorts of things -- like panic shopping -- to reduce this new uncertainty and return to 'normal'. But as we've seen, not all of these reactive strategies were good in the long run."

## Too much time on a computer, watching TV or other sedentary activities raises stroke risk

Adults younger than age 60 whose days are filled with sedentary leisure time (which includes using the computer, TV, or reading) and little physical activity have a higher stroke risk than people who are more physically active, according to new research published today in *Stroke*, a journal of the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association.

According to American Heart Association statistics, U.S. adults spend an average of 10.5 hours a day connected to media such as smartphones, computers or television watching, and adults ages 50 to 64 spend the most time of any age group connected to media. Data also indicate that stroke-related deaths decreased in 2010 among adults 65 years and older. However, death from stroke appears to be on the rise among younger adults, ages 35 to 64 years -- increasing from 14.7 in

every 100,000 adults in 2010 to 15.4 per 100,000 in 2016. Previous research suggests the more time adults spend sedentary, the greater their risk of cardiovascular disease including stroke, and nearly 9 in 10 strokes could be attributed to modifiable risk factors such as sedentary behaviors.

"Sedentary time is increasing in the United States and Canada," said study author Raed A. Joundi, M.D., D.Phil., a stroke fellow in the department of clinical neurosciences at the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary in Canada. "Sedentary time is the duration of awake activities that are done sitting or lying down. Leisure sedentary time is specific to the sedentary activities done while not at work. It is important to understand whether high amounts of sedentary time can lead to stroke in young individuals, as a stroke can cause



premature death or significantly impair function and quality of life."



## What do plants do all day?

*Though you might not think so to look at them, plants have a busy day.*

It is easy to think that the daily life of a plant is a simple one. They seem to just stand there and sunbathe. However, plants are very busy all the time doing many things. This activity is aimed at surviving the day and planning for the future.

Plants need food to survive. Being rooted in the ground means that they can't move around to find food, so they must make their own.

They do this by taking water from the soil in through their roots and a molecule in the air, carbon dioxide, into their leaves. They then use the energy from sunlight which they absorb into their leaves to combine the water and carbon dioxide to make complex sugar molecules -- food.

This process, called photosynthesis, is one of the most amazing chemical reactions on the planet.

The plant then does one of two things with these sugar molecules. It can use them in respiration. This is a process that releases the energy of the sugar molecules to allow the plant to do its daily

activities. It can also convert the sugar molecules into other more complex chemicals to build other plant parts, such as new leaves or flowers.

However, the chemicals that are used to make up plant parts need more than just the input of sunlight, water and carbon dioxide. They also need additional chemicals that they take from the soil. It is the same as humans needing a healthy diet.

So, the plant spends all day mining the soil for useful chemicals such as nitrates, phosphates and various metals. These must then be moved to the part of the plant where they are needed.

### Measuring light

Every day, plants must measure the amount of daylight they are getting. In particular, they need to know whether the hours of daylight are getting less or more from one day to the next. Measuring this change allows the plant to recognise what time of year it is. If daylight is increasing, then it knows that it is spring and time to start producing flowers.



Roman Chazov/Shutterstock

If daylight is getting less then the plant knows that winter is coming. It can put food into storage ready for next spring's growth. For example, daffodils produce bulbs, and the potato plant makes tubers -- which are the potatoes that we eat.

It can also get rid of things it will not need in the winter. Oak trees do not use leaves to make food during the winter, as there isn't enough light. So, the leaves fall off its branches and grow again in spring.

While a plant is always keeping track of how much of the 24-hour period is daylight, a term scientists call light quantity, it also monitors any changes in light quality.

This is the type of light falling on the plant. It might be full sunlight, or it might be light that is filtered through the leaves of other plants. If the plant is not getting the

right light quality, it means it is being shaded by other plants. It must either start growing taller to find the full sun again, or produce larger leaves to gather in more light.

### Staying healthy

The plant also monitors its own health. If a plant is being eaten by insects, it can produce a set of chemicals to make its leaves less tasty.

We also know that plants that have detected they are being eaten can release chemicals into the air to warn its neighbours, and let them know that they should start making their leaves less tasty.

The same applies if fungal disease strikes the plant. The plant produces chemicals to attack the fungus and seals off parts of the plant that are damaged too much to be repaired.

So, every day, plants are making food, extracting minerals so they can grow, working out what season it is and whether they are getting enough light, and protecting themselves from animals that want to eat them -- as well as warning their neighbours. It makes for a busy day, although one that is largely invisible to humans.

**Paul Ashton**  
Head of Biology, Edge Hill University



**LAUGHTER  
IS THE  
BEST  
MEDICINE!**



## Dear Ex-Wife

Nothing has made my day more than receiving your letter. It's true that you and I have been married for seven years, although a good woman is a far cry away from what you've been.

I watch sports so much trying to drown out your constant nagging. Too bad that doesn't work.

I did notice when you cut off all of your hair last week, the first thing that came to mind was, "You look just like a man!"

My mother raised me to not say anything if you can't say anything nice. When you cooked my favourite meal, you must have gotten me confused with my brother, because I stopped eating pork seven years ago.

I went to sleep when you had put on that new negligee because the price tag was still on it. I prayed that it was a coincidence that my brother had just borrowed fifty dollars from me that morning and your negligee was \$49.99.



After all of this, I still loved you and felt that we could work it out.

So when I discovered that I had hit the lotto for ten million dollars, I quit my job and bought us two tickets to Jamaica. But when I got home you were gone.

Everything happens for a reason, I guess. I hope you have the fulfilling life you always wanted. My lawyer said with the letter that you wrote; you won't get a dime from me. So take care.

Signed

**Rich As Hell and Free! Your Ex-Husband**

P.S. I don't know if I ever told you this... but Carl, my brother, was born Carla. I hope that's not a problem.

\*\*\*

## 'You've got male!'

A little boy goes to his father and asks, "Daddy, how was I born?"

The father answers, "Well, son, I guess one day you will need to find out anyway! Your mom and I first got together in a chat room on Yahoo. Then I set up a date via e-mail with your mom and we met at a cyber-cafe. We sneaked into a secluded room, and googled each other. There your mother agreed to a download from my hard drive. As soon as I was ready to upload, we discovered that neither one of us had used a firewall, and since it was too late to hit the delete button, nine months

later a little Pop-Up appeared that said: "You've got male!"

\*\*\*

A woman in a supermarket is following a grandfather and his badly-behaved grandson. He has his hands full with the child screaming for sweets, biscuits, all sorts of things. The grandad is saying in a controlled voice: "Easy, William, we won't be long... easy boy."

Another outburst and she hear the grandad calmly say: "It's okay William. Just a couple more minutes and we'll be out of here. Hang in there, boy."

At the checkout the little horror is throwing items out of the trolley. Grandad says again in a controlled voice: "William, William, relax buddy, don't get upset. We'll be home in five minutes, stay cool William."

Very impressed, she goes outside to where the grandfather is loading his groceries and the boy into the car. She says: "It's none of my business, but you were amazing in there. I don't know how you did it. That whole time you kept your composure, and no matter how loud and disruptive he got, you just calmly kept saying things would be okay. William is very lucky to have you as his grandad."

"Thanks," says the grandpa. "But I am William. The little bastard's name is Kevin."

\*\*\*

A friend has explained why in English letters M is straight and W is in reverse! His reason is men think straight whereas women always derive unnecessary reasons.

Today, I came to know how it is.

I was in the lift, and a woman entered lift with a small girl. I just asked her, second or third?

She said, 'Shut up, I didn't even marry, this is my neighbour's daughter...' and walked away seriously.

What did I say? I asked her which floor?

\*\*\*

A man went to a red light area of his town.

A pimp listed his sex workers for his clients using car names.

Pimp: "You may choose any one of these beauties, for your pleasure, Sir!"

BMW	- \$ 1,000
Mercedes	- \$ 900
Toyota	- \$ 800



Honda	- \$ 750
Nissan	- \$ 700
Ford	- \$ 500
VW Beetle	- \$ 350

The man ordered the VW Beetle, being most economical, and was shocked to see a gay come through.

Man: "What the f...is this? You sent me a Gay?"

Pimp: "Sir, for VW Beetle, the engine is behind, isn't it?"

\*\*\*

A farmer went to church one Sunday, but when he entered, he saw that the preacher was alone. The preacher asked the farmer if he wanted to hear his sermon.

'Well,' said the farmer, 'I'm not too smart, but if I went to feed my cattle and only one showed up, I'll still feed him.'

So, the priest began his sermon. An hour passed, then another two hours. Finally the preacher finished, and asked the farmer whether he had enjoyed the sermon.

'Well, I'm not too smart, but if I went to feed my cattle and only one turned up, I sure wouldn't feed him all the hay,' said the farmer.

\*\*\*

On a hot summer afternoon, a pretty woman came across a secluded pool, largely hidden from view by a row of bushes. After assuring herself that nobody was around, she took off all her clothes, but just as she was to jump in, a man appeared from behind the bushes.

'I've been watching you; this is a private farmland, and I'm the owner, swimming in this pool is strictly prohibited,' he yelled.

'You could have told me that before I undressed,' she said.

The farmer replied: 'Swimming is prohibited, undressing isn't.'

\*\*\*

A tramp said to a businessman in the street: 'Mister I haven't tasted food for a week.'

'Don't worry, it still tastes the same,' said the businessman.

## Inspiration

### The Nelson Mandela Secret



When I think of leadership, Nelson Mandela tops my list. His grace, his courage, his forgiveness, his kindness.

No matter how busy he was as President of South Africa, he always had time to shake the hand of a cleaner, offer a word of encouragement to a server and share a laugh with a child.

The true measure of a person is how they treat those who can do nothing for them.

I believe the real secret of his magic was that he was an absolute master of staying focused on his mission. Through times of ease and nights of darkness, he relentlessly stayed true to his ideal of a free and democratic South Africa. A place where all could flourish, regardless of their skin colour or ethnic origin.

In this reflective mood, I humbly offer you 22 ideas to become a better leader, beginning today:

1. Remember that if you're on time you're late.
2. Rather than complaining about problems push yourself to create solutions.
3. Exploit change to build things better.
4. Use people's names when you speak with them.
5. Listen deeply and sincerely and fully. It'll make the speaker feel bigger and better.
6. Know your values and then live them, at all costs.

7. Don't confuse busy with productive nor movement with progress.
8. Retreat from work often to regenerate your energy, creativity and spiritual powers.
9. Be fascinated by other humans.
10. Start your day early. It's the quietest time of the day, allowing you to think, plan, prepare and work on your wisdom.
11. Travel. It'll make you more interesting and bring your inspiration to life.
12. Sweat the tiniest of details as getting small things right is the mark of a master.
13. Remember that until your mission becomes an obsession your business will never grow into a movement.
14. Exemplify excellence for your people as leading by example is the best way to change the behaviour of others.
15. Work hard to be enthusiastic and raise the spirits of others. Positive energy builds monuments.
16. Accept defeat with grace. And then transform it into triumph.
17. Always be developing the people on your team by mentoring them, teaching them and celebrating their wins.
18. Be the most honest person you know.
19. Outwork everyone in your field.
20. Read and study for an hour each day so you can bring richer value to more customers.
21. Have a strong and beautiful family life. It's a peak source of great productivity, believe it or not.
22. Treat other human beings with vast respect, politeness and goodness.

**Robin Sharma**

Humanitarian & Leadership Missionary

## That's Life

### That's what they really are...

**School:** A place where parents pay, and children play.

**Life Insurance:** A contract that keeps you poor all your life, so that you can die rich.

**Nurse:** A person who wakes you up to give you sleeping pills.

**Marriage:** It's an agreement in which a man loses his bachelor's degree, and a woman gains her masters.

**Tears:** The hydraulic force by which masculine willpower is defeated by feminine waterpower.

**Conference:** The confusion of one man multiplied by the number present.

**Conference Room:** A place where everybody talks, nobody listens, and everybody disagrees later on.

**Father:** A banker provided by nature.

**Boss:** Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early.

**Politician:** One who shakes your hand before elections and shakes your Confidence after election.

**Hospital:** An institution which holds your ills by pills and kills you by bills.

**Smile:** A curve that can set a lot of things straight.

**Government Office:** A place where you can relax after your strenuous home life.

**Yawn:** The only time married men ever get to open their mouth.

**Etc.:** A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do.

**Committee:** Individuals who can do nothing individually and sit to decide that nothing can be done together.

**Meeting:** Where hours are spent and Minutes are

## That's Life

### We are nothing without each other.

**A** poem by Prof Lee Tzu Pheng (Singapore Cultural Medallion winner). She was formerly in the English Literature Dept in NUS. This is a powerful poem on human friendship, and loving one another.

"Sip your Tea  
Nice and Slow  
No one Ever knows  
when it's Time to Go,  
There'll be no Time  
to enjoy the Glow,  
So, sip your Tea  
Nice and Slow.

Life is too Short but  
feels pretty Long,  
There's too Much to do, so much  
going Wrong,  
And Most of the Time You Struggle  
to be Strong,  
Before it's too Late  
and it's time to Go,  
Sip your Tea  
Nice and Slow.

Some Friends stay,  
others Go away,

Loved ones are Cherished but not  
all will Stay.  
Kids will Grow up  
and fly away.  
There's really no Saying how Things  
will Go,  
So, sip your Tea  
Nice and Slow.

In the End it's really  
all about understanding Love  
For this World  
and in the Stars above,  
Appreciate and Value who truly  
Cares,  
Smile and Breathe  
and let your Worries go,  
So Just Sip your Tea  
Nice and Slow."

When I'm dead.  
Your tears will flow  
But I won't know  
Cry with me now instead.

You will send flowers,  
But I won't see  
Send them now instead

You'll say words of praise  
But I won't hear.  
Praise me now instead

You'll forget my faults,

But I won't know...  
Forget them now instead.

You'll miss me then,  
But I won't feel.  
Miss me now, instead.

You'll wish You could have spent  
more time with me,  
Spend it now instead

When you hear I'm gone, you'll find  
your way  
to my house to pay condolence  
but we haven't even spoken in  
years.  
Look for me now.

"Spend time with every person  
around you, and help them with  
whatever you have to make them  
happy, your families, friends and  
acquaintances.

Make them feel special because you  
never know when time will take  
them away from you forever.

Alone I can 'Say' but together we  
can 'Talk'.

Alone I can 'Enjoy' but together we  
can 'Celebrate'

Alone I can 'Smile' but together we  
can 'Laugh'

## Your Life is a Journey!

Each chapter of your life will be filled with  
twists, turns and detours.  
You will learn and grow in many ways.  
From time to time, may you reflect on your journey.

### BE PROUD

of how much you have overcome to be  
the person you are right now.

### APPRECIATE

wherever you are in your journey  
right now and make the best of it.

### SEE ALL THE POSSIBILITIES

of what your journey could be in the future,  
as well as the person you can become  
with each chapter of your life.

## This is Your Journey! Live It Well!

Life is...



## Fitness & Exercise

# Top Tips for Fitness Newbies

**Y**ou're trying to get in shape after years of sedentary living. Maybe you're not going to be a superstar athlete. But you can still set a big fitness goal for yourself, even if you've never tried a sport before. Get expert advice from WebMD on how to start a fitness routine you can stick to safely.

### Start with small goals

You might have a big goal you want to reach one day, like a marathon. The best way to get there is to set a series of smaller goals that lead to your big goal. For example, before you sign up for a marathon, set goals to do a few 5K races first. And before that, work up to running a mile. Fitness apps can help you keep track of each great thing you do on your way to your big goal.

### Mix things up

You may get bored doing the same workout every day. And after you do the same activity all the time for 6 to 8 weeks, your muscles adapt to it. You burn fewer calories and build less muscle. Try interval training: Step up your pace for a minute, then slow down, and repeat. Try strength training and cardio activities like swimming, indoor cycling, and kickboxing.

### Get your doctor's OK

If you're not active now, talk to your doctor before you start exercising if you're over 45 (men) or 55 (women). It's also a good idea to get a doctor's OK if you have a health problem or take regular medication. To avoid injuries and burnout, start working out slowly: 3 days a week for 10-



15 minutes. Then gradually add time and intensity.

### Eat and drink for fuel

Exercise burns extra calories and raises your metabolism. So, eat every couple of hours -- three meals plus healthy snacks. Before a workout, snack on carbs (juice, fruit, or yogurt) for fast energy. After a long, tough workout, replenish with a carb/protein mix, like a peanut butter sandwich or a smoothie. Otherwise, keep your meals and snacks light: Try an apple and peanut butter, yogurt and nuts, or an egg on whole wheat toast.

### Drink enough water

Unless your workout is really long or tough, you don't need a special sports drink with electrolytes. Water works just fine. Drink plenty: If you're dehydrated, your muscles may cramp, and you raise your risk of heat exhaustion and heatstroke. Two hours before you exercise, drink

about 2 to 3 cups of water. During your routine, drink about 1 cup every 10-20 minutes. Keep drinking after you're done exercising, too.

### Do strength training

Even if your goal -- a marathon, for example -- might center on cardio, you should practice strength or resistance training, too. Strong muscles burn more calories, help prevent injuries, and build stronger bones. Work muscles on weight machines, with hand-held equipment like free weights, kettlebells, or resistance bands, or by doing exercises like push-ups. Rest each muscle group, such as biceps and triceps, at least 2 days between strength workouts.

### Dress for comfort

You need the right clothes and shoes when you work out. It's not about looking good (although that can't hurt) -- it's about

feeling comfortable. It's no fun to walk, run, or bike if you have flapping sleeves or flimsy shoes. Ask the experts at a sporting goods store for help. Look for fabrics that draw moisture away from your body -- not sweat-absorbing cotton. In cool temperatures, wear layers that you can peel off as you warm up.

### Learn proper form

Whether you're running or weightlifting, it's easy to get hurt if your form or technique is wrong. Don't assume you're exercising the right way, especially if your routine is causing you pain. If your gym has trainers or fitness staff, they may be able to watch you exercise and give you advice on improving your technique. Or you can read fitness magazines or find online videos that show correct techniques.

## Relationship

# How can you solve your relationship misunderstandings?

**Y**ou and your partner had a misunderstanding which just caused a big fight. It feels like the end of the world and you don't know what to do. A part of you can't help but blame yourself and you feel torn because of it. Divine love is unconditional and pure. It is always there for us, waiting to be awakened. Love is the most powerful force in the universe.

Compassion for self is an important part of awakening connected love. When we are able to feel compassion for our own inner self, we can better understand others and their feelings.

Relationships are complicated. They require time and effort, understanding and compassion. It is not always easy to understand our partner's needs, moods and desires. Even though we may think that we know what they want, it can happen that we are wrong.

However, there is a way to solve misunderstandings in relationships. And it is a sexy brilliant one! If you have the right attitude of compassion and understanding towards your partner's feelings, then you will be able to understand them better. And in this way, you will build a stronger relationship with your loved one.

It is important to understand how love works. Divine connected love can only work when we accept our inner self and allow it to be unveiled to the world. We should also know that connected love cannot be forced on anyone or anything; it has to be released by oneself first before it can flow into others.

### Self-study is the original sexy

The divine is the part of the human which is capable of understanding. Compassion is a feeling that arises



when one identifies with another's suffering. This feeling motivates people to want to help others who are suffering. The inner spiritual self is the person's psychological identity, and it's what we're all trying to find in ourselves. Inner sexy brilliant self can be found through meditation, reflection, and thinking about the situation.

Self-study can help us understand our relationships with other people, as well as with ourselves. It also helps

us uncover our inner selves and release any negative emotions that are holding us back from happiness in life.

### Have compassion for yourself and your partner

Compassion and empathy are the keys to unlocking the mysteries of our relationships. It is time to have empathy and compassion for yourself and your partner. The journey of compassion and empathy begins with understanding that you are a divine being, an aspect of the sexy brilliant light, and that your partner is also a divine being. This understanding can help you release any fear or anger you may have towards them. Compassion thrives on hearts that move past negative feelings and insecurities that may hold us back from true happiness and stability.

Find knowledge about what caused the misunderstanding

Many people misunderstand the meaning of divine connected love. Love does not mean to be perfect or flawless. It means to have a higher understanding and acceptance of oneself and others. This can help you forgive yourself for your mistakes and forgive others for theirs as well.

Knowledge is also related to compassion and empathy. Compassion is feeling other people's pain and being able to understand what they are going through, even if it's not happening to you. It is important because it helps one see the world in a different light, which can lead them on the path to knowledge and acceptance.

*Written by Devina Kaur, Inspirational speaker, Author of a spiritual self-help book titled 'Too Fat, Too Loud, Too Ambitious'*

# About 'Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi'

*A mature love story of a successful business tycoon and a nutritionist*

'Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi' is a mature love story of Devrath Dixit, a successful business tycoon and Dr Sonakshi Bose, a nutritionist

'Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi' is set in Delhi, and revolves around Devrath "Dev" Dixit, a business tycoon and Dr Sonakshi Bose, a nutritionist.

Dev is a successful business tycoon who lives with his mother Ishwari and his three beloved sisters. Sonakshi, on the other hand is a consulting nutritionist, who hails from a middle-class Bengali family of five, and is appointed by Dev as Ishwari's permanent consulting nutritionist.

Initially, both Ishwari and Dev are indifferent to Sonakshi but gradually form a bond with her. Dev, being very reserved by nature, finds a great friend in Sonakshi and confides in her. He soon falls in love with her but isn't aware of it. After a near death experience with a car accident, Sonakshi realises her love for Dev but he gets engaged to his business partner Natasha. Just before his engagement, Dev realises his love for Sonakshi and they confess their feelings for each other.

Ishwari finds out about Dev and Sonakshi's relationship and reluctantly agrees to their alliance but soon succumbs to depression finding it hard to make room for another woman in her son's life. Sensing his mother's disapproval, Dev breaks up with Sonakshi.

Unable to move on, Sonakshi soon decides to get engaged to another man. This drives Dev to the edge and he begins stalking her. He falls into depression and drinks to suppress his misery. Seeing Dev's condition, Ishwari agrees to their marriage. But, a number of misunderstandings lead to Dev and Sonakshi getting separated. Sonakshi decides to leave Delhi with her family.

### Seven years later

Sonakshi is now the mother of her and Dev's daughter, Suhana, and has become a successful businesswoman. The family returns to Delhi from Kolkata due to Sonakshi's work. Sonakshi tells Suhana that her father lives in Delhi. Sonakshi and Dev meet after years at an award function. Soon, Dev realizes that Suhana is his daughter, and he reveals his identity to her. After much hesitation,



the girl accepts Dev as her father. Dev and Sonakshi make a deal to live together for Suhana's sake. Gradually, they start getting closer again. Ishwari starts liking Sona and realizes her mistake. Dev and Sonakshi reunite once again. Sonakshi gives birth to Shubh, her and Dev's son.

### Six months later

Dev and Sonakshi are finding it difficult to handle the kids and their work simultaneously. Ishwari, being tensed about the upbringing of the children, tells Sonakshi to quit her job and stay at home to look after Shubh and Suhana. However, Dev is well aware of Sonakshi's love for her work, so he himself stops working and stays at home to manage the kids and the household. Initially there is a lot of conflict seen among the members of the family, but Dev and Sonakshi leave no stone unturned to justify their decision. Finally, after a lot of struggles, their point of view is understood and the show ends on a happy note.

## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

Your professional front may be quite tumultuous. Procrastination may lead you to work extra hours in office. Property dealers are likely to hit the jackpot. Sagittarius natives, make efforts individually to strengthen your ties to bring lost love back in life.

**Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 13, 16, 21, 29**

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Your professional front may be satisfactory. Working to your full potential only can bring you chances of advancement. Nothing much is happening on your romantic front either. Spending without considering outcomes may lead to losses. Do not depend on your income alone.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 5, 17, 20, 26, 31**

### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Your financial front seems promising. You are likely to make money from a side business, bringing handsome profits. On the domestic front, your loved ones are likely to be in a joyful mood, which may reflect positively in the harmonious atmosphere. On a romantic trip together, you may get to know your beloved better.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 11, 12, 17, 29, 32**

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

On the professional front, you may have to carry out your duties diligently or it could affect your chances of a raise. Do not undertake a journey unless you are thoroughly prepared for it. Your love life is likely to undergo pleasant changes and you may get to spend quality time with your partner.

**Lucky Numbers: 12, 15, 17, 20, 33, 40**

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

You may receive handsome profits from multiple investment sources. On the romantic front, your beloved is likely to be in an upbeat mood, thus giving you a chance to enjoy love life after a long time. However, your professional front may be challenging.

**Lucky Numbers: 8, 19, 22, 33, 35, 40**

### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Not focusing on the job at hand is likely to jeopardize your career advancement plans. Your love life may also be difficult. Not giving time to your partner may create rifts in the relationship. Your financial front may need attention.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 15, 16, 36, 40**

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Property matters may get entangled in disputes. Students may lose focus in studies, which can hamper their grades.

Gemini's, your romantic front seems joyful. Your care and affection for your partner is likely to bring the two of you closer.

**Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 18, 19, 21, 25**

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

You need to curb your habit of overspending on unnecessary items to save some cash for emergency needs. Do not depend on property dealings alone to earn profits. Single and ready to mingle Cancerians may find a suitable partner, who is likely to reciprocate their feelings.

**Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 11, 12, 15, 33**

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Real estate agents may get a good deal from sales. Students may be able to get into prestigious colleges for further studies. For Leo natives, there are likely to be several hurdles in love life. Take time out from your work schedule for your beloved or it can spoil the relationship.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 12, 17, 25, 29, 30**

### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Your professional front may be bright. Your knowledge and expertise in the field is likely to bring you social rewards. However, not everything is fine on your romantic front. Your partner is likely expecting a commitment from you, while you may want time to settle down.

**Lucky Numbers: 8, 15, 21, 27, 30, 31**

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Those who have been planning to switch jobs, they may get job offers from top companies. This can be a wonderful day for politicians, trainers and freelancers. Married couples may watch their favourite movie at home and enjoy the time.

**Lucky Numbers: 8, 12, 14, 16, 23, 30**

### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Your inputs may lead to the organization's profit, thus benefitting you in return. On the domestic front, you may bond well with your loved ones. This may strengthen your interpersonal ties. This is likely to reflect positively on your health as well.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 16, 23, 27, 36, 38**

## Shaheer Sheikh reveals how KRPKAB changed him: 'As Dev's character evolved, so did I'

In the show, Shaheer Sheikh plays the role of Dev Dixit – who is an ideal son, romantic husband and also a good father. Over a period of time, Dev's character has evolved in the show. Talking about the same, Shaheer said that Dev's character helped him evolve in his personal life as well, reports india.com.

The actor added that Dev has also taught him what is the key in any relationship. "When I took up this show, I had a different perspective about a lot of things. But as the show progressed, I grew too. As Dev's character evolved, so did I. I had a lot to take back from Dev in terms of relationships and the challenges one might face. One big thing that I have learnt is that communication is key in any relationship – be it as a lover, as a son or as a parent," Shaheer Sheikh said

Earlier in May, Shaheer opened about his bond with his reel life mom Supriya Pilgaonkar and said, "Our relationship is so pure and I could feel that bond from the very first day when we shot our scene together. It is not like that our bond was created over a period of time. When I used to do scenes with her, I used to actually feel every dialogue."



Tiger Shroff and Disha Patani never confirmed their relationship of over six years and always maintained that they were good friends.

## Tiger and Disha have parted ways for good

**T**iger Shroff and Disha Patani never confirmed their relationship of over six years and always maintained that they were good friends. Both fitness and gym enthusiasts, given their common interests and dinner-Maldives outings led to speculations on an obvious romance, reports Bombay Times.

While Tiger stayed tight lipped about his private life, Disha, the more candid among the two, opened up on it in a previous interview with Bombay Times (in 2019).

When asked about their equation and rapport, she told BT, "Among the two of us, Tiger is more fitness conscious. He is crazy! He is completely focused on his fitness." Given her massive fan following among the men, it was hard to believe that she doesn't get the kind of male attention one would assume she does. She revealed, "I don't know if it's normal, but no man has ever asked me out or proposed to me. I am not lying. I have never got that kind of male attention."

When asked, 'not even Tiger?', she added, "I have been trying to impress him for a long time, but he doesn't seem to be interested in me. We go out for dinner and all, but I need more than friendship, but that's not happening. I want us to be more than that, but it's one-sided love. I have been trying it all — gymnastics, fitness, et al — to impress him, but it's not happening."

Sources close to the couple, told BT, "The two have been friends for long but Tiger is too obsessed with his own life and fitness to be invested in a relationship. He was clear from the beginning about it. Disha was hopeful that things would eventually change but that wasn't happening. One-sided relationships are emotionally draining and that led to an obvious tension between the two. One found the other controlling. Trouble was brewing for a while and they finally outgrew each other. They have parted ways and moved on for good. This is best for the both of them."

## Alia Bhatt: 'Why does having a family or a child have to change my professional life?'

**A**lia Bhatt, 29, announced her pregnancy in June on Instagram, two months after she tied the knot with fellow Bollywood star Ranbir Kapoor, 39.

"You don't plan great things, they just happen," says soon-to-be-mother Alia Bhatt, who believes in trusting her instincts in most of her professional and personal life decisions, reports Indian Express.

While the couple was flooded with best wishes following the announcement of Alia's pregnancy, Alia Bhatt was subjected to online trolling for embracing motherhood early in her life.

"Everything a woman does is put in headlines. Whether she has decided to become a mother, she is dating somebody new, she is going for a cricket match or on a holiday. For some reason, the eyeballs are always on women's choices," the actor told PTI in an interview.

Alia Bhatt, who had shared the news of her pregnancy while shooting for her Hollywood debut *Heart of Stone in London*, was soon targeted for making a life-altering decision at the peak of her career.

The actor, known for films such as *Highway*, *Uda Punjab*, *Raazi* and her recent release *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, completes a decade in films this November.

"Of course, I am young, but why does that have to change anything? Why does having a family or a child have to change my professional life? They are two completely different things. I would continue to and prefer to lead by example and action as opposed to giving any attention to the nonsensical things," she said.

People's opinions don't bother her, added the actor, who believes in following her heart.

"To me, the people having those opinions show where they are in life. It doesn't say anything about where I am.



In fact, a lot of decisions that I have made in my life — singular, not in any relation to anyone — have happened when it was least expected. You don't plan great things, they just happen."

"What I consciously want to do is follow my heart and go with my instinct and gut. That's exactly what I have done through my professional and personal life and things have worked out beautifully," she said.

The actor will next be seen in the Netflix movie *Darlings*, slated for a premiere on August 5. Set in Mumbai, the dark comedy features Bhatt alongside Shefali Shah, Vijay Varma and Roshan Mathew.

## R Madhavan doesn't want to be Manu in Tanu Weds Manu anymore



**R**. Madhavan and Kangana Ranaut wooed audiences with a romance-comedy franchise *Tanu Weds Manu*. The two films that released with the onscreen couple managed to garner immense audience appreciation both times. However, we haven't seen the return of the third part despite the way people appreciated the chemistry between the pair. When asked, the hero, Madhavan, who is in the midst of promoting *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*, revealed that he wouldn't want to return as Manu.

In report by Hindustan Times, Madhavan was quoted as saying: "I think that's water under the bridge. There is no point in beating a dead horse. You know, it's so difficult to come up with original stuff, and then there are expectations from a film. See, if it's a sequel to *Avengers* or a superhero series, it's easier because you have a template. But with *Tanu Weds Manu*, it's impossible. And I think I am done with it. I don't want to go back to being Manu now," he was quoted saying.

*Tanu Weds Manu*, released in 2011, showcases the story of the two titular characters, how they meet and how complex their love story eventually leads to marriage. *Tanu Weds Manu Returns* in 2015 deals with their internal issues and the entry of yet another character named Datto who adds twist to the plot. While the 2011 release had garnered a positive response from the audience, the 2015 film managed to break records.

### Cinema Sirsa

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

### ÉK VILLAIN RETURNS

RETURNS (Featuring John Abraham, Disha Patani, Arjun Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapur)

Friday	29th July	- 13:15 - 20:15
Saturday	30th July	- 10:15 - 13:15 - 20:15
Sunday	31st July	- 10:15 - 13:15 - 16:15/20:15
Monday	1st August	- 10:15 - 13:15 - 20:15
Tuesday	2nd August	- 10:15 - 13:15 - 20:15
Wednesday	3rd August	- 10:15 - 13:15 - 20:15
Thursday	4th August	- 10:15 - 13:15 - 20:15



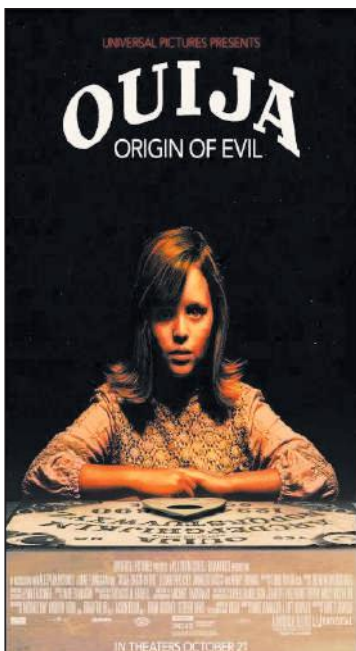
Vendredi 29 Juillet - 21.15



Samedi 30 Juillet - 21.00



Dimanche 31 Juillet - 21.52



# Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 29 juillet

samedi 30 juillet

dimanche 31 juillet

lundi 1 août

## MBC 1

06.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
07.16 D.Anime: Pet Alien  
08.30 D.Anime: La Petite Ecole...  
09.00 Film: Time Toys  
11.00 Mag: Top 100 Famous...  
11.35 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor  
14.07 Les Grands Noms Interna...  
14.35 D.Anime: Gon  
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...  
15.34 Film: Dinofroz  
16.59 D.Anime: Cleopatra In Space  
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.55 Serial: Surya Puran  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: Les Grands Noms...  
21.06 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
22.05 Serial: Billions  
23.00 Le Journal

## MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: Sila  
11.24 Serial: Tu Ishq Hai  
12.00 Film: 3 Doba - 3 Mistakes...  
14.43 Filler: Radha Krishna  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.46 Serial: Bommarillu  
16.13 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.28 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay  
16.47 Serial: Bhaag Na Banche...  
17.14 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  
07.51 Doc: Hotels  
08.41 Doc: Castles  
09.45 Doc: Our Friend The Atom  
12.11 Mag: Border Crossing  
13.59 Doc: Castles  
15.41 Doc: Our Friend The Atom  
16.56 Doc: Shift  
17.06 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.33 Doc: Expedition Kachgar  
20.45 Doc: World Heritage  
21.42 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait...  
22.08 Doc: Treasures In The Sand  
23.33 Doc: The Future Of Travel  
00.15 Mag: World Stories  
00.17 Doc: World Famous Writers  
00.20 Mag: Our Voices  
00.56 Mag: Euromaxx  
01.22 Doc: Expedition Kachgar  
02.16 Doc: World Heritage

## Cine 12

01.24 Film: Extortion  
03.49 Film: The Now  
05.29 Tele: Marimar  
05.40 Tele: Rubi  
06.59 Film: Extortion  
09.00 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami  
09.45 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T  
12.00 Film: The Vow  
13.37 Tele: Marimar  
14.50 Film: Extortion  
16.30 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami  
17.24 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.34 Serial: Oh Yuck!  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: The Magicians  
21.15 Film: Venom  
22.58 Tele: Marimar

## Bollywood TV

06.52 Film: Vijeta  
Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Raveena Tandon, Paresh Rawal  
11.24 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna  
11.54 / 21.00 - Anupamaa  
12.23 / 21.30 - Mere Sai  
12.54 / 22.00 - Agnihera  
13.23 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
13.50 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes  
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.25 Film: Shaadi Ka Laddoo  
Starring: Sanjay Suri, Mandira Bedi, Aashish Chaudhary  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.28 Serial: Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi

06.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids  
07.43 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien  
08.00 Film: Le Cygne Et La Princess  
09.30 D.Anime: Kids' Planet  
10.00 Local: Zanafan Nou Zil  
10.30 Serial: Oh Yuck!  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Les Grands Noms Interna...  
12.30 Tele: Tanto Amor  
13.16 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
14.45 Local: Artizan  
15.20 Filler: Radha Krishna  
15.34 Film: Alpha And Omega 7  
16.20 Film: Kung Fu Panda  
17.15 Mag: Human Nature  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
21.10 Film: Frank & Lola  
23.00 Local: Le Journal

07.00 Film: Sitamgar  
Starring Dharmendra, Rishi Kapoor, Parveen Babi...  
10.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
11.23 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo  
12.11 Serial: Nanda Saukhya Bhare  
12.33 Serial: Mooga Manasulu  
12.56 Serial: High School  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Film: Housefull 1  
Stars: Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, Arjun Rampal, Ritesh Deshmukh, Lara Dutta...  
17.47 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: Rakht  
Starring Bipasha Basu, Sanjay Dutt, Dino Morea

06.00 Doc: The Future Of Travel  
06.42 Mag: World Stories  
06.57 Mag: Our Vocies  
07.25 Mag: Euromaxx  
07.52 Doc: Expedition Kachgar  
09.45 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait...  
11.40 Doc: The Future Of Travel  
12.22 Mag: World Stories  
12.34 Mag: Our Voices  
15.23 Doc: Quand L'Histoire Fait...  
18.08 Doc: Sweet Magic  
18.25 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
18.30 Mag: In Good Shape  
19.00 Mag: Saladeria  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: World Heritage  
20.50 Doc: Fabulous Design  
21.42 Doc: Skuld  
22.08 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
23.15 Doc: Sweet Magic  
23.42 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
23.47 Mag: In Good Shape

01.26 Film: Venom  
02.58 Serial: Pure Genius  
03.52 Serial: Under Pressure  
04.35 Serial: Gone  
05.17 Tele: Tanto Amor  
06.02 Serial: The Magicians  
06.38 Serial: Imposters  
08.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
09.11 Serial: Under Pressure  
10.40 Film: 119 Jours  
12.15 Serial: Pure Genius  
13.30 Serial: S.W.A.T  
15.00 Tele: Muneca Brava  
16.20 Serial: The Magicians  
17.03 Film: Timecrafters  
18.36 Serial: Knight Rider  
19.35 Serial: Oh Yuck!  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Series: The Magicians  
21.15 Film: Adopt A Highway  
22.45 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones

04.02 Radha Krishna  
04.33 Anupamaa  
05.31 Agniphera  
06.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan  
06.31 Patiala Babes  
08.00 Yeh Teri Galiyan  
10.11 Motu Patlu  
10.22 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
12.33 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
14.30 Serial: Anupamaa  
16.20 Pavitra Rishta  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Film: Shart  
Starring Tusshar Kapoor, Gracy Singh, Amrita Arora  
20.30 Serial: Namah  
20.52 Serial: Naagin Season 3  
21.31 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

06.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids  
07.25 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget  
07.58 D.Anime: Kid Lucky  
08.25 D.Anime: Briko  
10.00 Local: Zanafan Nou Zil  
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn  
11.55 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.36 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.16 Tele: La Femme De Lorenzo  
15.21 D.Anime: Les Blagues De To...  
15.35 Film: Fish School: Into The...  
16.35 D.Anime: Paf, Le Chien  
17.15 Mag: Human Nature  
17.45 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.20 Local Production: Les Klips  
21.15 Film: Two Lovers And A Bear  
23.05 Le Journal

07.00 Film: Zara Si Zindagi  
11.03 Serial: Azhagu  
11.20 Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi  
11.45 Serial: Surya Puran  
12.06 Film: Drona  
15.00 Samachar  
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  
17.03 Serial: Siya Ke Ram  
19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.05 Serial: Porus  
21.26 Serial: CID  
21.07 Serial: Naagin Season 3  
Starring: Mouni Roy, Arjun Bijlani, Aadaa Khan, Karanvir

06.00 Doc: Sweet Magic  
07.02 Mag: Saladeria  
07.31 Mag: Check In  
09.49 Doc: Skuld  
10.38 Doc: Better Brain Health  
11.24 Doc: Sweet Magic  
11.30 Doc: Snapshots  
11.55 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
12.30 Mag: The 77 Percent  
14.14 Doc: World Heritage  
14.22 Doc: Fabulous Design  
15.14 Doc: Skuld  
15.38 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
17.23 Mag: In Good Shape  
19.11 Mag: The Inside Story  
19.37 Mag: Japan Video Topics  
20.30 Live: News (English)  
20.50 Doc: World Heritage  
21.42 Mag: Sky Eye  
22.08 Doc: Transylvania In The...  
22.34 Doc: Contest Of The Cathe...

01.28 Film: Adopt A Highway  
03.02 Serial: Absentia  
03.43 Film: Frank & Lola  
05.18 Tele: Tanto Amor  
06.02 Serial: The Magicians  
08.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
09.11 Film: Adopt A Highway  
10.40 Film: Timecrafters  
12.15 Serial: Absentia  
13.30 Serial: S.W.A.T  
15.35 Tele: Muneca Brava  
17.00 Serial: The Magicians  
17.45 Serial: Absentia  
18.30 Serial: L'Agence Tous Risque  
19.36 Serial: Oh Yuck  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: The Good Doctor  
21.15 Serial: Scorpion  
22.00 Film: Ouija  
23.30 Tele: Sinu, Rio Des Pasiones

00.05 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2  
02.15 Bhakharwadi  
04.04 Anupamaa  
06.00 Pavitra Rishta  
07.56 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
10.01 Kundali Bhagya  
12.01 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
14.02 Agniphera  
16.08 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
17.00 Punar Vivaah  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Film: Hamara Dil Apke Paas Hai  
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Aishwariya Rai, Sonali Bendre  
21.07 Naagin Season 3  
21.50 Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
23.44 Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
01.25 Kundali Bhagya  
03.14 Agniphera

06.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits  
07.00 D. Anime: Clip - Akili Family  
07.55 D. Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
09.00 Film: Nowhere Boys  
10.25 Doc: Books - The Greatest  
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.29 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.44 Local: Nu Rasinn  
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...  
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Mere Sai  
18.55 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.25 MBC Production  
21.25 Local: La Societe  
22.20 Film: Venom

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Kundali Bhagya  
12.06 Film: Naya Daur  
Starring Dilip Kumar, Vijayanthimala, Ajit  
15.00 Samachar  
15.20 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.47 Serial: Bommarillu  
16.13 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.37 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay  
16.57 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe  
17.16 Serial: Kullfi Kumarr...  
17.30 Serial: Vandhal Sridevi  
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: Oh My Kadavule  
Starring: Ashok Selvan, Ritika Singh, Vani Bhojan

07.00 Mag: Salad Area  
07.58 Doc: Paradis Perdus  
08.44 Doc: World Heritage  
09.41 Doc: Sky Eye  
12.24 Mag: The Inside Story  
14.02 Doc: World Heritage  
14.59 Doc: Sky Eye  
15.51 Contest Of The Cathedrals  
18.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
19.00 Mag: Africa 54  
19.33 Mag: In Good Shape  
20.45 Doc: Castles  
20.48 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
22.06 Mag: Global 3000  
22.32 Mag: Washington Forum  
23.00 Doc: Tea-New Ideas For...  
23.40 Doc: Eco@Africa  
00.08 Mag: The 77 Percent  
00.34 Doc: Persons  
00.37 Mag: Africa 54  
01.07 Mag: In Good Shape

02.22 Film: Ouija  
04.33 Film: Two Lovers And A Bear  
06.00 Tele: Marimar  
06.22 Tele: Rubi  
06.46 Serial: The Good Doctor  
07.27 Serial: Scorpion  
08.07 Film: The Stolen  
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T  
11.31 Film: Fast & Furious 7  
13.30 Tele: Marimar  
14.07 Tele: Rubi  
14.45 Film: The Stolen  
16.20 Serial: The Good Doctor  
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.39 Serial: Oh Yuck  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Imposters  
21.15 Film: Potter's Ground

08.00 Taare Zameen Par  
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna  
11.59 / 21.00 - Anupamaa  
12.31 / 21.30 - Mere Sai  
13.00 / 22.00 - Agnihera  
13.30 / 22.03 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
13.40 / 22.30 - Patiala Babes  
14.30 / 23.00 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.19 Film: Naam Shabana  
Starring: Taapsee Pannu, Akshay Kumar, Manoj Bajpayee  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...  
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.30 Radha Krishna  
21.06 Anupamaa



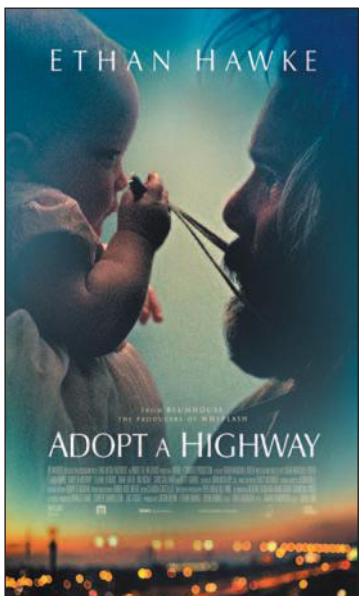
Mardi 2 août - 21.10



Mercredi 3 août - 21.15



Jeudi 3 août - 21.15



# Programme TV



SERIAL



mardi 2 août

### MBC 1

06.00 Local: Rodrig  
07.27 D.Anime: Pet Alien  
09.05 Film: The Jungle Book  
10.40 D.Anime: Kids' Planet  
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Loved You  
11.32 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'ana  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.41 Local: Come On Let's Dance  
14.35 D.Anime: Gon  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...  
15.35 Film: Surf's Up 2  
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.15 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
21.55 Film: What The Night Can Do  
With: Stuart Margolin, JoBeth Williams

### MBC 2

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: CID  
12.00 Film: Aarti  
Starring: Ashok Kumar, Meena Kumari, Pradeep Kumar...  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.43 Bommarillu  
16.07 Sondha Bandham  
16.33 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay  
16.49 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi  
17.08 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.31 Serial: Premabhishekam  
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...  
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Local: Tamil Programme  
20.30 Film: Santosh  
Star: Manoj Kumar, Nirupa Roy, Rakhee Gulzar

### MBC 3

06.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
07.24 Mag: In Good Shape  
07.53 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
09.46 Mag: Washington Forum  
11.00 Mag: Eco@Africa  
13.26 Doc: Global Drinks  
14.47 Mag: Washington Forum  
16.38 Mag: Eco@Africa  
18.00 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...  
18.41 Mag: Red Carpet  
19.03 Mag: Check In  
19.34 Doc: Archipel  
20.30 Live: News  
20.45 Doc: Paradis Perdus  
21.40 Mag: Euromaxx  
22.10 Mag: Close Up  
22.36 Local: Rodrig-Klip Seleksion  
23.52 Mag: The Global Auto...  
00.26 Mag: Healthy Living  
00.56 Doc: Persons  
00.59 Mag: Check In

### Cine 12

01.32 Film: Potter's Ground  
02.57 Serial: S.W.A.T  
03.36 Film: Beyond The Mask  
05.17 Tele: Marimar  
05.44 Tele: Rubi  
06.06 Serial: Imposters  
07.00 Film: Amazing Grace  
09.47 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T  
11.45 Film: Beyond The Mask  
13.36 Tele: Marimar  
13.57 Tele: Rubi  
14.35 Film: Amazing Grace  
16.31 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami  
17.20 Serial: Imposters  
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
21.15 Film: La Momie

### Bollywood TV

06.50 Film: Raiszaada  
Star Govinda, Sonam, Shashi Kapoor, Asha Parekh  
11.28 / 19.27 - Radha Krishna  
11.58 / 20.57 - Anupamaa  
12.21 / 21.27 - Mere Sai  
12.52 / 22.07 - Agniphera  
13.20 / 22.37 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
13.46 / 23.07 - Patiala Babes  
14.30 / 21.59 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 22.25 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.28 Film: Mohabbat Aur Jung  
Star: Mohnish Bahl, Rakesh Bedi, Dinesh Hingoo  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Kundali Bhagya  
18.59 Udaariyaan  
19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..  
20.00 Serial: Sasural Simar Ka 2

mercredi 3 août

07.00 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana  
07.40 D.Anime: Sabrina  
08.09 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
09.00 Film: Grandpa's Great Escape  
10.30 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil  
11.10 Tele: I Forgot I Love You  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.20 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.49 Local Production: Les Klips  
14.41 D.Anime: Gon  
15.20 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...  
15.35 Film: Raggie  
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 MBC Production  
19.00 Local: Planet Bollywood  
19.30 Journal & La Meteo  
20.30 MBC Production  
22.20 Film: The Vow  
Star: Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum, Sam Neill

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Suhani Si Ek Ladki  
12.00 Film: Kaajal  
Starring: Meena Kumari, Dharmendra, Raaj Kumar  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.23 Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.49 Bommarillu  
16.07 Sondha Bandham  
16.36 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay  
16.53 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi  
17.10 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.31 Serial: Kulvadh  
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods...  
18.30 Local: DDI Magazine  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
20.06 Programme In Marathi  
21.00 Film: Marathi Feature Film  
22.30 DDI Live

06.00 Mag: Rev: Global Auto...  
06.41 Mag: Red Carpet  
07.02 Mag: Check In  
08.46 Doc: Castles  
09.48 Mag: Euromaxx  
14.17 Doc Paradis Perdus  
17.31 Mag: Check In  
18.07 Mag: Motorweek  
18.26 Mag: Japan Video Topics  
19.00 Mag: Arts.21  
19.35 Mag: The Inside Story  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.45 Doc: Castles  
21.29 Les Montagnes Du Monde  
22.38 Mag: Focus On Europe  
23.46 Mag: Motorweek  
00.12 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
00.39 Doc: Persons  
00.43 Mag: Arts.21  
01.08 Mag: The Inside Story  
01.47 Doc: Skuld, A Look Into...  
02.04 Doc: Planet Home

01.33 Film: Upgrade  
03.59 Film: 119 Jours  
05.22 Tele: Marimar  
06.45 Serial: Rubi  
07.11 Film: What The Night Can Do  
09.00 L'Agence Tous Risques  
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.35 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T  
12.01 Film: 119 Jours  
13.30 Tele: Marimar  
14.45 Film: What The Night Can Do  
16.40 L'Agence Tous Risques  
17.22 Serial: Imposters  
18.09 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.37 Serial: Oh Yuck!  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
21.15 Film: Le Fort De La Derniere  
22.37 Tele: Marimar

07.00 Film: Mohabbat Aur Jung  
11.30 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna  
11.50 / 20.26 - Anupamaa  
12.30 / 20.02 - Mere Sai  
13.01 / 20.46 - Agniphera  
13.30 / 21.09 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
14.00 / 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: Mere Do Anmol Ratan  
Starring: Arshad Warsi and Namrata Shirodkar  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.30 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..  
20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.30 Radha Krishna  
20.59 Anupamaa

jeudi 3 août

06.00 Local: Klip Seleksion  
06.45 Local: Coin Jardin  
06.59 D.Anime: Tom-Tom Et Nana  
07.16 D.Anime: Pet Alien  
08.05 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
09.00 Film: Dive Oly Dive And The Octopus Rescue  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Muneca Brava  
13.51 Local: Music Tour 2022  
14.45 D.Anime: Gon  
15.21 D.Anime: Les Blagues De...  
15.40 D.Anime: Marco Macaco  
17.03 D.Anime: Cleopatra In Space  
17.30 Serial: Malory Towers  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.10 Local: Autour Des Valeurs...  
20.20 Film: Student Of The Year 2  
Starring Tiger Shroff, Tara Sutaria, Ananya Panday

07.00 DDI Live  
10.00 Serial: Vikram Betaal Ki Rahasya Gatha  
11.12 Serial: Mann Mein Vishwas...  
12.00 Film: Bezubaan  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.22 Serial: Saare Tujhyachsathi  
15.43 Serial: Bommarillu  
16.12 Serial: Sondha Bandham  
16.33 Serial: Pyar Ke Sadqay  
16.53 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi  
17.13 Kullfi Kumarr Bajewala  
17.40 Local: Bhajan Sandhya  
18.00 Serial: The Demi-Gods And...  
18.30 Mag: DDI Mag  
18.32 Filler: Radha Krishna  
20.04 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
20.59 Local: Profil  
21.14 Film: Adopt A Highway  
With Ethan Hawke, Chris Sullivan

06.00 Mag: Motorweek  
06.24 Mag: Vous Et Nous  
06.52 Mag: Arts.21  
08.17 Doc: Castles  
10.23 Doc: Solar Storms  
11.35 Local: Vous Et Nous  
12.34 Mag: The Inside Story  
13.26 Doc: Castles  
15.02 Mag: Focus On Europe  
16.10 Mag: Motorweek  
18.00 Mag: Eco India  
18.29 Mag: Shift  
19.00 Student Support Prog...  
19.58 Mag: Extra Time  
20.30 Local: News (English)  
20.48 Doc: Castles  
21.40 Doc: Les Grand Mythes  
22.12 Doc: Stolen Soul  
23.37 Mag: Eco India  
00.03 Mag: Shift  
00.15 Mag: Carnet De Sante

01.20 Film: Le Fort De La Derniere..  
02.59 Serial: S.W.A.T  
03.54 Film: The Vow  
05.19 Tele: Marimar  
05.48 Tele: Rubi  
06.51 Film: Le Fort De La Derniere..  
09.00 Serial: Deux Filcs A Miami  
09.45 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.37 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.00 Serial: S.W.A.T  
11.57 Film: The Vow  
13.30 Tele: Marimar  
14.45 Film: Le Fort De La Derniere..  
16.35 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami  
17.21 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
18.05 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
19.00 Tele: Fierce Angel  
19.28 Serial: Oh Yuck!  
20.05 Tele: Missing Bride  
20.30 Serial: Lincoln Rhyme  
21.03 Serial: Knight Rider

07.00 Film: Mere Do Anmol Ratan  
11.20 / 20.11 - Radha Krishna  
12.12 / 20.28 - Anupamaa  
12.36 / 20.32 - Mere Sai  
13.07 / 21.09 - Agniphera  
13.36 / 21.24 - Yeh Teri Galiyan  
14.06 / 21.50 - Patiala Babes  
14.30 / 22.15 - Main Maikhe Chali Jaungi Tum Dekhte Rahiyo  
15.00 / 21.46 - Yeh Hai Mohabbatein  
15.23 Film: Aaj Ka Daur  
Starring Jackie Shroff, Padmini Kolhapure  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
18.59 Udaariyaan  
19.29 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise..  
20.02 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.30 Serial: Radha Krishna



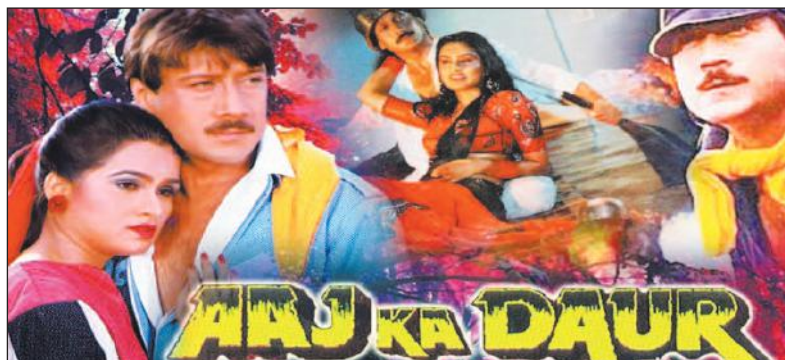
Jeudi 3 août - 15.30

Stars: Jackie Shroff, Padmini Kolhapure



Jeudi 3 août - 20.20

Star: Tiger Shroff, Tara Sutaria, Ananya Panday





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Countries across the world had hardly started to pick up the pieces and recover from the Covid-19 devastating effects on their economies when the insane shenanigans of US-led NATO, backed by spineless EU leadership, pushed Russia into a merci-

less assault on Ukraine. This has sent all countries reeling and scrambling to hunt for the best deals to prop up their economies and alleviate the impacts caused by energy, cereal and cooking oil crises.

As things stand, all countries are surfing on waves of public discontent and the governments of even prosperous countries are already recommending their citizens to brace up for more sacrifices. Private firms and citizens are advised to cut down central heating in the coming winter months. As from March 2022, folks living on one meal a day, and elderly people spending hours in pubs or public transport to keep warm have become commonplace. Not to mention the unfortunate ones who can no longer afford to pay back monthly housing loans to banks and are forced to sell their properties. The governments of these countries will also have to brace up for a likely harsh winter of discontent in the coming winter.

This crisis could have been averted with a different political leadership in the US and the EU. If their citizens are not fully brainwashed by Western media to believe in the democracy versus dictatorship rhetoric, they can only pin the blame for all the hardships on the foolish and reckless stance taken by their leaders. How will inflation and recession in two robust economies like China and the US impact the world in a near future and how long the price of gas, oil and cereals will depend on the Russian President Putin's moves are two swords of Damocles hanging on all of us.

Where do small countries like Mauritius stand? As regards its role in geo-strategic alliances amid tensions between shifting international blocs heading dangerously towards military clashes, it seems that media spokespersons and social activists are deluding the public into believing in the demand for total sovereignty and transparency. No major democracies can boast of these simply because international diplomacy requires a degree of secrecy to keep rival countries in check, and deems it convenient not to divulge everything to the public. In particular, this is so when part of the public is driven by selective hostility towards a major country with which a small island like Mauritius has strong ties of shared values of free societies and peaceful settlement of geo-political tensions.

Unless we are living in a cuckoo's nest, we have to admit that Watergate in the 1990s looks quite innocent now in the face of all the unscrupulous snooping, spying and prying into local rival politicians and foreign embassies' communication network

# Where do we stand?



Germany summoned US envoy over Merkel phone spy claims. Pic - South China Morning Post

« Unless we are living in a cuckoo's nest, we have to admit that Watergate in the 1990s looks quite innocent now in the face of all the unscrupulous snooping, spying and prying into local rival politicians and foreign embassies' communication network in Western democracies. Have we forgotten the cyber snooping of Angela Merkel's phone calls by the US? It left the German Chancellor sulking for a few weeks and provided grist to the mill of European media for quite some time before cooling off...»

in Western democracies. Have we forgotten the cyber snooping of Angela Merkel's phone calls by the US? It left the German Chancellor sulking for a few weeks and provided grist to the mill of European media for quite some time before cooling off, and the US now is Germany's closest buddy in the face-off against Russia.

Right now, what can dedicated patriots, social activists and media outlets do to enhance public awareness on relevant issues? Demonstrating in front of the European Parliament at Strasbourg as an outspoken social activist in Mauritius intends to do can be productive if his

grievances are directed against the foolishness and irresponsibility of the EU and NATO in the ongoing crisis that all other countries are paying a heavy price for. But this kind of protest requires a backbone and guts. It is much easier to harangue and arouse low instincts of ignorant social media warriors and constantly create an atmosphere of uprising on private media outlets.

What relevant issues can be tackled efficiently at the local level irrespective of the international energy and food crisis and international diplomacy? What we mean is freedom of speech does not mean yelling at the authorities on a permanent basis to keep a high level of adrenaline in the targeted audience for questionable goals.

There are more critical issues that require public awareness to address hardships engendered by public irresponsibility and ignorance. The main ones are food and health. What about education and our language policies that need urgent reviews if ever we have the ambition to avoid the debilitating vulgarity in Kreol that is splashed endlessly on social media? Swear words, cheap attacks by all and sundry, name calling by seasoned journalists are turning some media publications absolutely repulsive. Other sections of the population need to be more vocal and represented in a civilized manner in the media and gear their efforts towards participating and contributing positively to the general upliftment of the people.

How we nourish ourselves and take care of our own health, thoughts and emotions, our education system, the way we think and feel are key factors for upliftment and progress – these are more worthy matters to ponder.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## The Energy of an Embrace

A lingering hug creates an open-hearted exchange of energy between two beings in the most beautiful way.

The need to touch and be touched is established early in our lives as we develop and grow in the omnipresent embrace of our mother's womb. Once we are born, separated from that sanctuary of connectivity, we begin to crave the physical embrace of our parents. As we age, we become more independent. Yet during times of triumph or trouble and during those moments when we are in need of reassurance, we can't help but long for a hug.

Since a hug requires two active participants, each individual taking part in the embrace experiences the pleasure of being embraced and the joy that comes from hugging someone. As both individuals wrap their arms around one another, their energy blends together, and they experience a tangible feeling of togetherness that lingers long after physical contact has been broken. A heart hug is when you put your left arm over someone's shoulder and your right arm around their waist. As they do the same to you, your hearts become aligned with one another and loving, comforting energy flows between the two of you to flood your souls with feelings of love, caring, and compassion.

A hug is a pleasurable way to share your feelings with someone who is important to you. Depending on your relationship with the other person and the kind of message you wish to send to them, a hug can communicate love, friendship, romance, congratulations, support, greeting, and any other sentiment you wish to convey. A hug communicates to others that you are there for them in a positive way. In an instant, a hug can re-establish a bond between long-lost friends and comfort those in pain. The next time you hug someone, focus all of your energy into the embrace. You will create a profound connection that infuses your feelings and sentiments into a single beautiful gesture.