### MAURITIUS TIMES

• Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights and privileges of free men. -- Dwight Eisenhower



Interview: Me Antoine Domingue, SC

### "Le décès de Kistnen n'est pas nécessairement lié aux 'Kistnen Papers"

• 'L'intérêt personnel des Duval père et fils (Papa-Piti version 2.0) est leur principale préoccupation!'

 'Nous sommes tous consternés qu'un membre de l'Opposition puisse présenter ainsi une motion de blâme contre le Leader de l'Opposition. Cela est unprecedented'

Breakfast with Bwana

### Harnessing Americans as Useful Idiots – Election Disinformation



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**Analyse** 



**Marmite Politique** 

# Parlement: le mirage de la civilité



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Friday, August 9, 2024 www.mauritiustimes.com

### **Street Riots or Street Power**

ecent events worldwide have brought vivid scenes of popular upheaval, notably British nationalists in the UK clashing with its increasingly vocal immigrant minority. Some might be forgiven for thinking that parts of the country now resemble certain suburbs of Karachi. While many European nations grapple with illegal immigration and asylum-seekers, these unprecedented events mark the first serious test for the newly elected Keir Starmer government, which now must handle the legacy of twenty years of lax border policies and significant infiltration under successive Tory govern-

UK town centres and suburbs are ablaze with fury, anger, resentment, and even hate, leaving many shocked observers questioning the British model of integration, while others consider the power of false rumours on social media to inflame unbridled emotions, particularly in the wake of the murderous stabbings and deaths in Southport. Was the timing, so shortly after Labour's coming to office, coincidental ask still others?

Elsewhere, many countries were largely unprepared for tumultuous street demonstrations amid the ongoing dramatic conflict between Israel and Iranian-funded proxies (Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah in Lebanon, namely) and the brutal excesses of Netanyahu's response to the perceived existential threat to Israel's very survival as a nation. These street demonstrations and public space occupations have not diminished the Israeli government's resolve, despite some shifts in traditionally supportive US policy, particularly among Democrats.

n Bangladesh, mostly student protesters, irate over Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's inflexibility re-garding job quotas for the descendants of its "freedom fighters," forced her resignation. She fled to India, where she may seek asylum elsewhere. The army took over and responded to student demands by appointing the respected Nobel laureate Muham-mad Yunus as caretaker PM, entrusting him with the urgent task of restoring peace before new general elections are held. Prime Minister Modi, like most of us, wishes him success in this hour of dire need for his countrymen.

Whether massive street protests and demonstrations influence policy in any country depends on many factors, including cultural, demographic, and historical contexts. In Nouméa and New Caledonia, for instance, France has been grappling for decades with subliminal resentment between the indigenous Kanaks and the settler Caldoche communities. These tensions erupted into weeks of rampant violence following a poorly conceived measure by President Macron aimed at granting more electoral power to settlers. Although the violence has subsided, the complex underlying issues remain unresolved. This brings us to our shores.

Many NGOs have observed that Mauritians do not participate in street demonstrations against situations that might warrant such protests. Resentment over rising costs of living, high fuel taxes, and instances of gross mismanagement of public funds tends to be restricted to viral social media phenomena, combined with an oppressive heavy hand by the authorities. That oppressive hand may have been influenced by a couple of years of Covid-related restrictions on population movements when the Police Force had legislated rights to limit free space and movement for the greater good. Yet it was during the pandemic that Mauritius witnessed its last massively attended demonstration, protesting the government's handling of the worst maritime and oil-spill disaster in our history, with many questions still unanswered.

couple of weeks ago, on July 26th, media and ANGOs commemorated the wreckage of the MV Wakashio in 2020 on our Pointe d'Esny coral reefs. After being left to wallow helplessly against the waves for days of official inaction, the ship finally broke in two, spilling its oil into the pristine lagoons of the southeast. Despite Covid restrictions, thousands of masked volunteers from every corner admirably concocted and transported artisanal booms to contain the spill, as it appeared the authorities neither had nor released suitable booms from port stores. On August 7th, the PM belatedly declared a state of Environmental Emergency, and in an even more tragic twist, on Monday, August 31st, a barge carrying oil from the stricken MV Wakashio collided with the tugboat Sir Gaetan Duval, causing three confirmed deaths.

Government inaction during the critical period when the MV Wakashio could have been towed out of the reef, its failure to detect the ship's trajectory heading straight for Mauritius for at least two days before impact (as satellite images confirmed), its inability to prevent the vessel from crashing onto the reefs, and the weak excuses put forward by the ship's officers were among the factors that roused the population to the streets of the capital in the largest popular demonstration the country had seen in recent years.

Mauritians may not have taken to the streets over financial or economic distress, but no one could doubt that when larger issues of gross mismanagement coupled with environmental consciousness struck their hearts, they did rise up. More than one hundred thousand swamped Port-Louis in February 2021 at the call of several civic NGOs, attended by all Opposition political parties, noisily expressing their pent-up frustrations — though few would claim that it led to significant changes in government poli-

#### The Conversation

Books that shook the Business world

### **The Human Conditi** by Hannah Arendt

German-American philosopher Hannah Arendt's masterwork foresaw the self-obsessed consumerist world that technology was creating.



Mass consumption had already taken hold by the time Arendt was writing in the 1950s. Pic - Alamy

an you cook your way to stardom from a small kitchen in a tiny apartment? The answer, today, is a resounding 'yes'. Look for a recipe, make a TikTok reel of yourself cooking, and unleash unlimited possibilities for public recognition. TikTok, as one New York Times article puts it, is the "fastest way on earth to become a food star".

Specialist consultants and even degree courses are now dedicated to helping people become influencers on social media. Clearly such jobs have only been made possible by technological progress. But what kind of work is this? How might we understand this overwhelming desire for self-presentation? Is it of value?

Such questions point to even more fundamental ones, such as what it means to be human, what it means to be free, and whether work is a form of bondage or an essential condition of freedom.

Hannah Arendt, the German-American philosopher and political theorist, explored precisely such issues in her book, The Human Condition (1958). Considered her magnum opus, it remains one of the key texts of the 20th century investigating the relationship humans have with each other and the world.

rendt's core argument is that the modern human condition is Acharacterised by two kinds of estrangement that are closely linked to advances in technology. She describes it as a "twofold flight from the Earth into the universe, and from the world into the self".

Arendt points to the launch, in 1957, of the first satellite, Sputnik, to describe a quintessential feature of all modern technologies: they put more and more distance between humans and our natural environment.

Technology is supposed to protect the good life by freeing us from discomforts.

By Anthony Grayling, Prof of Philosophy & Brian Ball, Associate Prof of Philosophy AI and Information Ethics, Northeastern University London

#### **Mauritius Times**

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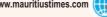
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Analyse Mauritius Times Friday, August 9, 2024

#### **Marmite Politique**

### Parlement: le mirage de la civilité

Le PMSD veut jouer le rôle d'opposition loyale et servile au gouvernement en attendant de sceller son pacte avec le MSM

Aditya Narayan

ardi dernier, sur une motion du Premier ministre et «Leader of the House», les travaux de l'Assemblée législative ont été ajournés au mardi 15 octobre 2024. Ces vacances d'hiver de deux mois rendent probable la dissolution du Parlement le 7 octobre, soit deux jours avant l'élection partielle prévue pour le 9 octobre dans la circonscription no. 10 (Grande-Rivière-Sud Est/Montagne Blanche), afin de tenir des élections générales le 9 décembre 2024. Dans ce scénario, le gouvernement esquivera la partielle et n'attendra pas la dissolution automatique du Parlement prévue le 21 novembre pour rappeler le pays aux urnes.

D'ici le 7 octobre, le MSM finalisera les termes de son alliance avec le PMSD, dont l'annonce officielle sera faite vraisemblablement au moment de la dissolution. Il ne fait plus de doute que les deux partis ont déjà conclu un accord de principe, quitte à définir - dans les semaines à venir - les modalités en termes de répartition des candidatures aux élections et des postes ministériels dans un prochain gouvernement.

Cette nouvelle configuration de l'alliance gouvernementale en vue des prochaines élections est apparue clairement cette semaine à la faveur des débats sur la motion de blâme du Leader de l'Opposition, Arvin Boolell, contre le nouveau Speaker Adrien Duyal.

#### Positionnement perfide

En effet, ces débats ont apporté un éclairage sur le positionnement du PMSD sur l'échiquier politique grâce au discours de son leader Xavier Duval, qui a critiqué sévèrement l'alliance de l'opposition parlementaire (PTr-MMM-Nouveaux Démocrates), confirmant ainsi sa rupture avec ses anciens alliés. Il a en outre déposé une motion de blâme contre le Leader de l'Opposition Boolell, ce qui est une démarche inédite dans les annales parlementaires.

Voir un leader de parti qui s'assoit dans les travées de l'opposition au Parlement chercher la bagarre avec le Leader de



Gepuis sa démission du gouvernement MSM en 2017, en raison d'une divergence sur le projet de loi créant une commission de poursuite parallèle au DPP, le leader du PMSD avait assumé le rôle de leader de l'Opposition (avec une parenthèse pour Arvin Boolell, chef de file travailliste au Parlement) jusqu'à tout récemment. À travers ses questions parlementaires et ses interventions sur les projets de loi, il s'était bâti un capital de sympathie avec son réquisitoire implacable contre le gouvernement. Or, mécontent de l'offre de huit tickets aux prochaines élections au sein de l'alliance de l'opposition parlementaire, le PMSD a fait un virage à 180 degrés..."

l'Opposition, c'est du jamais vu dans les annales parlementaires!

Le PMSD veut ainsi jouer le rôle d'opposition loyale et servile au gouvernement en attendant de sceller son pacte avec le MSM. Ne serait-ce pas là un positionnement perfide que l'opposition PTr-MMM-ND a eu raison de dénoncer?

Pendant les débats, les orateurs du gouvernement, dont le Premier ministre, ont fait montre d'un excès de zèle pour défendre le Speaker Adrien Duval contre les critiques de l'Opposition officielle, qui a remis en cause son indépendance. Le Premier ministre a même suggéré au Speaker adjoint Zahid Nazurally, qui présidait la séance, de rayer du compte-rendu officiel (le "Hansard") les commentaires du Leader de l'Opposition sur les faits (notamment ses fréquentations politiques en dehors du Parlement) qui indiqueraient un

s manque d'impartialité du Speaker Duval.

Or, tout le monde trouve que la nomination d'Adrien Duval au poste de Speaker n'est pas un hasard. Pourquoi le MSM se montrerait si généreux envers un parti dit d'opposition s'il n'y avait pas de tractations en vue d'une alliance? Pourquoi placer sur le perchoir un individu non élu pour présider quelques séances avant la dissolution du Parlement alors que le Speaker adjoint Nazurally était disponible pour remplacer le Speaker démissionnaire Phokeer? Il ne faudrait quand même pas prendre les citoyens pour des enfants de chœur!

#### Civilité chimérique

Sous le règne de l'ancien Speaker Phokeer, on a vu le phénomène de la «bordélisation» du Parlement avec des députés qui faisaient claquer leur pupitre et hurlaient leurs désaccords dans des affrontements verbaux ; le chahut général était ponctué de suspensions et d'expulsions de certains députés de l'opposition.

Le PMSD,a voulu faire croire que la nomination de son poulain au poste de Speaker apportera l'apaisement au Parlement avec des changements que certains qualifieraient comme étant «cosmétiques» (permettre des questions sur les collectivités locales, faire un tirage au sort des questions, etc.).

Or, ce désir de civilité s'est avéré chimé-

rique dans la mesure où le Speaker Duval a permis à des ministres de donner de longues réponses non pertinentes aux questions parlementaires. Le plus grave est le fait que le chef de la Chambre s'est permis de citer des extraits d'un jugement de la Cour de justice pour mettre en doute la crédibilité de la veuve d'un activiste politique victime de meurtre (comme établi par une enquête judiciaire) alors que la bienséance parlementaire n'autorise pas de commentaires, encore moins des allégations, contre une personne non présente au Parlement.

Les travaux parlementaires ont donc été ajournés dans un brouhaha qui rappelle l'atmosphère malsaine qui a régné depuis 2020 sous la garde d'un ancien Speaker aux outrances indescriptibles. Son remplacement de dernière heure n'a pas apporté la sérénité espérée parce qu'il était fondé sur un marchandage politique plutôt que sur des principes de bonne gouvernance parlementaire...

L'imbroglio politique causé par le repositionnement bizarre du PMSD sur l'échiquier, avec un pied dans l'opposition et l'autre dans le gouvernement, est éphémère. Les dés sont déjà jetés et on s'achemine vers des élections générales opposant deux blocs, avec d'un côté l'opposition PTr-MMM-ND, et de l'autre côté, l'alliance MSM-PMSD-Linite Militant.

Il faudra au PMSD beaucoup de gymnastique politique pour justifier ses retournements de vestes. Présenter une nomination politique comme une opportunité d'équité ethnique est malséante. La tentative d'un ministre de communaliser la nomination du Speaker Duval pendant les débats fut repoussée par le Speaker adjoint, à juste titre. C'était un acte grotesque en l'absence d'arguments crédibles. Avoir recours à un tel argumentaire en 2024, cela ne relève-t-il pas d'une certaine pauvreté intellectuelle? On croyait le PMSD assagi avec le passage du temps depuis son départ du gouvernement MSM en 2017, mais son retour à des instincts identitaires révèle un état d'esprit curieux

Pour sa part, l'Opposition PTr-MMM-ND défendra sans doute le Leader de l'Opposition contre la motion de blâme du leader du PMSD si jamais elle est débattue au Parlement avant la dissolution. Le rassemblement de l'Opposition prévue pour le 11 août à Quatre Bornes en donnera sûrement le ton. Le ralliement du parti de gauche *Resistans ek Alternativ* à l'alliance de l'Opposition apportera du vent dans ses voiles. Ce parti, proche des travailleurs, apportera-t-il aux forces d'opposition une sensibilité de gauche qui va enrichir la diversité du débat politique avec sa vision des droits humains et de la justice sociale?

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Éclairages Mauritius Times Friday, August 9, 2024

# Royaume-Uni: Émeutes, propagandistes en ligne et radicalisation des personnes d'âge moyen

Par A. Bartleby

e Royaume-Uni a été secoué par une semaine de violences, alors que des foules scandaient des slogans anti-immigrés et se heurtaient à la police. Ces troubles ont été alimentés par des activistes d'extrême droite qui ont utilisé les réseaux sociaux pour diffuser de fausses informations sur une attaque au couteau qui a coûté la vie à trois jeunes filles lors d'un événement de danse sur le thème de Taylor Swift. Après ce que la police a qualifié d'«attaque au couteau féroce» le 29 juillet à Southport, un suspect de 17 ans a été arrêté. Des rumeurs, rapidement démenties, ont circulé sur les réseaux sociaux. Le lendemain, alors que des personnes se rassemblaient pour se réconforter et déposer des fleurs sur les lieux, des centaines de manifestants ont attaqué une mosquée locale avec des briques, des bouteilles et des pierres.

Les émeutes se sont propagées dans de nombreuses villes du Royaume-Uni, alors que des activistes d'extrême droite diffusaient des informations erronées sur l'attaque, selon le gouvernement et la police. Plus d'une douzaine de villes, dont Londres, Hartlepool, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Hull, Liverpool, Bristol, Belfast, Nottingham et Leeds, ont été touchées par les troubles. Ces agitateurs exploitent des tensions anciennes liées à l'immigration et, plus récemment, à l'augmentation du nombre de migrants entrant illégalement dans le pays en traversant la Manche à bord de bateaux pneumatiques.

Fait surprenant, les émeutiers vus en train de se battre, d'attaquer la police et de mettre le feu à des bâtiments étaient des personnes d'âge moyen – des hommes et des femmes dans la quarantaine, la cinquantaine, voire la soixantaine, criant des insultes et se battant avec la police. Parmi les 11 personnes arrêtées à Sunderland le 3 août, quatre appartenaient à cette tranche d'âge. L'une des personnes arrêtées et inculpées était un retraité de 69

#### Radicalisation des personnes d'âge moyen

a radicalisation des personnes d'âge moyen dans certains pays est un phénomène émergent mais négligé, mis en lumière par ces émeutes, potentiellement en raison de son lien apparent avec la propagation de la désinformation en ligne. Selon Sara H. Wilford, professeure associée à la School of Computer Science and Informatics de l'Université De Montfort, ce groupe est particulièrement vulnérable aux



fausses informations et aux théories du complot. Les personnes d'âge moyen sont souvent regroupées avec les «plus de 50 ans», une catégorie qui inclut les très âgés – une démographie avec laquelle elles ont peu en commun. Bien qu'elles ne soient pas des «natifs numériques», elles sont présentes en ligne et peuvent être moins informées des dangers de la désinformation que les plus jeunes, n'ayant pas été ciblées par une éducation adéquate sur le sujet.

Les personnes d'âge moyen ont découvert Internet à l'âge adulte, et leur compréhension du monde en ligne est largement autodidacte et autorégulée. En conséquence, elles peuvent prendre de mauvaises décisions quant à ce qu'elles consomment et croient. Cette exposition peut les amener à prendre des décisions significatives, comme participer à des troubles violents, sur la base d'informations erronées ou malhonnêtes qu'elles ont recueillies en ligne.

#### Un groupe négligé

Le besoin de comprendre ce groupe d'âge moyen et leur vulnérabilité à l'extrémisme via les réseaux sociaux est le moteur d'un projet de recherche financé par l'UE, actuellement dans sa deuxième année. Pour la première fois, des chercheurs de toute l'Europe étudient les personnes âgées de 40 à 65 ans pour découvrir quelles caractéristiques des réseaux sociaux et du contenu en ligne les poussent à sombrer dans l'extrémisme.

Les personnes plus âgées sont plus susceptibles d'être politiquement engagées et de voter. Et parmi ce groupe, les personnes d'âge moyen sont les plus impliquées. Elles sont donc influentes et ont souvent des opinions politiques bien tranchées.

Cependant, ce groupe reste quelque peu invisible. Les jeunes ont longtemps été la cible des médias traditionnels et du commerce, un phénomène qui s'est accéléré avec l'avènement d'Internet. Les publicités utilisent presque exclusivement des jeunes pour promouvoir des biens, rendant rare la visibilité des personnes d'âge moyen, malgré leur poids financier.

En conséquence, un grand nombre de personnes se trouvent culturellement exclues ou marginalisées. Sara H. Wilford ajoute que cette focalisation sur la jeunesse dans tous les aspects de la société tend à faire oublier que les personnes d'âge moyen peuvent aussi être radicalisées en ligne. On imagine souvent les jeunes comme les premières victimes de l'extrémisme, mais les émeutes récentes ont surpris en révélant la présence importante de personnes plus âgées parmi les manifestants violents.

Lorsqu'un groupe est ignoré, ses sentiments d'exclusion et d'isolement rendent les marges d'Internet plus attrayantes. Ici, le mécontentement est alimenté et encouragé, avec des individus cherchant à obtenir reconnaissance et influence en partageant du contenu sur les forums en ligne ou les réseaux sociaux. Ce contenu, bien que souvent basé sur des affirmations douteuses, trouve une résonance parmi des pairs partageant des vues similaires, ainsi que parmi des jeunes respectant l'expé-

rience de vie de ces individus plus âgés.

Les personnes d'âge moyen sont généralement invisibles dans les médias et la société en général, ce qui signifie qu'elles peuvent encourager d'autres à s'engager dans l'extrémisme tout en restant largement en dehors du radar des chercheurs. Cela soulève des inquiétudes quant à l'absence de stratégies et de récits ciblés pour traiter l'implication des personnes d'âge moyen dans les activités extrémistes.

Par ailleurs, la nature d'Internet, qui permet une diffusion rapide et incontrôlée de l'information, rend la propagation des contrevérités et de la désinformation presque inévitable. La viralité de ces contenus, souvent chargés d'émotion et de sensationnalisme, les rend plus susceptibles d'être partagés.

Dans les mains d'un groupe influent mais mal équipé pour naviguer dans le monde numérique, ces informations peuvent devenir dangereuses, comme le montrent les récents événements au Royaume-Uni.

Ce phénomène de radicalisation des personnes d'âge moyen pose des questions cruciales sur la manière dont la société aborde cette tranche d'âge. Alors que l'attention est souvent portée sur les jeunes en matière d'éducation et de prévention de l'extrémisme, il est clair que les personnes d'âge moyen, qui possèdent souvent une influence politique et sociale significative, sont tout aussi vulnérables, voire plus, aux dangers de la désinformation en ligne.

Voir plus en page 5

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# Bangladesh: Catastrophe politique malgré un succès économique

'ancien Premier ministre du Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, est profondément bouleversée par les événements survenus depuis le 5 août, jour où elle a dû fuir en Inde alors que l'armée et la police du Bangladesh se sont abstenues d'intervenir face aux manifestations violentes qui secouaient le pays. Hasina, désormais en sécurité en Inde, n'a pas encore de plan immédiat pour se rendre dans un autre pays. Elle semble encore être sous le choc de ce qui s'est passé, se demandant comment elle a pu être renversée malgré ses efforts pour faire du Bangladesh la deuxième économie la plus importante du sous-continent indien, devançant le Pakistan depuis 2016.

Sheikh Hasina a dirigé le pays de 171 millions d'habitants pendant 20 des 28 dernières années. Elle est revenue au pouvoir pour la cinquième fois après les élections de janvier dernier, ce qui a renforcé la dérive du pays vers un État à parti unique, avec des allégations de fraude électorale généralisée et un boycott de l'opposition principale, le BNP. Cependant, sa politique autoritaire s'accompagnait de résultats économiques impressionnants. Dans la décennie précédant la pandémie de Covid-19, l'économie du pays a crû de 7 % par an, soutenue par son industrie du vêtement. Mais cette croissance économique a masqué la corruption, le chômage des jeunes en hausse, et une crise de la balance des paiements aggravée par des transferts de capitaux à l'étranger. Un plan de sauveage du FMI de 4,7 milliards de dollars a été approuvé en janvier 2023 après que les réserves étrangères ont chuté de plus de la moitié pour atteindre 19 milliards de dollars depuis 2021. En juin dernier, le Conseil d'administration du FMI a approuvé un décaissement de 1,148 milliards de dollars.

Cependant, face à l'instabilité politique et économique, la capacité du gouvernement intérimaire à maintenir la mise en œuvre des mesures imposées par le FMI sera mise à l'épreuve, ce qui s'ajoute à l'urgence des négociations en cours entre le gouvernement, les créanciers et le FMI.

Deux questions cruciales se posent désormais. La première est de savoir si une paix durable peut être rétablie. En parallèle de la jubilation à Dhaka plane la menace de la violence dans une société hautement polarisée. Dès la soirée du 5 août, la résidence du Premier ministre a été pillée et les bureaux du parti au pouvoir, la Ligue Awami, à Dhaka et ailleurs, ont été incendiés. Les statues et images de Mujibur Rahman, père fondateur et premier président du Bangladesh (et père de Sheikh Hasina), ont été défigurées ou détruites. Les leaders étudiants ont menacé de reprendre les manifestations de masse si leurs revendications n'étaient pas satisfaites. L'Association de la police du Bangladesh a également déclaré une grève suite aux attaques de représailles contre la police. Avec des difficultés à maintenir l'ordre public, le gouvernement intérimaire pourrait rapidement être confronté à une crise politique et économique encore

La seconde question est de savoir si un système démocratique crédible peut être reconstruit. Les ten-



Sheikh Hasina a démissionné de son poste de Première ministre du Bangladesh après 15 ans au pouvoir. Elle a fui le pays après des manifestations antigouvernementales qui ont fait des centaines de morts. P - Siasat.com

dances autocratiques de Hasina ont laissé un vide politique : les institutions indépendantes ont été affaiblies et l'opposition principale, le BNP, a vu nombre de ses dirigeants emprisonnés. Libéré de la répression, le BNP pourrait rétablir son leadership, mais le parti souffre des mêmes lacunes que la Ligue Awami de Hasina: une politique dynastique, le clientélisme et son propre passé de répression lorsqu'il était au pouvoir. Des doutes sérieux subsistent quant à la volonté des étudiants protestataires de faire confiance à l'armée pour gérer cette transition, étant donné son histoire de coups d'État antidémocratiques, son soutien tacite à Hasina (jusqu'à récemment), et son rôle dans la répression récente qui a entraîné plus de 200 morts et l'emprisonnement de plus de 5 000 étudiants.

#### Un revers stratégique pour l'Inde

L'Inde entretient une relation spéciale avec le Bangladesh. Les deux pays partagent une frontière de 4 096 kilomètres et des liens linguistiques, économiques et culturels solides. Le Bangladesh, anciennement Pakistan oriental, est né après une guerre en 1971 avec le Pakistan occidental (aujourd'hui le Pakistan) dans laquelle l'Inde a soutenu les nationalistes bangladais. Le commerce bilatéral entre les deux pays s'élève à environ 16 milliards de dollars, et l'Inde est la principale destination des exportations du Bangladesh en Asie.

Inde était consciente des efforts des États-Unis et du Royaume-Uni pour déstabiliser le gouvernement de Sheikh Hasina au cours de la dernière décennie. Maintenant, alors que la situation évolue, l'Inde reste déterminée à s'engager avec le gouvernement intérimaire du Bangladesh, avec une condition claire : la protection des minorités et la sauvegarde des intérêts indiens sont non négociables, rapporte le Hindustan Times. L'Inde a signalé sa volonté de coopérer avec le gouvernement intérimaire du Ban-

gladesh. Elle a activement engagé des discussions avec la direction militaire du Bangladesh dans le but de rétablir la stabilité dans le pays, tout en surveillant de près la violence visant les minorités hindoues et les partisans de la Ligue Awami. Le gouvernement indien évalue attentivement l'administration intérimaire, en se concentrant particulièrement sur les actions de l'armée bangladaise et sa capacité à contrôler des groupes extrémistes comme le Jamaat-e-Islami et le Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh, tous deux liés au Pakistan et à des réseaux djihadistes panislamiques plus larges.

Dhaka et Delhi ne sont pas sans leurs différends, notamment concernant la relation du Bangladesh avec la Chine, les problèmes de sécurité frontalière, les questions de migration, etc. Cependant, en général, l'Inde considérait Hasina comme une dirigeante résolue capable de contrer l'extrémisme islamique et d'affirmer la souveraineté du Bangladesh face aux perceptions indiennes d'une montée en puissance de l'influence économique et sécuritaire de la Chine. Hasina s'était rendue deux fois à Delhi en juin, soulignant le partenariat étroit. L'Inde aura maintenant du mal à réaffirmer son influence, le public bangladais s'étant retourné de manière si décisive contre Hasina.

Bien qu'il n'y ait aucune preuve que la Chine (ou tout autre pays) ait joué un rôle dans les récentes manifestations, la démission de Hasina est une opportunité stratégique pour la Chine de réaffirmer son influence au Bangladesh. Écrivant dans The Economist le 6 août, Yunus a cherché à commencer à réparer les relations avec l'Inde, déclarant: «Bien que certains pays, comme l'Inde, aient soutenu le Premier ministre déchu et gagné ainsi l'inimitié du peuple bangladais, il y aura de nombreuses opportunités pour guérir ces types de divisions et reprendre bientôt les alliances bilatérales et les amitiés étroites.»

A. Bartleby

Opinion Mauritius Times Friday, August 9, 2024



# Learn from the writings on the walls

t is said that the example always comes from the top – implied is of course the good example, so that others may emulate it to improve themselves and the community at large, which eventually benefits the whole country.

By the top is meant those at the head of a country or institution, where the paramount characteristics expected of the incumbent are integrity and probity, and demonstrable, genuine commitment to the national interest. These in turn generate the trust that reinforces the people's confidence in their national leadership and their country's institutions. This trust sustains their hope that they will be treated fairly and equitably, and that they will suffer no injustice. The resultant of all this are citizens who are equally proud of their country, and who abide by the rule of law, behaving in such a way as not to cause harm to themselves and to others. In other words, strive to live in peace, which allows the country to develop and progress.

If this may sound somewhat like moralizing, and I concede that to some extent it does, I make no apologies for the same. For the simple reason that for those of us who are at an age where we have 'been there, seen it, done it' - call us senior citizens, seenagers, or whatever 'cos labels no longer matter to us - the one thing we can do at this stage is to caution and advise those who have their whole future yet to be lived. We have already toiled and given our best years to family and society, are nearing the twilight of our lives but possess enough lucidity as yet to share what life has taught us, so that the younger ones may hopefully draw some lessons that will help them lead a better

At the beginning of this week, I couldn't help but feel sadness and sympathy for the young English lady who was lamenting in a YouTube presentation that she had lost all trust in the four entities



sympathy for the young English lady who was lamenting in a YouTube presentation that she had lost all trust in the four entities that she thought could bring about justice in her country: the police, the judiciary, the government and the media. In as many words, she said that the UK was in civil war, referring to the widespread riots that had erupted all over the country, including both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. She commented on the two-tier policing with respect to immigrant rioters and indigenous protesters, the forced and failed government policies, the selective reporting by the media, the failures of the judiciary..."

that she thought could bring about justice in her country: the police, the judiciary, the government and the media. In as many words, she said that the UK was in civil war, referring to the widespread riots that had erupted all over the country, including both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. She commented on the two-tier policing with respect to immigrant rioters and indigenous protesters, the forced and failed government policies, the selective reporting by the media, the failures of the judiciary.

To me, like many others who have grown up believing implicitly in the British sense of fairness and justice, this was no less than an indictment, especially coming as it was from an indigenous citizen who was experiencing at firsthand the violence and chaos that were racking the country. She, like many others, could no longer recognize her country, where multiculturalism was clearly a failed experiment initiated by previous regimes, to be replaced by equally pernicious appeasement politics and political correctness, and followed by identity politics: vote bank politics to gain power. And then fail to deliver on pledges, besides misusing the power for personal advantages.

Infortunately, it is a pattern that has been seen in several other countries across the world. A few years ago, the Black Lives Matter movement that gripped the USA was iterated in Europe and Australasia. After the Hamas October 7 massacre in Israel, there have been the pro-Palestine woke protests on university campuses in the US and Canada, and in Europe as well, with spread to Britain where weekend marches in central London have been going on for several months. Leading the citizens whose lives get disrupted - since the authorities will not act - to start querying, and who could blame them, what the hell do we have to do with BLM and Palestine? Equally almost routine now are rioting in European cities, knife and machete attacks against civilians including children, no-go zones where all kinds of shady happenings take place.

The latest country to succumb to such last its Prime Minster Sheik Hasina and her sister were given just 45 minutes to pack up and rush to a helicopter that took them to India. Her life was threatened by rioters that were poised to invade her residence - which they did shortly after she left, ransacking, vandalizing, stealing, taking and exhibiting selfies and videos. Reporters promptly pointed out that this is exactly what had previously happened in the residences of Pakistani party leader Imran Khan, and of Sri Lankan President Rajapakasa who too was forced to flee the country.

And yet, Sheik Hasina had ruled the country for 15 years, turned it around economically, controlled terrorism, initiated several developmental projects, ensured overall progress. There may have been some downsides, politically speaking commentators invoke an autocratic streak, suppression of dissent, arbitrary jailing of opponents. But the long and the short is that the initial student protests over a quota issue were soon hijacked by what is deemed a remotely-planned and controlled movement that soon involved hundreds of thousands of motley crowds from all over the country. An analyst pointed out that this kind of mobilization cannot happen spontaneously: it requires sustained prior planning, an element of radicalism, and must be well-funded, something which is beyond student capacity.

The commonalities that that we are witnessing are pretty obvious: tensions, deep divides, polarizations, dirty politics and politicking, suppression and repression, instability, violence and social disorder, destruction of public property, and in Bangladesh as usual violence against minorities with attacks on Hindu temples and Hindus, looting of property when they had nothing to do with what sparked the initial student protest as has been pointed out.

These events should be an eyeopener to our own leaders, why to everybody, as to how a country can reverse years of hard work and prosperity, spiral into chaos within a matter of days when antagonisms and divisions are allowed to prevail over a spirit of dialogue and understanding keeping the national weal in mind. We have a duty of care to future generations – will they or will they not be able to trust the judiciary, the police, the government, the media? And for good measure, each other as law-abiding citizens?

Surely that is the kind of legacy they should expect, and get, from those entrusted to guide them towards a sustainable future? Will the latter fulfil that supreme responsibility which they have chosen to assume?

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# Harnessing Americans as Useful Idiots – Election Disinformation

enator Mark Warner (D-Va), Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has warned that the US might face increased vulnerability to disinformation from Russia, China, and Iran as we approach the final months of the 2024 presidential election campaign.

This warning contrasts sharply with Christopher Krebs's assertion that the 2020 election was "the most secure election certainly in modern history." Krebs, then Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), was dismissed by Trump for affirming the election's integrity amid Trump's false claims of a stolen election. These claims, rejected by courts in 63 lawsuits and lacking any evidence of fraud that could alter the outcome, are well-documented. Rudy Giuliani, once celebrated as "America's Mayor" post-9/11 but now discredited, notoriously stated: "We don't have evidence, but we have theories." Krebs's dismissal came as a result of his disloyalty to Trump for speaking the truth.

Why would Russia, China, and Iran want to undermine American elections and erode confidence in the world's most significant democracy? Theories vary: Russia may

aim to weaken US support for Ukraine and indirectly boost Trump's candidacy; China might seek to undermine US commitments to Taiwan, also benefiting Trump; and Iran could be motivated by ambitions for nuclear weapons and diminishing Israel's influence in the Middle East to dominate Gulf nations, Egypt, and Jordan.

Russia's prowess in internet hacking is well-known. China and Iran are also significant players, with the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) complicating the landscape by creating vast amounts of fake videos, images, and simulations. This makes it increasingly difficult to distinguish genuine



General Studies have shown that assertive and seemingly positive liars are more effective than equivocal ones. That is why Trump would be called a Confidence Man. Parenthetically, I note that Maggie Haberman's 2022 book is titled 'Confidence Man: The Making of Donald Trump and the Breaking of America'. The more curious question is why are so many Americans willing to believe lies about the election and all else? And they continue to believe this sort of nonsense even when it leads to events such as the assault on the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. The unthinking and unfathomable belief persists despite the fact that Trump's irresponsible comments have brought death threats to election workers and undermined the confidence of Americans in our system..."

content from fabricated material.

Both Russia and China are known to recruit "useful idiots" to further their causes. Tragically, these unwitting accomplices may not need to engage in any overt acts beyond voting based on disinformation.

Thus, Senator Warner and the intelligence community are justified in raising alarms about foreign interference in American democracy. However, there's more to consider. For foreign actors to succeed with disinformation, they need a society receptive to their falsehoods and alternative narratives. So also do domestic

Studies show that humans relish confirmation bias. It is not common for the average person to seek information that is hostile to his own views. As one of my friends quipped some thirty years ago, the average person is below average. We must understand, however, that the Internet allows us the power to exclude what we do not wish to see. The quest to have one's beliefs reinforced rather than to seek knowledge is the hallmark of an unintelligent and unthinking person. Sadly, too many Americans are unintelligent and unthinking because they close off their minds. Even sadder is the fact that otherwise intelligent and sophisticated people do this. I suspect that avoiding discomfort and challenge to one's belief system are powerful motivators..."

candidates and groups spreading false-hoods.

About a year ago, Robert Yoon, an AP reporter, noted that Trump, facing felony charges for attempting to overturn the 2020 election, was flooding social media with distortions, misinformation, and unfounded conspiracy theories. Yoon observed that Trump's efforts resonated, with a poll showing 57% of Republicans believed Biden was not legitimately elected.

Despite the palpable disinformation, reviews and recounts confirmed Biden's victory by a wide margin. Biden won 306 Electoral College votes to Trump's 232 and defeated him in the popular vote by 7 million. States like Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin confirmed Biden's win. In Wisconsin, even a Republican-led review found "absolutely no evidence of election fraud."

The Associated Press also found no evidence supporting Trump's claims that states tabulated more votes than there are registered voters. To put this in perspective, Biden's victory margin in these swing states amounted to 311,257 votes out of 25.5 million ballots cast, representing just 0.15% of his victory margin.

Trump's claims about voting machine

fraud have also been debunked. News Corp., Fox News's parent company, paid a \$787 million settlement for defamation related to Dominion Voting Machines. A similar case by Smartmatic is progressing in New York.

Trump has not relented. Recently, in Minnesota, he declared: "If they don't cheat, we win this state easily. They cheat. They have no shame. They cheat.... They cheated in the last election and they're going to cheat in this election, but we're going to get 'em." Trump's assertions are absurd given that Minnesota has not voted for a Republican since Nixon in 1972, and even in Reagan's 1980 land-slide, it was the only state to vote Democrat.

Trump's brazen confidence, often a strength, reflects his effective manipulation. Psychological studies show that assertive liars can be more convincing than hesitant ones. This is why Trump is often termed a Confidence Man. Maggie Haberman's 2022 book, titled Confidence Man: The Making of Donald Trump and the Breaking of America, aptly describes this phenomenon.

The more perplexing issue is why so many Americans believe lies about the election and other matters. This belief persists despite the January 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol and Trump's irresponsible comments leading to death threats against election workers and undermining confidence in the system.

One clue is found in the public's ready acceptance of Ronald Reagan's charge that government is the problem, not the solution. In contrast, Jimmy Carter had presented a vision of a "purposeful, manageable, and competent Government that served the people."

Today's campaigns echo these divergent visions. Trump's view aligns with Reagan's notion of government as a failed entity, whereas Kamala Harris's vision represents the promise of America — hope, opportunity, and service. The powerful and moneyed class may see Trump's vision as serving their interests while viewing Harris's vision as a threat to their comfort and entitlement. They overlook that the American economy can expand to include all citizens without diminishing elite lifestyles.

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# Samad Ramoly

### Ce flux continu indispensable

De la nécessité d'avoir une vision et de rester en synergie dans toute démocratie

u football, à moins que vous ne soyez aussi

doué que Ronaldinho

pour les dribbles, vous ne pouvez vous permettre de «tuer le ballon». Cela-signifie que lorsque le ballon arrive à vous, il doit rester en vie, il faut le faire rouler. Au cas contraire, au lieu de libérer l'espace autour de vous et déclencher une action vers l'avant avec détermination, vous finissez par mettre une pression énorme sur vous-même et sur toute l'équipe.

L'instinct le plus créatif pour justement garder le ballon en vie est d'exécuter un «contrôle orienté» ou un «crochet», entre autres – et pas forcément avec la grâce de Lionel Messi. Lors de l'Euro 2024, malgré le talent indéniable de certains joueurs, l'équipe d'Angle-terre était tellement en proie à la crispation individuelle que les joueurs se contentaient la plupart du temps de recourir au mode: «tuer le ballon». Ils n'ont donc pas pu briller collectivement et être à la hauteur des attentes.

Les enseignements de l'analogie ci-dessus s'appliquent également à la vie quotidienne. En termes simples, pour maintenir le flux, efforcezvous de rester en synergie avec les éléments vertueux et dynamiques! Il s'agit dans un premier temps d'identifier un maximum d'obs-

tacles, la plupart visibles certes mais d'autres moins, et les goulots d'étranglement. Ne pas le faire avec préci-



Gldéalement, une agilité intellectuelle semblable à celle du physicien Richard Feynman pour connecter en flux continu les éléments du système, et ce, dans une approche inter-disciplinaire serait une aubaine, notamment dans le domaine de l'élaboration des politiques publiques. Plus nous collectons des données en temps réel, plus nous intégrons des variables, plus la prise de décision est judicieuse. En effet, nos peines dans la circulation routière, par exemple, seraient largement soulagées si - paradoxalement - l'expertise n'était pas consacrée à déplacer les goulots d'étranglement et à dilapider une part considérable des fonds publics..."

sion, que ce soit au niveau individuel, local ou international, cela risque de devenir contre-productif dans la

mesure où des ressources sont consacrées à une évaluation erronée de la situation.

Idéalement, une agilité intellectuelle semblable à celle du physicien Richard Fevnman pour connecter en flux continu les éléments du système, et ce, dans une approche interdisciplinaire serait une aubaine, notamment dans le domaine de l'élaboration des politiques publiques. Plus nous collectons des données en temps réel, plus nous intégrons des variables, plus la prise de décision est judicieuse. En effet, nos peines dans la circulation routière, par exemple, seraient largement soulagées si - paradoxalement - l'expertise n'était pas consacrée à déplacer les goulots d'étranglement et à dilapider une part considérable des fonds publics, comme dévoilé sans cesse par le bureau de l'Audit.

Lorsque cette calamité si dénuée de cohérence traverse l'ensemble de notre vécu, devenant systémique en perturbant les institutions, la logistique, les services publics, l'industrialisation, le savoir-faire, l'écosystème et rongeant l'échelle sociale, les forces réactionnaires se lâchent. Et dans leur sillage, la crispation des ressources humaines conduisent fatalement à une fuite des cerveaux. Les séquelles parasiteront n'importe quelle nation pendant des années... Urba-

nistes et anthropologues, à vous d'intervenir pour isoler les faussaires!

# Harnessing Americans as Useful Idiots – Election Disinformation

• Cont. from page 7

The reluctance to share in abundance often reflects a petty response from those who have the most.

At a more granular level, media and news outlets now allow readers to control their information sources. Studies reveal that people seek confirmation bias and rarely search for information that disagrees with their beliefs. As a friend remarked

years ago, "the average person is below average."

The internet's gives us the power to exclude unwanted information and reinforce existing beliefs. This often leads to intellectual laziness. Many Americans, even those who are otherwise intelligent, avoid challenges to their own beliefs. Avoiding discomfort and maintaining a closed mind are powerful barriers.



Recently, a friend texted me about rump and Harris: "You believe different news sources than I believe, and you may have started smarted [smart?], but what's left is anyone's guess." This encapsulates the problem. Despite attempts to share articles from reputable sources like The New York Times or CNN, my right-wing friends often dismiss them as "lefty rags" or "Communist"

sources." When I sent indictments filed by Jack Smith and Fani Willis, the response was: "I'm not going to read that fake news from the liberals."

A closed mind, unwilling to consider information contrary to one's views, reflects a lack of intellectual curiosity. The scientific method relies on verification and replication to establish truth. Without this willingness, truth remains elusive.

My friend's comment about different news sources is revealing. She could not know

which sources I trust or whether I trust news sources at all. I approach information with scepticism, reading multiple sources and verifying accuracy. I occasionally check Fox News to gauge their perspective but find their content often lacking.

Ultimately, the belief in Trump's lies indicates either complacency or igno-

rance. A recent Tucker Carlson segment on the January 6 Capitol attack illustrated this. Carlson omitted footage of violence and destruction, instead showing peaceful tourists, misleading viewers. He also falsely claimed associating officer deaths with January 6 was a lie, ignoring that context often matters.

Envisioning an ideal democracy involves consensus on goals, with subtle differences in solutions. A close vote may be survivable if the end goals align. But without consensus on solutions or causes, democracy faces challenges when opposing solutions are radically different. The risk is that a slim majority may impose its will on a large minority.

In America, the Electoral College allows a candidate with less than a majority to ascend to the highest office, increasing the risk of a minority ruling over the majority. Disinformation from foreign actors and domestic actions can exacerbate this threat. Only we can prevent these threats from becoming reality and consuming us

Controlling our own "useful idiots" is as crucial as managing foreign disinformation

Cheerz... **Bwana** 

Interview Mauritius Times Friday, August 9, 2024

Me Antoine Domingue, SC

### "Le décès de Kistnen n'est pas nécessairement lié aux 'Kistnen Papers'"

ans l'interview de cette semaine, Senior Counsel Antoine Domingue aborde les questions politiques et juridiques complexes entourant l'affaire Kistnen et les "Kistnen Papers". Il examine la crédibilité du récent affidavit de Vishal Shibchurn, les motivations politiques possibles derrière ces documents, et les implications pour les enquêtes en cours. Il partage également ses réflexions sur la motion de blâme sans précédent au sein de l'Opposition et les répercussions plus larges pour la dynamique politique à Maurice.

Mauritius Times: La non-résolution du meurtre du chef agent du MSM dans la circonscription No. 8 a refait surface dans l'actualité avec l'affidavit de Vishal Shibchurn, un individu connu pour ses démêlés avec la justice. Toutefois, Shibchurn, qui aurait dû être correctement informé par ses hommes de loi des risques juridiques liés à un faux affidavit, affirme qu'il est motivé par une prise de conscience éthique. Quel crédit accordez-vous à un tel document?

Me Antoine Domingue: J'y ai accordé peu de crédit. Cet ancien repenti MSM a pris du temps pour accoucher de ses dénonciations par le biais d'un avoué-politicien pressenti pour être candidat du PTr dans la circonscription no 8.

Dans cet affidavit, il est clair que le détenu Shibchurn prend grand soin de minimiser sa participation dans toute l'affaire, bien qu'il ait confirmé une association étroite avec le défunt Manan Fakhoo avec lequel il était, de son propre aveu, très lié.

Il appartient donc aux limiers du "Homicide Squad" du MCIT de faire toute la lumière sur les dénonciations tardives de ce repenti afin que l'on puisse distinguer le bon grain de l'ivraie.

#### \* Croyez-vous qu'il aurait d'autres motivations derrière ses déclarations?

Une motivation politique n'est pas à écarter. C'est en tout cas ce que pense le député Yogida Sawmynaden qui, dans ses déclarations à la presse, a parlé de complot politique ourdi contre lui par ses adversaires.

C'est une possibilité qui demande à être creusée vu que la femme du Premier ministre est également impliquée par le dénonciateur sans que l'on puisse comprendre à quel titre elle aurait pu y être mêlée.

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quête précédente avait révélé de graves défaillances dans le travail de la police. Malgré les demandes de l'actuel DPP ainsi que celles de son prédécesseur pour une enquête approfondie, l'évolution de l'enquête policière reste inconnue. Que peut-on attendre de l'enquête qui sera vraisemblablement menée par cette même police à la suite de l'affidavit de Shibchurn?

Les observations de la cour concernent uniquement la phase initiale de l'enquête de police. Il ne s'ensuit pas, à mon humble avis, que cela doive nécessairement perdurer en ce qui concerne la suite qu'il convient de donner à cette affaire après les dénonciations tardives du repenti et le crédit qu'il faudrait lui accorder.

Si l'enquête de police démontre qu'il s'agit d'un faux affidavit, de dénonciations fausses et calomnieuses et d'un complot politique, les prévenus seraient passibles de poursuites au pénal pour "swearing false affidavit in a case where an affidavit is required, false and malicious denunciation in writing" et "conspiracy".

#### 'Nous sommes tous consternés qu'un membre de l'Opposition puisse présenter ainsi une motion de blâme contre le Leader de l'Opposition. Cela est *unprecedented*'

Pour moi, cette partie de l'affidavit est comme un cheveu sur la soupe et tend à crédibiliser la thèse du complot politique et décrédibiliser la teneur de cet affidavit dans son ensemble ainsi que les circonstances dans lesquelles il a été rédigé et juré.

\* Les allégations de Shibchurn concernant l'implication de hauts gradés de la police, de l'ex-ministre Sawmynaden, et de certains individus opérant dans le cercle ou proches des personnalités politiques au plus haut sommet de l'État vont au-delà des éléments révélés par l'enquête judiciaire initiale. Faut-il envisager dans ce cas une nouvelle en-quête ou la réouverture de l'enquête judiciaire dans cette affaire?

Je ne pense pas que cela soit envisageable puisque le but d'une enquête judiciaire est d'établir la cause du décès. La cour est donc «functus officio» ayant déjà rempli son office et ayant été déchargée du dossier qui ne peut pas lui être confiée a nouveau.

Il appartient donc aux autorités concernées, c'est-à-dire le CP et le DPP, de faire diligenter une enquête de police sur les dénonciations du repenti, ses motivations et les circonstances dans lesquelles cet affidavit a été rédigé et affirmé sous serment par le détenu.

\* Selon des extraits publiés dans la presse, l'en-

\* Shibchurn a dénoncé des motivations politiques et financières derrière le meurtre de Kistnen. En tant qu'avocat indépendant, comment percevez-vous le risque de politisation de l'enquête et comment cela pourrait-il affecter la recherche de la vérité?

Je n'entrevois pas ce risque si l'enquête est diligentée par des «Enquiring Officers» - des officiers de police qui sont dignes de ce nom et sous la férule du bureau du DPP, comme cela devrait normalement se faire -et qui devraient donc enquêter sur les dénonciations tardives de ce dénonciateur ainsi que les déclarations contre lui pour complot, faux affidavit et dénonciation calomnieuse.

\* Les "Kistnen Papers" suggèrent des irrégularités financières et des intrigues politiques. Quelle est l'importance de ces documents dans la résolution du cas, et quelles actions doivent entreprendre les autorités pour examiner ces allégations dans une juridiction respectueuse de la loi et de l'ordre?

Le décès de Kistnen n'est pas nécessairement lié aux «Kistnen Papers» qui ne concernent que les dépenses électorales du MSM au no 8 aux dernières élections tenues en novembre 2019 et les affidavits des candidats et de leurs agents respectifs.

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Interview Mauritius Times Friday, August 9, 2024 10

### L'intérêt personnel des Duval père et fils

### (Papa-Piti version 2.0) est leur principale préoccupation!'

Suite de la page 9

Ce volet de l'enquête est déjà entre les mains de la police depuis belle lurette, lui ayant été référé par le «Electoral Commissioner» avec l'approbation de la «Electoral Supervisory Commission» dont faisait alors partie le Senior Counsel Désiré Basset.

Il est à noter que M. Basset a par la suite démissionné de ses fonctions pourqu'il puisse assurer la défense de Pravind Kumar Jugnauth *«privately prosecuted»* par mon client Suren Dayal devant la Cour de Port Louis pour faux affidavit concernant le montant et le détail de ses dépenses électorales lors des dernières élections générales au no 8.

\* Au-delà du rôle des enquêteurs et des magistrats pour assurer une justice équitable dans des affaires aussi délicates, comment évaluez-vous l'impact de la pression publique et médiatique sur l'avancement de l'enquête concernant le meurtre de Kistnen et des "Kistnen Papers"?

Je ne vois pas pourquoi ni comment l'avancement d'une enquête de police indépendante et digne de ce nom dans une affaire d'homicide non résolue ("cold case") puisse être tributaire d'une pression externe quelconque, d'où qu'elle puisse provenir.

66Le décès de Kistnen n'est pas nécessairement lié aux «Kistnen Papers» qui ne concernent que les dépenses électorales du MSM au no 8 aux dernières élections tenues en novembre 2019 et les affidavits des candidats et de leurs agents respectifs. Ce volet de l'enquête est déjà entre les mains de la police depuis belle lurette, lui ayant été référé par le 'Electoral Commissioner'..."

Une telle enquête ne peut avancer que si on laisse des enquêteurs chevronnés travailler en paix afin qu'ils puissent rassembler des preuves crédibles et admissibles en cour de justice pour élucider le crime et permettre au DPP d'établir la culpabilité des prévenus «beyond reasonable doubt », ce qui est un standard élevé requis par notre «criminal justice system».

En ce qui concerne l'enquête au sujet des "Kistnen Papers", c'est une autre paire de manches. Il appartient donc au CP Monsieur Dip de nous éclairer à ce sujet. L'enquête lui a été reférée par l'Electoral Commissioner avec la bénédiction de l'Electoral Supervisory Commission - ce qui fut publiquement confirmé par son communiqué dont nous avons fait état dans l'affaire Suren Dayal v Pravind Kumar Jugnauth en cour de Port Louis et dans l'affaire Pravind Kumar Jugnauth v Suren Dayal et autres devant la Cour Suprême de l'île Maurice.

\* Selon vous, comment la situation actuelle influence-t-elle la perception publique des institutions politiques et des leaders à Maurice ? Et, quelles mesures pourraient être prises pour restaurer la confiance du public dans le système judiciaire et les forces de l'ordre, en particulier à la lumière des graves manquements soulignés dans les conclusions du rapport de la magistrate Vidya Mungroo-Jugurnath?

Il appartient au CP et au DPP de restaurer cette con-

judiciaire est d'établir la cause du décès. La cour est donc «functus officio» ayant déjà rempli son office et ayant été déchargée du dossier qui ne peut pas lui être confiée a nouveau. Il appartient donc aux autorités concernées, c'est-à-dire le CP et le DPP, de faire diligenter une enquête de police sur les dénonciations du repenti... "

fiance qui est une condition sine qua non à une bonne administration du «criminal justice system» à l'île Maurice. C'est ce qui est prévu par la Constitution. Il n'y a donc aucune mesure à prendre. Ce que nous souhaitons tous, c'est que cette confiance soit immédiatement et totalement rétablie

Mais nous savons tous qu'ils sont à couteaux tirés depuis les poursuites contre le fils Dip en Cour intermédiaire, la demande de «judicial review» du DPP contre la Commission de pourvoi en grâce, l'affaire  $CP \ v \ DPP$  toujours pendante devant la Cour suprême suite à un jugement interlocutoire contre le DPP, la contestation du DPP par l'ICAC et le CP devant le Juge en Chambre Maghooa toujours en suspens en attendant que le cas  $CP \ v \ DPP$  soit résolu, l'affaire  $CP \ v \ Bissessur$  et autres(inclus le DPP) où jugement a été rendu par les juges Maghooa et Balaghee contre le CP, qui fut donc condamné au paiement des dépens.

\* En dehors des forces de l'ordre, la Financial Crime Commission (FCC) a également fait l'objet de critiques de la part de l'opposition. L'amendement que Navin Ramgoolam souhaite apporter à sa plainte originale contre la défunte Integrity Reporting Services Agency (IRSA) concerne la constitutionnalité de la FCC Act. Il argue que certaines dispositions imposent, d'une part, à un accusé de prouver l'origine de ses biens saisis, et d'autre part, permettent à la FCC de confisquer des biens avant même une condamnation judiciaire. Ces arguments vous semblent-ils valables?

Ce sont des arguments qui sont soutenables en droit, et il me semble que le futur Premier ministre en devenir à

« Xavier Duval, étant de l'Opposition, n'aurait pas dû shooter contre son propre camp: c'est un « own goal ». A moins qu'il n'ait l'intention de rejoindre le camp adverse c'est-à-dire le gouvernement en place avant la fin de l'année pourvu qu'on lui démontre suffisamment de signes de respect pour faire suite à la soudaine élévation de sa progéniture au perchoir pour qu'il puisse bénéficier d'une pension à vie à laquelle il n'aurait autrement pas eu droit. L'intérêt personnel des Duval père et fils ( Papa-Piti version 2.0) est leur principale préoccupation...!



un «arguable case» à faire valoir devant la cour pourvu que ce soit fait dans les délais prescrits par les «rules of court».

\* Par ailleurs, le Parlement continue de faire l'objet de controverses. Xavier Duval, mécontent de ce qu'il considère comme "l'incapacité d'Arvin Boolell à résister aux demandes de Paul Bérenger et sa participation à la manifestation illégale et honteuse au sein même du Parlement le jour de l'élection du Speaker", a déposé une motion de blâme "historique" contre le Leader de l'Opposition. Quelle est votre opinion sur son positionnement actuel?

Nous sommes tous consternés qu'un membre de l'Opposition puisse présenter ainsi une motion de blâme contre le Leader de l'Opposition. Cela est «unprecedented», et c'est dépourvu de bon sens. Il est évident que Xavier Duval l'a fait en réponse à la motion de blâme du Leader de l'Opposition à l'encontre de son fils Adrien qui est le nouveau Speaker.

Xavier Duval, étant de l'Opposition, n'aurait pas dû shooter contre son propre camp: c'est un «own goal». A moins qu'il n'ait l'intention de rejoindre le camp adverse c'est-à-dire le gouvernement en place avant la fin de l'année pourvu qu'on lui démontre suffisamment de signes de respect pour faire suite à la soudaine élévation de sa progéniture au perchoir pour qu'il puisse bénéficier d'une pension à vie à laquelle il n'aurait autrement pas eu droit.

L'intérêt personnel des Duval père et fils (*Papa-Piti version 2.0*) est leur principale préoccupation...!

\* Quelle pourrait être la réaction des électeurs et des membres de son parti face à ce changement de positionnement de Xavier Duval?

En ce qui concerne les membres de son parti, certains de ses dirigeants ont déjà exprimé leur désaccord en créant un autre parti politique.

Je ne pourrais vous éclairer quant au choix éventuel des électeurs qui seront appelés à se prononcer lors des prochaines élections générales qui seront tenues soit à la fin de cette année ou, au plus tard, dans la première moitié de 2025.

Socratic Dialogue Mauritius Times Friday, August 9, 2024

### The Kitchen or Parliament?

#### A Humorous Dialogue on Women in Politics

In this playful dialogue, the legendary philosopher Socrates engages in a lively discussion with his old friend Cephalus on the age-old question of women's roles in society. The two explore whether women are truly confined to the kitchen, or if they possess the ability to excel in leadership positions — perhaps even surpassing men in various fields. With the upcoming elections in Mauritius as the backdrop, the conversation humorously examines the possibility of a woman rising to the highest political office in the country.

in Parliament!

**Socrates:** (smirks) Indeed, Cephalus! But isn't it time we challenged those comfort zones? After all, conservatism may preserve traditions, but it also keeps us from progress. And progress, my friend, is like a good cup of wine — best enjoyed when shared with everyone, regardless of gender.

**Cephalus:** Well, Socrates, I suppose you're right. Change is inevitable, but it does take time. And maybe, just maybe, the upcoming elections in Mauritius will be

#### **By Plutonix**

**Socrates:** Ah, Cephalus! My old friend! I must ask you a question that has been gnawing at me more fiercely than a Spartan warrior at an all-you-can-eat buffet. Do you think women are confined to the kitchen, or can they do as much, or even better, than men in most fields?

**Cephalus:** (laughs) Socrates, my dear philosopher, it seems you've been thinking too much again! But isn't it true that for centuries, women have been seen as the guardians of the kitchen, masters of the mop, and the rulers of the rolling pin?

**Socrates:** Indeed, that is the tradition. But let me ask you this: if a tradition is outdated, should we continue it just because it's old? I mean, we don't still believe that the earth is flat, right? (pauses)... Well, most of us don't, anyway.

**Cephalus:** Touché, Socrates! But surely you must admit that women have a natural knack for managing the household. They're nurturing, caring, and — let's be honest—who else can find a lost sock faster than a woman?

**Socrates:** A fair point, Cephalus. But tell me, does the ability to find a sock disqualify someone from finding, say, a solution to national debt? Or from leading a country? After all, if they can manage a household budget with one income, three kids, and a cat that eats like a lion, surely, they can manage a national budget, no?

**Cephalus:** (chuckles) I see where you're going with this, Socrates. But let's not forget that men have historically been the leaders, the generals, the ones who charge into battle. Surely that counts for something.

**Socrates:** Ah, yes, the glorious charge into battle. But Cephalus, let me remind you that charging into battle often results in one thing: a lot of noise, followed by a lot of mess. Women, on the other hand, know how to clean up the mess—and sometimes, it's the mess left by men's decisions. Don't you think it's time we let them skip the cleaning and go straight to making the decisions?

**Cephalus:** Socrates, you've always had a way with words! But even in the USA, where women have risen to the top in business, education, and science, there's still hesitation to endorse a woman for the highest office. Just look at the skepticism around Kamala



Harris!

**Socrates:** True, my friend. But isn't that the very reason why more women should be in politics? If the field is as dirty as you say, who better to clean it up than someone who can spot a speck of dust from a mile away? Besides, if women can excel in science and technology, surely, they can figure out how to run a country. After all, if they can program a computer, they can certainly outmaneuver a stubborn senator or two.

**Cephalus:** (laughs) You may have a point there. But only 6% of people in that Pew Research survey said that women make better political leaders than men. Why do you think that is?

**Socrates:** Ah, Cephalus, that's the paradox! On one hand, society acknowledges that women are honest, intelligent, and capable. On the other hand, they're still reluctant to hand over the reins. It's like recognizing someone's great cooking skills but refusing to let them near the stove. What do you think?

**Cephalus:** I think it's because of tradition, Socrates. People are creatures of habit. We resist change, especially when it threatens our comfort zones. And let's be honest, some men are just afraid of being told what to do by their wives both at home and

the perfect opportunity to see a woman rise to the top. If women in South Korea, Germany, and New Zealand can lead, why not here?

**Socrates:** Exactly, Cephalus! And who knows? Perhaps we'll find that a woman leader is just what we need to clean up the messes of the past and pave the way for a brighter future. After all, if she can manage a kitchen, she can certainly manage a country. And with that, I believe we've had a most delightful discussion. But as always, the pursuit of wisdom continues.

**Cephalus:** Indeed, Socrates. Until our next debate, my friend! And who knows? Maybe by then, we'll have a woman Prime Minister to toast to!

As Socrates and Cephalus part ways, the dialogue leaves us with a humorous yet thought-provoking reflection on the potential of women in leadership. The discussion, infused with humour and wit, reminds us that while traditions are important, they should not stand in the way of progress. As Socrates aptly puts it, the pursuit of wisdom is an ongoing journey — one that requires us to question,

challenge, and embrace change for the betterment of society as a whole.

Spotlights Mauritius Times Friday, August 9, 2024



#### Hamas elevates Gaza leader who planned Oct. 7 attacks to top post

Hamas has elevated Yahya Sinwar, one of the masterminds behind the deadly October 7 attacks on Israel, to lead its political wing. The decision consolidates Sinwar's power as Hamas continues its conflict with Israel in the Gaza Strip, reports NYT.

Sinwar, who has been the leader of Hamas in Gaza since 2017, is known for his role in planning the group's military strategies. His promotion follows the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the previous political leader of Hamas, who was killed in an explosion in Iran last week.

At 61, Sinwar is a hard-line figure and a prime target for Israeli forces. He is thought to be hiding in tunnels beneath Gaza to avoid Israeli strikes, yet he continues to influence Hamas's position in ongoing cease-fire talks. His rise to leadership comes at a time when tensions are escalating across the Middle East, with fears that Iran and its proxies—Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis—might retaliate against Israel for recent killings, including that of senior Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr.

Traditionally, Hamas's political leaders have operated outside Gaza, creating a split between the organization's political and military wings. Sinwar's promotion seems to unify these wings, although his ability to operate beyond Gaza remains uncertain, given Israel's ongoing efforts to capture him. Earlier this year, Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari reiterated Israel's determination to find Sinwar "dead or alive."

Born in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, Sinwar joined Hamas in the 1980s and was later imprisoned for killing Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel. He spent over 20 years in an Israeli prison before being released in a prisoner exchange in 2011.

### Michelle Obama shares 'strange' experience after leaving White House

Ichelle Obama recently opened up about her family's transition from the White House to a more typical lifestyle, describing the experience as "strange" and "abnormal." The former First Lady shared these insights during a candid conversation with her "close friend" Melinda Gates on a recent episode of Melinda's podcast, Moments 'That Make Us'.

The podcast episode highlighted the close relationship between the 60-year-old Michelle Obama and the 68-year-old Melinda Gates, the exwife of Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates. During the conversation, Melinda praised Michelle, expressing how "lucky" she felt to have her in her life, according to a report by US News

Reflecting on her departure from the White House in 2017, Michelle described the mixed emotions she felt. While she was relieved to step away from her official duties, she admitted that the transition to a new home was "odd."

One particularly "strange" moment Michelle recalled was hearing her doorbell ring for the first time after leaving the White House. "Our dogs didn't know what a doorbell was," she remarked, highlighting how sheltered their life had been dur-



ing Barack Obama's presidency.

The Obamas chose to remain in Washington, D.C., after leaving the White House, primarily for the sake of their daughters, Malia, 26, and Sasha, 23, who were still in school at the time. "I knew when Malia would want to come home for breaks, she'd want to come home to her friends, so we stayed in D.C.," Michelle explained.

The former First Lady also shared how surreal it felt during their final Air Force One helicopter ride, noting that it felt like they were on vacation. However, returning to their new home afterward felt "odd" as they adjusted to a new routine.

Michelle spoke about the challenges of acclimating to their newfound independence, despite still having Secret Service protection and barricades around their new resi-

dence. "But I had a front door that I could open where people would walk up to visit and ring the doorbell," she said, adding that this simple act of opening her own door and enjoying the freedom to move around her home was a significant change.

"For the first time, I could walk down to my own kitchen, open up my back door, sit in the warm sun on a porch, and listen to neighbourhood sounds and other neighbourhood dogs," Michelle reflected. This return to normalcy, she said, was a "huge" adjustment.

The Obamas, who moved into the White House in 2009, left in 2017 after Barack Obama's second term as President. Michelle acknowledged that while their eight years in the White House were "wonderful," the experience was also "abnormal."

### Raza Murad: Bangladesh-like situation unlikely in India due to disciplined armed forces

Veteran actor Raza Murad expressed confidence on Wednesday that the turmoil unfolding in Bangladesh would not be mirrored in India, attributing this to the discipline and apolitical stance of India's armed forces. Murad's comments came in response to a recent statement by Congress leader Salman Khurshid, who suggested that while "everything may look normal on the surface," a situation similar to Bangladesh's could occur in India.

"Such a thing will not happen here. People have the right to express their opinion in a democracy, and he has expressed his views, but my firm opinion is that it won't happen in India, and it should not take place," Murad told PTI when asked about Khurshid's remarks, PTI reported.

Murad emphasized the non-political role of India's military, stating, "Our military has nothing to do with politics and performs its duty with utmost responsibility. It never crosses the line... it always comes forward to help people in natural calamities like floods, storms, and earthquakes."

Reflecting on the ongoing crisis in Bangladesh, Murad, who is 73 years old, remarked that he had never witnessed such scenes in his lifetime, particularly the sight of people entering the prime minister's residence and looting furniture. "People may not agree with her politically, but she is 75, and like a mother. They should not have disrespected her in such a manner," he added, referring to the ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

#### **US military completes withdrawal from key drone base in Niger**

The United States military has completed its withdrawal from Air Base 201 in Niger, according to officials on Monday, following an order by Niger's ruling junta for nearly 1,000 US military personnel to leave the country after a coup last year.

Air Base 201, a strategic drone facility near Agadez in central Niger, was constructed at a cost of \$100 million and had been instrumental in providing crucial intelligence on Islamist militant groups prior to the coup.

The junta in Niger has set a deadline of September 15 for the US to remove all its troops



from the country. Last month, US forces also pulled out of Air Base 101 in Niger's capital, Niamev.

Niger's demand for the removal of US troops followed a meeting in Niamey in mid-March, during which senior US officials expressed concerns about the anticipated arrival of Russian forces and reports that Iran was seeking to obtain raw materials in Niger, including uranium.

Spotlights Mauritius Times Friday, August 9, 2024

#### Who is Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel laureate heading Bangladesh's interim govt?

Pr Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel laureate economist, has returned to Dhaka, poised to take on the role of interim Prime Minister of Bangladesh. This move comes at a critical juncture as the nation grapples with the fallout of a student-led movement that led to the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The decision to appoint Yunus, widely known as the "banker to the poor," reflects a consensus among the military, opposition, and student leaders, all seeking stability during this transitional period, reports Hindustan Times.

Early Life and Education: Born in 1940 in Bathua, a village in the pre-independence Bengal presidency, Muhammad Yunus was the third of nine children in a merchant family. His father, Haji Dulaa Mia Sawdagar, was a jeweller. Despite his rural origins, Yunus spent much of his youth in Chittagong, where he was active in the Boy Scouts, which afforded him opportunities to travel extensively across India, Pakistan, Europe, and beyond.

Yunus began his higher education at Dhaka University, earning a bachelor's degree in 1960 and a master's degree in 1961. He later became a professor at Chittagong College and, after receiving a Fulbright schol-



arship, went on to complete a PhD in economic development at Vanderbilt University in 1971.

**Involvement in Bangladesh's Liberation:** During Bangladesh's 1971 war of liberation, Yunus played a crucial role in the diaspora, operating a communications center for Bangladeshis abroad and publishing the *Bangladesh Newsletter* to garner international support for the cause. After the war, he returned to Bangladesh and led the economics department at Chittagong University.

The devastating famine of 1974 deeply influenced Yunus, steering him towards poverty alleviation efforts. His proposal to establish village governments, or gram sarkar, to bolster rural economies was dismissed as unconstitutional, but it laid the groundwork for his later

work.

Founding of Grameen Bank: In 1976, Yunus conceptualized microcredit—a revolutionary financial system offering small, non-traditional loans to impoverished individuals to help them grow their businesses. This idea culminated in the founding of Grameen Bank in 1983. The bank's success was profound: by July 2007, Grameen had issued over \$6.38 billion to 7.4 million borrowers. The model inspired similar initiatives in over 100 countries, earning Yunus the Nobel Prize in 2006 for his contributions to social and economic development.

Controversies and Legal Challenges: Yunus' rise to prominence was not without challenges. In 2011, Sheikh Hasina's government scrutinized Grameen Bank for alleged financial misconduct—a charge from which the bank was eventually cleared by the Norwegian government. Yunus himself faced legal battles, including his contested removal as head of Grameen Bank, which many viewed as politically motivated due to his increasing influence and an attempted foray into politics in 2007.

Throughout his career, Yunus has faced 174 legal cases, ranging from defamation to allegations of power misuse. Despite these hurdles, he remains a revered figure both in Bangladesh and internationally.

Leadership in a Time of Crisis: As Muhammad Yunus steps into the role of interim Prime Minister, he inherits a nation in crisis. With Bangladesh's political future hanging in the balance, Yunus' leadership during this transitional phase will be critical in determining the country's direction

US president's son Hunter Biden was hired by Romanian businessman to 'influence' US agencies

# Hunter Biden faces new charges amid allegations of dealings with Romanian businessman

Hunter Biden, the son of U.S. President Joe Biden, is once again in the spotlight as he faces new legal challenges. Prosecutors have unveiled allegations that during Joe Biden's tenure as vice president, Hunter was hired by Romanian businessman Gabriel Popoviciu, who was under investigation for corruption. The special counsel, David Weiss, has indicated that Hunter's business associate is set to testify about this arrangement in an upcoming federal tax trial

Hunter has consistently denied any wrongdoing, maintaining that his father was never involved in his business dealings, according to HT News.

#### **New Allegations and Charges**

Prosecutors plan to present evidence that Hunter and his associate received payments from Popoviciu, who sought to influence U.S. policy and public opinion to ease his legal troubles in Romania. Although Popoviciu is referred to as "G.P." in court documents, the details align with previous reports concerning Hunter's work in Romania.

Popoviciu was sentenced to seven years in prison in 2017 for real estate fraud, a charge he denied. The prosecutors allege that Hunter and his associate agreed to assist Popoviciu in a way that obscured their actual intent—to influence U.S. agencies to investigate the Romanian probe against him. The payments were reportedly disguised as fees for managing real estate properties in Romania, but prosecutors argue that this was a cover for their true lobbying efforts.

#### **Legal Defense and Trial**

Hunter Biden's legal team has requested that the trial exclude references to these allegations, arguing that they are politically motivated and irrelevant to the tax charges he faces. They emphasize that Hunter has never been charged with any crime related to these accusations.

#### Previous Conviction and Possible Sentencing

This trial follows Hunter Biden's recent conviction on charges related to a 2018 gun purchase, in which he was accused of lying about his Dr ug use. Although he faces up to 25 years in prison, as a first-time offender, he is expected to receive a much lighter sentence.

As the legal proceedings unfold, Hunter Biden's business activities and legal troubles are likely to remain a contentious issue, particularly in the charged atmosphere of an election year.

### French pole vaulter jokes about his viral 'package' at Olympics



The French pole vaulter whose accidental moment during the Olympics gained him unexpected fame, shared a TikTok adDr essing the situation humorously.

In a since-deleted TikTok, the 21-year-old appeared dejected as he dined alone, his intense gaze standing out against the normal scene. In the video, Ammirati made a sarcastic remark about how he ended up getting more attention for his unintended physical attributes than for his athletic prowess. The post came days after a highly publicised incident during the pole vault competition that abruptly ended his Olympic journey, reports US News.

A French caption translated to English reads, "POV: You make more buzz for your package than for your performances." He playfully bit back at himself after messing up his big game on Aug. 3.

#### Internet reacts

"I mean, if you're going to be famous for losing a pole vault this is the way to do it," a social media user wrote commenting on the video shared by the fan page. "His pole certainly vaulted," another quipped. "When you become global sensation without Olympic medal," one more added. "Well, the Olympics would not have given you this kind of popularity either."

Ammirati launched himself into the air, but his penis struck the crossbar, causing it to fall to

the ground. This incident resulted in him failing to achieve a high enough score to progress to the next round, thereby dashing his hopes of winning an Olympic medal.

#### French pole vaulter receives porn offer

Following the crotch mishap the French pole vaulter was approached with a \$250,000 offer for a porn video. The offer was rolled out by pornographic website CamSoda. The vice president of the website Daryn Parker told TMZ, "If it was up to me, I'd award Anthony Ammirati for what everyone else saw - talent below the belt.

"As a lover of crotch-centric activities, I'd love to offer you up to \$250,000 in exchange for a 60-minute webcam show, in which you show off your goods, minus the crossbar, of course," he added.

From the Pages of History - MT 60 Years Ago

7th Year No 281

#### **MAURITIUS TIMES**

Friday 15 January, 1960

Failures to heroic minds are the stepping stones to success. — Thomas Chandler Haliburton

### **The First Defeat**

he defeat of Ramriki Ramsamy at Curepipe is the first major electoral setback which the Labour Party has suffered since its triumphant entry into the political arena in 1948. In fact, it is Labour's first defeat at a by-election. In March last, Ramsamy had a majority of 270 over Mr Duval, but today it's Mr Duval who has a majority of 670 over Ramsamy. What has caused this significant swing? What does this defeat presage? What lesson can be drawn from the election of Mr Gaëtan Duval?

If one were to read the report of the Electoral Boundary Commission carefully one cannot fail to realise that Constituency No 29 was carved out to be rather a Parti Mauricien constituency. But it will be sheer defeatism or a refusal to face the facts to try to explain out Labour's setback by this

argument only because barely a year ago Constituency No 29 returned a Labour candidate. Ramsamy has lost aver 700 votes and Mr Duval has added 200 votes to the number he scored in March last. It is futile for Mr Koenig to read in this result an endorsement of his plea for separate electoral lists. Nor has Labour any real cause for anxiety because the Parti Mauricien backed by that rabidly communal paper. Parti Mauricien supporters had thrown all ideological principles to the winds. Mr Duval must be voted because he belongs to



the Coloured community and Ramsamy must not be supported because he is a Hindu. In face of such a campaign no argumentation could work and the voice of sanity was drowned by the communal clamour of a handful of people who wanted to give to the Coloured community its 'quota' of MLC's.

Added to this was the indirect support which the Independent Forward Bloc brought to the Parti Mau-ricien. Dr Curé, who was the IFB candidate in March 1959, got 319 votes. How is it that Mr

Boyjonauth, who had the support of the IFB and the backing of the Syndicaliste-Travailiste group, scored only 221 votes thus forfeiting his deposit? It is known that on polling day supporters of Mr Boyjonauth were

canvassing for Mr Duval. The game was clear to everybody: Mr Boyjonauth was turned into a smokescreen behind which the IFB could manoeuvre with the Parti Mauricien. The people know today where the IFB and the group Syndicaliste-Travailliste stood in the by-election of Curepipe: they preferred the Parti Mauricien to the Labour Party.

The election of Mr Duval or rather the success of the Parti Mauricien (PM) augurs badly for Mauritius; it is a consecration of communalism because the PM has always played upon the communal feelings of the people. There was a time when it identified itself completely with the campaign of NMU. Today it seeks to drive a wedge

between the Coloured and Indian sections of the population. And in this it has the unreserved support of *Le Mauricien* which still succeeds in making the Coloured population believe that it defends the interests of the Creole community. Here is a challenge to the Labour Party which has unfailingly upheld the national interests of Mauritius. Unless the Labour Party musters all its resources to counter the nefarious communal campaign, it will become difficult to stop the rot from spreading.

### Wilful Distortion?

o discussion of any matter of public interest is going either to be fruitful or enlightening if those engaged in the discussion deliberately and wantonly misrepresent each other's views to the public. To do so is sheer dishonesty and no writer who respects his pen can afford to lower himself. Such a stand becomes more dangerous when all this happens in a multi-racial society where a single spark is enough to set the communal frenzy ablaze thus destroying any fund of goodwill that may exist between the different communities. The Literary Editor of Le Mauricien, has yet to learn these fundamental principles of free discussion. The way he has misrepresented the views of our contributor, Ram, on the system of awarding primary school scholarships unmistakably shows how communal minded he is.

ur contributor said that scholarships should be granted to children of poor parents, but the Literary Editor jumped to the conclusion that our contributor "vise les enfants de couleurs." But the weekly J. O. Tribune Ouvriere, holds the same view, why does not the Literary Editor take it to task, denounce it from house-tops and clamour that that Christian paper "vise les enfants de couleur"? Will he do it? Has he the courage to do so? He should not give us the impression that moral courage is foreign to him.

There is more. In *Le Mauricien* of January 12, Mr Reynald Olivier wrote that "I'homme de couleur est par définition économiquement faible" but our contributor suggested that only children of poor parents should be granted scholarships. By what process of logic can the Literary Editor come to the conclusion that we were advocating communalism? We are inclined to think that when the Literary Editor wrote his article he was either unconscious or in a fit of extreme stupidity. Or, he might have been deliberately

ordered to harp on the communal feelings of his readers.

is argument that our contributor had based his article on communal statistics can be easily disposed of. If he has a retentive memory, he will surely remember that after the general election of March last *Le Mauricien* was clamouring that the coloured community was underrepresented. Does he still remember the type of statistics he dished out? When we express similar feelings, we are communalists! A thousand pities indeed.





Books that shook the Business world

### The Human Condition by Hannah Arendt

#### Cont. from page 2

Paradoxically, however, freedom and comfort are being surrendered to synthetic versions of natural activities – from cooking to communication to thinking itself. Ever more dependent on this artificiality, we are merely spectators in technology's rush into unforeseen territories.

For Arendt, this marked one side of "world alienation". The other is the way in which scientific discoveries, starting from Renaissance polymath Copernicus's realisation that the Earth is not the centre of the universe, have made the world appear more and more uncertain. We have fallen back on what seemed to be the only reliable point of reference, the only source of possible certainty: our own selves. We have increasingly put ourselves at the centre of our own individual universes, becoming estranged from a common, shared world.

ne way to enter Arendt's thought is to read the final chapter of The Human Condition after the prologue. There she argues that modernity's biggest conquest has been for technology to emancipate humanity from the "drudgery of life". But this has turned into our biggest trap, since we have filled it with mindless consumption.

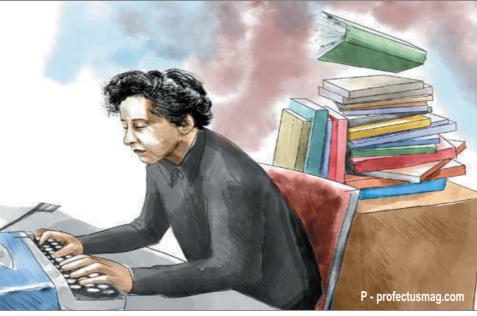
"The more time [is] left to [us]," she writes, "the greedier and more craving [our] appetites".

In the intervening decades, human life has been reduced to the pursuit of self-assertion online. Few of us even question this condition.

#### The tyranny of consumption

Chapters three, four and five of The Human Condition offer a framework for understanding how this estrangement relates to human activities. Arendt presents labour, work and action as the three activities which make up active human life – the vita activa – as opposed to the contemplative life that has preoccupied philosophers.





Labour refers to what we do to satisfy biological requirements like food and shelter, usually in the form of earning money. Arendt distinguishes this from work, which is about producing things of "durable value" that are ends in themselves, such as works of art or handmade furniture. Meanwhile, action is the interaction of people free to speak and act together, when they cease attending to mere consumption.

She shows how labouring has come to dominate our way of being. Endlessly preoccupied with consuming unnecessary things of no intrinsic or lasting value, we have turned away from making or appreciating things of durable value.

Constantly busy with ourselves, we have become incapable of considered conversations and actions concerning the things we depend upon – namely, preserving the Earth and a thoughtful collective humanity. Lost in the mirrors of our smartphones, our incapacity to think only gets worse.

She refers to the Earth as "the very quintessence of the human condition", given that "earthly nature, for all we know,

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Contact us: Tel: 212 1313 - 5 2929301 Email: mtimes@intnet.mu may be unique in the universe in providing human beings with a habitat in which they can move and breathe without effort and without artifice".

If Arendt were around today (she died in 1975), she would perhaps argue that

TikTok stardom is pointing to what she describes in her book as the "most sterile passivity history has ever known", lived by "thoughtless creatures at the mercy of every gadget which is technically possible".

For this problem, she offers no easy solution. She calls on us to do the most fundamental thing that makes us human: "What I propose... is very simple", she writes. "It is nothing more than to think what we are doing."

It is in thinking about everything that pertains to concrete human experience that we secure our own individual agency and sense of existence. It's the case for pausing when we are just about to post yet again on social media, to not seek external validation to simply cook an omelette. Maybe if we reflected more on how technology has robbed us, we would begin to find a better way forward.

**Divya Jyoti,** Lecturer in Organisation, Work and Technology & Bogdan Costea, Professor of Management and Society, Lancaster University

#### Mauritius Times

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Mauritius Times

# New Dawn for Faith: Shree Vishwanath Mandir Inaugurated



Officials of the Shree Vishwanath Mandir
From L to R: Rajesh Goburdhun, Sanjay Mungur,
Deoraj Sookun - President, Sanjeev Sewsagur,
Yutish Bundhoo - Assistant Secretary and Amick Teeluckdharry - Secretary

he sun shone brightly on Sunday, August 4, 2024, in Vallée des Prêtres, marking the centenary celebration of the Shree Vishwanath Mandir with the inauguration of a brand-new temple. This new temple stands as a renewal of the vision its founding fathers had a hundred years ago when they inaugurated the first Shree Vishwanath Mandir in 1924.

The foundation stone of the New Shree Vishwanath Mandir was laid by Prime Minister Hon. Pravind Jugnauth on August 5, 2018. Six years later, on August 4, 2024, the Prime Minister himself inaugurated the Mandir.

The consecration ceremony (Sarva Dev Praan Pratishtha) of the Mandir spanned an entire week, starting on Wednesday, July 10, 2024. It involved five learned Acharyas, led by Acharya Om Prakash Tiwari, under the supervision of Acharya Mohun Prasad Saklani, Head Priest of the Sanatan Dharma Temples Federation. Hundreds of devotees participated in the mantra chanting, yagya, and various rituals and processions.

The Shree Vishwanath Mandir of Vallée des Prêtres was among the first temples in Port-Louis, registered under the name of La Société des Hindous de la Vallée des Prêtres. Founded in 1924 by Shree Ractoo

Teeluckdharry with the support of fellow devotees, the first Shiv Ling installation witnessed the participation of Pitamber, son of Ractoo, before he sailed for Paris to pursue his studies in medicine.

For a century, the Mandir has stood as a beacon of faith, guiding and nurturing the Hindu community in Vallée des Prêtres and neighbouring regions through countless challenges and triumphs. It has been a sanctuary of devotion, a centre of cultural preservation, and a source of strength and unity.

In his address during the inauguration ceremony, the President of the Mandir, Deoraj Sookun, said: "The Shree Vishwanath Mandir has played an immense role in shaping the lives of the children of Vallée des Prêtres. Through our various educational and cultural programs, we have nurtured a generation that now occupies major

posts in various fields, including education, medicine, and engineering, both in Mauritius and abroad. Our commitment to their upbringing has borne fruit, as they contribute positively to society, upholding the values instilled in them by this sacred institution. Their success stories are a testament to the impact of the Mandir's efforts in providing a strong moral and educational foundation."

r Sookun further added: "The construction process was significantly delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The lockdowns and restrictions posed unprecedented difficulties, from supply chain disruptions to labour shortages. However, with the collective effort of devotees and well-wishers, we overcame these obstacles. The pandemic tested our resolve, but it also brought us closer together, reinforcing our commitment to this sacred project."

The unwavering support and contributions of devotees, the expertise of contractors, engineers, and architects, and the tireless efforts of workers and volunteers have been instrumental in realizing this project. Their dedication and hard work have transformed the vision of the executive committee members into reality. Each brick laid, each detail carved, reflects the devotion of countless individuals who believed in this vision.



Officials of ABC Foods posing for a commemorative picture with the ISO 22000:2018 certificate

#### **Business**

ABC Foods Achieves ISO 22000:

### **2018 Certification: A Testament to Quality and Food Safety**

BC Foods, the founding company of the ABC Group, has recently achieved the prestigious ISO 22000:2018 certification, an internationally recognized standard for food safety management. This certification specifically covers the storage of dry goods, frozen, and refrigerated products, as well as the packaging of Dolly powdered milk, the manufacturing of Asian sauces, and the canning of shrimp in tomato sauce.

"Achieving the ISO 22000:2018 certification reflects our ongoing commitment to complying with international standards in terms of quality and food safety. After obtaining ISO 22000:2005 in 2014 for powdered milk packaging, receiving this new certification demonstrates our determination to provide our customers with the highest quality products while ensuring optimal food safety," explained Paul Ah Lim, General Manager of ABC Foods.

The ISO 22000:2018 standard sets the highest criteria for food safety, integrating a systematic approach to risk management and quality throughout the supply chain. For Paul Ah Lim, obtaining this certification is a clear indication of ABC Foods' commitment to maintaining international standards of quality and safety.

"Since its inception in 1931, ABC Foods has always been dedicated to offering superior quality food products, which is why our slogan is 'The House of Quality and Service.' This new certification reaffirms our dedication to providing safe, reliable products that meet our customers' expectations," he added.

Indeed, ABC Foods is committed to continually improving its processes and investing in technologies and training that will maintain and further elevate its quality standards. The company is determined to innovate and adapt to market changes while adhering to the strictest food safety standards.

Founded in 1931 by Sir Jean Etienne Moilin Ah-Chuen, ABC Foods is a strategic hub of the ABC Group, producing, importing, and distributing food and cosmetic products for the Mauritian market.

#### YUUN SIANS

#### SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

Adventure and exploration are on the horizon. Whether through travel, learning, or new experiences, you'll find fulfillment in expanding your horizons. Stay open to new opportunities and unexpected encounters.

\*Lucky Numbers: 3, 11, 18, 23, 29, 40\*

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Focus on your long-term ambitions. This is a good week for strategic planning and working towards your goals. Your dedication and hard work will begin to yield results, so stay disciplined and persistent.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 13, 20, 26, 32, 37 AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

Innovation and creativity shine. You may experience a burst of inspiration that drives you to start new projects or explore unconventional ideas. Collaborate with others to bring your vision to life and stay open to creative solutions.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 15, 22, 28, 35

#### PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Your intuition and empathy guide you this week. Pay attention to your inner voice and emotional insights. It's a good time to nurture relationships and offer support to those around you, as your compassionate nature will make a positive impact.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 12, 17, 24, 31, 38 ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

You're brimming with enthusiasm and ready to tackle new challenges. This week, use your energy to start new pro-jects or take on leadership roles. Be cautious of rushing into things; a bit of patience will help ensure your efforts pay off.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 14, 18, 21, 30 TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Stability and security are your focus. You'll find it beneficial to manage your finances and set long-term goals. Trust your instincts when it comes to making decisions about

your home or personal life.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 11, 19, 22, 28, 35

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Communication is key. You're likely to be busy juggling conversations and information. Use this time to network and share your ideas, but make sure to stay organized and attentive to details to avoid misunderstandings.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 9, 15, 23, 27, 32 CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

This week is ideal for self-care and emotional reflection.

Take time to address your feelings and set boundaries to protect your mental well-being. Focusing on personal growth will be rewarding.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 12, 17, 20, 26, 31 LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

Social interactions and group activities take the spotlight.

Embrace opportunities to connect with others and showcase your leadership. Your charisma will attract positive attention, making it a great time to engage in collaborative projects.

#### Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 16, 24, 29, 37 VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Attention to detail is crucial. You'll excel in tasks that require precision and organization. Use this time to tidy up your surroundings and revisit any unfinished work. Your diligence will lead to significant progress.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 10, 13, 25, 33, 38 LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Balance and harmony are your focus. Work on maintaining equilibrium in your relationships and surroundings. Seek compromise and avoid conflicts by finding common ground with others.

**Lucky Numbers:** 7, 12, 19, 22, 30, 36 **SCORPION:** 23 OCT – 21 NOV

Transformation and change are highlighted. You might feel compelled to make significant adjustments in your life. Embrace these changes as opportunities for growth, and don't be afraid to release old habits or situations that no longer serve you.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 16, 23, 30, 37

### New evidence indicates patients recall death experiences after cardiac arrest

Some patients revived by cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) recall clear memories of experiencing death up to an hour after their hearts had stopped, with brain patterns linked to thought and memory while unconscious, report investigators in the journal Resuscitation, published by Elsevier.

Led by researchers at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, in collaboration with 25 hospitals primarily in the US and UK, the study involved 567 patients who received CPR in hospital settings. Despite immediate treatment, fewer than 10% of these patients recovered sufficiently to be discharged. Remarkably, four in ten survivors recalled varying degrees of consciousness during CPR that standard measures did not detect.

Among a subset of patients who received brain monitoring, nearly 40% exhibited brain activity returning to normal or near-normal levels from a "flatline" state, including readings of gamma, delta, theta, alpha, and beta waves associated with higher mental functions, as recorded by EEG electrodes.

Study authors note that survivors often report heightened awareness and lucid experiences during cardiac arrest, such as perceiving separation from the body, observing events without distress, and reflecting on actions and relationships. These experiences were distinct from hallucinations, dreams, or CPR-induced



consciousness

The researchers hypothesize that as the dying brain experiences a "flatline," natural inhibitory processes diminish, potentially granting access to "new dimensions of reality," including lucid recall of memories from early childhood to death, viewed through a moral lens. This phenomenon, termed disinhibition, prompts exploration into the consequences of death on consciousness.

Senior author Dr Sam Parnia, MD, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Medicine at NYU Langone Health and director of critical care and resuscitation research, remarks, "While conventional wisdom holds

that the brain suffers irreversible damage after about 10 minutes without oxygen, our study shows signs of electrical recovery in the brain during ongoing CPR. This groundbreaking research indicates that these recollections and brain wave changes may represent universal elements of near-death experiences."

Dubbed the AWAreness during REsuscitation (AWARE)-II study, the research spanned patients who suffered cardiac arrest in hospitals between May 2017 and March 2020. The study focused on standardizing CPR methods and brain activity recording, with a subset of 85 patients undergoing brain monitoring during CPR. Testimony from 126

community survivors of cardiac arrest with self-reported memories also contributed to understanding the recalled experiences surrounding death.

The authors conclude that existing research neither confirms nor refutes the reality or significance of patients' experiences and awareness during death. They advocate for further empirical investigation into the phenomena recalled by patients nearing death and plan studies to define biomarkers of clinical consciousness and assess long-term psychological effects following cardiac arrest resuscitation.



### How can there be ice on the Moon?

We're lucky to live on a water world. More than 70% of the Earth's surface is covered in water.

Earth is about 94 million miles from the Sun. That's within the Goldilocks zone: the place in our solar system where a planet has just the right temperature for water to exist in oceans and rivers as a liquid and as ice in the north and south poles.

Earth also has an atmosphere more than 6,000 miles (9,650 kilometers) thick that's filled with oxygen for us to breathe. This atmosphere, along with a huge magnet in the center of the Earth, helps protect us from the Sun's harmful radiation, mostly solar wind and cosmic rays.

But the Moon hardly looks like a water world, or even a place with a few puddles. It has a worn-out internal magnet and an atmosphere so weak it's virtually a vacuum. There are no clouds or rain or snow, just a sky that's only the blackness of space, with a surface baked by the Sun. The Moon's temperature reaches 273 degrees Fahrenheit (134 Celsius) by day and goes as low as -243 F (-153 C) at night.

But as scientists who study space and work to develop technologies that look for the water, we can definitively say: Yes, the Moon has water.

#### The discovery

For a long time, astronomers and other scientists thought Moon water was unlikely. After all, the Apollo astronauts brought back many rock samples from the Moon, and all were dry, with no detectable water.

But visits by recent spacecraft showed



that some water is there. In 2009, NASA smashed a spacecraft – the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite, or LCROSS – into the Moon's surface, inside Cabeus crater. When that happened, water ice was ejected.

This confirmed to scientists that water ice was in the bottom of the craters. But determining how much water is there will be difficult. The 10,000 or so Moon craters are essentially big holes, with areas so shaded the Sun never shines inside. These places are really cold, well under -300 F (-184 C). Once these frozen water molecules get stuck in the craters, they pretty much stay forever, unless some heat or energy dislodges them. They are unlikely to naturally evaporate or sublimate as vapor – it's just too cold in there.

But that doesn't mean water is stored only in craters. In 2023, scientists using SOFIA, the Stratospheric Observatory for

Infrared Astronomy, looked for water on the Moon's surface in areas that were not as cold as the craters. And they found it – not on top of the soil, but probably inside the soil grains.

No one knows yet how much water the Moon has or how deep it goes. But one thing is certain: There's much more than scientists first thought.

#### Comets and volcanoes

How did the Moon get its water? No one is certain yet, but there are some theories.

Eons ago, comets — which are basically frozen, dirty snowballs — crashed into Earth, leaving their comet water. That's one of the ways Earth developed its oceans; perhaps that's how the Moon got some of its water too.

Other scientists think ancient volcanoes on the Moon released water vapor when they erupted billions of years ago. Eventually, that vapor descended to the surface as frost. Over time, layers of that frost accumulated, particularly at the poles; much of it may have found its way inside lunar craters as ice.

#### **Drinking water for astronauts**

Water is heavy. Transporting it to the Moon by spacecraft would be costly. So it makes more sense for astronauts to figure out a way to use the water already on the Moon

But Moon water is not drinkable as is; it would have small pieces of the lunar soil and possibly other molecules mixed with it. Astronauts living in Moon colonies

would need to purify any water they collected. This is a tricky process that would require considerable effort and resources.

There is a plan to drill for the water and look for it, the way people hunted for underground gold during the 19th century gold rush. The analogy is not a bad one – water on the Moon might eventually be more valuable than gold on Earth.

And not just for drinking. Water, of course, is two parts hydrogen, one part oxygen; it can be split. This is a win-win: Astronauts can use the hydrogen for rocket fuel and the oxygen for breathable air. Using the Sun as a power source, the water splitting is probably doable.

Returning to the Moon and establishing a permanent base are commitments enormous reauirina decades of work, billions of dollars, the cooperation of many nations, and many new technologies yet to be developed. But as the world enters this dramatic new chapter of space exploration, pioneers run the risk of destroying or polluting a unique environment that has been in existence for billions of years - and many scientists feel a deep obligation not to repeat the painful lesson we're now learning here on Earth.

#### **Thomas Orlando**

Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Georgia Institute of Technology

#### Frances Rivera-Hernández

Assistant Professor of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology

#### Glenn Lightsey

Professor of Space Systems Technology, Georgia Institute of Technology Unwind Mauritius Times Friday, August 9 , 2024 18



#### A Prescription for Humour

Lady: My husband has swallowed a paracetamol by mistake. What should I do?

**Doctor:** Give him a headache now -- why waste the medicine?

Stupid Questions People Ask in Obvious Situations

At the Movies

"Hey! What are you doing here?"

Me: "I'm here to apply for the popcorn seller position."

#### On the Bus

An uncle steps on my feet: "Sorry, did that hurt?" Me: "Not at all. I'm on local anesthesia. Why don't you try again?"

#### When Woken Up at Midnight by a Call

"Sorry! Were you sleeping?"

Me: "No, I was conducting research on monkeys in Africa. You thought I was sleeping, you stupid fool?"

#### After a Haircut

When they see me with shorter hair:

"Hey! Did you get a haircut?"

Me: "Nah, it's autumn. My hair's shedding!"

#### On a Landline Call

When someone calls and asks: "Where are you?"

Me: "I'm at the market with a telephone around my neck!!"

#### **Washing My Car**

Neighbour: "Hey! Are you washing your car?" Me: "No, I'm just watering it so it grows into a big bus!"

#### Banta Singh quit drinking

This joke apparently won an award for the best joke in a competition held in Britain.

Banta Singh walks into a bar in London, orders 3



glasses of beer, and sits in the backyard of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn.

When he finishes, he goes back to the bar counter and orders 3 more. The bartender asks him, "You know, beer goes flat after I fill it in the glass; it would taste better if you bought one at a time."

Banta Singh replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in Dubai, the other in Canada, and I'm here in London. When they left home, we promised that we'd drink this way to remember the days when we drank together."

The bartender thinks this is a nice custom and leaves it at that.

Banta Singh becomes a regular in the bar and always drinks this way. One day, he comes in and orders only 2 beers. All the other regulars notice and fall silent.

When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my sincere condolences for your great loss."

Banta Singh looks confused for a moment, then laughs and says, "Oh, no. Everyone's fine; both my brothers are alive. The only thing is...I've quit drinking!"



#### The Loud Boots

A retired Army General moves into a new apartment after quitting service.

Over the next few weeks, his new neighbours realized that on the weekends he would return to his apartment at 2am very drunk, remove his left boot and slam it on the floor, remove his right boot and slam it on the floor even harder and then go to sleep. Since the force of these thunderous slams was enough to wake up almost everyone around him, and this was a family complex no less, the neighbours decided to go to his house and confront him about this one morning.

"Mr General Sir, thank you for your service to our country, and we welcome you to our apartment complex."

"Thank you."

"Sir, we realize that serving the country for so long can really take a toll on someone, and we want you to enjoy your retirement..."

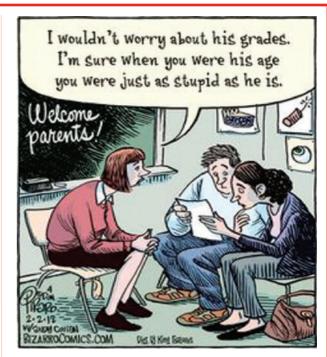
"Okay?"

"But, sir, can you please, kindly, not slam your boots down in the middle of the night once you return home on the weekends? It's waking us and our kids up."

"Oh! I didn't know that. I am sorry for waking all of you up like that, how stupid of me, it won't happen again."

"Thank you so much, sir."

The next weekend the General returns home drunk and sits on his bed. He removes his left boot and slams it on the floor. He removes his right boot and - "Wait a minute... this is what they were talking about, isn't it?" he says to himself in his drunken stupor. He gently places



the right boot next to the left one and goes to bed.

An hour or so later the General wakes up to the sounds of the doorbell ringing continuously and heavy knocking on his door. He gets up, waddles over to the door and opens it to find a group of his neighbours standing outside in their nightclothes...

"Sir! Can you please just slam the other boot already so we can all get some sleep!!?"

#### **Hilarious Miscommunication**

Caller: Hello, can I speak to Annie Wan (anyone)?

Operator: Yes, you can speak to me.

Caller: No, I want to speak to Annie Wan (anyone)!

Operator: You are talking to someone. Who is this?

Caller: I'm Sam Wan (someone). And I need to talk to Annie Wan (anyone)! It's urgent.

**Operator:** I know you are someone and you want to talk to anyone! But what's this urgent matter about?

Caller: Well... just tell my sister Annie Wan (anyone) that our brother Noel Wan (no one) has been involved in an accident. Noel Wan (no one) got injured and now Noel Wan (no one) has been sent to the hospital. Right now, Avery Wan (everyone) is on his way to the hospital.

**Operator:** Look! If no one was injured and no one was sent to the hospital, then the accident isn't an urgent matter! You may find this hilarious, but I don't have time for this!

Caller: You are so rude! Who are you?

Operator: I'm Saw Lee (sorry).

Caller: Yes! You should be sorry. Now give me your

Operator: My name is Saw Lee (sorry).

**Caller:** Fine! I get it now. But I need to speak to Annie Wan (anyone) immediately.

**Operator:** I'm really sorry, but as I've told you, I am the only one available right now. If you have any other inquiries, I'll be happy to assist you.

**Caller:** This is unbelievable! I need to talk to Annie Wan (anyone) because of this urgent matter!

**Operator:** I understand you're frustrated, but there's been a miscommunication. I suggest you try reaching out to Annie Wan (anyone) later. For now, I can only help with what I can.

**Caller:** Alright, fine. I'll try again later. But this is just ridiculous.

**Operator:** I'm sorry for the inconvenience. Thank you for your patience. Have a good day.

Caller: Yeah, sure. Bye.

Life's Lesson

#### Japan's Perspective on Teachers

n Japan, there is no Teacher's Day...

Once I asked my Japanese colleague, teacher Yamamoto: 'When do you celebrate Teachers' Day in Japan, and how do you observe it?'

Surprised by my question, he replied: 'We don't have any Teachers' Day celebration.'

Hearing his response, I didn't know whether to believe him or not. I wondered, 'Why does a country with a developed economy, science, and technology show such a lack of respect for teachers and their work?'

One day after work, Yamamoto invited me to his home. Since he lived far from the school, we took the subway. The subway cars were crowded during the evening rush hour. I managed to squeeze in and stood, holding onto the handrails tightly. Suddenly, an elderly man sitting next to me offered his seat. Not understanding such respectful behaviour from the older man, I couldn't accept his offer, but he insisted, and I had



to sit.

After leaving the subway, I asked Yamamoto to explain the elder's action. Yamamoto smiled and pointed to my teacher's badge, saying: 'This old man saw your teacher's badge and offered his seat as a sign of respect for your status.'

Since it was my first time visiting teacher Yamamoto, I felt uncomfortable going empty-handed, so I decided to buy a gift. I shared my thoughts with Yamamoto, and he supported me, saying that there's a store for teachers

ahead where you can buy items at discounted prices.

Once again, I couldn't contain my emotions:

'Are these discounts only for teachers?' I asked. Confirming my words, Yamamoto said: 'In Japan, a teacher is the most respected profession, the most respected person. Japanese entrepreneurs are delighted when teachers visit their stores; they consider it an honour.'

During my time in Japan, I repeatedly saw how Japanese people deeply respect teachers. There are separate seats for them on the subway, dedicated

stores, and teachers don't wait in line for tickets on any form of transportation.

Why do Japanese teachers need a separate holiday when every day of their lives is like a celebration?

As I retell this story, I wholeheartedly wish for our society to grow to such a level of reverence for teachers, and for teachers to be worthy of such a high title!

Let pride beat in all of our hearts! Teacher, I bow to your name.

#### Be the person who cares

Be the person who cares. Be the person who makes the effort, the person who loves without hesitation. Be the person who bares it all, the person who never shies away from the depth of their feeling, or the intensity of their hope.

Be the person who believes — in the softness of the world, in the goodness of other people, in the beauty of being open and untethered and trusting.

Be the person who takes the chance, who refuses to hide. Be the person who makes people feel seen, the person who shows up.

Trust me when I say — be the person who cares. Because the world doesn't need any more carelessness, any more disregard; because there is nothing stronger than someone who continues to stay soft in a world that hasn't always been kind to them.

Bianca Sparacino

#### Learning from life's trials

When you're damaged, you learn to take what's given to you and be grateful for it.

You learn that love is not a game, and cherish it.

You learn how to appreciate the smallest things people do for you.

Because when people have gone through wars that have left them broken, they understand how fragile life is.

They understand how they must make the most of it.

And most of all, they understand how important it is to always be kind.

Nikita Gill

#### Living your freest life

I don't care if you live your best life. I hope you live your freest life. Your most unburdened life. Your lightest life. I hope your life is a patchwork of lessons and trials and joys and mistakes and growth and evolution and expansion.

I hope you understand that rejection, failure, disappointment means you care, you're trying, you're out there in life, alive to it. I hope your life feels beautiful to you more than it looks beautiful to everyone else.

I hope you're free. And that you keep freeing yourself. From who you thought you should be. From who society told you to be. From heavy expectations and weighty ambition

I hope you know when you're in a moment you'll remember forever. I hope you know how good you have it when it's good. And I hope your life is an ongoing evolution, a constant becoming. I hope you shrug off old selves with ease.

I hope you leave empty space in your life for the unknown, the magic, the surprises, the unexpected. I hope you don't just aim for best and instead aim for full, whole, ever-evolving, unconfined, and unrestrained.

Mostly, I hope you take the path that is meant for you, not the one expected of you.

Jamie Varon

#### Thought to Live by

### Truths about Being a Man

- 1. You can be a great man even if you grew up without a father or had a challenging relationship with him.
- 2. Your worth as a man is not determined by the money you have but by your character.
- 3. There is always a younger man watching you and how you carry yourself. Be a good example.
- 4. Wisdom doesn't come solely with age, but through fearing God and seeking wisdom.
- 5. Ego is a man's greatest enemy. Once a man has self-control over his ego, he is ready for greatness.
- 6. Men have emotions too. Be responsible with your emotions, and you will be responsible with others'.
- 7. The earlier a man finds his vision and purpose in life, the better for him.
- 8. A man who seeks growth marries a woman who challenges him and grows with him.
- A grown man not only expects respect but also respects others.

### African Proverbs on Leadership

When a king has wise counsellors, his reign is peaceful.

-- Ghanaian Proverb.

When you befriend a chief, remember that he sits on a rope.

-- Ugandan Proverb.

A wild boar in place of a pig would ravish the town, and a slave

made king would spare nobody.

-- Yoruba Proverb.

A large chair does not make a king.

-- Sudanese Proverb.

The best words give no food.
-- Tutsi Proverb.

The wise chief does not eat from

-- Malawian Proverb.

Words of a good king do not lock all the doors; they leave the right

door open

-- Zambian Proverb.

When there's peace in the country, the chief does not need to carry a shield.

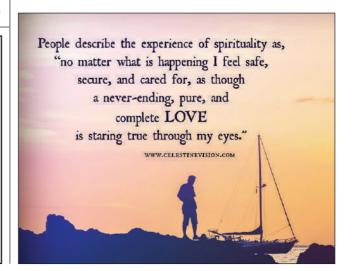
-- Ugandan Proverb.

The way a chief acts affects the entire village.

-- Ugandan Proverb.

A king cannot reign without the support of wise and honest elders.

-- Burundian Proverb.



#### Sleep and Health

# Natural Sleep Aids & Supplements: A Guide to Better Sleep

If you find yourself tossing and turning at night, struggling to catch those elusive ZZZs, you're not alone. Many Americans battle occasional sleep disturbances, seeking solutions beyond prescription medications. Natural sleep aids and supplements have gained popularity as alternatives, offering potential benefits without some of the side effects associated with pharmaceuticals. However, it's crucial to approach these options with caution and understanding.

#### Melatonin: Regulating Your Sleep-Wake Cycle

Melatonin, a hormone that regulates your body's internal clock, is a popular choice for sleep support. Research suggests that melatonin supplements can be effective in managing issues like jet lag or insomnia. Typically taken in doses of 1-3 milligrams about two hours before bedtime, melatonin can help reset your sleep-wake cycle. However, it's essential to use it only for short-term relief due to potential side effects such as headaches or nausea.

#### Lavender: Aromatherapy for Relaxation

The soothing scent of lavender has long been cherished for its calming effects. Studies indicate that inhaling lavender essential oil or sleeping in a lavender-infused room may promote deeper, more restful sleep. This purple flower lowers heart rate and reduces blood pressure, creating an ideal environment for relaxation before bedtime.

Valerian: Ancient Herb for Modern Sleep Issues



Valerian, a perennial herb known for its sedative properties, has been used for centuries to improve sleep quality. It may increase levels of GABA, a neurotransmitter that promotes relaxation. While generally considered safe for short-term use, valerian can sometimes cause mild side effects like headaches or stomach discomfort. It's recommended to take 300-600 milligrams about two hours before bed for optimal effect.

#### **CBD Oil: Navigating Sleep with Cannabidiol**

Derived from cannabis plants, CBD oil offers a non-intoxicating option to help manage sleep disorders. Research suggests that CBD may alleviate anxiety and promote better sleep quality. It's important to note individual responses can vary, and CBD may cause fatigue or gastrointestinal discomfort in some users. Typical doses range from 25-175 milligrams daily, with effects potentially noticeable within a month of consistent use.

#### Glycine: Amino Acid for Serene Slumber

Glycine, a simple amino acid, plays a significant role in sleep regulation by increasing serotonin levels and lowering body temperature, both conducive to falling asleep. Safe and well-tolerated, a recommended dose of 3 grams about an hour before bedtime can support better

sleep quality without notable side effects.

#### Chamomile: Herbal Tea for Tranquil Nights

Chamomile, enjoyed as a comforting herbal tea, contains apigenin, an antioxidant that binds to certain receptors in the brain, promoting relaxation and aiding sleep. With minimal side effects, chamomile tea or extract (200-270 milligrams twice daily) is a gentle option for those seeking natural sleep aids.

#### **Caution and Consideration**

While natural sleep aids offer promising alternatives, it's essential to exercise caution. Always consult with your healthcare provider before starting any new supplement regimen, especially if you are taking medications or have underlying health conditions. Natural does not always mean risk-free, as supplements like kava have been linked to liver damage, highlighting the importance of informed choices.

Furthermore, the FDA does not regulate supplements for safety or effectiveness in the same way it does pharmaceuticals. Therefore, researching brands and ensuring quality and purity is crucial. Start with low doses to assess individual tolerance and effects.

#### Conclusion

Improving sleep quality naturally can involve exploring various herbs, supplements, and lifestyle adjustments. From melatonin to lavender and chamomile, each option offers unique benefits to support relaxation and encourage restful sleep. By understanding their mechanisms and potential side effects, individuals can make informed decisions to promote better sleep hygiene and overall well-being.

Remember, while supplements can aid sleep, maintaining a consistent sleep schedule, minimizing screen time before bed, and creating a relaxing sleep environment are also essential steps in achieving a good night's rest. By combining these strategies, you can take proactive steps towards a more restorative sleep routine.

#### **Relationships**

#### Signs of Cheating: Recognizing the Red Flags

Cheating, or infidelity, can be a devastating discovery in any relationship. Whether emotional or physical, the breach of trust can lead to profound emotional turmoil and uncertainty about the future of the partnership. While defining what constitutes cheating can vary from one relationship to another, certain behaviors often signal potential infidelity. Here are some common signs to watch for as medically reviewed by Poonam Sachdev, MD of WebMD.

#### 1. Guarded electronic devices

In today's digital age, secrecy around electronic devices can be a telltale sign. A partner who suddenly becomes overly protective of their phone or computer, or is defensive about their online activities, may be hiding something they don't want you to see.

#### 2. Unexplained periods of inaccessibility

If your partner frequently disappears or becomes unreachable without a valid explanation, it could indicate they are spending time with someone else and avoiding disclosure.

#### 3. Changes in sexual behavior

Contrary to common belief, infidelity doesn't always lead to a decrease in sexual activity at home. Some individuals involved in cheating may exhibit heightened sexual energy, seeking different or more frequent sexual encounters with their partner as well.

#### 4. Inconsistent explanations

Lies are challenging to maintain over time. A cheating partner may struggle to keep their story consistent when asked about their whereabouts or interactions with others, especially under stress or when questioned differently than expected.

#### 5. Altered schedule

A sudden increase in late nights at work or unexplained absences can be a sign that your partner is not being truthful about their activities or whereabouts.

#### 6. Changed social circles

Friends often notice changes in behavior or attitudes before you do. If your partner's friends seem uncomfortable around you or suddenly distant without explanation, it could be because they are aware of the infidelity.

#### 7. Unexplained expenses

Financial discrepancies, such as unexplained withdrawals or changes in



spending habits, may indicate that your partner is investing resources in activities they wish to keep hidden.

#### 8. False accusations

In some cases, a guilty partner may project their own guilt onto you by accusing you of cheating. This behavior can stem from their own feelings of guilt or a desire to deflect suspicion.

#### 9. Hypercriticism

To justify their actions internally, a cheating partner may start criticizing or demeaning their significant other. This attempt to reduce cognitive dissonance — holding conflicting beliefs about their actions and character — can manifest as unwarranted criticism towards their partner.

#### 10. Intuitive suspicions

Often, gut feelings or suspicions arise even before concrete evidence of cheating surfaces. Trust your instincts if you feel something is amiss, as these subconscious cues may be picking up on subtle signs of dishonesty.

#### Dealing with the discovery of cheating

Discovering infidelity can provoke a range of intense emotions, from anger and betrayal to sadness and confusion. It's important to approach this delicate situation with care:

Avoid hasty decisions: Take time to process your emotions and consider your options before

making any decisions about the future of your relationship.

**Seek support:** Reach out to trusted friends, family members, or a therapist who can provide emotional support and guidance during this challenging time.

**Open communication:** If you choose to confront your partner, strive for respectful and open communication. Express your feelings and concerns calmly, focusing on understanding rather than blame.

**Rebuilding trust:** If reconciliation is on the table, both partners must commit to rebuilding trust through honest communication, transparency, and possibly seeking therapy to address underlying issues.

Cheating can profoundly impact a relationship, but how you choose to respond—whether through reconciliation or separation—should align with your values, needs, and emotional well-being. Ultimately, understanding the signs and dealing with the aftermath with support and clarity can help you make informed decisions about your future path forward.

Entertainment Mauritius Times Friday, August 9, 2024 21

#### **BollyBytes**



#### When Aishwarya Rai Bachchan opened up about her everyday disagreements with Abhishek

Recently, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan's relationship has been under scrutiny, fueled by various rumors surrounding the Bachchan family. Speculations intensified after they arrived separately at Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding in Mumbai, sparking curiosity about their dynamic, reports BollywoodLife. While they haven't officially commented on these speculations, old interviews and videos discussing their marriage have resurfaced on social media. In one such interview, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan candidly spoke about the disagreements she has with Abhishek Bachchan.

In a 2010 interview with Vogue, Aishwarya and Abhishek Bachchan discussed their marriage openly. When asked about how often they argue, Aishwarya promptly replied, "Every day." Abhishek elaborated that they prefer to call them disagreements rather than fights, emphasizing that such differences are integral to a healthy relationship and prevent monotony. They also revealed that Abhishek is usually the first to apologize after a disagreement and shared a rule they abide by—they never sleep on an argument.

Abhishek jokingly added, "Mostly, we say sorry because we want to sleep!" He humorously acknowledged, "Besides, women are the superior race, and they're always right. The sooner men accept that, the better. It doesn't matter what you say, even if you have concrete proof, in their world, it's futile, it makes no sense."

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan tied the knot in 2007 and welcomed their daughter Aaradhya Bachchan in 2011. They are widely regarded as a power couple and a happy family. Despite occasional divorce rumours circulating earlier this year, both have refrained from commenting, choosing instead to focus on their family and careers. Their recent public appearances together have effectively quelled any such speculations.

#### Tabu calls Ajay Devgn a 'silent bully'

Tabu, gearing up for the release of Neeraj Pandey's *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha* alongside Ajay Devgn, recently discussed her long-standing friendship with the actor and her aversion to playing younger characters.

The film, which also stars Shantanu Maheshwari and Saiee Manjrekar as their younger counterparts, follows the journey of star-crossed lovers reuniting after 22 years. Tabu admitted to her initial concerns about portraying a younger version of herself in such a lengthy love story. In a recent interview with News 18 Showsha, she expressed her relief upon learning that younger actors would take on those roles.

"My first question to Neeraj was about the younger parts. When he assured me that different actors would portray our younger selves, I felt relieved. De-aging can sometimes feel gimmicky, especially if the audience is familiar with our current looks," she explained.

At 52, Tabu believes in embracing aging gracefully. "Audiences have seen how we look now. Whether older actors can convincingly play younger roles depends on the film's context. In *Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha*, it made more sense to cast younger actors," she said.

Reflecting on the evolution of casting practices in Bollywood, she noted that age-appropriate casting was more common in the past. "In earlier times, different actors played younger versions before transitioning into roles, like Dharmendra or Dilip Kumar. This film continues that tradition," she emphasized.

When it comes to playing younger characters, Tabu clarified her stance. "Unlike male actors, I wouldn't accept such roles anymore. I have to embrace my age," she asserted candidly.

In Crew, Tabu humorously comments on Kareena Kapoor Khan's character's meticulous makeup application, quipping, "Bas kar Cleopatra! Makeup hai, time machine nahi!" (Stop it, Cleopatra! It's just makeup, not a



time machine.)

Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha marks Tabu's tenth collaboration with Ajay Devgn, highlighting a friendship that extends beyond their professional partnership. She humorously remarked, "If you ask me about my friendship with Ajay one more time, he might just end it himself!"

Tabu has often playfully described Ajay as a 'silent bully' with a knack for mischief. "He's quite the sneaky prankster. You'd never suspect he's up to something," she revealed.

During the trailer launch, she noted that Ajay enjoys gossip, teasingly shifting the blame onto her. "That's completely untrue! He's just trying to tarnish my reputation. I hardly know anything about anyone in the industry —barely even about myself!" she laughed, dismissing the jibe.

Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha is set to release in theaters on August 12.

#### Randeep Hooda reveals the true purpose of Bollywood parties

After Parineeti Chopra's comments on the Bollywood scene, Randeep Hooda recently shared his perspective on the true nature of industry parties. In an interview with Bharti TV, Randeep acknowledged that while he enjoys partying, he prefers to do so at home

with friends. "Party toh bahot karte hain, par ab apne ghar pe karte hain," he stated.

Reflecting on his early career, Randeep recalled attending many Bollywood parties where he would often get drunk and miss out on valuable networking opportunities. "I attended a lot of these parties in the beginning. Mujhe bahut baad me pata chala ki yeh to networking parties hoti," he said, admitting he initially treated them as casual gatherings. "Pata nahin kis ko kya bola hoga?" he joked, noting that he often spoke too freely.

The Swatantra Veer Savarkar actor mentioned how industry insiders used these parties to connect with influential people in hopes of securing new projects. "I



later realized that you're not supposed to just party. You need to hold a drink, exchange pleasantries, and discuss who is working on what project. Hum toh do teen taka tak laga lete the aur kisko kya bola woh toh Ram jaane," he added, highlighting the difference between genuine friendships and industry networking.

Randeep concluded, "Bollywood parties are just networking events,

not real parties. You party with your real friends who you're comfortable with."

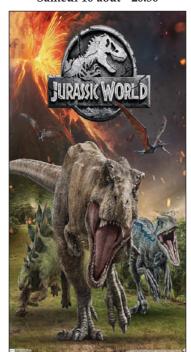
A few months ago, Parineeti Chopra discussed similar challenges in Bollywood, emphasizing the importance of socializing with other stars and producers to secure roles. She noted that success isn't solely based on talent but often involves being part of specific circles. Parineeti admitted that she doesn't frequently attend events where opportunities arise, wishing for directors and producers to consider her for her skills and dedication.

Randeep was last seen in *Swatantra Veer Savarkar*, which received critical acclaim, although he expressed disappointment with its box office performance.













## Programme TV



MBC 3

SERIAL



Cine 12

10.00 Serial: Espoirs Secrets

10.43 Mag: Receipes For Kids

11.00 Film: L'Odyssée D'Albert

13.30 Film: Ghoster, Le Fantome..

15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2

15.07 D.Anime: Earth To Luna!

15.24 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal

16.18 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter

17.12 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S.

20.50 Turning Vapor Into Drinking 21.40 Film: A Farewell To Arms

23.09 Iran From Above The Deserts

07.01 D.Anime: The Jungle Book

09.55 D.Anime: Early Learning

10.00 Serial: Espoirs Secrets

10.42 Mag: Recipes For Kids

15.29 D.Anime: Jungle Book

16.07 D.Anime: Sonic Room

16.39 D.Anime: Miraculous

18.00 Mag: In Good Shape

20.30 Live: News

06.25 D.Anime: Agent

11 00 Film: A R I 12.31 Mag: In Good Shape

20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimei

12.46 Doc: Bring Her Home

06.25 Mag: Shift

Caillous





#### MBC 1

07.30 Serial: Madam Secretary 08.38 Tele: Amour Secret 09.30 Film: Code Mercury 11.30 The Gardener's Daughter 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Terre Nostra 13.35 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 14.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins

17.10 Mag: Meet The Costume... 17.30 The Gardener's Daughter 18.30 Other: Radha Krishna 19.00 Serial: Swaran Ghar 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Death And The Maiden 22.06 Tele: Terra Nostra 22.59 The Gardener's Daughter 23.35 Le Journal 01.10 Serial: Le Chemin Du Destin

06.05 Les Grandes Lignes 08.30 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 10.35 Local: J'ai Faim 11.00 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 12.00 Rodrig Prog: Decouvertes 12.51 Rodrig Prog: Sa Lavi-La 14.17 Local: J'ai Faim 14.43 Local: Artizan 16.23 Local: La Sosiete 17.30 Live: Farmers Excellence Award Scheme 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi... 19.36 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 20.05 Local: Animalia Nos Amis 20.32 Local: Lir - Ekrir Kreol 22.00 Local: La Sosiete 22.44 Rodrig Prog: Itinerer Rodrig 23.46 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 00.12 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 00.49 Local: Retrovizer 01.04 Local: Couleur Marine

MBC 2

07.00 Serial: Gadget Guru Ganesha 08.01 MBC Prod: Amrit Vaani

06.38 Mag: Carnet De Sante 07.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De 09.18 Local: Hunarbaaz 10.00 Serial: Agniphera 07.39 D.Anime: The Treasure Island 12.00 Film: Har Har Gange 08.09 D.Anime: Yo Yo Starring: Neera, Ashish Kumar, 09.06 Film: Ferdinand Aniana Mumtaz 10.42 D.Anime: Malory Towers 15.00 Live: Samachar 11.41 Mag: Shift 15.30 Serial: Senhur 11.53 Carnet De Sante 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron 16.30 Live From MGI Vishwarang 12.08 Doc: Ageless Gardens 12.39 Mag: Tomorrow Today 2024 13.05 Mag: Healthy Living 13.30 Film: Souris City 19.50 Local: Khoobsurat 20.05 Local: Mati Ke Mol 14.55 Les Nouvelles Aventures. 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 15.04 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 21.00 Film: Jwala 15.17 D.Anime: Le Rythme De La. Cast: :Starring Khesari Lal Yadav, Tanu Shree Chatterjee 15.24 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 15.31 D.Anime: Jungle Book 23.33 Serial: Mere Sai 16.43 D.Anime: Miraculous 00.28 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 17.32 Serial: Lost & Found Music... 00.51 Serial: Senhur 06.00 D.Anime: Giant 07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 06.25 D.Anime: Agent 203 07.08 Serial: Kisna 09.54 D.Anime: Early Learning 08.26 Local: Mati Ke Mol 10.21 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 11.45 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo

12.11 Local: Mati Ke Mol 12.37 Local: Khel Khiladi 14.06 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Rangeela Starring Amir Khan, Urmila Matondkar, Jackie Shroff 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.00 Duniya Mein Is Saptah 19.30 Local: Tohar Farmaish 21.00 Film: Deadline Starring Rajit Kapoor, Konkona Sen Sharma, Jhanak Shukla 22.37 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.03 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 00.51 Film: Deadline

07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.12 Serial: Kisna 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness Challenge 08.26 Local: Puranya Pakwan 08.53 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 12.00 Film: Boxer 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan 16.53 Local: Ekta 18.00 Live: Samacha

18.30 Live From IGCIC, Phoenix Aradhna Ramayan 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.00 Serial: CID 21.45 Serial: Naagin 22.30 Serial: Bahubali 23.10 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna 00.11 Local: Planet Bollywood 00.36 Local: Yaadein

13.30 Film: Jurassic Planet 15.08 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.24 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 15.29 D.Anime: Jungle Book 16.00 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.05 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.39 D.Anime Miraculous... 17.01 D.I.Y. Discover Your Inner. 17.06 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S 17.29 Serial: Lost & Found Music 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 20.50 Doc: Brilliant Corners 21.40 Film: La Liste De Schindler 06.25 Doc: Japan Video Topics 07.00 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti 07.21 D.Anime: Romy And Boo

#### Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.48 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte

15.25 Film: Aashiqui.In Starring Ishaan Singh Manhas, Ankita Srivastava, Dheeraj Miglani 18.00 Live: Samachar

18.31 Kundali Bhaqya

19.01 Udaariyaan

19.32 Fanaa

20.01 Sasural Simar Ka 2

20.31 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala

21.01 Anupamaa

21.22 Mere Sai

22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se

22.32 Swaran Ghar

22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa

23.30 Film: Aashiqui.In Starring Ishaan Singh Manhas, Ankita Srivastava, Dheeraj...

08 00 Swaran Ghar

10.19 Sasural Simar Ka 2

11.59 Udaariyaan 13.52 Anupamaa

16.00 Fanaa

18.31 Film: Poorna

Starring Aditi Inam Bose, Heeba Shah



20.19 Porus

20.40 CID

21.23 Swaran Ghar

00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 01.40 Udaariyaan

03.55 Anupamaa

05.48 Fanaa

07.58 Tenali Rama

08.31 Patiala Babes

10.02 Kundali Bhaqva

12.10 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2

14.15 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se

16.10 Wagle Ki Duniya

18.31 Film: Paathshala

Starring: Shahid Kapoor

Kareena Kapoo

20.27 Dance India Dance Little

Masters

21.12 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte

Hai 2

23.00 Patiala Babes

14.25 Radha Mohan 06.01 Tele: Tour De Babel 07.46 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.26 Serial: The Bionic Woman 09.11 Local: Clin D'Oeil 08.00 Local: Planet Bollywood 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 08.13 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 09.08 Local: Rajesh Khanna 10.48 Local: Le Challenge 08.53 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis 09 48 Serial: Rahuhali 09 06 Film: Chasseur De Monstres Starring: Rajpal Yadav 11.08 Local: Les Klips 10.40 D.Anime: Malory Towers 10.24 Saaton Vachanwa Saath... 09.30 Film: Ghostbusters 11.52 Local: Nu Rasinn 11.33 The Gardener's Daughter 12.43 Doc: Albania's Last Trains



15.50 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.02 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.13 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.36 D.Anime: Miraculous...

16.57 Serial: D.I.Y. Discover Your. 17.10 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent

21.16 Film: Fast And Furious

19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer

15.25 Film: Satrangee Parachute



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 21.36 Mere Sai

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03 53 Serial: Blue Bloods

07.00 Serial: Heartland

08.30 Serial: Seal Team

12.00 Le Journal

15.00 Live: Samachar

18.00 Live: Samachar

19.30 Le Journal

23.36 Le Journal

10.00 Serial: Blue Bloods

10.49 Serial: Chicago Med

04.35 The Gardener's Daughter

06.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer

09.15 Serial: Madam Secretary

11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer

12.25 Serial: Under Pressure

13.10 Tele: Sublime Mensonge

15.25 Film: Death And The Maiden

16.57 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge

18.31 Enter: Dance India Dance...

23.11 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

04.51 The Gardener's Daughter 06.12 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer

08.40 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man

Avec James Maslow, Haley

06.40 Film: Jurassic World

10.50 Serial: Chicago Med

12.00 Le Journal

09.25 Film: Three Doors From

11.32 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer

12.35 Film: Love Exclusively

15.20 Serial: Radhi Krishna

15.21 Film: Viceroy's House

18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna

00.15 Serial: Sublime Mensonge

18.00 Live: Samachar

20.30 Film: Ghostbusters

23.10 Serial: Red Carpet

19.30 Le Journal

12.00 Le Journal

12.25 Serial: Terra Nostra

13.43 Tele: Pasion Y Poder

15.25 Film: Apache Drums

18.00 Live: Samachar

19.30 Le Journal

23.35 Le Journal

18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti

20.40 Serial: Seal Team

21.13 Serial: Heartland

22.41 Tele: Terra Nostra

18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar

14.11 Serial: The Bionic Wom

17.30 The Gardener's Daughter

13.18 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin

17.05 Meet The Costume Designers

Paradise

20.30 Film: Jurassic World

22 27 Serial: Blue Bloods

06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 06.26 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 07.32 Local: Lir - Ekrir Kreol

08.24 Rodrig Prog: Ala Nou Vini 10.29 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: La Sosiete 16.13 La Journee Sous Le Regard 16.43 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.00 Tele: Gout De L'Amour

19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Miss Universe Mauritius 2024 21.00 Moris Orkestra Concert 22.00 Local: Glwar Dantan

22.26 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 23.19 Rodrig Prog: Kot Nou 23.49 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 00.34 Local: Saver Kiltirel

01.00 Rodrig Prog: Promnad 07.16 Local: Saver Kiltirel 09.38 Local: Lavi Zoli AN XXL 10.07 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion

11.03 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.48 Local: Elle 14.42 Local: Les Grands Moments 14.57 Local: En Forme

15.17 Local: Nos Aines 16.35 Local: Tous Egaux 17.09 Local: Aktiv 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

17.05 Tele: L'Empire DU Mensonge 20.45 Local: Les Klips 21.37 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 23.00 Zournal Kreol 22.28 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man

23.20 Local: Arsiv MBC

23.46 Local: Mangeons Veg 00.12 Rodrig Prog: Komanter

12.44 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14 04 Local: File 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: Nos Aines 20.22 Eclairage Economique

19.00 Local Prod Serial 19.30 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 20.36 Film: Around The World 20.37 Local: Tous Egaux 20.52 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 21.25 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante Abhisek

11.04 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Jai Radhe Krishna 15.29 Serial: Senhur 15.45 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaein

Starring: Raj Kapoor, Rajshree 22.40 Serial: Mere Sai 23.33 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 23.59 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaein 00.51 Local: Excerpts From Shiv

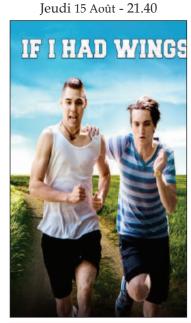












# Programme TV



MBC 3

Ki Kahani









**Bollywood TV** 

14.25 Radha Mohan

#### MBC 1

04.55 The Gardener's Daughter 07.08 Serial: Seal Team 08.22 Tele: Amour Secret 09.15 Film: Fast And Furious 11.30 The Gardener's Daughter 12.00 Le Journal 0 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 0 13.46 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 3 15.25 Film: Viceroy's House 17.00 Hollywood On Set 0 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 22.21 Tele: Terra Nostra

23.14 The Gardener's Daughter

07.25 Serial: The Bionic Woman

09.01 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

09.35 Film: Retour Vers Le Futur

13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin

14.11 Serial: The Bionic Woman

17.32 The Gardener's Daughter

15.25 Film: Death And The Maiden

21.25 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins

11.30 The Gardener's Daughter

08.13 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer

08 39 Tale: Amour Secret

12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra

15.00 Live: Samachar

18.00 Live: Samachar

18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti

18.55 Serial: Swaran Ghar

19.30 Journal & La Meteo

23.15 Tele: Terra Nostra

12.00 Le Journal

12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra

13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder

15.25 Film: Ghostbusters

18.00 Live: Samachar

19.30 Le Journal

18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti

18.56 Serial: Swaran Ghar

20.30 Film: Mangal Pandey

22.41 Tele: Terra Nostra

Stars: Aamir Khan, Rani Mukerii.

Toby Stephe

00.20 The Gardener's Daughter

20.30 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani

07.25 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani

08.20 Serial: Le Temps D'Aimer

09.13 Tele: L'Envers Du Paradis

11.30 The Gardener's Daughter

13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin

14.10 Serial: Gout De L'Amour

17.15 The Gardener's Daughter

09.35 Film: Florence Foster Jenkins

13.46 Tele: Pasion Y Poder

12.00 Le Journal

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**Mauritius Times** 

MBC 2 07.12 Eclairage Economique 09.20 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif 10.49 Local: Lir - Ekrir Kreol 11.16 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei 11.59 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 13.28 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 14.06 Local: Itinerer Moris 15.25 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 15.54 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 17.02 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.25 Tele: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 19.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.00 Local: Generations J 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 2022 00.06 Local: Profil 07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha

08.26 Local: Samarpan

10.21 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki...

15.50 Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana

18.00 Serial: Radha Krishna

19.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol

20.15 Local: Gyan Vigyan

Watan Sathiyo

23.40 Serial: Mere Sai

11.00 Local: Les Klips

12.06 Local: Rodrig Spor 12.29 Mon Jardin Ma Maison

13.32 Local: Agir Ensemble

14.14 Local: Klip Seleksion

15.08 Come On Let's Dance

18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder

19.15 Le Magazine De L'Emploi

20.23 Local: Femme Engagee

23.16 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion

00.01 Local: Generations J

20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes

22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard.

18.31 Tele: Amour Secret

13.58 Local: Proze Dime

16.15 Local: Aktiv

19.00 Zournal Kreol

21.15 Local: Le Mag

13.06 Local: Toc Toc Doc

06.51 Local: Aktiv

20.27 Mag: Discover Life 21.00 Film: Ab Tumhare Hawale

07.26 Local: Nelson Mandela Day

Star: Manoj Kumar, Vijaya

12.00 Film: Banarasi Thug

Choudhour

14.35 Mag: Eco India

15.00 Samachar

18 30 Local: Yatra

19.00 Local: Kala

20.00 Local: Virasat

15.30 Senhur

07.12 Serial: Kisna 08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaven 08.27 Local: Hindi Sahitya 08.53 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek 09.33 Local: Vishwarang 2024 10.31 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Jhumroo Starring: Kishore Kumar, Madhubala, Chanchal 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Badki Malkaain 16.00 Serial: Shaurya Aur Anokhi 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Tark Vitark 19.15 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 08.45 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 09.29 Chikitsa Aur Swasthey

20.00 Chikitsa Aur Swasthva 20.30 Film: Chhote Sarkai 22.58 Serial: Mere Sai 07.00 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.12 Serial: Kisna 07.24 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.36 Serial: Lambu G Tingu 08.38 Local: Bhojpuri Dhamaka 09.13 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki... 12.00 Film: Banarasi Thug Starring: Manoj Kumar, Vijaya 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Senhur 16.20 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: AB Tumhare Hawale Watan Sathiyo 23 26 Serial: Mere Sai 07.12 Serial: Kisna 07.24 Serial: Tenali Rama 08.27 Local: Kala 09.19 Local: Virasat

09.34 Local: Gyan Vigyan

10.00 Serial: Zindagi Mere Ghar

Aana 11.30 Radha Krishna 11.51 Aai Aur Kal Bollywood Hit 14.00 Live from SVICC Best FM Concert 13.30 Mag: Bharat Bhagya 16.00 Serial: Agniphera 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.29 Local: Amrit Vaani 18.39 Local: Bhaian Sandhva 20.05 Local: Hunarbaaz 20 30 Local: Shiy Shakti 21.00 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya 21.30 Mag: Dharam Yatra 22.00 Serial: Mere Sai

11.13 Mag: Eco Africa 12.09 Doc: Ageless Gardens 11.39 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.37 Mag: In Good Shape 12.56 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.30 Film: The Magic Kids 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.05 D.Anime: Earth To Luna! 15.51 D.Anime: Robin De Bois 16 03 D Anime: Sonic Boom 16.15 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.56 D.I.Y. Discover. 17.30 Serial: Lost & Found 18.00 Mag: Rev 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.11 Film: Death And The Maiden 08.36 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 14.25 Radha Mohan

MBC 5

07.00 D.Anime: Eddie Is A Yeti

09.12 Film: Nils Holgerssons

08.39 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 14.58 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.22 Film: The Camp Starring Sonali Kulkarni, Rakesh Bedi, Sanjay Mishra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhaqva 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 23.25 Film: The Camp Starring Sonali Kulkarni, Rakesh Bedi, Sanjay Mishra 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.25 Film: My Angel My

09.11 Film: Simba 10.38 D.Anime: Malory Towers 12.06 Mag: Healthy Living 12.21 Doc: Top Dive Sites 12.51 Mag: Initiative Africa 13.30 Film: Zombillenium 14.50 Les Aventures Du Petit Ping 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.05 D.Anime: Earth To Luna! 15.26 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal 15.28 D.Anime: Jungle Book 16.04 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.39 Serial: Miraculous... 17.01 Serial: D.I.Y. Discover. 17.31 Serial: Lost & Found 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Tarvel 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer

21.16 Film: Jurassic World

Teacher Starring: Varun Choudhary, Chandni, Azmat Khwaja, Shoib Nikash Shah 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhaqya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Fanaa 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.06 Anupamaa 21.28 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.31 Swaran Ghar 23.01 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: My Angel My Teacher

10.40 D.Anime: Malory Towers 11.37 Mag: Travel 12.35 Doc: Submerged Universe 13.30 Film: Pirates 15.03 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.08 D.Anime: Earth To Luna! 15.20 D.Anime: Le Rythme De La.

06.40 Mag: Planet A

15.43 D.Anime: Jungle Book 15.55 D.Anime: Robin Des Bois 16.06 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.42 Serial: Miraculous... 17.04 Serial: D.I.Y. Discover

08.27 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs

08.39 D.Anime: The Psymmy Show

17.13 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S 17.36 Serial: Lost & Found Music 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.16 Film: If I Had Wings

14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 15.22 Film: Golmaal Kids Stars: Kiran Janjani, Preeti Puri, Rahki Tondon 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 Anupamaa 21.30 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se

22 37 Swaran Ghar 23.02 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.11 Film: Golmaal Kids Stars: Kiran Janjani, Preeti Puri, Rahki Tondon



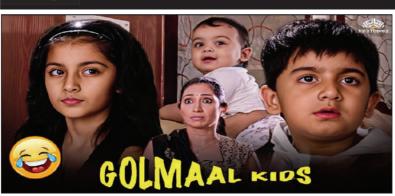
Jeudi 15 Août - 15.25

Stars: Kiran Janjani, Preeti Puri, Rahki Tondon



Jeudi 15 Août - 20.30

Stars: Aamir Khan, Rani Mukerji, **Toby Stephens** 





# What the 2024 Olympics tells us about global geopolitics

ince the Olympic Games in Paris began, the French president, Emmanuel Macron, has posted the statement "This is France!" several times on his social media platforms.

Macron has been implicitly asserting that he is delivering on his personal vision of the event, and of France. Since his election in 2017, he has sought to project a diverse, cosmopolitan and outward-facing France while at the same time strengthening existing preconceptions of its style, culture and history.

The opening ceremony was therefore the embodiment of Macron's ambitions. It combined landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and key figures from French history, such as Marie Antoinette, with cultural, musical and fashion representations of modern France. These included surfers, rappers and members of LGBTQ+ communities.

In owever, as recent events in French domestic politics have demonstrated, many among the country's population do not like their president's vision. Those from the extreme left balk at what they see as Macron's globalist tendencies, which the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is sharing and accentuating by staging the Games.

Meanwhile, those from the extreme right have long resented and resisted Macron's Parisian-centric and urban-led vision of diversity and modernity. This was evident in reactions to the opening ceremony's depiction of Leonardo da Vinci's painting, The Last Supper, in which drag queens, a transgender model and a naked singer appeared. France's Catholic church condemned the sketch as a "mockery of Christianity".

Paris Olympic organisers have since issued an apology, though this is unlikely to have placated Muslim communities around the world. Some among them labelled parts of the opening ceremony "absurd", "disgusting" and a "promotion of satanic forms". Others saw it as an attempt by the west to impose its values on them.

This sentiment was apparently shared by the Chinese state broadcaster, China Central Television, whose event commentators went quiet during the segments in which members of LGBTQ+ communities appeared. China has a record of seeking to suppress these communities.

For some French Muslims, there may also have been dismay at the depiction of a religious scene at an event being staged by



Paris 2024 Olympics - Opening Ceremony - Paris, France - July 26, 2024. The Horsewoman rides on a horse, with people holding flags of participating countries behind, during the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympics.

(Xu Chang/Pool via Reuters)

a French state entity. After all, it was announced late last year that Muslim women would not be allowed to wear their hijabs when competing for France at the Olympics. The justification for this decision was that it would breach the country's secularist principles, which create a clear separation between religion and state.

That decision came at an especially sensitive time, following the Hamas-led October 7 attacks and Macron's invitation to France's chief Rabbi to light Hannukah candles at the Élysée Palace. The war in Gaza continues to cast a shadow over the Games. Indeed, there are rumours of some athletes being prepared to withdraw from the event if they are required to compete directly against an Israeli athlete.

The simmering threat of such direct action has already manifested itself at the Games. During a football match between Mali and Israel on July 24, members of the crowd unfurled banners condemning the latter country and waved flags in support of Palestine. The vast majority (95%) of Malians are Muslim, and there are 120,000 people from Mali living in France.

#### Limited Russian presence

Israel is not the only country where there is some disquiet. Following recent doping scandals and the invasion of Ukraine, most Russian and Belarusian athletes are banned from participating in Paris. A few athletes are competing as neutrals, but national flags, anthems and other national symbols are banned, and no government or state officials have been invited.

The exclusion of Russia has led to speculation that its agents may have been responsible for a series of railway sabotages that caused significant travel disruption on the opening day of the Games. Though nobody was hurt or killed, such attacks undermine public confidence, impose economic and social costs on people, and were clearly an attempt to tarnish the image of France.

France has a longheld reputation for successfully delivering numerous major events each year. However, there was also disruption at the Uefa Champions League final in 2022, which was being staged at the Stade de France (the main Olympic venue this summer). Many Liverpool supporters were put through a traumatising experience when entering the stadium, and riot police teargassed spectators while failing to protect them from being at-

tacked by local thugs.

This followed Paris quickly stepping in to stage the match after Uefa removed St Petersburg's right to host the game following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Whether these events were another deliberate attempt to diminish France or just a coincidence remains debatable.

Some have suggested that Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, has wanted to undermine the IOC for much of the past decade. He sees it as a western institution governed by values and rules that maintain a dominance he resents.

As such, Russia has been planning to host the World Friendship Games a little more than a month after the Paris Olympics finishes. While there is some confusion over whether the event will be postponed to 2025, there are claims that more than 100 nations have already committed to participating in what may ultimately come to pose an existential threat to the modern Olympic movement.

The IOC normally does its utmost to control the places and spaces that it selects to host Olympic events, whether that means suppressing displays of activism, preventing acts of terrorism, or even minimising the commercial intrusion of brands that have no legal right to associate with the event.

However, such is the currently fractious nature of local and global geopolitics that we should expect more controversy before the Olympic flame in Paris is finally extinguished.

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#### & Paul Widdop

Associate Professor of Sport Business, Manchester Metropolitan University



So much of the human experience is removed from nature that we forget we are products of the natural world

o much of the human experience is removed from nature that we tend to forget that we are products of the natural world. At the moment of birth, we are perfectly attuned to nature. Our feelings are an authentic response to the stimulus we encounter. We interact with our environment viscerally, desiring only what is necessary for our survival. And, if we are lucky, we take in nourishment in the form of pure mother's milk.

As months and years pass, however, we discover the sights, sounds, and scents of the synthetic world. Though these often momentarily dazzle us, the dim memory of our naturalness remains. When we embrace the notion that human beings are inherently natural, bringing it to the forefront of our day-to-day experiences, we achieve a new level of wellness that boasts nature at its very core.

We innately understand that our bodies are not composed of plastics or human-made chemicals and that there is no legitimate reason to consume or expose ourselves to such substances. This knowledge is reinforced each time we find ourselves energized by sweet, fresh air and warm sunlight or awed by the majesty of Mother Nature's beauty. We feel the strength of our connection to nature when we eat fresh food that is close to the Earth.

The human body has been blessed with the same physical intuitiveness that all nonhuman living beings employ instinctively. But because our lives are no longer bound up in nature's rhythms, we must actively seek to reconnect with this formerly innate skill. The process of rediscovering our place in the natural world can be exciting and inspiring, since nothing more is required of us than to delight in outdoor wonders, to derive nourishment from natural foods, and to drink deeply of all the wisdom that plants and animals have to share.

Your own naturalness will reveal itself to you when you look beyond your beliefs, your lifestyle choices, and the attitudes you hold. When these constructs are stripped away, you will see a body and mind that never gave up its relationship to the essence of the natural world from which consciousness sprang.

DailyOm