

MAURITIUS TIMES

• Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment. -- Buddha

Interview: Sateevad Seebaluck, Former Head of the Civil Service & Special Adviser on Chagos

«The UK has never had and does not have any sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago

They are themselves an unlawful occupier of, a squatter on part of the Republic of Mauritius»



'I do not trust the British in these matters. We have had the experience before when, at their behest, we engaged in negotiations on the implementation of the award of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on the illegal MPA'

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The DPP-CP Spat

The unending conflict opposing the Commissioner of Police (CP) to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is taking an ugly turn. It's a first in the annals when a holder of a constitutional post comes out publicly against the decision of another constitutional head, and the latter taking the same route in what is perceived to be a tit-for-tat retaliation. All this does not bode well for the country.

Readers will remember that the CP took the unusual decision earlier this year to contest the stand taken by the DPP not to oppose the Moka District Court senior magistrate to grant bail, under stringent conditions, to Bruneau Laurette, accused of illicit drug possession. We observed then that instead of putting in doubt the legal judgement of the DPP, the obvious and reasonable alternative available to the Commissioner of Police would have been a timely challenge of the magistrate's decision in the Supreme Court on his own steam. That was not to be.

The Police Commissioner thereafter swore an affidavit in which he took issue with the decisions of the DPP which in his view would compromise police investigations in certain cases. The CP maintains that the DPP would be violating article 71 of the Constitution and would thereby be usurping his powers as Commissioner of Police, in particular those relating to the detection and investigation of crimes or the arrest of suspects. The matter is presently before the Supreme Court. The related background question is whether the CP or his services make free use of provisional charges, not only in drug related offences, while the investigations are far from complete and may take years, depriving an accused (but not yet tried and convicted) citizen of his freedom and rights. In another drug case, for instance, a skipper arrested in a major drug haul in May 2021, is still on preventive detention without trial and the Bail and Remand Court have this Thursday given the police six months to lodge a formal charge failing which the suspect would be granted conditional bail.

On the other hand, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has lodged an application for judicial review of the decision of the Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy to entertain the application of Chandra Prakash Dip, son of the Commissioner of Police, for remission of the 12-month prison sentence delivered against him by the Intermediate Court into a Rs100,000 fine. The remission recommendation in this particular case approved by the President of the Republic had raised lots of questions and protests from different quarters. One of the arguments put forward is that the decisions of the Commission on the Prerogative of Mercy

may defeat our justice system when the law provides for the President of the Republic, acting on the advice of the Commission, to radically change any sentence - even if the highest courts have ruled a guilty verdict.

Tied to that are a number of questions, namely whether the suspension of the Intermediate Court judgement, as ordered by Justice David Chan on Monday 21 Nov 2022 until the determination of the appeal (lodged by Chandra Prakash Dip) to the Privy Council would, by implication, mean that Chandra Prakash Dip had not yet been sentenced; and whether it was in order for the Mercy Commission to entertain any application for remission of a judgement and sentence that stands suspended in those circumstances. Our correspondent Lex had in an earlier interview argued the point that 'logically, if a judgment convicting a person and the sentence are suspended, it would mean there is no conviction.' Opinions differ on these questions, he added, as some would tend to support the view that following a conviction and even if there is an appeal pending and the judgment is suspended, the Mercy Commission can still consider an application for mercy; others are of the firm view that in the absence of a conviction, the Commission has no power to intervene. Only a court of law can shed light on this.

We will not comment on the merits of the cases brought by both the CP and the DPP, but there is a growing public sentiment that this public spat should have been avoided for the sake of the high standards of decorum that should exist in the public field and that holders of constitutional posts and others in high office, administrative or political, should be showing to fellow Mauritians.

There is no argument about the fact that the harmony, relative peace as also progress that Mauritius has known during the last 55 years are in a large measure due to the fundamental guiding principles enshrined in our Constitution and the adherence by the different stakeholders to the values and respect for such principles as regards the rule of law and other constitutional protections. Nevertheless, a Constitution is only as good as the men and women who exercise the powers devolved upon them by that same Constitution in their respective positions. Some might well say, the clarification of roles and limits to the powers of the DPP and the CP are welcome, particularly at the provisional charge level, even if it comes at some costs to the taxpayer with the scene set for King's Counsels to argue respective merits. The alternative of continuing public tussles between two holders of important constitutional posts would be unthinkable.

The Conversation

Facebook's algorithms fuelled massive foreign propaganda campaigns during the 2020 US presidential election

An internal Facebook report found that the social media platform's algorithms - the rules its computers follow in deciding the content that you see - enabled disinformation campaigns based in Eastern Europe to reach nearly half of all Americans in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election, according to a report in Technology Review.



The campaigns produced the most popular pages for Christian and Black American content, and overall reached 140 million US users per month. Seventy-five percent of the people exposed to the content hadn't followed any of the pages. People saw the content because Facebook's content-recommendation system put it into their news feeds.

Social media platforms rely heavily on people's behaviour to decide on the content that you see. In particular, they watch for content that people respond to or "engage" with by liking, commenting and sharing. Troll farms, organizations that spread provocative content, exploit this by copying high-engagement content and posting it as their own.

As a computer scientist who studies the ways large numbers of people interact using technology, I understand the logic of using the wisdom of the crowds in these algorithms. I also see substantial pitfalls in how the social media companies do so in practice.

From lions on the savanna to likes on Facebook

The concept of the wisdom of crowds assumes that using signals from others' actions, opinions and preferences as a guide will lead to sound decisions. For example, collective predictions are normally more accurate than individual ones. Collective intelligence is used to predict financial markets, sports, elections and even disease outbreaks.

Throughout millions of years of evolution, these principles have been coded into the human brain in the form of cognitive biases that come with names like familiarity, mere exposure and bandwagon effect. If everyone starts running, you should also start running; maybe

someone saw a lion coming and running could save your life. You may not know why, but it's wiser to ask questions later.

Your brain picks up clues from the environment - including your peers - and uses simple rules to quickly translate those signals into decisions: Go with the winner, follow the majority, copy your neighbour. These rules work remarkably well in typical situations because they are based on sound assumptions. For example, they assume that people often act rationally, it is unlikely that many are wrong, the past predicts the future, and so on.

Technology allows people to access signals from much larger numbers of other people, most of whom they do not know. Artificial intelligence applications make heavy use of these popularity or "engagement" signals, from selecting search engine results to recommending music and videos, and from suggesting friends to ranking posts on news feeds.

Not everything viral deserves to be

Our research shows that virtually all web technology platforms, such as social media and news recommendation systems, have a strong popularity bias. When applications are driven by cues like engagement rather than explicit search engine queries, popularity bias can lead to harmful unintended consequences.

Filippo Menczer, Luddy Distinguished Prof of Informatics and Computer Science, Indiana University

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Registration of Electors: Overlapping Responsibilities and Ambiguities

Jan Arden

Lest last piece suggesting that the Electoral Commission investigates and reports on the missing electors of 2019 be construed as an uninformed criticism of the Office of the Electoral Commission, it is necessary to clarify that the "Commission" referred to should more properly be the Electoral Supervisory Commission (ESC). The brief extract below of Article 41 of our Constitution makes the relationship clear: The Electoral Commissioner's Office is headed by the Electoral Commissioner, whose office is a public one, appointed by the Judicial and Legal Service Commission and his independence guaranteed by Article 40, while the ESC (whose members also sit on the Electoral Boundaries Commission (EBC) has been accused of being packed with appointees suspected of close affinities with the ruling regime.

41 Functions of Electoral Supervisory Commission and Electoral Commissioner

(1) The Electoral Supervisory Commission shall have general responsibility for, and shall supervise, the registration of electors for the election of members of the Assembly and the conduct of elections of such members and the Commission shall have such powers and other functions relating to such registration and such elections as may be prescribed.

(2) The Electoral Commissioner shall have such po-



Pic - l'express.mu

wers and other functions relating to such registration and elections as may be prescribed, and he shall keep the Electoral Supervisory Commission fully informed concerning the exercise of his functions and shall have the right to attend meetings of the Commission and to refer to the Commission for their advice or decision any question relating to his functions.

It is also noted that in the more detailed, legally and procedurally important Representation of People's Act, Section 3 on the responsibilities of the Electoral Commissioner and his Deputy states:

The Electoral Commissioner shall have all the powers of the registration officer and of the returning officer in an electoral area.

Overlapping responsibilities between the Electoral

Commissioner and the Electoral Supervisory Commission may obviously lead to a frustrating situation. However, the questions regarding the fluctuations in the electoral register, which have been noted and questioned in the past, remain. Although we recognise that there may be some factors why electors do not bother registering themselves particularly in non-election years, the raw data and historical trends are at least publicly available on the Electoral Commission's website, whereas the Electoral Supervisory Commission remains in the shadows, its membership not forthcoming and we somehow doubt that it would come forward with some explanations of any troubling trends. And we trust that the overlapping ambiguities will be reviewed and the ability for a political party to jam-pack both the ESC and the EBC with political appointees curtailed.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is officially welcomed to the G20 Summit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi, India on Sept. 9, 2023. (THE CANADIAN PRESS/Sean Kilpatrick)

With total trade between these two countries standing at some US\$ 7 billion in 2021 and less than 4 billion in the services sector, Canada is far from representing a meaningful economic partner for India, lagging well behind such countries as Malaysia, Vietnam, or Italy in the list of top 25 major trade partners of India.

India and Canada have traditionally a longstanding bilateral relationship based on shared democratic values, facilitated by the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-religious nature of two societies and

strong people-to-people contacts. This rather poor figure of total trade is an oddity which both countries have been rather keen to address, most notably through negotiations towards a free-trade pact which was due for finalisation during 2023. Inexplicably and without much explanation to its citizens, its state governors or its economic operators, PM Trudeau called for a "pause" in the negotiations a month before hopping on his Airbus plane for the G20 summit in New Delhi.

In the august setting of that gathering

India and Canada Ties

of top world leaders and institutions, as in previous G7 summits, Trudeau was seen as a very isolated figure snubbed by his major peers. He had a visibly uncomfortable finger-wagging lecture by US President Joe Biden and was even "scolded" in a terse talk by PM Modi gunning him down for the particularly unappetising free rein given to what India says are terrorists spreading violent hate under the Khalistani banner. The G20 trip therefore did not go down very well to say the least, with Trudeau so snubbed that he gave the Bharat President's gala dinner a miss and his old plane left him stranded in New Delhi for two extra days through technical faults.

In contrast, UK PM Rishi Sunak and his wife Akshata Murthy, very skillfully and without fuss, exploited the glamorous opportunity to demonstrate their unabashed connect with their Indian roots, At a time the UK is also engaging India in a free trade deal, Rishi Sunak was far more astute in condemning unequivocally any activities of the K-movement in the UK and thanking PM Modi for a "historic" G20 summit with its largely unexpected joint

declaration of all participants.

One wonders what Justin Trudeau's lonely figure expected to achieve at the G20 summit where India successfully managed to keep geopolitics (Ukraine-Russia conflict and other international hot spots) out of a grouping whose focus is on economic development issues for the planet. Perhaps it was meant as a sop for those excited K-mobs around Vancouver and their continued support as his particular standing in the polls deteriorates. The Canadian Opposition and netizens gave him a full-fledged roasting for having isolated Canada's voice from all major fora, seriously constraining its economic development opportunities.

As for Indian netizens, several wise-cracked about the utter hypocrisy of the guy for his unprecedented decision to use the Emergencies Act in February 2022 to suspend civil liberties and suppress Canadian trucker protests. "It's high time that these illegal and dangerous activities stop" Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had declared in the Canadian Parliament.

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ReA se dit favorable à un rapprochement avec l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD

Par A. Bartleby

Kugan Parapen a déclaré à une radio cette semaine que Resistans ek Alternativ (ReA) était favorable à un rapprochement avec l'alliance PTr-MMM-PMSD. Cela faisait un moment que ce rapprochement était d'actualité, Ashok Subron ayant lui-même fait une déclaration allant dans le même sens, il y a quelques semaines.



Resistans ek Alternativ a réussi à se faire une place de choix au niveau du débat des idées sans toutefois réussir à faire de percée électorale majeure. P - Radio One

Les observateurs politiques auront de quoi être surpris de cette déclaration. Resistans ek Alternativ est un parti d'extrême gauche qui s'est construit dans une opposition constante aux partis du pouvoir que sont le PTr, le MSM et, dans une moindre mesure, le MMM et le PMSD. Par delà les incompatibilités idéologiques, il y a une incompatibilité profonde sur les enjeux économiques, sociaux, institutionnels et sécuritaires.

Par exemple, Resistans ek Alternativ est farouchement opposé au système du "bestloser". Cela fait des années qu'ils militent pour une abolition de ce système qu'ils considèrent comme une entrave au développement du "mauricianisme" (quelle que soit la signification accordée à ce terme). Nous sommes tous au courant du combat légal mené par ReA depuis plusieurs années concernant cette question, le parti ayant même refusé d'aligner des candidats aux élections pour ne pas trahir leurs idées.

En fait, Resistans ek Alternativ est un parti unique dans le paysage politique mauricien. Ce parti a réussi à se faire une place de choix au niveau du débat des idées sans toutefois réussir à faire de percée électorale majeure. Il est ainsi indéniable que ses membres contribuent à la vie des idées dans un paysage idéologique local extrêmement moribond: c'est justement le mérite de ce parti de contribuer à une certaine vie intellectuelle. Et il faut leur accorder cela.

Néanmoins, même si ses contributions intellectuelles ne sont pas toujours réalistes et pragmatiques, du point de vue de beaucoup d'observateurs politiques, ceci fait d'eux un parti intéressant du moment que nous sommes dans le débat des idées; de plus, ce parti n'a pas démontré de réelles capacités à gouverner, sans doute par manque de pragmatisme face aux grands enjeux économiques et sécuritaires surtout.

Ainsi nous ne pouvons que deviner ce que donnera un gouvernement incluant Resistans ek Alternativ si l'alliance de l'opposition devait remporter les prochaines échéances électorales. Imaginons seulement un Conseil des ministres, incluant également les divers conseillers des différents bords composant l'alliance gouvernementale, où Navin Ramgoolam et Xavier Duval discuteraient de la sécurité de l'océan Indien ou de la libéralisation de l'économie avec Ashok Subron, et ce, avec Paul Bérenger en arbitre...

Il y a sans doute des raisons qui font que certains partis politiques sont faits pour gouverner et d'autres non. C'est cela aussi la démocratie, c'est-à-dire l'espace d'expression de toutes les sensibilités politiques. Et, dans le monde démocratique, il existe une gamme de partis: des plus sérieux aux plus irrationnels, des plus farfelus aux plus absurdes, des plus inutiles à l'intérêt commun aux plus dangereuses aussi...

* * *

La Russie a-t-elle déjà gagné la guerre en Ukraine?

Un long entretien accordé par Nicolas Sarkozy à un média français a mis le feu aux poudres cette semaine. L'ancien Président de la République française a affirmé dans cet entretien que la France et l'Union européenne se devaient d'arrêter de suivre aveuglément les demandes de Vladimir Zelensky et qu'il était impératif de retrouver des relations normalisées avec Vladimir Poutine et la Russie.

Ces paroles n'ont pas manqué d'agiter les sphères politiques et médiatiques. L'ancien Premier ministre Lionel Jospin et le Président du Sénat Gérard Larcher ont condamné les propos de Sarkozy, l'accusant de faire l'apologie et de minimiser ou «underplay» l'agression russe sur le territoire ukrainien, en plus d'être en contradiction parfaite avec la politique de la République française sur la question ukrainienne.

Pourquoi donc cette sortie de Sarkozy? S'agit-il d'une sortie hasardeuse, comme il en a le secret, ou bien est-il en train d'essayer d'ouvrir les yeux des décideurs européens sur l'état actuel du conflit en Ukraine? Pour rappel, après des mois de mobilisation près de la frontière, l'armée russe a envahi l'Ukraine le 24 février 2022. Cette dernière a rapidement progressé vers Kiev sans jamais pouvoir prendre la capitale ukrainienne. Parallèlement, les forces ukrainiennes se sont mobilisées - avec l'aide des pays voisins et de l'OTAN - afin de repousser les forces russes en dehors de son territoire.

La contre-offensive ukrainienne a eu un succès franc au début, l'armée ukrainienne reprenant les zones du Nord-est du pays et forçant l'armée russe de reculer sur le front de l'Est. L'Ukraine a lancé une contre-offensive massive, jetant toutes ses forces actuelles dans la bataille, en juin de cette année, avec pour objectif de reprendre le front de l'Est et de renvoyer l'armée russe en Russie.

Cette contre-offensive massive, qui a bénéficié d'un soutien logistique important des alliés occidentaux de l'Ukraine, n'a pas eu les effets escomptés pour le moment. Bien au contraire, les Russes semblent plus solides que jamais sur le front de l'Est. La question est maintenant posée: Est-ce que l'armée ukrainienne sera capable de reprendre cette partie de son territoire de la Russie?

Certains analystes militaires très sérieux semblent penser que non. Pire même. Si l'Ukraine poursuit son effort, elle risque de se retrouver dans une situation où ses capacités militaires seront tellement affaiblies que l'armée russe pourra reprendre sa marche vers l'ouest et conquérir encore plus de territoires.

Pourtant, l'armée ukrainienne a bénéficié d'aides extrêmement généreuses en matière d'armement. Des missiles, des chars, des hélicoptères, des drones et une promesse de livraison prochaine de chasseurs F16. Comment se fait-il donc qu'elle semble acculée aujourd'hui?

La raison en est très simple. Toute guerre se doit d'être supportée par une industrie capable de produire des armes. Développer ces capacités de production, cela relève d'investissements extrêmement importants et mobilise des ressources que très peu de pays sont aujourd'hui capables de soutenir, surtout au sortir de la crise économique mondiale. En fait, il semblerait que la capacité d'approvisionnement de l'Ukraine en armes et en munitions soit presque arrivée à son terme pour une partie importante de ses alliés occidentaux.

La Belgique, par exemple, a récemment vidé ses réserves en munitions pour soutenir l'effort de guerre en Ukraine et se retrouve aujourd'hui avec une pénurie de munition qui coûtera près de €6 milliards à combler. Il en va de même pour les chars et les missiles français, avec des réductions dramatiques des stocks et une incapacité inquiétante à en produire plus.



Il semblerait que la Russie soit en train de gagner cette guerre par le simple fait qu'ils ont à leur disposition bien plus de capacités militaires que l'Ukraine. P - Le JDD

Parallèlement à cela, la Russie - préparant cette guerre depuis plusieurs années - a des usines d'armes qui tournent à plein régime et, actuellement, leurs capacités de production dépassent de très loin celles des pays européens. À titre d'exemple, la Russie tire en moyenne 4 fois plus de munitions que l'armée ukrainienne sans que ses réserves de munitions n'en soient affectées. Par ailleurs, Vladimir Poutine a ficelé des accords militaires avec la Chine et la Corée du Nord (qui est un très gros producteur d'armement). De plus, les F16 promis à l'armée ukrainienne sont des appareils de vieilles générations, qui ne feront pas le poids face aux chasseurs utilisés par l'armée russe, sachant également que l'armée russe dispose d'un nombre bien plus important de chasseurs.

En fait, il semblerait que la Russie soit en train de gagner cette guerre par le simple fait qu'ils ont à leur disposition bien plus de capacités militaires que l'Ukraine. Et encore une fois, il s'avère qu'acquérir la capacité militaire, cela implique d'avoir une véritable stratégie économique qui sous-tend l'effort de guerre.

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La Russie a-t-elle déjà gagné la guerre en Ukraine?



Le président Vladimir Poutine prononce son discours du Nouvel An entouré de personnes en uniforme. P - Getty Images

☞ Suite de la page 4

Ainsi, si l'on tient compte de cet aspect de «the economics of war», il n'est pas anodin d'affirmer que la Russie a plus ou moins déjà gagné la guerre. Ou plutôt, que la position russe est tellement solide que tout ce que Poutine a à faire, c'est d'attendre sagement que les capacités militaires ukrainiennes se réduisent comme un peu de chagrin et que Zelensky frappe à sa porte pour signer une armistice...

En fait, nous voyons l'effondrement de toute la stratégie occidentale face à la résilience russe, résilience que Napoléon et Hitler n'avaient eux-mêmes pas réussi à briser, il ne faut jamais l'oublier. Les Occidentaux avaient misé sur la combinaison des sanctions économiques et l'aide militaire à l'Ukraine. Certains décideurs occidentaux pensaient que la Russie de Poutine ne passerait pas l'hiver 2022, comme le ministre de l'Économie française, Bruno Lemaire, avait déclaré que la Russie serait «bientôt anéantie». C'était en mars 2022 mais il n'en a rien été. L'économie russe a tenu le choc. Mieux même, elle affichera une croissance d'un peu moins d'1% cette année, avec des prévisions dépassant les 3% pour l'année prochaine.

En consolidant ses alliés orientaux, comme la Chine, l'Inde et récemment la Corée du Nord, et en déployant une stratégie diplomatique extrêmement efficace sur le continent africain, Vladimir Poutine a déjoué tous les pronostics. En outre, il en a profité - au passage - pour consolider son pouvoir sur le Kremlin en purgeant les indésirables comme Evgueni Prigojine.

Aujourd'hui, les Ukrainiens semblent donc pris dans un piège réel. Comment sortir de ce bourbier lorsque le maître de l'échiquier n'affiche aucun empressement à le faire? La stratégie privilégiée actuellement par les forces ukrainiennes semble être les attaques de drones. En attaquant des villes et des civils russes avec des drones, l'armée ukrainienne a adopté la tactique des terroristes qui consiste à retourner le peuple russe contre ses dirigeants. En bombardant constamment, Zelensky espère sans doute produire de la peur et de l'exaspération du côté des civils russes, ce qui pourrait les amener à se soulever contre la guerre et ainsi forcer Poutine à faire marche arrière. Mais rien n'est moins sûr. Selon les derniers sondages, près de 75% des Russes soutiennent l'opération spéciale russe en

Ukraine.

Comment donc faire la paix maintenant? Quelle est la voie de sortie? En réalité, cette voie n'existe pas vraiment sans qu'un côté n'accepte de se déplier en face de l'autre. Et les dirigeants des pays les plus puissants du monde en sont parfaitement conscients, ce qui explique que la question ukrainienne a été discutée de manière extrêmement timide pendant le récent sommet du G20.

Ainsi, Nicolas Sarkozy pourrait avoir raison lorsqu'il implore les décideurs français à rétablir le dialogue avec Poutine et de ne plus suivre les demandes de Zelensky à la lettre. Ces deux hommes semblent être pris dans une spirale qui n'a pas de porte de sortie. Or, cette sortie est absolument nécessaire afin d'éviter le pire.

* * *

Sommet du G20 à New Delhi: La vision de la troisième voie indienne se met en place

Le sommet du G20 tenu le weekend dernier est venu couronner de la présidence indienne le regroupement des pays les plus riches du monde cette année. Le G20 a pris un sérieux coup de plomb dans l'aile depuis la pandémie de la Covid, à cause notamment de la perception d'une incapacité de ces pays à délivrer les promesses faites au niveau de la distribution des vaccins, etc. Du coup, pas grand monde ne s'attendait à grand-chose de ce sommet, qui ressemblait plus à un événement de routine qu'à un sommet où de grandes annonces sont faites.



HISTORIC HANDSHAKE

Les accords se multiplient entre l'Inde et l'Arabie saoudite et leurs deux leaders ont affiché une entente particulièrement cordiale et amicale. P - YouTube

Que nenni! L'Inde avait parfaitement bien préparé son coup et ce sommet du G20 apparaît déjà comme l'un des plus importants de ces dernières années. Assurant et jouant pleinement son rôle de président du groupe, il est clair que Narendra Modi (épaulé par son ministre des Affaires étrangères Subrahmanyam Jaishankar) a abattu un travail considérable depuis plusieurs mois afin de négocier un certain nombre d'accords qui ont été annoncés pendant le sommet.

L'accord le plus important, celui qui aura sans doute l'impact le plus significatif dans la durée, est l'annonce d'un corridor logistique reliant l'Inde à l'Europe, en passant par le Golfe Arabe. Ce nouveau corridor permettra de contourner l'obligation de passer par le canal de Suez afin de connecter l'Inde et l'Europe. Concrètement, cela représente un gain de temps de près de 40% sur les chaînes d'approvisionnement, permettant égale-

ment de très sérieuses économies en énergie et un impact significatif sur le prix du transport.

Ce corridor apparaît immédiatement comme une alternative directe au «Belt and Road Initiative» (BRI) de la Chine de Xi Jinping, qui était un absent notable du sommet du G20. Plus même, un tel corridor pourrait entraîner certains pays européens à se retirer du BRI puisqu'une alternative crédible est en train d'être mise en place. Par exemple, la Première ministre italienne, Giorgia Meloni, aurait déjà signifié au Premier ministre chinois Li Qiang l'intention du retrait de l'Italie du BRI, ce qui représenterait un coup dur pour le projet chinois par rapport à l'Europe, surtout que d'autres pays pourraient lui emboîter le pas.

En effet, le BRI est en sérieuse perte de vitesse depuis deux années, que ce soit au niveau des investissements chinois sur le continent africain qu'au niveau de ceux du bassin de l'océan Indien. Ce nouveau corridor représente un investissement bien moins important que les projets du BRI puisqu'il va s'appuyer sur des ports et des points de transit déjà existants et opérationnels. Il faudra investir dans une augmentation des capacités et des volumes de transit mais l'architecture est déjà présente, d'où le fait que le Président français Emmanuel Macron ait insisté sur le fait que ce nouveau corridor logistique devrait être opérationnel dans les meilleurs délais.

L'Union africaine, Françafrique et entente cordiale avec MBS

L'autre annonce majeure de ce sommet était l'invitation lancée à l'Union africaine de rejoindre le G20. Cette invitation, pilotée par le gouvernement indien, a même été mise en scène de manière spectaculaire par un discours de Narendra Modi invitant Azali Assoumani, l'actuel Président de l'Union africaine, à venir prendre place à la table ronde avec les autres membres. La longue embrassade entre les deux hommes avant qu'Assoumani ne prenne place était l'un des moments forts de ce sommet.

En étant le «driver» qui a permis à l'Union africaine d'avoir désormais une place à la table des pays les plus puissants du monde, l'Inde a envoyé un message clair d'amitié au continent africain. Avec l'effondrement de la Françafrique, avec le recul des États-Unis, avec la pénétration de la Chine et de la Russie sur le continent, l'Inde se positionne clairement comme une alternative en matière de coopération. Nous verrons ce que cela donnera dans les prochaines décennies...

La dernière grande annonce faite ce weekend est la création du «Global Biofuels Alliance» dont la République de Maurice est un pays fondateur. Cette alliance a pour objectif d'avancer les projets de sortie du pétrole en favorisant les biofuels et la biomasse. Les objectifs de cette alliance n'ont pas encore été clairement définis et, comme toute nouvelle création de ce genre, il faudra la faire fonctionner.

Mais il est clair dans ce cas aussi que l'Inde envoie un message au monde. Alors que le pays avait été pointé du doigt pour son refus de reculer sur l'utilisation du charbon à la COP27, source énergétique qui constitue près de 55% de ses besoins en énergie, Narendra Modi présente un projet qui facilitera la sortie du charbon pour un certain nombre de pays. Les biofuels ne constituent pas une source énergétique décarbonnée mais constitue une énergie de transition crédible et économiquement viable pour aller vers le décarbonné. Il sera particulièrement intéressant de savoir ce qu'il en ressortira pour la République de Maurice.

☞ Suite en page 13



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

G20 Meeting New Delhi

Modi: Consensus-builder and Peacemaker

We are India. We know how to handle the world.

– Dr Subramaniam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India

The above quotation is the response by Dr S Jaishankar during one of the several interviews that he had given during the course of the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi held on 9/10 September. The question related to the absence of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, contrasting the latter's absence to his attendance at the BRICS meeting in South Africa earlier.

Dr Jaishankar went on to explain that each country decided what would be its level of participation, and that in previous G20 meetings too top country leaders had not been present so this was not unusual. However, what was more important, he said, was that the countries were represented. Thus, at the New Delhi meeting, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Chinese Premier Li Qiang participated fully after being welcomed with all the honours accorded to all the other leaders who came.

At this stage it is opportune to clear a much ventilated speculation prior to the Summit as to whether the absence of these two leaders would impact the outcome, especially in relation to the position that the Summit would take about the Ukraine conflict. Some members apparently wanted a specific mention of Russia. However, in the end the Leaders' Declaration reflected what had been aimed at: a consensus document in which they all participated actively and fully because, as Dr Jaishankar had pointed out repeatedly this was the result of more than 200 meetings held across 60 cities in Bharat, from Cochin in the south to Kashmir in the north, Mumbai in the west to Manipur in the east, involving over 20,000 participants from the member countries and mobilizing almost 100,000 people locally to welcome the participants by showcasing their respective states. And these mee-tings of Ministers and Working Groups had been held from the time that Bharat took over the presidency of G20 from Indonesia last year in Bali.

Further, as President Lula of Brazil pointed out in his address after the gavel was handed over to him by PM Modi, the G20 was primarily an economic forum, and all were agreed that they wouldn't allow geopolitical issues, namely the Ukraine conflict, to come in the way of a consensus. And consensus there indeed was, as is evidenced in the final document, which has no footnotes whatsoever. Anyone who has participated at global level in working out such documents (e.g., at WHO) will appreciate how laborious and time consuming they can be, when deliberations over a comma, a *mot juste*, or a sentence can rack the diverse minds pouring over them till... consensus is reached!

There has been complete transparency at all stages

leading to the Summit, and one has only to look at the list of 25 items and their sub-items in the 'Documents Annexed to the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, 2023 Ministerial Meetings and Working Group Documents' to gauge the swathe and depth of deliberations that engaged the wide-ranging expertise and efforts of the dedicated and conscientious domain specialists and supporting staff who toiled over nearly 200 hours to produce that Declaration. It is available online and covers 37 pages for anyone who would wish to dig deeper into the contents.



G 20 leaders, including PM Modi pay tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat - P - PTI

It is worth reproducing the following paragraphs in the conclusion of the declaration:

'Conclusion

80. We thank India for successfully hosting the 18th G20 Summit in New Delhi, for its warm welcome to delegates, and for its valuable contributions to the strengthening of the G20. We appreciate the successful conclusion of various G20 Working Groups and Ministerial meetings and welcome their outcomes as annexed. We also congratulate India on the successful landing on the moon on 23 August 2023.

81. We reiterate our commitment to the G20 as the premier forum for global economic cooperation and its continued operation in the spirit of multilateralism, on the basis of consensus, with all members participating on an equal footing in all its events including Summits. We look forward to meeting again in Brazil in 2024 and in South Africa in 2025, as well as in the United States in 2026 at the beginning of the next cycle. We welcome Saudi Arabia's ambition to advance its turn for hosting the G20 Presidency in the next cycle. We also look forward to the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2024 as a symbol of peace, dialogue amongst nations and inclusivity, with participation of all.

82. We thank international organizations for their participation and support. We thank the Engagement Groups of B20, S20, SAI20, Startup20, T20, U20, W20, Y20, C20, P20 and L20 and the Initiatives, namely, EMPOWER, Research Initiative, Space Economy Leaders Meeting (SELM), Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable (CSAR) and the G20 Cybersecurity Conference for their valuable recommendations.'

Noteworthy is the fact that there were 9 countries attending the Summit as special invitees of the host country Bharat, including Mauritius, and which were represented by their respective leaders.

It is also worth underlining that the Declaration was presented on the very first day of the Summit, i.e., Saturday 9th September, confirming again that consensus had been reached well ahead so as to have the document printed and distributed.

But there was another kind of consensus too, expressed by all the leaders and other analysts: that the G20 Summit in New Delhi has been a great success.

Already, following the closure of the Summit and the 15 bilaterals held between PM Modi and his counterparts, working groups have got down to work, signing agreements and MOUs in specific areas of concern.

To cite Dr Jaishankar again, G20 has emerged at the premier forum in the world, given that the UN is gridlocked and other groupings are non-functional. There is a north-south divide and an east-west polarization, and Bharat finds itself pitched in the central role of peacemaker and consensus builder, largely due to the leadership and charisma of PM Narendra Modi as the only global leader who can and has reached out to other leaders. The manner in which he personally received them one by one, and the warmth exchanged are testimony of his ability to bridge divides at global level, and this has been stamped at the G 20 Summit in New Delhi.

As Robert Wolf of the *Financial Times* remarked, India is an 'important and dynamic country.' Its global role is only going to increase to bring about peace and prosperity to people on the planet in line with the theme of the G20 Summit: 'One Earth, One Family, One Future.'

Of the several takeaways from the Summit, perhaps the most significant one is the admission of the African Union (AU) as member of the G20. This has been a personal initiative and crowning achievement of PM Modi. He has materialized the pledge he made to the president of the AU when the latter made the request to him at the BRICS meeting in South Africa, and with this India has *de facto* assumed the role of voice of the Global South, acknowledged widely by those present. At the same time though, given the scope of the Declaration, India has shown that it has the ability to shape the global agenda, as pointed out by Dr Jaishankar, and this is evident through initiatives, amongst others, such as the Global Biofuels Alliance, the India-Middle East Economic Corridor which is going to involve rails, ports, investments deemed to be 'bankable' with a potential of several trillion USD in a foreseeable future.

Development and prosperity for all peoples can only come when there is peace in the world, and that is why from Bharat as *Vishwamitra* – friend to the world – the parting message of Modi to the leaders and delegates was *Swasti Astu Vishwa* – May there be peace in the world.

India and Canada Ties

Cont. from page 3

On 27th November 2022, a *The Spectator* article asked, "How did Trudeau come to the conclusion that the honking horns, blocked traffic, bouncy castles, and dancing in the streets of the protests met the definition of a public emergency?" Indian netizens and news channels had a field day with Trudeau's self-professed attachment for "free speech" and "peaceful manifestations", some quipping that Trudeau might consider granting the creation of a K-state around Vancouver and liberate Quebec from Canadian rule!

It is worth adding that Trudeau's minority government is being propped up by the New Democratic Party, led by Jagmeet Singh, in an agreement that could keep the Liberals in power until 2025. The Opposition Conservatives have elected a new leader Pierre Poilievre in a resounding victory, but the latter has still to make his mark. Indian and Canadian trade in goods and services may therefore continue to stagnate,

much to the chagrin of Canadian farmers and grain exporters, while India has numerous alternatives queuing up for trade, investment and mutual development which would happily pick up any Canadian slack.

* * *

The Mega Corridor: "Real big deal"

On February 22, 2023, at a G20 Finance Ministers meeting in Bengaluru, the IMF head Kristalina Georgieva had publicly aired this

view: "...beyond its role as a global growth engine, India is uniquely positioned to bring countries together. In a world facing multiple challenges and rising geopolitical tensions, this leadership is critical — and beautifully captured in the theme of India's G20 presidency: *One Earth, One Family, One Future.*"

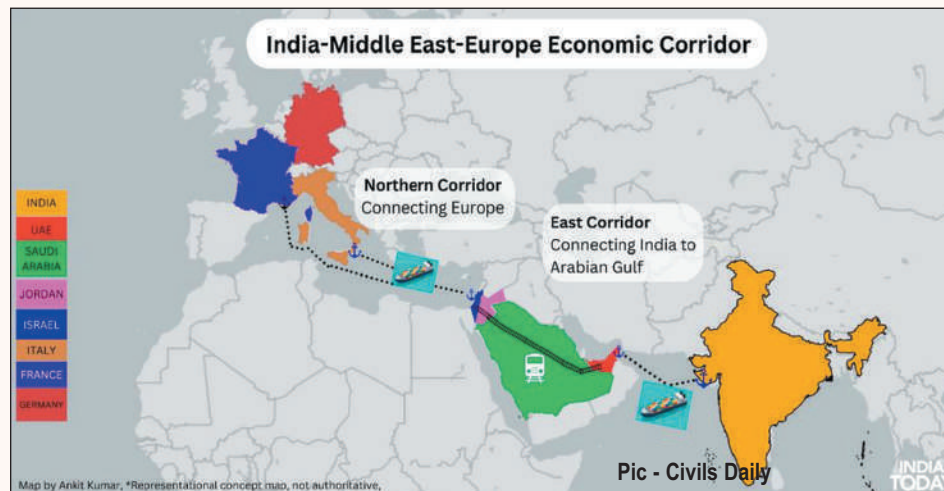
The two-day New Delhi G20 summit has indeed concluded with the torch transferred to President Lula of Brazil. Meantime India has ensured that the organisation will never be the same again as PM Modi pushed for and secured the full permanent membership of the African

Union and came out as a strong respected voice for the global south in those spheres that dominate world economies.

One path-breaking initiative for India and the developing world announced at an event co-chaired by President Biden, is the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), which is a proposed ambitious mixed Sea and Rail corridor joining India with Europe (Italy, Greece and France) through the main countries of the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan and even Israel). Trade and people connectivity through this massive physical, social and digital infrastructure of quality looks likely to give a massive boost to future economic opportunities in a people-centered philosophy. A high-speed data cable and an energy pipeline will parallel the rail tracks.

This mega economic corridor is the "real big deal", said President Joe Biden, adding that it would link up with what the EU has been working on: a pan-African rail corridor extending north from Angola. Japan and international institutions seem ready to extend their support. We can only wish that those noble intentions from so many quarters are translated into action within the shortest feasible time.

Jan Arden



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NASA calls for larger role to study UFOs – 'one of planet's greatest mysteries'

A NASA panel recommended in a report issued yesterday that the U.S. space agency increase its efforts to gather information on unidentified objects in the sky - labelled "unidentified anomalous phenomenon," or UAP, by the government - and play a larger role in helping the Pentagon detect them.

The agency, in a statement accompanying the report, said it was evaluating the independent study team's findings and recommendations but nonetheless created a new role, director of UAP research. The NASA panel, comprising experts in scientific fields ranging from physics to astrobiology, issued the report after holding its first public meeting in June, reports Reuters.

UAP are better known to the public as unidentified flying objects, or UFOs.

"NASA has a variety of existing and planned Earth- and space-observing assets, together with an extensive archive of historic and current data sets, which should be directly leveraged to understand UAP," the report said.

"Although NASA's fleet of Earth-observing satellites typically lack the spatial resolution to detect relatively small objects such as UAP, their state-of-the-art sensors



can be directly utilized to probe the state of the local earth, oceanic, and atmospheric conditions that are spatially and temporally coincident with UAPs initially detected via other methods. Thus, NASA's assets can play a vital role by directly determining whether specific environmental factors are associated with certain reported UAP behaviors or occurrences," the report said.

The U.S. government in the past few years has made several disclosures of information it has gathered regarding a subject that once was met by virtual official silence.

The new report called UAPs "one of our planet's greatest mysteries."

"Observations of objects in our skies that cannot be identified as balloons, aircraft or natural known

phenomena have been spotted worldwide, yet there are limited high-quality observations. The nature of science is to explore the unknown, and data is the language scientists use to discover our universe's secrets," the report stated.

"Despite numerous accounts and visuals, the absence of consistent, detailed, and curated observations means we do not presently have the body of data needed to make definitive, scientific conclusions about UAP," it added.

It issued a watershed report in 2021 compiled by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence in conjunction with a Navy-led task force encompassing numerous observations - mostly from military personnel of UAP.

The report included some UAP cases that previously came to light in the Pentagon's release of video from naval aviators showing enigmatic aircraft off the U.S. East and West Coasts exhibiting speed and maneuverability exceeding known aviation technologies and lacking any visible means of propulsion or flight-control surfaces. The report said defense and intelligence analysts lacked sufficient data to determine the nature of some of the objects.

An independent NASA panel studying UAPs held its first public meeting in June, comprising experts in scientific fields ranging from physics to astrobiology. Challenges panel members cited to their work included a stigma attached to the subject as well as a dearth of scientifically reliable methods for documenting UFOs.



A Nio ET5 electric vehicle is displayed at the Chinese EV maker's showroom in Shanghai, February 3, 2023. Pic - Reuters

Beijing slams EU probe into Chinese electric vehicle exports: 'Protectionist'

China's Commerce Ministry has protested a decision by the European Union to investigate exports of Chinese electric vehicles, saying on Thursday that it is a "protectionist" act aimed at distorting the supply chain.

The EU announced Wednesday it will probe government subsidies provided to Chinese automakers that the EU contends keep EV prices artificially low. China has become the biggest market for electric vehicles after investing billions in subsidies to gain an edge. Automakers like BYD and Geely have quickly gained market share after launching sales of EVs to Japan and Europe, reports PTI.

In a statement, the ministry urged the EU to create a "fair, non-discriminatory and predictable" market environment.

In China, EV prices start as low as 100,000 yuan (\$14,500) for a compact SUV with a 400-kilometer (250-mile) range on one charge.

On Thursday, Cui Dongshu, head of the China Passenger Car Association, also opposed the investigation in comments written on his WeChat social media account.

Cui urged the EU to take an "objective view of the development of China's electric vehicle industry" instead of using what he said are economic and trade tools to increase the costs of Chinese electric vehicles in Europe.

Over 6,000 dead, 30,000 displaced after devastating floods wreak havoc in Libya

More than 6000 people have lost their lives due to heavy flooding that caused massive devastation across Libya.

The death toll was revised on Wednesday morning local time, according to health ministry undersecretary of the Unity Government in Tripoli, Saadeddin Abdul Wakil.

According to workers, mortuaries are overflowing in hospitals that are still closed despite the pressing need to treat disaster survivors. As per Egypt's emigration ministry, the government buried 87 Egyptian victims who died in Libya, reports ANI.

Authorities fear 10,000 more people remain missing, maybe swept out to sea or buried beneath rubble strewn over the metropolis that formerly housed over 100,000 people.

The flooding in Derna has displaced over 30,000 people, according to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Libya. The extensive damage to the region's infrastructure has rendered some affected areas inaccessible to humanitarian organisations, CNN reported.

Only two of the seven entry points to Derna are



Search teams are combing streets, wrecked buildings, and even the sea to look for bodies in Derna, where the collapse of two dams unleashed a massive flash flood that killed thousands of people. Pic - AP

presently open.

Officials are digging amid mountains of wreckage for survivors and bodies in order to honour Islamic traditions that the dead should be buried within three days, according to CNN.

Storm Daniel's devastation has made it considerably more difficult for rescuers to remove roads and debris in order to find survivors. The storm disrupted communications, complicating rescue attempts and raising concern among family members living outside Libya who are waiting for word on missing loved ones.

'Let's not forget example of Mahatma Gandhi': UN chief on Palestine

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi during his visit to Delhi for the G20 Leaders' Summit, on Wednesday urged that one must not forget the example of Gandhi.

"I came from India and I went to pay tribute to Gandhi. Let's not forget the example of Gandhi," Guterres said at his press conference here in response to a question on Palestine.

"I think it's important to fully recognise the rights of the Palestinian people" and it is important to condemn any attempt to undermine the two-state solution, he said.

"I do not think that it is with violence that the Palestinians will be able to better defend their interests. That is my humble opinion," he added.

Guterres travelled to Delhi to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit, reports PTI.

On the second day of the summit, the G20 leaders, including Biden, Sunak and Guterres, went to Gandhi's memorial at Rajghat and paid tributes to the revered Indian leader.

New research reveals how a common sleep habit raises diabetes risk by 19%, 'night owls' at higher risk

New research has suggested that being a "night owl" or having an "evening chronotype" – which means going to bed and waking up late increases the risk of diabetes by 19% compared with being an early riser.

Scientists found that women who have this sleep pattern are also more likely to have unhealthy lifestyles, reports Hindustan Times.

Tianyi Huang, an associate epidemiologist at Brigham and Women's Hospitals' Channing Division of Network Medicine in the US, said, "Chronotype, or circadian preference, refers to a person's preferred timing of sleep and waking and is partly genetically determined so it may be difficult to change."

"People who think they are 'night owls' may need to pay more attention to their lifestyle because their evening chronotype may add increased risk for type 2 diabetes."

The researchers analyzed data from nearly 64,000 women from the Nurses' Health Study II – which is among the largest investigations into the risk factors for major chronic diseases in women in the US – collected from 2009 to 2017.



One in five individuals diagnosed with diabetes are within 18-30 years. Pic – Derby Telegraph

The study encompassed participant-provided information on a range of factors, including self-reported sleep patterns, dietary habits, weight and body mass index,

sleep schedules, smoking habits, alcohol consumption, levels of physical activity, and family history of diabetes.

The team also looked at medical records to see if the women had diabetes.

Of those taking part in the study, 11% reported having a definite evening chronotype and about 35% reported a definite morning chronotype.

The rest were labelled as intermediate, meaning they identified as neither a morning nor an evening person.

After accounting for lifestyle factors, evening chronotype was associated with a 19% increased risk of diabetes, the researchers said.

Among those with the healthiest lifestyles, only 6% had evening chronotypes, compared with 25% of night owls who reported having unhealthy lifestyles.

The team noted that individuals with an evening chronotype were also more inclined to consume higher quantities of alcohol, maintain a lower-quality dietary intake, obtain fewer hours of nightly sleep, engage in current smoking habits, and exhibit unhealthy weight, BMI, and physical activity levels.

ChatGPT diagnoses patients 'like a human doctor'

Artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT diagnosed patients rushed to emergency at least as well as doctors and in some cases outperformed them, Dutch researchers have found, saying AI could "revolutionise the medical field".

But the report published Wednesday also stressed ER doctors needn't hang up their scrubs just yet, with the chatbot potentially able to speed up diagnosis but not replace human medical judgement and experience.

Scientists examined 30 cases treated

in an emergency service in the Netherlands in 2022, feeding in anonymised patient history, lab tests and the doctors' own observations to ChatGPT, asking it to provide five possible diagnoses, reports AFP.

They then compared the chatbot's shortlist to the same five diagnoses suggested by ER doctors with access to the same information, then cross-checked with the correct diagnosis in each case.

Doctors had the correct diagnosis in the top five in 87 percent of cases, compared to 97 percent for ChatGPT version 3.5 and 87 percent for version 4.0.

Co-author SteefKurstjens told AFP the survey did not indicate that computers could one day be running the ER, but that



Scientists examined 30 cases treated in an emergency service in the Netherlands in 2022, feeding in anonymised patient history, lab tests and the doctors' own observations to ChatGPT, asking it to provide five possible diagnoses. Pic - AFP

AI can play a vital role in assisting under-pressure medics.

Large language models such as ChatGPT are not designed as medical devices, he stressed, and there would

also be privacy concerns about feeding confidential and sensitive medical data into a chatbot.

And as in other fields, ChatGPT showed some limitations.

The chatbot's reasoning was "at times medically implausible or inconsistent, which can lead to misinformation or incorrect diagnosis, with significant implications," the report noted.

The scientists also admitted some shortcomings with the research. The sample size was small, with 30 cases examined. In addition, only relatively simple cases were looked at, with patients presenting a single primary complaint.

'The chance of getting elected president.....is as close to zero,' Ron DeSantis slams Donald Trump's legal woes

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said it was unlikely Republican frontrunner Donald Trump could win the White House if he is convicted in his criminal trials, offering some of his most strident comments yet on the former president's legal challenges.

"I think the chance of getting elected president after being convicted of a felony is as close to zero as you can get," DeSantis said in an interview with the CBS Evening News with Norah O'Donnell that aired on Wednesday.

DeSantis was asked if voters would elect someone facing a total of 91 criminal counts, reports Bloomberg.

DeSantis's tone marks a shift from earlier in the campaign when the Florida governor shied away from criticizing his chief rival for the GOP nomination.

In a July interview with CNN, DeSantis said he hoped Trump would not face charges in the Justice Department's investigation into efforts to overturn the



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis distances himself from Donald Trump amid criminal trials New York City, U.S. Pic – Wall Street Journal

2020 election. That interview was interspersed by reports on Trump's legal troubles, highlighting how they have overshadowed the Republican race and spurred promi-

nent GOP figures to rally behind him.

DeSantis is a distant second to Trump in polls of Republican voters, with 12.9% in the RealClearPolitics average of polls to the former president's 55.4%. DeSantis is performing better in early voting states like Iowa, where he only trails Trump by around 30 percentage points. But he has still struggled to close the gap with primary voting starting in four months when Iowa Republicans will caucus.

Trump last month was hit with his fourth round of criminal charges — in a case over his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss in Georgia. That's in addition to two federal indictments in Washington DC and Florida, as well as a case in New York state court.

Interview: Sateaved Seebaluck, Former Head of the Civil Service & Special Adviser on Chagos

“The UK has never had and does not have any sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago

They are themselves an unlawful occupier of, a squatter on part of the Republic of Mauritius”



The invitation extended by PM Modi to the Mauritian PM, as to several others from Africa and the global “South”, to attend as observers the G20 summit was an opportunity for our sherpas to lay the groundwork for a number of high-level productive meetings that usually take place on the sidelines and corridors of such events. Most notably around the many complex questions relating to the end of the British illegal occupation of the Chagos and the full restoration of our national sovereignty over an island space that has been leased since the sixties towards a US military and naval base. As former Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service as well as Special Adviser to the Prime Minister and later Minister Mentor, Sateaved Seebaluck was ideally placed to comment on what he terms the state of confusion regarding what real progress has been achieved in those talks announced for conclusion early 2023 by the UK Foreign Minister and the real possibility that, true to form, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office may be paying lip-service to the engagement process while playing to the international community. He also comments on the similar confusion regarding the military/naval status of Agalega and the role India could play on both fronts and on the security of our extensive maritime domain.

expected not only from the main agenda, but perhaps more importantly from the bilateral interactions on the sides.

* We are not aware whether the Chagos issue, which remains unresolved to this day, could have been raised on the sidelines in New Delhi, the more so since the Mauritian government is pinning its hope on obtaining a lease agreement with the US for its continued occupation of Diego Garcia for its military base. What can we learn from past attempts by the Mauritius government to engage with the US with regard to this issue?

It is important to go back in history to understand the US immutable stand on the Chagos.

The US had spotted Diego Garcia since the early sixties, if not earlier. Centrally situated in quite a remote region in the Indian Ocean where all the other four continents were within sight and reach was an ideal spot for a military base from where the USSR, China and other countries of South and Southeast Asia could be kept under surveillance, which was at that time much needed in the context of the Cold War.

The US thus talked the UK into ex-cising the Chagos Archipelago to create the so-called British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) from Mauritian territory

and drive away all the inhabitants from the island. That was “chose faite” as a result of a shameful arm-twisting exercise and that too done shamelessly behind the back of the United Nations in contravention of all the provisions of Resolution 1514, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

The UK and the US signed a deal in 1966 which allowed the US to use Diego Garcia for the setting up of a military base or for “defence purposes”, as they put it. Since then, whenever any of our former prime ministers had raised the question of the return of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius with any of the former presidents of the USA, their answer has invariably been that the US recognizes the UK’s sovereignty over the BIOT, your dispute is with the UK, talk to them. And you know the old and stale song of the UK, that it has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago and that it will be ceded back to Mauritius when no longer required for “defence purposes”.

* Diplomacy has failed so far to bring Mauritius to get the UK and the USA to agree to Mauritius’ participation in the negotiations in the renewal of the lease agreement between these two countries. How can we hope the Americans would be willing to adopt a more conciliatory attitude vis-à-vis Mauritius?

Mauritius has always used international law and diplomacy to seek redress over the Chagos issue.

● Cont. on page 11

Mauritius Times: The Prime Minister attended, last weekend, the G20 Summit which saw the participation of the heads of states of most of the powerful countries in the world. One would think that such occasions provide rare opportunities to meet on the sidelines with a few of these top leaders with a view to advancing the country’s interests. Is it how it really works, and if so, how effective are such meetings?

Sateaved Seebaluck: A lot can and does happen in the margins of international meetings. In fact, when heads of governments or ministers come back from such meetings announcing that they have brought back funding pledges amounting to millions of dollars, etc., it is rarely, if at all, an outcome of the conference, unless it was a meeting specifically held to approve the funding of projects for the country, for example by the European Investment Bank or the African Development Bank.

Such outcomes are mainly results of successful talks in the fringe of the main meetings. Those meetings are an ongoing process until the very last day of conferences or summits. Leaders of ‘great’ countries are in great demand, which also explains their absence from the plenary room for most of the time. It is also a good opportunity to flag and canvass the country’s interests in the context of the main meeting.

Many of the difficult issues are sorted out during such engagements in the margins of the meetings. Take the example of the lobbying undertaken by SAJ on the Chagos

Archipelago. At every conference he attended, whether at the UN itself or other fora, he would spend hours in morning and afternoon meetings, on a one-to-one basis, with the heads of other delegations to explain our position and seek their full support in all the instances involved. That is how we obtained those sweeping majorities at vote counts.

There are also other informal activities that take place in the corridors like showcasing by NGOs, industry (in the context of COPs) and other interests, often with important take-aways. At the New Delhi G20 meeting, our Prime Minister was an invited observer, but he got the opportunity on the sidelines of the Summit to engage with the UK Prime Minister on progress relating to the Chagos ongoing discussions.

Therefore, attending an international conference requires a well-defined strategy based on the outcome/s

“What we know officially so far is what the Prime Minister has said in the National Assembly and in public. What we see and hear in the media are mere speculations, although satellite pictures and what is described by people living on the island tend to justify the speculations. This is further fuelled by the Indian press alleging that Agalega will host a military base, and which remains undenied by the Indian authorities...”

'India could act as a catalyst in the process of decolonization of Mauritius'

● Cont. from page 10

Diplomacy has failed because we were all the time engaged in a "dialogue de sourds" with the UK and the US. Every government since independence tried its level best at the UN, the then OAU, the Non-Aligned movement, AU, the Commonwealth, you name it and indeed bilaterally.

When nothing worked, Mauritius took the legal route. It all started with the case of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) around the Chagos Archipelago at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, which found that the setting up of the MPA was in breach of the provisions of the Convention. Then ensued a series of defeats by the UK including the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, the related UN resolutions and, recently, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea award on the delimitation of the maritime boundaries between Mauritius and the Maldives.

The law and international public opinion were firmly on our side. We also gave them an extremely important face-saving device by assuaging the US's fears by offering a 99-year long-term lease to the US or to the US and the UK. Added to these facts were also statements made by Joe Biden and Boris Johnson respectively. In its strategic framework, as outlined in 'Global Britain in a competitive age', the UK takes the moral high ground to state that "democratic societies are the strongest supporters of an open and resilient international order, in which global institutions prove their ability to protect human rights, manage tensions between great powers, address conflict...", etc. Biden, on the other hand, spelled out his vision for a nation leading "not just by the example of its power, but by the power of our example". These assertions and their unequivocal condemnation of both China, with regard to the territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and Russia on its annexation of Crimea must have put them in an awkward situation internally and vis-à-vis the international community.

We should not, however forget the hard line taken by Mauritius following the International Court of Justice's award both at the international level in such fora like the UN, the AU, the international Postal Union, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, among others, as well as bilaterally. Moreover, the Americans, I believe, are not comfortable at all with the idea that their most important military base is standing on shaky grounds. They will have to come round sooner or later.

*** The US base on Diego Garcia needn't be an obstacle to a negotiated settlement of a longstanding sovereignty dispute - that has been the position of successive Mauritian governments down the years. But could be that it's the non-opposition to that base is what the Americans want to hear from Mauritius, and that's indeed coming in the way of a just settlement of**

“How seriously could you take anyone who suggests, nay, affirms that discussions on such a matter of handing back the sovereignty over a territory they have illegally occupied for five decades would be concluded in just less than six months? And that too, including discussions on a long list of issues -- I call them "conditions" -- relating to resettlement, protection of the marine environment, security, just to mention these. Who in his right mind would buy that?”

the contentious issues?

Mauritius could not have been clearer in its intent on the question of a long-term lease to the US or the US and the UK together in order to maintain the operation of the military base in Diego Garcia. When I say Mauritius, I mean the State of Mauritius – there is buy-in from all relevant quarters.

However, the resettlement of the Chagossians and other Mauritians on the islands remains a sore issue, which I am sure is now on the negotiations table. They are still allergic to the presence of human beings anywhere near their base. But do they have a choice given the unequivocal rulings of the International Court of Justice and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea?

On the other hand, there are presently concerns raised at various levels in both the US and UK. The Pentagon is worried about the alleged growing Chinese influence in Mauritius and fear that eventual return of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius could undermine the security of their vital military base at Diego Garcia. They are also concerned about the growing influence of China in the vicinity, especially as regards its base in Djibouti and its proximity with Pakistan. The UK has given the assurance that these concerns would be duly taken into consideration during the negotiations with Mauritius.

There are also troublemakers in the UK like Tory MP Daniel Kawczynski who has voiced concern about our "deepening economic ties with Beijing" which "offer no guarantee that China won't soon have its own base on the island chain". That statement may seem risible or naïve, but it represents a nuisance potential to the negotiations underway. Let us hope that the discussions are genuine, and those concerns are dealt with and disposed of at the very outset so that progress may be achieved on the other subjects on the table.

*** As a small state, Mauritius has relied on the tools of international law and diplomacy to confront a major power. Has it been envisaged by the Mauritian authorities during your time in office that it might be plausible to adopt a harder line beyond what was undertaken at the level of the International Court of Justice?**

Mauritius has always been and remains a democracy where the rule of law dictates our action in full respect of international institutions. We have always been on the right side of the law. All governments have held that any dispute should be resolved through diplomatic channels or if the circumstances so dictate through legal channels.

The outcome in the Chagos process has proved us right. But then, what harder line option could we envisage? Take a shipload of Chagossians and leave them on Diego Garcia? The credit goes to Sir Anerood Jugnauth whose determination and calculated risk brought us where we stand today with the rest of the world behind us all the way.

*** The UK has lately agreed, in a major reversal of policy, to open negotiations with Mauritius over the future handover of the Chagos Islands, but the British have dragged their feet for more than 40 years with regard to the sovereignty issue. Why should we believe in their good faith this time round?**

I must confess that I do not trust the British in these matters. We have had the experience before when, at their behest, we engaged in negotiations on the implementation of the award of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on the illegal Marine Protected Area they had created around the Chagos Archipelago.

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they have been the most unproductive lot to discuss with. To agree on the agenda was like an obstacle race. To agree on the minutes of proceedings was the worst of nightmares. We would move one step forward, five steps backwards. But they were caught in their own game.

When discussions stalled in spite of the then Prime Minister SAJ giving the then UK Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Boris Johnson, a deferment of six months before taking the matter to the International Court of Justice through the UN General Assembly, they refused to discuss the question of sovereignty as agreed by Johnson himself. That took them where they are today. Serves them right!

I hope and pray that I am wrong, but I have a gut feeling that they are at it again. How seriously could you take anyone who suggests, nay, affirms that discussions on such a matter of handing back the sovereignty over a territory they have illegally occupied for five decades would be concluded in just less than six months? And that too, including discussions on a long list of issues — I call them "conditions" — relating to resettlement, protection of the marine environment, security, just to mention these. Who in his right mind would buy that?

● Cont. on page 12

Agalega military base: 'Until and unless both governments come forward with a joint statement on the issue, we shall have to live with the confusion'

● Cont. from page 11

I would be pleasantly surprised if they have even agreed on an acceptable agenda. To me, the UK's readiness to engage in these discussions looks very much like a trick to shut Mauritius up at the international level where it musters support and its voice is heard, to halt action underway at the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), among others, while putting the UN General Assembly at rest by showing that progress is being made.

I fear, as you say, that they could be dragging their feet again.

*** There is a new player in the Chagos imbroglio and in the larger Indian Ocean great power competition: India, which is said to be no longer opposed to the US presence in Diego Garcia, due to its rising threat perceptions of China in the Indian Ocean. It's also perceived as "a key enabler for US strategic and operational interests" in this part of the world. It seems there is a window of opportunity in the new situation that has developed in the Indian Ocean with India as a facilitator for resolving the sovereignty and lease issues... What do you think?**

India has major interests to defend. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace informs us that it is custodian to about 40% of the Indian ocean waters while around 80% of the world's maritime oil and 9.84 billion tons of cargo pass through the Indian Ocean region annually. The Indian Ocean has now taken geopolitical, economic and environmental importance with focus turning towards South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and Africa which constitute the largest pool of consumers in the world.

With threat perceptions from both Pakistan and China, which has enhanced its influence in the region, India is consolidating its position in the region, and it is quite natural that it conveniently allies itself with the US. Against this backdrop, why would India not be interested in all that is going on in the region and more particularly around the "unsinkable carrier" named Diego Garcia where Indian navy drills also take place?

Given the extremely good, more than diplomatic, relations that we have with India, the latter finds itself not in just a privileged position, but in an all-win situation in this context. Given the dynamic geopolitical situation in the region, India would be more comfortable with an American base in Diego Garcia belonging to Mauritius than as it is now under lease from the UK, albeit unlawful and with a strong foothold in Agalega, if not a base, at least for the works that have been carried out there. And with the trump card Russia up its sleeve, India could be able to loudmouth the US should the need be felt, which is not the case right now. The bottom line is that India could act as a catalyst in the process of decolonization of Mauritius.

*** Olivier Bancoult has so far gone along with the government as regards Mauritius' sovereignty claims. But there's the British passport being dangled before the Chagossians, there is the Chagossian flag, and there are at times "velléités" of independence in that community... How do you see things evolving on that front over the next years or decades?**

Olivier Bancoult is a determined fighter for a just cause and deserves all our admiration. He and his Groupe Réfugiés Chagos have realised that the right way to resettlement is through decolonization, after all the 'coups bas' inflicted by the various UK governments including their monarch. They have worked with government, each one in its role and the result is eloquent. As free citizens of the state



they have freedom of speech and of association and freedom to float the flag of their "mouvement".

With regard to the "velléités" you mention, let me say this: those who are looking up to the UK for whatever opening that would allow them to return to the Chagos Archipelago or to be included in the discussions are knocking at the wrong door. The UK has never had and does not have any sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. They are themselves an unlawful occupier of, a squatter on part of the Republic of Mauritius.

It is a matter for the State, let the State deal with it. As for resettlement, the government has said it is consulting the Chagossian community.

*** Unlike the presence and operation of the military bases of other foreign powers in the Indian Ocean, it's India's interests in this part of the world, especially its alleged military base in Agalega, that have become a focus of critical attention of the media here and elsewhere. Do you think we would eventually have to come to terms with the presence of another base on Mauritian soil in light of the evolving maritime security situation in our region?**

What we know officially so far is what the Prime Minister has said in the National Assembly and in public. What we see and hear in the media are mere speculations, although satellite pictures and what is described by people living on the island tend to justify the speculations. This is further fuelled by the Indian press alleging that Agalega will host a military base, and which remains undenied by the Indian authorities.

“Those who are looking up to the UK for whatever would allow them to return to the Chagos Archipelago or to be included in the discussions are knocking at the wrong door. The UK has never had and does not have any sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. They are themselves an unlawful occupier of, a squatter on part of the Republic of Mauritius. It is matter for the State, let the State deal with it...”

Until and unless both governments come forward with a joint statement on the issue, we shall have to live with the confusion. The "tenants et aboutissants" of any potential agreement, existing or future, will tell us if it is good or bad. However, one thing is certain: we do need extensive assistance for the surveillance of our maritime zone with all that is happening in the region.

*** One of the major announcements on the sidelines of the G20 summit relates to the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which is already being seen as the "first global connectivity project to rival China's Belt and Road Initiative". We do not know whether parts of Africa, including Mauritius, will eventually be roped in into that corridor. Do we have much of a choice in this matter?**

The India-Middle East-Europe

“Mauritius could not have been clearer in its intent on the question of a long-term lease to the US or the US and the UK together in order to maintain the operation of the military base in Diego Garcia. However, the resettlement of the Chagossians and other Mauritians on the islands remains a sore issue, which I am sure is now on the negotiations table. They are still allergic to the presence of human beings anywhere near their base...”

Economic Corridor is a very interesting concept in as much as it seeks to provide safe and cheaper transportation of freight between and among countries in the corridor and around. However, it is an ambitious project still at the inception stage and it's not known which other countries would be invited to join in and how it is going to be operated. One thing is certain and that is it will involve heavy investments in infrastructure by all the countries involved and the funds would only be mobilised when the cost for each country is known.

To answer your question, the corridor will be a freight route like the existing air, sea and land routes operating presently. It is not really important to be part of it or not. If it turns out to be cheaper and safer, as expected, Mauritius like the other countries within its catchment will definitely be able to benefit from it in different ways.

First, it would definitely give a boost to exports from Mauritius by making our products more competitive in terms of cost, visibility and timeliness. Second, the cost of imported goods will go down with reduced freight costs. Third, assuming that there is vision and ambition that are now lacking, Port Louis can develop into a real regional hub with appropriate upgrading to provide excellence in service and reducing turnaround time to the absolute minimum, and at competitive prices. This is also where the eventual regional shipping line would come in handy.

The foregoing is not an exhaustive enumeration. All these will no doubt have an accelerating effect on our economy. We should start strategising so as to benefit fully from the eventual corridor when it comes into operation.

Sommet du G20 à New Delhi: La vision de la troisième voie indienne se met en place

☞ Suite de la page 5

Enfin, le sommet a également vu s'afficher une entente particulièrement cordiale entre Narendra Modi et Mohammed Bin Salman Al Saud, le prince héritier du royaume d'Arabie Saoudite. L'Inde et l'Arabie Saoudite sont partenaires dans le nouveau corridor logistique annoncé pendant le sommet, et l'Arabie Saoudite vient de rejoindre les BRICS.

Par conséquent, les accords se multiplient entre ces deux pays et leurs deux leaders ont affiché une entente particulièrement cordiale et amicale, MBS enchaînant même le weekend du sommet avec une visite officielle en Inde. Ces deux pays ont signé une série de huit «Memorandum of understanding» (MoU) extrêmement importants par-delà l'annonce du corridor logistique. Ces MoU concernent notamment des coopérations dans le domaine des énergies, des nouvelles technologies, de l'agriculture et de l'industrie pharmaceutique, entre autres.

Ainsi, l'Inde a réussi son sommet du G20. L'enjeu primordial pour Narendra Modi et le gouvernement indien était que l'Inde apparaisse comme un leader émergent capable de prendre le leadership d'initiatives globales et capable de montrer une autre voie au monde, la fameuse troisième voie se situant entre les États-Unis et la Chine. De ce point de vue, le sommet du G20 a envoyé les signaux et les symboles qui comptent. Il reste maintenant à faire fonctionner les initiatives annoncées.

* * *

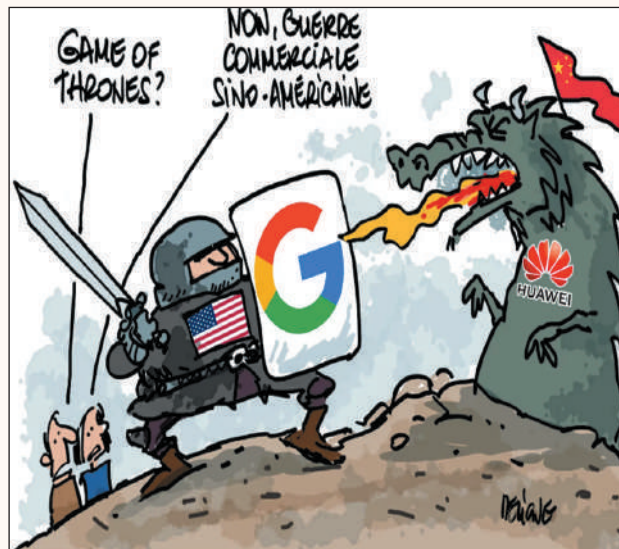
Apple et Huawei: une autre incarnation de l'opposition entre les États-Unis et la Chine

A lors qu'Apple s'appête à lancer son iPhone de la dernière génération, événement qui fait généralement le buzz à travers le monde, c'est le géant chinois Huawei qui est actuellement dans l'actualité.

Cela faisait déjà quelques années que des tensions entre les États-Unis et la Chine s'étaient cristallisées autour de Huawei et le développement par les Chinois de la 5G. Ces mêmes tensions avaient provoqué une guerre pour la mainmise sur les semi-conducteurs, Taïwan étant le premier producteur mondial de ces "chips" essentiels au bon fonctionnement des technologies digitales.

Avec les menaces répétées d'invasion de Taïwan par la Chine, le leader mondial dans ce domaine - la Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), la plus importante fonderie de semi-conducteurs indépendante - a même décidé d'ouvrir un centre de production sur le sol américain afin de sécuriser la production des semi-conducteurs. Plus même, une stratégie commerciale avait été mise en place afin de tenter de sevrer la Chine en approvisionnement de semi-conducteurs, l'idée étant de ralentir les capacités productives des entreprises chinoises, Huawei en tête.

De plus, dans la foulée, Apple et Samsung ont fermé leurs usines chinoises et les ont délocalisées en Inde. D'ailleurs, les nouveaux iPhones seront les premiers à être produits en Inde. Tout ceci avait pour objectif de



Le conflit entre les États-Unis et la Chine s'invite dans les smartphones. P - La Croix

mettre à genoux les géants chinois des nouvelles technologies. Mais il n'en a été rien. Huawei vient de sortir

le dernier-né de ses smartphones dont la particularité première est d'avoir utilisé des semi-conducteurs produits en Chine.

Il s'agit là d'une performance exceptionnelle, il ne faut pas la sous-estimer, surtout que les capacités techniques du dernier Huawei devraient concurrencer, voire même dépasser, celles du dernier iPhone, se positionnant comme une alternative crédible et un concurrent direct.

Alors, bien évidemment, Huawei souffre de l'interdiction de vente et de distribution sur certains territoires, mais les marchés alternatifs sont immenses et devraient permettre au géant chinois de consolider sa position, surtout que le gouvernement chinois a récemment envoyé un message clair en interdisant l'utilisation des produits d'Apple par tous les employés de l'État.

Dans tous les cas de figure, cette rivalité entre Apple et Huawei traduit bel et bien des intérêts géostratégiques et souverains extrêmement complexes et nous dévoile une autre face du conflit entre les États-Unis et la Chine.

A. Bartleby

Mauritius Times

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Thank you so much.
Mauritius Times

When the ballot fails, the bullet takes over



Harry Booluck

The military coups in West Africa where the army intervened to oust the civilian regime from power in Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger, and Gabon do not auger well for democracy in the region. Why has democracy failed the West African Francophone countries? The virus, it appears, was planted before independence was granted by the imperial power.

The African Union (AU) ambassador to the US recalls the strings attached prior to granting the 14 Francophone countries independence: overtly they would be independent but covertly they would remain attached to the European imperial power through a pact they were compelled to sign with France. Accordingly, the African executive head of state would have his umbilical cord attached to Paris where major international decisions would be taken.

The 'independent' country's foreign currencies would be managed by France where 85% of their reserves would have to be deposited. Francophone Africans need to have a single currency, the CFA Franc, which would be minted and printed in France alone. There would be a French standing army garrisoned in the country (to protect the puppet head of state), connected to the presidential palace via an underground tunnel. All existing and potential mineral resources of the country would be exploited by French companies.

With so many strings attached, the African President was simply a French vassal whose survival was determined by Paris. The obedient and subservient African would be lauded, protected and his re-election guaranteed whereas he who earned the ire of Paris could be ousted through an army coup or would lose the next elections. Unsurprising, some Africans reigned for decades whilst others were thrown out in disgrace.

Such an incestuous relationship developed into a win-win situation for both the Africans and French. Mineral exploitation led to the creation of an African black chest which both French politicians and Gabon President Omar Bongo and later his son Ali freely used for private and political purposes. Through this mechanism, African leaders looted their people and pillaged their countries to buy properties in France, Britain, Belgium, Portugal, Spain and USA whilst their people struggled to eke out a living. It was this pre-independence complicity of an ex-imperial power in tolerating and protecting corrupt African rulers and the failure of the African electors to rid their corrupt rulers that eventually forced the army to intervene.

Things became complicated for Africa when its own continental and regional associations, like African Union, ECOWAS and SADC, allowed the situation to deteriorate by not raising the red flag. In the same manner, local institutions like the Electoral Commissions and the various anti-corruption bodies failed to do the job they were paid for. SADC even endorsed flagrantly corrupt elections, like those held in Zimbabwe under Mugabe and elsewhere in the region.

In the face of institutional impotence, the disciplined armies swooped in to rid the country of corrupt and autocratic rulers. However, the problem with military men is that once they get a taste of political power, it is not easy



Niger's military government supporters take part in a demonstration in front of a French army base in Niamey, Niger, August 11, 2023 P - Mahamadou Hamidou/ Reuters

to get rid of them either, and they may turn out to be worse than those they replaced.

The anti-French feeling in West Africa is also fuelled by the Sino-Russia policy in their attempt divert attention from the Ukraine war to Africa where they are stirring the political pot against France for her open assistance to Ukraine. Yevgeny Prigozhine's Wagner group intervened in the region on behalf of Russia and saw a fertile terrain with Islamist groups helping. Any military intervention by France in any of the five affected countries has already been vetoed by Russia at the UN. Nor has ECOWAS's threat of military intervention been effective.

The military cancer risks spreading in the region and elsewhere in Africa unless drastic measures are taken by the AU and the regional bodies together with other global players to restore democracy in countries with weak institutions that have already been captured by the state and allowed the military to stay in the garrison for the maintenance of law and order.

* * *

A Myopic Approach to Income Distribution?

In an interview to *Week-End* (July 23rd), economist Eric Ng Ping Chuen goes back to a theme that the Indian mystic Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh developed during a series of discourses in Bombay years ago. It relates to the creation and distribution of wealth and income: wealth has to be created first before it can be distributed, otherwise the consequences will be catastrophic.

The state has never been a producer of wealth. To generate more wealth, it must create the right environment conducive to economic growth. It is only when the economy grows sustainably over a period of time that the fruits of growth can be made to trickle down to society. The state intervenes to redistribute the wealth so generated from the haves to the have-nots.

For Rajneesh, nowhere has the state succeeded in making the poor richer by making the rich poorer. This would be a suicidal approach often advocated by bigots. Economic and social history is replete with examples of disaster: Idi Amin in Uganda and Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe showed how both crippled and ruined their economies, bringing in mass poverty until the very people

who initially benefited from the regimes' largesse were the same people who chased the rulers from power.

Amin grabbed power through a military coup. As he had no popular base in the country (he came from a minority tribe), he tried to win support by ousting the principal producers of wealth. He confiscated the assets and properties of the Indians, chased them out of the country and distributed their properties (factories, shops, and farms) among his people. Within six months, the economy was on its knees as the shops were empty, factories stopped running and farm output dropped. The ensuing food shortage and galloping inflation forced Amin to flee the country. It took years to put the economy back on track.

Campaigns to call back the Indians, with financial incentives, failed as the cat once burnt dreads fire.

Mugabe turned out to be worse than Amin. He gerrymandered electoral constituencies with the Electoral Commission's complicity to ensure that his party held on to power. He chased foreign origin farmers, including some Mauritians, grabbed for himself and his young wife Grace the most profitable ones and distributed the rest among his cronies. The consequence of that policy was an immediate shortage of staple food and three-digit inflation. The rate of exchange between the Zimbabwe Dollar and US\$ dropped so much that Zimbabweans refused to be paid in their currency and opted for the US\$.

With a collapsed economy resulting in massive unemployment, malnutrition, hunger, there was little Mugabe could do. His attempt to pave the way for his young wife Grace to step in his shoes was the last straw that broke the camel's back: Mugabe was compelled to go peacefully or face arrest by the army. His successor is struggling to redress the situation. Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) was no different in Africa's resource-rich country: he too had to flee the country after looting and leaving behind mass poverty.

Eric Ng rightly warns Mauritians of the potential dangers of reckless social policies to earn short-term political gains but long-term social pain which impacts negatively on balance of payments, inflation, and increased consumption without increased production. Such a myopic policy cannot last forever.

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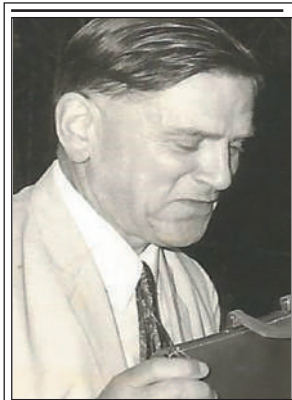
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From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

6th Year No 248

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 15 May, 1959

● *Let life be beautiful like summer flowers and death like autumn leaves. — Rabindranath Tagore*

Peter Ibbotson

What Determines Wages

Because trade unionism in Mauritius is not strong, and because of the inter-union rivalry between the Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers Association (M.A.L.A.) and the M.A.L.U., the Luce Report suggested that a Wages Board be set up to regulate the wages paid to labourers on the sugar estates. There is general agreement (except among I.F.B., Parti Mauricien, and leaders of the M.A.L.A. — some of whom have a vested interest in keeping the workers divided) that such a Wages Board would be a good thing, and the people are expecting rapid implementation of the Luce Report on this point. The Speech from the Throne also referred to the matter of a Wages Board — a pointer that something is to be done?

Workers will agree that wages are too low. So will many, indeed most, of the general public. The widespread poverty in Mauritius cannot be gain-said. But why are wages so low? What determines wages? Who fixes their conventional level?

The price of any commodity is its value; and its value is determined by what it has cost to produce. People who work are selling a commodity just as surely as any shop-keeper - but whereas his commodities can readily be seen (ghee, vegetables, clothes, cigarettes, curry, dholl, fish, meat, etc.), the person who works is selling an intangible commodity — his labour-power. And the price for which he sells his labour-power is called by a special name: wages. *Wages are really nothing more than the price of a worker's labour-power.* And the level of the wages paid is determined by the cost of production of that labour-power.

So, what is the cost of production of labour-power? In other words, what does it cost to produce a worker capable of doing work?

Obviously, a worker can work only if he is alive. So, the basic cost of production of labour-power is the cost of keeping the worker alive: that is, the cost of the means of subsistence. But, of course, bare subsistence isn't enough; a worker can't do heavy work if he isn't paid enough to keep up his strength to carry on with the heavy work. The cost of subsistence depends on the type of work being done. And be it noted, the absolutely unskilled workers have their wages determined almost entirely by the cost of the necessary cost of subsistence, by the cost of keeping them alive in working condition.

I said, "almost entirely". If workers were paid only just enough to keep them alive in working condition, then as they died there would be no-one to replace them. So, in order to ensure that the workers will reproduce and provide workers for the future, the employers add to the basic cost of subsistence a sum intended to cover the cost of reproduction. In other words, wages consist of two elements: the subsistence element and the reproductive element. And workers are treated the same as machines, whose cost is calculated by the employer as maintenance (say, oiling now and then — this corresponds to wages spent on food) and depreciation (this corresponds to the

reproductive element in wages).

So, wages, that is the cost of labour-power, are simply what will keep a worker in conditions in which he can do his job and rear a family to provide replacement workers in the future. Unskilled workers, on whose education for work very little has been spent, have cost less to produce than skilled workers; so that wages of unskilled workers are always lower than wages of skilled workers. Thus, to quote the example given by John Strachey in *'Why you should be a Socialist'*, "It takes more to produce a skilled worker than an unskilled; he has got to be able not only to read and write, but, in engineering, for instance, to read and understand a complicated blueprint. For most skilled jobs nowadays, the worker has got to have his mind as well as his hands developed to a relatively high degree."

The wages of skilled workers will always, therefore, be higher than the wages of unskilled workers. But, apart from this differential arising from the cost of educating the skilled workers, the basic elements — subsistence and reproductive — still hold good as determinants of the wages paid.

But what is subsistence? That is the question. To the Socialist, it means not just bare subsistence but a tolerable minimum level of civilised living. Too many Mauritians are eking out a bare subsistence; they are existing on what is nothing less than an intolerable level of uncivilised living. Too little meat; too little fish; hardly any milk (and what there is often adulterated); far too much starchy food such as rice and bread; too few fresh vegetables, this is the dietary state of the nation.

In the literal sense of keeping alive, people can live on a handful of rice a day, and they can live in a hovel or under the stars.

Here is a description of life in Hong Kong today: "100,000 men, women and children live on the tenement rooftops ... (there are) street-dwellers, squatters' hillside hovels of cardboard and scraps of corrugated iron... Five adults living in a room 12 feet square; 50 people sharing a toilet; 150 using one water-tap. (And these are the lucky people who had been re-housed in newly built flats). TB — 95 per cent of the people have it.

There is clearly a level of existence even lower than that of many Mauritians; but it is a level to which nobody would wish to condemn anyone else, knowingly. Yet it is a level to which employers do condemn workers, by persisting in paying unduly low wages. Employers will willingly pay only the minimum wage which they can get away with paying. Only concerted action by the workers, that is of course trade unionism, will push wages up above the minimum.

Trade unionism is necessary to push up wages above the minimum; and when it has succeeded in this, it is



equally necessary to keep them above the minimum. The perpetual tendency inherent in the economic system called capitalism is to drive wages down towards the bare "subsistence plus re-productive" level. The existence of this perpetual tendency is the reason for the necessity of trade unionism and vigorous workers' action to combat it.

Unless and until the trade unions are strong enough to stand firmly on their own feet, with independent leaders who are not using the fact of their union leadership simply to gain personal political advantage, then the workers must be protected against the vulpine capitalists by the government; especially can this be done where the government has been voted into power by the people while the capitalist politicians have been roundly and soundly defeated.

This is just what has happened in Mauritius; the political circumstances of the present are ideal for the statutory regulation of wages by the creation of a wages board pending the eventual emergence of the trade unions as strong, viable organisations, with leaders who are more than just political opportunists.

Let us have a Wages Board for the agricultural workers with no further delay.

Bombay Sweets Mart

The most popular mithai specialist in Mauritius

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Port Louis -
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Master's Degree: To do or not to do?



Pooben Narayanan

If you are about to complete your undergraduate degree, you may be thinking: what next? A postgraduate degree? Some of you may have already applied for your master's degree even before you finished. Some of you may be thinking about whether this is something you want to pursue. There are a couple of things you should consider when you are in the planning process.

Do your parents or you have the means to pay for another degree immediately after completing your undergraduate studies. If you studied in Mauritius at one of our public universities, then you did not pay for your undergraduate studies. Therefore, your parents, or yourself, if you are funding your own studies, may have the means to provide the financial support that you need. Keep in mind master's degrees are not cheap, at the University of Mauritius you are looking at a minimum of Rs 120,000. If you have studied overseas this will be exponentially higher. Which begs the question: is the timing right?

Real world experience

Your undergraduate degree is one of the tools that will help you get into your desired line of work, but it may not have allowed you to get actual hands-on work experience. Let's say you pursued a degree in marketing, and throughout the entire program you did not work or undertake an internship, you may be up to speed with the latest theories, but you lack hands-on experience.

You could try to enter a master's degree in marketing immediately after your first degree, but you will not be as 'marketable' as someone who completed an undergraduate degree in marketing, worked for a year or two, then started a master's in marketing, specialising in a specific marketing field - for example, branding. This makes any job seeker more attractive on the job market when they complete their master's degree. The reason is that they have real world experience, their approach to their master's degree will be different from that of a job candidate who has never worked in the field. They have seen first-hand how the theory is applied and what works. It is one of the reasons why most prestigious business schools expect who apply for an MBA to have work experience.

An added benefit to working before you start your degree is that it will help you make a better choice of what field you would like to pursue or specialise in. Working gives you an idea of where your line of work is going in the future. Let us say you completed an undergraduate degree in journalism, you start working for a radio station and find that you are best suited for digital media, then you can pursue a master's degree in digital media. You may also find that journalism is not for you, that the administration side of things is more to your liking — then you can look into an MBA. The exposure from working cannot be replicated 100% in the classroom.

If your interest is academia, then you will want to start your master's degree as soon as you have done your undergraduate degree. You will be looking to do a research-based master's degree. For example, if you have a degree in political science and would like to do research and teach the subject, then it is best advised to



Pic - avanse.com

apply for a master's degree that is research based. Keep in mind that academia jobs are very competitive, and it does involve teaching.

If your interest is non-academic, then you should be looking for a taught master's degree. This involves classes like your undergraduate ones, with possibly a research paper at the end of the year. Each institution is different in how their master's degree delivery is done. One thing that you must keep in mind, is that you will be expected to show a high level of understanding and maturity, the ability to think independently and if your master's degree requires that you have prior work experience you will be expected to share this during your program.

Strategic options

In some cases, a master's degree may not be ideally suited to help grow your career. Professional designations such as becoming a Certified Financial Analyst or completing a Professional Management course may be a better and more strategic option. You may also find yourself pursuing a career that is completely different from your undergraduate degree. This is also normal, for example you may have a BA in English, worked in advertising after graduation and go on to pursue a master's degree in advertising or postgraduate certification in graphic design. Invariably you will have to see what the trends are, where your line of work is going and what your interests are.

Therefore, do your research and take time to really think about what it is that you want to do next. With your undergraduate experience, you have more maturity to properly analyse the world of work, put that to use and combine these factors to make an informed decision.

* * *

Where to study for your master's degree

The choice of where to study for your master's degree depends on your finances. A postgraduate degree is not cheap and naturally if you opt to go overseas then you will be looking at higher costs. It also depends on what it is you are planning on studying, an MBA at MIT's Sloan Business School will set you back around 7.7 million rupees for two years of study, that's only tuition fees. It is a very prestigious program at one of the world's best universities, you have a very good chance of getting a job that will offer you a salary that is commiserate with your Sloan MBA. Even if you can afford this, getting into Sloan's MBA program is very competitive. You must have excellent undergraduate grades; you must be in the top percentile for your GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) scores, and you must have solid work experience. There will then be the whole

admission process that you will have to go through before getting final acceptance if you pass.

This is the application process and preparation for one of the world's most in demand MBA programs. There are postgraduate programs that are accessible and not as expensive right here in Mauritius, whether it is an MBA or a master's degree in another subject. The public universities all offer different programs, these are more affordable, and your cost of living will be much lower than say studying at a university in the United States. Keep in mind that if you are already working in a job that is in line with what you would like to do, studying in Mauritius makes things more manageable. If you decide to go overseas, you may need to take leave without pay or quit your job. You may also have to work part-time whilst you are overseas and in a 'student' type of job as opposed to a similar job that you had in Mauritius.

You can also pursue a master's program with a university that offers online learning facilities such as MAN-COSA. There are universities that offer partly home and in person courses. These are mainly for taught master's degrees, if you are pursuing a research degree then your university will expect you to be there in person.

Should you make the choice to go overseas, and you have the means remember to not limit yourself to countries such as the UK, France, India, South Africa, Malaysia and Australia, countries that have attracted a lot of Mauritian students. Similarly, for an undergraduate degree, there are several non-English speaking countries that have very good English-taught postgraduate programs, such as Germany, the Netherlands, the Scandinavian countries, Spain and Italy.

Germany for one has great postgraduate programs that are taught in English and if you apply to a public university, the program might be free or you might be eligible for a scholarship. A big country like Germany means that you have a wide variety of choices in a place that places value on further education. A great resource is the following website www.daad.de, the German Academic Exchange Service; the institution's purpose is to encourage international academic exchange and foreign students to choose the country for their studies.

For many Mauritians another motivating factor to studying overseas is the possibility of settling in the country where they are studying. This will of course depend on the country's immigration laws and whether there are jobs available in the line of study that you took. However, do not be too quick to dismiss returning to Mauritius. You may find that you are in high demand at home and therefore able to negotiate your salary and work expectations.

Before selecting where you will study, you must do your research, think of your prospects, and the return on the educational investment that you are making. Whilst your undergraduate degree gave you a broad base, a master's degree is an opportunity to hone your skill sets, to be even better at what you have chosen to do.

Pooben Narayanan has a BA in Economics and a BA with Honours in Political Science from McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada. He also holds a Master's in Media Practice from the University of Sydney, Australia. He returned to Mauritius in 2008, and since then he has been working in various sectors in the country. As he teaches part-time at the University of Mauritius, he has an active interest in tertiary education and career paths for Mauritians in a rapidly changing world.

Facebook's algorithms fuelled massive foreign propaganda campaigns during the 2020 US presidential election

* Contd from page 2

Social media like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and TikTok rely heavily on AI algorithms to rank and recommend content. These algorithms take as input what you like, comment on and share – in other words, content you engage with. The goal of the algorithms is to maximize engagement by finding out what people like and ranking it at the top of their feeds.

On the surface this seems reasonable. If people like credible news, expert opinions and fun videos, these algorithms should identify such high-quality content. But the wisdom of the crowds makes a key assumption here: that recommending what is popular will help high-quality content “bubble up.”

We tested this assumption by studying an algorithm that ranks items using a mix of quality and popularity. We found that in general, popularity bias is more likely to lower the overall quality of content. The reason is that engagement is not a reliable indicator of quality when few people have been exposed to an item. In these cases, engagement generates a noisy signal, and the algorithm is likely to amplify this initial noise. Once the popularity of a low-quality item is large enough, it will keep getting amplified.

Algorithms aren't the only thing affected by engagement bias – it can affect people too. Evidence shows that information is transmitted via “complex contagion,” meaning the more times people are exposed to an idea online, the more likely they are to adopt and reshare it. When social media tells people an item is going viral, their cognitive biases kick in and translate into the irresistible urge to pay attention to it and share it.

Not-so-wise crowds

We recently ran an experiment using a news literacy app called Fakey. It is a game developed by our lab, which simulates a news feed like those of Facebook and Twitter. Players see a mix of current articles from fake news, junk science, hyperpartisan and conspiratorial sources, as well as mainstream sources. They get points for sharing or liking news from reliable sources and for flagging low-credibility articles for fact-checking.

We found that players are more likely to like or share and less likely to flag articles from low-credibility sources when players can see that many other users have



IMAGE: Search Engine Journal

engaged with those articles. Exposure to the engagement metrics thus creates a vulnerability.

The wisdom of the crowds fails because it is built on the false assumption that the crowd is made up of diverse, independent sources. There may be several reasons this is not the case.

First, because of people's tendency to associate with similar people, their online neighborhoods are not very diverse. The ease with which social media users can unfriend those with whom they disagree pushes people into homogeneous communities, often referred to as echo chambers.

Second, because many people's friends are friends of one another, they influence one another. A famous experiment demonstrated that knowing what music your friends like affects your own stated preferences. Your social desire to conform distorts your independent judgment.

Third, popularity signals can be gamed. Over the years, search engines have developed sophisticated techniques to counter so-called “link farms” and other

aggressive during elections in taking down fake accounts and harmful misinformation. But these efforts can be akin to a game of whack-a-mole.

A different, preventive approach would be to add friction. In other words, to slow down the process of spreading information. High-frequency behaviours such as automated liking and sharing could be inhibited by CAPTCHA tests or fees. Not only would this decrease opportunities for manipulation, but with less information people would be able to pay more attention to what they see. It would leave less room for engagement bias to affect people's decisions.

It would also help if social media companies adjusted their algorithms to rely less on engagement to determine the content they serve you. Perhaps the revelations of Facebook's knowledge of troll farms exploiting engagement will provide the necessary impetus.

**Filippo Menczer, Luddy Distinguished
Prof of Informatics and Computer Science,
Indiana University**



1. The less you share, the less likely people will be in your business.
2. You'll stop caring about people's opinion about your life.
3. You won't have to seek validation to do what feels right for you.
4. You'll attract peace into your life. You'll experience less drama, toxic energy and more time alone.
5. If everyone is your friend, you've a problem. You can't trust anyone with personal information.
6. The real flex is being private, staying low-key and telling no one about your life.
7. It'll be 10x easier to walk some paths alone to achieve your personal goals.
8. Privacy teaches you independence and how to connect with people on a deeper level.
9. Everyone leaves. You'll learn how to be alone and not feel lonely.
10. When you build in silence, people won't know what to attack.
11. People don't care so much about you. They only care on what you can offer.
12. People will want to know more about you when you talk less of yourself.
13. You'll owe no one any explanation about your personal life.
14. Not everyone is your friend, live a private life to never attract bad energy.
15. You'll learn when to be alone and when to be with others.

Sir Calvin Ochieng

Who gossips, and what they gossip about

A new UC Riverside study asserts that women don't engage in "tear-down" gossip any more than men, and lower income people don't gossip more than their more well-to-do counterparts. It also holds younger people are more likely to gossip negatively than their older counterparts.

It's the first-ever study to dig deep into who gossips the most, what topics they gossip about, and how often people gossip -- 52 minutes a day on average.

"There is a surprising dearth of information about who gossips and how, given public interest and opinion on the subject," said Megan Robbins, an assistant psychology Prof who led the study along with Alexander Karan, a graduate student in her lab.

If you're going to look at gossip like an academic, remove the value judgment we assign to the word. Gossip, in the academic's view, is not bad. It's simply talking about someone who isn't present. That talk could be positive, neutral, or negative.

In the research, Robbins and Karan looked at data from 467 people -- 269 women, 198 men -- who participated in one of five studies. Participants were 18 to 58



years old.

Participants wore a portable listening device Robbins employs in her research called the Electronically Activated Recorder, or EAR. The EAR samples what people say throughout the day; about 10 percent of their conversation is recorded, then analyzed by research assistants.

The research assistants counted conversation as gossip if it was about someone not present. In all, there were 4,003 instances of gossip. They then filtered the gossip into three categories: positive, negative, or neutral.

The assistants further coded the gossip depending on whether it was about a celebrity or acquaintance; the topic; and the gender of the conversation partner.

Among the results:

Younger people engage in more negative gossip than older adults. There was no correlation with overall frequency of gossip when all three categories were combined.

About 14 percent of participants' conversations were gossip, or just under an hour in 16 waking hours

Almost three-fourths of gossip was neutral. Negative gossip (604 instances) was twice as prevalent as positive (376)

Gossip overwhelmingly was about an acquaintance and not a celebrity, with a comparison of 3,292 samples vs. 369

Extraverts gossip far more frequently than introverts, across all three types of gossip

Women gossip more than men, but only in neutral, information-sharing, gossip

Poorer, less education people don't gossip more than wealthier, better-educated people. This runs contrary to assertions found in popular "best habits of the rich" books.

A final result? Everyone gossips. "Gossip is ubiquitous," the study concludes.



Can animals give birth to twins?

Animals often give birth to litters of more than one offspring at a time. But are those babies twins?

Ask any parent – welcoming a new baby to the family is exciting, but it comes with a lot of work. And when the new addition is a pair of babies – twins – parents really have their work cut out for them.

For many animal species it's the norm to have multiple babies at once. A litter of piglets can be as many as 11 or more!

We are faculty members at Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. We've been present for the births of many puppies and kittens over the years – and the animal moms almost always deliver multiples.

But are all those animal siblings who share the same birthday twins?

Twins are two peas in a pod

Twins are defined as two offspring from the same pregnancy.

They can be identical, which means a single sperm fertilized a single egg that divided into two separate cells that went on to develop into two identical babies. They share the same DNA, and that's why the two twins are essentially indistinguishable from each other.

Twins can also be fraternal. That's the outcome when two separate eggs are fertilized individually at the same time. Each twin has its own set of genes from the mother and the father. One can be male and one can be female. Fraternal twins are basically as similar as any set of siblings.

Approximately 3% of human pregnancies in the United States produce twins. Most of those are fraternal – approximately one out of every three pairs of twins is identical.

Multiple babies from one animal mom

Each kind of animal has its own standard number of offspring per birth. People tend to know the most about domesticated species that are kept as pets or farm animals.



Pigs are one species that gives birth to large litters. Arthur Dries/DigitalVision via Getty Images

One study that surveyed the size of over 10,000 litters among purebred dogs found that the average number of puppies varied by the size of the dog breed. Miniature breed dogs – like chihuahuas and toy poodles, generally weighing less than 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms) – averaged 3.5 puppies per litter. Giant breed dogs – like mastiffs and Great Danes, typically over 100 pounds (45 kilograms) – averaged more than seven puppies per litter.

When a litter of dogs, for instance, consists of only two offspring, people tend to refer to the two puppies as twins. Twins are the most common pregnancy outcome in goats, though mom goats can give birth to a single-born kid or larger litters, too. Sheep frequently have twins, but single-born lambs are more common.

Horses, which are pregnant for 11 to 12 months, and cows, which are pregnant for nine to 10 months, tend to have just one foal or calf at a time – but twins may occur. Veterinarians and ranchers have long believed that it would be financially beneficial to encourage the conception of twins in dairy and beef cattle. Basically the farmer would get two calves for the price of one pregnancy.

But twins in cattle may result in birth complications for the cow and undersized calves with reduced survival rates. Similar risks come with twin pregnancies in horses, which tend to lead to both pregnancy complications that may harm the mare and the birth of weak foals.

DNA holds the answer to what kind of twins

So plenty of animals can give birth to twins. A more complicated question is whether two animal babies born together are identical or fraternal twins.

Female dogs and cats ovulate multiple eggs at one time. Fertilization of individual eggs by distinct spermatozoa from a male produces multiple embryos. This process results in puppies or kittens that are fraternal, not identical, even though they may look very much the same.

Biologists believe that identical twins in most animals are very rare. The tricky part is that lots of animal siblings look very, very similar and researchers need to do a DNA test to confirm whether two animals do in fact share all their genes. Only one documented report of identical twin dogs was confirmed by DNA testing. But no one knows for sure how frequently fertilized animal eggs split and grow into identical twin animal babies.

And reproduction is different in various animals. For instance, nine-banded armadillos normally give birth to identical quadruplets. After a mother armadillo releases an egg and it becomes fertilized, it splits into four separate identical cells that develop into identical pups. Its relative, the seven-banded armadillo, can give birth to anywhere from seven to nine identical pups at one time.

There's still a lot that scientists aren't sure about when it comes to twins in other species. Since DNA testing is not commonly performed in animals, no one really knows how often identical twins are born. It's possible – maybe even likely – that identical twins may have been born in some species without anyone's ever knowing.

Michael Jaffe

Associate Professor of Small Animal Surgery,
Mississippi State University

Tracy Jaffe

Assistant Clinical Professor of Veterinary Medicine,
Mississippi State University



Graham Martin is in hospital

Well Graham is the geezer who got home late one night and Helen his wife, says. "Where the hell have you been?"

Graham replies. "I was getting a tattoo!"

"A tattoo?" she frowned. "What kind of tattoo did you get?"

"I got a hundred dollar note on my privates," he said proudly.

"What the hell were you thinking?" she said, shaking her head in disgust. "Why on earth would a Chartered Accountant get a hundred dollar note tattooed on his privates?"

"Well, one, I like to watch my money grow. Two, once in a while I like to play with my money. Three, I like how money feels in my hand. And, lastly, instead of you going out shopping, you can stay right here at home and blow a hundred dollars anytime you want."

Graham is now in The Critical Care Unit, Room 233. No visitors until further notice...

A man calls Pizza Hut to order a pizza...

Caller: Is this Pizza Hut?

Google: No sir, it's Google Pizza.

Caller: I must have dialled a wrong number, sorry.

Google: No sir, Google bought Pizza Hut last month.

Caller: Ok. I would like to order a pizza.

Google: Do you want your usual, sir?

Caller: My usual? You know me?

Google: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three cheeses, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms and meatballs on a thick crust.

Caller: Super! That's what I'll have.

Google: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives on a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?

Caller: What? I don't want a vegetarian pizza!

Google: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

Caller: How do you know that?

Google: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last seven years.

Caller: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetarian pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

Google: Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you purchased only a box of 30 cholesterol tablets once at Lloyds Pharmacy 4 months ago.

Caller: I bought more from another pharmacy.

Google: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.

Caller: I paid in cash.

Google: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

Caller: I have other sources of cash.

Google: That doesn't show on your latest tax returns unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law!

Caller: What!

Google: I'm sorry sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

Caller: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without the internet, TV, where there is no phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.

Google: I understand sir, but you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago...

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"

The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?"

The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse's station for that room."

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back normal and her. Physician, Dr Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow."

The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good news."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?"

The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. No one tells me shit."

A man went into the confessional and said to his priest: 'I almost had an affair with another woman.'

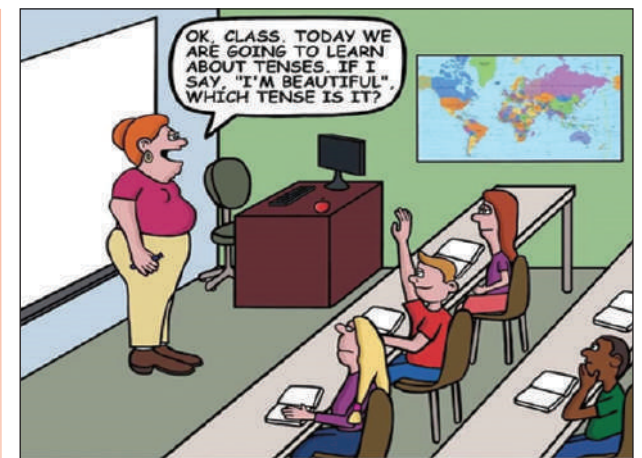
The priest said, 'What do you mean, almost?'

The man said, 'Well, we got undressed and rubbed together, but then I stopped!'

The priest said, 'Rubbing together is the same as putting it in. You're not to see that woman again. For your penance, say five Hail Mary's and put \$50 in the poor box!'

The man left the confessional, said his prayers, and then walked over to the poor box. He paused for a moment and then started to leave.

The priest, who was watching, quickly ran over to him



saying, 'I saw that. You didn't put any money in the poor box!'

The man replied: "Yeah, but I rubbed the \$50 on the box, and according to you, that's the same as putting it in!"

A group of school friends, all aged about 40, discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the waitresses there were pretty.

Ten years later, at age 50, the friends once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the food was good, and the wine selection was excellent.

Ten years later, at age 60, the friends again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they could dine in peace and quiet and the restaurant had a beautiful view of the ocean.

Ten years later, at age 70, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and had an elevator.

Ten years later, at age 80, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at the Ocean View restaurant because they had never been there before.

I couldn't help but overhear two guys in their mid-twenties while sitting at the bar last night.

One of the guys says to his buddy: "Man you look tired."

His buddy says, "Man I'm exhausted. My girlfriend and I have sex all

the time. She's after me 3 and 4 times a day, I just don't know what to do."

A fellow about my age (69+), sitting a couple of stools down, also overheard the conversation.

He looked over at the two young men and with the wisdom of years says: "Marry her. That'll put a stop to that shit."



The Art of Negotiation

10 key takeaways from the book 'Kissinger the Negotiator: Lessons from Dealmaking at the Highest Level' by Robert D. Kaplan

1. Know your opponent. The first step to negotiating effectively is to understand your opponent's interests, goals, and motivations.
2. Be prepared to walk away. If you are not willing to walk away from a negotiation, you will never have

the upper hand.

3. Be creative. Don't be afraid to think outside the box and come up with creative solutions that meet the needs of both parties.
4. Be patient. Negotiations can take time, so be patient and don't expect to get everything you want right away.
5. Be flexible. Be willing to compromise and be open to new ideas.
6. Build trust. Trust is essential in any negotiation. Be honest and transparent with your opponent and build trust over time.
7. Be persistent. Don't give up easily. If you believe in your position, keep fighting for it.
8. Be willing to take risks. Sometimes you have to take risks in order to get what you want.
9. Be a good listener. Listening is just as important as talking in a negotiation. Pay attention to what your opponent is saying and understand their point of view.
10. Be prepared to make concessions. No negotiation will ever be perfect. Be prepared to make concessions in order to reach an agreement.

Wisdom

10 things to do every day to become smarter

Learn to be happy no matter the outcome. Think! Don't live your life on autopilot.

Surround yourself with positive people. They don't need to be smart or smarter. They could be positive, hard-working, disciplined. As long as you surround yourself with people who have their own views and thinking, you've successfully surrounded yourself with good people.

Write. Try out writing every day. It helps you keep things in perspective. I think, therefore I am. How about, I write, therefore I am. It's a fun twist to explore.

Don't quit social media. I quit social media for a few months and while it had its positives, it

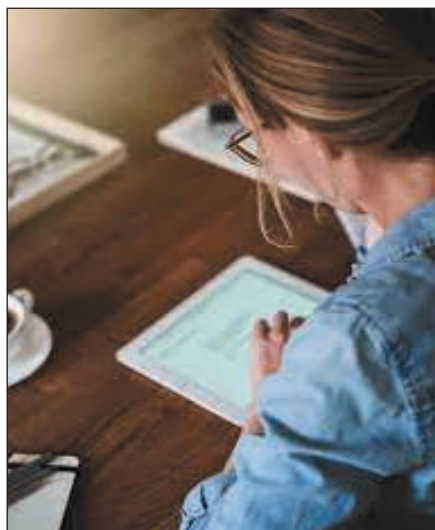
also came with a few drawbacks. In today's world, it's important to stay connected. It's enough to make sure one doesn't spend too much time on social media. But why quit if you can use it for good?

Learn to tell stories.

Talk to as many people as you're willing to do. Be open, stay open, and keep on learning.

Stay on your own path. Ask yourself where you're wanting to be in a few years and try to work towards that instead of following the crowd.

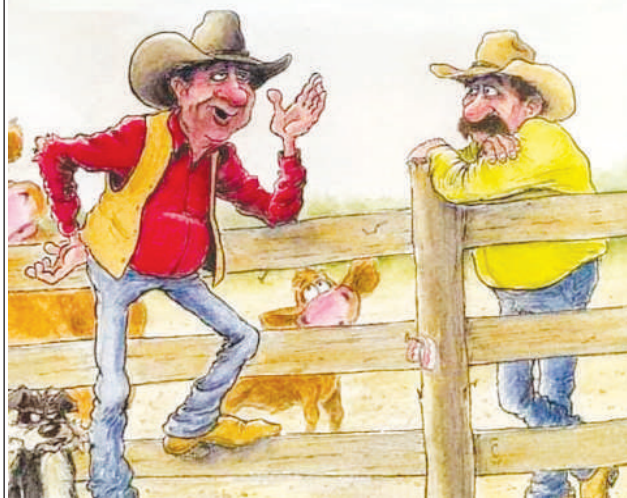
Learn to face your fears, instead of avoiding them. It's tough and difficult but it is indeed what keeps you moving forward!



10 things your mother never told you

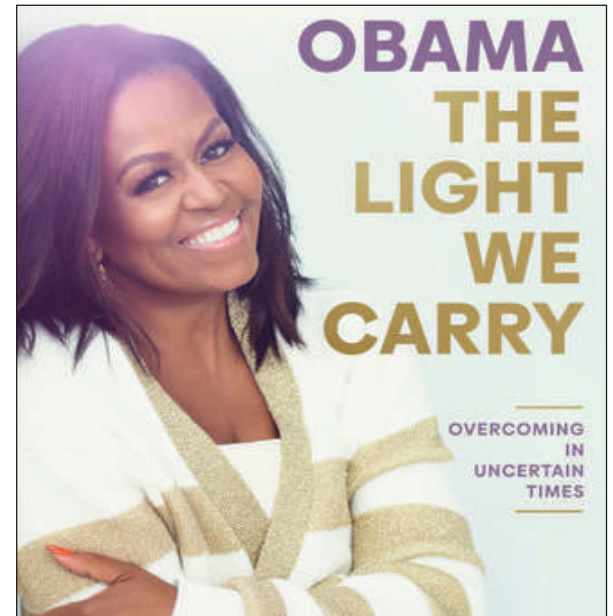
1. You made her cry... a lot.
2. She wanted that last piece of cake.
3. It hurt
4. She was always afraid
5. She knows she's not perfect
6. She watched you as you slept
7. She carried you for longer than 9 months
8. It broke her heart every time you cried
9. She always put you first
10. She would do it all again.

"All I'm saying is that the difference between humans & animals is that animals would never allow the dumbest of the herd to lead them."



Life's Tips

The Light We Carry



1. Start kind. The way you start your day sets the tone for the rest of it. Start by being kind to your self and others.
2. Go high. When faced with challenges, choose to go high instead of low. This means responding with grace, compassion, and strength.
3. Find your kitchen table. Surround yourself with people who lift you up and make you feel seen and supported.
4. Find your flow. What are you passionate about? What makes you feel alive? Find your flow and let it carry you through the tough times.
5. Don't be afraid to ask for help. There is no shame in asking for help when you need it. In fact, it's a sign of strength.
6. Be grateful. Take some time each day to appreciate the good things in your life. This will help you stay positive and hopeful.
7. Live in the present moment. Don't dwell on the past or worry about the future. Focus on the present moment and enjoy it.
8. Be kind to yourself. Forgive yourself for your mistakes and learn from them. Don't beat yourself up.
9. Believe in yourself. You are capable of great things. Believe in yourself and your ability to overcome any challenge.
10. Find your voice. Use your voice to speak up for what you believe in. Don't be afraid to stand up for what's right.
11. Be a force for good. Make the world better by being kind, compassionate, and helpful.
12. Never give up. No matter how tough things get, never give up on your dreams. Keep fighting for what you believe in.
13. Embrace change. Change is inevitable. Embrace it and learn to grow from it.
14. Be hopeful. There is always hope, even in the darkest of times. Hold on to hope, and never give up.
15. Be the light. Be a source of hope and inspiration for others. Let your light shine bright in the world.

From 'The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times' By Michelle Obama

Health & Fitness

Best time of day to exercise for Type 2 diabetes

If you're one of the millions of folks living with type 2 diabetes, you know that regular exercise can help you keep your blood sugar in check.

Now, new research suggests that working out in the afternoon may help maximize these benefits.

The new study wasn't designed to say how, or even if, exercising in the afternoon is better for blood sugar control, but researchers have some theories.

"If we exercise after a meal, it may be more beneficial than after fasting, and if you exercise in the afternoon, it is likely after a meal," said study author Jingyi Qian. She is an associate physiologist and associate director of the medical chronobiology program at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

By contrast, folks who work out in the morning may not eat breakfast until after they are finished.

This doesn't mean that you should skip your workout if you can't find time in the afternoon, Qian cautioned. "The best time to exercise is whenever you can and wherever you can."

For the study, more than 2,400 people with type 2 diabetes wore a device on their waist that tracked physical activity for a week when the study began and four years later. They were grouped based on the time of



day that they exercised at one year and four years.

Afternoon exercisers, those who worked out between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., showed a greater improvement in blood sugar control at one year, which was maintained after four years. What's more, those who exercised in the afternoon were more likely to no longer need glucose-lowering diabetes medications.

The study didn't look at specific types of exercise. "This is an emerging area, and we will know more with more studies," Qian said.

The study appears in the May 25 issue of *Diabetes Care*.

It's too early to make any sweeping recommendations about the best time of day to exercise for people with type 2 diabetes, said Tanya Halliday, an assistant professor in the department of health and kinesiology at the University of Utah Health.

"We don't yet know if the timing of exercise itself

influenced these outcomes or if there are differences between people who self-select to exercise at different times of day," said Halliday, who wasn't involved in the new study.

For example, timing of exercise may result in changes to diet or sleep patterns that drive the improvements in blood sugar and reduced use of glucose-lowering medications, she said.

"It will be important to see if this observation is replicated in other analyses," Halliday said.

Her advice? "I would encourage people to exercise when they are most likely to consistently do it, whether that is first thing in the morning or the afternoon," she said.

Aim to meet the current physical activity guidelines from the American Diabetes Association, which call for 150 minutes or more of moderate-to-vigorous intensity aerobic activity each week and two or three weekly sessions of resistance or strength training exercise.

Dr Ruchi Mathur, an endocrinologist at the Cedars-Sinai Diabetes Outpatient Treatment and Education Center in Los Angeles, points out that everyone who exercised saw a reduction in blood sugar, regardless of timing. "It was more pronounced in those with afternoon activity," says Mathur, who has no ties to the new research.

"Movement is the key, as is consistency," she said. "Do something you enjoy, and do it with someone you enjoy, and perhaps, make some time in the afternoon to accomplish those goals."

Staying Well

Best foods to eat as you get older

If you eat foods that help you grow old gracefully, you may have many years of good health ahead of you

Foods that are high in fibre -- like fruits and veggies, oatmeal, nuts, and legumes -- can help with constipation that becomes more common as you age. They're also able to help lower your cholesterol levels, manage your blood sugar, and keep you at a healthy weight. If you're a man who's 51 or older, aim to eat 30 grams of fibre each day. If you're a woman, try for about 21 grams.

Whole Grains: They're a great source of fibre and rich in B-vitamins, which you'll need more of as you age. B-6 and folate are key to keeping your brain healthy. Even a small shortage can make a subtle difference. Whole grains could also cut your chances of getting heart disease, cancer, and diabetes. Don't stop at whole-wheat bread, though. Quinoa, wheat berries, and whole-wheat couscous are tasty options, too.

Nuts: Yes, they're small, but tree nuts like almonds, walnuts, cashews, pecans, and pistachios have big anti-aging powers. These crunchy snacks contain special nutrients that can help delay or prevent age-related heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, nerve disease, and some types of cancer. Nuts also protect your brain as you age.

Water: As you go up in years, not only does your body lose water, but your sense

of thirst starts to fade. That means it will take you longer to know when you're low on fluids. Water is food for your health in lots of ways. It cushions your joints, helps control your body temperature, and affects your mood and how well you focus. Make eight glasses of water each day your goal.

Fish: Fatty fish like salmon, albacore tuna, herring, and farmed trout should be on your menu twice a week. The reason? They're high in DHA, an omega-3 fatty acid that's good for your brain. Low levels of DHA have been linked to Alzheimer's disease, but get enough of it, and you may improve your memory and ability to learn new things. If you don't eat or like fish, algae, walnuts, flaxseed, and chia seeds are also good sources of DHA.

Lean Protein: Protein-rich foods fight the natural muscle loss that happens as you get older. As much as you can, enjoy your protein in "real" food like eggs, lean meat, and dairy products instead of protein powders that may not give you as many nutrients.

Dairy Products: The calcium in dairy keeps your bones healthy. As you get older, it can also lower your risk of osteoporosis, colon cancer, and high blood pressure. After age 50, you'll need 1,200 milligrams of calcium each day, which you can get through fat-free and low-fat dairy products. Milk and cheese aren't your only options. You can still hit your calcium goal through things like yogurt, rice and soy drinks, fortified orange juice, and tofu.

Blueberries: They're a tasty way to protect your brain as you age. Blueberries contain polyphenols -- compounds that lower inflammation throughout your body. They lessen damage to your DNA that can make some diseases more likely. They



Eat foods that help you grow old gracefully. PIC - National Institutes of Health (NIH)

also improve how well your brain cells "talk" to each other. Fresh blueberries are best, since their polyphenol content goes down when you bake them into muffins, breads, or pies.

Red- and Orange-Coloured Produce: Watermelon, tomatoes, red and orange bell peppers -- these fruits and veggies are rich in a natural compound called lycopene. Studies show foods that have it could lower your risk of some types of cancer and may protect you against strokes, too.

Cruciferous Vegetables: Cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and cauliflower could help shore your immune system -- your body's defense against germs -- up. They have a chemical called sulforaphane that switches on your immune cells so they're better able to attack toxins that damage your cells and cause disease over time. Eat them often, and you may lower your risk of some types of cancer.

Dark Leafy Greens: To keep your eyes healthy, eat more veggies like

spinach, kale, and collard greens. The antioxidants they contain can lower your chances of getting cataracts and macular degeneration. Eat at least one serving a day, and you'll also help stave off the slow-down in memory, thinking, and judgment that can happen as you get older.

Avocado: You've got plenty of good reasons to perfect your guacamole recipe. Studies show that the antioxidants in avocado could improve your memory and help you solve problems faster. Avocados may also lower your cholesterol, cut your chance of getting arthritis, help you stick to a healthy weight, and protect your skin from sun damage.

Sweet Potato: Sweet potatoes have plenty of beta carotene, which your body turns into vitamin A. This vitamin is key for healthy eyesight and skin. It also keeps your immune system strong. You'd have to eat 23 cups of cooked broccoli to get as much vitamin A as you'll find in one medium sweet potato. For an extra boost, choose a purple variety. The compounds that give it a bright colour may slow down age-related changes in your brain.

Spices: They do more than give your food flavour. Spices have antioxidants that help you stay healthy through the years. For instance, garlic helps keep your blood vessels open. Cinnamon can help lower your cholesterol and triglycerides (blood fats). Turmeric may protect you from depression and Alzheimer's disease, and may have anti-cancer powers, too. Use either fresh or dried spices, but talk to your doctor before you take any supplements.

Carol Der Sarkissian, WebMD

Rich and richer: Bollywood actresses who married millionaires

In the glitzy world of Bollywood, many actresses have found partners who are super-duper rich, enabling them to live luxurious, fairy-tale lives and even build their own empires together. Rida Lodhi of Masala.com takes a closer look at the 8 richest husbands of Bollywood actresses!



Tina Ambani, wife of Anil Ambani

Tina Ambani, formerly a Bollywood actress, may not have had a meteoric rise in Bollywood, but she certainly caught the attention of many actors and directors. She tied the knot with Anil Ambani, the chairman and founder of the Reliance group. At one point, Anil Ambani was ranked as the 6th richest man by Forbes with a net worth of 1.7 billion USD (as of April 2019).

However, things took a downturn when he claimed to have gone bankrupt with a net worth of zero in February 2020. On the other hand, Tina Ambani holds positions as the chairperson of Mumbai-based Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Harmony for Silvers Foundation, and Harmony Art Foundation.

Shilpa Shetty Kundra, wife of Raj Kundra

A bonafide Bollywood actress, Shilpa Shetty Kundra, has won the hearts of millions with her talent and charm. She married British businessman Raj Kundra on November 22, 2009. Apart from successful business

ventures like Groupco Developers and TMT Global, Raj and Shilpa are proud owners of the IPL team, Rajasthan Royals. The couple is blessed with two kids, Viaan Raj Kundra and Samisha Shetty Kundra.

Raj Kundra's net worth stands at approximately \$550 million. He is the CEO of J L Stream PVT Ltd, which covers social media live streaming platforms, and has other successful ventures like Viaan Industries and India's first professional mixed martial arts fight league, Super Fight League.

Rani Mukerji, wife of Aditya Chopra

Rani Mukerji, known for her vibrant and lively persona, surprised many when she tied the knot with Aditya Chopra, the mastermind behind the renowned Yash Raj Films. Their wedding took place on April 21, 2014, and they welcomed their daughter, Adira, on December 9, 2015.

Aditya Chopra's YRF has a staggering net worth of 890 million dollars. Rani Mukerji's net worth is reported to be around 12 million USD.



Late Sridevi, wife of Boney Kapoor

While some may criticize Sridevi for breaking up a marriage and a family, others appreciate her forward-thinking approach. She married Boney Kapoor on June 2, 1996, and the couple had two daughters, Janhvi and Khushi Kapoor.

Unfortunately, the legendary actress passed away on February 24, 2018, in Dubai, UAE. Boney Kapoor, a film producer, has invested in successful films like *Mr India*, *No Entry*, *Judaai*, and *Wanted*. His net worth is estimated to be around \$50 million.

Juhi Chawla, wife of Jay Mehta

Juhi Chawla has tasted success both in her personal and professional life. She married Jay Mehta, the owner of the Mehta Group, in December 1995. The Mehta Group is a well-known name with a presence in Africa, the USA, Canada, and India. Apart from being the co-owner of the Kolkata Knight Riders IPL team with actor Shah Rukh Khan, Jay Mehta has a net worth of approximately \$350 million.



Sonam Kapoor, wife of Anand Ahuja

On May 8, 2018, Sonam Kapoor added 'Ahuja' to her name after marrying her long-time beau, Anand Ahuja. Anand is an entrepreneur and businessman, who owns two companies- Bhane, an apparel brand, and VegNonVeg, which deals in sneakers.

Sonam Kapoor, with her brand endorsements, movies, and other assignments, boasts a net worth of \$13 million. Anand Ahuja co-owns Shahi Exports, one of India's largest export houses, and his net worth is estimated to be around \$650 million.

Anushka Sharma, wife of Virat Kohli

Anushka Sharma married her long-time boyfriend and Indian cricket team captain, Virat Kohli, on December 11, 2017. Their first child, a baby girl named Vamika, was born on January 11, 2021. Anushka's net worth is estimated to be \$35 million, which includes earnings from brand endorsements, movies, and personal investments.

Additionally, she takes a profit share from the films she produces. On the other hand, Virat Kohli, the highest-paid Indian cricketer, has an estimated net worth of \$105 million. His earnings come from multiple sources, including BCCI contracts, brand endorsements, and his salary as the captain of the Royal Challengers Bangalore IPL team.

From Zeenat Aman to Nargis Fakhri, Bollywood stars with mixed ethnicities

Bollywood has been a melting pot of diverse cultures, languages, and ethnicities. It is a realm where talent and charisma transcend borders, making room for individuals with mixed heritage to leave an indelible mark. These actresses have challenged preconceived notions, broken down barriers, and redefined what it means to be a Bollywood superstar. Through their extraordinary journeys, they became ambassadors of cultural fusion and inclusivity in the Indian film industry. A report by Mid-Day:

Zeenat Aman: This renowned Bollywood actress of the 70s and 80s, is often hailed as a trendsetter who revolutionised Indian cinema with her bold and unconventional roles. Zeenat Aman was born in Bombay to a Muslim father from Afghanistan and a German Christian mother. She was fluent in several languages, including Hindi, English, German, and Urdu, which gave her a unique advantage in the Indian film industry.



Her legacy as an icon of the 70s and 80s continues to inspire generations of actors and actresses in Bollywood.

Kalki Koechlin: Born to French parents in Pondicherry, India, Kalki's multicultural upbringing adds a vibrant layer to her acting. Growing up in

Pondicherry, a city known for its cultural fusion, Kalki was immersed in a unique blend of Indian and French influences from an early age. This environment became the fertile ground that nurtured her creativity and allowed her to develop a deep appreciation for different traditions,

languages, and art forms. Kalki's journey is a testament to the potential of embracing multiculturalism, paving the way for a more inclusive and representative film industry in India.

Jacqueline Fernandez: Jacqueline's mixed heritage background, with her Sri Lankan and Malaysian roots, has been a captivating aspect of her journey in Bollywood and has significantly influenced her contributions to the industry. Hailing from a multicultural background, Jacqueline's diverse heritage has shaped her vibrant persona and artistic sensibilities.

Nargis Fakhri: Born to a Pakistani father and a Czech mother, Nargis Fakhri embodies a captivating blend of cultures, which has undeniably contributed to her unique on-screen persona. Nargis Fakhri's multilingual background has acted as a catalyst in her career, allowing her to explore diverse roles and effortlessly adapt to different cinematic styles.

New serial: 'Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani'

'Anokhi's life is the story of my real life': Debattama Saha



Debattama Saha with her co-actor Karanvir Sharma in 'Shaurya Aur Anokhi'

Actress Debattama Saha, who is currently seen playing the lead character Anokhi in the TV show *Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani*, is very different in real life from her onscreen character. This Bengali TV actress, who had made her Hindi TV debut with *Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani*, tells Times of India: "I love the way Anokhi fights to fulfil her ambitions in life. I am bubbly, enjoy talking to people and I'm full of life."

Describing her journey from the small town of Silchar, Assam to Kolkata and then Mumbai, Debattama shares how the story of her TV show is coincidentally the story of her life.

She said, "I am born and brought up in a small town Silchar, Assam and no one in my hometown can even dream of becoming an actress. If someone gets a degree in engineering or becomes a doctor, it's a considered very big. I was inclined towards singing and acting since childhood and my mother used to secretly let me train under professionals. My father did not like the idea of my pursuing acting, so we never told him. Then, after great pursuing and hard work, I moved to Kolkata to study. I have finished my BA Hons and bagged a Bengali TV show. Just like Anokhi is proud to show her trophy to her dad, who is against her wish to study further, similarly I was always hoping to show my trophies to my dad and make him proud. Just like Anokhi runs away from Kapurthala, I went to Kolkata and then later I moved to Mumbai 3-4 years ago. When I came here, culturally I was shocked because people happily moved around and had relationships."

She added, "I used to write a little diary since childhood how I wanted to be an actress and I was so scared that I did not even write the full word 'actress' in my diary. But, after many years of hard work, I finally landed my first show *Isharon Isharon Mein* two years back. And then the pandemic struck in 2020. I kept giving auditions, but I was not

sure if I will get more work due to the situation. When there was no hope left, I called my parents last year that I would like to pack my bags and come back to Silchar. I was all set to go back when I got a call from the makers of *Shaurya Aur Anokhi*. When I heard the script, I cried and cried because it is the story of my life."

Debattama's chemistry with her co-actor Karanvir Sharma has been appreciated. The actress says, "Karanvir and I are great friends. So, it was easy doing romantic scenes with him. There is no awkward feeling because we discuss our scenes, and it is easy enacting them. In fact, we are constantly cracking jokes on each other, and his friendship is an asset for my work, too."

While Debattama is seen wearing Indian outfits on the show, one always sees her in western outfits on her instagram account. Ask her if the pressure to have a good presence on social media is high and she says, "Our profession is such that we are competing in various things. Therefore, social media is an added responsibility and people need to know our different sides. They know me as Anokhi from the show, but my social media should give people a glimpse of what more I am capable of. Also, I love dancing and so you see a lot of it on my social media."

There are talks doing the rounds last year that the show would wrap up at some time. Debattama shares that she is not aware of any such development, but it will be a shock for her. She says, "The show has a great script and if it wraps up, I will be very sad. Anokhi is extremely close to me, and I have lived Anokhi for so many months with great dedication. If the show wraps up, I will be very sad."

She added, "The show has the potential to extend for many more months. My role will continue to entertain audiences."

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You will have to pay attention to your finances, otherwise, the lack of money can bother you. Health will be good, although in between you may get worried or worried about something. Leaving laziness, start another work with energy so that success can be achieved in it. Family life will be pleasant but there will be ups and downs in the work area. You have to be patient and keep doing your work smoothly.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 10, 15, 22, 36, 40

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

There will be a tremendous increase in income, but on the other hand, the expenses will also continue to increase. Time is better for the students, there will be quadruple progress in their education day and night. You have to control your temper because you can become very angry, due to which the work being done can be disrupted. Therefore, working carefully will be a better option for you.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 10, 15, 23, 27

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

There will be peace and happiness in family life But on the other hand, time will give mixed results for children and they will have to focus on their health. It is time for hard work for the students and if they continue this sequence, then they can get good success in competitive exams as well. Some natives may get the fortune of travelling abroad.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 11, 19, 15, 20, 23

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

In the workplace, you will have to keep working hard and maintain harmony with your seniors, otherwise, the situation may go against you. Don't have any kind of quarrel with siblings. Family life is likely to be normal but possibly you will feel tired due to overwork, which may cause physical problems. Your mind will also be engaged in spiritual activities and you will be ready to worship God.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 10, 14, 18, 23, 40

Aries: Mar 21 - Apr 19

Although you will remain dominant in the work area, you should not try to get entangled with anyone without any reason. Time is excellent for children and their fame will increase. On the other hand, it is also a great time for the students, if they concentrate even a little bit, then they will pass with good marks in their studies. There will be an increase in income, which you will spend this time well.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 21, 24, 26, 30, 36

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

There will be a situation of ups and downs in luck, due to which your work can get spoiled in the making. Family life will be happy like this. Due to not getting the full results of your hard work, your mind may remain somewhat unhappy. Time is good for the children's side and they will be happy and the students can get the desired success in their studies.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 18, 20, 26, 31

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Happiness will remain in family life, and you will be happy, on the other hand, time will be good for you in the work sector as well. Time is beneficial for children, although for some reason they can go away from home. On the other hand, the student class will enjoy studies and will enjoy it a lot.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 11, 18, 19, 20, 24

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

This coming week many thoughts will come into your mind and due to this you may have difficulty in taking decisions. Therefore, it will be necessary that you postpone any important decision of yours this week. There will be happiness and peace in family life and you will be happy and you can get a new position in the work area as well. Don't get involved in any kind of conspiracy.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 12, 25, 26, 27, 30

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

Confidence and determination will increase in you, but there will also be an increase in some other ego, which can have an impact on your relationship. Family life can be normal and there will be victory in debates. You will get good benefits in the workplace, and you will get full support from your siblings and colleagues. At the same time, they will also help them financially if needed.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 11, 12, 10, 25, 36

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

There can be a situation of tension in family life due to which the mind will be somewhat upset. Health problems may trouble the child and you may also complain of stomach ache or indigestion. Time can be challenging for students; they will have to put in more effort to get good results.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 15, 18, 20, 21, 31

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Ganesha says that This week you will have to try to keep peace in both your work area and family life. There will be a situation of ups and downs in the workplace, although your colleagues will strongly support you. You can get some kind of benefit from the government sector and the possibility of monetary gain will increase due to the completion of a long pending work.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 25, 26, 29, 35, 37

Scorpion: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

This coming week you will be under stress due to unnecessary worries and may take some wrong decisions due to which you may have to face problems later, so do any work after thinking carefully. Take care of the health of your siblings and treat them well. Family life will be peaceful, and you will get progress in the field of work. You will be listened to and your work efficiency will be appreciated.

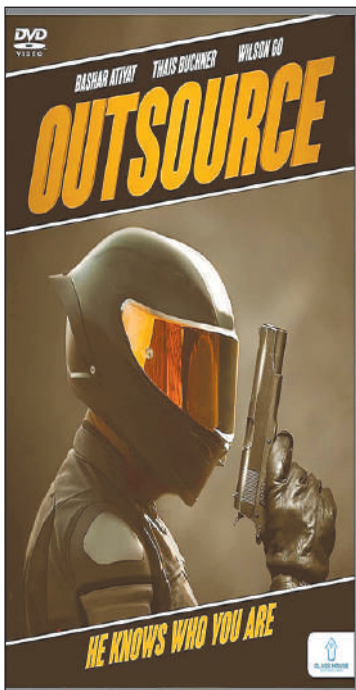
Lucky Numbers: 3, 10, 11, 14, 21, 23



Vendredi 15 septembre - 20.30



Samedi 16 septembre - 20.30



Dimanche 17 septembre - 20.30



Programme TV



SERIAL



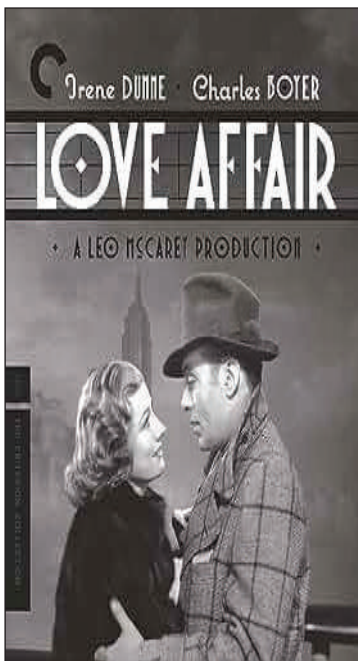
	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 15 septembre	06.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 06.23 Serial: New Amsterdam 07.15 Film: Brigsby Bear 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.06 Tele: Amour Secret 10.25 The Gardener's Daughter 10.55 Tele: Marimar 11.05 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 13.25 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.50 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.10 Serial: Burden Of Truth 15.21 Film: Memories Of War 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 20.35 Film: L'Enfant De La Tempete 23.30 Le Journal Televisive 00.15 Serial: Billions	06.19 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 08.29 Local: An Eta Dalert 09.14 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou Rises 11.13 Local: Groov'in 12.02 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 12.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 13.36 Local: An Eta Dalert 14.31 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 15.22 Local: Generations J 15.41 Local: Groov'in 16.43 Local: Artizan 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.28 Tele: Amour Secret 19.30 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 20.04 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 21.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 22.00 Local: La Societe 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 00.12 Local: Itinerer Rodrig	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 08.00 Local: Amrit Vaani 10.00 Serial: Agniphera 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Santosh Starring: Manoj Kumar, Nirupa Roy, Rakhee Gulzar 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron Mein 16.21 Serial: Bhakharwadi 17.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 19.02 Local: Khel Khiladi 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 20.54 Film: Ek Saazish Jaal 23.30 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain	06.03 Doc: Smoothie Mania 06.45 Mag: Carnet De Sante 07.28 Mag: Tomorrow Today 08.24 Doc: High Velocity 08.57 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures 10.03 Doc: Closing The Missing... 11.15 Doc: Smoothie Mania 11.57 Mag: Carnet De Sante 12.45 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.00 Doc: Microplastics 13.37 Doc: High Velocity 14.11 Mag: Healthy Living 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours 14.51 Serial: Hi Opie! 15.06 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.20 D.Anime: Trolls 15.42 D.Anime: Stan Lee's... 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.28 D.Anime: Harvey Girls Forever! 16.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids	14.25 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.30 Film: Raabta Starring: Deepika Padukone, Rajkummar Rao, Kriti Sanon 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.01 Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Radha Krishna 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.59 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 23.30 Film: Raabta Stars : Deepika Padukone, Rajkummar Rao, Kriti Sanon
samedi 16 septembre	02.15 Film: Stormboy 05.02 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 06.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 07.00 Le Livre Perdu Des sortileges 07.45 Serial: Seal Team 08.31 Serial: Hooten & The Lady 09.15 Serial: Wanted 09.59 Serial: S.W.A.T 10.40 Serial: Kojak 11.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Queens Of Mystery 13.15 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 15.21 Film: 3 Secondes 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Dance India Dance Little Masters 20.30 Film: Outsource 22.11 Film: Unfriended 00.25 Serial: Chicago PD 00.15 Tele: Missing Bride	06.14 Local: Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 08.30 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 10.34 Local: Rodrig: It's My Day 12.02 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 12.31 Local: Les Grands Noms... 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.10 Local: Zanfan Nou Pei 15.09 Local: La Societe 17.00 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.00 Serial: The Equalizer 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Magazine De L'emploi 20.10 Local: The Magic Flute 21.35 Local: Glwar Dantan 22.05 Local: Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.23 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 23.48 Local: Rodrig - Saver Kil Tirel 00.12 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante 00.19 Rodrig Prog: Rod'Art	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 08.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol 10.55 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 12.02 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 11.59 Local: Khel Khiladi 14.14 Taare Zameen Par 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Film: Love 86 Starring: Govinda, Farha Naaz, Neelam 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.36 Local: Satrangi 18.52 Duniya Mein Is Saptah 19.07 Local: Khoobsurat 19.37 Local Production 20.00 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani 21.08 Film: Rakht Starring: Bipasha Basu, Sanjay Dutt, Dino Morea	06.19 D.Anime: Fast And Furious 06.42 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 09.13 Mag: Recipes For Kids 09.45 Serial: Malory Towers 10.12 Doc: Smoothie Mania 13.18 Doc: Heritage 14.52 Serial: Hi Opie! 15.06 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.08 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 15.19 D.Anime: Trolls 15.42 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Super... 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.29 Harvey Girls Forever 16.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids 16.54 Mag: Sand Tales 17.15 Doc: World Capitals 17.30 Mag: Eco At Africa 20.01 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow 21.40 Film: Born To Be Blue	08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 10.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 10.18 Sasural Simar Ka 2 12.15 Udaariyaan 14.05 Anupamaa 16.00 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 18.31 Film: Raid Starring: Ajay Devgn, Saurabh Shukla, Ileana D'Cruz 20.44 Gadget Guru Ganesha 20.56 Serial: Porus 21.08 Naagin Seasn 05 21.41 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
dimanche 17 septembre	02.57 Film: Underworld 04.30 Tele: La Beaute Du Diable 06.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 06.15 Film: Outsource 08.00 Serial: Imposters 08.45 Film: 3 Secondes 10.55 Serial: Falling Water 11.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 12.00 Le Journal 12.40 Film: Last Of The Comanches 14.15 Serial: Scorpion 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Hero Dog 17.00 Tele: Tour De Babel 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa 19.16 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Lawrence D'Arabie With Peter O'Toole, Alec Guinness	06.00 Rodrig: D'Jam 06.26 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou 06.45 Local: Aktiv 07.35 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante 09.22 Local: Zanfan Nou Zil 10.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.26 Local: Kot Nou 12.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local Prod: Elle 17.01 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Serial: The Equalizer 19.00 Zournal Kreol 20.00 Local: Tiba Tiba Nu Avance 20.45 Local: Les Klips 21.37 Groove'in: Le Festival De Musique Classique 22.36 Local: Clin D'oeil 23.20 Local: Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 00.38 Local: Nu Lakwizin	07.10 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 09.00 Duniya Mein Is Saptah 12.02 Film: Teri Meri Kahaani 14.59 Live: Samachar 15.22 Other: Radha Krishna 15.51 Local: Duniya Mein Is Saptah 17.00 Local: Ekta 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.29 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi 19.13 Local: Tohar Farmaish 19.43 Local: Yaadein 20.18 Serial: Porus 20.48 Serial: Naagin Season 4 21.34 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.17 Serial: Chhotki Dulhin 23.03 Serial: Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 00.22 Local: Tohar Rashi 00.37 Local: Tohar Farmaish	06.34 D.Anime: Fast And Furious 06.56 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 07.16 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 09.23 D.Anime: Miraculous 10.13 Serial: Malory Towers 10.46 Doc: Foodland 11.41 Doc: India's Paadhai Home... 12.27 Doc: Nature Always Wins 13.52 Doc: A Mediterranean... 15.09 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 15.19 D.Anime: Trolls 15.42 Stan Lee's Superhero 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.27 Harvey Girls Forever! 16.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids 17.13 Doc: World Captials 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 18.26 Foodland: Veggie Feasts 19.18 Mag: Shift 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 21.42 Film: Flatliners	00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 02.05 Udaariyaan 04.00 Anupamaa 05.53 Kuch Rang Pyar Ka Aise... 08.00 Tenali Rama 08.12 Patiala Babes 10.16 Kundali Bhagya 12.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 13.46 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 15.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 18.32 Film: Pink Starring A. Bachchan, Tapsee Pannu, Kirti Kulhari, Andrea Tariang, Karisma Kapoor 21.21 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.34 Serial: Naagin Season 22.24 SBade Acche Lagte Hai 2 22.33 Serial: Patiala Babes 01.47 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
lundi 18 septembre	06.11 Serial: New Amsterdam 07.15 Film: Hamlet & Hutch 08.45 Serial: The Equalizer 09.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 10.00 Tele: Amour Secret 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter 10.48 Tele: Marimar 11.16 Serial: La Reina Del Flow 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Barbarita, Les Couleurs.. 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 14.15 Serial: The Equalizer 15.20 Film: Mr. Smith Au Senat 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 19.30 Le Journal 20.25 Le Livre Perdu Des Sortileges 21.15 Serial: Seal Team 21.55 Serial: Hooten & The Lady	07.12 Local: Tiba Tiba Nu Avance 09.32 Groove'in: Le Festival De Musique Classique 10.52 Local: Le Challenge 11.05 Local: Influencers 12.02 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.54 La Journee Sous Le.... 13.14 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin 13.37 Local: Clin D'oeil 13.52 Local: Elle 15.09 Local: Tiba Tiba Nu Avance 16.45 Local: Le Challenge 17.34 Local: Radio Vision 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Individual Income... 21.16 Local: Radio Vision 22.14 Local: Lir - Ekrrir Kreol 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol	07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija 08.04 Local: Planet Bollywood 08.47 Local: Tohar Farmaish 09.58 Other: Radha Krishna 10.00 Serial: Bahubali 10.43 Bhaag Na Bachhe Koi 11.36 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Sargan 15.30 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave 16.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.35 Ved Ki Shikshayen 19.04 Local: Ganesh Tatva 19.34 Local: Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.15 Local: Charcha 21.01 Film: Honeymoon 23.07 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 23.29 Yeh Teri Galiyan	06.02 Doc: Eye On SADC 08.00 Doc: Thank You For The Rain 09.29 Doc: Megacity Mumbai 10.12 Doc: Tablets For Depression 11.11 Doc: World Capitals 11.40 Doc: Foodland: Veggie Feast 13.10 Doc: Persons 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours 14.51 Serial: Hi Opie! 15.05 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.08 D.Anime: Agi Bagi 15.19 D.Anime: Trolls 15.42 D.Anime: Stan Lee's Superhero Kindergarten 16.07 D.Anime: Gon 16.29 Harvey Girls Forever! 16.52 Mag: Recipes For Kids 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.02 Student Support Programme 19.32 Mag: In Good Shape 21.41 Film: 100 Streets	14.25 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar... 15.00 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.15 Film: Benaam Badshah Starring: Anil Kapoor, Juhi Chawla, Shilpa Shirodkar 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.31 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise... 20.08 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.28 Radha Krishna 21.06 Anupamaa 21.32 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey 22.53 Patiala Babes 23.30 Film: Benaam Badshah Starring Anil Kapoor, Juhi Chawla, Shilpa Shirodkar



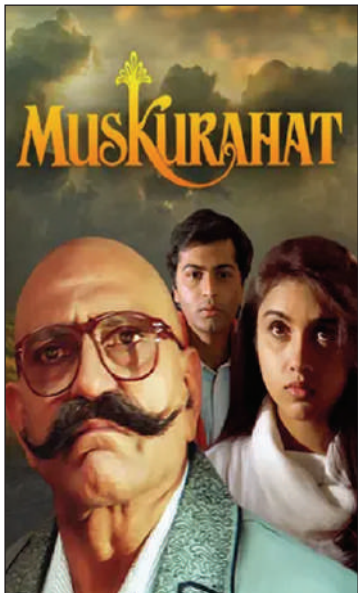
Mardi 19 septembre - 20.30



Mercredi 20 septembre - 21.15



Mercredi 20 septembre - 15.30



Programme TV



mardi 19 septembre

MBC 1

- 05.07 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 05.30 Serial: Imperio De Mentiras
- 07.18 Serial: Le Livre Perdu Des...
- 08.09 Serial: Seal Team
- 08.45 Serial: Hooten & The Lady
- 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 10.05 Tele: Amour Secret
- 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 10.50 Tele: Marimar
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Barbarita
- 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 14.10 Serial: The Magicians
- 15.25 Film: Last Of The Comanches
- 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 17.59 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 20.30 Film: The Little Stranger

MBC 2

- 07.14 Business Connect
- 09.32 Local: Radio Vision
- 10.34 Rodrig Prog: Saver Lokal
- 11.07 Local: Le Rendez Vous
- 12.07 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 13.07 Business Connect
- 13.40 Local: Tous Egaux
- 13.55 Rodrig Mo Pei
- 14.47 Local: Itinerer Moris
- 15.14 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif
- 16.51 Local: Aktiv
- 17.06 Local: Radio Vision
- 18.04 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 18.34 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
- 19.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem
- 21.31 Local: Radio Vision
- 22.28 Local: Mots & Ecrits
- 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Journal Kreol

MBC 3

- 07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
- 09.34 Local: Charcha
- 10.03 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
- 12.02 Film: Sasti Dulhan Mahenga Dulha
- 14.59 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Badki Malkaain
- 16.00 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 17.28 Radha Krishna
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.36 Local: Tark Vitark
- 19.00 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka
- 19.30 Local: Prakriti Ki God Mein
- 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya
- 20.38 Film: Mere Sanam
- 23.40 Serial: Jijai Chhat Par Hain
- 00.22 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan
- 00.42 Local: Tark Vitark
- 01.08 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka
- 01.38 Prakriti Ki God Mein
- 02.04 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya

MBC 5

- 06.03 Mag: Eco At Africa
- 08.53 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 09.22 Mag: Washington Forum
- 10.34 Doc: China's New Silk Road
- 11.24 Mag: Eco At Africa
- 13.22 Doc: Origami Code
- 14.14 Mag: Shift
- 14.52 Serial: Hi Opie!
- 15.06 D.Anime: Wonder Grove
- 15.20 D.Anime: Trolls
- 15.43 Stan Lee's Superhero...
- 16.08 D.Anime: Gon
- 16.31 D.Anime: Harvey Girls...
- 16.54 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 17.16 Doc: World Capitals
- 17.25 Mag: Japan Video Topics
- 17.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.05 Mag: Rev
- 18.31 Mag: Healthy Living
- 19.31 Mag: Global US
- 20.02 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin

Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana
- 15.30 Film: Super Singh
Starring Diljit Dosanjh, Sonam Bajwa, Pawan Malhotra
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.03 Udaariyaan
- 19.33 Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise...
- 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2
- 20.38 Radha Krishna
- 21.08 Anupama
- 21.37 Mere Sai
- 22.08 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.29 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
- 23.30 Film: Super Singh
Starring Diljit Dosanjh, Sonam Bajwa, Pawan Malhotra
- 01.58 Kundali Bhagya

mercredi 20 septembre

- 05.11 Film: Lawrence D'Arabie
- 08.55 Serial: The Equalizer
- 09.40 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 09.57 Tele: Amour Secret
- 10.22 The Gardener's Daughter
- 10.45 Tele: Marimar
- 11.10 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Barbarita
- 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 13.40 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 14.15 Serial: The Equalizer
- 15.21 Film: Restart The Earth
- 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 18.31 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.55 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 19.30 Journal & La Meteo
- 20.30 Serial: Chicago Med
- 21.15 Film: Love Affair
Star : Irene Dunne, Charles Boyer, Maria Ouspenskaya

- 07.35 Local: Priorite Sante
- 09.02 Local: Zeness Dime
- 09.30 Local: Radio Vision
- 11.00 Local: Music Tour 2022
- 12.03 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
- 12.30 Ong An Eta Dalert
- 13.17 Local: Priorite Sante
- 14.18 Local: Rodrig Prog
- 14.58 Prod: Nu Rasinn
- 15.51 Local: Glwar Dantan
- 16.45 Local: Music Tour 2022
- 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 18.32 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.00 Zournal Kreol
- 19.30 Rodrig Spor
- 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 21.26 Local: Influencers
- 22.18 Local: Proze Dime
- 22.51 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.20 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 00.12 Rodrig: Pran Kont Ou Lasante

- 07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
- 08.15 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka
- 08.51 Prakriti Ki God Mein
- 09.21 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya
- 09.51 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 11.20 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Bhagwan Samaye Sansar Main
Starring: Ashish Kumar, Abhi Bha
- 15.30 Serial: Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man Bhave
- 16.01 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.39 Local: Tirth Yatra
- 19.37 Local: Anjoria
- 20.02 Local: Virasat
- 20.44 Film: Devar Bhabhi
- 23.22 Serial: Jijaji Chhat Par Hain
- 23.44 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

- 06.30 Mag: Made In Germany
- 08.00 Film: Raggie
- 09.14 Film: Space Boy
- 11.03 Doc: A Mediterranean...
- 11.32 Film: Monsterville
- 12.53 Mag: Japan Video Topics
- 13.00 Mag: The World Is Yours
- 13.30 Film: Time Toys
- 14.51 D.Anime: Kids Songs
- 14.57 Film: Monsters Academy
- 16.22 D.Anime: Gon
- 16.56 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 16.58 Mag: Sand Tales
- 17.19 Doc: World Capitals
- 17.30 Mag: Global US
- 18.00 Doc: Smoothie Mania
- 18.29 Mag: Vous Et Vous
- 18.58 Doc: Fine Arts Sculptures
- 19.30 Mag: The Inside Story
- 20.00 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Doc: Archipel De Feu

- 14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana
- 15.30 Film: Muskurahat
Starring: Jay Mehta, Revathi, Amrishi 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
- 21.06 Anupama
- 21.36 Mere Sai
- 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie ittefaq Sey
- 23.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 23.26 Film: Muskurahat
Starring: Jay Mehta, Revathi, Amrishi Puri
- 02.09 Serial: Kundali Bhagya

jeudi 21 septembre

- 06.00 Serial: New Amsterdam
- 07.15 Serial: Imposters
- 08.05 Serial: Chicago Med
- 09.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 09.55 Tele: Amour Secret
- 10.30 The Gardener's Daughter
- 10.55 Tele: Marimar
- 11.15 Serial: Timeless
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Barbarita
- 13.15 Tele: Fierce Angel
- 13.45 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 14.10 Serial: The Magicians
- 15.22 Film: Outsource
- 17.15 The Gardener's Daughter
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.56 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Uunchai
Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani

- 07.12 Local: Toc Toc Doc
- 09.01 Local: Proze Dime
- 11.00 Local: Influencers
- 12.03 Local: Rodrig Spor
- 12.31 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 13.08 Local: Toc Toc Doc
- 13.23 Local: En Forme
- 13.42 Local: Agir Ensemble
- 14.09 Rodrig: Klip Seleckson
- 15.30 Rodrig: Komanter
- 17.05 Local: Radio Vision
- 18.00 Tele: Imperio De Mentiras
- 18.31 Tele: Amour Secret
- 19.00 Live: Zournal Kreol
- 19.20 Le Mag De L'Emploi
- 19.41 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin
- 19.48 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
- 20.30 Local: Mots & Ecrits
- 21.00 Local: Radio Vision
- 23.00 Le Journal
- 23.20 Local: Groov'in

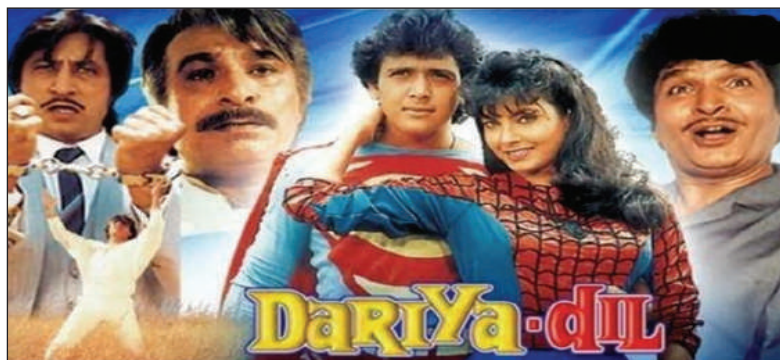
- 07.00 Serial: Chacha Bhatija
- 07.31 Serial: Selfie With Bajrangi
- 08.04 Local: Tirth Yatra
- 08.31 Local: Anjoria
- 09.38 Local: Radha Krishna
- 10.00 Serial: Suhani Si Ek Ladki
- 11.26 Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Kalighata
- 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain
- 16.00 Serial: Agniphera
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Radha Krishna
- 18.45 Local: Bhajan Sandhya
- 19.04 Local: Swami Dayanand Saraswati
- 19.56 Local: Hunarbaaz
- 20.45 Serial: Surya Puran
- 22.00 Serial: Jag Jaanani Maa Vaishnodevi
- 23.38 Serial: Yeh Teri Galiyan

- 06.03 Mag: Motorweek
- 07.31 Mag: The Inside Story
- 10.32 Doc: Cool & Clever
- 11.04 Mag: Motorweek
- 11.30 Mag: Vous Et Nous
- 12.30 Mag: The Inside Story
- 13.08 Doc: Archipel De Feu
- 14.30 Mag: The World Is Yours
- 14.51 Serial: Hi Opie!
- 15.06 D.Anime: Wonder Grove
- 15.20 D.Anime: Trolls: En Avant La
- 15.43 Stan Lee's Superhero
- 16.08 D.Anime: Gon
- 16.31 D.Anime: Harvey Girls...
- 16.54 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 17.30 Mag: Motorweek
- 18.30 Mag: Shift
- 19.00 Student Support Programme
- 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 20.50 Tele: La Reina Del Flow
- 21.42 Film: Lust For Gold

- 14.25 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana
- 15.28 Film: Dariya Dil
Stars: Govinda, Kimi Katkar, Roshni and Raj Kiran
- 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
- 21.02 Anupama
- 21.30 Mere Sai
- 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.31 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
- 22.59 Patiala Babes
- 23.30 Film: Dariya Dil
Stars: Govinda, Kimi Katkar, Roshni and Raj Kiran
- 02.00 Kundali Bhagya
- 02.30 Serial: Udaariyaan



Jeudi 21 septembre - Stars: Govinda, Kimi Katkar, Roshni and Raj Kiran
15.15



Jeudi 21 septembre - Stars: Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani
20.30





Dr Rajagopal Soondron

Freedom at Last

Decades ago, we were yearning for the time when we would leave university for good to start working and enjoying adult life. We became so engrossed in that second phase that we failed to notice that it had already come to a close. It's retirement time!

Many of us are haunted by the prospect of having to spend the rest of our years in a retirement home. While others will continue embellishing their home life - washing, painting, cleaning, gardening— and live happily.

But to many who had looked upon home as a place just to be near the family and wile away the time the dilemma remains: how to structure one's time away from one's profession?

The Dilemma

Do we spin a new outlook on life, or do we fall into the mindset of most senior citizens and sink into inevitable melancholy? Would we inevitably sink into reminiscences of times past – contemplating what might have been, punctuated by regrets? Or do we reactivate old pastimes and hobbies that our profession had eroded into — much to our chagrin? Oh, those books! – those old memorable stories that we had read repeatedly with dreamy eyes – *'Les Trois Mousquetaires'* or *'Le Comte de Monte Cristo'* or the idyllic world of PG Wodehouse and his characters like Bertie Wooster; can we rekindle similar enthusiasm for new books that could fire our adventurous mind once again, as before? Or should we revisit all those opening moves, gambits, and traps in those unforgettable 1972 chess games between Fischer and Spassky?

But what's the worry? Are we not supposed to be free now? No work! No responsibility outside home. No question of being on time. That's freedom, isn't it? Free of bosses, of punctuality or of heavy professional responsibility?

Years of harassment

So how about doing what we always wanted to do? Remember those student days - when going to school was such a daily harassment, when taking extra tuition was a further burden on our young mind. Our parents saw to it that we toed their line - that we get up early at 6 am, eat the oatmeal prepared by mother, read books before going to class; we sorely missed the early morning comfortable bed. Come weekend - how we had run away to play football or to catch birds with our friends. But we always had the feeling that that parental gaze was lurking behind every bush.

Now that we are free at last, why not go on sleeping for as long as we want? Why not do whatever or as much as one wants - taking a late breakfast, walking to town leisurely... knowing that there won't be any revision work to do, no books to open, no long-faced teacher breathing down our necks to extract conjugation of French verbs from us! Wonder of wonders! There won't be examination times which drained us of our mental energy and peace, robbing us of our childhood bonhomie.

Many of us youngsters of the 60s had to help our parents in their work. Even after school and during

weekends, some had to go and fetch fodder for the cows, others had to help their uncle in his shop or the grandmother at the marketplace, or accompany father to his watercress marshes on Sundays; at home we had to brush the 'rexo-ed' concrete floor ('Rexo' was a popular floor wax in those days), clean the house and go to the shop for mum. All these are now unforgettable experiences — but we did not really appreciate them at that time.

Now we are free of those worries... Let's bask in the knowledge that all are just memories. Let's lie around and enjoy the free time at our disposal – no elders around to keep watch over us. We can always look back and smile at those bygone activities and experiences without however falling into the sentimental trap of regretting that "horrible" past – as if we did really love it when we were young. Let's not play the masochistic martyr!



“Now that we are free at last, why not go on sleeping for as long as we want? Why not do whatever or as much as one wants - taking a late breakfast, walking to town leisurely... knowing that there won't be any revision work to do, no books to open, no long-faced teacher breathing down our necks...”

Pastimes - Ahoy!

So, at last we have inherited some free time that the good God has handed over to us on a platter.

Let's watch those movies on TV at any time of the day or night; those we missed in our teen days, especially the ones which were a weekly event - be it *Bonanza*, *The Fujitive*, or *The Invaders*. Now is also the time to see those pictures we missed because they were X-rated in those days — but nowadays open to all 12 years old. Now we are our own boss, no one to look in our direction with meaningful reproach or grumbling. Let's enjoy those years we missed because of educational demands. Let's go strolling whenever we want – be it sunny, rainy or when it's windy or cyclonic. How we wanted to walk in the rain when we were young - but how could we? Let's do it now – in summer preferably. Let's go window shopping and enjoy those new supermarkets with superbly lit wide corridors fitted with comfortable seats - all well stocked with such a huge panoply of goods, sweets, vegetables, and goodies that we never dreamt of in our childhood – let's enjoy those food courts' offers. Let's give all these Chinese shops of yore a miss.

We can now sit in one of these modern cafes - which we could hardly afford to do during our working years -

sipping tea or chocolate drinks while watching with glee et *malin plaisir* those stressed working youngsters enacting the scenario that we ourselves played decades ago.

Did we not look with envy at our dad and uncle as they would go picnicking, fishing, rushing for international football matches or night movies? Now we have the freedom to do the same. How we had dreamed of driving a car; can we do it now with that same childish enthusiasm...can we grip that driving wheel with a different mindset? Can we rekindle that childhood folly?

How we were thrilled when we boarded our first plane in our late teens to go for higher studies, easily forgetting kith and kin we left behind. Well why can't we go again and make as if we were still 20... with no real lectures and exams on the horizon? Let's go on vacation regularly – can we, do it? Or is it possible that our ageing brain will revert and yearn for our priceless daily routine – never away from home? And will our ability to control our thinking and emotional faculties be still on top? Will our health and bank account ride along?

Can we delete some of our past and enjoy the now - the present? Can we do justice to our wonderful teachers' advices we have had for some 60 years? It will be our greatest challenge – which could be a measure of our educational standard and vision.

Surely, we can now afford to please ourselves; the time to dream positively has dawned.

Provided our health... and spouse are of the party.

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