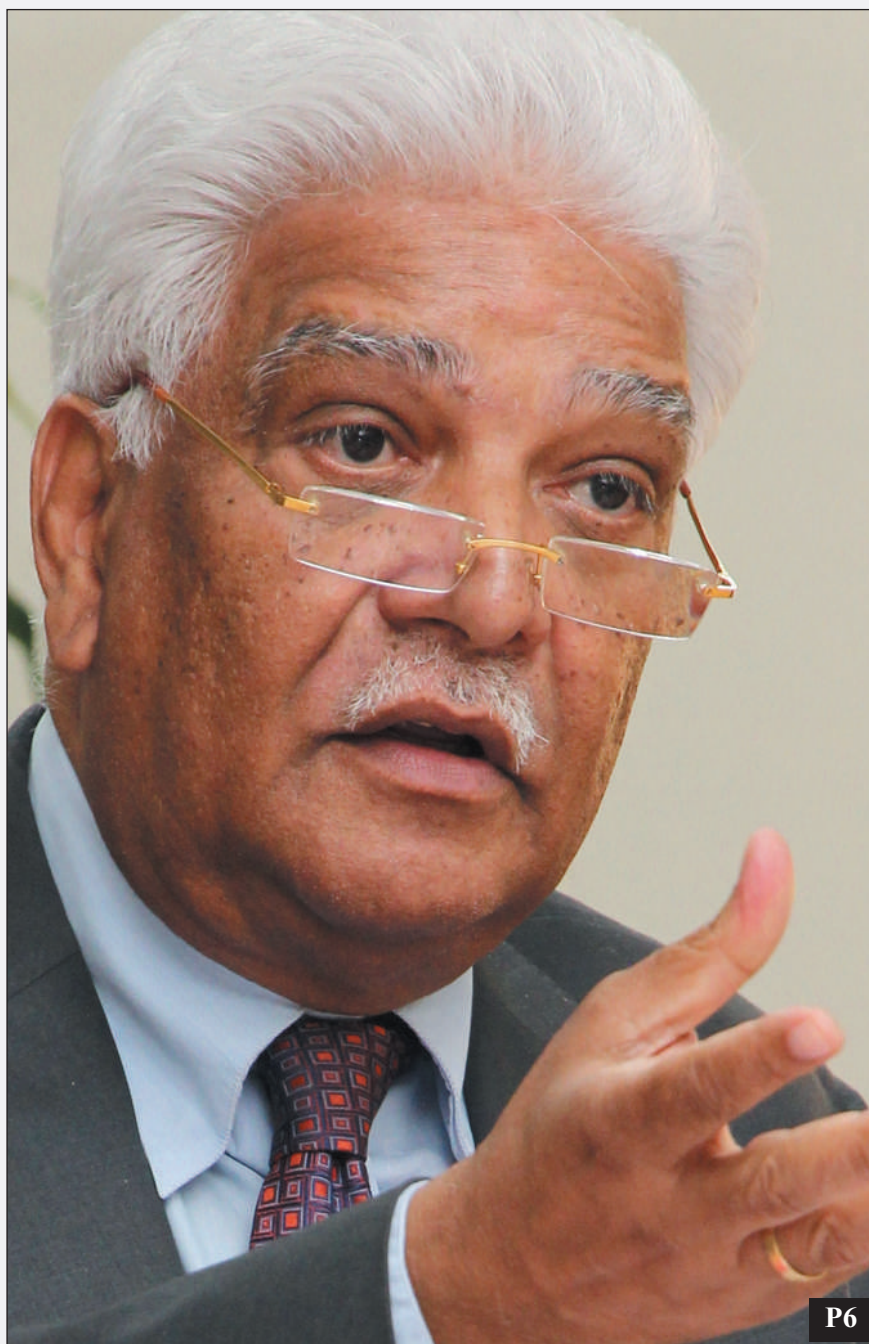


# MAURITIUS TIMES

• Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. --Thomas A. Edison

## Interview: Jean Claude de l'Estrac

**“L'électeur ne se manifeste pas pendant la campagne électorale, mais déjà, depuis quelques jours, on sent comme un frémissement dans l'air”**



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• ‘Une partie de l'électorat attend de deviner qui sera à l'Hôtel du gouvernement. Il volera alors au secours de la victoire’

**• “On voit bien que Jugnauth mène une campagne à l'américaine. Il fait de ces législatives une présidentielle l'opposant à Ramgoolam”**

## Opinion

National Sovereignty and Development

# Sale and Lease of Land to Generate National Income



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Prakash Neerhoo P 3

## Qs & As - David Snoxell

**Chagos deal: “The UK, Mauritius, and the US - everyone got something out of it”**

• ‘The agreement is rock solid and will not be derailed by those who disagree with different aspects of it’

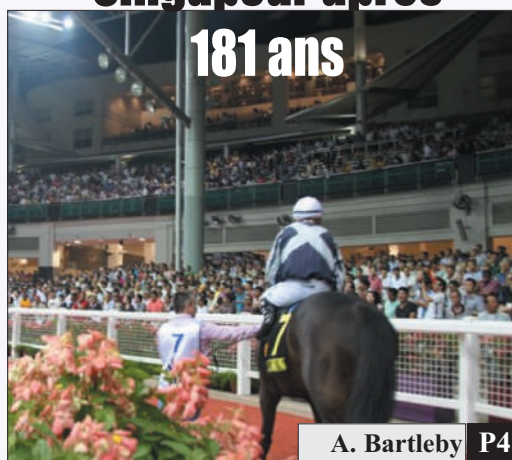


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**La fin d'une époque: Les courses hippiques à Singapour après**

**181 ans**



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## Spirituality



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**Durga Puja Celebrations**



# Reform and Renewal

## An Alliance for Ushering Change

In a significant move that has the potential for hopefully reshaping the political landscape of Mauritius, the Labour Party (LP), the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM), the Nouveaux Démocrates (ND) and Rezistans ek Alternativ (ReA), have agreed to unite under the banner of the “Alliance du Changement” for the upcoming legislative elections. This Alliance has the ambition and a shared commitment to address the pressing concerns of the Mauritian population, primarily the urgent need to replace the current government, which has been in power for a decade.

The newly formed Alliance reflects a shared belief that the current government has not met the expectations of the nation. This week, the Alliance leaders highlighted concerns about the state of public life in Mauritius, including limited space for dissent and challenges to democratic practices. They emphasized that the judicial inquiry report on the assassination of MSM agent Soopramanien Kistnen, serves as a chilling reminder of the lengths to which the regime has gone to protect its interests and stifle opposition.

The Alliance also emphasizes that the “mafio-sization” of the state has not only undermined democratic norms but has also led to a deterioration of public services. Economic policies over the past four years have exacerbated inequalities, with burdens placed disproportionately on the ordinary citizen through increased taxes and a deliberate devaluation of the national currency. These and the government’s close ties with big business interests, which some feel have overlooked the needs of everyday Mauritians, have fuelled popular demand for change, which the Alliance seems to have captured.

However, the Alliance recognizes that merely changing the government is insufficient. A fundamental transformation of the political and administrative systems is crucial for a more promising future. To this end, it proposes a series of systemic reforms aimed at empowering citizens and ensuring a more inclusive and participatory democracy. Key proposals include electoral reform, which allows citizens to stand for elections without the need to classify themselves communally, aiming to enhance inclusivity and reflect the true diversity of Mauritian society.

The creation of a constitutional court is also proposed, which will address any constitutional violations and ensure that the fundamental rights of citizens are protected. The Alliance plans to advocate for workers’ rights by engaging with trade unions to integrate workers’ demands into their political agenda, recognizing the critical need for fair labour practices and protections. Additionally, the Alliance will collaborate with ecological organizations to develop

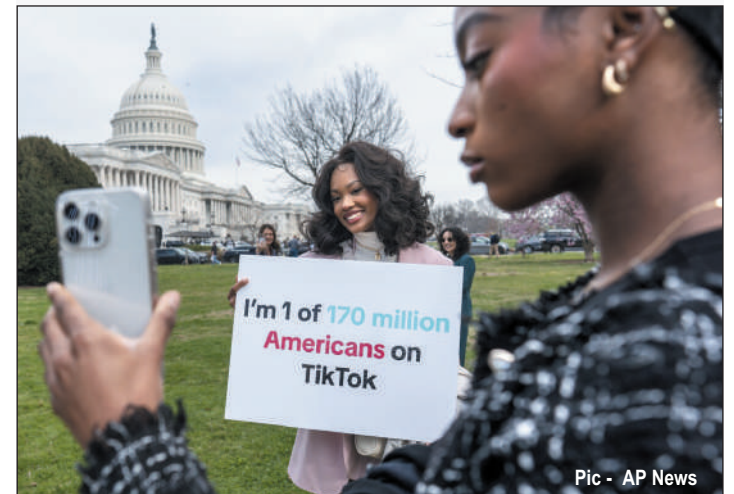
a robust environmental agenda that addresses the failures of the current government in protecting Mauritius’s natural resources. Finally, the Alliance aims to hold seminars with various social movements to ensure that a wide range of societal concerns are addressed in their policy framework.

The Alliance has also pledged to adopt a model of governance that prioritizes citizen participation. This will involve establishing Open Citizen Commissions (“Commissions Citoyennes Ouver-tes”), modelled after successful initiatives in the region, focusing on themes such as ecological justice, land management, and cultural revitalization. These commissions will serve as platforms for citizens to actively engage in the political process, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability. Another key tenet of the opposition Alliance’s platform is the commitment to reparations for perceived injustices committed under the MSM-led regime. This includes the reinstatement of unfairly dismissed trade unionists, compensation for victims of the Wakashio oil spill, and addressing the needs of those affected by natural disasters. By acknowledging and addressing past grievances, the Alliance seeks to build a more just and equitable society.

The formation of the opposition Alliance not only signals a concerted effort to oust the current government but also emphasizes the need for a profound political transformation. By addressing systemic issues and advocating for an inclusive political process, the Alliance leaders expect that their proposals for a better Mauritius will resonate with a population weary of corruption and mismanagement. The path ahead is filled with challenges, but it will be up to voters to choose not just a different government, but also a new direction for the nation — one that emphasizes justice, accountability, and sustainability. The success of the opposition Alliance will ultimately hinge on its parliamentary majority — some reforms requiring a three-quarters majority — which is essential for securing approval for deep and transformative changes. Additionally, it must demonstrate a sustained commitment to connect with the electorate’s aspirations and deliver on its promises of reform and renewal.

The upcoming elections are more than just a choice between parties or alliances; they represent a chance for a transformative leap toward a more equitable and just society. This joint platform has required each party to engage in some give and take over the past few months. It represents a significant moment in our history, as parties that have emerged from working-class struggles have come together to confront the challenges posed by money politics and the influence of power.

## The Conversation



Pic - AP News

## Being on TikTok is a modern political necessity

*There is also no direct data linking TikTok content to voter decisions. But there is a clear correlation between effective use of the platform and electoral victories.*

Australian Opposition Leader Peter Dutton’s recent decision to join TikTok marks a big shift in his approach to political campaigning. He previously criticised the platform over security concerns, but now he is embracing it.

Dutton’s reversal reflects a broader trend of Australian politicians using the platform. This is especially the case in 2024, a year marked by pivotal elections worldwide.

TikTok offers a unique form of engagement and allows politicians to reach a wide range of voters in ways traditional platforms don’t.

Dutton’s conservative first post does contrast with TikTok’s casual and engaging style, but signals a willingness to adapt to modern political communication. While his initial concerns about TikTok’s data privacy remain valid, his shift to actively using the platform emphasises its importance in political campaigns today.

### TikTok’s rise as a political tool

The political landscape is changing. Politicians worldwide who once criticised TikTok are now joining it.

This shift not only marks evolving campaign strategies but also raises broader questions about the role of social media in democracy.

Major political figures, such as US presidential candidates Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, continue to use TikTok despite proposed bans in the United States. These bans are currently being contested in court, but are due to commence in January 2025.

The continued use of TikTok by both candidates underlines the platform’s undeniable significance in shaping political communication.

TikTok’s popularity stems from its ability to deliver accessible and engaging content. Voters are drawn to TikTok as a source of political news and information because of its easy-to-consume format.

Susan Grantham, Lecturer in Communication, Griffith University

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Pearl House 4th Floor Room 406 - Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis  
Tel: 5-29 29301 Tel/Fax: 212 1313

mtimes@intnet.mu



www.mauritiustimes.com



facebook.com/mauritius.times







Prakash Neerohoo

## National Sovereignty and Development

# Sale and Lease of Land to Generate National Income

*Was the Mauritian government desperate to finalize the agreement before Parliament's dissolution, and hence agreed to the terms imposed by the UK?*

Everybody was taken by surprise last week with the announcement, on the eve of the dissolution of Parliament, of a deal (political agreement) between the UK and Mauritius regarding the transfer of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago from the occupier to its rightful owner. Some were pleasantly surprised as they saw in the deal a long-awaited recognition of Mauritian sovereignty over the archipelago by the British occupier. Others were unpleasantly surprised by the surrender of our "sovereign rights" over one island in the archipelago (Diego Garcia, which has hosted an American military base since 1967).

The two countries still need to negotiate a bilateral treaty to formalize the transfer of sovereignty to Mauritius. However, the deal has already become a topic of significant controversy in both Mauritius and the UK. In Mauritius, Opposition parties (both parliamentary and extra-parliamentary) have de-nounced it as a "sell-out" of territory to a foreign power that has been occupying the Chagos illegally since independence in 1968. In the UK, prominent right-wing politicians (including former Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the leader of the UK Independence Party, Nigel Farage) have come out against the proposed transfer of sovereignty over the Chagos, which they still consider as British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT).

It was the former Conservative government (led by Rishi Sunak), though that started negotiations for the transfer of sovereignty following the International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion of 2019, which affirmed Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. Whether those negotiations would have continued under a new Conservative government after the July 4th elections in the UK is doubtful, considering that some Conservative Party members, such as former Foreign Minister David Cameron, questioned the validity of the ICJ's opinion.

The new Labour government under Keir Starmer resumed negotiations with



P - apnews.com

**“The surrender of sovereign rights over Diego Garcia through a 99-year lease has an economic dimension. Many coastal states (e.g., Djibouti) that have no sustainable development models are leasing their land to foreign powers for military purposes to generate lease income, which constitutes a significant portion of their national income. This is a model that Mauritius is poised to adopt with the lease of Diego Garcia for an “indexed annual payment” from the UK, as mentioned in the deal. It is worth noting that the political agreement does not specify “lease payment,” as such, which implies rights and obligations for both parties in terms of ownership and possession. How will the annual payment be calculated?”**

Mauritius to finalize a political agreement on October 4th, just before the writ of elections was issued by the President of the Republic. The timing was indeed curious, if not intriguing, as British Foreign Secretary David Lammy admitted that the deal had to be announced before the elections in Mauritius. Why didn't the UK wait until after the elections on November 10th to negotiate the deal with a new government in Mauritius? Was the Mauritian government desperate to finalize the agreement before Parliament's dissolution, and hence agreed to the terms imposed by the UK? These are legitimate questions.

### Multi-dimensional issue

The transfer of sovereignty over the Chagos is a complex matter with several dimensions: legal, geopolitical, and economic. Legally, international law experts may have differing views on whether a

transfer of sovereignty followed by a lease-back of Diego Garcia Island to the UK for 99 years (renewable upon the exercise of a right of occupation) constitutes full sovereignty or limited sovereignty to all intents and purposes. Under the deal, Mauritius will delegate its "sovereign rights" over Diego Garcia to the UK, which will exercise the rights and authorities of Mauritius regarding the use of the island, as stated in the political agreement. Delegation of rights and authority implies that the British occupier will have full authority to use the island as it deems fit (military purposes or otherwise).

Under a normal lease agreement, legal ownership of the island would remain with the lessor (owner) while possession was transferred to the lessee (occupier). If that were the case, the political agreement would have mentioned transfer of posses-

sion (or occupancy) instead of transfer of "sovereign rights." With the ability to exercise sovereign rights over Diego Garcia, the UK has obtained a major concession from the Mauritian government of Mauritius, that is the right to occupy the island for two consecutive leases of 99 years each (the first lease to be automatically renewed at the UK's discretion).

Currently, Diego Garcia is leased to the US under a 20-year lease from 2016, following a first lease of 50 years that began in 1967. The UK now has de facto control over Diego Garcia. However, by exercising sovereign rights over the island under the bilateral treaty, the UK will have both "de facto control" and "de jure control" over the territory, akin to a legitimate owner with full rights. Under a typical lease agreement, the UK would be a lessee required to return the property at the expiry of the lease of 99 years or a lessee-owner who acquires

ownership at the expiry of the lease under a "lease-to-own" arrangement (assuming all annual lease payments are made on time). The transfer of sovereign rights sounds like a colourable device to bypass the stipulations of a standard lease.

### Geopolitical implications

The deal has significant geopolitical implications for Mauritius and the entire Indian Ocean. Mauritius will lease Diego Garcia to the UK, which will sublease it to the US to host a military base. By doing so, Mauritius will renounce its traditional non-alignment policy and firmly align itself with the Western sphere of influence amid a new Cold War between the East (Russia and China) and the West on the heels of the Ukraine war that has mobilized all Western countries against Russia.

● Cont. on page 10



Par A. Bartleby

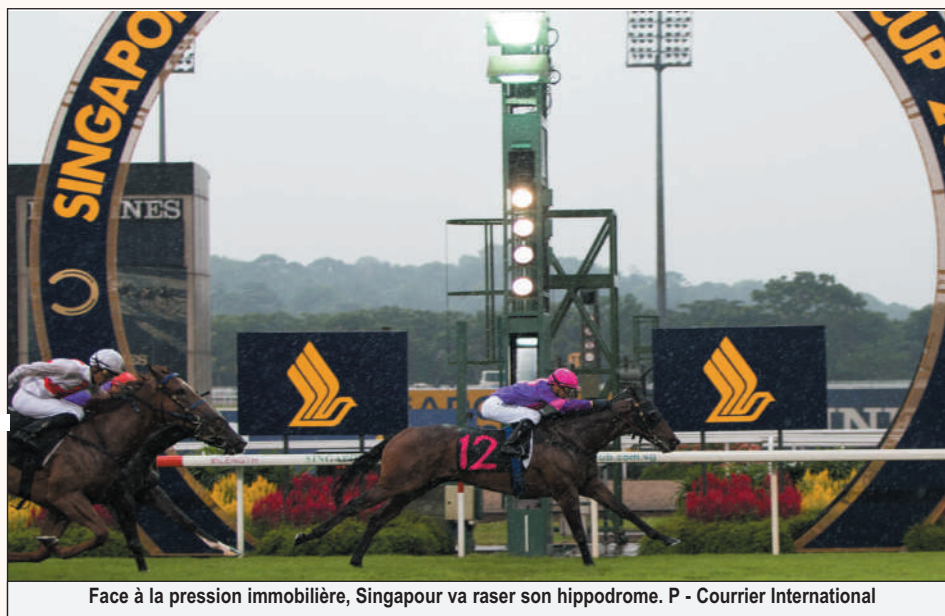
**L**es courses de chevaux à Singapour ont tiré leur révérence après plus de 180 ans d'histoire. Le Singapore Turf Club, unique hippodrome de la ville-État, a organisé sa dernière course le 5 octobre 2023, devant une foule de 10 000 personnes. Cette décision marque le retour du terrain de 120 hectares au gouvernement singapourien, qui le réaménagera pour des logements et d'autres usages d'ici 2027.

La première course à Singapour a eu lieu en 1843, célébrant le 24<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de l'arrivée de l'île sous la domination coloniale britannique. Depuis, les courses de chevaux sont devenues un événement phare du calendrier social et sportif de Singapour. Le Turf Club, situé à Kranji depuis 1999, après un investissement de 500 millions de dollars singapouriens (environ 384 millions de dollars américains), est devenu un lieu emblématique, mais selon Reuters il est désormais confronté à un défi crucial: répondre à la demande croissante de logements dans une ville de plus de 6 millions d'habitants.

### Une affluence en déclin

**L**ors de l'annonce de la fermeture en juin dernier, le Singapore Turf Club a souligné une baisse significative de l'affluence au fil des ans. Les journées de courses qui attiraient en moyenne 11 000 personnes en 2010 n'en attiraient plus que 6 000 en 2019, et seulement 2 600 lorsque l'hippodrome a rouvert après la pandémie. En comparaison, Hong Kong continue de jouir d'une scène des courses hippiques florissante, avec plus de 40 000 parieurs misant 1,31 milliards de dollars HK (environ 169 millions de dollars américains) lors du premier jour

## La fin d'une époque: Les courses hippiques à Singapour après 181 ans



Face à la pression immobilière, Singapour va raser son hippodrome. P - Courier International

de la nouvelle saison de courses.

### Un dernier adieu émotionnel

Parmi les spectateurs présents, Lawrence Phua, 75 ans, a partagé ses souvenirs nostalgiques. Enfant, il aidait son frère à vendre des guides de courses devant l'ancien emplacement du Turf Club à Bukit Timah, qui sera également transformé en logements. «Je ne sais rien sur le jeu, mais je suis un peu ému et assez triste que les courses de chevaux ne soient plus, après plus de cent ans», a-t-il déclaré.

Les spectateurs de cette dernière journée étaient un mélange éclectique,

allant des parieurs concentrés vêtus de shorts, à des femmes élégamment parées de chapeaux et de fascinators. L'atmosphère était empreinte de nostalgie, marquant la fin d'une ère pour ce sport qui a fait partie intégrante de la culture singapourienne.

### Vers un futur axé sur l'habitat

La réaffectation du terrain au gouvernement vise à répondre aux besoins croissants en matière de logement, de loisirs et d'activités récréatives dans un espace limité. Singapour, plus petit que New York, doit faire face à des défis en matière d'espace urbain, et la transformation de l'ancien

hippodrome est un pas vers une utilisation plus efficace de la terre disponible.

La fin des courses hippiques à Singapour est non seulement un adieu à une tradition séculaire, mais également un reflet des évolutions nécessaires dans une ville en pleine croissance. Les souvenirs de ces courses resteront gravés dans le cœur des habitants, tout en ouvrant la voie à de nouvelles possibilités pour l'avenir.

### La situation à Maurice

Sans minimiser le conflit opposant le People's Turf PLC, qui obtiendrait le soutien du gouvernement au MTC, il est important de souligner que la situation des courses hippiques à Maurice est également préoccupante. Les problèmes de gestion, de transparence et de corruption ont conduit à une désaffection croissante du public. Alors que ce sport avait longtemps été très populaire parmi toutes les classes sociales, l'avenir des courses de chevaux semble incertain si des mesures ne sont pas rapidement prises pour revitaliser cet héritage.

**L**es événements de courses attirent désormais des foules de moins en moins nombreuses. Si des mesures ne sont pas prises pour revitaliser ce sport, les courses de chevaux à Maurice pourraient rapidement devenir une mémoire, tout comme à Singapour. La nécessité d'une réforme urgente et d'un retour à l'intégrité est plus pressante que jamais pour sauver cette tradition qui fait partie de l'identité mauricienne.

## Alfred Nobel : Une vie explosive

**C**ette semaine, le monde célèbre les lauréats des prestigieux prix Nobel, une occasion qui nous rappelle l'homme dont le nom est devenu synonyme d'excellence et d'engagement pour la paix. Alfred Nobel, inventeur et entrepreneur, a créé ces récompenses en 1901, honorant chaque année les contributions exceptionnelles dans les domaines de la physique, de la chimie, de la physiologie ou de la médecine, de la littérature et de la paix. Dans ce qui suit, nous plongerons dans la vie fascinante d'Alfred Nobel, un parcours semé d'embûches qui a abouti à un héritage durable, malgré un passé marqué par la tragédie et la controverse.

Selon Jonas F. Ludvigsson, professeur au Département d'épidémiologie médicale et de biostatistique de l'Institut Karolinska, la vie d'Alfred Nobel n'a pas toujours été aussi illustre. Dans sa biographie, Ingrid Carlberg décrit une enfance difficile à Stockholm. Non seulement il était pauvre, mais le garçon qui deviendrait un scientifique estimé, détenant 355 brevets au

cours de sa vie, a été placé dans une classe pour enfants ayant des difficultés d'apprentissage. Cependant, l'innovation semblait être dans le sang des Nobel. Le père d'Alfred, Immanuel, était également inventeur, bien qu'il ait moins réussi que son fils.

Parmi les premières créations d'Immanuel, on trouvait un sac à dos en caoutchouc malodorant, qui pouvait également servir de dispositif de flottaison pour les soldats traversant une rivière, et comme coussin pour s'asseoir confortablement. Mais les inventions d'Immanuel ont accu-



La vie fascinante d'Alfred Nobel, un chemin parsemé d'obstacles, a donné naissance à un héritage durable. P - Sud Ouest

mulé d'énormes dettes, le poussant à fuir ses créanciers pour Saint-Petersbourg, en Russie, un endroit qui jouera un rôle important dans la vie d'Alfred plus tard.

Les choses s'améliorèrent pour Alfred lorsque la famille Nobel déménagea en Russie, où il commença à travailler sur le développement des explosifs.

### Les intérêts explosifs

**M**alheureusement, en Russie, Immanuel fit face à la faillite et retourna en Suède. Alfred et son père, accompagnés du plus jeune fils de la famille Nobel, Emil, expérimentèrent la nitroglycérine à Stockholm. Les résultats de ces expériences ont eu des contributions majeures à l'industrialisation et à la médecine. Cependant, de nombreux événements tragiques précédèrent la découverte d'une méthode pour rendre la nitroglycérine plus sûre à utiliser, avec l'invention de la dynamite en 1867.

En 1864, par exemple, le jeune frère d'Alfred, Emil, fut tué dans une explosion de nitroglycérine dans le laboratoire familial près de Stockholm, après quoi la fabrication de nitroglycérine fut interdite dans la ville.

☞ Suite en page 5



# Alfred Nobel : Une vie explosive

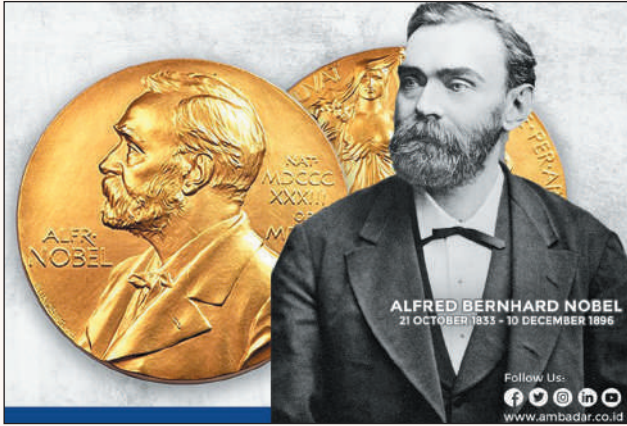
☞ Suite de la page 4

Mais cette tragédie familiale ne détourna pas Alfred de son objectif. Il continua à produire des explosifs à une échelle industrielle dans une usine à Vinterviken, en Suède. Cette usine fut détruite plusieurs fois par des accidents causés par l'instabilité de la nitroglycérine, tuant de nombreux travailleurs.

Bien que l'usine de Nobel fût sans doute un endroit dangereux pour travailler, elle a également permis de découvrir les bienfaits de la nitroglycérine comme médicament cardiaque. Les travailleurs de l'usine subirent des changements dans leur santé en raison de l'exposition à la nitroglycérine, qui a des effets physiologiques importants en tant que vasodilatateur.

**E**n 1998, le prix Nobel de physiologie ou de médecine fut décerné conjointement à Robert F. Furchgott, Louis J. Ignarro et Ferid Murad "pour leurs découvertes concernant le monoxyde d'azote comme molécule de signalisation dans le système cardiovasculaire". Cela aurait pu surprendre Alfred Nobel, qui aurait refusé de prendre de la nitroglycérine lorsque les médecins la lui prescrivirent pour ses crises d'angine.

Les travaux de Nobel ont conduit à l'instauration des prix en chimie et en physique, mais ce qui est plus surprenant — compte tenu de sa contribution significative au développement des armes — c'est le prix de la paix. L'un des amis les plus proches de Nobel était la pacifiste Bertha von Suttner, auteure du célèbre roman anti-guerre *Lay Down Your Arms*. On pense qu'elle souhaitait qu'Alfred



Nobel fasse don de son argent au mouvement pour la paix, mais Alfred choisit plutôt de financer un prix. En 1905, von Suttner devint la première femme à recevoir le prix Nobel de la paix et la deuxième lauréate féminine, après Marie Curie.

## Controverses et héritage

Plusieurs aspects des prix furent très controversés. Le fait que des femmes puissent recevoir des prix était considéré comme une folie, sans parler du fait que le prix Nobel de la paix serait décerné par un comité en Norvège. Cependant, pour Alfred, Oslo devait sembler être un lieu naturel pour l'un des prix. À l'époque de la mort d'Alfred, la Suède et la Norvège étaient en union, et Alfred passait beaucoup de temps avec des amis à l'Association suédo-norvégienne à Paris.

Les Suédois étaient mécontents que les prix puissent être attribués à n'importe qui, et non pas uniquement aux citoyens suédois. Au 19e siècle, la plupart des prix étaient nationaux, mais Alfred devait être un internationaliste. Il avait passé son enfance en Suède, ses années formatrices en Russie, la majeure partie de sa vie ultérieure en France, et avait une maison de vacances à San Remo, en Italie. Les autorités de San Remo continuent d'envoyer des fleurs pour décorer la cérémonie de remise des prix Nobel à Stockholm chaque année.

**C**ependant, la critique la plus féroce des prix Nobel ne provenait pas des nationalistes suédois, mais de la propre famille de Nobel, qui fut déchu de son héritage après la mort d'Alfred. La famille remarqua qu'il y avait plusieurs testaments, et qu'elle recevait de moins en moins d'argent à chaque testament, jusqu'à la version finale qui laissa le plus gros montant aux prix.

On ne peut sous-estimer l'importance de Ragnar Sohlman, l'assistant d'Alfred et exécuteur testamentaire, qui fit de nombreuses démarches pour défendre les prix. Finalement, des tribunaux de France et de Suède se disputèrent l'interprétation du testament. C'est à ce moment-là que les Suédois firent peut-être leur coup de maître, suggérant que le testament soit réglé par un petit tribunal à Karlskoga, une ville mineure au centre de la Suède où Alfred avait sa maison à la fin de sa vie — et où, surtout, il gardait ses chevaux.

Il fut finalement décidé que l'endroit où un homme garde ses chevaux est aussi celui où il appartient. Ainsi, le petit tribunal de Karlskoga, en Suède, fut choisi pour interpréter le testament d'Alfred Nobel, et les prix Nobel virent le jour.

# Hommage à Ratan Tata, le "modeste" tycoon indien : une vie empreinte de vision et d'intégrité



Ratan Tata : "Il faut essayer de mener par l'exemple, sans exhiber sa richesse et sa notoriété." — P - Social Nation

**R**atan Tata, décédé à l'âge de 86 ans mercredi dernier, était l'un des dirigeants d'entreprise les plus respectés en Inde et à l'international. À la tête du groupe Tata, un conglomérat aux activités variées, allant du sel aux logiciels, il a supervisé plus de 100 entreprises et a contribué à l'emploi de près de 660 000 personnes. Sous sa direction, les revenus annuels du groupe ont dépassé les 100 milliards de dollars.

Fondé par Jamsetji Tata, pionnier du monde des affaires en Inde, le groupe Tata,

âgé de 155 ans, englobe un empire commercial allant de Jaguar Land Rover et Tata Steel à l'aviation et aux salines. L'éthique de l'entreprise "associe le capitalisme à la philanthropie, en menant des affaires de manière à améliorer la vie des autres", selon Peter Casey, auteur de *The Story of Tata*, un livre autorisé sur le groupe.

Tata Sons, la société holding du groupe, comprend un "certain nombre d'entreprises, y compris des sociétés privées et cotées en bourse, mais elles sont essentiellement toutes détenues par une fiducie philanthro-

pique", explique-t-il.

Ratan Tata est né en 1937 dans une famille traditionnelle de Parsis, une communauté éduquée et prospère dont les ancêtres étaient des réfugiés zoroastriens en Inde. Ses parents se sont séparés dans les années 1940. Tata a poursuivi ses études aux États-Unis, où il a obtenu un diplôme en architecture à l'Université Cornell. Pendant son séjour de sept ans, il apprit à conduire des voitures et à piloter des avions, vivant quelques expériences traumatisantes, dont la perte d'un moteur en plein vol. "J'ai dû planer", racontait-il lors d'une interview. Plus tard, il pilota souvent le jet d'affaires de son entreprise.

Il est rentré en Inde en 1962 lorsque sa grand-mère, Lady Navajbai, tomba malade et l'appela. C'est à ce moment-là que JRD Tata, un parent d'une autre branche de la famille, lui demanda de rejoindre le groupe Tata. "Il [JRD Tata] était mon plus grand mentor... il était comme un père et un frère pour moi - et pas assez a été dit à ce sujet", confiait Tata.

## Débuts dans l'industrie

Ratan Tata fut envoyé dans une usine sidérurgique à Jamshedpur, dans l'est de l'Inde, où il passa quelques années sur le sol de l'usine avant de devenir l'assistant

technique du directeur. Au début des années 70, il prit en charge deux entreprises en difficulté du groupe, l'une fabriquant des radios et des téléviseurs et l'autre, des textiles. Il réussit à redresser la première tandis que les résultats de l'entreprise textile étaient mitigés.

**E**n 1991, JRD Tata, qui avait dirigé le groupe pendant plus de cinquante ans, nomma Ratan Tata comme son successeur, malgré les prétentions de plusieurs cadres supérieurs. "Si l'on consulte les publications de l'époque, les critiques étaient personnelles - JRD était accusé de népotisme et j'étais considéré comme un mauvais choix", disait plus tard Ratan Tata.

Peter Casey note qu'avec Ratan Tata à sa tête, un "grand mais plutôt vieillissant fabricant indien commença à émerger en tant que marque mondiale avec un grand accent sur les biens de consommation".

## Acquisitions audacieuses

Sous sa direction, le groupe entreprit de nombreuses acquisitions audacieuses, parmi lesquelles le rachat de l'acier Anglo-Néerlandais Corus et des marques automobiles britanniques Jaguar et Land Rover.

A. Bartleby

☞ Suite en page 16



Jean Claude de l'Estrac

# “L'électeur ne se manifeste pas pendant la campagne électorale, mais déjà, depuis quelques jours, on sent comme un frémissement dans l'air”



**Mauritius Times:** Comment les choses se dessinent-elles sur le plan politique à la lumière des prochaines élections générales, selon votre analyse de la situation?

**Jean Claude de l'Estrac:** Nous sommes au tout début de la campagne électorale. Il nous faut attendre le *Nomination Day* pour se faire une idée plus précise des forces en présence.

Si l'on se fixe uniquement sur les dernières semaines de la précampagne, on peut avoir le sentiment que l'alliance gouvernementale avait marqué des points, forte de sa position de pouvoir, ce qui lui a permis de chercher à séduire les électeurs par diverses douceurs sonnantes et trebuchantes. Elles pèseront assurément sur leur choix; je pense en particulier aux personnes âgées.

La proposition de pension des seniors à Rs 20 000 par mois, par exemple, coûtera éventuellement plus de Rs 100 milliards à l'Etat, mais généralement le pensionné n'en a cure. Certains d'entre eux commentent, toutefois, à s'interroger sur la sou-

« Ce qui se dessine est assez évident: l'Alliance Lepep défendra son bilan social, comptabilisant les roupies distribuées; en face, l'Alliance du Changement aura beau jeu de dénoncer la mauvaise gouvernance d'un pouvoir autocrate. Cette gouvernance vient d'avoir un retentissement éminemment négatif jusqu'à la Chambre des Communes à Londres où le gouvernement mauricien a été qualifié de «disgusting government»... »

nabilité de ces prestations et à l'avenir hypothéqué de leurs enfants. C'est un vrai sujet.

Par ailleurs, le bilan social du gouvernement est entaché par une longue série de scandales, et d'allégations de corruption et de népotisme. Il n'est pas sûr que le renouvellement d'une partie de ses

Dans un contexte politique marqué par les prochaines élections générales, Jean Claude de l'Estrac nous livre son analyse sur les dynamiques actuelles et les enjeux cruciaux qui se profilent à l'horizon. Il aborde les stratégies des alliances en présence, les préoccupations de l'électorat face à des promesses électorales, ainsi que l'impact de l'actualité nationale sur le climat politique. En parallèle, il explique sa démarche consistant à offrir des réflexions personnelles sur la maladie d'Alzheimer, affectant son épouse, dans son ouvrage intitulé “La chanson inachevée”.

troupes suffise à faire oublier ses frasques d'autant plus que cette opération cosmétique n'est pas toujours au goût de ses partisans comme le démontre la révolte de Petit Raffray.

Ce qui se dessine est assez évident: l'Alliance Lepep défendra son bilan social, comptabilisant les roupies distribuées; en face, l'Alliance du Changement aura beau jeu de dénoncer la mauvaise gouvernance d'un pouvoir autocrate. Cette gouvernance vient d'avoir un retentissement éminemment négatif jusqu'à la Chambre des Communes à Londres où le gouvernement mauricien a été qualifié de «disgusting government».

\* Mais on ne perçoit pas actuellement une vague montante en prévision des prochaines élections, contrairement à 2014, où une telle vague était déjà perceptible plusieurs semaines avant le scrutin. Qu'est-ce qui a changé, selon vous?

Toutes les élections ne provoquent pas de vagues.

En d'autres circonstances, j'ai théorisé l'idée d'élections «sous-marins». L'électeur, dans ces cas-là, ne se manifeste pas pendant la campagne électorale, mais il règle ses comptes dans l'isolement. Ce type de comportement se manifeste surtout face à un gouvernement soupçonné d'utiliser son pouvoir pour réprimer ses adversaires politiques. C'est peut-être le cas en ce moment; nous serons fixés aux lendemains du *Nomination Day*. Mais déjà, depuis quelques jours, on sent comme un frémissement dans l'air.

\* D'un côté, on voit le leader de l'alliance gouvernementale agir de manière réfléchi et méthodique pour assurer le maintien de son alliance au pouvoir. Il se donne également tous les moyens - et alliés - nécessaires pour réussir

cela. De l'autre côté, l'alliance de l'opposition est toujours en mode de négociations pour finaliser un accord électoral. Quelle impression cela vous donne-t-il et quelle impression cela donnera-t-il aux électeurs?

La différence de méthode que vous soulignez est incompréhensible aux yeux des partisans de l'Alliance du Changement. Elle tend à accréditer l'idée que la synergie nécessaire entre les partenaires tarde à se fixer. Je pense que cela est dû à la méfiance qui existe entre les leaders, une méfiance héritée de leur passé d'adversaires et de leur expérience du pouvoir.

Il est vrai, par ailleurs, que cette relation est toujours plus complexe entre deux alliés qui sont, plus ou moins, de force égale électoralement. Dans le camp adverse, le MSM est nettement dominant, ses alliés sont des groupuscules qui ne sont pas en état de lui tenir tête. Cela donne une apparence de cohésion parce que les alliés mécontents n'ont pas d'autre choix que de souffrir en silence...

\* Ceux qui savent 'read the tea leaves', comme dirait l'Anglais, c'est-à-dire ceux capables de déchiffrer des indices ou des signes subtils par anticipation maintiennent qu'il subsiste une grande incertitude quant aux préférences de l'électorat, notamment rural, et dans une moindre mesure, celui des circonscriptions urbaines, face aux options politiques proposées. Ce qui est préoccupant, c'est que cette incertitude dans un contexte électoral pourrait favoriser le “vote splitting”. Au profit de qui, selon vous?

L'éparpillement des votes risque d'être une caractéristique de ces législatives, et ce, pour plusieurs raisons.

☞ Suite en page 7



# 'Une partie de l'électorat attend de deviner qui sera à l'Hôtel du gouvernement.

## Il volera alors au secours de la victoire'

☞ Suite de la page 6

Il se trouve que les deux principaux blocs n'excitent pas particulièrement l'électorat, qu'il soit rural ou urbain. Je crois que la campagne "Ni Pravind Ni Navin" a laissé des séquelles même si les nouvelles formations n'ont pas convaincu de leur capacité à obtenir une majorité de suffrages pour former un gouvernement malgré le fort désir de changement de l'électorat.

Ces nouvelles formations, en tout cas quelques individualités chez elles, obtiendront néanmoins quelques centaines, parfois même, des milliers de voix. Le plus souvent, ces votes viendront du camp de l'opposition, ce qui objectivement profitera au gouvernement sortant.

« L'éparpillement des votes risque d'être une caractéristique de ces législatives, et ce, pour plusieurs raisons. Il se trouve que les deux principaux blocs n'excitent pas particulièrement l'électorat, qu'il soit rural ou urbain. Je crois que la campagne "Ni Pravind Ni Navin" a laissé des séquelles même si les nouvelles formations n'ont pas convaincu de leur capacité à obtenir une majorité de suffrages pour former un gouvernement malgré le fort désir de changement de l'électorat... »

L'Alliance du Changement est une belle appellation, mais je doute que ses deux principaux leaders soient perçus comme l'incarnation du changement annoncé. En politique, l'incarnation est un facteur clé. Toutefois, les deux anciens Premiers ministres devraient mieux faire valoir leur expérience dans un contexte où de nombreux défis, économiques notamment, auront à être relevés pendant la prochaine législature.

La grande chance de cette alliance est l'arrivée de *Résistans ek Alternativ*. Même si ce mouvement, crédible et résolu, n'est pas d'un grand apport électoral, l'impact positif de sa présence au sein de l'Alliance du Changement est indéniable.

Maintenant je ne crois pas qu'il y ait effectivement une « grande incertitude ». Ce qu'il y a, c'est de l'opportunisme. Une partie de l'électorat attend de deviner qui sera à l'Hôtel du gouvernement. Il volera alors au secours de la victoire...

\* **Au-delà du profil de celui qui occupera le poste de Premier ministre dans le prochain gouvernement en cas de victoire, la composition du 'front bench' est également devenue un facteur clé pour le marketing d'une alliance électorale. Il ne semble pas que l'Alliance Lepep, comprenant Jugnauth, Duval, Collendavelloo, Ganoo et Obeegadoo, se préoccupe de cela malgré le retournement de veste de Duval et les casseroles que pourraient traîner Obeegadoo et Collendavelloo. Quelle est votre opinion?**

Avant la composition du 'front bench', ce qui préoccupe l'électorat, c'est le profil de celui qui dirigera le gouver-



« Ce qui préoccupe l'électorat, c'est le profil de celui qui dirigera le gouvernement. On voit bien que Pravind Jugnauth mène une campagne à l'américaine. Il fait de ces législatives une présidentielle l'opposant à Navin Ramgoolam... Quant au 'front bench', il est certain que les deux blocs présenteront des équipes censées représenter l'ensemble du corps électoral. Dans un pays comme le nôtre, ce souci d'équilibre est plutôt honorable, abstraction faite de la crédibilité personnelle des protagonistes... »

nement. On voit bien que Pravind Jugnauth mène une campagne à l'américaine. Il fait de ces législatives une présidentielle l'opposant à Navin Ramgoolam.

Cette stratégie a ses limites car les élections se jouent

circonscription par circonscription. De ce fait, et Jugnauth et Ramgoolam seront sans doute élus dans leur circonscription respective sans forcément provoquer un effet d'entraînement global dans leur camp.

« L'Alliance du Changement est une belle appellation, mais je doute que ses deux principaux leaders soient perçus comme l'incarnation du changement annoncé. En politique, l'incarnation est un facteur clé. Toutefois, les deux anciens Premiers ministres devraient mieux faire valoir leur expérience dans un contexte où de nombreux défis, économiques notamment, auront à être relevés pendant la prochaine législature... »

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\* **Quelle opinion avez-vous sur ce que pourrait constituer le 'front bench' de l'Alliance du Changement avec Ramgoolam et son allié "on-and-off" Bérenger, probablement Richard Duval et Arvin Boolell ou Shakeel Mohamed/Reza Uteem? C'est un véritable casse-tête, sachant que sa composition pourrait aussi faire la différence, non?**

Si comme je le vois, la composition du 'front bench' est essentiellement une affaire d'équilibre ethnique doublée de la réalité des alliances politiques, on peut prévoir que les deux 'front benches' sur ce plan se ressembleront comme des frères.

\* **On ne voit pas le "deal" avec les Britanniques concernant les Chagos peser lourdement et de manière déterminante sur l'issue des prochaines élections d'ici cinq semaines. De toute façon, il ne sera pas possible pour un "caretaker government" de contracter des engagements formels dans un traité avec les Britanniques. Qu'en pensez-vous?**

D'abord, je pense que les négociations sur un éventuel traité risquent de durer plusieurs mois. A mon sens, il est exclu qu'il soit signé avant les prochaines élections même si les Britanniques auraient pu être tentés de faire vite pour profiter de la souplesse d'un Jugnauth en campagne électorale.

Sur le fond, je constate qu'après une première réaction nationaliste, des questions sont maintenant posées sur un accord qui - en définitive - conforte l'occupation de Diégo par les Britanniques et les Américains pour longtemps encore. Il n'est pas certain que notre souveraineté politique, concrètement fictive, sur Diégo Garcia soit un argument électoral. Il pourrait même être contreproductif quand les Anglais préciseront les contraintes qui s'imposeront aux Mauriciens et aux Chagossiens sur la base militaire.

☞ Suite en page 8



# “On voit bien que Jugnauth mène une campagne à l'américaine. Il fait de ces législatives une présidentielle l'opposant à Ramgoolam”

☞ Suite de la page 7

\* Par ailleurs, l'actualité reste toujours dominée par les crimes liés aux drogues, plus répandus dans les zones rurales, paraît-il. Parallèlement, les Mauriciens s'inquiètent du coût de la vie, en hausse constante. Pensez-vous que ces préoccupations influenceront l'électorat, ou les promesses électorales et la “générosité” gouvernementale seront-elles plus déterminantes?

C'est toute la question. Nous en avons parlé. Pour l'instant, il est difficile de déterminer la préoccupation principale de l'électorat, encore qu'il y a au fait des électeurs. Ce qui est important aux yeux de certains ne l'est pas forcément à d'autres. Il faudra suivre les débats, écouter les arguments en espérant des échanges de qualité au-delà des surenchères.

\* Au cours des dix dernières années, les gouvernements Jugnauth ont été régulièrement interpellés par l'opposition, les éditorialistes et la société civile concernant le « state capture » des institutions clés du pays, ainsi que de nombreuses affaires impliquant des membres ou des proches du pouvoir sans que cela ne parvienne à émouvoir les dirigeants. On évoque souvent une masse silencieuse qui agit au



moment opportun. Sommes-nous arrivés à ce point? Le pouvoir rend sourd et aveugle. Tous les gouvernements, ici et ailleurs, souffrent de

« J'ai découvert que de très nombreuses familles vivent le même cauchemar ou connaissent un tel malade de leur proche entourage. On peut craindre que le nombre de cas se multiplie du fait du vieillissement de la population. Or, il y a comme une omerta sur cette maladie qui porte parfois le nom stigmatisant de «démence». Sur un plan personnel, j'ai décidé d'écrire ce livre pour meubler les silences qui s'installent autour de moi et en moi...»

cette pathologie. Les gouvernements de Pravind Jugnauth, gérés, de plus, dans le culte d'un leader autocrate, ont été effectivement fermés à toute proposition venue d'ailleurs. Il a gouverné le pays dans le mépris politique d'une majorité d'électeurs même s'ils ont été choyés sur le plan social.

Nous ne savons pas avec certitude comment les électeurs vont réagir. Mais il ne nous est pas interdit de penser que beaucoup d'entre eux, une fois qu'ils en auront l'occasion, exprimeront leur désaccord.

La Chanson Inachevée': Un Voyage au Cœur de la Maladie d'Alzheimer

## «Il y a comme une omerta sur cette maladie qui porte parfois le nom stigmatisant de 'démence'»

\* Je passe à un tout autre sujet aussi important: votre livre, “La chanson inachevée”, lancé hier au Hennessy Park Hotel, évoque des expériences très personnelles. Quelles ont été vos motivations principales pour partager cette histoire sur la progression de la maladie d'Alzheimer chez votre épouse Solange?

Toujours les mêmes: rendre service, partager, être utile. J'ai découvert que de très nombreuses familles vivent le même cauchemar ou connaissent un tel malade de leur proche entourage. On peut craindre que le nombre de cas se multiplie du fait du vieillissement de la population. Or, il y a comme une omerta sur cette maladie qui porte parfois le nom stigmatisant de «démence».

Sur un plan personnel, j'ai décidé d'écrire ce livre pour meubler les silences qui s'installent autour de moi et en moi, pour tenter de reconstituer la mémoire de la vie que je n'ai plus, comme une thérapie.

Ensuite, j'ai voulu aider les entourages à vaincre leur solitude et à réfléchir aux meilleurs moyens d'accompagner leurs malades. Au-delà du récit de vie, l'ouvrage est conçu comme un guide nourri par les recherches que j'ai menées depuis des années. C'est un acte de solidarité.

\* Vous mentionnez l'importance de l'accompagnement des malades d'Alzheimer. Quelles stratégies avez-vous trouvées les plus efficaces pour maintenir leur bien-être au quotidien?

Je ne suis pas médecin. Dépendant des cas – et chaque situation est unique – les neurologues prescrivent différents traitements. Ils visent tous à permettre aux malades de vivre au mieux possible l'instant présent.

Au cœur de ces traitements, il y a toujours un facteur clé: l'accompagnement. Cela ne s'improvise pas. Une aide-soignante formée et expérimentée apporte une grande différence dans la vie des malades. Il faudrait accélérer la formation des aides-soignantes pour spécifiquement accompagner ce type de malades. Ce n'est pas facile pour beaucoup de familles, mais autant que faire se peut, il est préférable de faire accompagner les malades dans leur environnement.

\* Dans votre ouvrage, vous parlez de l'impact de la musique sur les malades. Pouvez-vous expliquer comment la musique a aidé Solange à garder un lien avec ses souvenirs?

Pas forcément avec des souvenirs. Elle n'a plus de souvenirs. Mais la musique souvent suscite des émotions. Comme



l'explique un neurologue, elle provoque des «souvenirs sans mémoire».

Le même neurologue, Pierre Lemarquis a cette belle formule: «la musique est la bande sonore de notre vie». Il estime qu'écouter la musique est idéale pour éli-

miner, chez les malades, l'état de tension. Il dit que «la musique sculpte notre cerveau et surtout le caresse.»

Il n'y a rien d'autre comme la musique pour rendre à Solange ses mots et son sourire.



David Snoxell

# Chagos deal: “The UK, Mauritius, and the US - everyone got something out of it”

**I**n light of the recent political agreement between Mauritius and the UK regarding the sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago, David Snoxell, Coordinator of the All-Party Parliamentary Group since 2008, and former British High Commissioner to Mauritius, and Deputy Commissioner of the BIOT, shares his insights on the implications of this Mauritius-UK deal. With protests emerging in the UK and mixed reactions from Mauritius, David Snoxell addresses concerns surrounding the agreement, the interests of various stakeholders, and the future of the Chagossian community.

\* There have been protests and concerns raised in the House of Commons and the British press that appear aimed at undermining the joint Mauritius-UK “political agreement” announced on Thursday, October 3, regarding the sovereignty issue over the Chagos Archipelago. What is the position of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the broader Chagos deal, considering not only the perspective of the Chagossians, whose rights the APPG has actively supported?

The next and 96th APPG meeting is on 23 October. Members will discuss the agreement. I would expect them to support all aspects of it. They supported the negotiations of the last two years, leading up to the agreement. I can't say more until they have met.

“The US is well content to have full control and security of the base with UK administration, exercising sovereignty on behalf of Mauritius. Mauritius is pleased to have full sovereignty over all the archipelago and annual rent for the 99-year lease. The UK is relieved to have its reputation for upholding international law repaired and passing Chagossian resettlement to Mauritius to deal with...”

\* Despite endorsements for Mauritian sovereignty from multilateral bodies like the UN General Assembly and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the recent protests in the House of Commons have come as a surprise. Do you think these sentiments could jeopardize the agreement before it progresses, especially given the uncertain geopolitical climate ahead?

I was surprised by the tone of many questions put by MPs to the Foreign Secretary after he delivered his oral statement. There is a febrile political climate in Parliament, associated with the Conservative Party leadership contest. The Opposition are looking for ways to attack the government.

MPs had not seen the statement before it was delivered, and their prepared questions had in some cases already been answered in the statement. That statement required close study before it was debated. The agreement is rock solid and will not be derailed by those who disagree with different aspects of it. The Government stands firmly behind it.

\* Reactions in Mauritius have been mixed, with

opposition parties and social media commentators accusing the government, particularly the Prime Minister, of sell-out by allowing the UK to exercise sovereign rights over Diego Garcia. Would you say that, without this explicit provision, the deal would not have materialized?

The agreement took two years and 13 sessions to negotiate. It was bound to be a political compromise among all parties — the UK, Mauritius, and the US. Without that compromise, there would have been no deal, and the situation would have remained unchanged for decades.

Everyone got something out of it. In summary, the US is granted secure tenure for its military base for 99 years; Mauritius control of the islands together with acknowledgement that it alone has sovereignty, rent for the base and completion of its decolonisation; Chagossians get the right to return and resettle, visitor access to Diego Garcia, a Trust Fund and other support from the UK.

\* How do you view the implications of a 99-year period for UK control over Diego Garcia, which could potentially be extended? What impact will this have on Mauritius's sovereignty in practical terms?

This is an excellent deal for all three countries. The US is well content to have full control and security of the base with UK administration, exercising sovereignty on behalf of Mauritius. Mauritius is pleased to have full sovereignty over all the archipelago and annual rent for the 99-year lease. The UK is relieved to have its reputation for upholding international law repaired and passing Chagossian resettlement to Mauritius to deal with.

\* With UK and US interests taking precedence in this agreement, what strategies can Mauritius adopt to ensure its sovereignty is upheld moving forward?

I don't think it is true to say that UK and US interests have taken precedence. Mauritius got a good deal too.

Mauritius does not need a strategy to ensure its sovereignty of Chagos is respected. The agreement which will be turned into a bilateral treaty, registered with the UN is enough to do that.

\* For the past 60 years, successive Mauritian governments have assured British authorities that the US-UK base would not be contested. What factors do you believe have made this current agreement possible after so many years, or what has compelled the UK to act now?

It is international pressure from UNGA which adopted an almost unanimous resolution endorsing the ICJ Advisory Opinion and requiring the UK to transfer the Islands to Mauritius. Also, pressure from India, the African Union and Commonwealth combined with the rulings of three interna-



“Everyone got something out of it. In summary, the US is granted secure tenure for its military base for 99 years; Mauritius control of the islands together with acknowledgement that it alone has sovereignty, rent for the base and completion of its decolonisation; Chagossians get the right to return and resettle, visitor access to Diego Garcia, a Trust Fund and other support from the UK...”

tional courts against the UK. The UK's stance over the situation in Ukraine and elsewhere made us vulnerable to charges of hypocrisy.

\* Regarding the UK's commitment to addressing historical injustices faced by the Chagossians, do you find the proposed trust fund and resettlement plans adequate? What more should be done?

I understand that Olivier Bancoult and CRG are issuing a statement welcoming the agreement and that after decades of campaigning and litigation Chagossians can now return to their islands. This is a huge achievement. I am only sorry that while they can visit Diego Garcia they can't resettle there.

\* The agreement includes financial compensation but lacks clarity on retroactive compensation for the Chagossian community. What implications do you foresee this having on their welfare and rights?

Financial assistance has yet to be clarified. That should happen in the coming months. I don't think this impacts their welfare and rights. Chagossians in Mauritius and the UK receive social services benefits, etc.

● Cont. on page 10



**'The agreement is rock solid and will not be derailed by those who disagree with different aspects of it'**



**“We can now see a potential alliance between the UK, US, India and I would add France with their base on Reunion, emerging in the Southern Indian Ocean, which will act as bulwark to potential Chinese influence and encroachment...”**

● Cont. from page 9

**\* How does India's involvement in this agreement, as noted in the joint statement, alter the geopolitical dynamics in the Indian Ocean?**

It strengthens the security of the base as we can now see a potential alliance between the UK, US, India and I would add France with their base on Reunion, emerging in the Southern Indian Ocean, which will act as bulwark to potential Chinese influence and encroachment.

**\* What challenges do you anticipate in implementing the economic partnership established by this agreement?**

It is too early to envisage challenges. The agreement is only a week old, and it has yet to be enshrined in a treaty, ratified and signed by both parties. Ask me again in 6 months time.

**\* In your view, what are the critical next steps that both Mauritius and the UK must take to ensure the successful implementation of this agreement?**

The drafting of a treaty and ensuring that the Opposition parties accept it and both Parliaments strongly endorse it. There needs to be at least in the UK a strategy for educating politicians, media commentators and think-tanks over the complex issues involved including the current myth that Mauritius is beholden to China and will allow them to establish a base on one of the islands. We need to deal with ignorance of the issues and an increasing global disinformation campaign.

**“There needs to be at least in the UK a strategy for educating politicians, media commentators and think-tanks over the complex issues involved including the current myth that Mauritius is beholden to China and will allow them to establish a base on one of the islands. We need to deal with ignorance of the issues and an increasing global disinformation campaign...”**

## Opinion

### National Sovereignty and Development

# Sale and Lease of Land to Generate National Income

● Cont. from page 3

Both the UK and the US view Diego Garcia as a vital asset for Western defence purposes to counter Chinese influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US has previously utilized the base in Diego Garcia; in March 2003, it flew B-52 bombers from that location to attack Iraq, as documented by Philip Sands in his book “The Last Colony.” If tomorrow B-52 bombers were to launch strikes from Diego Garcia against Iran or Yemen, in the context of the Israel-Palestine war, would Mauritius bear any liability for such attacks as the lawful owner of Diego Garcia? Or could Mauritius absolve itself by arguing that it has delegated its sovereign rights over Diego Garcia to the UK, thus having no control over the island's use? When Iraq was attacked, Diego Garcia was part of the BIOT, and Mauritius had no liability for its use. Now, it will be part of the recognized territory of Mauritius although it will be leased to the UK.

### Economic aspect

More fundamentally, the surrender of sovereign rights over Diego Garcia through a 99-year lease has an economic dimension. Many coastal states (e.g., Djibouti) that have no sustainable development models are leasing their land to foreign powers for military purposes to generate lease income, which constitutes a significant portion of their national income. This is a model that Mauritius is poised to adopt with the lease of Diego Garcia for an “indexed annual payment” from the UK, as mentioned in the deal. It is worth noting that the political agreement does not specify “lease payment,” as such, which implies rights and obligations for both parties in terms of ownership and possession. How will the annual payment be calculated? Will it be an arbitrarily imposed rate by the UK or a rate negotiated by both parties, considering what is received by other countries receiving lease income from comparable property?

Most likely Mauritius would receive at least \$2 billion (Rs 90 billion) annually from the lease. This would provide a lifeline for the country's balance of payments, at a time when fiscal deficits (6% of GDP) and public debt (85% of GDP) are growing at a higher pace. Any lease revenue would be credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the government. As such, it would be an easy income stream to fund public expenditure and overall consumption during a time of significant challenges, such as developing its production capacity for food and energy security and bolstering import-substitution capacity within a sustainable development model while protecting the environment.

For some time now, the country has been engaged in the sale of prime real estate to foreigners through IRS/PDS (Integrated Resort Scheme/Property Development Scheme) schemes to generate foreign cur-



**“The new Labour government under Keir Starmer resumed negotiations with Mauritius to finalize a political agreement on October 4th, just before the writ of elections was issued by the President of the Republic. The timing was indeed curious, if not intriguing, as British Foreign Secretary David Lammy admitted that the deal had to be announced before the elections in Mauritius. Why didn't the UK wait until after the elections on November 10th to negotiate the deal with a new government in Mauritius? Was the government of Mauritius desperate to finalize the agreement before Parliament's dissolution, and hence agreed to the terms imposed by the UK?”**

rency income. Investment in real estate accounts for 65% of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country, according to data published by the Central Bank. Another instance where Mauritius has provided land to a foreign power is the island of Agalega, where India has constructed a naval facility for Indian Ocean surveillance. As the agreement between the two countries is secret, we do not know whether there is a land conveyance for zero payment (in exchange for loans and other assistance from India) or merely an agreement allowing India to utilize the island under Mauritian sovereignty indefinitely.

For many years, the country has operated at an annual trade deficit (imports exceeding exports), which earnings from traditional sectors like exports and tourism were not able to cover. Our economic growth model, based on high consumption, fuels ever-increasing imports. The overall balance of payments deficit has been offset by deposits from foreign entities operating in the global business sector. As the economy appears to have hit a plateau with its traditional industries, lease income from Diego Garcia will undoubtedly supplement existing revenue generators for the country (exports and tourism). Ultimately, selling and leasing real estate to foreigners (individuals and states) for national income generation is not a sustainable economic strategy, as it provides an easy income stream that supports social policy but obviates the need to develop the economy on a more robust basis. In contrast, foreign countries (US, China, or India) that lease external land for military purposes have a solid economy based on production and innovation. They are almost self-sufficient in food and energy.

**Prakash Neerhoo**





Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

# Durga Puja Celebrations

## *Lessons for the country's future*

**E**very Hindu festival has two broad dimensions – one is the ‘celebration’ by performing beautiful rituals (*karmakanda*) that appeal to the finer emotional, artistic, aesthetic and sensual aspects of our lives and which tend to occupy most of our time and attention. Next is the profounder one of the symbolism associated with the deity: it requires understanding based on the teachings of our rishis (ancient sages) which are continuously recast for contemporary audiences by their numerous successors, our gurus.

The symbolism relates to, fundamentally, 1. Control of the mind, 2. Elimination of adharma or demoniac tendencies, and 3. Restoration of dharma or protection of the good.

Hinduism considers that there are six evil passions: Kama - personal desires; Krodha – anger; Lobha – greed; Moha – delusion; Mada – ego; arrogance; Matsarya – envy.

Control of the mind is essentially about reining in these passions, which usually act in a spiralling sequence that leads to downfall. Thus, a mind which is in delusion (*moha*) identifies solely with the body and ignores its inner divine essence. Believing in the ego as supreme (‘Me’, ‘My’, ‘Mine’), it becomes arrogant (*mada*). In such an arrogant mind, personal desires (*kama*) take over as the driving force and greed (*lobha*) sets in. Smaller desires not only multiply but become bigger and bigger until at some stage, not all of them can be fulfilled. Anger (*krodha*) then sets in, followed by envy (*matsarya*) of others who have more stuff.

Expand this template and we see that ‘stuff’ can also mean power, money, resources, territory that harbours commodities or is of strategic interest/importance, etc. They are coveted by all and sundry, and the numerous rivalries, conflicts, confrontations and wars that are taking place continually around the world are an ample illustration of the aptness of this template to the state of affairs in several countries and regions.

Durga-Puja time is here again, and it reminds us of the centrality of the Universal Mother in our existence. Belief in a Mother Goddess can be found in almost all races and religions in the ancient times, the Semitic, Hellenic, Nordic and Teutonic alike, but what singles out India has been the continued history of the cult from the hoary past till now. As Elizabeth U Harding, the American author of ‘Kali: the Black Goddess of Dakshineswar’ observes: ‘Considering the first being a child relates to its nurturing mother and considering that primitive people who had no scientific knowledge must have watched the miracle of birth with wonder and awe, it comes as no surprise that our remote ancestors greatly revered the mother. When ancient people began to conceive of a higher supernatural being that would nourish and protect them from evil, they naturally conceived it in the image of the mother.’

Generally, Durga Mata is associated with protection, motherhood, and strength, but like a mother who has to assume many roles and functions, She exhibits several aspects, nine in all, thus Navaratri (nine nights) during



Pic - durgapujaparikrama.com

**“Durga-Puja time is here again, and it reminds us of the centrality of the Universal Mother in our existence. Belief in a Mother Goddess can be found in almost all races and religions in the ancient times, the Semitic, Hellenic, Nordic and Teutonic alike, but what singles out India has been the continued history of the cult from the hoary past till now. As Elizabeth U Harding, the American author of ‘Kali: the Black Goddess of Dakshineswar’ observes: ‘Considering the first being a child relates to its nurturing mother and considering that primitive people who had no scientific knowledge must have watched the miracle of birth with wonder and awe, it comes as no surprise that our remote ancestors greatly revered the mother...’”**

which one of them is worshipped daily, and in her form as Chandraghanta she symbolizes control of the mind. How? *Chandra* means the moon, which as we know waxes and wanes, that is it keeps changing, like the mind. *Ghanta* means bell – and a bell has a clapper which keeps moving all around and hits its lower part to produce the sound but, importantly, is stopped by this very action and cannot go beyond, that is, the range of its movement is limited, controlled. Thus the symbolism of mind control.

When there is mayhem and disorder in her house, created by her children, a mother has perforce to restore order by strong action, and on a global or cosmic scale one can imagine what kind of power is required to achieve this. Hence Durga as Kali, who arose to defeat the demon, Mahishasura, who was terrorising the world. This is how She came to be associated with both war and protection.

In today’s context, She can be perceived as the collective force of good people needed to overcome the negative and destructive forces that are threatening us, and our planet which together constitute the Mahishasur. *Mahi* means Earth, *asur* means demon, and *Ish* means the one who is the lord of. Therefore, Mahishasur is the megademon of destructive or demoniac forces. They are the collective result of the greed of man, aren’t they? That’s what scientists are telling us, that climate change

caused by human activities is responsible for the succession of environmental catastrophes that are assailing us.

Thus, as great thinkers have pointed out, the legend of the Devi-Mahatmya which is recounted during Durga-Puja is an ‘allegorical representation of the continual war that is going on within the divine and the demoniac in man’, between our passions and instincts and our more sublime nature which tries to overcome them.

Further, ‘Her adversaries represent the all too human impulses arising from the pursuit of power, possessions and pleasure, and from illusions of self-importance.’ We have only to look around us in our own country and in the world today, and we will see that many of the ills that are afflicting the country – crimes, drug dealings, unresolved cases of suspect deaths, fierce antagonisms and so many others – derive from these all too human impulses.

They are going to amplify as the campaigning for the forthcoming elections gather momentum. It is customary for politicians to be invited to religious occasions where more often than not they are made to address the audience. They mouth platitudes that once elected they tend to follow more in the breach than in observance. Durga-puja offers sublime symbolic lessons that if learnt and applied can immensely benefit the country in terms of peace, prosperity and harmony. Will these lessons be applied by our leaders? If the past is any guide, I am afraid...



## Breast cancer: A global challenge with local implications

**B**reast cancer has become the most common cancer worldwide, claiming over 650,000 lives annually. The stark contrast in survival rates between high-income countries -- where rates can soar to 90% -- and sub-Saharan Africa, where survival rates fall below 40%, highlights a critical health disparity. A recent study indicated that the incidence of breast cancer in sub-Saharan Africa surged by 247% from 1990 to 2019, with Nigeria recording the highest incidence, reports The Conversation.

One of the most significant factors contributing to the low survival rates in low- and middle-income countries is late diagnosis. Olalekan Olasehinde, a surgeon and lecturer, emphasizes the importance of early detection. Common signs to watch for include lumps in the breast and changes in size or shape. Late-stage diagnoses are far more challenging to treat, resulting in higher mortality rates.



A cancer patient at a clinic in Nigeria. Pic - Courage to Dare Foundation

### Understanding the disparities

The situation is particularly dire for black South African women, who, despite having the lowest incidence of breast cancer, are at a greater risk of dying from it. Research by medical anthropologist Emily Mendenhall reveals that these women

often receive late diagnoses, which can lead to the cancer spreading. Moreover, experiences shared by patients indicate that treatment is not only physically taxing but also mentally distressing, with many describing chemotherapy as more harrowing than the disease itself.

Mendenhall's study highlights a critical need for empathy in the treatment process. Understanding patients' emotional responses to cancer and its treatment can significantly improve their care and coping mechanisms.

### The stigma surrounding breast cancer

In Nigeria, breast cancer survivors often face stigma that compounds their struggles. Candi Nwakasi, a human development researcher, notes that survivors report feelings of mockery and embarrassment. One survivor shared her experience of being laughed at and rejected by her husband following a mastectomy. This stigma can lead to social

isolation and deter individuals from seeking necessary medical help, as some view cancer as a death sentence and are reluctant to pursue treatments like chemotherapy or surgery.

### Treatment challenges: access and adherence

Adhering to treatment regimens is another significant hurdle in low- and middle-income countries. Jenny Edge, a breast cancer expert, outlines several barriers that patients encounter, including limited access to transportation, socioeconomic constraints, and lack of social support. In South Africa, for instance, the majority of the population relies on public health facilities, which often lack the specialists and resources needed for comprehensive breast cancer treatment. Chemotherapy is typically available only at tertiary hospitals located in urban areas, creating further obstacles for those living in rural regions.

## Indian origin techies share heartfelt stories of Ratan Tata's kindness



Arnav Sahu shared image of him meeting Ratan Tata at Cornell University. Pic - HT

**R**atan Tata touched many lives through his philanthropy and kindness. As people pay tribute to this Indian business titan, countless stories have emerged, each highlighting the difference he made in the lives of those he met.

Arnav Sahu, an Indian techie living in the United States, shared a heartfelt tribute, explaining how his journey abroad became possible thanks to Tata's generosity.

For Arnav, and many like him, Ratan Tata was a godfather. Arnav's journey from India to the United States was a dream that seemed impossible at one point. Yet, thanks to Tata's scholarship, he found his footing in a new country, equipped with the tools he needed to succeed, reports HT.

He posted on social media, "This is a really sad moment for me. Ratan Tata's scholarship program allowed me to come to the US. He even paid for my flight ticket, laptop, books, and rent. Many of us wouldn't be here without him. One of the most important philanthropists of all time. RIP."

A user beautifully summed emotions, "BKS, one of the greatest yogis ever, said... 'May my ending be your beginning.'"

Tata's journey may have ended but before that he did create many beginnings for others.

### When Ratan Tata waited for a boy to get a picture

Another Indian American, Rohit Mittal, who had a brief yet unforgettable encounter with Ratan Tata, shared another side of the man. In 2012, Rohit volunteered for The Rockefeller Foundation, where Tata was the guest of honour at a prestigious charity event.

Rohit recounts, "His security detail was escorting him through the crowd of world leaders. He was clearly swamped — everyone wanted to talk to him.

I made my way to him and asked him for a photo. He was in a rush, so he said, 'Meet me after the event and we'll take a photo.'

Rohit thought he may have missed an opportunity, as Tata just left as soon as the event was over. When the event ended and he was on his way out, he saw me waiting on the side, flagged me, and said, 'You wanted that photo? Come with me.'

We went outside. He asked one of his security guys to take a photo and then immediately left. I'll always be a fan. Rest in peace."

## Harris, Trump continue presidential campaigns even after Biden postponed international trip in wake of Hurricane Milton

**V**ice President Kamala Harris visits Nevada and Arizona while former President Donald Trump talks economic issues in Michigan, as presidential campaigning continues even with Hurricane Milton hitting Florida.

Trump spoke at the Economic Club of Detroit after holding rallies in Pennsylvania on Wednesday. Harris attended a Univision town hall in Las Vegas and an evening rally in Phoenix while remaining in close contact with the White House and monitoring federal disaster response efforts, reports AP.

President Joe Biden, who said Milton "is looking like the storm of the century," postponed a trip to Germany and Angola to cope with its aftermath.

Even amid the hurricane, both the Harris and Trump campaigns are using their travel strategically, trying to increase support with key voting blocs who could decide an election expected to be exceedingly close.

Trump has emphasized picking up votes in heavily Hispanic parts of Pennsylvania, including Reading, where he held a rally Wednesday. Harris is out west as her campaign looks to increase support among Hispanic voters there, especially men. Her campaign began a group this week known as "Hombres con Harris."

Harris' running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, attended an Hombres kickoff event with Arizona Democratic Rep. Ruben Gallego, and actor Jaime Camil in Phoenix on Wednesday. Similar gatherings were held elsewhere in Arizona, as well as in Nevada and Pennsylvania.

The group is planning to hold up-coming events at Latino-owned small busi-

nesses, union halls, barbecues and community events until Election Day.

The Harris campaign has also aimed to reach Hispanic voters who may not be closely following the election by doing things like having Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Harris' campaign manager, attend the recent boxing match between Canelo Alvarez and Edgar Berlanga in Las Vegas, and holding events at churches and elsewhere to mark Mexican Independence Day in September.

Harris' campaign also announced last month that it was spending \$3 million on Spanish-language radio ads and focusing on sport events like baseball games and boxing matches.

Meanwhile, former President Barack Obama is also hitting the campaign trail on Thursday night, making his first appearance for Harris at a rally in Pittsburgh.

That begins what the Harris campaign says will be a series of campaign stops Obama will make on the vice president's behalf. Biden spent Monday campaigning in suburban Philadelphia, but has made just one joint appearance with Harris, joining her in Pittsburgh on Labor Day, since he announced he was leaving the race and endorsing her in July.

Obama was among the key Democrats who were part of a behind-the-scenes effort to encourage Biden, his former vice president, to drop out. Obama and Harris have also been friends for two decades, since he ran for Senate in Illinois. She campaigned for him when he sought the presidency in 2008.



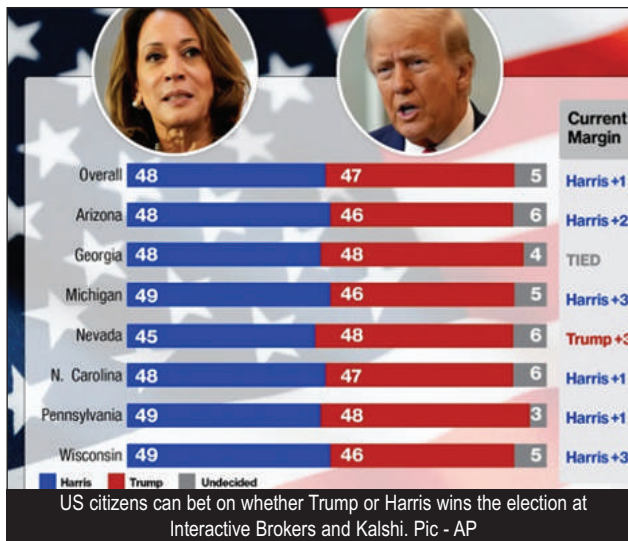
## Legal prediction markets now allow US citizens to bet on presidential elections

In a groundbreaking development for political gambling in the United States, citizens can now legally place bets on the outcome of the upcoming presidential election between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. This change comes after a federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., upheld the legality of prediction markets, paving the way for platforms like Kalshi and Interactive Brokers to offer betting opportunities ahead of the November 5 election. This ruling rejected a government watchdog's attempt to block the prediction markets, which had been suspended previously.

Kalshi, an online betting platform, wasted no time in reopening its congressional control contracts, allowing users to wager not only on the presidential race but also on which party -- Republican or Democratic -- will control the House and Senate in 2025, reports AP. This decision is part of a broader trend towards regulated political betting in the US, mirroring the popularity of unregulated prediction markets like Polymarket, which gained traction during recent political events.

### The market dynamics

As of October 4, trading began on Kalshi and



Interactive Brokers, marking the launch of the first regulated marketplaces for betting on the presidential race. Users can wager substantial amounts -- up to \$100 million on Kalshi alone. The betting landscape includes options for various congressional races, with Interactive Brokers featuring markets for pivotal Senate contests in swing states such as Wisconsin, Arizona, and Ohio.

Current market analytics show Kamala Harris leading with a 51% chance of winning, while Donald Trump trails closely at 49%. Traders can purchase contracts that will

pay out approximately \$1 for each correct prediction, incentivizing participants to evaluate the likelihood of each candidate's success.

### The economic implications of betting

Advocates for legal prediction markets argue that they serve the public interest by providing insights into electoral outcomes and helping individuals hedge against economic risks tied to political events. Kalshi's attorney, Yaakov Roth, noted that the electoral landscape has significant economic ramifications, asserting that "real people want to hedge" their investments based on potential election outcomes.

Steve Sanders, senior vice president at Interactive Brokers, emphasized the cultural relevance of politics, stating, "Politics is a very hot topic for a lot of people. They have strong beliefs one way or another." The rise of betting on elections could stimulate increased engagement as voters follow the unfolding political drama.

With the recent court ruling allowing legal prediction markets to flourish, American citizens now have a new avenue to engage with the political process. As the election approaches, the ability to bet on the outcomes of races adds another layer of excitement and economic interest, transforming how voters interact with the political landscape. As the situation evolves, all eyes will be on these platforms to see how they influence public sentiment and the electoral process.



## TikTok sued over addiction and mental health risks for children

In a significant legal move, more than a dozen American states and the District of Columbia have filed lawsuits against TikTok, claiming that the app is designed to be addictive, particularly for children, and poses serious risks to their mental health. This action marks a pivotal moment in the ongoing scrutiny of social media platforms and their impact on young users, reports AP.

The lawsuits were filed on October 8, 2024, following a national investigation that began in March 2022 by a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general from states including California, New York, and New Jersey. Each complaint highlights concerns regarding TikTok's powerful algorithm, which curates content for users through the app's "For You" feed. Critics argue that this algorithm, combined with features like endless scrolling and frequent push notifications, creates an addictive environment that can trap young users for hours.

These legal actions echo previous lawsuits against other tech giants, notably Instagram's parent company Meta Platforms Inc., which were initiated for allegedly contributing to the youth mental health crisis through similarly addictive design features. District of Columbia Attorney

General Brian Schwalb emphasized that TikTok's business model, reliant on prolonged user engagement, has detrimental effects on mental health, stating, "That's also how they generate adverse mental health impacts on the users."

As TikTok faces mounting legal challenges, its future in the US remains uncertain due to federal legislation that could ban the app if its China-based parent company, ByteDance, does not divest its ownership. This adds another layer of complexity to the legal landscape surrounding TikTok.

The District of Columbia's filing labels TikTok's algorithm as "dopamine-inducing," asserting that it intentionally keeps users engaged while knowing the potential psychological harms, such as anxiety and depression. These concerns align with a broader narrative of increasing mental health issues among young people, as highlighted by recent surveys from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### TikTok's response

In response to the lawsuits, TikTok expressed disappointment, asserting that they have been engaging with state officials to address these issues for two years. A company spokesperson stated, "We strongly disagree with these claims, many of which we believe to be inaccurate and misleading." TikTok maintains that it does not allow children under 13 to use the main service and restricts certain content for users under 18. However, states argue that these age restrictions are easily bypassed.

The legal actions against TikTok are part of a broader reckoning with social media companies regarding their influence on youth. As nearly universal social media use among teens continues to rise, the calls for accountability and regulation grow louder. With nearly a third of U.S. teens reporting constant engagement with social media, the implications for mental health and well-being are increasingly urgent.

## South Korean author Han Kang awarded 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature for 'intense poetic prose'



The 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to South Korean author Han Kang on Thursday "for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."

The Nobel Prize on its X handle said that Kang's work is "characterised by this double exposure of pain, a correspondence between mental and physical torment with close connections to Eastern thinking."

Kang, 53, won the International Booker Prize in 2016 for "The Vegetarian," an unsettling novel in which a woman's decision to stop eating meat has devastating consequences, reports HT.

Since 1901, a total of 116 Nobel Prizes in Literature have been awarded. Of these, four have been shared between multiple laureates. So far, 17 women have received this prestigious literature prize.

The Nobel awards opened on Monday with Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun winning the medicine prize.

Two founding fathers of machine learning — John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton — won the physics prize on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, three scientists David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John Jumper, who discovered powerful techniques to decode and even design novel proteins were awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

### Nobel Prize cash award

The Nobel Peace Prize will be announced Friday and the economics award on Oct. 14.

The prize carries a cash award of 11 million Swedish kronor (\$1 million) from a bequest left by the award's creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel. The laureates are invited to receive their awards at ceremonies on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.

Last year, Norwegian author Jon Fosse was awarded the Nobel Literature Prize "for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable."



From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

7th Year No 285

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 5 February, 1960

• 'It is only people who possess firmness that can possess true gentleness.' -- François de La Rochefoucauld

**N**ow that the dust raised by the tempestuous Alix has begun to subside, it becomes possible to have a clearer view of what happened during and after the cyclone. One is now in a better position to assess the type and scope of relief provided by the government and voluntary organizations, as well as to consider the criticisms fortuitously levelled at the "authorities." These days, the term "authorities" varies in meaning according to the idiosyncrasies of every "expert" who claims to have a panacea for the real or imagined problems of the country.

It is now evident, even to sceptics, that the government, or the authorities, has responded magnificently in aiding the victims of this national calamity. There were 211 refugee centres, all crowded with refugees being looked after by Public Assistance Officers, headteachers, or members of the Red Cross Society. All the refugee centres were supplied with food. Apart from those stationed in the centers, people whose rations had been destroyed received a subsistence ration coupon of Rs 4 per family. As is already known, the survey of damaged houses is nearing completion, and in many areas, building materials have already been distributed. In Montagne Ory, teams of Compagnons Batisseurs have constructed about eight houses.

What more could we expect a government to do in an emergency of this nature? Was it physically possible to do more and at a greater speed? And are people satisfied on the whole? The first two questions can be answered with a "no," while the answer to the last is "yes," although there is a sort of "created" dissatisfaction for obvious political reasons.

**I**t is unquestionable that never before has the government provided such prompt relief on such a scale to the victims of a cyclone. Owing to the magnitude of the problem, it was physically impossible to do more regarding immediate relief. Whatever Mr Jules Koenig may think, and regardless of the length of his interview with *Le Mauricien*, the truth is that the Labour Government has shown, through its incontrovertible actions, that it is largely a welfare government. In the past, the state was not expected to have any responsibility during difficult times, but the Labour Government has made it the state's duty to help the victims. The government has shown great political wisdom in refusing to call an extraordinary meeting of the Legislative Council, as the opposition would have picked out a few weak spots in the government's organization and exploited them, thus misleading the public. It is time the opposition is reminded that the Labour Party is ruling the country and that it will not be told how to conduct its affairs. If Labour delivers

# Gratitude



A snapshot of the destruction wrought by the cyclone in Port Louis in 1960. Pic - Vintage Mauritius

results, the people will keep it in power; otherwise, they will reject it — meanwhile, no sermonizing from any quarter.

So far, the attitude of the people has been quite varied; in some areas, they have cooperated with the authorities and expressed gratitude for what the government has done and continues to do. However, in some areas, certain sections of the population have been encouraged to be cynical and hostile toward the government. The tendency to blame the government for everything has come to the fore more than ever before. We know that in some areas, IFB Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) have been urging their constituents to refuse the materials provided by the government. Some are criticizing the alleged inadequacy of the Rs 4 subsistence ration allowance; others claim that the loaves offered to refugees were of poor quality, while still others are suggesting that the cyclone was a creation of the Labour Party! The behaviour of some so-called leaders in recent weeks is indeed disappointing. We never thought that individuals tasked with advancing the community could sink to such depths. However, it must be noted that their main difficulty is their inability to accept the blunt fact that the Labour Party has risen to the occasion superbly and has shattered their campaign of lies and hatred.

**W**e have also noticed an unhappy trend among certain sections of the population. We fail to understand the apathy of these individuals toward cooperating in the vital work of national reconstruction that must now take place. Some are even reluctant to help rebuild their

homes! Is this due to an overdependence on others? Whatever the reason, we believe that leaders from all communities and religious groups should make a fervent appeal to the population as a whole to join in this important effort. Unless this is done, all that the government is doing to help the population get back on its feet will be wasted.

**T**here are, however, shortcomings that we would like to draw to the government's attention. On the day after the cyclone, the Public Assistance Department was providing relief at the rate of 60 cents per head per day, but this was abruptly switched to a uniform rate of Rs 4 per family. The result was that many families received more than Rs 4, creating confusion among the public. This could certainly have been avoided. A similar issue occurred with the distribution of corrugated iron sheets; the initial supply of 26 sheets per house was subsequently reduced to 18.

**A**s we have stated previously, the government has responded magnificently to the needs of a distressed population. However, the public must be made aware that this commendable work was carried out by a brilliant team of public officials, including Mr Robert Newton, the Colonial Secretary; Mr W.G. Wilson; and Mr Ringadoo, as directors of operations. Of course, all the other ministers actively supported these three. This 'first team' was ably assisted by another outstanding group of top executives, including Mr R. Ramsaha, Acting Public Assistance Commissioner; Mr G. Ramasawmy, Principal Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Labour; Mr Desvaux, Commissioner of Police; the Director of CIO; the Cyclone Commissioners; and several heads of departments.

This journal has, on previous occasions, criticized the government and the Public Assistance Officers for what it considered derelictions of duty. But today, it is with a deep sense of gratitude that we pay tribute to the wonderful work done by the Public Assistance Department. We know that many Public Assistance Officers had to stay at their centres for days and nights.

To all these selfless officers and to the teams of Compagnons Batisseurs led by Mr Edwin de Robillard, the people owe a great debt of gratitude.

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# Being on TikTok is a modern political necessity



● Cont. from page 2

TikTok allows politicians to bypass the formalities of traditional political communication and present their messages in a relatable way.

For instance, Senator Fatima Payman's viral "skibidi" speech is a clear example of how effectively TikTok can amplify political content. She delivered this speech in the Australian Senate, using only TikTok slang.

It resonated with a younger demographic, and so far has more than eight million views.

As a result, her account now has more than 100,000 followers and continues to receive significant views on all posts.

However, when leaning into slang, trends and other visibility strategies, politicians walk a fine line where content could be considered "cringe". This cringe factor can arise if the trend being used is losing relevance or when the content seems out of place or forced (Dutton himself copped some flack for belatedly jumping on the "demure" trend).

## The role of authenticity

One of the key factors behind successful political engagement on TikTok is authenticity. The platform thrives on genuine, relatable content. Politicians who can showcase a more human side tend to resonate with voters.

Payman's use of TikTok slang in her speech connected her with younger audiences, demonstrating the power of speaking the language of the platform's primary users. Authenticity plays a significant role in TikTok's algorithm, making it essential for politicians to come across as sincere.

Because TikTok's advertising policy bans political ads, politicians must rely on organic content to engage users. Authenticity is therefore an entry requirement.

Dutton's presence on TikTok will be closely scrutinised to see how he balances the platform's demand for authenticity with his public persona. Voters are more likely to

engage with politicians they find relatable, so Dutton's ability to reveal his "ordinary" side without making people cringe may determine how well he is received on TikTok.

## Electioneering on TikTok

TikTok's impact on elections has already been demonstrated in several countries.

In the 2022 Australian federal election, the Labor Party's use of the app was linked to its success. UK Labour's similar strategy in 2024 mirrored this result.

Elections are won and lost for many reasons. There is also no direct data linking TikTok content to voter decisions. But there is a clear correlation between effective use of the platform and electoral victories.

As Australia approaches its next federal election, TikTok will play a central role in how parties reach voters. For politicians like Dutton, mastering the balance between authenticity and policy will be key to successfully engaging and informing voters on this rapidly evolving platform.

## Challenges ahead

TikTok's short video format poses a challenge for conveying complex policy ideas, often leading to oversimplification. Politicians like Dutton must find ways to deepen engagement outside the platform to ensure voters understand their positions.

Another challenge is the legal issues TikTok faces, particularly in the US. If the platform is banned or restricted in what is a major market, it could affect its use globally, including in Australia. This could disrupt political outreach and engagement strategies, particularly for those who have cultivated a strong presence.

Dutton's engagement with TikTok may also spark debate about balancing the benefits of reaching voters through a platform with concerns about data security and misinformation.

**Susan Grantham,**  
Lecturer in Communication, Griffith University



## Tree of Knowledge

# Navigating a Narcissistic Relationship

*Being under the constant shadow of a narcissist can result in a profound loss of self*

Imagine a relationship where the exchange feels perpetually one-sided: conversations circle around one person's life, their challenges, and their narrative, leaving little room for your voice. Or consider a friend who draws heavily on your support but holds back when it's their turn to listen and support you. Over time, such dynamics can lead to feelings of deep exhaustion, unworthiness, and dissatisfaction. If either scenario sounds familiar, you might be in a relationship with a narcissist.

Narcissism lies on a spectrum, and its impact can vary drastically. On one end, it may manifest as mild self-absorption, but at the other, it can escalate to a toxic relationship that jeopardizes your physical and emotional health. Being under the constant shadow of a narcissist can result in a profound loss of self.

This continual uncertainty and in-visibility can lead to emotional frustration and erosion of your sense of identity and self-worth.

Recognizing the signs of a narcissistic relationship is paramount for protecting your well-being. To navigate such relationships, it's important to maintain a strong support network, set boundaries, practice self-care, and possibly seek professional help. If you believe change is possible, having a conversation to express your needs for a fairer exchange could open a door to a deeper, more genuine connection. Sometimes, people are unaware of the imbalance, and your courage to speak up might foster healing in the relationship.

When dealing with narcissism, let compassion be your guide — compassion for yourself as you work toward a healthy solution, even if that means walking away, and for others who may be struggling with their own hidden pains. Every relationship is an opportunity for learning and growth.

*DailyOM*

## Mauritius Times

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## Hommage à Ratan Tata, le “modeste” tycoon indien: une vie empreinte de vision et d’intégrité

☞ Suite de la page 5

Certaines de ces décisions furent fructueuses, tandis que d'autres, comme une aventure dans le secteur des télécommunications, coûtèrent cher à l'entreprise.

Un moment fort de son parcours survint en 2000, lorsque Tata acheta Tetley et devint ainsi le deuxième plus grand producteur de thé au monde. Cette opération fut le plus grand rachat d'une marque internationale par une entreprise indienne.

Cependant, la tentative de Tata de construire une voiture sûre et abordable se révéla être une déception. Lancée en grande pompe en 2009, la Nano, avec un prix de base de 100 000 roupies (1 222 \$), fut initialement un succès, mais perdit rapidement du terrain face à d'autres fabricants en raison de problèmes de production et de marketing. Tata qualifia plus tard cette initiative de “grosse erreur” en soulignant que les gens ne voulaient pas être vus conduisant la “voiture la moins chère du monde”.

### Résilience et philanthropie

La résilience de Tata fut mise à l'épreuve lors des attentats terroristes de Mumbai le 26 novembre 2008. Le célèbre Taj Mahal Palace, propriété de Tata, fut l'un des deux hôtels



de luxe attaqués. Trente-trois des 166 personnes tuées durant ce siège de 60 heures se trouvaient au Taj, y compris 11 employés de l'hôtel. Tata s'engagea à prendre soin des familles des employés tués ou blessés, et leur versa les salaires qu'ils auraient gagnés jusqu'à la fin de leur vie. Il investit également plus d'un milliard de dollars pour restaurer l'hôtel endommagé en 21 mois.

À la fin de sa carrière, Tata se retrouva au cœur d'une

controverse désagréable. En octobre 2016, il revint à Tata Sons en tant que président par intérim pendant quelques mois après le renvoi de Cyrus Mistry, déclenchant une querelle de direction (Mistry perdit la vie dans un accident de voiture en septembre 2022). Ce rôle fut finalement attribué à Natarajan Chandrasekaran, ancien directeur général de Tata Consultancy Services, l'entreprise la plus précieuse d'Inde.

Peter Casey décrit Tata comme un “homme modeste, réservé et même timide”. Il avait un “calme majestueux” et une “discipline féroce”, préparant chaque jour une liste de choses à faire à la main. Il se qualifiait lui-même d’“un peu optimiste”.

Ratan Tata était également un homme d'affaires réfléchi. Après l'intervention de la police pour mettre fin à une grève paralysant l'une de ses usines à Pune en 1989, Tata déclara aux journalistes : “Peut-être avons-nous pris nos travailleurs pour acquis. Nous pensions faire tout ce que nous pouvions pour eux, alors que probablement nous ne le faisons pas.”

En 2009, Tata s'exprima lors d'une réunion d'anciens élèves d'une école, partageant son rêve pour son pays : “où chaque Indien a une chance égale de briller sur le mérite.”

“Dans un pays comme le nôtre”, disait-il, “il faut essayer de mener par l'exemple, sans exhiber sa richesse et sa notoriété.”

## Réformer la République: Les objectifs de l'Alliance du Changement

À la suite de plusieurs rencontres et discussions, RezistansekAlternativ (ReA), le Parti Travailleiste (Ptr), le Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM) et les Nouveaux Démocrates (ND) ont décidé de former une alliance pour les prochaines élections législatives, sous la bannière de l'Alliance du Changement. Voici les principaux termes de cet accord :

### Changer l'actuel régime gouvernemental

Les quatre partis conviennent qu'il est impératif de mettre fin au gouvernement en place depuis 10 ans (2014-2024). Cette nécessité découle de la détérioration de la vie à Maurice, exacerbée par la « mafiosisation » de l'État, se manifestant par l'élimination et la persécution de toute opposition, ainsi qu'une attaque systématique contre les pratiques démocratiques. La surveillance accrue des citoyens et l'utilisation abusive des technologies de surveillance soulèvent également de vives inquiétudes. L'accapement des institutions d'État et la mauvaise gestion des services publics aggravent cette situation.

### Un changement politique pour une République de Maurice 2.0

Un simple changement de gouvernement ne suffit pas. Les partis s'accordent à dire qu'une transformation structurelle de la politique et de l'administration est nécessaire. Les propositions incluent :

- \* **Réforme électorale** : Permettre aux citoyens de se présenter sans obligation de classification communale, rendant ainsi permanent un amendement temporaire de 2014.
- \* **Création d'une cour constitutionnelle** : Pour traiter toute violation de la Constitution.
- \* **Revendiquer les droits des travailleurs** : Organisation de séminaires avec les syndicats pour intégrer leurs revendications dans le programme de l'Alliance du Changement.
- \* **Revendiquer des changements écologiques** : Collaboration avec des organisations écologiques pour intégrer leurs demandes.
- \* **Inclusion des préoccupations sociales** :

Séminaires pour s'assurer que les revendications des mouvements sociaux soient prises en compte.

### Gouvernance inclusive et participative

L'alliance adoptera un modèle de gouvernance qui permettra aux citoyens de participer activement au projet politique, notamment à travers des Commissions Citoyennes Ouvertes. Ces commissions aborderont divers thèmes, tel que :

- \* la justice écologique,
- \* la gestion des terres face à la crise climatique,
- \* la dynamisation du secteur culturel et artistique.

### Réparations des injustices passées

L'Alliance du Changement s'engage à réparer les injustices commises sous le régime MSM. Cela inclut :

- \* la réintégration des syndicalistes injustement licenciés,
- \* des réparations pour les victimes de l'échouage du Wakashio et des catastrophes naturelles.

A. Bartleby

### SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

Travel and new experiences beckon, inspiring fresh ideas. Short trips or different perspectives will bring mental clarity. Plan ahead to avoid chaos and communicate carefully to prevent misunderstandings at work.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 9, 18, 23, 31, 37

### CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Financial planning is crucial—reassess your budget and investment strategies. Set long-term career goals, but balance them with personal commitments to avoid straining relationships. Take time for loved ones to maintain emotional harmony.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 11, 17, 22, 28, 35

### AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

Focus on self-improvement and personal growth. New experiences call to you, but think carefully before diving in. Your social network offers valuable support, so lean on friends for advice and encouragement.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 13, 19, 25, 30, 38

### PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

This is a reflective week—listen to your intuition,

especially in career decisions. Small shifts in your professional life could lead to big changes. Meaningful conversations will clear up misunderstandings in relationships and strengthen bonds.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 10, 16, 20, 27, 33

### ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

This week requires initiative, especially in your career. Take charge, but be mindful of overstepping. Balance bold moves with patience in relationships to avoid conflict. Channel excess energy into productive outlets for a successful week.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 7, 12, 19, 24, 36

### TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Financial decisions take center stage. Consider long-term investments and avoid impulsive spending. Communication is key in personal relationships—express your feelings openly to build trust. Stay grounded and practical to avoid unnecessary stress.

**Lucky Numbers:** 2, 8, 14, 20, 27, 33

## YOUR STARS

### GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Opportunities for learning and reconnecting arise. Revisit old projects or relationships with a fresh perspective. Keep communication clear and avoid gossip to maintain harmony. New ideas will flow—stay open and curious.

**Lucky Numbers:** 4, 11, 17, 21, 26, 35

### CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Emotional intensity focuses on family matters. Work towards resolving old conflicts. At work, teamwork is vital, but don't take on too much. Create a peaceful home environment to maintain emotional balance.

**Lucky Numbers:** 6, 9, 18, 23, 29, 37

### LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

A socially active week, bringing new partnerships and collaborations. Love and romance may flourish, especially for single Leos. Be cautious with contracts and agreements. Your charm is high, but avoid overcommitting.

**Lucky Numbers:** 1, 10, 16, 22, 28, 34

### VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

Health and routines take priority. Start new habits or refine your daily schedule for lasting results. Professionally, your attention to detail is an asset, but don't micromanage others. Balance work and relaxation to stay productive.

**Lucky Numbers:** 5, 13, 19, 25, 30, 38

### LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Creativity is high—focus on artistic or self-expressive pursuits. Relationships deepen with emotional connections, but don't overextend yourself. Balance is key to avoid burnout in both social and professional life.

**Lucky Numbers:** 3, 7, 12, 21, 26, 32

### SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

Home and family are in the spotlight. You may feel the urge to make changes at home or resolve family issues. Keep career plans discreet for now. Watch for hidden opportunities but move strategically.

**Lucky Numbers:** 8, 14, 20, 24, 29, 36



## New Study Supports Annual Breast Cancer Screening for Women Over 40

Women diagnosed with breast cancer who have regular annual screening mammograms experience significantly better outcomes than those screened every other year or less often, according to new research from the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC, published in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

"Only about 65% of women over age 40 are screened for breast cancer, and just half of those receive annual screenings," said lead author Margarita Zuley, M.D., professor and chief of the Division of Breast Imaging in the Department of Radiology at Pitt and UPMC. "Our study highlights the significant advantages of annual screening, including for premenopausal women."

While numerous clinical trials have established the benefits of mammography, guidelines on screening frequency vary. The American College of Radiology recommends annual screening starting at age 40, whereas the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force advocates for biennial screening from age 40.



To gain a clearer understanding of real-world outcomes, Zuley and her team developed a large institutional database, as the U.S. lacks a national breast cancer registry. They analyzed data from 8,145 breast cancer

patients who had at least one mammogram before diagnosis. The screening intervals were categorized as annual (less than 15 months between mammograms), biennial (15 to 27 months), and intermittent (more than 27 months).

The study found that the percentage of late-stage cancers (TNM stage IIB or worse) was 9% for the annual group, compared to 14% for the biennial group and 19% for the intermittent group. Additionally, both the biennial and intermittent groups showed significantly worse overall survival rates compared to those who received annual screenings.

"The data clearly shows that the percentage of late-stage cancers increases with longer screening intervals," Zuley stated. "Annual mammograms are essential for early detection, which improves survival rates, reduces the intensity of treatment, eases recovery, and can lower overall healthcare costs."

## Extinct Volcanoes a 'Rich' Source of Rare Earth Elements

A study from The Australian National University (ANU) and the University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences suggests that a unique type of iron-rich magma entombed within extinct volcanoes is likely abundant in rare earth elements (REEs). These elements are crucial for a wide range of technologies, from smartphones and flat screen TVs to electric vehicles and renewable energy systems like wind turbines.

Dr Michael Anenburg from ANU

explained that the iron-rich magma solidified in some extinct volcanoes is up to a hundred times more effective at concentrating rare earth metals than the magmas typically produced by active volcanoes. "We have never seen an iron-rich magma erupt from an active volcano, but evidence suggests that some ancient, extinct volcanoes had this type of eruption millions of years ago," Dr Anenburg said.

The research team conducted experi-

ments to simulate volcanic eruptions by heating rocks similar to those from iron-rich extinct volcanoes in a pressurized furnace. This process revealed a significant concentration of rare earth elements within these volcanic rocks.

With the growing investment in renewable energy technologies, the demand for rare earth elements is expected to increase fivefold by 2030. "Rare earth elements aren't actually rare; they are found in similar quantities to lead

and copper. However, extracting them from the minerals they are embedded in is complex and costly," Dr Anenburg noted.

Currently, China holds the largest deposits of rare earth elements globally, while Europe's largest deposit is located in Sweden. Australia boasts significant deposits at Mount Weld in Western Australia, along with other sites near Dubbo and Alice Springs.



## What does the edge of the universe look like?

*We may never know – and the universe may not even have an edge. But here's what we do know.*

What a great question! In fact, this is one of those questions humans will continue to ask until the end of time. That's because we don't actually know for sure.

But we can try and imagine what the edge of the universe might be, if there is one.

### Looking back in time

Before we begin, we do need to go back in time. Our night sky has looked the same for all of human history. It's been so reliable, humans from all around the world came up with patterns they saw in the stars as a way to navigate and explore.

To our eyes, the sky looks endless. With the invention of telescopes about 400 years ago, humans were able to see farther – more than just our eyes ever could. They continued to discover new things in the sky. They found more stars, and then eventually started to notice that there were a lot of strange-looking cosmic clouds.

Astronomers gave them the name "nebula" from the Latin word for "mist" or "cloud".

It was less than 100 years ago that we first confirmed these cosmic clouds or nebulas were actually galaxies. They are



Greg Rakozy/Shutterstock

just like Milky Way, the galaxy our own planet is in, but very far away.

What is amazing is that in every direction we look in the universe, we see more and more galaxies. In this James Webb Space Telescope image, which is looking at a part of the sky no bigger than a grain of sand, you can see thousands of galaxies.

It's hard to imagine there is an edge where all of this stops.

### The edge of the universe

However, there is technically an edge to our universe. We call it our "observable" universe.

This is because we don't actually know if our universe is infinite – meaning it continues forever and ever.

Unfortunately, we might never know because of one pesky thing: the speed of light.

We can only ever see light that's had enough time to travel to us. Light travels at exactly 299,792,458 metres per second. Even at those speeds, it still takes a long time to cross our universe. Scientists estimate the size of the universe is at least 96 billion light years across, and likely even bigger.

You can learn a little more about that

and our universe as a whole in this video below.

### What would we see if there was an edge?

If we were to travel to the very, very edge of the universe we think exists, what would there actually be?

Many other scientists and I theorise that there would just be ... more universe!

As I said, there is a theory that our universe doesn't actually have an edge, and might continue on indefinitely.

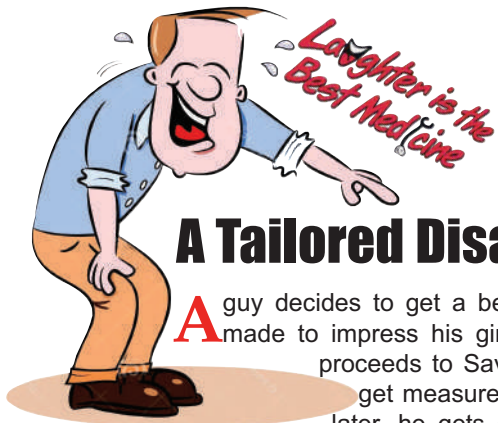
But there are other theories, too. If our universe does have an edge, and you cross it, you might just end up in a completely different universe altogether. (That is best saved for science fiction for now.)

Even though there isn't a straight forward answer to your question, it is precisely questions like these that help us continue to explore and discover the universe, and allow us to understand our place within it. You're thinking like a true scientist.

Sara Webb

Lecturer, Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing, Swinburne University of Technology





## A Tailored Disaster

A guy decides to get a bespoke suit made to impress his girlfriend. He proceeds to Savile Row to get measured. A month later, he gets a call from the tailor that his suit is ready. When he arrives, he is keen to try it on, but the first thing he notices is that the arms are too large.

"No problem," says the tailor. "Just bend them at the elbow and hold them out in front of you. See? Now it's fine."

"But the collar is up around my ears."

"It's nothing. Just hunch your back up a little—no, a little more. That's it."

"But I'm stepping on my trousers!" the man shouts.

"Just bend your knees a little to take up the slack. There you go—the suit fits perfectly. You can look in the mirror."

Twisted and hunched, the man lurches out onto the street. Two office girls see him stagger past.

"Oh, look at that poor man," says one.

"Yes, but what a beautiful suit," says the other.

\*\*\*

## Sunday Sermon

A priest announced to his congregation on Sunday, "I have good news and bad news. The good news is that we have enough money to finance our new building. The bad news is that it's still out there in your pockets."

\*\*\*

## Recession Woes

Overheard in a city bar: "The recession is worse than a divorce. I've lost half of my net worth, and I still have to bear the expenses of my wife."

\*\*\*

## True Wealth

The real worth of your wealth is how much you'd be worth if you lost all your money.



What is the first sign of old age of Man?

- White Hair → No
- Wrinkles → No
- Weak Eye Sight → No
- Medicines → No



Then What ?

When his Wife stops suspecting him.



## Borrowing Logic

The best way of saving money is to forget the person you borrowed it from.

\*\*\*

## The Cigarette Caper

A man tells his wife that he's going out to buy cigarettes. When he gets to the store, he finds out it's closed. So, the guy ends up going to the bar to use the vending machine. While there, he has a few beers and begins talking to a beautiful girl. After a few more beers, the next thing he knows, he's in this girl's apartment and having quite a pleasurable time. Suddenly, he glances at the clock and sees it's 3:00 AM.

"Oh my God, my wife is going to kill me!" he exclaims. "Quick, give me some talcum powder!"

She gets him some, and he rubs it all over his hands. When he gets home, his wife is up waiting for him, furious. "Where the hell have you been?!"

He replies, "Well, to tell you the truth, I went into a bar, had a few drinks, went home with this blonde, and I slept with her."

"Let me see your hands!" she demands. He shows his wife his powdery hands.

"Damn liar, you were out bowling again!"



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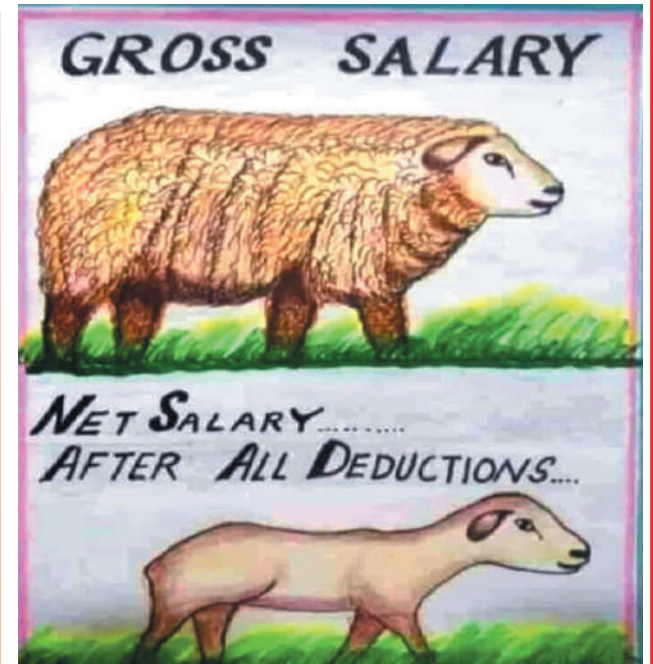
## The Math Revelation

A ten-year-old Jewish boy was failing math. His parents tried everything from tutors to hypnosis, but nothing worked. Finally, at the insistence of a family friend, they decided to enroll their son in a private Catholic school.

After the first day, the boy's parents were surprised when he walked in after school with a stern, focused, and determined expression on his face. He went straight past them, right to his room, and quietly closed the door. For nearly two hours, he toiled away in his room with math books strewn about his desk and the surrounding floor. He emerged long enough to eat, and after quickly cleaning his plate, went straight back to his room, closed the door, and worked feverishly until bedtime.

This pattern continued until it was time for the first quarter's report card. The boy walked in with it unopened, laid it on the dinner table, and went straight to his room.

Cautiously, his mother opened it and, to her amazement, saw a large red 'A' under the subject of Math. Overjoyed, she and her husband rushed into their son's room, thrilled at his remarkable progress.



"Was it the nuns that did it?" the father asked. The boy shook his head and said, "No."

"Was it the one-to-one tutoring? The peer mentoring?" "No."

"The textbooks? The teachers? The curriculum?"

"No," said the son. "On that first day, when I walked in the front door and saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I KNEW they were serious!"

\*\*\*

## The Unfortunate Reunion

Sam told his wife he was going to work. Instead, he went to her best friend Tina's house, whose husband is a soldier.

When Tina's husband Frank comes home from the war, Sam has to hide under the bed. Frank sends Tina off to the market, and while Sam is hiding, he hears Frank on the phone inviting a lady friend over.

A short while later, a woman arrives, and just before Frank opens the door, he asks her to hide under the bed.

It turns out this lady is Sue, Sam's wife! Both of them are looking at each other in shock under the bed!

In college, it's called a **reunion!**

In social gatherings, it's called a **get together!**

In mathematics, it's called a **simultaneous equation!**

In psychology, it's called **what goes around comes around.**

In chemistry, it's called a **chain reaction.**

In economics, we call it **demand & supply.**

In physics, it's called **nuclear fusion!**

The choice is yours!





## Talking about Success

# How Winners Win

Success isn't just about talent or luck; it's a mindset and a series of deliberate choices that anyone can adopt. Winners distinguish themselves through consistent habits and attitudes that propel them toward their goals. Here are six key principles that illustrate how winners achieve their success:

### 1. Keep Stacking Days

Winners show up every day. It's not about going all out once in a while, but rather consistency. Small, daily actions compound over time. Whether in the gym, the classroom, or your mindset, showing up every day beats sporadic intensity.

### 2. Focus on the Process, Not Just the Result

Winners don't obsess over outcomes—they focus on the steps that get them there. The journey is where growth happens. By locking in on the process, they make success inevitable by constantly improving what they can



control.

### 3. Embrace the Struggle

Winners don't shy away from challenges or discomfort. They know that growth happens in the tough moments. When others quit or back down, winners lean in. They understand that pain and struggle are part of the

path to greatness.

### 4. Adapt and Adjust

Winners are flexible. They don't stick to a rigid plan when things change—they adapt. Whether it's a new strategy, an unexpected challenge, or setbacks, winners adjust and keep moving forward.

### 5. Stay Humble and Hungry

No matter how much success they've had, winners never think they've "arrived." They remain humble, knowing there's always room to improve. They stay hungry—constantly pushing themselves to improve, no matter how much they've already achieved.

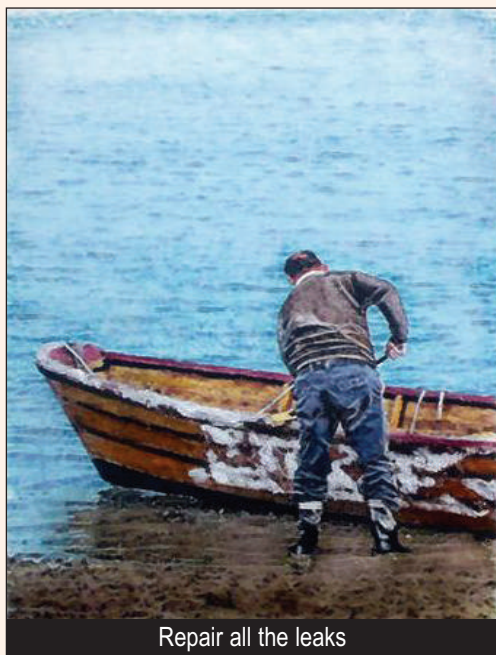
### 6. Mental Toughness

Winners build mental resilience. They don't let failures define them or allow external pressures to control their mindset. They train their minds as much as their bodies, learning to stay focused, calm, and confident in any situation.

By embracing these principles, anyone can cultivate the mindset and habits of a winner, setting the stage for lasting success in any endeavor.

## Life's Lesson

# Repair all the 'leaks' you find



Repair all the leaks

A man was asked to paint a boat. He brought his paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him.

While painting, he noticed a small hole in the hull, and quietly repaired it.

When he finished painting, he received his money and left.

The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice cheque, much higher than the payment for painting.

The painter was surprised and said, "You've already paid me for painting the boat, Sir!"

"But this is not for the paint job. It's for repairing the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant."

"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened. When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention the hole. When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip. They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time. When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole. Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing. Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now, what you did? You saved the life of my children! I do not have enough money to pay your 'small' good deed."

So, no matter who, when or how, continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively, and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find. You never know when one is in need of us, or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone.

Along the way, you may have repaired numerous 'boat holes' for several people without realizing how many lives you've saved.

# 5 Things More Valuable Than a Woman's Body

If the major reason you are marrying a lady is because she has a curvy body, then you are not in love. No matter what you think, if all you see are her physical attributes, you are lost in lust. These things don't last — once she gives birth and ages, they fade away.

Here are five things that will matter more to any man after marriage than physical attributes:

**Peace of Mind:** Before marrying any lady, consider if she gives you peace of mind. Does she have the capacity to offer it? Some men avoid home because they married a woman who turns the home into a battlefield. A woman's physical attributes won't guarantee peace at home. If you marry for physical features and she becomes troublesome, you won't even appreciate her looks. Find out first if she provides peace.

**Support:** Years from now, you'll face trials and will need the support of your wife — not just physically, but through her brain, her spirit, her financial stability, her knowledge, and her exposure. Her physical attributes are not as valuable as her support in prayers, financially, physically, with ideas, and in building a life together.

**Home Keeper:** A woman who can't manage her home and marshal the resources of the family is a liability, not an asset. If she is frequently out partying and her home is a mess, those physical attributes will soon become irrelevant.



He & She

**Cooperation:** A man should never underestimate how cooperative a woman is. Her cooperation, including her ability to embrace his vision and be obedient and loyal, is crucial.

**Care/Love:** A man will eventually need his wife to play the role of both lover and caregiver. If she lacks a nurturing nature, is heartless, or cold, you'll understand why "kakhino be leather" (a local saying that translates to "not everything that glitters is gold"). Check how she treats children, elders, and how she cares for you.

This is not to condemn any woman based on her physical attributes. This piece of advice is meant to help you focus on a more stable and meaningful relationship.



## Well-being

# Why people embrace the saying "life is short"

You often hear these words: your best friend might say, "Life is short, so make the most of it!" Your grandmother could gently remind you, "Life is short; take the risk." Even a stranger might smile and suggest, "Life is short; travel the world before settling down." It seems that everyone has encountered this phrase from someone who cares in some way. But why do people emphasize that life is short? Valerie Forgeard explores this idea:

## "Life is short" is a common phrase, especially at funerals

We often hear "life is short," but we may not fully grasp its meaning until it's too late. The loss of someone close reminds us of life's brevity and the importance of making the most of our time while we still can.

### A reminder of our mortality

When people say, "life is short," they're acknowledging that no one has eternal life on Earth. Regardless of how long we live, there's no guarantee of a long life. Even if someone reaches 100, there's no assurance they'll see 101. While we may not often contemplate our own mortality, daily events can suddenly change our circumstances—even at a young age.

In our youth, life can feel endless, but as we grow older, we come to realize the reality of mortality and that time is limited to pursue what we love.

### Don't waste your time

We frequently hear "life is short" at funerals, reminding us not to waste our time because we don't know when it will end. This phrase often serves as



motivation to pursue our dreams, whether that means following a passion or achieving a long-desired goal that has been postponed due to other commitments.

Ultimately, "life is short" urges us to appreciate what we have while we have it. Life is too short to worry about trivial matters.

### Finding happiness in the everyday

It's easy to fall into a routine and overlook the big picture. We may spend too much time on mundane tasks, losing sight of what truly matters. However, we can shift our perspective and improve our lives by focusing on what brings us happiness.

Here are some ways to cultivate a happier life:

- Make time for what matters most to you
- Spend less time with negative people
- Eliminate clutter from your home and daily life
- Smile more often
- Focus on your happiness

### Encouraging immediate action

The phrase "life is short" serves as a wake-up call to take action and live fully. It encourages us not to procrastinate, reminding us that we only live once. This realization can be liberating, as it emphasizes the urgency of pursuing our dreams and desires.

### Living without regret

When we reflect on the phrase "life is short," we recognize how precious and fleeting life truly is. It serves as a reminder to act accordingly, making the most of our time and opportunities.

By acknowledging our dreams and aspirations, we empower ourselves to take risks and step out of our comfort zones, transforming "life is short" from mere words into a motivating force.

### Avoiding drama

Using the phrase "life is short" can be a way to distance ourselves from drama or uncomfortable situations. It can signal a need for space or respite from others' questions. However, it's crucial to remember that this phrase should not serve as an excuse to ignore our feelings or problems.

## Health & Beauty

# How to build your perfect skincare routine

Building the perfect skincare routine can feel overwhelming, especially with so many products and tips available. However, understanding your skin type is the crucial first step in creating a regimen that works for you. Whether you're dealing with dryness, oiliness, or sensitivity, the right products and techniques can help you achieve healthy, radiant skin. In this guide medically reviewed by Stephanie S. Gardner, MD, we'll walk you through the essential steps to develop a skincare routine tailored to your unique needs.

The right routine begins with identifying your skin type. Understanding your skin will help you care for it effectively.

### Step 1: Know Your Skin Type

To develop the right routine, it's essential to know what type of skin you have:

- **Dry skin:** Flaky, scaly, or rough.
- **Oily skin:** Shiny, greasy, and may have enlarged pores.
- **Combination skin:** Dry in some areas (like the cheeks) and oily in others (like the forehead, nose, and chin).

- **Sensitive skin:** May sting, burn, or itch after using certain makeup or products.
- **Normal skin:** Balanced, clear, and not sensitive.

### Step 2: Cleansing Based on Skin Type

**Normal/Combination Skin:** Don't just use any soap; find a cleanser that suits your skin. Apply a gentle cleanser with your fingertips and rinse with warm water. Avoid scrubbing, and pat dry. If your skin feels too dry or oily, consider trying a different cleanser.

**Dry Skin:** Use a gentle cleanser without alcohol or fragrances, as these can exacerbate dryness. Wash gently and rinse with warm water—avoid hot water, which strips natural oils. Exfoliate once a week to remove flaky skin cells for a clearer, more even complexion.

**Oily Skin:** Opt for an oil-free foaming cleanser. Rinse with warm water and consider using a toner or astringent afterward but be cautious as they can irritate your skin. These products help remove excess oil and keep your skin clean.

**Sensitive Skin:** Use a gentle cleanser and rinse with warm water. Pat your skin dry instead of rubbing. Exfoliating can irritate sensitive skin, so choose products with calming ingredients like aloe, chamomile, green tea polyphenols, and oats.

### Step 3: Moisturize

Regardless of your age or skin type, daily moisturizing is essential. Apply moisturizer while your skin is still damp to lock

in moisture. If you have oily or acne-prone skin, choose a lightweight, oil-free moisturizer.

### Step 4: Use Sunscreen

Your moisturizer may contain sunscreen, but it's wise to apply a separate broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 30. Protect your skin daily, even on cloudy or cold days, and reapply every two hours.

**When should you wash?** Washing your face once a day is sufficient for most people. In the morning, rinse with lukewarm water and pat dry. At night, use a gentle cleanser to remove dirt and makeup. After exercise, wash your face to prevent clogged pores.

**Avoid sleeping in makeup** - It can be tempting to skip cleansing when tired, but leaving makeup on can clog pores and lead to acne. Use a gentle cleanser or makeup remover to clean your face before bed.

**Understanding acne** - Acne often begins in the teen years due to hormonal changes that increase oil production in the skin. Excess oil and dead skin cells can clog pores, leading to whiteheads, blackheads, and pimples.

**Treating acne** - Avoid popping pimples, as this can cause infection and scarring. Use acne-fighting products such as lotions, creams, gels, or cleansing pads as directed. Be patient—results can take up to 8 weeks. If your acne is severe, consult a dermatologist.

**Hiding blemishes** - To conceal blemishes, use oil-free makeup.

Foundation can cover larger areas, while concealer is ideal for smaller spots. Green-tinted concealer can neutralize redness. Some tinted creams and concealers also contain acne-fighting ingredients like salicylic acid.

**The risks of tanning** - While a tan may be desirable, tanning can damage your skin and increase the risk of skin cancer. UV exposure can lead to premature aging and other skin issues.

**Choosing makeup** - Select makeup labeled "nonacnegenic" or "noncomedogenic" to minimize the risk of acne. Opt for water-based rather than oil-based products. Regularly replace old makeup, especially eye products like mascara.

**Makeup safety tips** - Avoid sharing makeup or tools. Use fresh applicators when trying products in stores. Don't apply eyeliner inside your lid, and if you've had an eye infection, replace your makeup to prevent reinfection.

**Other skin irritants** - Avoid habits that can worsen skin conditions. Don't pick at your skin, keep hairspray away from your face, and avoid tight headbands or wool hats that can irritate your skin. Smoking can also lead to premature aging.

**Nutrition and sleep for healthy skin** - Support your skin's health with a balanced diet rich in vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and lean proteins. Avoid high-cholesterol, trans fat, and sugary foods. Ensure you get enough sleep to prevent dark circles and other signs of fatigue. Managing stress is also crucial for maintaining clear skin, so stay hydrated.



## From struggles to stardom

### Ravi Kishan: Meet actor who used to steal coins from temple, ran away from home...

The path to success is rarely a straight line, and the story of actor Ravi Kishan is a testament to this truth. Once a young boy who faced unimaginable challenges, Kishan's journey from stealing coins from a temple to becoming a superstar in Bhojpuri cinema is both inspiring and remarkable.

Born as Ravi Kishan Shukla, he grew up in a modest household where his father ran a milk dairy. Life wasn't easy for him; his father's strictness often crossed the line into abuse. In a candid revelation during an appearance on the show Aap Ki Adalat, Ravi shared that his home life was fraught with tension, leading him to make a drastic decision. After an especially harsh episode with his father, his mother intervened, giving him Rs 500 and encouraging him to leave home in search of a better life in Mumbai.

#### The early struggles in Bollywood

With dreams of stardom, Ravi arrived in Mumbai, fuelled by ambition but limited in resources. Initially, he



tried his luck in Bollywood, often being labeled as a "gareebon ka Mithun Chakraborty" (the poor man's Mithun Chakraborty). Despite working tirelessly and appearing in several Hindi films, he struggled to gain a foothold in the industry. His role in Salman Khan's Tere Naam did garner some appreciation, but it was not enough to cement his place in Bollywood.

Ravi's early years were marked by a relentless hustle; he would often work for free, requesting producers only for petrol money for his bike. This determination,

however, went largely unrecognized in the Hindi film industry.

When Bollywood did not open its doors wide enough, Ravi Kishan turned to Bhojpuri cinema, a move that would change the trajectory of his career. His talent and hard work quickly paid off, and he emerged as a superstar in the Bhojpuri film industry, delivering a string of hit films that resonated with audiences. This new chapter not only brought him fame but also allowed him to connect deeply with his roots, celebrating the culture and stories of his community through cinema.

#### Recognition on a global scale

Today, Ravi Kishan's impact is not limited to regional cinema. His latest project, Laapataa Ladies, directed by Kiran Rao, has been chosen as India's official entry for the Best International Feature Film category at the 97th Academy Awards, the Oscars 2025. This recognition not only underscores his evolution as an artist but also highlights the growing global appreciation for regional cinema.

Ravi Kishan's story reminds us that failure is often a stepping stone to greater success and that true passion can lead to unexpected and fulfilling paths. From stealing coins to stealing the spotlight, Ravi Kishan's life is a powerful narrative of transformation, perseverance, and triumph over adversity.

## Celebrity Secrets

### The latest plastic surgery trends in Bollywood

In the dazzling world of Bollywood, where glamour and perfection reign supreme, the pursuit of beauty often leads many celebrities to consider plastic surgery. With an industry that emphasizes facial symmetry and an enviable physique, aesthetic enhancements have become increasingly common, sparking conversations about beauty standards and self-acceptance among fans and followers alike.

In 2024, we see a distinct shift among Bollywood celebrities towards subtle enhancements aimed at achieving natural-looking results rather than overt transformations. Here's a closer look at the most popular plastic surgery trends in Bollywood today as reported by Riya Ashok Madayi of News18.

#### 1. Rhinoplasty (Nose Job)

Rhinoplasty remains one of the most sought-after procedures in Bollywood, focusing on refining the shape and contour of the nose. Celebrities like Taapsee Pannu and Janhvi Kapoor have undergone subtle nose jobs, enhancing their facial harmony without drastic changes. Taapsee, in particular, has embraced a more refined nose profile, which complements her overall look. Shruti Haasan has openly discussed her rhinoplasty, highlighting how it positively affected her self-image. The trend underscores the growing acceptance of minor adjustments that can significantly boost confidence.

#### 2. Breast Augmentation

Breast augmentation continues to gain popularity among actresses looking to enhance their curves. The desire for a more voluptuous figure often stems from both personal confidence and industry demands. Disha Patani's transformation has sparked discussions, as her augmented profile reflects a significant shift from her earlier appearance. This procedure not only boosts confidence but also aligns with the evolving ideals of beauty in Bollywood.

#### 3. Liposuction and Tummy Tucks

Liposuction remains a staple for body contouring, offering celebrities a way to eliminate stubborn fat and achieve their desired silhouette. Advanced techniques



like 4D VASER liposuction allow for precise sculpting, whether it's for six-pack abs in men or an hourglass figure in women. Tummy tucks are also popular, helping many regain a toned appearance post-pregnancy or weight loss.

#### 4. Facelifts

With the pressures of maintaining a youthful appearance, facelifts—both surgical and nonsurgical (like thread lifts)—have become common among actors concerned about aging. These procedures help combat

the visible signs of aging, allowing celebrities to present a fresh, youthful image on screen.

#### 5. Jawline Definition and Chin Surgery

A well-defined jawline has become a hallmark of beauty in Bollywood. Many celebrities seek jawline contouring, often utilizing hyaluronic dermal fillers for quick results. For more permanent solutions, chin augmentation and genioplasty are increasingly popular. These procedures enhance facial symmetry and balance, often in combination with rhinoplasty for optimal aesthetic outcomes.

#### 6. Fat Grafting

Fat grafting has emerged as a favored method for contouring both the body and face. This technique uses the patient's own fat to add volume where needed, such as in the buttocks, breasts, or lips. Its risk-free nature and natural results have made it a go-to choice for those looking to enhance their features without the use of implants.

The latest plastic surgery trends in Bollywood reflect a growing preference for subtle enhancements that prioritize individual beauty and confidence. As the industry continues to evolve, these trends underscore a commitment to achieving a polished yet natural appearance. The role of plastic surgery in this journey is significant, shaping not only the careers of celebrities but also influencing beauty standards and societal perceptions.

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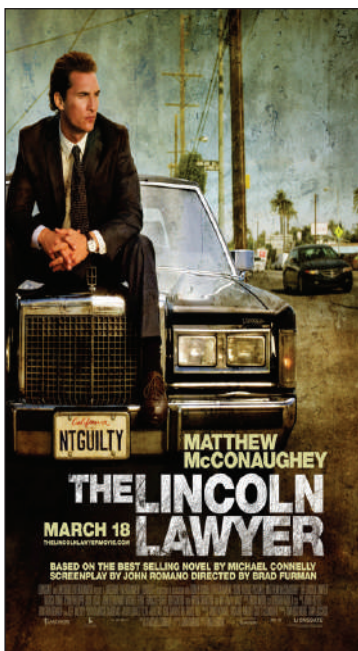
Vendredi 11 octobre - 21.30



Samedi 12 octobre - 20.20



Dimanche 13 octobre - 20.30



# Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 11 Octobre

## MBC 1

- 07.21 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 08.29 Tele: Amour Secret
- 09.25 Film: 90 Feet From Home
- 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: Hero Mode
- 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
- 21.30 Film: A Date With Danger
- 22.56 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 23.49 Le Journal
- 00.23 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 00.49 Serial: Billions
- 01.55 Le Chemin Du Destin

## MBC 2

- 06.08 Les Grandes Lignes
- 08.15 Local: Metie
- 08.26 Local: Nou Later Nou Lamer
- 10.26 Rodrig: J'ai Faim
- 12.00 Rodrig: Decouvertes
- 13.12 Rodrig: Sa Lavi La
- 14.40 Local: J'ai Faim
- 15.49 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
- 16.57 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 18.00 Seiral: Passion And Power
- 18.30 Serial: Amour Secret
- 19.20 Le Magazine De L'emploi...
- 19.45 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik
- 20.05 Local: Animalia Nos Amis...
- 20.32 Local: Lir - Ekkrir Kreol
- 22.00 Local: La Sosiete
- 22.56 Local: Voyage Au Feminin
- 23.47 Rodrig: Nou La Ter
- 00.13 Rodrig: Itinerer Rodrig
- 00.27 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
- 00.46 Local: Retrovizor

## MBC 3

- 07.00 Mag: Guftgoo
- 08.01 Local: Amrit Vani
- 10.14 Serial: Agniphera
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Astha Ki Shakti
- Starring: Rajiv Sharma, Meenakshi Sheshadhri
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron
- 16.20 Serial: Bhakharwadi
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 19.00 Live From Nirali Nagri Sabha
- 21.00 Film: Sawariya I Love You
- Starring: Rani Chatterjee, Vinay R. Anand, Deepak Dubey, Divya Dwivedi
- 23.14 Serial: Mere Sai
- 00.06 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

## Cine 12

- 06.25 Mag: Shift
- 06.38 Mag: Carnet De Sante
- 07.26 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 07.52 Doc: Urban Rats
- 08.33 Doc: Flying Hands
- 09.16 Forgotten By The Crown
- 10.45 Doc: Beneath The Waves
- 11.10 Mag: Eco India
- 11.36 Mag: Shift
- 11.52 Carnet De Sante
- 12.07 Mag: Border Crossing
- 12.35 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 13.47 Doc: Flying Hands
- 14.29 Doc: The Bridge OF Minor...
- 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures...
- 15.12 D.Anime: Romy And Boo
- 15.29 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.33 D.Anime: Yo Yo
- 15.48 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 16.02 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 16.13 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter

## Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 14.55 Serial: Doree
- 15.26 Film: Challoo Driver
- Starring Vickrant Mahajan, Kainaz Motivala, Prem Chopra
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.01 Udaariyaan
- 19.32 Dharam Patni
- 20.01 Mithai
- 20.31 Serial: Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala
- 21.01 Anupamaa
- 21.31 Mere Sai
- 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.27 Swaran Ghar
- 22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa
- 23.30 Film: Challoo Driver
- 02.00 Kundali Bhagya

samedi 12 Octobre

- 03.16 Serial: Madam Secretary
- 04.42 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: Treadstone
- 10.49 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Serial: Hooten & The Lady
- 13.25 Tele: Barbarita...
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.25 Film: La Planete Des Singes: Suprematie
- 18.31 Enter: Dance India Dance...
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.20 Film: Australia avec: Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, David Wenham
- 22.58 Serial: Treadstone
- 23.30 Le Journal

- 06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
- 07.03 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 07.58 Local: Lir - Ekkrir Kreol
- 09.22 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif
- 10.34 Rodrig Prog: Nou La Ter
- 11.05 Local: Come On Let's Dance
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
- 13.21 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 Local: Bouze Ocean Indien
- 21.36 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 23.20 Rodrig: Klip Seleksion
- 00.05 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 00.32 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 00.58 Rodrig: Promnad

- 07.48 Serial: Hamar Fitness
- 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
- 10.32 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 11.47 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 12.14 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 13.00 Mag: Guftgoo
- 14.05 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 14.33 Mag: Talaash
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Film: Rajkumar
- Starring Naseeruddin Shah, Anil Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 19.00 Local: Excerpts from Durga Pooja
- 20.00 Local: Bollyworld Express
- 21.00 Film: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Grand Finale
- 23.00 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 23.32 Excerpts From Durga Pooja

- 06.00 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 07.14 D.Anime: Sissi
- 09.15 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 09.39 Les Nouvelles Aventures...
- 09.50 Serial: Lost & Found Music
- 10.34 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 11.57 Doc: Top Dive Sites
- 13.58 Doc: Poison And Poverty
- 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures...
- 15.04 D.Anime: Denis Et Moi
- 15.08 D.Anime: Romy And Boo
- 15.50 D.Anime: Yo Yo
- 15.57 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 16.11 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 16.23 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter
- 16.45 D. Anime: The Treasure...
- 17.11 D.Anime: Malory Towers
- 20.00 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.50 Doc: Of Whales And Turtles
- 21.40 Film: Get Happy!
- 23.28 Doc: A World Without Bees?

- 08.00 Swaran Ghar
- 09.58 Mithai
- 11.42 Udaariyaan
- 13.54 Anupamaa
- 16.00 Fanaa
- 18.30 Film: Chatur Singh Two Star



- 20.28 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 21.03 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.23 Porus
- 21.49 Swaran Ghar

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- 03.35 The Gardener's Daughter
- 05.18 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 05.45 Film: Australia
- 08.24 Serial: Wanted
- 09.08 Film: Get Happy!
- 10.50 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans
- 11.30 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Film: Les Dents De La Mer 2
- 14.58 Serial: Radhi Krishna
- 15.21 Film: Australia
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer
- 22.23 Serial: Wanted
- 23.12 Mag: Red Carpet
- 00.15 Serial: Sublime Mensonges
- 01.59 Serial: NCIS: New Orleans

- 07.34 Festival Bouze Ocean Indien
- 08.34 Local: Les Petits Genies
- 09.00 Messe Des Malades En Direct De L'eglise De L'immaculee
- 14.01 Local: Elle
- 15.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
- 15.26 Les Grandes Lignes
- 17.15 Local Aktiv
- 17.35 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 18.03 Tele Gout De L'Amour
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.20 Local: Elle
- 20.03 Local: Tita Tita Nou Avanse
- 20.30 Local: Le Challenge
- 20.44 Local: Les Klips
- 21.36 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 22.36 Local: Clin D'Oeil
- 23.00 Journal Rediffusion
- 23.20 Local: Arsiv MBC-Fer Roule
- 23.45 Local: Mangeons Veg

- 07.00 Mag: Eco India
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 12.00 Film: Prithvi
- Cast: Suniel Shetty, Shilpa Shetty, Kundra, Suresh Oberoi
- 15.00 Samachar
- 17.00 Local: Ekta
- 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
- 21.25 Serial: Naagin
- 22.10 Serial: Bahubali
- 23.19 Serial: Saaton Vachanwa Saath Nibhaib Sajna
- 23.54 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 00.14 Local: Tohar Rashi
- 00.29 Local: Tohar Farmaish
- 00.55 Local: Yaadein

- 06.41 D.Anime: Les Aventures Du...
- 06.46 D.Anime: The Jungle Book
- 08.09 D.Anime: Earth To Luna
- 09.22 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 09.46 Les Nouvelles Aevtures De...
- 10.15 Serial: Lost & Found Music...
- 10.37 Mag: Recipes For Kids
- 12.13 Mag: Afrimaxx
- 13.36 Doc: A World Without Bees?
- 15.05 Les Nouvelles Aventures De...
- 15.09 D.Anime: Denis Et Moi
- 15.33 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.52 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 16.41 D.Anime: The Treasure Island
- 17.06 D.Anime: Malory Towers
- 17.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 20.30 Live: News
- 20.50 Doc: When Night Falls...
- 21.35 Film: Inglourious Basterds

- 00.00 Mithai
- 01.45 Udaariyaan
- 03.45 Anupamaa
- 05.57 Fanaa
- 07.43 Tenali Rama
- 08.00 Patiala Babes
- 10.00 Kundali Bhagya
- 11.49 Rajaa Betaa
- 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.38 Film: Teri Meri Kahani
- Starring: Shahid Kapoor, Priyanka Chopra
- 20.31 Serial: Mahabharat
- 21.17 Dance India Dance Super Moms
- 22.09 Rajaa Betaa
- 00.29 Patiala Babes

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- 05.04 The Gardener's Daughter
- 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow
- 07.30 Serial: The Equalizer
- 08.38 Tele: Amour Secret
- 09.35 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer
- 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
- 15.25 Film: L'homme De La Sierra
- 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: The Mustang
- Cast: Matthias Schoenaerts, Jason Mitchell
- 21.55 Tele: Heartland
- 22.39 Tele: Terra Nostra

- 06.00 Nu Rasinn
- 07.06 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 07.17 Tita Tita Nou Avanse
- 07.48 Rodrig: Sa Lavi
- 08.43 Clin D'oeil
- 09.03 Arsiv MBC-Fer Roule
- 09.33 Elle
- 10.20 Mangeons Veg
- 11.01 Les Klips
- 12.00 Nu Rasinn
- 12.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 17.08 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 18.05 Passion And Power
- 18.32 Amour Secret
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.30 Rodrig Prog. Feminin Pluriel
- 20.01 Nos Aines
- 20.42 Tous Egaux
- 21.00 Konn Ou Drwa S2024
- 22.28 Lir Ekkrir Kreol Morisien
- 23.00 Journal Rediffusion
- 23.20 Itinerer Moris
- 00.38 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
- 01.06 Rodrig Prog. Feminin Pluriel
- 01.32 Nos Aines

- 07.00 Mag: Guftgoo
- 08.02 Excerpts From Durga Pooja
- 09.03 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 10.00 Bahubali
- 10.35 Saaton Vachanwa Saath...
- 11.42 Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Mangal Pandey
- 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 15.56 Kundali Bhagya
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaein
- 19.30 Local: Excerpts from Shiv Abhishek
- 20.40 Serial: Ramayan
- 21.03 Film: Naatak
- With: Vijay Arora, Mowshmi Chaturjee
- 23.20 Serial: Mere Sai
- 00.03 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
- 00.29 Local: Ved Ki Shikshaein
- 00.55 Local: Ayush

- 06.25 Doc: Legendary Hotels
- 07.08 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 07.34 Doc: Europe Revealed...
- 09.45 In The Empire Of The Incas
- 11.20 Mag: Eye On SADC
- 11.50 Doc: Legendary Hotels
- 12.33 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 13.41 Europe Revealed Digital...
- 15.01 Les Nouvelles Aventures...
- 15.12 D.Anime: Romy And Boo
- 15.33 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 15.37 D.Anime: Yo Yo
- 15.52 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 16.06 D.Anime: Sonic Boom
- 16.18 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter
- 16.40 D.Anime: The Treasure Island
- 17.02 Serial: Malory Towers
- 17.30 Doc: From Gray To Green
- 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer
- 21.00 Film: A Date With Danger

- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.51 Doree
- 15.25 Film: Hote Hote Pyar Ho Gaya
- Starring: Jackie Shroff, Kajol, Atul Agnihotri



- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Dharam Patni
- 20.05 Mithai
- 20.33 Yashomati Maiyya Ke
- 21.09 Anupamaa
- 21.32 Mere Sai
- 22.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se





Mardi 15 octobre - 20.30



THE PERFECT WEDDING  
a heartwarming romantic comedy



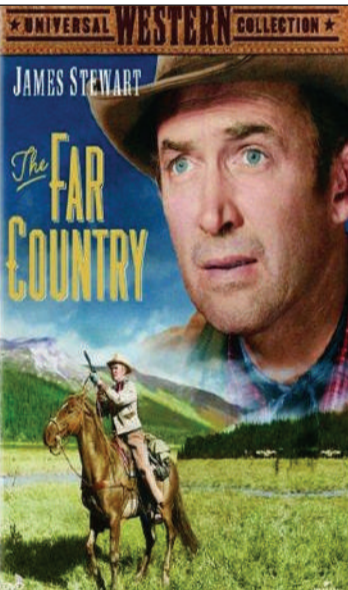
Mercredi 16 octobre - 20.30



Romance en ligne

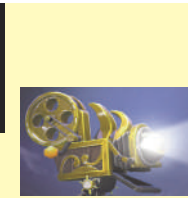


Jeudi 17 octobre - 21.00



UNIVERSAL WESTERN COLLECTION  
JAMES STEWART  
The FAR COUNTRY

# Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 15 octobre</b>	05.07 The Gardener's Daughter 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 08.39 Tele: Amour Secret 09.31 Film: The Mustang 11.30 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 15.30 Film: A Date With Danger 17.00 Mag: Close Up 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: Perfect Wedding 22.08 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.01 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.30 Le Journal	06.00 Nu Rasin 07.06 Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 07.17 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 08.43 Clin D'Oeil 09.33 Elle 10.00 Serial: Mangeons Veg 11.01 Les Klips 12.52 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.48 Clin D'Oeil 14.28 Arsiv MBC-Fer Roule 15.09 Tipa Tipa Nou Avanse 17.08 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.05 Passion And Power 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.20 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 19.30 Rodrig Prog. Feminin Pluriel 20.01 Nos Aines 20.42 Tous Egaux 21.00 Konn Ou Drwa 22.28 Lir - Ekriir Kreol Morisien 23.00 Journal Rediffusion 23.20 Itinerer Moris 23.33 Rodrig Prog. Zenn Aktif	07.48 Serial: Popular Hindi Songs 08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 08.26 Local: Ayush 09.34 Local: Vaad Vivaad 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.01 Film: Khalifa 15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Serial: Sajanja Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Tark Vitark 19.00 Local: Samarpan 20.15 Chikitsa Aur Swasthey 20.42 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Maa Beta Cast: Manoj Kumar, Ameeta, Vijay Dutt 23.24 Serial: Mere Sai 00.14 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 Mag: Africa 54 08.03 Mag: Tomorrow Today 08.29 Mag: Washington Forum 11.06 Mag: Eco Africa 12.00 Mag: Africa 54 12.32 Mag: In Good Shape 13.05 Mag: Tomorrow Today 14.00 Mag: Shift 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De... 15.05 D.Anime: Croco Doc 15.12 D.Anime: Romy And Boo 15.53 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.07 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.20 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.38 D.Anime: The Treasure Island 17.03 Serial: Malory Towers 18.00 Mag: REV 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.05 Film: Borrowed Time: Falling	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.25 Film: Emi Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Urmila Mathndkar 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.06 Mithai 20.29 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.34 Serial: Swaran Ghar 23.04 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Emi Starring: Sanjay Dutt, Urmila Mathndkar 01.52 Kundali Bhagya
<b>mercredi 16 octobre</b>	07.31 Serial: The Equalizer 08.13 Tele: Le Temps D'aimer 08.39 Tele: Amour Secret 09.30 Film: Borrowed Time: Falling 11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.46 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.11 Serial: The Equalizer 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Perfect Wedding 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 20.30 Film: Romance En Ligne 22.13 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.04 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.32 Local: Le Journal	06.00 Rodrig Prog : Plat Du Chef 07:20 Priorite Sante - W. Food Day 08:40 Mots & Ecrits 09:00 Rodrig Prog : Rod'art 12:05 Rodrig Prog : Plat Du Chef - Tempura Crevette 13:55 Rodrig - D'jam 15:00 Nu Rasinn - Noccs D'or De Ste Anne 18:00 Passion And Power 19:00 Journal Kreol 19:20 Le Magazine De L'emploi 20:01 Saver Kiltirel 20:31 Toc Toc Doc 21:01 Agir Ensemble 22:19 Proze Dime - Kanhye Health Foods 23:00 Journal Rediffusion 23:20 Come On Let's Dance 00:12 Rodrig Prog : A Nou Kwi 00:32 Rodrig Prog : Kot Nou 00:19 Saver Kiltirel	07.43 Popular Hindi Songs 08.26 Local: Samarpan 09.20 Gyan Vigyan Kathakkali Dance 09.52 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 11.31 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Gopinath Cast: Raj Kapoor, Tripti Mitra, Latika 15.33 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.53 Radha Mohan 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Yatra 12 Jyotirling 19.01 Local: MBC Production 19.52 Local: Virasat 20.16 Local: Gyan Vigyan 20.30 Mag: Talaash 21.00 Film: Mard No 1 23.30 Serial: Mere Sai	08.19 Mag: Euromaxx 09.32 Doc: Multi Tasking 11.01 Mag: REV 12.06 Mag: Made In Germany 12.26 Mag: Global US 13.21 Mag: Euromaxx 13.50 Doc: Notre Dame De Paris 14.27 Doc: Cool & Clever 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De... 15.33 D.Anime: Patamuse 15.38 D.Anime: Yo Yo 15.53 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.01 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.18 Serial: Hunter & Hunter 17.07 Serial: Malory Towers 17.30 Mag: Us And Them 18.00 Mag: Motorweek 18.30 Mag: Travel 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.05 Film: The Lincoln Lawyer	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.25 Film: Patel Ki Punjabi Shaadi Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Vir Das 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 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 23.30 Film: Pael Ki Punjabi Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Paresh Rawal, Vir Das
<b>jeudi 17 octobre</b>	06.03 Tele: The Queen Of Flow 08.16 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: The Lincoln Lawyer 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: Kya Kehna Stars: Preity Zinta, Saif Ali Khan, Chandrachur Singh 22.30 Tele: Terra Nostra 00.27 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune	06.00 Rodrig Spor 06.25 Saver Kiltirel 06.51 En Forme 07.06 Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 07.16 Toc Toc Doc 07.36 Agir 08.07 Kot Nou . Le Marin Villa 08.33 En Forme 08.58 Proze Dime 09.27 Come On Let's Dance 10.29 A Nou Kwi 11.00 Les Klips 13.04 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.09 Toc Toc Doc 13.24 En Forme 13.39 Agir Ensemble 14.05 Klip 15.14 Kot Nou . Le Marin Villa 16.00 Come On Let's Dance 16.57 Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 17.02 En Forme 17.17 Le Mag 18.09 Passion And Power 18.34 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.20 Mag 19.25 Decouvertes 20.26 Emotion En Avant Plan 20.41 Evasion 21.01 Le Mag	07.00 Mag: Eco India 07.35 Popular Hindi Songs 08.00 Local: Yatra 12 Jyotirling 08.26 Local: MBC Production 09.26 Local: Virasat 09.42 Local: Gyan Vigyan 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Kahin Din Kahin Raat Cast: Biswajeet, Sapna 15.30 Sajanja Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.56 Agniphera 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.41 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.01 Local: Darshan 19.52 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.38 Serial: Ramayan 21.01 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.23 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala	07.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 08.40 Mag: Focus On Europe 09.02 Doc: Of Whales And Turtles 11.02 Mag: Motorweek 11.59 Mag: Arts Unveiled 12.29 Doc: Us And Them 12.54 Mag: Choices 13.07 Mag: Close Up 13.33 Doc: Of Whales And Turtles 15.00 Les Nouvelles Aventures De... 15.05 D.Anime: Croco Doc 15.51 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis 16.11 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 16.22 D.Anime: Hunter & Hunter 16.45 D.Anime: The Treasure... 17.11 D.Anime: Malory Towers 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.45 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Le Temps D'Aimer 21.00 Film: The Far Country	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.31 Film: Parmanu Stars: John Abraham, Boman Irani, Diana Penty 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 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: Parmanu Stars: John Abraham, Boman Irani, Diana Penty



Jeudi 17 octobre - 15.30 Stars: John Abraham, Boman Irani, Diana Penty



Jeudi 17 octobre - 20.30 Stars: Preity Zinta, Saif Ali Khan, Chandrachur Singh



ZEE STUDIOS KRIARJ ENTERTAINMENT KYTA PRODUCTIONS PRESENT  
**PARMANU**  
THE STORY OF POKHRAN  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH JA ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTED BY ABHISHEK SHARMA



**Kya Kehna!**





Nita Chicooree-Mercier

# Revisiting the Meaning of Elections in a Turbulent World

**D**o elections mean anything? Democracies boast of the right of people to choose who will steer politics for the next five years. Elections might be a farce in semi-democratic countries and authoritarian regimes. Opponents are jailed, intimidated not to run, or simply eliminated. Despite the autocratic ruling style, Tunisian President Kaies is likely to be re-elected. With prominent opponents out of the picture, a similar scenario may play out in Russia. Rigging elections cannot be ruled out in full-fledged democracies competing fiercely to unseat the ruling party.

"Let me remind you that voting does not mean anything nowadays," a French specialist in American politics stated at a conference years ago. We half-acquiesced. What she meant was that behind-the-scenes powerful industrial and financial lobbies have the final say in policy-making. The Russia-Ukraine war is a glaring example of how elections in a global power like the US can impact lives worldwide. The war kicked off hardly two years after the Democrats took power in 2020, with the Russian president believing that rolling tanks into Kyiv would be a smooth ride. November elections will be a game changer for the Russia-Ukraine war if former US President Trump is re-elected. Withdrawal of support may lower the prices of oil, wheat, and other commodities in the global market, positively impacting billions of lives.

**W**hile both Democrats and Republicans vow unwavering support for Israel, recent statements from the Biden administration on conditional support appear designed for public consumption ahead of elections. Trump has unequivocally stated his intention to crush Iran's theocratic regime, the mastermind behind its proxy war against Israel, and to roll out a peace plan for the Middle East, fully implementing the Abraham Accord and activating the newly drafted Cyrus Report, named after the first Persian king who liberated Jews from slavery in Arab countries. A regime change could reshuffle the cards in Western countries, where proxies support radical extremist groups threatening the future of democracy. Thus, on the Middle East issue, there is no difference in policy between the two parties, regardless of the election outcome.

Do elections matter? Certainly. Should democracy be upheld? Definitely. Despite the undemocratic interference of the American CIA and other organizations in foreign elections and their backstage manoeuvres to topple elected leaders for US interests, the US, India, and several other nations are increasingly polarized around elections. This is not

merely due to free public opinion but also to intense competition manipulating the public through distorted information and false promises. The showbiz aspect — complete with music, honking cars, trumpets, and chanting slogans — often leads to a binary vision of politics, resembling a thrilling football match between two politicians: Trump vs. Harris, Modi vs. R. Gandhi in Indian elections, and the ongoing Pravind vs. Navin face-off in Mauritius.

The point is not to miss the woods for the trees. Geopolitical strategy in a tense international power struggle cannot be overlooked during elections. Power for the sake of grabbing power, merely to enrich themselves or settle scores with opponents, without bringing anything new to economic development, is futile...



Do elections matter? Certainly. Should democracy be upheld? Definitely. Pic - ABC

The onus is on the people to see the bigger picture, provided they receive accurate information.

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## Sovereignty on Chagos stirs controversy

**I**f you are looking for a reactionary stance on the Chagos issue, look no further than Britain. The British PM, Sir Keir Starmer, is being wrongly blamed for handing over the Chagos islands to Mauritius to fit the ambitions of Communist China. The obsession with Russia and now with China knows no bounds. Conservative nationalists and patriots draw sympathy for defending their culture and country from imported hostile ideologies. This time, however, they are completely off the mark.

Judging from online news outlets, some spokespersons opine that the archipelago's interests, from environmental preservation to fishing rights, will be better served if left in British hands, who are deemed the rightful owners. This attitude is reminiscent of the BBC's patronizing lecturing to the Guyanese president about the environmental impact of oil industry development. Such condescen-

sion is surprising, especially when we naively believe that the colonial mindset of the British is a relic of the past. Right-wing news channel Sky News in Australia has also expressed outrage over the loss of British Overseas Territories. The decision of the International Court of Justice to acknowledge the legitimate claims of Mauritius and the Chagossian people to the Chagos archipelago is entirely ignored in these outbursts.

What surpasses all of this is Sir Duncan Smith's speech in the House of Commons. Without batting an eyelid, the MP portrays Mauritius as a country where independent politicians are imprisoned, and a segment of the population is unfairly treated. According to him, Mauritius is unfit to gain sovereignty over the Chagos islands. We are all too familiar with the colonial strategy of driving a wedge in multi-ethnic societies, coupled with rhetoric about the undemocratic governance of former colonies. He suggests that the news was delivered at a strategic moment, just before general elections, to score points for the outgoing ruling party. Most likely.

**H**ow disappointing are these rants against the long-overdue sovereignty of Mauritius over the islands!

Regarding human rights abuses, we have expressed concern over the kidnapping and rape of British minor girls by grooming gangs, which British authorities have shoved under the carpet in the name of political correctness. This was utterly irresponsible and immoral. The imprisonment of British patriot Tommy Robinson was another shocking human rights abuse until the court delivered justice and found no reason to keep him behind bars. Not to mention the current Labour Party PM's decision to free criminals from overcrowded prisons while sending nationalists and patriotic demonstrators to jail. Should we add the two-tier treatment of crowds in police handling of mass protests staged by different groups in the streets of England?

With all respect for Britain and British authorities, we suggest that politicians and media spokespersons leave the empire and the colonies behind and move on. Mauritians have faith in their government's ability to manage the long-deserved sovereignty over the Chagos islands wisely, benefiting the Chagossians and boosting the future national interests of the Republic of Mauritius as a whole. Let us keep in mind that other powers in the region may frown upon the idea of enhanced geographical and political status for Mauritius.

## A Personal Tribute to Ratan Tata

By Niyam Bhushan



**I** just want to say the best gift I got on my birthday was from Ratan Tata - the legacy he left behind of his values and his work with which he touched the lives of 140 crore people for the better.

The scale at which he could operate and manage. Just take a look at all those companies. Those chains of hotels, we can't manage one kitchen. The number of people at TCS when we can't manage our tiny little teams within our small little business.

I look not just at his wealth but also his family values and the amazing ethics, values, principles, honesty, trust, and all the good things with which he patiently built his entire wealth and distributed it to the world.

Although there are much richer people than him in the world, especially in Silicon Valley in the industry and to a lesser extent, they are also the Ambani's, but none of them can match him for his ability and for his grand vision of building an entire nation, even while under British rule.

This man truly touched me and motivated me from ground zero to start working and to look at work from a completely new angle.

I have love for this man for whatever he has done, and I want to be able to work at his level and at his stature and at the way, and in the way in which he could work with other people.

His greatest gift was his ability to nurture relationships around him. The way he managed relationships with his clients, his staff, politicians, prime ministers, presidents, academia, everybody is astounding.

This man was the richest man I know of in the world.

*Niyam Bhushan is digital design consultant and ex-editor of computer magazines*