

MAURITIUS TIMES

• The man enslaved to wealth can never be honest. — Democritus

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Political Tidings

As the nation approaches its upcoming elections, speculation intensifies over the precise timing of the vote. The political landscape presents both challenges and opportunities for all parties involved. The ruling MSM alliance is contending with significant issues, including allegations of mismanagement, corruption, and controversial decisions made not only during the Covid-19 pandemic but throughout its entire tenure. Meanwhile, the opposition faces a government seemingly intent on leveraging every possible advantage to secure re-election.

However, the MSM finds itself in a difficult position. With public trust eroding and criticism mounting, the party is striving to turn things around. Its strategy involves forming a new alliance with the PMSD, following an almost four-year period as part of the main opposition alliance led by the Labour Party and MMM. Although this MSM-PMSD alliance has not yet been formalized, it has already led to changes, including the replacement of Soorojdev Phokeer with Adrien Duval as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and an unsuccessful attempt to reinstate the Mauritius Turf Club at Champ de Mars, among other measures.

In addition, the government has been making various promises and distributing benefits since the last budget, but the anticipated positive impact has remained elusive, as each round of measures seems to contribute to growing inflationary pressures. The government is now introducing new promises, including advancing the PRB report for civil servants by one year, although payments will only be made retroactively in December for January 2025. Whether these efforts will be sufficient to shift the balance in favour of the MSM remains to be seen. Both the MSM and the PMSD have faced a barrage of criticism on the social media for such tinkering. The MSM's situation is further complicated due to the relative success of recent Labour Party-MMM rallies. The success of these rallies, despite attempts to disrupt them, suggests that the opposition is gaining momentum, which may have shaken the MSM's confidence.

The timing of the elections has become a crucial decision, with the ruling party carefully evaluating its options and strategising its next moves. Several factors will influence the Prime Minister's decision on when to hold the elections - public perception through polls and NSS

Reports, the popularity of government policies, and the strengths and weaknesses of the opposition. The potential alliance with PMSD will also play a significant role, requiring careful management of relationships within the alliance and the candidate selection process.

On the other hand, economic conditions are a major factor in electoral outcomes. Voter concerns about poverty, rising living costs, and job prospects often overshadow enthusiasm for major infrastructure projects. While short-term incentives and benefits may influence some voters, long-term economic stability and effective solutions to pressing issues are likely to have a more significant impact.

Social issues such as healthcare, education, and law and order are also important to voters. The government's handling of these issues, especially concerning rising drug problems and overall public safety, will significantly impact voter decisions. Effective management of these areas will be as crucial as economic policies in determining election outcomes. Additionally, attempts to target and harass opposition leaders through investigations may also backfire and have a negative influence on electors as seen in other countries across the world.

The current situation remains uncertain at this point in time. While the opposition may have an edge in urban areas, there is still uncertainty about how rural constituencies will vote. The rural electorate appears divided between supporting Navin Ramgoolam/Berenger or sticking with Pravind Jugnauth, making the final outcome hard to predict. As the election nears, both sides must face the harsh realities of political competition. For the ruling MSM alliance, success will hinge on capitalizing on the opposition's weaknesses while projecting an image of strength and infrastructure completion to voters while facing an undoubted "usure du pouvoir". For the opposition, this election represents a critical opportunity to overcome internal challenges and present a unified, compelling alternative to the current government.

In the end, the timing of the elections will be determined by a complex mix of legal, strategic, and political factors. Amid the chaos and uncertainty, one thing is clear: the future of the nation is at stake as each side vies for victory in this crucial electoral contest.

The Conversation

Africa's Ageing Leaders

Succession race in Cameroon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea could destabilise the region



From left: President Teodoro Obiang Nguema of Equatorial Guinea, Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo, Paul Biya of Cameroon and François Bozizé of the Central African Republic in July 2012 in Brazzaville. STR/AFP/Getty Images

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea is 82 and has been in power for 45 years. Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo, 79, has held on to power for 40 years. Cameroon's Paul Biya is 91 and has been president for 42 years.

Their extended tenures are largely due to a lack of constitutional limits on presidential age and terms in their countries. These three cases of political endurance aren't unprecedented in Africa: Félix Houphouët-Boigny led Côte d'Ivoire for 33 years, Gnassingbé Eyadema remained at the helm in Togo for 40 years and Omar Bongo Ondimba reigned over Gabon for 42 years.

As such leaders approach an end-of-reign phase, intense succession rivalries tend to play out. These rivalries are fuelled by deep-seated conflicts within presidential families and can lead to prolonged social and political instability.

I have researched the geopolitical issues in central Africa and explored political transition prospects in Equatorial Guinea, Congo and Cameroon. In a recent article, I analysed the risks of destabilisation posed by succession conflicts in these three countries – and their potential impact on neighbouring regions.

The potential for political transition in Equatorial Guinea, Congo and Cameroon is notable given the "twilight" phase of their long-serving leaders. This transition was also seen in the last years of power of the long-serving Ivorian, Togolese and Gabonese presidents.

The signs of a twilight phase include:

- frequent and increasingly extended health-related absences of the heads of state
- growing discord and dissonance within decision-making circles of the ruling camps
- intensified power struggles within the president's political and family networks
- rising ambitions within the presidential camp to attain the highest office
- a noticeable detachment from the public's basic concerns.

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Dr. Vinaye Ancharaz

Is the Bank of Mauritius serious about tackling the rupee's persistent depreciation?

The current forex shortage stems from a crisis of confidence in the rupee, reflecting poorly on the BoM's role as a guarantor of financial stability

The Bank of Mauritius (BoM) sold \$20 million on Monday 19th August, following sales of an equal amount on 12th and 5th. Cumulatively, the Bank has sold \$60 million so far this month. While the previous two interventions were at Rs 46.40 per dollar, the most recent one was at Rs 46.27 per dollar. This means that the central bank wishes for an appreciation of the rupee relative to the US dollar. On 22nd August, the dollar was selling at Rs46.54 (SBM rates), lower from the peak of Rs47.20 at the beginning of the month, and on a slight downward path since the Monday rate of Rs46.72 (see chart). It is too early to tell if the recent interventions have had the desired impact. What is clear is that the dollar has settled at over Rs46.50 and is unlikely to fall below Rs45.00 in the short term.

The fact that the Bank has now intervened on every Monday of this month indicates that previous dollar sales have fallen short of meeting the demand for dollars. That is, there seems to be a permanent

Why the rupee continues to fall?

First, it seems that forex earnings in the travel and tourism industry are being held in foreign currency (FCY) accounts instead of being released into the market (that is, exchanged into rupees). This practice is called hoarding, and it is intimately linked to speculation. Those holding dollars expect the dollar to appreciate further, in which case they would make a profit (since each dollar yields more rupees). Speculation is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you expect the rupee to depreciate, you will move out of rupees, thus precipitating the rupee's decline.

A second reason is that the rupee's internal value is being eroded by ongoing inflation. As prices rise, you will spend more to buy the same things, which is equivalent to a fall in the real value of money. In fact, inflation discourages saving (why save if the real value of the savings will be reduced by inflation?) and encourages consumption. However, if people find a safe and stable asset, they can save

es the rupee value of exports. In dollar terms, exports may not have increased. Also, our merchandise imports are increasing faster, with the result that the trade deficit is widening month after month. This reduces our net forex earnings and amplifies forex shortages.

Finally, while foreign investment brings in a substantial amount of forex, much of it may not find its way into the commercial circuit, being held up in FCY accounts. Moreover, the BoM must hold a large proportion of FCY in reserves to meet foreign

attract larger forex inflows as buyers would need to convert FCY into rupees to pay for their property. However, such regulations could make FDI into the real estate sector much less attractive. As usual, therefore, the challenge is to find the middle ground, with balanced policy incentives.

A crisis of confidence

All these reasons suggest that much of the current forex shortage is due to a crisis of confidence in the rupee. This represents a damning verdict on the BoM's prime role as a guarantor of financial stability in the country. If only the BoM could issue a firm signal that it wants a stronger rupee, the market will work to bring about an appreciation. Unfortunately, the Bank has depleted its reserves, engaged in



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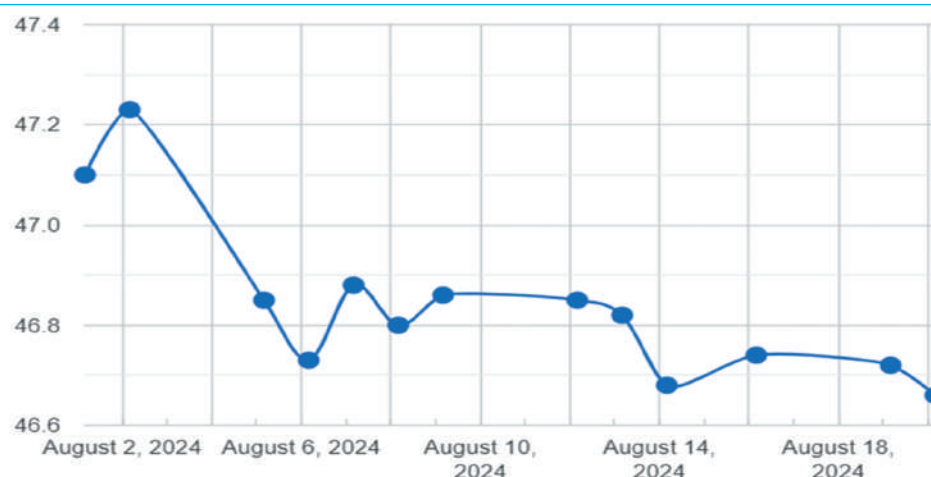


Figure 1. Selling rate of US dollar (Rs/USD), August 1-22, 2024
Growing forex shortages... despite economic recovery

Source: State Bank of Mauritius

shortage of foreign exchange (forex) on the market. Yet the economy has picked up, and most sectors are doing rather well. Tourism, exports, and foreign direct investment (FDI) are our biggest forex earners, and they are all showing healthy growth. Tourist arrivals reached 1.3 million last year, edging to the pre-pandemic level of 1.4 million. Exports in June 2024 were 24% higher than the corresponding figure for June 2023. FDI in 2023 amounted to Rs37 billion, 10% higher than in 2022. So, why does the rupee continue to fall?

by investing in that asset, rather than just holding their savings in rupees. Foreign currency (FCY) is such an asset, which explains why the phenomenon of hoarding has taken such proportions. It also explains the increased desire among ordinary citizens to hold an FCY account. The number of FCY accounts has doubled in the past two years.

Third, while it is true that the value of merchandise exports has increased, this may be in terms of rupees only. A depreciation of the rupee automatically increases

investors' demand. Failure to meet such demand could lead to a loss of confidence and a dramatic flight of capital that could trigger a financial crisis, with collateral damage to Mauritius' global business sector characterized by 'hot capital' (that is, investment flows that are hyper-sensitive to economic conditions).

On this note, it is worth pointing out that the sale of IRS/PDS villas to foreigners hardly generate any forex earnings. This is because villa prices are denominated in FCY and payments received are held in FCY accounts, most of it outside of Mauritius. Regulations that require villa prices to be quoted in rupees can help

colourful accounting practices, and is running a business in parallel (the Mauritius Investment Corporation), which detracts its attention from its core priorities. As such, the market cannot trust the BoM to defend the rupee and achieve its inflation target, and so, the rupee will continue to depreciate.

A weak rupee amid rising international reserves

A careful analysis of the Bank's official international reserves (of gold and foreign currencies) raises questions as to whether the rupee's depreciation is deliberate or beyond the Bank's control.

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La société, ayant envoyé des appels générés par IA imitant Joe Biden aux électeurs, accepte de payer une amende de 1 million de dollars. P - Gstatic.com

Par A. Bartleby

La technologie de l'intelligence artificielle (IA) générative, capable de créer des textes, des images et d'autres contenus en réponse à des sollicitations, transforme profondément notre manière de consommer et de produire l'information et les médias. Utilisée désormais par des millions de personnes pour résumer des documents, rédiger des courriels et accroître leur productivité au travail, elle est également adoptée par les rédactions et les sociétés de production cinématographique pour créer des doublures numériques d'acteurs et même des «clones numériques» d'acteurs décédés. Ces transformations sont appelées à se multiplier dans les mois et années à venir, tout comme les préoccupations et controverses liées à l'utilisation de l'IA générative, selon les médias.

Aux États-Unis, par exemple, Lingo Telecom a accepté de payer une amende de 1 million de dollars après avoir été accusé d'avoir diffusé des appels automatisés trompeurs imitant le président Joe Biden, dans le but de dissuader les électeurs de voter pour lui lors des primaires démocratiques du New Hampshire, a annoncé mercredi la Commission fédérale des communications (FCC). Lingo avait utilisé la technologie de clonage vocal par IA générative pour diffuser de la désinformation. Ces appels ont été

orchestrés par le consultant politique Steve Kramer qui a été inculpé par le bureau du procureur général du New Hampshire.

Kramer fait face à des accusations après que des milliers de résidents du New Hampshire ont reçu un message automatisé leur demandant de ne pas voter avant novembre. En février, Kramer a affirmé avoir payé 500 dollars pour envoyer ces appels afin d'attirer l'attention sur le problème, après leur découverte en janvier. Il avait travaillé pour le concurrent de Biden pour la nomination présidentielle démocratique, le représentant américain Dean Phillips, qui a dénoncé ces appels. La FCC a également proposé une amende de 6 millions de dollars contre Kramer pour ces appels automatisés. De plus, le mois dernier, la Commission a voté en faveur de l'obligation pour les publicités politiques à la radio et à la

risques associés à l'IA générative.

Seulement un adulte sur cinq se dit confiant quant à l'utilisation des outils d'IA générative, bien que 46 % souhaitent en apprendre davantage. Cette incertitude montre que de nombreux Australiens ne maîtrisent pas encore suffisamment cette technologie pour prendre des décisions éclairées. Sans interventions appropriées, les technologies émergentes, comme l'IA générative, pourraient accentuer les disparités entre ceux qui ont confiance en leurs compétences médiatiques et ceux qui en manquent. C'est pourquoi des analystes affirment qu'il est urgent que le gouvernement australien investisse dans des ressources et des programmes d'éducation aux médias pour garantir que tous les citoyens puissent s'adapter au paysage médiatique numérique en évolution rapide et participer pleinement à la société contemporaine.

La montée en puissance de l'IA générative pose des défis importants et urgents tant sur le plan éthique que

Les enjeux de l'IA générative: Innovations et inquiétudes

télévision de divulguer si le contenu est généré par l'IA.

Les inquiétudes croissent à Washington quant au risque que le contenu généré par l'IA induise les électeurs en erreur lors des élections présidentielle et législatives du 5 novembre. La FCC prévoit que l'IA jouera un rôle important dans les publicités politiques de 2024.

En Australie, face à ces évolutions rapides, une enquête menée auprès de plus de 4 000 Australiens vise à comprendre leurs expériences et attitudes envers cette technologie. Les résultats publiés récemment montrent une image complexe et soulignent l'importance cruciale des programmes d'éducation aux médias. Bien que de nombreux Australiens croient que l'IA générative pourrait améliorer leur vie, une majorité estime qu'elle pourrait nuire à la société. C'est la raison pour laquelle environ trois quarts des Australiens adultes jugent nécessaire de mettre en place des lois et des réglementations pour gérer les

réglementaire. Les récentes affaires de désinformation et les préoccupations croissantes concernant la manipulation de l'opinion publique révèlent les dangers potentiels de cette technologie lorsqu'elle est mal utilisée. À Maurice, bien que ce phénomène n'ait pas encore pris d'ampleur, il ne serait pas surprenant que certains politiciens, en particulier des leaders de partis, soient ciblés par leurs adversaires lors de la prochaine campagne électorale, qui, selon les observateurs politiques, promet d'être «tough, cheap and dirty».

Alors que l'IA continue d'évoluer et d'influencer divers aspects de notre vie, il est impératif que les régulateurs, les décideurs et les citoyens collaborent pour établir des cadres législatifs adaptés et des programmes éducatifs robustes. Ces mesures aideront à protéger l'intégrité de l'information et à garantir que les bénéfices de l'IA générative ne soient pas éclipsés par ses risques potentiels.

Diasporas : Agents de changement à travers les frontières

Dans le monde interconnecté du XXI^e siècle, les communautés diasporiques se sont affirmées comme des acteurs essentiels dans la quête de liberté politique et d'autodétermination pour leurs pays d'origine. Réparties à travers plusieurs pays, ces communautés exercent une influence considérable grâce à leur capacité à naviguer dans les paysages politiques de leurs pays d'accueil et d'origine. Leurs activités de soutien aux mouvements de liberté sont variées et dynamiques, allant du plaidoyer de base à la diplomatie de haut niveau, les rendant indispensables comme agents du changement.

Selon Basit Zaheer Baloch, militant politique, activiste des droits humains et écrivain, les diasporas contribuent directement aux mouvements de liberté en exerçant un lobbying et un plaidoyer effi-

caces. Elles s'efforcent de manière persistante d'influencer les politiques étrangères de leur pays d'accueil, en les incitant à se positionner contre les régimes oppressifs ou à soutenir les mouvements d'indépendance. En faisant pression sur les politiciens, en organisant des réunions avec des responsables gouvernementaux et en témoignant devant des instances législatives, les diasporas peuvent influencer le discours international autour de leur cause.

Les diasporas jouent également un rôle financier clé en soutenant les mouvements de liberté. Par le biais d'événements de collecte de fonds, de campagnes en ligne et de remises d'argent personnelles, elles fournissent les ressources nécessaires pour soutenir l'activisme politique, les efforts humanitaires et, dans certains cas, la résistance armée.

☞ Suite en page 5



Une manifestation de la diaspora mauricienne à Londres. P - Defimedia

Diasporas : Agents de changement à travers les frontières

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L'argent collecté par les diasporas est utilisé pour organiser des manifestations, fournir une aide juridique, soutenir les personnes déplacées et maintenir les opérations des organisations politiques. Ces fonds sont souvent cruciaux pour la survie des mouvements confrontés à des blocages financiers ou à la répression de leur gouvernement d'origine.

À l'ère numérique, les diasporas exploitent efficacement le pouvoir des médias sociaux pour attirer l'attention mondiale sur leurs causes. Des plateformes comme Twitter, Facebook et Instagram leur permettent de contourner les médias traditionnels et de communiquer directement avec un public mondial. Elles utilisent ces outils pour partager des informations, organiser des événements et mobiliser du soutien pour leurs mouvements.

Les diasporas fournissent également des sources alternatives d'information pour contrer les récits contrôlés par les États. Dans les pays où les médias sont censurés, les sites web, blogs et chaînes YouTube gérés par les diasporas deviennent des sources cruciales d'informations non censurées et de perspectives diverses. En exposant les violations des droits humains et en amplifiant les voix des personnes réduites au silence chez elles, les diasporas contribuent à maintenir l'attention internationale sur leurs luttes.

Les manifestations publiques sont un autre outil puissant pour les diasporas. En organisant des rassemblements dans les grandes villes du monde, elles attirent l'attention sur les injustices dans leurs pays d'origine. Ces manifestations sont souvent coordonnées avec des événements politiques significatifs, comme les élections, les sommets internationaux ou les visites de dignitaires de leur pays d'origine.

La coordination de journées d'action mondiales, avec des manifestations simultanées dans plusieurs villes, est une stratégie courante. Ces efforts coordonnés montrent l'ampleur internationale du mouvement et aident à maintenir une pression continue sur les régimes ciblés. La visibilité de ces manifestations, souvent relayée par les médias internationaux, peut jouer un rôle déterminant dans l'influence de l'opinion publique et des décideurs politiques.

Les diasporas s'engagent également dans la diplomatie culturelle pour susciter de l'empathie et de la compréhension pour leur cause. Par le biais d'événements culturels comme des festivals de films, des expositions d'art et des concerts, elles mettent en valeur le patrimoine culturel de leurs pays d'origine tout en attirant l'attention sur les luttes politiques qu'ils affrontent. Ces événements servent de plateformes pour sensibiliser le grand public à l'histoire, à la culture et aux aspirations politiques de leurs peuples.

Les diasporas comprennent l'importance de créer des alliances tant dans leurs pays d'accueil qu'à travers les frontières. Elles forment souvent des coalitions avec d'autres groupes marginalisés ou militants, utilisant ces relations pour renforcer leur influence politique. Ces alliances peuvent fournir des ressources supplémentaires, accroître la visibilité de leur cause et élargir leur base de soutien.

Les réseaux transnationaux jouent un rôle crucial en connectant les communautés diasporiques à travers différents pays. Ces réseaux permettent le partage de ressources, de stratégies et d'informations, rendant les mouvements plus résilients et coordonnés. Une telle solidarité mondiale est essentielle pour soutenir les luttes prolongées pour la liberté et l'indépendance.



Diaspora mauricienne à Paris - une manifestation dans le sillage du naufrage du Wakashio. Le Mauricien

Dans certains cas, des membres des diasporas s'impliquent directement dans les processus politiques de leur pays d'accueil. En se présentant à des postes publics, ils peuvent influencer les décisions de politique étrangère et plaider pour leur pays d'origine de l'intérieur du gouvernement. Lorsqu'ils réussissent, ces politiciens diasporiques peuvent devenir des alliés puissants pour les mouvements de liberté, utilisant leurs positions pour promouvoir la reconnaissance diplomatique, les sanctions économiques ou l'aide humanitaire.

Les diasporas jouent également un rôle crucial dans le soutien aux dirigeants politiques en exil. En leur offrant une plateforme, un soutien financier et un accès à des audiences internationales, elles aident à maintenir la pertinence de ces leaders, même lorsqu'ils doivent opérer en dehors de leur pays d'origine.

Enfin, les diasporas se tournent souvent vers le domaine juridique pour obtenir justice pour les crimes commis contre leur peuple. En collaborant avec des organisations internationales de défense des droits humains et des experts juridiques, elles peuvent poursuivre en justice les responsables de leur pays d'origine pour des crimes tels que le génocide, la torture ou les crimes de guerre. Ces actions légales, souvent entreprises devant les tribunaux

internationaux ou en utilisant des lois sur la compétence universelle, peuvent servir de mécanisme de responsabilité lorsque les systèmes juridiques nationaux échouent.

Le rôle croissant de la diaspora mauricienne

Au cours des dernières années, la diaspora mauricienne s'est affirmée comme un acteur clé dans diverses luttes sociales et politiques, tant à Maurice qu'à l'étranger. Fortement engagée dans des causes variées, elle a démontré un dynamisme et une solidarité qui méritent d'être soulignés. Que ce soit pour soutenir les mouvements pour la justice sociale ou les initiatives en faveur de l'environnement, la diaspora mauricienne s'investit activement. Dans la foulée du naufrage du Wakashio, la diaspora mauricienne à Paris a

organisé une manifestation pour exprimer son indignation et ses préoccupations. Cet événement reflète l'inquiétude grandissante au sein de la communauté mauricienne de l'étranger, soucieuse des répercussions environnementales et sociales de cette catastrophe maritime.

De plus, les membres de la diaspora mauricienne ont également pris position sur des questions de gouvernance et de transparence, apportant un soutien crucial aux initiatives locales visant à promouvoir la bonne gouvernance et à combattre la corruption. Leur engagement en faveur de ces causes reflète non seulement une volonté de voir des changements positifs dans leur pays d'origine, mais aussi un désir de maintenir des liens forts et constructifs avec leur terre natale.

En soutenant ces causes, la diaspora mauricienne démontre non seulement son attachement profond à ses racines, mais aussi sa capacité à influencer positivement les débats et les politiques tant au niveau national qu'international. Ce phénomène illustre l'importance croissante des diasporas dans la dynamique des mouvements pour la liberté et la justice à travers le monde, en particulier pour des communautés aussi dispersées et diversifiées que celle de Maurice.

L'impact du Printemps arabe en Asie du Sud Après le Sri Lanka et le Bangladesh, quel sera le prochain pays ?

Tawakkul Karman, activiste des droits humains yéménite surnommée «La Mère de la Révolution», a un jour déclaré: «La jeunesse est une révolution ; elle ne peut être arrêtée, elle ne peut être réprimée, elle ne peut être réduite au silence.»

2010: Le «Printemps arabe»

Le monde a vu un tel soulèvement de masse lors du Printemps arabe qui a commencé en 2010. L'éveil de masse organisé par les peuples du monde arabe pour diverses revendications est connu sous le nom de «Printemps arabe».

Le Printemps arabe a commencé le 17 décembre 2010 en Tunisie. Un jeune diplômé au chômage nommé Mohammad Bouazizi, vendeur de fruits, s'est suicidé en s'immolant par le feu pour protester contre la corruption policière et le mauvais comportement.

A. Bartleby

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Du Printemps arabe à la chute du régime au Bangladesh, la «croissance sans emploi» est un problème de sécurité nationale. P - Indian Express

The Energy Transition – Challenges and Opportunities



Anil Madan

The transition presents enormous opportunities for nations, for industry, for those who deploy capital, for scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, visionaries

The McKinsey Global Institute has just released a report titled: *The hard stuff: Navigating the physical realities of the energy transition*. It is a lengthy document providing an overview of the challenges that the world faces in transitioning to clean energy. Embedded within the report, one can see that the transition presents enormous opportunities for nations, for industry, for those who deploy capital, for scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, visionaries, and indeed, for all to contribute to the change.

The Energy Transition is going to happen whether the fossil fuel industry likes it or not. This is not the same as saying that the world will rapidly eliminate the use of fossil fuels or indeed, that in the foreseeable future, it can. In short, the energy transition may not successfully happen. And this is also not to say that the fossil fuel industry's giants will not participate in elements of the transition. One example is the leadership roles that ExxonMobil and Chevron show in the carbon capture space.

Here, I present a look at some of the highlights of the McKinsey report. A striking initial assessment they make is that as we begin the energy transition, only about 10 percent of the low-emissions technologies that are required to achieve emissions goals for 2050 have been deployed. The combination of the production and consumption of energy accounts for more than 85% of global CO₂ emissions. Creating a low-emissions energy system would require deploying millions of new assets and, at the same time, face the challenge of meeting ever-increasing energy demand and the need to deliver energy to those who do not now have access. My observation is that, as with most delivery systems, this aspect will run head-on into the challenges and costs of delivery to the last mile.

Inventing and facilitating new technologies

The physical challenges that McKinsey sees range from inventing and facilitating new technologies, to creating supply chains that do not now exist and building the infrastructure to support them.

If we are to reduce CO₂ emissions by half (and more reduction will be needed), the variability of renewable source energy will have to be fixed. Since transportation is a large contributor to emissions, transitioning to electric trucks means addressing range and payload challenges. Industrial processes and production are largely dependent on traditional fuels for generating heat. Here, alternative fuels and perhaps even replacement of feedstocks for manufacturing industrial materials will have to be found. Deploying hydrogen as a potential energy source remains a challenge but a promising one, and carbon capture will be important. And what of aviation and shipping? They have unique challenges of their own.

The challenges we face are demanding because we

simply do not have viable low-emissions fuels that can match the yield that high-emissions fuels provide. In many cases, the shift to low-emissions energy delivery means changing entire production systems.

The existing energy delivery system effectively serves the world even if inefficiently so. It is a massive and complex system that supports the livelihood of billions of people. The economies of many states depend on it. Some of the world's largest businesses depend on it. For all its flaws, the system performs at a high level. One of those major flaws is that about two-thirds of energy is currently wasted.

McKinsey's report does not state this, but for now the easiest and perhaps default method of meeting the world's increasing thirst for more power and the need to provide access to power to the billions who do not now have it, is to add more fossil fuel production capacity. Perhaps this is why we see that China continues to add coal-fired power plants and neither China nor India will commit to dramatic emissions reductions before 2060 and 2070. The economic empowerment of their populations is a priority well ahead of curbing global emissions.

Although not a practical solution, it appears that political considerations may lead nations to attempt to construct a low-emissions energy system in parallel with the extant structure and find a way to flip a switch from the old to the new. This is easier said than done both from practical and logistical considerations, and from a financial perspective.

McKinsey rightly observes that deploying wind and solar technologies that seem promising, is first and foremost a physical transformation and that this is a truth that often gets lost in the abstraction of net-zero scenarios.

The report identifies seven key domains of energy that require significant revamping and reconfiguration. The first domain is power, where the primary challenge is not only to drastically reduce emissions but also to scale up low-emission energy generation to meet the demands of its three largest customer bases: **mobility** (transportation),

“Only about 10 percent of the low-emissions technologies that are required to achieve emissions goals for 2050 have been deployed. The combination of the production and consumption of energy accounts for more than 85% of global CO₂ emissions. Creating a low-emissions energy system would require deploying millions of new assets and, at the same time, face the challenge of meeting ever-increasing energy demand and the need to deliver energy to those who do not now have access...”

industry, and buildings. The other three domains include **raw materials**, such as critical rare earth minerals; **hydrogen and other alternative energy sources**; and **carbon reduction**.

The EV challenge

The transition is gaining momentum even in its early life. About 90% of all battery electric vehicles (EVs) sales and almost 60% of wind and solar power capacity was added in the past five years. On the other hand, low-emissions hydrogen-based power generation, carbon capture, and low-emissions manufacture of industrial materials is at less than 1 percent of required 2050 deployment levels. There is a long road to travel, but one can see that opportunities wait for those who can exploit the developing markets. And do not lose sight of the fact that these dramatic numbers relate only to about 10% of the change that is



Pic - Courtesy of HDOT

“The scale of the EV challenge is enormous. Global public charging infrastructure would have to grow by 24% per year for the next six years to bring the total number of charging stations to 16 million, up from about 2.8 million charging points in 2022. And consider that if the number of EVs sold rises, so must the number of factories making batteries rise. Manufacturing capacity would need to grow tenfold by 2030...”

needed.

The report suggests that there are 25 physical challenges that must be addressed for the energy transition to succeed.

Aside from the challenges in the power sector mentioned, each of the domains presents its own challenges. The mobility domain, for example, includes the challenge of increasing EV sales to 1 billion in short order. This, in turn, requires building out a battery charging structure that is robust and reliable. It may require the development of smaller batteries that are easily swappable so that drivers are not stuck waiting for a charge to be completed. Charging a battery EV takes 25-50 times longer than filling up an internal combustion vehicle with gasoline or diesel. Yet, McKinsey estimates that the current range performance of EVs meets the needs of almost 70% of households. This has huge promise for reducing pollution in cities around the world.

On the other hand, one must recognize that the energy used to mine minerals for EV batteries, and the energy used to manufacture the batteries, electric motors, chassis and body elements, and the software that controls them, for the most part comes from fossil fuels. Therefore, the brunt of the pollution is merely being shifted to victims in areas where the mines and factories are located.

If electric trucks are to become a reality, the problem of range and payload present seemingly insurmountable obstacles. McKinsey suggests that one solution is to reconfigure the routing and travel distances to optimize electric vehicle deployment. For industry, the challenge is to transition to low-emissions furnaces for steel production, synthesizing low-emissions ammonia, and finding a way to deal with the permanence of plastic waste that keeps piling up.

● Cont. on page 7

Is the Bank of Mauritius serious about tackling the rupee's persistent depreciation?

● Cont. from page 3

Reserves have increased from \$6.6 billion to \$8.0 billion between July 2023 and July 2024, that is, by more than 20% over the last financial year. This is a comfortable level of reserves, amounting to 12.3 months of import cover. If the Bank has sufficient foreign exchange in its reserves, why is it selling USD piecemeal and in such tiny amounts? Aren't the BoM's actions perpetuating the forex crisis?

A deliberate strategy of depreciation?

Or is it that the BoM does not want the rupee to appreciate, or appreciate too much? For a low rupee is in the interest of both the Bank and the government. It brings revaluation gains to the Bank and imported inflation into the economy. Inflation yields 'inflation tax' to the government, allowing it to keep splashing cash on targeted segments of the population (low-income earners, public officers, pensioners) that it sees as its vote bank in the run up to the elections. In fact, a big chunk of these perks is

self-financing: part of the cash hand-outs will find its way back into the government's coffers through taxes on goods and services.

Final word

To be fair, the dollar has been on a declining trend since reaching a peak rate of Rs47.89 on 28th June 2024, so it appears that the Bank's recent forex interventions have proved quite effective in containing the rupee's relentless depreciation. However, the rupee has lost about 50% of its value against major currencies since this government took office in November 2014 (on 2nd December 2014, just a few days after the elections,



“The rupee's internal value is being eroded by ongoing inflation. As prices rise, you will spend more to buy the same things, which is equivalent to a fall in the real value of money. In fact, inflation discourages saving (why save if the real value of the savings will be reduced by inflation?) and encourages consumption. However, if people find a safe and stable asset, they can save by investing in that asset, rather than just holding their savings in rupees. Foreign currency (FCY) is such an asset, which explains why the phenomenon of hoarding has taken such proportions...”

the dollar was at Rs31.20).

True, the Covid-19 pandemic dealt a major blow to the economy and sent inflation and exchange rates through the roof. Yet, the major causes of the rupee's decline are domestic and policy-induced rather than external. That the BoM has become the government's ATM is a known fact. This is akin to opening the floodgates.

The depreciation of the rupee will not stop until the central bank is truly independent and focuses solely on its responsibility of maintaining price and financial stability. Research shows that countries with the most independent central banks have low inflation rates and strong currencies. Take New Zealand, for example. The replacement of the Bank's top management with competent people with a mandate to stabilize the rupee's external value will go a long way in signalling a shift from the past in exchange rate management. And when the market responds to credible signals, policy targets come within reach.

Dr Vinaye Ancharaz, PhD, FCMI, formerly a principal economist at the African Development Bank and a senior lecturer and Head of Department at the University of Mauritius, is an international economic consultant specializing in trade and development.

The Energy Transition – Challenges and Opportunities

● Cont. from page 6

The scale of the EV challenge is enormous. Global public charging infrastructure would have to grow by 24% per year for the next six years to bring the total number of charging stations to 16 million, up from about 2.8 million charging points in 2022. And consider that if the number of EVs sold rises, so must the number of factories making batteries rise. Manufacturing capacity would need to grow tenfold by 2030.

The challenges for the energy transition

When it comes to buildings, whether residential or commercial, more reliable and efficient means of heating and cooling must be deployed. This will mean creating more efficient heat pumps.

Hydrogen remains the most promising abundant fuel source. But technologies to harness this power source are still in their infancy. And once the technology is reliable and deployable, assuming optimistically that we succeed in developing a viable hydrogen power system, an entire infrastructure to deliver it will have to be created and scaled. This is a daunting and expensive undertaking.

Carbon and energy reduction revolve around expanding energy efficiency, capturing point-source carbon, and perhaps even capturing atmospheric carbon. What we do not know is whether these capture methods can be done at scale and, if so, will they make a difference?

McKinsey has divided the challenges for the energy transition into three levels. Those I have discussed so far, fit into the first two levels.

Level three challenges are formidable. Reducing about 50% of CO₂ from energy production systems involves addressing these higher-level challenges. Some will require new technologies, some new ways of thinking.

Right now, the technology to decarbonize trucking simply does not exist because batteries are not robust enough to allow transportation of heavy payloads over long distances.

In industry, the primary contributors to emissions are the production of steel, cement, plastics, and ammonia. In transportation, trucking, aviation and shipping account for about half of current emissions in their sector.

Surmounting the challenge of variability in power production from renewable sources will require new battery storage and release/delivery on demand technologies. One significant issue is the availability of suitable land for such power generation systems and the cost of acquiring the land for that purpose.

Nuclear power remains both promising and daunting. Despite new technologies, new nuclear plants will require sophisticated management of complex engineering, supply chain issues, and dealing with siting and safety issues, not to mention political and public relations skills. Not to be forgotten are the enormous costs of constructing and operating nuclear plants and then managing the waste they generate.

Opportunities await in aviation and shipping where low-emissions alternatives do not exist today at a practical useful level. Similarly, while the manufacture of cement involves intense energy use, there are no scalable technologies in existence to cut emissions in a serious way.

Plastics remain a challenge for humanity. They are produced from fossil fuels feedstocks. It is not clear if these feedstocks can be replaced, or if low-emissions energy sources for production can be deployed. Opportunities await those who find solutions to degrade and recycle plastics.

The report addresses the problems of heating and cooling buildings and the need to invent new types of heat pumps that work efficiently, with low-emissions fuels and in extreme temperatures.



“Despite new technologies, new nuclear plants will require sophisticated management of complex engineering, supply chain issues, and dealing with siting and safety issues, not to mention political and public relations skills. Not to be forgotten are the enormous costs of constructing and operating nuclear plants and then managing the waste they generate...”

One obvious consequence of the drive to electrify transportation and heating, is to recognize that these efforts will increase demand for energy.

Ultimately, our ability to meet these challenges will be to find new sources for generating power, or new ways of using fossil fuels while curbing carbon release or capturing the released carbon and hoping that is the solution. In addition, nations around the world will have to find the capital and expertise to deploy new technologies and infrastructure to manage the energy transition. And, of course, that depends on whether we can indeed invent the new modalities that the world needs to effect the transition.

*Cheerz...
Bwana*



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Whither the 'City of Joy'?

The tragic demise of 31-year-old trainee female doctor, the only child of her modest parents, whose promising career has been so brutally cut short is too deep for tears

When Dominique Lapierre wrote the 'City of Joy' in 1985, a story based in Calcutta – now Kolkata – he couldn't have imagined that someday it would instead be referred to as the 'City of Bhoy', as a friend from there posted to me two days ago.

'Bhoy' in Bengali, the native language of West Bengal of which Kolkata is the capital, means fear. This new appellation follows in the wake of the gruesome gang-rape and atrocious murder of a 31-year old trainee female doctor at the R.G.Kar Medical College and Hospital. It is one of the four medical colleges in the city, and way back in the mid-sixties I did part of my initial medical studies there. So, this piece of terrible news, as well as much that is happening both in West Bengal generally and recently in Bangladesh with the flight of its Prime Minister Sheik Hasina to the safety of Bharat and the ensuing genocide against Hindus in her country, aroused my concern and sadness too.

What follows is sourced from information given in Indian TV channels, whose reporters have been on ground following the events. That doctor had been on a protracted spell of night duty until the early hours of the morning, when she finally went to the seminar room to rest. Usually there are other doctors also resting there, but it seems that on that fateful August 9, she was alone. As at date there are many unanswered queries, but it would seem

“The atrocious murder of a 31-year old trainee female doctor at the R.G.Kar Medical College and Hospital has taken place against the backdrop of political violence and mayhem racking West Bengal, and that has practically been the defining characteristic of the State for decades altogether. In the late sixties there was a peasants' revolt that was very violent, with murders and killings galore. I was there at that time, and this revolt was known as the Naxalite movement. Calcutta used to be called the 'city of strikes' – everyday there would be one or two strikes somewhere in the city. Subsequently there were the equally turbulent years of Communist Party rule, and that was followed by that of the TMC, which continues to date...”

that given the extent and severity of damage to the body, there may have been more than one person involved in the rape and murder.

From the time that the body was discovered a few hours later, and her kin was held back from viewing her body for nearly three hours, the larger picture has been unravelling. It involves the college's Principal, highly placed administrative personnel, her professors and teachers, the ruling political party in West Bengal, namely the Trinamool Congress (TMC) led by the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee who also happens to be the State Minister of Health. In what was clearly a political gimmick, she led a protest march demanding that the main culprit be hanged! Loose tongues wagged that he may otherwise let out embarrassing secrets!

It is a sordid story with gory details that are not worth repeating, save to point out that, as an unconfirmed source averred, that lady doctor had started to speak out – or threatened to do so – about the corruption and other irregular practices among the teaching staff. Later has emerged more information about a drug and sex racket that has been going on, again that involved the high and mighty.

But furthermore, what caught my attention in addition to the admin-political nexus, were issues raised that resonated with events that have been plaguing our own country for the past few years. As gaps in the investigation by the State Police were being revealed, the Central Government had to intervene and transfer the case to the Central (i.e. Federal) Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Skeletons have been tumbling out of the cupboard, such as why did the local police take so long to register a First Information Report (FIR), why were the kin held back for so long, why did the police announce that it was a case of suicide even before they had investigated properly, why was the body cremated in a haste after the post-mortem, why was the Principal reinstated by the government four hours after being suspended. what caught my attention in addition to the admin-political nexus, were issues raised that resonated with events that have been plaguing our own country for the past few years. As gaps in the investigation by the State Police were being revealed, the Central Government had to intervene and transfer the case to the Central (i.e. Federal) Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Skeletons have been tumbling out of the cupboard, such as why did the local police take so long to register a First



Rape and murder of doctor sparks nationwide protests in India. Pic - PTI

Information Report (FIR), why were the kin held back for so long, why did the police announce that it was a case of suicide even before they had investigated properly, why was the body cremated in a haste Several other lacunae and irregularities have been pointed out in regard to the initial police investigation and the handling of the case by the State Government, and there's a strong suspicion of an attempt to cover up, making a murder appear as a suicide. Once the CBI took over, the Principal has been suspended, and some people have been arrested.

But more than that, the students and doctors of the college started to protest, only emergency services are being provided. This movement has now spread to the other colleges and hospitals, and the protest movement has involved all sections of civil society and has spread countrywide.

Importantly, the Supreme Court of India has taken *suo moto* cognizance of the case, and a bench headed by the Chief Justice himself has already held hearings and has come up with an initial recommendation to *suo moto* set up a Safety Panel Committee for doctors. That will surely be enlarged later to include all health personnel, as senior voices in the profession have put forward as a demand.

This crime has taken place against the backdrop of political violence and mayhem racking West Bengal, and that has practically been the defining characteristic of the State for decades altogether. In the late sixties there was a peasants' revolt that was very violent, with murders and killings galore. I was there at that time, and this revolt was known as the Naxalite movement. Calcutta used to be called the 'city of strikes' – everyday there would be one or two strikes somewhere in the city.

Subsequently there were the equally turbulent years of Communist Party rule, and that was followed by that of the TMC, which continues to date. Post-poll violence associated with the TMC is endemic.

“What caught my attention in addition to the admin-political nexus, were issues raised that resonated with events that have been plaguing our own country for the past few years. As gaps in the investigation by the State Police were being revealed, the Central Government had to intervene and transfer the case to the Central (i.e. Federal) Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Skeletons have been tumbling out of the cupboard, such as why did the local police take so long to register a First Information Report (FIR), why were the kin held back for so long, why did the police announce that it was a case of suicide even before they had investigated properly, why was the body cremated in a hast ...”

Now all levels of civil society across the country are clamouring for justice for the deceased doctor and her family and are pinning their hope on the Supreme Court. The tragic demise of this young doctor, the only child of her modest parents, whose promising career has been so brutally cut short is, as the saying goes, too deep for tears. If she and her family get the justice that they deserve, that will be at least some redemption. Om Shanti.

Nikhita Obeegadoo - Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies, University of Chicago

“My family story is one of intergenerational struggle that goes far beyond a ‘famous’ last name”



‘Choosing a life in the political limelight is to choose to be constantly criticized, no matter what one does (or does not do)’

Mauritius Times: You have had an impressive academic journey at a young age, indicating that there is indeed more to you than being “more than just my father’s daughter,” as you mentioned in an article in the local press a few years back. Can you share your journey from Stanford and Harvard universities to your current role as an Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Chicago and tell us what motivated you to pursue this career path?

Nikhita Obeegadoo: Literature is truly my first love: I did not so much “choose” it as fall in love with it as a child, and that love has been sustaining me ever since. I have savoured listening to stories as far back as I remember, and at the age of 8, I was already writing my own fiction and poetry. I wrote my first two novels at the ages of 12 and 13.

In Mauritian society, this was paradoxically very much appreciated as a hobby but questioned as a potential career path. People warmly encouraged me to write but also harshly chastised me: “*Bé litératir, ki to pu fer ek sa?*” At school, subjects were divided into neat streams (natural sciences, social sciences, languages), and there was a strong sense that “smart” students study science, while languages and literature were considered a kind of “lesser” option.

I was confused not just by the hierarchy but also by the compartmentalization of knowledge: Why could someone not love both physics and literature? I took Maths, Chemistry, and Physics for my A-levels to complement my love for literature. Then, when I obtained a scholarship to Stanford University, I fully explored all the intellectual options available to me by completing a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Computer

Despite her young age, Nikhita Obeegadoo has already had a distinguished academic career, with a journey that has taken her from the halls of Stanford and Harvard to her current role as an Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Chicago. Nikhita’s path is remarkable not just for her academic achievements, but also for the way she has woven together her love for literature and her multicultural Mauritian heritage into a career that spans continents and disciplines.

In this interview, Nikhita reflects on the experiences that have shaped her, from writing novels as a child to dealing with the complexities of identity in a multicultural society. She discusses the challenges and rewards of pursuing a career in the humanities, the insights gained from teaching and researching in diverse cultural contexts, and her vision for how Mauritius can become a global hub for interdisciplinary studies. Her story is one of passion, resilience, and a deep commitment to understanding the world through the power of language and literature. Read on as we delve into Nikhita Obeegadoo’s journey and her thoughts on the broader issues of identity, culture, and the global relevance of Mauritian perspectives.

Science and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Comparative Literature.

When I was 21, I obtained a Harvard Presidential Fellowship for a fully funded PhD at Harvard University, where I specialized in contemporary literatures of the Indian Ocean and Caribbean. As an Assistant Professor, first at the University of British Columbia and now at the University of Chicago, my role is to teach undergraduate and graduate courses on the contemporary literatures and cultures of the Global South, including the Indian Ocean.

I also receive research support for travel to conferences and fieldwork, which have taken me from the mountains of Peru to the deserts of Morocco. I am passionate about the magic of stories in all their forms, and what they tell us about the people and societies they emanate from.

*** Your CV mentions your interests in Indian Ocean literature, African and South Asian literatures; you are also fluent in multiple languages, including French, English, Hindi, Spanish, and Mauritian Creole. How did your diverse interests and language proficiency come about, and have they enhanced your research and teaching experiences?**

To be honest, my biggest linguistic advantage is being Mauritian! We Mauritians often grow up learning and speaking multiple languages – in my case, Mauritian Creole, English, French, and Hindi – so switching between them becomes as natural as breathing. While this might seem like a mundane aspect of life on the island, it can feel like a superpower when you’re abroad!

Additionally, when I moved to California at the age of 17, I heard Spanish being spoken everywhere and decided to learn the language to engage with Mexican and Latin American diasporas in the region.

“My mother’s family is Hindu of North Indian descent, while my father’s family is Christian of mixed ancestry, mostly Telegu and Tamil. The following question from strangers came up as a leitmotif throughout my entire childhood: “*Bé ki to été toi? To indien? To telegu? To batizé? Ki to été?*” As a child, that question used to make me feel uncomfortable and ashamed, as if I were trying to solve a puzzle with no correct answer. However, as I grew up, those questions sparked other, perhaps more intriguing ones that now drive my research...”

Similarly, I can trace my interest in cultural diversity and dialogue back to my experiences growing up in a multicultural country as a child of a mixed marriage. My mother’s family is Hindu of North Indian descent, while my father’s family is Christian of mixed ancestry, mostly Telegu and Tamil. The following question from strangers came up as a leitmotif throughout my entire childhood: “*Bé ki to été toi? To indien? To telegu? To batizé? Ki to été?*”

As a child, that question used to make me feel uncomfortable and ashamed, as if I were trying to solve a puzzle with no correct answer. However, as I grew up, those questions sparked other, perhaps more intriguing ones that now drive my research and teaching as a literary scholar: What does it mean to belong to multiple communities simultaneously? How do we, as Mauritians, maintain a sense of belonging within our ancestral communities in a way that affirms our complex identities while also being inclusive to others? To what extent is the need to ‘label’ and ‘compartmentalize’ uniquely Mauritian, and to what extent does it exist in other diverse contexts — could it even be fundamental to any society?

I find these questions fascinating, and I continue to explore them in both local and international contexts.

Your CV highlights your role in teaching a Bollywood course in Canada and delivering a presentation on Hindi Literature at the World Hindi Secretariat in Phoenix last year. What insights have you gained from engaging with these diverse cultural and academic contexts?

Many people think of Bollywood in deprecatory terms: as something shallow, superficial, or at the very least “uncool.” I have always disagreed. I believe that if one is able to engage in critical thinking – that is, if one is able to view Bollywood film as interesting raw material for dialogue and conversation, rather than something to be unquestioningly believed at face value – there is much it can teach us with regards to language, cultural norms, or history, just to name a few.

My course “Bollywood in Flux,” which ended up being my most heavily enrolled course at the University of British Columbia, attracted a diverse range of students: some were from India, some were from the Indian diaspora, and many were Canadians with absolutely no prior knowledge of Bollywood! The films we watched together became a valuable platform for cross-cultural exchange and dialogue. For example, we discussed social change in reference to *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha* (2017), and gender inequality in reference to *Stree* (2017).

'I wholeheartedly believe in the importance of speaking truth to power. We should all have the right to express ourselves'

☞ Cont. from page 9

On the other hand, my presentation at the World Hindi Secretariat last year was titled "Hindi Literature as Global Literature." I talked about the rich potential of Hindi literature to explore global issues and highlighted its potential to enrich World Literature Departments.

*** The belief that islanders suffer from insularity may not be entirely accurate in today's world of open communications and travel. However, do you think we are still not fully open to global perspectives, or are we constrained by the island's historical and cultural limitations?**

I think that we are very much open to global perspectives – unfortunately, often at the expense of local insights. For a long time, as Mauritians, we have believed that what comes from abroad – be it foreign degrees or foreign clothes – is better than what is available locally. I do believe that we need to be more confident as Mauritians in our country's ability to be a world leader!

For example, I recently co-organized a conference in Mauritius called "Decolonial Dialogues," with my colleagues Dr Kumari Issur from the University of Mauritius and Dr Patricia Lee Men Chin from Dalhousie University. The central premise was the idea that Mauritius can be a global center for conversations around decolonization and intercultural dialogue. What better place than Mauritius to study the sustained contact between communities, cultures, and languages throughout generations? Why do Mauritians have to go abroad to study these themes? On the other hand, why don't we create opportunities for both Mauritians and foreign students and academics to do so here?

*** If you were to find yourself in a position to influence public policy on matters related to history and culture, what changes or initiatives would you advocate to promote a broader and more inclusive understanding of global perspectives?**

Firstly, I would prioritize the continued decolonization of curricula at all levels, from kindergarten to university. For a long time, "history" and "culture" were seen as the monopoly of the West. It is now crucial for our historical and cultural understandings to be broader. To cite a single example: Today, the continent with the most French speakers is Africa. Mauritius is itself part of the African continent. Why then are most Mauritian students (as I was at that stage of my life!) more familiar with authors from France than from Rwanda, or Madagascar, or Tunisia?

Another key question I would want to tackle is the following: Why must scholars from the Indian Ocean necessarily go to the Global North in order to study our own region? My dream would be the creation of an Interdisciplinary Center for Indian Ocean Studies in Mauritius, that would be an intellectual hub for scholars and students from all over the world interested in researching the Indian Ocean from a plethora of perspectives – be it environmental, political, cultural, or historical. Centers for Indian Ocean Studies currently exist in Canada, the Netherlands, and the United States, among

“I think that we are very much open to global perspectives – unfortunately, often at the expense of local insights. For a long time, as Mauritians, we have believed that what comes from abroad – be it foreign degrees or foreign clothes – is better than what is available locally. I do believe that we need to be more confident as Mauritians in our country's ability to be a world leader!”



others. Why not in Mauritius?

***On the other hand, my earlier reference to your statement about being “more than just my father's daughter” was one that you must have felt compelled to make a few years back in response to negative social media comments accusing you and your sister of evading mandatory quarantine upon returning from South Africa. How did you cope with the emotional toll of being targeted in such a public and negative manner?**

In addition to “writing back,” the most effective activity for me to process difficult emotional situations such as the one you mention above is to step back and “prendre de la perspective.” I was indignant at the unfounded accusations, and it was important for me to defend myself rather than be a passive victim.

At the same time, I reminded myself that such an occurrence is tiny in the grand scheme of things. People go through so much more all the time, be it war, poverty, or incurable diseases. At the end of the day, I reminded myself that I had a clear conscience, my family's love, and good health – anything else was a bonus.

*** There's a significant crowd of social media users who can strike at any time and tarnish the image and reputation of unsuspecting citizens. Having personally been the target of trolls, do you think we have to learn to live with this for the sake of freedom of speech, or should there be legal consequences for those who deliberately spread fake news with the intent to cause harm?**

As an academic and writer, I wholeheartedly believe in the right of expression and in the importance of speaking truth to power. We should all have the right to express ourselves, even when our opinions are controversial. We should all be able to engage in constructive dialogue, even when those dialogues are uncomfortable.

“I have no illusions: personal attacks in the public realm can be incredibly harsh, and choosing a life in the political limelight is to choose to be constantly criticized, no matter what one does (or does not do). However, at the risk of sounding idealistic, I also believe that this is a small price to pay for the opportunity to directly contribute to the progress of one's country. Eventually, words pale in comparison to the actions that remain...”

That is not the same, however, as tarnishing someone's reputation for personal gain or inciting violence, often with disastrous consequences. We know, for example, how social media trolls can negatively affect youngsters' self-esteem, sometimes to the point of driving them to self-harm or suicide.

History is full of examples where the propagation of harmful stereotypes about a community led to widespread violence. I believe one of our challenges as a society is to strike a delicate equilibrium between preserving freedom of speech and protecting individuals and communities, especially the most vulnerable, from unfounded propaganda that has the intent of causing harm.

In practice, this means that legal consequences against the deliberate spread of fake news with a clear intent to cause harm should exist, but their application should be carried out with the utmost rigour; in case of ambiguity, I would always err on the side of protecting free speech.

*** It's quite possible that you would not have been trolled if you did not have that famous last name. In an interview with *l'express*, you mentioned your interest in joining politics, so you do know what to expect in terms of personal attacks if and when you decide to enter politics, given your experience?**

I have no illusions: personal attacks in the public realm can be incredibly harsh, and choosing a life in the political limelight is to choose to be constantly criticized, no matter what one does (or does not do).

However, at the risk of sounding idealistic, I also believe that this is a small price to pay for the opportunity to directly contribute to the progress of one's country. Eventually, words pale in comparison to the actions that remain.

*** Some members of political families, predominantly male heirs (and some female ones), bear the burden of carrying on the family tradition in politics. Assuming this is your case, how important is it for you to personally maintain such a famous last name?**

My family story, like so many others in Mauritius, is one of intergenerational struggle that goes far beyond a “famous” last name.

Like many young Mauritians, I am aware that I have been blessed with opportunities that my parents and ancestors never had. I feel a responsibility not towards a last name with (variable) political capital but rather to a family history made up of generations' worth of struggle and sacrifice. I actually feel a responsibility beyond my last name, for a patronym hides as much as it reveals.

We live in a society where the norm is for a child to bear only a father's last name, despite the fact that mothers often sacrifice infinitely more in the upbringing of children. In practice, this means that no matter whether I enter politics or not, I strive to honour those multiple legacies – some more silenced than others – by working hard, acting with integrity, and uplifting others, just as so many others have uplifted me during my lifetime.

Greetings from Geneva

I was delighted to read Paramanund Soobarah's article in last Friday's (16 August 2024) 70th anniversary edition of the *Mauritius Times*, to which I subscribe. The thoughts he has meticulously penned reflect an important part of Mauritius's history. They also reminded me of my own childhood years growing up in Mauritius. I had similar experiences at home. We had one added factor to consider: since my father was a constable in the Police Force, discipline at home was "de rigueur". Plus, as per the Police Force rules of those days, most policemen were transferred from one police station to another, as decided by Police HQ, at regular intervals of about two and a half years (no "ifs", no "buts").

When a transfer occurred, this meant that the policeman's family, who lived in Police Quarters, had to move from one quarters to another too, and similarly, his children had to move from one government school to another! (again, no "ifs", no "buts"). We moved from Rose Belle Police Station (where my sister and I were born), to Riviere des Anguilles, then north to Goodlands, a very l-o-o-ng way from Riviere des Anguilles, almost the other side of the world! We had the additional thrill of travelling there by train operated by the Mauritius Govt Railways.

For some reason, I recall that the malaria eradication campaign, which the British government was implementing in the colonies at the time, was in full swing in Goodlands.



Udai Fulena with his father, the late Jugmohun Sing Fulena, who was the Commissioner of Police at Plaisance Airport in 1968. A British delegation arrived for the Independence celebrations aboard the RAF Vulcan 10

People wearing special clothes were busy spraying bushes and inspecting stagnant water in oil drums, "bacquets", "bassins", and ponds. Our quarters was equipped with a hand pump and spray, called a "fl-i-i-t", and li-iquid DDT to catch rogue mosquitoes. We were also one of the few with a small "Delco" DC generator for lighting the main rooms – there was no national electrical grid at the time, although some electricity was supplied by Goodlands sugar factory. The Delco was an attraction to some village kids.

From Goodlands, we moved to Port Louis (Rue Jonction, then Line Barracks), then Rose Hill – by that time, our parents had seven children, Beau Bassin (Shand Street, then two houses on Church St), and finally Quatre Bornes.

The yearly pilgrimage to Grand Bassin from some of these houses was an adventure we all looked forward to; we took turns hitting the "gong" while walking from Grand Bassin to Riviere du Rempart over two days, chanting prayers!

While in England, I had the opportunity to visit Mauritius twice on official visits: once on a RAF VC 10 carrying the British delegation for the Independence Celebrations in March 1968 when Princess Alexandra was advised not to attend because of racial disturbances at the time, and once on an RAF Vulcan nuclear bomber on a navigation "showing the flag" exercise from Cyprus in August 1971. I attach a few pictures of these aircraft at the old, nostalgic Plaisance Airport.

We were also very privileged to have the opportunity to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam in his office for a brief explanation of the role of the Vulcan. The world and the UK's role in it were different from what they are today! There was, for example, a defence treaty between Mauritius and the UK.

A few years ago, Mr Ramlallah kindly asked me to write an article on my "parcours professionnel". I promised him that I would do so, but then did not get round to it. Until I do so, I wanted to let you know that Paramanund Soobarah's article was a source of inspiration!

PN (Udai) Fulena
Geneva, Switzerland



Courtesy call on then Prime Minister Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam at the Prime Minister's Office. Present were Udai and fellow airmen, along with then Commissioner of Police Jugmohun Sing Fulena and Clerk to the Cabinet Dayanand Chuttur

Readers Speak About the British riots

Racist sentiment is usually acquired during childhood, sometimes even passed down generationally like a communicable virus or sickness. It may be further cemented by a misguided yet strong sense of entitlement, perhaps also environmentally acquired.

Especially if it's deliberate, rearing one's very impressionable young children in an environment of baseless contempt and overt bigotry amounts to a formidable form of child abuse.

Parents should really do their kids a big favour by NOT passing down such destructive sentiments and perceptions

(including stereotypes and 'humour'), since such rearing ironically can make life so much harder for one's own children.

It fails to prepare children for the practical reality of an increasingly diverse and populous society and workplace. It also makes it so much less likely that those children will be emotionally content or preferably harmonious with their multicultural and multi-ethnic/racial surroundings.

Children reared into their adolescence and, eventually, young adulthood this way can often be angry yet not fully

realize at precisely what. Then they may feel left with little choice but to move to another part of the land, where their own ethnicity/race predominates, preferably overwhelmingly so.

This serious social/societal problem can and should be proactively prevented by allowing young children to become accustomed to other peoples, cultures, and faiths in a harmoniously positive manner.

Not surprisingly, the earliest years are typically the best time to instill and even solidify diversity-positive attitudes and social-interaction life skills/traits into a very young brain or mind.

Frank Sterle Jr.
White Rock, B.C.
Canada

Bequeathed by Our Pater



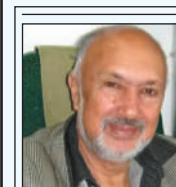
Chetan
Ramchurn

At home, week in and week out, from my school days until later, there was always a copy of the Times in the living room. We grew up with it.

My father, the late Vijaykumar Ramchurn, had a passion for reading, and his children inherited the same yearning for knowledge. When I was wise enough to grasp its historical significance, which was bound to dawn upon me in our left-leaning household, I understood how crucial it was in the fight for independence. It was the progressive's shield against NMU's and other attacks.

While journalism is increasingly relegated to pro-bourgeoisie PR, there is, 70 years after its creation, a haven where fairness and justice will endure. The thin-king man's paper still exists in the *Mauritius Times*. I have been fortunate enough to share my thoughts in its pages without having to tame them to fit a mould, not that I ever would. On its platinum anniversary, let us remember its founder, Beekrumsing Ramlallah, and his comrade-in-arms who were bold enough to propose an alternative to the oligarchy's whims. The fight is still on.

PPP: Press & Politics for Progress



Dr Michael
Atchia

Since my time as a volunteer *Compagnon Bâtisseur* in the 1960s, to leader of *Action Civique* in the 1980s, to President of the Secondary and Preparatory School Teachers and Other Staff Union (SPSTU), and as a director of programs at the United Nations (among other roles), I have always read, criticized, and often contributed to our local newspapers.

My first-page article was widely critical of the number of "experts" called by Mauritius to "assist" us (Expert Export), in the English edition of *L'Express* by Dr Forget. I also contributed to *Le Mauricien* under Lindsay Rivière, often once a day, about civic behaviour in our society. I read *Mauritius Times* (created in 1954) and the main weekly in English, as well as *La Vie Catholique* and *Advance*. Occasionally, I sent an article to Mr Beekrumsing Ramlallah.

I have always recognized the major influence of the press on politics, but my main personal focus has been on how the press can influence and contribute to progress in society. I salute *Mauritius Times* here for its contribution over the years to this goal of influencing and contributing to progress in society. This is also true of *L'Express*, but not so of the political party papers, with their never-ending blah-blah-blah on the merits of their party and no one else!

Now, in the 2020s, as editor of *Democracy Watch Mauritius*, I greatly appreciate the new online MT. You cover a great diversity of fields and are clearly open to a variety of contributors. Very readable and most welcome once a week! Carry on!!

Joe Biden admits he's 'too old to stay as president'



Joe Biden holds US Vice President and 2024 Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris hand after delivering the keynote address, as the Biden family stands alongside, on the first day of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois, on August 19, 2024. Pic - AFP

Joe Biden closed the Democratic National Convention's opening night with a reflective address on his legacy and an endorsement of Vice President Kamala Harris.

The first night of the Democratic National Convention featured speeches from both the last Democrat to lose to Donald Trump and the last to defeat him.

Hillary Clinton spoke about the hope of finally breaking the "glass ceiling" to elect a female president, while Biden took aim at Trump and addressed protesters against the war in Gaza, who demonstrated a few blocks from the convention hall, according to AP.

Biden Begins His Political Farewell

President Joe Biden concluded the convention's opening night by starting his long political farewell. His 50-minute address framed his legacy and signaled a readiness to transition

party leadership to Kamala Harris.

Biden was met with a raucous ovation from delegates holding "We love Joe" signs and responded, "I love you!" His speech, largely focused on his administration's achievements—including a major public works package and climate program—credited Harris and emphasized that selecting her as his running mate was the best decision he ever made. He promised to be the "best volunteer" for Harris and running mate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

In his closing remarks, Biden stated, "I gave my best to you for 50 years."

Harris makes a surprise appearance

Vice President Kamala Harris made an unscheduled appearance to pay tribute to Biden before his address. She thanked him for his "historic leadership" and lifetime of service, expressing deep gratitude

for his contributions.

Amid protests outside the convention hall over U.S. support for Israel in the Gaza conflict, the issue was minimally addressed until Biden spoke. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Raphael Warnock briefly touched on the topic, while some delegates unfurled a "Stop Arming Israel" banner that was quickly obscured and removed. Biden addressed the conflict directly, acknowledging the validity of the protesters' concerns and reaffirming his commitment to working for peace in the Middle East.

Clinton revisits the 'glass ceiling'

Hillary Clinton, greeted with enthusiastic applause, delivered a passionate speech envisioning Kamala Harris as the first female president. Clinton reflected on her 2016 campaign and expressed hope that Harris would succeed where she had not. She closed with a personal note, expressing a desire for future generations to remember her support for Harris.

Honoring Jesse Jackson's legacy

The evening also celebrated the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a key figure in civil rights and a precursor to Barack Obama's presidency and Kamala Harris's candidacy. Jackson, now 82 and diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, was honoured by several speakers and a video montage before appearing on stage.

War crimes tribunal initiates probe against ex-PM Sheikh Hasina for 'mass murder' charges

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) of Bangladesh, established by former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2010 to investigate war crimes from the country's liberation war against Pakistan, has launched three investigations into alleged mass murder charges against Hasina, reports AFP.

The probes are focused on the violence during a month of student-led protests against Hasina's 15-year rule, which resulted in over 450 deaths, many due to police fire. Hasina stepped down and fled to India on August 5 amid the unrest.

Ataur Rahman, deputy director of the tribunal's investigation cell, confirmed that preliminary evidence is being gathered. He noted that the cases are centered on allegations of "mass murder" and involve violence in areas surrounding the capital Dhaka, including Mirpur, Munshiganj, and Savar. These investigations were initiated by private individuals, and several of Hasina's former top aides have also been named.

In addition to these tribunal investigations, local police units across the country have filed at least 15 cases against Hasina. Some of these cases predate the recent unrest and include charges of murder and "crimes against humanity."

Under Hasina's leadership, the ICT has previously sentenced over 100 individuals to death for crimes committed during the liberation war. However, the tribunal



Former Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina. Pic - Al Arabiya

has faced criticism from human rights groups for not adhering to international standards. Hasina's government has been accused of widespread human rights abuses, including the extrajudicial killing of thousands of political opponents.



People walk at a subway station during morning rush hour in Beijing, China April 11, 2024. Pic- Reuters

China plans 'bigger, stronger' social security fund to aid ageing society

China will beef up its 2.88 trillion yuan social security fund, making it "bigger and stronger" to support its rapidly ageing population as the number of new births and younger workers shrinks.

The National Social Security Fund will "effectively" address population ageing and "improve the policy mechanism for the development of the elderly care industry," said Ding Xuedong, the fund's party secretary, in comments made to the Communist Party newspaper, Study Times, on Monday.

Over the next decade, roughly 300 million Chinese will retire—almost equivalent to the entire U.S. population. By 2040, one in every two people aged over 65 in the Asia-Pacific region will live in China, according to Reuters.

The fund, established in 2000, serves as a "strategic reserve fund for social security needs during the peak period of population aging and a ballast for the country's social security system," Ding said.

China has already entered a moderate aging stage, Ding noted, adding that severe aging in the coming decade means the "urgency and difficulty of expanding and strengthening the strategic reserve fund are unprecedented."

The state-run Chinese Academy of Sciences predicts that China's pension system could run out of money by 2035.

Ding said the fund will enhance and expand the scale of pension fund investments, "actively disclose important financial information to the public," and carry out investments in an "open and transparent manner."

The disclosures aim to stabilize public expectations regarding old age care, he said.

The fund will increase investment in the domestic capital market, focusing on long-term equity investments in strategic and fundamental areas related to the national economy and people's livelihoods. Investments will also be increased in scientific and technological innovation and new quality productivity, key priorities for the government, Ding said.

US Intelligence pins hackings on Iran targeting Trump and Biden-Harris campaigns

US intelligence officials have confirmed that Iran was behind the recent hack targeting Donald Trump's presidential campaign, describing it as part of a broader effort by Tehran to interfere in American politics and potentially influence the election outcome. This assessment, the first official attribution for such hacks, underscores how Iran, alongside more advanced adversaries like Russia and China, poses a significant threat to US election security, reports US News.

In addition to breaching the Trump campaign, officials believe Iran also attempted to hack the presidential campaign of Kamala Harris. According to federal officials, these cyber intrusions reflect Iran's intent to "complicate the ability of any US administration to pursue a foreign policy at odds" with its interests. The goal is to sow discord, undermine confidence in democratic institutions,



and influence elections perceived as critical to Iran's national security interests.

The FBI, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency released a statement highlighting increased Iranian activity targeting American elections, including influence and cyber operations against presidential campaigns.

Iran has denied these allegations, stating it neither

had the motive nor the intention to interfere in the US election and challenged the US to provide evidence. This denial comes amid heightened tensions between Washington and Tehran, with recent conflicts involving Israel and ongoing diplomatic efforts in Qatar.

The US did not detail how it reached its conclusions or what specific information might have been taken from the Trump campaign. However, it has noted that Iran used social engineering and other tactics to gain access to individuals connected to both major political campaigns.

At least three Biden-Harris campaign staffers were targeted with phishing emails, though investigators found no evidence of successful breaches. The Trump campaign, which revealed the hack on August 10, reported that Iranian actors had stolen and distributed sensitive internal documents, including vetting reports on potential vice-presidential candidates. Major news outlets such as Politico, The New York Times, and The Washington Post have received these documents but have not disclosed further details.

Microsoft and Google reports have highlighted continued Iranian attempts to interfere in the election, with Iranian groups targeting personal email accounts of individuals linked to both Biden and Trump.

Despite improvement in situation, minorities in Bangladesh remain worried



In Bangladesh, attacks on the homes, businesses, and places of worship of religious minorities have significantly decreased over the past week. However, these communities continue to express concern due to sporadic incidents of violence across the country.

Following the resignation of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5, amid a month-long uprising that resulted in over 650 deaths, there was a notable increase in attacks on minorities, particularly Hindus, who make up 8% of Bangladesh's nearly 170 million population. Hindu temples were vandalized and homes were attacked in several areas, including Dhamrai, Natore, Kalapara, Shariatpur, Faridpur, Jessore, Noakhali, Meherpur, Chandpur, Khulna, and Dinajpur.

The interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus assumed office on August 8, following a breakdown in law and order. With police and military personnel now on duty, many feel somewhat reassured. Ashish Kumar Sarkar, an assistant professor from Pabna district, noted that while the situation has improved, fears persist, particularly regarding attacks linked to political affiliations or looting.

On August 13, minority community

leaders met with Yunus to discuss ongoing concerns. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged Yunus to ensure the safety of minorities and highlighted this issue in his Independence Day speech. Yunus assured Modi of the government's commitment to protecting all minority groups.

A Hindu businessman in Dhaka, who wished to remain anonymous, reported feeling more secure compared to a week ago but noted that isolated acts of violence continue to cause anxiety. He expressed hope that the upcoming Janmashtami festival on August 26 will be celebrated safely, depending on the security measures in place.

Despite the reduction in attacks, some leaders remain worried. Rana Dasgupta, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, alleged that minority members are being forced to resign from various positions in government and educational institutions. He reported multiple cases of such forced resignations, though specifics were not disclosed.

Members of the Christian and Buddhist communities also reported concerns. Joyanta Rozario, a drama director, mentioned that while there have been attacks on Christian homes and a church, he does not feel unduly worried. Buddhist musician Bartha Barua acknowledged isolated incidents but described them as the actions of opportunists, noting overall communal harmony in Bangladesh as "good enough."

The situation remains fluid, with minority communities cautiously optimistic yet still on edge amid ongoing political instability.

Citizenship Program for immigrant spouses of U.S. Citizens launched

Miguel Aleman, a 39-year-old who was brought to the United States from Mexico at the age of 4, is among hundreds of thousands of immigrants hoping to find a path to citizenship through a new program from the Biden administration, set to launch on Monday.

The initiative, one of the most significant actions by Democratic President Joe Biden to provide legal status to long-term U.S. residents who entered the country illegally, comes just months before the November 5 election. Republicans have made illegal immigration a central campaign issue.

The "Keeping Families Together" program, announced in June, will be available to an estimated 500,000 spouses who have lived in the United States for at least 10 years as of June 17, according to Biden administration officials. Additionally, about 50,000 children under the age of 21 with a U.S.-citizen parent will also be eligible.

Biden unveiled the program before withdrawing from the presidential race against Republican Donald Trump, a known immigration hardliner, in July. Vice President Kamala Harris became the Democratic candidate earlier this month and is scheduled to formally accept the nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago on Thursday.

Trump has criticized Harris for record numbers of migrants being apprehended while attempting to cross the U.S.-Mexico border since she and Biden took office in 2021. Harris has countered by highlighting her own enforcement record and Trump's opposition to a bipartisan border security bill that failed to advance in the U.S. Senate earlier this year.

At campaign events in Arizona and Nevada this month, Harris has called for



"an earned pathway to citizenship" for immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

Trump campaign spokesperson Karoline Leavitt labeled the citizenship program a "mass amnesty" and reiterated Trump's pledge to deport record numbers of immigrants if he is reelected.

The "Keeping Families Together" program allows qualifying spouses to apply for permanent residence without having to leave the United States, which would otherwise require them to depart for years before being permitted to return. A spouse who obtains permanent residence, also known as a green card, can apply for citizenship after three years.

The program is expected to face legal challenges led by Republicans.

The initiative could also provide a path to citizenship for some individuals enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which offers deportation relief and work permits to immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

DACA, launched in 2012 by President Barack Obama while Biden was vice president, was targeted by Trump during his presidency from 2017 to 2021 but was blocked by the Supreme Court. States with Republican attorneys general, including Texas, have continued to challenge DACA's legality.

“Ban The Bomb!”

Are nuclear missiles and bombs stockpiled by the USA in the Chagos?

Has our real concern about **climate change, global warming, and epidemics** made us forget the threat of atomic war? Having written on numerous occasions about nuclear safety issues in the past and being the author of the Nuclear Rectangle theory (a major nuclear war could modify the orbit of planet Earth around the sun), I urge readers to join the worldwide campaign of the seventies to “Ban The Bomb” and fight for nuclear safety. It is more necessary than ever today.

At present, **nine** countries out of 193 on Planet Earth possess nuclear weapons (atomic or hydrogen bombs), namely:

Russia:	6,850 nuclear warheads
USA:	6,550 warheads
France:	300 warheads
China:	280 warheads
UK:	215 warheads
Pakistan:	145 warheads
India:	135 warheads
Israel:	80 warheads
North Korea:	15 warheads

With North Korea expanding its nuclear arsenal, other countries are attempting to acquire the bomb (Iran, for example?). On the positive side, four countries that formerly possessed nuclear weapons have given them up, one of them being South Africa. A great fear today is that a terrorist organization might acquire a nuclear device, some of which are small enough to fit into a large lorry.



Radiation is the greatest enemy of life, of all organic living things on Planet Earth. Remember the nuclear accidents at Chernobyl and Fukushima, where radioactive material was released and affected people, animals, and plants.

Consider these pertinent questions:

“Since radiation is invisible, how do you know when you are in danger? How long will this danger persist? How can you reduce the hazard to yourself and your family? What level of exposure is safe? What are the potential risks of acute and chronic exposures? What are the related consequential damages of exposure? How do you rebuild a healthy way of life in the aftermath of a nuclear disaster?” (Barbara Rose Johnston, 2011). Only a Geiger counter can measure atomic radiation.

Are we reassured knowing who in these countries has their finger (not her fin-

ger, as in Golda Meir or Theresa May, but maybe soon that of Kamala) on the nuclear trigger? Joe and Vladimir? Narendra Modi and Shehbaz Sharif? Benjamin Netanyahu and Kim Jong-un? Emmanuel and Keir? Xi Jinping? Can we trust them?

Only one country: The United States detonated two atomic bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima (on 6 August) and Nagasaki (on 9 August) 1945. How many people were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

The two bombs killed an estimated 130,000 and 225,000 people respectively, most of whom were civilians. Half of these deaths occurred at the moment the bombs exploded, the remainder over the next 2 to 4 months due to radiation and burns. The USA remains the only country to have used nuclear weapons to destroy cities and structures and inflict death, admittedly

in an armed conflict. Japan surrendered to the Allies on August 15, six days after the bombing of Nagasaki, effectively ending World War II. A pertinent question for us: Are nuclear missiles and bombs stockpiled by the USA in the Chagos?

Never again to deadly destruction of humanity, through **wars** (e.g., during the 30 or so wars of the 20th century, two of them World Wars, 100 million people were killed); **genocides** (such as the Nazis on Jews which eliminated 5 million people, the Rwandan genocide with 850,000 people murdered, and the present one in Gaza); **epidemics** (e.g., the Black Death in the Middle Ages, the Spanish flu which infected 500 million people, one-third of the world's population, leading to at least 50 million deaths, the Covid-19 pandemic with 19 million infected and 700,000 deaths, and the new MPox epidemic); **technology** (e.g., the 1.35 million people who die each year from road traffic crashes, the 250,000 yearly gun deaths worldwide; collectively, substance abuse, including smoking, alcohol, and illicit drug use, kills 11 million people each year); **nuclear bombs** (e.g., the 355,000 people who died in 1945 when two atomic bombs were dropped on them).

We must pray for the world to control this madness of making and stockpiling nuclear weapons, which if used can only bring death and destruction to the environment, making some parts of the planet uninhabitable (like the bikini atoll in the Pacific, where the USA detonated its first hydrogen bomb, after its inhabitants were moved elsewhere, like the Chagossians), never to return.

Dr Michael Atchia

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Unity in Diversity: Satguru Kabir Saheb

Dr Mala Modun-Bissessur

Kabir first manifested his holy presence on a full moon day on a lotus flower in the sacred lake of Lahar Talab, a revered site by the river Ganges in Kashi, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Bharat, in the year 1455 according to the Vikram Samvat Hindu Calendar (though some claim it could have been in 1398).

He was found by a Muslim couple, Niru and his wife Nima, both weavers by profession, and grew up with them in a place later named Kabir Chaura. He followed his foster parents' path, and under the guidance of Hindu saint Swami Ramanand Ji, he devoted himself to preaching religious matters and philosophy. With Muslim foster parents and a Hindu master, he claimed to belong neither to any specific religion nor caste, was neither a friend nor enemy to anyone, and advocated for respect, dignity, and peaceful coexistence among all.

Sant Kabir Das's teachings are pearls of wisdom on human values and duty to the Supreme. His saintly approach and the miracles attributed to him made him the poor man's messiah. He was worshipped as “Hindu Ka Guru, Musalman ka Peer” — “The Hindu's Teacher, The Muslim's Chief.” He departed from his earthly presence in



1575 in the Vikram Samvat Iswisan Hindu calendar or January 1518 Magh Shukl Ekadashi in Maghar, a village in Gorakhpur district, Uttar Pradesh.

This locality, previously known as Magharan, was avoided by all as it was barren land with long drought periods, infested with dacoits who used to loot people. However, Sant Kabir Das chose that area to pray, meditate, and spend his last days. It is said that one day after his prayers and meditation, it started raining, and conditions improved since.

At his death, neither the Hindus led by Raja Bhagela

nor the Muslims led by Nawab Pathan were able to conduct the last rites according to their respective religious customs. Instead, they discovered a bed of flowers beneath the shroud, which they divided equally. Raja Bhagela built a mausoleum - a “Samadhi” - and Nawab Pathan an enshrined tomb - a “majaar” - at the holy site where prayers in both faiths are regularly held. A huge statue of Sadguru Kabir Saheb has also been erected at Maghar.

The Kabir Council at Charles de Gaulle Avenue, La Caverne, Vacoas, Mauritius, was established in 1973 upon the advice of Mahant Ramswaroop Das of the Kabir Council, Gujarat, on a plot of land donated by Mahant Lockdas, son of Mahant Tulsidas Bucktwar, and with financial support from devotees.

The construction was largely undertaken philanthropically by the late Lallah Ramsoondur Modun, ex-executive member of the Council, former member of the Mauritius Legislative Assembly, and Minister for Fisheries. Sri Modun, an ex-executive member of the Sri Kabir Mandir, Bonne-Terre, Vacoas, had sponsored a previous visit of the Mahant here. In both temples, on each full moon Poornima day, a religious ceremony is held, and at other times, important events in the life of Sant Kabir Das and the Hindu calendar are celebrated.

In these days of in Bangladesh, as well as in Israel, Palestine, and elsewhere, one prays that Sant Kabir Das's teachings for peace and unity among the diverse components of society in Bharat and beyond bring the much-needed enlightenment.

Africa's Ageing Leaders

● Cont. from page 2

How things might pan out

Equatorial Guinea's and Congo's regimes favour dynastic power transitions. In contrast, hereditary succession is unlikely to play out in Cameroon, but party power struggles could complicate the political transition.

Presidential clans come with complexity. They have intricate alliances and networks centred on the leader. As the leader's authority wanes due to age or illness, unity within these clans fractures. This is driven by:

- power struggles among the leader's children from different mothers
- disputes over economic monopolies and resources
- growing conspiracies within the inner circle
- the disgrace and repression of perceived "traitors" and their allies.

These factors could contribute to unstable succession prospects in Equatorial Guinea and the Congo.

Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo succeeded his uncle Francisco Macias Nguema Biyogo, the first president of Equatorial Guinea, following a coup d'état in 1979. With the exception of Pascal Lissouba (1992-1997), who was a native of the south of the country, presidential power in the Congo has been in the hands of the northerners since a 1968 coup d'état. The significant political influence wielded by Mbasogo's many children fuels the potential of an upcoming hereditary succession.

The push for family succession aims to protect the presidential clan's interests in the state and military apparatus after the leader's death. This is driven by the memory of disinheritance faced by past ruling families (such as Central African Republic's Jean Bedel Bokassa, Democratic Republic of Congo's Mobutu Sese Seko, Angola's José Eduardo Dos Santos and Gabon's Omar Bongo). There are also often fears of political and judicial repercussions.

In Cameroon, the president has excluded his family from political roles. Instead, Biya has maintained tight control and eliminated internal rivalries. Despite this, his political record offers no assurance of a smooth transition.

The impending departure of the current leaders in all three countries – Equatorial Guinea, the Congo and Cameroon – could jeopardise their stability. This could spill over into the region.

Rivalry in Equatorial Guinea

Mbasogo's successor will likely be a member of his clan. The question is who. Will it be Teodorin Nguema Obiang, the eldest son, better known for his spending sprees than his statesmanship? His rise to strategic positions (vice-president of the republic) and the overt support of his mother, the first lady, seem to signal his potential ascent to head of state.

There's also Gabriel Mbega Obiang Lima, the youngest son, with a mother from São Tomé and Príncipe. He has held several ministerial dockets, and currently oversees mines and oil. Lima's perceived "seriousness" has made him a favourite among influential Chinese and western investors in the country.

Conflict over inheritance in Congo

In Congo, succession is complicated by family conflicts. President Nguesso's son, Denis Christel Sassou Nguesso, is rumoured to be seeking the presidency. His mother is from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo. But Denis faces opposition from his cousins: Jean-Dominique Okemba, head of the intelligence service, and Edgard Nguesso, a senior military officer and director of presidential assets.

Congo's turbulent political history heightens concerns about the upcoming transition. A north-south ethno-political divide has fostered deep-seated resentment among local communities, particularly between their elites. Political dissent is now prevalent, especially in the north, which has traditionally been the regime's stronghold.

After he regained power through military means in 1997, the president refocused on his ethnic group, the Mbochis. This shift has alienated other ethnic groups from Nguesso's home region. They include the Kouyou, Makoua and Téké who have increasingly voiced their grievances. These northern elites are feeling marginalised and are, therefore, likely to oppose any perceived attempts at dynastic succession.

In the south, the civil war (1997-2001) deepened the long-standing mistrust of the "northern regime" among the Kongo-Lari ethnic group. The prospect of dynastic succession is likely to stir up old grievances.

The reactivation of dissent in the southern region after Nguesso's contentious re-election in 2016 highlights the lingering threat of civil war in the country. Although the suppression of political and military forces from contested regions reduces the likelihood of opposition, the dynastic handover plan could still provoke significant unrest.



Equatorial Guinea's Vice-President Teodoro Obiang at the UN headquarters in New York in September 2023. Ed Jones/AFP via Getty Images

There are still residual armed factions in the south. This supports the possibility of a resurgence of resistance in areas opposed to the regime.

Cameroon's inter-community tensions

With Biya excluding his family from political roles, the possibility of dynastic succession is unlikely. However, with Cameroon due to hold presidential elections in 2025,

two major challenges to a smooth transition stand out:

- the lack of an official successor within the ruling party
- uncertainty about the process of selecting a party candidate for the presidential election.

This could lead to numerous claimants for the position, potentially igniting internal conflicts within the party. These power struggles could deepen existing identity-based divisions.

The rivalry between the Bulu-Béti (south) and Bamiléké (west) communities epitomises the inter-community tensions threatening the country's stability. This rivalry is driven by a quest for dominance among political and intellectual elites. Traditionally focused on economic activities, the Bamiléké are now increasingly showing national political ambitions. This has raised concerns among the Bulu-Béti elite.

The contested 2018 presidential election results and the ethnic slurs that followed highlight ongoing tensions in the country. These dynamics are likely to shape the political landscape leading up to the 2025 elections.

Serge Loungou

*Enseignant-chercheur,
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Mauritius Times

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Après le Sri Lanka et le Bangladesh, quel sera le prochain pays?

Suite de la page 5

À partir de ce jour, le mouvement visant à renverser le dictateur Ben Ali a débuté. Les manifestations du Printemps arabe ont conduit à la chute de Ben Ali en Tunisie le 14 janvier 2011. Ce soulèvement, qui a commencé en Tunisie, s'est rapidement propagé à d'autres pays arabes, notamment l'Égypte, la Libye, la Syrie et le Yémen. Les manifestations de masse ont ainsi déclenché une série de révoltes à travers la région.

Le Printemps arabe peut être attribué à la corruption gouvernementale, à la dictature, aux violations des droits humains, au chômage, à l'extrême pauvreté, à une économie faible et à la hausse des prix alimentaires. Les peuples de différents pays arabes ont commencé à s'unir contre les dictateurs et ont lancé des mouvements anti-gouvernementaux pour se libérer de leur régime dictatorial de longue date.

En conséquence, Hosni Moubarak, le dirigeant égyptien pendant 30 ans, est tombé le 11 février 2011. Muammar al-Gaddafi a été tué en Libye le 20 octobre de la même année, mettant fin à ses 42 ans de règne. Le Printemps Arabe a conduit à des soulèvements majeurs en Algérie, au Yémen, à Bahreïn, en Égypte, en Iran, en Jordanie, en Libye, au Maroc, en Tunisie, ainsi qu'à de plus petits soulèvements en Irak, au Koweït, en Mauritanie, à Oman, en Arabie Saoudite, au Soudan et en Syrie.

2022 : Sri Lanka

Selon Abu Sufian, ce type de mouvement à grande échelle se manifeste dans divers pays d'Asie du Sud. Cela a commencé avec le renversement du gouvernement du Sri Lanka. Il y a deux ans, en 2022, les Sri-lankais de tous horizons ont lancé un mouvement pour mettre fin au régime de la famille Rajapaksa au Sri Lanka. En conséquence, la politique dynastique du Sri Lanka s'est effondrée. Le Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) a remporté une majorité lors des élections législatives de 2020 pour former le gouvernement. Cependant, la plupart des ministres du cabinet du parti venaient de la famille Rajapaksa. L'ancien président sri-lankais Mahinda Rajapaksa était à la tête du gouvernement. Gotabaya Rajapaksa était le président. Chamal Rajapaksa a été nommé ministre de l'Agriculture, Namal Rajapaksa ministre des Sports et des Affaires de la Jeunesse, et Basil Rajapaksa ministre des Finances. L'opposition a accusé le gouvernement de népotisme.



Printemps arabe - «Dans l'imaginaire politique arabe, la révolution est devenue un possible». P - Le Monde

En 2021, l'économie sri-lankaise a connu un effondrement massif en raison de la Covid-19. L'économie, basée sur le tourisme, est devenue presque fragile. La popularité du gouvernement dirigé par les Rajapaksa a commencé à décliner en 2021 en raison de la mauvaise gestion de l'économie. De plus, en raison de l'interdiction des engrais chimiques, le pays a fait face à une grave crise alimentaire à un moment donné. Le taux de change de la monnaie nationale en déclin, les prix élevés des denrées alimentaires alimentant l'inflation et les restrictions pandémiques sur le tourisme ont encore réduit les revenus du pays. Les importations ont également chuté, le gouvernement n'ayant pas réussi à préserver les réserves.

Avec la baisse des envois de fonds, le PIB s'est effondré. En outre, les mégaprojets à gros budget du gouvernement se sont révélés peu productifs. À un moment donné, le mouvement pour renverser le gouvernement a commencé, et Mahinda Rajapaksa a été contraint de démissionner. Le mouvement du peuple sri-lankais a réussi.

2024 : Bangladesh

Les mots de Karman se sont concrétisés le 5 août au Bangladesh. Ce jour-là, Sheikh Hasina, connue comme la «Dame de fer du Bangladesh», a démissionné et fui le pays après des semaines de manifestations meurtrières.

Un mouvement mené par des étudiants contre l'introduction d'un système de quotas pour les emplois gouvernementaux s'est rapidement transformé en une révolution anti-gouvernementale de la Génération Z. Ce soulèvement de la jeunesse a résonné dans une société déjà profondément en colère contre la hausse du coût de la vie, la corruption et la

répression violente des dissidents.

Le Parti Awami dirigé par Sheikh Hasina, au pouvoir pour la cinquième fois, et ce, depuis 15 ans, a été contraint de démissionner en raison de l'intensité du mouvement qui a impliqué des personnes de tous horizons. Sous son règne, diverses accusations de corruption ont été formulées, notamment de fraudes électorales, d'irrégularités et d'élections sans le principal parti d'opposition.

2024 : Pakistan

Aujourd'hui, des signes de révolte apparaissent au Pakistan, un autre pays d'Asie du Sud.

De manière similaire au Bangladesh, les étudiants du Pakistan ont également appelé à un mouvement pour restaurer la Constitution du pays et revitaliser les syndicats étudiants. Le mouvement a été initié par la Insaf Students Federation (ISF), l'aile étudiante de Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), exigeant la libération de l'ancien Premier ministre Imran Khan et la restauration d'une véritable démocratie dans le pays. Apparemment influencés par le mouvement étudiant bangladais qui a renversé le gouvernement de Sheikh

Hasina, l'ISF a appelé à la manifestation, a rapporté le média pakistanais *Dawn*. Les étudiants ont organisé des manifestations pour établir une véritable démocratie.

Le Premier ministre actuel du Pakistan est Shahbaz Sharif de la Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). Sharif a formé le Gouvernement après avoir remporté les élections de février 2024. Cependant, lors de cette élection, le parti de l'ancien Premier ministre pakistanais Imran Khan a été interdit, et les candidats du PTI n'ont pas été autorisés à se présenter avec le symbole de leur parti. De plus, l'élection a été marquée par des accusations de fraude électorale et des résultats en retard.

Ces accusations ont conduit à des manifestations et à des troubles répandus dans tout le pays. Le président de l'ISF, Arslan Hafeez, le vice-président Amjad Ali et d'autres ont affirmé que le Pakistan est maintenant sous un «régime fasciste». En outre, la population souffre en raison des factures d'électricité et des taxes excessives ainsi que d'une inflation sans précédent. Il reste à voir si le Gouvernement de Shahbaz Sharif sera renversé par le mouvement étudiant en cours ou si les agitateurs seront réprimés par le Gouvernement.

De manière similaire au Printemps Arabe, le mouvement contre les gouvernements dans les pays d'Asie du Sud se manifeste progressivement. Les manifestations de masse ont déjà réussi au Sri Lanka et au Bangladesh. À l'avenir, il est fort probable que nous assistions à un autre printemps dans les politiques volatiles en cours dans d'autres pays d'Asie du Sud.

A. Bartleby

YOUR STARS

Sagittarius: Nov 22 - Dec 21

You're feeling restless and eager to explore new horizons, whether through travel, learning, or a new hobby. Embrace the opportunities that come your way but remember to balance your thirst for freedom with your responsibilities.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 6, 12, 18, 25, 31

Capricorn: Dec 22 - Jan 19

Capricorn, this week may bring intense emotions to the surface. You might need to address deep-seated issues in your personal life or finances. Don't shy away from facing these challenges—they offer a chance for growth and transformation. Keep your focus on long-term stability.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 11, 17, 23, 30, 37

Aquarius: Jan 20 - Feb 18

Relationships are in the spotlight, Aquarius. Whether romantic or platonic, connections with others will require your attention. It's a good time to clear the air and resolve any lingering misunderstandings. At work, teamwork will be essential to achieving your goals.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 16, 22, 28, 32

Pisces: Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces, health and daily routines are your focus this week. You might feel the need to establish new habits or break old ones. Pay attention to your physical and mental well-being. Professionally, this is a good time to streamline your processes and enhance productivity.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 13, 19, 24, 31, 38

Aries: March 21 - April 19

This week is all about taking bold steps, Aries. The energy around you encourages making decisions quickly and acting with confidence. Don't hesitate to take the lead in group projects or personal ventures. Financially, a small risk might pay off, but ensure you weigh the pros and cons first.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 14, 21, 27, 35

Taurus: Apr 20 - May 20

Taurus, focus on your home and personal life. It's a great time to make improvements or reconnect with loved ones. Work might bring some stress, but staying organized will help you manage it effectively. Pay

attention to your health—small changes in diet or routine could have a big impact.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 9, 16, 22, 28, 37

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

Communication is key for you, Gemini. You'll find yourself involved in deep conversations, and your words will carry weight. Be mindful of how you express your thoughts. Creativity is high, making this a perfect week for artistic projects or brainstorming new ideas.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 7, 12, 18, 25, 32

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

Security and comfort are your themes, Cancer. You may feel the urge to create a stable foundation, whether financially or emotionally. This is a good week to budget or plan for the future. Relationships may require some nurturing—don't shy away from expressing your feelings and offering support.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 10, 15, 23, 29, 36

Leo: July 23 - Aug 22

This is your time to shine, Leo! Your energy and charisma are at their peak, making it easy to attract attention and make progress in personal and professional areas. However, be cautious of overextending yourself. Balance

your ambitions with self-care to avoid burnout.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 11, 17, 24, 30, 38

Virgo: Aug 23 - Sept 22

Virgo, it's a reflective week for you. You might feel the need to withdraw and spend time analyzing your goals and priorities. Use this time to plan your next steps carefully. Pay attention to details at work—small errors could lead to bigger issues if not addressed promptly.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 13, 19, 26, 31, 39

Libra: Sept 23 - Oct 22

Libra, social interactions are highlighted this week. You'll find yourself surrounded by friends and engaging in lively discussions. It's a good time to collaborate or join a group with shared interests. Keep an eye on your finances—unexpected expenses might arise, so budget wisely.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 14, 22, 27, 33

Scorpio: 23 Oct - 21 Nov

Scorpio, your career takes center stage. Ambition drives you, and this is a week to push forward with projects or seek recognition. However, be mindful of power struggles or conflicts with authority figures. Stay professional and focus on your long-term goals.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 6, 7, 15, 20, 23

Parents' top resolutions: More patience, less screen time

Many parents are resolving to reset their parenting approaches and improve family health habits

Among the top resolutions for parents in the New Year: More patience, less screen time, better consistency with discipline, and fostering healthier family habits.

Their tweens and teens are also setting goals, aiming for achievements such as better grades, success in extracurricular activities, improved exercise and nutrition, and earning money, according to the University of Michigan Health C.S. Mott Children's Hospital National Poll on Children's Health.

Nearly three-quarters of parents polled report making resolutions or setting personal goals throughout the year, with a quarter choosing to start anew as the clock strikes midnight for the next calendar year. A smaller number opt for a fresh start at the beginning of the school year or on a birthday.

Over half of parents say their children aged 11-18 years have set personal goals as well, according to the nationally representative poll based on 2,044 responses from parents of children aged 0-18 surveyed in August 2023.

"Milestone occasions, such as the start of a new calendar or school year, provide families with opportunities for self-reflection and motivation to improve physical and emotional health," said Mott Poll co-director Sarah Clark, M.P.H.

"Our poll indicates that parents often focus on areas



they want to enhance in their parenting approach, including increased engagement, prioritizing their own and their child's health, and supporting their child's connections within the community."

Nearly half of mothers and a third of fathers reported setting goals to change something about their parenting, with over three-quarters striving for more patience and more than half aiming to reduce screen time.

Some parents also set health-related goals, with nearly half committing to providing healthier meals and snacks, and more than a third planning to exercise with their child.

Among those who set parenting goals, approximately three-quarters feel it has helped them become better parents, and even more believe it has aided their child in learning how to work towards a goal.

"Setting goals to improve parenting helps parents define their values and priorities and has positive effects on the health and well-being of the entire family," Clark added.

The poll suggests that parents with three or more children in the household are more likely to set goals related to consistency in discipline and involving their

children in spiritual activities compared to parents with fewer children.

Children's Resolutions Too

Regarding children's goals, nearly 70% are related to grades and academic performance, while just over half focus on excelling in activities. Roughly two in five children prioritize exercise, eating habits, and earning money, with more than a third eager to try something new. Less than a quarter of goals include friendship or volunteering.

According to parents, teens aged 15-18 more often cite goals related to nutrition and exercise, while exploring new interests is more common among children aged 11-14 years.

"Goal-setting helps children learn accountability for their actions and fosters a growth mindset," Clark explained. "Parents who model goal-setting also teach children the importance of working towards something and learning from setbacks."

Celebrating Success

Parents shared various ways they support their children's goals. Most celebrate their child's efforts to improve, while more than half join their child in pursuing the goal.

Others help track progress, provide financial support, or offer rewards for achieving goals.

"Encouraging goal-setting is a great way for parents to demonstrate support and confidence in their child," Clark emphasized.

She recommends that parents identify specific strategies to enhance their ability to achieve their goals.

"We all know how common it is for New Year's resolutions to fade as the year progresses," Clark noted.

"If families are serious about sticking to their resolutions, it's crucial to set specific and achievable targets and schedule time to take the necessary steps to achieve them."



Could we use volcanoes to make electricity?

We don't generate power directly from volcanoes, but their presence is a sign that there are good geothermal resources underground that can be tapped.

Turning red-hot lava from an active volcano into electricity would be dangerous and unreliable. Volcanoes don't erupt on predictable schedules, and lava cools too quickly. But many countries, including the U.S., have found ways to tap volcanic heat to make electricity.

Geothermal energy comes from heat generated by natural processes deep within the Earth. In most areas, this heat only warms rocks and underground water near the surface. In volcanically active regions, however, the heat is much more intense. Sometimes it melts rock, forming magma.

Volcanoes act like giant heat vents, raising magma closer to Earth's surface. Some of this molten rock may erupt, but much of it remains underground, heating the surrounding rocks and water. Where heated water rises to the surface, it creates hot springs and geysers that can last for thousands of years.

To harness this energy to generate electricity, engineers identify areas where magma is near the surface and drill deep wells down to the heated rocks and water. These wells bring steam to the surface, where it is directed into a power plant to

spin turbines and generate electricity.

After it produces electricity, the steam cools and condenses back into hot water. The water may be used to convert a different liquid with a much lower boiling point, such as butane, to drive a second generator. Then it is pumped back underground to be reheated.

The Earth constantly produces heat, so geothermal energy is a renewable resource. And geothermal power plants produce much less pollution, waste and greenhouse gas emissions that warm Earth's climate than burning coal, gas, oil or using nuclear energy.

Geothermal energy sources can last for decades or even longer. Unlike other renewable sources such as solar and wind power, geothermal energy is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

The world's geothermal hot spots

Geothermal energy is already used in many places around the world, especially in regions with a lot of volcanic activity. For example, almost all of Iceland's electricity comes from renewable sources, with geothermal energy supplying about 25%. The country sits on top of many active volcanoes, making it a perfect place for



Lava spatters from a vent at Kilauea in Hawaii during an eruption in September 2023. M. Patrick, USGS, via NPS, CC BY-ND

unusually hot beneath the surface. These resources aren't always near large cities or industries that use a lot of electricity.

Second, drilling deep wells and building power plants can be expensive. However, the long-term benefits of geothermal power often outweigh the initial costs.

Third, in some cases, drilling and pumping water under pressure can cause small earthquakes. Scientists and engineers are working to predict and manage this effect.

geothermal power plants.

Some U.S. states, including California and Nevada, have geothermal power plants, thanks to their volcanic regions. Other active geothermal sites, such as Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, are protected from development.

Challenges for geothermal power

Why isn't geothermal energy used as widely as wind or solar power? First, geothermal power plants need to be near volcanoes or other places where it is

Despite these challenges, tapping into the Earth's natural heat can create a renewable, reliable and clean source of energy. As technology improves, more places around the world will turn to geothermal energy to light up people's lives. Volcanoes are reminders of a great powerhouse deep underground that's waiting to be harnessed.

David Kitchen
Associate Professor of Geology,
University of Richmond



The Widow's Spending

A woman's husband passed away. He left £20,000 in his bank account. After the funeral, she told her closest friend that she had spent all the money left by her husband. The friend was surprised, as she had mentioned that her husband had left £20,000.

The widow explained, "Well, the funeral cost £6,000 six thousand, and of course, I made the obligatory donation to the church, so that was another £2000. The rest went to the memorial stone."

The friend was again surprised, "£12,000 for the memorial stone? My goodness, how big is it?"

Showing her left arm, the woman said, "Three carats."

* * *

The Preacher's Farewell

An old preacher was on his deathbed. A message was sent to his accountant and his lawyer (both church members) to come and meet him. When they arrived, they were directed to his bedroom. As they entered the room, the preacher held out his hands and asked them to sit on either side of the bed. The preacher grasped their hands and, sighing contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling.

For some time, both of them kept quiet, touched and flattered that the old preacher had called them to be with him in his last moments. They were also puzzled because the preacher had never hinted that he particularly appreciated them. Finally, the lawyer asked, "Preacher, why did you ask the two of us to be with you?"

The old man mustered up some strength and whispered, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go, too."



* * *

Stinging an Idiot

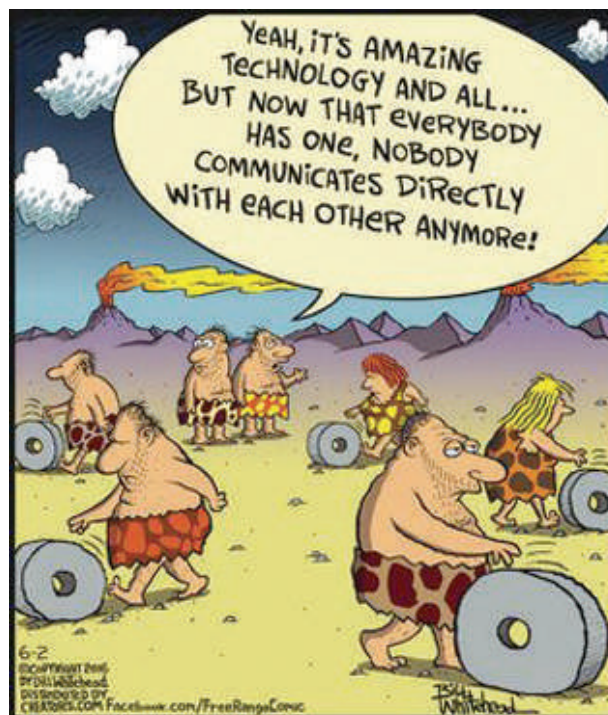
A man comes running to the doctor, shouting and screaming in pain. "Please doctor, you've got to help me. I've been stung by a bee."

"Don't worry," says the doctor, "I'll put some cream on it."

"You will never find that bee. It must be miles away by now."

"No, you don't understand!" answers the doctor, "I'll put some cream on the place you were stung."

"Oh! It happened in the garden in the back of my house."



"No, no, no!" says the doctor, getting frustrated. "I mean on which part of your body did that bee sting you?"

"On my finger!" screamed the man in pain. "The bee stung me on my finger and it really hurts."

"Which one?" asks the doctor.

"How am I supposed to know? All the bees look the same to me!"

* * *

The Obituary Call

A guy was surprised to read his obituary in the local newspaper, so he called his friend. "Joe, have you seen the paper? They said I'm dead."

"I did. Where are you calling from?"

* * *

The Software Engineer's Exit

Old software engineers never die; they just log out.

* * *

The Weird Leg Noises

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

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

"I've never seen or heard anything like this before. How long has this been going on?" the doctor asked.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* * *

A Cannibal for Tea

Two cannibal friends were sitting together for lunch,

sipping their tea.

One asked the other: "Hey, I heard you and your boyfriend had a big fight last night?"

"Yes, that's right."

"So how are things between you right now?"

"Well... right now..."

The cannibal stopped to take a sip of her tea.

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

* * *

The Untrained Maid

Around the beginning of the 20th century, a society lady ran into the employment office one day and demanded a maid "right now".

It seems she's having a dinner party that night and her maid quit.

The guy at the agency explains that all the girls he has right now have just gotten off the boat from Ireland and are untrained. The lady says she'll train the girl but needs someone right away.

The agency man asks for volunteers, and Molly comes forward. She agrees to go and be trained.

Well, the dinner party comes and goes, and although some of the guests seemed to disappear now and then, everything works out just fine. Molly does a great job.

The next morning, the lady is walking down the upstairs hall and sees Molly in one of the guest rooms. It looks like she's making the bed, but she's just standing there.

Curious, the woman walks in and looks over Molly's shoulder. There on the bed lies a condom.

The lady turns bright red and tries to laugh it off. "Why Molly," she says, "Surely you have those in Ireland, don't you?"

Molly swallows nervously and says, "Surely we do, madam, but we don't skin 'em in Ireland like you do to animals!"

* * *



The Lonely Goalie

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

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

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

"You ok?" she says kindly.

"Yes," he replies.

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

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

"Why's that, sweetie?" asks the compassionate teacher. The boy gives her a weird look and says, "Because I'm the goalie."

On Life and Wisdom

By Anthony Hopkins



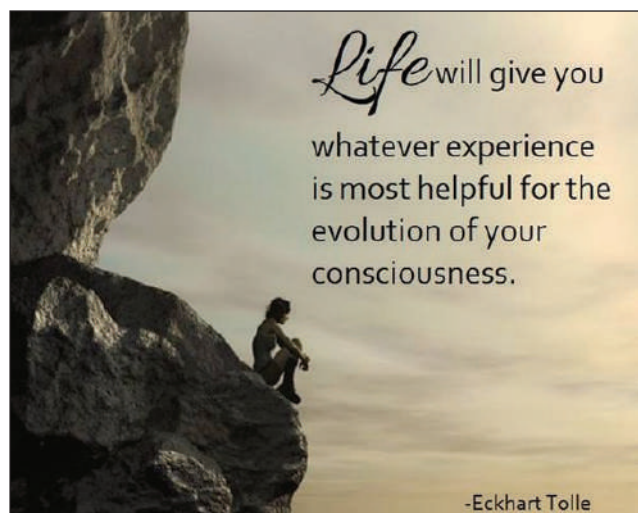
“I know that I have less to live than I have lived. I feel like a child who was given a box of chocolates. He enjoys eating it, and when he sees that there is not much left, he starts to eat them with a special taste. I have no time for endless lectures on public laws - nothing will change. And there is no desire to argue with fools who do not act according to their age.

And there's no time to battle the gray. I don't attend meetings where egos are inflated and I can't stand manipulators. I am disturbed by envious people who try to vilify the most capable to grab their positions, talents, and achievements.

I have too little time to discuss headlines - my soul is in a hurry. Too few candies left in the box. I'm interested in human people. People who laugh at their mistakes are those who are successful, who understand their calling and don't hide from responsibility. Who defends human dignity and wants to be on the side of truth, justice, righteousness. This is what living is for.

I want to surround myself with people who know how to touch the hearts of others. Who, through the blows of fate, were able to rise and maintain the softness of the soul. Yes, I hustle, I hustle to live with the intensity that only maturity can give. I'll eat all the candy I have left - they'll taste better than the ones I already ate.

My goal is to reach the end in harmony with myself, my loved ones, and my conscience. I thought I had two lives, but it turned out to be only one, and it needs to be lived with dignity.”



Life will give you whatever experience is most helpful for the evolution of your consciousness. How do you know this is the experience you need? Because this is the experience you are having at the moment.

— Eckhart Tolle —

Thoughts to Live by

“I am responsible for my happiness”

Recently a good friend of mine turned 60. I asked him what is changing.

He sent me the following lines.

Days slip into weeks,
Weeks turn into months and
Months transform into years.
Calendars are changing and so am I.

Yes, I am changing.

After loving my parents, my siblings, my spouse, my children, my friends, now I have started loving myself.

Yes, I am changing.

I just realised that I am not “Atlas” & the world does not rest on my shoulders.

Yes, I am changing.

I now stopped bargaining with poor vegetables & fruits vendors. After all, a few Ringgit more is not going to burn a hole in my pocket but it might help the poor fellow save for his daughter's school fees.

Yes, I am changing.

I pay the taxi driver & walk away without waiting for the change. The extra money might bring a smile on his face. After all he is toiling much harder for a living than me.

Yes, I am changing.

I stopped telling the elderly that they have already narrated that story many times. After all, the story makes them walk down the memory lane and relive the past.

Yes, I am changing.

I have learnt not to correct people even when I know they are wrong. After all, the onus of making everyone perfect is not on me. Peace is more precious than perfection.

Yes, I am changing.

I give compliments freely & generously. After all its a mood enhancer not only for the recipient, but also for me.

Yes, I am changing.

I have learnt not to bother about a crease on my shirt or a spot on my skirt. After all, personality speaks louder than appearances.

Yes, I am changing.

I walk away from people who don't value me. After all, they might not know my worth, but I do.

Yes, I am changing.

I remain cool when someone plays dirty politics to out-run me in the rat race. After all, I am not a rat and neither am I in any race.

Yes, I am changing.

I am learning not to be embarrassed by my emotions. After all, it's my emotions that make me human.

Yes, I am changing.

I have learnt that it's better to drop the ego than to break a relationship. After all, my ego will keep me aloof whereas with relationships I will never be alone.

Yes, I am changing.

I demand for whatever is due to me. After all, accepting injustice is almost as bad as doing injustice.

Yes, I am changing. I've learnt to live each day as if it were the last. After all, it might be the last .

Yes, I am changing.

I am doing what makes me happy. After all, I am responsible for my happiness, and I owe it to me.

Life's Lesson

True Colours

By Cody Bret

When you meet someone and they show you their true colors, don't try to repaint them. When you try to save a toxic relationship or an abusive person, that is called a trauma response. Your relationship doesn't need to make sense to anyone except you and your partner. It's a relationship, not a community project. Always believe people when they show you who they really are. Many times what we call "giving people the

benefit of the doubt" is our way of disrespecting our own boundaries with a delusional belief that they will change. We make excuses for people we like when they don't treat us very well because we are too scared to accept the fact that they could care less about us. The earlier you come to terms with it, the better off you'll be. Stop wasting your time on temporary conversations. Always having effective communication is crucial. Communication is more than talking for hours at night before you decide to fall asleep. It's the quality of the conversation that truly matters. It's one thing to know how to talk, it's another to know the right questions to ask and the right conversations that will open your partner's mind. Always pay attention to how you feel deep down in your heart

when you're talking to someone. If you feel like you're settling for less, then that's what is most likely happening. Your soul knows when everything isn't in place. Don't ever ignore this feeling. A person's morals, standards, and mindset will be the qualities that will be raising your children. Those are the things that will make them a good spouse and parent. Not their looks, so choose wisely. Pursue a relationship with someone who knows the smallest details about you, like the way you like your eggs in the mornings, your favorite childhood memory, or what romantic movies make you cry. Take my advice and remember ... to know who you are, know what you want, know what you deserve, and never ... under any circumstances settle for less.

Your Health

Common Causes of Night Sweats: Understanding the Triggers

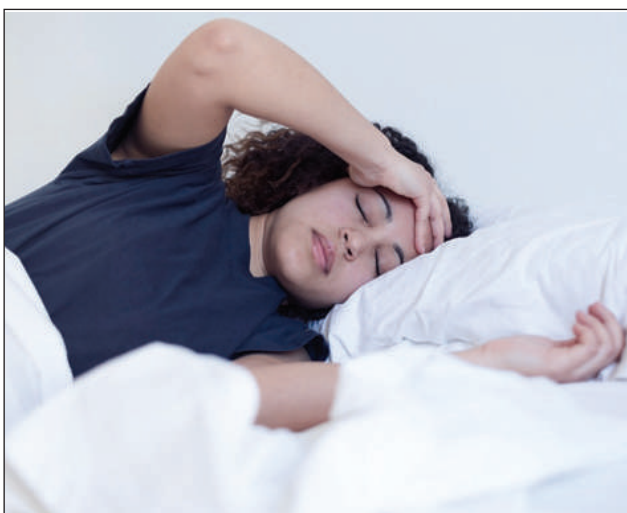
What are night sweats? You might break into a sweat when your room feels warm or you've piled on too many blankets. "Night sweats" however refer to repeated drenching perspiration in the middle of the night that's likely to wake you, sometimes so much that you need to change your sheets. It's usually related to a medical issue.

Addressing the underlying cause may alleviate the sweating, writes Carol DerSarkissian of WebMD.

Overactive Thyroid: Sweating more and being sensitive to heat are notable symptoms of hyperthyroidism. Your thyroid gland controls your metabolism, so when it produces too much hormone, your body goes into overdrive. This can cause a rise in body temperature, increased hunger or thirst, a racing pulse, shaking hands, fatigue, a sense of being unwell, diarrhea, and weight loss.

Low Blood Sugar: If you have diabetes, your blood glucose may be fine when you go to bed, but it can drop while you sleep. This could be due to a very active day, evening exercise, or a late dinner. If you use insulin or take a sulfonylurea-type drug to manage your diabetes, these may cause overnight hypoglycemia. Having a snack before bed can help if your glucose is below 140 mg/dL or if it might drop during the night.

Sleep Apnea: This condition involves brief pauses in breathing during sleep. When your body is deprived of oxygen, it may enter "fight or flight" mode, triggering



sweating. Each instance of restarting breathing requires a burst of effort from your muscles. People using a CPAP machine to aid breathing at night often experience night sweats as frequently as those without sleep apnea.

Acid Reflux: Besides heartburn and chest pain, GERD (acid reflux) may also cause night awakenings due to night sweats. While not extensively studied, there is a potential link between GERD and night sweats. Managing acid reflux through dietary adjustments—like consuming smaller meals earlier in the evening and avoiding trigger foods—can often alleviate night sweats.

Lymphoma: Many cancers, including lymphoma, can cause night sweats. About a quarter of individuals with Hodgkin's lymphoma experience night sweats accompanied by a low fever, fatigue, itchiness, and discomfort in affected areas after alcohol consumption. Aggressive or advanced non-Hodgkin's lymphoma can also lead to drenching night sweats.

Medications: Various medications can induce night

sweats, including over-the-counter fever reducers like acetaminophen and NSAIDs such as aspirin and ibuprofen. Older antidepressants (tricyclics or TCAs), bupropion, venlafaxine, hormone replacement therapy, and corticosteroids like cortisone and prednisone are common culprits. Certain medications for conditions like glaucoma and dry mouth can also stimulate sweat gland activity.

Anxiety: Stress, worry, and panic can lead to daytime sweating, and these emotions can also trigger night sweats. Although less common in adults than in children, nightmares and sleep terrors can induce sweating and an accelerated heartbeat. Seek guidance from a counselor, therapist, or physician if these disturbances persist or disrupt your daily life.

Tumours: Certain cancers, such as prostate cancer, kidney cancer, ovarian tumors (both cancerous and non-cancerous), advanced thyroid cancer, pancreatic cancer, and carcinoid syndrome (a rare cancer typically affecting the digestive system or lungs), can cause night sweats as a classic symptom.

Menopause: "Hot flashes" are common during menopause, occurring before and after the final menstrual period. Younger women who have undergone surgical removal of both ovaries or have ceased menstruation due to chemotherapy can also experience night sweats. These symptoms are more likely to occur during periods of anxiety, depression, or daily alcohol consumption.

Finding Relief: A cooler bedroom temperature and increased air circulation from fans can enhance comfort. Opt for moisture-wicking, quick-drying sheets and sleepwear, and avoid synthetic fabrics that restrict airflow. If the cause of your night sweats is unclear, maintain a diary to share with your doctor. Ideally, addressing the underlying cause will provide relief rather than merely treating the symptom.

Travel Experts Share Their Best Airplane Seat Tips for Kids

Flying with children can be a daunting prospect for parents, but seasoned travellers have learned a few tricks along the way to make the experience smoother. From choosing the right seat to optimizing comfort, here are some expert tips as listed by, Caroline Bologna of HuffPost, to consider for your next family adventure in the skies.

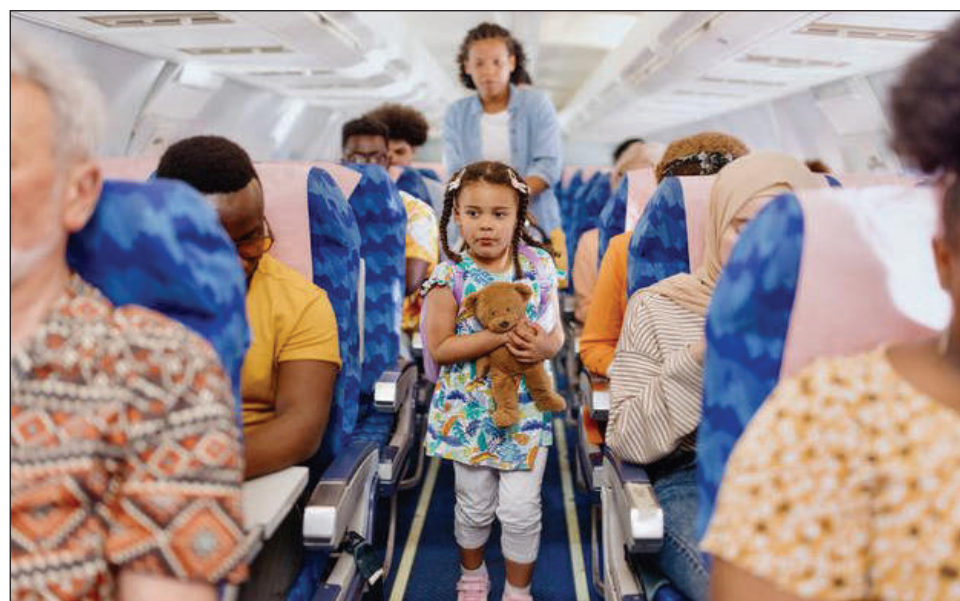
1. The Window Seat Advantage

According to travel experts like Jurga Rubinovaite from Full Suitcase, the window seat is a popular choice for children. "Kids love watching through the window, and they will not disturb other passengers," she advises. The window also provides a built-in distraction, keeping little ones engaged with the changing scenery outside. For parents, it offers a natural leaning surface and a bit of extra room.

PJ and Thomas McKay, known for their family travel tips, echo this sentiment: "We normally let our kids have the window seat and the one beside it. They love looking out the window and taking turns ooo'ing and ahhh'ing."

2. Booking a Full Row

If you're traveling with both parents and one child, consider booking a row of three seats together—window for the child and middle and aisle seats for the adults.



This setup allows for easier management and minimizes disruptions to neighboring passengers. As Rubinovaite emphasizes, booking early increases your chances of securing adjacent seats.

The McKays, who frequently fly with three kids, opt for booking two rows: "One of us will be in one row with two kids, and the other will be in the row in front with another kid."

3. Snagging Extra-Legroom Seats

For longer flights, investing in extra

legroom can make a significant difference in comfort. Summer Hull from The Points Guy recommends using airline miles or credit card points to upgrade to premium economy or secure bulkhead seats. These seats, located near partitions or in the front rows, provide additional space for kids to move around without disturbing others.

"Front-row seats are always great if you can secure those as they make it easy to move around without disturbing other

passengers," Rubinovaite adds.

4. Special Meals and Other Considerations

Beyond seating arrangements, planning ahead for meals can streamline your journey. Rubinovaite suggests reserving special kids' meals in advance. These meals are often served earlier than regular ones, ensuring that children are fed promptly.

"When it comes to long-haul flights, these choices can make a big difference," Rubinovaite emphasizes. By anticipating your child's needs and preferences, you can create a more comfortable and enjoyable travel experience for everyone involved.

Final Thoughts

While every flight with children presents unique challenges, strategic seat selection and thoughtful planning can significantly enhance the journey. Whether opting for the window seat for its distraction value, booking a row for family cohesion, or investing in extra legroom for added comfort, these expert tips aim to ease the stress of flying with kids. By implementing these strategies, parents can transform air travel from a potential headache into a memorable part of the family adventure.

Rising Stars of Bollywood: New faces to watch out for in 2024



Bollywood is set to welcome a host of fresh talent in 2024, promising an exciting year for cinema enthusiasts. From star kids to new faces making their mark, here's a look at the rising stars poised to make a significant impact this year.

Shanaya Kapoor

Shanaya Kapoor, daughter of actors Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep Kapoor, is one of the most anticipated newcomers of 2024. With a strong social media presence, Shanaya is set to make her Bollywood debut with the film *Bedhadak*, directed by Shashank Khaitan. Starring alongside Lakshya Lalwani and Gurfateh Pirzada, her charm and acting skills have already attracted considerable attention.

Aryan Khan

Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, is another star kid making headlines. Although Aryan is stepping behind the camera as a writer and director rather than an actor, his debut project, *Stardom*, is highly anticipated. His directorial debut promises to bring a fresh perspective to Bollywood storytelling.

Rasha Thadani

Rasha Thadani, daughter of actress Raveena Tandon, is set to make her acting debut in Bollywood this year. With a family legacy of strong performances, Rasha's entry into films is highly awaited. Her artistic flair and background suggest she will make a notable impact.

Khushi Kapoor

Khushi Kapoor, the younger daughter of Boney Kapoor and the late Sridevi, made her debut with *The Archies* on Netflix. In 2024, she is set to further showcase her talent in a new project under a prominent Bollywood banner, highlighting her versatility.

Agastya Nanda

Agastya Nanda, grandson of Amitabh Bachchan, debuted in Zoya Akhtar's *The Archies*. In 2024, he will continue to build on his debut with another significant role, expected to solidify his position as a promising new talent in Bollywood.

Lakshya

Lakshya, who initially was set to debut with *Dostana 2*, made his Bollywood entry with *Kill*. His performance in this film marks his first significant break in the industry, and his work on television has already earned him a fan base.

Junaid Khan

Junaid Khan, son of Aamir Khan, made a strong debut with *Maharaj*. In 2024, he is expected to star in another major project that will showcase his acting range and continue his journey in the film industry.

Pashmina Roshan

Pashmina Roshan, cousin of Hrithik Roshan, made her debut with *Ishq Vishk Rebound*. In 2024, she is set to appear in another significant film, further establishing her

presence in Bollywood and showcasing her acting capabilities.



Ibrahim Ali Khan

Ibrahim Ali Khan, son of Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh, is preparing for his Bollywood debut. His resemblance to his father has garnered attention, and his launch is eagerly anticipated by fans and industry insiders alike.

Alizeh Agnihotri

Alizeh Agnihotri, niece of Salman Khan, is set to make her Bollywood debut in 2024. With the support of her illustrious family, Alizeh's entry into the industry is highly anticipated. While details of her debut project are still under wraps, the excitement surrounding her launch is palpable.

As these rising stars prepare to make their mark, Bollywood fans have much to look forward to. Each newcomer brings something unique to the table, promising a diverse range of performances and fresh talent. Keep an eye out for these new faces as they shine on the big screen in 2024.

8 most expensive divorces in Bollywood

From Hrithik Roshan and Sussanne Khan to Farhan Akhtar and Adhuna Bhabani

Bollywood, with its allure and star-studded lives, is no stranger to high-profile relationships and even higher-profile divorces. While some separations are handled with discretion and grace, others capture headlines due to their acrimony and eye-watering settlements. Here's a look at some of the most expensive divorces in Bollywood history, as reported by Koimoi.



1. Hrithik Roshan and Sussanne Khan Hrithik Roshan, Bollywood's Greek God, and Sussanne Khan, a celebrated interior designer, married in 2000. Their seemingly perfect marriage ended in 2014. The divorce settlement was reportedly one of the costliest in Bollywood, with Hrithik paying Sussanne approximately Rs 3.8 billion. Despite their separation, the

couple maintains a cordial relationship and co-parents their two sons.

2. Karisma Kapoor and Sanjay Kapur Karisma Kapoor, from the renowned Kapoor family, married industrialist Sanjay Kapur in 2003. Their relationship faced challenges, leading to their separation in 2014. The divorce settlement included bonds worth Rs 1.4 billion, a luxurious Mumbai home, and an undisclosed amount for their children's welfare.

3. Saif Ali Khan and Amrita Singh Saif Ali Khan, the Nawab of Pataudi, married Amrita Singh in 1991. They had two children before divorcing in 2004. Saif reportedly paid Rs 50 million in alimony, which included a significant portion of his earnings at the time. He also committed to paying Rs 100,000 per month until his son reached adulthood.

4. Aamir Khan and Reena Dutta Aamir Khan, Bollywood's perfectionist, married Reena Dutta in 1986. They divorced in 2002 after having two children. The settlement was discreet, but sources suggest Aamir ensured Reena received around Rs 5 billion for the children's future. Aamir's amicable post-divorce relationship with Reena set a standard in



Bollywood.

5. Farhan Akhtar and Adhuna Bhabani Farhan Akhtar, a versatile actor, director, and producer, married celebrity hairstylist Adhuna Bhabani in 2000. After 16 years of marriage, they separated in 2016. The divorce was reportedly amicable, with Farhan agreeing to a generous settlement, including a one-time alimony payment and shared custody of their two daughters.

6. Sanjay Dutt and Rhea Pillai Sanjay Dutt's second marriage to model Rhea Pillai ended in divorce in 2008. The separation was highly publicized, with reports suggesting a significant alimony amount was paid to Rhea. The settlement also included two luxurious sea-facing apartments in Mumbai and a car,

ensuring Rhea's financial stability.

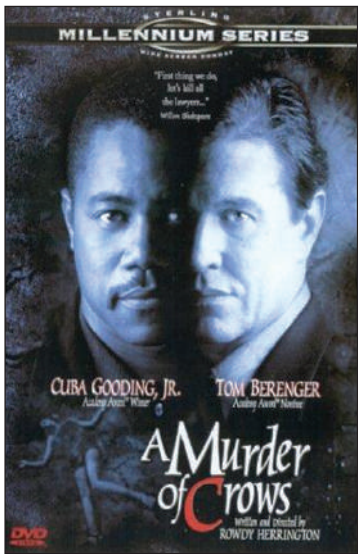
7. Arbaaz Khan and Malaika Arora Arbaaz Khan, actor-producer and younger brother of Salman Khan, married actress and model Malaika Arora in 1998. They announced their separation in 2016 and finalized their divorce in 2017. The settlement reportedly included a substantial alimony sum of around Rs 100-150 million to Malaika, along with joint custody of their son, Arhaan.

8. Pulkit Samrat and Shweta Rohira Pulkit Samrat, known for his roles in films like *Fukrey*, married journalist Shweta Rohira in 2014. The marriage was short-lived, ending in separation in 2015. The divorce was settled amicably, with Pulkit reportedly paying a significant sum in alimony to Shweta to ensure her financial independence.

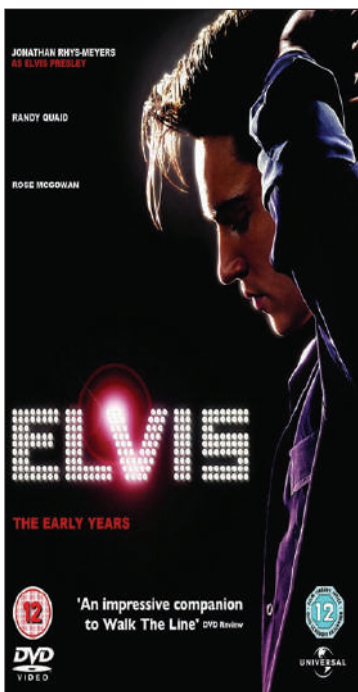
While these high-profile divorces are marked by significant financial settlements, they also highlight the personal and emotional aspects behind the headlines. In the glamorous world of Bollywood, these separations remind us that celebrities, too, face life's trials and tribulations.



Vendredi 23 août - 20.30



Samedi 24 août - 20.30



Dimanche 25 août - 20.30



Programme TV



SERIAL



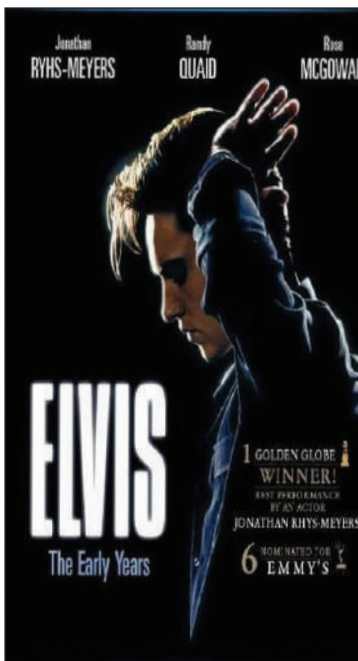
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samedi 24 août	03.53 Serial: Blue Bloods 04.35 The Gardener's Daughter 06.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 07.00 Serial: Heartland 08.30 Serial: Seal Team 09.15 Serial: Madam Secretary 10.00 Serial: Blue Bloods 10.49 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Under Pressure 13.10 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Fast And Furious 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Enter: Dance India Dance... 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Elvis: The Early Years 21.54 Serial: Blue Bloods 22.36 Serial: Sublime Mensonge 23.30 Le Journal 01.07 Serial: Madam Secretary	06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 07.02 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 07.43 Local: Lir - Ekri Kreol 08.35 Rodrig Prog: Ala Nou Vini 10.26 Rodrig Prog: Nou La Ter 11.03 Local: Come On Let's Dance 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 13.06 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 14.25 Rodrig: Ala Nou Vini 15.00 Local: Retrovizor 16.42 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.02 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.40 Rodrig: Kot Nou 22.19 Local: Glwar Dantan 22.50 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 23.19 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion 00.05 Local: Saver Kiltirel 00.34 Rodrig: Promnad 00.57 Rodrig: Rod'Art 01.23 Rodrig: Coin Zen	07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 07.08 Serial: Kalari Kids 08.26 MBC Production 10.21 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 11.35 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.11 MBC Production 14.06 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 14.30 Mag: Discover Life 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Veer Starring: Salman Khan, Zarine Khan, Mithun Chakraborty, Sohail Khan... 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 MBC Production 21.00 Film: Singh Saab The Great Starring: Sunny Deol, Urvashi Rautela, Prakash Raj 22.28 MBC Production 01.42 Film: Singh Saab The Great Cast: Sunny Deol, Urvashi Rautela, Prakash Raj	06.00 Film: The Jungle Book 07.36 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 09.40 D.Anime: The Treasure Island 10.00 D.Anime: Early Learning 10.36 Mag: Reciepes For Kids 11.00 Doc: Legendary Hotels 12.31 Doc: PFAS-Poisoned... 14.00 Doc: Mutli Tasking 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.07 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du Petit Pingouin 15.34 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 15.39 D.Anime: Jungle Book 16.02 D.Anime: Sonic Room 16.13 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.39 D.Anime: Miraculous... 17.04 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Mag: Skuld 21.45 Film: Burn	08.00 Swaran Ghar 10.19 Sasural Simar Ka 2 11.59 Udaariyaan 14.58 Anupamaa 16.58 Fanaa 19.38 Film: Uff! Yeh Mohabbat Starring: Twinkle Khanna and Abhishek Kapoor 21.38 Gadget Guru Ganesha 21.50 Porus 22.16 C.I.D 22.56 Swaran Ghar
samedi 25 août	04.23 The Gardener's Daughter 06.12 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 06.33 Film: The Early Years 07.58 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 08.40 Film: Fast And Furious 10.50 Serial: Chicago Med 11.32 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Film: The Cimarron Kid Avec: Audie Murphy, Beverly Tyler 15.20 Serial: Radhi Krishna 15.21 Film: Retour Vers Le Futur 2 17.05 Tele: L'Empire DU Mensonge 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Die Hard 22.40 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 23.30 Le Journal 00.15 Serial: Sublime Mensonge 01.59 Serial: Chicago Med	07.11 Local: Saver Kiltirel 09.50 Local: Les Petits Genies 10.16 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion 11.03 Local: Nu Rasinn 14.06 Local: Elle 14.37 Les Grands Noms Inter... 14.40 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 16.43 Local: Aktiv 16.58 Local: Saver Kiltirel 17.29 Local: Glwar Dantan 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.20 Local: Elle 19.59 Local: Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 20.30 Le Challenge 20.45 Local: Les Klips 21.37 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 23.00 Journal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Arsiv MBC 23.46 Local: Mangeons Veg 00.12 Rodrig Prog: Komanter	07.00 Serial: Kalari Kids 07.12 Serie 08.00 MBC Production 12.00 Film: Pratigyabandh Cast: Mithun Chakraborty, Neelam, Kumar Gaurav 15.00 Samachar 15.30 MBC Production 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 MBC Production 20.07 Serial: Porus 20.33 Serial: CID 21.13 Serial: Naagin 21.58 Serial: Bahubali 22.36 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna 23.36 MBC Production 01.09 Film: Pratigyabandh Cast: Mithun Chakraborty, Neelam, Kumar Gaurav	06.25 D.Anime: Agent 06.47 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 09.47 D.Anime: Early Learning 09.51 D.Anime: Malory Towers 10.16 Mag: Recipes For Kids 11.08 In The Jaws OF The Dragon 12.16 Mag: Skuld 13.30 Doc: The Bitter Sweet Deal 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.34 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 15.39 D.Anime: Jungle Book 15.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.02 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.36 D.Anime: Miraculous... 17.06 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S 17.29 Mag: In Good Shape 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 20.50 Doc: Brilliant Corners 21.42 Film: The Street Where We Live	00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 02.15 Udaariyaan 04.25 Anupamaa 06.22 Fanaa 08.25 Tenali Rama 08.42 Patiala Babes 10.31 Kundali Bhagya 12.21 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 14.15 Kismet Ki Lakiron Se 16.12 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.42 Film: Piku Starring: Deepika Padukone, Amitabh Bachchan, Irrfan Khan 20.43 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.00 Dance India Dance Little Masters 21.52 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 23.44 Patiala Babes
lundi 26 août	06.01 Tele: Tour De Babel 07.24 Serial: The Bionic Woman 08.13 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 09.05 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 09.30 Film: The Street Where We Live 11.30 The Gardener's Daughter 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Terra Nostra 13.16 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.41 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.05 Serial: The Bionic Woman 15.21 Film: Die Hard 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.53 Serial: Swaran Ghar 19.30 Le Journal 20.40 Serial: Seal Team 21.13 Serial: Heartland 22.39 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.31 Le Journal	07.46 Local: Sa Lavi-La 09.56 Rodrig: Komanter 10.48 Local: Le Challenge 11.08 Local: Les Klips 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.04 Local: Elle 14.30 Arsiv MBC - Fer Roule 15.11 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 15.48 Local: Les Klips 16.40 Local: Le Challenge 16.55 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.12 Le Magazine De L'emploi 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Business Connect 20.30 Eclairage Economique 20.45 Local: Tous Egaux 21.00 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 21.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante	07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 08.27 Tohar Rashi 08.47 Tohar Farmaish 09.13 Yaadein 09.55 Bahubali 10.30 Saaton Vachanwa Saath... 10.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Shravan Kumar 15.30 Senhur 15.56 Kundali Bhagya 17.40 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaein 19.00 Live From Sri Sri Rukmini Dwarkadhish Mandir Hare Krishna Temple, Triolet Krishna Janmashtami 2024 00.30 Serial: Mere Sai 01.21 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 01.47 Ved Ki Shikshaein 02.13 Local: Theatre 02.40 Excerpts from Shiv Abhishek	06.25 Doc: Turning Vapor Into... 07.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.39 Doc: Brilliant Corners 09.13 Doc: Extreme Climate Events 10.40 Doc: Umoja-Where Women... 12.33 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.56 Doc: A Construction Revolution 15.01 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.07 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du... 15.12 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 15.39 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 15.55 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.07 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.18 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.40 D.Anime: Miraculous... 17.02 Serial: D.I.Y. Discover Your... 17.06 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 21.16 Film: A Murder OF Crows	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 15.37 Film: Main Krishna Hoon Starring: Juhi Chawla, Paresh Ganatra, Namit Shah 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Fanaa 20.05 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.40 Yashomati Maiyya Ke 21.09 Anupamaa 21.32 Mere Sai



Mardi 27 août - 20.30



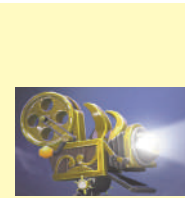
Mercredi 28 août - 21.30



Jeudi 29 Août - 21.40



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 27 août	05.08 The Gardener's Daughter 07.25 Serial: Seal Team 08.36 Tele: Amour Secret 09.30 Film: Last Rampage 11.30 The Gardener's Daughter 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.18 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.43 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.10 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 15.21 Film: A Murder Of Crows 17.00 Hollywood On Set 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Retour Vers le Futur 22.30 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.30 Le Journal 00.15 The Gardener's Daughter	07.12 Eclairage Economique 09.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.37 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol 11.03 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei 11.59 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 13.15 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 14.00 Local: Itinerer Moris 14.52 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 15.42 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 17.02 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 19.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.00 Local: Science Insight 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.19 Local: Le Mag 22.24 Local: Mots & Ecrits 22.47 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.20 Local: Music Tour 00.12 Local: Profil	07.09 Serial: Kalari Kids 08.00 Local: Theatre 08.27 Excerpts from Shiv Abhishek 09.46 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Bhagwan Parshuram Starring: Abhi Bhattacharya, Jayshree Gadkar, Helen 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 16.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Tark Vitark 19.15 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthya 20.41 Film: Tulsii Vivah 23.23 Serial: Mere Sai	07.00 Mag: Africa 54 08.39 Mag: Washington Forum 09.08 Doc: The War Over Wheat 11.02 Mag: Eco Africa 12.09 Mag: Africa 54 12.37 Mag: In Good Shape 12.56 Doc: Ageless Gardens 13.16 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.46 Mag: Washington Forum 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.05 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du... 15.51 D.Anime: Robin De Bois 16.03 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.17 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.56 D.I.Y. Discover... 17.30 Serial: Eco Africa 18.00 Mag: Rev 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.11 Film: Christina Noble	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Gadget Guru Ganesha 15.31 Film: English Vinglish Starring Sridevi, Adil Hussain, Mehdi Nebbou 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Fanaa 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.37 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.07 Anupama 21.35 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.34 Serial: Swaran Ghar 23.04 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.37 Film: English Vinglish Starring Sridevi, Adil Hussain, Mehdi Nebbou
mercredi 28 août	07.25 Serial: The Bionic Woman 08.13 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 08.39 Tele: Amour Secret 09.01 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 09.35 Film: Retour Vers Le Futur 3 11.30 The Gardener's Daughter 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.46 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.11 Serial: The Bionic Woman 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: The Night Is Young 17.32 The Gardener's Daughter 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.30 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 21.15 Film: Elvis: The Early Years 22.42 Tele: Terra Nostra	07.18 Local: Priorite Sante 08.16 Local: Mots Et Ecrits 08.45 Local: Profil 09.38 Local: Le Mag 10.30 Local: Koze Zom 12.00 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.16 Local: Son Ladan Mem 13.03 Local: Priorite Sante 14.32 Rodrig: Rod'Art 15.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 15.52 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.18 Local: Mots Et Ecrits 18.00 Tele: Passion And Power 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Mag De L'emploi... 19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.30 Local: Miot International 20.45 Local: Encounter 21.11 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.37 Local: Les Klips 22.29 Local: Proze Dime	07.00 Serial: Tik Tak Tail 07.09 Serial: Kalari Kids 07.21 Serie 08.01 Serial: Tark Vitark 08.42 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 09.17 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki... 12.00 Film: Naqab (1989) Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Farha Naaz 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Senhur 16.00 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yatra 19.00 Local: Kala 20.00 Local: Virasat 20.15 Local: Gyan Vigyan 21.00 Film: Payal Bhojpuri 23.00 Serial: Mere Sai	08.43 Mag: Euromaxx 09.13 Doc: Stolen Soul 10.38 Doc: Does The Lynx Have A... 12.06 Mag: Made In Germany 12.30 Mag: Global US 13.26 Mag: Initiative Africa 13.52 Mag: Euromaxx 14.44 Mag: Her: Women In Asia 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.05 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.38 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 15.48 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 16.11 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.45 Serial: Miraculous... 17.06 Serial: D.I.Y. Discover... 17.21 Serial: Penny Sur MARS 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Transforming Business 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.16 Film: Mortal Engines	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 15.24 Tenali Rama 15.36 Film: Saina Starring: Parineeti Chopra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Fanaa 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.06 Anupama 21.28 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Swaran Ghar 23.01 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Saina Starring: Parineeti Chopra 02.39 Udaariyaan
jeudi 29 Août	07.25 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 08.20 Serial: Le Temps D'aimer 09.13 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 09.35 Film: Elvis: The Early Years 11.30 The Gardener's Daughter 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.10 Serial: Gout De L'Amour 15.25 Film: Mortal Engines 17.15 The Gardener's Daughter 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.56 Serial: Swaran Ghar 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Jug Jugg Jeeyo Stars: Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor, Kiara 22.41 Tele: Terra Nostra 00.20 The Gardener's Daughter	06.51 Local: Aktiv 07.16 Local: Miot International 11.00 Local: Les Klips 12.06 Local: Rodrig Spor 12.29 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 13.06 Local: Miot International 13.42 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.08 Local: Klip Seleksion 14.53 Local: Proze Dime 15.19 Local: Rodrig: Mot Nou 16.50 Local: Aktiv 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.31 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.15 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Encounter 21.00 Local: Le Mag 22.48 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 23.19 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 00.04 Rodrig: Lavi Fam	07.09 Serial: Kalari Kids 07.21 Serie 08.27 Local: Kala 09.21 Local: Virasat 09.36 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.00 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Rickshawala 14.00 Mag: Zarkash 15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 16.00 Serial: Agnipthera 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.29 Local: Amrit Vani 18.39 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 20.05 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.30 Local: Shiv Shakti 21.00 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya 21.30 Mag: Dharam Yatra 22.00 Serial: Mere Sai	06.40 Mag: Planet A 08.16 Mag: Close Up 08.42 Mag: Focus On Europe 10.40 Doc: Beneath The Waves 11.32 Transforming Business 12.30 Doc: A Mediterranean... 13.48 Mag: Focus On Europe 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.06 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.11 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 15.43 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 15.55 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.06 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.42 Serial: Miraculous... 17.04 Serial: D.I.Y. Discover... 17.13 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S 17.36 Mag: Her: Women In Asia 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.16 Film: Battleship	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 15.22 Film: Paayal Stars: Himalaya, Bhagyashree, Farida Jalal, Annu Kapoor 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Fanaa 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.02 Anupama 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.37 Swaran Ghar 23.02 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.11 Film: Paayal Stars: Himalaya, Bhagyashree, Farida Jalal, Annu Kapoor



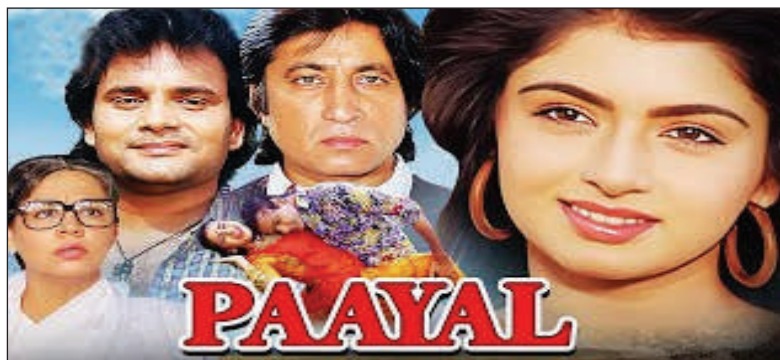
Jeudi 29 Août - 15.25

Stars: Himalaya, Bhagyashree, Farida Jalal, Annu Kapoor



Jeudi 29 Août - 20.30

Stars: Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor, Kiara





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

Au-delà des étoiles

Que ferions-nous sans le cinéma? Sans la possibilité d'assister à une mise en scène de l'imaginaire où la fiction se mêle à la réalité dans un décor grandiose, avec des acteurs et actrices de talent?

Toute une génération voit ses plus belles années enterrées avec la disparition des icônes qui ont marqué sa quête de rêve, de magie, de fantaisie et de beauté sur le grand écran. La France a été l'un des pionniers qui a porté le septième art à son apogée en offrant au monde des acteurs et actrices légendaires. L'annonce du décès d'Alain Delon tourne la page d'une époque glorieuse du cinéma français et porte un coup au cœur de tous ceux qui ont tant aimé ces étoiles qui ont éclairé leur vie sur terre. Après Belmondo, c'est le dernier monstre sacré du cinéma français qui nous quitte.

Les stars sont les rares personnes qui suscitent une émotion partagée par les peuples à travers le monde, au-delà des différences culturelles, ethniques ou religieuses. La reconnaissance de leur talent et la force de leur charisme transcendent les frontières. C'est la magie des arts, des lettres, de la poésie et des chansons qui s'opère en toute liberté et embellit nos vies.

Dans le rôle de voyou, flic ou séducteur, Delon reste l'incarnation de la beauté masculine à l'écran. Incontestablement, il fut le plus bel homme de l'écran en France, et aussi reconnu comme tel dans le monde entier. Un Apollon venu d'Italie à l'âge de quatre ans et qui a contribué à l'image de la France et fait rêver des milliers de femmes à travers le monde. Depuis deux ou trois ans, la photo en noir et blanc de Delon et de Brigitte Bardot au temps de leur jeunesse orne les arrêts d'autobus et autres lieux à Paris. Aucun artiste contemporain n'est susceptible de susciter une telle émotion que ces deux beautés légendaires dans le cœur du public.

Malgré leur âge avancé, ils conservent le palmarès de la beauté de jeunesse à travers le temps. Consolons-nous du fait que le poids de l'âge, malgré son effet dévastateur sur le physique, ne lui ait pas infligé de grandes souffrances durant ses dernières années. Il était à craindre que les dieux jaloux ne le réduisent en pièces à la fin de sa vie après l'avoir envoyé sur terre en toute beauté rayonnante pour le bonheur des mortels. Que les dieux le reprennent parmi eux au-delà des cieux. Merci à Alain Delon d'avoir exalté les heures arrachées à nos occupations quotidiennes. C'est un des rares acteurs, avec Belmondo, Ventura, Montand et Gabin, dont on peut voir trois films d'affilée sans s'ennuyer.

Ainsi partent ceux qui agrémentent nos vies : écrivains, artistes, chanteurs et chan-



"Dans le rôle de voyou, flic ou séducteur, Delon reste l'incarnation de la beauté masculine à l'écran. Incontestablement, il fut le plus bel homme de l'écran en France, et aussi reconnu comme tel dans le monde entier. Un Apollon venu d'Italie à l'âge de quatre ans et qui a contribué à l'image de la France et fait rêver des milliers de femmes à travers le monde..." - Pic - Elle

teuses, comédiens et acteurs. Selon nos affinités et nos penchants, les écrivains sont des personnes qui nous accompagnent toute une vie, des éclaireurs de notre parcours, depuis l'adolescence jusqu'à l'éternité d'une vie, tout au long d'un parcours où de multiples interrogations taraudent notre esprit en quête de reconnaissance et de réponse. Ils sont les fidèles compagnons de toute une vie. Que serait la vie sans la poésie des chansons?

L'homme des cavernes a dessiné tant bien que mal la vie autour de lui sur les pierres, et sa sensibilité s'est exprimée aussi à travers les chants. Au plus profond d'eux-mêmes, les êtres humains sont porteurs de transcendance, de poésie et de beauté. Que ferions-nous sans le cinéma? Sans la possibilité d'assister à une mise en scène de l'imaginaire où la fiction se mêle à la réalité dans un décor grandiose, avec des acteurs et actrices de talent?

À Maurice, nous sommes nombreux à avoir la chance d'être fans du cinéma indien et occidental, des chanteurs des deux côtés. Ce qui augmente notre peine de les voir disparaître un après l'autre!

* * *

Nous nous permettons de nous adresser à la France, aux gouvernants et au public français. Compte tenu du délitement général dans tous les domaines, de l'art où la vulgarité se veut artistique (le spectacle d'ouverture des JO, par exemple), de l'héritage de Mai 68 et bien avant, où tout est permis, du pourrissement de l'ordre public où toute autorité est forcément mauvaise, et

de la perte des valeurs en France et dans de nombreux pays, il serait utile qu'il y ait un rappel à certaines choses qui régissent la vie en société. Le respect dû aux défunts relève du bon sens et de l'éthique dans toutes les cultures à travers le temps.

Avant même les funérailles de la légende que fut Alain Delon, une pluie d'insultes s'abattit sur lui. C'était prévisible venant d'une partie d'un public se croyant investi d'une obligation à porter un jugement sur la vie privée des célébrités. Le bûcher de l'Inquisition ne se fit pas attendre pour s'ériger en toute vitesse pour insulter, condamner et clouer au pilori le coupable accablé de tous les maux. C'est affligeant, exaspérant, révoltant et choquant. Une icône est adulée pour son talent et son image d'artiste. Sa vie privée ne regarde que lui et ses proches.

Faudrait-il apprendre le sens de la retenue dans le langage, la politesse, le respect des défunts et la douleur de la famille? Qui se charge de refaire l'éducation de cette fange grossière, médiocre et immature? Le fanatisme idéologique d'une partie des gens qui se réclament de la gauche est bien connu. Ils sont anti-riches, anti-capital, anti-star, anti-ceci, anti-cela. Aveuglés par l'endoctrinement, ils ne respectent rien et s'enlisent dans la haine de soi. Delon défendait l'identité catholique du Liban dans les années 80 en pleine guerre civile déclenchée par les réfugiés palestiniens. N'avait-il pas le droit? Heureusement que l'amnésie a fait oublier cet épisode. Sinon, il se ferait traiter de fasciste en plus de l'étiquette de raciste que son amitié avec J.M. Le Pen lui a valu. On marche sur la tête.

Lorsque nous voyons le niveau médiocre des nouveaux recrues de l'extrême gauche et certains gauchistes tout court, il est risible de les voir s'agiter en donneurs de leçons, et se croire héritiers de la culture, de l'intelligence, de l'humanisme et de valeurs morales. D'où leur propension à tout juger, à ne respecter rien ni personne. Il faut espérer que la politique d'intégration des immigrés n'inclut pas une invitation à la vulgarité, à la médiocrité, au non-respect des autres et au fanatisme idéologique, qui forment un véritable repoussoir pour la France.

Il faut se ressaisir, apprendre la délicatesse, la politesse, la retenue dans le langage, et le respect des autres. Il nous reste Brigitte Bardot, dernière icône du cinéma français. Espérons que d'ici là, les uns et les autres s'abstiendront de verser leur bile sur la place publique.

Tree of Knowledge

Using Our Outside Voice



When we communicate precisely, we are voicing our thoughts as an act of creation

Each of us has developed an internal filtering process that helps us choose which parts of our constant inner monologues get voiced outside of our heads. Sometimes the choice is based on what we consider to be polite or appropriate, using subtlety instead of directness to try to get our point across. Other times, the choice is made based on our expectations of the other person and what we feel they should know about us, our feelings, and our needs. But our best chance of getting what we need is to communicate specifically by converting our inner voice to our outside voice.

This may seem unnecessary sometimes, especially when we think the other person has the same information that we ourselves are working with, but we have to remember they also have their own inner voice, evaluating what they hear in light of their own issues and needs. With so much to consider and sift through, we are truly better off if we communicate precisely. Not only does doing this minimize the chance for misinterpretation, but voicing our thoughts is an act of creation. We convert thought and imagination to sound, releasing it from the chamber of our minds into the outside world. This carries energy and intention with it, allowing our thoughts, wishes, and even dreams to come true.

When we have the courage to speak our minds and use our voice to send the desires of our hearts from our inner world to the world outside, we take a bold step in making them happen. By removing fear of what others may think and expectation of what others should understand, we free ourselves and let loose our desires onto the canvas of the world. Next time we become aware that we have a choice about how to communicate, we can choose to use our inner voice and watch its creative power at work.

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