

MAURITIUS TIMES

• Trust is fundamental, reciprocal, and pervasive. If it is present, anything is possible. If it is absent, nothing is possible. -- George P. Schultz



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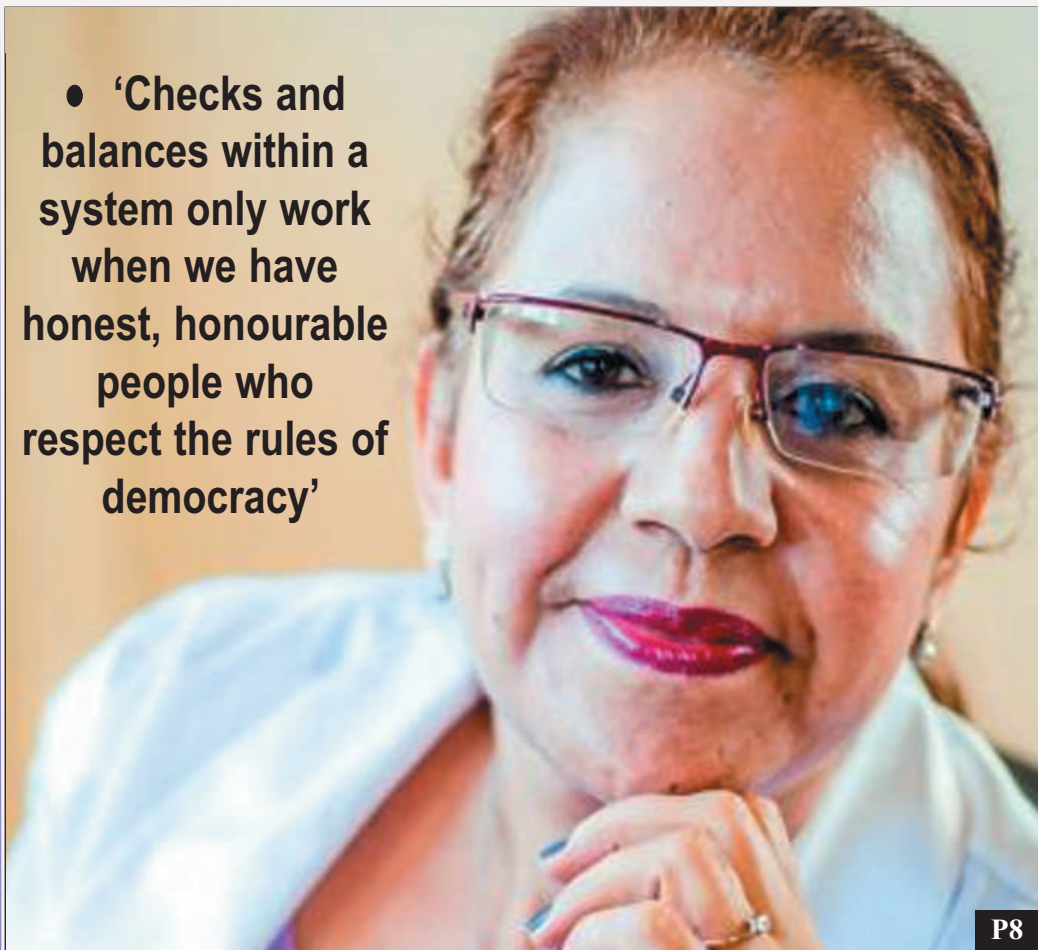
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• 'Checks and balances within a system only work when we have honest, honourable people who respect the rules of democracy'



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The State Land's Organised Leak

Deputy Prime Minister Steven Obeegadoo, who also holds the portfolios of Housing, Land Use Planning, and Tourism, has become the victim of what appears to be an organised leak regarding an application made by his mother, Primerose Obeegadoo, to alter the lease of State land originally held by his father for educational purposes to allow the construction of a home for the elderly. This type of leak is usually orchestrated by individuals or groups within or outside the government to expose what they perceive to be controversial land deals, often implicating politicians, political cronies, or influential figures, and its purpose may be to influence public opinion, create political pressure, or undermine opponents or even party colleagues by revealing perceived favouritism, corruption, or unethical practices related to the distribution or use of state lands.

Minister Obeegadoo denies that any special consideration was given to the application and, to avoid any perception of a conflict of interest, he renounced his inheritance rights. He was also absent from the Cabinet meeting that approved the change of purpose for the lease. However, Steven Obeegadoo, along with Alan Ganoo, is a leader of Linite Militant, which, like other potential allies of Pravind Jugnauth, is currently negotiating with the MSM to possibly review the terms of the alliance that brought former MMM figures like Alan Ganoo, Ivan Collendavelloo, and Steven Obeegadoo himself under the MSM-led alliance in the 2019 elections. Finding himself in this predicament at a time when the MSM-Linite Militant negotiations remain unresolved, especially as the MSM leader appears to favour a more productive alliance with his new ally, Xavier Duval's PMSD, complicates matters for Obeegadoo and Ganoo, who also faces challenges in securing favourable constituencies for his trusted and close party members.

There is no suggestion that Steven Obeegadoo would be involved in the kind of controversial "transactions" that have made headlines in the past. He asserts that his conscience is clear, yet this embarrassing situation for him personally and in his capacity of leader of Linite Militant once again brings the long-standing State lands saga to the forefront. It is possible that this may not be the last of such controversies, whether real or perceived. Given

the persistence of these alleged "transactions" where State lands have been distributed to political cronies, supporters, and close associates of those in power, without any corrective measures by successive governments, the public has come to assume that such questionable practices will continue unchecked.

Readers may recall the allegations made by the then-Opposition against the PMSD and the so-called "Festival de la Terre." Similar accusations were directed at a former Minister of Housing and Lands, whose relative allegedly sold lease rights over a plot of State land to Chinese investors with the minister's approval. A more recent case that garnered attention involved the 'Black Label Stag Party,' reportedly held to celebrate a deal concerning hundreds of acres of State land near Grand Bassin, in which bribe money was allegedly exchanged. These allegations contribute to the perception that political cronies, financiers, and even family members are covertly assisted in acquiring State land. Such accusations have been made against successive governments, typically by the Opposition. Once in power, this Opposition faces similar allegations from the newly displaced government. Yet, no concrete actions have been taken to put an end to these practices.

What is striking and frustrating for the thousands of citizens who care about the country and its limited resources is that despite the many controversies surrounding the allocation of State land over the years, there is no guarantee that a transparent mechanism will be introduced to prevent every such deal from being tainted by corruption. Transparency should clearly be the reasonable course to follow.

Economists and other experts argue that it is not the role of governments to make decisions regarding the allocation of commercial public property to individuals. Governments should establish broad policies about which State lands can be allocated and under what conditions, and their role should end there. It is clearly inadvisable to allow the current state of affairs to persist, as these secretive deals do not serve the interests of the people at large. It would be regrettable if the Opposition Alliance, which is campaigning on a platform of 'Changement,' were to let the people down on this front should it be elected to power next time around.

The Conversation



Asked directly about climate action in the first 2024 presidential debate, Trump just referred irrelevantly to clean water. There was no mention of any action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Pic - Credit Frank Haggerty

What would a second Trump presidency mean for the global economy?

Trump has a poor track record on trade, inflation and taxes but the area of biggest economic concern if he is re-elected president would come from his rejection of climate change

Donald Trump inherited a strong economy from President Obama and managed it poorly.

Real GDP grew more slowly under Trump than it had under any president since the second world war. He was the only president since then to preside over a fall in the number of workers with a job.

In 2016, the United States (US) economy was the world's largest; by 2020 China's was more than 10% bigger.

Trump's economic policies

Would a second Trump presidency be any better? Hopefully, there will not be another pandemic for him to mismanage. But his policies suggest the economy would again do poorly.

Admittedly, it is hard to be sure about the policies Trump would adopt in a second term as his record of implementing his promises is so poor. Mexico never paid for a border wall. Hillary Clinton was not locked up. And I doubt many Americans were "tired of winning".

The provision of policy detail has not been a defining feature of Trump's rallies. There is a lot of detail in the 900 pages of Project 2025, produced by right-wing think tank the Heritage Foundation and whose writers include many former Trump advisors.

But Trump has disowned it. On his social media site he said both that "I disagree with some of the things they're saying" and "I know nothing about Project 2025".

Trump and Elon Musk

In businessman and investor Elon Musk's rambling conversation with him on X, Trump had little to say about economics beyond not taxing tips. The moderators in the debate with Harris did try to elucidate more about his economic plans but it was a struggle.

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Elections et alliances

Le choix stratégique de ReA accentue la bipolarisation politique

Aditya Narayan

L'échiquier politique a connu un développement important la semaine dernière avec la formation de l'Alliance du Changement, qui rassemble trois partis d'opposition parlementaire (Parti travailliste, MMM et Nouveaux Démocrates) et un parti extra parlementaire (Rezistans ek Alternativ – ReA). Par conséquent, le pays s'achemine vers une bataille électorale bipolaire aux prochaines élections législatives avec la confrontation entre deux blocs : l'Alliance du Changement et une alliance MSM-PMSD, soutenue par de petits alliés. L'opposition extra parlementaire, constituée d'une multitude de forces disparates, ne semble pas pouvoir tempérer cette tendance à la bipolarisation politique.

En effet, l'intégration de ReA dans l'alliance de l'opposition parlementaire est venue consacrer la bipolarisation de l'échiquier politique, laquelle est encouragée par le système de scrutin trinomial à majorité relative ("First Past The Post" - FPTP). À son crédit, ReA a réalisé que ce système électoral ne donne aucune chance aux petits partis aux élections législatives où les gens ont tendance à voter utile.

Quatre options

ReA avait quatre options dans la perspective des prochaines élections.

Faire cavalier seul comme un parti de gauche en présentant certains candidats aux élections avec le risque certain de ne faire élire aucun député sous le système de FPTP, qui favorise les grands partis.

Rejoindre l'opposition extra parlementaire (Linion Moris ou Reform Party) en vue de présenter une troisième alternative tout en sachant que cette troisième force n'aura pas d'influence significative dans une bataille essentiellement bipolaire où l'enjeu des élections est le changement par rapport au statu quo.

Se rallier à l'alliance PTr-MMM-ND qui représente l'alternative démocratique la plus crédible et viable au gouvernement



“La participation de ReA à l'Alliance du Changement a ceci de particulier qu'elle apporte une certaine sensibilité de gauche à un rassemblement des forces de l'opposition parlementaire. Bien que le MMM et le PTr trouvent leur origine dans la lutte ouvrière, ils sont devenus au fil des années des parti sociaux-démocrates qui ont accepté, par pragmatisme politique, de gérer un système de libéralisme économique qui a montré ses faiblesses et ses insuffisances. Aujourd'hui, ils ont besoin d'un courant de pensée social-écologiste, réformiste et progressiste qui apporte de nouvelles idées et une vision alternative du développement qui permettra de rompre avec des schémas de pensée éculés...”

sortant.

S'abstenir de participer aux prochaines élections avec le risque de rester un parti marginal sans aucune influence sur l'électorat.

En choisissant la troisième option, ReA a abandonné tout dogmatisme idéologique pour rejoindre une alliance d'opposition, qui est plus proche de ses préoccupations socio-économiques, capable d'accéder au pouvoir et disposée à faire certains changements fondamentaux dans la gouvernance du pays. En restant fidèle à ses principes, ReA a voulu être quand même réaliste pour s'assurer une place dans un prochain gouvernement d'alternance. Il est animé par l'esprit du compromis afin de participer éventuellement à l'exercice du pouvoir. Les puristes idéologiques à gauche parleront de compromission mais ils refusent de voir la réalité en face: la politique exige une stratégie de prise de pou-

voir pour apporter les changements désirables.

Comment ReA en est-il arrivé là? Il faut remonter dans le temps pour mieux comprendre ce parti. Depuis quelque temps, ReA avait appelé à une unification des forces de l'opposition pour affronter un «gouvernement autocratique» qui avait dépassé certaines lignes rouges, selon son analyse. Ces lignes rouges comprendraient l'assassinat d'un activiste politique comme établi par une enquête judiciaire, les mesures liberticides diverses, les dérives anti-démocratiques, la mise sous tutelle politique des institutions et les entorses à l'Etat de droit. ReA avait donc entamé des pourparlers avec l'opposition extra parlementaire, toutes tendances confondues, en vue de dégager une plateforme commune.

Toutefois, ces pourparlers n'ont mené nulle part car l'opposition extra-parlementaire est restée empêtrée dans le carcan du slogan "Ni Navin ni Pravind". Pour dépasser ce réductionnisme politique, ReA a alors lancé l'idée de rassembler l'opposition réformiste autour d'un gouvernement de transition qui puisse jeter les jalons des changements constitutionnels allant dans le sens d'une meilleure démocratie représentative. Il a donc fait une ouverture vers l'alliance PTr-MMM-ND avec pour objectif de dégager une alterna-

tive qui puisse ratisser large au sein de l'électorat.

Contradiction principale

La démarche de ReA est hautement stratégique. Conformément à une analyse politique pointue, ce parti s'est rendu compte qu'il fallait résoudre la contradiction principale dans la politique locale, c'est-à-dire l'opposition entre deux tendances politiques antinomiques, une tendance autocratique représentée par le gouvernement en place et une tendance progressiste représentée par l'opposition parlementaire. Il s'agissait d'identifier l'obstacle principal au changement et présenter l'alternative capable de renverser le statu quo. L'obstacle principal est le gouvernement en place dont la reconduction au pouvoir approfondirait «l'autocratisation» du système politique. Les contradictions entre les différents partenaires de l'alliance sont donc considérées mineures ou secondaires dans ce cas de figure.

La participation de ReA à cette alliance a ceci de particulier qu'elle apporte une certaine sensibilité de gauche à un rassemblement des forces de l'opposition parlementaire. Bien que le MMM et le PTr trouvent leur origine dans la lutte ouvrière, ils sont devenus au fil des années des partis sociaux-démocrates qui ont accepté, par pragmatisme politique, de gérer un système de libéralisme économique qui a montré ses faiblesses et ses insuffisances. Aujourd'hui, ils ont besoin d'un courant de pensée social-écologiste, réformiste et progressiste qui apporte de nouvelles idées et une vision alternative du développement qui permettra de rompre avec des schémas de pensée éculés.

Né dans la lutte syndicale, ReA représente une certaine conscience sociale par sa proximité avec la classe ouvrière. Il a aussi fait preuve d'une conscience écologique poussée dans le sillage du naufrage du Wakashio en 2020 en mobilisant les gens dans une action visant à limiter les dégâts causés par le déversement d'huiles lourdes dans la mer dans le sud du pays. Sur le plan constitutionnel, son combat légal contre la déclaration ethnique obligatoire des candidats aux élections, un vestige du communalisme d'antan, est connu. Par ailleurs, Il s'est engagé devant le judiciaire pour contester des permis de développement immobilier qui font fi des considérations environnementales, parfois avec succès. ReA a une vision alternative du développement qui tourne le dos au développement débridé de l'immobilier au détriment des besoins de sécurité alimentaire et énergétique du pays.

En somme, la participation de ReA à l'alliance du changement est salutaire pour le pays. Maintenant qu'un accord de principe a été conclu, il appartient à cette alliance de finaliser sa liste de candidats et de peaufiner son manifeste électoral afin de faire face au camp adverse. Celui-ci, s'appuyant sur l'appareil du pouvoir, ne lésine pas sur les moyens et les promesses pour élargir ses assises à travers toutes les couches de l'électorat.

“La participation de ReA à l'Alliance du Changement a ceci de particulier qu'elle apporte une certaine sensibilité de gauche à un rassemblement des forces de l'opposition parlementaire. Bien que le MMM et le PTr trouvent leur origine dans la lutte ouvrière, ils sont devenus au fil des années des parti sociaux-démocrates qui ont accepté, par pragmatisme politique, de gérer un système de libéralisme économique qui a montré ses faiblesses et ses insuffisances. Aujourd'hui, ils ont besoin d'un courant de pensée social-écologiste, réformiste et progressiste qui apporte de nouvelles idées et une vision alternative du développement qui permettra de rompre avec des schémas de pensée éculés...”

Pagers piégés au Liban : Une leçon sur les risques des smartphones

Par A. Bartleby

Le 17 septembre 2024, une série d'explosions simultanées a frappé le Liban, tuant 12 personnes et blessant plus de 2 700. Ces explosions ont été déclenchées par des pagers équipés d'explosifs, selon des responsables américains cités par *The New York Times*. Le lendemain, une nouvelle vague d'explosions, provoquées par des talkies-walkies a secoué le pays, visant vraisemblablement des membres du groupe Hezbollah.

Ces attaques, attribuées à des agents israéliens, font écho à une tactique courante dans les opérations militaires et de renseignement : saboter la chaîne d'approvisionnement pour insérer des dispositifs destructeurs ou espions dans des équipements de communication. Ce type d'intervention n'est pas nouveau. Par exemple, en 2010, il a été révélé que la NSA américaine interceptait du matériel informatique destiné à des clients étrangers pour y insérer des logiciels malveillants avant de les livrer. Une opération similaire a été utilisée en 1996 par le Shin Bet israélien, qui avait inséré des explosifs dans un téléphone portable pour tuer à distance un fabricant de bombes du Hamas.

Selon Richard Forno, maître de conférences en informatique et en génie électrique à l'Université du Maryland, Hezbollah, un adversaire de longue date d'Israël, avait renforcé son utilisation des pagers après une attaque menée par le Hamas contre Israël en octobre 2023. En adoptant des dispositifs de communication plus rudimentaires, tels que les pagers et les talkies-walkies, Hezbollah espérait contourner la capacité sophistiquée d'Israël à traquer les cibles via les téléphones portables.

Smartphones: outils de traçage ultimes

Cette affaire nous rappelle les risques que posent les téléphones portables modernes, qui tout en offrant une multitude de fonctionnalités utiles, sont devenus les outils de surveillance par excellence, que ce soit pour les gouvernements, les entreprises, ou même les utilisateurs eux-mêmes. Grâce aux capacités de localisation intégrées (Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, GPS), ces appareils permettent de suivre les moindres mouvements de leurs propriétaires, souvent à leur insu.

Les données de localisation générées par les téléphones portables sont largement utilisées à des fins légitimes, comme retrouver des personnes disparues ou lutter contre le terrorisme. Cependant, ces mêmes données peuvent être exploitées à des fins malveillantes, comme la surveillance de journalistes, de militants politiques, etc. Il existe de multiples méthodes pour traquer les utilisateurs de smartphones: les autorités peuvent intercepter le signal du téléphone à l'aide de dispositifs appelés *Stingrays* qui imitent les tours cellulaires, ou encore exploiter les informations collectées par les applications installées sur l'appareil.

Pire encore, ces données personnelles peuvent être revendues à des tiers, qu'il s'agisse de gouvernements ou d'entreprises spécialisées dans la publicité. Les smartphones peuvent ainsi révéler beaucoup plus que ce que les utilisateurs sont prêts à partager.



77% des personnes interrogées estiment que la démocratie représentative est un "bon" système de gouvernement, un médian de 59% se déclarent mécontents de son fonctionnement. P - CDN

Qu'en est-il des dispositifs basse technologie?

Contrairement aux smartphones, un pager - qui ne fait que recevoir des messages - ne transmet pas de signal, ce qui complique la tâche des services de renseignement cherchant à traquer les individus qui les utilisent. C'est probablement cette difficulté qui a motivé l'attaque supposée par Israël sur la chaîne d'approvisionnement des pagers du Hezbollah.

Ce recours à des technologies plus simples, comme les pagers ou les messagers à moto, rappelle également les tactiques utilisées par des groupes comme al-Qaïda pour éviter la surveillance. L'adversaire qui utilise des techniques basées sur des technologies rudimentaires peut, dans de nombreux cas, échapper aux méthodes de traçage sophistiquées des agences de renseignement technologiquement avancées.

L'utilisation de moyens de communication dénués de toute composante numérique par des organisations comme Hezbollah ou al-Qaïda met en lumière une réalité à laquelle nous devrions tous prêter attention: il est fort probable que nous soyons tous suivis d'une manière ou d'une autre via nos appareils numériques. L'attaque présumée d'Israël sur les pagers du Hezbollah est également un rappel du fait que tout appareil technologique peut être compromis avant même d'arriver entre nos mains.

Les failles de la vie privée à l'ère des smartphones et des dispositifs connectés

Les smartphones, bien qu'ils facilitent la vie quotidienne, présentent des risques majeurs pour la vie privée. En tant qu'outil de traçage ultime, ils permettent à de nombreux acteurs, allant des gouvernements aux cybercriminels, de suivre, stocker et analyser les mou-

vements et les comportements des utilisateurs.

Les principales menaces pour la vie privée des utilisateurs de smartphones incluent:

Collecte des données de localisation: Les téléphones génèrent constamment des informations de localisation via les réseaux cellulaires, le GPS et le Wi-Fi. Ces données sont souvent partagées avec des applications ou des services tiers, souvent sans que les utilisateurs en soient pleinement conscients.

Suivi des applications: De nombreuses applications mobiles collectent des données sur les activités des utilisateurs, que ce soit pour des raisons commerciales (publicité ciblée) ou à des fins plus néfastes. Les conditions d'utilisation et les politiques de confidentialité, que la plupart des utilisateurs ignorent, contiennent souvent des clauses autorisant ce suivi.

Vente de données: Les données collectées par les entreprises sont souvent revendues en données à des courtiers, qui les fournissent ensuite à des annonceurs, à des gouvernements ou à d'autres entreprises pour le profilage des utilisateurs.

Vulnérabilité aux logiciels malveillants: Des logiciels espions comme Pegasus peuvent être installés à distance sur des téléphones pour extraire des informations sensibles ou suivre la localisation des utilisateurs en temps réel.

Conseil pour la protection de la vie privée: Les utilisateurs doivent faire preuve de prudence lorsqu'ils utilisent des smartphones. Il est recommandé de limiter les autorisations des applications, d'éviter de partager sa localisation en permanence, et d'utiliser des outils de protection de la vie privée, comme des VPN ou des bloqueurs de traçage, pour minimiser les risques de surveillance non désirée.

➔ Voir plus en page 5

Migration, relations internationales et climat: Ce que pensent les Mauriciens



Migration des Mauriciens. P - Sud Ouest Près de la moitié des Mauriciens ont envisagé de migrer. P - Sud Ouest

Le dernier rapport d'Afrobarometer, publié le 19 septembre 2024, dresse un tableau détaillé des opinions des Mauriciens sur des questions globales majeures comme les relations internationales, la migration, le changement climatique, et la qualité des services de santé. Cette enquête, réalisée par StraConsult Ltd. auprès de 1 200 adultes mauriciens entre avril et mai 2024, révèle à la fois des préoccupations locales et des aspirations globales. Elle met en lumière des dynamiques complexes influencées par l'environnement mondial et les réalités nationales.

Relations internationales: L'Inde et la Chine en tête

D'après les résultats, l'Inde ressort comme le pays ayant la plus forte influence positive sur Maurice, avec 76 % des sondés exprimant une opinion favorable. La Chine suit de près avec 68 %, tandis que l'Union africaine (61 %) complète ce trio de partenaires clés. Ces chiffres ne sont pas surprenants compte tenu des relations historiques, économiques et culturelles entre l'Inde et Maurice. L'influence grandissante de la Chine, notamment dans les projets d'infrastructures à travers l'Afrique, y compris à Maurice, explique également cette perception positive.

Cependant, il est intéressant de noter que la perception à propos des pays occidentaux, tels que les États-Unis (43 % d'opinions positives) et la France (50 %), est plus mitigée. Cela pourrait refléter des préoccupations plus larges liées aux poli-

tiques économiques ou à des tensions géopolitiques qui influencent les opinions locales.

Ces résultats montrent un basculement significatif de la balance d'influence vers les pays d'Asie et les institutions africaines, illustrant la manière dont Maurice, ancre ses relations avec des partenaires historiques et émergents. La neutralité de 61 % des Mauriciens vis-à-vis de la guerre en Ukraine est un autre indicateur de la prudence géopolitique du pays, préférant garder une position équilibrée dans un monde divisé.

Migration: Une volonté de partir, mais des inquiétudes nationales

L'enquête révèle que près de la moitié des Mauriciens ont envisagé de migrer, principalement vers l'Europe (35 %), suivie par l'Amérique du Nord (28 %) et l'Australie (25 %). Ce désir croissant de migration peut s'expliquer par la recherche d'opportunités économiques et une qualité de vie meilleure. En effet, près de 47 % des répondants indiquent que leur principale raison de migrer serait de trouver un emploi ou de meilleures perspectives de carrière.

Cependant, l'opinion sur les migrants qui viennent à Maurice est nettement plus partagée. 50 % des Mauriciens considèrent que les migrants ont un impact négatif sur l'économie locale, une proportion significative qui reflète des préoccupations concernant la concurrence sur le marché du travail et l'accès aux ressources.

D'une part, les Mauriciens sont attirés par des opportunités à l'étranger. Mais d'autre part, il est frappant de constater qu'ils expriment simultanément des réserves quant à l'accueil des migrants dans le pays. Cela reflète un phénomène observé dans de nombreux pays : une tension entre le désir de mobilité personnelle et la protection de l'économie nationale. Les gouvernements doivent naviguer soigneusement entre l'ouverture aux talents étrangers et la gestion des craintes de leur population locale.

Changement climatique: Une priorité urgente

Le changement climatique est une préoccupation majeure à Maurice, et les résultats d'Afrobarometer confirment cette réalité. Une écrasante majorité (89 %) des répondants déclarent que les inondations sont devenues plus sévères au cours des dix dernières années, tandis que 68 % notent une aggravation des échecs des récoltes. Le rôle de Maurice en tant qu'île vulnérable aux catastrophes naturelles, telles que les cyclones et la montée des eaux, explique la forte inquiétude exprimée par les citoyens.

De plus, 83 % des Mauriciens estiment que les pays riches ont une responsabilité dans le financement des efforts d'adaptation au changement climatique de Maurice. Cet appel à une responsabilité partagée est particulièrement pertinent dans un contexte où les petites nations insulaires sont souvent les premières à ressentir les effets du réchauffement climatique, mais disposent de moyens limités

pour y faire face.

Ces chiffres montrent que les Mauriciens sont pleinement conscients de l'urgence climatique. Il est encourageant de voir qu'une majorité plaide en faveur d'investissements dans les énergies renouvelables, même si cela pourrait entraîner une hausse des prix. Cela montre que la population est prête à accepter des sacrifices économiques à court terme pour protéger l'environnement à long terme, une position souvent absente dans les pays plus riches.

Services de Santé: Une amélioration, mais des défis subsistent

En matière de santé publique, 63 % des Mauriciens estiment que le gouvernement fait du bon travail pour améliorer les services de santé primaires. Pourtant, un nombre important de citoyens (75 %) n'ont pas accès à une assurance médicale, principalement en raison de son coût. Ce manque de couverture médicale est préoccupant, d'autant plus que 14 % des répondants indiquent avoir manqué de médicaments ou de soins médicaux au cours de l'année écoulée.

Néanmoins, la confiance dans le ministère de la Santé et du Bien-être reste relativement forte, avec 55 % des citoyens déclarant lui faire "assez confiance" ou "beaucoup confiance". Cela suggère que malgré les défis, le gouvernement a réussi à maintenir un niveau de soutien important à la population.

La couverture médicale insuffisante à Maurice pose un problème de justice sociale. Bien que le Gouvernement reçoive des notes favorables pour ses efforts dans l'amélioration des services de santé, il est essentiel de s'attaquer aux disparités en matière d'accès aux soins, notamment pour les plus vulnérables. Cela nécessitera probablement une réflexion sur la mise en place d'une couverture de santé plus inclusive et abordable pour tous les citoyens.

Ce rapport d'Afrobarometer présente une image nuancée des opinions des citoyens mauriciens. Tout en montrant leur ouverture à une coopération internationale accrue, ils expriment également des préoccupations face aux défis posés par la migration et le changement climatique. Le soutien général au gouvernement sur des questions associées aux services de santé indique une certaine satisfaction, mais les attentes restent élevées pour une gestion plus inclusive et équitable des ressources et des opportunités.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 18

Law and order: Only Government's or shared responsibility?



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

We are not going to be able to combat crimes – of any sort – merely by State interventions

Among the major issues of constant concern to citizens, two that frequently arise — whether in private conversations or in the marketplace — are the rising prices of everything, particularly the increasing cost of the food basket, and the law and order situation. With every successive change of regime over the years, there is criticism by the prospective one of the incumbent's record of a worsening situation, and a promise that the installation of the oppositional one will *definitely* be accompanied by an improvement in the situation.

Except, as we have seen repeatedly, that this doesn't really happen.

As regards law and order, clearly it is primarily the State that is responsible through the judiciary and the police. On the other hand, though, as rational citizens — supplemented with reasonableness where required — we have to make up our minds as to how much of the State we want in our lives. On this score we are not only ambiguous, but hypocrites as well. As long as things are going on fine, that is, we are getting on in our lives within the national boundary and *more or less* respecting the laws of the country, we do not think much about government — or the State (these two terms will be used interchangeably in the course of this article). But immediately as something happens to us or to society at large, we look for scapegoats, and among the first ones are those from other communities, or the government.

For example, whether it is the killings that peak from time to time or the extreme road accidents that claim individual lives and sometimes whole families, the blame is laid entirely at the door of the government for failing to ensure law and order. But we must ask ourselves: to what extent can a government



“Many times, there have been calls for teaching civic and moral values in educational institutions, starting from the very first levels in primary schools.

The inculcation of values must claim the attention of the authorities, represented by leaders who often pontificate about values in their interventions. To that extent, they can be made to share the collective responsibility for what is happening around the country, and the sooner they address the problem the better it will be for every citizen, why for the country as a whole...”

regulate the personal behaviour of individuals? Try to clamp down on alcohol sale, and there is an uproar from those who are in the business. This is supported by all manner of advertisements to promote drinking (at one time youngsters were especially targeted with smaller cans/packages more affordable to their pockets) — accompanied by glossy publicity of the latest brands and their virtues — and invariably featuring women who are not necessarily of less virtue but are made to appear as such by wearing the minimum in these adverts.

Although, to be fair, such publicity has been reduced in the public sphere, still it is a fact that most of the crimes that

are reported are either alcohol or hard drug-related. Worse, many of these crimes directed against those who are most vulnerable: women and children. But worst of all: against close ones, those that are supposed to be of one's blood or under one's custody, whether in a legal relationship (marriage) or a live-in relationship, commonly called by the derogatory term *concubinage*. In all these situations of living together, the starting point of the relationship is, presumably, an attraction towards each other for either emotional or material reasons.

Some years ago, there was an uproar about the cruel murder of a little girl by her drunk uncle. The Child Development Unit was cited as not having lived up to its responsibility, apparently in spite of being informed. In such matters, it is the duty of the competent authorities to establish the facts and address any weaknesses that the structure may contain. But what have the religious and social organizations been doing? Where are the priests and religious heads who are otherwise so vocal about the defence of faith and identity? Shouldn't they consider spending more of that

energy on guiding their flock on how to live better lives, to take care of those they have responsibility for or children who are entrusted to their care (whether temporary or permanent).

The times surely call for such eminences to discover afresh their true vocation and pursue it, rather than depending on government to pass more and more laws, and put up more and more of restraining structures in the hope that people will abide by or resort to them. There is a saying that an Englishman's home is his castle, meaning that that's his private domain in which no one may interfere with his doings. It seems that we have many Englishman's castles, scaled down socially, in this country. But where the government cannot penetrate — the psyche of people — the community can, by means of examples and peer pressure, with the help of volunteers and genuine leaders who maintain a proximity to the people and know their ways, rather than cloistering themselves in ivory towers and issuing from time-to-time prescriptive sound-bites which have more sound than content.

We are not going to be able to combat crimes — of any sort — merely by State interventions. It is only by inculcating solid moral values in individuals and families that this goal can be achieved. Government's role, apart from enacting laws for the overall security of the country, is perhaps to identify and give stronger support to organizations which are demonstrably engaged in imparting such values. There are many ways of doing so. The easiest way is to dish out some money and leave it at that. But the right way would, instead, be in the form of supporting say, resource persons or the access to or provision of materials. And seeking accountability and results through regular reporting of activities carried out and details of the latter.

This is the only way that the individual, society and government can come together to address the larger issue of law and order. Many times, there have been calls for teaching civic and moral values in educational institutions, starting from the very first levels in primary schools. The inculcation of values must claim the attention of the authorities, represented by leaders who often pontificate about values in their interventions. To that extent, they can be made to share the collective responsibility for what is happening around the country, and the sooner they address the problem the better it will be for every citizen, why for the country as a whole. Let us hope that these appeals will not be like a call in the wilderness.

“As rational citizens — supplemented with reasonableness where required — we have to make up our minds as to how much of the State we want in our lives. On this score we are not only ambiguous, but hypocrites as well. As long as things are going on fine, that is, we are getting on in our lives within the national boundary and *more or less* respecting the laws of the country, we do not think much about government — or the State. But immediately as something happens to us or to society at large, we look for scapegoats, and among the first ones are those from other communities, or the government...”

Worldwide Theaters of The Absurd



Anil Madan

We often hear of a rules-based world order. The problem seems to be that no one knows what the rules are, no one can enforce them, and certainly, the word "order" seems misplaced

Ever since the world saw the devastation that nuclear bombs could wreak in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the realization that nuclear weapons should never ever again be used sank in. The possession of nuclear weapons came to be viewed as a right reserved for the few "responsible" powers. That the five major nuclear powers made the decision that THEY were the privileged ones had a certain irony to it. With China having nuclear weapons, India was not going to stand idly by. And with India having nuclear weapons, Pakistan was not going to stand idly by. Facing existential threats of annihilation, Israel has not been standing by, albeit not officially confirming that it has nuclear weapons.

In recent years, we have seen North Korea join the nuclear club and Iran get ever so near to be a dues-paying member. And China which had hundreds of nuclear warheads in contrast to the thousands held by Russia and the US, has embarked on a program to increase its nuclear warheads arsenal.

In February 2024, the Lowry Institute reported that the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists' 2024 Nuclear Notebook estimated that China had increased its nuclear warheads to 500 and was producing more apace to equip future delivery systems. China's nuclear arsenal is the fastest growing on the planet. About a year ago, the US Department of Defense projected that by 2030, China would have more than 1000 operable nuclear weapons. If China continues this pace of development, by 2035, there will be 1500 or more nuclear warheads. It is not clear whether it will claim that its use of nukes is an "internal matter" as it so often does, remains to be seen.

In December 2023 and January 2024, *The New York Times* reported on activity at China's Lop Nur test facility. The level of activity suggests that at a minimum, there is intense preparation for resumption of nuclear testing. Whether this means that testing is in the offing, is not clear. The Chinese Foreign Ministry dismisses concerns about its intentions, emphasized Beijing's commitment to observing the nuclear test ban, and added that China will spare "no effort to realize the noble aspiration of comprehensively banning and totally eradicating nuclear weapons."

The absurdity is that China sees building thousands of nuclear warheads as meeting the noble aspiration of eradicating nuclear weapons. True absurdity.

The question is whether anyone, including the Chinese believe their own words.

It has been well telegraphed that China's position on adding to its nuclear arsenal and its refusal to discuss strategic arms limitation with Russia and the US is grounded in the fear that, starting from a smaller arsenal of nuclear warheads, it will be at a disadvantage if it too must cut its warheads. The absurd notion is that China will be left relatively weaker if it agrees to cuts. Lost in all this is any sense of the absurd and the realization that China, even with 500 warheads, has enough to kill the world several times over.

Use of nuclear weapons in the Ukraine conflict

But this is not the height of absurdity in the world. As we all know, Putin has been threatening to use nuclear weapons in the Ukraine conflict almost from the day he



“The possession of nuclear weapons came to be viewed as a right reserved for the few “responsible” powers. That the five major nuclear powers made the decision that THEY were the privileged ones had a certain irony to it. With China having nuclear weapons, India was not going to stand idly by. And with India having nuclear weapons, Pakistan was not going to stand idly by. Facing existential threats of annihilation, Israel has not been standing by, albeit not officially confirming that it has nuclear weapons. In recent years, we have seen North Korea join the nuclear club and Iran get ever so near to be a dues-paying member. And China which had hundreds of nuclear warheads in contrast to the thousands held by Russia and the US, has embarked on a program to increase its nuclear warheads arsenal...”

launched his illegal invasion. Kim Jong Nuke has threatened the US, Japan, and South Korea with nuclear weapons. The theater of the absurd has taken new turns in Russia. Last week, Reuters reported that Sergei Karaganov, a foreign policy hawk who is said to be influential in Russia, stated to a Moscow newspaper that Russia should clearly state its willingness to use nuclear weapons against countries that “support NATO aggression in Ukraine” and expressed his opinion that Russia could launch a limited nuclear strike on a NATO country without triggering all-out nuclear war.

In another development, Anatoly Voynitsev, a physicist and professor at Perm State University, called on Putin to consider striking Ukraine with nuclear weapons to hasten the end of the war and cut off Western supply routes. And just three days ago, Russian TV host Vladimir Solovyov, said that Putin already has a “basis to start a nuclear war.”

If you don't think that is crazy enough, there have been reports of people urging Putin to conduct a nuclear explosion inside Russia to demonstrate to those outside Russia that he is serious. Another report states that Zygar, the founding editor of the independent Dozhd television network, which is banned in Russia and operates in exile in the Netherlands, wrote: “Vladimir Putin has long been known for his special attitude to mysticism. And apparently he combines his interest in Orthodox mysticism with pagan traditions.” This is all in response to a rumour circulating in Moscow that Putin needs the blessing of shamans to use nuclear weapons. Without their consent, he could not dare to take such a serious step for fear of upsetting the spirits. This was the apparent reason for his recent trip to Mon-

golia. And he reportedly returned from Mongolia satisfied, according to these reports.

We have come from understanding the only legitimate reason for having a nuclear arsenal was as a deterrent, i.e., to ensure that they would NEVER be used, to the point that playing a game of nuclear chicken in public seems acceptable to leaders and diplomats at the highest levels of government.

Not to be outdone in this Kabuki Theater of the Absurd, outgoing NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said that allowing Ukraine to use Western long-range missiles to strike Russian territory would not trigger an escalation from Moscow. Stoltenberg extrapolated from the fact that Putin had previously set red lines that he then ignored and argued that that NATO's nuclear deterrent coupled with its military superiority, rendered unlikely any direct nuclear attack by Putin.

Not surprisingly, Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov criticized Stoltenberg for being “extremely provocative and dangerous,” and for failing to take Putin's warnings seriously.

Meanwhile, President Biden and British PM Keir Starmer had a high-level discussion about whether Ukraine should be allowed to use long-range Western missiles to strike deep into Russia. Somehow, the absurd notion that tying one hand behind Ukraine's back in its battle for survival will endear the Western allies to Putin, seems to have infected these world leaders. In any event, reports suggest that Biden and Starmer have okayed long-range strikes by Ukraine but will not officially admit having done so.

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Touria Prayag

‘Undecided’ voters: “Its’s fear of retribution that explains the large chunk of the electorate that claims to be undecided”



Mauritius Times: We haven’t had the opportunity to read you for some time now. Could you explain the reasons behind this absence?

Touria Prayag: I am grateful that you and other readers still recall my writings and miss them.

Let’s say that a page has been turned on another chapter in my career and I have embarked on new projects. *Weekly* is now being run by younger and perhaps more able colleagues.

*** But you have been very silent about it, haven’t you?**

You know, when you leave a position that you have occupied for so many years, there are various ways of reacting.

“Every journalist still fighting today for a better tomorrow for every Mauritian is doing it at the expense of his/her career, the well-being of their families and so many opportunities that they will never get. We should be conscious of that every time we read an article. Without the brave men and women doing this job, the situation would be even worse. In these times of disappearing checks and balances, we must be grateful for those who are keeping the profession alive...”

As the former Editor-in-Chief of *Weekly* magazine and the author of two books — *Provisional Charges: the Untold Human Stories* and *#BLD: When Mauritius Lost its Bedside Manners* — Touria Prayag has consistently engaged with pressing social and political issues. In this candid interview with *Mauritius Times*, she reflects on her journey through the media landscape, her approach to critical journalism, and her views on the current political climate. With an emphasis on meritocracy and a staunch defence of independent reporting, Touria Prayag offers insights into the necessity of integrity in journalism and the vital role it plays in fostering a democratic society. What follows are her thoughts on the evolving dynamics of politics and the challenges facing media professionals today, highlighting the importance of courage and resilience in the pursuit of truth and justice.

You can choose to do what one of our ex-colleagues has been doing: devote the rest of your life to criticising all the journalists who have been doing their job since, the company they work for and any initiative taken by former colleagues. That is not my style. I have never done that.

I have occupied several positions in the past, some arguably more important than my previous role as editor in chief of *Weekly*, and when another chapter opened, I closed the door gently behind me and moved on, wishing my colleagues well. Naturally, there are things which could have been done differently. It saddens me that they weren’t, but that’s life. That’s just the way things are.

The best thing you can do when you are brought face to face with human nature is to take it on the chin and keep moving ahead. I am not indispensable to any organisation and, equally, there isn’t only one way for me to continue to contribute to the causes I have always believed in.

*** How has your experience of editing a weekly paper been and are there any key lessons you’ve learned from this experience that you would like to share?**

I don’t think of myself as a great journalist who has been to the best schools of journalism and is ready to dish out lessons.

I fell into the cauldron of journalism by accident. I was contributing my views to the local press while working in Academia. One day, Jean Claude de l’Estrac, who was then Executive Chairman of *La Sentinelle*, called me for a meeting and offered me the opportunity to start a new publication in English. Surprised, I told him that I was not a journalist. I will always remember his reply: « *Si, mais vous ne le savez pas encore!* » (You are, but you don’t know it yet!)

I decided to take up the challenge and I walked into the newsroom for the first time as editor in chief. It was really tough. We had to work on the trial issue (*le numéro zéro*) of what was then *l’express Weekly*, had to deal with the finances of the publication, the human resources, recruitment, long unsociable hours...

But we survived and found our place in the local media landscape. Until Covid hit.

*** What about your experience with media freedom?**

To be perfectly honest, although we were a small publication within a large media group, we enjoyed total editorial freedom throughout our existence. That has always been sacrosanct.

It was difficult for a lot of readers to understand why there were so many different points of view expressed within the same company. The answer is simple: the freedom of

expression was something we lived; not something we paid lip service to. Each publication fought for the principles it believed in for as long as it believed in them.

And that is the lesson I would like to share: stand and fight for what you believe in, no matter what the price is. When you no longer can, you grab your pen and shut the door behind you. You don’t compromise on your principles. People may like you or hate you. But they will always respect you.

“You usually can tell how weak a leader is by the number of times his subordinates have to refer to his great qualities before they engage in any speech, as the weak leaders need to be reassured that they are still in charge. To get that satisfaction, they always surround themselves with weaker, obsequious people who feed their ego and diffidence and punish anyone who does not fall in line. This is how autocrats are created and operate...”

*** Do you believe media freedom is under threat today considering the increasing reports of media outlets – both newspapers and private radio stations – adjusting their editorial stance due to government pressure on board directors, often tied to business interests?**

I do not have any information to confirm a direct cause/effect relationship between business interests and the mellow editorial line adopted by the media. Like you, I have been reading about some big scandals spun as the greatest achievements in the world and some ministers’ absurd statements on the economy being taken almost seriously. However, that could be just a matter of appreciation.

I still believe that independent journalists will continue to do their work despite of the pressure. The number of these journalists is shrinking but those who are still fighting need our support and encouragement. We have to always recognise their brave stance and help them promote the principles that they are fighting for.

Every journalist still fighting today for a better tomorrow for every Mauritian is doing it at the expense of his/her career, the well-being of their families and so many opportunities that they will never get. We should be conscious of that every time we read an article.

● Cont. on page 9

'Checks and balances within a system only work when we have honest, honourable people who respect the rules of democracy'

● Cont. from page 8

Without the brave men and women doing this job, the situation would be even worse. In these times of disappearing checks and balances, we must be grateful for those who are keeping the profession alive.

*** You had adopted a very critical line vis-à-vis both the SAJ- and the Pravind Jugnauth-led governments during the time you were editing 'Weekly'. What motivated that approach?**

I wouldn't personalise my criticism of governments. Readers who followed me from the beginning will remember my criticisms of the Ramgoolam government when the Labour Party was in power as well, and how I fought tooth and nail against the then personal arrangement between Navin Ramgoolam and Paul Bérenger for a second republic.

I have nothing personal against either SAJ or Pravind Jugnauth. In fact, I knew SAJ personally and had a lot of respect for him on a personal level. What I was criticising were the dangerous measures taken by both governments since 2015: a wave of arrests of opponents on trumped-up charges; unlawful attacks on businesses perceived to be close to the former government; a frontal attack on the rule of law (*l'État de droit*); and the enactment of laws that encroach upon our liberties.; anti-democratic practices; an unprecedented level of nepotism that has resulted in the country being divided into "*nou ban*" and "*banla*"; an atmosphere of fear that has reduced everyone to silence; a level of propaganda hitherto unseen in the country; a series of scandals going to the extent of mafia-style executions... And lo and behold, those things I had been denouncing have all ended up costing the taxpayer billions and we haven't settled the full bill yet.

All the trumped-up charges against opponents have been thrown out by our courts of law and there are dozens of court cases against the government; the chickens will come home to roost one day as they did in other cases: Betamax has cost us over Rs6 billion, Neotown nearly Rs2 billion and BAI Rs21 billion and counting.

At the time, when I was denouncing the excesses and autocratic practices of the government, many people could not see where we were heading. Today, they do, but it is a bit too late, as the public purse has been squeezed dry out of our hard-earned money to pay for the inane decisions made by the government in our name.

*** Many believe that the current government's approach to dissent and opposition has crossed demo-**

“Ethics, good governance, and principles are nice phrases to use when trying to impress an audience, but ultimately, business is there to make business and stay in business. This government understands this well and has adeptly leveraged that understanding. The message sent through the BAI, Neotown, Betamax, etc., was loud and clear. Hence the fear that has been gripping many businesses and civil servants since. That constant fear has killed many good things in our compatriots and has created the shameful *chatwaism* culture...”



cratic lines. Does this suggest that the checks and balances within the system have failed?

The checks and balances within a system only work when we have honest, honourable people who respect the rules of democracy.

First and foremost of these rules is the independence of institutions which guarantee our freedoms and equality before the law: an independent Director of Public Prosecutions who is allowed to work according to his conscience without fear or favour; an independent police commissioner who treats all citizens equally irrespective of whether they are pro or against the government in place, not one who dredges up cases against opponents 12 years later when they become a threat; a corruption watchdog that swiftly pounces on criminals no matter whether they are "*nou ban*" or "*banla*"; an independent central bank that protects the strength of the rupee instead of acting as a government financier; government institutions which are committed to promoting the interests of the many instead of "*get figir*"...

In your opinion, how many of these checks and balances are functioning effectively? That's the answer to your question.

*** There's a clear distinction between strong leadership and autocratic tendencies, isn't there?**

Yes, indeed.

In fact, it's more appropriate to talk about weak leaders and autocratic leaders in the same breath because autocratic leaders are weak, insecure and feel threatened by the people around them. They do not brook any criticism whatsoever and are diffident in their approach. And because weak leaders are so weak, instead of leading, they impose their views and decisions on the rest of their team and do not tolerate any dissent. They rule through fear.

You usually can tell how weak a leader is by the number of times his subordinates have to refer to his great qualities before they engage in any speech, as the weak leaders need to be reassured that they are still in charge. To get that satisfaction, they always surround themselves with weaker,

obsequious people who feed their ego and diffidence and punish anyone who does not fall in line. This is how autocrats are created and operate.

*** From your vantage point as an editor and with sometimes privileged information of what's happening in the corridors of power, did you ever feel that our elite – whether in positions within the checks and balances of the system, including the civil service, or in leadership roles in the traditional private sector – have also failed us or contributed to the current situation?**

I think we are all guilty, if only through our silence.

You know human nature enough to know that there are two things which motivate people: gain and fear of loss. Ethics, good governance, and principles are nice phrases to use when trying to impress an audience, but ultimately, business is there to make business and stay in business. This government understands this well and has adeptly leveraged that understanding.

“I am not even sure how many people still remember or care about the scandals. Who remembers the Wakashio that brought 150,000 protesters to the streets of Port Louis? Who still has a vague recollection of Pack & Blister, Molnupiravir, or the billions squandered while we were busy counting our dead? Who still remembers the stag, boar, and Black Label parties at the ranch next to Grand Bassin? Who were Franklin, Dewdane, and others? What was the *tractopelle* carrying? The only thing that people still remember is perhaps Soopramanien Kistnen...”

The message sent through the BAI, Neotown, Betamax, etc., was loud and clear. Hence the fear that has been gripping many businesses and civil servants since. That constant fear has killed many good things in our compatriots and has created the shameful *chatwaism* culture.

*** Besides the elite, it's possible that the culture of freebies and populist measures also serves to anesthetise the populace to the misgovernance and questionable practices of the government. Isn't that why it seems almost impossible to gauge the feelings of the electorate these days?**

There are in my opinion at least two reasons why it's difficult to gauge the way the electorate is likely to go.

First, fear of retribution. And as you never know what form that retribution might take, the fear is intensified. There is a large chunk of the electorate that claims to be undecided as the last opinion poll has shown. A certain percentage of those who are 'undecided' are in fact not as 'undecided' at all that but live in fear of what might happen to them if they declared their intention to vote against the government in place.

The other segment of the 'undecided' – which brings us to the second reason – are genuinely undecided, and their vote will hinge on who is offering them the bigger bone to chew on. It is sad, but part of the electorate is even more cynical than the politicians they elect to power.

● Cont. on page 10

'Every journalist still fighting today for a better tomorrow for every Mauritian is doing it at the expense of their families' well-being'



“The opposition alliance is therefore in a strong position, provided its communication strategy is right. They should consistently remind us of the broken promises and of our journey from a democratic country with sound independent institutions, a live-and-let-live ethos; a country where citizens were free to express themselves to a country divided into “*nou ban*” and “*banla*”, where fear has become the daily grub served to “*banla*”. Additionally, they should field credible candidates who have been steadfast in their fight against the ills that this government has inflicted on the country, not latecomers...”

● Cont. from page 9

What you rightly call “the culture of freebies”, which has been created by populist measures, has reached a level no one thought was possible. What this sadly means is that there is a price at which all the excesses and scandals of the government can be relegated to oblivion, even if the population is paying for those “freebies” themselves.

*** We may have a different electorate today, both in its composition and outlook, from what obtained in earlier elections post-independence. In light of this, how would you assess the evolving dynamics on the electoral front?**

Before the writ of elections has been issued, it is very difficult to see clearly.

Pravind Jugnauth has not said his last word yet and we still don't know how many freebies will be dished up to counteract the scandals. I am not even sure how many people still remember or care about the scandals. Who remembers the Wakashio that brought 150,000 protesters to the streets of Port Louis?

Who still has a vague recollection of Pack & Blister, Molnupiravir, or the billions squandered while we were busy counting our dead? Who still remembers the stag, boar, and Black Label parties at the ranch next to Grand Bassin? Who were Franklin, Dewdanee, and others? What was the *trac-topelle* carrying?

The only thing that people still remember is perhaps Soopramanien Kistnen because his wife has kept him alive.

*** How do you assess the PTr-MMM-ND Opposition as a challenger to an MSM-led alliance?**

It is now clear to most political observers that the alliance you have mentioned – now baptised “*Alliance du Changement*” – is the only challenger to the MSM-PMSD-Mouvement Patriotique-Mouvement Libérateur-Plateforme

“If a man is a better candidate, I don't think he should be sacrificed just because we want to give the impression of being modern and forward-looking by lining up more women, even more so that some of these were hiding in their funk hole while the worst atrocities were taking place in this country. I want the same opportunities as you, not more, not less. Anything else goes against the principle of fairness. Protecting women through quotas is an insult to our intelligence and our worth. We don't want charity...”

Militante-Ramano, etc. alliance. No other opposition bloc can dream of electing 30 plus candidates to make up a government. I think everyone knows that by now.

The addition of *Resitans ek Alternativ* (ReA) has been very good news for the alliance partners as the leftist party has a great deal of credibility and a history of fighting for noble causes like *Mauritianism*, the environment, workers' rights, etc. By accommodating ReA, the alliance has also sent the message that they are prepared to accept and introduce the changes this country needs to give more chances to everyone and

create more unity.

The opposition alliance is therefore in a strong position, provided its communication strategy is right. They should consistently remind us of the broken promises and of our journey from a democratic country with sound independent institutions, a live-and-let-live ethos; a country where citizens were free to express themselves to a country divided into “*nou ban*” and “*banla*”, where fear has become the daily grub served to “*banla*”. Additionally, they should field credible candidates who have been steadfast in their fight against the ills that this government has inflicted on the country, not latecomers who have opportunistically jumped on the bandwagon.

*** What about increasing women's representation in politics? Many women's NGOs argue that it is essential for fostering equality...**

“Duval's Private Notice Questions have revealed to the population something we, journalists who had been interviewing him, have always known: he is smart, coherent in his approach and rather dignified: we have never heard him start his speeches with “Thanks to his majesty the king of the world” etc., or seconded oppressive motions against his colleagues in the opposition. On the other hand, the PMSD is today a shadow of its old self after the resignation of several of its prominent members. For a small party, losing so many high ranking members is consequential...”



I may shock many of your readers, but I have never fought for the cause of giving more opportunities to women just because we are women. I have always fought for meritocracy, which will definitely result in more meritorious women being fielded for our merit, not because we are women.

If a man is a better candidate, I don't think he should be sacrificed just because we want to give the impression of being modern and forward-looking by lining up more women, even more so that some of these were hiding in their funk hole while the worst atrocities were taking place in this country. I want the same opportunities as you, not more, not less. Anything else goes against the principle of fairness.

Protecting women through quotas is an insult to our intelligence and our worth. We don't want charity; we want to fight on an equal footing with no hindrance and no conces-

sions.

*** In your opinion, has the MSM-led alliance been strengthened or weakened by the addition of the latecomer PMSD?**

It is a catch-22 situation.

On the one hand, I think the PMSD is the only serious party available right now to join the MSM-PMSD-Mouvement Patriotique-Mouvement Libérateur-Plateforme Militante-Ramano alliance and mitigate the disaster it is in. Xavier Duval is the only ally who has never thrown babies out of their shacks in the middle of winter or given state land to his mother or mistress, has no record of associating with Franklin and Co., is not entangled in any Rs700 million corruption case, has no property in Dubai, etc. So, he is the only ally that Pravind Jugnauth can aspire to have now and whose track record might allow him to hide his own questionable practices.

Also, Duval's Private Notice Questions have revealed to the population something we, journalists who had been interviewing him, have always known: he is smart, coherent in his approach and rather dignified: we have never heard him start his speeches with “Thanks to his majesty the king of the world” etc., or seconded oppressive motions against his colleagues in the opposition.

On the other hand, the PMSD is today a shadow of its old self after the resignation of several of its prominent members. For a small party, losing so many high ranking members is consequential. More importantly, by enlisting Xavier Duval as an ally, the MSM has immediately dented the credibility Xavier built through years as a redoubtable Leader of the Opposition who consistently kept the government on the back foot. The respect and adulation he earned thawed as soon as he tacitly joined the government he had been vehemently criticising for years, swallowing all the criticisms he made it his mission to fire at them in the not-so-distant past.

In the eyes of many today, Xavier Duval is no longer the principled man who cares about the country but rather a father who is interested in saving his children at the expense of everything else. These are facts. How the electorate will react to them is not for me to say.

*** Do you think the PMSD's alignment with the MSM-led alliance in 2024 could recreate the conditions of 2014 and lead to a similar result?**

Not as far as I can see. The conditions have changed quite a bit. The MSM has sunk deeper and deeper under scandals, most of which have had a direct effect on the population in the form of the scourge of drugs, inflation, the loss of purchasing power, etc.

Xavier Duval is no longer the hero or even the victim he was seen to be in 2014 and the opposition alliance is more united than the government had perhaps hoped. The dangers that still lurk for the *Alliance du Changement* are two-fold: firstly, several small parties which are likely to intentionally or unintentionally muddy the waters and, secondly, their communication strategy. It is an alliance where most people feel represented and recognised.

Having said that, they should not give any fodder to their opponents to concoct any dish with communal undertones – something the latter excel at.

Election Date: The Art of Timing

In the bustling city of Athens, where ideas clash as fiercely as swords, two figures find themselves ensconced in a shaded grove, a haven for contemplation. Socrates, the ever-curious philosopher, is drawn to the complexities of power and decision-making, while Cephalus, a wealthy and somewhat pragmatic Athenian, with a penchant for the practical aspects of life, brings a wealth of practical experience to their discourse. Today, their dialogue revolves around the delicate art of timing in politics—specifically, the Prime Minister's prerogative in determining the date of elections.

As they engage in this Socratic inquiry, they navigate the turbulent waters of public sentiment, economic conditions, and social issues, all while pondering whether divine guidance or mere chance plays a role in such pivotal decisions. Their conversation unfolds like a dance, revealing the intricate steps necessary to balance the needs of governance with the will of the people.

By Plutonix

Scene: A shaded grove in Athens, where Socrates and Cephalus sit under a tree, discussing the nature of power, timing, and elections.

Socrates: Ah, Cephalus, my friend! It seems the winds of speculation are blowing through our fair land, carrying whispers of when elections shall be held. What say you about the Prime Minister's prerogative in deciding such an important date?

Cephalus: Socrates, as much as I admire your pursuit of wisdom, the matter appears quite straightforward. The Prime Minister alone holds the power to choose, much like a captain steering his ship. Surely, one must consider the tides of public opinion!

Socrates: Indeed, Cephalus! But tell me, do you believe public opinion is a reliable compass for navigation?

Cephalus: Well, it can be, but like any compass, it can be skewed. When the people are unhappy, it's unwise to call for elections, lest the captain finds himself tossed overboard!

Socrates: So, we arrive at the notion that the timing of elections resembles the timing of a great feast. One must ensure the guests are in good spirits and the food is palatable!

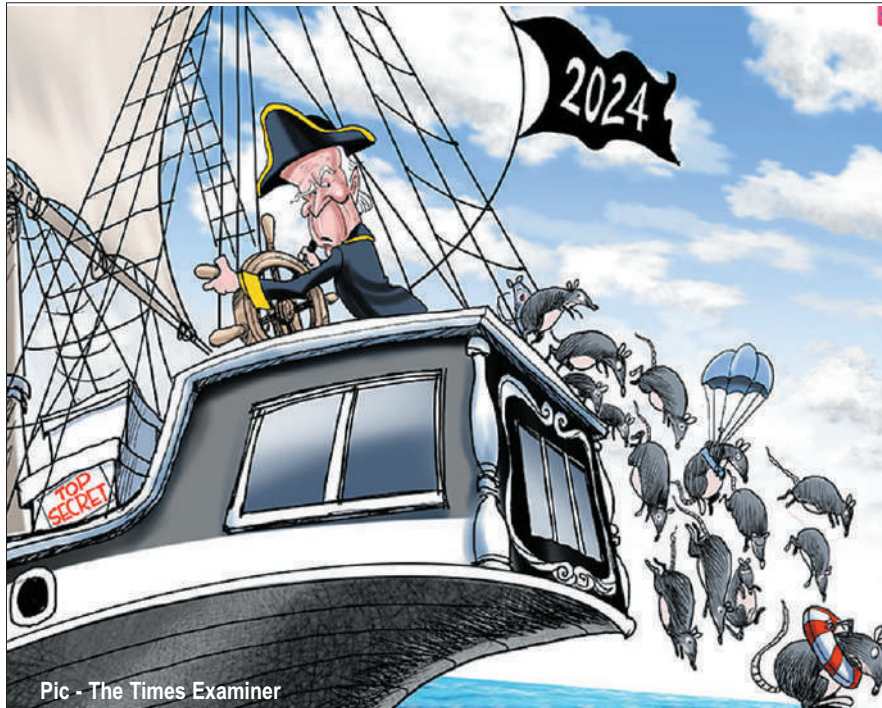
Cephalus: Precisely! Who would want to feast when the wine is sour? But the Prime Minister must also consider the legislative calendar. Timing is everything, Socrates!

Socrates: Ah, the legislative calendar! Like a fine watch, one must be mindful of its inner workings. But what of economic conditions? Would a captain set sail during a stormy financial sea?

Cephalus: Certainly not! An empty treasury is a poor foundation for any voyage. The Prime Minister must look at the economic weather before announcing an election.

Socrates: And if the economy is as turbulent as a choppy sea, would it not be wise to postpone the voyage until calmer waters are found?

Cephalus: Yes, yes! But let us not forget the pressing social issues, Socrates. Imagine announcing elections during a crisis! The people would be as restless as caged birds, seeking their freedom!



When the election date has been fixed...

Socrates: Indeed! It seems that timing elections requires the wisdom of a seasoned sailor, one who knows when to set sail and when to stay ashore. But tell me, do you think the Prime Minister considers all these factors equally?

Cephalus: One would hope so! However, I fear some may prioritize their own party's strategy above the people's needs. It is a tricky dance, indeed!

Socrates: A dance, you say? A dance that must be choreographed with care, lest the steps lead to misfortune. But how about public sentiment? Is it not the heartbeat of the people that guides this dance?

Cephalus: Exactly! Polls and feedback serve as the Prime Minister's rhythm. If the beat is off, he risks stepping on toes — political ones, I mean!

Socrates: And yet, Cephalus, one must wonder about the media's role in this dance. Is it not said that the pen is mightier than the sword? How might the media shape the timing of elections?

Cephalus: Oh, without a doubt, Socrates! The media can elevate a candidate or cast them into shadows faster than you can say "election day." A single headline can shift public sentiment like a sudden gust of wind - like what's happening to a senior member of the government these days and who finds himself in a soup!

Socrates: It seems that in this grand performance of politics, every dancer must know their role. But tell me, do you believe the Prime Minister consults the stars or fortune tellers in his decision-making?

Cephalus: Ha! Now that's a thought, Socrates! Perhaps he peers into the heavens for guidance, but surely that would be folly! Are we to rely on the whims of fate rather than reason?

Socrates: A fair point! But what if the stars align perfectly for an election? Would that not be a sign of divine approval?

Cephalus: Divine approval, perhaps, but let us not forget the very human nature of politics! Many a Prime Minister has lost despite consulting the stars, like a sailor navigating by a faulty map!

Socrates: A faulty map indeed! So it appears the art of deciding an election date requires not just the wisdom of the

ages but also a dash of good fortune. But tell me, what of the religious calendars? Should a Prime Minister tread carefully around sacred times?

Cephalus: Oh, absolutely! The Prime Minister would be wise to consider the sacred days. Imagine the uproar if he called elections during a major religious festival! It would be like throwing a banquet during a fast on the occasion of Durga Puja celebrated by the Hindu community here and across the world!

Socrates: A scandalous banquet indeed! And what of the school examinations? Would it not be cruel to hold elections while students are in the throes of academic battles?

Cephalus: Indeed! The Prime Minister must balance the scales of education and governance. After all, the future voters are busy with their studies, not plotting political strategy!

Socrates: So we see, Cephalus, that the timing of elections is fraught with challenges. But if I may ask, is there a perfect time to hold elections?

Cephalus: A perfect time? That is the million-drachma question! Perhaps there is no perfect time, only the best choice among the many imperfect options.

Socrates: A wise observation! Thus, it appears that the Prime Minister must be part philosopher, part captain, and perhaps even part astrologer in this endeavour. But what of the consequences if the timing is wrong?

Cephalus: Ah, Socrates, the consequences can be dire! A poorly timed election could lead to political upheaval, much like a shipwreck. It could cost the Prime Minister dearly — his seat, his reputation, or even his very career!

Socrates: So, my friend, it seems that the art of choosing an election date is akin to navigating treacherous waters. One must weigh the winds of public opinion, the tides of economic conditions, and the currents of social issues. Yet amidst all this, it is the Prime Minister who holds the compass.

Cephalus: A fine metaphor, Socrates! The compass, however, is only as good as the hand that wields it. The Prime Minister must be astute, lest he find himself lost at sea.

Socrates: Indeed! And so we come full circle to the notion that timing is of the essence in both politics and philosophy. One must ponder, my friend, how we might apply this wisdom in our own lives.

Cephalus: Well said, Socrates! Perhaps we should choose our moments for discussions wisely. Timing, after all, can turn a simple conversation into a feast of ideas!

Socrates: And with that thought, let us ponder our next topic over a modest meal, for wisdom is best savoured when accompanied by good company and thoughtful timing!

The discussion ends with Socrates and Cephalus walking off, engaged in lively conversation about the timing of life's decisions, leaving behind the questions of the election date hanging in the air like an unresolved riddle.

Worldwide Theaters of The Absurd



Photo by Steven Hirsch/New York Post via AP, Pool

“Never mind that Donald Trump has been convicted of sexual assault (which a Senior federal district court judge ruled was the equivalent of rape under New York law), that he has been convicted of fraudulently falsifying business records, that he has been caught on a recording instructing a Mar-a-Lago employee to destroy video evidence of records on his property that he denied having, that he urged state electors not to vote to certify the election and instead submit slates of fake electors based on false affidavits, the election still seems close. It is truly absurd that a country of 335 million people should have so much difficulty finding qualified candidates for the presidency...”

● Cont. from page 7

A rules-based world dis/order

My mentioning the Kabuki Theater of the Absurd should, of course, bring the entirely disunited States of America in all its dysfunctional glory to mind. Never mind that Donald Trump has been convicted of sexual assault (which a Senior federal district court judge ruled was the equivalent of rape under New York law), that he has been convicted of fraudulently falsifying business records, that he has been caught on a recording instructing a Mar-a-Lago employee to destroy video evidence of records on his property that he denied having, that he urged state electors not to vote to certify the election and instead submit slates of fake electors based on false affidavits, the election still seems close.

It is truly absurd that a country of 335 million people should have so much difficulty finding qualified candidates for the presidency.

At its best, the American election season is a farce. It too has now descended to the absurd. About a week ago, I sent this to friends: “In weak moments, I have thought that given the certainty that Donald Trump is demented and most definitely, a lunatic who should be locked up in an asylum, I muse that if J.D. Vance succeeds him, perhaps, just perhaps, he still has a brain after his sojourn at Yale Law School.

But I wrote: “Now, I’m even more worried than ever. J.D. Vance is even more of a lunatic than Trump.” What prompted my concern was that after Trump and Vance spread utterly false stories about Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, eating the cats and dogs of their white neighbours, Vance was challenged. His response: “If I have to create stories so that the American media actually pays attention to the suffering of the American people, then that’s what I’m going to do.”

The latest development is that a woman who filed the police report about her missing cat that started the rumours, told a newspaper that her pet, Miss Sassy, was found in her basement days after she contacted the police. The woman, who was wearing a Trump shirt and hat when the reporters spoke with her, told them that she had since apologized to her Haitian neighbours. No apology to the cat from the Haitian neighbours was necessary.

In the meantime, Springfield, Ohio has experienced more than 33 bomb threats and had to shut schools and events down. Trump has vowed to deport the Haitians. Good luck with that, since they are in the US legally. And J.D. Vance does not seem to understand that

these residents of Ohio are his constituents. He is a Senator from Ohio.

One of Trump’s supporters, Laura Loomer, a noted right-wing wacko and race baiter, complained that if Kamala Harris were elected, the White House would smell of curry. J.D. Vance when asked about this, didn’t have the presence of mind to say: “Well, my house smells like curry” but instead offered: “I make a mean curry.” Well, I challenge J.D. to a curry cookoff.

The American judiciary has shown lately that anyone can be a judge, even those who can’t tell the difference between a good curry and bouillabaisse. So, applications to judge the JD vs. Bwana curry cookoff are open.

Cheerz...
Bwana



MAURITIUS
REVENUE
AUTHORITY

COMMUNIQUE

CSG monthly Return - Payment of Wage Relativity Adjustment

The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) informs all employers that, following amendments made to Remuneration Regulations for the payment of a **Wage Relativity Adjustment** to workers, changes have been made to the template of the CSG monthly return required to be submitted to MRA.

New template for CSG monthly return

Employers are, henceforth, required to declare the following items separately with respect to each employee, when submitting the CSG monthly return –

- the basic wage/salary (excluding any wage relativity adjustment);
- the wage relativity adjustment; and
- a total of the two above items.

The new template is applicable for the month of July 2024 onwards and is now available on MRA website www.mra.mu

CSG monthly return for the month of September 2024

Employers are expected to pay the wage relativity adjustment for the month of September 2024 together with the wage/salary for the month of September 2024.

The deadline for submission of the return and payment of contributions is 31 October 2024.

CSG monthly return for the month of July and August 2024

Employers are expected to pay the wage relativity adjustment for the months of July and August 2024 not later than 31 December 2024.

Employers who have already submitted CSG monthly returns for the months of July and August 2024 are required to submit **amended** CSG monthly returns after the wage relativity adjustment for the months of July and August have been paid using the new CSG monthly return template. The National Savings Fund (NSF) and Training Levy contributions payable will automatically be adjusted on submission of the amended return.

Employers who have not yet submitted the CSG monthly return for the months of July and August 2024 are required to use the new CSG monthly return template to submit their returns. They may, thereafter, submit amended CSG monthly return where the wage relativity adjustment will be paid at a later stage.

As regards monthly PAYE return, no amended PAYE monthly return is required to be submitted as any arrears of wages/salary should be declared in the PAYE monthly return of the month in which the arrears of wages/salary is paid.

For further information or clarifications, employers may phone MRA Helpdesk on 207 6000 during working hours.

MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

18 September 2024

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius
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Iranian hackers reportedly sent stolen materials from Trump's campaign to Biden. (Pic for representation)

Iranian hackers target Biden Campaign with stolen Trump materials

Iranian hackers sent emails containing stolen material from Republican former President Donald Trump's campaign to people involved in Democratic President Joe Biden's then re-election campaign, part of an alleged broader effort by Tehran to influence the US election, US agencies said on Wednesday.

"Furthermore, Iranian malicious cyber actors have continued their efforts since June to send stolen, non-public material associated with former President Trump's campaign to US media organizations," the FBI, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in a joint statement.

"This malicious cyber activity is the latest example of Iran's multi-pronged approach... to stoke discord and undermine confidence in our electoral process," the agencies said.

They added that there is currently no information indicating those recipients replied. They did not provide further details on the nature of the stolen material.

In August, the United States accused Iran of launching cyber operations against the campaigns of both US presidential candidates and targeting the American public with influence operations aimed at fanning political discord.

US Agencies accuse Iran of ongoing cyber operations targeting both current campaigns

Iran has denied interfering in US affairs. On Wednesday its permanent mission to the United Nations in New York said the latest US allegations were "fundamentally unfounded, and wholly inadmissible." It added: "Iran neither has any motive nor intent to interfere in the US election."

Artillery shells sold by Indian arms makers have been diverted by European customers to Ukraine and New Delhi has not intervened to stop the trade despite protests from Moscow, according to eleven Indian and European government and defence industry officials, as well as a Reuters analysis of commercially available customs data.

The transfer of munitions to support Ukraine's defence against Russia has occurred for more than a year, according to the sources and the customs data. Indian arms export regulations limit the use of weaponry to the declared purchaser, who risks future sales being terminated if unauthorised transfers occur.

The Kremlin has raised the issue on at least two occasions, including during a July meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Indian counterpart, three Indian officials said.

In January, Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a news conference

Made in India ammunition being sold to Ukraine, claims report

that India had not sent or sold artillery shells to Ukraine.

Two Indian government and two defence industry sources told Reuters that Delhi produced only a very small amount of the ammunition being used by Ukraine, with one official estimating that it was under 1% of the total arms imported by Kyiv since the war. The news agency couldn't determine if the munitions were resold or donated to Kyiv by the European customers.

Among the European countries sending Indian munitions to Ukraine are Italy and the Czech Republic, which is leading an initiative to supply Kyiv with artillery shells from outside the European Union, according to a Spanish and a senior Indian official, as well as a former top executive at Yantra India, a state-owned company whose munitions are being used



A war crimes prosecutor works at a site of a Russian drone attack, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, on the outskirts of Lviv, Ukraine June 19, 2024. Pic - Reuters

by Ukraine.

The Indian official said that Delhi was monitoring the situation. But, along with a defence industry executive with direct knowledge of the transfers, he said India had not taken any action to throttle the supply to Europe. Like most of the

20 people interviewed by Reuters, they spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

The Ukrainian, Italian, Spanish and Czech defence ministries did not respond to requests for comment.

Melania Trump speaks out on nude modelling: A defense of art and self-expression

Melania Trump, the wife of former US President Donald Trump, is stepping back into the spotlight as she promotes her upcoming memoir, set for release on October 8. In a recent video, Melania addresses her past as a model, specifically her choice to participate in nude photo shoots, igniting conversation and reactions across social media.

In the promotional video, Melania artfully juxtaposes her experiences with some of the world's most renowned works of art, showcasing images of celebrated pieces like Paul Cezanne's *Les Grandes Baigneuses* and John Collier's statue of Lady Godiva. The dramatic orchestral soundtrack sets the stage as she poses two poignant questions: "Why do I stand proudly behind my nude modelling work?" and "Why has the media chosen to scrutinize my celebration of the human form in a fashion photo shoot?"

Melania emphasizes the importance of recognizing the beauty of the human body and urges society to honour and embrace it. "We should honour our bodies and



Melania Trump defended her nude photoshoot as a model, saying that master artists have always admired the human form. Pic - Reuters

embrace the timeless tradition of using art as a powerful means of self-expression," she declares. Her message resonates with the notion that the human form has long been a subject of admiration in art history, citing examples from master artists like Michelangelo, who created the iconic *David* statue.

The video not only showcases her narrative but also serves as a visual reminder of the longstanding relationship between art and the human body. Melania argues that, rather than being condemned, her modeling choices should be celebrated as

part of this artistic tradition.

Melania's modelling career has long been a point of contention, particularly during Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign when images from her nude shoot for *GQ* magazine resurfaced. The shoot, which featured Melania posing nude on a Trump-owned jet, drew significant media attention at the time. However, Trump defended his wife, describing her as "one of the most successful models," and noting that such imagery is "very fashionable and common" in Europe.

A memoir to set the record straight

Melania's forthcoming memoir aims to address the criticism she has faced over the years, providing insight into her personal and professional life. She hopes to set the record straight and share her perspective on the controversies surrounding her past. As the public anticipates its release, her recent statements and the accompanying video serve as a strategic move to reclaim her narrative.

Cont. on page 14

Pager bombs: The theories and the science behind them

How could it have been possible for anyone to trigger explosions in thousands of pagers simultaneously? Reports on Tuesday's pager blasts across Lebanon, which killed at least 12 and injured nearly 3,000, have been varied in content but consistent in suggesting an orchestrated attack by Israel rather than a coincidence.

So, how could it have been done? By several accounts, the pagers had been tinkered with before they reached their users. Months before Tuesday's detonations, Hezbollah had ordered 5,000 pagers from a Taiwan-based company, which has since issued a statement that the pagers were manufactured by another company based in Hungary using the Taiwanese company's brand name.

Reports say the explosive material was hidden within these pagers before they were imported to Lebanon. Sky News Arabia named the explosive as PETN, short for pentaerythritol tetranitrate, well-known as a material of choice for military, civil and terrorist operations.

That leaves the question of how the explosions could have been triggered simultaneously. Sky News Arabia cited sources as saying that the PETN was detonated by remotely raising the batteries' temperature, but scientists contacted by Hindustan Times mentioned other possible ways, such as sending a simultaneous message to detonate the explosive.



A photo taken on Wednesday, in Beirut's southern suburbs shows the remains of exploded pagers on display at an undisclosed location. (AFP)

Why use PETN

PETN, first synthesised in 1894 and extensively used during World War II, was most notoriously used in the Lockerbie bombing of 1988. The explosive was Semtex, a mixture of PETN and other chemicals. Placed in the cargo hold of a Pan Am flight from Frankfurt to Detroit, the explosive went off on December 21, 1988, causing the Boeing to disintegrate over Lockerbie in Scotland, killing all 259 on

board and 11 on the ground.

The reason PETN is often mixed with other explosives is that it is a "secondary explosive", just like RDX or TNT. "It means they have high energy density, so even a few grams will cause much destruction through explosion. However, they are relatively stable and hence need primary explosives such as lead azide (which is called a primer or a booster) to start the detonation of the secondary explosive," said Prasenjit Maity, professor of chemistry and nanotechnology at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and currently director of NFSU's Guwahati campus.

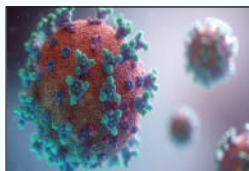
"In conventional and commercial explosive devices used for military, civil or mining projects, secondary explosives are mostly used as a mixture for better explosive strength, stability, and oxygen balance. The oxygen required for combustion is taken from their internal structure, not from the atmosphere. So, oxygen balance is very important in explosives chemistry," Maity said.

Among the many reasons PETN is preferred for terrorist attacks, one is that X-rays cannot detect it directly, although it can be given away by the wiring and other electrical equipment that go into making the bomb. Again, because it packs so much power, it is often enough to carry small amounts of PETN.

Further, PETN is less stable than TNT and RDX, while their explosive strengths are comparable to one another. "PETN can be detonated with a very small electrical spark. If the information about PETN being used is correct, I believe they did not use pure PETN, rather they would have mixed it with some additives to make a plastic explosive (a soft clay-like appearance for easily fitting into any space or shape)," Maity said.

New Covid Variant XEC spreading across Europe and the US

A new COVID-19 variant, known as XEC, is rapidly spreading and has already been detected in 27 countries, raising concerns among health officials and scientists. Initially identified in Germany in June, the XEC variant is a sublineage of the Omicron variant and is reported to be more contagious than its predecessors. As of now, over 500 samples of the XEC variant have been reported from various countries, including Poland, Norway, Luxembourg, Ukraine, Portugal, and China. Notable increases in infection rates have been observed, particularly in Slovenia, where over 10% of COVID case samples contained this variant. Health experts warn that XEC could soon become the dominant strain across Europe and North America.



XEC is a sublineage of the omicron variant which was initially reported in Berlin, Germany, in June. (Representational Image)

those of other cold or flu-like illnesses. Common symptoms include:

- * High temperature
- * Aches and fatigue
- * Cough or sore throat

Most individuals recover within a few weeks, although recovery times can vary. Experts like COVID data analyst Mike

Honey have noted strong growth of XEC in countries like Denmark and Germany.

Vaccination and Preventive Measures

While there are concerns about the XEC variant, health authorities emphasize that staying current with vaccinations and booster shots should offer adequate protection against severe illness and hospitalization. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends maintaining good hygiene practices and ensuring proper ventilation to minimize transmission risks.

Given the decrease in routine COVID testing, tracking the variant's circulation has become more challenging. Researchers are urging closer monitoring of the XEC variant to better understand its implications. As the situation evolves, public health officials are closely watching the spread of XEC and urging individuals to stay informed and take necessary precautions.

Characteristics of the XEC Variant
XEC is a hybrid variant, combining elements from earlier Omicron sub-variants KS.1.1 and KP.3.3. Its rapid spread has been linked to its ability to infect individuals more easily, which has prompted concerns about potential surges in COVID cases.

Symptoms of XEC

The symptoms associated with the XEC variant appear to be similar to

Trump vs. Harris: Scientific American endorses Kamala Harris in historic move

In a landmark decision, *Scientific American* magazine has announced its endorsement of Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election, marking only the second time in its 179-year history that it has taken a political stance. Following the recent presidential debate between Harris and Donald Trump, the influential science publication emphasized the importance of supporting a candidate who prioritizes science, health, and the environment.

Scientific American, which boasts a global readership of six million, made headlines with its op-ed titled "Vote for Kamala Harris to Support Science, Health and the Environment." The editors praised Harris for her commitment to advancing reproductive rights, tackling climate change, and improving the healthcare system in the United States.

The magazine previously endorsed Joe Biden in 2020, making this endorsement of Harris a significant continuation of its engagement in political discourse.

The editorial team drew sharp comparisons between Harris and Trump, particularly highlighting the former president's "disastrous" record during his time in office. The magazine criticized Trump's approach to various critical issues, such as healthcare, reproductive rights, and environmental policy.

Healthcare: While Trump sought to reduce Medicare and Medicaid, Harris plans to expand access to insurance through an extension of the Affordable Care Act, funded by higher taxes on the wealthy.

Reproductive Rights: The magazine condemned Trump for spreading misinformation about abortion and supporting the removal of federal pro-



Scientific American magazine has endorsed Kamala Harris against Donald Trump in the 2024 White House race. Pic - Reuters

tections for the procedure. In contrast, Harris has pledged to enhance access to reproductive health services.

Climate Change: Trump has dismissed climate change as a "hoax," and his administration rolled back numerous environmental regulations. Harris, however, aims to build on the Biden administration's initiatives to reduce emissions and promote clean energy through tax credits.

Harris has garnered endorsements from a variety of public figures, notably Taylor Swift, whose support has sparked backlash from Trump. The *Scientific American* editorial noted that in the aftermath of the recent debate, many observers — regardless of their political affiliations — concluded that Harris emerged as the more competent candidate.

The article also highlighted Trump's controversial remarks during the debate, including his unfounded claims about late-term abortions, which were described as "execution after birth." This assertion has drawn widespread criticism and appears to have alienated some potential supporters.

Celebrating 60 Years of Toyota in Mauritius

A Journey of Growth and Innovation



Mr Arvind Issur, Managing Director of Toyota Mauritius, delivering his speech on the occasion of Toyota's 60th anniversary in Mauritius

Toyota Mauritius proudly celebrated its 60th anniversary, last Tuesday, an occasion that highlighted not just the brand's longevity, but its significant contributions to the Mauritian automotive landscape and the lives of its citizens. The event took place at the Riche Terre complex and was graced by distinguished guests, including Prithvirajsing Roopun, President of the Republic, whose presence underscored the importance of this landmark celebration.

In a heartfelt speech, Managing Director Mr Arvind Issur recounted the remarkable journey of Toyota in Mauritius, starting with his late father, Mr Karumchand Issur. The seeds of this journey were sown in 1963 when Mr Issur came across an advertisement in *Reader's Digest* featuring Toyota vehicles and announcing that the company was seeking distributors worldwide. Curious about the possibilities, he wrote to Toyota Japan, initiating a series of negotiations that ultimately led to a distributorship agreement between Toyota Motor Corporation and The

Beechand Company Ltd. This agreement culminated in the arrival of the first Toyota cars in February 1964, marking a new chapter for the local automotive market.

Mr Issur vividly recalled the initial struggles of the business. The local car market was heavily dominated by European makes, making the early days of Toyota challenging. Yet, the dedication and perseverance of the Toyota team paid off. As they worked tirelessly to establish the Toyota brand, sales began to gain momentum. By the late 1960s, the leadership of The Beechand Company recognized the need for greater visibility and customer engagement, prompting a strategic move from Vacoas to Port Louis, where they established a modern showroom in 1970.

Milestones and Achievements

Reflecting on the past six decades, Mr Issur shared statistics that illustrate Toyota's growth and impact in Mauritius. From a humble annual sale of just 100 vehicles in the 1970s, the company experienced a remarkable surge, achieving over 2000 units sold last year, including Hino trucks. The financial growth was equally staggering; the company's turnover increased from 25 million rupees in its early days to more than 3 billion rupees in the last financial year, a testament to its robust market pre-



The President of the Republic, Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun, and his wife, pictured with the Issur family at the Toyota @ 60 reception

sence and consumer trust.

A pivotal moment in the company's evolution came in April 2006 when a joint venture with Toyota Tsusho Corporation, Japan, was formed, leading to the establishment of Toyota Mauritius Limited. This partnership not only streamlined operations but also reinforced Toyota's commitment to the region. In 2008, Toyota further cemented its position as an innovator by launching hybrid electric vehicles in Mauritius, making it the first company to do so. Today, it proudly holds the title of the leading brand in the hybrid segment, having sold over 450 hybrid cars last year alone.

Commitment to Sustainability

As the global focus shifts towards sustainability, Mr Issur emphasized Toyota's commitment to environmental stewardship. With an ambitious goal of achieving carbon neutrality in new vehicle sales by 2035 and full carbon neutrality across its value chain by 2050, Toyota is actively working to reduce its carbon footprint. This vision, termed "Beyond Zero," aims to not only meet the demands of modern consumers but also to contribute to a healthier planet for future generations.

Mr Issur elaborated on the roadmap towards carbon neutrality, highlighting Toyota's multi-technology approach. This strategy includes the development of versatile hybrid electric vehicles that minimize

carbon emissions while enhancing fuel efficiency without the need for charging stations. As the readiness for full battery electric vehicles grows, Toyota is committed to supporting this transition, ensuring that no customer is left behind on the journey towards sustainability.

Honouring the Visionaries

The evening was not only a celebration of achievements but also a moment to honour the visionaries behind Toyota's success in Mauritius. Mr Issur paid tribute to the founding fathers of The Beechand Company, Mr Sookdeo Issur and Mr Karumchand Issur, whose foresight and dedication to bringing mobility to the Mauritian people laid the foundation for what Toyota has become today. Their legacy is carried forward by a dedicated workforce of over 200 employees who are committed to upholding the values of quality, durability, and reliability that have become synonymous with the Toyota brand.

As Toyota Mauritius enters its next chapter, it does so with a firm foundation built on decades of experience, a commitment to innovation, and a vision for a sustainable future. The values that have driven Toyota for 60 years will undoubtedly guide its journey ahead, ensuring that it continues to be a leader in the automotive industry and a trusted partner for the people of Mauritius.



Representatives of Toyota Motor Corporation are seen with the President of the Republic and the Issur family

Tree of Knowledge



A Different Approach to Anger

Thoughts of revenge create an energy of imbalance and are best dealt with by releasing your anger.

There can be times when we get so angry with someone that we find ourselves imagining ways to seek revenge for the hurt they've caused us. Remember, however, that these thoughts are simply energetic

creations. In order to keep yourself from taking part in a rebalancing of energy, it is important to release the thoughts and the person into the care of the universe with forgiveness.

Before we invest our energy in negative thoughts or actions, we should remind ourselves that everything has a purpose. We can then consider that perhaps the actions of the other person may have had nothing to do with us. If we don't take their actions personally, it can be easier to release them. Remembering that every interaction is an opportunity to make a better choice, take a deep breath before responding. Allow yourself the time to reconnect to your center, and make the choice to respond from your

higher self. We can never know all the circumstances that may have led someone to do something. By not passing judgment on anyone and instead sending hope for their healing, we may create something positive out of a difficult situation. We can then release it, since dwelling on it can energetically drain our system, causing us to only hurt ourselves. When we can release our hold on negative events and interactions, we leave it in the hands of a wise universe to work out the best solution for all involved.

Every day, we have a chance to make a choice to bring light into the world. When we bless others with the gift of our positive energy, instead of letting circumstances negatively affect us, we bring a little peace to the world.

By Elizabeth Hohmann

From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

7th Year No 282

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 15 January, 1960

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



Peter Ibbotson

Colonial Development

It is time again to look at some of the developments under way or planned for the very near future in territories other than Mauritius. By so doing, we may see how other colonies are progressing in ways different from our own; we may, perhaps, get ideas about developments we would like to see here.

A few months ago, it was announced that a grant of £540,000 (Rs 7,200,000) had been made under the Colonial Development and Welfare (CD&W) Acts towards the cost of improvements at Port Louis harbour. Only a few days later, it was announced that an even larger sum — £881,728, or Rs 11.5 million — had been granted towards the cost of providing new deep-water wharf facilities at Lautoka, the second port of the Fiji Islands. This grant is one-quarter of the cost of the whole scheme which will improve export facilities for newly developed industries in the western region of Fiji. When the new wharf is completed, ocean-going vessels will be able to discharge their cargoes direct to Lautoka, instead of these cargoes having to be discharged at Suva and transported 150 miles overland to Lautoka. Dredging will provide a deep channel at Lautoka, and the material dredged up will be used in reclaiming an area for open storage on land next to the wharf.

Other recent grants under the CD&W Acts have included a total of over Rs 10 million for educational purposes. This sum includes provision for a girls' grammar school and a boys' technical school, both in Malta, and an overall sum for the development of secondary education in Jamaica. British Guiana and Sierra Leone have had grants towards the cost of drainage and irrigation works and water supplies; Sarawak and North Borneo have had grants earmarked for road development.

Mauritius' little sister, the Seychelles, has had a comprehensive £2.5 million (Rs 33 million) development plan approved by the island Government. The UK Government has allocated £1 million (over Rs 13 million, or two-fifths of the total cost) from CD&W funds towards the plan. What is

planned in the Seychelles?

One of the most important projects is to set up a Tourist Board and Industry on the lines of the West Indian model. The emphasis of the plan falls fairly and squarely on projects with a high economic content (like the Mauritius Five-year Plan, in other words). Roads, electricity supply, water supply, and in conjunction with Cable and Wireless, telephone supply are all to be developed. Improved communications are planned with the outside world, by establishing a new shipping service or, if possible, a new air service. These last are essential if the Tourist Industry is to be fully developed. Private enterprise is to be assisted in the hotel and tourist industries, as well as in agriculture.

(As a UK taxpayer who is helping to provide the CD&W allocation, I protest against this assistance for private enterprise in the tourist industry which is to be developed by the state. I feel that where the government is financing the industry, it should reap the benefits of any profit which may accrue by having its own state-run hotels, etc).

Animal husbandry, fisheries, and forestry are all to be developed; tax concessions are being introduced. Among these are concessions designed to attract retired people from overseas to settle in the Seychelles and so provide local employment opportunities, especially in the service occupations.

Social and welfare matters also figure in the Seychelles plan. A new technical school is planned; this will help young Seychellois to get skills which will be of use to them in the new industries it is hoped to set up. A trained Seychellois will also be able to emigrate and get work abroad. Hospital facilities are to be extended. Anaemia is widespread (as in Mauritius) among the poorer people, and a survey of its incidence has been started by the Welcome Research Laboratory. In 1960, the World Health Organization is to make a TB survey of the islands. It is intended also to tackle the housing problem.

I referred above to Sierra Leone. In view of the Labour Party programme at the last general election, which included the establishment of a university college in Mauritius, it is interesting to note that just before Christmas it was announced that Fourah Bay College, Freetown, Sierra Leone, has been granted University College status, in relationship with the University of Durham.



Port Louis — Colonial days — Royal Street — 1923 - Pic - vintagemauritius.org

The latest colony where constitutional developments have been adumbrated is Uganda. On December 23, the Governor's Constitutional Committee published its report, known as the Wild Report, making many far-reaching recommendations. The most important are that: direct elections shall be held in early 1961 or earlier; universal adult suffrage shall be established; there shall be a common electoral roll, with no device for the representation of non-African minorities; there shall be no representation of special interests; and the political party which gets a clear majority at the general election shall form the government side of the Legislature.

We see no nonsense proposed in Uganda such as we have in Mauritius. There is no foolishness about an Executive Council reflecting in its composition the composition (the Wild Report wants this to be called the National Assembly). Instead, we have the fair and square proposal that the majority party shall form the government. Nor is there any stupid proposal that minorities not represented by elected members shall be able to have nominated representation. And people who might have wanted special representation for sectional interests or racial minorities have been, rightly, rebuffed.

The proposals put a premium on the development of political parties. The Report says that it might be possible to get one or two of those concerned with party political organisations in the UK to visit Uganda and take part in a course on political party organisation. The Wild Committee has in fact recommended this as a possibility to be pursued by the Uganda government in consultation with the leaders of the various political parties now in existence. One wonders if something on these lines might not bear profitable fruit in Mauritius, where the parties opposed to the Labour Party exist on very tenuous philosophies, and where the Labour Party seems to need guidance on organisational lines.

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

You'll feel drawn to adventure, whether through travel or trying something new. Your optimism will help keep you motivated, but don't take on too much. Reflect on whether your actions align with your long-term goals.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 10, 16, 21, 28, 33

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Your focus on work will help you make strides in your professional life but be careful not to let it dominate your attention. While success is important, make time for personal matters as well. Balance is key to avoiding burnout. **Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 15, 19, 26, 39**

AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

This week encourages original thinking and innovative ideas. You'll feel inspired to break free from the ordinary and explore new possibilities. Collaboration with like-minded people will be rewarding, but don't hesitate to assert your own vision.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 11, 16, 20, 27, 37

PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

You'll be more introspective this week, drawn to emotional

and spiritual healing. Creative outlets will help you process your feelings. Trust your instincts, especially regarding emotional matters. Take time for self-care and nurturing your inner world.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 13, 18, 22, 31

ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

You'll feel an energetic boost to accomplish your goals. While you may take charge and make bold moves, avoid rushing decisions. Relationships could require more patience, so temper your impulsive nature.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 15, 22, 27, 33

TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Things may seem to move slowly, but progress is happening. Focus on practical matters, like finances or home life, and take time to relax with loved ones. Your steady approach will help you feel grounded. It's a great week to take a step back, reflect, and recharge without rushing into anything new.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 8, 14, 18, 25, 30

YOUR STARS

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Your social life will thrive as you engage in lively conversations and new ideas. Focus on deepening connections rather than spreading yourself too thin. Meaningful conversations will be more rewarding.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 10, 16, 21, 26, 31

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Emotions run high this week, especially around family or close relationships. You may reflect on the past, seeking closure, but try not to get stuck in nostalgia. Focus on the present and what can be healed now.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 7, 13, 19, 24, 36

LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

You'll be in the spotlight, with your confidence and leadership shining. It's a great time to initiate projects or inspire others. Be mindful, though—sometimes your pride can create friction if you're not careful. Encourage collaboration, and be open to feedback from those around you.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 11, 17, 23, 28, 32

VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

This is a week for organizing and planning. Whether it's related to work or health, small changes now can have lasting effects. Take time to review and adjust routines that no longer serve you. Your attention to detail will help ensure everything is in order.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 12, 18, 20, 29, 34

LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Relationships are in the spotlight. Decisions about partnerships may arise, and it's important to weigh all options carefully. You'll seek balance and harmony in your interactions, so aim for calm, open communication.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 13, 19, 22, 27, 35

SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

This week presents a chance for deep personal growth. Challenges may push you to transform key areas of your life. Stay focused and passionate but avoid letting emotions cloud your decisions. You have the intensity to push through obstacles, so channel your energy into projects that matter most to you.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 14, 17, 25, 30, 38

What would a second Trump presidency mean for the global economy?



Pic - assets.teenvogue.com

● Cont. from page 2

To Musk, Trump claimed there is a “disaster with inflation”, which he falsely claimed was the worst in a century. In his debate with Harris, he was even more inaccurate calling it “probably the worst in our nation’s history, we were at 21%”.

Actually inflation had been higher in the 1970s than the peak of 8% under Biden. Inflation is now down to 2.5%.

He promised to end inflation quickly, but did not say how. He claimed a “drill,

baby, drill” policy would cut petrol prices, an odd priority when talking to an electric car maker. And this would take years to have any impact.

In the debate he claimed he would “cut taxes very substantially”. Which taxes, he did not say, but his record suggests it would be taxes on the rich. Nor did he say what spending he would cut to fund the tax cuts, or whether he would just allow the government debt to expand further.

He has threatened the independence of the Federal Reserve, which could lead to interest rates being higher as expectations of inflation rise.

Policies or ‘concepts’?

Eight years after he campaigned for president criticising Obama’s health care arrangements, all Trump could offer as an alternative at the debate was “concepts of a plan”.

The clearest policy he has announced is more tariffs. He has proposed an across-the-board tariff of 10%, or perhaps 20%. For China they would be 60% or more.

The clear result would be American households paying much more for basic goods. Many goods US households buy are imported and US manufacturers import raw materials and components for the

goods they make and machinery to make them.

It is likely many countries on which Trump imposes these tariffs will retaliate, making it harder for US exporters.

IMF modelling estimated the impact of Trump’s previous trade policies was to cut US (and global) GDP by around half to 1%. But now he is proposing much higher tariffs.

US and trade deficits

Trump is almost as fixated about the size of trade deficits as he is about the size of crowds at his rallies. But in his term as president, notwithstanding his tariffs, the US trade deficit was not narrowed.

Another way Trump would damage US trading interests is his impact on their “soft power”. He is very unpopular in many countries. A Trump-led US would likely attract fewer tourists and international students.

A bizarre new Trump policy is to create a “national bitcoin stockpile”. Following the lead of El Salvador’s self-described dicta-

tor Nayib Bukele, Trump would gamble taxpayers’ money on a hoard of speculative tokens which he had formerly called out as a “scam”.

As the world’s second largest economy, and a major customer of the rest of the world, a protectionist and smaller US economy would be a drag on global economic growth. There would be lower wages and fewer jobs globally as a result.

The big concern

But the major longer-term impact of a second Trump presidency on the global economy would come from his rejection of climate change.

He has called climate change a hoax. Asked directly about climate action in the first 2024 debate, Trump just referred irrelevantly to clean water. There was no mention of any action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

He would, again, withdraw the US from the Paris climate accords. This would be a major setback to attempts to moderate the increase in greenhouse gas emissions. As the second largest emitter, the US would directly contribute to a hotter planet and more deaths.

John Hawkins, Senior Lecturer, Canberra School of Politics, Economics and Society, University of Canberra

Mauritius Times

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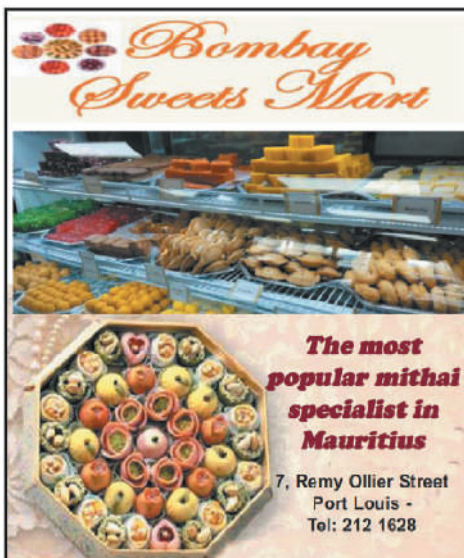
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Exploitation et préjugés : Haïti entre l'héritage colonial et les accusations de Trump

Haïti, un pays marqué par une instabilité politique et économique chronique, fait souvent la une des médias pour les mauvaises raisons. Récemment, une rumeur sans fondement, largement diffusée sur les réseaux sociaux et reprise par Donald Trump, prétendait que des immigrants illégaux haïtiens à Springfield, Ohio, mangeaient des animaux domestiques.

Cette affirmation, bien que fautive, reflète un modèle de fausses accusations régulièrement propagées, en particulier autour de la période proche des élections, visant à lier immigration et criminalité. Cette rhétorique s'inscrit dans une longue histoire d'hostilité à l'égard d'Haïti et de son peuple, une hostilité qui trouve ses racines dans l'histoire coloniale et post-coloniale du pays, et notamment dans l'exploitation par les grandes puissances comme les États-Unis et la France.

Une dette imposée: la France et l'exploitation postindépendance

L'une des raisons principales qui pousse les Haïtiens à quitter leur pays, selon Philip Johnson de l'université Flinders, remonte à une dette historique imposée par la France et les États-Unis. En 1804, après une révolution menée par des esclaves sous la direction de Toussaint L'Ouverture, Haïti est devenue la première république noire indépendante au monde, après avoir vaincu l'armée napoléonienne. Cependant, en 1825, la France a envoyé des navires de guerre pour contraindre Haïti à payer une dette d'indemnisation de 150 millions de francs aux anciens propriétaires d'esclaves français en échange de la reconnaissance de son indépendance.

Pour Haïti, cette dette était colossale, représentant environ huit fois la taille de son économie actuelle, selon une estimation du «New York Times» en 2022. Sans cette dette, une équipe de chercheurs internationaux estime que le revenu par habitant en Haïti en 2018 aurait pu être six fois plus élevé. Haïti a dû contracter des emprunts auprès de banques françaises pour rembourser cette somme, créant ce que l'on appelle une «double dette». Par conséquent, Haïti a été financièrement asphyxié pendant des décennies, empêchant tout développement économique durable.

L'occupation américaine et la poursuite de l'exploitation

L'exploitation d'Haïti ne s'est pas arrêtée là. En 1915, les États-Unis ont envahi Haïti et l'ont occupé pendant 19 ans, sous prétexte de stabiliser le pays, mais surtout pour protéger leurs intérêts économiques. Les banques américaines ont pris le relais des banques françaises en forçant Haïti à s'endetter encore plus.

Pendant cette période, des ressources, dont l'or d'Haïti, ont été transférées aux États-Unis. Le général Smedley Butler, qui a participé à l'occupation, a plus tard admis qu'il était «un racketteur pour le capitalisme», révélant ainsi la véritable nature de l'implication américaine en Haïti.

Après la fin de l'occupation américaine en 1934, Haïti a traversé une série de dictatures, notamment



Bidonville-Haiti Comprendre la tragédie haïtienne. P - tresor.gouv.ci

sous François «Papa Doc» Duvalier et son fils Jean-Claude «Baby Doc». Les deux dictateurs ont régné avec une poigne de fer, utilisant des milices pour terroriser la population. Malgré la brutalité du régime, les États-Unis ont fermé les yeux, voyant dans les Duvalier des alliés dans la lutte contre le communisme pendant la guerre froide.

Même lorsque Haïti a tenté d'embrasser la démocratie avec l'élection de Jean-Bertrand Aristide en 1991, un coup d'État, soutenu par la CIA, a rapidement renversé son gouvernement. Ses partisans ont été persécutés, et des milliers de réfugiés haïtiens, tentant de fuir la violence, ont été interceptés par la garde côtière américaine et détenus à la base navale de Guantánamo Bay.

Tandis que la plupart des réfugiés cubains qui fuyaient le régime de Castro ont bénéficié de l'asile aux États-Unis, les Haïtiens ont été renvoyés dans leur pays, illustrant une politique de double standard fondée sur des considérations politiques.

Un héritage de pauvreté et d'instabilité

Aujourd'hui, Haïti est le pays le plus pauvre de l'hémisphère occidentale, et cette situation découle directement des dettes imposées et de l'exploitation prolongée par la France et les États-Unis. Les gangs contrôlent désormais une grande partie de Port-au-Prince et des zones rurales, exacerbant la crise humanitaire. Depuis l'assassinat du président Jovenel Moïse en 2021, l'insécurité a atteint de nouveaux sommets, forçant de plus en plus d'Haïtiens à chercher refuge à l'étranger.

Malgré ce lourd héritage, les immigrants haïtiens continuent de faire face à une hostilité raciste, alimentée par des politiciens comme Donald Trump et J.D. Vance. Les fausses allégations selon lesquelles les

immigrants haïtiens mangeraient des animaux domestiques ne sont qu'un exemple de la manière dont certains politiciens exploitent les peurs et préjugés pour gagner du terrain électoral. Ces accusations, bien qu'infondées, jouent sur des stéréotypes racistes profondément enracinés associant pauvreté, violence et immigration haïtienne.

Réalité historique et conséquences actuelles

L'histoire d'Haïti est marquée par une exploitation systématique qui continue d'avoir des répercussions aujourd'hui. La dette imposée par la France a freiné son développement pendant des décennies, tandis que l'intervention des États-Unis a contribué à une instabilité politique qui persiste encore. Cette exploitation économique et politique a créé les conditions de pauvreté extrême et de violence auxquelles les Haïtiens sont confrontés, les poussant à chercher refuge ailleurs, souvent pour être confrontés à une nouvelle forme de rejet et de discrimination.

L'hostilité actuelle envers les immigrants haïtiens, largement fondée sur des préjugés racistes, masque la réalité des difficultés auxquelles ils font face. Les États-Unis et la France, ayant joué un rôle déterminant dans la dégradation des conditions de vie en Haïti, portent une responsabilité morale dans l'accueil des réfugiés haïtiens. Il est impératif de reconnaître ce passé d'exploitation pour comprendre les crises actuelles et répondre avec compassion aux besoins des Haïtiens, tant dans leur pays que parmi ceux qui souhaiteraient immigrer.

A. Bartleby

Healthier diet linked to slower aging and lower dementia risk, study finds

A new study from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and The Robert Butler Columbia Aging Center finds that a healthier diet is associated with a slower pace of aging and reduced risk of dementia. Published in the *Annals of Neurology*, the research suggests that the link between diet and dementia is partially mediated by the processes of biological aging. While previous studies indicated that a healthy diet slows biological aging and lowers dementia risk, the underlying mechanisms were not well understood until now.

"Much of the focus in dementia research has been on how specific nutrients impact the brain," said Daniel Belsky, PhD, associate professor of Epidemiology at Columbia and a senior author of the study. "We tested the hypothesis that a healthy diet protects against dementia by slowing the overall pace of biological aging."

The researchers analyzed data from the Offspring Cohort of the Framingham Heart Study, which began in 1971. This cohort included 1,644 participants aged 60 or older, all free of dementia at the study's start, with available dietary, epigenetic, and follow-up data. Participants were monitored through nine examinations over several decades, including physical exams, lifestyle questionnaires, blood sampling, and neurocognitive testing starting in 1991.



Out of the 1,644 participants, 140 developed dementia. To measure the pace of aging, the researchers used the DunedinPACE epigenetic clock, developed by Belsky and colleagues. This clock assesses the rate of biological aging, akin to a speedometer.

"We have strong evidence that a healthy diet can protect against dementia," said Yian Gu, PhD, associate professor of Neurological Sciences at Columbia and

co-senior author of the study. "However, the exact mechanism of this protection remains unclear."

The study found that adherence to the Mediterranean-DASH Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay (MIND) diet slowed the pace of aging, as measured by DunedinPACE, and reduced risks for both dementia and mortality. Specifically, a slower DunedinPACE accounted for 27% of the diet-dementia association and 57% of the diet-mortality association.

"Our findings suggest that a slower pace of aging mediates part of the relationship between a healthy diet and reduced dementia risk," said Aline Thomas, PhD, first author and Postdoc at Columbia's Department of Neurology and Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain. "However, some aspects of the diet-dementia association remain unexplained, highlighting the need for further research into brain-specific mechanisms."

Belsky added, "We recommend additional observational studies to explore the direct effects of nutrients on brain aging. If these findings are confirmed in more diverse populations, monitoring biological aging could become a valuable tool for dementia prevention."



Will your phone one day let you smell as well as see and hear what's on the other end of a call?

Phones that transmit odors sound like science fiction, but researchers are working on making them real.

Imagine this: You pick up your phone for a video call with a friend. Not only can you see their face and hear their voice, but you can also smell the cookies they just baked. It sounds like something out of a science fiction movie, but could it actually happen?

I'm a computer scientist who studies how machines sense the world.

What phones do now

When you listen to music or talk to someone on your phone, you can hear the sound through the built-in speakers. These speakers convert digital signals into physical vibrations using a tiny component called a diaphragm. Your ears sense those vibrations as sound waves.

Your phone also has a screen that displays images and videos. The screen uses tiny dots known as pixels that consist of three primary colors: red, green and blue. By mixing these colors in different ways, your phone can show you everything from beautiful beach scenes to cute puppies.

Smelling with phones

Now how about the sense of smell? Smells are created by tiny particles called molecules that float through the air and reach your nose. Your nose then sends signals to your brain, which identifies the smell.

So, could your phone send these smell molecules to you? Scientists are working on it. Think about how your phone screen



Phones that transmit odors seem like a great idea, but careful what you wish for! Teo Mahatmana/iStock via Getty Images

works. It doesn't have every color in the world stored inside it. Instead, it uses just three colors to create millions of different hues and shades.

Now imagine something similar for smells. Scientists are developing digital scent technology that uses a small number of different cartridges, each containing a specific scent. Just like how pixels mix three colors to create images, these scent cartridges could mix to create different smells.

Just like images on your phone are

made of digital codes that represent combinations of pixels, smells produced by a future phone could be created using digital codes. Each smell could have a specific recipe made up of different amounts of the ingredients in the cartridges.

When you receive a digital scent code, your phone could mix tiny amounts of the different scents from the cartridges to create the desired smell. This mix would then be released through a small vent on the phone, allowing you to smell it. With

just a few cartridges, your phone could potentially create a huge variety of smells, much like how red, green and blue pixels can create countless colors.

Researchers and companies are already working on digital odor makers like this.

The challenges to making smell phones

Creating a phone that can produce smells involves several challenges. One is designing a system that can produce thousands of different smells using only a few cartridges. Another is how to control how strong a scent should be and how long a phone should emit it. And phones will also need to sense odors near them and convert those to digital codes so your friends' phones can send smells to you.

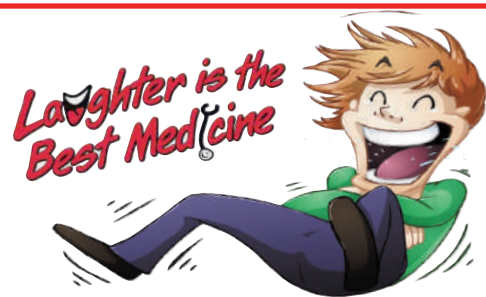
The cartridges should also be easy to refill, and the chemicals in them be safe to breathe. These hurdles make it a tricky but exciting area of research.

An odiferous future

Even though we're not there yet, scientists and engineers are working hard to make smell phones a reality. Maybe one day you'll be able to not only see and hear your friend's birthday party over the phone, but also smell the candles they blew out!

Jian Liu

Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Tennessee



The Eternal Roommates

Just beyond the Gates of Hell, an alcoholic, a womanizer, and a stoner find themselves standing in front of three identical doors.

Satan greets them and explains the secret to getting into Heaven: Each man must spend 1,000 years in a room with their greatest vice. If at any point they ask to be let out, they will be trapped inside forever.

The first man, a lifelong alcoholic, is presented with a room resembling his favourite drinking spot. His old drinking buddies are there, along with an endless supply of spirits. Ecstatic, he rushes inside and slams the door behind him.

The second man, known for his womanizing ways, is faced with a room filled with every woman he has ever fantasized about. Without a word, he rushes inside and closes the door.

The third man, a cannabis connoisseur, is amazed to find a forest filled with every strain of marijuana imaginable. He happily enters the room, eager to get eternally stoned.

1,000 years later...

Satan, true to his word, checks on each man. He opens the first door and finds a nightmarish scene: blood, booze, and bodily fluids cover the floor. The man's friends lie dead, and he is found shrivelled and crying, surrounded by broken bottles. Satan reminds him of the condition of his imprisonment, and the man is trapped inside forever.

Opening the second door, Satan is met with a flood of people -- men, women, and children -- along with the stench of waste and burnt flesh. The second man is riding the wave of people, screaming to be let out. Satan seals the door forever.



Finally, Satan opens the third door to find the stoner meditating in the untouched forest, surrounded by a pool of tears. The stoner, with a look of disbelief, rushes over and asks, "Do you have a lighter, man?!"

* * *

A Heartwarming Joke for Senior Citizens

Everyone Has to Live!!

At a party attended by many celebrities, a gray-haired veteran walked up to the stage with a cane and took his seat.

The host asked: "Do you still go to the doctor often?"

The veteran replied, "Yes, often."

Host asked, "Why?"

Veteran said, "Because patients must go to the doctor often! Only then can the doctor survive!"

The audience burst into warm applause, and people cheered for the veteran's optimism and witty language.

The host then asked: "Do you often ask the pharmacist in the hospital about how to take the medicine?"

Veteran said, "Yes, I often ask the pharmacist about how to take the medicine! Because the pharmacist also has to make money to survive!"

Another round of applause from the audience followed.

Host asked, "Do you take medicine often?"

Veteran said, "No! I often throw away the medicine. Because I also want to survive!!"

The audience laughed even more.

The host finally said: "Thank you for accepting my interview!"

The veteran replied: "You're welcome! I know, you have to survive too!!"

The audience burst into laughter, applause, and cheers, which lasted for a long time!!

Host asked another question: "Do you still chat in the group often?"

The veteran replied: "Yes, I also want to survive in the group! If I don't show up and don't chat, everyone will think I'm dead, and the group admin will delete me!!"

It is said that this joke was ranked first in the world because "Everyone Has to Live!!"

Smile, dear friends, and show up often. Post your

messages and responses to the messages of your near and dear ones!

Communicate and stay connected! Let people know that you are still alive, happy, and healthy (both mentally and physically).

* * *

The Preacher's Farewell

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

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

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

* * *

The Obituary Call

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

"I did. Where are you calling from?"

* * *

The Software Engineer's Exit

Old software engineers never die; they just log out.

* * *

A Cannibal for Tea

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

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

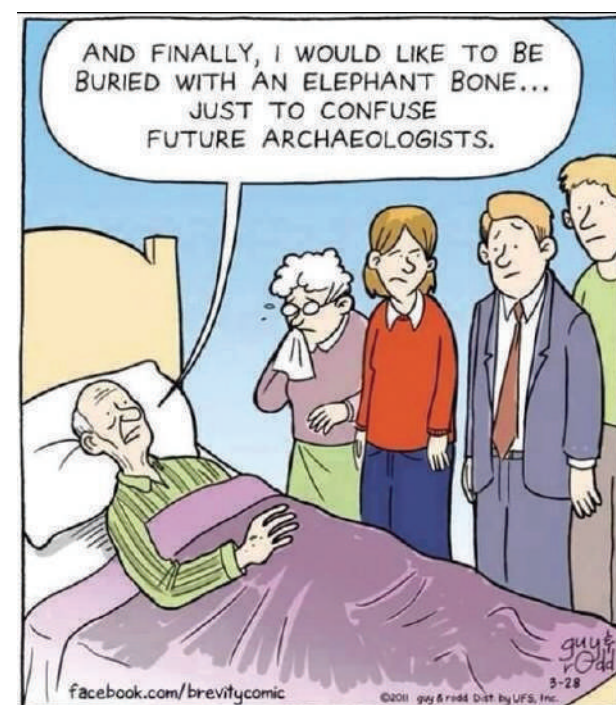
"Yes, that's right."

"So how are things between you right now?"

"Well... right now..."

The cannibal stopped to take a sip of her tea.

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



You Can Do It

6 Laws to Win in Life

Winning in life isn't about luck or chance; it's about understanding and applying key principles that drive success and fulfillment. Here are six essential laws to help you achieve your goals and live a successful, rewarding life:

1. Stop Telling People Your Plans

Sharing your goals and plans with others can sometimes hinder your progress. When you disclose too much, you may inadvertently set up expectations or face unnecessary criticism. Keeping your plans private allows you to focus on execution without external pressures. Protect your vision by keeping it under wraps until you've made significant strides.

2. Know When to Say No

One of the most empowering things you can do is learn to say no. By prioritizing your own well-being over



the need to please others, you maintain your boundaries and focus on what truly matters to you. Practice assertiveness and remember that saying no is not a rejection of people, but a commitment to your own priorities and health.

3. Make a Decision and Commit to It

Indecision and wavering often lead to missed opportunities and repeated mistakes. To achieve success, make a firm decision and commit to it wholeheartedly. Discipline is key; resist the urge to revert to old, toxic patterns. Commitment involves following through with

your decision and adapting as necessary to stay on course.

4. There Is Power in Numbers

Success is rarely a solo journey. Surround yourself with a supportive team or network that uplifts and encourages you. Collaborative efforts and shared wisdom amplify your chances of success. Stop trying to do everything alone; embrace the power of teamwork and collective strength.

5. Starve Your Distractions, Feed Your Focus

In today's world, distractions are abundant and often tempting. To achieve your goals, you must resist these distractions and concentrate on your objectives. Avoid the lure of cheap dopamine and focus your energy on meaningful activities that propel you towards your goals. Cultivate discipline to stay centered and motivated.

6. Always Provide Value to Others

The secret to long-term success lies in your ability to provide value to others. Whether in business or personal relationships, making other people's lives easier or better ensures that you remain a priority. By consistently offering value, you build trust, foster strong connections, and position yourself as an indispensable resource.

The Engineer's Love

My husband is an engineer by profession. I love him for his steady nature and the warm feeling when I lean against his broad shoulders.

Three years of courtship and now, two years into marriage, I have to admit that I am growing tired of it. The reasons I loved him before have now become the source of all my restlessness.

I am a sentimental woman, extremely sensitive when it comes to relationships and my feelings. I yearn for romantic moments, like a little girl yearning for candy. My husband is my complete opposite; his lack of sensitivity and inability to bring romantic moments into our marriage has disheartened me about love.

One day, I finally decided to tell him my decision: that I wanted a divorce.

"Why?" he asked, shocked. "I am tired; there are no reasons for everything in the world!" I answered. He remained silent the whole night, deep in thought with a lit cigarette. My disappointment only increased. Here was a man who couldn't even express his own predicament. What else could I hope for from him? Finally, he asked me, "What can I do to change your mind?"

Someone once said that it's hard to change a person's personality, and I



guess I have started losing faith in him. Looking deep into his eyes, I slowly answered, "Here's the question: if you can answer and convince my heart, I will change my mind. Let's say I want a flower located on the face of a mountain cliff, and we both know that picking the flower will cause your death. Would you do it for me?"

He said, "I will give you your answer tomorrow..." My hopes sank upon hearing his response.

I woke up the next morning to find him gone, and I received a bunch of messages from him on messenger. It read: "My dear, I would not pick that flower for you, but please allow me to explain further..." The first message already broke my heart. I continued reading:

"When you use the computer, you

always mess up the software programs and cry in front of the screen. I have to save my fingers so I can help restore the programs. You always leave the house keys behind, so I have to save my legs to rush home to open the door for you. You love traveling but always lose your way in a new city, so I have to save my eyes to show you the way. You always have cramps whenever your 'good friend' approaches every month, so I have to save my palms to calm the cramps in your tummy.

"You like to stay indoors, and I worry that you might be infected with infantile autism. I have to save my mouth to tell you jokes and stories to cure your boredom. You always stare at the computer, which isn't good for your eyes, so I have to save my eyes so that when we grow old, I can

help clip your nails and remove those annoying white hairs. I can also hold your hand while strolling down the beach, as you enjoy the sunshine and beautiful sand, and tell you the color of flowers, just like the glow on your young face. So, my dear, unless I'm sure that someone loves you more than I do, I couldn't pick that flower and die."

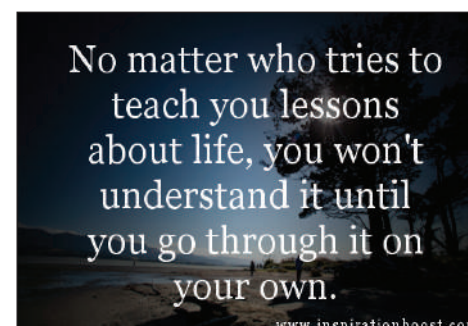
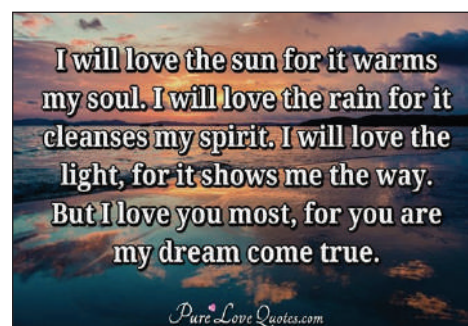
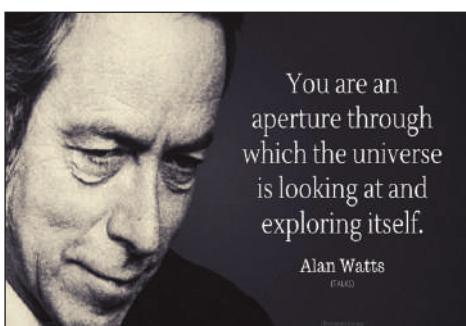
Tears streamed down my face, falling onto my phone screen and blurring the text. As I continued reading, "Now that you've finished reading my answer, if you're satisfied, please open the front door because I'm standing outside bringing your favorite bread and fresh milk..." I rushed to pull open the door and saw his anxious face, clutching tightly with his hands the milk bottle and loaf of bread.

Now I am very sure that no one will ever love me as much as he does, and I have decided to leave the flower alone...

That's life and love. When one is surrounded by love, the feeling of excitement fades away, and one tends to overlook the true love that lies between peace and dullness.

Love shows up in all forms, even very small and cheeky forms. It's never about grand gestures; it could be the most dull and boring form. Flowers and romantic moments are only surface appearances in a relationship. Underneath it all, the pillar of true love stands... and that's our life... Love, not words, wins arguments.

-- Anonymous



Thoughts to Live by

To be on the left is to first think of the world

"To be on the left is to first think of the world, then your country, then your loved ones, then yourself; to be on the right is the opposite."

By Gilles Deleuze

Good Health

Understanding Sleep Problems — The Basics

Sleep is essential for overall health and well-being, yet many people struggle with various sleep disorders that affect their quality of life.

Understanding these disorders and their underlying causes is crucial for effective management and treatment.

Sleep disorders encompass a range of conditions that disrupt normal sleep patterns, leading to difficulties in falling asleep, staying asleep, or feeling rested upon waking. These disorders can broadly be categorized into several types:

1. Circadian Rhythm Disorders: Our sleep-wake cycle is regulated by an internal "clock" in the brain called the suprachiasmatic nucleus. Disruptions to this clock, often due to shift work, jet lag, or conditions like delayed sleep phase syndrome, can lead to difficulties aligning sleep patterns with conventional schedules.

2. Insomnia: Insomnia involves persistent difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, or experiencing restorative sleep despite adequate opportunity. It can be triggered by stress, anxiety, depression, poor sleep habits, or certain medications.

3. Snoring and Sleep Apnea: Snoring, caused by relaxed throat tissues obstructing airflow, may indicate obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), where breathing repeatedly stops and starts during sleep. OSA can lead to fragmented sleep and serious health risks if left untreated, such as high blood pressure



and cardiovascular disease.

4. Narcolepsy: Narcolepsy is characterized by excessive daytime sleepiness, often accompanied by sudden sleep attacks. It can significantly impact daily activities and is thought to involve genetic and environmental factors affecting the brain's regulation of sleep-wake cycles.

5. Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS): RLS causes uncomfortable sensations in the legs, usually in the evening or at night, prompting an irresistible urge to move them for relief. This condition can disrupt sleep onset and lead to fragmented sleep patterns.

6. Nightmares and Night Terrors: Nightmares are vivid and distressing dreams occurring during REM sleep, often linked to stress or trauma. Night terrors, more common in children, involve sudden waking with intense fear or confusion during non-REM sleep.

What causes sleep disorders?

The causes of sleep disorders vary depending on the specific condition:

Insomnia: Temporary factors like jet lag or illness can trigger short-term insomnia, while chronic insomnia may stem from ongoing stress, depression, or conditioned sleep difficulties.

Snoring and Sleep Apnea: Muscle relaxation during sleep, often exacerbated by alcohol use or physical factors like obesity, can lead to snoring and contribute to obstructive sleep apnea. Central sleep apnea, less common, involves impaired signals between the brain and muscles controlling breathing.

Narcolepsy: Although the exact cause is unclear, genetic predisposition and environmental triggers likely play a role in disrupting the brain's sleep-regulating mechanisms.

Restless Legs Syndrome: Factors

such as iron deficiency, kidney disease, and genetic predisposition can contribute to RLS symptoms, which worsen in the evening or at night.

Nightmares and Night Terrors: Emotional stress, illness, medications, or alcohol use can trigger nightmares, while night terrors often occur in children and may be linked to developmental factors.

Other factors impacting sleep

Beyond specific disorders, several other factors influence sleep quality and patterns:

Age: Infants and older adults may experience different sleep needs and patterns due to developmental stages or age-related health conditions like sleep apnea.

Lifestyle Habits: Consumption of caffeine, nicotine, or alcohol close to bedtime can disrupt sleep, as can irregular sleep schedules or lack of physical activity.

Medical Conditions: Chronic illnesses such as heart failure or lung disease can cause nighttime symptoms like breathlessness, affecting sleep quality and duration.

Mental Health: Depression and anxiety often coexist with sleep disturbances, where insomnia may be both a symptom and contributor to these conditions.

Understanding the complexities of sleep disorders and their underlying causes is essential for implementing effective management strategies. Seeking medical evaluation and guidance can provide personalized solutions to improve sleep quality and overall well-being. By addressing these issues proactively, individuals can achieve better sleep and mitigate the impact of sleep disorders on their daily lives.

The Best Type of Milk to Drink

There's no one-size-fits-all answer, but understanding how different milks align with your needs can help you make the best choice

In today's diverse market, the variety of milk options can be overwhelming — cow's milk, soy milk, oat milk, almond milk, pea milk, and more. Each type offers unique benefits and drawbacks depending on your specific health goals. Sarah Bourassa of HuffPost explores the best milk options for your health needs

Sandra Arévalo, a registered dietitian and spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, emphasizes that selecting the right milk or milk alternative involves considering health needs, budget, and taste. "It's important to look at different factors and understand what nutrients are essential for your individual health goals," she says.

Here's a breakdown of various types of milk and their benefits based on common health conditions:

Best milks for gut health

Cow's milk isn't universally detrimental to gut health, according to Dr. Rabia De Latour, a gastroenterologist at NYU Langone Health.

For those without lactose intolerance or a milk protein allergy, cow's milk can be a healthy option. Organic milk is preferable as it comes from cows not treated with antibiotics or hormones. A2 milk, which lacks the A1 beta-casein protein, might be easier to digest for some.

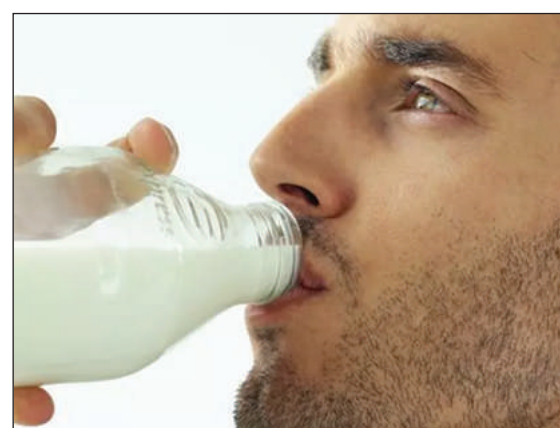
For those looking to support gut health with probiotics and prebiotics, kefir — a fermented milk drink — is a great choice. "Kefir is packed with probiotics that help with digestion and support a healthy immune system," says Amy Kimberlain, a registered dietitian.

Soy milk also benefits gut health. "Soy has shown to increase beneficial gut bacteria and reduce inflammation," notes Sue-Ellen Anderson-Haynes, a registered dietitian. Similarly, oat milk, which contains beta-glucan, a prebiotic fiber, supports healthy digestion.

Best milks for bone health

Calcium and vitamin D are crucial for strong bones. Cow's milk naturally contains these nutrients, with one cup of skim milk providing around 300 milligrams of calcium and 8 grams of protein. "Calcium is essential for bone formation, while vitamin D enhances calcium absorption," Kimberlain explains.

Fortified plant-based milks like soy milk can also be beneficial. "Fortified soy milk contains calcium and vitamin D similar to cow's milk and is a complete protein," says Anderson-Haynes. Almond and oat milks for-



Kimberlain advises. Unsweetened almond milk is another good choice due to its low calorie and carbohydrate content.

Best milk for blood sugar management

For managing blood sugar levels, avoid flavored or sweetened milks with added sugars. Unsweetened soy milk is ideal as it contains protein and healthy fats that slow carbohydrate absorption. Unsweetened almond milk is also suitable due to its low carbohydrate content.

Oat milk, while nutritious, has higher carbohydrates and may not be the best choice for those with blood sugar concerns.

Best milk for acne

Dairy milk can sometimes exacerbate acne in sensitive individuals. Dr. Anthony Rossi, a board-certified dermatologist, suggests that almond milk with no added sugars or additives is a better option. "Look for almond milk where almonds and water are the primary ingredients," he advises. Some people may need to avoid dairy altogether if it triggers acne.

Besides drinking, there are other ways to incorporate milk into your diet — try using it in parfaits, smoothies, creamy sauces, or even in baking. And remember, you don't have to stick to just one type of milk; a varied approach can help you meet your nutritional needs while keeping your diet enjoyable.

tified with these nutrients are good alternatives, though they generally have less protein.

Best milk to lower cholesterol

For managing cholesterol, choosing milk with lower saturated fat is key. Soy milk is highly recommended for its lack of cholesterol and lower saturated fat content compared to cow's milk. Skim milk and unsweetened almond milk are also good options, as they are lower in saturated fats. "Oat milk, with its soluble fiber, can also help lower cholesterol levels," Kimberlain notes. Avoid whole milk, which is high in saturated fat.

Best milk for healthy weight loss

When aiming for weight loss, selecting milks low in saturated fat and calories is beneficial. Skim milk and soy milk fit this profile well. "You should look for options that are low in saturated fats and added sugars,"



From Kangana Ranaut's Queen to Sridevi's English Vinglish 5 Bollywood Movies that Teach us Valuable Life Lessons

Bollywood films often excel at depicting the teacher-student relationship, offering us memorable teacher characters who play a crucial role in helping students discover their dreams and goals. Beyond this dynamic, many of these films impart significant life lessons that resonate with a wide audience.

Here are 5 Bollywood movies that offer valuable lessons as reported by Mid-Day:

Taare Zameen Par

While *Taare Zameen Par* primarily addresses dyslexia and its impact, it also delivers broader messages. It underscores the uniqueness of every child and the importance of recognizing their individual talents. The film encourages us to look beyond mere grades and test scores, celebrating creativity, imagination, and

emotional intelligence. It advocates for a more inclusive and personalized approach to education and cautions against labeling children, which can stifle their potential.

Queen

Queen is a journey of self-discovery and empowerment. As Rani navigates through emotional turmoil, she makes the bold decision to go on her honeymoon alone, using the time to reflect and listen to her inner voice. Her choice to prioritize her own happiness over societal expectations, like skipping a date with her ex-fiancé to enjoy time with new friends, illustrates the importance of making self-affirming decisions. Her actions, carried out without bitterness, only enhance her character's appeal.

English Vinglish

In *English Vinglish*, Sridevi's character initially feels undervalued at home, where her contributions go unrecognized. However, her journey to America, where she begins to embrace her own worth, forces her family to acknowledge her talents. The film highlights the importance of stepping out of our comfort zones to gain recognition and respect. It also emphasizes the significance of taking pride in one's work; while Sridevi's character starts as the "laddoo maker," her English course redefines her as an "entrepreneur," restoring her dignity and self-respect.

3 Idiots

3 Idiots drives home the crucial lesson of self-belief. Raju's anxiety about his future contrasts with Rancho's advice to focus on the present and maintain faith in oneself. The film demonstrates that self-belief is essential for success, as exemplified by Rancho's achievements as a successful scientist.

Bhaag Milkha Bhaag

Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, based on the life of Milkha Singh, is a powerful narrative about perseverance and hard work. The film showcases how determination and a commitment to excellence can lead to success, illustrating how Milkha's relentless dedication helped him overcome significant challenges to achieve greatness.

Earlier, Kriti and Kabir's relationship was hinted at during their trip to Greece. On July 31, 2024, Kriti posted photos from her Mykonos vacation with her sister, featuring a distinctive black floral-printed shrug. That same day, Kabir posted a photo of himself with friends, wearing a shrug strikingly similar to Kriti's, further fuelling speculations about their relationship.



BollyBytes

Kriti Sanon and Kabir Bahia make their relationship Instagram-official

Despite previously keeping her personal life private and denying dating speculation, Kriti Sanon and UK-based businessman Kabir Bahia have now made their relationship Instagram-official, sending their fans into a frenzy, reports BollywoodShaadis.

In a recent conversation with Filmfare, Kriti Sanon addressed persistent rumors and the impact of social media scrutiny on her personal life. She expressed frustration over the circulation of false information, particularly rumours about her personal relationships and potential marriage. Kriti shared, "When false negative information is published about me, it's not just frustrating for myself but also impacts my family. It's particularly aggravating when random rumors, like me supposedly getting married, start circulating. Friends then message me assuming it's true, and I have to clarify that it's not. Having to constantly correct these falsehoods is incredibly irritating and ends up being more bothersome than anything else."



From Salman to Sushmita: 8 Bollywood Celebrities Still Not Married

Bollywood weddings often capture the spotlight with their grandeur, but there are several prominent celebrities who remain unmarried. Here's a look at some of the industry's most notable singles as reported by Zee Media...

1. Abhay Deol

Abhay Deol, known for his distinct roles and charming smile, remains a bachelor at 47. Despite his popularity and numerous female admirers, Abhay has chosen to live life as a single man.

2. Ameesha Patel

Ameesha Patel, famous for her roles in *Kaho Na Pyaar Hai* and *Gadar*, is 48 years old and still unmarried. Despite having a significant fan base, Ameesha has yet to tie the knot.

3. Tabu

Renowned for her exceptional acting skills, Tabu has captivated audiences with her performances over the years. Despite her success and critical acclaim, the 52-year-old actress remains single.

4. Sushmita Sen

Sushmita Sen, the first Indian to win the Miss Universe title, has touched millions with her roles in Bollywood. Now 48, Sushmita has focused on her career and personal ventures, remaining unmarried.

5. Uday Chopra

Uday Chopra, known for his roles in *Mohabbatein* and *Dhoom*, has garnered a significant following. At 51, Uday has chosen to remain single despite his past popularity and charming looks.

6. Akshaye Khanna

Son of the legendary Vinod Khanna, Akshaye Khanna has made a mark in Bollywood with his diverse roles. Now 48, Akshaye is still single, focusing on his career and personal life.

7. Salman Khan

Salman Khan, often referred to as the 'Bhaijaan' of Bollywood, has a massive fan following and a successful career. At 58, Salman's romantic life has been frequently covered in the media, but he remains unmarried.

8. Sushant Singh Rajput

Sushant Singh Rajput, though a rising star with a promising career, was also known for his unmarried status. His untimely demise at the age of 34 left many of his fans and the industry in shock.

These celebrities have chosen different paths in life, and their personal choices continue to intrigue and inspire their fans.



Vendredi 20 Septembre - 20.30



Samedi 21 Septembre - 20.30



Dimanche 22 septembre - 20.30



Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
vendredi 20 septembre	07.27 Serial: Madam Secretary 08.33 Tele: Amour Secret 09.30 Film: The Boat 11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Terre Nostra 13.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 14.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: The Quake 17.10 Mag: Red Carpet 17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Film: Backtrack 22.06 Tele: Terra Nostra 22.56 Your Love Is My Fortune 23.30 Le Journal 00.15 Serial: Billions 01.10 Le Chemin Du Destin	06.14 Les Grandes Lignes 08.22 Local: Metie 08.37 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer 10.29 Rodrig: J'ai Faim 12.00 Rodrig: Li Bon Ou Konnin 13.00 Local: Evasion 14.34 Local: J'ai Faim 15.51 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 16.37 Local: Aktiv 18.00 Seiral: Passion And Power 18.30 Serial: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi... 19.43 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik 20.05 Local: Animalia Nos Amis... 20.32 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol 22.00 Local: La Sosiete 23.20 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 23.47 Rodrig: Nou La Ter 00.13 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig 00.27 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 00.51 Local: Retrovizor	07.00 Serial: Kalari Kids 08.01 Local: Amrit Vani 10.00 Serial: Agniphera 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Joroo Ka Ghulam Starring: Nanda Karnatakai, Rajesh Khanna, Sharad Kumar 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Serial: Senhur 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron 16.34 Serial: Bhakharwadi 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol 19.56 Local: Khel Khiladi 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi 21.00 Film: Dosti Bhojpuri Starring Tushar Dalvi, Kishori Godbole, Vaibhav Mangle, Tarun Khanna 23.47 Serial: Mere Sai 00.13 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	06.25 Mag: Shift 06.38 Mag: Carnet De Sante 07.26 Mag: Tomorrow Today 07.52 Doc: Ageless Gardens 08.17 Doc: Greek Islands 08.56 Doc: The Hidden Homeless 10.29 The Dark Side Of Bright... 11.11 Mag: Eco India 11.37 Mag: Shift 11.50 Carnet De Sante 12.09 Mag: Border Crossing 12.37 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.26 Doc: Greek Islands 14.08 Doc: The Hidden Homeless 14.51 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.12 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 15.34 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.40 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little 15.51 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.05 D.Anime: Sissi	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.55 Serial: Doree 15.26 Film: Amit Sahni Ki List Starring Vir Das, Vega Tamotia, Anindita Nayyar 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 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: Amit Sahni Ki List 02.01 Kundali Bhagya 02.31 Udaariyaan
samedi 21 septembre	03.53 Serial: Blue Bloods 04.35 The Gardener's Daughter 06.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 07.00 Serial: Heartland 08.30 Serial: Ultimate Countdown 09.15 Serial: Madam Secretary 10.00 Serial: Blue Bloods 10.49 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Serial: Under Pressure 13.10 Doc: Japan Video Topics 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Palm Beach 17.00 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge 18.31 Enter: Dance India Dance... 19.30 Le Journal 20.20 Film: Devious Deeds 21.50 Serial: Blue Bloods 22.37 Tele: Sublime Mensonge 23.30 Le Journal 00.15 Serial: Sublime Mensonge	06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 06.47 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 07.49 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol 09.07 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 10.28 Rodrig Prog: Nou La Ter 11.01 Local: Come On Let's Dance 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 13.06 Local: Voyage Au Feminin 15.03 Local: La Sosiete 15.55 Local: Son Ladan Mem 16.42 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.02 Local: Come On Let's Dance 18.05 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.40 Rodrig: Coin Zen 20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies 20.32 Festival Bouze Ocean Indien 21.32 Local: Glwar Dantan 21.58 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion 22.49 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL	07.00 Serial: 07.08 Serial: 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 10.02 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 11.17 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 11.43 Local: Our Island Celebrates 14.06 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 14.30 Mag: Shanti Ka Anubhav 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Film: Aur Pyar Ho Gaya Starring Bobby Deol, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Shammi Kapoor, Anupam Kher 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan 19.00 Local: Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 19.15 Local: Khoobsurat 20.00 Local: Bollyworld Express 21.00 Film: Rubaru 22.44 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.10 Local: Duniya Mein Iss...	06.00 D.Anime: Giant 07.19 D.Anime: Sissi 09.39 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 10.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures... 10.11 Serial: Lost & Found Music 11.57 Mag: Recipes For Kids 12.21 Doc: Top Dive Sites 14.13 Doc: From Gray To Green 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.07 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du Petit Pingouin 15.33 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.41 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little... 16.07 D.Anime: Sissi 16.19 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.41 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 17.04 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 18.00 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 20.50 Doc: Smart New World 21.49 Film: The Shape Of Water 23.52 Doc: Tsunamis	08.00 Swaran Ghar 10.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 11.36 Udaariyaan 13.51 Anupamaa 16.00 Fanaa 18.30 Film: Happy Hardy And Heer Starring Ashwin Dhar, Karen Elliot, Trupti Khamkar 20.34 Porus 20.55 Swaran 21.16 Swaran Ghar
dimanche 22 septembre	04.23 The Gardener's Daughter 06.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 07.00 Film: Devious Deeds 08.33 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 09.15 Film: Monolith 10.50 Serial: Chicago Med 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Film: Destry 14.15 Le Livre Perdu Des Sortileges 15.20 Serial: Radhi Krishna 15.21 Film: Skyscraper 17.05 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Mrs. Doubtfire 22.30 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man 23.30 Le Journal 00.15 Serial: Sublime Mensonge 01.56 Serial: Chicago Med	07.20 Local: Saver Kiltirel 08.12 Festival Bouze Ocean Indien 09.41 Rodrig: Promnad 11.03 Local: Nu Rasinn 14.31 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 14.58 Les Grands Noms Inter... 15.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 15.28 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 17.03 Local: Saver Kiltirel 18.03 Tele Gout De L'Amour 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.20 Local: Elle 20.03 Local: Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 20.30 Local: Le Challenge 20.44 Local: Les Klips 21.36 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 22.45 Local: Clin D'Oeil 23.00 Journal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Fer Roule 23.45 Local: Mangeons Veg 00.11 Rodrig: Komanter	07.00 Serial: 07.08 Serie: 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 12.00 Film: Takkar Cast: Naseeruddin Shah, Suniel Shetty, Sonali Bendre 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Planet Bollywood 19.30 Local: Tohar Farmaish 19.38 Local: Yaadein 20.30 Serial: Porus 21.00 Serial: Keh Doon Tumhein 21.33 Serial: Naagin 22.15 Serial: Bahubali 23.05 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna 23.54 Local: Planet Bollywood 00.21 Local: Tohar Rashi 00.36 Local: Tohar Farmaish	06.23 D.Anime: Agent 06.44 D.Anime: The Jungle Book 08.09 D.Anime: Zoonicorn 09.46 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 10.10 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 10.44 Serial: Lost & Found Music... 12.47 Doc: Tsunamis 13.35 Doc: Riding The Rails Across 15.02 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.14 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 15.39 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.50 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.39 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 17.06 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 17.37 Mag: In Good Shape 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Doc: Brilliant Corners 21.42 Film: A Mouthful Of Air With: Amanda Seyfried, Olivia Katz	00.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 01.45 Udaariyaan 04.05 Anupamaa 06.00 Fanaa 08.00 Patiala Babes 10.15 Kundali Bhagya 12.07 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 15.53 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.38 Film: Shirin Farhad Ki Toh Nikal Padi Starring: Farah Khan, Boman Irani, Kavin Dave 20.32 Serial: Mahabharat 21.17 Dance India Dance Super Moms 22.02 Serial: Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 23.56 Patiala Babes
lundi 23 septembre	05.27 The Gardener's Daughter 06.01 Serial: Tour De Babel 08.32 Tele: Amour Secret 09.25 Film: A Mouthful Of Air 11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.18 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.13 Serial: The Equalizer 15.21 Film: Mrs. Doubtfire 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Speed Cast: Keanu Reeves, Dennis Hopper, Sandra Bullock 22.10 Tele: Heartland 22.54 Tele: Terra Nostra	07.47 Local: Sa Lavi-La 10.04 Rodrig: Komanter 10.40 Local: Le Challenge 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.51 Local: Clin D'oeil 14.12 Local: Elle 14.34 Local: Arsvi MBC 15.24 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 15.52 Local: En Forme 16.07 Local: Les Klips 17.14 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi 19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 20.00 Local: Bricolo Ecolo 20.30 Eclairage Economique 20.45 Local: Tous Egaux 21.00 Local: Konn Ou Drwa 21.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 22.23 Lire - Ekriir Kreol	07.00 Mag: Tarane Purane 08.32 Tohar Rashi 08.47 Tohar Farmaish 09.13 Yaadein 09.55 Bahubali 10.30 Saaton Vachanwa Saath... 11.30 Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Dillagi 15.30 Senhur 15.56 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaain 19.30 Local: Excerptis from Shiv Abhishek 20.40 Serial: Ramayan 21.03 Film: Dharam Karam With: Raj Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Rekha 23.37 Serial: Mere Sai 00.22 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 01.16 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaain 01.42 Theatre Ram Leela	06.25 Doc: The Microchip 07.08 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.34 Doc: Brilliant Corners 09.54 Looking For Life On Mars... 11.24 Doc: US And Them 11.50 Doc: The Microchip War 12.32 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.58 Doc: Brilliant Corners 15.01 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.07 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du... 15.12 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 15.33 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.39 D.Anime: Dee Dee The Little 16.04 D.Anime: Sissi 16.17 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.39 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 17.02 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 17.30 Doc: US And Them 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 21.32 Film: Natural Selection	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.51 Doree 15.32 Film: Aur Pappu Pass Ho Gaya Starring: Krushna Abhishek, Kashmira Shah, Jackie Shroff 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Fanaa 20.05 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.33 Yashomati Maiyya Ke 21.09 Anupamaa 21.32 Mere Sai



Mardi 24 Septembre - 20.30



Mercredi 25 septembre - 21.30



Jeudi 26 septembre - 21.32



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 20 septembre	05.14 The Gardener's Daughter 06.06 Serial: Tour De Babel 08.32 Tele: Amour Secret 09.25 Film: Speed 11.34 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.18 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.10 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 15.21 Film: Natural Selection 17.00 Hollywood On Set 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Triple Alliance 22.10 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.05 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.30 Le Journal	07.19 Eclairage Economique 09.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.47 Local: Lir - Ekriir Kreol 11.13 Local: Rodrig Mo Pei 12.11 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 13.07 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Tous Egaux 15.30 Local: Saver Lokal 15.43 Rodrig Mo Pei 17.02 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 19.47 Local: Son Ladan Mem 20.00 Local: MBC Production 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.31 Local: Le Mag 22.23 Local: Mots Et Ecrits 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 00.15 Local: Profil 00.30 Local: Koze Zom	07.21 Mag: In Good Shape 08.00 Doc: Flying Hands 08.59 Mag: Washington Forum 09.27 Doc: The Hidden Homeless 11.03 Mag: Eco Africa 11.29 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.01 Mag: Africa 54 12.55 Doc: Flying Hands 13.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.47 Mag: Washington Forum 14.28 Doc: Does The Lynx Have... 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.06 D.Anime: Les Aventure Du Petit Pingouin 15.12 D.Anime Romy And Boo 15.35 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.54 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.42 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 19.30 Mag: Global US 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 20.50 Doc: Top Dive Sites	07.00 Mag: Africa 54 08.40 Mag: Tomorrow Today 09.08 Mag: Washington Forum 11.02 Mag: Eco Africa 11.54 Mag: Africa 54 12.29 Mag: In Good Shape 13.34 Mag: Tomorrow Today 14.00 Mag: Washington Forum 14.28 Doc: Does The Lynx Have... 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.05 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du... 15.51 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.03 D.Anime: Sissi 16.20 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.42 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 17.03 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi 18.00 Mag: REV 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.32 Film: Dark Blue	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.31 Film: Sautela Bhai Starring Rajesh Khanna, Raj Babbar, Kumar Gaurav 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Fanaa 20.06 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.37 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.07 Anupama 21.35 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.34 Serial: Swaran Ghar 23.04 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.29 Film: Sautela Bhai Starring Rajesh Khanna, Raj Babbar, Kumar Gaurav
mercredi 21 septembre	07.25 Serial: The Equalizer 08.11 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 08.38 Tele: Amour Secret 09.30 Film: Borrowed Time: Falling Apart 11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.46 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.11 Serial: The Equalizer 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Triple Alliance 17.38 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Doree 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.20 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 21.15 Film: US 22.05 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.58 Local: Le Journal	07.31 Local: Priorite Sante 08.24 Local: Mots Et Ecrits 09.30 Local: Le Mag 10.26 Local: Koze Zom 11.08 Local: Music Tour 12.01 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 12.11 Local: Son Ladan Mem 13.36 Local: Paroles Agricoles 14.42 Rodrig: Rod'Art 15.53 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.19 Local: Mots et Ecrits 16.43 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: Passion And Power 18.30 Tele: Amour Secret 19.20 Le Mag De L'emploi... 19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.30 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.45 Local: En Forme 21.00 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.26 Local: Les Kliips 22.19 Local: Proze Dime	07.00 Serial: Made In Germany 07.25 Mag: Global US 07.51 Doc: Top Dive Sites 08.18 Mag: Initiative Africa 08.44 Mag: Euromaxx 09.14 Doc: Children Of Peace 10.00 Doc: Better Brain Health 12.00 Mag: Made In Germany 12.26 Mag: Global US 12.52 Doc: Top Dive Sites 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.11 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 15.33 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.53 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.08 D.Anime: Sissi 16.43 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 17.02 Serial: Malory Towers 17.30 Mag: Rev 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Travel 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Progra...	08.43 Mag: Euromaxx 09.13 Doc: Children Of Peace 10.49 Mag: Her: Women In Asia 12.06 Mag: Made In Germany 12.30 Mag: Global US 13.24 Mag: Initiative Africa 13.50 Mag: Euromaxx 14.16 Doc: Better Brain Health 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.05 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.34 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.39 D.Anime: Yo Yo 16.01 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.21 Serial: Miraculous... 17.06 Serial: Malory Towers 17.30 Mag: Rev 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Travel 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Prog... 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.16 Film: Devious Deeds	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.36 Film: Raghuv eer Starring: Suniel Shetty, Shilpa Shirodkar, Suresh Oberoi 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Fanaa 20.30 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.31 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.00 Anupama 21.28 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.20 Swaran Ghar 22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.58 Film: Raghuv eer Starring: Suniel Shetty, Shilpa Shirodkar, Suresh Oberoi 02.09 Kundali Bhagya
jeudi 22 septembre	07.25 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 08.20 Serial: Le Temps D'Aimer 08.45 Tele: Amour Secret 09.35 Film: Romance En Ligne 11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.10 Serial: Gout De L'Amour 15.25 Film: Devious Deeds 17.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.56 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.30 Film: Badhaai Ho Stars: Ayushmann Khurrana, Neena Gupta, Gajraj Rao 22.17 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.10 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune	06.51 Local: Aktiv 07.38 Local: Agir Ensemble 11.00 Local: Les Kliips 12.06 Local: Rodrig Spor 12.26 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 13.06 Local: Toc Toc Doc 13.36 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.47 Local: Proze Dime 15.08 Rodrig: Kot Nou 15.27 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 16.41 La Journee Sous Le Regard 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.31 Tele: Amour Secret 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.15 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Anjalay Coopen 22.00 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La 22.48 La Journee Sous Le Regard... 23.00 Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion	07.09 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.23 Doc: Me, Choosing Life 08.15 Mag: Close Up 09.11 Doc: The War Diary 11.00 Mag: Motorweek 11.41 Mag: Planet A 11.54 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.50 Doc: Submerged Universe 13.47 Doc: The War Diary 14.38 Mag: Choices 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.11 Les Aventures Du Petit... 15.34 D.Anime: Wonder Grove 15.54 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.08 D.Anime: Sissi 16.22 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.36 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 17.02 Serial: Malory Towers 17.34 Mag: Motorweek 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift	07.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 08.40 Mag: Focus On Europe 09.08 Doc: The war Diary 11.02 Mag: Motorweek 11.54 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.29 Mag: Me, Choosing Life 12.54 Doc: Submerged Universe 13.16 Mag: Close Up 13.46 Doc: The War Diary 15.00 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2 15.05 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du... 15.51 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.03 D.Anime: Sissi 16.17 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.36 D.Anime: Go Astro Boy Go! 17.03 D.Anime: Malory Towers 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.32 Film: Mamma Mia	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.30 Film: Haathi Mere Sathi Stars: Bhuvan Arora, Sheeba Chaddha, Rana Daggubati 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.00 Sasural Simar Ka 2 20.24 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.02 Anupama 21.34 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Swaran Ghar 23.05 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.31 Film: Haathi Mere Sathi Stars: Bhuvan Arora, Sheeba Chaddha, Rana Daggubati



Jeudi 26 septembre - 15.25

Stars: Bhuvan Arora, Sheeba Chaddha, Rana Daggubati



Jeudi 26 septembre - 20.30

Stars: Ayushmann Khurrana, Neena Gupta, Gajraj Rao





Nita Chicoore-Mercier

À Travers le Temps

Le son des “dhokhs” résonne ici et là, rappelant que l'hommage à Lord Ganesh se poursuit toute la semaine, depuis que Ganesh Chaturthi a débuté dimanche dernier sur les côtes de l'île.

Une ferveur palpable dans les chants des dévots, vêtus de nouveaux habits flamboyants et colorés, accompagne cette cérémonie divine. L'atmosphère festive, empreinte de spiritualité et parfumée d'encens, réchauffe les cœurs et illumine les esprits en ce dimanche après-midi frais et doux à Mont Choisy, où des stands invitent passants, dévots, participants, promeneurs et touristes curieux à partager des mets pour marquer l'occasion. Une pléthore de plats épicés, “puris”, “rotis” et “biryani” sont servis à volonté. Des pâtisseries sont offertes même à ceux coincés dans la circulation au volant de leur voiture ou dans des bus embouteillés, apaisant ainsi leur impatience.

Tout au long de l'année, de nombreuses fêtes traditionnelles et dévotionnelles mobilisent les foules dans les espaces publics. Récemment, la circulation a été bloquée par une marche, accompagnée de pétarades de motos pilotées par des jeunes gens brandissant des drapeaux à Triolet. D'autres événements similaires, relayés par la MBC, témoignent de l'enthousiasme populaire pour ces célébrations de masse accompagnées de musique.

Sous un ciel gris, les braves gens vaquent à leurs occupations quotidiennes avant de rentrer chez eux en fin de journée. Devant le snack ‘Chez José’, quelques passants conversent joyeusement en attendant d'être servis. Le jeune homme qui tient l'échoppe, vêtu d'un tee-shirt Lacoste et arborant une coupe de cheveux à la mode, semble à peine sorti de l'adolescence. Je l'imagine mal préparant avec “belna”, “chawki” et “tawa” des gâteaux, sandwiches et “rotis”.

- C'est vous qui préparez tout cela? Je demande.
- Non, c'est ma mère, répond-il calmement.

Une jeune femme, toute souriante, explique aux clients que lorsque les études ne sont pas le fort des jeunes et qu'ils ne savent pas quoi faire de leur vie, il faut prendre des décisions à leur place, pour les guider sur la bonne voie.

Voilà qui est bien dit!

Le jeune homme s'occupe des achats, de la gestion des stocks, aide à la cuisine et sert les clients. Il esquisse un sourire, gêné par le résumé public de



“ Tout au long de l'année, de nombreuses fêtes traditionnelles et dévotionnelles mobilisent les foules dans les espaces publics. Récemment, la circulation a été bloquée par une marche, accompagnée de pétarades de motos pilotées par des jeunes gens brandissant des drapeaux à Triolet. D'autres événements similaires, relayés par la MBC, témoignent de l'enthousiasme populaire pour ces célébrations de masse accompagnées de musique...”

sa vie devant une assistance qui lui est étrangère.

- Bravo! Je félicite sa mère pour les “rotis” et les légumes.

Originaire de Pointe-aux-Piments, elle m'explique que là-bas, les “rotis” et les “puris” font partie intégrante des habitudes alimentaires de tout et chacun. Les temps ont bien changé, les gens aussi. Sa sœur ajoute:

- Mon bonhomme exige des “rotis” et des “caris” de viande trois à quatre fois par semaine. Sinon, il n'est pas content.

Elle obéit sans broncher. Ne dit-on pas que “le chemin du cœur d'un homme passe par son estomac”? Les plaisirs culinaires flattent le palais et touchent l'estomac, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de messieurs aux égos proverbiaux. Cependant, espérer que ces délices les rendent, du moins dans de nombreux cas, plus bienveillants envers celles qui se plient à leurs volontés... mieux vaut attendre avec une bougie rouge, dit-on!

En tout cas, bravo à ce beau monde de gérer leur petite entreprise et empêcher l'oisiveté, mère de tous les vices, de s'emparer des jeunes désœuvrés. Et bravo pour la maîtrise de l'art de faire des “rotis”! Un savoir-faire que l'auteure

de ces lignes n'a jamais réussi à acquérir, malgré des années d'effort.

Mes maladresses d'adolescente avec la pâte collent encore à ma peau. Difficulté à étaler une pâte bien ronde, à la décoller du “chawki”, à gérer la juste quantité d'eau, ou encore à la cuire parfaitement sur le “tawa”. Trop fine, elle cuit trop vite et se durcit; trop épaisse, c'est un désastre.

Ce qui est drôle pour les témoins d'une tentative d'un des leurs à donner une forme convenable à la pâte étalée sur le “tawa”, c'est d'observer la forme des cartes des îles sous leur regard amusé.

Un de nous s'exclame: Tiens, voilà que tu fais un “Map Moris”!

En général, l'aîné de la fratrie est irrité par ce genre de commentaires alors qu'il s'évertue à confectionner quelque chose de mangeable pendant l'absence des parents pour une ribambelle de sœurs et de frères, dont certains traversent l'âge difficile de l'adolescence. C'était donc avec un rotin bazar à la main qu'il veillait à ce que nous ingurgitions les mets transformés en bouillie, et les “rotis” - “Map Moris” ou pas.

En plus du “Map Moris”, l'auteure de ces lignes, la moins douée avec les

mains, a réussi très récemment encore à donner la forme de la carte de Rodrigues, tantôt la carte de la Réunion, et comble de catastrophe, lorsque la pâte, trop molle, s'étire en longueur, tout en vertical, elle fait honneur à Madagascar.

A l'époque, les parents avaient déjà émis leur verdict: «Il y a des gens à qui on ne peut rien demander.»

C'est assez curieux de passer à la troisième personne pour passer un jugement, c'est certainement une manière d'atténuer la sévérité d'un jugement peu flatteur. Il ne faut surtout pas penser que ce tour des îles Mascareignes sur le “tawa” soit une raison d'abandonner “belna” et “tawa”. Loin de là!

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L'émission *Grandes Lignes*, une production locale de la MBC, apporte une bouffée d'air frais. Nous voyons avec plaisir que les étudiants en arts de la MGI s'inspirent de textes d'auteurs locaux pour exprimer, à travers la peinture, leur interprétation des vers et de la prose poétique. Leurs mots en créole, utilisés pour expliquer leurs œuvres, sont un régal à écouter, loin des invectives politiques et du vocabulaire indigent des interviews publiques. L'intervention de ces artistes rend le créole agréable à l'oreille. Est-ce que c'est l'art qui transforme la langue, ou l'inverse?

Les productions locales de la MBC mériteraient d'être vendues à des chaînes francophones, avec des sous-titres. Bravo à toute l'équipe qui réalise cette émission!

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Les temps n'ont pas vraiment changé, ni les gens. Il y a des décennies, un swami disait à la MBC: «À l'époque moderne dont vous parlez, c'est le même soleil qui brille depuis des millénaires.»

Les besoins et les aspirations des individus ne changent pas. Certains lieux et certaines familles échappent aux assauts du modernisme. Dans ces foyers, le bhojpuri est toujours parlé, les aînés sont choyés, et les frères partagent leur maison, tandis que la sœur, même muette ou veuve, a sa place dans la cour familiale; elle est aimée et protégée avec toute l'attention et l'affection de la fratrie.

Une organisation qui ne jette personne à la rue fait penser aux valeurs qui tiennent la société, et que la machine du temps fait remonter à une période très ancienne jusqu'au lointain lieu d'origine, le Bihar. Ces lieux et ces familles, disséminés un peu partout sur l'île, préservent les valeurs ancestrales dans la société contemporaine.

La qualité de vie promue aujourd'hui par les autorités ne peut se limiter aux seuls aspects matériels. D'autres structures doivent être pensées et mises en place pour ancrer des repères socioculturels solides.