

# MAURITIUS **TIMES**

● "He knows nothing; and he thinks he knows everything. That points clearly to a political career." — George Bernard Shaw, Major Barbara



Interview: Rabin Bhujun, Journaliste

## «Jugnauth est pris en tenaille de l'extérieur comme de l'intérieur»

\* 'Si l'alliance électorale PTr-MMM-PMSD capote, Jugnauth contempera un troisième mandat avec sérénité'

☞ Voir Page 9

Opinion



### Monkey Business at Grand Bassin

By Jan Arden ☞ See Page 3

Eclairages

### Les mots forts du Cardinal Piat



Par A. Bartleby ☞ Voir Page 4

Food for Thought

### What Legacy for the Future?

If the leaders should worry about one thing besides looking after their own interests, it is about what legacy they want to be remembered and maybe thanked for

By Dr R Neerunjun Gopee ☞ See Page 6

# Can of Worms

**J**ean Hubert Celerine, also known as Franklin, could not have imagined that his decision, ill-advised for all intents and purposes, to go public in a bid to run down social activist-politician Bruneau Laurette would open up such a can of worms that has caused more harm to himself - and it now seems to some high-profile individuals as well - than what he bargained for. The worms that have come to the surface to date have shed light on the extent of drug importation, proliferation and trafficking in the country, especially along the western coast, together with its attendant money-laundering activities as revealed by the current ICAC investigations. They have also brought to the fore the alleged "mafia infiltration" of key public institutions as stated by the "best informed person of the country", the Prime Minister himself.

The latest furore that has come to light relates to corruption money to the tune of Rs3.5 million having been traded for the renewal of a Shooting and Fishing and Eco-Tourism Lease to the benefit of Eco Deer Park Association for some 250 hectares of forest land in the immediate vicinity of Ganga Talao, commonly known as Grand Bassin. This latest revelation comes in the wake of veiled attacks levelled by Bruneau Laurette about rave parties organised on ranch premises built on the leased lands with the alleged participation of people close to power. More details have come out about the presence of one Senior Minister, a Parliamentary Private Secretary, a high-level civil servant, one or more female gentry and other middle-men at a secret feast held on 12 September 2020, and who would be allegedly involved in the money transaction relating the renewal of the lease.

The presumption of innocence and the right to a fair trial are basics that anybody in a democracy is entitled to, and caution has to be exercised until guilt is established on the basis of solid evidence pertaining to the transaction that culminated in the lease renewal. It would seem that none has been furnished to date, and it would be up to the competent authorities to establish the guilt or innocence of those targeted by whistle blowers and other parties. There is no doubt that we do have the legal and institutional framework to go to the bottom of the case, and the institutions have the authority to seize mobiles and request phone and bank records of all parties involved as would be expected of them. Delays would only heighten suspicions and doubts that palatable narratives may be on the kitchen stove to save some skins. This is

where there is a hitch as regards the intent of those institutions to deliver results in the wider public interest, despite our country being under the scanner of the EU and now the US State Department. We are not aware if there are unexplainable complexities and factors that are acting as a cloud over the operations of such investigative agencies, but it bears repeating that ICAC's track record on this score leaves much to be desired - starting with its inexplicable turnaround in the MedPoint case, and extending to numerous affairs where it is yet to be known where its inquiries stand, such as the Dufry scandal (2015); the Alvaro Sobrinho scandal (2018); the Yerrigadoo/Bet 365 scandal (2018); the Glen Agliotti affair (2019), and finally the Serenity Gate/Film Rebate Scheme scandal (2019). We need not document the perversion of Public Procurement procedures in major purchasing ministries or even the CEB's St Louis Redevelopment Project flagged by the African Development Bank. All these pending inquiries highlight the absence of a credible and respected investigative agency capable of handling white collar crime independently of political proximity.

As regards the political fallout of this case, much will depend on how the Prime Minister will handle what looks like yet another scandal with the potential to cast a huge cloud over his government's integrity and accountability credentials. Ivan Collendavelloo, who earlier had received the PM's marching orders in the wake of the CEB's St Louis Redevelopment Project scandal must be watching with some glee the unfolding drama within the rank of the government he still forms part of despite his demotion from Deputy PM to simple MP -- much before the ICAC could complete its investigation into the St Louis affair. Its report anyway is yet to be made public.

Meantime, in his Sunday Easter speech that has gone viral, Cardinal Piat has been unusually forthcoming in his criticisms of a government, more cruelly so with regard to the drug proliferation business, a moral theme that may have garnered far wider support than just within his folk. It is symptomatic of the strength of that moral plea that the current DPM was apparently despatched to meet the Cardinal at the Eveche and the PM has agreed to meet representatives of the Catholic church on Wednesday last.

Whether this will bring some change or more of the same, the country can only watch and pray that easy money and greed have not become the sole engines of our development.

## The Conversation

### Beneath the Trump circus, American democracy faces up to a vital challenge

*As the former president faces court, this will be yet another litmus test for the strength of American democracy. And it's an essential one*



Trump supporters gather outside his home of Mar-a-lago in Palm Beach, Florida. Pic - EPA/AAP

**F**ormer US President Donald J Trump has been charged with 34 felony counts in New York. In the words of Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg, Trump is accused of making "34 false statements", themselves "made to cover up other crimes". Those crimes include a "conspiracy to promote a candidacy by unlawful means" and to "scheme with others to influence the 2016 presidential election".

The charges in New York add to the network of cases focused on Trump's efforts to subvert and undermine democratic processes in the United States, now stretching all the way back to his 2016 candidacy and across the duration of his presidential administration.

The charges shouldn't really come as a surprise. As recently as December 2022, Trump called for the "termination" of the Constitution so that he could return to power. The former president has always been brazen in his contempt for the rule of law.

But it is genuinely, historically significant that a former president is facing criminal charges and trial. This is an enormous shift in the norms and standards that have governed American politics for decades.

Trump's arraignment proceeded as expected: he arrived at court, was processed, and pleaded not guilty to those 34 charges. Amid a media frenzy, he left court and flew home to safer ground in Florida. At Mar-a-Lago, he made a standard stump speech listing his grievances and dramatically mischaracterising the investigations into his conduct.

As Trump's indictment and arraignment have played out, he and his supporters have employed now distressingly familiar techniques for inciting their followers. Last week, Trump threatened "death and destruction", posting a picture of himself wielding a baseball bat next to a picture of the Manhattan district attorney's head.

Emma Shortis, Lecturer, RMIT University

● Cont. on page 14

## Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah - Aug 1954-Sept 2000

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

*This paper has been produced with the assistance of*

**Doojesh Ramlallah, Sultana Kurmally and Kersley Ramsamy**

Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis

Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313

# Monkey Business at Grand Bassin

Jan Arden

There is a growing perception that the ICAC, since the coming into office of the MSM ruling dispensations, has not been renowned for conducting with a minimum of zeal and professionalism enquiries in any case that might have involved those close to higher offices in government circles. The only exception that we have been given to see lately concerns its money-laundering investigations into the Franklin affair. The list is otherwise long enough in several high-profile cases that have erupted since 2015. The St Louis CEB procurement saga is still dawdling along at ICAC after 7-8 years despite a Senior Minister having been made to step down by the Prime Minister and several exchanges with either the Scandinavian company BWSC or the African Development Bank as funding agency. More affairs erupted since then, namely, over the corrupt procurement processes at Health, Commerce and the State Trading Corporation during the pandemic concerning health supplies, equipment, vaccines and pharmaceuticals, where again the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection was forced to vacate his post but without any substantial progress on any of the several enquiries that would have been largely justified.

Other Ministers when replying to awkward allegations, resorted to stating that the matter had been referred to ICAC for



**“Where will this ICAC enquiry lead to, ask the sceptics, who wonder how much leeway, protection and for how long Franklin was allowed to augment his business and fly in and out of the country unhindered? The collateral revelations that a Senior Minister, a PPS and select guests were allegedly revelling in a Black Label stag party a few hundred metres from Grand Bassin while settling an alleged corrupt deal of Rs 3.5m for 700 acres of land lease sometime in 2020 came as an unexpected thunderbolt...”**

enquiries: e.g., the acting Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection in the case of Rs 500 M of illegal cigarette paper imported in the island or the Minister of Health on the saga of Molnupiravir pills, millions of which were purchased once at Rs 9 and the very next day at Rs 79 without, it seems, fully abiding by procurement processes. In those and perhaps other cases the mantle of an ICAC enquiry was perceived to be a

political convenience where embarrassing questions could no longer be asked.

It was therefore somewhat of a surprise that, while Franklin had been on the ADSU radar since 2016 and the Reunion authorities had condemned the guy for drug trafficking in absentia to 7 years jail time, ICAC felt empowered around February to launch with unusual vigour its money-laundering investigations into

drug warlord Franklin's operations on the West Coast, with all its tentacular ramifications. Where will this ICAC enquiry lead to, ask the sceptics, who wonder how much leeway, protection and for how long Franklin was allowed to augment his business and fly in and out of the country unhindered? The collateral revelations that a Senior Minister, a PPS and select guests were allegedly revelling in a Black Label stag party a few hundred metres from Grand Bassin while settling an alleged corrupt deal of Rs 3.5m for 700 acres of land lease sometime in 2020 came as an unexpected thunderbolt. Particularly among the Hindu faithful community and those who at immense sacrifices, fasting and devotions, carry their *kanwars* and perform their rituals at the sacred site before taking jars of the *Pari Talao* water for temple prayers on the occasion of the great night of Lord Shiva.

No amount of spin can justify or repair such an assault on whatever *dharmic* values this profanation implied for our ancestors' struggles down to today's Hindu culture, values and traditions. All those involved, even without the full results of ongoing ICAC enquiries, should have tendered their apologies and resigned immediately from their individual high offices. There is equal urgency for our socio-cultural associations to organise a *yaj* or prayer session to beg forgiveness and purify a sacred spiritual and religious site of particular fervour among devout Hindus that has been so damagingly associated with such crude monkey business.

## Donald Trump charged with 34 felony counts

Last Friday, former President Donald J. Trump, faced the first of a tough series of legal affairs, criminal and civil, as a Manhattan Grand Jury decided that the prosecutory evidence presented by District Attorney Alvin Bragg was sufficiently convincing to merit an indictment and trial before the appropriate court. Both the District Attorney and the 45th President will go down in US history, the first for securing a historic indictment against a guy who was known for using every legal artifice, including confidential settlement where inevitable, to avoid facing arrest and indictment and the second as the only former President in US history to face indictment and arrest on such criminal charges as would be disclosed this past Tuesday.

While the Republican Party was up in arms, expressing outrage or condemning an alleged subversion of the judiciary for political ends, and others may sympathise somewhat with a guy who lived a wealthy lifestyle which did not require his entrance into politics, for many others, Trump is regally despised as the symbol of the culture and identity wars as represented by the rearguard Make America Great Again (MAGA) wing, embracing undertones of racist and anti-Jewish feelings, while he and the Republicans focused on

large tax cuts for the wealthiest.

Political discourse has shifted undeniably from civilised oppositions and debates to diatribes so versed in mutual hate and contempt that the more educated elites, often attacked by Trump as the fake news or deep state establishment, face difficult times making any sensible arguments heard. The atmosphere has become almost toxic for Latinos, blacks, browns and Asians as certain channels like Fox News and fringe MAGA media outlets have given space and sound to the furious and grievously frustrated White Anglo Saxon Protestants (WASPs) who feel and act increasingly like a threatened minority.

The current indictment is admittedly a rather weak and sordid affair based on hush money payments to a female porn star and stripper Stormy Daniels through his attorney-fixer and it has nonetheless led the latter to disbarment and a three-year jail term. It remains to be seen whether the ex-President, using every delaying legal tactic his lawyers come up with, ultimately faces some consequence for his part in that scurrilous affair. That,



Former President Donald Trump sits with his defense team in a Manhattan court on Tuesday. Pic - AP

however, is only the beginning of Trump's legal woes as several District Attorneys, across different States, focus onto his role in such matters as the Jan-6 riots in Washington DC or the attempt to get more votes in Georgia at the last presidential elections.

More on page 14

# Oh deer, oh deer...

Par A. Bartleby

**L**vec chaque semaine qui passe, l'affaire Franklin apporte son lot de révélations et de découvertes. C'est ainsi que nous avons appris qu'un ministre aurait reçu un pot-de-vin de plusieurs millions de roupies pour l'attribution d'un chassé de quelques 250 hectares à côté du site de Grand Bassin. De plus, ce même ministre aurait été invité à une partie de chasse dans le même chassé.

Les spéculations et les rumeurs sur les événements qui se sont déroulés pendant cette partie de chasse enflamment actuellement les réseaux sociaux. Nous ne saurons pas ce qui s'est réellement passé ce jour-là, à moins qu'un témoin décrive honnêtement le déroulé des événements. Mais il est absolument certain que l'image du gouvernement en prend un sérieux coup.



Situation délicate pour Pravind Jugnauth, mais qui peut toutefois compter sur un soutien de poids...

Le ministre dont le nom circule en prend pour son grade aussi, surtout qu'il semblerait que plusieurs de ses collègues auront profité de cet épisode pour le lâcher entièrement auprès du PM. En effet, certains attendaient un faux pas de sa part afin de mieux le couler, chose que beaucoup attendaient depuis un moment déjà. D'ailleurs, la rumeur d'un remaniement ministériel pour atténuer l'impact d'une potentielle démission flotte depuis quelques jours.

Nous verrons bien ce que fera Pravind Jugnauth, mais il se trouve dans une situation délicate. Entre 2016 (l'année à laquelle il est devenu PM) jusqu'à aujourd'hui, il aura connu des départs importants: Lutcheenaraidoo, Bodha, Collendaveloo, Sawmynaden... Rajouter d'autres noms à cette illustre liste aujourd'hui ne voudra signifier qu'une chose: que cette équipe gouvernementale est à bout de souffle et qu'elle se trouve peut-être en face d'un point de basculement.

En effet, il règne comme un parfum de fin de règne depuis un moment sur ce gouvernement, et la moindre sortie ou maladresse d'un ministre ou d'un député devient la matière de vives spéculations, Steven Obeegadoo en a d'ailleurs fait les frais en milieu de semaine lors de la réunion privée qu'il a animée à Curepipe.

Il se pourrait même que ce gouvernement soit forcé à aller vers des élections générales anticipées si nous avons une culture politique plus moderniste. Mais nous sommes dans le contexte que nous connaissons, et certaines décisions du PM pourraient encore lui permettre de remonter la pente. De plus, toutes choses étant égales par ailleurs, Pravind Jugnauth peut compter sur un soutien de poids qui lui permettra d'avoir des chances de conserver le pouvoir lors des prochaines élections générales: l'opposition.



L'alliance rouge-mauve-bleue en gestation a du mal à trouver la dynamique requise pour renverser le gouvernement. Nous verrons bien si la mayonnaise prend à un moment donné. P - Le Matinal

## Vire Mam II: la mayonnaise ne prend pas

**E**n effet, l'alliance rouge-mauve-bleue en gestation a du mal à trouver la dynamique requise pour renverser le gouvernement actuellement. Nous verrons bien si la mayonnaise prend à un moment donné, comme cela avait été le cas avec le 'Vire Mam' de 2014, mais plusieurs analystes s'accordent à dire que les signes envoyés par l'opposition ne correspondent pas à ce qu'attendrait le peuple.

En mettant de l'avant les mêmes leaders et les mêmes figures, l'opposition indique clairement qu'elle ne comprend pas les enjeux du moment. Son interprétation des faits politiques semble même entièrement embourbée dans la croyance qu'elle avait gagné les élections de 2019 et que le Privy Council lui donnera raison en juillet. C'est peut-être le cas, et nous devons attendre pour voir comment les choses évolueront.

Mais cette posture n'envoie aucun signal quant à l'avenir du pays et quant au projet de société que les politiques se doivent de mettre en place afin de préparer le pays aux transitions nécessaires pour continuer à construire la résilience mauricienne. On ne conduit pas une voiture en regardant dans le rétroviseur, et c'est exactement ce que fait actuellement l'opposition, d'où sa faiblesse.

Rien ne dit qu'une alliance de l'opposition ne pourra pas l'emporter aux prochaines élections, mais elle l'emportera sur des faits qui ne relèvent pas de ses propres initiatives, comme le ras-le-bol par rapport à la situation économique, etc. Si victoire il y a, ce sera une victoire grâce au vote contre le gouvernement actuel, par à travers un vote d'adhésion. Et cela pose un immense problème.

En refusant de mettre le gouvernement en face de son inadéquation par rapport aux grands problèmes de société actuels, l'opposition donne en réalité une immense marge de manœuvre au MSM. L'affaire de la partie de chasse à Grand Bassin donnera un peu d'eau au moulin de bien des partis de l'opposition afin de leur permettre d'entretenir le bruit nécessaire pour exister actuellement, mais cela ne constituera aucunement une attaque politique en bonne et due forme sur des pratiques troubles.

D'ailleurs, cette semaine, des interventions d'anciens ministres PTr ont clairement démontré la posture qui sera adoptée. Il semble que la stratégie soit de surjouer la proximité du chassé en question avec le site de Grand Bassin. En faisant cela, il est clair que la stratégie du PTr est de positionner cette affaire du chassé comme la réponse au scandale du *katori* qui avait, selon eux, fait basculer les élections de 2019.

Est-ce que cette stratégie fonctionnera auprès de l'électorat conservateur et religieux? Sans doute que oui. Elle risquerait même de fonctionner plutôt bien mais pas dans le sens attendu... Contrairement à l'affaire du *katori*, dans le cas présent, la personne concernée n'est pas le leader d'un parti politique qui prétend au poste de Premier ministre. Donc, la personne concernée est facilement «disponible». Par conséquent, on enfonce encore plus le ministre concerné, et non le gouvernement ou le Premier ministre...

De surcroît, se débarrasser de ce ministre très impopulaire pourrait même faire monter la cote de popularité du leader du MSM. Plus encore, le poste de l'Attorney General est le seul où le ministre en question n'a pas besoin d'être un élu, ce qui signifie que le PM dispose d'un joker important dans sa poche. Il pourrait arriver à convaincre quelqu'un dont la réputation est reconnue dans le monde légal pour occuper ce poste, ce qui démontrerait - par la même occasion - si le PM a peur des tenants et aboutissants de l'affaire Franklin ou non.

Cette stratégie du PTr, si elle s'avère réelle, est comme démontré une position très faible puisqu'elle donne à Pravind Jugnauth exactement ce qu'il souhaite: l'excuse de faire tabula rasa de ses ministres et députés et de renouveler son équipe avec des jeunes dont les compétences sont démontrées. Il se chuchote d'ailleurs que les stratégies politiques du PM sont déjà à l'œuvre dans la constitution de cette liste.

C'est la raison pour laquelle Pravind Jugnauth attendra que les partis de l'opposition annoncent officiellement leur alliance. Une fois celle-ci conclue, Pravind Jugnauth aura une marge de manœuvre importante pour leur couper l'herbe sous les pieds puisqu'ils ne pourront plus renégocier les termes de cette alliance sans se ridiculiser aux yeux de l'opinion publique.

C'est pour cela que les alliances politiques se négocient à la dernière minute à Maurice, pour ne laisser aucune marge de manœuvre aux adversaires et pour produire un effet de surprise qui peut faire la différence lors d'une élection. Mais les tacticiens du MSM sont rusés, et ils savent que faire miroiter la possibilité d'une élection générale anticipée forcera les partis de l'opposition à entrer dans ce piège d'une alliance précoce.

\* \* \*

## Donald Trump inculpé

**D**onald Trump a été inculpé devant le tribunal pénal de New York pour avoir orchestré des paiements visant à étouffer trois affaires impliquant une ex-star du porno avant les élections de 2016.



Scandale: Trump avoue avoir payé l'actrice porno Stormy Daniels. P - Le Bien Public

L'ancien président américain a tout de suite répliqué par un discours politique en affirmant qu'il était la victime de persécutions qui ne reposaient sur aucune accusation sérieuse. La procédure judiciaire commence et risque de maintenir 'The Donald' dans une succession de comparutions devant les tribunaux.

☞ Suite en page 5

## Donald Trump inculpé

☞ Suite de la page 4

Les prochaines élections américaines sont prévues pour l'année prochaine et Donald Trump reste une figure majeure du Parti républicain. Il serait même, aux yeux de la base conservatrice, le seul candidat crédible pour affronter le candidat du Parti démocrate aux prochaines élections. Ainsi, une condamnation au pénal de l'ancien président risque de plonger le Parti conservateur dans une crise profonde, avec des scissions certaines entre les franges conservatrices libérales et celles d'un trumpisme de plus en plus revendicateur et virulent.

Il se trouve que Joe Biden peine à rassurer sur les capacités du Parti démocrate à pouvoir remporter les prochaines élections, avec ou sans (l'hypothèse la plus crédible) lui d'ailleurs. Ses positions perçues comme faibles contre la Chine, la Russie, la situation affaiblie avec l'Arabie saoudite et une politique intérieure considérée comme trop ancrée dans un Wokisme trouvent un rejet massif auprès des électeurs conservateurs, mais aussi auprès des classes populaires qui vivent le déclin de l'influence américaine avec angoisse et anxiété.

Est-ce que les prochaines présidentielles se joueront donc au sein même du Parti conservateur ? Difficile de le dire, mais le fait est que le trumpisme reste un courant puissant et qu'une mise à l'écart de Donald Trump pourrait ouvrir la voie à un autre candidat ou une autre candidate qui pourrait lui-même ou elle-même être encore plus radicale et à droite que Donald Trump.

\* \* \*



Quand les religieux parlent de politique et les politiciens parlent de religion... P - Le Matinal

## Les mots forts du Cardinal Piat

Le fait majeur de cette semaine est la sortie très remarquée du Cardinal Piat contre le gouvernement lors de son homélie du dimanche des Rameaux. Monseigneur Piat a exprimé le sentiment que partagent beaucoup de Mauriciens quant à la séquence des événements politiques depuis quelque temps déjà.

Monsieur Piat est un citoyen mauricien comme les autres, il a le droit de s'exprimer sur ce qu'il souhaite. Mais Monseigneur Piat n'est pas un simple citoyen, et cette prise de parole soulève de sérieuses questions. Pas tant sur le fond, puisqu'il est difficile de ne pas lui donner raison et qu'il a pris l'initiative à la place de l'opposition politique, des leaders d'opinion et des intellectuels.

Ces derniers n'ont jamais été muets quant aux affaires troublantes qui se succèdent et quant au glissement certain de nos institutions. Mais la parole du Cardinal porte un

poids que les autres n'ont pas, ce qui témoigne d'autant plus du lien complexe entre religion et politique à Maurice. Le fond était donc clair et il n'y a rien à dire. Toutefois la forme était problématique puisqu'elle relève d'une prise de position politique qui pourrait constituer un précédent fâcheux puisqu'il ouvrirait potentiellement une boîte de pandore.

Est-ce le rôle des religieux de prendre position publiquement sur l'actualité politique? Est-ce qu'il en va du rôle des politiques et des gouvernants de réagir et de répondre à une parole d'un religieux? Quelles sont les limites à ne pas franchir dans ce contexte? Si un religieux prend position sur la politique, alors est-ce qu'un politique peut prendre position sur la religion et sa place dans la société?

Si Monseigneur Piat prend position sur la politique, alors pourquoi est-ce qu'un prêtre hindou, un Iman musulman ou un moine bouddhiste ne pourraient pas le faire, avec l'immense risque de sombrer dans une concurrence des interprétations théologiques sur le fait politique? Comment situer les limites dans ce cas?

Quand un chef religieux prend position sur une question éminemment politique, la distinction entre l'homme religieux et l'homme politique risque de se brouiller. Et le risque qu'un politicien réponde aux propos d'un religieux sur des termes politiques devient réel, brouillant la frontière entre deux sphères qui se doivent de rester complètement séparées.

En prenant position de la sorte, le Cardinal s'est exposé au risque qu'un membre du gouvernement réagisse de la même façon qu'il le ferait vis-à-vis d'un adversaire politique, ce qui pourrait ouvrir un débat qui deviendrait vite extrêmement tendu. Nous n'en sommes pas encore là, heureusement, mais c'est un terrain glissant et il faut faire très attention.

\* \* \*

## L'exception mauricienne

Ces frontières furent historiquement toujours respectées à Maurice. La Constitution les impose, même si la pratique laïque ne fait pas partie des mœurs locales. De ce point de vue, il est de tradition que les sphères religieuses et politiques se rencontrent et il est normalisé que ces deux sphères entretiennent une conversation sur l'état de notre pays. Il n'y a là rien de nouveau, et c'est aussi ce qui fait l'exception mauricienne en matière de gouvernance.

Mais cette pratique et cette tradition avaient toujours des limites qui n'étaient jamais franchies. Ou plutôt, si la limite était franchie, alors elle l'était par les prises de position des religieux et des politiques qui défendaient des agendas idéologiques frôlant la radicalisation qui veut qu'il n'y ait plus de distinction entre l'État et la religion.

Et c'est exactement sur ce point que l'homélie de Monseigneur Piat nous interpelle. La forme était-elle appropriée? Absolument rien ne l'empêchait d'exprimer ses craintes directement au Premier ministre, au Président de la République ou au gouvernement dans son ensemble, par le biais d'une lettre privée ou d'une conversation. Monseigneur Piat aurait également pu émettre un communiqué à l'issue d'une telle conversation. Mais tel ne fut pas le cas.

Le fondement de la démocratie et de la modernité est la séparation fondamentale entre la politique et la religion, entre la gouvernance et la théologie. Sans cette séparation, aucune liberté ne peut être exercée dans la sphère publique puisque cette dernière devient assujettie aux dogmes religieux.

Nous restons convaincus que l'intention du Cardinal

était louable, mais d'autres pourraient avoir des intentions et des agendas moins nobles, ce qui nous met en face d'un très sérieux problème. En tout cas, il est certain que cet épisode fera date, en espérant qu'il ne fasse pas jurisprudence.

Quelle époque étrange nous vivons: les religieux parlent de politique et les politiciens parlent de religion...

\* \* \*



Emmanuel Macron en Chine: "quelques opportunités" et "beaucoup de risques". P - Franceinfo

## Opération séduction de Macron en Chine

Emmanuel Macron est en voyage officiel en Chine. Il est accompagné d'une délégation officielle de plusieurs dizaines d'entrepreneurs et de représentants des industries françaises.

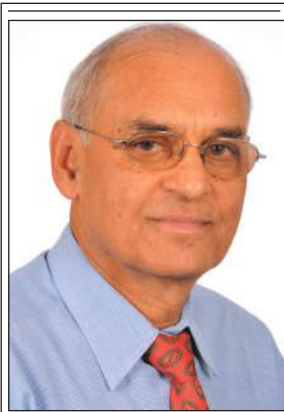
Le message est clair: Emmanuel Macron est en opération séduction en Chine pour relancer le "Made in France" auprès d'un partenaire qui ne considère pas la France comme un partenaire essentiel.

Les deux pays ont tout intérêt à développer des relations économiques solides et durables. Le marché chinois constitue un immense potentiel pour les industries françaises, et la Chine a tout intérêt à négocier des transferts de technologies françaises, surtout dans un contexte où le 'Belt and Road Initiative' commence à ralentir à cause de problèmes de défaut de paiements des crédits chinois.

L'opération séduction de Macron est donc nécessaire mais le président français n'a toutefois pas plié devant certaines postures qu'il a voulu affirmer de manière claire et précise. Il n'a ainsi pas hésité à affirmer que la Chine pouvait jouer un rôle majeur afin de trouver un chemin de paix en Ukraine, tout en rappelant que soutenir "l'agresseur russe" revenait à se rendre complice.

Emmanuel Macron, avec cette posture, joue un va-tout intéressant qui pourrait définir la gymnastique diplomatique requise afin que les puissances de l'Union européenne puissent avancer leurs intérêts en Chine tout en suivant la posture étatsunienne.

A. Bartleby



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# What Legacy for the Future?

*If the leaders should worry about one thing besides looking after their own interests, it is about what legacy they want to be remembered and maybe thanked for*

Over the past couple of decades, a certain pattern seems to have set in on the political front: the rot that begins to eat into the ruling regime towards the end of a second mandate. This happened when Labour was nearing the completion of its second term, leading to the victory of the next MSM-led government in 2014 and the near-electoral wipe-out of Labour. Now the MSM is afflicted with the same ill, and there is a clamour among the public to do away with it and to bring back the previous dispensation. Based on their known histories and trajectories, local folklore describes this phenomenon as *blanc bonnet-bonnet blanc*.

In light of this perception, and to save the country from this burden with its repetitive adverse fallouts on the country and citizens, there is an obvious solution: reduce each electoral term to four years (that is, before the bug sets in), and limit the mandate of the party leader to only two terms. But of course, this will never happen, because it will need a constitutional amendment which the parties will be the first to oppose vigorously. They will prefer to lose and take in the public opprobrium, then wait out in the desert until they present themselves the next time round - rather than to retire and to act as mentors and guides with a succession plan and fresh team(s), for reasons best known to themselves. I concede, however, that, (a) this is easier said than done, and (b) I am not familiar with the internal nitty-gritty of political parties that may 'militate' against such eventuality.

Not everyone can be a Nelson Mandela: he decided to serve only one term, stepping down in glory when it was over. He received the love and respect of his people, in fact of the whole world for this second magnanimity - the first one being to forgive his apartheid oppressors and invite them to participate in building a new South Africa. That it hasn't quite come to be is another matter, and surely, he cannot bear the blame for that.

In the current atmosphere that begins to smell like the end of yet another political era, the pressures and speculations are similar - dismissal of minister/public officer, call for earlier general elections, more concrete action and outcomes in a number of pending cases, etc. But nothing could be more uncertain.

As a result, there is a widespread feeling of disgust bordering on despair that prevails in the country. One comes across groups of people passionately talking about it, as much as there are others too who prefer to be in denial so as not to spoil their mood or their day as it were.

But it is undeniable that there is anxiety and apprehension about not only the present state of affairs but about the future, and for most citizens it is about the future of the children and the young who are caught in this unhealthy web of machinations against which they are powerless.

If the leaders should worry about one thing besides



**“Our citizens have to fall back on the country’s capacity to provide for their future prospects and expectations of work, decent and affordable housing, education for their children, and amenities that they enjoy in a climate of security. The latter is not guaranteed when social ills such as drugs, control of which appears to be ever elusive, and crimes of all sorts compound an already stressed social situation that add to the woes and worries. As if these are not enough, citizens have to face being bombarded with details of sordid unfolding dramas in the public sphere on a daily basis...”**

looking after their own interests, it is about what legacy they want to be remembered and maybe thanked for, as regards the future of the country and the citizens, especially the upcoming generations who pin their hopes on what these leaders have in store for them. Theirs is undoubtedly a genuine concern.

How can they feel confident about their future when they learn that the country's institutions are infiltrated by the mafia(s), that there is a lack of trust in several institutions, that people in positions of responsibility are not assuming it to the full extent that they should because they give in to interference (in the process compromising their integrity), that there is an unprecedented constitutional crisis at the highest level because of a conflict between the police and the office of the DPP, that cases against drug traffickers who are caught drag on interminably, that other cases fall through because of loopholes in investigative procedures - and so on and so forth. Also, when they are confronted year-in year-out with the Annual Audit Report that reveals the enormity of wastage of taxpayer money that seems unresolvable.

Is it any wonder that those who proceed overseas for their studies do not hesitate to stay back if they get an opportunity? Alas, though, only a relatively few can have such openings, and both post Covid and with the war in Ukraine, countries of destination which are mainly Europe and North America are not as open as before. In fact, several big companies such as Facebook, Amazon, Google, Microsoft have been laying off workers by the tens of thousands in recent months, a trend that seems set to continue for an indeterminate period.

There is job contraction in other sectors as well. Thus, our citizens have therefore to fall back on the

country's capacity to provide for their future prospects and expectations of work, decent and affordable housing, education for their children, and amenities that they enjoy in a climate of security. The latter is not guaranteed when social ills such as drugs, control of which appears to be ever elusive, and crimes of all sorts compound an already stressed social situation that add to the woes and worries.

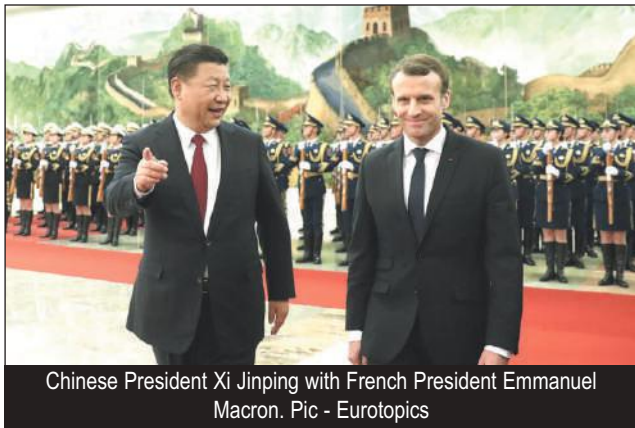
As if these are not enough, citizens have to face being bombarded with details of sordid unfolding dramas in the public sphere on a daily basis. The average layman is left open-mouthed in disbelief accompanied by shock at not only the unpalatable practices that are gratuitously commented upon on social media but also

the sheer amounts of monies that are bandied about, ranging from tens and hundreds of millions to billions of rupees. And this when the cost of living keeps going up.

One must not imagine, though, that it is only those at the bottom of the heap who are left trailing. Even those who belong to the so-called middle class and who are assumed to be better off are also engaged in a qualitative struggle to make progress in their lives and to fulfill the legitimate expectations of their families in terms of decent housing and basic and post-basic education for their children.

For this to happen, one does not need salaries approaching millions per month, but they must be enough to allow one to provide for daily needs beyond mere subsistence levels, to make provision for the future (old age contingencies in particular) through secure savings schemes with solid regulatory oversight, and to ensure that children can be supported till they become autonomous. That is what a civilized society is all about, and that is what governments in such societies are expected by their citizens to work towards.

Both the public and the private sectors use the language of millions and billions with regard to plans and projects that are being proposed, and what the people would like to see is how these humongous sums of money will improve the quality of life in the country, overall as well as at the individual level. Especially where Private Public Partnerships are concerned, greater transparency is required so as to demonstrate clearly that the corporate-politics tacit nexus model is indeed benefiting the people, and genuinely taking them and the country forward towards a future of hope and optimism. What other way is there?



Chinese President Xi Jinping with French President Emmanuel Macron. Pic - Eurotopics

## French President Emmanuel Macron meets Xi Jinping in Beijing

President Emmanuel Macron met his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in Beijing on Thursday, as the French leader seeks to dissuade China from supporting Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Macron had said in a speech in the capital that Beijing can play a "major role" in finding a path to peace in the conflict and welcomed China's "willingness to commit to a resolution".

The French president, who arrived on Wednesday for a three-day state visit, shook hands with Xi outside the Great Hall of the People, the heart of power in the capital.

Xi greeted his guest on a huge red carpet lined by Chinese and French flags as the countries' national anthems played, reports AFP.

Western pressure is mounting on China to help push for peace in Ukraine. Though Beijing is officially neutral, Xi has never condemned the Russian invasion.

While he recently went to Moscow to reaffirm his alliance with Putin -- framed as an anti-Western front -- Xi has not even spoken on the phone with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Macron, who is accompanied on his visit by European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, said he wants to "be a voice that unites Europe" over Ukraine, and that coming to China with her serves to "underline the consistency of this approach".

In a Thursday morning meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang at the Great Hall of the People, Macron stressed the importance of dialogue between China and France "in these troubled times".

### Taiwan tensions

The visit comes in the face of mounting Chinese pressure on Taiwan, with the island's President Tsai Ing-wen meeting in California with US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Macron told journalists Wednesday he did not think his Chinese counterparts had "a desire to overreact" to the meeting.

Tsai hailed the talks, saying they showed the self-ruled island was "not isolated" on the international stage.

Beijing balks at any official contact between Taipei and the rest of the world, insisting there is only "one China".

China had repeatedly warned both sides the meeting should not take place and deployed an aircraft carrier through waters near Taiwan hours before the talks went ahead.

Three additional warships were detected in waters separating the island from mainland China, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence said on Thursday.

## Saudi Arabia, Iran to reopen embassies, ease travel as part by deal brokered by China: Report

Iran's semiofficial news agency ISNA reported Thursday that Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed to reopen diplomatic missions in their respective capitals and in additional cities. There was no immediate official confirmation of the report.

As part of the reported deal, the two sides would also study the prospects of resuming flights between the two nations and facilitating the visa process for the citizens of both countries. Saudi Arabia and Iran are longtime regional rivals, but have moved toward reconciliation as part of a deal brokered by China last month.

If confirmed, the agreement would represent a new step toward reconciliation after seven years of tension. The rapprochement, which was initiated last month, lowers the chance of armed conflict between the Mideast rivals -- both directly and in proxy conflicts around the region, reports AP.

The initial reconciliation agreement was brokered by Beijing in March.

It represents a major diplomatic victory for the Chinese as Gulf Arab states perceive the United States slowly withdrawing from the wider Middle East. It also comes as diplomats have been trying to end a long war



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, left, shakes hands with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, right, and Chinese counterpart Qin Gang in Beijing Thursday. Pic - AP/PTI

in Yemen, a conflict in which both Iran and Saudi Arabia are deeply entrenched.

On Thursday morning, Saudi Arabia's state-run Al-Ekhbariya TV showed Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, shaking hands and sitting side by side. It was the first formal meeting of senior diplomats from the two nations since 2016, when the kingdom broke ties with Iran after protesters invaded Saudi diplomatic posts there. Saudi Arabia had executed a prominent Shiite cleric with 46 others days earlier, triggering the demonstrations.



Afghan women stand on a queue to receive food aid distributed by a charity foundation during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan in Kandahar on March 28, 2023. Pic - AFP

## 'Taliban women staff ban violates world body's charter', warns UN

A top UN official warned Wednesday that a Taliban government order banning Afghan women from working for its mission in the country "is going to violate" the world body's charter, which rejects gender segregation.

The Taliban authorities have imposed a slew of restrictions on Afghan women since seizing power in 2021, including banning them from higher education and many government jobs.

The increasing curbs are reminiscent of the Taliban's first government between 1996 and 2001, when the UN said they were responsible for repeated human rights violations -- particularly against girls and women.

The UN said on Tuesday the Taliban government had extended a ban on women working for non-governmental organisations to the world body's workforce of 400 Afghan women, reports AFP.

The UN had thus far been exempt from a December order for all foreign and domestic aid agencies to stop women from working across the crisis-stricken nation.

UN humanitarian coordinator in Afghanistan Ramiz Alakbarov told AFP in an interview: "The charter of the United Nations is going to be violated."

"It is absolutely clear that no authority can give

instructions to the United Nations ... on who should be employed," he said. "We are not going to make an exception."

The UN airlifted \$1.8 billion into Afghanistan between December 2021 and January 2023, funding an aid lifeline for the nation's 38 million citizens and shoring up the domestic economy.

Alakbarov said the Taliban government order was a "huge violation" of women's rights. "Women are absolutely essential to all aspects of our service delivery work in Afghanistan," he said.

The UN's 400 female Afghan employees are the bulk of its 600 female staff working in Afghanistan. In total, there are about 3,300 Afghans in the 3,900-strong UN workforce there.

The Taliban government has imposed an austere interpretation of Islam since surging back to power.

Authorities have barred teenage girls from secondary school, women have been pushed out of many government jobs, prevented from travelling without a male relative and ordered to cover up outside the home, ideally with a burqa.

Women have also been banned from universities and are not allowed to enter parks or gardens.

\* Contd on page 8



## FOR RENT

4000 Sq Ft Building  
In Excellent Condition  
within less than 5 mins  
from New Supreme  
Court Building

Ideal for  
Office - Mini  
Clinic - Medical  
Lab - Archives  
& Chambers

Parking Spaces &  
Alarm System Available

### CONTACT US

57809413 - 5 7829861 - 5 2929301

email: drrouget@gmail.com



Elections will be held in Punjab province on May 14.  
Pic – India Posts English

## Punjab elections to be held on May 14 instead of Oct: Pak election commission

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Wednesday announced May 14 as the revised date for the Punjab Assembly polls, Pakistan-based Dawn newspaper reported. This comes after the Pakistan Supreme Court's (SC) directives that the elections be

held on May 14 instead of the previously notified date of October 8.

The revised schedule was issued in a notification which cited the Supreme Court's order in response to a petition filed by the PTI against the ECP's decision to delay the Punjab Assembly elections from the originally decided date of April 30 to October 8.

According to Dawn, elections to the Punjab Assembly have been due since January this year when the house was dissolved. In early March, the ECP had proposed that the elections be held between April 30 and May 7 and subsequently, President Arif Alvi accepted the commission's recommendations by setting April 30 as the date for the polls, reports ANI.

The date was officially notified by the electoral watchdog on March 8, but it was later deferred to October 8 in another notification issued by the ECP on March 22, as per Dawn.

The commission in the latest notification issued today said it was recalling its March 22 notification and partially modifying the March 8 notification.

Under the revised schedule, the last date for the filing of appeals against the decisions of the returning officer rejecting or accepting the candidates' nomination papers has been set as April 10.



Filipino marines take position next to a US amphibious assault vehicle during a joint exercise in 2018. Pic – AFP

## Japan to fund defence projects of friendly nations

Japan on Wednesday said it plans to offer friendly nations financial assistance to help them bolster their defences, marking Tokyo's first unambiguous departure from rules that forbid using international aid for military purposes.

Japan's Overseas Security Assistance (OSA) will be operated separately from the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) programme that for decades has funded roads, dams and other civilian infrastructure projects, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said at a regular news conference.

"By enhancing their security and deterrence capabilities, OSA aims to deepen our security cooperation with the countries, to create a desirable security environment for Japan," a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday said.

The aid will not be used to buy lethal weapons that recipient countries could use in conflicts with other nations in accordance with the three principles that govern arms exports, reports Reuters.

The Philippines and Bangladesh are likely to be included as the first recipients of the aid, a government source involved in talks said to Reuters.

Japan is considering providing radars to the Philippines to help it monitor Chinese activity in the contested South China Sea, and also weighing Fiji and Malaysia as potential recipients of the aid, the Yomiuri newspaper reported on Monday.

The decision to expand the scope of international aid to military-related projects follows Japan's announcement in December of a military build up that will double defence spending within five years as it looks to counter China's growing military might in Asia.

## King Charles' wife gets 'Queen' title on coronation invite

King Charles III's wife has been officially identified as Queen Camilla for the first time, with Buckingham Palace using the title on invitations for the monarch's May 6 coronation.

Camilla, who until now has been described as queen consort, is given equal billing on the ornate medieval style invitations that will be sent to more than 2000 guests and were unveiled on Tuesday.

The new title is another step in the remarkable transformation of a woman once derided as a home-wrecker because of her role in the breakdown of Charles' marriage to the late Princess Diana.

Charles and Camilla met long before the future king married Diana in 1981 and their relationship continued throughout the tumultuous marriage. That made Camilla an object of scorn among Diana's many



Britain's King Charles III and Camilla pose for a photo in the Blue Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace, London. Pic - AP

fans, who rallied around the princess as her marriage collapsed, reports AP.

But Camilla has won over much of the British public with her warmth and down-to-earth humour since she married Charles in a civil ceremony in 2005. The late Queen Elizabeth II

early last year issued a statement saying she hoped Camilla would be known as "queen consort" when Charles became king.

Camilla will be crowned alongside her husband on May 6 at Westminster Abbey.

## Donald Trump has a child out-of-wedlock?

In Donald Trump's indictment released by prosecutors following arraignment, a previously unknown victim of the former president and the National Enquirer's so-called "catch-and-kill" campaign was revealed. Donald Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen directed the head of American Media Inc to purchase the rights to a story being spread by a doorman at Trump Tower, prosecutors said.

The doorman claimed to have knowledge of an out-of-wedlock child supposedly fathered Donald Trump. Although, the story was not true, the company was told by Donald Trump's lawyer to hold on to rights for the story until after the November 2016 presidential election, the indictment revealed, reports Hindustan Times.

"[I]n or about October or November 2015, the AMI



Donald Trump: Former US president Donald Trump holds a rally in Youngstown. Pic – USNews.com

CEO learned that a former Trump Tower doorman (the "Doorman") was trying to sell information regarding a

child that the Defendant had allegedly fathered out of wedlock," reads the indictment.

"AMI purchased the information from the Doorman without fully investigating his claims, but the AMI CEO directed that the deal take place because of his agreement with the Defendant and Lawyer A. 11. When AMI later concluded that the story was not true, the AMI CEO wanted to release the Doorman from the agreement. However, Lawyer A instructed the AMI CEO not to release the Doorman until after the presidential election, and the AMI CEO complied with that instruction because of his agreement with the Defendant and Lawyer A," it continued.

Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen is currently serving prison time over his involvement in the hush money scheme while Donald Trump was accused of falsifying business records in 34 separate instances.





Rabin Bhujun, Journaliste

## “Jugnauth est pris en tenaille de l’extérieur comme de l’intérieur”

**L**'exposition de plus en plus de cas de corruption dans le contexte mauricien est un signe révélateur du déclin continu des valeurs fondamentales, de l'étendue des dégradations incessantes dans la société et de la gravité remarquable de la situation au niveau national. Le silence complice des uns des autres, volontairement ou involontairement, a certainement facilité tous types de transactions douteuses et décadentes, et ce, dans plusieurs domaines insoupçonnés auparavant par le citoyen lambda. Cela étant dit, le festival des terres a été maintes fois dénoncé dans les medias. Ce n'est pas surprenant non plus d'entendre les mêmes voix commenter l'actualité et s'en prendre ouvertement au gouvernement. La majorité silencieuse, elle, blasée depuis très longtemps, sait bien que les hommes et les femmes intègres ont peu de place sur la scène publique, avec ou sans groupe de pression. Rabin Bhujun, journaliste, aborde cette problématique mauricienne avec de l'humour et parfois, un certain sarcasme.

**Mauritius Times: Une impression se dégage à partir de la couverture médiatique de ces derniers jours concernant l'affaire de l'octroi d'un 'Shooting and Fishing and Eco-Tourism Lease' à Eco Deer Park Association, cela en échange, selon les allégations, de pots-de-vin autour de Rs 3,5 millions et visant un ministre, un PPS et un haut fonctionnaire : c'est que ça va chauffer sur le plan politique. Ou est-ce que, selon vous, ce serait un simple feu de paille comme tant d'autres qu'on a pu voir ces derniers mois?**

**Rabin Bhujun:** Vu la gravité de ce qui est reproché à ces personnes, on ne peut absolument pas prétendre que ce n'est qu'un feu de paille. Jusqu'ici, on n'a pas entendu la version des deux personnes mises en cause. Plus ces deux élus se mureront dans le silence et tarderont à s'expliquer, plus ils alimenteront la perception qu'ils ont des choses à cacher.

Parallèlement, la couverture médiatique a légèrement évolué depuis la semaine dernière. L'attention a d'abord été exclusivement braquée sur un ministre, puis on a compris qu'un autre élu du gouvernement était de la fête, pour ensuite découvrir que l'un rejette l'entière responsabilité du délit allégué de corruption sur l'autre.

A ce jour, il est établi que le ministre ainsi qu'un autre élu

se sont rendus à ce campement de chasse en septembre 2020. Même si le ministre arrive à démontrer qu'il n'a touché aucun pot-de-vin, on peut néanmoins lui reprocher d'avoir commis une faute éthique et politique grave en se rendant à cette soirée. Il n'avait pas à s'y rendre au moment même où son ministère étudiait le renouvellement du bail de ce domaine de chasse.

Je laisse aux experts juridiques le soin de déterminer si le simple fait d'accepter cette invitation correspond ou pas à la qualification de «*gratification*» contenue dans notre loi anticorruption.

**\* Il y a aussi dans cette affaire des éléments potentiellement dommageables pour le pouvoir en place: des politiciens issus de ses rangs et, paraît-il, des prête-noms réunis lors d'une soirée privée où l'on a consommé du cerf grillé et du Black Label, et aussi des soirées rave ou 'rave parties' organisées en toute discrétion pas loin du lac sacré de Grand Bassin... Il ne manque qu'un certain Dulthumun pour nous parler de profanation d'un lieu sacré - comme l'affaire tristement célèbre de "Katori" en 2019, non?**

Qui vit par l'épée, périra par l'épée, dit l'adage. Depuis fin 2012, une des stratégies clés du MSM, et surtout de son leader, consiste à diaboliser son principal adversaire en éri-

geant les défauts de ce dernier en épouvantail afin de faire fuir l'électorat traditionnel et conservateur que convoite également Navin Ramgoolam.

Cette stratégie serait entièrement justifiable et payante si les rangs du gouvernement pullulaient de pères-lamoraux comme Pravind Jugnauth. Or, pour chaque pierre que le Premier ministre lance sur ses opposants, du haut de son prétendu attachement à certaines valeurs, on pourrait lui en lancer dix en retour, tant plusieurs de ses collaborateurs sont à des années-lumière des pratiques vertueuses qu'il prône indéfiniment en public. Le Premier ministre se comporterait-il en parfait hypocrite quand il voit la paille dans les yeux de ses opposants et non la poutre dans ceux de ses proches collaborateurs?

“Même si le ministre arrive à démontrer qu'il n'a touché aucun pot-de-vin, on peut néanmoins lui reprocher d'avoir commis une faute éthique et politique grave en se rendant à cette soirée. Il n'avait pas à s'y rendre au moment même où son ministère étudiait le renouvellement du bail de ce domaine de chasse. Je laisse aux experts juridiques le soin de déterminer si le simple fait d'accepter cette invitation correspond ou pas à la qualification de «*gratification*» contenue dans notre loi anticorruption”

Puisque vous mentionnez l'épisode du «Katori» de Ramgoolam, tout comme celui-ci a été gonflé de manière disproportionnée, «blown out of proportion» en 2019, on sur-exploite aussi certains éléments de la polémique actuelle. Cette chasse par laquelle le scandale arrive était déjà louée par l'Etat avant que les Jugnauth ne reviennent au pouvoir en 2014. D'ailleurs, il y a d'autres chasses à un jet de pierre de Ganga Talao.

Bien évidemment, on n'y fait pas que planter des fleurs et organiser des séances de méditation! On y chasse le cerf et le sanglier; des chasseurs y font la fête; on y reçoit des invités lors de réceptions de mariage... on y organise aussi des *rave parties*!

Si on décrète une sorte de zone tampon ou «buffer zone» – de, allons dire 3 kilomètres autour du Ganga Talao – dans laquelle aucune activité «*adharmic*» (contraire aux règles sociales et religieuses de l'hindouisme) n'est permise... il faudra déplacer plusieurs chasses et probablement aussi un «*golf estate*»!

**\* La cherté de la vie ces temps-ci, le grand déballage concernant le trafic de drogue dans le pays, les révélations sur la richesse non déclarée tirée de ces activités illicites, les allégations de pots-de-vin par l'octroi des 'State Lands' pour l'organisation, entre autres, de «rave parties»... Et, la toute dernière, ce sont les commentaires de Mgr Maurice Piat sur l'affaire Franklin et qui s'en est pris au Premier ministre pour ses attaques contre une magistrate. A ce rythme, on n'est pas loin de toucher un point d'inflexion dans le rapport de force sur le plan politique, non?**

Il me semble que nous avons une population schizo-phrène.

Dans la même journée, on peut côtoyer des personnes qui ont l'estomac retourné et qui enragent face à la succession presque quotidienne des affaires et des dysfonctionnements institutionnels. Tout comme on croise également d'autres personnes qui, satisfaits de leur situation, vaquent à leurs occupations quotidiennes tout en restant disposés à composer avec le démon qu'ils connaissent — «*the devil they know*».

☞ Suite en page 10

# 'Si l'alliance électorale PTr-MMM-PMSD capote, Jugnauth contempera un troisième mandat avec sérénité'

☞ Suite de la page 9

Dans ces conditions, il est bien difficile d'établir avec précision si on est sur le point d'attendre ou si on a déjà dépassé le point d'inflexion dans le rapport de force politique.

Toutefois, le dernier épisode entre le chef de l'Église catholique à Maurice et le chef du gouvernement mérite qu'on s'y attarde. Le cardinal Piat et le Premier ministre se sont rencontrés ce mercredi. Dans un premier temps, le père Labour, qui a également assisté à la réunion, s'est contenté de dire que deux dossiers importants ont été discutés, sans les nommer. Puis il a admis que l'échange a été « franc, musclé et dans le respect mutuel ».

La veille, le diocèse de Port-Louis a pris soin d'émettre un communiqué pour affirmer que le cardinal « n'a pas été convoqué par le Premier ministre » suite à ses propos tenus à l'occasion du dimanche des Rameaux. Une certaine méfiance, voire une tension, semble s'installer entre le pouvoir et l'Église catholique. Dans un pays comme le nôtre, de telles tensions sont de mauvais augure.

Durant les années 1990, on évoquait l'existence d'un « malaise », espérons que la tension entre le gouvernement et l'Église catholique ne dégénère pas en une crise cette fois-ci.

**\* On peut s'attendre toutefois à ce que des questions soient posées sur la justesse de la prise de position du chef de l'Église, son timing, et selon certains courants de pensée sur la séparation distincte entre politique et religion. Votre opinion ?**

Un grand nombre de chefs religieux maintiennent une relation de soumission et de connivence avec le pouvoir politique. Leur influence – réelle ou fantasmée – leur sert de monnaie d'échange afin d'obtenir divers avantages pour eux et leurs clans.

Au milieu de cette foire permanente, l'Église catholique a été la seule à maintenir une saine distance avec les hommes politiques, notamment en ne les invitant pas à prendre la parole lors de ses célébrations.

Je m'empresse toutefois de préciser que le cardinal Piat nous a habitués à des prises de position politiques. Je parle bien de prises de position politiques, et non politiciennes, sur des enjeux nationaux comme la sécurité, le modèle éducatif, le coût de la vie, la prise en charge des personnes en situation de précarité, la responsabilité de ceux qui nous dirigent, etc. Chaque année, il aborde d'ailleurs des thèmes politiques dans ses lettres pastorales. Le chef de l'Église catholique à Maurice a donc bien une parole politique.

Tout comme les élus ont des mandants, le Cardinal Piat a aussi ses fidèles dont la très grande majorité est issue d'un groupe social et ethnique homogène. Il est également entouré de prêtres qui ont de solides assises parmi les fidèles et particulièrement parmi ceux qui sont confrontés à la précarité et à l'absence d'opportunités ou de traitement égal de la part d'un certain nombre d'institutions publiques. Il n'est donc pas étonnant que le cardinal se fasse l'écho des préoccupations de ses fidèles mais aussi de leur colère.

Ce faisant, le cardinal s'est départi de son ton habituellement plus mesuré cette fois-ci ; ses propos ont été très tranchés et frontalement critiques. Cela a bien évidemment offensé certains – ceux-là mêmes qui ne trouvent jamais à redire à l'action du Premier ministre – et cela a ravi d'autres qui se félicitent de voir leur chef religieux se retrousser les manches et entrer en confrontation quasi directe avec nos responsables politiques.

Je fais partie de ceux qui pensent que le cardinal a tout



☞ **“ Tout comme les élus ont des mandants, le Cardinal Piat a aussi ses fidèles dont la très grande majorité est issue d'un groupe social et ethnique homogène. Il est également entouré de prêtres qui ont de solides assises parmi les fidèles et particulièrement parmi ceux qui sont confrontés à la précarité et à l'absence d'opportunités ou de traitement égal de la part d'un certain nombre d'institutions publiques. Il n'est donc pas étonnant que le cardinal se fasse l'écho des préoccupations de ses fidèles... Ce faisant, le cardinal s'est départi de son ton habituellement plus mesuré cette fois-ci... ”**

à fait le droit de tenir ces propos et de partager son analyse. Les responsables d'organisations socioculturelles n'ont pas le monopole de dire ce qu'ils pensent – de bien ou de mal – du fonctionnement des diverses institutions de l'Etat.

Je trouve dommage, toutefois, que la récente prise de position du Cardinal Piat soit ainsi instrumentalisée par l'opposition. Les plus habiles parmi les opposants de Jugnauth rappellent que l'homme religieux est « au-dessus de la mêlée » pour mieux politiser ses propos dans leurs réquisitoires politiques envers leur adversaire. Je ne suis pas sûr, par contre, que le cardinal soit à l'aise ou enchanté à l'idée d'être soudain devenu le maître à penser et le héros de tous nos partis de l'opposition. Il n'est pas souhaitable qu'il le devienne, d'ailleurs.

**\* Ce qui reste à voir, c'est comment le Premier ministre et leader du MSM va gérer cette énième affaire qui entache le gouvernement en impliquant un de ses ministres et un PPS. L'opposition réclame leur démission, le temps que l'enquête ait lieu. Ivan Collendavello est sans doute en train de suivre l'évolution de cette affaire de près...**

La liste commence à être longue: Ravi Yerrigadoo, Roubina Jadoo, Sanjeev Teeluckdharry, Ivan Collendavello et Yogida Sawmynaden ont soit été poussés à la démis-

☞ **“ La liste commence à être longue: Ravi Yerrigadoo, Roubina Jadoo, Sanjeev Teeluckdharry, Ivan Collendavello et Yogida Sawmynaden ont soit été poussés à la démission ou révoqués. Encore un petit effort et, qui sait, Pravin Jugnauth pourrait atteindre le cap symbolique de dix démissions ou révocations durant son mandat et demi comme Premier ministre! ”**

sion ou révoqués. Encore un petit effort et, qui sait, Pravin Jugnauth pourrait atteindre le cap symbolique de dix démissions ou révocations durant son mandat et demi comme Premier ministre !

Évidemment, Jugnauth est pris en tenaille de l'extérieur comme de l'intérieur. La commission anticorruption est en train de multiplier les coups de filet dans le réseau de Franklin tandis que la Financial Crime Commission (FCC) est en gestation. Il y a des personnes au Réduit Triangle qui cherchent à se racheter une virginité aux yeux du public et s'assurer, dans la foulée, que la FCC démarre sous de meilleurs auspices.

Dans ce contexte, il est donc peu probable que l'enquête sur l'Eco Deer Park Association soit menée avec une indulgence suspecte. Pendant ce temps, l'opposition et l'opinion publique exigent – avec raison – que toute la lumière soit faite sur cette sombre affaire et que les personnes mises en cause se placent en retrait le temps que l'enquête soit conclue et qu'un éventuel procès démarre.

Le Premier ministre doit aussi composer avec des pressions internes. Tout comme Ivan Collendavello, le ministre mis en cause n'a pas que des amis au sein de l'alliance gouvernementale. Quand on devient un cadavre du MSM et qu'on reprend le fauteuil de Sir Anerood Jugnauth dans une circonscription aussi symbolique que Piton/Rivière du Rempart, on contrarie forcément les plans de personnes qui ambitionnaient d'occuper les mêmes fonctions.

Le malheur du ministre fait donc invariablement le bonheur de quelques-uns au gouvernement. Puis, ne minimisons pas non plus la soif de certains élus d'occuper un maroquin ministériel ou même le poste de PPS. Quelques élus de la majorité qui se découvrent un aussi soudain que fulgurant attachement au principe de l'intégrité n'obéissent, en fait, qu'à la motivation primaire du «pousse-toi de là que je m'y mette».

Quant à Collendavello, le leader du ML aura sans doute l'occasion de discuter avec Pravin Jugnauth et lui demander pourquoi son évaluation de la gravité des faits semble être à géométrie variable selon que l'individu mis en cause est une personne importante au sein de son parti ou pas...

**\* Par ailleurs, quoiqu'il y ait un sentiment anti-gouvernement très fort sur les réseaux sociaux et dans certains titres de presse, il est difficile de saisir le pouls réel de la majorité de l'électorat à ce stade vis-à-vis des principaux partis politiques. A quoi faut-il s'attendre, selon vous ?**

Les réseaux sociaux ne constituent pas un indicateur suffisamment fiable pour jauger le 'mood' réel de l'électorat, ni, d'ailleurs, les Unes des journaux dont les rédactions en chef sont libres d'adopter la ligne éditoriale qu'elles estiment appropriées.

☞ Suite en page 11

# 'Une certaine méfiance, voire une tension, semble s'installer entre le pouvoir et l'Eglise catholique. De telles tensions sont de mauvais augure'

☞ Suite de page 10

En l'absence d'études d'opinion fiables et incontestées, on ne peut donc pas vraiment donner de réponse précise et factuelle à cette question.

Mais les réseaux sociaux ainsi que la couverture médiatique donnent une indication claire des points chauds politiques du moment. Depuis le début de l'année, le cocktail malsain qui incorpore les réseaux de blanchiment d'argent issu du trafic de drogue, les conflits entre institutions et les cas de corruption allégués au gouvernement donne une gueule de bois durable à une partie de l'électorat. Quelle est sa taille? Il est difficile de l'évaluer pour l'heure.

**\* On ne sait pas aussi si l'opposition est prête à affronter les prochaines législatives en tant que forces réunies au cas où ils se mettent d'accord sur les termes et les modalités d'une alliance ou en tant que forces dispersées. On ne sait pas non plus si les élections auront lieu avant le jugement du Privy Council, mais on peut toutefois imaginer que le MSM va mettre tout le paquet en termes de 'freebies' en vue de séduire l'électorat, etc. Par conséquent, tout reste à jouer sur le plan politique?**

Absolument rien n'indique que Pravind Jugnauth dissoudra l'Assemblée nationale afin de précipiter le pays vers des législatives anticipées. Pourquoi le ferait-il? Afin de préempter un jugement défavorable du Privy Council? Je ne le pense pas, vu qu'il n'existe aucune réelle fébrilité autour de Pravind Jugnauth par rapport à ce sujet.

Le ferait-il afin de couper l'herbe sous les pieds des partis de l'opposition et organiser des élections anticipées surprises ou des « snap elections » qui ne leur donnerait que peu de temps pour s'organiser sur le plan politique et logistique? C'est un pari très risqué. C'est ce même coup de poker irréflecté que Ramgoolam a lamentablement perdu en 2000. Il était alors convaincu qu'une alliance MSM-MMM n'était plus réalisable.



**“Le duo Ramgoolam/Bérenger est assez facilement attaqué. Les propagandistes de service de Pravind Jugnauth ont sans doute déjà compilé toutes les insultes que ces deux leaders politiques se sont lancées après les législatives de 2014. Ils**

**dépenseront sans doute une fortune en contenu sponsorisé sur Google, Facebook et TikTok afin de toucher un maximum de Mauriciens à travers leurs reboots du clip 'Vire Mam'...”**

Je ne pense pas me tromper en estimant que Pravind Jugnauth attendra le plus longtemps possible avant d'appeler le pays aux urnes, presque certainement en 2024. Pourquoi? Parce qu'un certain nombre de projets majeurs vont se concrétiser l'année prochaine ou en toute fin de 2023. Le Premier ministre table beaucoup sur les grandes réalisations infrastructurelles dans sa communication de campagne ; d'ailleurs, il l'a fait en 2019.

N'oublions pas, non plus, le timing de la finalisation de l'accord entre Maurice et le tandem Royaume-Uni/États-Unis portant sur l'exercice de la souveraineté de Maurice

sur l'archipel des Chagos et la location de Diego Garcia aux Américains. La conclusion de cet accord permettra au gouvernement d'avoir une visibilité cruciale sur les rentrées massives en devises suite à la location de Diego Garcia, ce qui lui permettra de modifier substantiellement le train de vie de l'Etat – en y incorporant sans doute de nouvelles aides et mesures sociales – en fonction du montant de la location à percevoir. On parle là en termes de milliards de dollars pour les années à venir.

Les *freebies*, comme vous le dites, ne manqueront alors pas. Toutefois la question est la suivante: Les *freebies* seront-elles suffisantes si la volonté de changer de gouvernement se généralise dans le pays?

**\* Une alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD vous paraît-elle crédible pour qu'elle puisse défier efficacement l'alliance gouvernementale?**

Le duo Ramgoolam/Bérenger est assez facilement attaqué. Les propagandistes de service de Pravind Jugnauth ont sans doute déjà compilé toutes les insultes que ces deux leaders politiques se sont lancées après les législatives de 2014. Ils les ressortiront sans doute... et se feront un devoir de rappeler la volatilité de leur relation. Ils dépenseront sans doute une fortune en contenu sponsorisé sur Google, Facebook et TikTok afin de toucher un maximum de Mauriciens à travers leurs *reboots* du clip 'Vire Mam'.

Malheureusement, je vois aussi poindre le spectre d'une campagne très communale qui visera à diaboliser l'emprise de Bérenger et de Duval – voire même de Bruneau Laurette – sur l'alliance de l'opposition en tablant sans doute sur l'âge de Ramgoolam et le fait qu'il n'a plus sa verve et son répondant d'il y a encore 10 ans.

L'objectif assumé sera d'amener une frange traditionnelle de l'électorat à croire que Ramgoolam ne commandera pas vraiment sa majorité en faisant planer la traditionnelle menace du «*pouwwar pe sap dan ou lame*».

**\* Le deal 50:50 entre le PTr et le MMM en 2014 fut boudé par l'électorat des deux partis. Voyez-vous cet électorat consentir à accorder son soutien à une nouvelle alliance avec le PTr acceptant 32 tickets sur les 60, et le MMM et le PMSD se partageant 28 tickets? Certes, Navin Ramgoolam a démenti cette fuite ou "leak" dont l'objectif, selon lui, était de brouiller les négociations, mais il ne devrait pas y avoir une grande marge entre ce qui aurait été "leaked" et l'accord final, n'est-ce pas?**

Symboliquement, le PTr exigera bien évidemment de disposer de la majorité des investitures au sein de cette alliance. C'est une assurance visant à minimiser le risque que le gouvernement ne se désintègre si un des partenaires décide de quitter le navire. C'est arrivé suffisamment de fois dans notre histoire politique pour que les leaders d'alliances fassent de cette clause de sauvegarde une nécessité absolue.

Le MMM et le PMSD ne peuvent pas non plus être réduits à n'être que des faire-valoir car cette alliance doit également rester crédible au socle électoral – à prédominance urbaine – de ces deux partis.

Mais au-delà du nombre, Ramgoolam a l'habitude d'insister sur l'obtention d'investitures *winnable*. Pour lui, il ne s'agira donc pas seulement d'obtenir un certain nombre d'investitures pour son parti, mais surtout de faire en sorte que les Travailleurs se retrouvent en plus grand nombre dans des circonscriptions où ils ont le plus de chance de se faire élire.

**\* Qu'en est-il du poids des nouveaux 'players' sur l'échiquier politique: les Bodha et Laurette, les Bhadain et les partis extraparlamentaires? A qui profitera un tel multipartisme?**

**“Voyez-vous une personne avec l'ego de Bhadain n'accepter qu'une investiture tout en jurant allégeance aux trois éléphants de l'alliance? Voyez-vous Laurette accepter de passer au second plan en investiture face à ses anciens camarades de Linion Pep Morisien? Voyez-vous Rezistans ek Alternatif s'aligner complètement sur le programme du trio PTr/MMM/PMSD?”**



Mais vous oubliez une personne, la nouvelle étoile de notre firmament politique: Sherry Singh! C'est une ironie, bien sûr. Vu l'inconstance des associations politiques de Bruneau Laurette, je ne m'étonnerai pas qu'il déserte également l'ancien homme fort de la cuisine en prétextant une énième divergence de vue sur la manière de faire de son partenaire du jour.

Paul Bérenger, en tout cas, a semblé clairement indiquer qu'il ne veut rien avoir à faire avec Singh. Si Laurette veut donc se rapprocher du trio PTr/MMM/PMSD... il devra le faire sans Singh.

Pour revenir plus sérieusement à votre question, l'ultime police d'assurance pour fédérer la part la plus large de l'électorat face à Pravind Jugnauth serait que l'ensemble des forces de l'opposition se regroupent en une plateforme pour qu'il n'y ait pas de « spillage » ou d'éparpillement des votes. Chacun mesure toutefois l'impossibilité d'un tel regroupement.

Les négociations seraient interminables vu les demandes invraisemblables que les uns et les autres ne manqueraient pas d'avoir. Voyez-vous une personne avec l'ego de Bhadain n'accepter qu'une investiture tout en jurant allégeance aux trois éléphants de l'alliance? Voyez-vous Laurette accepter de passer au second plan en investiture face à ses anciens camarades de Linion Pep Morisien? Voyez-vous Rezistans ek Alternatif s'aligner complètement sur le programme du trio PTr/MMM/PMSD?

A eux trois, le PTr, le MMM et le MSM mobilisent déjà une large part de l'électorat dans un certain nombre de circonscriptions. Parmi les fortes têtes de l'opposition extraparlementaire, seuls Laurette, Bhadain et peut-être Bodha, peuvent individuellement prétendre obtenir un score honorable dans les circonscriptions qu'ils choisiront. Il n'y a que là-bas qu'ils grappilleront des votes à l'opposition.

Partout ailleurs, par le simple fait que l'opposition part en rang plutôt serré aux prochaines législatives, le risque que Jugnauth puisse profiter de l'éclatement des votes de l'opposition semble s'amoinrir.

Si toutefois, pour une raison ou une autre – et il y en a – l'alliance électorale PTr-MMM-PMSD capote, Pravind Jugnauth contempera un troisième mandat avec sérénité. Dans ce cas de figure, il profitera directement et de manière déterminante du morcellement du soutien électoral à ses opposants.

# Why Finland is the happiest country in the world – an expert explains

*Finns have good schools, public transport, and the difference between the highest- and lowest-paid is quite small. These are factors in high levels of happiness*



**Halford Mackinder**  
Professor of Geography,  
University of Oxford

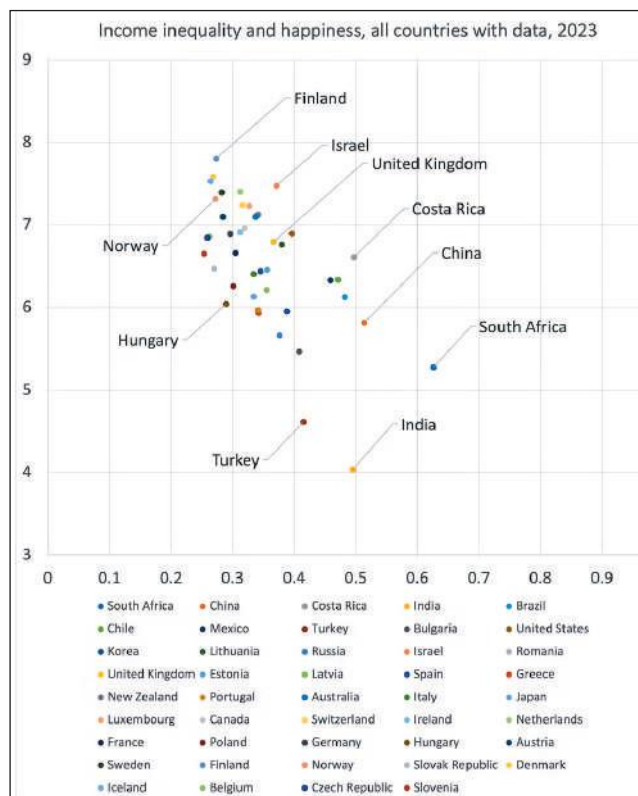
**F**inland has been the happiest country on earth for the past six years, according to the World Happiness Survey. This survey relies on the Cantril ladder life evaluation question:

*'Please imagine a ladder with steps numbered from zero at the bottom to 10 at the top. The top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you and the bottom of the ladder represents the worst possible life for you. On which step of the ladder would you say you personally feel you stand at this time?'*

Finland comes out top, followed by Denmark and Iceland. Just why Finns are happier than others comes down to a number of factors including lower income inequality (most importantly, the difference between the highest paid and the lowest paid), high social support, freedom to make decisions, and low levels of corruption.

The graph below shows all 44 countries for which there is both happiness data and income inequality data, each as a coloured dot. The vertical scale shows average happiness, the horizontal scale income inequality.

**Average levels of happiness and inequality by country**



**Forty four countries each shown as a dot on the graph**

Average levels of happiness (vertical scale) and income inequality (horizontal scale). World Happiness Survey and OECD income inequality statistics

The measure of income inequality used here is the Gini coefficient of income inequality, as reported by the OECD. It is the highest rate recorded in each county in any year after 2010 up to the most recent year for which there is data. The graph shows the close relationship



between these two measures. In general, when income inequality is larger, money matters more and people are less happy.

Finland also has other attributes that may help people feel happier. It has a highly decentralised publicly funded healthcare system and only a very small private health sector. This is far more effective and efficient than some alternatives used in other countries. Public transport is reliable and affordable, and Helsinki airport is ranked as the best in northern Europe.

There is a Finnish proverb that seems relevant here: *Onnellisuus on se paikka puuttuvaisuuden ja yltäkylläisyyden välillä* (Happiness is a place between too little and too much).

### How Finland compares

Finland, Norway and Hungary report similar levels of income inequality, yet people in Finland are, on average, happier. Why is this?

According to the World Inequality Database, the highest-paid tenth of people in Finland take home a third of all income (33%). That contrasts with the same group taking 36% in the UK and 46% in the US. These differences may not appear great, but they have a huge effect on overall happiness because so much less is left for the rest in the more unequal countries – and the rich become more fearful. When a small number of people become much richer, this is an understandable fear.

In 2021, it was suggested by a sociology professor that simply by having more reasonable expectations, people in Nordic countries appeared to be happier. However, that cannot explain why Finland is so very different from Norway on the happiness scale.

All kinds of explanations are possible, including slight nuances of language as well as culture. There is now even the question of whether this global survey is beginning to introduce its own bias, as Finns now know why they are being asked the question (they moved even further ahead of Denmark in the most recent survey).

However, it is very likely that Finland having more equitable schools, where you are likely to get a good education whichever you choose, as well as a fairer school policy than Norway (almost all Finns go to their nearest school) might actually matter too. So too, a better housing policy with a wide variety of social housing and lower homelessness, a health service with waiting times that are the envy of the world – sometimes just

being a matter of days (even during the worst years of the pandemic) – and numerous other accolades.

Finland ranks first, second or third in over 100 global measures of economic and social success – better than Norway does. And it has less money overall (and hardly any oil). You could excuse the Finns a little smugness (*omahyväisyys*).

Why does Hungary do so badly despite the income gap between its people being hardly any wider than in Finland and Norway? One could argue that this is to do with its divided politics. In 2022, the European parliament suggested that “Hungary can no longer be considered a full democracy”.

In contrast, South Africa and China may be a little happier than their levels of inequality would suggest. South Africa became a democracy in 1994 shortly after Nelson Mandela was freed, and many people will remember the previous period. People in China are not as fearful as they are often portrayed in the west.

### Inequality is a factor

Most countries exhibit happiness levels (and much else) that are very predictable from their inequality levels. The UK is spot on in the middle of what you would expect for one of Europe’s most economically unequal countries.

The graph above also shows that (almost as unequal) Israel is a little happier than it ought to be – although it is not clear that the sample taken there included all groups that currently live under that state. Also, that sample was taken in 2022, before the recent widespread protests in Israel.

The other outlier shown in the graph is Costa Rica, where the president said in 2019:

*'Seventy years ago, Costa Rica did away with the army. This allows for many things. Eight per cent of our GDP is invested in education because we don't have to spend on the army. So our strength is human talent, human wellbeing.'*

So what can the people of a country do if they want to be happier? The most important thing is to elect governments that will ensure the country becomes more equal by income. After that, ensuring your social services – school, housing and healthcare – are efficient and equitable matters most. And finally, consider your degree of freedom, whether you are actually including everyone in your surveys, and how fearful your population is.

**Sanlam Central Agency Ltd**  
Accredited Agency  
Contact: Mrs V. Gopal  
1st floor, ARC Building, c/r SSR & Sir William Newton Streets, Port Louis  
Tel: 208 0289 / 5782 5678 - Fax: 213 0961  
Email: centralagency@intnet.mu

Motor car

car

Lorries

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

5th Year No 225

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 28 November, 1958

• *We are living in an age in which too many things are wrong everywhere.* -- S. Jugdutt

Jay Narain Roy

# The Tentacles of Finance

**F**inancial power has many visible and invisible strings. It is patent of the system, and is reminiscent of the Tsaritsa Alix and Rasputin dancing to the tune of the German Kaiser or of Hitler's Quislings. It is awe, patronage, stare, soft-patting, expectation of benevolence and such other matters by which those who

have come to exert influence and pressure on the have-nots. The influence grips the heart and the mind and come to cast a spell on their thought and feeling and ultimately to play with the life and living of the multitude.

Employment sustains life but the employment of the bulk of the people lies at the entire mercy of the financial combine. Although salaries and wages swallow up three-fourth of the revenues, less than 20,000 are employed by the State. Unemployment is represented by one and a half times this number. The rest of the population must seek work with private enterprises or go without food. More than 10% of the people are unemployed, about 10% are either under-employed or under irregular, fitful and sporadic employment or have just an apology of employment.

Those who are supposed to be fully employed cannot, even with the best of effort and goodwill, make enough to provide the five essentials to their family. Those who have enough have no security of tenure or any guaranteed prop for their old age. For every available job there are dozens longing to manoeuvre or scramble.

The spectre of hunger looms large in what appears to be a prosperous country.

It is in the interest of capitalism to perpetuate this position, to undo all assertive strength from the masses. Any demonstration or attempt at the expression of speech, action, association or manifestation is sternly frowned at, and it is obvious that this system leads to the thriving of a legion of spies, eavesdroppers, informers, toadies and flunkies on the vices of favouritism, racialism, nepotism, etc. Armed with this stout and unassailable position, insult, dismissals for paltry reasons, evictions, immorality, trespass and all similar sadistic practices are callously perpetuated every day. Both the laws and the authorities look at all this in confounded helplessness.

This is the effect of the system on the life of the average Mauritian. There are five agencies by which the progress of country is ensured: the Parties, the Trade Unions, the Cooperative Movement, the Press and the religious organisations. It will be interesting to study the stranglehold of finance on some of these agencies. This is in addition to the grip on the administration of this country. The sum total of the effect is that this country is being twisted, bundled, cautiously wrapped, gaudily labelled and handled to the financial magnates as a friendly gift. This just at a time when drums are beating and trumpets are dinning in the proud proclaim of the establishment of Responsible Government in Mauritius. The art of make-believe has been developed to such finesse and casuistry that even some people pretending to be leaders are taken in without in the least suspecting that they are thus driving the nail in the coffin of the people of their country, the every



Pic - vintagemauritius.org

people who have sacrificed so much to boost them up to their dizzy heights.

We have pointedly asked the opposite Party to prove that it does not draw large sums from secret funds of the Tories to fight the workers of the country, and it has never had courage to deny it. In fact, it is known that fantastic amounts are spent to fight the Labour candidates. Whoever wishes to fight Labour is apt to become a beneficiary. Most office-bearers in the Party draw far too much money than their intrinsic worth appears to warrant. Although any intelligent person can see the utter stupidity of people who thus open out their purse and although most of the money is squandered without any effective good for the cause they want to serve, the fact remains that the tentacles are spread with the sole idea of creating confusion in politics. It is also known that on private concerns this Party enjoys special favours and privileges, and that for no earthly reason partisans and sympathisers of the Labour Party are harassed to an inhuman degree. Thousand and one forms of direct and indirect pressure are brought to bear on people to change their political opinion, and if pressure and persuasion do not create any effect other more drastic measures are resorted to without any compunction.

In some quarters, money is placed first and then the community. The idea of morality, justice, fairness or even religion play a very insignificant part. The rapacity to grab everything without scruple and the desire of building up the welfare of the community overrides all national considerations. It is an incorrigible outlook and nothing has been able to bring the least change. They would rather spend more to victimise the man than to give him his due. They would rather sink thousands on lawyers and courts than pay a few hundred on his legitimate rights. Mixed with the economic issues is the camouflaged perpetuation of the colour bar and the silly idea of the superiority of the White race, and this more than anything else hampers the growth of a Mauritian harmony.

Just like that parties, some trade unions are said to derive funds from secret sources, and membership fees are even said to be paid to boost up puppet Unions to dodge the law and to keep the genuine Unions at bay. It becomes too apparent when it is realised that these puppet Unions are often made to sign dictated terms, which, in

the final analysis, appear to undercut the rights of the workers by reducing them by millions.

In smaller countries, cooperation is the basic economic movement that can buttress the life of the average man. By either thrift, savings, cooperative production, marketing and stores or small industries, the man has been able to supplement his wages and to be able to cope with contingencies with the result that it is not necessary to live from hand to mouth in perpetual wretchedness. If cooperation has not made any progress in these or more progress in providing credit facilities, it is just because it has to hurt against the solid financial phalanx of the combines. Money-lending itself has become a flourishing business and it has many aspects from forced mortgage and seizure to usuries running into forms that are neither moral nor human. It is not possible in this unholy atmosphere for cooperation to make any headway.

The underpaid worker must, of necessity, find something more to make up his family budget. He wants fodder to rear animals, land to grow odd crops; capital to set up something, a plot of land to build a football ground or to improve social services or his amenities; facilities to provide himself with some fish or shrimps or leafy vegetables; work for extra revenues; security and pensions. Everywhere he has to hurt against the stout phalanx of finance and he cannot, with the best of wills and courage, extricate himself from the many entanglements spread round him. The distilleries produce rum from molasses, and shops go on serving clandestinely after closing hours and tempt him to get drunk and he comes to take to an unregulated life, and crimes and morality begin to rear their ugly heads. Family life is wrecked, and children dreading the flux and influx of in-laws either become famished and anemic or take to a life that take them from Probation to Borstal to long terms of imprisonment. The gallows or the grave yawn before them before they have tasted the sweets of life.

Frustrated in his economic salvation, the man wishes sometimes to take cover under the protection of law to find that the Police and Judicial Departments even today retain a high percentage of the same class in their services, and he is no little alarmed to see that this class has more than a strangling grip upon the social services of the country. He may wish to seek the protection of religion. In a country which has one wealthy section, and the others looking up to it, it also invariably takes the position of commanding religion and morality. The rich have special privileges, special pews, special services for special prices and very often the clergy hang to them for some odd favours or patronage. In this way, in capitalist countries the church (and also the mosque and temple) becomes an obsequious servant of the masters who invariably call for the tune.

I consider that more heinous than the grip of finance on economic political, social and moral affairs is the stranglehold on the intellect. It does engender a passivity in the brain, a spirit of complaisant subjectivity of treatment, and the mind goes to sleep in a kind of Elysium of the academic cloud. It is a negation of life. People seem to shirk discussing living subjects that affect our country and the welfare of the inhabitants in order not to be embroiled into controversies, and ultimately not to be in the bad books of the masters. The passive, airy attitude of most of our front-rank journalists is shockingly discomfiting when we visualise the future of our country.

Such is indeed the grip that the tentacles of finance has spread on all sides of Mauritian life into a stranglehold from which progress seems to have become much cry and little wool.

# Beneath the Trump circus, American democracy faces up to a vital challenge

• Cont. from page 2

His son, Donald Trump Junior, posted a picture of the daughter of Judge Juan Merchan. This week, in the shadow of yet another school shooting in Nashville, Fox News host Tucker Carlson warned viewers that the indictment meant it was “probably not the best time to give up your AR-15”.



Posts and statements like these can only be read for what they are: clear attempts to foment further racist violence against anyone cast as an enemy.

Such calls fit into a pattern of incitement that has led to violence in the past and will likely do so again. Trump and his supporters have given no indication that they are concerned about inciting unrest; they are actively and knowingly encouraging it.

It is more than likely that they will continue to do so, using events like the arraignment today to double down on conspiracy theories. And they will have plenty of chances: the trial in New York could drag on, potentially, for over a year, and indictments in other state and federal investigations now seem more likely.

As I have written before, political violence is a feature, not a bug, of American politics. That's partly why widely held perceptions of impending Civil War are so concerning; not necessarily because Civil War is likely, but because growing certainty that it is coming can give further license to violence now perceived as inevitable anyway.

Much of the coverage and analysis of American politics will describe the nation as “divided” or “polarised”. But polarisation isn't really an accurate way to characterise the state of US politics today. Polarisation implies a kind of equality – that sides are divided into equal but opposite extremes, willing to

take the same measures to win power; that there are “two sides” or that “both sides” are as dangerous as each other. This is also sometimes described as the “horseshoe theory” of politics.

In the modern United States, the evidence does not support this framing. One side is facing over 30 felony

charges, in what is likely only the start of an impending wave of indictments across state and federal investigations. Those investigations, collectively, paint a damning picture of a conspiracy to subvert the world's most important democracy. In the United States, the “other side” – which is far from immune from critique – is at least attempting to get on with the business of democratically elected government.

The focus instead has of course been on the Trump media circus, now very familiar to us all. The black, armoured SUVs crawling across New York City streets; “plane watch”; the t-shirts; the farcical, gold-tinted press conferences. The mainstream press may well be falling, once again, into the traps Trump has laid so carefully.

But it's also much more than that, this time around. How this all plays out will be yet another litmus test for the strength of American democracy. And it's an essential one: simply put, the United States can not, must not, fail this test. The consequences of failure aren't just domestic. Viewed from afar, we might be tempted to dismiss this as just more hijinks in the compelling but distant drama of American politics. But the outcome will affect us all. So we will – we must – keep watching.

**Emma Shortis, Lecturer, RMIT University**

## Culture and identity wars

• Cont. from page 3

While culture and identity wars have become the stage for a raging feud between opponents in the USA, they are not far below the surface elsewhere and, in particular, in the UK and South Asia. In the UK, the traditional wariness of foreigners has in the past twenty years given way to a more naked discourse about immigrants flocking into Britain, an indictment of multiple policies felt as failures (boat people across the Channel, the refugee crisis from the Middle East or the Balkans, asylum seeker processes, the Windrush scandal, etc) with fatal consequences for the UK's membership of the EU. No civilised discourse seems possible these days without reference to the immigration question in one form or another and the Home Minister, Suella Braverman is only pandering to a scare-mongering narrative that cuts across political parties and has dominated British politics now for more than 20 years.

In the far more volatile South Asia environment, culture and identity differences have another layer of complexity due to religious and faith divergences. West Pakistan's political and military establishment, for instance, believed that the country could not be ruled by a Bengali leader, despite being of Muslim faith. This led to the po-grom in East Pakistan and the birth of a cultural entity Bangladesh in the historic liberation war of 1971. Since then, Pakistan has been left uncertain as to what is the glue that holds the country together if it is not religion: a collection of tribes or ethnicities without even a common language or simply the India-hate policy that its successive military juntas have



The Windrush Scandal: Citizenship, Politics and Belonging. Pic - Wall Street Journal

adhered to. This too may be slowly frittering away as regional cultures (Sindhis, Balochs, Pashtuns, etc) resent the Punjabi domination and the part of Kashmir under Pakistan occupation, ask themselves if their brothers and sisters on the Indian side are not far better off.

Neither are questions of identity and culture any easier in the variety and diversity of India despite being a democratic subcontinent advancing on the economic and political world stage. Powerful forces from overseas (e.g., billionaire George Soros) are suspected to be funding a variety of internal agents to disrupt India's growth, affluence and general stability. Both Rahul Gandhi and the Indian National Congress, which has a long-mixed bag history, may be seen as part of that anti-national patchwork or playing up to such forces.

Nationalism, culture and pride in the newfound identity of India Inc might therefore dominate the next general elections, as they did in 2019.

**Jan Arden**

## 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.

For those who are regular readers but are not subscribed, please do consider becoming a **regular subscriber** by sending us your contribution. To do so, please click on the link below to see the payment options available and to enter your personal details which are required to ensure immediate processing of your subscription. Thank you.

*The Editorial Team*

Subscribe by going to our Google Form by clicking on the link:

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**

Please know that we are at your disposal for any clarification and assistance that you may require. You may please contact us on: Tel: 5 2929 301 - 5 782 9861 - 212 13 13 or by email at: [mtimes@intnet.mu](mailto:mtimes@intnet.mu)



Keith Diaz

Associate Professor of  
Behavioural Medicine,  
Columbia University

# Sitting all day is terrible for your health

*A new study finds a relatively easy way to counteract it*

**T**o reduce the harmful health effects of sitting, take a five-minute light walk every half-hour. That's the key finding of a new study that my colleagues and I published in the journal *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*.

We asked 11 healthy middle-aged and older adults to sit in our lab for eight hours – representing a standard workday – over the course of five separate days. On one of those days, participants sat for the entire eight hours with only short breaks to use the bathroom. On the other days, we tested a number of different strategies to break up a person's sitting with light walking. For example, on one day, participants walked for one minute every half-hour. On another day, they walked for five minutes every hour.

Our goal was to find the least amount of walking one could do to offset the harmful health effects of sitting. In particular, we measured changes in blood sugar levels and blood pressure, two important risk factors for heart disease.

We found that a five-minute light walk every half-hour was the only strategy that reduced blood sugar levels substantially compared with sitting all day. In particular, five-minute walks every half-hour reduced the blood sugar spike after eating by almost 60%.

That strategy also reduced blood pressure by four to five points compared with sitting all day. But shorter and less frequent walks improved blood pressure too. Even just a one-minute light walk every hour reduced blood pressure by five points.

In addition to physical health benefits, there were also mental health benefits to the walking breaks. During the study, we asked participants to rate their mental state by using a questionnaire. We found that compared with sitting all day, a five-minute light walk every half-hour reduced feelings of fatigue, put participants in a better mood and helped them feel more energized. We also found that even walks just once every hour were enough to boost mood and reduce feelings of fatigue.

## Why it matters

People who sit for hours on end develop chronic diseases including diabetes, heart disease, dementia and several types of cancer at much higher rates than people who move throughout their day. A sedentary lifestyle also puts people at a much greater risk of early death. But just exercising daily may not reverse the harmful health effects of sitting.

Because of technological advances, the amount of time adults in industrialized countries like the U.S. spend sitting has been steadily increasing for decades. Many adults now spend the majority of their day sitting. This problem has only gotten worse since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the migration to more remote work, people are less inclined to venture out of the house these days. So it's clear that strategies are needed to combat a growing 21st century public health problem.

Current guidelines recommend that adults should "sit

less, move more." But these recommendations don't provide any specific advice or strategies for how often and how long to move.

Our work provides a simple and affordable strategy: Take a five-minute light walk every half-hour. If you have a job or lifestyle where you have to sit for prolonged periods, this one behaviour change could reduce your health risks from sitting.

Our study also offers clear guidance to employers on how to promote a healthier workplace. While it may seem counterintuitive, taking regular walking breaks can actually help workers be more productive than working without stopping.

## What still isn't known

Our study primarily focused on taking regular walking breaks at a light intensity. Some of the walking strategies – for example, one-minute light walks every hour – did not lower blood sugar levels. We don't know if more rigorous walking would have provided health benefits at these doses.

Many adults have jobs, such as driving trucks or taxis, where they simply cannot walk every half-hour. Finding alternative strategies that yield comparable results can provide the public with several different options and ultimately allow people to pick the strategy that works best for them and their lifestyle.



Tree of Knowledge

Madisyn Taylor

## Big Steps on Life's Path

**T**here is freedom that comes with awareness, because with it comes the opportunity to make a choice.

Life is a journey comprised of many steps on our personal path that takes us down a winding road of constant evolution. And each day, we are provided with a myriad of opportunities that can allow us to transform into our next best selves. One moment we are presented with an opportunity to react differently when yet another someone in our life rubs us the wrong way; on another day we may find ourselves wanting to walk away from a particular circumstance but are not sure if we can.

Eventually, we may find ourselves stuck in a rut that we can never seem to get out of. We may even make the same choices over and over again because we don't know how to choose otherwise. Rather than moving us forward, our personal paths may take us in a seemingly never-ending circle where our actions and choices lead us nowhere but to where we've already been. It is during these moments that awareness can be the first step to change.

Awareness is when we are able to realize what we are doing. We observe ourselves, noticing our reactions, actions, and choices as if we were a detached viewer. Awareness is the first step to change because we can't make a change unless we are aware that one needs to be made in the first place. We can then begin understanding why we are doing what we are doing. Afterward, it becomes difficult not to change because we are no longer asleep to the truth behind our behaviours. We also begin to realize that, just as much as we are the root source behind the causes for our behaviours, we are also the originator for any changes that we want to happen.

There is a freedom that comes with awareness. Rather than thinking that we are stuck in a repetitive cycle where there is no escape, we begin to see that we very much play a hand in creating our lives. Whether we are aware of them or not, our behaviours and choices are always ours to make.

Our past and our present no longer have to dictate our future when we choose to be aware. We are then free to move beyond our old limits, make new choices, and take new actions. With awareness, our paths can't help but wind us forward in our lives while paving the way for new experiences and new ways of being. It is through awareness that we can continue to consciously evolve.

## We love coffee, tea, chocolate and soft drinks so much, caffeine is literally in our blood

Scientists at Oregon State University may have proven how much people love coffee, tea, chocolate, soda and energy drinks as they validated their new method for studying how different drugs interact in the body.

In conducting mass spectrometry research, Richard van Breemen and Luying Chen worked with various biomedical suppliers to purchase 18 batches of supposedly pure human blood serum pooled from multiple donors. Biomedical suppliers get their blood from blood banks, who pass along inventory that's nearing its expiration date.



All 18 batches tested positive for caffeine. Also, in many of the samples the researchers found traces of cough medicine and an anti-anxiety drug. The findings point to the potential for contaminated blood transfusions, and also suggest that blood used in research isn't necessarily pure.

"From a 'contamination' standpoint, caffeine is not a big worry for patients, though it may be a commentary on current society," said Chen, a PhD student. "But the other drugs being in there could be an issue for patients, as well as posing a problem for those of us doing this type of research because it's hard to get clean blood samples."

The study was published in the Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis.

In addition to caffeine, the research also involved testing pooled serum for alprazolam, an anti-anxiety medicine sold under the trade name Xanax; dextromethorphan, an over-the-counter cough suppressant; and tolbutamide, a medicine used to treat type 2 diabetes.

All of the pooled serum was free of tolbutamide, but eight samples contained dextromethorphan and 13 contained alprazolam -- possibly meaning that if you ever need a blood transfusion, your odds of also receiving caffeine, cough medicine and an anti-anxiety drug are pretty good.

## Personality traits affect retirement spending

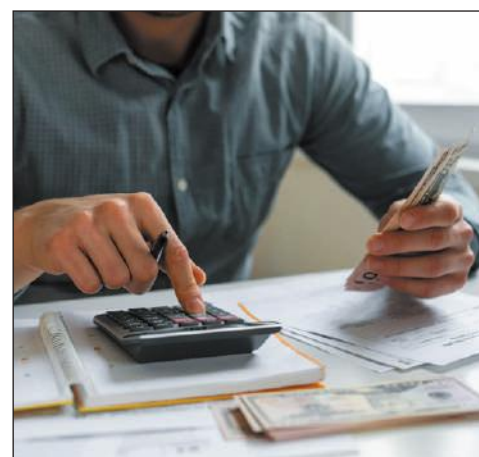
How quickly you spend your savings in retirement may have as much or more to do with your personality than whether you have a lot of debt or want to leave an inheritance.

A new study published by the American Psychological Association found that people who are more agreeable or more open to new experiences -- or those who are more neurotic or negative -- might spend their retirement savings at a faster rate than those who are more extroverted or have a positive attitude.

Sarah Asebedo, PhD, of Texas Tech University and her coauthor, Christopher

Browning, PhD, analyzed personality and psychological data from more than 3,600 people in the United States age 50 or older (the average age was 70) in the 2012 and 2014 waves of the Health and Retirement Study. The data were paired with tax data from the same participants to account for withdrawals from individual retirement accounts. The researchers only used participants who made withdrawals from their retirement accounts and other saving accounts.

Participants were scored on what psychologists call the big five personality traits: Openness to experience (i.e., they are creative, imaginative, adventurous and curious), conscientiousness (i.e., they are organized, thorough, hardworking and cautious), extroversion, agreeableness (i.e., they are sympathetic, caring, warm and helpful) and neuroticism (i.e., they are nervous, worrying, moody and not calm). The researchers also looked at data about



the amount of control participants perceived they had over their financial situation and to what extent they felt a variety of positive and negative emotions over the previous 30 days.

The findings suggest that financial professionals should take the personality traits of their clients into account when

developing retirement strategies instead of focusing entirely on their clients' financial situations, according to Asebedo.

A higher withdrawal rate is not necessarily a bad thing nor is a lower withdrawal rate always good, she warned.

"A higher portfolio withdrawal rate is concerning if it places the individual on a path to run out of money too early. However, if the higher portfolio withdrawal rate does not run the risk of running out of money, then it may very well be facilitating a life well-lived," Asebedo said. "Similarly, a lower withdrawal rate is a good thing if it facilitates controlled spending from the portfolio at a level that protects it from early depletion. If the individual is under-spending and forgoing experiences that they would enjoy because of a saving habit they are unable to break, then the low withdrawal rate is a missed opportunity to maximize the life that they have saved for."



## What happens if you don't get enough sleep?

*Some animals have belly buttons that are easy to see, but others have ones that are more difficult to spot.*

This is a really good question Hedy, because it makes us think about how important sleep is. Actually, sleep is one of the most important things we do.

### While you were sleeping ...

When we sleep our bodies are really doing quite a lot of work. In the first few hours, we go into a very deep sleep. That's when our body is resting and repairing. It's when we fill up our energy stores for the next day.

At different times of the night, we also have a lot of lighter sleep. This includes something called "rapid eye movement" sleep or REM sleep. That's when someone's eyes flicker and move, even when shut.

During this type of sleep, we dream. Our brain is very, very active. It's busy sorting and organising information, storing memories and even working out problems.

So there's a lot of really important things that go on when we sleep.

### So what happens if we don't sleep?

The first most obvious thing that happens when we don't sleep is we get sleepy. When we don't get enough rest, it's also harder to be active, want to do things, or get excited about things.



No wonder a lack of sleep can make us grumpy and irritable.

If we don't get enough REM sleep, it makes it harder to concentrate and learn. It makes it harder to remember school work from one day to the next. All these things make it harder to do well in school.

So having the right amount of sleep is really impor-

tant.

### How about if I have a few bad nights?

If we don't get good sleep on one night or two, we can probably catch up. Our bodies and brains will recover and we will be fine.

But if we don't have enough sleep or not good quality sleep for a long time, that's different. As sleep controls so many aspects of our health, this can really mess with our bodies and brains.

We are more likely to fail a year at school, put on weight, become depressed and get pretty sick for a long time, just to name a few examples.

So it's really best to set up good sleep patterns early in life so that doesn't happen to us.

### How much is enough sleep?

Not everybody needs exactly the same amount of sleep. But people who study sleep, like me, think someone in your age group, Hedy, usually needs between nine and 11 hours a night.

We also need good quality sleep. This means it needs to be restful, without too much waking up at night. It also means we need to make sure we go to bed and wake up around the same times every day.

**Sarah Blunden**

Professor and Head of Paediatric Sleep Research, CQUniversity Australia



*Laughter is the Best Medicine*



## Polish Short Jokes

**A** Polish woman wakes up her husband in the middle of the night.

"What happened?" the husband asks worriedly.

"Nothing..." said his wife, "I just don't understand how you can sleep with such a small salary."

\*\*\*

A Polish father tell his daughter: "My darling, don't merry this man. He's crippled, ugly and an orphan."

The daughter, surprised and angry, tells him: "I only care about love, daddy, I don't care about his looks or his background."

Her father says to her: "I'm not talking about that. Don't you think he's suffered enough?"

\*\*\*

A polish man goes to the doctor and complains: "Doc I have a problem, my wife is cheating on me, but I'm not growing any horns!"

The doctor, amused, explains to him that the whole cheating and horns thing is only a metaphor.

The man breaths in relief. "Thank god! I thought I was low on Calcium!"

\*\*\*

Two Polish husbands are talking.

One says: "My best friend, Jimmy, ran away with my wife."

The second asks: "Is he still your best friend?"

"Not since he brought her back."

\*\*\*

A Polish husband says to his friend: "Don't ask, my parrot died."

The friend: "Of old age?"

"No, of frustration. Since I got married he hasn't been able to get a word in edgewise."

\*\*\*

A Polish mother asks her daughter: "I understand you've been having some disagreements with your fiance about the wedding?"

The daughter: "Just small things, like I want a white dress and he doesn't want to get married."

\*\*\*

"Will you cry at my funeral?" asks a Polish husband his wife. "Sure," answers the wife, "you know I cry over the silliest things."

\*\*\*

## The Weird Leg Noises

A man went to the doctor. He said, "Doc, you gotta check my leg. Something's wrong. Just put your ear up to my thigh, you'll hear it!"

The doctor cautiously placed his ear to the man's thigh only to hear, "Gimme 20 bucks, I really need 20 bucks."

"I've never seen or heard anything like this before, how long has this been going on." The doctor asked.

"That's nothing Doc. put your ear to my knee."

The doctor put his ear to the man's knee and heard it say "Man, I really need 10 bucks, just lend me 10 bucks!!"

"Sir, I really don't know what to tell you. I've never seen anything like this." The doctor was dumbfounded.

"Wait Doc, that's not it. There's more, just put your ear up to my ankle," the man urged him.

The doctor did as the man said and was blown away to hear his ankle plead, "Please, I just need 5 bucks. Lend me 5 bucks please if you can."

"I have no idea what to tell you," the doctor said. "There's nothing about it in my books," he said as he frantically searched all his medical reference books.

"I can make a well-educated guess though. Based on life and all my previous experience I can tell you that your leg appears to be broke in three places."

\*\*\*



## The Lonely

A blonde gets a job as a physical education teacher of 14-year-olds.

On her first day, she comes to watch the kids playing soccer. She watches as they all get together and starts playing. However, she quickly notices a boy at the end of the field standing alone, while all the other kids are running around having fun.

She takes pity on him and decides to speak to him.

"You ok?" she says kindly.

"Yes," he says.

"You can go and play with the other kids you know," she says encouragingly.

"It's best I stay here," he says.

"Why's that sweetie?" asks the compassionate teacher.

The boy gives her a weird look and says,

"Because I'm the Goalie."

\*\*\*

## To whom it may concern

The medics rushed Mr Steinberg to the hospital in the middle of the night, apparently due to a massive heart attack. The doctors work on him all night and morning and finally discharge him to the Intensive Care Unit, where therapy continues.

After a couple of days, Mr Steinberg's physician comes into his room and says, "Sol, I'm happy to tell you that you are completely well. You have the heart function

that you did when you were a fifteen-year-old lad. We're going to send you home tomorrow. You don't have to worry about your heart; do any physical exercise that you like."

Mr Steinberg goes home and that evening is talking with his wife. "Doris, you'll never believe it! I'm completely well. I have no worries with my heart. Tonight, Darling, you and I are going to make love like you've never had before - wild, passionate sex! You'll love it!"

Doris thinks for a minute and says, "I don't know, Sol. I've heard about active intercourse and heart conditions. I don't want it to be on my conscience if you die while we are making love. Maybe, just maybe, if your doctor wrote a note to me saying that everything was okay, maybe I would have such sex with you."

Mr Steinberg was dejected, but the next day he was in his doctor's office. His doctor tells him, "Sure, sure, Sol, no problem, I'll write the note. Let's see, here's my prescription pad: 'Mr Sol Steinberg, a patient of mine, has the heart function of a fifteen-year-old lad, and can have mad, passionate, adventurous sex any time that he so desires, signed, Dr. Aaron Katz.' Now, I'll just address this. By the way, Sol, what's your wife's first name?"

"Uh, Doctor, could you just make that, 'To whom it may concern'?"

\*\*\*

Two terrorists were making letter bombs. After they had finished one said: 'Do you think I put explosive in the envelope?'

"I don't know, open it and see," said the other.

"But it will explode."

"Don't be stupid it's not addressed to you!"

\*\*\*

Why are serial killers men?

Because women like to kill one man slowly over many years.

\*\*\*

Officers at a military installation were being lectured about a sophisticated new computer. The training officer said it was able to withstand the most powerful nuclear and chemical attacks.

Just then he noticed one of the officers was holding a cup of coffee, "Get out of here with that coffee!" he shouted.

"Sure, but why?" asked the embarrassed officer.

"Because split coffee could ruin the keyboard."

\*\*\*



## A Cannibal For Tea

Two cannibal friends were sitting together for lunch, sipping their tea.

Then one asked the other:

"Hey, I heard you and your boyfriend had a big fight last night?"

"Yes, that's right." "So how are things between you right now?"

"Well... right now..."

The cannibal stopped to take a sip of her tea.

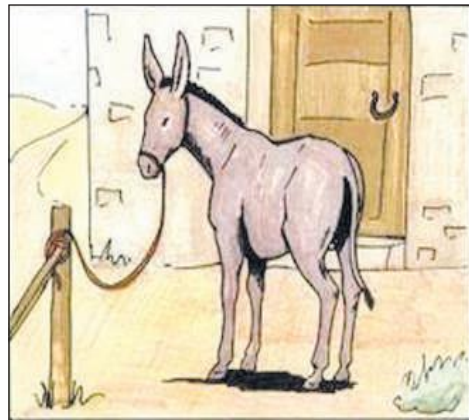
"Right now, I'm letting him stew..."

Life's Lesson**The donkey in us**

A donkey was tied to a tree. The Devil came and untied it. The donkey ran into the fields and started destroying the crop. The farmer's wife saw this and shot the donkey dead.

The donkey's owner was upset, so shot the farmer's wife. The farmer came back to see his wife dead. He went and shot the donkey's owner. The wife of the owner of the donkey asked her sons to go and burn the house of the farmer.

The boys went late evening and carried out their mother's orders, happily assuming that the farmer too would have been burnt with the house. Sadly for them it wasn't that, so the farmer came back and shot the wife and the two sons of the owner of the donkey. Remorseful, the farmer asked the Devil why did all this



have to happen?

The Devil said, "I did nothing. I only released the donkey but all of you over-acted and released the Inner devil. So the next time before replying, responding, reporting and rebunking, stop and think. "Be careful. Many a time what the Devil does is that it just releases the donkey in us."

Leadership**My 5 top lessons for winning**

If I had to distill what winning in business and life means to me in 5 core lessons—after 27 years mentoring many of the world's top CEOs and best companies—here's what I'd offer you:

1. Winning is imagining a mighty mission and then staying in the process of making it real versus getting sidetracked by diversions, golden opportunities and self-doubt.

2. Winning is growing more leaders by shining a light on the gifts and talents of everyone around you—and then enthusiastically helping these humans to step into the promise they've been built to be.

3. Winning is sensing the dignity of

your labour and honouring your craft by optimizing it daily, even if no one applauds your obsession with mastery—because materializing your potential is a gift you grant yourself.

4. Winning is turning every problem into a solution, every failure into a fortune and every tragedy (professional or personal) into a triumph via your ingenuity, audacity and wisdom.

5. Winning is both making your own ethical ambitions come true while giving those that you serve overwhelming benefit through the work you do, products you calibrate and services that you offer. So you become an exceptional — and unrelenting—force of good, on this tiny planet you and I inhabit.

Hope this helps you make the last 9 months of 2023 joyful, successful and peaceful.

*Love & respect,  
Robin Sharma*

Quotable quotes**Alfred E Neuman's timeless thought-provoking quotes**

Medical insurance is what allows people to be ill at ease!

The only advantage to living in the past is that the rents are much cheaper!

Getting old is when a narrow waist and a broad mind change places!

How come stealing from one book is plagiarism, but stealing from many is research?

Who says nothing is impossible? Some people do it every day!

America is still a land of promise, especially during a political campaign.

When you're in deep water, it's a good idea to keep your mouth shut!

Most people are too lazy to open the door when opportunity knocks!

Most minds are like concrete, all mixed up and permanently set!

Most people don't act stupid: it's the real thing!

A business executive is someone who talks golf in the office and business on the golf course!

Elections are when people find out what politicians stand for and politicians find out what people will fall for.

These days, the only time politicians tell the truth is when they call each other a liar.

Too often, people who want to offer sound advice give more sound than advice!

Alfred E. Neuman is the fictitious mascot and cover boy of the American humour magazine Mad. The magazine's editor Harvey Kurtzman claimed the character in 1954, and he was named "Alfred E. Neuman" by Mad's second editor, Al Feldstein, in 1956.

Life's Lesson**A lesson for each child, and hope for every parent**

A son took his father to a restaurant to enjoy a delicious dinner. His father was of advanced age, and therefore, a little weak, too. While he was eating, a little bit of food fell from time to time on his shirt and his trousers. The other diners watched the older man with their faces distorted in disgust, but his son remained totally calm.

Once both were done eating, the son, without being remotely ashamed, helped his father by taking him to the restroom. He cleaned up the leftovers from his wrinkled face, and tried to wash the stains of food from his clothes. He lovingly combed his hair gray and finally got his glasses cleaned.

On the way out of the restroom, a profound silence reigned in the restaurant.

The son was going to pay the bill and



get ready to escort his father out of the restaurant. Just then a man rose from his chair among the diners, and asked the son "Don't you think that you've left something here?" The young man replied, "No, I haven't missed anything".

Then the stranger said to him, "Yes, you've left something! You left here a lesson for each child, and hope for every parent!" The entire restaurant was so quiet, you could hear a pin drop.

One of the biggest honors that exists, is the ability to take care of those older adults who cared for us. Our parents, and all those elderly who sacrificed their lives, with time, money, effort and unconditional love. They deserve our utmost respect.



**Never regret a day in your life.**

Good days

Give you happiness,

Bad days

Give you experience,

Worst days

Give you lessons,

And best days

Give you memories.

Living Better**You are here to live**

This world wants you to spend your precious time and money, fighting the ageing process and desperately trying not to take up too much space, when you could be spending both on adventures, new experiences, and spiritual journeys.

All of which you will share with your loved ones, inspiring generations to come.

Don't be fooled beautiful one, you are not here to preserve, to mummify yourself in life, you are here to live.

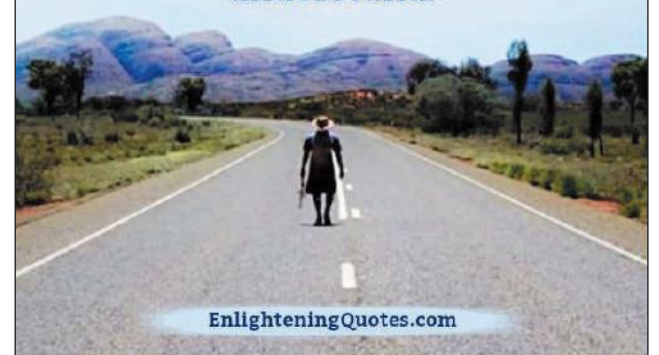
It's your stories, your advice and your love which will last long after your death.

Your body has a shelf-life but your soul does not.

Wear your body out, in the most beautiful ways, it was always meant to be so.

Donna Ashworth

**Not everyone will understand your journey. That's okay. You're here to live your life, not to make everyone understand.**



EnlighteningQuotes.com

Do things like these ever happen to you?

You put your keys in a perfect spot. "They're right here on the table," you think. "Right here on the table." Later, you spend 25 minutes looking for your keys.

You need three things at the store: bread, milk, butter. No need to write this down. You get to the store, grab the milk, and you can't for the life of you remember the other two items.

It happens to all of us.

I've had the chance over the past few years to explore quite a few things that people can do to improve and sustain their memory, often based on research in neuroscience. Because, if there's one thing successful business leaders seem to share as they get older, it's that fear of losing their memory and other cognitive abilities is at the top of the list.

Before we forget some of the best of these, let's revisit them in one place.

### 1. Eat specific foods

This is a good one to start with. Specifics:

**Mushrooms.** Writing in the 'Journal of Neurochemistry', Australian scientists reported recently that a specific type of mushrooms contain an active compound that "boosts nerve growth and enhances memory." Separately, Pennsylvania State University researchers found that other types of mushrooms – porcini may be the best – contain antioxidants that fight medical conditions associated with aging, like cancer, coronary heart disease and Alzheimer's disease.

**Dark chocolate and cinnamon.** Just

## Keep forgetting things?

Neuroscience says these 5 simple habits boost memory and learning, writes Bill Murphy Jr.

to keep going, a few other tasty foods: dark chocolate (an Italian study suggests as much as three months' cognitive benefit) and cinnamon (a review in Nutritional Neuroscience of more than 2,600 studies found that cinnamon significantly improves cognitive function).

**Vegetables of all kinds.** A Harvard study followed the eating habits of 27,842 men over 20 years. Their conclusions? The ones who ate the most vegetables and fruit – even fruit juice – had less memory loss late in life.

### 2. Build good relationships

We've seen many times that the key to a happy and fulfilled life is very likely to focus first on your relationships. And there are so many simple, practical ways to improve relationship quality.

Perhaps most surprising: Make a habit of auditing your relationships. Write them down and categorize the ones that provide value and the ones you'd like to improve. It's a lot easier to improve things

if you measure them.

Now, there's research suggesting memory is also impacted by relationships, and that (according to a Baylor College of Medicine study reported in the journal, 'Neuron'), during periods of social isolation, the most prevalent cells in our brains, known as astrocytes, "become hyperactive, which in turn suppresses brain circuit function and memory formation."

### 3. Improve your environment

Another easy one: Michigan State University researchers studying Nile grass rats say they found that rats kept in dimly lit environments lost nearly a third of capacity in the part of their brains devoted to learning and memory, compared to those in brighter environments.

As the study authors put it: "[D]im lights are producing dimwits."

We can associate this one with the above: A study at the Chronobiology and Sleep Institute at the University of

Pennsylvania found that even a small sleep deficit leads to correlative "deficits ... in vigilance and episodic memory."

At a certain level of sleep deficit, the brain loses the ability to sense just how tired you actually are.

### 4. Spend your time wisely

A variety of cognitive-based activities seems to help, among them:

**Detailed hobbies,** like bird-watching, that require you to process and recall information.

**Reading for pleasure.** Researchers from the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign found that reading for pleasure, 90 minutes at a time, "strengthened older adults' memory skills."

**Doing brain games** and crosswords. Researchers from Columbia and Duke universities found that study participants who did crosswords improved "cognition, function and neuroprotection."

### 5. Walk backwards

Researchers at the University of Roehampton in London came up with the idea of testing whether simply walking backward could trigger better recall.

Sure enough, it worked. "Motion-induced past-directed mental time travel improved mnemonic performance for different types of information," said one of the study leads. "We have named this a 'mnemonic time-travel effect.'"

*This article was originally published in the original United States edition of Inc. or on inc.com.*

## Limit screen time to help young people feel better about how they look

New research found teens and young adults who even briefly cut time on social media gained self esteem. Try these 5 tips from Allison Aubrey of NPR to help them...

A new study, published Thursday by the American Psychological Association, validates what some parents have experienced when their teenagers cut back: They seem to feel better about themselves. I've seen this in my own kids when they return from summer camp, where phones are not allowed. They seem more at ease and less moody.

Social media can feel like a comparison trap, says study author Helen Thai, a doctoral student in psychology at McGill University. Her research found that limiting screen time to about one hour a day helped anxious teens and young adults feel better about their body image and their appearance.

Here are some ideas to try:

### 1. Curate your social media feed to limit content that makes you feel bad

Instagram and TikTok are filled with idealized images of bodies. Filters can help people appear slimmer, more tan or wrinkle-free. "The algorithm is pushing body-centric content to you because that's what sells," says Lexie Kite, co-author with her twin sister of 'More Than a Body: Your Body is an Instrument, Not an Ornament'. She says social media platforms can amplify harmful cultural messages —



especially for girls and women — that they are most valued for their beauty and sex appeal.

So, it's up to the user to push back. "Be incredibly mindful, as you scroll, of how each creator, each image, each account makes you feel," Kite says. If a post or story makes you feel uncomfortable or less-than, make a choice to mute or unfollow. "That's what I do," Kite says. "You are the only one who can curate your feed."

### 2. Schedule a one-day break from devices each week

Artist and film-maker Tiffany Shlain says there's a power to unplugging one day a week. She turns off her devices every Friday evening, and takes a 24-hour break, that she now refers to as "Tech Shabbat." She and her family started this tradition 13 years ago when her children were young.

"There's something about that full day off each week that really resets me and each member of my family in a deep way," she says. And the irony of disconnecting from social media: "It's the day I feel most connected to my

family."

### 3. Turn off notifications and set limits on use of social media apps

If your intention is to limit social media to an hour a day, start by tracking your time on each app. The iPhone has a screen time tracker that lets you know how much time you spend on apps and websites, as well as how often you pick up your device.

"Smartphones allow you to set limits for individual apps to help with managing use," Thai says.

Also, you can turn off your social media notifications so they don't show up on your home screen. And set a daily downtime in your device settings. Thai says it comes down to goal setting, and then tracking your behaviour to help keep yourself accountable.

### 4. Use the time you were giving to social media to invest in real-life activities instead

This may sound obvious, but seeing your friends on social media is not the same as spending time with them. So, make some plans to connect with friends in real life. The same goes for self-care. Thai says she's been taking a break from social media. "I noticed less screen time meant more time for me to fit in other aspects of my life that I wanted to keep more consistent, like physical activity, reading, [and] listening to podcasts," says Thai.

### 5. Connect with people who share your interests and values

The world is filled with interesting people doing remarkable things. Social media can be a more positive place for teens or adults when you connect with people who share your interests and post inspiring ideas or stories. Kite says she unfollows people who make her feel uncomfortable, "and I replace them with activists."

## 'Kashmir Files' Vivek Agnihotri slams Bollywood stars: 'Most money is wasted in vanity and lifestyle of stars'

Filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri, who is best known for helming *The Kashmir Files*, has once again taken a dig at Bollywood, by sharing an article about big movie stars who charge exorbitant fees but are unable to guarantee a successful release, reports Indian Express. The article mentioned how superstar Shah Rukh Khan's *Pathaan* is an anomaly in an otherwise lacklustre year of Hindi films. While Ajay Devgn and Tabu's *Bhola*, and Ranbir Kapoor-Shraddha Kapoor romantic comedy *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar* has indeed performed decently at the box office, the same cannot be said about other big-ticket releases like Kartik Aaryan's *Shehzada*, or Akshay Kumar-Emraan Hashmi film *Selfie*.

Sharing screenshots from the article, the director wrote, "Bollywood is in bad shape. Again. Seems as if the entire industry is happy giving unrealistic and exorbitant fees to stars who can't even guarantee an opening. Most money is wasted in vanity and lifestyle of stars. What's going wrong?"



Netizens were quick to react to his tweet as one of them wrote, "Sir, I agree that exorbitant fees should be avoided but what about more realistic/entertaining/awakening storyline or scripts that touch audience... where are they?"

Vivek Agnihotri is now looking forward to the release of *The Vaccine War*, based on a story revolving around the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Vivek Oberoi exposes the dark side of Bollywood as he recalls going jobless for 14 months

Vivek Oberoi is one of the versatile actors of Bollywood who has faced a lot of backlash for talking against the systems and lobbying and bullying of Bollywood. Twenty years ago, in a press conference, he had shared his side of his experience in the industry and was labelled for talking against it. Now, when Priyanka Chopra opened up about her side of the story, Vivek lauded the actress.

Priyanka's recent interview, where she spoke about getting 'cornered in the industry' and having 'beef with the people' went viral on every social media platform and news media. Amid all of these, Vivek, in a recent media conversation, talked about the 'dark side' of Bollywood.

Talking about it, Vivek Oberoi confessed in an interview with Hindustan Times, "I'm glad that I emerged from that. I kind of came up through the trial by fire and survived it. But not everybody's gonna be that lucky." Recalling how he faced the backlash, he shared, "In hindsight, I went through a lot of stuff that was unnecessary. A lot of lobbies, a lot of repressive stories – kind of what Priyanka has been alluding to also. That's been a hallmark of our industry, unfortunately. It's been one of the dark sides of our industry. And I've been on the receiving end of it. I know how frustrating it is, it can make one feel extremely, exhausted and tired."

Going further in the conversation, Vivek Oberoi said how he didn't get



any work for 14 months even after giving a hit, "You feel like, I've just delivered an award winning, commercially successful performance in *Shoot out Lokhandwala* and after that, I'm sitting at home for 14 months, not getting any work. When I went through that, I kept thinking, I want to do something beyond, I wanna do something empowering, something that takes me beyond that." Lauding Priyanka Chopra for making her own identity in a foreign country and doing something on her own, he showered his praises on her.

Vivek further claimed, "The industry is a very insecure place. Artists by nature live in a very fragile state because they're more vulnerable. Whether it was the MeToo movement, the casting couch, or just bullying, lobbying – all of these things take the joy out of the creativity. I'm

glad these things are being spoken about and slowly will go away."

Vivek Oberoi mentioning Sushant Singh Rajput and putting what he had said 20 years back in that press conference in front, Vivek concluded, "Back in the day when I voiced against it, every "well wisher" would call me up and say, 'Don't talk about it. It is like a family secret'. But if you have abuse going on in the family and you don't speak up about it because it's a family secret? That's stupid. How will the abuse get fixed? Sushant (Singh Rajput, late actor) should have never lost his life no matter what. It's just so sad. What a talented young guy and he should have had a better network of friends. You call the industry, a family, then the family should be there for each other."

## From Deepika Padukone & Hrithik Roshan to Kriti Sanon & Shahid Kapoor, here are Bollywood's upcoming reel couples

Fresh pairings in Bollywood are often eagerly awaited and create a lot of excitement among audiences. This is because viewers enjoy witnessing new dynamics and chemistry between actors, and the unpredictability of a new pairing heightens the suspense. Here are some of the fresh pairings fans are looking forward to in this season, as reported by Koimoi!

### 1. Kriti and Shahid

In an upcoming robotic rom-com by Dinesh Vinjan, Kriti Sanon and Shahid Kapoor's pairing is certainly going to be intriguing. Shahid's charismatic presence and Kriti's lively charm will undoubtedly produce an enthralling on-screen chemistry. We can anticipate their unusual pairing, which will undoubtedly give the film an exciting dimension. They are currently shooting in Dubai for the same and have left fans eager wanting to know more!



### 2. Hrithik Roshan And Deepika Padukone

Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone are to be seen together in Siddharth Anand's action film *Fighter*. The anticipation for this film is at an all-time high due to their extraordinary talent and unmatched fame. The audience is eagerly anticipating what these two superstars have in store for them, and it's safe to say that this pairing has lifted the bar for action films in India.

### 3. Prabhas and Deepika Padukone

The Indian film industry is in uproar about the pairing of Deepika Padukone and Prabhas in the upcoming movie *Project K*. Given that both actors have a huge fan base that spans the whole nation, this new pairing is yet another pan-Indian casting coup. With Amitabh Bachchan on board, the anticipation for this movie is sky high and expected to be an epic film. With their talent and star power, Deepika and Prabhas are sure to make this movie a hit with fans.

### 4. Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur

The prospect of Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur coming together for Anurag Basu's *Metro Inn dino* has the fans of these young stars all excited. The fresh love story and captivating chemistry to be witnessed is enthralling and makes them the most promising pair to watch out for in the current scenario

### 5. Janhvi Kapoor and Varun Dhawan

In the upcoming Nitish Tiwari's *Bawaal*, Janhvi Kapoor and Varun Dhawan will work together for the first time. There has been a lot of buzz since the unveiling of this fresh new pairing. The two actors, who are renowned for their charisma and on-screen presence, have fans eagerly anticipating their on-screen chemistry.

# Anupamaa's Rupali Ganguly on being age and body shamed

Rupali Ganguly on Anupamaa, motherhood, being body, age-shamed & more

Rupali Ganguly, who has some iconic characters to her name like Dr. Simran, Monisha Sarabhai and Pinky, is currently winning hearts as Anupamaa. The actress returned to television after a seven-year sabbatical with *Anupamaa* and has never looked back ever since then. While talking to ETimes TV, Rupali spoke her heart out and revealed about all the body shaming and age shaming she faced post motherhood, as well as moments from her life when she felt she was failing as a mother and more.

**\* Was never career oriented, wanted to get married and have kids**

I was never very career oriented. I considered myself a floater, I had no ambition. I just wanted to get married and have kids. That was my ambition and I am very proud of it. I wanted to be a housewife. I never had those big dreams of being a big star.

**\* I first needed money to run my house and then an animal shelter**

I first needed money to run my house and then an animal shelter. And since I knew acting, I decided to do this. Hence, this craze for *Anupamaa* doesn't affect me, I have a lot of gratitude but it doesn't go to my head. God has been very kind Jai Mahakaal, Jai Mata Di, that I got this opportunity to reach so close to the audience.

**\* My son was nothing short of a miracle baby**

When the motherhood phase happened, I wanted to be a mother and have a child. But due to thyroid, my maternity count was very low. My son was nothing short of a miracle baby. There were no complications during pregnancy as such and I had a very smooth pregnancy.

**\* I felt like a failed mother that I can't even feed my baby**

Once the child is born, we women put too much pressure on ourselves that only breast milk should be given. People come to give you advice. I did not lactate and I felt like a failed mother over it that I can't even feed my baby.

**\* People don't have the right to call you aunty, moti**

I started eating different things and I was 83 kilos and I was very fat. After a point even my ankles couldn't bear my weight. When I would take my son to the pram for a stroll, people would say "Arre tu toh Monisha hai na, kitni moti hogayi". Maybe someone must have said that in a very nice way, but you feel bad. These things affect you mentally, they stay and bother you. People don't have the right to call you aunty, moti, you will decide what you want to be called.

**\* I have gone through body shaming, age shaming even after *Anupamaa***

I have gone through body shaming, age shaming even after *Anupamaa*. Yes I have wrinkles and I am proud of them. I've earned every



wrinkle of mine. I am proud of what I am today. After three years of *Anupamaa*, I can say I accept the way I am. Any woman who is going through this, I would say just shame your haters back. Don't let anyone affect you because you are your best judge.

**\* Criticism, encouragement are most welcome but if you will shame me, not accepted**

I even got comments on social media, "Oh she is fat, she is looking older than Anuj (Gaurav Khanna)." Yes, I am older than him in real life. I think he's going to be 41 and I am going to be 45. I am proud of it. We play Anuj and Anupamaa on the show and are shown at the same age. Am I not doing 100 percent justice to my role? Let's talk about my work. If you think I am not up to the mark, point that out, I'll work on them. Criticism, encouragement are most welcome but if you will get to shame me, not accepted.

**\* When I left home to become Anupamaa, my son let me do it**

Behind every hero, there's an unsung mother but behind me are my son and my husband. When I left home to become Anupamaa from Maa, he let me do it. He did cry and missed me a lot. I can't get over my mother's guilt. He tells me sometimes that other moms come to drop their kids to school. I can't do it daily but I do it sometimes.

**DASAUTO CO LTD**

Tel: 248 3693 / 5850 1922 / 5256 4837

**BMW SPECIALIST GARAGE**

Servicing & General Repairs  
 Mechanical & Electrical Problems  
 Diagnosis & Coding & Programming  
 Engine Overhaul/Oil &  
 Water Leakages/Suspension



## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You may find yourself struggling with indecision and uncertainty, Libra. You are at a crossroads and are unsure which of the two roads to take to get where you want to go. Spend some time thinking about what your choices are and paying attention to your gut instincts. In the end, the decision is up to you, so have faith in your judgement.

**Lucky Numbers: 4, 6, 9, 16, 20, 31**

### Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

You find yourself experiencing feelings of melancholy and longing. You are brought back to the memories of the past that played a significant role in moulding you into the person you are today. Spend some time reflecting on the past and expressing gratitude to the people who have been there for you along the way. In love relationships, the desire for a partner will increase.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 12, 18, 20, 21, 33**

### Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

You've been putting the needs of others ahead of your own for far too long; it's time to start putting yourself first. Get away from your obligations for a while and engage in an activity that makes you happy and calms you down. You deserve it. There will be good signs of money gains.

**Lucky Numbers: 16, 19, 20, 25, 33, 36**

### Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Your creative juices are overflowing, and you're brimming with fresh thoughts and concepts. Utilize this momentum to your advantage and direct it towards the pursuit of your interests. Your creative ability will be admired and appreciated by many. In case of money, profit generation status will remain. Personal relationships will be favourable.

**Lucky Numbers: 14, 19, 20, 27, 29, 40**

### Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

As the new week begins, you'll get the sudden urge to try something that requires a leap of faith. You've spent far too much time in the past playing it safe, and you have a gut feeling that you need to start taking some risks. The odds are in your favour, and as a result, you are able to summon the bravery and self-assurance necessary to take the initial step. Trust yourself, and let the universe guide you.

**Lucky Numbers: 2, 6, 7, 24, 30, 33**

### Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

You have been putting in a lot of effort, and the results of your labour are starting to show. Enjoy your accomplishments for a while and be grateful for the simple pleasures that life has to offer. Spending quality time with the people you care about will bring you both comfort and joy, so make sure you don't forget to do so. If you are trying to get a job, then you will have a high level of success soon.

**Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 16, 19, 30, 31**

### Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You've been experiencing feelings of agitation and boredom. You have a strong desire for excitement and adventure, but you are unsure how to go about finding it. Step outside of your comfort zone and give something different a shot. There is a possibility that you will unearth a previously unknown interest or passion that will bring you happiness and satisfaction.

**Lucky Numbers: 20, 26, 29, 31, 34, 40**

### Cancer: June 21 - July 22

It'd the time to concentrate on introspection. It's time to take a deep breath, step back, and figure out what your top priorities are because you've been feeling overwhelmed and stressed out. Put your attention on your mental and emotional health, and if you feel like you need it, don't be afraid to reach out to others for assistance.

**Lucky Numbers: 5, 19, 20, 21, 24, 30**

### Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

You have a clear idea of what it is that you want, and you are not afraid to pursue it. Make the most of the favourable attention that your charisma and charm will garner for you by putting it to good use. Just remember to keep your pride in check and not let it get the better of you. As regards personal relationships, there will be sweetness with your partner - and disputes as well.

**Lucky Numbers: 8, 13, 14, 19, 20, 31**

### Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

The coming week will bring about unexpected shifts and discoveries for you, Virgo. At first, you are unsure how to deal with them, but you quickly adapt to the situation and are able to overcome any challenges that stand in your way. You will succeed if you have faith in your intuition and if you are able to maintain a flexible mindset.

**Lucky Numbers: 16, 18, 25, 26, 30, 34**

### Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

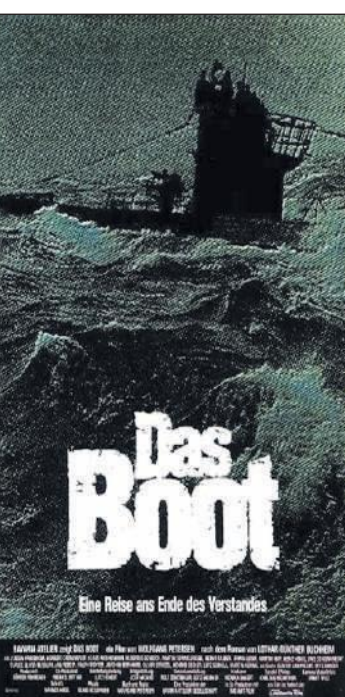
You may find yourself struggling with indecision and uncertainty. You are at a crossroads and are unsure which of the two roads to take to get where you want to go. Spend some time thinking about what your choices are and paying attention to your gut instincts. In the end, the decision is up to you, so have faith in your judgement.

**Lucky Numbers: 11, 17, 22, 26, 33, 35**

### Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

It is necessary for you to make your voice heard because you have something important to say. Because they have the ability to inspire and influence others, you should choose your words very carefully. Your straightforwardness and openness will be very much appreciated. There will be moments of happiness in marital life.

**Lucky Numbers: 7, 11, 19, 20, 31, 35**



# Programme TV



### vendredi 7 avril

#### MBC 1

06.15 Serial: Chicago PD  
07.01 Film: Santa Fe  
08.46 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...  
09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.00 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
10.25 Tele: Fierce Angel  
11.10 Tele: Rubi  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.40 Tele: Sublime Mensonge  
13.25 Tele: Love And Wealth  
13.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
15.21 Film: Trash  
17.15 Tele: Fierce Angel  
18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
20.30 Film: Guess Who's Coming To Dinner  
22.20 Serial: For Life  
23.05 Tele: Fierce Angel  
23.47 Tele: Sublime Mensonge  
00.30 Tele: Love And Wealth

#### MBC 2

07.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes  
07.22 Local: Mots & Ecrits  
10.19 Local: An Eta Dalert  
11.20 Serial: Telelestai  
12.02 Local: Rodrig Prog  
13.13 Local: Mots & Ecrits  
15.25 Local: La Journee Sous...  
15.30 Film: Jesus Film  
17.32 Serial: Telelestai  
18.00 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
18.30 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
19.27 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
20.00 Local: En Toute Humilite...  
21.00 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...  
21.30 Local: Ekriir Kreol Morisien  
22.00 Local: La Societe  
23.00 Le Journee Televisive  
23.45 Local: Arsiv MBC  
00.11 Local: Voyage Au Feminin  
00.39 Local: Rodrig Prog

#### MBC 3

07.00 Film: Super Bheem In Dragonpur  
08.10 Local: Amrit Vaani  
09.11 Local: Akshay Dhaara  
09.37 Local: Hunarbaaz  
10.07 Serial: Agniphera  
12.00 Film: Sawan Bhadon  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Serial: Bhagwan Ab Ho Kitne Door  
16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein  
16.30 Serial: Bhakharwadi  
18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
19.30 Local: Khel Khiladi  
20.00 Local: Bhojpuri Phoolhari  
21.00 Film: Andha Kanon  
23.30 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
00.02 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan  
00.31 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
01.29 Local: Khel Khiladi

#### Cine 12

06.30 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian  
06.51 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
07.25 D.Anime: Harvey Girls Forever!  
07.48 D.Anime: The Adventures Of Puss In Boots  
09.07 Film: Grandpa?  
10.18 Mag: The World Is Yours  
10.40 Serial: Creeped Out  
11.13 Doc: Legendary Hotels  
11.58 Mag: Our Voices  
12.25 Mag: Euromaxx  
13.45 Film: Ella Bella Bingo  
15.02 D.Anime: L'Heure Du Conte  
15.15 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou  
15.32 D.Anime: Zoonicorn  
15.39 D.Anime: The Deep  
16.00 D.Anime: Sonic Boom  
17.57 Doc: Foodland  
18.43 Mag: World Stories

#### Bollywood TV

05.31 Film: Khaata Meetha  
11.30 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna  
12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa  
12.28 / 21.30 - Mere Sai  
12.56 / 22.00 - Kismat Ki Lakiron  
13.24 / 22.03 - Udaariyaan  
13.59 / 22.30 - Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi  
14.20 Other Sayings Radha Krishna  
15.24 Film: Khatta Meetha  
Starring: Akshay Kumar, Trisha, Rajpal Yadav, Urvashi Sharma  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.28 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke...  
20.04 Sasural Simar Ka 2

### samedi 8 avril

06.00 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'Ana  
06.31 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
06.55 Serial: Riviera  
07.40 Serial: Madam Secretary  
08.25 Serial: Blue Bloods  
09.10 Serial: Blacklist  
09.55 Serial: Deux Flics à Miami  
10.45 Serial: Galactica  
11.30 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Serial: The Magicians  
13.25 Tele: Missing Bride  
15.20 Film: Encounter  
16.48 Tele: Tour De Babel  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Enter: Taare Zameen  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: Das Boot  
23.50 Serial: Billions  
00.44 Tele: Rubi

07.00 Local: La Societe  
08.28 Local: Voyage Au Feminin  
08.59 Local: Rodrig Prog  
09.30 Film: Jesus  
11.31 Serial: Telelestai  
12.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
12.22 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...  
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
14.00 Local: Arsiv MBC  
14.26 Local: Voyage Au Feminin  
14.54 Local: Rodrig Prog  
15.19 Local: Eclats De Vie  
16.04 Local: Entractes  
16.35 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
16.40 Film: File Zero  
17.30 Serial: Tetelestai  
17.58 Tele: Airwolf  
19.00 Journal Kreol  
19.30 Live: Veillee Pascale  
21.15 Local: Glwar Dantan  
21.45 Local: Bigospel  
22.33 Local: Saver Kil Tirel

07.00 Film: Super Bheem Aur Antariksh Ke Rakhwale  
08.31 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
09.30 Local: Khel Khiladi  
10.00 Local: Bhojpuri Phoolhari  
11.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai  
12.01 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo  
12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol  
13.30 Local: Khel Khiladi  
14.00 Enter: Taare Zameen Par  
15.30 Film: My Angel My Teacher  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Local: Satrangi  
19.00 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah  
19.15 Local: Khoobsurat  
20.30 Serial: Vidrohi  
20.59 Film: Naina  
00.00 Local: Satrangi  
00.29 Local: Duniya Mein is Saptah

06.24 D.Anime: Fast And Furious  
06.46 D.Anime: Gon  
09.20 Film: Nils Holgerssons  
10.58 Doc: Legendary Hotels  
12.37 Doc: Innovation On Board  
13.50 Film: Black Beauty  
15.00 D.Anime: D.I.Y  
15.17 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillous  
15.27 D.Anime: Zoonicorn  
15.41 D.Anime: The Deep  
16.02 D.Anime: Sonic Boom  
16.26 D.Anime: Yo Yo  
16.41 D.Anime: Miraculous  
17.04 Film: For This Reason  
18.50 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
20.02 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
20.48 Doc: The Return Of Whales...  
21.40 Film: Boundaries  
23.25 Doc: Persons  
23.54 Doc: Cool & Clever

04.04 Radha Krishna  
04.19 Anupamaa  
05.04 Mere Sai  
05.32 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se  
05.44 Yeh Teri Galiyan  
06.13 Patiala Babes  
08.00 Kundali Bhagya  
10.00 Udaariyaan  
12.00 Serial: Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi  
14.04 Serial: Radha Krishna  
16.00 Patiala Babes  
18.00 Samachar  
18.30 Film: Hadh Kardi Apne  
Starring: Govinda, Rani Mukherji  
20.59 Naagin Season  
21.45 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain

### dimanche 9 avril

03.35 Film: Boundaries  
06.00 Tele: Les Trois Visages D'Ana  
06.26 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
06.50 Film: Das Boot  
10.10 Tele: Airwolf  
10.52 Serial: Under Pressure  
11.34 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.40 Film: Santa Fe  
14.15 Serial: Killjoys  
15.25 Film: Split  
17.25 Tele: Tour De Babel  
18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa  
19.16 Other: Sayings Radha Krishna  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.30 Film: Debt Collectors  
22.05 Serial: Billions  
22.58 Doc: Rubi  
00.30 Serial: Under Pressure

06.46 Local: Glwar Dantan  
07.17 Local: Bigospel  
08.10 Local: Rodrig Prog  
08.39 Local: Saver Kil Tirel  
09.34 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil  
10.00 Film: Zistoire Jesus Pou Banne Zenfants  
11.01 Local: Nu Rasinn  
11.53 Serial: Tetelestai  
12.30 Local: Saveurs Plus  
12.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
13.10 Local: Bigospel  
14.00 Local: Elle  
15.00 Film: The Gospel Of Luke  
17.30 Serial: Telelestai  
18.00 L'incroyable Hulk  
19.20 Local: Inspirasion  
20.20 Local: Paques  
21.20 Local: Tupa Tupa Nu Avance  
21.46 Local: Les Klips  
22.38 La Journee Sous Le Regard

07.00 Film: Main Hoon Super Bheem  
08.06 Local: Hamar Fitness Challenge  
08.32 Local: Satrangi  
09.01 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah  
09.16 Local: Khoobsurat  
11.00 Local: Excerpts From Durga  
12.00 Film: Baabul  
15.30 Local: Satrangi  
16.00 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah  
18.30 Local: Planet Bollywood  
19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi  
20.00 Local: Yaadein  
20.30 Serial: Porus  
20.59 Serial: Naagin Season 3  
21.40 Serial: Crime Patrol  
22.32 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna

06.04 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian  
06.27 D.Anime: Fast And Furious  
06.49 D.Anime: Gon  
07.00 D.Anime: P'tit Cosmonaute  
09.23 Film: Jesus A Kingdom  
11.00 Doc: World Capitals  
11.03 Doc: Beneath The Waves  
11.55 Doc: The Return Of Whales...  
13.45 Film: Pierre Lapin  
15.16 Mag: Recipes For Kids  
15.24 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou  
15.44 D.Anime: The Deep  
16.25 D.Anime: Sonic Boom  
16.29 D.Anime: Yo Yo  
16.44 D.Anime: Miraculous  
17.11 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian  
18.00 Doc: World Capitals  
18.28 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
19.00 Mag: The Inside Story  
20.00 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

00.00 Udaariyaan  
01.56 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...  
03.50 Radha Krishna  
06.10 Patiala Babes  
08.00 Anupamaa  
10.04 Babe Acche Lagte Hai 2  
12.00 Mere Sai  
14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se  
16.08 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.38 Film: Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara  
Starring: Hrithik Roshan , Abhay Deol, Farhan Akhtar, Katrina Kaif, Kalki Koechlin  
20.53 Serial: Naagin Season  
21.43 Yeh Teri Galiyan

### lundi 10 avril mars

06.00 Mag: Red Carpet  
07.00 Film: Ophelia  
08.30 L'incroyable Hulk  
09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
10.00 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
11.10 Tele: Rubi  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.30 Tele: Sublime Mensonge  
13.17 Tele: Love And Wealth  
13.40 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis  
14.10 L'incroyable Hulk  
15.21 Film: Breakdown  
17.15 Tele: Fierce Angel  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya  
18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.25 Serial: Riviera  
21.15 Serial: Billions  
22.00 Serial: Blue Bloods  
23.00 Serial: Fierce Angel  
23.42 Tele: Sublime Mensonge

06.41 Local: Les Klips  
07.33 Local: Elle - Special Paques  
08.25 Local: Bigospel  
09.15 Local: Klip Kompil  
09.41 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL  
10.18 Local: Nu Rasinn  
12.12 Local: Inspirasion  
12.27 Local: Tupa Tupa Nu Avance  
12.53 Local: Les Klips  
13.45 Local: Bigospel  
13.18 Local: Rodrig Prog  
14.39 Local: Klip Kompil  
15.42 Local: Nu Rasinn  
17.27 Serial: Serie Biblique  
18.00 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable  
18.30 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas  
19.30 Local: Rodrig Prog  
20.00 Local: ABU: Media Savings  
20.30 Local: Eclairage Economique  
20.45 Local: Fam Model

07.00 Film: Super Bheem  
10.05 Mag: MBC Production  
12.02 Film: Heera  
14.59 Live: Samachar  
15.33 Bhagwan Ab Ho Kitne Door  
16.02 Kundali Bhagya  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.29 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen  
19.00 Local: Akshay Dhaara  
19.59 Local: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek  
20.10 Local: Charcha  
20.36 Film: Babu  
Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini, Rati Agnihotri, Madan Puri, Rajendranath  
23.11 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain  
23.32 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan  
23.47 Local: Ved Ki Shikshayen  
00.20 Local: Ayush

06.00 Mag: Eye On Sadc  
06.30 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian  
06.52 D.Anime: Booba  
06.59 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids  
07.25 D.Anime: Harvey Girls...  
07.48 D.Anime: The Adventures...  
09.00 Film: Kung Fu Mulan  
11.11 Serial: Creeped Out  
11.40 Mag: Luana's Kitchen  
12.05 Doc: Smoothie Mania  
12.34 Doc: Thank You For The Rain  
15.15 D.Anime: Early Learning  
15.17 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles...  
15.27 D.Anime: Zoonicorn  
16.02 D.Anime: Sonic Boom  
16.26 D.Anime: Yo Yo  
16.41 D.Anime: Miraculous...  
17.04 Mag: Lab 360  
17.08 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian  
17.29 Doc: Mediterranean...  
18.00 Doc: Foodland  
18.29 Mag: The 77 Percent

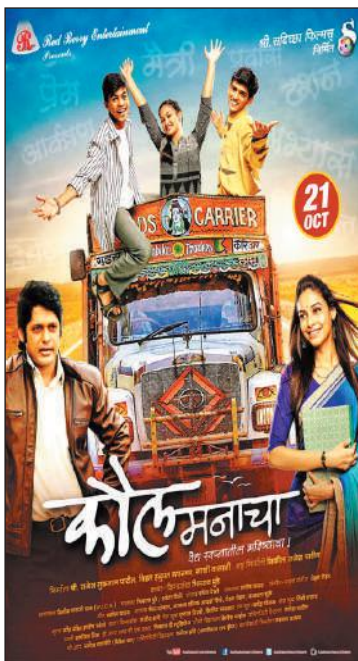
08.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
11.29 / 20.30 - Radha Krishna  
12.00 / 21.00 - Anupamaa  
13.00 / 21.30 - Mere Sai  
13.30 / 22.00 - Kundali Bhagya  
14.00 / 22.03 - Udaariyaan  
14.30 / 22.30 - Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi  
15.30 Film: Raiszaada  
Starring: Govinda, Sonam, Shashi Kapoor, Asha Parekh  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 Kundali Bhagya  
19.00 Udaariyaan  
19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...  
20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2  
20.00 Radha Krishna  
20.29 Anupamaa  
21.01 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
21.32 Serial Mere Sai



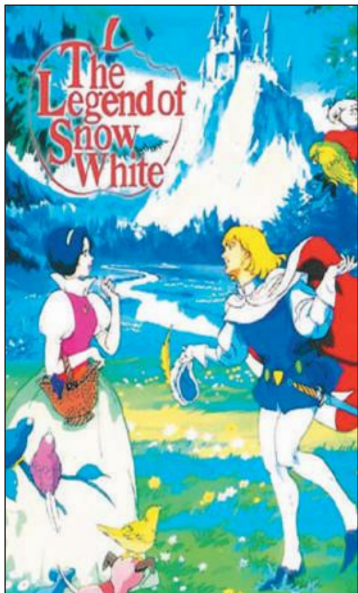
Mardi 11 Avril - 21.10



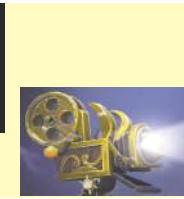
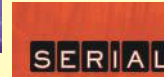
Mercredi 12 Avril - 21.15



Jeudi 13 Avril - 21.15



# Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 11 avril</b> 06.00 Serial: Chicago PD 07.00 Serial: Riviera 07.45 Serial: Billions 08.50 Serial: Blue Bloods 09.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.05 Local: A Que No Me Dejas 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Local: Les Grands Noms... 12.30 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.15 Tele: Love And Wealth 13.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 14.10 Serial: L'Agence Tous Risque 15.21 Film: Timecrafters 17.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 18.31 Serial: Wagle Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.30 Film: Croczilla 22.00 Serial: Deux Flics A Miami 22.50 Tele: Fierce Angel 23.32 Tele: Sublime Mensonge	07.00 Local: Fam Model 08.35 Local: Proze Dime 09.00 Local: Viens Decouvrir 10.33 Local: Rodrig Prog 11.02 Local: Le Rendez Vous... 13.18 Local: Fam Model 13.38 Local: Tous Egaux 13.53 Local: Proze Dime 14.18 Local: Viens Decouvrir 14.31 Local: Rodrig Prog 17.08 Local: Radio Vision 18.00 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 18.30 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 19.47 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.00 Local: Generations J 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.30 Local: Radio Vision 22.30 Local: Mots & Ecrits 23.46 Local: Arsiv No 219	07.00 Film: Super Bheem 08.04 Mag: MBC Production 12.00 Film: Woh Saat Din  15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 16.45 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Tark Vitark 19.00 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.30 Film: Naseeb 23.32 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 00.04 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.54 D. Anime: Booba 09.09 Mag: Recipes For Kids 09.15 Film: Boonie Bears 6 10.42 Mag: The World Is Yours 11.03 Serial: Creeped Out 11.30 Mag: Eco At Africa 11.56 Mag: In Good Share 13.05 Doc: Treasures In The Sand 13.50 Film: Jungle Book 2 15.19 D.Anime: Early Learning 15.25 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou 15.30 D.Anime: Zoonicorn 15.45 D.Anime: The Deep 16.06 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.30 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.45 D.Anime: Miraculous... 17.08 Mag: Lab 360 17.12 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian 17.36 Mag: Mimetismes 17.46 Mag: Shift	05.36 Film: Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman Starring Shahrukh Khan, Juhi Chawla, Nana Patekar 11.33 / 20.29 - Radha Krishna 12.03 / 20.57 - Anupamaa 12.41 / 21.02 - Bade Acche Lagte 13.12 / 21.27 - Mere Sai 13.42 / 22.07 - Kundali Bhagya 14.13 / 22.37 - Udaariyaan 14.37 / 23.07 - Kuch Rang Pyar... 15.07 Film: Saajan Starring Sanjay Dutt, Madhuri Dixit, Salman Khan 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2
<b>mercredi 12 avril</b> 05.30 Film: Das Boot 09.00 Serial: Airwolf 09.44 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.10 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.34 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.15 Tele: Love And Wealth 13.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 14.15 Serial: Airwolf 15.21 Film: Liberte Sauvage 17.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 18.30 Other: Radha Krishna 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 MBC Production 21.25 Serial: New Amsterdam 22.15 Serial: Suits 23.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 23.42 Tele: Love And Wealth	07.00 Local: Priorite Sante 08.02 Local: Radio Vision 08.54 Local: Mots & Ecrits 09.17 Local: Arsiv No 219 09.47 Local: Rodrig Prog 11.03 Local: Music Tour 2022 12.00 Local: Rodrig Prog 12.18 Local: Son Ladan Mem 12.31 Local: Generations J 13.07 Local: Priorite Sante 13.29 Local: Paroles Agricoles 14.00 Local: Mots & Ecrits 14.24 Local: Arsiv No 219 14.56 Local: Rodrig Prog 18.00 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 18.30 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.30 Local: Le Point 20.45 Local: En Forme	07.00 Film: Super Bheem 08.04 Mag: MBC Production 12.00 Film: Doo Sri Dulhan Starring: Victor Banerjee, Sharmila Tagore, Shabana Azmi 15.30 Serial: Bhagan Ab Ho Kitne Door 16.00 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Tirth Yatra 2022 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.30 Film: Hum Kisi Se Kam Nahi Starring Pramod Premi, Jyoti Sharma 23.32 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 00.04 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 00.04 Mag: MBC Production	06.54 D. Anime: Booba 09.09 Mag: Recipes For Kids 09.15 Film: I Heart Shakey 10.53 Mag: The World Is Yours 11.14 Serial: Creeped Out 12.09 Mag: Healthy Living 12.50 Doc: La Route De La Soie 13.15 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 13.50 Film: Le Ranch Du Bonheur 15.25 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou 15.30 D.Anime: Zoonicorn 15.45 D.Anime: The Deep 16.06 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.30 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.45 D.Anime: Miraculous... 17.08 Mag: Lab 360 17.12 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian 17.25 Mag: Mimetismes 17.35 Mag: Healthy Living 18.00 Doc: Foodland: Veggie... 18.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous	06.38 Film: Saajan Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Madhuri Dixit, Salman Khan 12.02 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna 12.30 / 20.26 - Anupamaa 13.35 / 20.02 - Mere Sai 13.05 / 21.02 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 14.05 / 20.46 - Kundali Bhagya 14.36 / 21.09 - Udaariyaan 15.06 / 21.50 - Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi 15.24 Film: Action Replay Starring: Akshay Kumar, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Om Puri 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
<b>jeudi 13 avril</b> 06.45 Mag: Close Up 07.20 L'Incrovable Hulk 08.05 Serial: New Amsterdam 08.50 Serial: Suits 09.35 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 10.01 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 10.25 Tele: Fierce Angel 11.10 Tele: Rubi 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.15 Tele: Love And Wealth 13.45 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 14.10 L'Agence Tous Risques 15.21 Film: Boundaries 17.00 Tele: Fierce Angel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.56 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Talaash With: Rakhee Gulzar, Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor	07.00 Local: Le Point: Diabete... 09.13 Local: Rodrig Prog 11.08 Local: Les Kliips 12.00 Local: Rodrig Spor 12.25 Local: Saver Kil Tirel 12.51 Local: Le Point: Diabete... 13.11 Local: En Forme 13.31 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.02 Local: Encounter 14.32 Local: Toile De Fond 14.58 Local: Rodrig: Ecozone 15.33 Local: Rodrig Prog: Kadans 17.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 18.00 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 18.31 Tele: A Que No Me Dejas 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 19.30 Local: Rodrig Prog 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Mots & Ecrits 21.01 Local: Radio Vision 22.49 Local An Eta Dalert	07.00 Film: Super Bheem 08.04 Mag: MBC Production 12.00 Film: Kaash Starring: Jackie Shroff, Dimple Kapadia, Master Makrand  15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 16.00 Serial: Agnipheera 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vaani 18.40 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.00 Mag: MBC Production 20.30 Serial: Surya Puran 23.32 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.36 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan 00.04 Mag: MBC Production	06.54 D. Anime: Booba 09.09 Mag: Recipes For Kids 09.15 Film: Heroes Of Envell 10.53 Mag: The World Is Yours 11.14 Serial: Creeped Out 12.09 Mag: Healthy Living 12.50 Doc: La Route De La Soie 13.15 Mag: Happiness Is On The... 13.50 Film: The Legend Of Snow White 15.25 D.Anime: Les Nouvelles Aventures De Caillou 15.30 D.Anime: Zoonicorn 15.45 D.Anime: The Deep 16.06 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.30 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.45 D.Anime: Miraculous... 17.08 Mag: Lab 360 17.12 Mag: Bricks 'O' Brian 17.25 Doc: Planet Home 18.00 Mag: Eco India	05.31 Film: Rangeela 11.31 / 20.06 - Radha Krishna 11.59 / 20.26 - Anupamaa 12.31 / 09.00 - Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 13.00 / 20.02 - Mere Sai 13.30 / 21.02 - Kundali Bhagya 14.05 / 20.46 - Udaariyaan 14.36 / 21.09 - Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi 15.30 Film: Dil Hain Betaab Starring: Vivek Mushran, Ajay Devgn, Pratibha Sinha 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

**B TV** Jeudi 13 Avril - 15.30 Stars: Vivek Mushran, Ajay Devgn, Pratibha Sinha

**MBC 1** Jeudi 13 Avril - 20.30 Stars: Rakhee Gulzar, Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor



# La réalité d'ici et d'ailleurs



Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Le soleil tapait fort ce jour-là à Port-Louis. A peine descendus de l'autobus, la santé et le confort obligent, les uns et les autres ont sorti parasol, chapeau de paille et casquette pour éviter de se faire cuire au soleil. Les touristes avertis étaient

équipés eux-aussi, heureux d'échapper à un hiver qui les faisait cailler en Europe; mais pas question de se farcir ou de griller au soleil, avec le risque de gâcher les vacances (le langage courant prête au soleil des vertus culinaires). Le soleil abîme nos tendres yeux par son éblouissement en plein été et serait responsable d'une espérance de vie moins longue à la différence de ceux que l'hiver enveloppe de son manteau gris pendant quelques mois dans les pays du Nord.

Un couple mauricien en bermudas, avec une casquette sur la tête, avançait avec leurs deux fils d'un pas nonchalant, de cet air décontracté des expatriés en vacances. Le cadet ayant cinq ou six ans tenait la main de sa mère, et contre toute attente, leva les yeux vers ses parents et déclara: 'Je suis Mauricien.' L'aîné de dix ou onze ans scruta les abords de la ville sous le soleil accablant et lâcha son verdict: 'Moi, je suis Français.' Amusés par ce sursaut identitaire de leurs garçons, les parents souriaient.

Quelques mètres plus loin, quelques touristes français pressaient le pas, très motivés à découvrir la capitale. L'un d'eux éclaira les lanternes du groupe: 'Hé! Vous savez qu'ils parlent plusieurs langues ici. Le créole, le français, l'anglais...'. D'ordinaire, l'esprit français moyen ne s'aventure pas à prononcer le nom d'autres langues en dehors de ce trio linguistique.

Dans cet élan admiratif, le visiteur de passage ignore l'effet compresseur qu'a joué le kreol sur les deux autres langues grâce à la propagande des idéologues bien-intentionnés. L'appauvrissement du débat public et l'indigence de la pensée circonscrite par une lexique déficitaire en sont les conséquences. Jusqu'à présent, personne ne s'est donné la peine de mesurer l'étendue des dégâts dans les esprits et dans l'espace public.

Quelques étals du marché se trouvant aux environs de la gare étaient vides suite aux dernières intempéries. Les légumes devenaient de plus en plus rares. Une jeune femme d'une trentaine d'années y tenait un étal où diverses plantes étaient exposées. Elle arborait un sourire charmant en parlant de ses plantes, des soins qu'elle leur prodiguait et de leurs besoins; elle les vendait en moyenne à Rs 200. Lors de cette conversation de circons-



'Faisant fi du politiquement correct et du discours victimaire, le tandem Sunak et Bravewoman (!) n'a pas fini de prendre les taureaux par les cornes, et aussi, de traîner les grooming gangs (2), délinquants, kidnappeurs et violeurs de jeunes filles au tribunal par une série de mesures sans précédent...' P - Manchester Evening

tance, elle avoua qu'elle aimerait partir en France ou à la Réunion.

– C'est pour donner une meilleure vie à mes trois enfants, voyez-vous.

Son mari avait 60 ans et il venait de sortir de prison après cinq mois d'incarcération pour recel.

– Mais il ne savait pas que c'était des articles volés, assura-t-elle.

Elle n'avait pas reçu d'éducation formelle, mais elle était pleine d'énergie et de motivation. Quelles opportunités à Maurice? L'usine?

– Non, ce n'est pas intéressant pour moi, de longues heures de travail, je ne pourrai pas être là pour mes enfants à la sortie de l'école, et le salaire est insuffisant.

Pour toute mère qui se respecte, une disponibilité auprès des enfants est primordiale. En fait, il faudrait un minimum de Rs20,000 pour vivre à cinq, dit-elle.

– J'aimerais profiter de la vie, avoir une voiture et faire des sorties avec mes enfants, vous comprenez.

Quitte à faire le ménage à l'étranger, elle serait prête à s'envoler avec son époux et ses enfants vers d'autres cieux. Puis vint la requête inévitable.

– Qu'en pensez-vous? Pourriez-vous faire quelque chose pour moi?

Le brin de causette reprit à chaque passage au marché. Elle leur laissait son nom: Mélanie Jane.

Cette charmante personne donnait envie qu'on lui tende la main. L'époque de sacrifices et de longues années d'attente pour sortir la tête de l'eau est révolue. Cela se comprend. Vivre pleinement, c'est maintenant. Pour l'heure, elle s'était résolue à vendre le terrain que son époux possédait à Baie du Tombeau pour acheter une voiture et transporter ses plantes dans le nord de l'île où elle serait plus à même de trouver une meilleure clientèle.

Est-ce qu'elle voudrait émigrer légalement?

– Ah oui, bien sûr. Je veux partir avec

des papiers en règle.

En effet, les années 70-80 sont loin derrière nous. Ce sont les années de l'interminable tunnel noir à traverser dans le silence de l'angoisse et du désespoir, où tous les subterfuges étaient bons pour se faire une place au soleil dans les pays froids.

Après une laborieuse mise en place de l'infrastructure industrielle et l'accès à l'éducation gratuite, le début des années 80 marquèrent un tournant dans un décollage économique qui ont veillé, depuis, à ce que la nourriture ne manque pas dans les ménages les plus modestes. Depuis les années 2000, la voiture est devenue le symbole incontournable de liberté et de loisirs. Quoi de plus normal que de vivre avec son temps !

C'est réconfortant, néanmoins, de constater que les plus démunis à Maurice sont bien loin du désespoir qui pousse des clandestins à s'aventurer sur des embarcations fragiles contre vents et marées pour atteindre les rives de l'Angleterre, assiégée par un flot de demandeurs d'asile. Ici, c'est sur les ailes volantes et avec des documents officiels en poche que la présente génération entend s'expatrier si besoin est.

\*\*\*

## Le tandem Sunak et Bravewoman

Si l'Angleterre a choisi le Brexit, c'est aussi pour retrouver sa souveraineté en matière d'accueil des migrants sans avoir à se plier aux diktats de l'Union européenne, elle-même soumise à d'autres lobbys du système capitaliste pour recruter une main-d'œuvre étrangère coûte que coûte, grossir le nombre de consommateurs, et, faisant d'une pierre deux coups, satisfaire au passage le projet des idéologues de l'Open Society d'encourager, non pas une immigration raisonnée, mais un envahissement de l'espace européen par le surplus d'une démographie galopante des pays du Sud.

Une démographie galopante en Afrique, par exemple, qu'aucune voix des élites économiques, politiques et média-

tiques oserait remettre en question sous peine de s'attirer la foudre de la bien-pensance mondialisée (1), et de se faire taxer de xénophobe, raciste et d'autres qualificatifs peu flatteurs. Ces bien-pensants sont nombreux dans la sphère politico-médiatique, en Occident et ailleurs, dans le monde enseignant jusqu'à l'université, chez certains intellectuels, écrivains, et un public qui souscrit à l'angélisme ambiant. Ils sont les tenants d'une vision binaire de la marche du monde à travers le prisme moralisateur du bien et du mal, et des dominants/dominés, riches/pauvres, etc.

Ceux-là répondent à tout discours déviant par l'hystérie vociférée à tue-tête dans la rue ou par les insultes et propos déplacés chez les diplômés à qui la presse donne la voix. L'Angleterre trouve dans une impasse économique sans précédent et peine à nourrir et loger ses propres citoyens, mais est sommée par les donneurs de leçons à assouvir le rêve de tous ceux qui s'invitent contre vents et marées sur son sol.

A Maurice, plus que le perfide Albion, ce sont les deux dames de fer, Priti Patel et Suella Braverman qui font les frais d'un diatribe hargneux par ceux qui confondent origine ethnique, couleur de peau et la politique de l'immigration approuvée par le Premier ministre, Rishi Sunak. Faisant fi du politiquement correct et du discours victimaire, le tandem Sunak et Bravewoman (!) n'a pas fini de prendre les taureaux par les cornes, et aussi, de traîner les grooming gangs (2), délinquants, kidnappeurs et violeurs de jeunes filles au tribunal par une série de mesures sans précédent.

Le *political correctness* en raison de l'origine ethnique *is not right*, déclare sans détour le Premier ministre. Bravant le silence coupable de la BBC et la démission des politiciens anglais, de la justice et de la police à assumer leur devoir pendant plus de vingt ans, ces deux personnes d'origine étrangère crachent le feu au Parlement dans la grisaille de Londres, redonnent leur dignité aux jeunes victimes et à l'Angleterre, son honneur perdu. Qui veut leur cracher dessus, hein ?

(1) Chez les locuteurs francophones, ce terme désigne l'opinion et le comportement des personnes bien-pensantes, c'est-à-dire elles ont des idées et des convictions (religieuses ou politiques) conformistes et elles tiennent toujours des discours politiquement corrects.

(2) Le terme "Grooming gangs" fait référence aux stratégies employées par des gangs pour charmer et attirer des jeunes filles afin de les orienter vers l'industrie du sexe (« sexbusiness ») ou pour satisfaire des besoins personnels à travers la violence sexuelle, portant ainsi atteinte aux droits fondamentaux de la personne.